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CTI lauds fiscal measures, urges speedy tax refunds



LEFT: Cassian Galos Nyimbo (L), secretary of the organisation department of CCM's National Executive Committee in Zanzibar, presents a briefcase with Zanzibar Presidency nomination forms to aspirant Mbwana Bakari Juma as part of the countdown to later this year's General Election. RIGHT: Zanzibar Infrastructure, Communications and Transportation minister Ali Abeid Amani Karume (R), also an aspirant, with a briefcase with similar nomination forms already in hand. The venue was the party's Zanzibar headquarters yesterday. Photos: Guardian Correspondent

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI) yesterday commended the 2020/2021 national budget but stressed the need for action to alleviate challenges facing manufacturers as they struggle to recover from negative impacts of the coronavirus.

According to manufacturers, the coming budget to be effected from July 1 outlines various measures which are crucial for stimulating industrial growth.

Addressing journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday, CTI 1st Vice Chairman Paul Makanza appealed to the government to pay out outstanding tax refunds (VAT) and the 15 percent additional import duty on industrial sugar.

Makanza stated that settlement of outstanding dues to manufacturers will create much needed liquidity at this time when industries need a boost to recover from the impact of Covid-19.

"These refunds are important because they are the capital that manufacturers depend on to run industries. Delay in refunds increases the cost of production, thus negatively affecting the performance of industries and the economy at



Prof Kevin McConway

WHO study on social distancing is 'flawed'

LONDON

SENIOR scientists have reported flaws in an influential World Health Organization-commissioned study into the risks of coronavirus infection and say it should not be used as evidence for relaxing the UK's 2-metre physical distancing rule.

Critics of the distancing advice, which states that people should keep at least 2 metres apart, believe it is too cautious. They seized on the research commissioned by the WHO, which suggested a reduction from 2 metres to 1 would raise infection risk only marginally, from 1.3 per cent to 2.6 per cent.

But scientists who delved into the work found mistakes they believe undermine the findings to the point that they cannot

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Two collect forms in Isles nomination run

By Guardian Reporter

TWO cadres of the ruling party have picked up nomination forms to contest nomination to carry the party's flag in for the Zanzibar presidency in the October General Elections.

CCM opened the doors yesterday for aspirants of the presidency, parliamentary seats and ward elections to pick nomination forms.

The aspirants include Ali Karume and Mbwana Juma Bakari. They picked up the forms at the party's Zanzibar headquarters at Kisiwandui, Unguja.

Addressing journalists, Karume said CCM has no discrimination and that it considers an

individual's ability to lead.

He said if nominated he would protect the Union, the Zanzibar Revolution and ensure proper implementation of the CCM election manifesto and its policies.

The former envoy and current Minister for Youth, Arts, Sports and Culture noted that outgoing President Dr Ali Mohammed Shein worked closely with the Revolutionary Council and has done exemplary work in developing policies formulated by founder President Abeid Amani Karume.

He would continue executing all the good initiatives of previous leaders especially in

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'Zanzibar VAT law not Union matter'

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

VALUE Added Tax (VAT) for goods entering Zanzibar from the Mainland cannot be abolished because VAT is not a Union matter, the government has clarified.

The Minister for Finance and Planning, Dr Phillip Mpango yesterday asked the business community to understand this matter and pay taxes according to laws applying in both parts of the union.

He similarly affirmed that merging TPB Bank Plc with TIB Corporate Bank creates a strong public institution able to deliver and capable of competing with other commercial banks in the

market.

Responding to questions raised by MPs on efforts by the government to convince commercial banks to reduce interest rates on loans, he said merging brings positive impacts.

It enables creating an efficient banking institution delivering well by providing quality services to people and producing intended outcomes, he stated.

As long as TIB's core business is serving corporate bodies and TPB is meant for retail banking, there is a bright future in the government's vision of forming a strong bank that will compete in the market. The merging

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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

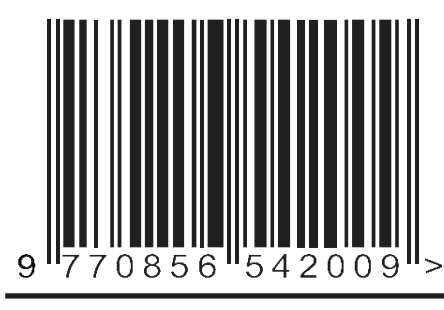
- Develop symptoms

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



'Zanzibar VAT law not Union matter'

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is meant to bring advancements in operations of the bank, he emphasised.

"Since the bank was merged with TIB, it has raised bank deposits to 743bn/- from 449bn/-. Assets rose from 657.5bn/- to 1trn/-. We shall maintain the appetite of strengthening public banks including TPB Bank and the Tanzania Agriculture Development Bank by providing funds whenever necessary," the minister affirmed.

The government has continued to monitor other public companies to enhance efficiency, reviewing shareholder contracts and other operational agreements to see if they are performing well, he said.

He reiterated the position that commercial banks should rethink interest rates on loans after the central bank cut the discount rate by 2pc to 5pc for commercial banks to obtain loans.

"Some of the banks have decreased interest rates on loans, and the ministry hopes that other banks will take the same direction," he said.

Regardless of the COVID-19 eruption, revenue collection reached 6.8trn/- from 6.3trn/- from January and April this year. Food reserves stand at 118

percent, revenue from mineral exports rose from 743.8bn/- to 1.5trn/- in the current fiscal year ending June 30, he stated.

"The government is looking for new sources of funds to fight the pandemic. We have submitted a loan application to the Pandemic Emergency Financing Facility of the World Bank looking to secure US\$3.98bn for combating COVID-19," he elaborated.

MPs hailed the government's decision to abolish excise duty, pruning charges under the skills development levy and abolishing nearly 60 other charges.

As to achievements in the Five Year Development Plan phase two 2016/17 to 2020/21, Dr Mpango said the government has constructed 1,198 dispensaries, 483 health centers and 71 district, regional and referral hospitals across the country. Major projects in various sectors especially infrastructure and energy were being implemented, he added.

"Some of the banks have decreased interest rates on loans, and the ministry hopes that other banks will take the same direction"



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa has a word with Mvomero legislator Suleiman Ahmed Saddiqi (L) at Parliament grounds in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: PMO

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large," he stated.

The umbrella body applauded the government for coming up with a national budget that is progressive as it balances between collecting revenues and stimulating economic growth.

Economic recovery measures taken by the government seek to stimulate industrial growth, mitigate challenges of doing business, create employment and generate wealth, he said.

CTI lauds fiscal measures, urges speedy tax refunds

"CTI is optimistic that the 2020/2021 budget will support the positive initiatives taken by the government to build an industrial economy. We are committed to continue working hand in hand with the government towards achieving the set economic goals," he declared.

Manufacturers occasionally revisit

the demand for tax refunds which stood at 35bn/- two years ago during the budget.

At that time, President John Magufuli affirmed that the government was verifying tax refund claims, amid reports that some businessmen were tampering with receipts for higher refunds for the real prices of their

products.

The government imposed a 15-percent importation fee on industrial sugar as guarantee, as unscrupulous importers were repackaging the product to the market for routine consumption.

In 2020/21, the government plans to spend 34.88trn/- for recurrent

and development expenditure, with 22.10trn/- allocated for recurrent expenditure. This is equivalent to 63.0 percent of the total budget, while 12.78trn/- is slated for development expenditure.

Finance and Planning Minister, Dr Philip Mpango said the government plans to collect tax revenue amounting

to 20.33trn/-, non-tax revenue 2.92trn/- and revenue from local government own sources 815.0bn/-

Dr Mpango said the national budget for the coming fiscal year is geared to boost local industries and ease imports for manufacturing of necessary social goods and alleviating scarcity of sugar and wheat for food security.



Nuru Orphanage director Jason Fihavango (2nd-L) receives foodstuffs given by Qnet yesterday as assistance to the centre. The centre is based at Igawilo in Mbeya Region. Left is Qnet official Erneus Mwandoloma and right is the centre's manager, Oswald Poyo. Photo: Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga

Two collect forms in Isles nomination run

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education, health, land allocation and better housing for the people.

He said if elected, he would prioritize gender equality, child protection and improved care for elders. He said his government would invest in the youth through provision of vocational education for self-reliance.

Karume has for over 30 years served as Tanzania's envoy in Germany, Italy,

Belgium and the United States.

After collecting the forms, he visited the grave of his father, the Sheikh Amani Karume who led the 1964 Zanzibar Revolution.

It is the third time Karume is seeking for his party's endorsement to contest the presidency, as in 2015 he contested for the Union presidency and in 2010 he contested the Zanzibar presidency.

Meanwhile, a low profile CCM cadre, Mbwana Bakari Juma promised to

bring big economic changes and turn Zanzibar into a global economic hub.

A 1999 graduate of the University of Dar es Salaam, Juma said that Zanzibar is a hub for trade for centuries as it was a link between Africa, the Indian subcontinent and Europe.

The two cadres were handed the forms by the party's Organising Secretary with the Zanzibar section of the CCM National Executive Committee Galouis Nyimbo.

"I present you with these forms which you will fill and then seek 250 signatures from supporters who must be CCM members from regions in Unguja and Pemba," he spelled out.

Last week, CCM Ideology and Publicity Secretary Humphrey Polepole said the Union and Zanzibar presidential candidates on the CCM ticket will be picked on July 12 at the conclusion of the party's national congress.

WHO study on social distancing is 'flawed'

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be relied upon when scientists and ministers are forming judgments about what constitutes safe physical distancing.

"The analysis of infection risk at 1 metre versus 2 metres should be treated with great caution," said Prof David Spiegelhalter (pictured), a statistician at Cambridge University, who has participated in the government's Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies. "I'm very suspicious of it."

Prof Kevin McConway, an applied statistician at the Open University, went further and called the analysis inappropriate. He said the work "should not be used in arguments about how much greater the infection risk is at 1-metre minimum distance as opposed to 2 metres."

The study, published in the Lancet, is the latest to come under fire from experts who fear that in the midst of the pandemic some research papers are being written, reviewed and published too fast for sufficient quality checks to be performed.

Earlier this month, the Lancet and another elite publication, the New England Journal of Medicine, were forced to retract coronavirus studies after flaws in the papers emerged.

Doubts about the study emerged as Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced a formal review of the 2-metre physical distancing rule, which is expected to be effected starting 4th July, the earliest date pubs and restaurants may reopen in England. In recent weeks, Johnson has come under intense pressure from Conservative MPs to relax the advice to help businesses, particularly in the hospitality sector.

Led by researchers at McMaster University in Ontario, the report pooled data from previously published studies to estimate the risk of becoming infected with coronavirus at different distances. It also considered how face masks and eye protection might help prevent the spread of disease.

But in the analysis the authors assume the proportional impact on

risk of moving from 2 metres to 1 metre is the same as moving from 1 metre to zero. "They are forcing the proportional fit to be the same," Spiegelhalter said.

McConway believes there is a more fundamental problem in the way the risks of infection at different distances are compared in the study.

He said: "The method of comparing the different distances in the paper is inappropriate for telling you exactly how the risk at 2-metre minimum distance compares to a 1 metre minimum distance. It does not support, and should not be used in, arguments about how much greater the risk is with a 1 metre limit versus a 2-metre limit."

Another scientist, Prof Ben Cowling at the WHO Collaborating Centre for Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Control at the University of Hong Kong, flagged further issues with the work. He tweeted that he was "not taking the whole paper very seriously" because it looked only at distance and not for how long a person was exposed.

McConway said he had raised questions about the analysis with the authors and was waiting to hear back. He believed peer review by the Lancet and the WHO should have spotted the problems. "I think they did it in such a rush - the authors, possibly the WHO, and the Lancet peer reviewers - such that important things were missed," he said.

"Everyone believes that the risk of infection at 1-metre is higher than at 2-metre and we need to know how much higher because there's a trade-off between the increased risk and the gains from moving to 1-metre. But if you don't know how the risks at 1 metre and 2 metres compare, how do you know how to trade it off? It's finger in the air stuff," McConway said.

The most recent research document on physical distancing, updated on 2 May, makes clear that multiple streams of evidence are used to advise on safe distancing.

These include how long people are together, ventilation and room size, and that the 2-metre advice is no more than a ballpark guide for face-to-face meetings.



Youths with albinism wash cars as an income-generation activity at the weekend as celebrations to mark International Albinism Awareness Day (June 13) were being held in Dodoma city. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

By Guardian Correspondent, Tarime

MARA Regional Commissioner Adam Malima has issued 14 days to Tgarime district council to respond to queries raised by the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) in his 2018/18 Report including an explanation as to how it endorsed 37m/- expenditure in merely photocopying work.

The RC issued the ultimatum during Tarime district councilors meeting at Nyhamweaga town to discuss issues raised by CAG during which he said he was surprised how Council officials approved the huge expenditure in merely photocopying work.

In his report the CAG discovered the discrepancy and in its basic response the Council had paid the amount after all the seven photocopy machines broke down hence they had to outsource the service.

THE RC said the explanation was not acceptable as the amount could have been used to buy seven photocopiers at the lowest

RC gives council two weeks to respond to CAG queries

current market price of 2.8m/- each.

In addition, in the CAG Report the Council claimed to have allocated 20m/- to repair the seven photocopiers but only two were repaired.

"It is inconceivable to spend that sum to pay for a privately sourced service, and investigations must identify the service provider as the money is public money which could have been used to purchase seven photocopiers, rather than allocating 20m/- for merely repairing the old machines," RC Malima said.

Meanwhile, the RC called for full explanation on how the Council is owed more than 1bn/- being salaries accumulation for its workers while it has been receiving more

than 1bn/- each year from North Mara Gold Mine as service charge. "I call for the Council management to correctly respond to this as quickly as possible showing how the huge debt is to be paid taking into consideration the fact that the Council being the most prosperous in Mara Region," he said.

The Council with the majority of its members from the opposition Chama cha Demokrasia na Maendeleo (CHADEMA), apart from being slapped with 41 audit queries including making payments without supporting documents, was also claimed to have misappropriated more than 30bn/- paid by the North Mara Gold Mines according to an inquiry committee formed by the Regional Commissioner two years ago.

European Commission improves sanitation facilities to over 75,000 Burundian refugees

By Guardian Reporter, Kigoma

THE humanitarian aid department of the European Commission (ECHO) has improved clean water services and provision of sanitation facilities to over 75,000 Burundian refugees at the Nduta camp in Kibondo district, Kigoma region.

This is through its Burundian refugee's response programme.

Josephat Singano, Oxfam's water sanitation and hygiene promotion (WASH) coordinator in Kibondo district said that in the past financial year, ECHO approved funding to the tune of 500,000 Euros.

He said through the funding they have been able to ensure availability of clean and safe water.

Oxfam has continued to effectively conduct water treatments and regular water quality monitoring as well as maintenance and repair of generators, pumps and pipes. It has also drilled boreholes and installation of water tanks to improve water accessibility.

Sabimana Leah is a mother of two from Ruyigi city in Burundi, she has been living in the Nduta camp since 2015, and she admits significant improvements in the availability of water points in recent years. "With water taps nearby, we can access water for cooking, washing our clothes, and for bathing. We even drink water straight from the tap," she said.

On sanitation, Oxfam has constructed 600 family latrines and 600 bathing shelters using community participatory approach.

According to Singano, at least 50 of the newly constructed latrines and bathrooms have been designed for people with special needs including those with disabilities, the elderly and people with chronic diseases.

He said the funding also supported construction of 20 child friendly latrines used by

children under four years. He said other 12 latrines under construction are urinal diversion dry toilets which when they are full, the waste is collected and converted into fertilizer for growing crops. "We have reached 600,000 refugees through our various hygiene promotion campaigns," said Singano.

Vamporeye Damiana is a leader in the camp. He said this is the third time he is fleeing his country to seek refuge in Tanzania. He has been in Nduta since December 2015.

Vamporeye said: "Having a latrine near my house is very useful since I am now old. I wouldn't prefer walking far to use the toilet," he said.

The latrines have been installed with tippy taps with two containers one with water and one with soap to ensure thorough hand washing which is crucial in preventing the spread of diseases.

However, Oxfam empowers the refugees by equipping them with knowledge and skills on operation and maintenance of various infrastructures installed in the camp.

The modality has helped to achieve and maintain access of at least 25 litres of water per person per day at both, household and institutional levels. The amount exceeds the minimum quantity of 20 litres per capita per day as recommended by Sphere Standards as minimum essential levels for health and hygiene.

Singano said: "We have also trained the refugees on how to make charcoal using solid waste. The aim is to promote environmental conservation in the camp."

Felista Ndayikunda (25) is an incentive construction worker trained by Oxfam at the Nduta refugee camp. She proudly said: "people say women cannot hold spanners, I'm a living proof that with determination, women can do construction work, and make

a living to sustain their lives." Upendo and Umoja primary schools are among the academic institutions in the camp that have benefited from ECHO funding, through which two latrines each with 12 stances are currently being built for each school.

Oxfam trained school children on hygiene issues through the established clubs as well as promotion of menstrual hygiene management for women and girls of reproductive age.

Singano said: "Latrines for girl students have been designed to support them during menstruation period."

Meanwhile, ECHO has approved some 18,500 Euros to be reallocated from the overall funding that was directed on the fight against Covid-19.

The money was used to purchase various facilities for prevention of Covid-19 such as liquid soap which were distributed to refugees.

So far there is no confirmed case of the novel coronavirus reported in the refugee camp which currently accommodates over 74,000 refugees from Burundi.

LOST TITLE DEED

I Anna Ngulumu Mdemu, the owner of a little deed with **Registration number 1306-mbyr** which is on plot **No. 505, block D**

located/situated Mafinga Urban area, is lost. Please if found return it to the nearest police station or please contact the following phone numbers: **0657 310505, 0714 951168, 0714 431962.**

Police Report: UBS/RB/914/2020.

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TENDER NOTICE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR VARIOUS SERVICES

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 service providers with proven experience and capacity to provide the required service. Interested eligible bidders are invited to apply for the provision of below list of services;
 - i. Corporate Online Banking Solution
 - ii. Pre - Employment Screening Services (Re- Advertisement)
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 **Friday, 10th July 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



www.nbc.co.tz

TENDER NOTICE

EXTENSION OF TENDER SUBMISSION DATE

This notification is continuation of the Tender for the provision of **payment system/Engine** advertised on **29th May 2020**. Bidders are hereby notified that closing date for submission of Tenders has been extended for another ten (10) days.

The closing date will now be on **Monday, 29th June 2020** at 1600 hours. All other conditions will remain unchanged.

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

The Bank for a Working Nation





Jonathan Mazengo (80) of Dodoma city's Kizota suburb makes a quick run through the front pages of newspapers at a vendor's sales point near Majengo market yesterday. Photo: Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Lindi

Lindi court fines Burundi national for entering the country unlawfully

RESIDENT Magistrates Court in Lindi Region has sentenced a Burundi national Nsengiyuma Mathias (25) to pay 500,000/- fine or six months imprisonment after it found him guilty of staying in the country illegally.

The sentence was meted out by the Court's Senior Resident Magistrate Elimo Massawe after the suspect pleaded guilty to the offence he was faced with.

Before judgment, the accused was

called to give his defence in which he asked for leniency because it was his first offence which he committed unknowingly.

After mitigation Massawe asked the State Attorney whether he has record of the accused's past crime to which he said he had none, but asked for a stiff

sentence to serve as a lesson for others who commit such offences.

Giving judgment in the case (No. 47/2020) Senior Resident Magistrate Massawe said after going through Section 45 (1) (i) of the Immigration Act and the count he was charged with, he fines the accused 500,000/- or a jail

term of six months.

Earlier, State Attorney Emmanuel John had alleged in court that Mathias was arrested on June 6 this year by Immigration officials at Ruya Guest House in Lindi Municipality without any permit to be in the united Republic of Tanzania.

PCCB takes 2 TRA officials to court over bribe charges

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

THE Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) in Manyara Region has dragged to court two Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) officers over soliciting and receiving of bribes from a businesswoman.

Reading charges before Babati District magistrate Victor Kimario, PCCB prosecutor Martini Makani mentioned the two as Eva Joseph Mtandika and Jackline Leonard Manjira both TRA officers from Manyara Region's TRA office at Babati.

Makani alleged in court that the two, between June 6 and 11 this year jointly solicited and received 1m/- bribe from Mary Adam Mtema, businesswoman with TIN No. 135-459-283.

Makani further alleged that as TRA officers, together they solicited 1m/- bribe from the businesswoman who they allegedly accused for not using the electronic fiscal devices (EFDs) and issuing receipts to customers who buy goods from her products.

Makani said the offence falls under Section 15(1) and (2) of the PCCB Act, No. 11 of 2007.

Both accused pleaded not guilty to the charge and the magistrate set bail conditions that required each one of them to have one surety to sign 2m/- bond each.

Both accused met bail conditions and the case will come up for mention on July 16.

Earlier, the PCCB discovered that the businesswoman was assessed to pay

250,000/- tax per year by a TRA officer who did not solicit any money from her and added that the businesswoman requested to pay the tax in installments and by June this year she had paid her first installment as assessed.

She was later followed by the suspects who told her that she had been under-assessed and that her business called for the use the electronic fiscal devices (EFD) hence she had committed an offence.

PCCB head for Manyara Region Holle Makungu had said after that the TRA officials directed her to go to the Babati TRA office for further steps.

"When she went to the TRA office she was told that she had been under assessed as she was supposed to pay 450,000/- per year as well as 3m/- fine," Makungu said.

The trader told them that she was unable to pay that entire amount in consideration of the business she conducts.

"After that one of the TRA officials, Jackline Manjira told her that they can eliminate the fine if she gave them 1m/-," said Makungu, PCCB Head for Manyara Region.

He said thereafter the businesswoman reported the issue to the PCCB office and a trap was set that saw the arrest of the trio.

"After that one of the TRA officials, Jackline Manjira told her that they can eliminate the fine if she gave them 1m/-"

Parliamentary team approves ETS system on local products

By Henry Mwangonde

THE parliamentary budget committee has underlined the need for adopting the Electronic Tax Stamps (ETS) system in the war against counterfeiting in locally produced products to protect industries as well as consumers health.

The committee's chairman Mashimba Ndaki said in a statement when tabling views on the state of economy, the country's national development plan and the national budget in House on Friday.

According to the committee, there was need for the adoption of ETS to control standard sugar, cooking oil, body lotions, cosmetics and agriculture inputs such as fertilizers and pesticides to protect users from health risks.

The committee also called on the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) to prepare a programme on how to take over the system after the expiry period of current contractor and consultant for the system, Swiss firm, Société Industrielle et Commerciale de Produits Alimentaires (SICPA).

