



**National Pg 3**  
Best way to keep children healthy

**National Pg 4**  
Cyber attacks a wake-up call

**National Pg 5**  
Cashewnut farmers paid 20bn/-

**SMART MONEY**

**CRDB commits to back Mtibwa Sugar's expansion in line with industrialisation**

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## Ministry updates how to certify for Covid-19

By Guardian Reporter

THE government yesterday issued new guidelines for obtaining Covid-19 clearance certificate for both nationals and foreigners living in the country with plans to travel to countries where such certificates are required.

Ummu Mwalimu (pictured), the Minister for Health, Social Development, Gender, Elderly and Children said in a statement that the fee for screening is 40,000/- for Tanzanian nationals, 60,000/- for foreigners who are residents and US\$100 for visitors in the country.

"Travelers who have a Covid-19 clearance certificate will only be cleared after it is stamped and verified electronically," she said.

"The procedure for obtaining the certificate is clear. The screening results will be taken to the regional chief medical officer and a certificate issued within 72 hours for those who don't have the infection, and their names sent to border posts for verification."

The test results can only be obtained at regional hospitals and not otherwise, the

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# Outgoing MPs dominate constituency primaries

By Guardian Reporter

A NUMBER of outgoing lawmakers seeking reelection on CCM ticket, including ministers, passed the first stage of the party's nomination process after leading in the preferential votes cast yesterday.

Those who garnered enough votes to make it to the top three and whose names will be forwarded to the party's higher decision-making organs for possible nomination include Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government) Selemani Jaffo, who polled 588 votes in Kisarawe constituency primaries.

His name will be forwarded to CCM's Central Committee of the National Executive Committee alongside those of Salum Chaurembo (3) as well as Ally Goha, Zemba Mumbi and Zainabu Zowange who got three votes each.

Home Affairs minister Mwigulu Nchemba, who is seeking nomination to for reelection in Iramba West constituency, got 27 votes. The first and second runners-up are John Jacob (16) and Dr Timothy Lyanga (13). The seat attracted 21 aspirants, most of whom got single-digit votes.

Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Dr Tulia Ackson,

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President John Magufuli swears in Marwa Mwita Bubirya as Njombe regional commissioner at Chamwino State House in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: State House

## SHARE FACTS ABOUT COVID-19

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



02/20/20 4/16/2020

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

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

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

- Stay home when you are sick.

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

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

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Seek medical advice if you
- Develop symptoms

AND

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

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

## CCM nominations: JPM raises the bar

By Guardian Reporter

A DIRECTIVE issued yesterday by ruling party chairman Dr John Magufuli that nomination of CCM candidates for this year's general elections be conducted transparently has raised the bar in the party's conduct and could lead to unprecedented outcomes.

Speaking at the Chamwino State

House in Dodoma, President Magufuli instructed that votes for the 10,321 aspirants seeking CCM nomination to contest for parliamentary seats be cast and counted in a transparent manner to avoid complaints.

He directed that districts apply the procedure used early this month during the nomination of the CCM

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## PM tells border towns to check foreigners' papers

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has appealed to village and other authorities in border regions to check out proper documentation of foreigners so as to ensure security in their areas and nation

as a whole.

Addressing a gathering at Matogoro in Tandahimba District of Mtwara Region yesterday, the premier said it is unfortunate that Tanzanians have left matters of defence and security to state organs that cannot man every village and settlement.

"You have a crucial role to play in ensuring the security of our country. If you leave everything to the army, the Immigration Department and the police, the security of our country will definitely be at risk," he asserted.

He urged Tanzanians to take seriously the issue of reporting strangers to authorities at village level so that such



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## CCM nominations: JPM raises the bar

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presidential candidate for Zanzibar, whereby the voting and counting of votes were broadcast live.

A few hours after the directive was issued, a number of constituencies complied by broadcasting live voting and vote counting.

This means candidates who prepared for 'business as usual' and its litany of maneuvering were surprised and had no time to go back to the drawing board given the time constraint.

President Magufuli made the directive during swearing in ceremony for newly appointed leaders especially to fill vacancies left by those seeking nomination to contest for parliamentary seats.

He told the gathering that he appointed the Conservation Commissioner for the Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA), Dr Allan Kijazi, to also occupy the post of Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, sowing to his performance.

Top officials being sworn in included regional commissioners,

regional administrative secretaries, district commissioners and district administrative secretaries.

He said he had appointed them to bring about changes and serve Tanzanians diligently, so they must work hard to attain those objectives.

Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan said the changes were aimed at bringing about transformation, emphasizing that the newly appointed officials must work tirelessly.

Over 10,000 CCM members turned up to collect forms to seek the party's approval to vie for parliamentary seats and councillorship posts across the country.

The ruling party's election indicates that party primaries take place Monday and Tuesday this week for aspirants to Parliament and to the House of Representatives.

The process went on for most of yesterday, where a whole series of constituencies were broadcasting the process live on social media, with a Dar es Salaam constituency, Kigamboni, being accorded live airtime for the process on Channel Ten, election watchers noted.



Tabora regional commissioner Dr Philemon Sengati addresses residents of Ipazi in Nzege District during Monday's inauguration of a land surveying operation meant to formalise unsurveyed areas. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## PM tells border towns to check foreigners' papers

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reports can reach authorities at district level for action.

He decried the habit of some residents hosting undocumented foreigners who are a potential security threat not only to villages where they stay but the nation at large.

He named regions where residents have to take up a more active role in reporting foreigners to authorities as including border regions of Kigoma, Kagera, Mtwara, Ruvuma, Katavi, Songwe, Mbeya, Lindi, Mara, Tanga, Kilimanjaro and Arusha.

"We have to be very careful. Hosting foreigners itself is not illegal but it must be carefully done by reporting these guests to authorities for documentation," he elaborated.

All foreigners entering Tanzania must do so through formal entry points to ease their documentation, he said, noting that those coming via informal routes along with those who do not report to authorities break the laws.

Authorities must know who enters the country, the purpose of their visits, duration of their stay as well as where they stay, he stated.

He pointed out that Masasi, Nanyumbu and Mtwara Rural in Mtwara region are attractive for foreigners from the neighbouring country especially during the cashew nut trading season.

"Even here in Tandahimba there is huge circulation of money due to the cashew nut business. There are a lot of traders here and some of them could be foreigners. Let's not allow security to deteriorate by failing to report foreigners," he reiterated.

Tanzania welcomes visitors from neighbouring countries as well as those from afar but only if due process is followed namely entry through formal points and reporting to authorities for documentation, the premier declared.

"Short of that the visitor is considered to have violated Tanzania's immigration rules," he cautioned.

## Outgoing MPs dominate constituency primaries

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who is making her first attempt in elective politics, polled 843 to beat 32 other aspirants in her bid become Mbeya Urban lawmaker. The other two who made it to top three are Dr Mahande Mabula (16) and Charles Mwakipesile (11).

Livestock and Fisheries Minister Luhaga Mpina bagged 316 votes in his bid to retain Kisesa constituency seat. Others in the top three are Mussa Mbuga (152) and Itandula Gambamala (9).

Lands and human settlement development Minister William Lukuvi polled 453 votes in his bid to be nominated as candidate for Isimani constituency. None of the scores of other aspirants reached 10 votes.

Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Abdallah Ulega, who is seeking to retain his Mkuranga constituency, polled 1,138 votes - followed by Ramadhani Mlao (50) and Ally Jumanne Mawe (7).

In Ilemela constituency, incumbent Angelina Mabula, who is the outgoing Deputy Minister of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development, got 502 votes. The two best performers behind her are Israel Mtambalike (112) and Nkilila Lucas (13).

Agriculture Deputy Minister Hussein Bashe polled 367 votes in his bid to stand as CCM flag bearer in Nzege Urban constituency, leaving other contestants far behind with single-digit votes.

In his bid to retain his Pangani

constituency, Water Deputy Minister Jumaa Aweso polled 282 votes in the primaries, followed by Waziri Mohamed (39) and Mwindadi Khatibu (6).

The Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Employment, Youth and the Disabled) Jenista Mhagama garnered 845 votes in her bid to retain Peramiho constituency, while none of the other seven aspirants managed to get even ten votes.

Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children Deputy Minister Dr Godwin Molle led in the Siha constituency primaries after polling 148 votes ahead of immediate former Tabora regional commissioner Aggrey Mwanri (147) and Tumsifu

Kweka (53).

Dr Faustine Ndugulile, the immediate past Deputy Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children who is seeking reelection in Kigamboni constituency, polled 190 - followed by former Dar es Salaam regional commissioner Paul Makonda (122) and Abubakari Kachwamba (39).

But as the process continues today, some outgoing MPs will likely be elbowed out by newcomers. Outgoing Kinondoni MP Maulid Mtulia was yesterday thrown out of the top three after being beaten in the primaries by businessman Abbas Tarimba, who garnered 168 votes, Iddi Azzan (78) and George Mwanjama (47). Mtulia polled a lowly 11.



PwC Tanzania partner Nelson Msuya (R) presents a dummy cheque for 5m/- to Muhimbili National Hospital director general Prof Lawrence Museru in Dar es Salaam on Friday in support of the hospital's PPE (personal protective equipment) factory. The factory makes the items, which have played a key role in the war on Covid-19, for use by the referral hospital. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## TASAF appeals for proper expenditure management

By Guardian Correspondent, Shinyanga

BENEFICIARIES of the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) in Shinyanga municipality have been challenged to ensure the monies given to them are directed on targeted expenditures.

Shinyanga Regional Commissioner, Jasinta Mboneko said yesterday when welcoming TASAF officials who are in the region to identify vulnerable families and groups who are no longer qualifying for the funds as well as recognising new families and groups which can be included in the poverty reduction initiative.

The TASAF poverty reduction initiative emphasises on community driven development, accountability, transparency and participation in socio-economic development aspects.

She explained that some beneficiaries of the funds have been using them on untargeted projects which include drinking alcohol. She said the monies were to be directed on establishing small businesses and projects such as poultry farming and livestock keeping.

"TASAF officials must ensure provision of education to beneficiaries before they receive the funds. Our aim is to make sure that villagers use the monies to improve their welfare. Let me warn you against spending the monies inappropriately matters", he said.

He called upon extension officers and community development officers to assist the villagers to identify projects to be implemented after receiving the funds for the coming phase.

TASAF acting director from

headquarters, Fariji Mishael said the fund is now identifying some households which have already graduated from poverty.

"We will identify new vulnerable groups for the coming phases as our broad target is to help them graduate from poverty", he noted.

Last week, TASAF programme manager, Shaban Abdumalick said the fund's beneficiaries will from now start receiving their payments electronically; a move which is aimed to curb ghost recipients.

According to him, the implementation of the second phase of the TASAF's Productive Social Safety Net (PSSN) is going to phase out the cash payment system to poor households whereby the beneficiaries will be receiving their monies through mobile phones or bank accounts.

Abdumalick demonstrated strong interest into the adoption of the e-payment, pointing out that the initiative is going to address several challenges encountered during the cash payment system.

According to him, with the new system, a beneficiary will be required to register one Sim card number to receive the payments.

Launching the second-phase PSSN programme in Dar es Salaam in February this year, President John Magufuli directed authorities to make sure that they supervise well and control enrolment of 'phantom' beneficiaries. Magufuli said that in the verification exercise conducted from November 2015 to 2017 found a total of 73,561 ghost and illegible households being enrolled in the programme.

## Ministry updates how to certify for Covid-19

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statement said.

The regional chief chemist's office will supervise the screening for samples to be put to the national laboratory. The

traveler will be informed on the need to test five days before the day of travel as the certificate lasts for only 14 days in most countries, it cautioned.

The pandemic continues to affect

many countries since it was first discovered in December 2019, the minister noted.

"Until June 23 a total of 8.9 million had been affected and 469,587 deaths

recorded."

Tanzania was among the first countries to open their airspace for travelers to enter the country on the basis of set guidelines.





Agriculture ministry permanent secretary Gerald Kusaya (C, foreground), checks plants at Mbeya city's John Mwakangale grounds yesterday as preparations continue for the annual national Farmers Day (Nanene) exhibitions to be held in Mbeya Region early next month. Photo: Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

## Make preparations for Nanene exhibitions, stakeholders advised

THE Permanent Secretary in the Agriculture ministry Gerald Kusaya has called on all agriculture stakeholders including public and private institutions to continue with preparations of Nanene exhibitions to start August 1 this year in the country's eight zones.

He said the aim is for them to provide education, technology and farming methods that will assist farmers increase crops production in the farming sector.

Kusaya was speaking at the weekend during his inspection for the preparations of the exhibition grounds

at John Mwakangale Grounds in Mbeya City that is normally used by Southern Highlands Zone Regions for Nanene exhibitions.

He said the Nanene Agricultural Exhibition should be used to enhance knowledge and skills in increasing crops production.

Speaking about the preparations of the exhibition grounds this year, the

Chairman of the grounds Preparatory Committee Hamza Mvano said the preparations were going on well and claimed that the arrangements at the grounds are being improved this year.

He said among notable improvements was the mobilization of many institutions to participate in the exhibition, improvement to roads and water infrastructures.

The Director of the Uyolet Centre of Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI-Uyolet) Dr Tulole Bucheyeki said his institution has prepared more than 40 technologies they will show farmers during this year's exhibition. He called upon farmers to learn and use the technologies which they devised to assist them in increasing of crops.

## 'Immunisation easily the best way to keep our children healthy'

By Correspondent James Kandoya

IMMUNISATION is one of the best ways parents can protect their babies from 14 serious childhood diseases before age 2 and the government is set to start issuing vaccination to children and adolescent girls following the decrease in immunity linked to the outbreak of Covid-19 whereas many people feared to visit health centres.

Immunisation and vaccination development manager at the Ministry for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Dr Dafroza Lyimo said over the weekend in Coastal Region when presenting the March-May immunisation status review and the future plans for provision of the vaccines to the targeted groups.

She said the decision to start delivering the vaccines has been reached after discovering a tremendous drop in immune coverage among children and adolescent girls. The girls will be administered with the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine.

Dr Lyimo said the drop in immune puts children and girls at risk because they are supposed to be vaccinated in sequence. She said most of the children and adolescent girls missed the second vaccine due to the pandemic outbreak.

"Vaccination remains the best way to keep children healthy. The country's immune coverage stands at 99 percent, however due to the pandemic it drooped to approximately 50 percent", she noted.

She called upon parents to make sure both children and adolescent girls are vaccinated.

Dr Lyimo said: "We have observed a big drop for HPV vaccination from March 2020 due to closure of schools."

She said the vaccines which will be provided free of charge are safe and have been qualified by WHO and the Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA)

Coast Region Acting Regional Officer, Mhando Muya said the region has embarked on a plan to sensitize the community on the importance of vaccinating their children.

He said they are extending the outreach services to reach more school-girls with the HPV vaccination.

Last week, the World Health Organisation (WHO) and The United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF) warned of an alarming decline in the number of children receiving life-saving vaccines around the world.

That was due to disruptions in the delivery and uptake of immunization services caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

According to WHO and UNICEF the disruptions threaten to reverse hard-won progress to reach more children and adolescents with a wider range of vaccines, which has already been hampered by a decade of stalling coverage.

**Vaccination remains the best way to keep children healthy. The country's immune coverage stands at 99 percent, however due to the pandemic it drooped to approximately 50 per cent**

## Artisanal miner killed in Shinyanga mine accident

By Guardian Correspondent, Shinyanga

AN artisanal miner died after being hit by a stone when quarrying at the Mwakitolyo mining site in Shinyanga Region.

Shinyanga Region Mining Officer, Eng Joseph Kumburu named the artisanal miner who died in the accident as Michael Salum (30) a resident of Masungura village in Meatu District, Simiyu Region.

Addressing artisanal miners at the Mwakitolyo mining site in Shinyanga, the official said the incident happened at block 5 at around 13pm when Salum and five other miners were conducting mining activities.

Eng Kimburu said that preliminary investigations by doctors showed that the late Salum was seriously injured. He said Salum fell from a 20 meters distance inside the mining.

"The late Salum's head was cracked, may I advise miners to adhere to the safety guidelines provided by experts and make sure you wear protective gears whenever quarrying. Adhering to the safety guidelines will assure you of a safer working environment", he said.

The officer has suspended mining activities at the area for three days to allow inspection of all the sites which are operated by 23 licensed artisanal miners.

According to Kumburu the inspection will be

conducted by officials from his office in collaboration with the police force, as well as the office of the Shinyanga Municipal Director. He directed the

officials to identify all the mining sites which have not met the provided safety and protection procedures.

He called upon artisanal miners to work in

accordance with the laws as well as directives provided by experts. He ordered the miners to fill-up the abandoned site to avoid possible accidents.



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### Driver

RTI International is seeking Driver for a USAID-funded malaria surveillance and monitoring activity in Zanzibar, the Okoa Maisha Dhibiti Malaria (OMDM) Activity. The purpose of this Activity is to—in collaboration with National Malaria Control Program (NMCP) and Zanzibar Malaria Elimination Program (ZAMEP), in-country stakeholders and the U.S. Presidents Malaria Initiative (PMI)—strengthen surveillance, monitoring and vector control efforts in Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar, in alignment with the Government of Tanzania's (GOT) national malaria strategic plans and USAID priorities. Driver will report to Surveillance and M&E Specialist Zanzibar.

Location: Zanzibar

#### Roles and Responsibilities:

The Driver will Drive RTI vehicle(s) and execute the tasks as assigned by the Supervisor. She/he will ensure the safety of passengers, cargo and vehicle and observe traffic rules and road discipline. She/he will perform the day-to-day maintenance of the assigned vehicle to ensure roadworthiness, includes daily check of tires, brakes, engine oil, fan belt, battery etc. Make monthly reports on vehicle status and share with the supervisor. The Driver will report promptly any defects or malfunctioning of the vehicle that require immediate attention to the Supervisor's/he will assist the Supervisor in planning and control of (regular) services, including dispatch and collection of official documents and mail. She/he will in case of accident, ensure supervisors are informed and a police report is obtained. She/he will ensure cost savings through proper use of vehicles through accurate maintenance of daily vehicle logs. She/he will check daily status and availability of spares jack and tools and perform minor repairs to the vehicle, change tires, always refuel the vehicle as required and ensure cleanliness of the vehicle. She/he will ensure that the RTI vehicle(s) are only used for official/authorized business and report to supervisor if unauthorized incident (s) took place. She/he will prepare monthly and annual fuel reports, maintenance reports and personal mileages reports for RTI vehicles in Dar es Salaam and verify that RTI cars are used for official trips only. Perform other duties as may be required by Supervisor.

#### Qualifications and Experience:

- A Secondary School Certificate and a minimum of three (03) years' experience International organization preferable.
- S/he must have a valid driver's license class C and proof of good driving records
- S/he Should have Advance Driving Certificate NIT/VETA preferable
- Able to work effectively with minimum supervision
- Good organization and able to handle multiple tasks efficiently;
- Ability to prioritize work and assignments effectively;
- Trustworthy, high sense of responsibility, alert; emotional stability, neat and courteous;
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- Ability to communicate in Kiswahili and simple English;

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Juma Ali Khatib (in brown jacket), Ada-Tadea's Zanzibar presidential aspirant, hoists his opposition party's flag to launch its Bopwe branch in Wete on Pemba Island yesterday. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

## Cyber attacks just a wake-up call for businesses - TCRA

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Communication Regulatory Authority (TCRA) has called on all Information and Communication Technology (ICT) experts in the country to be wary of cyber-attacks that have become a global threat, saying it serves as a wake-up call for businesses to keep their systems patched and secure, and to remain alert.

The call was made here yesterday by TCRA's director of ICT application and services, Conie Francis, noting that some 10 to 15 organisations have reported cases of digital attack.

However, she declined to name the institutions but emphasised the need for ICT experts in both public and private institutions to report to the relevant authorities any cases or signs of digital attack for further actions.

The director noted that through the National Computer Emergency Team, TZ-CERT, the government is prepared for first response to cases of cyber attacks both locally, regionally and internationally.

She explained that the fundamental objective of TZ-CERT is to ensure a high and effective level of network and information within the country and to develop a culture of network and information security for the entire community.

"The government is taking all steps necessary to deal with both local and international cybercrime attacks thus the need for all ICT experts in the country to be wary of attacks and report whenever they are realised" she said, adding that such attack assaults take place within seconds.

Conie made the statement while officiating the opening of a two weeks capacity building training for ICT officers from government, private and

other public institutions on improving and control of ICT system.

She urged that participants to have networks whereby they can easily report, share and discuss various things affecting their ICT systems and also seek help wherever necessary since it is a national goal to thwart cyber-attacks.

The director reminded the officers that the government has gone full digital in its operation, which is a good step but come with a lot of challenges including digital attack. She said while the e-government is expanding, digital attackers might get a loophole for attack if not close monitoring is adhered to.

"We get attacked due to poor system monitoring and without knowing how the hackers come we cannot know how to counterattack" she added, calling on serious observation among ICT officers.

One of the participants at the training, Star Faraji, Principal ICT officer at the Tanzania Electrical Supply Company Limited (TANESCO) thanked the government for the programmed aimed at empowering ICT officials.

He said digital attacks are like the next world war, hence the need for regular capacity building on experts on how to deal with it. "Such training help control cybercrime which has become a global threat and also help to empower systems at different offices" he said.

Nimo Abdi, ICT officer from Dodoma City Council echoed similar sentiments, noting that the training organized by TCRA through the ICT system security capacity building programme, will help improve security system at work places. "Every organisation has different system but through such trainings ICT officers should know how the systems work and common challenges facing them," she said.

## Tanesco to switch off power transformers for repair work

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA Electric Supply Company (TANESCO) has informed its customers in Coast Region that it will undertake refurbishment to the 132/33KV infrastructures for transformers at Mlandizi and Chalinze.

A statement issued by the power utility's public relations office from its head office said the work timetable starts today (yesterday July 20) from

8.30 am to 6.00 pm during which the Mlandizi 132KV transformer will be switched off to allow technicians to undertake refurbishment.

The statement said affected areas include all customers' residences who get power from Mlandizi substation, including Mlandizi, Visiga, Kongowe, Picha ya Ndege, Ruvu, Vigwaza and Hong-Yu factory and Kiluwa.

The statement said on Tuesday

(today July 21) from 8.30 am to 1.00 pm, Number 1 Busbar with 33kv will be switched off to allow technicians to undertake repair work to the 33kv infrastructures that include Hong-Yu factory and Kiluwa.

It further added that from 2.00 pm to 6.00 pm Busbar No 2 with 33kv will be switched off to allow technicians to make repairs to 33kv infrastructures.

Areas to be affected include Mlandizi substation, Mlandizi, Visiga,

Kongowe, Picha ya Ndege, Ruvu and Vigwaza.

The statement further said on Wednesday July 22 from 8.30 to 6.00 pm Chalinze substation (132KV) will be switched off to allow TANESCO technicians to make repairs at the station's infrastructures.

It said the areas to be affected include those including Upper Ruvu, Ngerengere, Ubena Keda and Sayona factories.

## Mwakaleli health centre admissions for minors, adults raise reservations

By Guardian Correspondent, Busokelo

CHILDREN admitted to Mwakaleli health centre in Kandete Ward in Busokelo Council in Rungwe District are combined with adults due to lack of children's ward at the centre.

Health experts claim that the situation endangers the health of the children because they are prone to infections from other adult patients.

Speaking to Busokelo Council's Political Committee during its visit to inspect the implementation of CCM manifesto, Kandete Ward Councilor Botulya Kagenda said the issue is a big inconvenience to the residents who receive treatment at the centre.

He urged the government to assist in the process of building a new ward for children to solve the problem.

Meanwhile, the hospital's guard, Ashery Mwakanyoma also complained over poor security of patients and the centre's property due to lack of a fence.

"The centre has no fence as those visiting or going out of the centre go through anywhere they wish, complicating the centre's security, this issue should also be looked into," he said.

Busokelo council executive director Eston Nngilangwea admitted to the challenges and claimed that his council has started to take measures to address them.

He said in this year's budget the council has set aside funds for the start of the construction of a new children's ward for the health centre, but also called on the residents to assist in the name of development.



**The centre has no fence as those visiting or going out of the centre go through anywhere they wish, complicating the centre's security, this issue should also be looked into**



Tarimba Abbas (2nd-R), one of CCM's Kinondoni parliamentary seat aspirants, is congratulated by his fellow aspirants - Iddi Azzan (to his right) and Jamhuri Kihwelo (R) - and supporters after leading a three-person team of the top winners in opinion polls held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE government says it has set aside 3bn/- for the construction of Bigwa-Kisaki to tarmac level to enable farmers to transport crops to markets.

This was announced yesterday by the Deputy Minister for Agriculture Omar Mgumba who added that the completion of the 151 km road will open up many business opportunities especially in Kisaki District.

## Relief to farmers as govt pledges to construct Bigwa-Kisaki tarmac road

Mgumba said for a long time farmers in the area have been complaining of the challenges they faced when taking their crops from Kisaki to Morogoro

town and that now the government has responded to their complaints.

He said in areas of Morogoro District such as Kisaki, Changarawe,

Mvua and others famous for growing of various crops, the completion of the road will provide a huge relief to many farmers.

"During rainy seasons many crops perish on their way to the markets as vehicles used to get stuck on the road," he said.

He said the Bigwa-Kisaki road is the only road used by farmers in Morogoro Region for transporting their crops to the country's various markets as well as outside.

On their part, many farmers were relieved of the news as it will be a solution to their long time woes.

Juma Kaji, one of the farmers said the government has at last listened to their woes and the road will be a great relief to the transport challenge.





