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TANZANIA

SATURDAY 25 JULY, 2020

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What Benjamin Mkapa was in an 81-year life span

By Guardian Reporters

ALTHOUGH he was already known as an ambassador and foreign minister for many years earlier, the name Benjamin Mkapa grabbed headlines in Tanzanian, regional and international media in 1995 when he became the third president of the United Republic of Tanzania.

His election was the culmination of a long political career that began 30 years earlier, as he always was a close confidante of founder president Julius Nyerere. By the time he arrived at the helm, he was arguably reform-minded in a number of directions, as governance reform was to be taken in tandem with economic reform. His new office was to be a tool to bring forces of change to the country, then rated as one of the poorest in the world but cited as a model of stability in Africa.

Benjamin Mkapa was born on November 12, 1938 in Masasi District, Mtwara Region.

President Nyerere literally returned with Mkapa from his Nigeria visit, as he only had time to follow up on a few matters the president had discussed with his hosts in Lagos, before packing to come back home as Minister for Foreign Affairs in January 1977

He attended Catholic schools, eventually receiving a certificate from St. Francis College—the equivalent of a high school diploma—in 1956.

The following year he enrolled at Makerere University College in Kampala, where he earned an arts degree in 1959, and was continuing his studies there, in 1961, when Tanganyika gained independence from Britain on December 9, 1961. With European colonialism still entrenched in most of Africa at that time, Makerere was a particularly prestigious institution, having the distinction of being the only university in the three east African countries—Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika.

Pulled to Journalism After leaving Makerere University in 1962 with a bachelor's degree in English, Mkapa was appointed to administrative position in the Central Province, in what is now the country's capital city and administrative

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Nation mourning iconic reformer



Local and foreign leaders hail departed statesman

By Guardian Reporter

MESSAGES of condolence poured from within and beyond Tanzania following the death of former President Benjamin Mkapa on Thursday.

His successor Jakaya Kikwete was among dignitaries who thronged his Dar es Salaam residence to console the family. He described the late Mkapa as rare breed of leader, lifting a lid on his illness which was not in the public domain. Mkapa led Tanzania from 1995 to 2005, handing over to Kikwete.

"I visited him at the hospital the day before yesterday. Although he was obviously in pain his condition was not worrying," he said.

Former Vice President John Malecela reacted to the death by saying that as president, he supervised economic reforms that led to a sharp increase in government efficiency and revenue collections. Mkapa defended democracy, allowing opposition parties to operate freely during his tenure, even after opposition parties made a good show in the 1995 poll.

"I worked with him as Vice Chairman of CCM when he was chairman for the 10 years he served as president. The best way to emulate him is to conduct multiparty politics in a civilized manner," Malecela said.

In his condolence message, Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta described the late leader as a man who worked tirelessly to ensure peace and integration in the region.

In his message of comfort, the president mourned the departed

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By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIANS yesterday woke up to the shocking news of Thursday night's passing of former president Benjamin Mkapa in Dar es Salaam.

President John Magufuli announced to the nation in a televised address past midnight yesterday that the former head of state had succumbed to an illness while undergoing treatment in the country's commercial capital. He was 81.

Mkapa, who took over the leadership of the country after the first multiparty elections in 1995, is widely credited with the implementation of economic reforms that kick-started steady growth after decades of socialism from the 1960s to the 1980 alongside biting effects of the

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Former President Jakaya Kikwete consoles former president Benjamin Mkapa's widow, Anna Mkapa, at the bereaved family's Dar es Salaam residence yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

What Benjamin Mkapa was in an 81-year life span

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hub. Within one year he had moved up to district officer and then became a Foreign Service officer. At that point, Mkapa travelled to the United States, where he attended Columbia University. Late in 1963 he was awarded master's degree in international affairs.

