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Aircraft disinfectant spray



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IGP launches Nungwi police station



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Committee tasked to release inmates



# Covid-19 positives tally climbs to 20

## Another patient recovers

By Guardian Reporters

THE government yesterday confirmed one more case of Covid-19, bringing the tally to 20 while a second patient recovered from the disease.

Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children Minister Ummu Mwalimu said in a statement that the new case was of a 42-year-old female American national. The case has been confirmed in Dar es Salaam Region.

"She came into close contact with a person who had travelled abroad and tested positive for Covid-19 upon arriving back in Tanzania," it reads.

With one fatality announced on Tuesday and two recoveries, the country now remains with 17 patients who the minister said were doing well at various quarantine facilities.

"A patient who was being quarantined at Temeke in Dar es Salaam was on Tuesday discharged from the facility after several tests came out negative," the minister said.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa yesterday instructed that all Covid-19 infections in the country be announced publicly to enhance public awareness and thus strengthen precautionary measures.

Also, the PM further instructed that all patients be taken to designated centre regardless of their status in the society.

Presenting the PMO budget estimates for the 2020/21 fiscal year yesterday in the National Assembly, the premier emphasized that more efforts and precautionary measures should be taken by everyone as the country struggles to

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A motorbike rider identified as Zakaria of Kahama town tights a water gallon while directing passengers hiring his services to first wash their hands with soap before starting the trip as part of precautions against spreading covid-19 on Monday. Photo: Correspondent Shaban Njia

## Tanzania gets World Bank USD500m education loan

By Guardian Reporter

IT is victory for the government after the World Bank finally approved USD500 million (over 1trn) educational loan for Tanzania despite spirited

opposition from activists.

A statement released yesterday by the lender said its board of executive directors had approved credit from the International Development Association (IDA), a soft

loan window for the poorest countries, saying the money will enable millions of young Tanzanians to access and complete secondary education in safer and better

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## Covid-19 research partners in US\$20m clinical trials funding

By Guardian Reporter

PARTNERS in the COVID-19 Therapeutics Accelerator yesterday announced grants of US\$20 million to three institutions—the University of Washington, University of Oxford, and La Jolla Institute for Immunology—to fund clinical trials in order to identify highly potent immunotherapies for the COVID-19 pandemic.

These grants mark the first investments to come from the COVID-19 Therapeutics Accelerator, a large-scale initiative launched by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Wellcome, and Mastercard to speed the development of and access to therapies for COVID-19. Currently, there are no broad-spectrum antivirals or immunotherapies available to prevent or treat COVID-19.

"These grants to leading institutions in their fields will advance our understanding of how existing drugs and antibodies can contribute to addressing the pandemic we're facing around the world," said Mark Suzman, chief executive officer of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

"These initial investments through the COVID-19 Therapeutics Accelerator will bring rigor to the study of these potential solutions. The way forward will be informed by sound science and shared data," Suzman said in a statement.

In addition, newly announced funding from government and philanthropic donors has added to the Accelerator's initial funding. The Chan Zuckerberg Initiative committed \$25 million and the U.K. government committed £40 million last week. The additional funds will allow the Accelerator to continue making grants to study repurposed drugs and investigate biological compounds for activity against COVID-19. More funding is needed to move promising therapies through development and scale-up.

Two of the newly announced trials will fund an investigation of two well-established drugs, hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine, that have known antiviral properties. These drugs have been used to treat malaria and a variety

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## How coronavirus disrupted life in southern highlands regions

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THINGS are no longer the same in the Southern Highland regions which until recently boomed with multimillion shilling businesses, thanks to free movement of people to and from neighbouring countries such as Zambia and Malawi.

The coronavirus outbreak has turned things around with authorities now enforcing mandatory 14-day quarantine for travellers on the Tanzanian side as well as from neighbouring countries.

Briefing reporters on the situation here yesterday, Mbeya Regional Commissioner Albert Chalamila said law enforcement authorities in the region and in Songwe next door are working around the clock to deter those determined to enter Tanzania through informal routes.

The hardest hit is the Tanzanian border township of Tunduma and Nakonde in Zambia where traders from both sides entered and transacted businesses easily especially after the legalisation of Zambian Kwacha and Tanzanian shilling as legal tender in both sides in 2008 to foster intra-African trade and enhance cross

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**FACT:**  
The new coronavirus can be transmitted in areas with hot and humid climates

From the evidence so far, the new coronavirus can be transmitted in ALL AREAS, including areas with hot and humid weather. Regardless of climate, adopt protective measures if you live in, or travel to an area reporting COVID-19. The best way to protect yourself against COVID-19 is by frequently cleaning your hands. Eliminate viruses that may be on your hands and avoid infection that could occur by then touching your eyes, mouth, and nose.

World Health Organization #Coronavirus #COVID19

9 March 2020







Mwanza region commissioner John Mongella (R) presents posters to public servants after launching campaign measures to curb covid-19. The posters will be distributed across the region by Red Cross members. The event was held in the city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Neema Samwel

## Covid-19 research partners in US\$20m clinical trials funding

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of rheumatological conditions for more than 50 years. The trials aim to determine whether the drugs are effective as pre- and post-exposure preventive therapy for COVID-19. While these drugs both show initial promise, rigorous scientific evidence is needed to make decisions on how, where and within which populations to use them in this pandemic.

The University of Washington will conduct a multi-site clinical trial in Western Washington and the New York City area, in collaboration with New York University's School of Medicine, investigating whether hydroxychloroquine can effectively prevent COVID-19 in people already exposed to the infection. The trial will enroll up to 2,000 asymptomatic men and women who are close contacts of persons with confirmed or pending COVID-19 diagnoses. Participants will be randomly assigned to take hydroxychloroquine or a placebo

over two weeks, and samples will be collected and tested daily to confirm new COVID-19 infections across the two groups. Sandoz, a Novartis division, has donated the hydroxychloroquine doses needed to conduct the study. Participant enrollment will begin in April, and results will be available in late 2020.

The Mahidol Oxford Tropical Medicine Research Unit (MORU) will lead a placebo-controlled prophylaxis study of chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine in preventing COVID-19 in at-risk health care workers, frontline staff and other high-risk groups. At least 40,000 participants in Asia and Europe will be randomized to receive either chloroquine (East Asian countries), hydroxychloroquine (United Kingdom and Europe), or a matched film-coated placebo as daily prophylaxis for three months. The one-year project, known as COPCOV, aims to determine definitively whether these drugs can prevent COVID-19 and thus protect the

vital health care workforce. Participant enrollment will begin in April and initial results will be available by the end of the year.

Nick Cammack, COVID-19 Therapeutics Accelerator lead researcher at Wellcome, said that investment in research is the world's only exit strategy from COVID-19.

"Drugs, vaccines, and diagnostics are vital to saving lives, to ending this pandemic, and to preventing it from happening again. Now is the time to evaluate whether existing drugs will prove to be safe and effective. We urge others to join us in this collective global effort. Investing now, at scale, in the COVID-19 Therapeutics Accelerator is vital if we are to change the course of this pandemic."

In addition to funding drug trials, the Accelerator will provide \$1.73 million to the La Jolla Institute for Immunology to establish a Coronavirus Immunotherapy Consortium, known as CoVIC. The effort will bring together scientists from around the world and

enable them to share and evaluate candidate antibodies side by side in a blinded, multidisciplinary analysis to identify ideal therapeutic combinations. Antibody therapies can be used to protect frontline health care workers, contacts and others who are exposed, as well as treat those who have already become sick.

"Today's grants are an important next step in the Therapeutic Accelerator's commitment to identifying and scaling treatments to combat COVID-19," said Mike Froman, vice chairman of Mastercard.

"In order to provide therapeutic solutions to this global pandemic, particularly for those most vulnerable, we need to speed up the research and development process through a collaborative funding effort by the private sector, philanthropic organizations, and governments. We welcome the participation of additional organizations that can contribute the resources needed to help bring an end to this crisis."

## How coronavirus disrupted life in southern highlands regions

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border investment.

"We have put nine people from member states of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) who entered Mbeya Region on a 14-day quarantine at their own costs," Chalamila said.

He affirmed that the cross border traders are being quarantined at hotels located on the outskirts of the city under tight security, lest any escapes, but are being cared for by trained health professionals.

"Our biggest concern now is foreigners attempting to enter the country through bush entry points. We have deterred several and confiscated over 150m/- from them," the RC intoned.

The money will be directed towards education projects such as purchase of desks and construction of classrooms, he declared.

Tightening of security at border points has been agreed upon with other RCs in the Southern Highland zone as a containment measure against the spread of the novel coronavirus.

Tanzania has so far confirmed 19 cases of Covid-19 with one fatality as state authorities race against time to trace people who came into contact with the patients in a bid to contain further spread of the disease. Regions with confirmed cases are Dar es Salaam, Arusha, Kagera and Zanzibar.



Good Samaritans try to get a car unstuck from mud at Vingunguti industrial area in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

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contain the pandemic.

Since the outbreak of the disease, the government has been taking a number of interventions to make sure that infections do not spread further, he stated.

"Let me emphasize that anyone who would test positive for Covid-19 should be publicly announced regardless his or her position, be it a minister, Permanent Secretary (PS) or a director. He or she should sleep in designated areas once found with the disease," he stressed.

He mentioned interventions taken by the government as including the formation of three national committees to battle the spread of Covid-19.

## Covid-19 positives tally climbs to 20

The first committee is headed by the premier and its members will include some ministers, permanent secretaries and the chief government spokesman, he said at the time.

The second committee comprises permanent secretaries from relevant ministries and will be headed by the chief secretary, while the third committee comprising of experts will be headed by the permanent secretary in the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, the Elderly and Children.

Other measures include closure of

all schools for primary to university level, restricting unnecessary travels and banning conferences, seminars and public rallies.

Majaliwa urged Tanzanians to continue observing protective guidelines given by health authorities, which include practicing self-isolation and avoiding unnecessary gatherings.

"Our goal is to make sure that the country remains safe. My plea to Tanzanians is for them to continue taking precautionary measures as well as spacing themselves when visiting various service areas such as market

places," he said.

Neighbouring Kenya yesterday confirmed 22 more coronavirus cases bringing the national total to 81. Uganda had 44 cases in total, Rwanda 75 and Burundi 8.

As of yesterday, global Covid-19 cases surpassed 880,000 with over 44,000 deaths and over 185,000 recoveries.

Spain recorded a record daily death toll of 864 while the number of deaths in the UK rose by 563 to 2,352. The US death toll surpassed 4,000 and there were fears as many as 200,000 people could die there.

## Tanzania gets World Bank USD500m education loan

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learning environments.

"The USD500-million Secondary Education Quality Improvement Project (SEQUIP) will directly benefit about 6.5 million secondary school students by strengthening government-run schools and establishing stronger educational pathways for students who leave the formal school system," reads the statement.

This decision comes as a victory for the government considering the long-running campaign by a group of activists which opposed the loan on the grounds that it will not benefit all young girls because of the government policy of barring girls who get pregnant from resuming studies in public schools after giving birth.

Earlier this year, the bank's executive board which was meant to consider the loan postponed the matter due to pressure from the group that had pitched a tent in the US.

Earlier, Tanzanian civil society groups sent a letter to the executive board of the World Bank urging them to stop the loan until the country passes a law that guarantees the rights of pregnant girls to attend regular secondary schools and put an end to mandatory pregnancy tests.

This meant to put into place a wait-and-see game as government officials engaged World Bank in persuasion while activists did the same, explaining why Tanzania did not deserve the loan.

In its statement, the lender said SEQUIP uses a disbursement mechanism that is phased and releases funds in tranches only when previously agreed results have been achieved. These include increasing access to schools, improving education quality for all public secondary education options, and supporting more children to re-enter the formal public system if they drop out.

"Every child in Tanzania deserves a good education, but thousands are denied this life-changing opportunity each year. This project puts the country's young people front and center; it also dedicates two-thirds of its resources to better and safer learning environments for girls," said Mara Warwick, World Bank Country Director for Tanzania.

"This is an important step in addressing the challenges that Tanzania's children face throughout their education. The World Bank will continue the dialogue with the government on broader issues concerning equal treatment of schoolchildren."

The bank lauded Tanzania's free Basic Education Policy saying it has led to more children entering school: primary enrollment rose from 8.3 million to 10.1 million between 2015 and 2018, while secondary enrollment increased from 1.8 million to 2.2 million. But despite better access, the secondary education system suffers from low quality and high dropout rates. Nearly 60,000 students (30 percent) fail to complete their schooling each year, and children are not learning enough, particularly in mathematics and science due to a lack of skilled and motivated teachers, large class sizes, and a poor learning environment. There is also a large gender gap in upper secondary school enrollment, as this learning environment has more effect on girls and their performance in exams.

"Tanzania, like many countries around the world, is suffering from a learning crisis, where children are either not in school, or are in school but not learning," said Jaime Saavedra, Global Director for Education for the World Bank. "Of 100 children who start school in Tanzania, less than half will finish primary and only three will complete their upper secondary schooling. This is a crisis. This project will support better quality secondary education, while helping make school a safer place where children can thrive, and where all girls, no matter the circumstances, have a pathway to complete their secondary education."

Over the past two years, about 300,000 children, half of them girls, have been unable to continue their

lower secondary education due to insufficient space in public schools. In addition, an estimated 5,500 Tanzanian girls who are pregnant drop out every year. SEQUIP has been designed to enable more adolescent girls and boys to transition to upper secondary education. It gives pregnant girls, young mothers, and other vulnerable children who leave school early the possibility to return to the formal system and complete their education. The project tackles the issues facing pregnant girls with an approach informed by civil society organizations and NGOs, in Tanzania and around the world.

"SEQUIP's design strives to give pregnant girls and young mothers a better chance to complete their education," said Caren Grown, Senior Director of the Gender Group at the World Bank. "The bank has stepped up its work to create a new generation of education programs that emphasize safe school environments for girls and boys, including measures that reduce gender-based violence, corporal punishment, bullying and other forms of violence in and around schools. It gives girls better quality choices and opportunities for completing their secondary education."

The project will be implemented under the bank's new Environmental and Social Framework. The government is committed to offering all stakeholders opportunities to engage in consultations during project implementation and to supporting construction of school infrastructure that is safe and built to good environmental and social standards. Citizen engagement in the project will be enhanced through civil society input and strong mechanisms to redress grievances.

The population of secondary education students in Tanzania could double to 4.1 million by 2024. The five-year SEQUIP operation will help address this demand through four components, with disbursement of funds linked to clearly defined, measurable and independently verified results through four components.

Component 1: Empowering girls through secondary education and life skills. The project aims to improve access to safe secondary education in schools and alternative education centers and to help girls continue and complete this schooling. It aims to help 900,000 more girls attend secondary school.

Component 2: Digitally-enabled effective teaching and learning. The project will introduce digital technology to facilitate math and science teaching and improve learning and teacher efficiency. It aims to improve the quality of secondary school teaching and learning environments.

Component 3: Reducing barriers to girls' education by facilitating access to secondary schools. The project will support government efforts to expand the number of secondary school places, reduce the distance between a student's home and her school, and ensure that schools offer safe and good-quality learning environments. This component will also ensure that adequate funding is available as secondary school enrollment expands.

Component 4: Project coordination, monitoring and evaluation. The project will help reinforce existing capacity, inform education planning and policy decision-making and implement key activities. Parent-teacher associations and school boards will be trained for close tracking and support to at-risk students, especially girls.

The SEQUIP operation was redesigned and approved following an extensive dialogue between the World Bank and the government. The increase from the initial project funds is due to two factors: first, the increase of children who are expected to enroll in secondary school would have made it difficult to achieve the goals of the project. Second, the stronger emphasis on girls' education, which translates into two thirds of funds going exclusively to girls, requires more funds to focus on preventing drop-outs and enabling re-entries, the statement added.





Kimara Mwisho residents line up at Dar es Salaam Rapid Transport station to wait for buses as level seat policing started following the coronavirus pandemic. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

# PM presents his budget estimates for 2020/2021 Financial Year

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa yesterday presented his office's budget estimates for the 2020/2021 financial year outlining several priorities which are aimed among other things, to strengthen various strategies to industrialise the country and thus enable it become a middle income nation by 2025.

Speaking, Majaliwa urged the National Assembly to approve 312.80bn/-, out of which 88.43bn/- is for recurrent and 224.37bn/- for development expenditure.

The premier also requested MPs to approve 121.79bn/- for the Parliament office, 113.57bn/- being for recurrent budget and 8.22bn/- for development issues.

He said that the next year's budget plan has equally considered the government mission for the attainment of the Five-Year National Development Plan 2020/2021, which has a greater objective of promoting industrial agenda so as to boost the country's economy.

"In implementing the next budget, the Prime Minister's office will supervise to ensure that all priorities aimed to improve the country economy, peace promotion, industries establishment and improvement of investment environment," he noted.

He also outlined various achievements recorded by the fifth phase in this financial year, citing employment, economic growth, economic empowerment, defence and security, judiciary, international relations, production sector and others.

Premier Majaliwa said as of February 2020, a total of 1,577,622 job opportunities whereby out of them the government created 579,518 opportunities created in the formal sector and 998,103 job opportunities created in the informal sector.

"We have witnessed drastic fall of inflation rate by 3.7 per cent from July to January this year, this is very low rate compared to other East African and southern countries," Majaliwa noted.

He also said that the government had already conducted initial payments of 85.7bn/- to purchase three new aircraft in the continued efforts aimed to transform the aviation industry in the country.

He also outlined achievements recorded in the health sector including increase of budgets of medical equipment, drugs and other supplies from 31bn/- in 2015 to 269bn/- in 2019. The government also funded the construction of 1,198 dispensaries, 487 health centres, 69 district hospitals and 14 regional referral hospitals.

The premier also said that the government was firmly fighting corruption and will neither condone nor tolerate corruption.

According to him, the government will continue posing strict measures in the fight against illicit drug and trafficking in the country.

He said that from July 2019 to January 2020, the government arrested 6,350 suspected drug dealers whereby 35 kilograms of heroin and 1.6kgs of cocaine were impounded. Over 10 tonnes of cannabis were found and at least nine farms of cannabis were destroyed.

By Guardian Reporter

## AfDB approves \$2m emergency assistance for WHO-led measures to curb COVID-19 in Africa

THE Board of Directors of the African Development Bank (www.afdb.org) on Tuesday approved US\$2 million in emergency assistance for the World Health Organization (WHO) to reinforce its capacity to help African countries contain the COVID-19 pandemic and mitigate its impacts.

According to a statement issued by the pan-African bank, the grant, which is in response to an international appeal by the WHO, will be used by the world body to equip Regional Member Countries to prevent, rapidly detect, investigate, contain and manage detected cases of COVID-19.

It is one part of several Bank interventions to help member countries address the pandemic which, while slow to arrive in Africa,

is spreading quickly and is straining already fragile health systems.

Specifically, the WHO Africa region will use the funds to bolster the capacity of 41 African countries on infection prevention, testing and case management. WHO Africa will also boost surveillance systems, procure and distribute laboratory test kits and reagents, and support coordination mechanisms at national and regional levels.

This grant "will enable Regional Member Countries to put in place robust containment measures within 48 hours of COVID-19 case confirmation and also support the WHO Africa Region to

disseminate information and increase public awareness in communities," said the Bank's Human Capital Youth and Skills Development Department. The grant will contribute toward a \$50 million WHO Preparedness and Response Plan, which other partners including the United Nations system, are also supporting.

It is estimated that Africa will require billions of dollars to cushion the impact of the disease as many countries scramble together contingency measures, including commercial lockdowns, in desperate efforts to contain it. Globally, factories have been closed and workers sent home,

disrupting supply chains, trade, travel, and driving many economies toward recession.

The Bank Group is expected to unveil a financial assistance package that will enable governments and businesses to undertake flexible responses to lessen the economic and social impact of this pandemic.

Last Thursday, the Bank raised an exceptional \$3 billion in a three-year social bond, the proceeds from which will go to help alleviate the economic and social effects of the pandemic. It is the largest dollar-denominated social bond launched in international capital markets to date.

## RC embarks on aircraft disinfectant spray

By Guardian Reporter

DAR ES SALAAM Regional Commissioner Paul Makonda has announced to embark on aircraft disinfectant spray to protect city residents from the novel coronavirus.

RC Makonda said yesterday when he visited the Makumbusho commuter bus station in Kinondoni district where he insisted that a number of austerity measures had been taken to protect city residents from the covid-19 pandemic.

He however appealed to landlords and commercial building owners to consider reviewing their monthly rental fees to give relief to tenants especially now as the Tanzania and the world experience economic recession.

"Most businesses have been affected by the outbreak of covid-19; the situation has also hit small scale entrepreneurs. May I request landlords

to consider a 50 per cent reduction on rental fees to enable tenants to pay accordingly and save some cash to purchase other necessities including food during this period as we encourage social distancing", he stated.

The regional commissioner called upon parents to protect their children and restrict their movements after schools closure. He emphasized on social distancing; adults should avoid gatherings and stay in-doors.

In another move, the RC announced to allow tri-cycle (Bajaj) and two-wheel motorcycles popularly known as 'boda boda' to enter the central business district (CBD) and carry passengers. He only cautioned them to adhere to traffic rules including wearing of helmets and not driving on the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) lanes.

The move according to him is meant to ease transportation services following implementation of the

government directives for commuter buses that requires all passengers to get seated. He said the 'boda boda' and tri-cycle drivers will continue operating within city centre until the situation normalises.

Makonda insisted that authorities in Dar es Salaam are implementing the government directive that requires all people coming from covid-19 affected nations to go mandatory isolation for 14 days. He urged residents to stop going at the airport to pick-up their relatives coming from abroad since all the mandatory isolation arrangements are conducted by the government.

As of Monday this week, operators of commuter buses started to adhere to a government directive requiring that all passengers get seated in order to reduce congestion in public transport vehicles as it is likely to spread the virus further.



Students walk on the temporary bridge linking Magomeni and Mwanamala stretch in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

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Deadline for submission of proposals: Wednesday 07 May 2020

A highly recommended Pre-bid meeting will take place at 10:30 am on 08 April 2020.

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# Z'bar paralegals equipped to promote legal aid provision

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

OVER 100 paralegals have been provided with refresher training about the existing laws, regulations, guidelines and policies which are related to their work in Zanzibar.

The training also furnished them with necessary skills to competently discharge their duties in supporting marginalised groups in the community legally plus giving them access to legal education and assistance at no costs.

Speaking on behalf of other paralegals at the training held in Pemba over the weekend, Rashid Hasan Mshamata from Wete said they have been equipped with skills and techniques to provide legal aid and education to communities particularly on how to deal with legal challenges.

"The training we received has been of vital importance because it reflected the needs of our duties in relation to the provision of legal aid and education to the marginalised communities," he said. He added that the training also helped them to make use of the skills acquired to execute their daily obligations.

"Paralegals have been urged to adhere to provided guidelines as well as increasing working relationship with authorities," Mshamata added.

On her part, Zaina Omari Othman from Micheweni said the training was an important empowerment tool for them in implementing their duties on legal aid provision to communities. "We are happy to learn new things that

have added value to our understanding on various legal issues that will bring positive impacts to the society we serve," Othman said.

Capacity development officer from Legal Services Facility, Victoria Mshana said the objective of the training was to officially equip the existing paralegals as required by the legal aid act of Zanzibar. "Updating paralegals about the existing laws, regulations, guidelines and policies related to paralegal work to ensure quality of service at all times," Mshana said.

"LSF works closely with the government on both Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar to promote access to justice for the needy especially women and other vulnerable groups," she said adding that the training will result into paralegals abiding by the legal aid providers regulations including registration with authorities.

Legal Services Facility supports paralegal work in the country and has more than 3,950 active paralegals located in every district of the Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar to offer legal education and assistance to communities.

On average paralegals attend to over 70,000 cases yearly in which 60 per cent of the cases had been resolved, 22 per cent ongoing cases and 16 per cent referred to high authority and 2 per cent in this year so far. Most cases attended by paralegals are related to land disputes, matrimonial cases, criminal cases, child maintenance and gender based violence cases.



Samunge market petty traders in Arusha region wait for customers yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Asraji Mvungi

## IGP Sirro launches Nungwi police station in Zanzibar

By Guardian Correspondent, Zanzibar

THE Inspector General of Police (IGP) Simon Sirro has said the police force will not tolerate anyone involved in crimes including illicit drugs

IGP Sirro issued the warning

yesterday when opening Nungwi police station in North Zanzibar region and called police personnel in the country to do their duties professionally, abiding by the laws and guidelines issued by the police.

On the covid-19 pandemic Sirro

called on the wananchi to continue taking precautionary measures issued by government leaders and health experts.

On his part, the Zanzibar North Regional Commissioner Vuai Mwynyi Khamis said the region has a big

number of tourist hotels and the establishment of the police station will assist in fighting crimes in the area.

The building of the police station cost over 64m/- contributed by various stakeholders including those in the tourism sector.