Residents of Tandale and Kijitonyama in Dar es Salaam make do with a makeshift bridge connecting the two suburbs to Kwa Ali Maua yesterday owing to ongoing construction of a permanent one. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## Bank issues computers worth 15m/- to Feo Girls Sec School

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

TPB bank has spent more than 15m/- to buy computers for Feo Girls Secondary School in Songea District, Ruvuma Region to motivate teachers and students for better performance.

TPB bank's chief executive officer Sabasaba Moshingi said the assistance is part of the bank's social responsibility, and the pledge he gave during the school's last year's Form IV graduation.

Moshingi said the computers will motivate students studying in the only better performing girls' secondary school in Ruvuma Region in their preparation for examinations.

He said TPB bank was established 95 years ago when the country was under colonial rule and is among banks that continue to perform better whereas in 2019 alone it generated 25bn/- profit and added that its Songea branch performed better among the bank's 74 branches in the country.

He said since 2019 the bank has been providing funds for the assistance of various social services and last year it set aside 300m/-, out of which 15m/- was used to buy computers for the school.

Moshingi called on Tanzanians including workers and staff of Feo Girls Secondary School to use TPB services including loans to private individuals, small and medium traders and

companies.

Moshingi, who is also the school's patron congratulated the manager and owner of the school Omari Msigwa for building the school which has been doing well academically for its students who have been scoring high marks in national examinations.

He called upon them to use the assistance provided to increase knowledge for better performance academically.

The manager of Feo Secondary School Omari Msigwa thanked TPB Bank for the assistance and pledged that the computers will be utilised to motivate students and teachers for better performance.

The school's Headmistress Luciana Msabila said the school was established in 2016 with 78 students in two streams - A and B and seven teachers, and added that now the school has more than 300 students and 15 teachers.

She said since its establishment the school has been performing well in Form II examinations for three years in a row in examinations - 2017, 2018 and 2019.

She said in last year's examination which Form IV students participated for the first time, out of the 62 students, 38 students received Division I, 22 received Division II and 3 received Division III, none received Division IV or failed.

By Guardian Reporter

## Govt disburses 20bn/- to pay arrears for cashewnut farmers, transporters

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has said the government has provided 20bn/- to pay cashew nut farmers who had not been paid for the crop, transporters of the crop, sprayers of pesticide and warehouse operators.

"President John Magufuli has issued the money in respect of Tandahimba, Masasi, Mtwara and Kibiti districts for those who had initially received part payments and those who were not paid at all," he said.

Majaliwa was speaking on Sunday when he spoke to members of Matongo Agricultural Marketing Cooperative

Societies (AMCOS) at Matongo in Tandahimba where he went to mobilise for the new cashew nuts buying season.

He said the verification conducted in respect of Kibiti, Rufiji, Mkuranga, Ruangwa, Liwale, Lindi, Tunduru and in all districts of Mtwara Region discovered that more than 23bn/- had not been paid to various service

providers.

"Out of these, Tandahimba is yet to be paid more than 9bn/-, Masasi 2.3bn/- Mtwara Rural 884m/-. Other areas are in Coast and Lindi districts," he said.

The PM said the money came out of a bad system that was used to con farmers for 2018/19 season whereby the cashew nuts was bought at 1,500/-

per kilo instead of 3,000/- hence the government was forced to intervene and buy all the crop.

Majaliwa witnessed the Managing Director of Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) Japhet Justine handing over to the Mtwara Regional Commissioner Gelasius Byakanwa a cheque for 9,050,846,030/-

who in turn handed it to leaders of Tandahimba and Newala Cooperative Union (TANEUCU) and Matogoro AMCOS.

Earlier, the CCM chairman for Mtwara Region Yusuph Nanila asked the PM to say when will the farmers be paid their money totaling 9bn/-.


The PM also called upon AMCOS

to give priority the purchase of small cashew nut shelling machines and stop selling raw crop.

The new cashew nut buying season the Prime Minister said will start in September and end in December and calling on leaders of cooperatives to make early preparations.

He also called on farmers to change their farming habits by starting planting new seedlings in great numbers.

"Plant new seedlings that take only a year and half to produce," he said. He also called on them to cultivate alternative crops such as oil palm and sunflowers as their land was suitable for these crops.



**Oxfam**

### Invitation to Tender

#### Tender No. TD 20/001/KBD-TANZANIA

For

### Hydrogeological Survey, Drilling and Construction of water borehole at Nduta refugee camp in Kigoma region

Oxfam GB Tanzania is a development and relief organisation dedicated to finding lasting solutions to poverty and suffering around the world.

Oxfam's global programme includes three types of intervention – humanitarian response, development work, and campaigning.

- Oxfam GB in Tanzania now invites sealed tenders from eligible Contractors to bid for the **Hydrogeological Survey, Drilling and Construction of water borehole at Nduta refugee camp in Kigoma region**
- Tendering will be conducted through the competitive procurement procedures specified in the Oxfam Supply and Logistics Policies
- Interested eligible Tenderers may obtain the Tendering Document at the Oxfam GB in Tanzania Country Office Dar es Salaam. Or on the Oxfam Tanzania website at **From 21<sup>st</sup> July 2020 to 10<sup>th</sup> August 2020; 08.00am to 04.00pm on Mondays to Fridays inclusive, except on public holidays and weekends.**

The Tendering documents can also be obtained from the following link  
<https://oxfam.box.com/s/et41mdcc98b48fbwj6g4d6k59vd41ao>

- All Tenders must be accompanied by a Power of Attorney.
- The Deadline for tender submission is **12<sup>th</sup> August 2020 at 15:00 East African Time**
- All Tenders in one original plus one copy, properly filled in, and enclosed in plain envelopes Clearly Marked **"Tender No. TD 20/001/KBD-TANZANIA"** must be delivered to the address below.


**The Country Director**  
**Oxfam GB in Tanzania**  
**The Central Technologies Building**  
**Plot 96 Light Industrial Area 2nd floor, Mikocheni**  
**Dar es Salaam**  
**Tanzania**

Tenders will be opened on **12<sup>th</sup> August 2020 at 16:00 East African Time** at Oxfam office promptly thereafter in public and in the presence of Tenderers' representatives who choose to attend in the opening session.

Late tenders, portion of tenders, electronic tenders, and tenders not received, tenders not opened and not read out in public at the tender opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstance.

All tenderers should consider the project schedule as follows;

TENDER TIMETABLE	DATE	TIME
Issuance of ITT	21 <sup>st</sup> July 2020	10.00 hrs
Virtual Online meeting to familiarize with operational context on drilling area (Recording of the meeting will be available from link mentioned under <b>section 4.2</b> )	24 <sup>th</sup> July 2020	15:00hrs
Deadline for request for any clarifications from Oxfam	07 <sup>th</sup> August 2020	15.00 hrs
Last date on which clarifications are issued by Oxfam	10 <sup>th</sup> August 2020	15.00 hrs
Deadline for submission of tenders	12 <sup>th</sup> August 2020	15.00 hrs
Evaluation of Bids	13 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> August 2020	
Award Notification	24 <sup>th</sup> August 2020	



**SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES TANZANIA**

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

SOS Children's Villages Tanzania is a local non-government organization affiliated to SOS Children's Villages International, a worldwide child care organization that provides orphaned and destitute children with a permanent home and educational opportunities. Established 60 years ago, SOS Children's Villages International the umbrella organization, currently has Children's Villages and other projects in 135 countries around the world. Globally, it runs the SOS Children's Village Programme which has two main arms, i.e. Family Based Care based at SOS Children's Villages and Family Strengthening Programmes supporting families in local communities. SOS has been working in the United Republic of Tanzania since 1991, and implements its programs in the following locations Zanzibar, Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Mwanza and Iringa. SOS Children's Villages Tanzania seeks to recruit suitably qualified candidate to fill the following vacant Position;

**Job Title: ICT Coordinator**  
**Duty station: National Office (1 post)**  
**Reporting to: National Director**

**MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES.**

- Monitors and manages ICT systems and networks in defined locations.
- Provides helpdesk service to users in defined locations in the region
- Documents ICT configurations and changes in defined locations in the region
- Supervises, organizes, and monitors SLA's where necessary.
- Monitors and ensures availability of ICT services; internet connection, email etc.
- Ensures compliance with SOS CV International ICT standards
- Enforces and adheres to defined local ICT policies on email, network and internet usage.
- Promote, organize, and supervise the implementation of the continental and international ICT strategies, standards, goals, and guidelines in Tanzania NA
- Give input to planning sessions with national management, taking part in setting ICT targets, directions and developing main activities.
- Takes part in joint planning sessions with National Director. Gearing all strategic targets, resources allocation, budgets, and GSC support are discussed and agreed.
- Define ICT goals for Tanzania, standards and guidelines in organizing and supervising its implementation.
- Give guidance and support to the National Association (NA) in taking actions and development towards reaching the set targets for ICT.
- Provides expertise, consultancy, and controlling to the National Director & Regional ICT Advisor regarding ICT in line with "Vision, Mission, Values", and approved strategies, budgets and plans of the organization.
- Guide and support ICT budgeting processes, with regards to ICT budgeting, planning, and monitoring.
- Develop and implement the annual ICT plan.
- Follow up of progress of NA towards agreed targets in ICT. In case of deviations suggest and agree with ND on counter-measures for confirmation by the RICTA
- Monitor and evaluate the implementation of policies; ensure that tools and systems are in place and correspond to the current SOS-KDI official policies, standards, and guidelines.

- Organize and monitor technical support for national and projects ICT needs (on request)
- NICT Coordinator gives in-put to the further development of Job Descriptions, Job Profiles and Orientation Programme reference papers (ICT items only); takes active part in the recruitment and selection of national ICT key co-workers and representatives and builds up their capacity.
- Drive and facilitate knowledge sharing processes on ICT topics between Projects and NAs. To assure collection of best practices in ICT and facilitate sharing and implementation on regional and national level.
- Participate in cross-continental knowledge sharing on ICT topics.
- The NICT will be responsible for developing, leading and supporting the network of national co-workers within the ICT function, supporting knowledge sharing, steering national developments and ensuring capacity building in the ICT field
- The NICT will be responsible in updating and including all matters pertaining the NA website.

**ACADEMIC QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCES:**

- Bachelor's degree in Computer Science or Information Technology or related field is required.
- 5-year working experience on technical support of local and remote users. An NGO experience is an added value.
- Ability to do simple repairs of ICT equipment.
- Relevant experience in IT project management.
- Experience supporting LAN, databases, email, and telecommunications systems.
- Experience of Microsoft Server and virtual servers administration.
- Experience in managing and implementing information systems and supporting technologies.
- Creativity, self-drive & resilience.
- Training and communication skills.
- Strong analytical and project management skills.
- Written and verbal technical fluency in English.
- Able to prioritise work effectively for execution with limited resources.

To apply for this position, send your application letter by email describing how your experience, qualifications and competencies make you the right candidate for this position. Enclose ONLY detailed and updated CV with telephone contacts, email address and details of at least 3 referees. Only contacted candidates for the interview will submit copies of academic, professional certificates and passport size photo. This advert can be obtained on our website <http://www.sos-childrensvillages.tanzania.org>. Closing date is 27th July 2020. To apply please send to;

The National Director SOS Children's Villages Tanzania  
 Dar es Salaam, Tanzania  
[recruit.sostanzania@sos-tanzania.org](mailto:recruit.sostanzania@sos-tanzania.org)

**Please Note: SOS Children's Villages Tanzania is an equal opportunity employer and committed to keeping children safe from abuse and harm, therefore candidates applying for this post will be subject to child safeguarding recruitment procedures and checks.**

- Only short listed candidates will be contacted



## GPLC calls for concerted action to promote peace in digital era

By Guardian Reporter

COUNTRY Director for Global Peace Foundation Tanzania (GPLC), Martha Nghambi has suggested the need for concerted action to promote and facilitate peace especially now, in age where social media is being used to spread radical content online.

Nghambi described social media as a very powerful tool to prevent conflict and extremism and promote greater understanding and tolerance.

"We have to take steps to ensure we instill seeds of peace and tolerance for one another, and social media is a great platform to reach youth to promote peace," said Nghambi said when speaking to media over the weekend.

She announced that GPLC is holding a virtual conference to promote youth engagement in peace agendas, at the end of the month—between July 30 and 31.

"The conference was slated for Nairobi but as countries are still recovering from the global pandemic, we will be hosting the conference online," she said.

She further stressed the importance of youth engagement as direct beneficiaries and victims of violence, noting: "Addressing peace with youth makes them advocates, it educates and empowers them to take action rather than being taken advantage of."

She said: "We have an ongoing project 'WanawakeSasa' which aims at empowering young women in Moral Leadership and conflict prevention to promote peace before, during and after the general elections."

GPLC is a biannual strategic high level convening by the Global Peace Foundation and partners. It brings together leaders from government, business, academia, non-profit sector, and religious communities to exchange perspectives on effective leadership in complex and diverse societies.

It is held as a Private Public Partnership with hosting governments and multilateral agencies with participants coming from the region and various parts of the world.

She also pointed out that the Tanzanian chapter of GPF ongoing project 'WanawakeSasa' aims at empowering young women in moral

leadership and conflict prevention to promote peace before during and after the general elections.

It is held as a Private Public Partnership with hosting governments and multilateral agencies with participants coming from the region and various parts of the world.

This end month webinar marks the 10th anniversary since the 2010 Global Peace Convention which was held in Nairobi under the patronage of President Mwai Kibaki. The 2020 GPLC in Nairobi will be an occasion to highlight Kenya's experience, competencies and unrelenting search for peace and prosperity in the horn of Africa including efforts such as the stabilisation of Somali, Sudan, and South Sudan, and to honour President Uhuru Kenyatta's legacy and his efforts to promote National Cohesion and Reconciliation in Kenya through the Building Bridges Initiative with Prime Minister Raila Odinga which has become a model for finding solutions to political problems.

The webinar topics will include transforming education through moral and innovative leadership, building social cohesion through shared values, character, creativity and the skills essential for future-ready education, innovative strategies for education implementation and building youth resiliency for peace in the digital age, which Nghambi will be covering.

"The goal is to explore how social media could be harnessed to prevent radicalization and mobilisation of youth to violent extremism, and to bring about positive change," she said.

As a panelist, she will be speaking on Societies for Sustainable Peace and Development: Through Moral and Innovative Leadership in Education and Peace building.

It will involve short video greetings from Heads of State and other top leaders and panel representing International and Regional Agencies (Africa Union, IGAD, UN, UNDP, Religious Leaders, etc)

The world is changing rapidly and in unpredictable ways. In order to adapt to the rise of societal disruption, educators and administrators need to rethink ways through which to prepare the next generation for the future.



Onions, tomatoes, potatoes and oranges on sale at a popular roadside open market at Chekereni village in Morogoro Region, as captured by Correspondent Sabato Kasika yesterday.

By Guardian Correspondent, Nzega

TABORA Regional Commissioner Dr Philemon Sengati has lauded Nzega Town Council for its people' inclusive project in land allocation to avoid unplanned settlements.

He said the step has assisted in bringing in a new source of income from sale of land plots in Ipazi area within Nzega Town.

Dr Sengati was speaking here yesterday during his inspection visit to various development projects in Nzega district.

He said Ipazi urban planning by incorporating the community will

## RC praises Nzega Town Council for having people-inclusive land project

assist in resolving land conflicts by controlling squatters.

The Executive Director of Nzega Town Council Philemon Magea said that earlier they mooted out a project for land survey in Idalu area by incorporating the community saying it was a great success.

He said through the success at Idalu, they used their experts to

create a huge land survey project at Ipazi area to become a modern town in the area, adding that the residents were incorporated by 100 percent.

The Executive Director said in the agreement, the residents take 70 percent and the council 30 of the plots as its surveying and planning costs.

He said the council spent 273.8m/-

from its internal revenues to pay compensation to 57 residents whose land was taken for the project.

He added that some 50m/- was used for surveying, planning, erection of beacons and for initial road construction.

He said from the exercise the council expects to earn 1.2bn from sale of 1,606 land plots.



It's class-time yesterday for these students of Mahaha Primary School in Bariadi District, Shinyanga Region, but with most not wearing masks as directed by the Education, Science and Technology ministry in following the outbreak of Covid-19. Photo: Correspondent Neema Emmanuel

## Don't elect corrupt leaders - PCCB

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) in Mbeya Region has cautioned the people not to elect corrupt leaders during General Elections slated for October this year.

PCCB Head for Mbeya Region Julieth Matechi said Tanzanians are required to elect leaders who find solutions to their problems and not those who get elected through corruption.

Matechi called upon Tanzanians to work together with the bureau to fight

the problem by providing information on corruption.

"The election period is an opportunity for Tanzanians to evaluate leaders who have been in position whether they solved their problems and spur development," she said.

She said according to Section 15 of the 2007 PCCB Act, it is a crime for any person to solicit or receive a bribe.

She said the bureau continues to provide education to various groups on how to fight the corruption menace.

## Stakeholders push for provision of inclusive education in Tanzania

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

EDUCATION stakeholders have appealed to the government and the private sector to ramp up efforts in improving dispensation of inclusive education within the country.

They observed that despite being of prudent in primary education delivery, provision of inclusive education in Tanzania is however crippled with varied upsets.

Inclusive education is the education setting where students from different backgrounds and with different disabilities learn together in an inclusive environment.

The system is about ensuring accessible to quality education for all students by effectively meeting their diverse needs in a way that is responsive, accepting, respectful and supportive.

In their general opinion at a special forum organised by Action aid in Buigiri Primary School, Chamwino district, the stakeholders argued that physical-challenged students in many schools under inclusive education programme are subjected to myriad obstacles.

They itemized shortage of sign language teachers, lack of training facilities, stigmatisation and unfriendly infrastructures among chief barriers disturbing students with special needs.

The forum, which attracted local government officers, teachers and pupils was tailored to give a crucial platform to deliberate on how best to contain barriers retarding smooth provision of inclusive education in Tanzania.

"Inclusive education is playing key role in helping increase pupil's school enrolment while enabling each student to fully participate in the learning environment that is designed for all students. But implementation of the

education friendly system in Tanzania requires collective interventions," they expressed.

Education Programme Manager for Action aid Tanzania, Karoli Kadeghe, told the publication on the sideline of the forum that the Non- Governmental Organisation (NGO) has decided to organise the event to intensify efforts by the government to improve performance of inclusive education from across the country.

And he briefed, Action aid, through financial patronage from NORAD is implementing a 1.4bn/- worth project with an eye to improve dispensation of education among primary and secondary schools in Singida and Dodoma regions.

Christened 'Breaking Barriers, Tax Justice and Gender Responsive Public Services -Education' the four-year ambitious project covers at least 34 primary schools and 6 secondary schools in the two mentioned regions.

Joram Wimmo, Action Aid's project coordinator said the NGO will continue cooperating with the government in 'weal and woe' to ensure for professional improvement of provision of inclusive education in Tanzania.

In 1994, Tanzania ratified the Salamanca Statement which emphasise the need to provide children with special needs basic education, and sees this as an indispensable steps to reach the goals set at the first Education For All Conference in Jomtien 1990.

In 2009 a new Framework for Action to reach Education For All Millennium Goals was made ready for new signatures at the World Education Forum in Dakar. 2015 was decided as a new target year to reach these goals (UNESCO, 2000).

Tanzania is a signatory to the Education For All documents, which are all important tools for achieving education for all children in Tanzania.



# Africa's COVID-19 portal expands, secures Gates Foundation partnership

By Simnikiwe Mzekandaba

ONE month after its debut, Africa's COVID-19 supplies online marketplace has expanded supply and experienced a surge in demand for medical supplies from the African Union (AU) member states.

This was revealed by Strive Masiyiwa, founder and executive chairman of Econet Group and AU special envoy, briefing president Cyril Ramaphosa and AU chairperson on the platform's progress thus far.

Dubbed the Africa Medical Supplies Platform (AMSP), the online portal is an AU continental strategy, to address the growing need for personal protective equipment (PPE). It enables all 55 AU member states to purchase in-demand supplies, such as PPEs, clinical management devices, hand sanitisers and diagnostic kits, to name a few.

As of 19 July, 54 of the AU member states had a total of 701 711 confirmed COVID-19 cases, with 369 221 recoveries and 14 938 deaths, according to the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC).

Masiyiwa, whose idea it was to develop the AMSP following his appointment to assist the continent-sourced PPEs, indicated the UNICEF catalogue is now listed and purchasable on the platform, while applications from vendors of medical suppliers have increased threefold from the time of launch.

"President, I am pleased to report that the platform has proved popular with suppliers and is receiving applications from an average of 40 new vendors per day," he says.

The Zimbabwean businessman added that demand for medical supplies on the platform is high and included member states of the AU, leading international non-

governmental organisations, as well as international and African foundations.

"We are also zeroing in on ensuring we expand access of our platform to hospitals and local authorities approved by their governments of member states. We believe this will help to ensure critical supplies are available at the hospital-level in a speedy and timely fashion."

Furthermore, the platform has received international recognition, with member states of the Caribbean Community joining it to access critical medical supplies to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, he indicated.

Following Ramaphosa's instruction to add promising pharmaceutical products to the platform that might be helpful to doctors, the AMSP team managed to get buy-in from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, to secure drugs for recovery treatment.

"...the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has committed to joining our initiative to secure a drug called dexamethasone, which is being used to treat COVID-19 in hospitals in the US and Europe on very sick patients following the results of the recovery trial. "The trial demonstrated significant reduction of mortality, saving lives that we couldn't save without this intervention. About one million people will benefit from the drug, equivalent to nine million tablets, which will be distributed proportionately for free to all countries that are interested in its use," notes Masiyiwa.

The Gates Foundation's Africa director, Cheikh Oumar Seydi, adds: "The Gates Foundation gladly supports this initiative of the Africa Medical Supplies Platform to bring COVID-19 treatments to the African people. We have a shared belief that access to lifesaving tools should not be dependent on ability to pay."



Some of the 20 cyclists moving around promoting domestic tourism in Tanzania pictured at the weekend standing next to the welcoming board near the Natural Resources and Tourism ministry's Kolo Rock Paintings Sites Museum in Kondoa, Dodoma Region - 185 kilometres from Dodoma city. Photo: Correspondent Daniel Mkatse

# Mateon and Asili Research Alliance partner to develop artemisinin against Covid-19

By Special Correspondent

MATEON Therapeutics—a leading developer of TGF- therapeutics, announced yesterday the launch of its global observational study called ARTI-19, for Artemisinin Intervention against COVID-19, in partnership with Asili Research Alliance (Asili) of Tanzania.

ARTI19 is designed to rapidly establish the clinical efficacy of Artemisinin in mild and moderate COVID-19 patients. In-vitro, the medical grade version of the supplement has proven potency and safety similar to Remdesivir with an EC50 = 0.45 ug/ml and Safety Index = 140. If clinically proven effective, Artemisinin can provide relief to overwhelmed medical infrastructure and families affected by the pandemic in resource limited countries.

Executive Director, Jennifer Woltz and Director of Research, Justin Omolo at Asili said: "We are thrilled to partner with Mateon in the effort to study Artemisinin as a potential therapy for the COVID-19 pandemic. Our researchers in Tanzania are eager to start this trial, commencing as early as next month, to learn more about Artemisinin and generate new information for the management and control of COVID-19 in Tanzania."

"The daily case load in East Africa has kept steady with moderate and severe patients and we hope Artemisinin can be an affordable frontline treatment during the current COVID-19 pandemic here and elsewhere in resource limited countries."

Asili is a group of scientists dedicated to improving health care equity in Tanzania. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Asili marshaled its resources to conduct clinical studies of therapeutic remedies under the guidance of doctors and researchers at Tanzania's premier research facility, The National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR).

This observational study is led by renowned Dr Amos Kahwa as Principal Investigator. He holds the position of senior research scientist at NIMR.

"We found a strong partner in Asili in Tanzania where the virus has challenged the economy and society. Since Tanzania embraces traditional medicines, the news of the availability of Artemisinin - a well-known herbal supplement - lends itself well to the standard of care for the general population in Tanzania", said Saran Saund, Chief Business Officer, Mateon Therapeutics.

"We are excited to launch our clinical programme in Tanzania and are in discussion with additional NGOs in other parts of the world to make this an international effort to bring affordable first line treatment to resource-constrained countries."

By targeting the host protein TGF- that is essential for virus replication, Artemisinin may avoid future drug resistance mutations associated with the virus. By downregulating TGF-, it can act as both an anti-viral and anti-lung damage agent. This potential mechanism of action is similar to the company's leading drug candidate OT-101 which is also being developed as treatment for COVID-19 patients that need intensive medical care.



For these people, it's a curious wait for onward transport yesterday after disembarking from MV Mwanza - a ferry plying between Kigongo-Misungwi and Busisi in Sengerema district yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# Women's voices should be listened to in time of war against COVID-19 - call

By Jacky Achan

THE coronavirus (COVID-19) has unearthed massive inequalities within our societies and brought to glaring light the unique burdens which women carry the world over, says Graça Machel a former first lady of both Mozambique and South Africa and International advocate for women's and children's rights.

As many as 12,200 additional maternal deaths could occur over six months in low and middle-income countries due to a reduction in maternal health services of between just 9.8 -18.5%, according to a recent analysis published in the Lancet Global Health.

Uganda's Maternal Mortality Rate has consistently been one of the highest in the world with 440 deaths per 100,000 live births, according to the United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF's) data.

One woman out of every 49 will die of a maternal complication related to pregnancy or delivery in Uganda. With the coronavirus dilemma, it could get worse.