Mkapa was then assigned by President Nyerere to attend a six month crash programme at Fleet Street, London to learn newspaper management. In 1966, he was appointed managing editor of The Nationalist and Uhuru newspapers run by the ruling party. Also that year he married Anna Joseph Maro, an administrative assistant. Six years later he was shifted to the now nationalized broadsheet, the Daily News and the Sunday News. In 1974, President Nyerere who taught the young Mkapa at St Francis Secondary School (later Pugu) snatched him from the government-run newspaper to become presidential press secretary. Two years later he appointed him the founding director of the Tanzania News Agency, Shihata.

Noticing the difficulty he had to bring trust with Nigeria after the fallout during the Nigeria-Biafra civil war, President Nyerere assigned Mkapa the work of rehabilitating ties as High Commissioner to Nigeria

in 1976. His principal work was to organize Nyerere's visit to that country in November 1976 where he gave one of his most outstanding speeches as president at Ibadan University, published as a booklet, "The Process of Liberation."

President Nyerere literally returned with Mkapa from his Nigeria visit, as he only had time to follow up on a few matters the president had discussed with his hosts in Lagos, before packing to come back home as Minister for Foreign Affairs in January 1977.

Mkapa's tenure as foreign minister wasn't like previous occupants of the office, as from the time ex-TANU Secretary General Oscar Kambona fell out with Nyerere at the time of the Arusha Declaration, occupants of that cabinet slot were ministers of State for Foreign Affairs. Mkapa was appointed full minister as he could arguably present Nyerere's point of view even if not with the subtlety Mwalimu often displayed. Others in the post most of whom are no longer around tended to see Mwalimu in the role of a revolutionary, and during the Cold War that was a problem, ask Mwalimu insisted on non-alignment. His speeches and essays were collected under a thematic basis of freedom, not revolution or liberation.

Mkapa has several stints in and

out of the cabinet, and thus also in an out of posts of ambassador and high commissioner, often reflecting tensions at high level. As he was a confidante of the president, his colleagues in the cabinet at least once needed his help to put across a generally held view at that time, when most bureaucrats were critical of Ujamaa policies. This had an impact in the late Mkapa's work, such that after helping Mwalimu reorganize the media sector and other avenues of expression after the Uganda war as Minister for Information and Culture in 1980-83, he was again out of the cabinet as High Commissioner to Canada, 1982-83. He continued in that role but shifted to a more important station as ambassador to the United States, 1983-84. As Dr Salim Ahmed Salim was appointed Prime Minister upon the death by a fatal road accident in April 1984, Mkapa was back as Minister for Foreign Affairs, where he remained well into the second phase, 1984-90.

By the time the second term of the second phase was starting, President Ali Hassan Mwinyi sought a minister closer to his way of thinking, definitely more liberal than Mkapa, so he picked Ambassador Ahmed Hassan Diria, 1991 to 1992. Thus Mkapa was back as Minister for Information and Broadcasting in 1990-92 but when changes occurred again he did not

gok back to the foreign ministry but took up the Science, Technology and Higher Education portfolio, probably as higher education was being specially regarded for the first time, and Mwalimu was Chancellor of the Unigiversity of Dar es Salaam for decades, well into his retirement, a post he held from 1992 to late 1995 when he was nominated as CCM candidate to replace President Mwinyi.

He was meanwhile nominated to be a member of Parliament in 1977 so as to serve in the cabinet, then elected for Nanyumbu Constituency, Masasi District in 1985. He was duly re-elected in 1990 for his last term as he spent the rest of his political career at the pinnacle of the country's affairs, as president and called to serve in important global commissions. He continued with diplomatic work in his final decades in peace making roles, especially for Burundi where he took over from South African Vice-President Thabo Mbeki as he rose to the presidency in 1999 to succeed Nelson Mandela.

Mkapa was perhaps the most decorated of Tanzania's statesmen for his role on the world stage, as he led the country at a time of soul searching about what Africa should do - in tandem with the promise of progress in the thrust of globalization.