Home Affairs Minister George Simbachawene (L) talks with National Identity Cards director general Dr. Anold Kihale at a press conference held in Dodoma yesterday. He promised to take stern measures against civil servants who will not attend people seeking identity cards. Photo: MoHA

## Bahi district bans deforestation

By Polycarp Machira, Bahi

BAHI district in Dodoma Region has banned cutting of trees on both private and public lands without permission from authorities in a bid to curb deforestation.

Announcing the ban here yesterday the District Commissioner, Mwanahamisi Mkunda said no residents are allowed to cut trees without permission from the relevant authorities as the district takes initiatives to save environment.

Speaking during the launch of radio programmes aimed at creating public awareness on environmental conservation, she said it is high time

strict measures were taken to help save the ever deteriorating forests, among other environment factors in the district.

The event was held at Mpanantwa village in the district, whereby local radios in the region will air programmes on natural forestation, a project implemented by Lead Foundation, a local NGO in the region.

"Cutting down trees has been a major problem in the district and entire region, causing loss of animals and trees and we have to take new measures to reverse the trend," she said, adding that whoever will go against the orders will face long arm of the law.

She said that it is unfortunate that most of the land in district has for a long time been used for farming is no longer productive due to shortage of rainfall.

The DC noted that the situation has been caused by human activities, forcing residents to resort to other odd jobs for sources of incomes.

Lead Foundation's project manager, Njamasi Chiwanga, speaking at the event, noted that the initiative had helped restore national forestation in different parts of the region that were once destroyed by human activities.

Chiwanga noted that through the programme, the organisation has reached all the seven districts in

Dodoma region whereby 300 villages had planted over eight million natural trees.

Speaking about the launched radio programmes, Chiwanga said they will help reach many people in the region and support regional authority's efforts to make Dodoma region green.

"The radio programmes will help create public education on the importance of saving natural trees as part of forestation drive to help conserve the environment," he said.

He said through the radio programmes, many unreached villages will be reached, adding that so far only 300 out of the 600 villages in Dodoma region had been covered.

## RC suspends vacations for civil servants

By Guardian Correspondent, Tabora

TABORA Regional Commissioner Aggrey Mwanri has temporarily suspended vacations for civil servants including those in the health sector to continue providing services and help communities to fight the outbreak of COVID-19

The move is aimed to ensure enough health workers as well as those in other sectors during this period when the region is conducting campaigns and public education as part of efforts to control spreading of the Coronavirus disease.

Mwanri made the statement yesterday during his tour at Utui and Nzega districts where he inspected isolation units in case the region is reported to have confirmed Coronavirus patients. He said the isolation centres will also be used to keep suspected people as they wait for laboratory tests.

The RC noted that priorities are to make sure that all the residents are aware of the symptoms of the infectious disease and its preventive measures. He urged district authorities to use community radios and make public announcements through special vehicles so that everyone is aware of the preventive measures.

"You should go to the streets and educate people on the COVID-19 preventive measures, health officials should educate people through radio programmes", said the RC.

RC Mwanri directed passenger bus owners to make sure all the vehicles are sprayed with disinfectants before and after safari. He said the move will lock Coronavirus disease spread in Tabora and other regions.

He said inspectors at the main bus station should prepare special forms

where drivers of sprayed buses will sign and be allowed to continue with the journey. He insisted that buses that are not sprayed with disinfectants will not be allowed to carry passengers.

Meanwhile, he announced to embark on a crackdown for teachers who are said to assemble pupils for tuition studies. He said the government closed all the schools, colleges and universities to protect children from the disease, hence no one is allowed to assemble them for learning purposes.

"Teachers should not use the presence of COVID-19 in our country to generate incomes. Let the children remain at homes as they wait for the schools to open. Owners of private schools should make sure teachers and other servants are fully paid their salaries during leave to avoid them initiating tuition studies to get money", said the regional commissioner.

Tabora regional chief medical officer Dr Honaratha Rutatinisibwa urged parents to keep their children in-doors as they might get infected if left to roam the streets.



**You should go to the streets and educate people on the COVID-19 preventive measures, health officials should educate people through radio programmes**





Hard road to travel: Good Samaritans try to give a helping hand to a tricycle motorbike driver along Msewe road which had been damaged following the ongoing rain in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

# Safety net fund to reach all earmarked needy, ministry

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE National Assembly has been assured that all people living in abject poverty in 185 district councils in the country will be reached after implementation of the second phase of the Productive Social Safety Net (PSSN) project under the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF).

According to the President's Office (Public Service and Good Governance), the programme will be supervised closely to ensure that only eligible households will be enrolled and not otherwise.

Responding to question raised by the Lupembe MP Joram Hongoli, the ministry stated that the implementation of PSSN I has transformed lives of more than five million people in 9,996 villages and shehias in Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar.

In his basic question, Hongoli said that TASAF has been one of the programmes which had helped to

improve people's lives but some of poor households were yet to be covered.

"Considering that the programmes has contributed immensely to the improvement of people's lives especially those living in abject poverty, what is the government's strategy to extend the project to reach all poor households in the country?" the legislator queried.

The ministry responded that "The second phase of the PSSN II which was launched by President John Magufuli in February this year, will reach all the poor people but with more focus on productive and financial inclusion. It will also focus more in providing poor households with prerequisite entrepreneurship skills to enable them establish small-scale business and projects for poverty alleviation," read part of the ministry's response.

"Some 5,590 villages and Shehias were not reached in the implementation of the first phase of PSSN project but they will now all be

covered."

It was further noted that the PSSN II has been designed with modern technological system to register the beneficiaries biometrically so as to curb ghost recipients.

Launching the programme in Dar es Salaam recently, President Magufuli directed authorities to make sure that they supervise well and control enrolment of 'phantom' beneficiaries.

Dr Magufuli said that in the verification exercise conducted from November 2015 to 2017 found a total of 73,561 ghosts and illegible households being enrolled in the programme.

"The involvement of people who are not poor and leaders being enrolled in the programmes, should be addressed, the next phase has to ensure that all these challenges were addressed," he said.

According to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), poverty and basic needs had dropped to 26.4 per cent in 2017/18 from 39 per cent in 1990/91.

## Kalambo falls to ease access for tourists via good roads

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE government is in the next fiscal year planning to construct and upgrade road infrastructures connecting Kalambo Water Falls in Rukwa region as part of the ongoing efforts to promote tourist destinations located in the southern tourist circuit, the House heard yesterday.

According to the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government, the improvement will involve construction of 12-kms road from Kawala village to Kalambo falls.

Responding to a question from Special Seats MP Silafu Maufi who sought to know the government's plan to improve road infrastructures leading to the falls, the ministry stated that the government had already improved 6.5km-road to Kalambo falls and will be passable throughout the year.

In her basic question, Maufi noted that the Kalambo falls is one of the best tourist attractions in the southern circuit, which is rich in thrilling tourist destinations but sees very few tourists visiting, because of factors such as lack of good roads. "The government recognises tourism potentials available in Rukwa region including Kalambo falls, however road infrastructures to the falls are not good, when will the government improve the roads especially which starts from Kawala village," she queried.

Responding, the ministry noted that in the 2020/21 financial year, the government through Tanzania Urban and Rural Roads Agency (Tarura) will embark on an architectural designing exercise to find out the actual costs of the road before commencing the construction at the road at tarmac level.

Kalambo waterfalls, the second highest uninterrupted fall in Africa after Tugela Falls in South Africa is located on the Kalambo river near the south-eastern shore of Lake Tanganyika on the Tanzania- Zambia border in Kalambo district. Downstream of the falls is the Kalambo gorge, which has a width of about 1 km and a depth of up to 300 m, running for about 5 km before opening out into the Lake Tanganyika rift valley.

Kalambo falls is also considered one of the most important archaeological sites in Africa spanning over 250,000 years.

## New courts lined up in 30 districts to enhance justice

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

OVER 30 district court buildings are set to be constructed in various parts of the country starting from June this year, the National Assembly heard yesterday.

According to the Ministry of Constitution and Legal Affairs, the construction of the buildings will be funded by World Bank (WB).

Responding to questions from Almas Maige, Tabora North MP (CCM) in the House, the ministry stated that upon completion, the buildings will bring legal services closer to people but also improve delivery of justice as people will no longer have to travel long distances searching for judicial services.

In his basic question Maige sought to know when the government would construct a district court in Uyui district as it has been operating without the essential service for years.

"Uyui district has no district court, it has only a primary court which also has only one room at the district commissioner building, this situation denies majority of people to access justice...So when will the government construct primary court buildings at Upuge village," he noted.

In its response, the ministry acknowledged that shortage of buildings in various courts is one of the major challenges facing the judiciary in the country, saying the government is taking all possible efforts to address the impediments.

According to the ministry, the judiciary is still in dire need of more court facilities as most of them are in bad condition.

"From June, 2020, the government will construct buildings in 33 district courts in the country with support from WB and Uyui district is among in the them," read part of the ministry's response.

Currently, the Judiciary is finalising initial procedures ready for the project to commence."



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## Request for Applications

### Faith & Community Initiative: Engaging the criminal justice sector

RFA No.: P3756/2020/002

Date of issuance: April 2nd, 2020

Due date for questions: April 13th, 2020

Release date for response to all questions: April 17th, 2020

Closing date: April 24th, 2020

Application (including technical proposal and budget) are due by 23:59 EAT via email to [kizazikipyarfa@pactworld.org](mailto:kizazikipyarfa@pactworld.org) Emailed submissions must contain the subject "Faith & Community Initiative: Engaging the criminal justice sector."

Estimated award date: May 5th, 2020

#### 1. Background on Pact

Pact is a leader in building the capacity of non-government organizations, networks and intermediary organizations. Pact's mission is to help build strong communities globally that provide people with an opportunity to earn a dignified living, raise healthy families and participate in democratic life. Pact achieves this by strengthening the organizational and technical capacity of grassroots organizations, coalitions and networks, and by forging linkages between government, business and citizens in order to achieve social, economic, and environmental justices.

#### 2. Purpose Statement

Pursuant to the authority granted under USAID award AID-621-A-16-00001, Pact is pleased to announce the release of a request for applications (RFA) for funding provided to support Pact's implementation of criminal justice sector engagement activity under the Faith & Community Initiative. This activity will seek to understand the current status of the child justice system in Tanzania by engaging with the Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs and the Institute of Judicial Administration.

This RFA is issued as a public notice to ensure that all interested, qualified, and eligible organizations have a fair opportunity to submit applications for funding. For the purposes of this RFA, "organizations" are defined as non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society organizations (CSOs), community-based organizations (CBOs), or faith-based organizations (FBOs). FBOs are strongly encouraged to apply.

#### 3. Program Description

##### 3.1. Program background

The USAID-funded Kizazi Kipya project aims to enable Tanzanian OVC and young people affected by HIV and their caregivers to use age-appropriate HIV-related and other services for improved care, health, nutrition, education, protection, livelihoods, and psycho-social wellbeing. To achieve its goals, Pact collaborates with CSOs, the Government of Tanzania (GoT) at national, regional and district levels, communities, and other stakeholders to generate demand for HIV services, reduce barriers to access and uptake of HIV services. Kizazi Kipya maximizes opportunities to generate demand for HIV services, reduce barriers to access and uptake of HIV services, ensure tracking to reduce loss to follow-up, and facilitate effective bi-directional HIV and OVC referrals to ensure completion.

On November 28, 2019 the United States of America Vice President, Michael Pence, announced that the United States government, through PEPFAR, will invest \$100 million to address key gaps toward achieving Epidemic Control and ensuring children justice through FBOs and Communities. Tanzania is one of the 10 selected countries to receive the FCI funding and will roll it out in 9 regions. USAID requested that Pact integrate FCI into its existing Kizazi Kipya programming given its scope and reach. Pact will use FCI funding to engage criminal justice sector to address barriers to child justice.

Under FCI Activity #4, Pact, with technical support from UNICEF, will consult the Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs and the Institute of Judicial Administration to understand the current status of the child justice system in Tanzania. Pact will identify appropriate sub-partner (s) to roll out this education to the faith and community leaders in 13 USAID FCI councils. Pact will agree on activities and expected outcomes with the national stakeholders and in consultation with the 13 LGAs targeted for FCI. Pact will identify a sub-grantee and/or contractor that will use existing government TOTs and approved materials to roll out activities to address identified barriers to child justice.

##### Geographic area

Pact's programming for FCI includes 3 regions (Dodoma, Morogoro, and Ruvuma) covering 13 councils, of which 9 currently have Kizazi Kipya programming. The 13 councils include Dodoma MC, Kondoa DC, Chemba DC, Kongwa DC, Bahi DC, Kilosa DC, Morogoro MC, Kilombero DC, Songea MC, Songea DC, Mbinga TC, Mbinga DC, and Tunduru DC.

##### 3.3. Intended impact

Through this program, the objective is for faith and community leaders to achieve the following:

- 1) Learn the facts about sexual violence against children
- 2) Learn about evidence-based programs to prevent and respond to sexual violence against children
- 3) Operationalizing a child friendly justice system in district courts and magistrates to react responsibly to sexual violence against children
- 4) Training for Gender/Children Desks on child justice
- 5) Collaborate with organizations working in child justice to expand impactful child justice activities into the 13 FCI councils.
- 6) Facilitate Child Justice contracts with District Commissioners to ensure local government oversight and sustainability.

##### 3.5. Expected role of sub-awardee in the program

The following table outlines the thematic areas and illustrative activities to be considered in applications. Applicants must be willing and capable to contribute to activities described below.

Activities	Deliverables	Outcomes
Conduct 5 days training to magistrates in 13 councils on juvenile court procedures to improve their understanding on rules and procedures for juvenile trials related to sexual violence against children.	Signed list or register of magistrates, state attorneys and public prosecutors attending the training.	39 Magistrates trained. 39 Public Prosecutors trained. 39 State attorneys trained.
Conduct 5 days training to High Court Judges on juvenile court procedures to improve their understanding on rules and procedures for juvenile trials related to sexual violence against children.	Well documented training report.	30 High Court Judges trained.
Conduct 5 days training to SWOs, Health Care Workers, and PGCD Officers in 13 FCI councils on juvenile court procedures to improve their understanding on rules and procedures for juvenile trials related to sexual violence against children.	Signed list or register of SWOs, Health Care Workers and PGCD attending the training. Well documented training report.	39 Social Welfare Officers (SWOs) trained. 39 Health Care Workers trained. 39 Police from Police Gender and Children Desk (PGCD) trained.
Collaboration with organizations working in child justice to expand impactful child justice activities into the 13 FCI councils.	MoU with IJA to facilitate and support magistrates and high court judges training. MoU with Police to facilitate and support SWOs and PGCD training.	Established strong collaborative working relationship with Institute of Judiciary Administration (IJA) for magistrate and judges training. Established strong and collaborative working relationship with police for PGCD training.

##### 3.6. Program indicators and data reporting for partners

Kizazi Kipya has identified program monitoring indicators to inform achievement of the FCI program results. Applicants should propose how they will operationalize the program's activities described above. There are two program indicators to which sub-awardees under this RFA will contribute. A proposed project must address both: the number of Judges, Magistrates and Police gender desk officers trained in child justice and pre-post test results from trainings. The full M&E plan will be discussed with sub-partner upon award.

#### 4. Application Submission

##### 4.1. Grantee eligibility

This competition is open to any non-governmental organization that is either a non-profit, not-for-profit, or for-profit entity that is not established in the United States. To be minimally eligible for funding, applicants must provide full, accurate, and complete information and comply with the following conditions. Organizations must:

- Be legally registered or otherwise authorized to conduct business in their country or countries of operation
- Have a DUNS number (a nine-digit identification number required for all procurement-related activities). A DUNS number is not required for application, but will be required for receipt of award
- Be able to complete implementation within the stated timeframe of May 5th, 2020 through August 30th, 2020, with a final report due by September 30th, 2020.
- Have previous experience working with criminal justice sector on behavior change in issues of health, child protection, and social change
- Have current geographic coverage where program activities will take place or prior experience in that area with the ability to quickly start up implementation

##### 4.2. Funding

Pact anticipates these awards will be cost-reimbursable, fixed amount award, fixed price contracts or in-kind grants. Grant type will be based on the program description and the results of the partner's pre-award risk assessment, which Pact will conduct prior to issuance of the award. Pact anticipates awarding one grant awards to successful applicants. Funding levels will be negotiated with the successful applicant based on how it operationalizes the programming and the value for money. Pact reserves the right to award any or none of the applications submitted.

##### 4.3. Application submission deadline

Applications must be submitted by April 24th, 2020 at 23:59 EAT.

##### 4.4. Late submissions, modifications, and withdrawals of application

At Pact's discretion, any application received after the exact date and time specified for receipt may be considered ineligible for consideration. Applications may be withdrawn by written notice via email or in person by an organization or the authorized representative.

##### 4.5. Conflict of interest clause

Applicants must provide disclosure of any past, present, or future relationships with any parties associated with the issuance, review or management of this solicitation and anticipated award. Failure to provide full and open disclosure may result in Pact having to re-evaluate selection of a potential applicant.

##### 4.6. Submission method for questions

Submit questions electronically to [kizazikipyarfa@pactworld.org](mailto:kizazikipyarfa@pactworld.org). The deadline for questions is April 13th, 2020 at 23:59 EAT.

The email subject line should read "Questions - Faith & Community Initiative - name of organization submitting application."

All questions and answers will be shared with all interested applicants.

##### 4.7. Submission method for final application

Submit applications electronically through email [kizazikipyarfa@pactworld.org](mailto:kizazikipyarfa@pactworld.org). The deadline is April 24th, 2020 at 23:59 EAT. Pact is not receiving paper applications for this RFA.

The email subject line should read "Faith & Community Initiative - name of organization submitting application."

Technical applications and attachments must be submitted in Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF. Budgets must be submitted in Microsoft Excel.

#### 5. Application Format

##### 5.1. Overall requirements

Applicants will develop their applications based on their understanding of needs, their prior institutional experience, and their determination of the approaches that would be feasible and successful. In all cases, applicants shall clearly explain the rationale for the proposed approaches chosen. To facilitate the competitive review of the applications, Pact only will consider applications conforming to the following.

- The application narrative should be clear, concise, and properly organized.
- The document should be in 12-point Times New Roman font, single spaced, with 1 inch/2.5 cm margins.
- Full applications should not exceed six (6) pages; page maximums for specific parts are provided in sections 5.2 and 5.3.
- Applications should be written in English.
- Paper copies of the applications will not be accepted.
- Please note that technical and cost applications should be separate files.

All applications received by the deadline will be reviewed for responsiveness to the specifications outlined in these guidelines and the application format. Applications should take into account the evaluation criteria.

##### 5.2. Technical application

###### Limit of six (6) pages, including:

Sub-Awardee Risk and Responsibility Assessment Cover Page (one page)

##### I. Technical Approach and Feasibility of Program Design (two pages)

- The applicant's technical approach should include:
  - A description of the applicant's prior work as it pertains to the project objective
  - A description of the activities to be undertaken, organized by thematic area
  - Anticipated results
- The application should discuss the applicant's approach for engaging with local actors, building partnerships with key stakeholders, and creating linkages with other relevant development activities/programs.
- The application must clearly explain how it will reach justice sector leaders from
- The applicant must clearly explain how it will identify Judges, Magistrates and Police gender desk officers
- The applicant should clearly demonstrate the capability to operationalize this work in all 3 regions, and rollout multiple times

##### II. Human resource and level of effort plan (one page)

- The management and staffing plan should show the roles and responsibilities of all staff who will participate in the program.
- The management and staffing plan must show that the applicant has appropriate trainers available, i.e., people with previous knowledge and expertise in the subject matter of Judiciary system.

##### III. Past Performance (one page)

- Describe the organization's previous experience working with faith and community leaders on behavior change in issues of health, child protection, and social change
- Demonstrate experience in building the capacity of local organizations, local government institutions, research, networks, and initiatives.

##### IV. Work Plan (one page)

- Provide a detailed 5 Months work plan for activities clearly identified in the program description and the applicable time frames.
- Provide a summary of proposed activities for subsequent years, as applicable.

##### 5.3. Cost application

###### Limit of two (2) pages.

Please use the templates in attachment 2 and 3 for a detailed and summary budget. The summary budget should include all costs anticipated within the following line items:

- Salaries/fringe benefits: all costs associated with employees working under the proposed project, including the level of effort expected from each salaried employee and the costs of fringe benefits
- Travel and per diem: travel, lodging, and per diem for staff need to implement the project
- Equipment rental: equipment that must be rented (i.e., vehicles) to enable program implementation
- Workshops/training/events: workshops, development of information materials, studies, information dissemination, etc.; other direct costs associated with implementing activities under the project
- Operating/administrative costs: rent, communications, electricity, telephone, audit, and office supplies; Kizazi Kipya will not fund office start-up costs or proposal development costs.

##### 5.4. Relevant documents

Applicants are required to provide registration or other relevant documents, such as letters of support and recognition from local governments/authorities. These documents do not count toward the technical and cost application page limits.

#### 6. Evaluation of Applications

##### 6.1. Review process

Kizazi Kipya will establish a technical review committee that includes representatives from various company departments and external staff. All technical reviewers will be subjected to a screening process to eliminate any conflict of interest. Evaluation will be based on the criteria set forth in sections 6.2, 6.3, and 6.4. The process will be completed within approximately 3 business days. The review panel, using the criteria detailed below, will rate applications and make funding recommendations to the program's grants management unit.

Pact reserves the right to make any number of awards or none at all. Pact is not responsible for any costs associated with the development of applications.

To facilitate the review of applications, applicants must organize the narrative sections of their applications with the same headings and in the same order as the selection criteria.

##### 6.2. Evaluation criteria for the application

In evaluating the applications, Pact will examine overall merit and feasibility, as well as the specific criteria relevant to each component, as elaborated in the table below. Applicants should note that these criteria both serve as the standard against which all applicants will be evaluated and serve to identify the significant matters that applicants should address in their applications. Pact will instruct the technical review committee to evaluate all applications according to the criteria as established and weighted in the following table.

Evaluation Criteria	Points
<b>I. Technical Approach and Feasibility of Program Design</b> The review team considers a strong technical design to be one that is informed by local circumstances and needs. It should demonstrate coordination with other efforts or ongoing processes, including the efforts of other peace actors and/or programs. Proposals must be in line with the technical areas outlined in section 3.	40
<b>II. Management and Staffing Plan</b> The review team will evaluate the extent to which the management and staffing plans demonstrate the applicant's ability to effectively implement proposed activities responsive to this RFA. Reviewers will assess whether the organization has proposed sufficient level of effort to achieve stated results.	10
<b>III. Past Performance</b> Reviewers will evaluate whether the organization has managed successful projects of similar size and scope in the geographic areas specified.	30
<b>IV. Work Plan</b> Reviewers will assess the proposed timeline for implementing proposed activities for feasibility.	10
<b>V. Cost Evaluation</b> The cost application will be evaluated for reasonableness, allocability, allowability, cost effectiveness, realism, and financial feasibility.	10
Pact reserves the right to determine the resulting level of funding for the grants being selected for this RFA, regardless of what the applicant specifies in the cost application.	
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

##### 6.3. Supporting documentation for Pre-Award Assessment/site visits

After the application evaluation process, any selected firm will be required to complete a Financial Pre-Award Assessment in order for Pact to determine if the organization has the capacity to perform successfully under the terms and conditions of the proposed grant. As part of the Pre-Award Assessment process, Applicants may be asked to submit additional documentation to illustrate that the organization has the capability to implement the grant. Site visits may be conducted by Pact staff to evaluate the organization in these areas.

#### 7. Terms and Conditions

##### 7.1. Standard provisions

The Standard Provisions for Non-U.S. Non-Governmental Organizations as applicable will apply to these grants. Applicants can find the provisions at <https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1868/303mab.pdf>. Printed versions of these provisions are available upon request.

##### 7.2. Permission for use and disclosure

By submitting an application under this RFA, the applicant consents to the disclosure of the documents submitted by the applicant to the reviewers involved in the selection process. Please note that all reviewers are bound by non-disclosure agreements.

##### 7.3. Disclaimers

- Pact may cancel the solicitation and not award any funds.
- Pact may reject any or all applications received.
- Issuance of solicitation does not constitute award commitment by Pact.
- Pact reserves the right to disqualify any application based on applicant's failure to follow solicitation instructions.
- Pact will not compensate applicants for their response to the solicitation.
- Pact reserves the right to issue an award based on initial evaluation of applications without further discussion.
- Pact may choose to award only part of the activities in the solicitation or to issue multiple awards based on the solicitation activities.
- Pact reserves the right to waive minor application deficiencies that can be corrected prior to award determination to promote competition.
- Pact may contact applicants to confirm contact person, address, and that the application was submitted for this solicitation.
- Pact may contact listed past performance references without notice to the applicant. Pact also reserves the right to contact other past performance information sources that the applicant did not list in the application.
- By submitting an application, the applicants confirm they understand the terms and conditions.