Whereas the Uganda health sector has excelled in the fight against COVID-19, there are concerns that other health matters including maternal health, HIV Aids, mental health and sexual reproductive health, have not received much attention.

"Maternal health and child health are shadow pandemics that we are seeing at the moment," says Melinda Gates the Co-Chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation who together with Machel recently held online discussions hosted by Africa.com on the Impact of COVID-19 on Women and Girls: A Call to Action.

Women are refraining from visiting health facilities due to fears of contracting COVID-19, says the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

COVID-19 is also causing disruptions in the provision of sexual and reproductive health services because health service providers are occupied with the COVID-19 response.

According to UNFPA, some 47 million women in 114 low- and middle-income countries are projected to be unable to use modern contraceptives if the average lockdown, or COVID-19-related

disruption, continues for 6 months. It says for every three months the lockdown continues, assuming high levels of disruption, up to 2 million additional women may be unable to use modern contraceptives.

If the lockdown continues for six months and there are major service disruptions due to COVID-19, an additional 7 million unintended pregnancies are expected to occur.

The number of unintended pregnancies will increase as the lockdown continues and services disruptions are extended due to the virus, according to UNFPA.

Uganda has the highest rate of teenage pregnancy in Sub-Saharan Africa with over 25% pregnancies among teenagers registered every year, according to statistics by the Ministry of Health. "We need to counsel young girls about their bodies to avoid teen pregnancy during this COVID-19 pandemic," says Melinda Gates.

Although lockdowns declared by the government is being eased, it has spiralled cases of Gender-Based Violence (GBV). The police recorded at least 328 cases of domestic violence during the lockdown, Deputy Police Spokesperson Polly Namaye disclosed to journalists in April.

The COVID-19 pandemic is likely to cause a one-third reduction in progress towards ending gender-based violence by 2030, says UNFPA, in its interim technical note on the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Family Planning and Ending Gender-based Violence, Female Genital Mutilation and Child Marriage.

That aside, according to a World Bank report, economic hardship due to COVID-19 is also greater for women. Informal workers, most of whom are women, account for more than 90% of the labour force in sub-Saharan Africa.

But, "Public health measures have been blind to women and the rural poor," says Machel

"A proper response and redesign and reconstruction requires their voices and aspirations. Female leadership is central," says Machel.

She says COVID-19 responses by governments must be informed by the voices of women, "they make up the majority and sustain many families," she says.

# Unlocking potential of horticulture in Tanzania

By Special Correspondent

A new strategic partnership to emphasize practical horticultural training in Tanzania began on June this year when the Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA) signed a memorandum of understanding with the Europe-Africa-Caribbean-Pacific Liaison Committee (COLEACP), the World Vegetable Centre (WorldVeg) and the Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology (NM-AIST) for a 'Marshall Plan' to bridge the skills gap in the multi-million-dollar horticulture industry.

The initiative will build the necessary skills in Tanzania's labor force to realize the promise of horticulture for livelihoods and the economy with aim to produce highly-skilled personnel to spur the industry's growth, earn the economy

\$1.85 billion per annum in the next five years (up from the current \$779 million), and create jobs and wealth for youth and women.

COLEACP is an international network promoting sustainable horticultural trade between ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific States) countries and the European Union. WorldVeg is the leading international institute for vegetable research and development, with a regional office in Arusha, Tanzania.

Arusha-based NM-AIST will offer accredited training programmes, local and internationally recognized certificates, and diploma courses in horticulture. WorldVeg and COLEACP will contribute their vast experience in research and development, postharvest management and technology crucial to transform the horticulture industry. TAHA will coordinate the public and

private sector support for the initiative.

"The 5-year pilot programme will see thousands of youths developing the skills to unlock the industry's potential," said TAHA Group Chief Executive Officer, Jacqueline Mkindi. She noted that the lack of trained laborforce has become the single biggest roadblock to industry growth.

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Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

## Looking beyond tomorrow for health care and society

Just 6 months ago, the novel coronavirus now known as severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) and COVID-19, the severe disease it causes, were unheard of.

Today, this highly contagious and dangerous virus and the widespread virulent disease it causes have resulted in major disruptions of business, education, and transportation, and have permeated and interrupted virtually every aspect of daily life. Millions of people have been affected by COVID-19, hundreds of thousands have experienced critical illness, and tens of thousands have died. Physicians, other health care professionals, and health care systems around the world have been challenged like never before in recent history.

Since one of the first publications in JAMA, titled "Coronavirus Infections—More Than Just the Common Cold," by Fauci and colleagues on January 23, 2020, it was clear that the scope and ultimate effects of this outbreak were unclear and would evolve rapidly. However, at some point the acute phase of the pandemic will end, and it will be necessary to understand what the future may look like in health care and in society. Various forecasts have suggested possible timelines for when peaks in disease activity, intensity, and severity of COVID-19 may begin to gradually subside. There are major concerns and uncertainty not only regarding when a return to some semblance of "normal" activities might occur, but also regarding what that "new normal" will be like, in terms of the implications related to the lingering risk of ongoing COVID-19 disease. These implications may be profound and most likely will have important consequences for daily life and for the health care system. At least in the short term, as severe disease and the current

pandemic begin to subside, some of the significant and fundamental changes that have occurred in health care and in society will remain in place, and many of these may become permanent.

It is impossible to know exactly what the future pattern of COVID-19 disease activity might be, because it seems that the only predictable aspect of this pandemic is that it has been unpredictable. It is clear that the US and countries around the world must be better prepared for what may emerge in the coming months than they were for the initial pandemic, and they may need to implement bold and creative responses. Accordingly, in a series of upcoming Viewpoints, JAMA will attempt to look beyond tomorrow—to the postacute phase—to describe and understand various issues in health care that may need to be considered and addressed. Among these may be clinical issues, such as development of effective therapies and a safe vaccine; public health issues, such as continued surveillance, risk mitigation, and containment; infectious disease-specific issues, such as appropriate therapeutic interventions, serologic testing, and prevention of transmission; financial issues and personnel to mount an effective response to COVID-19 resurgence or perhaps another severe disease outbreak.

While acknowledging that there will be uncertainty in addressing the topics in the "COVID-19: Beyond Tomorrow" series, the insights from these Viewpoints should serve to help inform physicians, other health care professionals, administrators, and policy makers about what the future may hold with COVID-19 for health care and society. Perhaps these Viewpoints could also serve to provide suggestions to galvanize efforts about what will need to be done beyond tomorrow.

## Africa's economic growth certain if we address challenges properly

EXTREME poverty, deep poverty, abject poverty, absolute poverty, destitution, or penury, was defined by the United Nations (UN) in its 1995 report of the World Summit for Social Development as "a condition characterized by severe deprivation of basic human needs, including food, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, health, shelter, education and information. It depends not only on income but also on access to services." Historically, other definitions have been proposed within the United Nations.

In 2018, extreme poverty widely refers to an income below the international poverty line of \$1.90 per day (in 2011 prices, equivalent to \$2.16 in 2019), set by the World Bank. In October 2015, the World Bank updated the international poverty line, a global absolute minimum, to \$1.90 a day. This is the equivalent of \$1.00 a day in 1996 US prices, hence the widely used expression "living on less than a dollar a day".

The vast majority of those in extreme poverty reside in south Asia, sub-Saharan Africa, the West Indies, East Asia, and the Pacific. As of 2018, it is estimated that the country with the most people living in extreme poverty is Nigeria, at 86 million.

In the past, the vast majority of the world population lived in conditions of extreme poverty. The percentage of the global population living in absolute poverty fell from over 80 per cent in 1800 to 20 per cent by 2015. According to United Nations estimates, in 2015 roughly 734 million people or 10 per cent remained under those conditions. [12] The number had previously been measured as 1.9 billion in 1990, and 1.2 billion in 2008. Despite the significant number of individuals still below the international poverty line, these figures represent significant progress for the international community, as they reflect a decrease of more than

one billion people over 15 years.

In public opinion surveys around the world, people surveyed tend to incorrectly think that extreme poverty has not decreased.

The reduction of extreme poverty and hunger was the second Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 2), as set by the United Nations. Specifically, the target was to reduce the extreme poverty rate by half by 2015, a goal that was met five years ahead of schedule. In the Sustainable Development Goals, which succeeded the MDGs, the goal is to end extreme poverty in all its forms everywhere. With this declaration the international community, including the UN and the World Bank have adopted the target of ending extreme poverty by 2030.

According to the African Development Bank nearly 50 million Africans could be pushed into extreme poverty owing to the coronavirus pandemic.

West and Central Africa stand to be most hit by the economic slump. Nigeria, the continent's most populous country, would see the greatest rise in poverty.

In the bank's latest economic outlook, roughly a third of the continent was already expected to live below the international poverty line of 1.90 US dollars per day in 2020.

Health crises and ensuing lockdowns have destroyed jobs, crippled incomes and devastated economies continent-wide.

With this in mind, the AfDB expects Africa to suffer a major recession, with GDP forecast to contract between 1.7 per cent and 3.4 per cent this year.

Furthermore, the institution says that between 24.6 and 30 million jobs would be lost this year owing to the virus crisis.

Nevertheless, the bank noted that Africa's economic growth could rebound in 2021, provided that governments manage the COVID-19 infection rate well.

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## A case of safety first in reopening of schools

By Peter A. Okebukola

AS medical experts forecast, COVID-19, now a pandemic, will downgrade to an endemicism and over time, a long time, assaulted by the vaccine which the world awaits with bated breath, will fade into the background as a major health issue. In Nigeria, the stay at home order was issued by the Honourable Minister of Education in March after due consultations with stakeholders and derived from empirical data from Nigeria's COVID-19 Presidential Task Force (PTF).

Last week, the news that schools will reopen, first for students in external examination classes - junior secondary 3 (JS3) and senior secondary 3 (SS3) - was thick in the air. The timetable for the West African Examinations Council's (WAEC) Senior School Certificate Examination (SSCE) was announced to commence from August 4. Schools claimed compliance with initial guidelines for reopening and all would appear set for the re-entry of the students. By July 13, a detailed set of guidelines which sync and are fully aligned with international best practices were published by the federal Ministry of Education. The expectation is that upon verified compliance, schools will benefit from phased reopening at a safe future date.

Going back a week, after the Wednesday July 8 Federal Executive Council meeting, Malam Adamu Adamu the Minister of Education announced that school reopening should tarry based on verifiable information available to government regarding the inclemency of the environment for schools to reopen. The minister was unwilling to expose school children to the health hazards associated with COVID-19 when daily updates by PTF present data that the COVID-19 storm was still howling. I am not a medical expert but the wise counsel of the experts converge that you do not unlock when infection curve is rising. Unlocking has been implicated in the sharp rise of the curve and concomitant elevation of mortality rates. No parent will claim ignorance of the daily rise in the cases of COVID-19. Curiously, some want to gamble with the lives of their children to return to school and hurt the health and lives of the children to ensure they sit for the WAEC SSCE.

I invite such parents to consider three scenarios to which students in the examination classes (JS3 and SS3) may be plunged. The coronavirus-free child on the way to school in a bus is exposed to asymptomatic coronavirus-carrying conductor or passenger. Even when walking to school, interaction with others en route carries some risks of contracting the virus. Scenario 2 is in school as seen play out in Kenya, Ghana



and South Africa. A child is "clean" but has physical, unprotected interaction with teachers and other students who may be infected. The "clean" student at 8am now becomes "unclean" at 2pm when school closes and returns home, infests the parents who prodded him to go to school and his or her siblings. Scenario 3 is the case of the student in the boarding house. Expecting young children and adolescents who have not physically seen themselves for three months maintaining safe distance is on the other side of reality. Even if final-year classes resume in August, keeping safe distance where two students sleep on a small bed as typical of choked-up hostels, especially in our public schools, is illusory.

What about the big issue of the SSCE to be conducted by WAEC planned to kick off on August 4? Kick-off date will have to be another day for Nigerian candidates. This is my understanding of the ministerial directive. My deeper understanding, which should be pleasing to the ears of parents, if I score a bull's eye in the forecast, is that Nigeria can negotiate an out-of-season date for WAEC SSCE when COVID-19 curve would have flattened sufficiently, the July 13 guidelines are complied with and our children can return safely to school.

In finalising my position on the ministerial directive to keep our children at home for a little longer, I surveyed members of my network all over Africa and found that in many countries in our region, schools are still shut with outlook to open when the ravaging storm of COVID-19 would have abated to a point for safe return to schools. In Kenya, schools will remain shut till 2021. In Ghana where schools were ordered to reopen, spike in COVID-19 in the ministry of education and in schools may trigger massive demonstrations this week and closure of schools.

As reported in the JAMB Bulletin Volume 1 No. 18 of July 13, culled from

a creditable South African source, 775 schools in the country have been affected by COVID-19. Reports from the US as at July 13 monitored on CNN, confirm that about 26 of the states are rolling back the plan to reopen schools.

As we navigate our way along the pathway of reopening our schools, we should note two strands of caveats (public-health related and economy-related) canvassed by some medical experts. On the public health line of reasoning, the experts note the inefficiency of the NPIs (Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions) to control COVID-19. Allowing schools to resume is essentially a continuation of the status quo rather than a departure from the current reality. Also noted is the limited community testing. As the experts observed, it is unlikely that we will soon have the massive testing required to truly begin the process of identifying people with the disease with the aim of focusing on them and thus isolating them. Because it will be tricky to test people in the medium term, how long can we truly withhold people from going about their regular lives including schools? If we had a reasonable sense of timing, perhaps we could bide time until such testing was available. We cannot keep people home indefinitely, especially the youth.

Thirdly is the inherent resilience of the school-age population. School children are not the most vulnerable population and so allowing them to continue schooling may not be as dangerous as our current practice of allowing people who are in the at-risk population to resume work. The mortality and morbidity in children appear less and so may be less consequential than other currently employed measures. The education sector is not an exception. Teachers need to be paid, parents also need additional help to keep children busy while they return to work and a myriad of other economic realities. It would be best to get students back to school

but do so carefully, for example: having smaller classes, doing basic health checks on students, encouraging sick children to stay home, and use of sanitisers just as being done in offices across the country.

This story is swirling to a happy ending. As I noted earlier, the federal Ministry of Education in league with stakeholders, released on July 13, a very comprehensive set of guidelines which will address the concerns of the medical experts and anxious parents and school proprietors. Verification and enforcement of compliance by the federal and state ministries of education before any school reopens should not be compromised. Under no circumstance should government permit students to plunge into any external examination, especially WAEC SSCE, without at least six weeks of revision when back in school. Not complying with this recommendation will lead to the mother of all examination malpractice and the 2020 SSCE will go down in history as the worst in terms of prevalence of examination malpractice. The e-learning that some schools deployed when children are home, skimmed off many students in rural areas. These students will come back poorly prepared for the SSCE and will indulge brazenly in cheating to pass.

I am convinced that Malam Adamu Adamu does not want to experiment with the lives of Nigerian children and end up being blamed by the same parents who want their children to rush to the WAEC SSCE examination hall on August 4. Who says the Nigerian government cannot request WAEC to conduct the SSCE when the environment is clement, out of the regular May/June, November/December seasons? Who says that the other West African countries are ready to present their candidates in August/September, 2020? Softly, softly, dear colleague parents and grandparents. The lives of our children matter.



By Alexandra Sifferlin

# Sidelining CDC means sidelining science and putting people's lives in grave danger

The world is in the midst of the worst pandemic in more than 100 years, with the most dramatic and damaging spread in the United States.

And rather than leaning on the knowledge and experience of people who have dedicated their careers to pandemic response, the White House is seeking to create new processes and bureaucratic roadblocks that will force infectious disease scientists farther away from decision-making and policy formation.

Hospital data on the coronavirus will no longer go to the CDC (US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention), but will instead be routed straight to the US Department of Health and Human Services.

It's a move that will make it substantially harder for the CDC – which is supposed to control and prevent the spread of Covid-19 – to do surveillance of the disease (which is critical to quelling cases and deaths) and is a sign of just how politicised the public health response has been, with the White House actively strategising against



the agency most devoted to controlling infectious diseases.

I've covered the CDC closely through multiple past pandemics, including MERS, Ebola and Zika. Never has the agency been more sidelined. During

previous disease outbreaks, journalists – and, therefore, the American people – had regular access to the agency's directors as well as its many scientists.

But just because the agency

was accessible didn't make it perfect. It was under-resourced in many ways.

During the Zika epidemic, for example, multiple scientists warned publicly that the United States' ability to do sur-

veillance on insects spreading disease was deeply lacking.

This put the country at risk for current and future pandemics – and now the very scientists who were sounding the loudest warnings appear to be paying the price for them coming true.

Today, the public rarely hears from scientists within the agency or from its leader, director Robert R. Redfield, MD. And rather than bolster the CDC's ability to do surveillance, the administration is weakening it.

Harming the ability of the country's pandemic responders to do surveillance makes the United States more vulnerable to the spread of Covid-19 and any future pandemic that is to come – whether from a flu-like virus or one spread by mosquitoes. And it will come – it always does.

The CDC has a pledge to the American people that outlines five commitments

of the agency. The one I personally find the most important, especially now, is the third pledge, where the agency says it will “base all public health decisions on the highest quality scientific data derived openly and objectively”.

This is critical in a pandemic situation where there are so many unknowns and the best course of action is to follow the science and adapt as the situation evolves. Yes, it means that recommendations will change, but the promise is that those changes will be based in science, with the ultimate goal remaining to protect people's lives.

Instead, as four former directors of the agency wrote recently, “no president ever politicised its science the way Trump has”. Beyond undercutting the agency's ability to conduct accurate surveillance, the president has publicly and repeatedly questioned the CDC's science-backed recommendations for major

issues like the reopening of schools. This kind of push-back sows mistrust that can undermine the United States' already weak response to the outbreak.

Close to 138,000 Americans have died so far and, while Covid-19 is spreading around the world, that number of deaths is unique to the US alone.

On the global stage, the US is performing as if a pandemic took the country by complete surprise, instead of only seriously spreading several weeks after much of western Europe, not to mention Wuhan, China, had locked down. Covid-19 is absolutely unprecedented, but it is not a surprise.

Numerous countries were prepared for this moment. And the US could have been – what with the CDC the envy of the world for its expertise, independence and resources. The expertise is still there but, without the independence or resources, it's no help in keeping Americans alive.

• **Alexandra Sifferlin is editor of Medium's Covid-19 Blog and deputy editor of Elemental who has previously covered epidemics including MERS, Ebola, Zika, and now Covid-19.**

By Ashley Abramson

# Now that physical and massage therapists have started to serve their clients again...

Almost every week, 46-year-old Minneapolis-based nurse Nina Strommen got a massage to manage muscle spasms and pain caused by fibromyalgia syndrome – a long-term condition that causes pain all over the body. But that was before the Covid-19 pandemic.

While some medical care has been able to pivot to telehealth, many patients haven't received the hands-on treatments they rely on for conditions like chronic pain, headaches or injuries.

For Strommen, that meant that her fibromyalgia worsened. “Without these treatments, and with the added stress of the (Covid-19) pandemic, my symptoms aren't well controlled,” she says, adding: “I've had to take muscle relaxers, which make me sleepy and makes it hard for me to work.”

Strommen's massage therapist and other practitioners around the US are starting to see clients again. But the decision to go back to receive care isn't simple. When is treating a health condition with hands-on therapy worth the risk?

Irina Todorov, MD, an integrative medicine doctor at Cleveland Clinic, says it depends. In general, even before the Covid-19 pandemic, she suggested that people focus on nutrition, exercise, and getting ample sleep to treat the root cause of many health conditions rather than relying only on hands-on therapy.

Therapies like massage and acupuncture are “add-ons”, according to Todorov: “I always stress to patients what you can do at home, versus seeking outside care,” she says, elaborating: “Other therapies should be in addition to you taking care of yourself – self-care can improve your overall health and help manage symptoms.”

Wondering if you can and should resume hands-on therapy? We talked to practitioners to find out.

## Physical therapy

Until it's safe for all patients to come back for physical therapy, many



providers are using a triage system to determine who needs to be seen in person immediately and who can do therapy from home.

“We... are all working hard to take a look at patients and decide who is most necessary for an in-person visit because we don't want to put people in a high-risk situation if waiting a few weeks won't hurt,” says Karen Mattie, Boston Medical Centre's director of rehabilitative services.

If you have chronic pain that doesn't threaten your overall health or you're progressing in your healing from an injury, your PT (physical therapist) may recommend that you wait to come in.

It may seem counterintuitive, but many hands-on providers, including physical therapists, can do a lot for patients over telehealth visits.

Joe Majercik, director of rehabilitation

services at Northwestern Medicine Woodstock Hospital, says PTs can easily offer at-home exercise ideas and monitor patient progress through video appointments.

If you recently had surgery or you have a health condition or injury that could get worse without therapy, your physical therapist will probably want to see you in person. People who stop making progress following at-home exercises might also need to go into the clinic.

“In most surgeries, a patient's outcome will be negatively affected if they don't receive physical therapy on a timely basis,” says Majercik, adding: “If someone had a knee replaced, the knee won't move unless the therapist is helping him or her move it.”

Majercik says physical therapy clinics, like other medical settings, are following stringent guidelines

to keep in-person patients safe during the pandemic. Staff screen for Covid-19 symptoms and take temperatures before a patient is allowed into the clinic, and appointments are spaced out to avoid patient overlap.

Additionally, as a matter of routine, staff disinfect more surfaces more frequently, all staff and patients wear masks, and clinics enact a more limited visitor policy.

“If you look at all the things we are doing, it's so much safer than if patients go pick up carry-out or go to the grocery store,” says Majercik, adding: “We don't feel like they are putting themselves at risk when they come in.”

Want to maintain your mobility at home? Mattie emphasizes prioritising physical exercise after consulting your doctor. “Most people are staying at home, so they have limited motion and

activity,” she says, adding: “Go for a walk up and down your street, or up and down your stairs if possible.”

## Massage therapy

Unlike physical therapy, massage doesn't come with an easy telehealth option. If you're dealing with physical pain, you might be counting down the days until your massage therapists open their doors. Maybe your doctor even prescribed medical massage to help you manage a health condition.

If you regularly receive massage for medical reasons, check in with your doctor to see if you should resume in-person appointments. Sue Kim, an internal medicine doctor and medical acupuncturist with Stanford Health Care, says that she recommends massage therapy to patients with pain or injuries that interfere with their daily functioning.

She says that, ideally, massage practitioners should follow official guidelines for patient safety, such as taking patient temperatures, requiring masks, and screening for Covid-19 symptoms.

Additionally, in that the warm temperature of a small, confined space could cause sweating, which can compromise the efficacy of a mask, it's also important for massage therapists to use open spaces or airflow systems when possible.

“Most massage places will have to comply with certain guidelines if they are able to operate under the current situation,” Kim says, adding: “I'd explore what steps were taken and talk with your physician about if those steps are adequate.”

If massage is an elective therapy you simply enjoy getting, whether you go back is up to you, and if you feel like the health benefits of a massage outweigh the risk. If your therapist is open, the first step is to check which precautions they're taking towards client safety.

Kathy Gruver, PhD, a California-based massage therapist, is getting ready to reopen her practice with CDC and state guidelines. So far, her plan is to remove high-touch items from her massage room, disinfect surfaces between clients, and wear a mask (along with requiring the client to do so).

She won't massage faces and won't touch hands unless requested. She's also going to screen clients by asking if they have any Covid-19 symptoms when they arrive for the massage.

While massage therapists should do their part, Gruver says one may want to go the extra mile to ensure safety. Wipe down the table with a disinfectant before you get on it, and wear a mask throughout the massage.

And, ideally, do all of the above with a massage ther-

apist you know. If you don't have a practitioner you trust and you can manage your condition with other measures, it might be better to wait.

“I don't think this is the time to show up to a random massage place in a strip mall with lots of practitioners,” she says, adding: “I'd recommend seeing a massage therapist you have a relationship with.”

Want to relieve tension at home if you don't feel comfortable getting a massage yet? Your massage therapist may be able to share at-home self-massage techniques.

Gruver's favourite method is placing a golf ball under your foot, then gently leaning into the ball so that it massages the arch. And to prevent strain associated with excessive sitting, stay hydrated, stretch regularly, and get up about every 50 minutes to shift your posture or walk.

## Acupuncture

As their clinics reopen in some parts of the country, some acupuncturists are triaging (sorting) their clients. Elizabeth Sommers, PhD, MPH, a senior acupuncturist and researcher at the Integrative Medicine and Health Disparities Program within the Family Medicine Department at Boston Medical Centre, says a practitioner might recommend in-person care for patients who can't manage conditions with telehealth.

For example, patients with chemotherapy side-effects or someone recovering from surgery would receive higher priority than someone with a headache.

Other acupuncturists are open to seeing people who don't have an urgent need. Elizabeth Martin, a New York-based acupuncturist, says most acupuncturists follow CDC and state guidelines like pre-screening patients for symptoms, both parties wearing masks, and properly disinfecting sur-

faces.

As for the actual therapy: Martin says practitioners wash their hands frequently and only touch the shaft of pre-packed, sterilised needles. They also wipe down the surface of a person's skin with 70 per cent isopropyl alcohol before penetrating with the needle.

With these protocols in place, the risk of receiving care could have a positive payoff. She says acupuncture and nutritional recommendations from practitioners can help strengthen the immune system.

Receiving acupuncture may also keep patients out of the emergency room, which in turn lowers the risk for contracting Covid-19. Studies show that acupuncture can manage pain enough to keep people from needing drugs.