"One of the challenges facing the country is the availability of counterfeits and products that enter the country through unofficial routes. Some of the products have negative impacts to local producers, health risks of consumers and harvests for farmers as well," the committee said in the statement.

The committee further said TRA is currently using ETS to identify fake and original products, there is need to adopt this system to other products if we are to move forward and overcome

these challenges."

The government through TRA started the first phase of ETS system on wines, spirits and cigarettes in January 2019. The system was fully rolled out for all alcoholic drinks, cigarettes and bottled water on June 15, the same year.

SICPA won the tender and subsequently signed a contract with TRA for supply, installation and provision of supporting software and hardware for ETS management system.

ETS is meant to replace the hitherto paper-based tax stamps initially attached to cigarettes, wines and spirits. The old system was prone to cheating of taxes through under declaration, among other malpractices.

The ETS management system automatically stamps the products at the end of the production line and submits the count in real time through a system to TRA.



One of the challenges facing the country is the availability of counterfeits and products that enter the country through unofficial routes. Some of the products have negative impacts to local producers, health risks of consumers and harvests for farmers as well



Singida regional commissioner Dr Rehema Nchimbi (in glasses) consoles Itagata village mason Daniel Michael at the weekend after he had aired his grievances to her about what he said was blatant refusal by an irrigation scheme contractor to pay him 4.6m/-. The RC was on an inspection tour of development projects in Itigi District. Photo: Correspondent Dotto Mwaibale

Govt pledges more loans to vulnerable groups

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE government will continue providing loans to vulnerable groups including youth, women and people with disabilities to enable them become self employed by engaging in economic activities and increase government revenue.

This assurance was given here yesterday by Mbeya city community development officer Vincent Msola

when he spoke to some chairmen from Mbeya City Council who work together with Elimisha - a nongovernmental organisation (NGO) in mobilising unemployed girls for training to increase their incomes.

He said as government, it hails the decision of Elimisha with the scheme to assist unemployed girls by building for them capacity in enhancing their incomes.

He said after they are trained, the

government has mobilised itself to assist them by providing them with loans to set aside by local councils for the vulnerable groups.

A member from Ilemi street government, Mwanaisha Jumanne Rashid said they will work together with the NGO in identifying girls from her area that need such training.

She said there are challenges facing girls who are losing hope due to lack of knowledge on how to enhance their

incomes hence the NGO's step has come at the right time.

Elimisha's director Festo Sikagonamo said the NGO's aims is to ensure it provides training for girls' capacity building to enable them engage in gainful businesses. He said the NGO has mobilised itself to work together with central and local government officials to ensure girls from the street level benefit from the training to enhance their economic activities.



NMB Bank Plc chief internal auditor Juma Kimori (L) elaborates on a point to Head of National Service Major General Charles Mbuge (2nd-L) when a delegation from the bank visited the NS Headquarters at Chamwino in Dodoma Region at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

GBV cases come down in Z'bar

By Guardian Correspondent

CASES related to gender-based violence have started going down in Zanzibar due to the fact that people are aware of the challenge, an official has said.

Gharib Abdallah, programme coordinator, SOS Children's Village Zanzibar said violence against children in the Indian Ocean archipelago has been going down because people are now reporting incidents related to violence against children to responsible authorities.

"Right now, people are aware of where to report those cases and most of them report to the police gender desk and one-stop-centers, which are available across Zanzibar," he said when speaking ahead of the International Day of the African Child.

"Awareness creation has contributed to the reduction of child abuse cases in both Unguja and Pemba," he said, noting that children are now becoming aware of their rights and they know where to report once they are being sexually abused.

"It wasn't a simple task. It's a long journey. Children are being trained through their school clubs on their rights and they are informed on where to report," he said.

"As SOS Zanzibar we are very glad for what we have achieved in Zanzibar, because right now we're seeing parents have a confidence to report different violence cases that affect them, demand their rights and for their children, he says noting that right now their children stay in a better place," Abdallah said.

SOS embarked on the anti-GBV programme after discovering that majority of parents in Isles weren't aware of what to do once they face incidents of violence.

"We also empowered parents with better parenting skills to ensure they

provide quality care to children," he said, adding that so far, the programme is being implemented in 15 wards across Zanzibar.

The programme is also meant to protect children from violence as well as preventing them from living on the streets.

SOS has been supporting children through different projects to help them get better education, health services and skills for them to get into productive activities.

According to him, since January 2019 to March 2020, 1,800 students have benefited from SOS's education support.

While in health sector, 300 children have received National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) cards worth 10m/- enabling them to access quality medical services in various hospitals.

He also said the charity organisation provides education to children on child safeguarding and child protection for them to be able to report different cases to responsible authorities.

SOS started operating in Zanzibar in 1993. So far it has 111 children, 78 youth and 13 mothers who take care of the children.

Right now SOS village in Zanzibar is implementing two projects dubbed: Family Strengthening Programme that is a four years project and Community Action for Quality Alternative Care.



It wasn't a simple task. It's a long journey. Children are being trained through their school clubs on their rights and they are informed on where to report

NGO donates Covid-19 PPE to health workers in Kakonkwo

By Guardian Reporter

A local anti-poverty organisation known as BSPGE has donated Personal Protective Equipment to help health workers and the community fight the spread of Covid-19 infections in Kakonkwo District, Kigoma Region.

Speaking during the handover event, chairman of the BSPGE- Buyungu Solutions to Poverty and Grassroots Engagement, Damian Luhinda said that the donation worth about 2m/- involve face masks, bottles of hand sanitisers, buckets, and liquid soaps

"Today we are delivering part of the Coronavirus preventive gear to

the Mufindi District Commissioner Jamhuri William. We are all aware of the big job done by health workers and the community during the fight against the pandemic," he said.

Luhinda commended President Magufuli and the ministerial team for leading the country well during the crisis.

"We also commend the big job done by service providers in the health ministry as they spent sleepless nights to ensure that Tanzanians are healed from the disease..fortunately, we have been blessed with a loving and hardworking president, so it is crucial to support his efforts for the

country to attain development goals," he added.

Receiving the donation, Kigoma District Commissioner Cornel Hosea Ndagara commended the organisation for extending the support to ensure that the community stays safe.

DC Ndagara said that the support has come at the right time when the government is intensifying its efforts to ensure that the disease is totally battled.

"We appreciate all contributions given by stakeholders and companies, the donations are highly needed this time when the country is struggling to totally eradicate Covid-19 infections,"

he said.

He further reminded the public to continue adhering to the experts' directives on protective measures against the virus such as frequent hand washing, sanitising, observing social distancing and wearing face masks.

BSPGE is a local organisation based in Dar es Salaam working to empower poor communities engage in development activities, capacitating them with essential skills and knowledge towards fighting deforestation, venturing into modern farming, entrepreneurship, livestock keeping and aquaculture.



Request for Proposals

To Conduct External Baseline Evaluation Child Labour III Project "Eliminating Worst Forms of Child Labour and Other Forms of Violence Against Children in Geita Region"
RFP No. PIT/CO/50/FY20

1. Plan is an international humanitarian, child centered, development organization, without religious, political or governmental affiliation (www.plan-international.org). Child sponsorship is the basic foundation of the organization. Plan International works with children, their families and communities in 70 countries, building skills, the structures and the resources to give children an equal chance to develop into healthy, educated and responsible adulthood. Plan International Tanzania has a physical presence and implements projects in the following regions: Dar Es Salaam, Coast, Morogoro, Geita, Dodoma, Mwanza, Rukwa, Kigoma (Refugees Emergency Program in Kibondo District). Also, through Partners and Strategic alliance, Plan International Tanzania implements projects in, Zanzibar, Ruvuma, Morogoro, Iringa, and Mtwara.
2. Plan International Tanzania has set aside funds to implement the project to **Conduct External Baseline Evaluation Child Labour III Project "Eliminating Worst Forms of Child Labour and Other Forms of Violence Against Children in Geita Region"**
3. Interested eligible bidders must confirm their intention to bid indicating all relevant contact information including an email address to tenders@plan-international.org attn: Head of Procurement and Logistics. Bidding documents in the English language will be sent to interested bidders by email. Plan Tanzania will not be held responsible for any costs related to printing of the bid documents.
4. Bidders are requested to submit Technical and Financial Proposals each marked "*Technical Proposal*" and "*Financial Proposal*" respectively. Proposals must be submitted electronically to: electronic.bids@plan-international.org before 10AM Monday 29th June 2020. Late bids will be rejected, not evaluated.

Country Director
Plan International Tanzania
Central Technologies House
Plot No. 96 Mikocheni Light Industrial Area
New Bagamoyo Road - Next to TBC1&NECTA
P O Box 3517
Dar es Salaam

21577401



policy forum

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR POLITICAL ECONOMY ANALYSIS FOR POLICY FORUM June 2020

The Policy Forum (PF) is a network of 76 Tanzanian civil society organizations established in 2003 and drawn together by their specific interest in augmenting the voice of ordinary citizens to influence policy processes that help in poverty reduction, equity and democratization with a specific focus on public money accountability at both central and local levels. The overall goal is to contribute to the evolution of democratic governance in Tanzania through enhanced capacity of various actors involved with holding their government to account. Policy Forum envisions improved quality of life for the Tanzania people (vision). Policy Forum will work together to influence policy processes that improve the lives of all Tanzanians through enhanced governance and accountable use of public resources and effective protection for human rights (mission).

PF seeks to engage a consultant to produce a Political Economy Analysis (PEA) of Tanzania detailing the context in which civil societies operate in fulfilling their mandates which will help inform the network on how to best position itself given its role as a convener of NGOs working to strengthen governance and public money accountability. The objectives of the assignment are:

Main Objective:

To undertake a macro-level **Political Economy Analysis** (PEA) to gain an understanding of the context in which Policy Forum, other civil society organizations operate in fulfilling their mandates. This includes examining the opportunities and obstacles for policy reform.

Specific Objectives:

- a) To undertake power analysis of parliamentarians and executive technocrats to shed light on the abilities of such actors to improve their domains' responsiveness to PF's agenda.
- b) To identify the drivers for success in executive advocacy and the existing disincentives for reform within the administration.
- c) Examine the specific support local government actors need to enhance public money accountability at the subnational level and in responding to the specific needs of the vulnerable including women and youth.
- d) Map out opportunities for enhancing a business-friendly Domestic Resource Mobilization especially during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.
- e) To identify relevant skills that civil society organizations need to improve in engaging with policy processes including formulation, implementation and monitoring as well as to document the gender and power asymmetry and opportunities that exist to prevent or support women and youth in policy advocacy.

Interested applicants can view the full Terms of Reference (TOR) on our website: <https://www.policyforum-tz.org/terms-reference-political-economy-analysis-policy-forum>

Applications should be sent by email to info@policyforum.or.tz not later than **30th June 2020**.

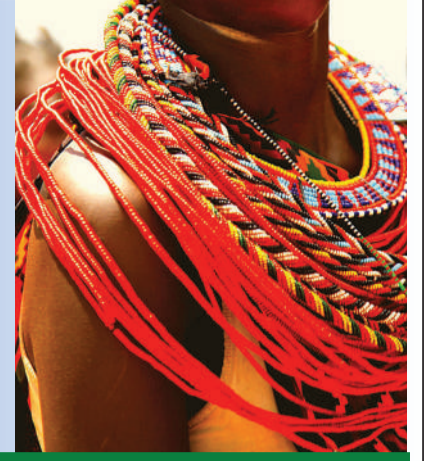
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KENYA
AU ENDORSED CANDIDATE FOR
UN SECURITY COUNCIL
2021 - 2022

KENYA READY TO SERVE

**AFRICAN UNION CANDIDATES FOR THE UNITED
NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL 2021 - 2022**



KENYA'S PROMISE

Kenya has an exemplary and enviable record at the multilateral context and also at the regional level

Kenya has established meaningful relations and partnerships with countries that are part of major intergovernmental negotiations including the P5 (Permanent Members of Security Council- China, France, Russia, United Kingdom and United States), the A3 (African Non-Permanent Security Council Members, currently Niger, South Africa and Tunisia), G77 & China, the African Group, Asia-Pacific States, Eastern European States, Western European and others States (WEOG), Latin American and Caribbean States, the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), the Pacific and Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) and the BRICS - (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa).

Kenya aspires for a United Nations (UN) rooted at the center of a rules based international system. A UN where all states exercise all rights due to them equally as enshrined in the Charter of the global body. Kenya will work with the entire UN membership in executing the mandate of the UNSC in an inclusive, responsive and consultative manner irrespective of size and military might.

Since admission to the UN, Kenya's commitment to the principles and ideals of the UN has been resolute and consistent, particularly on matters of peace and security, sustainable development, global environmental and climate change issues.

Kenya believes strongly that sustainable development, which is humanity's aspiration, can only be achieved when there is peace and security for all. Similarly, peace and security will be at risk in any situation where development is not inclusive, gender balanced and sustainable.

Located along the coast of the Indian Ocean, making it the Eastern gateway to Africa, Kenya has strong links with East Africa, the Horn of Africa, the Great Lakes region, Southern African regions of the continent and across the Indian ocean with India and other Asian countries. Owing to the fragility of her locale, Kenya has been relentless in the promotion and maintenance of peace, security and stability in Africa, and the world at large. Our anchor role in pursuit for peace particularly in the Horn of Africa has led to a strong and evolving peacemaking doctrine within and beyond our borders.

Kenya is an open democratic country that is an expression of the spirit and the letter of the Kenya Constitution promulgated in 2010. Kenya's free market economy continues to be the anchor and bedrock of Kenya's economic development, stability and growth.

Kenya's promise is to bring its wealth of experience in preventive diplomacy, peacekeeping, conflict resolution and post conflict reconstruction to the UNSC.

This orientation frames our campaign for the UNSC seat: Peace and Security for Sustainable Development.

Kenya is the African Union candidate for the non-permanent seat of the United Nations Security Council for the term 2021-2022. We seek your vote at the elections to be held on 17th June, 2020.

SUPPORT AFRICA. VOTE KENYA.

COUNTERING TERRORISM & PREVENTION OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM

Kenya as a member of the Security Council will continue to push for technical assistance, capacity building and enhanced coordination to strengthen global counter terrorism capacities including through the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), the Office of Counterterrorism (OCT) and other UN entities



Kenya is committed to fighting Terrorism and Violent Extremism and hosted the first ever African Regional High-level Conference on Counter Terrorism and the Prevention of Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism



The Kenya National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC) is a multi-agency instrument primarily of security agencies built to strengthen coordination in counter terrorism

HUMANITARIAN ACTION

Reaffirm our commitment towards the protection of refugees, with regards to future large-scale refugee movements, as well as to existing protracted refugee situations, including realization of the social and economic rights of all persons of concern.



Kenya has hosted over 600,000 refugees from Eastern and Central Africa



Kenya has hosted 5 of the world's largest refugee camps for over 20 years - including Dadaab, Kakuma Refugee Camp, Hagadera Refugee Camp, Dagahaley Refugee Camp and Ifo Refugee Camp



In 2016, 5 refugee athletes from Kenya competed in the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) World Athletics championships

JUSTICE, HUMAN RIGHTS & DEMOCRACY

Kenya believes strongly that peace and security, development and human rights are mutually reinforcing and will champion a people centered, Sustainable Development approach to securing peace. Peace, security and stability cannot be enjoyed without Justice, Human Rights and Democracy.



Kenya has served two terms at the United Nations Human Rights Council where it contributed immensely to the promotion and protection of human rights globally.



Kenya is member of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities from 2019 and has been instrumental in the monitoring of the implementation of the Convention by the State Parties.

WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

Kenya recognizes the crucial link between women, peace and security particularly as critical change agents and catalysts for peace. Kenya has and will continue to leverage gender perspectives in seeking lasting solutions to peace and Security.



Kenya ranks high in female deployment currently standing at more than 19%



Kenya is implementing the landmark UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) which calls for women's participation in peace building.

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

Kenya recognises that the youth play a significant role in maintaining and promoting peace & security. Kenya will therefore continue to promote the empowerment and inclusion of youth as agents of peace, security and development.



President Uhuru Kenyatta is the United Nations global Champion of the Young People's Agenda



Innovations such as expansion of 4G Networks, the rise of Fintech solutions has led to Kenya being referred to as the Silicon Savannah where the youth develop solutions that create employment

ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE AGENDA

Kenya has a long and distinguished tradition in environmental conservation and protection. Kenya believes in the sustainable management of the environment and natural resources for socio-economic development. Kenya advocates for constructive, consultative and inclusive dialogue on the nexus between adverse effects of climate change and conflict.



Kenya hosts the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and UN - Habitat and builds consensus on the environmental and sustainable development agenda



Kenya hosted the first ever Sustainable Blue Economy Conference in Nairobi in November, 2018, which focused on creating economic growth, ensuring healthy waters and building safe communities.



Kenya is currently powered by 70% renewable energy sources, three times more than the global average.



Kenya is the largest geothermal power producer in Africa, and the 8th largest in the World

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AGENDA

Kenya recognizes that sustainable development and peace, security and stability are mutually dependent. Kenya will work with others to support a reformed UN system that can deliver peace, security and development and one that will address the challenges of development as central to international peace and security.



Kenya and Hungary Co-Chaired the 13th session of the Open Working Group (OWG) which tabled the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2014/2015.



Kenya also co-facilitated with Ireland the Post-2015 Development Agenda Process leading to adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



Kenya will use its special leadership roles in global and regional organizations such as its presidency of the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) and membership of the Bureau of the Assembly of the African Union (AU) to drive the implementation of the United Nations Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals.



KENYA'S 10 POINT AGENDA TO THE WORLD

Kenya is a safe pair of hands and will be a steadfast partner at the Security Council. Kenya will leverage on its wealth of experiences and work towards delivering peace for sustainable development with all the United Nations Member States. Kenya is willing, ready and able to serve in the United Nations Security Council. and calls on all the members of the United Nations to Support Africa by Voting Kenya into the Council in June 2020.

BUILDING BRIDGES

We have continued to use our diversity to build bridges within our region and globally. We believe in the equality of all States regardless of size; and as such we have partnered with all member states to address critical and contemporary global issues



Kenya will be a bridge and consensus builder between permanent and non-permanent members of the UNSC, the Peace Building Commission (PBC) and the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).



Multilateralism is at the core of Kenya's Foreign Policy. Kenya has consistently sought and found lasting solutions to challenges to regional peace & security through inclusive consultations.

REGIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

As an anchor state and guarantor to various peace processes within the Africa region, Kenya will bring a wealth of experience in peace-building and post-conflict reconstruction to the Security Council.



Kenya is a Member of the African Union Peace and Security Council (AU PSC) serving a second term that ends in 2022. Within the AU PSC Kenya has contributed to efficient responses to conflict and crisis situations in Africa, including the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.



Kenya has been recognised for the role it plays in hosting and facilitating peace negotiations between its neighbouring countries.



Kenya is an active member of the Peace Building Commission since 2014 and has been able to change the limiting narrative around peace building to ensure that it is no longer considered as just a post conflict activity

PEACE KEEPING AND SUPPORT OPERATIONS

We have contributed over 40,000 peacekeepers including mission leadership in Africa, the Middle East, the Balkans, and Asia. We believe inclusive triangular consultations between the Security Council, the UN Secretariat and Troop and Police contributing countries are essential in making peace operations fit for purpose.



Kenya has contributed to more than 55,000 troops and other personnel to peacekeeping operations in over 40 countries



Kenya hosts the International Peace Support Training Center which is one of the largest and oldest peace keeping training centers on the continent



Kenya is ranked the 13th largest African Union contributor of uniformed UN peacekeepers.

SUPPORT AFRICA VOTE KENYA

GLOBAL CONVERSATIONS FROM KENYA

- 01 9th African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Summit 9th-10th December, 2019
- 02 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD25) Summit 12th-14th November, 2019
- 03 African Women Leaders Network Inter-Generational Retreat on Leadership in Africa 16th-18th August, 2019
- 04 African Regional High Level Conference on Counter Terrorism and the Prevention of Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism 10th-11th July, 2019
- 05 First UN Habitat Assembly 27th- 31st May 2019
- 06 4th United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 4) 11th- 15th March 2019
- 07 One Planet Summit 14th March, 2019



- 08 Global Sustainable Blue Economy Conference 26th-28th November, 2018
- 09 3rd United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 3) 4th-6th December 2017
- 10 2nd High Level Meeting of Global Partnership (HLM2) Conference 28th November - 1st December, 2016
- 11 6th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI) 27th - 28th August 2016
- 12 14th Session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development 17th to 22nd July 2016
- 13 2nd United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 2) 21st- 22nd May 2016

KENYA INSPIRING GLOBAL EXCELLENCE



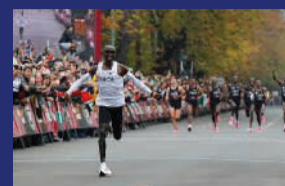
PETER TABICHI, WINNER OF THE GLOBAL TEACHER PRIZE 2019

Peter has dedicated his life to helping others. He gives 80% of his teaching salary to local community projects, including education, sustainable agriculture and peace-building



DR. PATRICK AMOTH, A SAFE PAIR OF HANDS IN TIMES OF CRISIS GLOBALLY

Kenya's health Ministry's Director of Health Dr. Patrick Amoth has been elected to serve as the Vice President of the Executive Board of the World Health Organization (WHO). Dr. Amoth who was elected alongside four other Vice Presidents during a virtual meeting on Friday will be representing the Africa region and will serve for a period of two years.



ELIUD KIPCHOGE, BEACON OF HOPE, CHALLENGER OF NORMS, WORLD CHAMPION & MR. 1:59

He is the world record holder in the marathon with a time of 2:01:39, at the 2018 Berlin Marathon. His run broke the previous world record by 1 minute and 18 seconds. In October 2019, he became the first person in recorded history to break the two hour barrier over a marathon distance



NGŪGĨ WA THIONG'O, A POET, NOVELIST, WRITER, ACTIVIST

Ngũgĩ is a writer, poet, novelist with multiple plays, books and novels to his name written mostly in his mother tongue, 'GIKUYU'. He has taught at Yale University, and also at New York University. Ngũgĩ has frequently been regarded as a likely candidate for the Nobel Prize in Literature



WANGARI MAATHAI, AN ACTIVIST, A CONSERVATIONIST, A FIGHTER FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR WORLD

Wangari Maathai was a renowned Kenyan social, environmental and political activist and the first African woman to win the Nobel Prize. Wangari was focused on the planting of trees, environmental conservation, and women's rights across the world.