## Police in Songea District hold four burglary suspects

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

POLICE in Ruvuma region are holding four people in connection with two separate crimes including breaking into houses and stealing items valued at 531,500/- from a shop selling households in Songea Municipality.

Speaking to reporters early this week the Ruvuma Regional Police Commander Simon Maigwa said the two suspects are among those detained whose names could not be disclosed. The items were stolen from a shop belonging to shop one Michael Shayo.

RPC Maigwa said police who were on patrol saw the suspects breaking the shop and arrested them on the spot.

Among the items found with the suspects included one 32" Codtec Inc TV set, a radio, EFD machine, two Samsung 32" TV sets, one UK 43" TV set, one laptop, and one power mixer.

In regard to two other detained suspects, the RPC said they were involved a separate crimes breaking into and stealing from a house belonging to Musa Mohamed in Namtumbo district.

He said the police arrested the two but also declined to disclose their names as investigations were still ongoing.

He said among the items they stole from Mohamed's house included one Panasonic 18" TV set, one Subwoofer radio set with two speakers, one Singsung DVD set and one water heater.

He said all four accused will appear in court soon after investigations are complete, and warned others against harbouring intentions to commit similar crimes.



Police Commander Simon Maigwa

## Committee tasked to release inmates serving short-term sentences - govt

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE National Community Service Committee has been officially established and whose tasks include reviewing congestions in prisons release inmates serving short-term sentences.

The committee will establish the actual situation of the prisons congestion in Tanzania mainland and its effects to the inmates. The problem which became the outcry not only for inmates both prisoners and remandees themselves, but also is the outcry of the members of their families as well as the nation itself and all the Tanzanian citizens though the impact is indirect. Minister for Home Affairs George Simbabwe said on Tuesday when inaugurating the committee.

Simbabwe said the prison congestion challenge had now become biggest problem in the country.

He explained the Committee has the responsibility in implementing the community service law that offers opportunities for inmates serving short term sentences.

Simbabwe said there is no need for those who commit crimes that are not serious to be paroled to reduce congestion, and added that the deterrence system is mainly entrenched in committing criminals to prisons.

The Minister promised to support the committee at all times when need arises.

The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs Christopher Kadio said the committee's establishment opens another chapter in implementing their duties diligently and professionally.

On his part, the committee's chairman Judge Zephine Ngaleba urged for the minister's assistance in order to make the panel powerful in implementing its duties so as to reduce congestion in prisons.

Judge Ngaleba said they will endeavour to work hard to make sure they reduce congestion of inmates and remandees in the country's prisons.



The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs Christopher Kadio





Babati district executive director in Manyara region Hamis Malinga (C) addresses petty traders at Maweni auction on the coronavirus pandemic yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

# AUWSA takes over UWSA water supply activities

By Guardian Correspondent, Arumeru

ARUSHA Urban Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (AUWSA) has been urged to work together with USA River Water and Sewerage Authority (UWSA) in identifying water infrastructures in order to install meters for water users and control theft of water.

The request was given yesterday by Anaeleth Mshashu, a representative of the Arumeru District Commissioner, Jerry Muro during a short ceremony of handing over UWSA activities to AUWSA.

Mshashu said it is better for community of water users to work together with AUWSA to identify the water infrastructures, repairs to the old ones and identifying those without water meters to have them installed so that they pay their bills to AUWSA.

On his part, UWSA board chairman Prof Justin Maeda said in the past they had a few water consumers and monthly bills collections was about 3m/-. but up to the time of handing over UWSA to AUWSA they had 2,653 customers and bills collections reached 24m/-.

He appealed to AUWSA to have in place a sewerage tankers to solve inconveniences experienced by the wananchi as the Usa River area is water logged hence sewage septic tanks get filled easily.

"We are handing over this authority to you AUWSA, we request that the wananchi get water, but also there are unpaid bills especially from government offices," he said.

Earlier an AUWSA board member Edward Mroso said every mwananchi will benefit from a huge government funded 520b/- water project in Arusha region.

"But what is needed is for all those who will be connected to that water to ensure they pay their water bills without much ado," he added.

On his part the Ag AUWSA director Eng Justine Rujomba assured the wananchi in getting safe, clean water including a sewerage tanker that will reach Usa River, but whose service cost will be paid by customers.

Eng Rujomba said among the areas to be benefited by the safe, clean water service from AUWSA are Manyata Central and Mlima Sioni in Arumeru District.

# Finance ministers seek \$100b cushion against coronavirus

ADDIS ABABA

AFRICAN finance ministers have appealed for a \$100 billion bailout package from international lenders to cushion their economies from effects of the coronavirus pandemic, which has put the entire continent in virtual lockdown.

In an appeal signed by South African Minister for Finance Tito Mboweni and his Ghanaian counterpart Ken Ofori-Atta, the African governments estimate that the economic disruption from the spread of coronavirus will cut the continent's GDP by at least two to three percentage points this year.

"Africa needs huge and immediate additional resources of \$100 billion for the immediate response, with lead from the multi-lateral financial institutions," reads the report released by Vera Songwe, executive secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UN ECA), on behalf of African Ministers of Finance.

Dated March 22, the appeal is addressed to the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the European Investment Bank, European Central Bank (ECB), the African Development Bank and other partner institutions like Afreximbank and regional development banks.

Lost GDP Although the impact of Covid-19 on Africa is yet to reach the levels experienced in Europe, Asia and North America, the continent has so far lost an estimated \$29 billion worth of GDP to the pandemic, according to Uneca estimates.

With the economic crisis unfolding as the number of infections and mortality rises, Africa is appealing for a speedy disbursement of the bailout package in the form of suspension of debt service payments, budget support, extended credit facilities among other measures.

Globally, the Covid-19 infections were more than 500,000 as at the time of going to press on Friday, with over 24,000 deaths. African infections were

above 3,200, with more than 83 deaths reported.

In East Africa, Uneca has cautioned the region to brace for disruptions in intra-regional trade, supply chains with major trading partners including China, commodity price shocks, battering of tourism and aviation sectors, and massive job losses.

Economic growth is expected to drop from 6.4 per cent in 2019 to about 3.4 per cent this year.

To help the continent combat the pandemic, the ministers want development partners to immediately waive interest payments on debt amounting to \$44 billion for 2020, with possible extension to the medium term.

The waiver, which should include interest payments on public debt and sovereign bonds, would provide countries with fiscal space and liquidity.

In the case of the private sector, the continent requests a waiver of interest payments on trade credits, corporate bonds, lease payments and activation of liquidity lines for central banks to ensure countries and businesses can continue to purchase essential commodities without weakening the banking sector.

"This should be coupled with policies to keep businesses open in order to maintain jobs," noted Dr Songwe.

In addition to debt relief, the continent is also seeking intervention for weak healthcare systems that could be overwhelmed in case of an exponential rise in infections.

The ministers appealed for healthcare funding, including the activation of the Global Fund, grant funding and safety nets for the most vulnerable including women and children, and ensuring the availability of testing material.

The ministers are also calling for a waiver of remittance fees given the expected slowdown of major economies that are the source of remittances to Africa.

"A waiver on the remittances fees will help mitigate against the expected decline in amounts sent," said Dr Songwe.

# Tanzania Breweries Public Limited Company

## PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT



### HEADLINE RESULTS

Tanzania Breweries Public Limited Companies (TBL Plc) today announces its results for the year ended 31 December 2019.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS	2019 Tshs'M	2018 Tshs'M	% Change
Revenue	1,025,960	1,078,770	-5%
Gross Profit	397,670	409,419	-3%
Operating Profit	220,070	210,336	5%
Basic Earnings Per Share	487	428	13.7%

### Financial Review

Tanzania Breweries Public Limited Companies (TBL Plc) is pleased to announce its 2019 results. TBL Plc's revenue decreased by 5% as a result of the scaling down of Darbrew operations. A significant decline has been noted in the affordable brand segment. The Group continues to drive the strategy of more affordable packs to enable more consumers to switch out of the informal sector. During the year, the Group has discontinued its operation in traditional beer business.

Operating profit increased by 5% as a result of increased productivity in our breweries, lower brewing and packaging raw material prices, efficiencies in our logistics and lower overhead costs. As a result, our operating margin was 21% which increased by 5% from prior year.

A total of TShs 64,178 million was invested in capital expenditure during the year compared to TShs 111,966 million in the prior year.

The Group's reported cash generated from operations was TShs 297,107 million compared to TShs 303,392 million from previous year. Of this amount, TShs 273,188 million was utilized to pay corporate income tax, invest in capital expenditure, pay dividends and other financing obligations. The remaining funds have been retained for future activities.

During the year, TBL Plc declared and paid TShs 500 per share as dividend in 2019.

I would like to thank the Board, management and employees for their efforts and continued support as well as our customers, consumers and all stakeholders for their loyalty.

Philip Redman  
Managing Director TBL Plc  
Date

### Company Profile

Tanzania Breweries Public Limited Companies (TBL Plc), a member of the Anheuser-Busch InBev group of companies, manufactures sells and distributes clear beer, alcoholic fruit beverages and non-alcoholic beverages within Tanzania. TBL Plc, as a major player in the beverage sector, is committed to the exporting of its products to niche and neighboring markets under the East Africa common market trading arrangement.

TBL Plc has a controlling interest in Tanzania Distilleries Limited, Darbrew Limited and Kibo Breweries Limited. TBL's most popular clear beer brands include Safari Lager, Kilimanjaro Premium Lager, Ndogo Special Malt, Castle Lager and Castle Lite. Other prominent brands associated with the TBL group are Konyagi Gin and Redds Premium Cold. TBL Plc Company is listed on the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange, employs about 1,433 people and is represented throughout the country with four clear beer breweries, a spirit manufacturing facility, a traditional beer manufacturing facility and 8 distribution depots.

### TANZANIA BREWERIES PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANIES (TBL PLC) AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES

#### Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

For the year ended 31 December 2019

Group	2019 Tshs M	2018 Tshs M	Change in %
Revenue	1,025,960	1,078,770	-5%
Cost of sales	(628,290)	(669,351)	-5%
Gross profit	397,670	409,419	-3%
Selling and distribution costs	(118,688)	(128,164)	
Administrative expenses	(50,258)	(54,701)	
Other expenses	(7,623)	(16,277)	
Fair value gain/(loss)			
On derivatives	(1,031)	59	
Operating profit	220,070	210,336	5%
Finance income	2,777	1,914	
Finance costs	(1,349)	(1,315)	
Profit before income tax	221,498	210,935	
Income tax expense	(71,286)	(77,916)	
Profit for the year	150,212	133,019	13%
Attributable to:			
Non-controlling interests	6,552	6,573	
Owners of the parent	143,660	126,446	
	150,212	133,019	
Other comprehensive income:			
Items that may be reclassified to profit or loss:			
Cash flow hedges:			
Gain on re-measurement of defined benefit plan	308	67	
Deferred tax on re-measurement of defined pension benefit	(92)	(20)	
Total comprehensive income	150,428	133,066	
Attributable to:			
Non-controlling interests	6,550	6,571	
Equity holders of parent company	143,878	126,495	
	150,428	133,066	13%

### TANZANIA BREWERIES PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANIES (TBL PLC) AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES

#### Statement of Financial Position

For the year ended 31 December 2019

Group	31 Dec 2019 Tshs M	31 Dec 2018 Tshs M	Change in %
ASSETS			
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	542,214	579,902	
Intangible assets	43,334	43,978	
Right-of-use assets	10,302	-	
Investments	88	88	
Deferred income tax asset	6,319	6,534	
	602,257	630,502	-4%
Current assets			
Derivative financial instruments	32	328	
Inventories	112,726	97,424	
Trade and other receivables	100,439	135,770	
Restricted bank balance	38,300	38,300	
Bank and cash balances	85,574	63,518	
	337,071	335,340	1%
Total assets	939,328	965,842	-3%
EQUITY			
Capital and reserves attributable to owners of the parent			
Share capital	29,506	29,506	
Share premium	45,346	45,346	
Retained earnings	410,359	414,009	
Other reserves	66,643	66,643	
	551,854	555,504	-1%
Non-controlling interests	13,867	7,317	
Total equity	565,721	562,821	1%
LIABILITIES			
Non-current liabilities			
Deferred income tax liabilities	35,706	37,969	
Lease liability	4,900	-	
Defined pension benefits	1,933	1,933	
	42,539	39,902	7%
Current liabilities			
Provisions	12,862	12,704	
Trade and other payables	298,267	342,305	
Current income tax payable	12,915	5,294	
Lease liability	5,811	-	
Borrowings	1,214	2,816	
	331,068	363,119	-9%
Total liabilities	373,607	403,021	-7%
Total Equity and Liabilities	939,328	965,842	-3%

### TANZANIA BREWERIES PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANIES (TBL PLC) AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES

#### Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 31 December 2019

	2019 Tshs M	2018 Tshs M	Change in %
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	297,107	303,392	-2%
Interest paid	(1,946)	(951)	
Income tax paid	(65,284)	(76,911)	
Net cash inflow from operating activities	229,877	225,530	2%
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment and intangible assets	(64,178)	(111,966)	
Interest received	2,777	1,914	
Dividend received	-	-	
Proceeds from disposal of property, plant and equipment	54	188	
Net cash used in investing activities	(61,347)	(109,864)	-44%
Cash flows from financing activities			
Dividends paid to owners of the parent	(137,753)	(206,431)	
Payment of lease liability	(6,858)	-	
Repayment of bank borrowings	-	241	
Net cash utilised in financing activities	(144,611)	(206,672)	-30%
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	23,919	(91,006)	
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year	60,702	152,684	
Exchange loss on cash and cash equivalent	(261)	(976)	
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	84,360	60,702	39%

### TANZANIA BREWERIES PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANIES (TBL PLC) AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES

#### Statement of Changes in Equity

For the year ended 31 December 2019

	Attributable to owners of the parent					Non-controlling interests	Total Equity
	Share capital	Share premium	Other reserves	Retained earnings	Total		
Million Tanzania Shillings							
Group							
Year ended 31 December 2019:							
Balance at 1 January 2019	29,506	45,346	66,643	414,009	555,504	7,317	562,821
Profit for the year	-	-	-	143,660	143,660	6,552	150,212
Other comprehensive income							
Re-measurement of defined benefit plan (net of tax)	-	-	-	218	218	(2)	216
Total comprehensive income	-	-	-	143,878	143,878	6,550	150,428
Transaction with owners							
Dividends declared	-	-	-	(147,528)	(147,528)	-	(147,528)
At 31 December 2019	29,506	45,346	66,643	410,359	551,854	13,867	565,721



# The Guardian

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THURSDAY 2 APRIL 2020

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

## Let us reaffirm our commitment to eradicating horrendous damage caused by landmines

A land mine is an explosive device concealed under or on the ground and designed to destroy or disable enemy targets, ranging from combatants to vehicles and tanks, as they pass over or near it. Such a device is typically detonated automatically by way of pressure when a target steps on it or drives over it, although other detonation mechanisms are also sometimes used. A land mine may cause damage by direct blast effect, by fragments that are thrown by the blast, or by both.

The use of land mines is controversial because of their potential as indiscriminate weapons. They can remain dangerous many years after a conflict has ended, harming civilians and the economy. 78 countries are contaminated with land mines and 15,000-20,000 people are killed every year while countless more are maimed. Approximately 80 per cent of land mine casualties are civilian, with children as the most affected age group. Most killings occur in times of peace. With pressure from a number of campaign groups organised through the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, a global movement to prohibit their use led to the 1997 convention on the prohibition of the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines and on their destruction, also known as the Ottawa Treaty. To date, 164 nations have signed the treaty, but these do not include China, the Russian Federation, and the United States.

On 8 December 2005, the General Assembly declared that 4 April of each year shall be observed as the International Day for Mine Awareness

and Assistance in Mine Action.

It called for continued efforts by States, with the assistance of the United Nations and relevant organizations, to foster the establishment and development of national mine-action capacities in countries where mines and explosive remnants of war constitute a serious threat to the safety, health and lives of the civilian population, or an impediment to social and economic development at the national and local levels.

For over 20 years, the work of the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) has been driven by the needs of affected people and tailored to the threat of explosive hazards faced by civilians, peacekeepers and humanitarians.

UNMAS works to save lives, to facilitate deployment of UN missions and the delivery of humanitarian assistance, to protect civilians, to support the voluntary return of the internally displaced and refugees, to enable humanitarian and recovery activities and to advocate for international humanitarian and human rights law.

Each year, UNMAS organises a multimedia exhibition at the United Nations Headquarters in New York to raise awareness on threats caused by mines, explosive remnants of war, and improvised explosive devices. With co-organizers, UNMAS will unveil a photo exhibition featuring the "Safe Ground" campaign, which promotes the linkage between mine action, sport and the Sustainable Development Goals by showing how replacing minefields with playing fields brings communities together and raises awareness about victims and survivors of armed conflict.

## Peace culture required for sustainable global development

THE urgent requirement for a new ethical peace culture has become obvious at the dawn of the third millennium, considering the extent of cultural violence and the arsenals of nuclear weapons that threaten to destroy the Earth.

There is therefore urgent need for a new peace culture, literature, and media, which involve both regional and global scopes and implications. In view of the fact that the growing global culture of violence has become the greatest risk factor for the sustainability and future development of human civilisation, the deep causes and dangerous implications of violence ought to be examined and various ways to curb it and to replace it with a culture of peace.

The building of a powerful culture of peace can impart to the individual a new global identity, and it can guide us in making the world a secure place from wars, hunger, famine, and environmental catastrophes. There is a crucial necessity to develop peace literature, films, television, radio, and satellite peace programmes, art, drama, Internet sites, and video, at the regional and global levels, that would usher in and promote a powerful and influential peace culture and a global peace climate. There is likewise a necessity for a new revolution of objectivity.

The International Day of Conscience constitutes a means of regularly mobilising the efforts of the international community to promote peace, tolerance, inclusion, understanding and solidarity.

The preamble to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that "disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of humankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common

people." Moreover, the declaration states that "all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood."

The task of the United Nations to save future generations from the scourge of war requires transformation towards a culture of peace, which consists of values, attitudes and behaviours that reflect and inspire social interaction and sharing based on the principles of freedom, justice and democracy, all human rights, tolerance and solidarity, that reject violence and endeavour to prevent conflicts by tackling their root causes to solve problems through dialogue and negotiation and that guarantee the full exercise of all rights and the means to participate fully in the development process of their society.

Conscious of the need for the creation of conditions of stability and well-being and peaceful and friendly relations based on respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion, the General Assembly declared 5 April the International Day of Conscience.

The task of constructing a culture of peace requires comprehensive educational, cultural, social and civic action, in which each person has something to learn and something to give and share. It addresses all ages and all groups; it is an open-minded global strategy with a specific purpose, namely, to make a culture of peace inseparable from culture per se and to take root in people's hearts and minds.

Peace is not only the absence of differences and conflicts. It is a positive, dynamic, participatory process linked intrinsically to democracy, justice and development for all by which differences are respected, dialogue is encouraged and conflicts are constantly transformed by non-violent means into new avenues of cooperation.

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## The nation must speak with one voice and act with one aim to defeat COVID-19

By Special Correspondent

A pandemic is not an ordinary health issue. It must lead to far reaching changes in all aspects of national life. The National Assembly in Gambia has suspended law making. The judiciary has suspended law administration and enforcement. However, arrests and detention are still taking place. Police stations are likely to be congested. Prisons will continue to harbour remanded prisoners without trial.

Common sense teaches that the suspension of court proceedings should not be automatic. A grace period should be given to allow bail to be accorded to all those who are in custody to acquire bail to decongest the remand wing. The Inspector General of police must also ensure that bail is given to those arrested by police officers.

A method of queuing outside police stations and be granted bail in an organised fashion without putting police officers at risk is urgent. Hand washing facilities should be available outside all police stations and all police officers should be provided with disinfectants that should be used at all times while on duty. This should be followed by the provision of hand washing facilities at the entrances of all markets, health facilities, garages, offices, airports, seaports, mosques, churches, so that general washing of hands in addition to promotion of reduction of social gatherings requiring close contact with people. A culture of cleanliness should be the gift given to Gambian society by a killer disease.



It is also important for the authorities to bear in mind that extra ordinary measures should not lead to paralysis in managing the affairs of society. The object of public service is to promote general welfare.

Any measures taken to address the coronavirus should promote general welfare. Hence all sectors of society should be alerted to prevent shortages of food, drugs, soap and other means of fighting COVID-19.

Panic is not the answer. The real answer is organisation and anticipation that the government on its part will remain engaged with the population by informing them of all its plans in advance so that the people will take ownership of decisions made to fight the illness.

The closure of borders and airports should be undertaken on the basis of consultation with other sovereign governments and time frame given and the public fully informed of the causes and consequences.

Passengers should be informed before boarding of what to expect when they disembark. Their first port of call should be the health facilities and places where passengers are taken for screening should not appear like detention centres, but observatories where health facilities and the right environment are provided to promote general welfare.

Families should be informed what the state is providing and how they could supplement state support to enhance greater comfort.

The period of residential observation should be linked to a voluntary spirit rather than implying forceful detention. Schools should also be provided with facilities for washing hands at the entrances when they resume even if the threat subsides.

The transitional period should be accompanied by advice to those who provide goods and services to maintain the spirit of solidarity that a nation needs to avoid panic, food shortage, hoarding, skyrocketing prices and sale of inferior products just to exploit public desperation.

A new mindset is necessary to address the challenges of COVID-19 and to sustain the mindset to build the requisite preventive strategy to address any other epidemic or pandemic.

## Coronavirus: Why the third wave could be the deadliest

By Ricken Patel

AS dark as coronavirus crisis seems right now, the fact is it could get much worse. First the virus hit China. Then, it swept across Europe and North America. But the third wave - when it hits poor countries in Africa, Asia and South America - could be the deadliest yet. And without debt relief, the wave could be a tsunami.

Rich countries have been absolutely ravaged by coronavirus - healthy populations, strong economies, and the world's most advanced and well-funded healthcare systems all brought to their knees in a matter of weeks.

Imagine then what will happen when it rips through countries plagued by malnutrition, HIV/AIDS, unemployment and poverty; where 3 billion people

can't even wash their hands with soap and water, according to UNICEF.

Several countries in Africa spend more on servicing their debts than on healthcare and education. Countries like Angola and Ghana spend 55% of government revenue repaying debts! We can't expect these governments to stop a pandemic while hemorrhaging all their precious resources.

And they could be just days away from disaster. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, director general of the WHO, has said: "The next two weeks will decide the fate of the African continent in terms of COVID-19."

It makes absolutely no sense for countries with struggling healthcare systems preparing for an oncoming pandemic to be crippled with unpayable debts right now. What they need is to be able to inject cash into their healthcare

systems, and help their people stay at home, so they can stop this virus spreading. Not only is that moral, during a global pandemic, it's effective.

Pakistan and Ethiopia have already called for debt relief, and the World Bank has asked G20 leaders to consider the option so that the world's poorest countries can spend their precious resources on fighting the virus. This is exactly the kind of unexpected catastrophe for which debt relief was designed. Rich countries have a fighting chance but the poorer ones are staring into an abyss if they don't get help now.

And let's not forget that leaders have agreed to this before. In 2005, the G8 cancelled the debt of the world's 18 most heavily indebted countries to the tune of \$40 billion. After Ebola, the IMF cancelled \$100m in debt for the world's worst-hit places.

Rich countries have thrown everything they've got at this crisis, just to stay afloat. Without debt relief we'll be leaving some of the poorest people in the world to sink. Across the developed world we've seen mortgage and rent payments paused, bailouts being packaged for businesses and corporations, and checks written for individuals who are facing unemployment. These are the essential strategies for every country looking to both curb this virus and stem an economic meltdown.

It may seem like rich countries have enough on their plates already. So many countries are struggling to contain the virus at home, let alone offer help abroad. But this is a global pandemic. Either we beat it together, or we will all lose this fight.



By Seleshi Bekele

The COVID-19 pandemic and disparate international response to the deadly virus has put diplomacy on a standstill. International organizations, including the United Nations, have virtually shuttered their offices. Bilateral engagements have also dwindled amid travel restrictions and countries turn their attentions inward to managing the Corona virus.

Perhaps one exception is North-East Africa region, where heightened tensions and diplomatic squabble is quietly playing out in the background following stalled negotiations between Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt over the filling and operation of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD). Egyptian officials are jet-setting across Africa and the Middle East to shore up pressure on Ethiopia.

This is not surprising. The Nile, one of the longest river basins in Africa, is home to a little over half a billion people, who depend on its waters for their livelihood. The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, a major development project on the Nile river, is playing a central role in water development discourse with tremendous potential for regional integration and economic development. However, progress on reasonable sharing and utilization of the Nile waters has eluded the Nile Basin countries thanks to unseemly politicking by Egypt and its insistence on maintaining externally imposed colonial-era agreements that are contrary to the interests of other countries.