“I feel like I'm helping to flatten the curve by providing care for patients by keeping them out of the hospital,” Martin says, adding: “That way, doctors can focus on the people who are really sick.”

If you have a condition like chronic pain or headaches that you can partially manage at home, your provider might suggest that you wait to visit the office. Sommers says an acupuncturist practitioner can use telehealth to guide through stress-reducing self-care, a type of self-massage that can mimic the effects of acupuncture.

How does that work? Martin recommends a stress- and anxiety-relieving spot between the eyebrows, an inch above the top of the nose. Press firmly with your index finger on the point where you feel tenderness and take five to ten deep breaths. Then, pat yourself on the back: You've just practised stress-reducing self-care, which can only benefit your health.

“There's so much we can do in the treatment room, but what you're doing at home is also going to help facilitate healing,” says Martin.

• **A piece published in Elemental, a new Medium publication about health and wellness. Ashley Abramson is a health & psychology writer.**



# Workplaces seriously affected by COVID-19 crisis

Findings have shown that the coronavirus pandemic has a large impact on our lives and our societies. During the first quarter of the year, an estimated 5.4 per cent of global working hours (equivalent to 155 million full-time jobs) were lost relative to the fourth quarter of 2019. Working hour losses for the second quarter of 2020 are estimated to have reached 14.0 per cent worldwide (equivalent to 400 million full-time jobs), with the largest reduction (18.3 per cent) occurring in the Americas. **THE GUARDIAN CORRESPONDENT DANIEL SEMBERYA**, this week did an exclusive interview with the Director, ILO Office for Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and EAC, **WELLINGTON CHIBEBE** (pictured), on the impacts caused by COVID-19 at the workplace. Excerpt...



Director, ILO Office for Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and EAC, Wellington Chibebe. File photo

**Question: The ILO recently organized a Global Summit on the impact of COVID-19 to the world of work. What are some of the key highlights from the summit?**

**A:** Through the virtual meeting, the global leaders discussed strategies to ensure the world of work after the COVID-19 pandemic, tackles the vulnerabilities exposed by the outbreak, including a lack of social protection, the informal economy, inequality and climate change.

Heads of State and government, as well as prominent global employers' and trade union leaders, took part in the three day global event, held online from 7 to 9 July 2020. This was the largest ever online gathering of workers, employers and governments with contributions from heads of the UN, WHO, IMF, WTO and the OECD.

The Summit, among others, discussed strategies for addressing the massive world-of-work vulnerabilities exposed by the pandemic and in particular, the needs of those working without social protection and in the informal economy; the promotion of full and productive em-

ployment and sustainable enterprises; ways of ensuring that poverty reduction, equality and combating climate change are core elements in the recovery process; and how the international community can recommit to delivering on the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**Question: What are the estimates for the number of working hours lost to date as the COVID 19 pandemic continues to affect economies globally?**

**Answer:** The ILO estimates that the number of working hours lost for the second quarter 2020, are a 14 per cent drop in global working time in the Quarter compared to the 4th quarter in 2019. That's equivalent to the loss of 400 million full-time jobs, based on a 48-hour working week. (ILO COVID 19, 5th Monitor, June 2020).

This is a sharp increase on the May estimates, which indicated a drop of 10.7 per cent, equivalent to 305 million jobs. The estimates reflect the worsening situation in many regions, especially in developing economies.

**Q: Would you kindly highlight on how some of the vulnerable worker groups, women and youth, were/are affected by the pandemic?**

**A:** Let's note that women workers are being disproportionately affected by the pandemic firstly, because they make up the majority of the workforce in some of the economic sectors hardest-hit by the crisis. These include: Accommodation and food services; wholesale and retail trade; real estate, business and administrative activities; and manufacturing.

Secondly, women in domestic work have been highly vulnerable to containment measures. Domestic workers are often migrants, which exacerbates their vulnerability because of the general lack of social protection in destination countries, and also because they are unable to return to their home countries owing to lockdown measures and travel bans.

Further, women also dominate the health and social care sectors with greater risk of infection and transmission. Finally, before the pandemic women were already

doing more unpaid care work than men. This imbalance has worsened mainly because of closure of schools and care services.

As for the youth, it is clear that the pandemic is having a devastating and disproportionate impact on young people. An ILO survey, with more than 13,000 respondents in 112 countries, found that nearly one-in-five of those between 18 and 29 who were in work in February 2020, when COVID-19 began to hit, have now stopped working.

It was also noted that those who remain employed have seen their working hours cut by more than 20 per cent on average.

Young people (about 40%) are disproportionately employed in the four sectors that are being hardest hit by the COVID pandemic, i.e. accommodation and food services; wholesale and retail; manufacturing, and business services.

For young people the COVID employment crisis is multi-dimensional, meaning that in addition to losing their jobs and source of income, many also have to deal with disruption to education and training, and increasing difficulties

in finding new jobs.

It's clear that, even before the virus hit, young people were already more vulnerable than prime-age workers. Note also that 267 million young people were not in employment, education or training (NEETs).

The youths who were employed were more likely to be in types of work that were of low pay or in the informal economy - which is often lacking in social or legal protections. If young talent and energy is sidelined by a lack of opportunity or skills it will make it much more difficult to rebuild a better, post-COVID economy.

Therefore, there is need to take significant and immediate action, or else the legacy of the virus could be with us for decades. This is why the ILO describes the exclusion of young people from the labour market as "the greatest danger" of our current situation.

Some of the common principles that can help create a job-rich recovery are such as: Finding the right sequence and balance for the necessary mix of health, economic and social policy interventions; implementing and sustaining these policy interventions at the necessary

scale, and not removing them too early; promoting international co-ordination and solidarity, especially to support developing countries; and using strong social dialogue as the basis for policies and actions.

**Q: What are some of the important measures to be taken into account for Policy responses to be effective?**

**A:** COVID-19 was first and foremost a health emergency. But it has now evolved into a troika of crises, with enormous economic and social damage to deal with as well. To be effective, responses must be fast, at scale, and co-ordinated.

The proposed areas for policy action include: Stimulating demand and employment, supporting enterprises, jobs and income, protecting workers in their workplaces, using social dialogue between governments, workers and employers to find effective solutions.

Governments need to create employment and macroeconomic policies that specifically target the situation of young people, particularly those who are vulnerable. These measures need to be quick-acting and comprehensive.

For example, support for education and skills development, entrepreneurship, employment intensive programme, employment and training guarantee schemes.

We also need more concrete action for getting people back to work, safely. Investment in testing and tracing pays off and can have a large and positive impact on jobs. But it must be government-led and come with appropriate safeguards against discrimination or reaches of privacy.

**Q: How serious is this crisis in comparison to previous crises?**

**A:** This is the worst global crisis since World War II. It is not just a health crisis, it is an economic and labour market crisis. This far exceeds the effects of the 2008-9 financial crisis.

The 2008-9 global financial crisis increased unem-

ployment by 22 jobs million globally. So

the virus could have a more damaging impact on employment (and so on societies).

Economic, social and developmental futures will be affected - possibly for decades if we don't get the response right.

**Q: What kind of response is needed?**

**A:** The response needs to be equitable and inclusive, addressing the following areas: Protecting workers in the workplace - Strengthen Occupational Safety and Health measures, Health access for all, adapt work arrangements (e.g. teleworking), Expand access to paid leave, Fight discrimination/exclusion.

Stimulating economic and labour demand - Active fiscal policy, accommodative monetary policy, lending and financial support to specific sectors, incl. the health sector.

Supporting employment and incomes - Extending social protection for all, Measures to protect employment - short-time work, paid leave, etc., Financial/tax relief for MS-MEs (tax holidays, loans, wage support). ( is this from the portal)

Using social dialogue between government, workers and employers to find solutions. International labour standards provide a strong foundation for such measures.

**Q: How can countries get people and small and medium enterprises back to work once the crisis is over?**

**A:** With the correct measures in place for enterprise and employment support our economies/societies should emerge.

Policy priorities must be getting people and SMEs back to work.

We must prevent the large income losses that workers are suffering becoming a fall in consumption and a negative feedback loop. Otherwise the economic and social devastation will last much longer than the virus outbreak.

**Q: What has been the**

**impact of the crisis on precarious workers?**

**A:** The economic shutdown has exposed the weaknesses of work casualization (gig working, zero hours contracts, etc), and underfunding of social protection.

Worldwide, only one-in-five people are eligible for unemployment benefits. All of us suffer when workers who lack protection have to work when they are sick. Another concern is regarding already precarious populations, who are heavily reliant

on the informal economy, and raises serious questions about how people who earn their living on a daily basis will manage to eke out a living if they are confined indoors.

Since the 2008 crisis we have seen a significant rise in 'new' forms of employment (e.g. gig work). These workers have little/no social protection coverage. Self-employment, which often acts as a cushion, may not be possible because of limits on movement of people (e.g. service providers) and goods.

**Q: What other vulnerable groups need special attention?**

**A:** The working poor: Working poverty is as great a threat as unemployment. ILO's Projections made in March are that it could increase significantly, by between 8.8 and 35 million additional people, (original 2020 estimate was a decline of 14 million worldwide). Yet the increase would be much larger.

Young people: Youth unemployment is already high - we don't want this to create another 'lost generation'.

Women make up the majority of care workers, have more personal care responsibilities, yet are more likely to lack social protection.

Older workers (55+) - after the 2012 MERS (in full) outbreak they were more vulnerable to un/under employment. Self-employed and migrant workers are also vulnerable to economic shocks.

By Ed Yong

Seven years ago, the White House was bracing itself for not one pandemic, but two. In the spring of 2013, several people in China fell sick with a new and lethal strain of H7N9 bird flu, while an outbreak of MERS (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome) - a disease caused by a coronavirus - had spread from Saudi Arabia to several other countries.

"We were dealing with the potential for both of those things to become a pandemic," says Beth Cameron, who was on the US National Security Council at the time.

Neither did, thankfully, but we shouldn't mistake historical luck for future security. Viruses aren't sporting. They will not refrain from kicking you just because another virus has already knocked you to the floor.

And pandemics are capricious. Despite a lot of research, "we haven't found a way to predict when a new one will arrive", says Nidia

## Covid-19 has steamrolled the US. What if another pandemic strikes?



About 60,000 new cases of Covid-19 are being confirmed every day, and death rates are rising. My worry from March feels less far-fetched. If America could underperform so badly against one rapidly spreading virus, how would it fare against two?

Covid-19 has made clear what happens when even powerful, wealthy countries are inadequately prepared for rare but ruinous events. Months into the pandemic, international alliances are strained, resources are diminished, and experts are demoralised.

The longer this fiasco drags on, the more vulnerable America becomes to further disasters: inbound hurricanes, wildfires and many other viruses that lie in wait.

SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes Covid-19, is just one of many coronaviruses that exist in bats and other wild animals. Several strains of influen-

za with pandemic potential are lurking in pigs and poultry, and some have repeatedly infected farmers over the past decade. Wild mammals harbour an estimated 40,000 unknown viruses, a quarter of which could conceivably jump into humans.

Changing climate and shrinking habitats have brought those viruses into closer contact with people and livestock, while crowded cities and air travel hasten their spread. "If another pandemic happens, it will follow the same path the first one took, carved out by the world we created," says Jessica Metcalf, an infectious-disease ecologist at Princeton.

Certain traits increase a pathogen's pandemic potential. Those that spread via bodily fluids (Ebola), contaminated food and water (norovirus), or insect bites (Zika) are slower to spread around the world. By contrast, respiratory viruses like flu, which spread through

coughs, sneezes, and exhalations, could conceivably travel fast enough to overlap with Covid-19.

Many countries are on high alert for such viruses, primed by their Covid-19 ordeal in the same way that East Asian countries were primed at the start of this pandemic by their previous run-ins with SARS and MERS.

But waning global solidarity is a problem. "Our international laws are based on a bargain that countries will rapidly notify each other about emerging diseases and, in exchange, they'll have protection against the economic impacts of sharing that info," says Alexandra Phelan of Georgetown University, who works on legal and policy issues related to infectious diseases.

That compact was violated during Covid-19, after China suppressed information about the outbreak and other countries quickly implemented travel bans. The US is now on the receiving end of many such bans.

Having failed to lead arguably the best-prepared

nation in the world against one pandemic, Donald Trump has made it more vulnerable to another. He has, for example, frayed international bonds further by insisting on pulling the US out of the World Health Organisation.

Whether he has the legal authority to do so is still unclear, but even if the threat is empty, "some of the effects will be immediate", says Loyce Pace, the president of the Global Health Council. US officials and experts will start disengaging from international institutions, and that might encourage other nations to follow suit.

This won't just harm the WHO at the time when it is most needed, but will also further diminish America's already damaged international standing. A country that has badly mishandled its own outbreak, that has bought up the world's stock of important drugs and that has petulantly withdrawn from global alliances is less likely to receive warnings or support if a new crisis emerges.

The Atlantic



# AWAN Africa says women-led businesses key in rebuilding economies amid crisis

By Special Correspondent

POST COVID-19 recovery measures should put into consideration women led Micro, Small, Medium and Large Enterprises (MSMEs) businesses and allow them equal chance

of rising from the economic crisis caused by lockdowns and restriction of movement measures put in place to contain the spread of the coronavirus, the Executive Director of the African Agribusiness Network (AWAN Afrika) Beatrice Gakuba

told a United Nations summit on women in industry and innovation on Wednesday.

Gakuba said the relief measures should cut across all sectors of the economy including the informal sector where majority of women work, without formal

licences and hence no access to finances.

"The COVID-19 pandemic and its economic and financial impact will drive a section of the population to poverty, this section is women and especially those in rural areas and the

informal sector," she said.

Speaking at the online United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) Summit for women in industry and innovation, Ms. Gakuba said majority of women in rural Africa, work in agriculture,

as well as Small and Medium Enterprises and the informal economy, sectors that are worst hit by the economic fall out of the coronavirus.

She gave an example of the AWAN Afrika membership where in a survey conducted between

May and June this year, 91% of respondents said they had lost income as a result of disruptions caused by lockdowns and restrictions of movement put in place to contain the spread of COVID-19.

## Farmers to benefit from large scale lease financing services

By Guardian Reporter

AGRICULTURAL entrepreneurs in the country now have the opportunity to engage in large scale production and attain their maximum production potential following the introduction of new leasing finance services.

Speaking in Mtwara during a sensitization workshop on stakeholders, Private Agricultural Sector Support Trust (PASS) managing director Nicomed Bohay said that the new leasing company that is fully owned by PASS is set to open its doors to the agricultural community before the end of the year following an approval from the Bank of Tanzania.

"We are going to make it even easier for you as farmers to own agricultural machinery," said Bohay to hundreds of stakeholders who had packed the Tiffany Hotel.

The objective of the Leasing Company he said is to support the agricultural sector through provision of competitively priced lease financing with the aim of ensuring that producers reach their maximum potential through leasing Financial Services.

According to the Leasing Company Managing Director Killo Lussewa, the Leasing Company brings on board unique products aimed at cushioning entrepreneurs against traditional collateral requirements which are usually imposed on customers.

"This is a good opportunity for us as we seek to demonstrate that there is a huge market potential in asset-based financing in order to encourage further investment in agriculture by other leasing and financial service providers in the market," says Lussewa.

Under the new leasing model, PASS Leasing Company LTD among other things will cooperate with existing suppliers in the agricultural sector in the country and allow customers the pleasure of choosing their own agricultural equipment package rather than offering standardized products which may not suit the changing customer requirements.

With a vision to be a leading and reputable lease finance provider in the agricultural sector and dedicated promoter of asset-based financing market, The PASS Leasing Company Ltd targets Small and Medium Enterprises -SME's (including smallholder farmers) in agricultural value chains that are traditionally excluded by conventional banks to access finance and those who are currently underserved by banks and other financial institutions.

"These services will be provided in respect of meeting the goal of stimulating investments and promoting growth of commercial agriculture and agri-businesses in Tanzania," said Bohay.

A feasibility study that was conducted on smallholder farmers prior to the establishment of the Leasing Company revealed that majority of small holder farmers in Tanzania do not save for purposes of buying machinery. Only 4% of smallholder farmers felt they had savings in excess of their debts all the time with 35% attesting to "never" having savings in excess.

The PASS leasing company therefore exists to help support these and many other small holder farmers who may want to purchase machinery through cash purchases but cannot because they are required to save for several years prior to purchase of any given equipment.

Farmers have also relied on loans to purchase these farm machineries. However,

the study also pointed out that loans are sub-optimal as they are often spent on more immediate pressing family needs for subsistence farmers such as school fees for children, paying off prior debt and are not always used for the intended purpose.

The PASS Leasing company comes at a time when Tanzania's agricultural outputs is said to remain below its potential output with for instance only 10% of the 2.6 million pieces of raw hides and skins annually being processed while the remainder exported is exported. Despite cotton being amongst the country's top exports, only 20% is locally processed. Tanzania has a big potential in establishing fully integrated textile mills as well as plants for cotton ginning, yarn fabric production among many others.

"Although the PASS Leasing Company will predominantly provide capital equipment through its leasing model, this will also be a good platform for PASS to cross-sell our offerings such as bank guarantees and business planning to ensure lessees have sufficient short- and long-term funding to operate at capacity," adds Killo.

Prior to the introduction of the Leasing company, PASS Trust has engaged in facilitating leasing arrangements through partnerships made with other financial institutions such as CRDB, and the Tanzania Investment Bank ("TIB") in 2012 which according to the trust, looked to change the model of traditional leasing by requiring only a 10% upfront payment of the leased asset value (with the balance financed by the bank) and by removing collateral as a pre-requisite for lending.

PASS Trust vision is to reduce poverty levels for agribusiness entrepreneurs in Tanzania. The trust's theory of Change is based on the logic that agribusiness entrepreneurs who access, and use, financial and business development services, will increase the level of productive investments.

The PASS Leasing Company LTD is found on the premises that with an increased level of productive investment, the agribusiness entrepreneurs will become more productive and scale up activities. They will increase income and create employment -full time; seasonal, part time as well as casual labour in the agricultural sector and ultimately contribute to reduced poverty levels.

Other financial services offered by PASS and which will go hand in hand with other services of the new Leasing Company include the appraisal of loan write-ups in line with collaborating financial institutions' terms and conditions and providing partial credit guarantees to cover for inadequate collateral.

In addition, PASS operates the Agricultural Innovation Centre (AIC), which provides business support to SMEs to expand its client businesses through innovation, market access support, financial management and operational advice

Recent statistics from the Bank of Tanzania (BOT) indicate an upward growth in PASS' contribution towards agricultural lending in Tanzania.

According to BOT, out of 8,285,831 loans given by the banking industry to the country's agricultural sector between the years 2013 to November 2019, a total of 956,298 loans were PASS guaranteed. Of the 7 years under scrutiny, BOT puts 2018 as the year that saw PASS give the highest guarantees standing at 217,951 out of 952,884 loans provided by the entire banking sector in the country, representing 23% of the loans given.



## Founding partners unveil unified COVID-19 response to support Africa's private sector

By Special Correspondent

INCREASED and decisive investment will be the channel for Africa's economic recovery post COVID-19, partners of the Africa Investment Forum said on Friday, expressing confidence in the continent's potential to rebound from the ongoing health and economic crises.

"Africa will come out of this pandemic, tough as it is, and will build better and stronger economies. As partners of the Africa Investment Forum, the premier investment platform for Africa, our gaze must be clear; help Africa reboot its economy," said African Development Bank President Dr. Akinwumi Adesina, during a two-day virtual meeting for Africa Investment Forum founding, institutional and knowledge partners.

In a virtual marketplace which mirrored typical sessions of its annual Market-Days, the Africa Investment Forum convened over 190 participants including current and prospective partners, investors and project sponsors. The Forum

showcased its Unified COVID-19 Response and provided an update on its activities, as well as opportunities for new partners and investors to engage with the platform.

During the meeting, the Africa Investment Forum revealed 15 projects identified across five sectors for priority funding consideration under its Unified COVID-19 Response. The sectors include Agriculture & Agro-Processing, Energy, Health, ICT & Telecoms and Industrial & Trade. Collectively, these 15 deals which are from the Forum's current portfolio, amount to \$3.79 billion and will help increase the continent's self-sufficiency and resilience against future shocks. Four projects sponsors were invited to pitch their deals to over 100 investors present at the meeting. These include a Dairy processing project in Angola, a vaccine manufacturing plant in Kenya, a cotton manufacturing project in Mozambique and a proprietary telemedicine platform in Nigeria.

Following the meeting, the Africa

Investment Forum's deal tracker mechanism was immediately deployed to capture investment interest and ensure effective investor-project matchmaking.

The meeting took place as the Africa Investment Forum continues to build on the successes of its first two years in bringing to market deals with transformative potential for Africa's development.

"The Africa Investment Forum is not a talk shop. What we are trying to do is to focus our Partner's efforts on the platform's bankable deals from the 2018 and 2019 portfolio, as well as some new ones in 2020," said Chinelo Anohu, Head and Senior Director of the Africa Investment Forum. "We are concentrating not just on the health sector, but also on other sectors that will help jumpstart recovery across the continent," she said, adding that deals "more responsive" to the pandemic are being curated, in order to provide much-needed support to the private sector.

Beyond Boardroom Sessions, the

Africa Investment Forum continues to support project sponsors through its Deal Tracker mechanism which monitors the conversion of investment interests to financing commitments and facilitates the progress of deals towards financial close. So far, the forum has facilitated the closure of 8 deals valued at \$2.18 billion from the 2018 portfolio.

The Africa Investment Forum, championed by the African Development Bank and its founding and institutional partners, is working to accelerate the closure of the continent's investment gaps.

Founding Partners are the African Development Bank; Africa 50; Africa Finance Corporation; African Export-Import Bank; Development Bank of Southern Africa; Trade and Development Bank; European Investment Bank; and Islamic Development Bank.

Institutional partners include development finance institutions, multilateral development banks, commercial banks and institutional investors.

## UN relief chief urges G20 to step up averting of 'cascading crises' in fragile states

By Special Correspondent

THE Covid-19 pandemic and resulting recession are set to trigger the first increase in global poverty in three decades, pushing 265 million people to the point of starvation by the end of the year, the UN's top humanitarian official has warned.

Mark Lowcock called on the world's leading industrial nations, the G20, to step up support, as he released an updated \$10.3 billion appeal to fight

coronavirus spread in 63 low-income countries.

"The pandemic and associated global recession are about to wreak havoc in fragile and low-income countries," he said.

"The response of wealthy nations so far has been grossly inadequate and dangerously short-sighted. Failure to act now will leave the virus free to circle round the globe, undo decades of development and create a generation's worth of tragic and exportable problems."

"It doesn't have to be like this - this is a problem that can be fixed with money from wealthy nations and fresh thinking from the shareholders of international financial institutions and supporters of UN agencies, the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement, and NGOs."

As of Thursday, there were more than 13 million cases of COVID-19 worldwide, and nearly 580,000 deaths, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

Lowcock fears that unless G20 countries act now, they will face a series of human tragedies more brutal and destructive than the direct health impacts of the pandemic.

"Rich countries have thrown out the rulebook when it comes to protecting their own economies. They must apply the same exceptional measures to countries that need help", he declared.

"The prospect of cascading crises more brutal and destruc-

tive than anything the virus alone can do must jolt us all out of our comfort zone."

UN agencies estimate that due to disruptions to health systems caused by the pandemic, some 6,000 children could die each every day from preventable causes, while annual deaths from HIV, tuberculosis and malaria, could double.

Humanitarians said the first confirmed case of the disease was reported in Idlib, Syria, last week, sparking fears of a dev-

astating outbreak in crowded camps housing millions of people displaced by the country's nearly decade-long conflict.

Prioritizing the most vulnerable

The COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan addresses the humanitarian impacts of the pandemic in 63 low- and middle-income countries, and supports their efforts to combat it.

The plan prioritizes the world's most vulnerable citi-

zens, including older persons, people with disabilities, displaced people, and women and girls.

It was initially launched in late March, shortly after WHO declared the global pandemic.

While \$1.7 billion has been raised since then, the update includes a supplementary \$300 million, to bolster rapid response from NGOs, \$500 million for famine prevention, and a sharper focus on preventing gender-based violence.



# Police brutality in South Africa and USA: A Rift in remedies, representation and responsibility

By Vijay Kolinjivadi

On the western borderlands of Montreal's well-to-do Outremont district and the ultra-hipsterised and gentrified Mile End lies an expanse of land where the University of Montreal is currently building a new science campus. Just across is Parc-Extension, one of Canada's poorest and most densely populated neighbourhoods and a port of call for many newly arrived immigrants.

By Wayne Ncube and Nadia Jeiroudi

While the brute force employed against Bulelani Qolani, a Khayelitsha resident, generated outrage across social media, such an episode is sadly a routine demonstration of police practice in South Africa today.

Covid-19 has illuminated a vast scope of flaws ranging from healthcare to wealth disparities, but perhaps the most flagrant is the interlinkage between deeply entrenched racial injustices and police brutality toward Black communities. Analogous to the death of George Floyd in the United States, the murder of Collins Khosa, who was beaten to death in his Alexandra home by SANDF members, during the Covid-19 lockdown restrictions in South Africa has shone a spotlight once again on our own plight with problematic policing practices. Instances of discriminatory and violent policing have plagued both countries for well over a century.

In this relatively rare moment of global attention to the issue, it is critical to reflect on the nature of law enforcement in black communities and potential reforms.