COLLINS INJERA, RECORD HOLDER AND THE FACE OF GLOBAL RUGBY ACHIEVEMENT

Collins Injera is a Kenyan rugby player. He holds the all-time record for number of tries scored on the IRB Sevens World Series circuit with 235. He is known for his achievements with Kenyan national rugby sevens team.

KENYA INSPIRING GLOBAL EXCELLENCE



DR. JOSEPHINE KULEA HSC, A CHAMPION FOR CHILD RIGHTS & EDUCATION

Dr. Josephine Kulea and through her organization, has rescued over 1,200 girls and through her organization is supported over 400 girls to get an education. She has been recognized as the UN Person of the Year - 2013, YALI Washington Fellow 2014, African Union Youth Hero 2015, Top 40 under 40 women award 2016.



FRANCIS KAMAU, A CLIMATE CHANGE HERO WITH A TICKET

Francis Kamau is a 29 year old environmentalist. He was given a green-ticket to speak on climate change at the 74th session of the UN General Assembly as well as at the first ever United Nations Youth Climate Summit. He has received awards from the Tony Blumenthal Foundation



TEGLA LOROUPE, A WORLD BEATER, A GLOBAL VOICE FOR PEACE

Tegla Chepkite Loroupe is a Kenyan long-distance track and road runner. She is also a global-spokeswoman for peace, women's rights and education. Loroupe holds the world records for 25 and 30 kilometres and previously held the world marathon record



WAWIRA NJIRU, KEEPING KIDS IN SCHOOL & A GLOBAL CITIZEN

Wawira Njiru, a 29 year old Kenyan businesswoman, was awarded \$250,000 from the Global Citizen Prize for her organizations work 'Food4Education' which currently provides food to 2,000 lower income students a day.



BRIGID KOSGEI, A CAPTAIN, A LEADER, A WORLD RECORD HOLDER

Brigid Jephchirchir Kosgei is a Kenyan marathon runner who won the 2018 and 2019 Chicago Marathons and the 2019 London Marathon. She is the current marathon world record holder for women running in a mixed-sex race



KENYA WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL, TEAM WORK TO DELIVER RESULTS

The Kenya women's national volleyball team represents Kenya in international volleyball competitions. Kenya has also represented Africa in Volleyball competitions across the world



"Endorsement is the Ultimate expression of Multilateralism ..

..Endorsements are a tradition We must jealously guard"

H.E Mr. Lazarus O. Amayo, Ambassador Kenya's Permanent Representative to the United Nations

KENYA - READY TO SERVE



- 14 10th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organisation (MC10) 15th-19th December 2015
- 15 Global Entrepreneurship Summit (GES) 25th -26th July 2015 - attended by the US President, Barack Obama
- 16 99th Session of the ACP Council of Ministers on the Development of the ACP Commodities Sector 16th-18th June, 2014
- 17 First United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-1) 23rd -27th June 2014



KENYA - A MEMBER OF THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY



African Union (AU)



United Nations (UN)



East African Community (EAC)



Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)



International Conference of the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR)



Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)



Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)



The Commonwealth



The Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States



Group of 77 and China



Forum for China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC)



TICAD Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD)

The Guardian

www.ippmedia.com

TUESDAY 16 JUNE 2020

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

African children deserve protection: Does marking THEIR DAY matter?

THE Day of the African Child has been celebrated every June 16 since 1991, when it was initiated by the Organisation of African Unity (OAU). In 2001, the OAU legally became the African Union. It honours those who participated in the Soweto Uprising in 1976 on that day. It also raises awareness of the continuing need for improvement of the education provided to African children.

In Soweto, South Africa, on June 16, 1976, about ten thousand black school children marched in a column more than half a mile long, protesting the poor quality of their education and demanding their right to be taught in their own language. Hundreds of young students were shot, the most famous of which being Hector Pieterse. More than a hundred people were killed in the protests of the following two weeks, and more than a thousand were injured.

On June 16 every year, governments, NGOs, international organisations and other stakeholders gather to discuss the challenges and opportunities facing the full realization of the rights of children Africa. For 2014, the theme chosen returns to the roots of the movement: A child-friendly, quality, free, and compulsory education for all children in Africa. Like the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Children's Charter is a comprehensive instrument that sets out rights and defines universal principles and norms for the status of children. The ACRWC and the CRC are the only international and regional human rights treaties that cover the whole spectrum of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

It calls for the creation of an African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. Its mission is to promote and protect the rights as required of party states, African Union institutions, or all other institutions recognised by AU or by a member state. Children in Africa are affected by many different types of abuse, including economic and sexual exploitation, gender discrimination in education and access to health, and their involvement

in armed conflict.

Other factors affecting African children include migration, early marriage, differences between urban and rural areas, child-headed households, street children and poverty. Furthermore, child workers in sub-Saharan Africa account for about 80 million children or 4 out of every 10 children under 14 years old which is the highest child labour rate in the world.

The ACRWC defines a "child" as a human being below the age of 18 years. It recognises the child's unique and privileged place in African society and that African children need protection and special care. It also acknowledges that children are entitled to the enjoyment of freedom of expression, association, peaceful assembly, thought, religion, and conscience. It aims to protect the private life of the child and safeguard the child against all forms of economic exploitation and against work that is hazardous, interferes with the child's education, or compromises his or her health or physical, social, mental, spiritual, and moral development. It calls for protection against abuse and bad treatment, negative social and cultural practices, all forms of exploitation or sexual abuse, including commercial sexual exploitation, and illegal drug use. It aims to prevent the sale and trafficking of children, kidnapping, and begging of children.

The Children's Charter originated because the member states of the AU believed that the CRC missed important socio-cultural and economic realities particular to Africa. It emphasises the need to include African cultural values and experiences when dealing with the rights of the child in such as challenging traditional African views which often conflict with children's rights such as child marriage, parental rights and obligations towards their children, and children born out of wedlock. Expressly saying that the Children's Charter is higher than any custom, tradition, cultural or religious practice that doesn't fit with the rights, duties and obligations in the Charter.

Remittances are a mainstay for millions of the world's poor: Let's improve them

THE International Day of Family Remittances is a universally-recognised observance adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and observed on 16 June each year. The day recognises the contribution of over 200 million migrant workers to improve the lives of their 800 million family members back home, and to create a future of hope for their children.

But COVID-19 is disrupting an entire system that directly involves 200 million migrant workers, half of them women, around the world and their 800 million family members back home.

Through this observance, the United Nations aim at bringing greater awareness on the impact that these contributions have on millions of households, but also on communities, countries, and entire regions. The Day also calls upon governments, private sector entities, and the civil society to find ways that can maximize the impact of remittances through individual, and/or collective actions.

Millions of migrant workers are losing their jobs, and many remittance families are suddenly pushed below the poverty line - bringing to a halt, efforts to reach their own individual SDGs.

Migrant workers are essential contributors to both the places where they currently live and to their communities back home, having a ripple effect in about 40 sending and more than 125 receiving countries world-wide. Global remittances to developing countries are projected to fall by US\$ 110 billion in 2020, and not return to pre-pandemic levels for many years thereafter.

On 19 March 2020, the UN Secretary-

General called for global solidarity in responding to the coronavirus crisis stating "remittances are a lifeline in the developing world - especially now".

That is why this year's Day is calling upon governments, the private sector, and civil society organizations to support migrant workers and their families in building resilience at this time of crisis. The International Organization for Migration calls on governments, the financial sector, and money transfer operators to commit to a cross-sector approach to facilitate cheaper, transparent and more accessible remittances worldwide which leverage their full potential for development.

Globally, 3.4 per cent of population are international migrants who contribute approximately 9.4 per cent of global GDP. Diasporas significantly contribute socially and economically to development. Depending on the region, between 60 and 95 per cent of migrants send money back home to developing countries, constituting a flow upwards of USD 529 billion annually, according to the last World Bank estimation.

The links between migration and development are also acknowledged by the international community and reflected in recent global framework documents and agendas.

To mark the 2019 International Family Remittance Day, IOM UK co-hosted a seminar with the Institute for Global Affairs at the London School of Economics entitled "Beyond remittances: optimizing diaspora's role in development." The seminar examined how to fully leverage the various contributions that diasporas can make and align them with the challenges of development.

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The begging region in readiness to solve problems

By Jefferson G. Togba

OVER the last 50 years, Africa for the first is set to make historic gains by solving its problems. Many would think that the Novel Coronavirus otherwise known as COVID-19 isn't unique to the continent alone. Oh yes, unlike another regional pandemic of the past. The global health crisis the region would have fully look to the west and other good will nations to step out-front. But time is fast changing with Africa approach to continental and national issues.

Africa's COVID-19 death rate and positive cases have surprised many experts because the region has far lesser cases than any region. There were many predictions that Africa would have a dispositional death rate. These predictions were based on the fact that the region lacks adequate health facilities and capacities to handle the pandemic. Experts estimated that Africa would have had suffered the worst casualties then any region if not other countries.

Most countries in the western have more death rate than Africa combined. Take for instance, Sweden has 4,656 death. France 29,142 death, Italy 33,846 death, Germany 8,767 death, England 36, 127, China 4634 death, USA 111,064 death, India 6,946 death, Brazil 35,211 death while Africa combined COVID-19 4,344 is lesser than many great nations like the United states and Italy etc. These statistics are as of the research. Therefore, the figure might be higher than reported.

For these reasons, 31 Heads of State met in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on May 25, 1963 founded a regional body "to promote solidarity between African nations and eliminate colonialism in Africa" through the Organization of African unity (OAU). Nevertheless, barely 5 months after its existence; there were more problems than collaboration and solutions on the continent. Yet, besides civil wars, Africa has witnessed and experienced numbers of sporadic border and inter-state conflicts.

On one front, was Algeria- Morocco conflict over the Atlas Mountains area in October 1963. On the other hand, Kenya-Somalia border war of 1963-1967 where Somalia aimed at reclaiming its lost territories including the Northern frontier district of Kenya. Before then, was Eritrea- Ethiopian crisis between 1962 and 1979. There were so many civil unrests faced by the new continental body that endangers solidarity and cooperation and reembraces anarchy and colonialism.

Every conflicted nation was still looking up to their former colonial masters for voice, support and solution. The wars and civil upheavals,



political instabilities continue. While, the African union inherited wars, civil unrests, Coups, internally displaced peoples (IDPs). So then, why did Africa gain independence if it enjoys colonial command structures and interventions?

Now, the main idea of handling its problems. The region still receives supports from Multilateral institutions then bilateral relations. However, there was no wait game before actions. Before COVID-19 surfaces in Africa, the continent in general and nations have already made awareness, set mitigating solution. For example, the establishment of COVID-19 Africa Fund, Quick Lockdown, Local Personal Protective Equipment production

COVID-19 AFRICA FUND

As COVID-19 sweeps across nations and been declared Public Health Emergency on 30 January 2020 by the Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO). Subsequently, upgraded from Public Health Emergency to Global Pandemic with more than 118,000 cases of the virus globally on March 11, 2020.

After 15 day of declaration, a respond fund was established Covid-19 Africa Fund by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat on 26 March 2020. Accordingly, "with the aim of strengthening the continental response to COVID-19 and mitigate its socio economic and humanitarian impact on African populations".

Since then, the continental Bank; the African Development Bank continues to approve stimulus loan for members economies. Though Africa still lag after many regions and not much has change, yet this consolidated effort

must be applauded. This has never been seemed like before.

The Bank has \$10 billion in COVID-19 Crisis Response Facility. The Bank's Board of Directors approved millions of dollars to members states to "help fight the COVID-19 outbreak and mitigate its economic impacts". From Kenya to Nigeria, Morocco to Zambia, Egypt to Senegal. Many would argue, that Africa has no choice then to do it. Well, every independence comes with full responsibility to stand up for and this is undeniable. The Bank also released 2 million to the World Health Organization to help curb this COVID-19 in Africa (ABFD).

Quick Lockdown

Since declaring the virus global pandemic in March, most countries on the continent declared in part or whole a Stay-At-Home order with Tanzania being the only exception but closed all official borders in the country. Commercial flights were suspended as done in other parts of the world.

The lockdown helped many governments to create awareness and conduct effective contact tracing through trained health workers and nonworkers. It avoided overwhelming of its already limited health facilities. In more cases, some states used local hotels while makeshifts were built to quarantine those confirmed positive of the virus. Permanent Africans, corporations and Institutions raised resources to feel less fortunate and improvised communities.

Local PPE production

Africans of all walks of lives saw the deadliest virus effects in Wuhan, China, Europe and other parts the world. South Africa Donated 30,000 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to China

in the fight against COVID-19. Local tailor shops produced fashionable face masks to combat the virus at minimum cost. In some places, tailor shops were contracted by local NGOs to produce face mask.

Everywhere in Africa today, you find citizens wearing fashionable locally made face mask from different collection of African attires. In time past, these were little thing that exacerbated most health crisis if the west and bilateral partners didn't supply; Africa would not have acted. The COVID-19 has changed African leaders' attitudes to solicit, received and act.

More than four top universities in Zimbabwe produced masks, gowns, hand sanitizers, gowns, eyewear like Kenya, South Africa, Nigeria, Egypt (QA). Senegal too make significant history for the continent when the west African state produced testing kit for one United states dollar.

Africa has shown great leadership and united front toward the fight of COVID-19. Africa have not seen any effort like the fight against COVID-19. The evidence is EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE in 2014 within the Western part Africa (Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea and by extension the Ivory Coast, Nigeria and Senegal). There was no real solution until America steps in.

Arguably, citizens can agree that African leadership is understanding sovereignty and the spirit of being fully responsible. Africa does not have to wait for help before taking initiative on its own interest and well-being. Gravitating from beggar is self-evidence that Africa ready to make a transition like other regions. Healthy and sound-minded people make change and bring sustainable growth and development.

GCRF-AFRICAP project benefits Lushoto, Muheza small-scale farmers

By Correspondent Daniel Semberya, just back from Tanga

THE ministry of Agriculture, Food security and Cooperatives has taken lead to develop Agriculture Climate Resilience Plan (ACRP) so as to implement strategic interventions for adaptation and mitigation of climate change impacts.

The agriculture climate resilience plan is implemented through Agricultural Sector Development Programme phase II (ASDP II) which has been developed to propel the country's economic development and guide the implementation of prioritised interventions.

Last week in Tanga the Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF) and its partners in GCRF-AFRICAP project organised a one-day GCRF-AFRICAP Sub-National Policy Workshop on Agriculture and Food System Resilience.

The Co-Facilitator of the Agricultural and Food-system Resilience: Increasing Capacity and Advising Policy (AFRICAP) research team, who is also a researcher from the ESRF, Abel Songole said that the objective of the sub-national policy workshop was to share and discuss the progress/status of GCRF-AFRICAP research activities on agri-food system resilience being conducted in Tanga Region and at the national level.

It also discussed sub-national capacity for translating evidence into planning, policy and pathways of change and explore ways forward to build knowledge capacities and infrastructures required to achieve productive, sustainable and resilient agriculture food systems.

"Through research and capacity building activities AFRICAP supports implementation of the existing national policies and plans and informs the development of new ones."

According to him, GCRF-AFRICAP project was among the significant milestones in developing Agriculture sector in Tanzania.

Songole described GCRF-AFRICAP as a four year (2018-2021) regional project implemented in Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia and South Africa.

"In Tanzania, this project is coordinated by the Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF) as a node hosting institution of the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) and implemented in collaboration with researchers from University of Leeds, University of Aberdeen, the UK Met Office, and Chatham House."

He further noted that, the project has built on existing partnerships with National Meteorological Services, Agricultural Research Centres and Universities in Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia and South Africa.

The visual workshop involved participants from the President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government (PORALG), Tanga Region Secretariat, Muheza and Lushoto District Councils. Those who participated visually were from FANRPAN from South Africa, and University of Leeds (UK).

Others were from Tanzania Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance (TCSAA), The International Institute of Tropical

Agriculture (IITA), Media, TARI (Mlingano and Seriani).

GCRF-AFRICAP was designed in four (4) themes namely: Farming systems; climate-smart development pathways; policy design and implementation; and training and capacity building.

For ease of implementation, the project was divided into a number of work packages to including: Evidence based policy analysis; climate smart agriculture innovation transition and livelihoods; household vulnerability, food security and nutrition.

And also, quality of livestock feed and milk rates; agro-ecological monitoring and modelling ecosystem; climate smart agriculture and soil health.

In Tanzania the project is implemented in Tanga agro-climatic region (East Usambara-Muheza, West Usambara-Lushoto, Coastal low lands-Pangani, and between East and West Usambara-Korogwe).

Since inception of the GCRF-AFRICAP project, several research activities have been undertaken at sub-national and national level.

Such activities consist of: Evaluating the impact of climate smart agriculture-farmer field schools (CSA-FFS) on crop and livestock production, soil and plant health, and maize post-harvest loss and mycotoxin contamination in Tanga Region; implementing climate compatible development.

Climate-resilient agricultural and food system development and climate smart food systems (CSFS) policy evaluation in Tanzania.

The chairperson of the Tanzania Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance (TCSAA), Shakwaanande Natai said that despite significant investments in the two districts, yet knowledge and application of national policies, strategies and plans on climate smart agriculture (CSA) at local level by extension officers was still limited except for Lushoto district.

Many farmers have low knowledge and skills required for sustainable agribusiness development. And most farmers also have limited knowledge of monitoring and evaluation, areas that are critical to developing resilient food systems.

She therefore, suggested that there was a need to consider how to scale up information sharing to other districts where there are no CSA activities, that is outside Muheza and Lushoto Districts.

Natai further noted that there is a challenge in using the lessons obtained from the Agricultural and Food Systems' Resilience: Increasing Capacity and Advising Policy (AFRICAP) initiative to support the dissemination, capacity building and awareness creation of the national CSA policies, strategies, plans and guidelines and inform future policy conversations in Tanzania.

Limited adoption of introduced technologies by other farmers due to reluctance to learn expensive and hard to do activities like terraces.

There was a request to conduct a socio-economic and scientific research in Lushoto District on farmers' willingness to cultivate spices, supportive soil and climate characteristics.

Use of lead farmers approach to increase awareness of

improved technologies, innovations, and management practices to their fellow farmers in their respective communities.

She further suggested establishment of climate smart agriculture (CSA) Learning Alliances that would bring stakeholders together to learn and discuss climate change, agriculture and food systems, as well as engaging youth in future research and agricultural development programmes, saying that they were potential solutions at the district levels.

"Existence of CSA learning alliance in Lushoto enables knowledge sharing across districts. Another CSA Learning Alliance need to be established in Muheza District," she urged. She also called on the local government authorities to be involved in remedying the situation to enable farmers to benefit fully from the richness of opportunities in their districts.

According to Nyamuyengi Maregesi from IITA, Tanzania, the project has attained many achievements.

He mentioned the achievements reached as: mapping, networking and sharing of lessons amongst key CSA stakeholders in the districts. And better coordination, cooperation and collaboration in activities amongst stakeholders.

Others are increased awareness creation on CSA to alliance members and the community including farmers and local government authorities (LGAs).

For her part, a representative of the Tanga Regional Agricultural Officer, Happiness Kihedu said that in order to combat the challenge of food insecurity due to climate change, it was the policy of the region that along with other crops each household must have two acres of cassava.

Tanga Region is located in North East part of Tanzania and it comprises of eight districts.

The region is divided into three Agricultural zones which are Coastal belt, Wet and Dry plains and Mountain belt. The rainfall pattern in the region is bimodal. Most of the rains fall during the long rainy season from March to May while a second season is from October to December.

The second season used to have dependable rainfall but in the last decade these short rains have become increasingly unreliable and vary significantly across the region.

The climate of the region support cultivation of different crops. Main food crops produced are maize, cassava, paddy and beans. Main cash crop produced are sisal, cashew, coconut, tea and fruits.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

President's Office

TANZANIA SOCIAL ACTION FUND



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES – INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

Country:	Tanzania
Name of Project:	Productive Social Safety Net Project II (PSSN II)
Assignment Title:	Director of Finance and Administration
Reference No.	TZ-TASAF-174854-CS-INDV

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

The Executive Director,
Tanzania Social Action Fund,
Board of Trustee of PSSSF Building,
Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Road,
P. O. Box 2719,
Dodoma, Tanzania
Tel: +255 26 2963866
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The chairperson of the Tanzania Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance (TCSAA), Shakwaanande Natai, speaks at the workshop in Tanga last week. Photo: Daniel Semberya.

The youth of post-apartheid South Africa, worthy inheritors of noble legacy of struggle

By Cyril Ramaphosa

Dear Fellow South African,

THE words of Frantz Fanon that “each generation must discover its mission” come to mind every time I have an opportunity to speak with young South Africans.

No matter where they live and no matter what they do, they each have a burning desire to change the world.

While they certainly want to improve their own lives, they also want to achieve a better society and a better world. They see themselves as agents for fundamental transformation.

Throughout history young people have been a driving force for change. In just the last few decades, young people have waged numerous struggles against injustice, from the 1968 student uprising in Paris, to the anti-war movement in the United States in the 1960s, to the anti-colonial struggles in many African and Asian countries, to the fight against apartheid, to the Arab Spring.

Most recently, young people have been at the forefront of the #BlackLivesMatter movement that has gained global support in the wake of the killing of George Floyd in the United States.

Over the past week, activists around the world have also been demanding the removal of symbols that glorify the barbarity and violence of the slave trade and colonialism.

At an Oxford University demonstration last week a protester carried a placard with the words “Rhodes must Fall”, the rallying cry of students in our own country five years ago.

Young people across the world have found common cause. They are tearing down

statues and symbols of racism, demanding the decolonisation of educational curricula, and calling for institutions to address racism and social exclusion.

And so, as we pay tribute to the generation of 1976 on this Youth Day, we also salute the youth of post-apartheid South Africa, the worthy inheritors of this noble legacy.

The mission of the 1976 generation was to dismantle bantustan education; that of today's youth is to take forward the project of national reconciliation and transformation.

In time to come it will be said that this year, 2020, marked the start of a new epoch in human history.

Not only has coronavirus had a momentous impact on people's lives and livelihoods, it has also shaken up the global social order.

The manner in which the pandemic has taken hold has been a reminder of the interconnectedness of the human race and of the deep inequalities that exist between countries and within countries.

The pandemic presents an opportunity to “reset” a world that is characterised by crass materialism, selfishness and self-absorption not just on the part of individuals but whole societies.

Young people are telling us that the essential values of integrity, compassion and solidarity must be the hallmarks of the new society that will emerge, and that they are determined to be the champions of this new, better world.

In the discussions I have had with young people during this Youth Month, I have said that we should never underestimate the power of an idea, because ideas can and have changed the world. Ideas have spurred human progress and



they are what will enable us to chart a new path in the post-coronavirus era.