Local and foreign leaders hail departed statesman

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Tanzanian leader as an outstanding East African who worked tirelessly for integration, peace and progress in the region," the Kenyan leader noted via a State House statement in Nairobi.

Former President Mwai Kibaki described Mkapa as one of Africa's most illustrious sons.

"Mkapa is a perfect portrait of public spiritedness replete with valuable lessons for those who serve or wish to serve in the public space. A revolutionary at heart whose efforts to deregulate Tanzania's economy marked the beginning of a new dawn in his country, the late Mkapa -- a close ally of Tanzania's founding President Mwalimu Julius Nyerere -- distinguished himself as one of the most reputable peace brokers in the region," a statement signed by Kibaki underlined.

"In his retirement, Benjamin Mkapa, at some point or other, mediated peace talks in Kenya, the DRC (Congo), Zimbabwe, South Sudan and Burundi. Mkapa most certainly played his role in making Africa a better place. May he rest in eternal peace," he added.

Former Kenyan Prime Minister Raila Odinga described Mkapa as "a great friend of the Kenyan people, a pan-Africanist, a true believer in South-South Cooperation."

He said Kenyans will have fond memories of his efforts to bring peace to the country after the 2007-2008 election violence.

UDSM suspends graduation

The Vice Chancellor of the University of Dar es Salaam, Prof William Anangisye announced the suspension of 50th graduation ceremony at the institution, earlier set for today, following the death of ex-president Mkapa.

He said the decision was informed by the fact that Mkapa played a big role in expanding access to education at both lower and higher levels, where enrollment at primary school and university education expanded to record highs during his tenure.

The US Embassy in Dar es Salaam said in a tweet that former President Mkapa worked tirelessly to ensure peace and social welfare to people of all walks of life. "His contribution will not be forgotten," the embassy noted.

Dr Mwelecele Malecele, director of the Department of Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases in the World Health Organization in Geneva tweeted: "With profound sadness I received the sad news of the passing of our elder statesmen & 3rd Pres H.E Benjamin Mkapa. His transformational leadership enabled us to build strong institutions. Personally I will remember him for his support to our @LetsReadTZ initiative #RIPMzeeMkapa."

"The East African Business Council (EABC) wishes to convey its deepest

condolences to the family, friends, Government and citizens of the United Republic of Tanzania, for the loss of His Excellency Benjamin William Mkapa; former President of the United Republic of Tanzania," the regional private sector body texted.

"President Mkapa was a signatory to the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community on 30th November, 1999, alongside late President Daniel arap Moi of Kenya and Yoweri Museveni of Uganda.

"H.E. Mkapa will be remembered as a Pan Africanist, one of the founding fathers of the East African Community who championed the revival of regional integration," reads the statement.

It described Mkapa as an astute advocate for the growth of the regional private sector and was particularly instrumental in fast-tracking the EAC Customs Union Protocol and Common Market. "His towering legacy in effecting social and economic policies that boosted intra-EAC trade and augmented the vital role of the private sector as the engine for social-economic growth, reigns on. Mkapa played a pivotal role in enforcing harmonised regional trade policies that saw a reduction in non-tariff barriers, sparking an increase in the volumes of intra-regional trade.

"H.E. Mkapa's vibrant leadership was not only reflected in his efficacy in calming regional trade disputes but also in brokering regional peace dialogues that created a conducive business environment in Africa," the statement underlined.

"Twenty years since the revival of the EAC, his vision for regional integration lives on. The business community shall vanguard his vision for the prosperity of our beloved EAC region," it added



In his retirement, Benjamin Mkapa, at some point or other, mediated peace talks in Kenya, the DRC (Congo), Zimbabwe, South Sudan and Burundi. Mkapa most certainly played his role in making Africa a better place. May he rest in eternal peace



Opposition NCCR-Mageuzi national Chairman James Mbatia signs condolence book yesterday at late former president Benjamin Mkapa's Dar es Salaam residence. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Nation mourning iconic reformer

FROM PAGE 1

structural adjustment programme in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

"With deep sadness, I announce the passing of third-phase president Benjamin William Mkapa. He has died at a hospital in a Dar es Salaam, where he was admitted," a visibly sombre Dr Magufuli said.