George Floyd's death triggered a global uproar resulting in weeks of protests and activism demanding racial justice and law enforcement reform. In many countries, this has resulted in the toppling of statues that commemorate white supremacy, with characteristics reminiscent of slavery, colonisation, and class oppression. Such activism has ignited an examination of the way each country perpetuates racial discrimination. In South Africa, part of that introspection has involved analysing the manner in which policing has been employed as a tool to preserve race and class oppression that was embedded in the national fabric during the apartheid era. The dire similarities between the United States and South Africa and their desperate need in both places to combat racism, discrimination, xenophobia and hatred are largely rooted in the historic, oppressive role that the police play in both countries and the foundation of their law enforcement systems.

In the United States, there are clear links between the slave patrols empowered to enforce slavery laws and the development of law enforcement practices more generally. In southern states, the rationale for the creation of a police force was to preserve the system of enslaving black bodies as a source of free economic labour. Even as northern states abolished



slavery, the 1850 Fugitive Slave Act encouraged police to capture and return those that escaped enslavement in the south, providing compensation to those officers that complied. The emancipation of the enslaved population was thus conditional on a myriad concessions for slave owners.

Even the abolition of slavery through the 13th Amendment to the US Constitution was not unequivocal: this includes an exception, which paved the way for over a century of subsequent discriminatory policing practices and approaches to incarceration, permitting slavery and forced servitude as a punishment for a crime. Today, African-Americans are five times more likely to be incarcerated than their white counterparts. This has been largely carried out through discriminatory law enforcement practices such as the controversial stop-and-frisk policy in New York City. Under this policy in 2019, 59% of the individuals stopped by police were black, despite comprising only 15% of the population. And studies show that, all else being equal, longer and harsher sentences are given for black defendants on trial.

Akin to the American experience, the notion of white supremacy fundamentally shaped laws in apartheid South Africa: its police force was the primary tool in preserving a deeply prejudiced system of government. These laws required active policing of black bodies as a means to preserve law and order

for the rest of the population. Indeed, over 50 individual pieces of discriminatory legislation were passed during this time, which facilitated the backlash against civil unrest elicited by grievances of the oppressed. The 1960 Sharpeville Massacre, which resulted in the killing of 70 individuals at the hands of police as well as 18,000 arrests, resonates with present law enforcement in its interactions with black protesters.

While legislative reform has taken place since the dawn of South Africa's constitutional democracy to dismantle previously racist legal frameworks, our police system seems to rely on a muscle memory of apartheid-era practices. South Africa is now renowned for its progressive Constitution. Section 13 of the founding document of our democracy includes no exception to the abolishment of slavery, while the Criminal Procedure Act places prescriptive limits on the use of force on civilians. But flaws in policing practices are rooted in a sustained racial bias, which persists no matter how just and admirable our legal framework is today.

The reality in South Africa today is that law enforcement implements different tactics in different suburbs: neighbourhoods with black-majority populations typically experience ongoing brutality at the hands of police, as in the many cases of forceful evictions and mass arrest sprees that seek out black non-nationals without identification, demanded on the

spot. Selling goods on the street, or "loitering" in these areas seem cause for a heavy-handed police response. To the extent police are present in affluent neighbourhoods, it is for the purpose of "protecting" those communities. A resident standing outside a block of shops or restaurants would not be deemed "loitering" in these areas, and failure to carry identification is rarely cause for arrest.

This phenomenon has been exacerbated during the Covid-19 lockdown that began in March 2020. Well over 120,000 people were arrested for contravening regulations in less than three months. Images surfaced of law enforcement harassing, assaulting, and shooting in black communities, where much "enforcement" of the lockdown really took place. This reflects an ugly pattern, even in the context of modern-day South Africa. During the 2015 #FeesMustFall protests, black students were also met with unlawful tactics by police. Discrepancies in how black students were treated compared with white students was so stark that the latter had to stand as shields to protect their black peers, a tacit illustration of how law enforcement inherently values certain bodies, and lives, over others.

One way in which law enforcement practices have manifested themselves deleteriously towards black communities has been through the City of Cape Town's active and repeated attempts to evict residents and demolish homes within informal settlements - never mind the global pandemic and South Africa's skyrocketing rates of infection. The unlawful seizure of Mr Qolani from his shack while naked and the subsequent destruction of his home during the winter season illuminates such cruel policing, and betrays a total lack of empathy for poor, black communities.

Particularly troubling were the mayor's comments that described Mr Qolani as a "land invader", blaming him for the indignity suffered by claiming he may have been purposefully naked. This rhetoric fundamentally challenges the dignity of low-income individuals. That the mayor shamed the victim accentuates how access to justice cannot be divorced from how cities govern themselves, and from what their leaders say in public engagements.

Indeed, as the Constitutional Court in 2011 affirmed, the term "land invader" "detracts from the humanity of the occupiers... and comes close to criminalising the[m]."

In April, Cape Town proposed an amendment to a by-law that would permit law enforcement to con-

duct warrantless searches of individuals, vehicles and homes and allow for the forced removal and displacement of homeless people. Such regulations reinforce segregation, and function as pretext to target vulnerable segments of the population.

Across the world, the principle grievance that has kindled current protests is the lack of immediate accountability for those responsible for such vicious tactics, which of course extend to murder at the hands of law enforcement itself.

In the US, the storming of police officers into the home of Breonna Taylor and opening of fire on her while she was sleeping in the state of Kentucky has sparked the #SayHerName campaign in an effort to hold the officers accountable. They remain without criminal charges, much like the 99% of US police officers involved in police killings in 2019.

Similarly, the suspension of some officers involved in the killing of Collins Khosa here in South Africa was only initiated after the family was forced to obtain a High Court order to initiate an investigation. Despite the court having ample evidence and eyewitnesses to the brutal attack on Khosa, the State still opposed any accountability for the officers in its response to the family's court application.

A key shortcoming in achieving accountability is that law enforcement can effectively break the law and kill with impunity. Qualified immunity of police officers from civil suits is one such tool that enables this trend to endure. In South Africa, the Minister of Police and adjoined politicians are clear with their "shoot to kill" rhetoric, creating a chasm between the manner of policing and what the law permits. This is why guidelines regarding violent incitement are critical. With Mr Khosa's case, the court-mandated investigation report of the incident was based solely on the perspective of the army, the accused party, notwithstanding eight detailed affidavits from witnesses that attested to exactly what happened.

What has equipped law enforcement with such latitude? The answers are myriad. First, decades of overfunding security forces by the government and private companies profiting from such ventures are a key contributor. Successful propaganda campaigns building a positive image of the police have come about through corporate branding and television shows that portray them as protagonists, while vilifying black protesters and bodies, rather than reflecting their systemic brutalisation. This renders accountability difficult because individuals comprising a

grand jury in America hold a more favourable perception of police than they do of the black victim; and in South Africa, the institutions that control accountability are the same ones that victim-shame people like Collins Khosa and Bulelani Qolani.

In order to truly improve accountability, avenues to obtaining accountability must be divorced from the authority that enables law enforcement to commit heinous acts. Individuals who authorise their actions should also be held liable, whether it be the mayors who incite or tacitly allow such violence, or direct superiors who command law enforcement to target vulnerable groups and create the climate for the erosion of their dignity. Such accountability must go further for politicians that facilitate unlawful conduct by the police while simultaneously dehumanising marginalised communities.

We have already witnessed a positive shift during Level 3 of South Africa's Covid-19 lockdown regulations, which have spelled out de-escalation and compliance to be used in implementing the law as opposed to immediate arrest - although it took a court case brought by Mr Khosa's family to get us there. Likewise, the process of repealing discriminatory laws that enable the targeting of poor communities must continue. This includes by-laws that disproportionately affect lower-income communities, which create the predicate for hostile engagement between law enforcement and predominantly black individuals.

On 29 June 2020, the High Court in Johannesburg declared section 13 (7) (c) of the South African Police Services Act 68 of 1995 constitutionally invalid insofar as it authorised warrantless raids into homes and vehicles, describing it as cruel, degrading, invasive and ostensibly directed at harassing poor communities. An important step in the right direction to be sure, but the path towards true accountability and non-discriminatory policing practices is a long one.

Community policing must have a consistent rationale in all neighbourhoods, that of protecting people over criminalising black bodies. The first steps to achieving this are establishing clear conduct requirements and consequences for law enforcement and equipping independent oversight bodies such as IPID with the resources they need to fulfil their mandate. Concrete reforms that seek to address police brutality cannot be disconnected from the racial and socioeconomic inequalities that permeates society. Admittedly, these instances are not unique to one hemisphere nor are they haphazard tragedies instigated by those never meant for the job. Accordingly, addressing inequality through an inclusive approach must be at the forefront of our fight toward justice.

It is time to leave behind once and for all the policing practices rooted in our respective histories of prejudice and discrimination.

Agencies



Bulelani Qolani speaks outside his shack on July 02, 2020 in Cape Town, South Africa. It is reported that the victim Bulelani Qolani was dragged naked out of his shack during evictions by four law enforcement officers. File Photo





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Head of Insurance at law firm Gowling WLG, Samantha Holland.

## Covid-19 claims take centre stage in London insurance wrangle

LONDON

The UK financial regulator took Europe's largest insurers to court in a case that starts Monday to establish whether they should pay out pandemic-related claims. Hiscox, RSA Insurance Group, Zurich Insurance Group and five other companies will represent the industry at the eight-day trial.

A ruling against the insurers could mean tens of millions of dollars in additional claims, hitting a sector that is already facing its biggest test to date. Lloyd's of London, the world's largest insurance exchange, estimated the global pandemic could cost insurers more than \$200 billion.

"Critically, where any policy wording is ambiguous, the court will interpret it against the insurers," said Sarah Jane Mahmud, an analyst with Bloomberg Intelligence. The trial is one of a number of global cases over business interruption claims. AXA SA, France's largest insurer, was ordered by a court to pay a Parisian restaurateur two months of lock-down-related revenue, and the firm has since agreed to cover losses sustained by several hundred cafes during the shutdown.

Insurers didn't respond to requests to comment ahead of the hearing. The Financial Conduct Authority brought the UK case on behalf of aggrieved policyholders, and the court decision would also affect more than 20 other insurers including Allianz SE, American International Group Inc., and Chubb. Policies held by around 370 000 policyholders could be affected by the case.

"We have moved at pace to bring this action to court to provide clarity for insurers and policyholders," the FCA said in a statement. "The start of the court proceedings marks a significant step forward in the process."

The so-called test case will hinge on whether the terms of small business owners' policies give the insurers a loophole. There are disputes on a number of different wordings, including whether physical damage needs to be sustained in order for payouts to be warranted and how close a coronavirus case has to be to the business for an insurer to make good on a claim.

Even if the FCA wins, some policyholders may "face challenges from insurers when it comes to proving and quantifying their loss," said Samantha Holland, head of insurance at law firm Gowling WLG in Birmingham, England.

Lawyers for Hiscox and other insurers are set to argue against paying out fully on claims made by businesses forced to shut because of the pandemic, saying that shops in Sweden lost money even without a strict lockdown and UK firms would have lost out similarly.

# CRDB commits to back Mtibwa Sugar's expansion in line with industrialisation

By Smart Money Reporter, Morogoro

CRDB Bank Plc has pledged to continue working with Mtibwa Sugar Company Limited as it seeks to expand its capacity and produce more sugar in line with the government's industrialisation agenda.

CRDB Managing Director, Abdulmajid Nsekela said this week while on a field visit to Morogoro based factory that the manufacturing industry has played a key role in boosting the country's growth to lower middle income status as announced by World Bank recently.

Nsekela who accompanied the bank's board of directors, further noted that as demand for sugar increases in the domestic market, CRDB is ready and committed to support Mtibwa Sugar's growth just like many other manufacturers.

"CRDB is proud to be associated with Mtibwa Sugar's sustained growth and as a bank we promise to continue supporting local industries with capital because by so doing we develop their capacity to meet both local and foreign markets demand," he noted.

He further added that growth of industries contributes directly to rapid economic development of the country. The youthful CRDB chief who is also



CRDB Bank's board chairman, Dr Ally Laay (R), greets Mtibwa Sugar's chairman, Seif Ali Seif (2nd -L) when he led board members on a field visit to the Morogoro-based factory yesterday. Second right is the bank's managing director, Abdulmajid Nsekela. Photo courtesy of CRDB.

Chairman of Tanzania Bankers Association explained that the government has put in place an enabling environment to encourage private investment in manufacturing with backing from the financial sector.

"Today we are here at Mtibwa Sugar but prior to our visit here, we had been at Kagera Sugar which is our routine way of engaging with customers to lis-

ten to their needs from their place of business," Nsekela added while stating that the visit enables the board and management see how best to serve clients.

Official statistics show that in 2019/20 season, the country produced 378,449 metric tons of sugar while demand stands at 710,000 tons of which 545,000 tons are for consumption

while 167,000 tons are for industrial use. Local sugar producers thus only meet 67.7 percent of the domestic demand.

Mtibwa Sugar's Factory Manager, Stan Rau paid tribute to CRDB's board and management for supporting the former state owned company revive production and grow into what it is today. "The bank had confidence in us at

a time when performance was very poor with low production," Eau said.

He said Mtibwa Sugar which was privatised in 1999 with almost zero production, managed to increase sugar production to 50,000 metric tons by 2006 but an influx of cheap smuggled sugar forced annual volumes plummet to 15,400 tons in 2016.

"We are targeting to increase production to 40,000 tons during the 2020/21 season," Rau said while commending President John Magufuli for advocating industrial development and protection of the domestic market from smuggled sugar which has negatively affected local manufacturers.

CRDB Board Chairman, Ally Laay also assured Mtibwa Sugar owners and management that his board will continue giving management appropriate policy guidance to ensure that the bank serves the public and other stakeholders. "As a board, we will continue to give policy guidance and other directives top management to ensure that the bank sustains growth and business success," Dr Laay said.



Orca CEO Nigel Friend.

## Orca declares quarterly dividend due for 1Q 2020

By Smart Money Reporter

Orca Exploration Group Incorporated which owns Pan African Energy Tanzania Limited has declared a quarterly cash dividend of US\$0.06 per share after its board of directors approved the amount.

In a statement last week, the British Virgin Islands based company said, the quarterly cash dividend of \$0.06 will be paid this month to both Class A common voting share and Class B subordinate voting share owners.

"The dividend will be payable on July 15, 2020 to holders of Class A common voting shares and Class B subordinate voting shares of record on June 30, 2020. The world markets continue to be extremely volatile under the influence of the coronavirus outbreak and energy companies have furthermore been significantly impacted by low oil and gas prices," said Orca CEO, Nigel Friend.

As a consequence, several energy companies have suspended dividend payments and launched capital conservation programmes. "At Orca we also are taking appropriate measures to remain resilient to current adverse market conditions, but remain committed to our

strategy we recently published and which depicts our three strategic investment themes: a) safeguarding shareholder returns, b) investing in upstream and midstream capacity in our Tanzania operations and c) investing in additional gas growth opportunities as we see fit," Friend added.

"This dividend is approved in recognition of the ongoing shareholder support for the company and is based on the positive year to date results and forecast free cash flows for the balance of 2020. The ability of the company to pay future dividends will be reviewed on a quarterly basis taking into consideration actual and forecast cash flows and the macroeconomic outlook at that point in time," the CEO noted.

Orca is an established international public company, engaged in the development of natural gas resources in Africa. The company operates the world class Songo Songo field in Tanzania and is a major supplier of natural gas to the country's domestic energy market. The company is focused on further developing its existing asset base in the country whilst also pursuing additional value accretive natural gas opportunities elsewhere in Africa.

## Brand South Africa launches Global South African platform

JOHANNESBURG

"This is an exciting time to be a Global South African and there's no time like the present to become part of a movement and community that is committed to positioning South Africa as a competitive global player," so said Acting Chief Marketing Officer at Brand South Africa, Ms Thoko Modise, at the livestream launch of the Global South African (GSA) portal.

The platform is aimed at developing a network

of South African citizens living and working abroad, from business to government to ordinary citizens to urge them to contribute towards the country's competitiveness by using the portal to tell their stories through posting on the site and sharing their events and activities. The portal also provides users with access to South Africa branded marketing material, and templates at no cost. Users are able to add each other as friends and connect with each other privately on the platform.

"In addition to promoting active citizenry amongst South Africans living abroad, the portal enables the expat community around the globe to be linked through a web-based networking platform," Dr Judy Smith-Hohn, General Manager for Global Markets at Brand South Africa adds. Current and active users of the platform, Tsietisi Monare and Refilwe Mthimunywe joined the livestream from their homes.

Tsietisi, a Meteorologist working with Japan's national broadcaster, invited South Africans

travelling to Japan in the near future to connect with him on the portal so he can show them around. Refilwe, who represented South Africa on the global Miss Universe stage in 2015, is currently at home doing her bit to flatten the Covid-19 curve. She works with young girls who want to follow her example through the Black Heel initiative that is aimed at building confidence in young women. "Brand South Africa has made it so easy, for us as South Africans to connect when overseas," Ms Mthimunywe commented.



# EcoGraf signs graphite battery material deals with German company

By Smart Money Reporter

Australia's EcoGraf which is currently operating Epanko Graphite Project in Mahenge, Morogoro Region, has signed an agreement to supply graphite products used in making batteries to a unit of German industrial conglomerate Thyssenkrupp.

In a recent statement, the company said Thyssenkrupp Materials Trading would buy purified spherical graphite battery anode material, used in lithium ion batteries, from its Kwinana plant in Western Australia.

EcoGraf has also signed a non-binding sales deal with Thyssenkrupp Materials Trading, a subsidiary of major German tech group Thyssenkrupp. The 10-year agreement will see EcoGraf sell purified spherical graphite battery anode material and by-product (fines) from its planned Kwinana facility in Western Australia.

"A number of companies with flake graphite mining projects outside of China have furthered their development of spherical graphite in a race to become the first commercial-scale producer in the rest-of-world," the company which is listed at Australian Stock Market stated.

As previously reported, Kibaran Resources (now EcoGraf) completed an engineering study in April 2019 for the production of spherical graphite based on its EcoGraf™ purification process, with testing on global samples, as well as those from the company's Epanko project.

At the time, it was estimated that a 5,000 tons per annum plant would have capital costs of US\$20m and a 15,000 tons per year expansion a further US\$44.4m while operating costs were estimated at US\$1,998/t for the full 20,000 tons per annum capacity.



An electric car being charged.

The proposed battery graphite purification plant in Kwinana will be one of only a handful of such facilities being developed outside China; none have yet made it to commercial-scale production, EcoGraf said in its statement.

"China is the world's largest producer of graphite and, currently, the only producer of

spherical graphite for supply to the battery market. Barriers to entry for this material are high, in terms of both production costs and environmental hurdles," the statement noted.

The company's proprietary purification technology offers an alternative to the use of hydrofluoric acid (HF) and results

in grades of more than 99.95 percent centigrade. Australia is a member of the Energy Resource Governance Initiative, a group of countries trying to develop the production of battery materials and other high-tech metals, and reduce the world's reliance on China for these metals and minerals.



Richard Rushton, chief executive officer of Distell Group.

# SA's liquor industry offers to help curb drinking

OHANNESBURG

South Africa's biggest liquor makers have offered to help get people to drink less after the government banned the sale of alcohol for a second time this year, citing health concerns.

The surprise decision to reintroduce the prohibition hit the industry hard, according to the manufacturers'

spokesman Sibani Mngadi. It lost almost 117 000 jobs during the first moratorium that began in March and ended June 1, he said.

The government says the latest ban is aimed at reducing alcohol-related hospital admissions as the surging number of coronavirus cases strains emergency wards. The industry, which has introduced responsible-drinking

programs in the past, now wants to work more closely with the state and civil society groups to identify and resolve problems.

"Based on research and credible current data," the companies want to "jointly design interventions targeting these key areas with enhanced current programs and new measurable and evidence-based initiatives," Mngadi said

in a statement.

The first ban on alcohol sales was implemented on March 27, when the government introduced a nationwide lockdown to curb the spread of the coronavirus. The Department of Health released a report July 14 showing the restrictions that were in place in that period reduced the number of trauma cases at hospitals by as much as half. In

# Billionaire family controlling nearly half sugar market

NAIROBI

Billionaire Rai family has tightened their grip on the sugar market, with the latest figures indicating that they controlled nearly half of the sales in the last six months.

Sugar Directorate data shows the three firms owned by the Rai family controlled 45 percent of the total sales. This has grown from the 41 percent market share they held in corresponding period last year.

West Kenya had the lion's share at 29 percent followed by Sukari Industries at 11 percent with Olepito coming in at a distant third with two percent of the total 292,040 sales reported between January and June.

"Most of the improvement in sugar production was registered from the private mills with West Kenya and Butali Sugar accounting for 28 percent and 15 percent of the total production, respectively," said the directorate.

West Kenya has for long held position one in both production and sugar sales, controlling nearly a third of the

market share. On the other hand, the state-owned mills performed dismally with a number of them remaining closed during the review period. "All the government owned mills, with exception of Chemelil reported decreased sugar production due to limited cane supply and inefficiencies at the factories," regulator said.

Mumias and South Nyanza Sugar Companies remained closed during the period under review. Mumias has been closed for nearly two years now. Other privately owned millers recorded improved sales with Transmara selling 37,545 tonnes of the sweetener, Kibos (42,565) and Busia factory at 14,341.

State-owned Nzoia emerged the best among the government millers recording sales of 9,033 tonnes followed by at 5,239, Chemelil 7,326 at Muhoroni 5,239 tonnes. The State is planning to lease out all its factories to strategic investors as it seeks to give them a new lease of life through fresh capital injection to improve productivity and cut on imports.



Jaswant Singh Rai, chairman of RAI Holdings Limited.

# Zambia's state investment arm all ready to run mines in future, says government

LUSAKA

Zambia's state-owned investment arm will run mines as an operator rather than a minority investor in future investments, an executive said on Sunday, as the government seeks a more active role in mining assets it holds.

ZCCM-Investment Holding (ZCCM-IH), controlled by Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), is a mining investment arm of Africa's second largest copper producer. "What we have asked ZCCM-IH to do is too seek its own mines, do explorations and develop mining operations," Mateyo Kaluba, chief executive of IDC, said in a statement.

ZCCM-IH should have a higher stakes in mining ventures of the future, Kaluba said. Mining, which contributes more than 10% to Zambia's economy, is also the nation's largest foreign exchange earner.

ZCCM-IH has minority shares in mines including First Quantum Mines's Kansanshi Mine and Glencore's Mopani

Copper Mines with highest stake in Konkola Copper Mines (KCM) where it has 20.6% and Vedanta Resources 79.4%

"We are not averse to them getting into partnerships but those partnership must be balanced. Most of the partnerships that ZCCM-IH has right now are not balanced because the stakes are very small minorities," Kaluba said.

Lately, ZCCM-IH has ramped up its exploration efforts and have commissioned new mines in gold and manganese. "We are confident that we'll see it taking stronger positions in copper mining and many other minerals in the country," Kaluba said. It has already done so in gold and manganese mines.

Kaluba was on a tour of a new manganese mine - Kabundi Resources - owned by ZCCM-IH in central Zambia. Kabundi Resources, which has started its first phase of mining, aims to reach an output of 240,000 tonnes of manganese ore annually once commercial production is achieved.

the six weeks since the lockdown eased on June 1, the government said there have been reports of a rise in drinking-related accidents.

The industry wants to scrutinise the data cited by the government to better understand how it can help intervene to address the issues that cause excess drinking, some of which preceded the pandemic, Mngadi said.

As many as 80 000 small businesses ranging from farmers to craft brewers may be on the verge of collapse as a direct result of the alcohol ban, Richard Rushton, chief executive officer of wine and spirits maker Distell Group said in May. When sales resumed in June, drinks were sold from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Monday to Thursday and could only be consumed at home.





EcoGraf managing director, Andrew Spinks.

## Epanko Graphite's EcoGraf raises U\$3.79m from share plan for its battery business

By Smart Money Reporter

An Australian firm seeking to mine graphite from Epanko in Mahenge district, EcoGraf has raised U\$3.79 million from share purchase plan to complete funding and pre-development programmes for its battery material business.

In its quarterly report, the company said the share purchase plan which opened on 28 May, has been completed and was strongly supported by its shareholders, receiving applications for 2,191,000 worth of shares at 6.5 cents per share.

"As a result, the company has received a total of U\$3.79 million from the SPP and recent share placement. This capital raising will be applied towards development of the EcoGraf battery graphite facility in Kwinana, Western Australia," the report stated adding that the money will also help secure the government's approvals for the Epanko U\$60 million debt financing proposal developed with KfW IPEX-Bank.

"After considering feedback from eligible retail and institutional shareholders, the directors have elected to accept the SPP applications in full to provide longstanding eligible shareholders with the same opportunity afforded to participants in the recent share placement," the report added noting that each of the directors participated in the SPP.

"SPP shares are expected to be issued on 26 June 2020 and the company looks forward to updating the Australian Stock Exchange on progress with the

development of its EcoGraf and Epanko graphite businesses," the report noted citing EcoGraf Managing Director, Andrew Spinks.

Meanwhile, EcoGraf announced that the battery electrochemical results for its preferred feed materials from the recently completed benchmarking programme for the proposed its battery graphite facility in Kwinana, Western Australia was successful.

In a statement, the company said the electrochemical test work was undertaken to determine the electrochemical performance of each feed material to provide increased product intelligence and performance.

"The test work was carried out at a leading German Research Institute which specialises and supports the major battery and electric vehicle manufacturers. Each battery spherical graphite (SpG15) product sample was configured and developed under identical conditions which included the same electrode composition, cell configuration and electrolyte," the company's statement stated.