These young people have turned their ideas into action. They have not let a lack of resources hinder them. They have carved a niche for themselves in a number of sectors from high-tech to environmental sustainability.

They are determined to succeed on their own merits, and not depend on handouts, and once they have ‘made it’ to help their peers.

Through programmes like the Presidential Youth Employment Initiative, the National Youth Service and many more, we want to support this country's young people to see their ideas through from incu-

bation to opening the doors of their businesses.

Youth unemployment is the greatest challenge we face and the coronavirus pandemic has exacerbated an already dire situation. Now more than ever we will look to the innovative and pioneering spirit of our youth to come up with solutions to the unemployment crisis that benefit them, their communities and society.

At the same time, I challenge our country's youth to craft and design programmes that will enable us to meet our developmental goals. In 1961, revolutionary Cuba sent legions of young student volunteers into the mountains and villages to construct schools, teach literacy and train new educators. It is still held up

as one of the most successful literacy campaigns in modern history. Our young people must develop social upliftment initiatives and they must lead them.

Just as they took up the struggle for equality in higher education, the considerable energies of our youth must also be brought to bear to fight for equitable access to healthcare, for the transformation of land ownership and, most important, for gender justice.

Like all South Africans, I have been deeply disturbed by a surge over the last few days in the murder of young women at the hands of men. These are shocking acts of inhumanity that have no place in our society.

Youth-led civic activism, awareness raising and peer

counselling are vital tools in our efforts to eradicate gender-based violence from society. At the same time, we must strengthen our justice system, ensuring that perpetrators are brought to book, bail and parole conditions are tightened and that those sentenced to life spend the rest of their lives behind bars.

While this needs society-wide action, I call on young men in particular to take up the struggle against gender-based violence. Unless we end the war that is being waged against South African women, the dream of a new society will remain elusive.

Those of us who were part of student movements during the apartheid era are often asked what we think of the young people of today. There is a tempta-

tion to retreat into nostalgia about “the glory days” of student politics and youth struggle, never to be replicated.

But just as the youth of yesterday defined their mission, today's youth have defined theirs.

South African youth of 2020 more than meet the high standard set by their predecessors. They are optimistic, resilient and courageous, often in the face of the harshest of circumstances.

They are a source of inspiration and hope. Through their actions, they are building a world that is more just, equal, sustainable and at peace.

I wish all the young people of South Africa a meaningful and inspiring Youth Day.

With best wishes,

COVID-19 is about nature trade-off, with an eye on reforestation and environment at large

By A Special Correspondent

WHEN we recover, we must be better than we were before.

The spread of COVID-19 is making the interdependence of people, livestock, wildlife and ecosystems clearer more than ever before.

As humans rely more on nature for food and livelihoods, wildlife and ecosystems are put at risk, further increasing our vulnerabilities.

In this period human beings need a robust ecosystem that will support our increased needs for food and livelihoods.

It is time to reflect on the role of human beings in creating a balance between species and the environment upon which their lives are dependent on.

Biodiversity conservation is the cornerstone of resilience to climate change. In a biologically diverse ecosystem, every being will find its space for existence at balance with nature.

The complex relationship between biodiversity loss and human wellbeing is increasingly being understood in ecological and economic terms.

Despite vast knowledge about the multiple dimensions of this relationship and its importance, species and ecosystems are still disappearing at an alarming rate.

Anthropogenic pressures are the prime reason for this trend, and any attempts to reduce such pressures and conserve species in both protected areas and human dominated landscapes have only yielded little success, as noted by Jose, S. in *Agroforestry Systems*, number 85, 1-8 (2012).

It is time to use approaches that can combine production and conservation functions and build the

resilience of food systems and landscapes by strengthening biodiversity and multi-functionality. Agroforestry, as part of a multifunctional working landscape, can play a major role in conserving and even enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem services from farms to the landscape levels.

Agroforestry has the potential to contribute to mitigating climate change, increasing resilience and adaptation of resource-poor smallholder farmers to extreme and variable weather events, and increasing tree-related essential ecosystem services as well as the total farm productivity.

To realise its full potential, it would be important to formulate a fully-fledged agroforestry policy framework at the national, regional and global levels.

For over 30 years, Vi Agroforestry has been at the heart of reversing degradation of ecosystems, by incorporating women, men and the youth to live in harmony with nature as they improve their livelihoods, by adopting and practising the right actions that enhance nature base.

Vi Agroforestry has enabled communities to adopt integrated landscape approaches to increasing biological diversity through promotion of agroforestry and adoption of sustainable land management practices.

Agroforestry means integrating trees and shrubs on the same land that is used for crop production and/or animal husbandry, promoting biodiversity and producing a multitude of ecosystem services.

The method of planting trees and crops together is an efficient and effective way to fight poverty and climate change together. It has provided a means to enhance food security through increased yields, improved income and promoting environmen-



tal sustainability.

It has reduced impacts of climate change as the trees store CO₂, fight desertification and restore degraded land, therefore promoting a stable biodiversity to rural populations.

There is a new normal after the Covid-19 ravages, or rather when the pandemic recedes. The COVID-19 pandemic will lead to changes in the way communities, organisations, countries and the world functions for years to come.

We have a chance to ensure that changes we make today will lead to a more stable world that can withstand future shocks at the

local, national and global levels. This will require focusing at multifunctional working landscapes that are resilient and can protect watersheds, biodiversity, livelihoods, plus human health and wellbeing.

It is time to wake up, to take notice, to raise our voices, to build back better for People and Planet.

What actions are we taking today that will positively contribute to an enhanced/thriving biodiversity? What positive action are we taking today that will contribute to a thriving biodiversity? Each of us has to answer those questions in good faith.

When we recover, we must be better than we were before.

Vi Agroforestry (Vi-skogen) is a Swedish development cooperation organization, fighting poverty and improving the environment through agroforestry. We have reached over 2.3 million people through education, advisory services and planted more than 120 million trees in the Lake Victoria basin.

We work in Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania, the four countries that are severely affected by deforestation and climate change and for many years have endured its devastating effects on both humans and the nature.

Stakeholders pushing for Road Traffic regulations review to protect children

By Guardian Reporter

AS Tanzanians join the international community to celebrate the Day of the African Child, scores of children have called on the government to review the country's Road Traffic Act of (RTA) 1973, so that it includes a section that will help to protect children when they are in vehicles and other means of transport.

This came after realizing that majority of children in Tanzania use public transport to and from school, the situation that puts them at risk of road traffic injury and death.

Joel Festo is one of the children who says the law is silent on the rights of the child when he/she is using public or private vehicles as well as walking on the country's roads.

"What we want is that the law should be clear that children are part of the road users, passengers; hence they need to be fitted with special seat belts, and they should seat behind," says Festo, who is a national chairman of the Youth Council of Tanzania.

"That's why we're pushing for law review to save unnecessary deaths and injuries. The law needs to be reviewed for wellbeing of children, particularly those who use roads to and from schools," says Festo, a Form Four school leaver at Kirumba Secondary in Mwanza.

A 16-year-old Neema Theonest, chairperson of Mwanza Regional Youth Council of Tanzania also says the law needs to be improved, so that it has a section that talks about child protection when they are in vehicles and other means of transport.

"I appeal to the government, and stakeholders to swiftly review this law for the safety of children," she says, suggesting the need for traffic education to be part of the curriculum in schools.

According to Neema, there are many children, who are being hit by speeding vehicles at zebra crossing, and in most cases drivers, runaway after causing accidents.

"So, to me the law needs to bring on board all issues affecting children when they are in vehicles or using the road," she says.

In making the campaign towards reviewing the country's Road Traffic Act of (RTA) 1973, Mwanza Youth and Children Network (MYCN) has been working closely with a number of civil society organizations (CSOs), among them include Tanganyika Law Society (TLS), Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA), Road Safety Ambassadors of Tanzania (RSA), Tanzania Federation of Disabled People's Organizations (SHIVYA-WATA), Sikika Tanzania, and Tanzania Media Foundation (TMF)

Thobias Masalu, who is a Dar es Salaam-based activist, says the law is silent on child affairs when they are using roads or they are passengers

in vehicles, motorcycles or tricycles popularly known as 'bajaji'.

The law doesn't recognize a child as a passenger when they are in public or private transport, he says, adding: "The law wants a motorcyclist to wear helmet, but there are no special helmets for children...this is a challenge that needs to be addressed for the wellbeing of children and community as a whole."

According Masalu, who is programme officer at Media Space Tanzania, the law also is silent on children who are using bicycles to and from schools as there are no special helmets for them.

He suggests the need for the government to swiftly work on the challenge, taking into accounts that children have become victims of these mishaps and every year, many are either seriously injured, killed or lose their parents or caretakers to road crashes.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared road traffic injuries to be the leading cause of death for children and young adults aged 5-29 years, signaling need for a shift in the current child health agenda, which has largely neglected road safety.

Commenting on the International Day of The African Child, Masalu urges parents to ensure that children are empowered with skills including understanding their rights Shaban Maganga, executive director MYCN says that the Road Traffic Act of 1973 has a number of loopholes, particularly when it comes to child rights.

The law needs to include a section that recognizes a child when he/she in public or private transport, or using the road as under the current situation children are at risk, he says, noting:

"The law is silent when it comes to special seats, and belts to children. When you talk of motorcycles, there are no helmets for children as the law wants motorcyclist to wear helmet and nothing is clear to children and other people."

There is a need for the government to swiftly review the law for the wellbeing of Tanzanians and children in particular, he says.

Activists have been also advising the government to install surveillance cameras at pedestrian crossing, taking into accounts many children die when crossing the roads.

"We're also suggesting the need for spearheading traffic education in schools across the country so that children are aware on issues related to traffic rules and regulations."

"We're also working closely with MPs to push the agenda forward so that the law is reviewed and last month we met with Home Affairs minister George Simbachawene, who pledged to spearhead the process of reviewing the law," he says.



THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
 MINISTRY OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION
TANZANIA SHIPPING AGENCIES CORPORATION
TASAC



CIRCULAR No 1 OF 2020

DIRECTIVES TO ALL LICENCED SHIPPING AGENTS ON APPLICATION OF STORING ORDER AND DEMURRAGE CHARGES

Basing on the mandate vested on the Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation (TASAC) under Section 12 of the Tanzania Shipping Agencies Act, Cap 415, TASAC has considered challenges facing the maritime transport sector, including the outbreak of COVID 19 pandemic in neighbouring countries, which have interfered with timely access of cargo and associated documents.

In a bid to address the challenges and based on the mandate vested on the Corporation by Cap 415, Shipping Agents are hereby directed as follows:

- (a) To halt, with immediate effect, the use of Storing Order on receiving/returning empty containers in order to improve availability of equipment and trucks.
- (b) To receive, with immediate effect, all containers which earlier could not be received/accepted by shipping agents due to restrictions imposed by the use of Storing Order.
- (c) To collect demurrage charges, if any, outside of Storing Order arrangement.
- (d) To extend demurrage free period for containers destined to land linked countries in order to accommodate challenges associated with the pandemic in other countries. The extended demurrage free period is as follows :

Destination	Existing Free Period	Extended Free Period
Rwanda (through Rusumo)	30	55
DRC (through Rusumo)	55	80
DRC (through Tunduma)	55	65
Zambia	40	50

Extended free periods shall apply to containers which were issued with delivery order starting from 15th March, 2020.

The Corporation will monitor the situation with a view to noting improvement of the situation before reverting to the Existing Demurrage Free Period.

Issued by:

DIRECTOR GENERAL.

Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation.

PPF Tower Building 7th and 8th Floor, Plot No. 20/21, Garden Avenue/Ohio Street,
 P. O. Box 989, Dar es Salaam - Tanzania, Tel: +255 222 127 314, Fax: +255 222 127 313,
 Email: dg@tasac.go.tz, info@tasac.go.tz, Website: www.tasac.go.tz

The law wants a motorcyclist to wear helmet, but there are no special helmets for children...this is a challenge that needs to be addressed for the wellbeing of children and community as a whole



People recovering from Covid-19 are hunting for answers themselves

By Eleanor Cummins

HANNAH Davis first ran a fever on March 25. Two months later, the New York musical artist is still sick. In the sleepless weeks in between, her symptoms have spun wildly, like a rickety wheel of fortune.

Some days, Davis has been levelled by gastrointestinal issues, rib aches, or kidney pain. Other days, it's a stiff neck, headaches, or neurological issues that plague her. "I created a fire in my kitchen by accident," she says. "I forgot my partner's name at one point."

Like many people with symptoms, Davis (32), was never tested for Covid-19. Because doctors considered her symptoms mild, at least by coronavirus standards, she was told to self-isolate at home. But Davis is certain she was infected with the novel pathogen - and that it's still disrupting her daily life.

She says: "It's such a different disease than I have ever experienced before. You know you have it. It feels like it's searching through your body, looking for vulnerable new tissues to penetrate."

Since it arrived in the United States in February, the coronavirus has infected at least 1.5 million Americans and killed more than 92,000. But for the people who recover, recuperation may not be all that it's cracked up to be. Many people with Covid-19 who have made it out of the hospital alive are permanently scarred by the experience - their muscles atrophied from weeks in bed and organs permanently damaged, often by their own immune system.

People with Covid-19 who never left their homes are struggling, too. In the Body Politic Covid-19 Slack support group, which Davis joined in April, she's encountered hundreds of other people describing stranger symptoms and longer recovery times than anyone anticipated.

"Most of us have start dates, so we can say we're on day 20 or day 30," Davis says. When she and I spoke by phone, she was on day 50 of experiencing symptoms.

There is little systematic scientific research on Covid-19 recoveries. That's partly because recovery takes time - until recently, there haven't been a lot of people to study.

But it has more to do with the unique challenges posed by the pandemic: with many people enduring their illness in isolation, researchers have remained largely in the dark about the sheer technical variety of coronavirus symptoms - and the unresolved question of

how long they last.

"It's like we have this 5,000-piece puzzle, and we're missing a whole lot of them," says Gary LeRoy, MD, a doctor in Dayton, Ohio, and the president of the American Academy of Family Physicians.

While some scientists are beginning to turn their attention to the issue of rehabilitation, many patients have already begun the hard work of organising, storytelling and, in some cases, data collection.

"Right now we're just at the point of trying to ask the right questions," says Diana Berrent, a photographer in Port Washington, New York. After testing positive in mid-March, she founded the Covid-19 Facebook group Survivor Corps, which is now more than 47,000 members strong.

In the absence of other evidence, the Body Politic support group formed its own "patient-led research team", which recently analysed survey responses from 640 self-identified Covid-19 sufferers.

They say that nearly 91 per cent of the respondents had not recovered when they took the survey. Among the 60 respondents who had recovered, their symptoms had lasted, on average, 27 days.

The respondents who were still sick had been experiencing symptoms for an average of 40 days, with a large proportion experiencing symptoms for five to seven weeks.

It is important to keep the origins of this report in perspective - it has not been peer-reviewed, it is heavily skewed towards white cisgender (refers to a person whose gender identity matches the sex they were assigned at birth) female participants, and it's possible that people with longer recovery times are the ones who join support groups in the first place.

However, it offered a comprehensive list of reported side-effects and new insight into how patients were faring. When it comes to tracking the progress of this disease, "our support group has been consistently a week ahead of the doctors", Davis says.

In February, the World Health Organisation published a review of preliminary Chinese recovery data. The report concluded that "the median time from onset to clinical recovery for mild cases is approximately two weeks and is three to six weeks for patients with severe or critical disease".

But few new scientific papers have emerged in the months since, and patient anecdotes have begun to chal-



lenge this notion of a two-week recovery.

"This is a novel disease. And an outrageous one. The textbooks haven't been written." Paul Garner, a professor at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, told The Guardian of the UK after his own seven-week recovery.

Another medical expert is virologist Peter Piot, the director of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, who also said that it took about seven weeks before he started feeling like himself again.

At first, the two-week timeline that was being touted was a comfort to Davis, the musical artist who first showed symptoms in late March. But when the deadline passed and her sickness still hadn't abated, she started to worry.

"I realised that this wasn't going to be a linear progression to get better," she says. In the language of the Body Politic group, Davis has experienced "relapses" - feeling better before symptoms suddenly rebound.

Studies on convalescence have been waylaid by other priorities, according to researchers. "It's the second wave of research," says Carmine Pariante, MD, PhD, a professor of biological psychiatry at King's College London, adding: "The first one was to save people from dying."

But scientists have also struggled to get access to reliable data, with so many people with Covid-19 recovering at home.

As communities around the world have worked together to flatten the curve, researchers have caught a glimpse of what's on the horizon. In the US, clinicians are gaining new perspectives on patient experiences through telehealth appointments.

Doctors in Italy, whose experiences have often foreshadowed the pandemic experience in America, have begun to share their observations of agonisingly long recoveries. And several academic institutions have begun survey studies to backfill missing data.

Recently, King's College London and Massachusetts Gen-

eral Hospital partnered with the nutritional startup Zoe on a Covid Symptom Study app. More than three million respondents are contributing daily geo-located updates on their health, including some of the most recent additions to the growing list of Covid-19 side-effects, like loss of smell or taste and foot sores.

Their data have already supplied intriguing evidence for a genetic component to people's coronavirus symptoms. It also suggests that at least 200,000 of their study participants have had symptoms for six weeks. But the bulk of their work has yet to bear fruit.

"Good scientific investigation takes time. It's a slow process if you're going to get it right," LeRoy says.

Going forward, both activists and scientists say that the best research will likely continue to come from collaborations between researchers and patients. They hope to characterise the full range of symptoms, chart their ebb and flow, and determine what makes some people vulnerable to prolonged symptoms while others snap back or never show symptoms at all.

"By creating this community and sharing our stories, it helps the scientific community know what hypotheses they need to study," Berrent says.

To further this work, Survivor Corps wants to work directly with a research institution and a biotech company on a long-term study of Covid-19 patients' outcomes.

"We are living in a new era of scientific collaboration. I'm very heartened," she adds.

Since it emerged in late 2019, the narrative around the coronavirus has evolved rapidly. "Originally, it was just, 'oh, it affects old people' - wrong. 'It doesn't affect young people' - wrong. 'It doesn't affect children' - wrong," LeRoy says.

Now the story has changed once again. LeRoy notes: "Even though you think you're over it, perhaps you're not."

This uncertainty has stoked fear and anxiety among

members of the public, but the mental health repercussions of the pandemic are especially acute for survivors.

A recent analysis in The Lancet of research on the psychological impact of the virus found elevated rates of depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress among people with severe infections. Other symptoms, like insomnia and impaired memory, were also observed.

"We are in a liminal state," Berrent, the founder of Survivor Corps, says. In addition to wondering when - or if - her energy levels will rebound or her vision will return to normal, she's also worried about the implications for her children, who were also infected. "It's so unnerving to not know what the long-term consequences are," she says.

Community has been a great source of support for people recovering from the coronavirus. "It's been one of the most meaningful experiences of my life," Davis says of her affiliation with Body Politic.

But people recovering from the disease say that it's important for those outside the patient community, such as healthcare providers and the larger public, to learn about their experiences.

Some people in Body Politic and Survivor Corps have reported feeling dismissed or gaslit (meaning feeling manipulated into turning against their cognition, their emotions, and who they fundamentally are as people) by their doctors for unusual symptoms. They've also received skepticism from loved ones, who have dismissed their pain as attention-seeking or the result of an overactive imagination.

"The things that were sort of being dismissed out of hand a month ago" are now being validated, Berrent says. To pave the path for future patients, members of both groups are sharing their stories any way they can.

They're also sharing their successes: "We're starting to get stories in the 'victory' (Slack) channel of people who are in their ninth week and are feeling recovered," Davis said of Body Politic.

In the coming months, our understanding of Covid-19 will continue to change. "It's a natural process. If there's no debate, there's no science," Pariante says, adding: "But to resolve these conundrums and help patients, we won't just need more data - we'll need more empathy."

Freelance science journalist Eleanor Cummins wrote this piece for Element, a new Medium publication about health and wellness.

The risks you must weigh and precautions you ought to take before you fly anywhere

By Mariana Lenharo

IT has been five months since I last saw my husband, João. He is currently alone in our apartment in Newark, New Jersey, while I'm staying with my parents in Ourinhos, a small town in the state of São Paulo, Brazil.

Owing to US immigration procedures, we had been in long-distance relationship mode even before Covid-19, but at least the situation was eased by the perspective of having him visit me in Brazil every three months.

Then, the Covid-19 pandemic hit, and his plans of spending Easter in Brazil were abruptly shattered. We suddenly found ourselves heavily quarantined in our respective homes, hoping that this would all be over before summer.

Now it's June, and we have been pondering whether my husband should make his way down to Brazil for a summer vacation. How risky would it be for him to go through the hurdles of airport security, and then board a likely crowded plane to land in São Paulo nine hours later?

João and I are far from being the only ones facing this dilemma. Many people wonder whether they should board a plane and travel this summer. Here are some of the things we've learned that might help you make an informed decision.

One is that if you're travelling internationally, you need to find out where you're allowed to fly

from and to. Brazil has currently the second-highest number of Covid-19 cases in the world, and the numbers are going up fast.

President Donald Trump has recently issued a travel ban on most travellers coming from Brazil. This leaves us with yet another preoccupation: If João is, in fact, able to come, will he be able to go back to the US?

The same question goes for other destinations subject to suspension of entry to the US, such as China, Iran the UK, Ireland and most other countries in Europe.

If you are not sure whether there are Covid-19-related travel regulations in place for your destination, you can access an interactive map on the website of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Travel Centre. Just click on any country to find out about possible restrictions.

The general recommendation on international travel issued by the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is to avoid nonessential trips, and the agency cites that many countries are implementing travel restrictions and closing borders with little advance notice.

While mulling over the risks of an international trip amid a pandemic, João considered how convenient it would be if he was already immune to the new coronavirus. He decided to take an antibody test, once that became available locally. The test came back negative.



For what it's worth, a positive result wouldn't have guaranteed a risk-free journey, either. Results can be a false positive or a false negative, and "even if the result is accurate, I think it's yet to be proven that a positive result of an antibody test in humans implies true immunity to infections", says Dr Henry Wu, director of the Emory Travel-Well Centre and assistant professor of infectious diseases at Emory University School of Medicine. It's also not proven that being positive for antibod-

ies means you've fully recovered and can no longer transmit the virus, he added.

Know what you're in for before boarding the plane, as it might not be as bad as you think. At first sight, a plane would seem like the perfect incubator for the novel coronavirus, with dozens of people sharing a small space without the possibility of opening the windows.