Ethiopian and Egyptian

# Putting the facts straight on the grand Ethiopian renaissance dam



divergence over the GERD began in 2011 when Addis Abeba launched the project. It returned to international spotlight in September 2019 after Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi used his speech at the United Nations to frame the Dam as a threat to his country's "water security" and enlisted the international community, specifically the President of the United States, to personally intervene. Subsequently, the two countries and Sudan agreed to involve the U.S. government and the World Bank, as observers, in their trilateral technical negotiations to reach an amicable agreement on the initial filling and operation of the GERD. However, the negotiations broke down after promising start and much progress.

Ethiopia and Egypt are back to trading accusations over failure to reach an agreement. The questionable role of American facilitators further exacerbated diplomatic wrangling, public mistrust and politicization.

Egypt has cunningly built the narrative that it is the only natural benefactor of the Nile waters; that the Ethiopian Dam poses an existential threat to the Egyptian people; that the issue of water security is a matter of human rights for Egypt, and that given the threat of water scarcity amidst rapidly growing population even an iota of its share of the Nile water should not be reduced. (Egypt currently receives 55.5 billion cubic meters per annum under the 1959 agreement between Khartoum, Cairo and Great Britain. Ethiopia was not party

to that agreement.)

It is time for Ethiopia and the Nile basin countries to straighten the facts and unmask the flagrant injustice and correct the hegemonic Egyptian narrative. For one, the Nile water is a resource and wealth for the over 500 million people living in and around the river system. In Ethiopia, where about 86 percent of the Blue Nile water originates, it is a lifeline for more than 40 million people who eke out a living in the basin areas. The river also covers 63 percent of land in Sudan and provides 77 percent of fresh water for more than 45 million people. Hence, no country should have an exclusive right to the Nile's water on the basis of obsolete colonial treaties.

The Egyptian stranglehold

on the Nile waters is unacceptable. Egypt has twice ignored protests from upper riparian countries when it built the Aswan High Dam, and two other colossal projects, namely the Toshka and Al-Slam canals that took the Nile water from its natural course in contravention of established norms. Yet, Cairo seeks to dictate what other riparian states can and can't do with the Nile waters. Basin countries must now come together anew to challenge this hypocrisy and seek a judicious and equitable use of the Nile waters.

Population pressures

Contrary to the deceptive portrayal of Egyptian politicians and media, Ethiopia or all Nile Basin countries have no illusion to understand the economic and psychological significance of the Nile river for the people of Egypt. It is also unnatural to think that Ethiopians have a desire to block the water from flowing downstream or make the Egyptian people and civilization perish. The fear-mongering narrative is not only politically expedient, it is also intended to sow discord in the region.

One thing must be crystal clear: In this day and age, no one would be allowed to starve and perish from deprivation of water resource. All the same, it is important to understand that upper riparian states face tremendous demographic and developmental pressures. They need to feed a growing

population; respond to rapid urbanization; modernize subsistence agriculture and light their hospitals and education facilities using hydropower.

Demographic change has always been the primary driving force for social, economic and technological advancement. The Nile basin, with more than 500 million people, is heavily impacted by population growth, in which the youth constitute the largest portion. Generally, demand for water is expected to increase in the coming decades as population growth raises water consumption levels, not to mention added demand from new investments, particularly in agriculture and manufacturing.

Egypt often points to its projected population growth to assert its exclusive use of the river Nile. However, all basin countries, including Ethiopia, can make an equally compelling argument given their similar or even more pronounced population explosions. Ethiopia and Egypt are also arguably more heavily dependent on the Nile river than any other basin country and hence there should not be an exclusive case to make than cooperation for fair and equitable sharing of the Nile water.

Access to electricity as a human right

If Egypt is worried about "water security," abject poverty is a matter of existence for millions of Ethiopians, who depend

on recurrent humanitarian assistance and safety net programs. The dire straits of the economy and demands from fast-growing population makes the use of water resources ever more critical. Energy production is a key pillar for the country's economic development.

Still, above and beyond aspirations of development, access to electricity, in and of itself, is a fundamental human right. Under the globally agreed 2030 Agenda, access to energy is a vital, cross-cutting element of infrastructure that is critical for achieving poverty reduction in all its forms and many of the Sustainable Development Goals. However, recent rates of growth in electricity access indicate that Africa will not meet this target. Furthermore, the current number of people without electricity is expected to continue with Africa's population boom.

Egypt, as a state party to the SDGs as well as the African Union Agenda 2063, is fully aware that efficient utilization of water resources is central to achieve many of the goals set by these development targets.

For context, Egypt, the main beneficiary of the Nile river, has 100 percent electricity access while nearly 60 million Ethiopians still live off-the-grid. According to a recent World Bank and African Development Forum joint study, a number of other Nile basin countries have less than 25 percent access to electricity. Only 25 to 50 percent of Kenyan and Sudanese households have access to electricity.

**Seleshi Bekele IS Ethiopia's Minister of Water, Irrigation and Energy**

By Victor Bhoroma

The Zimbabwean government announced that it was going to introduce a managed floating exchange rate system in a bid to contain exchange rate volatility.

The move is also aimed at bringing transparency and efficiency to the interbank market, which has been dogged by liquidity challenges since its February 2019 launch. As of December 2019, only US\$1.5 billion had been traded on the interbank market versus local demand exceeding US\$7 billion per year.

To achieve efficiency, an electronic foreign currency trading platform based on the Reuters system will be put in place. It is envisaged the platform will allow banks and bureaux de change to trade foreign currency freely while restricting the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) role to monitoring and intervening only when necessary.

Despite liberalising the interbank market, the government gazetted General Notice 583 of 2020, an exchange control measure suspending the fungibility of all dual listed shares trading on the Zimbabwe Stock Exchange (ZSE). The latest exchange control directive will affect the exchange of Old Mutual (OMU), PPC (PPC.zw) and SeedCo International (SCIL) shares. However, the directive will not apply to trades done on or before March 13, 2020 provided they are settled by March 18, 2020. The regulations are accompanied by a Securities and Exchange Commission (SECZ) audit on all transaction inflows for dual listed shares conducted on or before June 1 2019.

## Achieving an efficient interbank market



The suspension of fungibility on dual listed shares was once effected in May 2008 before the Zimbabwean dollar crashed to record levels in the months that followed. The latest move will somewhat halt the outflow of foreign currency through the official financial system but it falls short on ending the calculation of the Old Mutual Implied Rate (OMIR) which can still be calculated using relative share prices of the Old Mutual Counter.

The press statement by Treasury points that commercial banks will be market makers and the Reuters system will generate daily exchange rates as opposed to the

current situation where the central bank determines the interbank rate and wields unfettered control on the allocation of foreign currency. The directive compels the central bank to terminate the gold incentive to local producers; to report all foreign currency inflows to the treasury and to release all surplus foreign currency onto the interbank on a daily/weekly basis.

Surplus being classified as any amount exceeding the requirements for servicing external debt and priority government uses. Further the central bank was directed to gradually end quasi-fiscal activities of allocating foreign currency to various

importers through letters of credit (LCs) and let all importers access foreign currency via the interbank market through their respective banks. The move by treasury is aimed at clipping central bank wings amid accusations by local producers that foreign currency is not being allocated efficiently and the shortages are being caused by sub-interbank rate privileges extended to selected importers on the local market especially petroleum companies.

In 2019, Zimbabwe received export earnings of over US\$4.2 billion, International remittances worth US\$1.2 billion and Foreign Direct Investments totaling US\$259

million. Of the export earnings figure, the central bank retained over 35% (US\$1.5 billion) and it is this portion of surrendered earnings that the treasury now wants accountability on. The central bank has been reluctant to let the interbank market to freely float as that would mean printing more money to cater for surrendered earnings while also fuelling inflation. A more sustainable way to manage inflation is to end subsidies of various commodities that saw the central bank inject more than ZW\$5 billion into the economy in 2019 alone.

However it is unlikely that subsidies will be cut considering the political

considerations behind their existence. Foreign currency demand will however remain high as local production plummets due to a number of supply side constraints. The local retailing of fuel and critical raw materials in foreign currency will further add pressure to the little foreign currency available on the interbank market. Zimbabwe's foreign currency woes have also been driven by growth in broad money supply (Over ZW\$34.5 billion as of December 2019) and decline in market confidence which forces local producers and consumers to seek shelter in either the US dollar or South African rand. As such reducing money supply growth is an efficient way of achieving stability on the interbank market.

Exchange control liberalisation is the panacea to the low confidence currently prevailing on the financial markets. Zimbabwe operated under such a regime during the government of national unity (GNU) period of 2009 to 2013 and the benefits were abundant for the economy.

Despite running under a recurring current account deficit averaging US\$3.75 billion in those five years, Zimbabwe did not face any foreign currency shortages.

The shortages started after the 2013 elections as a result of capital outflows (confidence biased externalisation) and the subsequent money printing that ensued after the RBZ Debt Assumption Bill of August 2014.

In Sub-Saharan Africa; Zambia, Ghana, Botswana,

Kenya and Rwanda are some of the countries that have liberal foreign exchange regimes which are backed by floating exchange rates, yet they do not face crippling foreign currency shortages affecting Zimbabwe.

Another way to achieve an efficient interbank market would be to allow exporters to keep 100% of their foreign earnings while repatriating all the export proceeds to the local financial market within a specified time (Say within 120 days). The move will ensure stability for the local currency provided the central bank terminates all consumption subsidies and implements measures to deal with extreme capital outflows. As of December 2019, foreign currency accounts (FCA) balances totalled US\$785 million.

It is estimated that over US\$1 billion was stashed in foreign banks by local exporters in 2019, while the Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission (Zacc) pointed that over US\$7 billion in cash and properties have been stashed in foreign countries by various government officials and private players. A freely floating exchange rate is one way to ensure that most of these stashed funds are repatriated back to the formal market and help grow the local economy.

It is fair to point that Zimbabwe's interbank market has always been managed by the central bank and its efficiency is very much dependent on the amount of foreign currency pumped into the market by the central bank going forward. Market determination of exchange rates

is central to the gradual elimination of the powerful parallel market, which currently offers more than double the rate prevailing on the interbank market.

Ideally, the central bank should play no role in foreign currency allocation (independently or otherwise) and the government should meet its foreign currency needs via tax revenues which are partly being charged in foreign currency as well. A managed exchange rate means the central bank will continue to play a role on the interbank market while maintaining export surrender requirements. Nevertheless it would be beneficial if the central bank would be transparent in the allocation of its foreign currency while adhering strictly to dumping all the surplus foreign currency earnings on the interbank market on a daily or weekly basis as directed by Treasury.

The use of free funds to import various goods and services is yet another tacit admission to re-dollarisation as not many producers will hustle to get foreign currency and sell their stock in a depreciating local currency. Exchange rate liberalisation will definitely result in the spike of prices in the short term but it provides a sustainable way of market price discovery and channeling of all foreign currency to the formal market in the long term. After all, the 2009-2013 free market policies provide evidence that the market can self-regulate with limited central bank intervention.

**Bhoroma is a marketer by profession, freelance economic analyst and holds an MBA from the University of Zimbabwe.**



# The world's problems don't stop because of a pandemic

By Ela Vasilescu

I put on jeans today. On Friday, when I was still in pajamas by 3 p.m., I spoke to a friend outside of Italy. She told me about her day: going to work, picking up her daughter from school. I started laughing. Intrigued, she asked why.

"We're living on different planets right now," I replied, adding: "Going out and about, taking the kids to school and picking them up - it just feels like a different reality."

A few days ago, it was a cold, rainy day in Florence. The atmosphere was gloomy. While cooking dinner, my husband joked that our lives seem to revolve around eating and sleeping. I nodded. I'd spent most of my day in bed with a runny nose and a headache.

"Great time to catch a cold," I laughed while sipping a hot, lemony drink for the tenth time that day.

When I checked in with friends and family, I learned that most of them are about to lose everything they've worked for in the past year. Some of them, us included, woke up in debt.

Today marks eight whole days of lockdown for us. And, today, I put on jeans.



I woke up energised, probably from the litres of hot water with lemon and honey I've been drinking. But also because it was trash day.

I rushed to the bathroom, washed my face, put on some face cream, and opened my closet with a huge smile. I chose a pair of jeans and a nice sweater. I took my time getting dressed. I went to the kitchen and excitedly removed the trash bag, then put on my shoes.

As I opened the door, I turned

to my people: "I'm going out!" I cried. My daughter laughed: "You're only taking the trash out!"

I stepped into the empty street. No one was around. Our garbage containers are less than 100 meters away from our house, and it takes a minute to reach them. For seven days, the view from our balcony was all we could see of the outside world.

Suddenly, I heard the squeak of a gate. A neighbour was

taking the trash out, too. He adjusted his pace to remain at a safe distance behind me. He allowed me to throw my bag into the dumpster, and as I stepped away, he followed.

Before the lockdown, I would have raised my eyebrows. I would have been wary of a man following me from a steady distance. Today, I appreciated it. How quickly perspectives change. How quickly we adjust.

I went back inside and spoke words I never thought would

leave my mouth: "Taking the trash out was such an amazing thing to do!" We all laughed.

It's midafternoon, and I can still see people taking walks on the street. People jogging. Congregating. I understand the urge, not the action. The sun is shining, inviting, alluring. Distancing ourselves is not an easy task to manage, but it's such a small one compared to the consequences.

I've read the pleas of nurses and doctors, medical staff urging people to stay home. People are dying alone in hospitals without the possibility of being touched or saying goodbye to their loved ones. It's heartbreaking. I read some of my friends' messages, heard how they couldn't buy groceries after waiting in long lines because the shelves had been emptied.

I also plead, as they do: Stay home! Be kind. Think of others. We are all in this together.

The world's problems didn't stop because of this pandemic. The pandemic was simply added to the list of issues the world was already grappling with.

Some still fight for custody; others are still poor. Some don't even have a roof over their heads.

People are still dealing with PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder), some are literally locked in abusive relationships, and others are having trouble reaching out for help though they contemplate suicide every single day.

There is still so much evil in the world. We are focused on the virus, but that does not negate humanity's ongoing issues.

There is a Romanian saying that roughly translates into: "The old lady combs her hair while the world is on fire!" Don't be that oblivious old lady, the one who can't see beyond her own life.

In our house, we invented our own saying to help us when our seven-year-old daughter is bratty, or overstimulated, or when - like most children - she believes she's the centre of the universe.

We look at her and ask: "Who is the most important person in this house?" She looks at us, lowers her gaze, and answers: "All of us." We reply: "Who is the most important person in the world?" She lifts her gaze and shows us a big smile: "All of us!"

Stay home. Be kind. We are all in this together. And if a seven-year-old understands why she can't go out for walks, I'm sure you can too.

The coronavirus outbreak is rapidly evolving. Stay correctly and adequately informed.

**A dispatch from Italy, and a lesson in looking out for each other. Ela Vasilescu is a story hunter/writer based in Florence, Italy.**

## Some lockdown regulations may be invalid because they discriminate on the basis of race or are not authorised by law

By Pierre De Vos

It is laudable that the government has taken drastic steps to curb the spread of the Coronavirus. However, this must be done in accordance of the law and by respecting all the rights protected in the Bill of Rights.

On Monday, South Africa's Constitutional Court declined to hear an application from a group styling itself the *Hola Bon Renaissance Foundation*, in which the group sought to challenge the constitutionality of the state's recently gazetted shutdown regulations. The application was badly drafted, to say the least: It was as if one of the public protector's lawyers had prepared the papers while high on at least two caps of acid. Some of the regulations may be unlawful and invalid, either because the legislation may not authorise the restrictions or because they unfairly discriminate on the basis of race.

Day five of the lockdown. Reports streaming in of members of the South African Police Service (SAPS) (some of them in civilian dress and covering their faces with balaclavas) and the South African National Defence Force (SANDF), terrorising people by administering humiliating physical "punishments", and by assaulting and, in at least three cases, alleged murdering members of the public accused of not obeying lockdown regulations.

These are hopefully "isolated incidents", but what is worrying is that large numbers of South Africans on social media seem to support the unlawful and humiliating physical punishments and assaults meted out by SAPS and SANDF members.

As few people would support the members of the SAPS whipping, say, Markus



Jooste, Ace Magashule or Dudu Myeni, to punish them for their alleged involvement in corruption, I am going to assume support for the unlawful action taken against mostly working-class and poor people is largely based on class prejudice and on the mistaken and misguided belief that people who allegedly disobey any of the lockdown rules forfeit all their rights.

It goes without saying that members of the SANDF and SAPS are not authorised to "punish" individuals who they believe are breaking the lockdown rules by forcing them to do exercises, or by assaulting or killing them. One can only be punished if you have been convicted of a crime at a fair and open trial conducted by an independent judge or magistrate.

Turning a blind eye to the extra-judicial punishment meted out by members of the SAPS or SANDF of individuals who allegedly break lockdown rules will lead to abuse, including murder, as this case and this case illustrate. No surprise then that in the first four days of coronavirus lockdown police watchdog IPID received 21 complaints against the SAPS, including three deaths caused by police action, two corruption complaints and one of rape. These actions by some SANDF and SAPS members are criminal in nature and those responsible should be arrested,

prosecuted and punished.

But what about the lockdown regulations themselves? Clearly, it is laudable that the government took drastic measures to limit the movement of people and to radically reduce the opportunities for individuals to pass the Covid-19 virus on to one another. But this is not the end of the matter.

Some of the regulations seemed to have been crafted without taking account of the fact that large numbers of South Africans do not live in houses and apartments in the suburbs. The regulations have a disproportionately negative impact on poor people, especially people living in informal settlements and may also (as I point out below) in certain circumstances constitute unfair discrimination in contravention of the Constitution.

Moreover, as I pointed out last week, some of the regulations - including those that define what constitute essential goods that may be sold in the shops - could well be void for vagueness. While I will not repeat that argument here, I wish to discuss other legal questions that arise about the validity of some of the measures instituted to enforce the lockdown.

First, some of the regulations are unnecessarily inflexible and do not provide for legally required exceptions, especially the regulations that ban the movement of people. Thus, many di-

vorced parents with children have a custody arrangement formalised in terms of an order of court, which requires children to spend some time with one parent and some time with another.

However, the regulations require parents to ignore these court orders and to commit contempt of court as children may not be taken from one parent to another during the lockdown as required by custody orders. Put differently, the regulations purport to circumvent court orders, thus trenching on the separation of powers doctrine and interfering with the independence of the judiciary.

The failure to accommodate custody arrangements also causes unnecessary trauma and has led to severe hardship for some parents and children, something that could not possibly be in the best interest of the child as required by section 28(2) of the Constitution.

Second, I fear that the provisions regulating who can provide an essential service and who not, may unfairly discriminate against informal traders on the basis of race in contravention of section 9(3) of the Bill of Rights. I am not at all convinced that the authorities are interpreting the current regulations correctly when they claim that these regulations prohibit informal traders from selling essential goods such as

food. But assuming that the regulations either prohibit or make it very difficult for informal traders to continue selling essential goods, the regulations indirectly discriminate against informal traders on the basis of race.

Section 9(3) of the Bill of Rights prohibits both direct and indirect unfair discrimination, as the Constitutional Court explained in *Pretoria City Council v Walker*, indirect discrimination occurs when the legal rule (that appears to be neutral) disproportionately impacts on the members of a group protected from discrimination. For example, a rule that requires all students to write tests on Saturday mornings indirectly discriminates against Seventh Day Adventists, who are not allowed to engage in such activities on Saturdays.

In the case of informal traders, a disproportionate number of informal traders are black. While the regulations do not mention race, the regulations disproportionately impact on black people and therefore discriminate against informal traders on the basis of race.

The question would be whether this discrimination is fair or unfair. I think a strong argument could be

made that the discrimination is not fair and that the regulations dealing with this are therefore unconstitutional and invalid. The group being discriminated against is vulnerable and has historically suffered from discrimination and marginalisation. The impact of the discrimination on this group (as well as their families) is potentially devastating because it literally takes away this group's ability to earn a living. This means it would not be easy to convince the court that the discrimination is fair and therefore permitted.

On the other hand, it is not clear why the regulations make it impossible for informal traders to continue with their business, but allow formal traders to do so. It would not be sufficient to argue that it is bureaucratically difficult to regulate informal traders to ensure they only sell essential goods. This is because the intensity of the discrimination cannot be trumped by the mere need to avoid bureaucratic inconvenience. It is also not clear that any evidence exists that the virus is more likely to spread at the local Shoprite with many shoppers inside, than at the informal trader on the street corner sitting in the open air and serving one customer every few minutes. The purpose of the discrimination is therefore not so pressing that it would override the serious impact the discrimination will have on those affected.

For these reasons I will argue that a strong case could be made that the regulations unfairly discriminate against informal traders by making it impossible (or very difficult) for them to continue selling essential goods.

Third, it is not clear that section 27(2) of the Disaster Management Act authorises the government to prohibit anyone from selling non-essential goods. Section 27(2)(i) of the act does explicitly authorise the government to suspend or limit "the sale, dispensing or transportation of alcoholic beverages in the disaster-stricken or threatened area". The prohibition on the sale of liquor is therefore expressly authorised. But section 27 does not authorise the prohibition on the sale of any other goods.

Given the fact that the legislature expressly authorised restrictions on the sale of liquor, but failed to authorise restrictions on the sale of other goods, it is not unreasonable to conclude that the legislature did not intend giving the executive the power to prohibit the sale of any other goods apart from liquor. The ban on the sale of all non-essential goods may, therefore, be invalid.

It is true that section 27(2)(n) authorises the government to take "other steps that may be necessary to prevent an escalation of the disaster, or to alleviate, contain and minimise the effects of the disaster". But given the fact that section 27(2)(i) - which deals with the suspension or limitations on the sale of goods - only allows such suspension or limitation to be imposed as far as liquor is concerned (and not for other goods), it is not so clear that this catch-all provision can be used as authority for the ban on the sale of all non-essential goods.

It is laudable that the government has taken drastic steps to curb the spread of the Covid-19 virus. However, this must be done in accordance of the law and by respecting all the rights protected in the Bill of Rights. To the extent that the current regulations are not authorised by law, or to the extent that the regulations unfairly discriminate against anyone, the regulations are invalid.





# BAT working on potential covid-19 vaccine through USA bio-tech subsidiary

KENTUCKY, USA

BAT's US bio-tech subsidiary, Kentucky BioProcessing (KBP), is developing a potential vaccine for COVID-19 and is now in pre-clinical testing. If testing goes well, BAT is hopeful that, with the right partners and support from government agencies, between 1 and 3 million doses of the vaccine could be manufactured per week, beginning in June.

While KBP remains a commercial operation, the intention is that its work around the Covid-19 vaccine project will be carried out on a not for profit basis.

The vaccine in development uses BAT's proprietary, fast-growing tobacco plant technology which has several advantages over conventional vaccine production technology:

- It is potentially safer given that tobacco plants can't host pathogens which cause human disease.
- It is faster because the elements of the vaccine accumulate in tobacco plants much more quickly - 6 weeks in tobacco plants versus several months using conventional methods.
- The vaccine formulation KBP is developing remains stable at room temperature, unlike conventional vaccines which often require refrigeration.
- It has the potential to deliver an effective immune response in a single dose.

BAT's US subsidiary, Reynolds American Inc, acquired KBP in 2014, with the aim of using some of its unique tobacco extraction technology to aid further development of its new category non-combustible products.

In 2014, KBP made headlines as one of the few companies with an effective treatment for Ebola, having manufactured ZMapp™ with California-based company

Mapp BioPharmaceuticals in partnership with the U.S. Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA).

KBP recently cloned a portion of COVID-19's genetic sequence which led to the development of a potential antigen - a substance which induces an immune response in the body and in particular, the production of antibodies. This antigen was then inserted into tobacco plants for reproduction and, once the plants were harvested, the antigen was then purified, and is now undergoing pre-clinical testing.

BAT is now exploring partnerships with government agencies to bring its vaccine to clinical studies as soon as possible. Through collaborations with government and third-party manufacturers, BAT believes that between 1 and 3 million doses per week could be manufactured.

Dr David O'Reilly, Director of Scientific Research, BAT said: "We are engaged with the US Food and Drug Administration and are seeking guidance on next steps. We have also engaged with the UK's Department for Health and Social Care, and BARDA in the US, to offer our support and access to our research with the aim of trying to expedite the development of a vaccine for Covid-19."

"Vaccine development is challenging and complex work, but we believe we have made a significant break-through with our tobacco plant technology platform and stand ready to work with Governments and all stakeholders to help win the war against Covid-19. We fully align with the United Nations plea, for a whole-of-society approach to combat global problems."

"KBP has been exploring alternative uses of the tobacco plant for some time. One such alternative use is the development of plant-based vaccines. We are committed to contributing to the global effort to halt the spread of Covid-19 using this technology."

# Climate change: Warming clips the nightingale's wings

By Matt McGrath

RISING temperatures may be having a profound physical impact on one of the world's favourite song-birds.

Researchers in Spain found that over a 20-year period, nightingales had evolved smaller wingspans.