The results obtained provide meaningful data points and trends for each feed material source. Key findings include: Feed materials perform differently with some sources performing better under various conditions which provides the ability to enhance product material performance; Increase product sales by blending feed sources from matching electrochemical performance; and Support additional parallel and downstream value-added opportunities.

"Demand for a diversified and responsibly produced battery graphite supply is increasing from leading Europe, North East Asia and US supply chain customers. EcoGraf battery graphite products is positioning as leading supply alternative to existing supply from China. The company is well advanced with customer engagements which is supported by the company's recent milestone agreement with Germany's blue-chip industrial group Thyssenkrupp Materials Trading for a long-term commercial agreement for the sale of battery graphite products," EcoGraf stated in the statement.

Founded on a commitment to innovation and sustainability, EcoGraf Limited is building a vertically integrated business to produce high purity graphite for the lithium-ion battery market. To complement and strengthen its battery graphite operations, we are also developing a multi-project TanzGraphite natural flake graphite business in Tanzania, led by the construction-ready Epanko Graphite Project, which will provide customers with a long term supply of high quality graphite products for industrial applications such as refractories, recarburisers and lubricants.

Combined, the EcoGraf battery and natural flake graphite businesses present a compelling opportunity for us to partner customers and stakeholders across a range of graphite markets through a relentless focus on engineered innovation, performance and sustainability.

## Pandemic isn't stopping corporate deal-making

NEW YORK

Given that we're in the middle of a pandemic with an accompanying lockdown that looks set to throttle most signs of economic life, it's remarkable how much corporate deal-making is on the go.

It's not just the emergency rescue stuff like Edcon's carve-up-and-sale and Sun International's rights issue, there is also some mergers-and-acquisitions activity happening, such as Barloworld's bid for an Asian-based business and Tsogo Sun's sale of its Seychelles operation.

This might be an indication of the commendable resilience of the capitalist system, or of the disconnect between markets and economic reality. Although it could just be the determination of dealmakers to ensure they are generating fees no matter what.

### Big deal

Of course the biggest deal of all will be Prosus's purchase of eBay's classifieds unit, which - if it happens - is expected to come with a price tag of around \$8 billion. In the world of technology it seems you either invent stuff or you buy stuff.

Naspers and its odd Amsterdam-listed offspring Prosus have plumped for the latter strategy and have oodles of cash at their disposal to build up the 'network effect' deemed so necessary to make profit in technology-based businesses.

The \$8 billion that is being speculated by Bloomberg is just \$800 million above the final cash offer Prosus made for UK food delivery business Just Eat late last year. That offer, which would have provided Prosus with the 'network effect' it need-

ed for its global food delivery business, was of course rejected.

It's hard to know whether spending money wisely, or at least profitably, is more difficult than making money wisely. The Prosus team is under huge pressure to earn some of the enormous remuneration it is paid every year by closing the discount between its share price and its stake in Tencent. Buying the right asset at the right price, and then managing it extremely well, would help.

### Tsogo and TFG

It looks as though Tsogo Sun has managed to make some money wisely with the R465 million sale of part of its Seychelles operation. That must be a huge relief to shareholders and management given the devastating impact of the lockdown, which management says will hold back occupancy rates for two to three years. The market wasn't too impressed - the news did help the share bounce, but only marginally.

Edcon has been so dismal for so long that it's difficult to get excited about TFG's purchase of most of its Jet outlets. Despite years of poor management the Jet brand is still worth something, but even getting R480 million for stock with a stated value of R800 million might prove a challenge in these tough times. From the employees' perspective it certainly would be great if 371 of the Jet stores did prove to be viable.

The Jet purchase was announced just days before TFG released details of its R3.95 billion rights issue; 94.3 million new shares will be issued at the knock-down price of R41.90. That's a 38.5% discount on Friday's closing price of R68.16. It

will be at least a year before anyone can determine whether or not that's a bargain.

### Zeder

Zeder's decision to sell its 32% stake in egg and broiler producer Quantum Foods for just R5 a share doesn't look particularly wise right now. Mind you it did look reasonable at the time of the deal in June when the share was trading at 350c. Despite being a solid earner and paying out attractive dividends Quantum's share price rarely traded near its R9 net asset value.

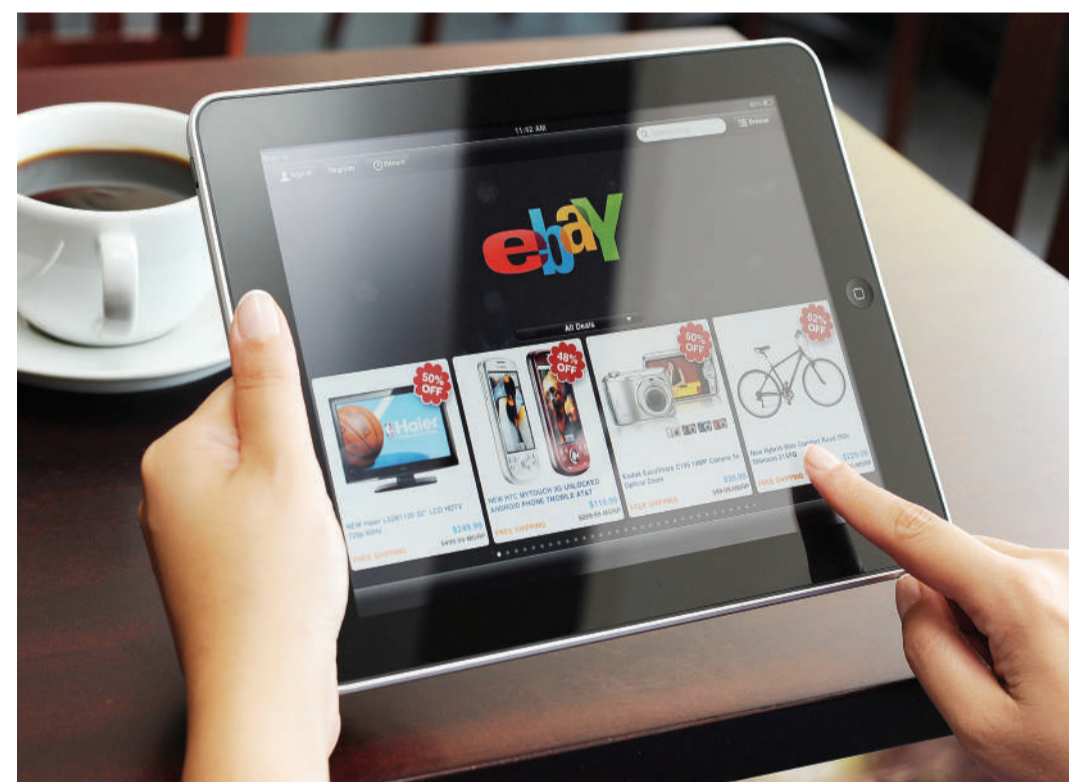
Well, at least not until Zeder sold its stake to Country Bird. Buying by a range of parties - including Quantum management, Astral Foods and UK-based investment company SilverStreet Capital - saw the share reach a high of R9 before drifting back towards R7. A bidding war could be a long drawn-out affair and would likely involve the competition authorities.

### Barloworld

Barloworld has been having quite a busy time on the deal front. It may be trying to get out of the proposed acquisition of Tongaat's starch business - or just hoping for a cheaper price - but it seems keen to push ahead with its proposed R3.5 billion acquisition of Wagner Asia and reckons the closing date for the deal will be September 1.

Meanwhile it emerged last week that Zahid Tractor and Heavy Machinery, which is part of the Saudi Arabia-based Zahid Group, has taken advantage of the Covid-19 depressed share price to buy up a 10% stake in Barloworld. This is just one of many bargains being snapped up across the globe by the cash rich oil-producing nation.

VIEW FROM THE TOP



eBay's logo displayed on a tablet.

## Another South African makes it big in the US



Pierre Naudé.

NEW YORK

Another South African is making headlines in the US. Pierre Naudé is the CEO of the global fintech company nCino, which listed on the Nasdaq stock exchange on Tuesday.

It was one of the most successful listings of the year so far, with the share price spiking from its IPO price of U\$31/share to more than \$91. This briefly valued the company at nearly \$7-billion, or R110-billion. At this market capitalisation, the company was larger than locally listed financial giants Discovery and Absa. nCino's share price has subsequently dropped to around \$70.

In an interview on RSG Geldsake, Naudé did not want to comment on the success of the listing and the performance of the share price. "I was busy with a media interview when the first trades came through, and I

heard the cheers from the staff. From a personal perspective, it was something very special."

Naudé hails from a wine farm near Worcester in the Boland. He joined Boland Bank where he met Johann Dreyer, a former Springbok athlete, who became his partner at several other ventures in the US. "I was a programmer, and Boland Bank sent me to the US on several occasions, and was part of the team who developed the first ATM system or Saswitch in South Africa.

"I then realised America offered significant opportunities and in 1987 my wife, small baby and I relocated. I was a programmer, or a gun for hire, and travelled to where there was work." The Naudés eventually settled in Iowa.

### Grew quickly

Naudé worked at several

fintech companies and was approached by a group of bankers in Wilmington in North Carolina after SI, the company he was working for, was sold. (Dreyer was CEO of SI.)

"They asked me to set up a company to develop software solutions for banks to process credit applications more speedily and efficiently. We started in a tiny office in Wilmington with seven employees. I put up a sign against the wall which read 'nCino - Worldwide Headquarters' to frame the mindset." The business grew quickly and today the company employs 900 people in the US, Canada, Britain, Japan and Australia.

More than 1 100 financial institutions around the world use its range of cloud-based software solutions. The company's largest customers include Bank of America, Barclays in London, and

McQuarrie in Australia.

nCino does not have a presence in South Africa, although the company is talking to local banks. "We service South Africa from our London office and have built up good relationships, but we haven't signed with a local bank. I expect that we will sign an agreement in due course, and I will be very proud if and when this happens," he says.

nCino has received numerous accolades, including being featured in prominent industry rankings such as the IDC FinTech Rankings, the Deloitte Technology Fast 500, and the Forbes Cloud 100 for two years running. According to the prospectus, nCino's revenue rose from \$38-million in 2018 to \$138-million in its 2020 financial year. The company is not profitable and suffered a loss of \$18.6-million in its latest

fiscal period.

### Much talent

Asked why the fintech company settled in the relatively small town of Wilmington and not in Silicon Valley, Naudé said: "It is fantastic not to be part of Silicon Valley. The staff turnover rate there is between 15% and 25%. I don't know how you build a company with such a turnover rate. Ours is much lower than 10%."

He adds that there is much talent available due to the lifestyle North Carolina offers. "Last year I hired 225 people in Wilmington from 10 000 applications. We can choose who we want to employ." Naudé still has family in South Africa and visits every two years or so. "I hope to get back when Covid is over. It's always fantastic to come home."



## WORLD

## US schools balk at Trump order to reopen doors

NEW YORK

THE mounting number of novel coronavirus cases in many US states and the unwillingness of parents and school officials to put children in possible danger of contracting and passing on the coronavirus are derailing US President Donald Trump's demand that all public schools must reopen.

Schools are either reopening for autumn, staying completely shut, turning to online teaching or offering a mix of classroom and virtual learning. The country's largest public-school districts, New York with 1.1 million students and Los Angeles with about 735,000, will not fully reopen schools.

The Trump administration has made the reopening of schools one of its main priorities as the president seeks to restart the economy in the face of the latest surge in coronavirus cases with less than four months to go until

the presidential election.

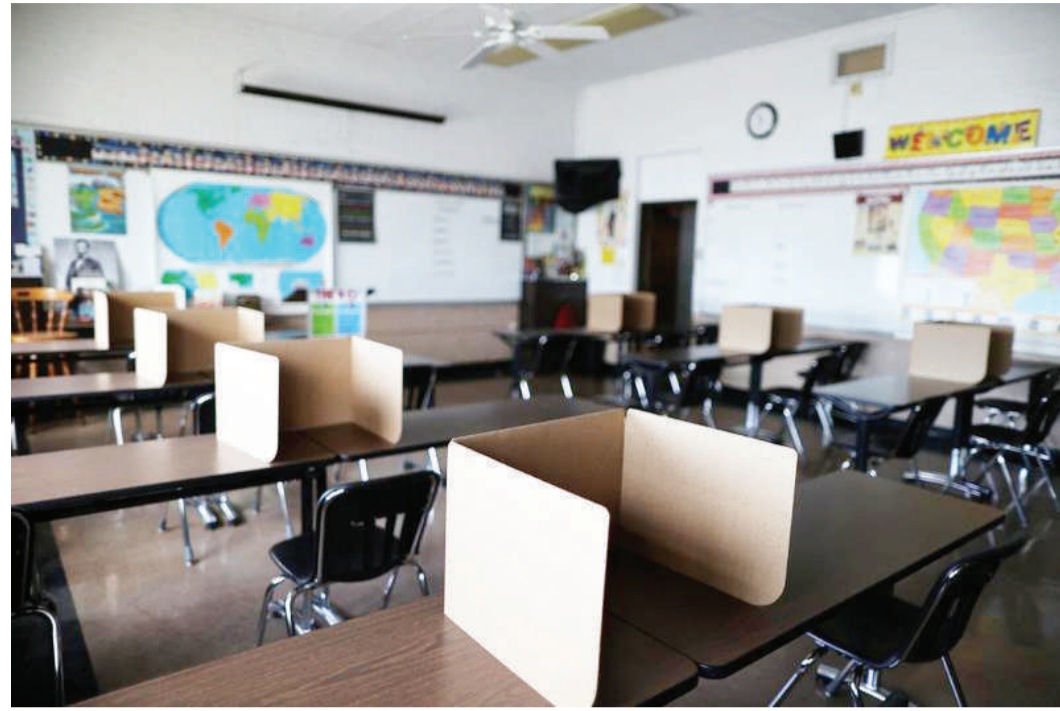
"If we don't reopen the schools," White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow said, "that would be a setback to a true economic recovery".

The White House and administration officials have repeatedly insisted that the country's schools and colleges must physically reopen classes and that on-line instruction, fully or partially, is not an appropriate alternative. Trump has even threatened to withhold federal aid from schools that do not physically reopen.

**Safety concerns**

He has also berated online learning and the guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on reopening schools as too "tough" and "expensive".

The Trump administration has been pushing to reopen schools on the



Social distancing dividers for students are seen in a classroom at St. Benedict School, amid the outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), in Montebello, near Los Angeles, California, US, July 14, 2020. (AGENCIES)

premise that children under 18 are at very low risk if they contract the virus.

While it is unclear how susceptible children are to getting the virus and transmitting it to others, many parents fear for the safety of their children, and teachers also fear for their own safety.

The New York Times reported on Saturday that a new large study from South Korea showed that children younger than 10 transmit the virus to others much less often than adults do, but the risk is not zero. Those between the ages of 10 and 19 can spread the virus at least as well as adults do, according to the study, the Times reported.

"I fear that there has been this sense that kids just won't get infected or don't get infected in the same way as adults and therefore, they're almost like a bubbled population," Michael Osterholm, an infectious diseases expert at the University of Minnesota, told the Times.

"There will be transmission," Osterholm said. "What we have to do is accept that now and include that in our plans."

In New York, Mayor Bill de Blasio said schools will reopen for at least some in-person instruction in the autumn. Proposing three models of staggered in-person instruction, De Blasio's plan would allow for in-person attendance to range from one to three days a week. And students will take classes remotely on the other days.

He also announced that the city will provide free child care to 100,000 students when schools reopen. The city aims to provide relief for working parents who either can't afford to stay home or cannot find child care for the days that students are not in school for in-person learning.

In California, where cases are surging and the state is returning to lockdowns of bars, restaurants and offices, Governor Gavin Newsom on Friday announced the state will require schools in counties with high rates of infections to keep schools shut until they can meet public health standards.

Los Angeles and San Diego schools will only teach online this autumn.

## Russia may get COVID-19 vaccine earlier due to favorable infrastructure - head of RDIF

NEW YORK

THE development of a Russian coronavirus vaccine is going well, and it may conclude earlier than in other countries due to the existing infrastructure and the efforts of Russian researchers, head of the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) Kirill Dmitriev said in an interview with CNN on Friday.

When asked why Russia had reached such progress in this area, he stressed: "We have lots of infrastructure for vaccine development, and once again, we will be the first ones because of our scientists and because of the research we have done to date."

CNN asked Dmitriev to comment on the accusations made by the UK National Cyber Security Centre claiming that Russian hackers had attempted to steal information on COVID-19 vaccine development from the UK, Canada and the USA.

"First of all, we are very surprised by the timing of this, because basically, this happened the next day after we announced the approval of our vaccine in August," Dmitriev said in English.

Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov stated that Moscow has nothing to do with the hacks. Dmitriev said earlier that Russia has no need to steal a British vaccine, as AstraZeneca has already handed over the technology to Russia's R-Farm. **Agencies**

## Envoy: Rejecting Huawei is rejecting opportunities

LONDON

CHOOSING Huawei is choosing opportunities and growth, and rejecting Huawei is rejecting opportunities and growth, a senior Chinese diplomat has said here, referring to the British government's stance shift on the Chinese technology company.

The statement came as Liu Xiaoming, Chinese ambassador to Britain, was giving a recent online interview to The Times newspaper.

"I now would say, rejecting Huawei is rejecting the future," Liu said, adding that "5G really represents the future," according to the complete transcript of the interview posted Sunday by the embassy on its website.

"Huawei is the leader in 5G and China is a 5G leader, too," he said, "so 5G represents the future for not only the industry but also our daily life."

The Chinese ambassador noted that the Chinese firm "used to be the shining example for China-UK win-win cooperation."

Commenting on London's recent policy U-turn on Huawei, which has been in the country for 20 years, Liu said, "I think UK has missed the opportunity to be a leading country in this area."

On Tuesday, Huawei said the British government's move to ban the company's involvement in the country's 5G networks is a "disappointing decision" which "threatens to move Britain into the digital slow lane, push up bills and deepen the digital divide."

"This disappointing decision is bad news for anyone in the UK with a mobile phone," said Ed Brewster, a spokesperson for Huawei UK in a statement.

The British government announced Tuesday that buying new Huawei 5G equipment will be banned after Dec. 31, 2020 and all Huawei equipment will be removed from Britain's 5G networks by the end of 2022.

In January, London announced its new plans to safeguard the country's telecoms network, which is widely seen as approving a restricted role for Huawei in helping build the country's 5G network. **Xinhua**

## COVID-19 test delays 'too long' in US, says NIH director

WASHINGTON

LONG delays in getting COVID-19 test results across the United States is undercutting their usefulness, said Director of the U.S. National Institutes for Health Francis Collins on Sunday.

"The average test delay is too long," Collins said in an interview with NBC. "And that really undercuts the value of the testing, because you do the testing to find out who's carrying the virus and then quickly get them isolated so they don't spread it around."

Collins said the U.S. government must invest in new technologies in order to keep up with the testing demand. "We need to do things that are more on the spot," Collins said.

"There's a number of new technologies that are coming along that look very promising in that space. We need to invest a lot of money, and the government is willing to do so, in scaling those up." **Xinhua**

## Rwandan churches reopen with caution over COVID-19 pandemic

KIGALI

SOME churches in Rwanda reopened doors on Sunday to religious prayers after being closed for over four months due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

The Rwandan cabinet on Wednesday said places of worship could resume service upon approval by local authorities. Only those meet the conditions on preventing the spread of COVID-19 are allowed to reopen.

Residents in the capital city Kigali thronged into churches in the early morning, wearing face masks, maintaining social distancing norms, washing hands with clean water, soap and hand sanitizers.

"Before entering the church, worshippers' temperatures are measured before they are told to clean their hands and as well

maintain social distance during praying. We are very strict on COVID-19 prevention measures," Nathan Rusengo Amooti, Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Kigali, told reporters shortly after the first church service at St Etienne Cathedral.

Worshippers were registered at the church before starting prayers, said Amooti, adding that the church has limited the number of worshippers to enter in order to maintain social distancing.

Before and after prayers, the church will be cleaned thoroughly by using appropriate disinfectants or cleaning detergents, according to him.

"We thank the government of Rwanda for permitting us to resume public worship. We are very strict on COVID-19 prevention measures and our followers have been told to adhere to the



A worshipper washes hands with hand sanitizer at a church in Kigali, capital city of Rwanda, on Sunday. Some churches in Rwanda reopened doors on Sunday to religious prayers after being closed for over four months due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The Rwandan cabinet on Wednesday said places of worship could resume service upon approval by local authorities. Only those meet the conditions on preventing the spread of COVID-19 are allowed to reopen. (Xinhua)

new guidelines," Innocent Con-solateur, head priest at Kigali's St

Michael Cathedral, told report-ers.

Xinhua

## Palestinians slam Google, Apple as Palestine deleted from online maps

RAMALLAH/GAZA

PALESTINIANS have been angered after Google and Apple removed Palestine from their online maps saying they want to display disputed territories "objectively."

Venting anger at the two giants, youths in the West Bank and Gaza launched a Twitter campaign with the hashtag #FreePalestine calling the deletion move biased with Israel, demanding the companies to withdraw their decision. Speaking

to Xinhua, Ibrahim Hribat, a history teacher from the West Bank city of Nabulus, said he believed the two companies were being "complicit" with the political approach taken by the United States that does not have a place for Palestinians on world maps.

"Removing Palestine from the maps was not a coincidence. Rather it was a prelude to the implementation of Washington's Middle East plan and the last nail in the

coffin for the Palestinian issue," he told Xinhua. He added that the U.S. administration and its institutions "may be able to remove the name of Palestine from the maps, but they will not be able to remove it from the souls of the Palestinians, no matter how long it takes."

Abdul Sattar Qassem, a Nablus-based political expert, also told Xinhua that deleting Palestine from the maps of Google and Apple is "part of a continuous series of

measures aimed at implementing the U.S. foreign policy that wants to cleanse the Palestinian land from the Palestinians in a bid to establish a national homeland for the Jewish people only."

The anger even drew Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad al-Maliki to comment on the matter. He blamed Israel for "blackmailing" the companies and forcing them to erase Palestine from the maps. The minister also offered an ultimatum,

saying "if they do not comply with our demand, we will file a lawsuit against them to the international legal authorities."

However, that is not the only step planned to be taken by the Palestinian side. Palestinian Ministry of Telecommunication and Information Ishaq Sidr told Xinhua that the ministry is already mulling over the possibility of adopting an alternative search engines that are not biased against their issue. **Xinhua**

## National security legislation solid underpinning for rights, freedoms of Hong Kong residents

THE Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) was passed unanimously by the Standing Committee of the 13th National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature, on June 30.

The NPC Standing Committee also listed it in Annex III to the HKSAR Basic Law to be gazetted and enacted in Hong Kong by the SAR government.

As a strong support for the long-term and sustained implementation of "one country, two systems" principle, it will help Hong Kong go back to the right track and start again, and guarantee the rights and interests, as well as freedoms of Hong Kong residents.

It is also in compliance with the universal truth that the rights and freedoms of residents will be guaranteed to the maximum extent possible, if the

security of a country is guaranteed and its society remains stable.

Chinese President Xi Jinping remarked, "Without a harmonious and stable environment, how can people live in peace and enjoy their work!" What he said was particularly proved true in the protests over the proposed amendments to the HKSAR's extradition bill in June 2019.

Planned and instigated by anti-China forces who attempt to disrupt Hong Kong, black-clad rioters and "mutual destruction" tactic once swept the HKSAR. Extremists and violent radicals set fire and hurled gasoline and petrol bombs, confronted the police enforcement with violence, restricted and beat up policemen and civilians, illegally possessed guns and ammunition, installed explosive devices, created fear and panic with anthrax and made many terrorist attacks.

Living and working in peace and contentment, and enjoying the rights and freedoms has become a luxury when the most basic personal safety and daily life are threatened.

Today, people are fully aware that those who provoke violence and apply "mutual destruction" tactic are the biggest enemies of the rights and freedom of the residents of Hong Kong.

Anti-China forces attempting to destabilize Hong Kong, by particularly taking advantage of Hong Kong's national security loophole in legislation, have recklessly engaged in activities that jeopardize the principle of "one country, two systems."

Moreover, they pitted safeguarding national security against protecting the rights and freedoms of residents, and stigmatized and demonized Article 23 of Hong Kong's Basic Law, in a bid to better carry out secession, subver-

sion, infiltration and sabotage activities against the mainland.

The legislation will target a small minority of severe criminals jeopardizing national security, including secession, subverting state power and organizing and carrying out terrorist activities, as well as interference in the HKSAR's internal affairs by foreign or external forces.

Preventing, prohibiting and punishing these illegal acts in accordance with the Law aims to safeguard national security and maintain prosperity and stability of Hong Kong, better protect life and property of a majority of Hong Kong residents, and rights and freedoms prescribed in the Basic Law.

Safeguarding national security overlaps with protecting rights and freedoms in essence. It is clearly stipulated in the Law that the HKSAR

must act in line with rule of law. And the Law also underlines respecting and protecting human rights.

When the law is enacted, Hong Kong citizens' rights and freedoms of speech, press, publication, assembly, association, procession and of demonstration that are enshrined in the Basic Law of the HKSAR and the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as applied to the SAR will remain the same.

Besides, normal exchanges and contact between residents and legal persons of the international metropolises and other countries, regions and international organizations will be protected, too.