But it turns out that the plane's ventilation system probably makes air travel safer than spending nine hours in an office, for example. The filters used on planes, called high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters, are supposed to

take out a large proportion, beyond 99 per cent, of infectious pathogens.

According to the CDC, most viruses and other germs do not spread easily on flights because of how air circulates and is filtered. In fact, there are very few reports of respiratory infections in general proven to be acquired on planes.

During the 2003 SARS outbreak (another severe acute respiratory syndrome also caused by a type of coronavirus), biologist Luciano Kleber de Souza Luna and his colleagues at the Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine in Hamburg, studied passen-

gers arriving in Germany after inter-continental air travel who developed symptoms of SARS.

Researchers tested their samples for different types of viruses and bacteria and found that almost half of them had one of the pathogens. Interestingly, though, the infected patients were all scattered on different flights.

"We couldn't identify any cluster of passengers with the same virus on the same flight," said Luna. This suggested that the infected travelers probably didn't acquire the pathogen during the flight nor transmitted it to their fellow passengers on the plane.

When it comes to Covid-19, although there's no hard data, there is no strong evidence of transmission aboard an aircraft. "So far, I haven't read convincing reports that confirm that it has happened," said Lin H. Chen, president of the International Society of Travel Medicine and associate professor at Harvard Medical School.

"The fact that we have not seen large groups being reported as having exposure occurring in flight is quite reassuring. Otherwise, I think we'd be seeing many clusters of people who, say, land in Boston and all come down with coronavirus after their travels," added the professor.

In the light of the pandemic, airlines are implementing new safety policies, such as making efforts to limit the number of people on board and block middle seats, loading planes back to front to limit contact among passengers, and intensifying cleaning procedures.

A piece in Element, a new Medium publication about health and wellness. Mariana Lenharo is a science and health journalist with a special interest in evidence-based medicine and epidemics.



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UNCTAD's report commends govt's digitisation drive but...

By Smart Money Reporter

DESPITE several initiatives being taken by the government to digitise its services, a number of obstacles such as lack of policy and legislation are hindering rapid electronic commerce growth despite the huge potential in place.

A report by United Nations Conference on Trade and Development said despite steps taken to develop the country into a regional e-commerce hub, the digitalization of government services is advancing and the government is investing resources into enhancing the overall business environment.

"Despite this, Tanzania has yet to adopt a stand-alone e-commerce policy or strategy and e-commerce is not mainstreamed into the national or sectoral trade development strategies. E-commerce development is not currently on the agenda of existing inter-ministerial or public-private dialogue platforms," the Tanzania's Rapid eTrade Readiness Assessment report said.

The report further noted that with a large and growing population, a competitive mobile network operators (MNOs) market and increasing mobile service delivery, the trajectory of growth of mobile Internet users is positive.

"Building the National ICT Broadband Backbone (NICTBB), connected to the region's main submarine cables, has resulted in lower



Industry and Trade minister Innocent Bashungwa.

mobile data prices for end-users. By the end of 2018, 3G and 4G networks covered around 61 per cent

and 28 per cent of Tanzania's population, respectively. This remains considerably lower than the 2G

coverage of around 90 per cent," the report noted.

The UNCTAD report stated that

although mobile data prices are reasonably low, they remain unaffordable for segments of the population that mostly reside in rural areas which has resulted in a large gap in Internet use between urban and rural areas.

"Also, fewer women than men access and use the Internet. Given that most Tanzanians access the Internet through their mobile phones, the low Internet penetration rate - 25-30 percent - is likely due to the high cost of obtaining an Internet-enabled phone," the report pointed out.

Among initiatives taken by the state to advance digitization include adoption of a series of e-Government services, including the establishment of a government portal that serves as a one-stop centre for public services.

"The government has also recently introduced the Government Electronic Payment Gateway (GePG) that enables all its entities (central, local and agencies) use a single payment platform.

There have also been efforts to implement e-Government services in Zanzibar, such as the online business registration system implemented by the Zanzibar Business and Property Registration Agency," the report re-

vealed.

It also pointed out that with support from UNCTAD, Tanzania Investment Centre runs an e-Regulations website providing detailed step-by-step guidance for investing in the country while Ministry of Industry and Trade with TradeMark East Africa and UNCTAD support, is also currently developing a National Business Portal.

The report also faulted the government's failure to submit ratification instruments for World Trade Organization's Trade Facilitation Agreement despite parliament endorsing it last year.

"The country has also not acceded to the Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC). Despite this, the country performs better than its LDC peers on the different trade facilitation-related indicators, a reflection of the government's efforts to improve its trade environment," the UNCTAD report added.

Implementation of the Blueprint for Regulatory Reforms to Improve Tanzanian Business Environment will further improve trade facilitation, while the National Single Window was expected to be rolled out by the end of 2019, the report stated.

Pilot phase of EAC's COVID-19 induced electronic truck drivers surveillance system under way

KIGALI

THE pilot phase of a regional Covid-19 surveillance system for trucks and their crew starts today, Monday, June 15, before its full implementation next week, an official has told The New Times.

Towards the end of last month, East African Community partner states adopted the Regional Electronic Cargo and Drivers Tracking System that will be hosted at the EAC Headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania.

This came after a consultative meeting chaired by President Paul Kagame on May 12 this year, brought together four East African Community (EAC) leaders and discussed regional efforts to tackle the COVID-19 that has ravaged the world.

At the time, the leaders directed concerned regional ministers to "finalise and adopt an EAC digital surveillance and tracking system for drivers and crew on COVID-19 for immediate use by partner states."

"Today (Monday) we are doing piloting and next week all goes live," Eng. Daniel Murenzi, the Principal Information Technology Officer at the EAC Headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania, said. "The system

delayed to be implemented immediately after the Ministers had approved the system to be used; this was because we had to first do direct integration to the national laboratories."

According to Murenzi, last week, a technical test was "done successfully." "And now we are starting piloting this week since we have agreed with transporters. Also, we have finished purchasing equipment through support of Trademark East Africa that will be used for screening; these are tablets that will be having an application on."

Murenzi noted that each country has assigned a national focal person and "we are closely working together." The new system is considered to be another valuable tool to help mitigate the disruption of domestic, regional and global supply chain systems serving the region.

The system will share truck driver's information leveraging on that which is already managed and operated by Revenue Authorities in the region, and the existing health information systems in the six EAC countries.

The system will work in all EAC Partner States. It will be interlinked to EAC Ministries of Health and accredited labora-



Patience Mutesi, TMEA country director

tories for accurate information. It will bring on board truck own-

ers or companies so that information can be shared. In case a

truck driver is tested positive in another country the system will

notify the Ministry of Health of the driver's originating country.

The EAC is collaborating with Trademark East Africa in the development, implementation and operation of the surveillance system.

Explaining what they hope will be achieved, Patience Mutesi, TMEA country director, recently noted that lately, the new coronavirus has been spreading between countries largely through land borders which economies rely on for key supplies, thereby threatening trade.

"We have also seen stigmatization of drivers across the region, and long queues of trucks at borders due to challenges in regulations that countries have imposed to control the spread of the virus," Mutesi said. This development is a positive step towards a regional response to curb the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic, she noted.

"The system will help automate linkages at key nodes thus reducing the need for screening at every border. Implementing the drivers' tracking system will make ports, borders and critical supply chains safe for trade.

This will also ensure timely access to critically required medicines, medical and protective equipment and most importantly ensure food security during this crisis," Mutesi said.

Truck drivers will need to upload the App on their phones and, Abdul Ndarubogoye, Chairperson of Rwanda Transporters Association (ATAR), told The New Times that they are ready to start.

Europe starts to reopen borders, but no free travel yet

BRUSSELS

EUROPEAN countries ease some border controls yesterday after coronavirus lockdowns, but Spain's continued closure, a patchwork of restrictions elsewhere and new ways of working mean pre-pandemic levels of travel are a long way off.

The Schengen area of 22 EU countries plus Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland operates control-free crossings, but they have been mostly closed for three months to all but goods traffic and critical workers. European Home Affairs Commissioner Ylva Joh-

ansson urged Schengen members last week to lift internal border controls by Monday, to allow a gradual reopening to other countries from July.

The move could help salvage the part of the summer season for Europe's battered travel and tourism industry. With recreation and culture, the sector makes up almost 10% of the EU economy and an even bigger chunk in Mediterranean countries, some hit of which were hardest by the pandemic.

From Iceland to Greece, many restrictions for EU and Schengen visitors will ease on Monday, but it will not be a return to unfet-



European Home Affairs Commissioner, Ylva Johansson.

tered travel for the Schengen area's 420 million inhabitants. Spain will allow no foreign

tourists until June 21, with exceptions on some Spanish islands.

Elsewhere, the right to travel will depend on where you live and where you are going. Greece will mandate quarantines for those arriving from a string of airports in eight EU countries.

The Czech Republic has a traffic-light system, barring entry for tourists from 'orange' or 'red' countries such as Portugal and Sweden.

Denmark will allow in tourists from Iceland, Germany and Norway, but notably not Sweden, on condition they book at least six

nights' accommodation. Britain's mandatory two-week quarantine for visitors means Brits will face the same confinement in France. Before the crisis, an average of 3.5 million people crossed an internal EU border every day, according to a European Parliament report last year, some 1.7 million of the commuting to work.

Many of the latter are now working from home, while continued restrictions and health concerns are expected to curb tourism and business travel. At Brussels Airport, day one of the reopening will see around 60 flights operating, 10% of the normal 600.

Midterm evaluation report on LSF's legal aid project all for changes in grant disbursements

By Smart Money Reporter

A MIDTERM evaluation report on Legal Services Facility's Access to Justice Programme implementation has recommended changes in grant disbursements to paralegals and regional mentor organizations (RMOs).

The audit report which was released last week said the LSF's Access to Justice Programme which uses RMOs and paralegals in providing legal aid to vulnerable groups in the community including women and children, has suggested the grant making modalities were conceived to be good they facilitate timely disbursement of fund which are directed to planned interventions.

Midterm evaluation of LSF programme on access to justice in the country, further noted that use of RMOs as sub-grantees to contract paralegals which was conceived as a relevant and useful approach for monitoring and accountability has also worked well.

"However, there is concern that much of programme money remains at RMOs than it should have been. RMOs are only engaged to oversee the role of paralegals and provide technical support through mentorship, coaching and capacity building," the report stated.

It further added although paralegals are engaged to deliver legal aid services, only 32 percent of 25m/- allocation is paid to them while 68 percent or 17m/- remain at the RMO for administration and capacity building.

"In view of key informants, there is need for revision to enhance efficiency in the use of programme funds. There was also concern that the distribution of funds to paralegal units should be done on equity basis and not for equality basis as it is currently practiced," the report noted adding that the 8m/- flat rate per year regardless of area being covered by the unit, is unfair.

The report also faulted the grant making modalities and accountability which involves dealing directly with legal aid providers or through RMOs as sub-grantee to facilitate coordination and oversight for ac-



Legal Services Facility CEO Lulu Ng'wanakilala.

countability.

"There is a wider consensus among stakeholders that the use of RMOs has been a critical component of LSF Access to Justice Programme success. However, there is still mixed thoughts about efficiency on the use RMOs and modalities of disbursement of fund to paralegals. The cost of administration and capacity building can be revisited and minimized to allow more fund to flow to paralegals with a crucial role of services delivery," the report added.

In order to guarantee sustainability of the paralegals units which currently stand at 175, the report suggested that LSF work with Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs to train them get qualifications that meet legal requirements.

"The Legal Aid Act 2017 has set the required qualifications for paralegal position from bachelor degree to diploma and certificates including undergoing necessary trainings as prescribed in the regulations or having practiced as paralegal for at least two years and has undergone training under the current arrangement prior to the commencement of the act," the evaluation report said.

The report pointed out that most of the paralegals were recruited prior to commencement of the Legal Aid Act and were largely from four leavers with necessary training and have practiced for more than two years.

"Since the retention of this level of qualifications is high, Ministry of Justice and LSF should arrange certificate level training for them to meet the current demand of the act. It remains a more preferable level of qualification because of volunteer nature of paralegals role where more qualified individuals are less likely to serve for longer periods," the report stated.

The LSF's Access to Justice Programme is a five years project funded by a basket fund with Danish International Development Agency, Department for International Development and European Union as main financiers. DANIDA is conceived as a champion of the programme. Denmark's international development agency solicited backing from DfID and the EU.

Johannesburg councillors get set to give themselves 'outrageous' pay increases

JOHANNESBURG

RESIDENTS of Johannesburg are being asked to comment on the city's latest budget proposals - and they probably should.

The city councillors propose awarding themselves a 6.4% pay increase this year, while multiple surveys show that most South Africans are bleeding as a result of the Covid-19 lockdown. The city's electricity rates are budgeted to increase 8.1% this year, and water and sanitation by 8.6% each. Property rates are budgeted to increase 4.9% but could end up increasing 7% for some.

This might pass unnoticed in any other year, but not in the midst of an economic crisis. And certainly not when you have participative democracy campaigns being run by the likes of Dear South Africa and the Organisation Undoing Tax Abuse (Outa).

Startup incubator 22 on Sloane believes more than 55 000 SMEs in SA will not survive Covid-19, with at least 43 000 employees in those businesses set to lose their jobs. The African Management Institute (AMI) found that 87% of small businesses in Africa fear they may fail. Business For SA says up to four million jobs in SA could be lost.

Not a pretty picture.

Outa project manager Tim Tyrrell says the budget is an insult to the sacrifices made by city residents who have endured salary pay cuts, retrenchment, or the closure of once-vibrant businesses in the name of flattening the curve.

DearSA campaign head Rob Hutchinson says the budget proposals show extreme insensitivity for the pain being felt by all South Africans and Joburg city residents in particular. "This is especially true at a time when the city's infrastructure has not been properly attended to for years."

Skewed priorities

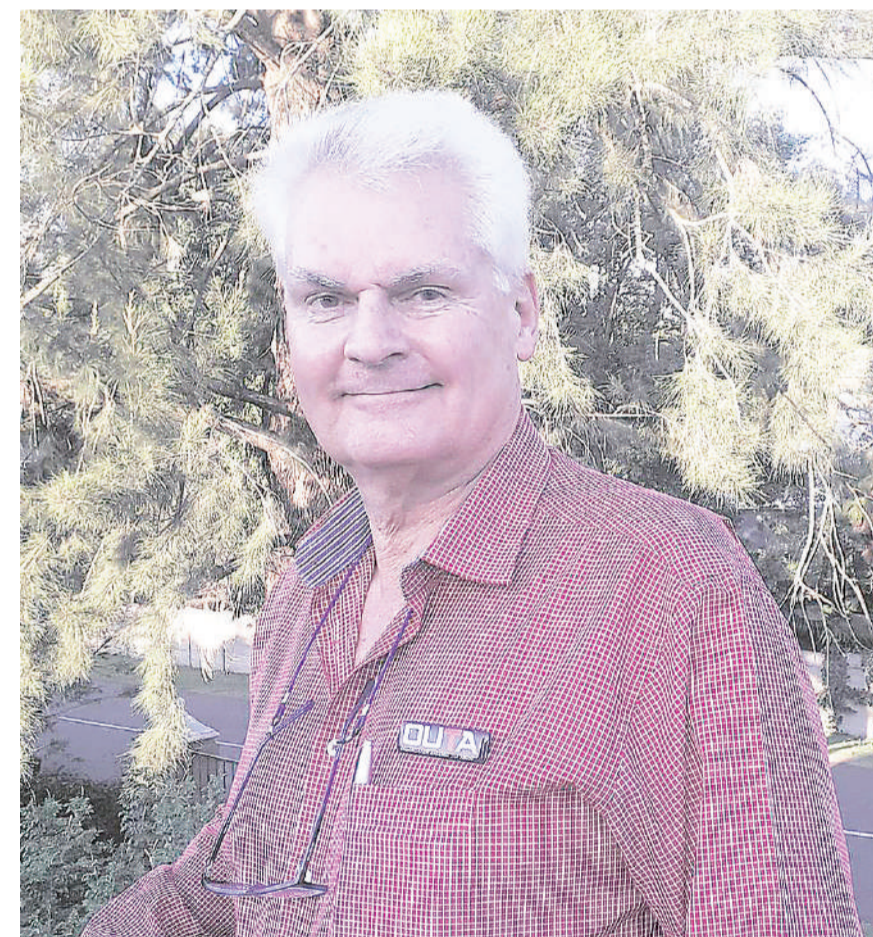
Particularly worrying for some is the increase in the base electricity charge, which could mean some households end up paying 40% more, and the scant relief for Covid-19, for which the city has made a R140 million provision. "The City of Joburg had at least three months to plan for the impact of Covid-19 since we first became aware of its severity, yet it seems to have treated it as an afterthought," says Tyrrell.

He points out that for every R10 invested by the city in plant, property and equipment, an additional 8% is supposed to be set aside for repairs and maintenance. However, this has not happened since 2009, resulting in a repairs and maintenance underspend of R28.6 billion over the last 11 years. This explains the general deterioration of roads and other infrastructure over the last decade.

According to National Treasury recommendations, local government is supposed to ringfence an additional 80 cents for every R10 spent on repairs and maintenance, but this has generally been seen as a way to redirect budget funds elsewhere. As a result, Joburg is planning to spend just 59 cents for every R10 earmarked for repairs and maintenance in the year ahead.

Comments from Joburg residents received by DearSA show their exasperation: "Expect non-compliance. We are sick of lining government's pockets;" "Salary increases? Why? We are in a recession and will be for a while. We have less people paying bills and yet you want to increase salaries;" "City of Joburg does not deserve increases if they cannot supply proper services constantly;" "Weekly, my water gets cut for hours due to maintenance repairs;" and "There is something seriously wrong with any increases above inflation."

What really seems to irk commentators is the extent of salary increases over the years. Between 2016 and 2020, average salaries have gone up 56%, well above the inflation index. From the comments received so far, it's clear that residents are outraged by the proposed salary increases amid claims that the city infrastructure and service delivery has deteriorated.



Outa project manager Tim Tyrrell.

Ernst & Young sends 42 top managers back home

NAIROBI

TROUBLE is brewing at Ernst & Young after the South African office of the audit and advisory firm signalled its intention to lay off 42 senior and long-serving managers in the Nairobi office, which counts Co-op Bank, the Central Bank of Kenya and Absa Bank Kenya among its customers.

The firm's outgoing CEO, Gitahi Gachahi, told the Business Daily that the firm has been performing well financially, raising questions about the motivation of the head office to lay off the workers. "The redundancy decision could not have been informed by sub-optimal performance or profit dilution," said Mr Gachahi, questioning the wisdom of the decision.

Ernst & Young is one of the world's four biggest audit firms and the Kenyan office falls under its Eastern cluster, which includes Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Rwanda. Sources at the company said some of the regional offices do not have sufficient staff, making the redundancy notices all the more questionable.

"We refer to the meeting held with your service line leader on 2nd June, 2020 and the letter notifying you of the firm's decision to terminate your contract of employment on account of redundancy issued on the same date," says a letter sent to one of the affected staff. According to the letter, the contracts for the affected staff would be terminated on July 2. "You will be issued with a letter of termination of your contract of employment on that date," the letter says.

The workers are worried that if they are rendered jobless during the Covid-19 pandemic period, they will be unable to secure jobs in other institutions given that companies are scaling down operations to cut costs and preserve their cash reserves even as Ernst & Young remains in a strong financial position on account of the deals it has signed in Kenya in the recent past.

They also protested that they were not consulted on whether they could be put on lower pay as has happened in other organisations. "Other leaders



Ernst & Young's outgoing CEO, Gitahi Gachahi.

have engaged their people, agreeing to reduce salaries by an agreed percentage until the situation stabilises," said one employee. "Unfortunately, the ugly face of capitalism gains an upper hand even as the world is faced with such a catastrophe."

The employee also questioned why the South Africa office was using performance reviews for the last three years yet the industry practice is to use the current year to make decisions affecting staff. This, he said, raised questions over whether the jobs would be giv-

en to foreigners once Kenyans had been sent home.

And according to Mr Gachahi, the decision to send the workers home at this time amounts to a back-handed compliment. "This is particularly painful when there is no compelling economic reason for such a drastic action," he said. In its letter to the affected staff, signed by Talent Leader Polly Mwangi, the company acknowledged the difficult times would make the layoffs particularly painful and has offered counselling services.

CURRENT NEWS

French telecom operator eyes Nigeria, South Africa as possible new markets

PARIS

ORANGE, France's largest telecom operator, believes it would benefit from having a wider footprint in Africa and will give itself a few months to make a possible move, Chief Executive Stephane Richard told Les Echos business newspaper.

"It could make sense to be in economies such as Nigeria and South Africa," Richard was quoted as saying. "If one considers there are things to do, the time frame I am considering is rather a few months than a few years." Richard declined to comment on a possible interest in South Africa's MTN Group.

The Middle East and Africa, where Orange has a presence in 18 countries, is the company's fastest-growing market. The region makes a large chunk of its revenues from payment transfers - a key part of the group's diversification into financial services.

Orange said earlier this year it was bringing its operations in the Middle East and Africa into a single entity, paving the way for a potential listing of the operations that could raise cash to invest in overseas expansion. Richard said Orange would also be looking at bolstering partnerships with health companies or institutions.

Sector-specific, asset-based measures for businesses to conserve value across 2020

By Kevin Kimario

FOR the first half of 2020, business sentiment has been upset by the Covid-19 pandemic and uncharacteristic heavy rains.

The budget tabled in parliament by the stellar Finance Minister, Dr Philip Mpango last week forecast an updated GDP growth rate of 5.5 percent for the year, up from 4.0 percent last month, but down from 6.9 percent projected earlier in the year. According to Dr Mpango and Bank of Tanzania in the Monthly Economic Review for April 2020, this is due to "disruption of supply and demand chains" as a result of mitigation measures adopted to deal with the public health phenomenon.

Perhaps a bit more ominously, a new World Bank economic analysis titled the Tanzania Economic Update Addressing the Impact of Covid-19 projects that, "Tanzania's growth will decrease sharply in 2020, due to the impact of COVID-19." In fact, the Bretton Woods institution projects growth to decline by as much as half to 2.5 percent this year.

Much as we might be tempted to debate the exact numbers and forecast scenarios at hand and likely to play out in the future, business cash flows are generated by earnings from business operations. While there is certainly an upside to the economic environment including lower oil prices, higher prices for agricultural produce and rising commodity prices, business leaders will certainly be well-advised to brace for the uncertainty.