The scientists say this is linked to a changing climate in the region which has seen the early onset of spring and increased drought.

They are concerned that this could affect the bird's ability to migrate in winter.

Famed for its ability to sing, the nightingale has a very rich repertoire as it is able to produce over 1,000 different sounds, compared to just 340 by skylarks.

Although common in many parts of Europe and Asia, the bird is mainly seen and heard in southern England.

Numbers here have declined mark-

edly over the last half century, down 90%, with multiple factors to blame including deer eating their preferred nesting sites, but also because of a changing climate.

The nightingale spends the winter in sub-Saharan Africa, with the small, brown creature clocking up huge distances during migration.

**Wing size is critical to this endeavour.**

Now, researchers say that ability to migrate may be impeded by climate change.

Scientists in Spain have studied 20 years of data on wing shape in two populations of the birds.

They found that the average wing length of the nightingales relative to their body size has decreased.

They believe this is related to changes in temperatures seen in the Mediterranean region.

"Our results show that spring is delayed and the intensity of the

summer drought is higher, which means a shorter optimal breeding period for the birds," said Dr Carolina Remacha, from Madrid's Complutense University, who led the study.

"We find the unique possibility that shorter wings are being favoured."

The researchers believe that birds like the nightingale normally adapt to the demands of migration by having longer wings, having a larger clutch size but a shorter lifespan.

However, the changing temperatures are interfering with this and provoking a response from the birds.

Faced with a shorter breeding season, the researchers believe the most successful birds are having smaller families with smaller wings.

They argue that these adaptations are likely to come at a price.

"If these changes are the response to the new environment, then obviously the ones that have been

selected, the ones with shorter wings, are the optimal nightingales for the new situation," said co-author Prof Javier Perez-Tris also from Complutense University.

"These are not the best wings for migration, but the shorter wings come in the same package."

The researchers say that the birds are continuing with the same migration patterns and destinations and therefore their survival is likely to be reduced.

While the scientists say this "mal-adaptation" is evident in the birds they have studied in Spain where there have been droughts in the summer, it may also be impacting other members of the species in different regions.

"If the climate is changing in a similar way, and the pressures are similar than you'd expect similar responses," said Dr Perez-Tris.



# AfDB Bank issues landmark bond in response to Africa's covid-19 outbreak

By Guardian Reporter

THE African Development Bank has raised up to \$3 billion in a three-year social bond targeted at alleviating the economic and social impact of the coronavirus pandemic on African economies, the bank said in a statement on its website.

Though slow to arrive in Africa, the virus has quickly spread across 45 countries on the continent, infecting nearly 3,000 people and placing strain on already fragile health systems. Estimates suggest the region will need billions of dollars to cushion the impact of the outbreak, which has triggered severe measures in many countries such as commercial lockdowns as they scramble to contain it.

"These are critical times for Africa as it addresses the challenges resulting

from the Coronavirus," said Dr. Akinwumi Adesina, AfDB President. "The Bank is taking bold measures to support African countries. We are here for Africa, and we will provide significant rapid support for countries."

Across the world, the pandemic has forced the closure of factories, disrupted supply chains, trade, travel, and is driving many economies toward recession. As the virus outbreak threatens Africa, the Bank is performing its role of assisting and preparing the African population, through the "financing of access to health and to all other essential goods, services, and infrastructure," said Tanguy Claquin, Head of Sustainable Banking at Crédit Agricole CIB.

The Fight Covid-19 Social Bond, with an interest rate of 0.75 percent, attracted interest from central banks

and official institutions, bank treasuries, and asset managers including socially responsible investors, AfDB said.

With bids exceeding \$4.6 billion, the debt instrument is the largest dollar-denominated social bond ever launched in international capital markets to date, and the largest U.S. dollar benchmark ever issued by the regional lender, according to the bank. The order book for the record-breaking bond highlights the scale of investor support, which the Bank enjoys, said the arrangers.



Fight Covid-19 was allocated to central banks and official institutions (53 percent), bank treasuries (27 percent) and asset managers (20 percent) while final bond distribution statistics were as follows - Europe (37 percent), Americas (36 percent), Asia (17 percent) Africa (8 percent) and Mid-

dle-East (1 percent).

"In a time of unprecedented market volatility, the Bank has been able to brave the capital markets in order to secure invaluable funding to help the efforts of the African continent's fight against Covid-19," said George Sager, Goldman Sachs' Executive Director for SSA Syndicate. The \$3 billion Covid-19 bond issuance, however, is the first part of the bank's comprehensive response that will soon be announced, Adesina revealed.

AfDB established its Social Bond framework in 2017 and raised the equivalent of \$2 billion through issuances denominated in Euro and Norwegian krone. In 2018, the Bank was designated by financial markets, "Second most impressive social or sustainability bond issuer" at the Global Capital SRI Awards.

**THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**  
**TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY**  
**ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED**

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) has ordered Star Media Tanzania Limited, Multichoice Tanzania Limited and Azam Digital Broadcast Limited to pay a fine of Tanzania Shillings Five Million (Tzs 5,000,000) and to issue an apology for their breach of licence conditions and the law.

The fines follow the licensee's failure to comply with Regulation 22(e) of the Electronic and Postal Communications (Digital and Other Broadcasting Networks and Services) Regulations of 2018 and Regulation 11(1) of the Electronic and Postal Communications (Radio and Television Content) Regulations of 2018.

Upon breach of the above regulations and pursuant to Section 48 of the TCRA Act, Cap.172 R: E 2017 of the Laws of Tanzania, the licences were ordered to appear before TCRA on 27th and 30th March 2020 to show cause why regulatory measures should not be taken against them for their being in breach of the law. In response thereof, the companies appeared before TCRA as ordered and acknowledged to have committed the breach.

Having considered the licensee's defence and upon being satisfied that Star Media Tanzania Limited, Multichoice Tanzania Limited and Azam Digital Broadcast Limited have breached the law, by virtue of Section 48 (2) & (3), Section 44 (2) (b) of the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority Act [Cap 172 R: E 2017], Star Media Tanzania Limited, Multichoice Tanzania Limited and Azam Digital Broadcast Limited have been ordered as follows: -

- 1) To make a public apology seven consecutive times, on the day and at the time similar to the day and time the offensive content was broadcast; and
- 2) To pay, within Thirty (30) days, a fine of TZS 5,000,000.00/= (Tanzanian Shillings Five Million).

Should Star Media Tanzania Limited, Multichoice Tanzania Limited and Azam Digital Broadcast Limited fail to comply with the above Order, TCRA shall proceed to take further regulatory and legal action against them without further Notice and at their own costs and consequences.

**ISSUED BY**  
**DIRECTOR GENERAL**  
**TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY**  
**APRIL 1, 2020**

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By Damilola Ogunbiyi

# Power in a Pandemic: Why energy access matters during coronavirus

Reliable, affordable electricity is needed to keep people connected during lockdowns and to power life-saving equipment in hospitals.

A pandemic puts pressure on every part of a country's economy and society. For developing countries that were already facing major challenges before COVID-19, this pressure will be particularly painful.

As the virus spreads, especially across Africa and parts of Asia, one of the most used preventative measures is a luxury not all countries can afford. Social distancing and stay-at-home measures being adopted in many countries are predicated on an important assumption: that populations have access to reliable, affordable electricity to stay connected and continue to communicate with public services and one another remotely.

The reality is 840 million people - predominantly in sub-Saharan Africa - are living without access to electricity and hundreds of millions more only have access to very limited or unreliable electricity. Many of these people, largely women, reside either in crowded cities or rural areas. "Sheltering in



place" in such areas for long periods of time may not be possible as energy is needed to cook and store food, or to cool homes.

The ability for doctors and first responders to treat infected populations is also based on the

assumption that clinics, medical equipment and medicines are fully functioning with access to sufficient, uninterrupted, reliable electricity. In parts of Sub-Saharan Africa, it is estimated that only 28% of health facilities

have access to reliable electricity.

As COVID-19 cases grow, we risk making a challenging situation impossible for those hospitals, health clinics, and first-line medical services as they try to treat critical patients with equip-

ment that relies on electricity. And even when treatments become available, a lack of a cold chain and refrigeration would mean rural, vulnerable populations cannot access vaccines.

Speed of deployment for solutions is critical in the eye of a pandemic. Off-grid decentralized renewable power can answer this challenge for many vulnerable communities. These energy solutions can not only allow people to access the health care they need now, but can also be an investment into the clean, sustainable energy infrastructure of the future for these countries.

However without this, the global community's efforts to contain COVID-19 may be hampered as the deadly explosion of cases continues across many parts of the world with little or no access to energy. As a result, lack of access to energy has the potential to magnify the human catastrophe and significantly slow the global recovery.

For now, here are three ways we can respond immediately to this emergency:

1. Prioritize energy solutions to power health clinics

and first responders: Front-line medical services will need to deal with emergencies during the pandemic and eventually distribute and administer safe therapeutics and, when found, vaccines for the virus, requiring uninterrupted cold chains. Those clinics that do not have access to reliable electricity in low-and-middle-income countries need to be prioritized.

2. Keep vulnerable consumers connected: We need to identify solutions for low-income households and communities currently being served by off-grid solar solutions (mini grids or solar home systems) or grid connections, who will likely be unable to afford energy bills and are most at risk of being disconnected. An important step will be to work with project developers and ensure a commitment to provide energy at low or no cost, suspend bill payments and not to disconnect households during the crisis. Governments should adopt a suite of mandatory safeguards to protect consumers, as well as work with donors and investors to support and cover costs to keep

off-grid developers and utilities in the market.

3. Increase reliable, uninterrupted, and sufficient energy production in preparation for a more sustainable economic recovery: Countries must make use of affordable energy sources that can help the economic recovery in the aftermath of the coronavirus pandemic. This could allow countries to recover better and create a whole-economy approach to ensure universal sustainable energy access - in turn helping place the global economy on a trajectory in line with the Paris Climate Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals. At this unprecedented time, the international community must coordinate efforts, work with decision-makers in at-risk countries and find rapid solutions to provide access to sustainable energy for all during this pandemic and beyond.

Energy access saves lives. We can keep ventilators on. We can protect vulnerable populations. But we must act now. Solutions are available, and if we do not seize them during a time of crisis, when will we?

By Kaymarlin Goven-

# The world wasn't ready for Covid-19: We need to fix our broken systems

We had close calls with SARS in 2003 and MERS in 2012, yet we find ourselves ill-prepared for Covid-19. Current measures for dealing with pandemics are woefully lacking.

The Covid-19 pandemic has shown that a danger in one part of the planet poses a global threat. The disease has caused enormous damage in terms of lives lost, economic impact and human development; it has also revealed countries' inadequate response strategies, identified key weaknesses in global health security systems and shown examples of poor leadership.

When faced with such a threat to our collective health security, the priority is to set up early detection systems to track the spread of virus and identify new strains early enough in order to mount an effective response. We had close calls with the SARS virus in 2003 and MERS in 2012, yet we find ourselves ill-prepared for Covid-19.



SARS did lead to the establishment of several global measures that included European Union funding to establish labs to sequence mystery respiratory viruses, and it prompted the Chinese

to set up similar labs - which later identified Covid-19 in Wuhan.

The Ebola crisis also taught us some painful lessons about lapses in surveillance systems. It did,

however, prompt important initiatives in resource-strained countries in West Africa, with the rapid setting up of active surveillance systems, strong community mobilisation and laboratory

systems with capacity to provide timely results.

Notwithstanding such gains, based on disease outbreaks, the Covid-19 pandemic has shown that current measures for dealing

with pandemics are insufficient. This is aptly illustrated in the recent Global Health Security Index report (2019) that reviewed existing health system capacities in countries to respond to public health emergencies in line with the International Health Regulations (IHR) (2005) norms.

The report showed countries varied widely in terms of their capacity to prevent, detect and control outbreaks of infectious diseases, with only half of them reporting operational readiness capacities to respond to public health emergencies. Of concern, Africa scored in the mid-30s (maximum score 100) and below, with the US, UK, the Netherlands, Australia and Canada topping the ranks (scores ranging from 84 to 75).

Covid-19 has, however, shown that sustained health threats will even strain well-resourced countries.

Disquiet among public health advocates about a lack of global preparedness can be traced back to well before the Ebola crisis, with the call for global health security suffering a series of setbacks that included political neglect by governments, lack of confidence in the World Health Organisation's ability to operationalise a global health governance model and the downgrading within WHO and in richer nations of emerging and infectious diseases (other than HIV, TB or malaria) as a priority. Non-compliance by countries to IHR, without consequence, did not help the cause.

With the Ebola outbreak in 2014, West African countries were compelled to scramble together responses. The crisis teetered on catastrophe, yet the scale of the tragedy and the much-needed global response highlighted the lack of political commitment seen way before this outbreak.

The lack of a sustained focus for tackling emerging infectious diseases was also

seen in the limited availability of health tools for Ebola and other infectious diseases such as SARS and MERS.

The complacency in judging that these viruses were one-time, rare phenomena and major drug companies were not keen to invest in developing vaccines and treatments when there was no obvious market.

The slow momentum in vaccine research for coronaviruses and, more generally, the lack of investment in research on infectious and emerging diseases does raise some tough questions about the relationship between science, the "need-for-profit industry" and the suitability of the current medical research and development model in addressing the world's health priorities.

Questions have been raised about the global pharmaceutical sector being largely geared towards developing products to maximise profits and with little therapeutic value; and when innovative treatments are produced they are unaffordable (for example, the hepatitis-C drug was first introduced at a price of \$84,000 in the US, which was totally out of reach for millions of people living with this disease worldwide).

Covid-19 has already begun to affect the global pharmaceutical sector, with the prices of pharmaceutical ingredients manufactured in China rising or being unavailable after extended factory closures and supply chain disruptions. India, the world's largest producer of generic medicines, is also expected to restrict exports of medical products (including paracetamol and some antibiotics), which could lead to a shortage in other countries.

While the pandemic is being fought on many fronts, a key priority is to resuscitate commitments to the global health security agenda.

First, we need to urgently capacitate defaulting coun-

tries with technical and financial resources to implement core health systems infrastructure to comply with the IHR norms. We can leverage existing international commitments to global health security through mobilising resources and securing wider collaboration to accelerate this development. Like the Ebola epidemic, Covid-19 has shown how connected we are as a global community; we are only as safe as the most fragile states.

Second, we need to consider alternative ways to conduct and finance research and development. A revised model has to prioritise public health needs, where the primary payback is improved global health security and the fulfilment of the individual right to health. Research and development cannot be left purely to market-driven models. Innovative technology needs to drive rapid and affordable tests and viable vaccines.

Third, and equally important, plans for preventing, detecting and controlling outbreaks of emerging infectious diseases ought to be built on a One Health foundation that emphasises the interconnectedness of humans, animals and ecosystems. Here we must prioritise the human-wildlife interface and have the ability to detect viruses in livestock and wildlife as a crucial component of early warning systems for human pandemics.

Covid-19 has shown that the world is ill-prepared to handle a sustained and threatening public health emergency. Unfortunately, there remain far too many blind spots around the globe where public health systems lack trained staff, functional laboratories and quality surveillance data to make timely decisions to respond to infectious diseases.

To ensure our collective health security, there has to be a capable governance framework which can work to repair the political, institutional and legal pillars of the global health security strategy. This has to entail institutional, financial and legal actions that countries have been unwilling to take in the past.

## THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 78 00--

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

- 3 Letters: OWL, HAY, TAN, ARK,
- 4 Letters: REST, SAME, RAKE, AYAH, IRAQ, EAST, Q-TIP, SAGA, TIME, AFRO,
- 5 Letters: READY, SCOPE, SNAKE, FROST,
- 6 Letters: ATHENS, LAYER, PAMPAS, SAHARA, RAKISH, ATTACH, TANAPA, MASHER, MASTER
- 7 Letters: CASHIER,

**WORD-FIT**

**CROSSWORD**

- CLUES: Across**
1. a person who cultivates a land
  5. hire a land
  6. a piece of land surrounded by water
  9. an oil tanker
  10. any person
  13. interfere
  15. a group with a strong common interest
  17. Estates on which crops are grown
  19. literary form of over
  20. fall behind
  21. indicates that a voice is silent
  22. single
  23. institute a legal proceedings for redress
- Down:**
1. the sixth day of the week
  2. a mass meeting
  3. reveal something
  4. to inquire
  7. an unimportant person
  8. passed away
  11. Muscat is the Capital city
  12. the rubbing and kneading of muscles and joints
  14. identify the existence of
  15. free from dirt
  16. great size
  17. a game of Eastern origin
  18. cereal plants





Thursday 2 April 2020

# Majority of East Africa's SMEs have bank accounts but lack loan access

By The Banker Reporter

**T**HE majority of small and medium size enterprises in East Africa hold a bank account while only 45 percent of them have had a bank loan, a European Investment Bank report has said.

The EIB report titled, 'Banking in Africa: Financing transformation amid uncertainty' released recently said on average, 92 percent of SMEs hold a bank account, but only 45 percent of them have accessed a bank loan.

"In addition, once firms get a loan, it is mostly used to support shorter-term needs rather than long-term assets: 23 percent of small and medium-sized companies in East Africa make use of banks to finance their working capital needs, but only 15 percent resorted to loans to support longer-term investments," the report noted.

"In Tanzania, both micro- and small enterprises report major constraints in accessing credit (almost 70% in both cases)," the report revealed adding that the findings mean that almost 70 percent of firms rely on own resources and retained earnings for investment, hampering their growth prospects. Generally, the report stated that access to finance remains less than ideal, particularly for micro-enterprises in the region.

"In Eritrea and to a lesser extent in Kenya, SMEs and micro-enterprises can obtain credit when needed. However, in the other countries the situation is not as supportive of investment and economic activity in general," the EIB report added.

Microfirms face the largest difficulties, particularly in Ethiopia where 70 percent of these businesses report difficulties in accessing credit, whereas only 40 percent of SMEs report the same impediment. In addition, despite



An exhibition of EAC's agro-SMEs.

major improvements, access to finance remains a bottleneck for companies throughout the re-

gion, although less so in Kenya, particularly for SMEs and micro-enterprises.

"In some countries, lending to the public sector is crowding out private credit. Mobile accounts

and financial inclusion are improving unevenly across the region. In some countries, less than 5 percent of the population uses digital banking or payment systems," the EIB report explained.

On digitization, the EIB report said regional differences in access to mobile payment systems are even more striking with Kenya among world leaders in digitalisation of financial services. Almost 80 percent of the population over 15 uses digital payment systems or has a mobile bank account. This contrasts with the other countries in the region.

"In Tanzania and Uganda, around half of the adult population uses mobile banking or mobile payments. In Rwanda, the share drops to 30 percent and in the remaining countries it is considerably smaller and sometimes almost negligible, with less than 5 percent of the population using digital banking or payment systems," the report stated.

Digitalisation has helped financial inclusion in some countries in the region given the low level of development and high population growth in most of these economies, rapid access to new technologies has allowed some of them to leapfrog steps towards improved financial inclusion.

"However, access to financial services varies significantly across the region and in some countries it is still residual. In Kenya, more than 80 percent of the population over 15 has an account at a bank or other kind of financial institution, but in many countries this share is much lower, even below 10 percent in Burundi or below 20 percent in Sudan," the EIB report said.

In all the countries, women have less access to bank accounts than men, and the difference in access between the poorest and the richest sections of the population remains substantial across the region, the report pointed out.

# Credit card defaults in China mark the beginning of a global consumer debt crisis

BEIJING

Like millions of people around the world, Zhang Chunzi, 23, borrowed money she thought she'd be able to repay before the coronavirus pandemic changed everything.

Now laid off from her job at an apparel exporter in Hangzhou - one of China's most prosperous cities - Ms Zhang is missing payments on 12,000 yuan of debt from her credit card and an online lending platform operated by Jack Ma's Ant Financial. "I'm late on all the bills and there's no way I can pay my debt in full," she said.

Her story is playing out in similar ways across China, where the virus outbreak has been taking lives and ravaging the economy for more than three months. As Covid-19 works its way through the rest of Asia, Europe and the Americas - forcing countries into lockdown, driving up unemployment and pummeling small-business owners - analysts say it's only a matter of time before stretched households worldwide start to default on their loans.

The early indicators from China aren't pretty. Overdue credit card debt swelled last month by about 50 per cent from a year earlier, according to executives at two banks. Qudian, a Beijing-based online lender, said its delinquency ratio jumped to 20 per cent in February from 13 per cent at the end of last year.

China Merchants Bank, one of the country's biggest providers of consumer credit, said this month that it "pressed the pause button" on its credit card business after a "significant" increase in past-due loans. An estimated eight million people in China lost their jobs in February.

"These issues in China are a preview of what we should expect throughout the world," said Martin Chorzempa, a research fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics in Washington. While the extent of the squeeze on consumers and their lenders will depend on the effectiveness of government efforts to contain the virus and shore up economies, the scope for pain is immense.

Household debt-to-gross domestic product ratios in countries such as France, Switzerland, New Zealand and Nigeria have never been higher, according to a January report from the Institute of International Finance. In Australia, which has the highest household debt levels among G20 nations, the country's largest lender said on Thursday that its financial assistance lines are receiving eight times the normal call volume.

A similar surge in queries has flooded lenders in the United States, where credit card balances swelled to an unprecedented \$930 billion last year and 3.28m people filed for jobless benefits during the week ended March 21 - quadruple the previous record. Few places have seen a bigger jump in consumer borrowing in recent years than China, where household debt including mortgages soared to a record 55tn yuan in 2019.

That figure has nearly doubled since 2015, thanks to a housing boom and the rise of online lenders like Ant Financial. While the company's risk models rely on reams of payments data, they have yet to be tested by a major economic downturn. Many consumers who take out these short-term, high-interest loans - typically funded by banks through Ant's Alipay smartphone app - have minimal income and virtually no credit history.

# Explosive growth for Vodacom e-School platform amid lockdown

JOHANNESBURG

Vodacom says it has seen a surge in registrations on its e-School platform since government announced the nationwide lockdown as the deadly coronavirus (COVID-19) escalates.

Vodacom says user registrations on the platform have gone up by over 1 000% compared to previous historic periods, nearing one million users. The telco says content utilisation increased by 300% over previous averages, with mathematics, natural sciences and accounting topping the charts.

According to Vodacom, the massive sudden increase in registration started on Sunday, 15 March, with Vodacom e-School going from an average of 40 000 student events per day to a peak of close to 150 000.

On 15 March, president Cyril Ramaphosa announced measures to protect the country from the spread of COVID-19 and, as a result, school holidays were brought forward, impacting the learning schedule. In an effort to assist learners, government has stepped up efforts to ensure virtual learning is a reality during the nationwide lockdown.

The departments of communications and digital technologies and basic education recently joined forces to deliver on this. Detailing the interventions undertaken by her department to mitigate some of the COVID-19 impact, communications minister Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams said as the department charged with SA's ICT agenda, it must determine how technology can help address the disruption caused in the education system.

Now, Vodacom says its e-School platform is proving to be invaluable



Takalani Netshitenzhe, chief officer of corporate affairs for Vodacom Group.

for the scores of school-going children at home on extended school break. Vodacom e-School is a free, unlimited online education portal that provides educational content for learners in grades R to 12. This includes assignments, quizzes and interactive learn-

ing videos.

The content is fully aligned to the Department of Basic Education national curriculum and assessment policy statement and is available in all 11 South African languages. The platform is accessible via mobile and desktop,

free of charge to all Vodacom customers. According to Vodacom, the strong growth of its platform is being fuelled by a strong uptake from learners in Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo and Mpumalanga.

It expects the growth in registrations and usage to increase in the coming weeks. Takalani Netshitenzhe, chief officer of corporate affairs for Vodacom Group, says: "Supporting education is the main focus of the Vodacom Foundation, so we are encouraged by the phenomenal growth of new subscribers signing up on the free e-School learning platform.

"This demonstrates the platform is addressing a societal need at a time when the private sector needs to join hands with government as it contends with COVID-19. It is also clear that our message to

parents and guardians to encourage learners to continue with their studies by using Vodacom e-School has been heeded and that they are finding the platform useful."

Moreover, Netshitenzhe says: "Our e-School platform is in line with Vodacom's ongoing drive to help provide ICT tools and Internet connectivity to communities that do not have access. By providing access to Internet services to improve the standard of education, Vodacom is able to uplift learners and the quality of education in our country as SA is gearing up for the fourth industrial revolution." In order to access the Vodacom e-School, users need to visit the platform Web site from their cellphone, tablet or laptop to register. Data charges will apply to those who are not Vodacom subscribers.



Popular Chinese credit cards.



# Ilala Municipality dishes out over 3.2bn/- loans to women, youths



Ilala DC Sophia Mjema speaks at a past event.

By Beatrice Philemon

SOME 517 women and youth income generating groups have received over 3.22bn/- from Ilala Municipal Council in legal allocations from its revenue collection since 2014. The Council's Public Relation Officer, Tabu Shaibu said in Dar es Salaam this week that the money was given as were given to women and youths entrepreneurs engaging in transportation, food processing, handcrafts making and decorations and livestock keeping, among other areas.