Admittedly, some Hong Kong residents' understanding and trust of the country, especially the rule of law of

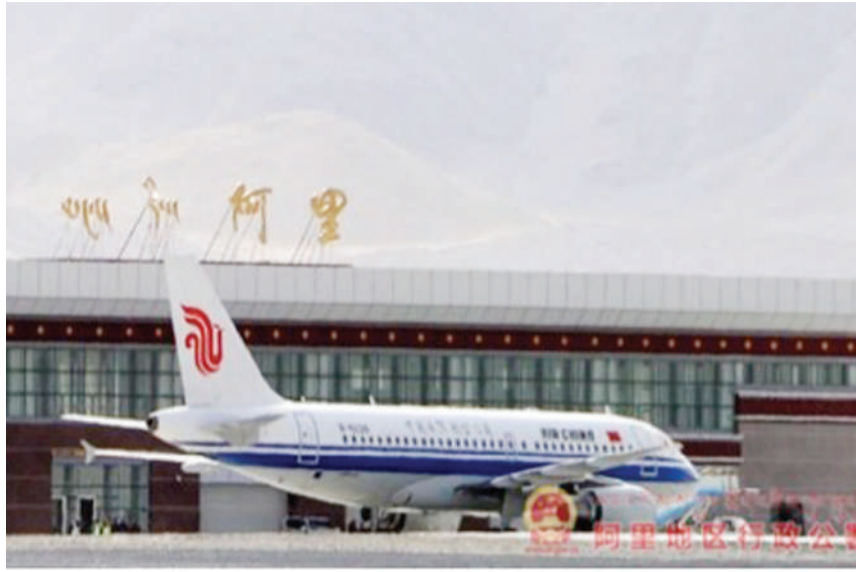
the mainland is another deep-seat issue.

Thanks to the sheer endeavor in the past four decades since reform and opening up, China has made remarkable achievements in establishing the rule of law. A law-based environment is the best environment for doing business. The Chinese mainland remains one of the most attractive destinations for foreign investment, which speaks volume for the rule of law in China.

The mainland and Hong Kong do not differ greatly in terms of criminal justice systems. Since security organizations perform tasks in accordance with the law and follow a rigorous procedure in the mainland, there is no need to worry that these organizations will not respect the rule of law in the HKSAR.

People's Daily





Ngari Gonsa Airport. (File photo)

## Ngari Gonsa Airport connects Tibet's remote prefecture with rest of China

NGARI, a remote prefecture located in the border area of Southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region, is now connected to the rest of the country by the Ngari Gonsa Airport.

Covering an area of 304,000 square kilometers, Ngari is home to over 120,000 permanent residents. It is nicknamed the "top of the roof of the world" for its average altitude of over 4,500 meters.

Shiquanhe township is the seat of the Ngari administrative office, which is over 1,300 kilometers from its nearest city, Hotan in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region to the north, 1,400 kilometers from Tibet's capital Lhasa, and 5,100 kilometers from Beijing.

Roads were the major way of transportation for the people in Ngari to go to Hotan, and Tibet's Shigatse and Lhasa before the Ngari Gonsa Airport, southwest to Shiquanhe township, was officially put into operation in 2010, said an executive at the airport, adding that the trip to Lhasa would always take at least 40 hours.

The Ngari Gonsa Airport, which started construction in May 2007, is the first civil airport ever built in northwest Tibet.

By overcoming difficulties such as harsh weather conditions, short construction period, and long-distance transportation of building materials, engineers and technicians completed the construction in just three-odd years and built an "air bridge" between Ngari and Lhasa, as well as the rest of China.

On July 1, 2010, an A319 aircraft landing on the new airport marked the official operation of the civil aviation facility, making it the fourth one in Tibet under operation.

So far, it has opened four routes linking the cities of Lhasa, Kashgar, Urumqi and Xi'an. A total of 7,169 takeoffs and landings have been completed in the airport in the past 10 years, carrying 491,367 passengers and 365 tons of cargos.

Ngari Gonsa Airport, situated at 4,274 meters above sea level, is the fourth highest airport in the world. With a terminal building covering about 4,000 square meters, the airport can operate a maximum of 4 flights and 300 passengers per hour at peak time, and its annual throughput capacity was planned at 120,000 passengers.

Due to the thin air, high altitude and other climate conditions, the airport faces troubles in water, power and

heating supply, "altitude sickness" of equipment and facilities, high pressure on safe operation, and lack of daily necessities.

However, it has ensured overall safe operation in the past 10 years and accumulated experiences that could set a reference for other plateau airports.

The airport has initiated barbed wire fences to eliminate potential dangers, tailored insulation layers for water heating pipes to protect them from freezing and cracking in winter and solved through trials equipment failures caused by extreme climate conditions on the plateau area.

The airport shortens the travel time between Ngari and Lhasa from over 40 hours to two hours, and allows residents in the prefecture to arrive in China's major cities within one day. The fast and convenient air flights have greatly improved the travel experience of residents in Ngari and granted visitors easier access to the prefecture.

The airport has significantly improved the transport links in the previously isolated prefecture, ignited the dynamism of the society and brought significant changes to the prefecture's economic and social development thanks to smoother travel and logistics channels, the executive of the airport said.

Civil aviation has served as a powerful driver for the economic development of Ngari, laying solid foundations for investment attraction and bringing the prefecture's high-quality tourism resources to more visitors.

According to data released by the Ngari administrative office, the prefecture received over one million visitors in 2019 from 61,300 in 2010, growing an average of 38 percent every year.

With an average annual increase of 42 percent, Ngari reaped over 1.37 billion yuan (\$194 million) of tourism revenue in 2019 from 60 million yuan in 2010. Besides, the prefecture's GDP increased by an average of 14 percent annually to over 6.2 billion yuan in 2019 from 1.85 billion yuan in 2010.

The airport has also improved the livelihood of the local people. At present, it is no longer difficult for local residents to buy stuffs from outside the region such as fresh vegetables, fruits and seafood. It is also more convenient for them to seek jobs, pursue education and seek medical treatment.

People's Daily



## The Ngari Gonsa Airport, which started construction in May 2007, is the first civil airport ever built in northwest Tibet

THE year 2020 marks the 75th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations (UN). An online event held recently in commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the signing of the UN Charter has attracted great attention, indicating that the international community believes multilateralism is of practical significance.

The U.S., however, has never stopped attacking the multilateral system with unilateral actions. U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, for one, is particularly dedicated to undermining international solidarity and cooperation as he has gone out his way to deny the constructive role that China has played in multilateral

organizations and even accused China of advancing its "narrow interests."

What the U.S. has been performing on the world stage—withdrawing from international organizations and agreements, as well as threatening to freeze the funds for world organizations—deviates from multilateralism and has caused widespread concerns in the international society.

Unfortunately, as years go by, some people seem to have forgotten about the UN Charter and the original intentions of founding the organization, said David Chikvaizde, Chef de Cabinet of the Director-General of the UN

Office at Geneva.

The world has witnessed more and more unilateralist approaches, instead of seeking solutions via consultation and negotiation to deal with problems, which has increasingly put itself into a dangerous situation, he added.

"Certainly, the U.S. and many of our free-world friends have our differences on the subject of multilateralism." Such remarks of Pompeo have made it pretty clear that the U.S. has already isolated itself from the rest of the world.

No matter what excuses and lies the U.S. has come up with, it could never justify its withdrawal

from international organizations and agreements.

The country has already pulled out of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the UN Human Rights Council, the Paris Agreement, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, the Treaty on Open Skies and announced that it would terminate its relationship with the World Health Organization (WHO).

Such practices of the U.S. have fully exposed its unilateral nature and power politics driven by "America First".

## Belarus to remain 'close and native' country for Russia, Lukashenko says

MINSK

BELARUS always was and still is a close and native country for Russia, President Alexander Lukashenko said.

"We are not going to go anywhere away from Russia, as some try to present. We are located on this piece of land. It was always close and native for a Russian man, a Russian citizen. It will always be like this even if we would like it to be otherwise.

The peoples will decide how to live without us. But it would be nice if we were present during this process," the Belarusian leader under-



scored during his meeting with Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin Friday.

According to Lukashenko (pictured), Belarus insists on compliance with all union agreements.

"There is a list from both our and the Russian sides. We must comply with these agreements and build our

relations solely on basis of equality," he claimed.

Lukashenko noted that he studied this topic very closely as a historian.

"Unions built on unequal basis do not exist for long," Lukashenko said, adding that times have changed.

"It is impossible to capture a country and to subdue it for 100-150 years, like in the Middle Ages, and there is no need for that. And Russia has enough lands, if we speak about Russia," Lukashenko said. "But if someone outside our country, from the other side, thinks in such things and concepts, I believe his life would not be long-lasting."

Agencies

## Trump, Portland mayor clash over causes of escalating unrest

WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump condemned protests in Portland, Oregon, and violence in "Democrat-run" cities on Sunday as his Republican administration moves to intervene in urban centers he says have lost control of anti-racism demonstrations.

Federal law enforcement officers, armed with a new executive order aimed at protecting U.S. monuments, last week started cracking down on crowds gathering in Portland to protest police brutality and systemic racism.

After a chaotic night in Portland that saw a police association building set on fire and officers shooting tear gas at a group of mothers protesting police brutality, Trump and Portland's mayor traded barbs over who was to blame for the escalating unrest.

"We are trying to help Portland, not hurt it. Their leadership has, for months, lost control of the anarchists and agitators. They are missing in action. We must protect Federal property, AND OUR PEOPLE," Trump wrote in a Twitter post.

Facing declining polling numbers before his Nov. 3 election against Democrat Joe Biden, Trump is making "law and order" a central campaign issue to appeal to critical suburban voters.

The crackdown in the liberal bastion of Portland drew widespread criticism and legal challenges as videos surfaced of camouflage-clad officers without clear identification badges using force and unmarked vehicles to arrest protesters without explanation.

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler said on Sunday that it was federal authorities who were sharply escalating the situation.

"Their presence here is actually leading to more violence and more vandalism," Wheeler said on CNN's "State of the Union" program. "And it's not helping the situation at all. They're not wanted here. We haven't asked them here. In fact, we want them to leave."



Federal law enforcement officers, deployed under the Trump administration's executive order to protect federal monuments and buildings, use pepper spray and tear gas on demonstrators during a protest against racial inequality in Portland, Oregon on Sunday. REUTERS

Wheeler and Oregon Governor Kate Brown, both Democrats, called the move an abuse of power by the federal government and the state filed a lawsuit against the U.S. agencies involved.

On Sunday, Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives demanded internal investigations into whether the Justice and Homeland Security departments "abused emergency authorities" in handling the Portland protests.

### NATIONWIDE CRACKDOWN

White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows said Attorney General William Barr and Acting Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf are working on measures the administration can take to counter the unrest.

"You'll see something rolled out this week as we start to go in and make sure that the communities, whether it's Chicago or Portland, or Milwaukee, or someplace across the heartland of the country, we need to make sure our communities are safe," Meadows said on "Sunday Morning Futures."

The announcement is expected to expand a new Justice Department initiative that sends federal law enforce-

ment into cities facing protests. MOMS TEAR-GASSED

In Portland on Saturday night, Melanie Damm said she saw unidentified federal officers in military-style gear fired tear gas canisters into a group of mothers, clad mostly in white, who were protesting against police brutality.

"The level of violence escalated by these GI soldiers was such an over-reaction. You're seeing moms getting tear-gassed," said Damm, herself a 39-year-old mom. "We aren't young and Antifa-looking," she said, referring to more militant anti-fascism protesters.

In an interview on "Fox News Sunday," Trump attributed the increase in violence in cities such as Chicago and New York by saying "they're Democrat-run cities, they are liberally run. They are stupidly run." The Republican president last month threatened to send U.S. military troops to quell protests that erupted over police brutality and racism after the killing of a Black man, George Floyd, by a Minneapolis police officer.

Agencies

## Brexit talks in tense standoff, dashing hope of swift deal

By Bloomberg

WHEN Prime Minister Boris Johnson held a video conference with the leaders of the European Union last month, officials on both sides came away optimistic that a deal on their post-Brexit relationship was in sight. That confidence is evaporating.

Informal meetings between the UK and EU's chief negotiators since then have failed to make progress, according to people with knowledge of the discussions. Privately, EU officials say their attempts to compromise haven't been reciprocated, while their UK counterparts retort that the bloc's concessions haven't gone far enough.

With time to reach an agreement run-

ning out, the pressure is building on David Frost and the EU's Michel Barnier as they begin their first full round of negotiations for six weeks with a dinner in London on Monday. If the two sides fail to reach an agreement, tariffs and quotas will be re-imposed when the UK parts ways with the bloc at the year-end.

Johnson's video call -- in which he signaled to the EU he was ready to do a deal -- was supposed to encourage the technicians to work toward an agreement at speed. Both sides say the chances of a deal being reached by the end of August are fading fast.

### Dinner Dates

In recent weeks, Frost and Barnier have held a series of meetings and din-

ner discussions. While that has helped to dissipate some of the acrimony between the two that was beginning to creep into their virtual exchanges since May, it has done little to build on the broad landing zone that had already been sketched out.

Barnier had signaled the EU is ready to give ground on the three most contentious topics in the negotiations: EU boats' access to British fishing waters; how closely the UK will stay aligned to European rules on state aid; and what role the European Court of Justice will play in policing the pact.

The EU side is baffled the UK hasn't shown any indication of where it is willing to compromise, one official said, adding that recent talks have just gone

## Envoy: No 'broad interpretation' of HK security law

WASHINGTON



THERE is "no so-called broad interpretation" of the National Security Law for China's Hong Kong Special Administrative Region as the criminal activities it bans are "very clearly defined" in it, Chinese Ambassador to the United States Cui Tiankai has said.

"I think the National Security Law, if we read it carefully, has six chapters and 66 articles. If you read all of them very carefully, you can see there is a very clear definition about the criminal activities the law would ban. It's very clearly defined," said Cui (pictured) in an exclusive interview with Fareed Zakaria, host of CNN's GPS show, which was aired on Sunday.

"There is no so-called broad interpretation. It's very clearly defined, the kind of actions, the kind of acts that will be banned by the law. So if people have no interest in getting themselves involved in such acts, they have nothing to worry about," he said.

Cui noted China's guiding policy for the governance of Hong Kong is still "one country, two systems."

"This has not changed. This will not change in the future. Hong Kong is now part of China. We have to defend our own country's unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity," he said. "This is what is meant by 'one country.'"

"And within the framework of 'one country', on the basis of secure and stable 'one country,' 'two systems' can prosper in parallel, can prosper together. That's what is meant by 'one country, two systems,'" the ambassador explained.

"The new law is intended just for that purpose, to maintain and safeguard 'one country, two systems,' to make Hong Kong more stable, more secure for everybody, for the Hong Kong residents as well as for foreign investors," he said, adding people could have a more predictable, safer environment to do their business in Hong Kong. "That's the real purpose of this law."

"According to the Basic Law of Hong Kong, some of the national laws do apply to Hong Kong when they are concerning national sovereignty and territorial integrity, unity of the country," he said.

"They have to apply; otherwise, there's no 'one country.' But if people try to undermine or even destroy this very basis of 'one country,' then there is no place for the 'two systems.' So if people try to undermine 'one country,' they're actually undermining the 'two systems' as well," he said.

Agencies

## The stumbling block to multilateral cooperation

organizations and even accused China of advancing its "narrow interests."

What the U.S. has been performing on the world stage—withdrawing from international organizations and agreements, as well as threatening to freeze the funds for world organizations—deviates from multilateralism and has caused widespread concerns in the international society.

Office at Geneva.

The world has witnessed more and more unilateralist approaches, instead of seeking solutions via consultation and negotiation to deal with problems, which has increasingly put itself into a dangerous situation, he added.

"Certainly, the U.S. and many of our free-world friends have our differences on the subject of multilateralism." Such remarks of Pompeo have made it pretty clear that the U.S. has already isolated itself from the rest of the world.

No matter what excuses and lies the U.S. has come up with, it could never justify its withdrawal

from international organizations and agreements.

The country has already pulled out of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the UN Human Rights Council, the Paris Agreement, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, the Treaty on Open Skies and announced that it would terminate its relationship with the World Health Organization (WHO).

Such practices of the U.S. have fully exposed its unilateral nature and power politics driven by "America First".

Richard Horton, editor-in-chief of leading medical journal The Lancet, called the U.S. administration's decision to halt its funding for the WHO a "crime against humanity".

The European media criticized America, a super power, for withdrawing from the Paris Agreement, saying it's a betrayal of the world.

Pompeo has always tried to stir up trouble by talking about rules, yet the most important rule for him is that all rules should change according to the needs of the U.S.

Even after the country left the UN Human Rights Council, it still

interfered in the formulation of the agency's election rules and other affairs of the body and criticized the human rights conditions of other countries.

When the Human Rights Council adopted a resolution to condemn the U.S. for its racial discrimination after the U.S. police caused the death of an unarmed black man George Floyd by violent law enforcement, Pompeo made a statement to "defend" the government, even by slandering the agency.

While the U.S. has continuously provoked trade disputes, bullied other countries in global trade, threatened the interna-

tional trade order and undermined the rules of multilateral trade, Pompeo, however, is trying to pass the buck on China.

Facts speak for themselves. The U.S., a true bully in international affairs, has always applied the law of multilateral organizations and international society in a selective way.

If any country is advancing its narrow interests in the multilateral system, it is without doubt the U.S., as many people have agreed.

Only by practicing and safeguarding multilateralism can countries resolve global crises and protect international fairness and justice.

People's Daily





Kanye West makes his first presidential campaign appearance, Sunday, July 19, 2020 in North Charleston, S.C. Rapper Kanye West, in his first event since declaring himself a presidential candidate, delivered a lengthy monologue Sunday touching on topics from abortion and religion to international trade and licensing deals. Whether he's actually seeking the nation's highest office remains a question. (AP)

## Kanye West criticizes Harriet Tubman at his political rally

COLUMBIA, S.C.

RAPPER Kanye West, in his first event since declaring himself a presidential candidate, ranted against historical figure Harriet Tubman on Sunday, saying the Underground Railroad conductor "never actually freed the slaves, she just had them work for other white people," comments that drew shouts of opposition from some in the crowd.

West delivered a lengthy monologue, touching on topics from abortion and religion to international trade and licensing deals, before a crowd in North Charleston, South Carolina. Whether he is actually seeking the nation's highest office remains a question.

Tubman is one of the most respected figures of 19th century America. An African American who escaped slavery, she helped enslaved Black men and women travel north to freedom and fought for the Union during the Civil War. She later became a supporter of women's suffrage.

On abortion, West said that while he believes it should be legal, financial incentives to help struggling mothers could be a way to discourage the practice.

"Everybody that has a baby gets a million dollars," he said as an example.

Wearing a protective vest and with "2020"

shaved into his head, the entertainer appeared on a livestream of the event. Several hundred people gathered in a venue, where gospel music played before West's appearance.

The event was reportedly for registered guests only, although a campaign website had no registration or RSVP information.

Speaking without a microphone, West became tearful at one point while talking about his mother, who died following plastic surgery complications in 2007.

West missed the deadline to qualify for the ballot in several states, and it was unclear if he was willing or able to collect enough signatures required to qualify in others. Last week, he qualified to appear on Oklahoma's presidential ballot, the first state where he met the requirements before the filing deadline.

West needed to collect 10,000 signatures by noon Monday to appear on the South Carolina ballot, according to state law. The entertainer tweeted out a list of locations around the Charleston area where petitions could be signed. Email to an address purportedly associated with the campaign was not returned Sunday afternoon.

West, who is married to reality television star Kim Kardashian West, initially announced his candidacy on July 4.

(Agencies)

## Bernard Morrison and the Yanga toxic mess

BY CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL MWEBE

**B**ERNARD Morrison is Yanga's key player since he arrived in Tanzania in January this year.

He, though, has created one of the biggest messes ever seen between a club and a player.

A bitter row has broken out over a new contract. Yanga have reacted angrily to Morrison's comment that he has not penned a new two-year deal.

Yanga claim the Ghanaian forward signed a contract extension in March that will keep him at the club till 2022.

Morrison has disputed that claim and went as far as referring the matter to the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) Ethics and Players' Status Committee.

Matters appeared to have cooled down after that incident and Morrison joined the club in their league's away fixture against Kagera Sugar where he scored the winner.

Ahead of the Azam Sports Federation Cup semi-final derby clash with rivals, Simba, he promised fans he would deliver as he did in March where his scorching free kick earned the club all the bragging rights against Simba.

Unfortunately, instead of delivering as promised, Morrison's misconduct was the talking point of the day as Yanga lost 4-1 to their bitter rivals.

He reacted angrily after being substituted for Patrick Sibomana.

In a game where he had a stinking performance, Morrison threw a tantrum towards the technical



Yanga winger, Bernard Morrison.

bench and headed straight to the dressing room, where he changed and left the stadium before the final whistle.

The following day, he never showed up for training sessions only to later claim that he has not been paid his two months salary and is free to leave the club as the initial six months contract expired on July 14.

Yanga have become furious with a string of negative stories involving Morrison and have asked him to leave if it is true he has no contract as he keeps claiming in the media.

They claim nobody has ban-

ished him from the club.

Apparently Morrison, judging by his media utterance is sticking by his claim he has no contract and he is only waiting for TFF permission to go back home in Ghana for holiday as a free agent.

There is no end in sight for the dispute which is linked to allegations that Morrison has a pre-contract with Simba.

It should be remembered, Yanga have channeled their complaints to the TFF accusing Simba for tapping Morrison by illegally offering him \$5000.

Morrison went as far as alleg-

ing recently that he was given that amount from an agent linked with Simba, to convince him to sign for the outfit, popularly known as 'Msimbazi Reds', in the upcoming transfer window.

These claims and counter-claims have caused, and continue to cause, embarrassment to Yanga.

It does not take much thinking to figure out what the club Media Officer, Hassan Bumbuli, was getting at when he said there are better things to talk about other than Morrison issue.

Bumbuli was indirectly supporting the call by many fans to axe Morrison.

Though Yanga are not saints in the way they have handled the Morrison saga, one can't fault their stance.

Morrison, as much as he is one of key players, has pushed them to a point of no return.

The decision to axe him has more to do with the behaviour on a daily basis rather than any one-off incidents.

It is the right decision, the relationship is now too toxic for both parties.

All bridges have been burnt down. The marriage is over.

It is no good for the squad, no good for the club, who played for players come and players go, but the club remains.

Yanga have to act like a club and we all know no player is bigger than a club.



Simba SC winger, Deo Kanda, jubilates after netting against Alliance FC in a Vodacom Premier League clash, which took place at National Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Sunday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

## Hamilton wins 8th Hungarian GP to equal Schumacher F1 record

BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

FORMULA One cham-

pion Lewis Hamilton won the Hungarian Grand Prix for the eighth time to equal

Michael Schumacher's single-venue record and take the championship lead on



Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton of Britain celebrates on the podium after winning the Hungarian Formula One Grand Prix at the Hungaroring racetrack in Mogyorod, Hungary, Sunday, July 19, 2020. (AP)

Sunday.

Hamilton's latest victory from pole position was as comfortable as the nearly 9-second margin over second-place Max Verstappen suggested. The British driver's 86th GP win moved him just five behind the German great Schumacher's F1 record of 91.

"It would have been so far-fetched to believe that could possibly come true. I remember watching Michael on TV win all his races," Hamilton said. "Now I'm getting closer to the amount of wins he has, it just reminds me of the dominance and excellence he showed for so long. I can understand the position he was in and I can understand the pressures he had. It's pretty remarkable."

Schumacher won the French GP eight times when it was held at Magny-Cours. Hamilton first won here in 2007 and his first success with Mercedes also came at

the Hungaroring track in 2013, the year after replacing Schumacher on the Silver Arrows team.

Verstappen drove superbly to hold off Hamilton's Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas, who finished less than one second behind him in third to relinquish the championship lead after three races. Hamilton took a record-extending 90th career pole on Saturday to match Schumacher's record for seven poles on the 4.4-kilometer (2.7-mile) track nestled among rolling hills outside of Budapest.

He made a clean start but Bottas made a poor one from second and was overtaken by Lance Stroll starting third; the Ferraris of Sebastian Vettel and Charles Leclerc; and Verstappen from seventh.

Red Bull only just managed to get Verstappen's car on the grid. About 20 minutes earlier, he damaged the front wing when going over a kerb and sliding into the barriers on a

warmup lap.

Team principal Christian Horner looked on anxiously as mechanics replaced it and repaired the suspension, working frantically to get his car ready with the clock ticking down.

"The mechanics did an amazing job. I don't know how they did it but they were incredible ... Just on time," a jubilant Verstappen said. "To be able to split the two Mercedes cars was great for us. I thought I was not going to race so to be second was like a victory today."

In a demoralizing sign of the times for Ferrari, both cars were lapped by Hamilton.

Stroll placed fourth ahead of Red Bull's Alexander Albon, with Vettel sixth and Leclerc out of the points in 11th.

Hamilton and most drivers again took the knee against racism before the start.

Shortly after the start, drivers changed onto the

slick tires for damp conditions, causing a flurry of activity.

But Hamilton had already streaked eight seconds ahead of Verstappen by lap 6 of 70.

It took Bottas 11 more laps to pass the Ferraris and Haas drivers Roman Grosjean and Kevin Magnussen to move into fourth behind Stroll.

Haas surprisingly found itself up the leaderboard because the team astutely changed tires before the others. Pierre Gasly's race ended at this point, when his AlphaTauri limped into the pits.

Halfway through, Hamilton was 20 seconds clear of Verstappen. Bottas moved ahead of Stroll's Racing Point and within six seconds of Verstappen, after all moved onto quicker medium tires.

That left Bottas with 32 laps to catch Verstappen – a long time for most, but most drivers don't have Verstappen's nerve and composure.