From the assumption of disruption in global, regional and country supply and demand chains, it wouldn't be unreasonable to infer a possible unfavourable outlook for the tourism and hospitality, construction and real estate, transport (especially air freight), energy and mining sectors. It would then be a matter of time before this translates to the financial services sector where we have seen reports of banking industry leaders responding expeditiously to renegotiate and re-schedule loan repayments, providing much needed grace periods for their clients.

Various other measures have been proposed to save the day. Anything that gives business a competitive edge should be explored, including leveraging digital solutions to enhance efficiency and effectiveness. These can be wide ranging, from the recently proposed online submission and signing of documents which would fit in with SMEs profile to adopting robust artificial intelligence platforms which would be more suitable for established business organizations. Businesses may also need to streamline operations and supply chains, reviewing processes and initiatives that don't add most to the organizations core objectives.

All of these solutions speak to the business and strategy side of the solution. The purpose of this article is to add to this proposition sector specific,



asset based solutions to review and implement physical asset management, restructuring and valuation measures to help business leaders conserve hard earned value in the year 2020.

Non asset intensive industries: Financial services

Risk managers in the banking sector may need to reassess how well secured the banks' loan portfolios are by collateral assets that they currently hold. Judgement will need to be exercised as to whether further remedial action is needed in so far as how sufficiently these assets cover exposure in terms of the outstanding Loan to Value Ratio. In addition to the enhanced reporting requirements demanded by the IFRS 9 expected credit loss model, this prudent measure will mitigate risks around recovery amounts not meeting the outstanding loan amounts and reduce loss in event of client default.

To do this, relationship managers and credit risk officers will need assistance to review the pledged collateral asset's existence, condition and valuation in light of evolving market conditions and how adequately these factors mitigate the bank's risk level in event of default.

Asset intensive industries
In asset intensive industries, such as energy and mining, construction, real estate and transport, manufacturing and industrial processing; financial reporting managers may want to consider whether all business assets are accurately recorded and fairly valued in accordance with applicable accounting standards. This is certainly true because of the long time that has passed since when various companies initiated relaxed office/store/factory attendance and inspection requirements - and hence induced laxity in relation to asset management.

Business leaders may also need to reassess their capex and working capital requirements for the remaining part of the year. To do this, managers may need to conduct valuations of core and

support assets, assess accumulated depreciation and obsolescence and establish remaining useful lives. This would enable the estimation of capex requirements for the remaining period of the year or whatever time period would be deemed appropriate.

There will also be a requirement to analyse and project working capital requirements. For companies in the fast moving consumer goods and allied industries, this would include conducting an inventory count and removing obsolete inventory.

An ageing analysis would also be required to assess whether any debtors are in default and how this will impact the receivables balance for the company. All these have an impact on how the company itself will manage to meet creditor obligations when they fall due and the net cash flow position of the business.

Conclusively, contrary to expectations echoing in the developing world, where most of the economic activity is generated from service industries, digital technology is most advanced and remote working is thriving, the role of the physical space in Tanzania and Africa in general is certainly not in immediate jeopardy.

Business leaders may therefore want to review how they manage office/commercial/factory space and if adequate spacing is available to maintain the one meter (3 feet) distance advised by World Health Organization to minimize chances of transmission of Covid-19. Surely, the role of sound and informed asset management and valuation can therefore not be underestimated.

NB:
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Forget the banks, as insurers more vulnerable to Covid-19

JOHANNESBURG

IT'S a grudge purchase, often the first expense to fall away when households' budgets are strained. But South African insurers have shown different degrees of vulnerability to the challenges posed by Covid-19.

Those heavily dependent on face-to-face sales, like Old Mutual, would surely want to see an accelerated march to lockdown Level 1. Given the recent trading updates and insurers' experiences in April and May, the question is: who seems to be on the right path to maintain value for shareholders and whose vulnerabilities have been most exposed?

Everyone is suffering, in one way or another

Warwick Bam, head of research at Avior Capital Markets, says all insurers and pension administrators are taking some beating right now from retirement contribution holidays, insurance premium relief and additional cover they've advanced to support their customers for the next few months. But some will inevitably be more prejudiced.

"Intermediaries dependent on face-to-face interactions have been unable to sell policies in April and May," says Bam, pointing out that Old Mutual is one player more reliant than others on face-to-face interactions at branches and worksites to sell. Old Mutual told investors recently that it's been difficult to sell, and that some existing customers asked for premium holidays and, in extreme instances, lapsed their policies.

But it's not only insurers dependent on face-to-face sales who suffered. During a call with investors, outgoing Sanlam CEO Ian Kirk said the insurer also struggled to sell. In April and May, the insurer, which is the biggest in Africa, saw new business volumes tank between 50% and 70% compared to the same time last year, Kirk says. He foresees productivity will only return to normal when SA moves to lockdown Level 1.

Could Covid-19 have raised awareness on the importance of insurance?

However, Sanlam says it has been pleasantly surprised that its businesses - including Sanlam Sky, which serves low-income earners - has not shown the kind of strain it expected when it comes to lapses in April and May. Customers opting for premium holidays are likely to have stalled the lapse rate for now. But Kirk thinks there's another factor at play.

"Obviously, there's pressure on consumers. But when you go through something like this, people say 'jeeppers, I've got to keep my life cover going. I've got to keep my funeral plan in place'. It's almost like there's awareness on health and safety stuff," says Kirk.

Momentum Metropolitan Holdings also says its lapse rates remained stable for life insurance products in April, but more people have asked for relief like premium holidays. The group is

keeping its eye on the lapses in the medium term when levels of unemployment start to increase.

It looks like some insurers have seen this increased awareness as an opportunity. For instance, Discovery has enhanced a number of its products by adding a Covid-19 benefit. The insurance group, which is trying to grow its new bank, even launched Vitality Health Check for seniors, making itself ever more relevant to panicked insurance customers. Discovery did not respond to questions on whether these enhancements have improved its persistency ratio or attracted new customers.

But Bam thinks this is a well-thought move. "By tailoring products to Covid-19 risks, persistency is likely to improve as insurers can further justify the benefit of retaining cover when affordability declines," he said.

When it comes to Covid-19-related claims, big life insurers aren't too concerned. They haven't yet recorded any material increase in death claims and many say they expect a modest increase in the coming months.

However, SA hasn't reached its Covid-19 peak yet. Friday marked the 100th day since the first known Covid-19 patient arrived back in the country from a trip to Italy, and by Saturday 1 423 deaths had been recorded. But even when claims start rising, insurers have deep pockets to finance these, and have reinsurers to fund the rest.

Bam says the bigger listed guys in particular have strong balance sheets which "can withstand almost any eventuality in the current Covid-19 scenario". Sanlam has already set up a "pandemic reserve" of R760 million.

But job losses threaten to setback the whole industry

While things like funeral cover could be on top of consumers' minds now, employment levels will determine if insurance will remain a line item in households' budgets. South Africa's largest pension funds administrator Alexander Forbes is already preparing itself for the worst as its success depends largely on having more people formally employed and saving for retirement. Alexander Forbes offers both retirement and group life insurance that people subscribe to in their workplaces.

Like Kirk, Alexander Forbes CEO Dawie de Villiers says people are asking for advice more than ever as they try to navigate their retirement and investment options under Covid-19. However, while the importance of financial advice has been elevated, De Villiers says the rising number of employers announcing retrenchments is causing a headache for the industry.

"We haven't seen any retrenchments come through, but we believe that there will be retrenchments. We also agree with the analysts' numbers about the unemployment rate going maybe up to 35% from the current 29%, and that will affect our bottom line as less people belong to schemes," De Villiers says.

VIEW FROM THE TOP

Airline bailouts point to greener travel – and higher fares

BRUSSELS

EUROPE'S \$36 billion of airline bailouts could herald a shift to lower-emission travel as countries impose environmental strings on aid. Those requirements may also mean customers have less choice and pay more.

Austria is taking the most radical steps in agreeing to fund the local arm of Deutsche Lufthansa. The government will impose a minimum 40-euro (\$45) ticket price to discourage non-vital journeys while hiking fees on flights under 350 kilometers (217 miles) to 30 euros. And Austrian Airlines services to locations less than three hours from Vienna will be replaced by train journeys.

"It's good to end things that just don't make sense, such as tickets that are too cheap," Lufthansa Chief Executive Officer Carsten Spohr said Monday after the Austrian unit sealed 450 million euros in state support. "It doesn't make sense ecologically or economically. In that respect I can imagine implementing these measures in other European locations."

France is also taking steps to reduce short-haul flights, requiring Air France to cut domestic services by 40% as part of a 7 billion-euro package to help it survive the coronavirus crisis, and the Netherlands is expected to impose environmental



Lufthansa CEO Carsten Spohr.

conditions on funding for sister company KLM. Lufthansa itself avoided such strings in its rescue.

French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire has said the government wants to remake Air France into the greenest carrier in the world, partly by curbing domestic flights

by 40% and pulling services between cities less than 2 1/2 hours apart by rail. His Dutch counterpart Wopke Hoekstra said in an April 24 letter to the House of Representatives that KLM would be need to take steps such as reducing CO2 emissions and night flights to win taxpayer funds.

For low-cost airlines, which are more profitable than network carriers and have received far less state support, elements of the new green agenda threaten to add insult to injury. Ryanair Holdings Plc, Europe's biggest discounter, and Wizz Air Holdings Plc, the No. 1 in Eastern Europe, have already hit out at the bailouts for their potential to distort competition for years to come.

Tamara Vallois, spokeswoman for Wizz, said Tuesday in an email that Austria hasn't yet made it aware of any stipulation on minimum fares but it "rejects any decision" that undermines the freedom of pricing and the European Union's principles regarding the free movement of services, people, goods and capital.

Ryanair's Lauda arm, a low-cost service operating in Austria, raised the same concerns about the EU's founding principles in an e-mailed statement and said it opposes any restrictions on fares. Ryanair CEO Michael O'Leary previously clashed with Spohr as airlines came under increased pressure to cut carbon emissions.

Lufthansa argued that discount carriers were to blame for encouraging people to take unnecessary trips, while O'Leary blamed the German company for operating older, thirstier planes and said Spohr wanted to stop poorer people from flying.

At the same time, green campaigners are pushing states to use the travel crisis to extract greater environmental concessions from airlines in return for aid.

"The measures are vague, lack ambition and some are problematic," Greenpeace France said of the French plan Tuesday, calling for a greater reduction in flights. Current proposals would keep the shortest Air France connections to Paris Charles de Gaulle airport and cut carbon emissions by just 6.6%, it said, citing figures from the Climate Action Network.

Train vs plane

Austria's phasing out of short-hop routes will focus on those where the train can make the trip in three hours. That could end Vienna-Salzburg flights, and also services from the capital to Graz and Klagenfurt once new rail tunnels are completed later this decade. Even then, Austrian Airlines has insisted regional airports retain air links to one of Lufthansa's other hubs in Munich, Frankfurt and Zurich.

Austria, where the Green Party is a junior partner in a coalition government, also plans to negotiate a climate agreement with Lufthansa to achieve further carbon and noise reductions, though Spohr has said the replacement of older aircraft will only be possible when Austrian Airlines can afford it.

WORLD

Atlanta police shooting of black man was a homicide, coroner says

ATLANTA

THE death of Rayshard Brooks, a black man killed by a white police officer in Atlanta on Friday, was a homicide caused by gunshot wounds to the back, the Fulton County Medical Examiner's office said on Sunday.

Brooks' death reignited protests in Atlanta after days of worldwide demonstrations against racism and police brutality prompted by the death of George Floyd, an African American, in Minneapolis police custody on May 25.

An autopsy conducted on Sunday showed that Brooks, 27, died from blood

loss and organ injuries caused by two gunshot wounds, an investigator for the medical examiner said in a statement. The manner of his death was homicide, the statement said.

Brooks' fatal encounter with police came after an employee of a Wendy's restaurant in Atlanta phoned authorities to say that someone had fallen asleep in his car in the restaurant's drive-through lane.

Caught on the officer's body camera and a surveillance camera, the encounter seemed friendly at first, as Brooks cooperated with a sobriety test and talked about his daughter's birthday.



A group of protesters walks on a road after a night of protests during which a Wendy's restaurant was set ablaze overnight on Saturday in Atlanta, Georgia. AFP

"I watched the interaction with Mr. Brooks and it broke my heart," Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms said on CNN. "This was not confrontational. This was a guy that you were rooting for."

But when an officer moved to arrest him, Brooks struggled with him and another officer at the scene before breaking free and running across the parking lot with what appears to be a police Taser in his hand, a bystander's video showed.

A video from the restaurant's cameras shows Brooks turning as he runs and possibly aiming the Taser at the pursuing officers before one of them fires his gun and Brooks falls.

Atlanta's police chief, Erika Shields, resigned over the shooting. The officer suspected of killing Brooks was fired, and the other officer involved in the incident, also white, was put on administrative leave.

SEARCH FOR SUSPECTS IN RESTAURANT BLAZE

As demonstrators in Atlanta took to the streets and chanted for the officers in Brooks' case to be criminally charged, at one point late on Saturday blocking traffic on a nearby interstate highway, the Wendy's restaurant went up in flames.

On Sunday, police offered a \$10,000 reward and published photos of what appeared to be a masked

white woman being sought in connection with the case.

Police said they were seeking those responsible for the blaze, including a woman who was "attempting to hide her identity." The department posted photos on social media of what looked to be a young white woman wearing a black baseball cap and face mask, and a video clip filmed by a protester that appeared to show a woman encouraging the flames.

"Look at the white girl trying to burn down the Wendy's," the man recording the video can heard saying. "This wasn't us."

Bottoms said on Saturday that she did not believe the shooting was a justified use of deadly force.

Lawyers for Brooks' family said he was the father of a young daughter who was celebrating her birthday on Saturday. They said the officers had no right to use deadly force even if he had fired the Taser, a non-lethal weapon, in their direction.

Prosecutors will decide by midweek whether to bring charges, Fulton County District Attorney Paul Howard said on Sunday.

"(The victim) did not seem to present any kind of threat to anyone, and so the fact that it would escalate to his death just seems unreasonable," Howard told CNN.

Agencies



Calls for action, not words, as UK PM launches racism commission

LONDON

BRITISH Prime Minister Boris Johnson came under pressure yesterday to deliver action on racism after he launched a commission on the issue following Black Lives Matter protests.

Johnson (pictured) said a cross-government commission would examine racism and the disparities experienced by minority ethnic groups in education, health and the criminal justice system.

But he gave few details about the commission, leading to criticism that he was prevaricating rather than delivering concrete steps.

"It's the sort of morning that makes me slightly weary, because it feels like we're going round in circles," said David Lammy, an opposition Labour lawmaker whose own report into over-representation of black people in the criminal justice system is one of several whose findings have not yet been implemented.

"You can understand like it feels that yet again, in the UK, we want figures, data, but we don't want action."

Johnson said he could not ignore the strength of feeling shown by tens of thousands of people who had demonstrated in British cities following the death of African American George Floyd in Minneapolis last month.

"What I really want to do as prime minister is change the narrative, so we stop the sense of victimisation and discrimination," he said on Sunday.

"It won't be easy. We'll have to look very carefully at the real racism and discrimination that people face."

Heritage

The commission was announced in a broadcast clip and accompanied with an article in the Telegraph, where Johnson also again said it was absurd that a statue of Winston Churchill should be under threat from protesters.

The statue of Churchill was boarded up ahead of a weekend of protest, although in the end police were attacked by far-right demonstrators who had assembled to protect the monument.

Xinhua

Moscow took maximum efforts for Europe's peaceful development - Lavrov

MOSCOW

RUSSIA has done everything for Europe to embark on the path of prosperity and sustainable development, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said in an article for the French journal Revue Politique et Parlementaire published on Saturday.

The article is devoted to the 130th anniversary of the birth of 20th century French general and president Charles de Gaulle.

De Gaulle always supported the policy of developing mutually respectful relations with Moscow, which can be confirmed by the Soviet-French Treaty of Alliance and Mutual Assistance concluded in December 1944 for a period of twenty years, the Russian foreign minister said.

"However, after de Gaulle's resignation in 1946 and the cold war that started, the potential of the treaty remained unrealized," Lavrov pointed out.

"After returning to the French political scene in 1958, the general continued its course towards promoting relations with the Soviet Union. In their consistent development, he saw not only a guarantee of the well-being of the two peoples but also the most important factor in reducing international tension and maintaining regional and global stability," the Russian foreign minister said.

After the end of the bipolar confrontation in the early 1990s, a historical chance appeared for all de Gaulle's noble intentions, including the intention of reaching our continent's unity for the sake of "equilibrium, progress and peace of the entire world" to be carried through, Lavrov noted.

"Russia, on its part, took maximum efforts for Europe that had lived through two world wars and then the cold war to finally embark on the path of prosperity, mutually advantageous partnership and peaceful sustainable development for the benefit of the current and future generations," Russia's top diplomat stressed.

"Moscow invariably stood for strengthening the unifying role of such pan-European institutions as the OSCE, for example. It was our country that suggested signing the Treaty on European Security and starting joint work on creating a common space of peace, stability and wide economic and humanitarian cooperation from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean," Russia's foreign minister said.

Agencies



Vice premier stresses curbing spread of COVID-19 in Beijing

BEIJING

CHINESE Vice Premier Sun Chunlan on Sunday urged resolute measures to stem the spread of cluster cases of COVID-19 in Beijing.

Sun (pictured) made the remarks at a meeting of the State Council joint prevention and control mechanism against COVID-19.

Noting that the new cluster cases in Beijing were all related

to Xinfadi, a wholesale farm produce market where a large number of people gather and visit, Sun warned of the high risk of virus spreading and asked for resolute response measures.

Sun called for the "strictest epidemiological investigations" at and around the market and "thorough source tracing" to identify and control the source of infection. She stressed boosting nucleic acid testing capacity in Bei-



China's vice premier Sun Chunlan (left) and other officials attend a meeting to discuss the prevention and control of COVID-19 in Beijing on Sunday.

discover infections and asymptomatic cases.

Sun called on communities to strictly carry out epidemic prevention and control measures, screen for confirmed cases, suspected cases, febrile patients who might be carriers, and close contacts, and put them under quarantine at designated facilities.

More efforts should be made to establish and renovate fever clinics at all medical institutions,

she said, adding that disinfection and sterilization will be carried out in farm produce markets, restaurants and distribution places across the country.

Noting that the task of regular prevention and control is still arduous, Sun called for unremitting efforts to guard against imported cases from abroad and prevent a resurgence of the outbreak at home.

Xinhua

Congo's gold being smuggled out by the tonne - report

GOLD production in Democratic Republic of Congo continues to be systematically underreported while tonnes of the precious metal is smuggled into global supply chains through its eastern neighbors, a United Nations report has found.

The countries along Congo's eastern border have long been conduits for gold worth billions of dollars mined using rudimentary means by so-called "artisanal" miners.

Difficult to trace, trade in the precious metal has fueled regional wars, funded rebel fighters and led to UN sanctions on traders involved in a bid to staunch the flow.

North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri provinces reported official production of just over 60kg of artisanal gold in 2019, yet exported a total of just over 73kg, the UN Group of Experts on the Congo found in its annual report.

The group estimated that at least 1.1 tonnes of gold were smuggled out of Ituri province alone in 2019.

That would have earned the government up to US\$1.88 million in taxes had it been legally exported.

Across all gold-producing provinces the loss is likely much greater. Artisanal miners in Congo produce 15 to 22 tonnes of gold a year, Germany's Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources has estimated.

"The country remained one of the Great Lakes region's largest artisanal gold producers, and yet one of its smallest official exporters," the Group of Experts wrote.

Asked by Reuters about the report, Congo's mines minister, Willy Kitobo Samsoni, said he could not immediately share his figures on mineral smuggling from the east of the country.

The UN experts also found that Uganda and other neighboring countries export far more gold than they produce, suggesting they might still be staging posts for smuggled Congolese gold.

More than 95 percent of gold exports from Uganda in 2019, which



A bag of gold is seen in a gold traders office on July 12, 2018 in Mambasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo. (File photo)

totalled just over 25 tonnes, were not of Ugandan origin, the group estimated, based on 2018 production and 2019 export data.

Uganda's gold exports more than doubled in 2019 compared with

the previous year, central bank data showed in March.

Uganda's energy minister did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the report.

Smugglers told the Group of

Experts that Kampala was a main trading hub for gold from Ituri.

Smuggled gold from South Kivu went to Burundi, Rwanda, the United Arab Emirates, and Tanzania, the report added.

Agencies

China always adheres to people-centered governance philosophy, builds synergy with world to contain Covid-19

AS China has achieved a major strategic success in its nationwide Covid-19 control efforts, secured economic and social development, and organized an orderly return to normal work and daily life, the world is casting its eyes to the east, searching for the reasons for the progress made by the country and the Communist Party of China (CPC).

A recent white paper titled "Fighting Covid-19: China in Action" released by the country's State Council Information Office revealed the source of power and the "mighty weapon" of China in its epidemic response: observing the people-centered governance

philosophy of the CPC; China's ability to mobilize resources to accomplish major initiatives; its composite national strength built up during more than four decades of reform and opening up, particularly since the 18th CPC National Congress held in November 2012; remarkable achievements in modernizing governance; two defining values of Chinese culture - solidarity and mutual assistance; and the profound love of the Chinese people for their family and their country.

Lives are precious. That's a principle that China has always adhered to no matter what difficulties lie ahead, and that's why

China's practices have deeply touched the world.

The white paper unveiled a series of astonishing figures. Since the virus struck, hospitals in Wuhan designated for treating severe cases have treated more than 9,600 such cases. The recovery rate has risen from 14 percent to 89 percent, higher than the average rate for normal viral pneumonia. To date, more than 3,000 patients over the age of 80, including 7 centenarians, have been cured, with many of them brought back to life from the verge of death. The average cost for treating Covid-19 patients in severe condition surpassed RMB150,000, and in some

critical cases the individual cost exceeded RMB1 million, all covered by the state.

China made its resolute choice to place people's lives above economic growth, embraced a philosophy that puts life above everything else, saved lives at all costs, and showed care and compassion for Chinese citizens overseas. Facts proved undeniably that the CPC and the Chinese government have always acted with a keen sense of responsibility to humanity and the people.

The sense of responsibility at the critical moment demonstrated that the country respects and holds in awe the dignity and lives

of people as individuals, and signified the solidarity and strength of 1.4 billion Chinese.

Waging an all-out people's war on the virus, China mobilized the people, enhanced R&D, procured supplies, and brought them to those in need rapidly. It made a miracle in mankind's anti-epidemic history. The 1.4 billion Chinese people shouldered their responsibilities, united as one, and stayed resilient, representing a formidable force.