"The loan were issued as per regulations but the amounts were determined by needs," Shaibu said adding that the loan amount ranged between 1m/- and 60m/- per group.

She said the loans which come from ten percent of the council's revenue collections

and loan recovery sources, are a revolving fund which enables borrowers to repay and borrow several times within a year.

"These women and youths form Savings and Credit Co-operative Organizations (SACCOs), Village Community Banks (VICOBAs) and other groups which are registered and recognized at the district and nation level," Shaibu noted.

She said the groups which offer guarantee to individual members have been repaying at an encouraging rate hence the ability by the council to extend loans to more groups hence tame poverty among the two vulnerable groups.

"Women and youths platforms are very important because they help them get vital information on access to capital, markets, business management training and mentoring," said the IMC's PRO

who added that experts from National Economic Empowerment Council and Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TanTrade) easily access the groups through such platforms.

The platforms also allow them to meet experts from regulatory bodies such Tanzania Revenue Authority, Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority, Small Industries Development Organisation and financial institutions.

So far a total of 30 wards in the municipality have established platforms within their respective areas while progress to start similar vehicles in the remaining wards is at advanced stage.

So far a total of 1,935 women groups have been registered and have receive certificates which formally makes them legal entities recognised by municipal council officials.

# How much MTN bosses get paid

JOHANNESBURG

MTN Group CEO Rob Shuter was paid R58.2 million in the 2019 financial year, a 35.7% increase on his total remuneration for 2018, but even these generous rewards were not enough to keep him, he announced on 11 March that he would step down in a year's time.

Shuter earned a base salary of R17.3 million, according to the group's 2019 integrated report, which was published on Tuesday. On top of that, he received R1.8 million in post-employment benefits; R1.1 million in "other benefits"; R27.6 million in bonuses; and R10.4 million long-term incentives, which vested in December 2019.

Chief financial officer Ralph Mupita, who is regarded as a strong candidate to take the reins from Shuter when he steps down next year, took home even more: total remuneration of a whopping R66.3 million.

Much of Mupita's remuneration took the form of "other benefits", mostly related to a special "cash-settled on-boarding incentive" awarded in lieu of the loss of equity in his previous employer, Old Mutual, where of CEO of the Emerging Markets business. Mupita's remuneration was made up of R9.2 million in salary; R1.1 million in post-employment benefits; R42.7 million in "other benefits"; and R13.4 million in bonuses. Shuter and Mupita are MTN Group's only two executive directors.

MTN South Africa CEO Godfrey Mota's total remuneration in the 2019 financial year came to R15.7 million (including R7.3 million in salary and R6.8 million in bonuses). Ferdi Moolman, CEO of MTN Nigeria, the group's biggest and most profitable subsidiary, received R21.1 million in total, R9.6 million of which was for his salary and R8.1 million in the form of bonuses.

Meanwhile MTN Group will push on with a plan to reduce its majority stake in the wireless carrier's Nigerian business, though turmoil caused by the coronavirus may require the sale to be done in smaller chunks than anticipated.

The impact of the pandemic on international financial markets doesn't change the importance of

selling part of the 79% shareholding to local investors, Mupita said in an interview. However, the rest of a three-to-five year plan to dispose of 25-billion rand (\$1.4 billion) of assets will probably take a back seat for now, he said. "In Nigeria we still want to do part of our retail offer, even if it's a smaller part of the total planned sale," Mupita said by phone. "We are applying our minds to doing this at the moment."

MTN is disposing of part of its largest division after a series of disputes with Nigerian authorities, most recently over tax payments and the withdrawal of cash from the country. The plan is to

sell about a 15% stake to local investors, reducing MTN's ownership to about 64%. MTN Nigeria Communications Ltd. was listed in Lagos last year, and is the country's second-biggest publicly traded company.

Nigeria is MTN's biggest market, accounting for a third of overall 2019 revenue and almost 40% of earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization. The Johannesburg-based company is also the biggest provider of telecom services in the country, with almost 69 million customers, according to the Nigerian Communications Commission.

Share rally

The drastic fall in oil prices, hurting major producers including Nigeria, and the outbreak of the coronavirus has weighed on MTN's share price, which hit 15-year lows last week. The stock has since rallied for six straight days, and traded as much as 21% higher in Johannesburg on Tuesday the biggest jump in two decades.

"We of course have no visibility on how all of this could play out, but the business currently has a resilient balance sheet and is highly cash generative, with most of our business coming from pre-paid contracts," Mupita said.

MTN's cash position was bolstered by the sale of R14 billion in

assets last year, including stakes in telecom-tower companies in certain African markets. Some of that was paid in dollars, which provides a currency hedge against the weakening rand, the CFO said. MTN also has a credit facility that can be accessed if needed, he added.

MTN expects an increase in data usage as more and more of its markets go into lockdown due to the outbreak of the coronavirus. "We want to make sure that our networks have resilience and capacity," Mupita said. "We are looking at where we can drive broader coverage."



MTN's Chief Financial Officer Ralph Mupita.

# Saudi Arabia's banking regulator directs lenders to restructure loans

RIYADH

Saudi Arabia's banking regulator instructed banks to adjust or restructure financing without charging additional fees as part of a series of measures to mitigate the impact of the coronavirus outbreak on the private sector, preserve jobs and ensure business continuity.

The Saudi Arabian Monetary Fund (SAMA) also directed banks to provide financing for individuals who have lost their jobs in the private sector and to waive fees related to transactions through Internet banking, the central bank said in a statement on its website on Sunday.

"SAMA approved new precautionary measures in order to support efforts to combat the impact of the rapid spread of the coronavirus (Covid-19) on various economic sectors," it said. SAMA also asked banks to re-assess interest rates and other fees imposed on credit cards for new and existing clients, according to the statement.

The banking regulator said it is monitoring the impact of the spread of the coronavirus on various economic sectors, including finance and banking. SAMA will provide all necessary support to preserve the stability of the banking sector so that lenders can continue to finance various business activities and economic sectors.

Earlier this month, Saudi Arabia unveiled a 50 billion riyal stimulus package to shore up its private sector and offset the coronavirus's impact on the economy. On Sunday the kingdom said it is extending the suspension of all international and domestic passenger flights indefinitely amid heightened precautions to contain the spread of the coronavirus pandemic.

The Covid-19 outbreak is the greatest challenge facing the world economy since the 2008 global financial crisis. It has disrupted global supply chains, tourism, aviation, oil prices and wiped about \$20 trillion from stock markets globally. Globally, the number of confirmed cases surpassed 681,000, while the death toll climbed to more than 31,000 and the number of people who have recovered reached more than 145,000, according to the Johns Hopkins University coronavirus tracker.

MARKETTRENDS

# Europe's banks scrap dividends to protect capital cushions amid virus outbreak

FRANKFURT

European banks are scrapping payouts to protect their capital cushions because of the fast-deteriorating economy. Cutting bonuses could be next on the to-do list.

Regulators are issuing repeated calls to lenders to be prudent in how they spend capital as the region confronts the worst recession in living memory. The European Central Bank - which on Friday urged banks to delay dividends

- is now turning its attention to keeping bankers' variable compensation in check. "Banks, shareholders, managers and key risk takers should also take part in the rethink of where we are right now and try to preserve as much capital as possible," European Central Bank chairman Andrea Enria said Tuesday in a Bloomberg TV interview. "Our recommendation to banks is to be very moderate on" bonuses, he said.

As with dividend cuts, Spanish banks have been among the first to kick off the

Europe-wide trend, with Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria on Monday saying that 300 of its top executives waived their 2020 bonuses. Credit Suisse chief executive Thomas Gottstein signaled to Swiss broadcaster SRF that the lender may also curb variable pay for 2020 to show "solidarity" amid the crisis.

The ECB is urging restraint after coming to the aid of European banks with a raft of measures intended to relieve some of the pressure caused by the coronavirus outbreak. That

includes allowing banks to draw down their capital buffers and giving them more time to tackle soured loans.

Banco Santander last week said chairman Ana Botin and chief executive Jose Antonio Alvarez agreed to donate half of their salaries to an anti-virus charity. That came after Spain's biggest bank delayed a dividend payment to next year to help it deal with the coronavirus outbreak. Others are now beginning to follow suit.

Mr Enria, in the interview, said

that bonuses right now are less of a concern than dividends because many banks have already paid them. Credit Suisse earlier this year decided to pay out 3.17 billion Swiss francs (\$3.28bn) in bonuses for last year. Deutsche Bank paid out 1.5bn euros.

"It's a bit early to talk about the bonuses for 2020, but we are definitely thinking along the lines of showing solidarity," Credit Suisse's Mr Gottstein said in the interview. Broad-brushed bonus cuts could hit vulnerable staff,

Stephan Szukalski, a representative for the German labor union DBV, said in an email.

"We oppose a general bonus cut because the bonus pool doesn't only include staff with very high salaries," said Mr Szukalski, who also sits on Deutsche Bank's supervisory board. "Many medium- to low-income earners - of which there are many in Deutsche Bank - have made a contribution over the past years through the previous cuts."



# Consider insurance as a necessity for both life and property-CRDB manager

By The Banker Reporter

**I**N 2015, Bongo fleva music star, Nassib Abdul also known as Diamond, received a pay-check of 14m/- from UAP Insurance Tanzania Limited through CRDB Bank as an agent.

The musician received the payment after rains washed away part of a wall fencing at his Madale house in the outskirts of Dar es Salaam. "It's a big relief for me and I thank the bank and insurance company for refunding me for the loss after I bought an insurance cover just a month ago," Abdul said at the pay-check presentation ceremony.

He called upon the public to take insurance cover as an important investment in life because it counts much in time of disaster. "Buying

an insurance cover is an investment that saves you from forking out of your pockets cash to finance destroyed property which sometimes forces one to seek expensive debt," he warned.

Abdul's loss five year ago has happened to CRDB Insurance Broker Limited's General Manager, Arthur Mosha who had part of his wall fencing washed away by the ongoing heavy rains. Thanks to his knowledge and experience of insurance which pushed him to buy a cover, the repair bill was taken care of by an insurer.

"These ongoing rains recently washed away part of the house wall fencing and when I engaged contractors to repair it they told me the bill was 37m/-," Mosha said saying he was shocked to hear of the price but was

relieved because his family home is insured.

He said if he had no insurance cover for his property he would have been forced to borrow from the quickest lender available so that the house should be secured because without the security wall the risk of being attacked by thugs was real.

Mosha acknowledged that introduction of bancassurance regulations by Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority and Bank of Tanzania last year has boosted the insurance industry. "With banks now being able to sell insurance to the public as brokers, the uptake is expected to improve," he forecasted.

Last year when launching the bancassurance regulations, Bank of Tanzania's Deputy Governor,



CRDB Insurance Broker Limited's general manager, Arthur Mosha.

Dr Yamungu Kayandabila said that under the supervision of Tira, the insurance industry has been performing on average but that with the new regulations, growth will be more rapid.

Dr Kayandabila pointed out that the regulations will be a catalyst in the growth of the market because banks are more widespread and cater for the majority in the market unlike insurance companies.

"These new regulations have come a bit late, so all stakeholders have every reason to consider them seriously and improve service provision and deliver to the uninsured public," he said while noting that if all stakeholders abide by the regulations, the industry will grow rapidly while more property and lives get covered against disasters.

At a recent license handing ceremony, Tira's Commissioner

of Insurance, Dr Mussa Juma said as more banks join the list of insurance agents and brokers, the market will likely grow with key benchmarks of having every Tanzanian have at least one insurance product to their name.

"These regulations are good because they encourage competition, for example, if you sell health insurance for company X, then you cannot sell a similar product for company Y," Dr Juma noted saying such restrictions are aimed at avoiding banks as agents and brokers from selling more of one product for one company at the expense of others.

As per Tira's targets after the launch of the bancassurance regulations, growth of the insurance industry should see its contribution to gross domestic product, increase from the current 0.53 percent to five per cent by 2024.

## Managing your finances during challenging times

By Desideria Mwegelo

While your health is of the utmost importance, we understand that many of you are also anxious about your finances and how you and your family will navigate this unprecedented time in global history.

A proactive financial plan will help you make effective decisions and also maintain your financial and physical health as we weather the COVID-19 storm. This plan will vary from individual to individual.

It is therefore important for you to work with a qualified financial adviser to help solidify a plan that works in your case. Here are five tips that can help protect your finances during these uncertain times:

### Revise your budget

The uncertainty around the economic fallout from Covid-19 requires us to rework our budgets. Review your monthly expenses and prioritize immediate needs such as housing, medical costs, food and transportation and set aside all unnecessary expenses. This will give you peace of mind about your financial future.

If you don't have a budget in place, this is the right time to do an inventory of your expenses. There are useful tools such as mobile-based apps and internet banking services to help you control your spending and other solutions to assist with your financial planning.

### Digitize your finances

As we continue to observe social distancing, digital financial services such as internet and mobile banking provide the flexibility, safety and security to manage your monthly banking transactions. You can also purchase or set up automatic bill pay for services such as electricity, water, and internet bundles.



Desideria Mwegelo

Head of Marketing and Communications at Stanbic Bank Tanzania.

### Maintain an emergency fund

A crisis such as the current global pandemic brings a host of uncertainties: job security, business closure and so on. If you have an emergency fund, continue to build it. The cushion will help protect your investments and assist with any debt obligations in case your employment circumstances change.

If you are already experiencing financial hardship and can't afford to start or maintain an emergency fund, contact your bank. They could recommend specific products or services, such as a short-term loan to help you get through these difficult times.

### About your investments

My friends have been asking me whether this is the right time to cash in on their financial assets. My advice to them is, wash your hands, don't touch your face, and don't touch your stocks. The solution is to continue monitoring your stocks and contact a financial advisor to help you understand more about the market trends.

### Seek professional advice

The Covid-19 outbreak continues to evolve on a daily basis. If you have questions or concerns about the impact of these difficult times on your money, debt obligations and future financial plans, seek guidance from your financial services provider.

## Are foreign banks in the UAE helping customers affected by Covid-19?

DUBAI

As the coronavirus outbreak continues to ravage economies across the globe, major banks in the UAE have rolled out measures to provide financial relief to customers.

The measures - which include payment holidays for between one to three months, reductions in cash advance charges and a lower down payment for first-time home buyers - are in line with the UAE Central Bank's Dh100 billion economic stimulus package unveiled on March 14. But what about foreign banks in the UAE, including Citi, HSBC and Standard Chartered? They too have taken action to help customers cope with the financial fallout from the efforts to contain Covid-19.

While Dubai banks - including Emirates NBD, Mashreq, Commercial Bank of Dubai, Dubai Islamic Bank and Emirates Islamic - and Abu Dhabi banks - includ-

ing First Abu Dhabi Bank, Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank and Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank - have co-ordinated and released common financial initiatives in each emirate, foreign banks have released initiatives individually. The measures, as well as the criteria for customers to qualify, vary.

Worldwide, there are over 723,000 confirmed cases of Covid-19 with more than 34,000 deaths, according to Johns Hopkins as of Monday. More than 152,000 have recovered. In the UAE, there are 570 cases with three deaths and 58 recoveries. Containment measures in the UAE, such as stay-at-home directives and business closures, could cause a decline in revenue for companies, and a cut in income or job losses for individuals.

Here we break down what Citi, HSBC and Standard Chartered are doing to help those affected by Covid-19 in the Emirates, either directly or indirectly. Earlier this month, Citi made fund

transfers free through the mobile app until April 30. It also said it would donate 0.5 per cent of all debit card spends in the month of March to help with the efforts to combat Covid-19.

The bank introduced additional measures last week and is in the process of rolling out others. Dinesh Sharma, head of Citi's Middle East consumer bank division, told The National. Citi has around 300,000 customers in the UAE.

If customers with existing loans are facing reduced cash flow, a temporary loss of payment or redundancy, they can apply for a 75 per cent reduction in their monthly instalments with significantly lower interest. "If a customer was paying Dh1,000 a month, that can go down to Dh250," Mr Sharma says. Previously, the rewrite programme allowed customers to apply for a reduction of up to 50 per cent.

Customers facing difficulties for a short period of time have

the option to request a payment holiday through the bank's "skip a payment" programme, Mr Sharma says. Previously clients could apply for a payment holiday of up to two months. Now, they can defer the principle payments for three months and then ask to extend it by another three months.

"In total, a customer can get a temporary relief of six months or he/she can get permanent relief on a restructure in case the difficult situation is permanent," Mr Sharma says. "Close to 200 customers have already approached us," he added.

Citi is looking into reducing credit card cash advance charges by 50 per cent, as local banks have done. However, Mr Sharma says this feature is used by less than 10 per cent of its customers in the UAE market. "Our main focus is to make sure the features we're providing are making a real difference to customers, so we also look at the usage rates," he said.

## Massive surge in fintech app usage due to coronavirus

JOHANNESBURG

Coronavirus (COVID-19)-triggered social distancing, isolation and lockdowns have resulted in a sharp increase in the use of fintech apps across the globe.

Swiss-based financial advisory organisation deVere Group says it has witnessed a massive surge in demand for its financial technology products, with a 72% increase in Europe alone. The uptake in fintech products comes as the world re-adjusts to life, after governments around the world have instituted lockdowns in an attempt to contain the global pandemic, which is expected to wreak havoc on global health systems and lead to a dire economic downturn, as a recession looms.

However, deVere Group believes the outbreak could have a positive impact on the fintech sector, as more people stay home and use their phones and laptops to make financial transactions. James Green, deVere Group divisional manager for Europe, notes: "The world has changed in the last few weeks. The measures we're now all taking to help the fight back against coronavirus are affecting the way we interact, live, work and take care of our finances.

"A new era has already begun, with digitalisation and new technologies driving the shift. This new era has also been evidenced this week with a staggering 72% jump in the use of our fintech apps from existing clients and a sharp increase in enquiries from potential ones."

Over the last three years, deVere Group has rolled out a suite of fintech apps used across its 100 countries of operation. "Since the 2008-2009 financial crash, fintech has been filling the void left between what traditional financial services companies are offering and what clients are now expecting, especially in terms of customer experience. In broad terms, this means immediate, on-the-go, 24/7 access to, use and management of their money. It means personalised, on-demand

services and lower costs," notes Green.

It can be expected that due to the coronavirus pandemic and the steps being taken to combat it, this move towards fintech will be significantly accelerated, resulting in increased online activity in future, he adds. There are more than 12 000 fintech companies operating across the world, and Goldman Sachs estimates the global fintech market to be worth \$4.7 trillion.

In Africa, fintech remains an active vertical, with fintech deals accounting for about 18% of the almost \$290 million invested in 88 disclosed deals in 2019, according to Ventureburn.

### Digital winners

David O'Brien, founder and MD of local insurtech company Meerkat, which is currently in live beta-testing phase, says the company has seen increased activity on its app from consumers who are interested in emergency savings and insurance plans. "We see spikes in traffic as people look to learn more about how they can improve their finances. Sadly, many people are now realising that an emergency fund is very important, because they do not have one. Our small beta group have begun accessing their savings to augment their reduced income."

More South African consumers will learn new financial habits during this period, as they will prefer not to venture out to visit branches or ATMs, notes O'Brien. "Once learned, they will retain the habit, and a change will have happened. The financial services companies that offer comprehensive digital services today will be the winners."

Consumers' increasing comfort with digital interaction, amid being stranded in their homes, will lead to reducing the barriers to digital adoption in future, which is set to benefit new and upcoming fintech start-ups, adds O'Brien. Global online payments platform Boku told Barron's it has witnessed a 30% rise in payment volumes from people who pay for online gaming, music and video streaming services, as more people stay home.



Mutoda Mahamba, CEO and founder of local insurtech firm Solveny.



## WORLD

## Trump warns Americans of a tough two weeks ahead in coronavirus fight

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Donald Trump warned Americans on Tuesday of a "painful" two weeks ahead in fighting the coronavirus, with a mounting U.S. death toll that could stretch into the hundreds of thousands even with strict social distancing measures.

In perhaps his most somber news conference to date about the pandemic, Trump, who has faced criticism for playing down the threat of the outbreak in its initial phases, urged the population to heed guidance to limit groups to no more than 10 people,

work from home and not dine in restaurants or bars.

"It's absolutely critical for the American people to follow the guidelines for the next 30 days. It's a matter of life and death," Trump said.

White House coronavirus coordinator Deborah Birx displayed charts demonstrating data and modeling that showed an enormous jump in deaths to a range of 100,000 to 240,000 people from the virus in the coming months.

That figure was predicated on Americans following mitigation efforts. One of Birx's charts showed as many as 2.2



President Donald Trump

million people were projected to die without such measures, a statistic that prompted Trump to ditch a plan he articulated last week to get the U.S. economy moving again by Easter on April 12.

The president said the next two weeks would be "very, very painful." The modeling showed the number of deaths across the nation would escalate and peak roughly around mid-April.

"We want Americans to be prepared for the hard days that lie ahead," Trump said, predicting light at the end of the tunnel after that.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, who said previously that the pandemic could kill between 100,000 and 200,000 people in the United States, said all efforts were being made to make those numbers lower.

"We're doing everything we can," he said.

The federal guidelines, which now are in place through the end of April, include admonitions to avoid discretionary travel, not visit nursing homes, and practice good hygiene.

"There's no magic bullet. There's no magic vaccine or therapy. It's just behaviors: Each of our behaviors translating into something that changes the course of this viral pandemic over the next 30 days," Birx said.

Vice President Mike Pence said the mitigation efforts were having an impact. "We have reason to believe that it's working," Pence said of the guidelines. "Do not be discouraged."

Trump said he planned to remain at the White House for the most part over the next 30 days.

He added the White House was looking at a possible travel ban for Brazil.

After the White House earlier discouraged Americans from wearing masks if they were not sick, the president encouraged the practice on Tuesday, but said people should use scarves so as not to divert supplies from healthcare professionals.

Agencies

## World lacks coordinated action of all countries to suppress COVID-19 - UN chief

UNITED NATIONS



UNITED Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned Tuesday that the world lacks a coordinated action of all countries to suppress COVID-19, while noting that it does not have a global package to help the developing world.

"We still do not have a coordinated action of all countries to suppress the virus under the guidance of the World Health Organization," the UN chief said at the virtual press launch of the report "Shared responsibility, global solidarity: Responding to the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19," while answering questions regarding international cooperation in both suppressing the virus and boosting the global economy.

Commenting on the G20 Extraordinary Leaders' Summit, which was also held virtually on Thursday, the secretary-general said that "the G20 was a step in the right direction, but I think we are still very far from where we need to be to effectively fight COVID-19 worldwide and to be able to tackle the negative impacts on the global economy and the global societies."

"Guidelines from the World Health Organization were not respected in many countries of the world, and there was a tendency for each one to go its own way.

We absolutely need an articulated action in which all countries join the same efforts in order to commonly suppress the transmission following the guidance of the World Health Organization," the UN chief noted.

Speaking about the mobilization of over 5 trillion U.S. dollars to boost the global economy that the G20 major economies on Thursday pledged to present a "united front" against the common threat posed by COVID-19, Guterres said that "if it is true that we have already witnessed the mobilization of 5 trillion U.S. dollars, we are still far from what is needed and especially because most of what was mobilized was by the developed world to support their own economies."

"We are far from having a global package to help the developing world to create the conditions both to suppress the disease and to address the dramatic consequences in their populations, in the people that lost their jobs, the small companies that are operating and risk to disappear, those that live with the informal economy that now have no chance to survive," he said.

"There is a lot that needs to be done, and massive support to the developing world is still required. We are not yet there, but I hope we will be moving in that direction," the secretary-general noted.

Xinhua

## Japan 'on the brink' as it struggles to hold back coronavirus

TOKYO

JAPAN is struggling to hold the line against the coronavirus and is on the brink of crisis with medical experts particularly worried about preparations in Tokyo, officials said yesterday, raising the prospect of emergency lockdowns.

Japan has some 2,200 cases of the coronavirus and 66 deaths, relatively small tallies compared with those of United States, China and some parts of Europe.

But the new infections are appearing relentlessly, with 105 reported yesterday, 65 of them in the capital, where cases are closely watched as increasing numbers there add to pressure on the government to take drastic steps.

Coronavirus: Knowns and unknowns - reut.rs/2UHLgvz

"We are barely holding the line and remain at a critical point where virus cases could surge if we let



down our guard," Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (pictured) told a parliamentary committee.

He is set to hold a meeting of his coronavirus task force later yesterday.

Abe is under pressure from the

public to declare a state of emergency that would allow authorities to impose lockdowns and restrict movements, but on a voluntary, not a legally binding, basis.

Economics Minister Yasutoshi Nishimura said infectious disease ex-

perts were alarmed about medical preparations in Tokyo, which now has about 500 cases.

"Many experts expressed very strong sense of crisis and opinions over the spread of infections in Tokyo and the current state of medical preparedness," Nishimura told reporters.