Bottas got to within half a second of him, but the Dutch driver held firm and forced Bottas to gamble on a third tire change with 20 laps remaining.

He soon got a point for the fastest lap, but Hamilton even took that off him too as he moved ahead 63-58 in the title race.

"It was a really bad race for me to be honest. I lost it at the start, a light on my dash(board) went off. I don't know what it was," Bottas said. "I lost places and it made the race very difficult (and) it was very difficult with Max."

Verstappen is third overall with 33, but would be closer had he not broken down in the first race in Austria.

Bottas won that, and Hamilton the next two with a double-header at the British GP to follow, starting Aug. 2.

Silverstone is another of Hamilton's best tracks, where he holds the record with six wins.

AP



## Messi wins 7th La Liga scoring title in big win

BARCELONA

LIONEL Messi finished as top scorer in La Liga for a record seventh time after netting twice as dethroned champions Barcelona ended their disappointing campaign on a high with a resounding 5-0 win at Alaves on Sunday.

Barca finished the season second in the standings on 82 points, five behind newly-crowned champions Real Madrid who drew 2-2 at Leganes later on Sunday. Alaves came 16th on 39.

Teenage forward Ansu Fati put Barca in front midway through the first half after the visitors hit the woodwork three times, while Messi and strike partner Luis Suarez further stretched their side's lead before halftime.

Defender Nelson Semedo hit the fourth early in the second half before Messi struck again, ending the campaign on 25 league goals, four more than second-top scorer Karim Benzema of Real Madrid.

The Argentine, who also finished as top marksman for a fourth consecutive season, eclipsed the benchmark he previously shared with the late Telmo Zarra but said he would have rather have won the league.

"Individual prizes and objectives

are secondary. It's an important achievement to win it seven times but I would have liked it to have been accompanied by the La Liga title," Messi said.

Barca's captain had made headlines on Thursday following his angry post-match interview after the 2-1 loss to Osasuna, blasting the team as weak and inconsistent, also appearing to criticise the running of the club.

But he was in a happier mood after the dominant performance against Alaves, saying the team felt more confident ahead of next month's Champions League last-16 second leg game with Napoli, which they host with the score tied at 1-1.

"Today we saw something else, it was a difficult game due to the situation we were in and the kick off time and heat but the team responded with a different attitude and showed great commitment," Messi added.

"We took a long hard look at ourselves from the inside which is what we needed to do. We have not had a good season in terms of performances or results but today we took a step forward.

"It's an important step for what's coming next."

(Agencies)

## Zambian season restarts 24 hours after coronavirus drama

JOHANNESBURG

THE Zambia Super League resumed Sunday, one day behind schedule after a match involving leaders Forest Rangers was postponed because 28 of the players and staff tested positive for coronavirus.

Football in the southern Africa nation was suspended during March when the COVID-19 disease swept through a continent with fragile public health systems.

Zambia decided to restart the 2019/2020 season behind closed doors amid the health crisis with 2,810 confirmed infections in the country and 109 deaths.

In the opening match, Buildcon rallied to draw 1-1 with Power Dynamos thanks to a Chanda Mushili goal after Biston Banda put Dynamos ahead.

Defending champions Zesco United were surprisingly held 1-1 by lowly Kansanshi Dynamos in the second match of a double-header at Levy Mwanawasa Stadium in central city Ndola.

Zesco fell behind when Clement Mwape conceded an own-goal and Jesse Were, one of four Kenyans in the title-holders' starting line-up, equalised.

Rangers are seeking a first title since being founded in 1975 and

were due to face Zanaco Saturday, also in Ndola.

But the fixture had to be postponed at the last minute after 28 players and staff at the club out of 58 who underwent COVID-19 tests had contracted the virus.

Reacting to the huge number of infections at one club, national association official Adrian Kashals said "we are concerned that some clubs have relaxed adherence to COVID-19 guidelines.

"We should never forget that the league resumption can always be halted if clubs do not adhere to the prescribed guidelines.

"Clubs will face stiff penalties for breaching COVID-19 guidelines, including losing points or matches being cancelled."

Zambia are the second country in Africa after Tanzania, where spectators are permitted, to restart their season.

Burundi were the only African nation to continue playing through the pandemic and allowed spectators during a season that finished last weekend.

Several major leagues, including those in Egypt, Morocco, South Africa and Tunisia, are expected to resume soon. Nigeria and Ghana cancelled their seasons due to the pandemic.

AFP

## Lampard hails Chelsea's 'character' after FA Cup semi-final success

LONDON

FRANK Lampard saluted Chelsea's "character and personality" as they powered into the FA Cup final with a 3-1 win over woeful Manchester United on Sunday.

Lampard's side were gifted their goals by an error-strewn display from United goalkeeper David De Gea, but Chelsea were deserved winners as they dominated the semi-final from start to finish.

Olivier Giroud opened the scoring late in the first half and Mason Mount got the second after the interval at Wembley.

Harry Maguire's own goal killed off United before Bruno Fernandes' late penalty.

After some shaky performances in recent weeks, including a 3-0 hammering at Sheffield United, Lampard was impressed with the spirited way his players out-classed in-form United at Wembley.

"I can't ask for any more from my players than that. The work ethic and the level of performance. We were on top and when they changed their system we were even

better," Lampard told the BBC.

"Where we are at, it is going to happen that we have some bad displays like against Sheffield United. But to do that against Manchester United, I'm delighted and very proud.

"There was a lot of work done in the last two days to change the system, and you're only as good as your players in that situation. They deserve a huge amount of credit.

"They should take confidence from that display. We have leaders, you can't compare across eras but we have leaders in the team. It was a performance full of character and personality."

Chelsea's victory moved Lampard a step closer to silverware in his first season in charge of the club where he earned legendary status as a player.

Before their FA Cup final date with London rivals Arsenal on August 1, Chelsea have to focus on qualifying for the Champions League via a top four finish in the Premier League.

AFP

# De Gea mistakes see Chelsea beat Man United to reach FA Cup final

LONDON

AT least David De Gea was spared having a crowd inside Wembley to witness his latest mistakes in the Manchester United goal.

Gifted goals to beat United 3-1 on Sunday, Chelsea will be returning to the national stadium on Aug. 1 to face Arsenal in an all-London FA Cup final.

De Gea's first mistake came in the 11th minute of first-half stoppage time. Olivier Giroud's close-range deft touch from Cesar Azpilicueta's cross was pushed into his own goal by De Gea.

United, which was rocked by Eric Bailly being hospitalized with a first-half head injury, returned to the field early for the start of the second half but was just as sloppy.

Diving to his left, De Gea let Mason Mount's long-range strike go through his gloves. There was shared United culpability for the 46th-minute goal since Brandon Williams gave the ball away around the halfway line with a misplaced pass that Mount seized on.

"David knows he should have saved the second goal but that's done now," United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer said. "It's hard for a keeper to make amends, apart from David making two or three fantastic saves after."

"But you see Brandon ... probably feels a bit responsible and the rest of the half he was absolutely outstanding."

It summed up United's misfortune that the third goal in the 74th came from captain Harry Maguire accidentally turning the ball past De Gea at the near post when under pressure from Chelsea's Antonio Rudiger.



Manchester United's goalkeeper David De Gea fails to stop the opening goal by Chelsea's Olivier Giroud during the English FA Cup semifinal soccer match between Chelsea and Manchester United at Wembley Stadium in London, England, Sunday, July 19, 2020. (AP)

Usually Sergio Romero plays in goal for United in the FA Cup. De Gea hadn't played in the competition since the 2018 final when Chelsea beat United.

With three years remaining on De Gea's contract, United has a quandary over the future of one of its highest-paid players who was once considered one of the world's top goalkeepers.

United can so often rely on winning a penalty. But even earning a 19th spot kick of the season - converted by Bruno Fernandes in the 85th after Anthony Martial was fouled by Callum Hudson-Odoi - could not spark a late comeback.

It means Frank Lampard's first season as Chelsea manager will end with a cup final. It will be a hard-

er route to a second final in August, with Chelsea trailing 3-0 to Bayern Munich in the Champions League round of 16.

"We don't want to get too far ahead of ourselves," said Lampard, who won the FA Cup four times as a Chelsea player. "But we can certainly enjoy the performance and the result."

In this pandemic-delayed conclusion to the season, which prevents fans attending games, Solskjaer is also chasing continental glory through the Europa League with United.

Chelsea and United will be hoping to secure Champions League spots in the upcoming final week of the Premier League season - and not be relying on winning continental competitions to qualify.

Chelsea's 3-0 loss at Tottenham in the Premier League on Sunday means the 2016 champions risk dropping out of the top four after being there since September.

Fifth-place United remains only behind Leicester on goal difference and has a game in hand against West Ham on Wednesday before playing Brendan Rodgers' side on Sunday.

Chelsea is a point ahead of Leicester going into Wednesday's game at newly crowned champion Liverpool and Sunday's finale against Wolverhampton.

**KANE DOUBLE**  
Tottenham's victory over Leicester was secured by Harry Kane setting up the opener before netting twice to take his tally to 23

goals in this injury-restricted season.

Tottenham, which moved up to sixth place in its pursuit of a Europa League place, took the lead in the sixth minute after Son Heung-min ran onto Kane's pass before sending in a shot that was deflected in by James Justin.

Lucas Moura played in Kane for a low finish in the 37th and the Brazilian set up the striker again three minutes later for a shot curled into the far corner.

**RELEGATION**  
Bournemouth is in relegation trouble after being beaten 2-0 by Southampton, remaining in next-from-last place.

Bournemouth is three points below 17th-place Watford, with an inferior goal difference and having played a game more ahead of next weekend's season finale at Everton.

Trailing to Danny Ings' opener, Bournemouth thought it had secured a point in second-half stoppage time when Sam Surridge's goal was ruled out by VAR for offside against Callum Wilson.

And Bournemouth's frustration was compounded in the ninth minute of stoppage time by Southampton substitute Che Adams scoring a second.

AP

## De Gea's nightmare gives Man United goalkeeping conundrum

LONDON

MANCHESTER United do not tend to play their first-choice goalkeeper in the FA Cup. After David De Gea's performance against Chelsea at Wembley, the jury is now out on whether they did so in this FA Cup semifinal.

De Gea made his first appearance in the competition since the 2018 final, a 1-0 defeat to Chelsea in which Eden Hazard scored the only goal of a drab game. This latest meeting of two clubs with a combined 20 FA Cups followed a similarly meandering pattern until a prolonged first-half stoppage-time period following a head injury sustained by United's Eric Bailly.

The defender was stretched off, and, with his side having switched from three centre-backs to 4-3-3, Chelsea struck in the 11th added minute, William released Cesar Azpilicueta down the right, and the Chelsea captain found Olivier Giroud with a driven cross that the striker met with a deft near-post flick. De Gea had only a moment to react but could only slow the shot as he fell backward, allowing the ball to dribble over the line.

If there was any doubt the goalkeeper had already become the fall guy, he made sure with a dreadful error moments into the second period. Brandon Williams passed the ball straight to Mason Mount, who charged infield before firing a speculative, 20-yard drive that possessed only minimal swerve. De Gea, though, was slow reacting to his left, and the shot went in off his fingertips with embarrassing ease.

United were second-best all over the pitch throughout this game and may well have lost regardless, but De Gea helped give Chelsea the initiative and, in doing so, turned scrutiny upon himself at the end of a week that began with him reaching 400 appearances for the Old Trafford club.

Between 2013 and 2018, De Gea was named in the PFA Premier League Team of the Year five times and won United's Players' Player of the Year award three times. In the midst of those awards, he almost joined Real Madrid in 2015, only for a now-infamous broken fax machine to scupper the deal.

United breathed a huge sigh of relief, perhaps a sense that lingered



David De Gea recently played his 400th game for Man United, but his error against Chelsea raises doubts about his future. (Agencies)

when he was handed a £375,000-a-week contract two years ago, running to 2023. De Gea should be in his prime, and time remains on his side to prove he can recapture his old form, but there have been many times this season - before Sunday's howler - that suggest the rot has set in.

Mistakes against Watford, Everton, Tottenham and Bournemouth have continued a decline that began some time ago. Playing him against Chelsea was designed to add stability amid a formation change, but instead cost United a place in the final.

Back-up Sergio Romero faced Wolves twice, Tranmere, Derby and Norwich earlier in the competition and conceded one goal; indeed, the 33-year-old has nine clean sheets in his past 12 games. The level of opposition may have been lower than Chelsea, but his concentration must remain, which cannot be said of De Gea at present.

"I can't speak for David De Gea's confidence, but he is mentally very strong," Solskjaer told the BBC. "He knows he should save that one 100 times out of 100, but that's football for you. I made the decision to play him, and mentally, he was

ready for it."

The way things are going, Dean Henderson could start next season in goal for either of these teams. On loan from Man United at Sheffield United and with a contract running down, the 23-year-old has been linked with Chelsea as they ponder the future of Kepa Arrizabalaga, left out at Wembley in favour of cup goalkeeper Willy Caballero.

Solskjaer mentioned the need "to move on" after this defeat, with a pair of games ahead that will decide his side's top-four fate in the league. After Leicester lost at Tottenham, United will seal a Champions League place if they avoid defeat at home to West Ham on Wednesday and at Leicester four days later. They also have a potential way in when the Europa League resumes next month.

"It is between us, Chelsea and Leicester for those last two positions," said Solskjaer. "The more help we get from others, the better. But if we do our job on Wednesday, we will be in a good position before we go into the Leicester game. We have just got to regroup and go again. ... We have got loads of things to learn as a team, but we are learning, we are developing."

Leicester's defeat was also a filip to Chelsea and Lampard, who won the tactical battle on Sunday by using a back-three shape to nullify United in attacking areas and end their unbeaten run at 19 matches.

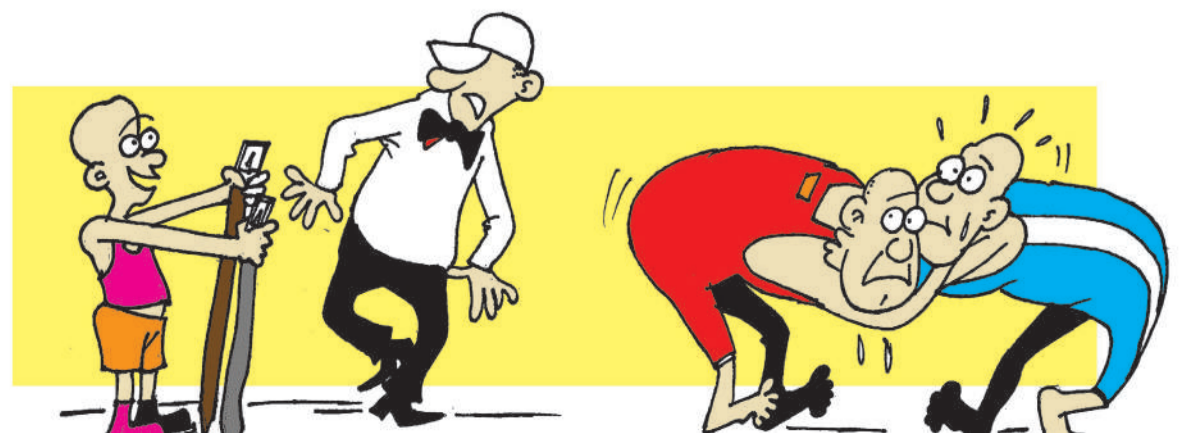
With Paul Pogba, Anthony Martial and Mason Greenwood all on the bench -- Solskjaer's team selection reflected signs of fatigue in their midweek win at Crystal Palace -- United started with a back three, then went to a 4-2-3-1 shape following Bailly's injury but were a shadow of the team that has played so well since the restart.

Olivier Giroud bullied Harry Maguire, Mason Mount excelled in midfield and Chelsea advanced while resting Christian Pulisic for their own final Premier League push, with games at Liverpool and against Wolves.

The need to regroup quickly, then, is clear for both teams, but amid the to-and-fro for cup glory and top-four finishes, De Gea's day to forget has renewed a problem to United that might need to be solved -- once and for all -- during what is set to be a short break before the new campaign begins.

(Agencies)

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

De Gea mistakes see  
Chelsea beat Man United  
to reach FA Cup final

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**TONIGHT @ 9:00**

**NIRVANA**

**TONIGHT @ 9:00**

**NIRVANA**

Nirvana explores the hottest trends in fashion, beauty, art and lifestyle as well as interviews with notable people from the entertainment, art and fashion industries.

**eastafrika RADIO**

06:00 Supa Breakfast  
10:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
20:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

**88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM**

## Amir now available to join Pakistan squad in England

LONDON

FAST bowler Mohammad Amir will join the Pakistan squad in the UK after all, having initially made himself unavailable for it. When the Pakistan squad was originally announced, Amir had pulled out because the dates clashed with the birth of his second child and he was concerned about travelling in that period.

But an earlier than expected birth means he is now available for Pakistan's T20Is against England.

He is expected to now join the squad but will need to test negative for Covid-19 twice before departing for England. He was tested on Monday, and will be tested again in two days' time.

The first T20I is scheduled for August 28 in Manchester.

Amir announced the birth of his child on July 17 on social media, allowing chief selector Misbah-ul-Haq to recall him in place of Haris Rauf. Rauf had undergone six Covid-19 tests the last month, out of which five have returned positive.

He was due to fly to the UK on Wednesday after this fifth test was found to be negative, only for his sixth test - each player needs two negative results before flying out of Pakistan - to turn out positive. He is asymptomatic and has been advised to self-quarantine for another 10 days before undergoing yet another test.

An additional wicket-keeper, Rohail Nazir, will return home, leaving Mohammad Rizwan and Sarfaraz Ahmed as the primary options ahead of the Test and T20 series.

Rohail, elevated from the Under 19 circuit, was with the squad as cover when Rizwan tested positive in the initial round of tests last month. Rizwan was later cleared to travel after returning two negative tests.

The PCB will also send an additional masseur Mohammad Imran to ease the workload of the team's regular masseur Malang Ali who, also tested positive twice before finally being cleared to travel earlier this month.

Shoaib Malik, who was scheduled to join the side later this week, has now seen that date pushed back to the second week of August. Malik, who is only available for the T20I leg, was allowed to join up late after being given special dispensation to spend time with his family in the UAE.

However, that reunion has been delayed because his wife, Sania Mirza, is currently in India. India has extended a ban on international flights put in place due to the Covid-19 pandemic to July 31, meaning Mirza will not be able to leave until after that date.

AGENCIES

## Gymkhana cricketers maintain winning ways in 2020 Kazim Nasser Memorial League



Jain Singh's all-rounder, Abhik Patwa, fields against Patel Samaaj in the 2019 GP Gymkhana Shield clash, which was held in Dar es Salaam. Patwa helped Gymkhana Club overcome GP Pak Stars in the 2020 Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML) clash, held in the city on Sunday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF NIKHIL PUJARA

By Guardian Reporter

**G**YMKHANA cricketers have maintained their winning ways in the 2020 Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML)'s Division A, commanding a hard fought two-wicket victory over GP Pak Stars in Dar es Salaam on Sunday.

The GP Pak Stars were disappointingly skittled for 90 runs in 23.1 overs of the 50-over clash, which was held at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club's oval, once they were put in to bat first by Gymkhana who had won the toss.

Youthful all-rounders, Abdullah Jabir and Goodluck Andrew, and opener Sheraz Khan showcased resoluteness at the crease and they significantly contributed to GP Pak Stars' acquisition of the total.

Jabir was the top run-getter in the innings, posting 26 runs which included four boundaries, Andrew

and Khan ended with 11 runs apiece.

They experienced a wobbly start, given opening batsman Nisar Ahmed faced quick dismissal.

Experienced performer, Zafar Khan, who is famed for his aggressiveness at the crease, also lasted a few overs given he was trapped for leg before wicket by Gymkhana's Mohammed Yunus with two runs to his name.

Top order batsman Ayaz Mustafa was yet another Yunus' victim in what was largely a disappointing innings for GP Pak Stars.

Mustafa, a GP Pak Stars' key player whose contribution has been coming handy for the outfit in recent events, was caught by Gymkhana wicket keeper, Nassor Zahoro, from Yunus' delivery.

Skipper Muzamil Hussain was one run short of double digit figure as he too endured early dismissal, leaving GP Pak Stars with mere 88 runs after 20.4 overs, with seven wickets down.

There was little that GP Pak Stars' remaining batsmen could do to see their outfit post a respectable total, given they were dismissed in quick succession.

Yunus and Yash Hirwania had impressive figures during Gymkhana's turn with the ball given they took four wickets apiece.

Hirwania leaked 12 runs and had one maiden over in his four-over spell,

whilst Yunus leaked 26 runs in six overs.

Much as they were chasing a modest target of 91 runs, Gymkhana were made to sweat for the victory, given GP Pak Stars gave their all during their bowling spell.

Solid batting by skipper Abhik Patwa was instrumental in the side's ability to get down to successful chase.

Patwa, who opened Gymkhana's innings, ended seven runs short of a half century, nailing six boundaries.

He, to a great extent, managed to spare fellow opener Yakesh Patel's blushes, given the latter made an early return to the pavilion, having been bowled clean by GP Pak Stars' Wahid Hussain.

Gymkhana's chase was then dealt a blow after three dependable performers Zahoro, Vishal Patel and youngster Baraka Robert endured quick dismissal, leaving the squad with 35 runs after 5.6 overs.

Yunus boosted the squad's quest for successful chase with his 13 runs which included a boundary.

Hirwania, who recorded 10 runs not out, later partnered Kartik Syal, who posted four runs not out, to see to it the squad overcome GP Pak Stars' bowling attack and notch a second victory in a row.

Hussain ended with an impressive five-wicket haul, which though failed to help GP Pak Stars turn tables on Gymkhana.

He was presented with man of the match prize for his bowling exploits.

He leaked 21 runs and had two maiden overs in his seven-over spell, medium pacer Andrew chipped in with two wickets and leaked 27 runs in 4.2 overs.

The GP Pak Stars have, for that matter, succumbed to two losses in a row to continue holding the last position in the Division A's table.

They had suffered 116-run loss to Aces A in the opening clash, which took place at the venue early this month.

### 2020 Kazim Nasser Memorial League's Division A standing

TEAM	MAT	WON	LOST	N/R	PTS	WIN %	NET RR	FOR	AGAINST
1. Gymkhana	2	2	0	0	4	100.00%	3.9454	163/29.3	158/100.0
2. Aces	1	1	0	0	2	100.00%	2.3200	209/50.0	93/50.0
3. AKSC	2	1	1	0	2	50.00%	0.1687	296/90.5	309/100.0
4. Strikers A	2	1	1	0	2	50.00%	-1.4738	236/100.0	223/58.1
5. Caravans	1	0	1	0	0	0.00%	-0.6576	141/50.0	142/40.5
6. GP Pak Stars	2	0	2	0	0	0.00%	-2.4177	183/100.0	303/71.2

## Seven VPL sides seeking to avoid relegation to FDL

By Correspondent Adam Fungamwango

WITH two rounds of matches left in this season's Vodacom Premier League, seven sides are on the verge of facing relegation to the First Division League (FDL) if they will not perform well in the rest of the fixtures.

As far as the domestic top flight's standing is concerned, Mbao FC, Ndanda FC, Alliance FC, Mwadui FC, Lipuli FC, Mtibwa Sugar and Mbeya City FC are the outfits that are languishing in the relegation zone and might not take part in the Premier League next season.

Three of the mentioned outfits will join the already relegated Singida United to feature in the 2020/21 FDL, if they will fail to make the most of their remaining games.

Two of the seven outfits, though, will have chance to participate in the play offs and should they concede



Mbeya City FC keeper, Haroun Mandanda (C), makes a save in front of Yanga forward, David Molinga, in a Vodacom Premier League clash which took place at National Stadium in Dar es Salaam in February. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

loss in the play offs, they will directly be relegated to the FDL.

Posting victory in the play offs will guarantee the sides a place in the Premier League next season.

The last weekend's Premier League matches had Simba as the squad which recorded an emphatic victory, thrashing Alliance FC 5-1 in Dar es Salaam.

There was no outfit that

emerged victorious at its home venue in rest of the weekend duels.

With the exception of Singida United, Mwanza's Mbao FC, occupying one place above the former,

drew 1-1 with JKT Tanzania to see the Mwanza outfit cling on to the 19th spot.

Mbao FC are still positioned 19th much as they have posted five wins on the trot and recorded a draw in one match, collecting 39 points.

Mtwara's Ndanda FC that suffered 1-0 loss at home to Mbeya City FC is the other outfit that is on the verge of either dropping to the FDL or featuring in the play offs.

The outfit has recorded 40 points, clinging on to the 18th spot.

After the 5-1 defeat to Simba, Alliance FC has notched 41 points, positioned 17th, and the squad, for that matter, must collect six points in two fixtures to notch 47 points and wait for results, which will be recorded by other clubs.

Mwadui FC are still within the drop zone, although they held Yanga to 1-1 draw, given the former are placed 16th after collecting 41 points.

Lipuli FC as well have collected 41 points but they are placed 15th, which is as well not a good spot.

The Iringa club must notch victory in two games and wait for other sides' games' results to know its fate.

Mtibwa Sugar who succumbed to 1-0 loss at home to KMC FC last weekend, have collected 41 points and are placed 14th.

Although they recorded 1-0 victory over Ndanda FC, Mbeya City FC are still among top flight teams which stand to either feature in the play offs or face the drop.

Mbeya City FC have recorded 42 points, which are hardly enough as far as maintaining a place in the Premier League is concerned.

The side, in this case, needs to come out victorious in the remaining fixtures to make certain of its place in the Premier League.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