The Lancet issued statement to support the Chinese scientific, public health and medical workers; Time magazine hailed the remarkable sense of responsibility

of Chinese couriers; Forbes also commended the volition of the Chinese people, many of whom had stayed home for over a month.

Alan Macfarlane, a historian and professor emeritus of King's College, University of Cambridge, believes that China's success in epidemic response came from solidarity, mutual sympathy, rational planning and responsible practices.

A major crisis is a litmus test of the ruling Party's governance philosophy and effectiveness. The strong leadership of the CPC has been fundamental to China's rapid containment of the virus. The CPC has a strong leadership core,

a people-oriented governance philosophy, and well-established organization and operation mechanisms. It quickly made the right decisions in response to the crisis.

The CPC has more than 4.6 million primary-level organizations, which have served as strongholds against the epidemic, rallying and serving the general public.

From January 24, Chinese New Year's Eve, to March 8, China rallied 346 national medical teams, consisting of 42,600 medical workers and more than 900 public health professionals to the immediate aid of Hubei and the city of Wuhan.

People's Daily

California officials probe 2 separate hanging deaths of African American men

LOS ANGELES

AUTHORITIES are investigating two separate hanging deaths of African American men in Southern California as "Black Lives Matter" protests continue to spread across the United States. City and county officials have called for an independent investigation into the death of Robert Fuller, 24, who was found hanging from a tree early Wednesday near the city hall of Palmdale, Los Angeles County, the Los Angeles Times reported on Sunday. Protesters marched from the site of Fuller's death to the Sheriff's Department station to demand an investigation. The Los Angeles County medical examiner-coroner's office initially called the death a suicide. Fuller's family and civic leaders quickly pushed back, insisting that it be investigated as a homicide and demanding an independent probe and autopsy. Los Angeles County Su-

pervisor Kathryn Barger also requested that California Attorney General Xavier Becerra conduct an independent investigation into Fuller's death, according to the Los Angeles Times. Fuller is the second African American man whose body was found hanging in a tree in Southern California in less than two weeks. The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department said the investigation into the death of Malcolm Harsch, 38, is ongoing, reported the newspaper. Harsch's body was found on May 31 near the Victorville City Library. The County Sheriff's Department said Saturday that foul play was not suspected in the death of Harsch. But in a statement to a Southern California news outlet, the Victor Valley News, Harsch's family said they find it hard to accept his death was a suicide, noting that Harsch had recent conversations with his children about seeing them soon and that he did not seem to be depressed to anyone who knew him.



Combo photo shows the close-up shots of Malcolm Harsch (L) and Robert Fuller widely circulated on the Internet in recent days. (Xinhua)

"Two Black men were found hanging from trees in California in the last 2 weeks... Authorities are calling them suicides. What Black man do you know who hangs himself from a tree? These are lynchings. Not 'modern day lynchings,' old school ones," tweeted Black Lives Matter-Los Angeles on Sunday. Xinhua

Foreigners in Russia will be able to extend their stay - Internal Affairs Ministry

MOSCOW

FOREIGN citizens whose permission to stay in Russia has expired during the coronavirus quarantine, will be able to apply to the Ministry of Internal Affairs for an extension starting June 15, a source in the law enforcement told TASS yesterday. "Foreigners whose documents to stay in Russia have expired during the coronavirus quarantine will be able to start paperwork on June 15 by contacting the migration departments of the Ministry of Internal Affairs," the agency's source said.

Earlier it was reported that Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a decree on temporary measures to regulate the legal status of foreign citizens and stateless persons in Russia in connection with the threat of the spread of a new coronavirus infection.

According to the document, the period of temporary stay, temporary or permanent residence for foreign citizens with whom it expired starting March 15 to June 15, 2020, was suspended.

According to the document, during these three months, foreigners did not have to renew documents on temporary stay in Russia, including visa extensions, registration deadlines at the place of stay, temporary and permanent residence, including the extension of a residence permit. Agencies



Foreigners whose documents to stay in Russia have expired during the coronavirus quarantine will be able to start paperwork on June 15 by contacting the migration departments of the Ministry of Internal Affairs

Holidaymakers and cigarette runs: Europe starts reopening borders

PARIS

EUROPEAN nations eased border controls yesterday as coronavirus cases declined after three months of lockdown, with Germans escaping to holiday destinations and French people streaming into Belgium to buy cheap cigarettes. But Spain's continued closure, a patchwork of quarantine rules and remote-working mean pre-crisis travel levels are a way off.

Greek airports allowed more international flights as the country sought to salvage its summer, German tourists flocking to neighboring Denmark caused an 8 km queue and Italians popped into France to buy lottery scratch cards.

Spain is permitting entry to a select group of holidaymakers from Germany as the Madrid government works out how to make mass tourism work now. Sunseekers queued at Düsseldorf to board tour operator TUI's flight to Mallorca.

The European Commission on Monday launched a site, called "Re-open EU", giving information on travel to and within EU countries, what coronavirus-related rules ap-

ply, and whether facilities such as hotels and beaches are open. European officials hope the lifting of internal border controls will allow a gradual reopening to other countries from July and resuscitate a tourism industry that flatlined during the lockdown. However, it will not be a return to unfettered travel for the Schengen area's 420 million inhabitants.

The Czech Republic has a traffic-light system, barring entry for tourists from 'orange' or 'red' countries such as Portugal and Sweden. Denmark will allow in tourists from Iceland, Germany and Norway, but notably not Sweden, on condition they book at least six nights' accommodation.

Britain's two-week quarantine for visitors means Britons will face the same confinement in France.

Global tally

Coronavirus cases worldwide on Monday topped 7.9 million while global COVID-19 deaths surpassed 433,000, according to data from Johns Hopkins University.



Cars line up at the Krusau border to cross towards Denmark in Flensburg, Germany, AP

The United States is the hardest-hit country, with over 2 million cases and more than 115,000 deaths.

Countries with over 200,000 cases also include Brazil, Russia, Britain, India, Spain, Italy and Peru.

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases across the African continent surpassed 232,815 as of Sunday morning

and the death toll rose to 6,244, the Africa Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) said.

Shache county in Xinjiang implements targeted poverty alleviation measures

A farmer watering tomato seedlings in his vegetable field while marigold flowers he planted in spring blooming nearby - that is a scene observed in Kuoshiwusitang village, Shache county, Kashgar Prefecture in Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

Wiping away his sweat, the impoverished man named Qadir Yasen greeted Ayshemgul Tulapu, a government official in the township, saying that it's not a problem that every mu, or 0.067 hectares, of tomatoes will generate an income of around 3,000 yuan (\$425) as the tomato seedlings grow well.

Shache county has intensified poverty alleviation since the start of this year. Not long ago, when Ayshemgul visited Qadir's home, the official found that the villager was hesitating about whether to grow tomatoes or marigolds.

"This year, the village has organized seedling cultivation in greenhouses and invited agri-

cultural technicians to instruct villagers.

The village will also provide free seedlings for you according to poverty relief policies and help you sell your products," Ayshemgul said, adding that subsidies will be offered if he has a bad harvest.

"Then I will plant about 0.13 hectares of marigolds and tomatoes, respectively," Qadir showed his determination.

More than one month later, Qadir found that it's not difficult to plant crops he had never grown despite a bit more complicated management.

"I will surely shake off poverty this year," Qadir said, noting that he will buy seedlings himself next year instead of getting them for free.

Shache county faces challenges in poverty alleviation due to a large poor population. By the end of 2019, there were 173 poverty-stricken villages, 10,323 impoverished households, and 35,446 poor people in the coun-

ty, accounting for one-third, one-fourth and one-fifth of the total in Xinjiang, respectively.

"We have pledged to ensure that all impoverished people will be lifted out of poverty as scheduled by implementing a targeted poverty alleviation strategy of 'one plan for one village, and one measure for one household,'" said Fan Baojun, Party chief of the county, noting that each household will have more to expect in the future.

Shache has organized civil servants at all levels to provide pairing assistance for registered impoverished households. Capable and experienced officials in the county have offered pairing assistance to over 10,000 impoverished households.

For the households that have already been lifted out of poverty, the county required responsible officials to check risks of their relapsing into poverty with the help of a local poverty alleviation big data platform.

Nurnisa Sadiq, a farmer in

Lan'gan village, Yakaairike township of the county, collected the second batch of spinach not long ago, and the newly transplanted onion seedlings have survived.

"I can harvest batches of vegetables in one year, and needn't worry about sales as enterprises will collect my vegetables," he said.

The official designated for lifting his household out of poverty has not only helped Nurnisa adjust the farming pattern, but also supported him in running a small shop.

Besides, his son is an auxiliary police officer, which means that all three members with the ability to work in his family have something to do.

"Targeted assistance means that we need to formulate a poverty alleviation plan tailored for each household and offer appropriate solutions based on individual conditions," said Xing Baoxin, head of Shache's organization department.

People's Daily

Israel advances new Golan settlement named after Trump

JERUSALEM

ISRAEL started on Sunday preparations for building a new settlement in the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights named after U.S. President Donald Trump, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said.

Cabinet ministers ratified a decision to establish the new settlement, named "Ramat Trump" in Hebrew, meaning "Trump Heights," according to a statement released by the Prime Minister's Office.

"Today, we will begin practical steps in establishing the community of Ramat Trump on the Golan Heights," Netanyahu told the cabinet meeting.

The new settlement will be located in the Golan, a disputed territory that Israel seized from Syria in the 1967 Middle East war and has controlled ever since despite international criticism.

Minister of Settlement Af-



US President Donald Trump (R) and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu attend a joint press conference in the White House in Washington D.C., the United States, on Jan. 28, 2020. (File photo)

fairs Tzipi Hotovely, whose office was tasked with coordinating efforts to establish the new settlement, hailed the move as "great news for the settlement activity in the Golan Heights."

"The ministry is starting to work to prepare the ground," she said in a statement, adding the settlement will be populated with an initial group of 300 settlers.

The move comes weeks before Netanyahu plans to begin his controversial plan to annex the Jordan Valley, a portion of the Israeli-occupied West Bank. Netanyahu set July 1 as the starting date for the beginning of the plan despite international condemnations.

Trump recognized in March 2019 Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights. Xinhua

Most of COVID patients have blood type A, says Russian health official

MOSCOW

MOST of coronavirus patients have blood type A, while those having blood type AB are the fewest, chief of Russia's Federal Medical Biological Agency Veronika Skvortsova said on Friday.

"An interesting fact that was noted by foreign specialists and has been verified by the Agency's centers. The overwhelming majority of those infected have blood type A," she said at an online news conference organized by TASS. "Next are types O and B. And, indeed, the rarest is type

AB." She noted however that it might be because type A is the most widespread among the population.

One half of coronavirus patients in Russia have no symptoms, the proportion of asymptomatic cases in Moscow is about 60%, Veronika Skvortsova noted. "The proportion of asymptomatic cases is very high: in Moscow it accounts for 60% and in the country in general - almost one half, every second case," she said.

As for patients who experience mild symptoms of COVID-19 caused by the novel

coronavirus, they can lack the necessary number of antibodies to form immunity to the disease, Skvortsova noted. "It has been widely documented that people who recover from mild forms [of COVID-19] do not have enough antibodies in the concentrations needed to obtain real immunity."

Skvortsova stressed that the number of patients with severe forms of the disease was not growing. "Fortunately, the number of cases that require additional oxygen and artificial lung ventilation is declining as well," she noted.

COVID-19 incidence in Russia has stabilized by now, the official went on. "By now, the situation with the newly confirmed coronavirus cases is relatively stable as the daily growth has been around 10,500 recently," she stated.

"However the recent month demonstrated that we already had such a period before the May Day holidays and if the number of people who, say, go out frequently, were as it had been a month ago, we would have seen the epidemic's regression," she said.

Incubation period

The average incubation period for the novel coronavirus is about five days, Veronika Skvortsova said. "On average, the incubation period is about five days, five or five and a half days, not one or two days, as is the case with other acute respiratory infections."

It is still unclear for how long a recovered patient remains a carrier of the novel coronavirus, Veronika Skvortsova continued.

"It should be acknowledged that it still remains unclear for how long the virus stays in the human body. Scientists in different countries are now trying

to find out. If presence of the virus in the nose or throat is not identified, that does not mean that the virus is absent from the patient's body altogether," Skvortsova said. According to descriptions of several cases in different countries, some recovered patients who twice tested negative for coronavirus developed the disease again after exposure to cold or excessive strain.

"This may happen for two reasons - either repeated infection or reactivation of the virus still present in the human body," Skvortsova elaborated.

Earlier, the chief physician of the republican infection hospital in Buryatia, Tatyana Symbelova, told the media that a female patient had to be taken to the hospital again with COVID-19.

In late December 2019, Chinese officials notified the World Health Organization (WHO) about the outbreak of a previously unknown pneumonia in the city of Wuhan, in central China. Since then, cases of the novel coronavirus - named COVID-19 by the WHO - have been reported in every corner of the globe, including Russia.

The
Guardian

SPORT



FILE - In this December 2019 file photo, Cleveland Cavaliers' Kevin Love, left, goes up to shoot against Philadelphia 76ers' Tobias Harris during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Philadelphia. Photo: AP

NBA players, staff to have COVID-19 tests every other day

NEW YORK

NBA teams will be tested every other day for the coronavirus beginning June 23 as the league prepares to resume the season, according to multiple reports.

The league reportedly sent a memo to teams on Saturday, informing them that players and essential team personnel who will be involved in the restarted season will take both a COVID-19 test and an antibody test that day.

The NBA plans to resume play on July 30 with 22 teams that have a chance of making the playoffs at Walt Disney World near Orlando, Fla. The season was halted on March 11 because of the coronavirus.

After June 23, the players and staff will have the coronavirus test every other day until two days before they leave for Florida. Training camp will start there July 9.

The memo does not address what the testing protocol will be at Disney.

The NBA has been assured that their testing will not deprive health-care workers, first responders and symptomatic patients in each league city of adequate testing supplies, ESPN reported. The league also will provide free testing for the public in each of the 21 cities that have teams participating in the resumed season, the report said.

Meanwhile, though several NBA players on Friday reportedly voiced their opposition to resuming the season as a protest against racism and social injustice, ESPN reported that the Los Angeles Lakers' players remain undivided on the resumption of the season.

The news came a day after Lakers backup center Dwight Howard told CNN that now is not the time to resume basketball in light of the protests that broke out across the nation and the world following the death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police last month.

Contrary to Howard's statement, however, more than one Lakers player told ESPN everyone is on the same page.

"(There is) no divide," one Lakers player told ESPN.

"Still have some time to figure things out as a league and as a team," another said.

Brooklyn Nets guard Kyrie Irving reportedly

lobbed fellow players on Friday to sit out the scheduled resumption of play as a protest against racism, multiple media outlets reported.

According to The Athletic's Shams Charania, Irving told more than 80 NBA players on a conference call, "I don't support going into Orlando. I'm not with the systematic racism and the (expletive). Something smells a little fishy. ... I'm willing to give up everything I have (for social reform)."

ESPN reported that the Lakers initially had concerns after hearing Howard's comments, but his agent, Charles Briscoe, told the outlet Howard has not made a decision about playing this season as he has not thought about basketball in recent weeks.

"The statement was about social injustice and racism," Briscoe told ESPN. "Yet everybody is still talking about whether basketball should be played. He isn't saying that basketball shouldn't be. He's just saying that you should not be taking attention away from what's going on in the country to talk about basketball. Basketball is just a sport, at the end of the day. But what's going on with people dying in the streets, that's something real. That statement, it had nothing to do with sports. It had everything to do with racism and social injustice."

One Lakers player who has not spoken out against resuming play is Lakers star LeBron James. On Sunday, Los Angeles Clippers guard Patrick Beverley tweeted that if James is ready to play, all players better be ready for play to resume.

"Hoopers say what y'all want," Beverley tweeted. "If @KingJames said he hooping. We all hooping. Not Personal only BUSINESS #StayWoke."

The NBA hasn't played since March 11 due to the coronavirus pandemic. The league intends to finish the coronavirus-interrupted season and the playoffs at the Walt Disney World Resort near Orlando, Fla. Training camp is set to be held July 9-29 before the season restarts July 30.

Floyd, a black man, died May 25 after a white police officer knelt on his neck for nearly nine minutes. His death sparked global protests, and sports teams throughout the U.S. have spoken out publicly against racism, with several teams taking part in protests.

Tanzania sports stars can be valuable sports brands, too

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipokeo

IT has become commonplace around the world for corporate behemoths to make use of prominent sportsmen as a shrewd way of promoting their products or services.

Indeed, a Locus Classicus of this widespread phenomenon is the exhaustively chronicled and immensely profitable relationships between the famous footwear manufacturing giant Nike and the living legend widely touted to be the most supreme basketball player of all time, 'His Airness', Michael Jordan.

This world renowned partnership between Michael Jordan and Nike spawned the now globally iconic 'Air Jordan' shoes, which are still a must-have footwear brand for youngsters and grown-ups alike.

Other rewarding and ultra-successful commercial partnerships in the realm of sports include the famous Swiss watch-makers Rolex signing a lucrative deal with the colossus who bestrides the tennis landscape, Roger Federer, for the latter sporting immortal to advertise the Rolex hand-watch, which is still a brand of the gold standard in the corporate sector and who could forget the footwear manufacturing titan, Puma, and their commercial relationship with a certain Diego Maradona, who used to advertise the lustrous footwear brand during the heyday of his transformative, and impactful but still checkered football career.

That last point now helps us to ease seamlessly into the real heart of this sporting narrative, which will be earnestly trying to ponder on the reasons why towering domestic sporting greats of the present-day and of yesteryear have been little used by corporate Tanzania to advertise a whole manner of goods, products and services.

Indeed, to this writer, that particular



Dar es Salaam volleyball players take part in the men's category match of a recent regional club championship, hosted by Dar es Salaam Regional Volleyball Association (DAREVA), which took place in the city. PHOTO: COURTESY OF DAREVA

aspect of our sports scene has always been very much an insoluble mystery.

Now, this is Not to say that sports luminaries in the country are NEVER used to advertise a plethora of goods and services. To be fair, they are.

There is just one veritable snag: the numbers of sports stars on the home patch, who are being used to advertise a variety of goods are still disappointingly low.

Thus, this writer would like to remind especially well-heeled companies at the apex of the corporate sector in Tanzania that using the likes of Yanga legend Edibily Lunyamila, athletics' ascendant, medal-winning star Alphonse Simbu and lest we forget the undisputed darling of home sports aficionados, Mbwana Samatta, to advertise their

goods and services would most likely ramp up the sales numbers of just such products and services. After all, it's worth a try, isn't it?

Let us now continue to forge ahead and embark upon new territory, that territory this time around being the unrivalled magic of nostalgia in sports.

Indeed, during the coronavirus pandemic-imposed lockdown on normal human life as we know it, even live sports was unfortunately one of the many daily activities which were suspended and that go a long way towards collectively constituting the sum total of everyday human experience.

However, if you are as gaga about sports as I am, then the magical pull of reliving some golden sporting

moments in history was enough to tide us over until the present-day where as we all well-know, the country's top tier football league in the country, the Mainland Premier League resumed officially last weekend.

Basically, to put it in more succinct terms, what I've been toiling wordily to describe is the power of nostalgia.

So, in a bid to offer some unsolicited but hopefully well-appreciated advice, this writer would like to make the following suggestion: wouldn't it be a gem of an idea if a new TV station could spring up on the domestic patch that would only air some of our national greatest sporting feats, plus, some of africa's most memorable sporting triumphs as well?

You never know; it could make some company a fortune over time.

Berger a winner at Colonial, and PGA Tour feels like it, too

FORT WORTH, Texas

THE PGA Tour spent two months learning about the COVID-19 pandemic and trying to develop a safe plan to return, followed by another month hoping for the best.

Commissioner Jay Monahan said his confidence in the plan came with a dose of uncertainty.

"If we ... got into a situation where we were dealing with a number of positive tests, that's something - candidly - that I lost a lot of sleep over in the weeks that preceded coming," Monahan said.

Monahan felt every bit a winner as Daniel Berger at the Charles Schwab Challenge.

The tour administered 487 tests for the new coronavirus at Colonial, and the results on all of them came back negative. On the golf course, a dozen of some of golf's best players - from Rory McIlroy to Justin Thomas, Xander Schauffele to Jordan Spieth - all had a chance going into the final round.

"Listen, there is more work to be done," Monahan said. "But this is a phenomenal start to our return."

It was a healthy return, except for a somewhat sickly finish.

Berger made a 10-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole and heard the deafening silence of a big moment with no spectators allowed at Colonial. He got into a playoff when Collin Morikawa missed a 6-foot birdie putt for the win and Xander Schauffele missed his try from 25 feet.

The playoff was held on the 17th hole, another reminder of how this week was different. Playoffs always start on the 18th hole because that's where the gallery is packed into the grandstands. With no fans allowed, and with the 17th tee right next to the clubhouse, off they went.

Morikawa hit a deft chip to 3 feet. Berger chipped even closer from behind the green and rapped in his par. They presumably were headed to the 18th tee until Morikawa's 3-footer spun out, and Berger was the winner.

Schauffele should have been in the playoff, but his 3-footer for par on the 17th in regulation dipped in the right side of the cup and spun out of the left side. Talk about a horrible horseshoe.



Daniel Berger poses with the championship trophy after winning the Charles Schwab Challenge golf tournament after a playoff round at the Colonial Country Club in Fort Worth, Texas, Sunday, June 14, 2020. (AP Photo)

"If there are fans and everything with the 'oohs' and 'aahs,' I'd probably be a little more (ticked) off," Schauffele said. "Maybe that's a good thing for me right now. But it was definitely weird."

Justin Rose had an 18-foot birdie putt on the 18th that looked good all the way until it wasn't. He finished one behind along with Bryson DeChambeau and Jason Kokrak, who also missed birdie chances on the last hole.

This isn't the first time Rose or anyone else has missed a big putt. It wasn't the first time Rose let out a guttural moan from missing. It was just the first time he actually heard it.

"If the crowd are there, their groans or cries, whatever it may be, would have drowned me out," Rose said. "You suddenly realize you actually do make some noise sometimes yourself. And it surprised me a little bit there on 18."

There were reminders all week of no fans, but rarely why golf had been shut down since March 12 because of the rapid spread of COVID-19, a pandemic that canceled one major (British Open)

and postponed the others until later in the year.

"The only time I thought about it was when I was having to take the tests, and that was really it," Keith Mitchell said. "Hopefully, nobody comes down with it and we can keep on playing."

Players on the charter to the next stop - Hilton Head on the South Carolina shore - had to swing by the pool area at Colonial after the third round for a saliva test. If negative, they board the plane and don't have to be tested at Hilton Head. Everyone else driving, flying commercial or flying private face another test when they arrive.