His brief message was followed by a statement from the Directorate of Presidential Communications at the State House that the president had announced seven days of national mourning in the wake of the sad event.

"During the entire period of national mourning, flags will fly half-staff at all government and private institutions," the statement said.

Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan reacted to the loss yesterday morning by stating that the former president made immense contribution to the country in the advancement of democracy, economic growth, diplomacy as well as regional peace and security.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa was among national leaders who arrived at the Mkapas' residence at Sea View,

Upanga, to console the bereaved family and friends.

While there, he announced that residents of Dar es Salaam and neighbouring regions would have an opportunity to pay their last respects to the former president at the National Stadium in the city.

Majaliwa said the venue has been chosen because it is the biggest stadium in the country, built thanks to Mkapa's initiative during his time in office.

The paying of public respects will run for three days from tomorrow until Tuesday, with the stadium open from 9 a.m. to midday for public viewing.

"On Wednesday, the body will be flown to his home village of Lupaso in Masasi District, Mtwara Region, for burial," the PM said.

"Mkapa was a national leader with international appeal and influence; he had colleagues and friends in all corners of the world. We in the government funeral committee are working closely with the family to ensure that he gets a befitting sendoff," the premier said.

Mkapa is survived by a widow, Anna, and two sons.



Dar es Salaam residents, most of them students, scramble for transport yesterday on a commuter bus scheduled to travel from Mbezi Mwisho to Mpiji Majohe. Witnesses blamed the situation on shortage of public transport resulting from the poor state of roads. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Laizer strikes another giant Tanzanite stone in Mirerani

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

LOCAL miner, Saniniu Kurian Laizer, has struck it lucky again, scooping another large Tanzanite Gemstone weighing 6.3 Kilogrammes and which will again be sold to the government next week.

Laizer happens to be the same person who dug out the two other larger-than-life Tanzanite pieces, the biggest tipping the scale at 9.3 kilogrammes and the other stone weighing 5.1 kilograms, writing history of the largest findings yet.

The new Tanzanite stone, also emanating from Kurian Laizer's quarry, in Mirerani Hills of Simanjiro District, Manyara Region, becomes the second largest at 6.3 kilogrammes.

An official statement from the Ministry of Minerals has confirmed the new finding, adding that the minister in charge of the portfolio, Dotto Biteko, was to be presented

with the giant stone at Mirerani, on Saturday the 25th of July 2020 but the event was postponed to the first week of August.

The Mirerani ceremony had to be shelved following the untimely death of former President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Benjamin William Mkapa, who served in the third phase government.

Following the incident, President John Magufuli has called for seven-days of mourning in respect of the departed leader. Due to this, Laizer's big day now has to wait for another week.

Coincidentally, on exactly the same date (25th of June) a month

"I always seek advice from mining experts. They told me at that level, we would certainly get the minerals to compensate for the money I have invested so far"

ago, a similar ceremony was held in Mirerani, where the government bought the early two pieces of Tanzanite from Laizer at the post-tax cost of 7.7 billion/- something which caused the local miner to make headlines.

Before Saniniu Laizer struck it rich, last June, the largest piece of Tanzanite Gemstone in history weighed a measly 3.38 kilograms. These types of blue gemstones are only found in Northern Tanzania.

Now the Maasai rancher has the three biggest stones under his belt. Speaking during the initial finds, Laizer explained that geologists had advised his team to crush rocks about 1 kilometre below the ground to find the rare stones.

"I always seek advice from mining experts. They told me at that level, we would certainly get the minerals to compensate for the money I have invested so far," he claimed.