"We must prevent infections from spreading further no matter what. We have come to the edge of edges, to the very brink."

The governor of Tokyo, Yuriko Koike, has requested that residents of the city of nearly 14 million people stay indoors and avoid restaurants and bars.

"People are saying 'I didn't think I would get infected myself'. I want everyone to share the awareness that one should both protect oneself while also avoiding spreading (the virus)," she said.

A Bank of Japan poll showed the

mood of industrial manufacturers at its most pessimistic for seven years.

Calls for a lockdown are increasing on social media, with many Twitter users expressing worry and citing much more drastic measures in foreign cities.

"One of my friends, who works in Tokyo, is still commuting on packed trains," wrote a user under the Twitter handle Arikian.

"I'm a little embarrassed by how indecisive Japan is compared to other nations."

Media reported the possibility schools would remain closed until May. The government first closed public schools at Abe's request from March 2. The Tokyo metropolitan government had said it was planning to re-open at least some schools when the new academic year began in April.

Agencies

## 70 yrs on, China-India ties face ample chances for development

BEIJING

IN the hard battle against the ravaging coronavirus epidemic, Beijing and New Delhi have offered each other staunch support and timely help.

This vividly reflects the two countries' growing partnership as they mark yesterday the 70th anniversary of their diplomatic relationship.

Over the past seven decades, the dragon and the elephant have reached a growing consensus, that is, the only right choice for their bilateral ties is to dance together.

Such an expanding consensus is built on the ever deepening political mutual trust and increasingly frequent high-level exchanges between the two countries.

Chinese President Xi Jinping and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi have in the past two years held two informal meetings during their visits to each other's country, and sat down face to face many more times on



People wave Chinese and Indian flags to welcome President Xi Jinping and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's second informal summit in Chennai, India, Oct 11, 2019. (File photo)

the sidelines of such multilateral occasions as the BRICS summits and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) gatherings.

Practical cooperation between the two sides has also been making new strides.

China and India are key trading partners to each other. In 2019, bilateral trade reached more than US\$90.1 billion, up by 1.6

percent year-on-year, according to China's General Administration of Customs.

The two sides have also seen robust exchanges and cooperation in high-tech and cultural sectors. Chinese tech firm Xiaomi's Redmi smartphone series have topped India's sales ranking.

Alibaba, a Chinese e-commerce company, offered technological

know-how and financial support for India to develop its largest mobile payment platform Paytm. For their part, Indian films like 3 Idiots and Dangal have made impressive box office takings in China.

As the two economies are highly complementary, China's development means ample growth opportunities for India, and vice versa. Thus, huge potential is waiting for both sides to tap in various areas such as finance, investment, manufacturing and infrastructure.

While promoting their mutually beneficial cooperation, it is also imperative for the two countries to implement the important consensus reached between Xi and Modi at their second informal meeting in the Indian city of Chennai to properly manage their differences on border issues and maintain peace and tranquility in the region.

China is now the world's second largest economy, and India has been one of the fastest growing emerging market economies.

Their cooperation transcends bilateral dimensions and bears a regional and global significance.

At a time when the world is undergoing profound changes, China and India are obliged to shoulder increasingly important responsibilities in safeguarding global stability, promoting common development, and addressing global challenges such as pandemics, terrorism and climate change.

The two countries should also jointly oppose trade protectionism, and advocate multilateralism by bolstering international cooperation via such platforms as the Group of 20, BRICS and the SCO.

China and India are the only two countries in the world with more than 1 billion people each. As long as one third of the global population can join hands, they can yield more benefits for not only themselves but also the wider world. The ongoing epidemic fight offers a chance to do exactly that.

Xinhua

EPIDEMIC respects no borders. That's why mankind shall emerge as a community with a shared future more than ever in the face of crisis.

On March 9, Chinese Embassy in South Korea announced that China would export face masks to South Korea to help the latter and its people fight the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. The first batch has been sent to the destination on Tuesday, including surgical and N95 masks totaling 5 million pieces.

Humanity shines through the dark cloud of the epidemic. While overcoming difficulties at home, China is ready to render support to its neighbor South Korea, in an attempt to jointly defeat the virus.

Before the exports of masks, the Chinese government had already do-

## China contributes to global efforts of fighting COVID-19

nated 1.1 million masks and 10,000 protective suits to South Korea.

Whether China will export masks and relevant raw materials is receiving huge attention from the international society as the epidemic exacerbates in the global context.

Li Xingqian, director of the Department of Foreign Trade of China's Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) explained on March 5 that masks are free trade products, and China has never imposed any restrictions on the export of masks and related raw materials, responding to certain foreign media agencies that had falsely blamed China for banning the export of such supplies.

Li noted the MOFCOM has never announced such bans even after the outbreak of the COVID-19, and enterprises can totally trade these products under market-oriented principles. China is willing to offer medical supplies including masks for relevant countries within its capacity, he added.

The international community has rendered China precious support in the latter's battle against the epidemic. By March 2, a total of 62 countries and seven international organizations have donated medical supplies to China, such as masks and protective suits.

Vice Foreign Minister Ma Zhaoxu introduced, behind these numbers are lots of touching stories. The Myanmar

government provided China with rice, while Sri Lanka donated black tea, Ma said, adding Mongolia gifted 30,000 sheep to China and Pakistan donated masks from hospital inventory across the country. These timely and sincere donations at this difficult time will be remembered by China, he said.

The daily output and production capacity of masks nationwide have grown swiftly and exceeded 100 million pieces, respectively, announced the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) on March 2.

"Many countries have lent a helping hand to China. So China will also offer help to them as much as it can since it has gradually controlled the epidemic

and resumed production," said Wang Yong, professor with the School of International Studies, Peking University, during an interview with the People's Daily.

China, while facing a severe situation domestically, is reaching out to help others when the epidemic is exacerbating globally.

The country has dispatched experts from the Red Cross Society of China to Iran and Iraq to help them curb the disease, and offered medical supplies such as nucleic acid test kits and masks to Japan.

The timely assistance demonstrate the sense of responsibility of a major country, and also China's determina-

tion to join hands with other countries to secure the final victory over the epidemic.

"China assistance differentiates according to the national conditions of the receivers," said Jin Canrong, professor of the School of International Studies at Renmin University when receiving an interview from the People's Daily.

He explained that China donated materials to developed countries like Japan and South Korea as they enjoy advanced medical technologies and are suffering only temporary short supplies, while for Iran, China has not only donated medical materials, but also dispatched medical experts and offered COVID-19 treatment plan in Farsi.

People's Daily



# Coronavirus cases in Russia surpass 2,700, death toll hits 24

MOSCOW

THE number of coronavirus cases in Russia has risen by 440 over the past day to 2,777 in 75 regions, the anti-coronavirus crisis center reported yesterday.

A total of 190 people have recovered and 24 people have died over the entire period, the center said.

"Some 2,777 coronavirus cases in 75 regions have been registered in the Russian Federation as of today.

Over the past day, 69 people have recovered and have been discharged, and 190 people have recovered over the entire period.

Seven fatalities have been registered over the past day and the total number over the past period is 24," the center reported.

New coronavirus cases have been recorded in 35 Russian regions - Moscow (267), the Komi Republic

(32), St. Petersburg (27), the Moscow Region (15), the Saratov Region (11), the Vologda Region (7), the Chelyabinsk Region (7), the Leningrad Region (6), the Buryatia Republic (6), the Krasnoyarsk Region (6), the Tula Region (5), the Krasnodar Region (5), the Voronezh Region (4), the Volgograd Region (4), the Penza Region (4), the Omsk Region (4), the Kursk Region (3), the Tambov Region (3), the Khanty Mansi Autonomous Region (3), the Bryansk Region (2), the Ivanovo Region (2), the Republics of Dagestan (2), Kabardino-Balkaria (2) and North Ossetia (2). One case was recorded in the Vladimir, Lipetsk, Tver, Altai, Novosibirsk, Khabarovsk and Sakhalin Regions as well as the Republics of Chechnya, Bashkortostan and Mordovia.

Over the past 24 hours, 45 people have been discharged in Moscow,



three in Udmurtia, Kaliningrad, Tula and Moscow Regions, and two others in the Novosibirsk and Voronezh Regions. One recovery was reported in Yakutia, Samara, Saratov, Tyumen and

Ryazan Regions as well as Bashkortostan, Krasnodar Region and the Republic of Tatarstan.

New fatalities have been recorded in Moscow (5), the Moscow Region (1) and the Pskov Region (1).

In late December 2019, Chinese authorities 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.

On March 11, 2020, the WHO declared the coronavirus outbreak a pandemic.

To date, more than 850,000 people have been infected worldwide and over 42,000 deaths have been reported.

Agencies

## Russia slams NATO approaches during pandemic as counter-productive to unifying agenda

MOSCOW

NATO's course towards its enlargement is only creating new dividing lines while the world needs unity in the fight against the coronavirus, Russia's Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Tuesday in the wake of North Macedonia's accession to the alliance.

"It is obvious that Skopje's accession to the alliance brings no added value to European, regional or national security. This step surely does not contribute to unifying the efforts to fight common threats and challenges, including the coronavirus pandemic. It will only be creating dividing lines," the statement reads.

The attempts to "make this event pompous and reverberating" have proven to be futile due to the deteriorating situation caused by the coronavirus pandemic, Russia's Foreign Ministry pointed out.

"Amid the state of emergency declared in the country, the leaders of North Macedonia nonetheless did not miss the opportunity to pompously declare the historic nature of the accession to NATO, which allegedly guarantees Skopje's stability and security. Foreign Minister Nikola Dimitrov even called the membership in the organization 'the behest of fathers and grandfathers,'" the statement runs.

Agencies

## Spain reports 9,222 new COVID-10 cases as infections in Austria top 10,000

BRUSSELS

SPAIN'S health authorities confirmed on Tuesday that the country's total number of coronavirus cases increased by 9,222 to 94,417, a higher daily rise in new cases than on Sunday and Monday, when 6,549 and 6,398 new cases were confirmed respectively.

Spain also saw 849 new deaths in the past 24 hours, a new high over 838 reported on

Sunday, bringing its death toll to 8,189. Madrid, still the worst-hit in the country, registered 27,509 cases and 3,603 deaths as of Tuesday.

### INFECTIONS ON RISE

The World Health Organization (WHO) data showed the global tally of COVID-19 infections has grown to 719,700 as of 10:00 CET Tuesday, with 33,673 deaths.

Outside China, some 640,000 cases have been reported by more than 200 countries and regions, including 10 countries, mostly in Europe, with over 10,000 cases.

Italy remains the worst hit in Europe. On Tuesday, the country observed a minute of silence for the victims of the coronavirus pandemic. Its total number of infections has climbed to 105,792, including 12,428 fatalities.

A total of 2,107 new active infections were reported compared to Monday, bringing the national total to 77,635.

In Germany, confirmed cases on Tuesday increased by 4,615 within one day to 61,913, while the number of new deaths rose to 583 compared with 455 a day earlier, according to the Robert Koch Institute (RKI), a federal government agency and research institute responsible for

disease control and prevention. RKI President Lothar Wieler warned that the "mortality rate will increase" in Germany.

The cumulative number of cases in France reached 52,128 by Tuesday, with death tally at 3,523. In the past 24 hours, the virus claimed 499 lives and forced 458 patients into intensive care units.

Britain saw its COVID-19 cases reaching 25,150 as of Tues-

day morning, a rise of 3,009 in 24 hours. A total of 1,789 patients have died as of Monday afternoon, up 381 from the previous day.

Austria's cases climbed to 10,019 on Tuesday, with 128 deaths reported, making it the ninth country in Europe with over 10,000 confirmed cases, after Italy, Spain, Germany, France, Britain, Switzerland, Belgium and The Netherlands.

## From zero to hero: Italy's Chinese help beat coronavirus

FLORENCE

IN the storm of infection and death sweeping Italy, one big community stands out to health officials as remarkably unscathed - the 50,000 ethnic Chinese who live in the town of Prato.

Two months ago, the country's Chinese residents were the target of what Amnesty International described as shameful discrimination, the butt of insults and violent attack by people who feared they would spread the coronavirus through Italy.

But in the Tuscan town of Prato, home to Italy's biggest single Chinese community, the opposite has been true. Once scapegoats, they are now held up by authorities as a model for early, strict adoption of infection-control measures.

"We Italians feared that the Chinese of Prato were to be the problem. Instead, they did much better than us," said Renzo Berti, top state health official for the area, which includes Florence.

"Among Chinese resident in Prato there isn't even one case of COVID contagion," he said, referring to COVID-19, which has killed almost 12,000 people in Italy, more than in any other country.

Ethnic Chinese make up about a quarter of Prato's population, but Berti credits them with bringing down the entire town's infection rate to almost half the Italian average - 62 cases per 100,000 inhabitants versus 115 for the country.

Prato's Chinese community,



built originally around the textile industry, went into lockdown from the end of January, three weeks before Italy's first recorded infection.

Many were returning from new year holidays in China, the then epicenter.

They knew what was coming and spread the word: stay home.

So as Italians headed to the ski slopes and crowded into cafes and bars as normal, the Chinese inhabitants of Prato had seemingly disappeared. Its streets, still festooned with Chinese New Year decorations, were semi-deserted, shops shuttered.

There is some anecdotal evidence that Chinese people elsewhere in Italy took similar precautions, though national data on infection rates among the community is unavailable. The health ministry did not respond to an email seeking comment.

Milan restaurateur Francesco Wu, a representative of Italian business lobby Confcommercio, said he urged Italian counterparts in February to shut down their businesses, as he had done.

"Most of them looked at me like a Cassandra," he said. "No one could believe it was happening here ... Now Troy is burning and we are all locked inside."

"Italian friends looked at me oddly"

When Chinese-born businessman Luca Zhou flew home from China on Feb 4 to rejoin his wife and 28-year-old son in Prato, he put himself straight into quarantine in his bedroom for 14 days, separated from his wife and son.

"We had seen what was happening in China and we were afraid for ourselves, our families and our friends," said the 56-year-old, who has a business exporting Italian wine to China.

After emerging from his self-quarantine, he ventured outside in mask and gloves. He said the few other Chinese on the streets also wore them, anxious not to spread the virus to others.

"My Italian friends looked at me oddly. I tried many times to explain to them that they should wear them ... but they didn't understand," Luca said.

"When I came back to Prato,

no Italian authority told me anything. We did it all by ourselves. If we had not done it, we would all be infected, Chinese and Italians."

Italy was one of the first nations to cut air links with China, on Jan 31, though many of its Chinese residents found their way home via third countries. On Feb 8, almost a month before closing all schools, it offered students returning from holidays in China the right to stop attending classes.

"In Prato, there was a boom in take-up," said local health director Berti, saying families had been obliged to contact his authority if they wanted to pursue this option. It was then that he began to realise how differently the Chinese were behaving.

More than 360 families, or around 1,300 people, registered as having put themselves into self-isolation and also signed up to his authority's health surveillance scheme, which monitored symptoms remotely and communicated with them in Chinese.

As Italian infections began to take off in late February and early March, some families, many of whom retain Chinese citizenship, even began sending children to relatives in China, alarmed at the attitude and behavior of Italians around them.

Another who went into self-isolation after returning home from China was 23-year-old university student Chiara Zheng.

"I was conscious of the gravity of the situation. I felt a duty to do it for other people and those close to me."

## Wetlands thrives in desert in Ningxia's Yanchi county

HABAHU National Nature Reserve, located in Yanchi county of China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, is like a pair of green arms holding the county with scattered wetlands and lakes, defending the county against the intruding Mu Us Desert on the north.

In 1990s, only 13 percent of the county's land was covered by plants, and the county suffered sandstorms four months each year. To improve ecology there, China's State Council approved and established the Habahu National Nature Reserve in February 2006 - an 84,000-hectare ecological barrier consisting both wetland and desert ecological systems. Now, the reserve is home to 10,072 hectares of wetland.

"The annual precipitation here is less than 300 millimeters, while the evaporation is eight times of that. Therefore the valuable wetland is a major habitat and breeding area for the wildlife in the reserve, as well as an important stop for migrant birds," said Wu Hong, director of the Habahu National Nature Reserve Management Bureau.

Sands once covered the nature reserve, forcing people to move away and diminishing the area of wetland. According to an employee of the reserve, ecological restoration of the wetland is a systematic process. Wetland is formed with rich underground water resources and particular geological structure, and plantation is crucial for maintaining ecological balance for wetland.

In recent years, the nature reserve has launched ecological compensation projects, restored wetland ecology and improved community environment, trying everything to prevent human ac-



The photo shows scenery of the Habahu National Nature Reserve

tivities from decreasing the wetland area. It is paying particularly close attention to the farming activities around the wetland which might exert negative impacts on the inhabitation and migration of birds and wildlife.

In 2014, the Habahu National Nature Reserve was listed as a pilot reserve for the national ecological compensation mechanism, which played a major role in promoting the ecological restoration of the area, Wu introduced.

In the next five years, the reserve has received a total of 125 million yuan (\$17.98 million) of ecological compensation from the country. Over 45 million has been utilized to compensate the farmers whose cropland had been damaged by wildlife, benefiting 8,125 local households.

According to Li Xiaofei, Party chief of a nearby village, the villagers can receive an average of over 1,000 yuan each year, which largely eased the contradiction between ecological protection and the livelihood of the people. The reclaiming activities that damage the wetland subsided ever since, Li

added. The Habahu National Nature Reserve borders with 5 townships that are home to 30 administrative villages and 115 hamlets. Since 2014, the reserve's managing department partnered with residents in these communities, and started jointly constructing and developing the reserve. So far, a total of 189 residents have been employed to patrol the public benefit forests and monitor forest resources.

"Through ecological restoration and remediation, the ecological functions of the wetland have been obviously improved, offering valuable environment for wildlife's foraging, breeding and habitation," said Yu Dian, head of publicity and education department of the Habahu National Nature Reserve Management Bureau.

These efforts resulted in the uptick of the number of birds in the reserve. According to Yu, 2 Baer's pochards, a critically endangered species in the world, were spotted on the Mahua Lake last March.

People's Daily

# Those running counter to trend of times doomed to failure

ON Mar.4, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the "Taiwan Allies International Protection and Enhancement Initiative (TAIPEI) Act of 2019". The act puts out that the government should consider "increasing or decreasing the United States Government's economic, security, or diplomatic engagement with another nation as a result of an action taken by that nation to either strengthen or undermine ties with Taiwan".

China is firmly against it, as this act is in serious violation of the one-China principle and the three China-US joint communiques, and goes against international law and basic norms governing international relations.

There is but one China in the

world; the Government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legal Government representing the whole of China; and Taiwan is an inalienable part of China's territory. The one-China principle is the prevailing trend recognized by international consensus.

Altogether 180 countries have established diplomatic relations with China. The increasing number of countries establishing and developing relations with China based on the one-China principle reflects their correct choice that conforms to the trend of history, follows the trend of the times, and serves their fundamental and long-term interests. Therefore, such choice should not be interfered with or criticized.

Taneti Maamau, President and Foreign Minister of Kiribati, said that the government of Kiribati's decision to resume diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China is an independent choice based on the interests of Kiribati and its people. Kiribati has realized that it needs great partners and friends like China to achieve national development.

Some U.S. politicians' attempt to play tricks on Taiwan-related issues runs counter to the trend of the times and is nothing short of overreaching themselves.

The U.S. itself established diplomatic ties with China on the basis of the one-China principle more than 40 years ago. In recent years, however, it has thwarted other sovereign coun-

tries' pursuit of normal relations with China by intimidating and interfering with those countries.

For instance, U.S. senior officials once threatened to "punish" El Salvador before it broke the so-called "diplomatic relations" with Taiwan authorities in August 2018. However, El Salvador still established diplomatic ties with China despite the pressure.

In addition, in Sept. 2019, following the Solomon Islands' decision to establish diplomatic ties with China, U.S. leader refused to meet the leader of Solomon Islands for discussions on development cooperation.

Now, the U.S. Congress is once again obstructing other countries' pursuit of establishing relations with China through Taiwan-related act. Such practice

is nothing but double standards and political bullying. If the U.S. politicians do not learn from these lessons, they will only become the butt of a joke in human history.

In today's world, the basic norms of international relations such as sovereignty equality and non-intervention in the internal affairs have long become a global consensus. Those who attempt to interfere in other countries' affairs by adopting domestic laws are against justice, and will only be condemned by the international society.

China has always promoted democracy in international relations and upheld the equality of countries, regardless of their size, strength and wealth. The country aims at advancing its

own development as part of the development of the global community and achieving win-win results by positive interaction among countries, rather than conducting zero-sum games that lead to lose-lose situations.

Countries have a strong will to develop relations with China, which will never be stopped by threats. These American politicians draining their brains will only hurt the international image of their own country.

Solomon Islands' Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare once warned certain political groups that Solomon Islands is not a political football to be used by international interest groups that lack international credentials at the United Nations to achieve their narrow political or geo-

political interests.

Taiwan question concerns China's sovereignty and territorial integrity, which is associated with China's core interests. There's no compromise on the one-China principle, and China remains resolute to protect its sovereignty and security. The Chinese government and people will never sit and watch external forces hurt the country's core interests.

Taiwan question is the most important and sensitive core issue remaining in China-U.S. relations. The U.S., repeatedly playing tricks on the so-called Taiwan-related acts, will only make more troubles for China-U.S. relations and finally hurt its own interests.

People's Daily



The  
Guardian

# SPORT



In this Saturday, May 19, 2018 file photo the newly married Duke and Duchess of Sussex, Meghan Markle and Prince Harry, leave Windsor Castle in a convertible car after their wedding in Windsor, England, to attend an evening reception at Frogmore House, hosted by the Prince of Wales. (AP)

## Royal no more: Harry and Meghan start uncertain new chapter

LONDON

PRINCE Harry and his wife Meghan officially make the transition Tuesday from senior members of Britain's royal family to – well, it's unclear. International celebrities, charity patrons, global influencers?

The royal schism that the couple triggered in January by announcing that they would step down from official duties, give up public funding, seek financial independence and swap the U.K. for North America becomes official on March 31.

The move has been made more complicated and poignant by the global coronavirus pandemic, which finds the couple and their 10-month-old son Archie in California, far from Harry's father Prince Charles – who is recovering after testing positive for COVID-19 – and Harry's 93-year-old grandmother, Queen Elizabeth II.

"As we can all feel, the world at this moment seems extraordinarily fragile," the couple said in a final post Monday on their now-mothballed SussexRoyal Instagram account.

"What's most important right now is the health and well-being of everyone across the globe and finding solutions for the many issues that have presented themselves as a result of this pandemic," they added. "As we all find the part we are to play in this global shift and changing of habits, we are focusing this new chapter to understand how we can best contribute."

It is less than two years since ex-soldier Harry, who is sixth in line to the British throne, married American actress Meghan Markle at Windsor Castle in a lavish ceremony watched by millions around the world.

Soon the couple began to bristle at intense scrutiny by the British media – which they said tipped into harassment. They decided to break free, in what Harry called a "leap of faith" as he sought a more peaceful life, without the journalists who have filmed, photographed and written about him since the day he was born.

Harry has long had an uncomfortable relationship with the media, which he blames for the death of his mother, Princess Diana. She died in a car crash in Paris in 1997 while being pursued by paparazzi.

Harry's unhappiness increased after he began dating Markle, then the star of TV legal drama "Suits." In 2016 he accused the media of harassing his then-girlfriend, and criticized "racial undertones" in some coverage of the biracial Markle.

It's clear that Meghan's upbeat Californian style – embodied in the glossy images and life-affirming messages of the couple's Instagram account – rankled with sections of Britain's tabloid press, which is both insatiable for royal content and fiercely judgmental of the family members.

The couple – who are keeping their titles, Duke and Duchess of Sussex, but will no longer be called Their Royal Highnesses –

had hoped to keep using the Sussex Royal brand in their new life. But last month they announced they wouldn't seek to trademark the term because of U.K. rules governing use of the word "royal."

The couple plans to launch a non-profit organization for their charitable activities in areas including youth empowerment, mental health, conservation, gender equality and education. Harry will also continue to oversee the Invictus Games, the Olympics-style competition he founded for wounded troops.

Meghan has been announced as the narrator of "Elephant," a Disney nature documentary.

But for now, the couple's office said they want the world to focus "on the global response to COVID-19."

"The Duke and Duchess of Sussex will spend the next few months focusing on their family and continuing to do what they can, safely and privately, to support and work with their pre-existing charitable commitments while developing their future non-profit organisation," the couple's office said in a statement.

The newly independent Harry and Meghan will also need to earn money to help pay for a multi-million dollar security bill.

As senior royals, they have had bodyguards funded by British taxpayers. Since late last year, Harry and Meghan have since been based on Canada's Vancouver Island, where security was provided by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Canadian authorities warned last month that would end once the couple ceased to be working royals.

The duke and duchess recently moved to the Los Angeles area, where Meghan grew up and where her mother still lives. The news led President Donald Trump to tweet on Sunday: "The U.S. will not pay for their security protection. They must pay!"