Tony Finau learned a new skill beyond chipping and putting. He learned to spit for his test.

"You just kind of roll your tongue around inside your mouth, and it seems to bring a little bit more, and also if you just lean your face down, it seems to come out a little easier," he said.

So few talking about the virus was an indication of how safe it felt. In this

case, the week doesn't end until the next tournament begins.

"I was asked, 'What's a successful week look like?' It means us getting to the RBC Heritage and having another successful week," he said. "I feel very good about the setup there, and we're ready to go again."

Monahan had said as the tour prepared to return that it was critical not to fall into a trap that all is well. He said he wouldn't feel comfortable until told he could be comfortable, and likely would mean a vaccine.

Morikawa said being back to golf and being back to normal were different matters.

"Just because we played one week doesn't mean we can go party and go do everything else like we used to," Morikawa said. "We still have to follow these guidelines and maintain safety and strict rules with how far we stay from each other because it's still out there."

"We just have to be cognizant of what's around us and where we put ourselves, because we want the tour to keep playing."

AP

The statement was about social injustice and racism," Briscoe told ESPN. "Yet everybody is still talking about whether basketball should be played. He isn't saying that basketball shouldn't be. He's just saying that you should not be taking attention away from what's going on in the country to talk about basketball. Basketball is just a sport, at the end of the day. But what's going on with people dying in the streets, that's something real. That statement, it had nothing to do with sports. It had everything to do with racism and social injustice.

Premier League lockdown: winners and losers

LONDON

THE Premier League finally makes its long-awaited return on June 17 following a three-month coronavirus lockdown.

The landscape has changed since March – clubs have welcomed back injured players, others have had a chance to regroup and Liverpool have had to come to terms with a low-key title celebration.

AFP Sport looks at the winners and losers as teams emerge from the lockdown.

Healed stars boost Spurs, Man Utd

When we last saw Jose Mourinho, the Tottenham manager cut a despondent figure as he admitted he wished he could fast-forward to next season.

At the time, injury-hit Tottenham were on a six-match winless run that saw them knocked out of the Champions League and FA Cup, while falling seven points adrift of the top four.

However, no boss has benefited more from the three-month break than Mourinho and eighth-placed Tottenham will return rejuvenated after Harry Kane, Son Heung-min, Steven Bergwijn, Erik Lamela and Moussa Sissoko regained their fitness.

That should be the ideal boost for the race to qualify for the Champions League, especially with a crucial first game of the restart against top-four rivals Manchester United.

United, four points above Tottenham in fifth place, were frustrated when the season ground to a halt.

Inspired by influential January

signing Bruno Fernandes, they were riding the momentum of an 11-game unbeaten run in all competitions dating back to January.

Crucially, the return of injured England forward Marcus Rashford and France midfielder Paul Pogba promises to add pep to their step at just the right time, with the Tottenham showdown followed by another vital fixture against seventh-placed Sheffield United.

Relegation rivals scrap for survival

With dire warnings over the long-term financial health of football ringing in their ears, clubs embroiled in the relegation dogfight have been focused on self-preservation.

Feuding over how to decide the season in the event it has to be abandoned, complaining about potentially playing at neutral venues and arguing that the season was restarting too soon have all been public relations own goals from clubs most in danger of going down.

Brighton will be under immense pressure to perform, having argued so vocally against neutral venues.

Without a win in 2020, they are just two points above the relegation zone and have games against Arsenal, Manchester United, Liverpool and Manchester City to come.

Watford, out of the bottom three by virtue of goal difference, were also vocal critics of the neutral venue proposal.

The Hornets would fall into the relegation zone if Aston Villa won their game in hand, but favourable home matches against Southampton, Norwich and Newcastle offer hope of beating the drop. **AFP**

Tanzania first African country to restart league amid virus



Tanzania pose before playing Kenya in a 2019 Africa Cup of Nations group match in Cairo last June. (AFP Photo)

JOHANNESBURG

TANZANIA last weekend became the first African country to resume a national league suspended during March because of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

Young Africans, who have been champions a record 22 times, won 1-0 away to Mwadui and Coastal Union overcame a two-goal deficit to draw 2-2 with visiting Namungo Saturday.

Runaway leaders Simba and Azam both played later Sunday in the other two matches scheduled for the weekend.

Simba have 72 points with 9 matches to play, Azam have 57, Young Africans have 54 and Namungo lie fourth with 51.

Tanzania suspended the 20-club national championship in mid-March as the COVID-19 outbreak began to wreak havoc throughout Africa.

According to the Africa Centre for Disease Control on June 13, 225,126 people in Africa have been infected with 6,051 deaths.

Spectators were permitted as the league resumed in the east African state, but the elderly, who are generally most vulnerable to the virus, and children were barred.

Before being allowed into a stadium, fans must wear a face mask, wash hands with soap or use a hand sanitiser, and have their temperature checked.

Once inside, spectators must practice social distancing by sitting or standing several metres apart.

Footballers, referees, coaches and support staff are subject to equally strict measures to combat the virus, and change rooms are fumigated before and after

matches. - Carried on playing -

Burundi, a tiny, landlocked country bordering Tanzania, were the only African country to continue playing top-flight football during the pandemic.

Footballers in Belarus, Nicaragua, Taiwan and Tajikistan also carried on playing while the rest of the global football industry shut down temporarily.

Le Messenger Ngozi have 58 points and Musongati 55 in a two-club race for the Burundi title with two rounds remaining, which are set for the weekends of June 20/21 and 27/28.

Ngozi have won the Primus Ligue once while Musongati, who have also reached the FA Cup final, are seeking a maiden title. Musongati were scheduled to meet Rukinzo in the cup final Saturday but

the match was delayed as the country is mourning deceased president Pierre Nkurunziza.

Nkurunziza, 55, who had been due to step down in August after ruling Burundi for 15 years, died last Monday from a heart attack, according to the government.

A devout evangelical who believed he was chosen by God to lead Burundi, Nkurunziza will be succeeded by Evariste Ndayishimiye.

Tanzania played at the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations in Egypt after a 39-year absence while Burundi competed for the first time.

Both the Tanzanian Taifa Stars and the Burundian Swallows exited after the first round having lost their three group matches.

AFP

Marcelo takes a knee as Madrid wins at its training center

MADRID

PLAYING a home game but not at its famed Santiago Bernabeu Stadium, Real Madrid resumed its Spanish league campaign with a 3-1 win over Eibar on Sunday to keep pace with leader Barcelona. The game saw Marcelo take a knee during a goal celebration in apparent support for the Black Lives Matter movement.

The Brazilian veteran defender put his left knee down and raised his right fist into the air after scoring the third goal for Madrid. Marcelo's gesture made him one of the few players in the Spanish league to make public their support for the movement which has protested police brutality after George Floyd's death in the United States. Valencia's players last week had also taken a knee before a training session to show their support.

Toni Kroos and Sergio Ramos also scored as Madrid won the game at the club's training center while major renovation work takes place at the 80,000-capacity Bernabeu, about 10 kilometers (6 miles) away.

Eden Hazard, who had been expected to miss the rest of the season because of a foot injury sustained before the coronavirus pandemic, thrived on his return and set up two of the goals in the game. There were no fans at the 6,000-capacity Alfredo Di Stefano Stadium, which is used mostly by Madrid's "B" team.

"This is completely different to what we experienced before, you have to adapt," said Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane, who completed 200 matches in charge. Zidane has the second-most league victories as Madrid coach with 90, behind the 257 of Miguel Munoz. Madrid players walked a few hundred meters (yards) from the team's housing facilities to the stadium for the match that marked the club's return after a pause of more than three months because of the pandemic.

A large banner in the stands spanned from one goal line to the other with the image of a black ribbon and the message "in our hearts," honoring the nearly 28,000 who have died with COVID-19 in Spain. The league officially resumed on Thursday with third-place Sevilla defeating city rival Real Betis 2-0.

The victory kept Madrid two points behind Barcelona, which returned on

Saturday with a 4-0 rout at Mallorca. Eibar and Mallorca are both fighting relegation.

Madrid dominated from the start and Kroos opened the scoring with a shot into the top corner in the fourth minute. Ramos added to the lead from close range in the 30th after a pass by Hazard, who started the buildup for Marcelo's strike from inside the area in the 37th.

Eibar, sitting two points outside the relegation zone, got its only goal from Pedro Bigas in the 60th.

Ramos had scored the first goal at the Alfredo Di Stefano when it was inaugurated with an exhibition match in 2006.

"The truth is we are all thrilled to be back on the field again," Ramos said. "We couldn't wait for the league to start again, to compete again, and the best way to do that is with a win."

Madrid is expected to play all of its remaining home matches at the Alfredo Di Stefano because the Bernabeu will continue to undergo renovation work during the summer. The club is likely to remain at the stadium for the rest of the season even if fans are allowed back before then, which the league has said is a possibility.

ATLETICO HELD

Atletico Madrid's struggles continued as its season resumed after being held 1-1 at Athletic Bilbao for its third straight league draw.

The setback kept Diego Simeone's team in sixth place, outside the Champions League spots.

The goals at the empty San Mames Stadium came a couple of minutes apart late in the first half, with Athletic's Iker Muniain scoring in the 37th and Atletico equalizing with Diego Costa in the 39th for his first goal since last October.

During the celebration, Costa held the jersey of Atletico women's team player Virginia Torrecilla, who is recovering from brain surgery to remove a tumor.

It was the 13th league draw for Atletico, which has only two wins in its last nine league matches.

"We earned a draw at a tough place but we need to start winning three points if we want to stay in contention to qualify for the Champions League," Atletico midfielder Jorge "Koke" Resurreccion said. "It will be difficult if we don't start winning matches." **AFP**

Four things to look for as European football picks up speed this week

PARIS

THE European club football trophies should already be stowed in the cabinets, instead most of the top leagues are only just resuming after the coronavirus interruption.

While the Germans returned on May 16, the top two Spanish divisions have only just resumed, and the English Premier League and Serie A reappear this week.

AFP Sport picks out key issues as elite European club football gets back into its stride.

It's all kicking off

The Premier League returns on Wednesday and Serie A on Saturday, joining the Bundesliga and La Liga in rebooting their seasons.

Aston Villa, who lost to Leicester on Match 9 in the last match before the lockdown, will kick off against Champions League chasing Sheffield United.

The potentially pivotal game on re-opening days pits Manchester City, clinging to their hopes of retaining their title, against visiting Arsenal.

Serie A makes a stuttering comeback with four fixtures called off when Italian sport was suspended on March 9 midway through the 26th round of matches.

Torino kick off at home to Parma in a mid-table battle on Saturday. On Sunday third-place Inter Milan and fourth-place Atalanta both have home games.

We are almost the champions

Two of the leagues could be settled by the end of the week.

Bayern Munich have been in rude health since the restart, winning all six matches, five in the league and one in the cup, including a pivotal victory at challengers Borussia Dortmund.

They can clinch an eighth straight title with victory at struggling Werder Bremen on Tuesday. But Bremen showed signs of life on Saturday with a 5-1 victory in Paderborn.

It could be one and done for Liverpool. If Manchester City fail to beat Arsenal, Liverpool can clinch their first title since 1990 away to neighbours Everton on Sunday.

The prospect of Liverpool winning the title in their own city led police to briefly suggest the match be moved to avoid fans ignoring social distancing rules and gathering to celebrate.

On a knife edge

While Bayern and Liverpool await their coronations, there is plenty at stake elsewhere.



First to start, first to finish: Bayern Munich could clinch the Bundesliga title before the Premier League and Serie A kick off (AFP Photo)

Juventus have usually burned off their pursuers in the final straight on their way to eight straight Serie A titles, but Lazio have been proving dogged, and the long break may change the equation.

In Spain, Barcelona, whose form had been erratic before the enforced break returned with a bang on Saturday, winning 4-0 at Mallorca to ensure they stayed ahead of Real Madrid.

The pace will be frantic. Barcelona return with three matches in six days.

The battle for precious Champions

League berths is tight everywhere. In England it is complicated by the possibility that Manchester City will be banned from next season's competition.

While Paderborn in Germany, Norwich in England, and SPAL and Brescia in Serie A need near miracles to escape relegation, every one of the four big leagues has at least half a dozen clubs embroiled in the survival battle.

Yet Espanyol, who returned in La Liga on Saturday by ending a run of six matches, and more than four months, without a

win suggested the break may help some strugglers.

Made for TV

Having been starved of live games, fans still cannot go to matches but can suddenly choose from a crowded menu - if they have the right subscriptions.

When he gave the green light for Italian football to return, Sports Minister Vincent Spadafora said the sport was part of the country's "return to normal life again".

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Tanzania first African country to restart league amid virus

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Waluguru Oringinal Band leader and singer, Deogratius Killer (R), sings during the band's live performance, which took place in Morogoro recently. The event has taken place given the government has given green light to social gatherings and restart of sporting activities following decrease in coronavirus cases in the country. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT SABATO KASIKA

Yanga winger lifts lid on failure to feature in Mwadui FC clash

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

YOUNG Africans (Yanga) versatile player, Bernard Morrison, has come out to confess that he received money to sign for the club's rivals Simba SC.

The Ghanaian winger said he received money amounting to US dollars 10,000 which was meant to entice him to sign for Simba SC.

He disclosed he, nevertheless, did not sign, a development which makes him fail to live comfortably as the agent, who gave him the money, is demanding it back.

Morrison is reported to have signed a two-year contract with Yanga. His initial six-month contract with the Jangwani Street based club expires on July 14 this year.

In a sound clip which went viral on Sunday, Morrison started by disclosing as to why he opted for a six-month contract with Yanga.

He disclosed he was told by his colleagues (he did not mention them) that Yanga always made fake promises to players in order to entice them to sign for the club.

He said the colleagues went further to say that the club is run unprofessionally and they also fail to pay their players on time.

The player is then heard saying that an agent, who he did not mention, approached him saying Simba SC president wanted to sign him.

Morrison said he received US dollars 10,000, which the agent wanted them to share equally.

He said he accepted money and shared it with the agent equally, but after the news spread that he has signed a new two-year contract with Yanga, the agent is on his neck demanding the money back.

"Who does not need money?, I took that money and now the agent is on my neck demanding the money back," the player disclosed in the clip.

"He is threatening me that if I will not pay back the money, I will not play football in the country, I think I have to give back the money."

Simba SC officials could not be reached for their comments on the matter.

However media reports yesterday quoted the club's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Senzo Mbatha, who distanced his club from the development.

The official further said his club does not have the post of president, as it only has chairman of the board of directors, Mohammed Dewji, and himself as CEO.

"First, we don't understand what he is saying about Simba. We don't have a president and also we don't have any agent who we contacted to facilitate the move to sign the player," he was quoted in the media. Hersi Said, GSM Group official, whose firm sponsors Yanga, yesterday said they will seek the intervention of relevant authorities on the matter.

He said even before Morrison had signed the two-year contract with the club, he already had a running contract up to July 14.

The official disclosed if any club was interested in the services of the player, it should have first contacted them before the discussions.

The GSM Group boss said Morrison's absence in Shinyanga was not a result of the video clip but other personal problems. "We have all heard the audio of the clip, we have our way of dealing with issues, we will take this matter to relevant authorities for them to help us," he said.

"What we know is that Morrison is our player, if any club is interested in his services, they should first contact us," he said. Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) officials yesterday could not be reached when we wanted to know if the matter has been reported to them.

Currently, under FIFA and TFF transfer rules, if a club wants to procure the services of a player registered with another club, they must speak directly with that club and not either the player or his representatives.

The player and his representatives, the rules stipulate, will only be brought in for discussions with the potential purchasing club once the two clubs have agreed a fee.



Benard Morrison

Dar es Salaam online chess tournaments enter second phase

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE online chess competitions, organized by Dar es Salaam clubs Don Bosco and Rising Star, went into their second phase over the weekend.

The events, known as Grand Prix Arenas, are organized in an effort to improve the standard of the sport domestically.

The 12th edition of Don Bosco Arena was the weekend's first event, attracting more than 40 players from different countries.

Kara Louis, one of the tournaments' organizers, said Ugandan Mugema Arthur won the Don Bosco Arena with 25 points, followed by second-placed Glenn Golding from South Africa, who had 16 points, and Tanzanian Christian Fernandez in the third spot with 14 points.

In the competition's U1400 category, Anahi Shah took the first place with 28 points, followed by Salim Abdallah that recorded 16 points and in third place was Mahi Shah.

Louis said the Don Bosco Arena was followed by the 28th edition of the Rising Star Arena's Open category which was won by him after he had scored 31 points while Nigerian Adesanya Bashiru was second with 30 points and Tanzanian Cleophas Charles finished third.

"They were great games and one candidate master from Sierra Leone, Ronald Lwebuga, commented that the players' ratings are lower than their strengths for they are playing way better than their level, he added that they should continue learning and practicing for there are no shortcuts in chess and hard work is the only route to success," he said.

Louis said on Sunday's blitz chess, Arthur was at it again, winning with 44 points, followed by Nigerian Kelvin Erhabor with 39 points and the third place went to Keith Nkoma from Zimbabwe with 37 points.

He said juniors playing in these grand prizes will receive medals according to their age categories and the points accumulated. By press time the 30th edition of Rising Star Arena was still in progress.

In the 30th edition of Rising Star Grand Prix Arena's Open category, Charles emerged as the winner with 37 points, followed by second-placed Louis who had 24 points and Arthur, who came third with 20 points.

The organizer said in the U1400 category, Salim Abdallah emerged as the winner with 24 points, followed by second-placed Tanaya Sheth, who had 18 points, and Anahi Shah, who finished third with 14 points.

Commenting on the games, local Olympiad Albert Njau said he has seen a lot of good players in the Arenas and he hopes domestic players will keep on playing exceptionally against opponents, as Tanzania team's players Vinamra Dhoot and Aaditya did to top players.



Azam FC forward, Donald Ngoma (C), tussles with fullback Oscar Masai at the squad's training held in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

Azam FC parts ways with striker Ngoma

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

AZAM Football Club's leaders have announced they decided against renewing the contract of striker, Donald Ngoma, whose contract expires this month.

Ngoma becomes the first player to part ways with the Ice Cream makers before the completion of the 2019/20 season.

Azam had the option to extend his contract till the end of the season.

World soccer governing body, FIFA, made a decision on extending the summer transfer window, as well as player contracts, in order to bring clarity to the footballing calendar amidst the

coronavirus pandemic.

The rules provide the option for teams to extend players' contracts until the season officially ends and allow transfer windows to be moved to accommodate the restructured seasons.

The Zimbabwean joined Azam FC from rivals, Young Africans (Yanga) at the start of the 2018/19 season but did not immediately take part because of the knee injury he sustained the previous season. Despite a long injury lay off, Ngoma was Azam FC top scorer with 11 goals last season. He scored 11 goals in 32 appearances across all competitions.

With his injury problem a matter of history, Ngoma was expect-

ed to help Azam FC mount a serious title challenge this season but he struggled for game time.

He was down in the pecking order, with the likes of Zambian Obrey Chirwa, Shaban Chilunda, Iddi Selemani, Andrew Simchimba and Ivorian Richard Djodi all ahead of him.

He managed two goals across all competitions and was therefore deemed surplus to requirement despite Azam FC having nine more games to play in the season as they are in a fierce race for the second position with Yanga.

Ngoma's last game was a Vodacom Premier League fixture against Namungo FC where he

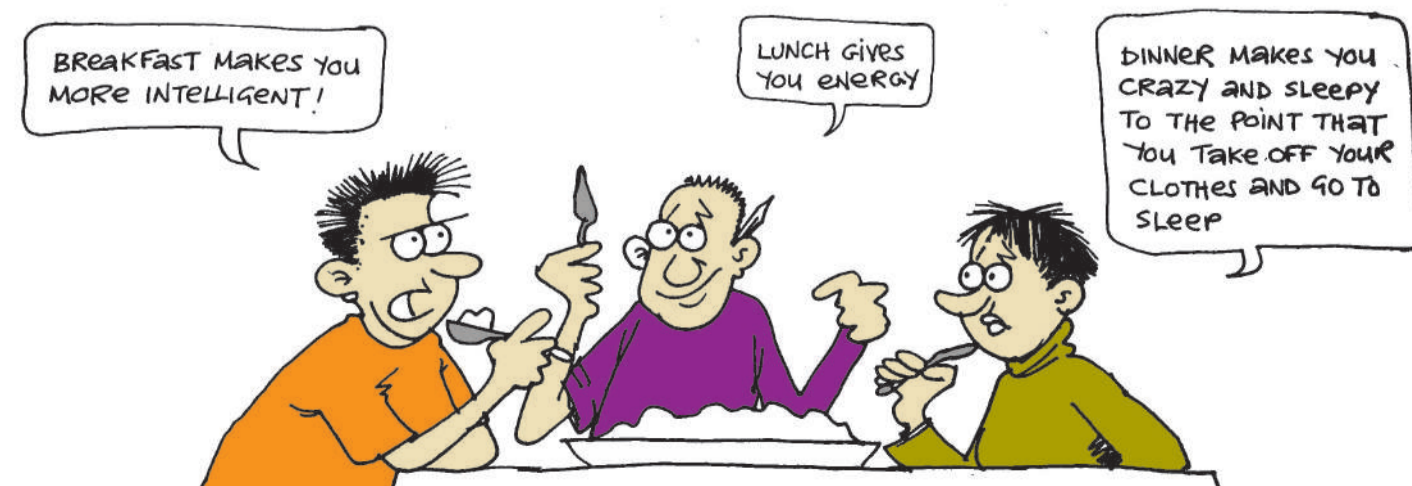
came on as a second half substitute with 14 minutes to play as Azam were chasing the tie which they ended losing at Majaliwa Stadium in Lindi.

He would most likely have been in the conversation of best strikers to grace the Tanzania Premier League but injury ruined him.

He was never the same after the knee injury he sustained in his second season with Yanga.

He was simply sensational in his first season in Tanzania, scoring 17 goals in 25 league appearances and helping Yanga to a domestic treble of league triumph, Federation Cup and Community Shield.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



EATV TUESDAY

TONIGHT @ 9:00

NIRVANA

Nirvana explores the hottest trends in fashion, beauty, art and lifestyle as well as interviews with notable people from the entertainment, art and fashion industries.

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 MPYA
12:30 Msosi Kitaani (r)
13:00 Wanawake Live (r)
13:30 Kali Za Wana
14:00 DK 10 za Maangamizi
14:30 BBall Kings Highlights (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 5SPORTS (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 5SELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)

eastAfrica RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planei Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

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