Harry and Meghan's office said "security costs are being personally covered by the couple."

Some royal historians warned that Harry and Meghan could struggle to find a fulfilling role. Comparisons have been drawn to King Edward VIII, who abdicated in 1936 to marry divorced American Wallis Simpson. The couple lived the rest of their lives in luxurious but lonely self-imposed exile from Britain.

Royal historian Penny Junor said U.K.-based royals were helping boost the nation's morale during the coronavirus pandemic. The queen has issued a message to the nation, while Harry's brother Prince William and his children joined in a public round of applause for health care workers.

"All of this is absolutely what the family is about, and those members of the royal family that are on a limb now are pretty irrelevant," Junor said.

AP

## Will 2020 CHAN delay help or hinder Taifa Stars?

BY CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL MWEBE

CORONAVIRUS pandemic has hit the sporting calendar hard, with almost all events postponed.

The 2020 African Nations Championship (CHAN) finals is among the postponed football events.

The CHAN finals, earlier scheduled for April 4-25 in Cameroon, was called off 'until further notice' by the Confederation of African Football (CAF).

The postponement will give some national teams more preparation time ahead of the tournament, while others – especially those in the midst of a hot run of form – will have been left disappointed that they have been robbed of a good opportunity to claim success.

But which camp does Tanzania falls into? After defying odds to qualify for the biennial tournament for the second time, senior national team, Taifa Stars, are in Group D which also includes Zambia, Guinea and Namibia.

Tanzania are the lowest ranked team in the group and so were not favourites to make it to the knockout stage.

That said, how will the delay of 2020 CHAN impact Tanzania's hopes in Africa's second biggest football tournament?

Taifa Stars' head coach Etienne Ndayiragije had already announced his preliminary squad. Some of the squad members were in good form during the 2019/20 domestic campaign.

Bakari Mwamnyeto was at the heart of a solid Coastal Union defense and was ex-



Players who have been selected for senior national soccer team, Taifa Stars, take part in training session at National Stadium in Dar es Salaam recently to prepare for continental assignments. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

pected to be in the Taifa Stars' starting line up. Ditram Nchimbi was doing well at Young Africans SC (Yanga).

Some unexpected picks, such as Bryson Raphael at Azam FC, Sixtus Sabilo of Polisi Tanzania and Reliants Lusajo at Namungo FC, were playing some of the best football of their careers.

But to suggest all was well in the Taifa Stars squad would be wide off the mark.

The defensive duo of Erasto Nyoni and Kelvin Yondani found themselves out of form and many were surprised with their inclusion in the final squad.

Their playing time at club level has been restricted due to a combination of form and fitness.

With Simon Msuva and Mbwana Samatta out of selection due to CHAN being restricted to local based players, there was not an obvious centre forward to lead Taifa Stars into battle.

John Bocco is still struggling to

capture his best form.

Last season Bocco scored 19 goals in all competitions for Simba, this season he has managed just four goals so far, a drastic decline in output as a result of injury lay off.

Shaban Chilunda is the other option but he too, has struggled and is yet to rediscover the form that attracted the interest of Spanish side, Tenerife.

Juma Kaseja, who was between the sticks for Taifa Stars in the CHAN qualifiers, was sidelined with an injury therefore omitted in the preliminary finals squad.

Kaseja has since returned and vowed to fight back for his place.

Apart from Kaseja, another player who will benefit with the delay is Miraj Athuman.

Athuman was one of the finest domestic talents this season before picking an injury during the 2019 CECAFA Senior Challenge Cup tournament in Kampala.

Athuman has been directly in-

involved in nine goals, scoring six and assisting three in 11 appearances for Simba across all competitions.

Time, as they say, is a great healer, while it will give time for players like Kaseja, Bocco, Chilunda and Athuman more to regain sharpness, it might also bring forth new breakout stars.

More time will allow those who flourished during 2019/20 to consolidate their elevated status in the game. However we cannot discount the probability of others dropping in form if the tournament is delayed for several more months.

We are living in very interesting times and no one possesses the crystal ball to predict how the Coronavirus pandemic will end and football returns.

Whether the delay ends up being either a blessing or a curse for Taifa Stars depends on how players are able to either maintain or improve their form.



Novak Djokovic

Roger Federer

Rafael Nadal

## Top players donate, lower tier counts cost of coronavirus shutdown

MUMBAI

WHILE top players donate to coronavirus relief efforts and post cooking and workout videos online, lower level professionals are counting the cost of the tennis shutdown with some fearing they will be unable to put food on the table if it lasts much longer.

Novak Djokovic last week pledged one million euros (895,305.69 pounds) to help buy medical equipment in his native Serbia, while Rafa Nadal has called on fellow Spanish athletes to help raise 11 million euros to fight the pandemic.

Roger Federer – the other member of the Big Three of men's tennis – contributed one million Swiss Francs (846,910.79 pounds) to help vulnerable families in his native Switzerland.

By contrast, Georgia's Sofia Shapatava, the world's 375th

ranked women's singles player, has started a petition seeking assistance from the International Tennis Federation (ITF) for lower-level professionals.

"Not many will be able to support their everyday life and then come back to playing after three months without competition," the 31-year-old said in her online petition, which has more than 1,350 signatures.

The men's ATP Tour and the WTA, which runs the women's circuit, suspended all tournaments until early June after countries started locking down their borders to contain the spread of the flu-like virus.

In recent weeks, players who would usually be jetting around the world to tournaments have flooded social media with videos of their take on the toilet roll challenge, or their new home workout routines, cooking and

dancing skills.

While tennis is a lucrative sport for those at the top – the 2020 Australian Open singles champions each took home A\$4.12 million (2.03 million pounds) – those in the lower echelons often struggle to make ends meet.

A 2018 International Review Panel report commissioned to address betting and integrity issues said that players in the lowest tiers were susceptible to corruption because of the difficulty in making a living.

Only 250-350 players, the report said, earned enough to break even.

Tennis governing bodies have over the last few years attempted to improve the pay and conditions for a deeper pool of international players but it has not proved enough for those who depend solely on winnings.

The WTA and ATP told Reuters they were working behind the scenes to help the players. The ITF did not respond to request for comment.

Britain's Tara Moore, who is ranked 447th in singles, earned about \$2,800 this year before the shutdown.

"It will be tough for many players to survive the next couple of months as they didn't earn much before," the 27-year-old said on Twitter in support of Shapatava's petition.

Shapatava, who currently plays secondary ITF events, has collected \$354,725 in career earnings since turning professional in 2004, but has only made about \$3,300 this year.

"It is very weird to listen that professional tennis players struggle with food, but that is reality," she wrote in a blog.

REUTERS



## FIFA sees 'duty' to help as pandemic ravages soccer finances

BY ROB HARRIS

AS the economic consequences of the coronavirus pandemic ripple across world football, FIFA sees a "duty" to offer a lifeline from its vast cash reserves.

Talks are underway about how the governing body's support fund will be distributed, with the global players' union appealing for cash to be targeted at the smaller markets, rather than the elite end of the game.

No part of the world's biggest sport has been untouched by the rapid spread of the COVID-19 disease as games have been wiped out across professional leagues.

Barcelona and Juventus players have taken pay cuts, former Slovakian champion Zilina is entering liquidation and staff were being furloughed across the game worldwide, including Uruguay coach Oscar Tabarez and hundreds of his federation colleagues.

Now FIFA is trying to show why it has amassed reserves it last reported at \$2.745 billion, to help soccer when it is most in need.

"FIFA is in a strong financial situation and it's our duty to do the utmost to help them in their hour of need," world football's governing body said in a statement to The Associated Press on Tuesday.

"FIFA is working on possibilities to provide assistance to the football community around the world after making a comprehensive assessment of the financial impact this pandemic will have on football."

FIFA President Gianni Infantino and his vice presidents first agreed two weeks ago to explore a "support fund," and now talks are being expanded across the six regional confederations and member associations to determine the mechanism to distribute the cash.

It should be aimed at the most vulnerable in smaller soccer markets, according to FIFPro general secretary Jonas Baer-Hoffmann, who represents 65,000 members in national player unions worldwide.

"There is an urgency difference ... we need to safeguard the weakest links in this pyramid," Baer-Hoffmann said. "We will see very many individuals whose livelihoods depend on these smaller clubs. ... Once clubs are gone, we won't get them back."

Even at the top of the game, cut-backs unimaginable even a month ago are being implemented.

Tottenham, which reached the

Champions League final last season, announced Tuesday that 550 non-playing staff were having salaries reduced by 20% for the next two months or being furloughed under a government scheme to protect jobs.

Tottenham chairman Daniel Levy urged coach Jose Mourinho and his players to do "their bit for the football ecosystem" as the bodies representing manager and players in England discuss the need to accept reduced pay across the Premier League.

"We may be the eighth largest club in the world by revenue according to the Deloitte survey," Levy said, "but all that historical data is totally irrelevant as this virus has no boundaries."

The biggest moneymaker in the game, Barcelona, has had to slash salaries of players – including Lionel Messi – by 70% to save nearly 16 million euros (\$17 million) a month. Spain has been one of the hardest-hit countries by the pandemic, with nearly 95,000 cases of infections and more than 8,100 deaths.

Having expected revenue to exceed 1 billion euros this season for the first time, Barcelona president Josep Bartomeu is now braced for more austere times.

"We will change models and the way we do things," Bartomeu said. "We will have to adapt and be a pioneer."

In Italy, where the season was halted three weeks ago, Juventus is making savings of 90 million euros after Cristiano Ronaldo and his Juventus teammates agreed to forgo four months worth of wages along with coach Maurizio Sarri.

It is unlikely teams like Juventus will be asking FIFA for cash – but the governing body expects a "considerable number" to face "extremely difficult economic conditions." FIFA has to work out who is most in need of its cash and how football entities can quickly receive it.

"The football community around the world is experiencing, to a greater or lesser extent, serious financial problems on account of the coronavirus outbreak," FIFA said. "This threatens to disrupt and impair the ability of FIFA's member associations and other football organizations such as leagues and clubs to develop, finance and run football activities at all levels of the game, including professional, non-professional, youth and grassroots."

AP

## Ex-Olympique Marseille president Pape Diouf dies of coronavirus

MARSEILLE

FORMER Marseille president Pape Diouf has died aged 68 after contracting the new coronavirus, a family source told AFP on Tuesday.

Diouf, who was born in Chad but had French and Senegalese citizenship, led the club between 2005-2009 and helped build the side who lifted the Ligue 1 title in 2010.

He was hospitalised in Senegal after contracting the virus there and became the country's first COVID-19 fatality.

Diouf had been due to leave for Nice earlier on Tuesday to be treated in France, but a sharp deterioration in his health – which saw him placed on a respirator – prevented him from boarding the plane.

Diouf was also a journalist and football agent before taking over at the Stade Velodrome.

Moving to Marseille aged 18, he was set on a career in the military, but soon switched paths.

After studying at the prestigious Sciences Po in Paris, he worked at the La Marseillaise newspaper before becoming a football agent,

most notably for Didier Drogba, who enthralled the Velodrome in 2003-04.

He later became president at Marseille, "a difficult post, where there were very few men from diverse backgrounds," said Jacques-Henri Eyraud, the club's current president.

"But he fought tooth and nail, and won the hearts of thousands of supporters."

Diouf himself was acutely aware of the lack of diversity at the management level, telling an interviewer in 2008 that the fact he was the only black president of a top-tier European club was "a painful observation."

"Pape will remain in the hearts of the Marseillais forever, as one of the great architects in the club's history," Marseilles said in a statement.

Senegal President Macky Sall also paid tribute to "a great figure of sport" on Twitter.

"To his family, I offer, on behalf of the nation, my deepest condolences."

(AFP)

# Soccer's looming transfer window crisis: Explaining FIFA's bold plan to handle player contracts



FIFA president Gianni Infantino has a proposal to offset some of the major issues around ending the 2019-20 season past June 30, the typical end date for player contracts or loan deals. But will any of them work? (Agencies)

BY GABRIELE MARCOTTI, SENIOR WRITER, ESPN FC

**T**HINK of it as football's Y2K, the legal bug in the system that could – if unaddressed – unleash havoc if 2019-20 competitions continue past June 30.

More than one out of five players in Europe's Big Five leagues – English Premier League, Spanish La Liga, Italian Serie A, German Bundesliga, French Ligue 1 – would, legally, disappear from club rosters come July 1 when their contracts expire or when their loan deals come to an end. FIFA have assembled a working group to deal with the issue and a proposal, seen by ESPN, outlines some potential solutions. And when UEFA holds video conferences with member associations and other stakeholders on Wednesday, it will be on the agenda.

If a solution isn't found, it's hard to see how competitions can continue into July, something that may be necessary if the coronavirus pandemic doesn't abate in many nations. On the other hand, the proposed fixes in the FIFA document open up a Pandora's box of other issues that could tie everything up in legal red tape.

**Q: OK, let's start at the beginning. Who is affected and why?**

**A:** Based on available contract information, it's at least 500 players from the five leagues mentioned above. That's more than one-fifth of the ones who have played this season. Some clubs have as many as 17 players in those circumstances: They would physically struggle to put out a team without them.

Some 270 of those players are on contracts that expire on June 30, 2020, while the rest are on loan from other team and those agreements also end on June 30, which means their registration goes back to their parent clubs.

**Q: Why does all this happen on June 30?**

**A:** Because that's the standard date on which contracts end in most leagues. And it makes sense because the FIFA transfer window opens the following day, on July 1.

**Q: Which leagues are most affected?**

**A:** La Liga would lose 24.6% of their players, Serie A 26%. In the Premier League it's less, 12.9% of players are affected, but it hits certain teams far more than others: Newcastle would lose nine players, for example; Leganes, 14, SPAL, a whopping 17, and Union Berlin, 12.

**Q: OK, so how are FIFA going to address this?**

**A:** Well, the proposal in the working paper seen by ESPN lays out some guiding principles for countries to follow. It's the typical situation where you don't need to follow them, but if you don't you risk being out of step with the rest of the world and hurting your club. They're also generally common sense.

The single biggest proposed change is that all contracts set to expire on June 30 would instead expire on the final day of the 2019-20 season, whenever that day is in an individual country. For some leagues, pandemic permitting, that may mean July. For others, it could be as late as August or September. Obviously, national leagues will decide those dates in accordance with their government and health authorities.

**Q: Can you legally just extend contracts like that?**

**A:** The legal argument is that June 30 is an arbitrary date that conveniently falls after most leagues have finished and that contracts are really designed to end once the season ends. So if you shift the end of the season, presto! You've extended the contract. Obviously this applies in "force majeure" situations and a global health crisis is clearly one of them.

**Q: Not everybody is going to like that ...**

**A:** Nope. Imagine you're a player whose contract ends on June 30 and has already signed with another club

for next season, as you're legally allowed to do.

Take Ajax's Hakim Ziyech, for example. He signed a contract to become a Chelsea player on July 1. Now, that date could be much later, which presumably would cost him money (since he got a raise from his Ajax deal when he signed for Chelsea) and also expose him to the risk of injury if he continues to play for Ajax. Or imagine you're a club saddled with a bunch of players you don't rate who were set to leave on June 30. Now, you're stuck with them for several more months, and you may struggle to pay their wages because you had budgeted for them to leave.

There's also a broader issue with regards to national employment law. It was all nice and neat when contracts ended in the off-season; now it's anyone's guess. Different countries will have different legislation and employers may simply not have the power to extend contracts unilaterally.

**Q: It sounds like a major can of worms ...**

**A:** It is, and there are other issues which are less sexy but no less important. Many transfer fees and sponsorship payments are paid in installments. Do you extend those contracts too? Some clubs would no doubt benefit, for others it would be disastrous.

The other major disruption is going to be in relation to the transfer window. Remember that FIFA sets the general window

and national associations set their registration window within that. What happens if the Bundesliga wraps things up by June 30 and plans for a mid-August restart, but the Premier League doesn't end until late August? Where do you put the window?

The overlap in league seasons becomes a real issue unless you allow, given that we're in exceptional circumstances, for the window to be open for a good chunk of the season, like in the old days. That of course presents its own problems, with players coming and going and negotiating with direct rivals in midseason.

There's another serious issue, too ...

**Q: What's that?**

**A:** The transfer window isn't just a chance for players to move and teams to strengthen or cash in. For many clubs, it's essential to balancing the books year after year. If you look at profits from "player trading" as a share of club revenues, it has become increasingly important across the board at clubs big and small. At some clubs, it dwarfs gate receipts.

Why? Because it's not a zero-sum game. Amortization allows you to spread the cost of buying a player over the life of his contract, but if you sell a player, you get to book the revenue straight away. If the window is significantly reduced or altered, that will be very difficult to do.

**Q: OK, so what's the**

**solution here? What's FIFA meant to do?**

**A:** I don't know. It's obviously a "least-worst" scenario. The tidiest answer would be if every league that plays a fall-spring schedule simply agreed to end 2019-20 on June 30. If you have time to play some games to settle outstanding issues, then do it. If you want to void the season, do it. If you want to take the table as final for promotion/relegation issues, do it. If you have to increase the size of the top flight, do it. Do whatever you like, but draw a line under June 30 and start next season whenever it's safe to do so.

Except that likely won't happen. There's too much money at stake in TV, gate receipts and sponsorship income that clubs fear losing out. There's also the integrity of competition; you don't want to end up with an unfair "solution" that brings lawsuits and unhappiness. So the next best thing is something like the FIFA document, but it only really becomes effective if everyone agrees to adopt it and, to some degree, we reach some agreement on league start dates and the transfer window across the board.

Interests vary across the world as do conditions. Leagues will look after their own backyards, to some degree, but a common global agreement would at least minimize the disruption. It would also allow us to move on when this pandemic is over.

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

FIFA sees 'duty' to help as pandemic ravages soccer finances

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**EATV THURSDAY**

**TONIGHT @ 9:00**

**SalamaNa**

11:00 DADAZ LIVE  
12:00 MPYA  
12:30 Bongo Hits  
13:00 Msosi Kilaani (r)  
13:30 Kati Za Wana  
14:00 Ujenzi (r)  
14:30 DK10 Za Maangamizi  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Waganga Ulimbo (r)  
16:00 Ubongo Kids (r)  
16:30 #HSHTAG  
17:00 SSELECT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 eNewz  
18:30 Music/Soap  
19:30 EATV SAA I  
19:45 MJADALA  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 SalamaNa

Every Thursday at 9pm

**eastafrica RADIO**

06:00 Supa Breakfast  
10:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
20:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

**88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM**

## Premier League clubs struggling to pay players, coaches



Azam FC forward, Richard Djodi (R), gets the better of Polisi Tanzania defenders when the squads clashed in a Mainland Premier League match which took place in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

A section of Mainland Premier League clubs are in dilemma on how they will pay their players, technical panels and supporting staff, with the league and the rest of sporting activities in Tanzania suspended because of Coronavirus disease.

Most elite clubs in the country do not have steady sponsorship and instead heavily depend on gate collections for their survival.

Only few Premier

League teams like Azam FC, Simba SC, Yanga, Mtibwa Sugar, Polisi Tanzania, JKT Tanzania, Kagera Sugar, Namungo

FC, among others, have either steady sponsorship or reliable financial backing.

Speaking in separate

to coronavirus disease spread.

The pandemic, which has so far claimed one life in the country, is causing economic challenges worldwide.

Mwanza's Mbao FC official, who did not want to be named, said the situation is much difficult to them considering that they depend on gate revenue for their operations.

The squad's operations include paying players, technical panel and supporting staff salaries.

"Our dependable means of revenue is through gate collections, and sometimes handouts from well wishers, but due to the problem we are facing now it will be difficult to meet all of the operations," he disclosed.

"We are running up and down looking at ways which can help the club pay our staff, it's our duty to pay them and I'm sure we will pay them," he said.

Singida United and Lipuli FC officials also shared the same sentiments, saying the outbreak has affected them.

"It's a bit difficult for us now but we are coming up with measures to scaling up our fund raising activities," Singida United official noted.

Meanwhile, Tanzania Soccer Players Union (Sputanza) Chairman, Mussa Kisoky, on Tuesday said the association will see to it that all elite, First Division League (FDL) and Second Division League (SDL) players are paid their arrears before the leagues resume.

He said, his office has received a lot of complaints from players who want to be paid their signing fees and other arrears.

"There are a lot of complaints from players, many clubs are violating FIFA player transfer regulations and now we will start enforcing the rules," he noted.

"I can say Simba, Azam FC and other few clubs who don't have financial issues with their current or former players, we want to see all players get paid their outstanding dues before end of this football season," he said in an interview monitored on a local radio station.

## Losing whole summer would cost over £300m - ECB

LONDON

TOM Harrison, the ECB's chief executive, has estimated that an entire season without cricket will cost the game in England and Wales "well in excess of £300 million".

In a letter to PCA chief executive Tony Irish, seen by ESPNcricinfo, Harrison admitted that the ECB is "having to reset our future plans across the whole game in order to ensure its long-term survival" in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, which threatens to wipe out much of the English summer.

The ECB unveiled an initial £61m support package on Tuesday night, aimed at ensuring both professional and recreational cricket can withstand the impact of the ongoing crisis. But with its reserves worth £11m in 2018-19 - down from £73m in 2015-16 - the potential cost of a season without cricket is a major concern.

As things stand, the season's start has been pushed back to May 28 at the earliest, though that is little more than a holding date. The ECB is currently modelling what the season might look like with possible start dates in June, July and August, as well as planning for games to be played behind closed doors.

In his letter, dated March 29, Harrison described the ongoing pandemic as "the biggest challenge the sport has faced in the modern era" and admitted that "although the full extent and impact of the pandemic on cricket is as yet unknown, it is already clear that it will be extremely significant".

"At the start of 2020, cricket in England and Wales was in a very strong financial position," Harrison wrote. "Our recent renewals of media rights contracts and commercial partnerships all but guarantee our revenues and provide a high level of relative security for the next five years. With this relative security, we have been able to build a strategy for growth, based on strong investment in our core, to grow cricket and thus secure our long-term future.

"This strategy has seen hugely increased investment and commitment to our players across our international and domestic game, with substantial improvements both to the pay and the conditions under which professional cricketers are employed across first-class county clubs (including raised salary collar and caps).

"We have also been clear that investment into grassroots cricket is critical to creating a sustainable sport, hence our commitment to recreational programmes, to reinvigorating cricket in schools, to the women's and girls' game and creating the next generation of volunteers.

"The investment, however, is fundamentally based on the proviso that cricket is played and thus the value proposition delivered to our broadcast and commercial partners. Whilst a range of scenarios is contemplated to account for lost matches or series across the term, a situation like the one we are facing is beyond the scope of any risk assessment and therefore has extremely serious consequences for the game's revenues. With this public health crisis, and its likely impact on this coming season, we are thus forced to review every investment and every line of cost." AGENCIES

## Austria-based Zambia star has message for fans back home

JOHANNESBURG

ZAMBIA international star Enock Mwepu was enjoying a superb season for Austrian side Red Bull Salzburg before the coronavirus pandemic brought the league to a halt.

The 22-year-old midfielder has made 27 appearances in the campaign so far, including facing the likes of Liverpool and Napoli in the UEFA Champions League.

He is a genuine African star on the rise alongside fellow Zambian Patson Daka in Salzburg, with the latter in incredible scoring form in the Austrian league this season with 17 goals in 21 appearances.

But for now, both of their thoughts are on stopping the spread of the coronavirus that has swept the world and put many lives at risk, including back home in Zambia.

As of Wednesday, Austria has recorded 10,192 cases with 128 deaths, far more than Zambia's 36 cases, but the potential for the spread in the COSAFA nation remains very high.

"I want to urge everybody to stay safe, calm and healthy. It is up to us to participate to slow down the spread of this virus," Mwepu says.

"In order to do so, we should practice social distancing, wash our hands and avoid social gathering.

"I hope and pray everybody stays safe and healthy. God bless."

Mwepu will hope to get back on the pitch as soon as possible to help his side, who are second in the championship play-offs in Austria, four points behind LASK with eight



Enock Mwepu

games remaining in the season, if it can be completed.

Mwepu is adhering to the guidelines laid out by the World Health Organization in the bid to combat the coronavirus outbreak, which include:

Wash your hands frequently: Regularly and thoroughly clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand rub or wash them with soap and water.

Maintain social distancing: Maintain at least 1 metre (3 feet) distance between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing.

Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth: Hands touch many surfaces and can pick up viruses. Once contaminated, hands can transfer the virus to your eyes, nose or mouth. From there, the virus can enter your body and can make you sick.

Practice respiratory hygiene: Make sure you, and the people around you, follow good respiratory hygiene. This means covering your mouth and nose with your bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze. Then dispose of the used tissue immediately.

If you have fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical care early: Stay home if you feel unwell. If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical attention and call in advance. Follow the directions of your local health authority.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko



MY BOSS TOLD ME TO HAVE A GOOD DAY... SO, I WENT HOME

HERE I AM!