Uongozi na Wafanyakazi wa Makampuni ya IPP umepokea kwa masikitiko makubwa taarifa ya kifo cha Rais Mstaafu wa awamu ya tatu Mh. Benjamin William Mkapa.

Tunatoa pole zetu za dhati kwa Mama Anna Mkapa na familia, Rais Dkt. John Pombe Magufuli na Watanzania wote kwa ujumla. Mwenyezi Mungu atupe uvumilivu katika kipindi hiki kigumu cha majonzi.

#RIPMkapa

Clerics warned against political activity ahead of the General Election

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

THE Head of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania (ELCT) Dr Fredrick Shoo has cautioned fellow religious leaders against involving in politics and avoid being partisan ahead of the October 28 General Election.

Dr Shoo who is also the Bishop of ELCT Northern Diocese insisted on Tanzanians to ensure unity, peace and love throughout the election period.

He made the call on Thursday this week at the Inter-faith symposium organised and sponsored by the Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) in Moshi, Kilimanjaro Region. The event was attended by clerics from different religious denominations from Morogoro, Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, Kigoma, Dar-es-salaam, and Kigoma Regions.

"Let us abide with our ethics, it is not good for us to engage in partisan politics since our role is to support and uphold democratic principles and values. We need to be fair to all," Dr Shoo noted.

Commenting on the role of religious leaders in tackling the spreading of the Covid-19 pandemic, Dr Shoo advised Tanzanians to continue adhering to experts' commended hygiene of protocols as well as praying to the Almighty God to continue protecting the nation against the disease.

Dr Glorious Shoo from the Tanzania Assemblies of God (TAG) explained that apart from maintaining peace and harmony in the country, religious leaders are also responsible for promoting socio-economic development.

"This interfaith meeting is crucial because it brings us together as brothers for the sustainable peace, love and socio economic development of our country," he said.

Chief Sheikh from the Muslim Council of Tanzania (BAKWATA) in

Kilimanjaro Region, Mlewa Shabani noted that apart from leading their followers to abide with God's rules, religious leaders should also emphasize citizens to work hard for sustainable economic development.

"It is also our responsibility to support vulnerable society groups," said the Chief Sheikh.

The Roman Catholic leader, Fr Colman Siriwa said: "We cannot separate happiness index and socio-economic index; we religious leaders should put emphasize to our people to work hard to achieve their life goals. When poverty is battled, the happiness index will also go up."

NCA Country Director, Paulina Parhiala, the interfaith symposium is crucial in maintaining peace, harmony and love among Tanzanians particularly in the coming general elections.

"This is a unique opportunity for dialogue on topical themes, we are meeting during a unique time, when the world is struggling to combat the Covid-19 pandemic which began as a health crisis and later on turned into a worst global human and economic crisis of a lifetime," said Parhiala.

The highly contagious, pneumonia-causing illness (Coronavirus) firstly reported in Wuhan, China has infected over 3 million people across the World.

Covid-19 is characterized by mild symptoms including a runny nose, sore throat, cough, and fever. Illness can be more severe for some people and can lead to pneumonia or breathing difficulties.

Experts have frequently been advising the public to avoid unnecessary gatherings, practice self-isolation for them to remain safe during this time when the country and the World at large struggles to battle the spread of the highly flu-like Covid-19 outbreak.



Zanzibar Health minister Hamad Rashid Mohammed (R) holds talks with Dr Andemichael Ghirmy, the World Health Organisation Resident Representative in Zanzibar, yesterday. The talks centred on the conducting of activities related to tourism amid the Covid-19 pandemic. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

'Cooperation among African countries crucial in war against maritime crimes'

By Henry Mwangonde

TANZANIA has urged African countries to unite in the war against maritime crimes to realise the potential of the continent's sea-based trade, which would facilitate regional integration and increase job opportunities.

Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation (TASAC) Executive Director Emanuel Ndomba made the call in Dar es Salaam when he addressed journalists to mark the African Day of the Sea and Oceans.

Ndomba listed down four kinds of

issues in the Sea that African countries are supposed to work together on including controlling of blast fishing, conducting oil exploration, marine research and the promotion of transport and logistics.

"The commemoration of this day is very important to the country's economy because it increases our capacity to utilize resources in our jurisdiction to develop our economy," he said.

He said the abundant marine resources and biodiversity require sustainable exploitation and effective management to benefit the teeming

African citizenries to reduce poverty and promote the realization of Agenda 2063.

Data indicate that despite the fact that, of the 90-percent of the world's international trade transported by sea, Africa with over 100 port facilities handled only 6-percent in the past year.

The celebration of Africa Day of Seas and Oceans is one of the recommendations contained in the 2050 Africa's Integrated Maritime Strategy (AIMS), which provides a broad framework for the protection and sustainable exploitation of seas and oceans of Africa.

Recently TASAC announced that it was preparing a database to compile information on the contribution of the seafaring profession to the national economy.

Tanzania currently has 5,300 seafarers who are working locally and abroad whereby out of the number only one-percent are women.

Every July 25, each year, Africa celebrates the African Day of Seas and Oceans. The commemoration brought together seafarers, private operators from the mainland and Zanzibar led by the Zanzibar Maritime Authority (ZMA).



Motorists find the going challenging along a damaged stretch of the Nachingwea-Ruangwa road in Lindi Region, as found on Thursday. This is at Kipara village in Mnero ward in Nachingwea District. Photo: Correspondent Said Powa

Kiembeni villagers complain over lack of reliable power

By Beatrice Philemon

KIEMBENI villagers in Mapinga Ward of Bagamoyo District in Coast Region are calling on the government to connect the village to power so as to enable residents to engage in various income generating activities and thus stimulate economic development.

Speaking on behalf of the villagers, the Kiembeni village secretary, Ramadhani Panga said the village has a total of 5,265 residents whereby half of residents are already connected to electricity.

According to him, some of the

households were connected to power in 2019 by the Rural Electrification Agency (REA) leaving others in darkness.

"As residents we express thanks to the government for helping people access electricity, a move which has helped them lighten their homes as well as established income generating activities," he said.

He named the streets that are yet to be connected to power as Zanzibar, Kibo and Moscow. "Installation of wooden electric poles has been installed at Moscow Street since April this year but electrical wires are not connected to date, we are appealing for

the government to consider us on its power supply budget," Panga said.

He said so far they are still waiting for 150 wooden electric poles from the Tanzania Electric Supply Company (Tanesco) in Bagamoyo that are expected to be installed at Zanzibar and Kibo Streets.

According to him, the contractor has already conducted assessment in the village and installed wooden electric poles in other areas, but the villagers are wondering of the delays in bringing the power.

Three months ago we had a discussion with Tanesco's Bagamoyo

Manager about areas that are not connected to electricity where he responded that they are working on the matter.

According to him, the residents have waited for so long and they are now tired of living without electricity. "Lack of electricity has affected many activities in the village in-terms of education, businesses and increased cost in their families." "Just look at our children, they don't perform well in their studies because most of our schools and homes do not have electricity, we also can't run our businesses well due to lack of power," he lamented.

Covid-19: Economic uncertainty tops concerns of African youth

By Guardian Reporter

AFRICAN youth have pointed out economic uncertainty caused by Covid-19 as the biggest threat to the continent's future, a new study shows.

Findings of the first Now Generation Network Survey released yesterday by the Mo Ibrahim Foundation found that 79 per cent of respondents highlighted this as the greatest challenge their country now faces as a result of Covid-19.

It is followed closely by unemployment, which 66 per cent of respondents agreed as the second biggest challenge.

Entitled "Covid-19 in Africa: what does it mean for young people?" the report analyses youth perspectives on the challenges Africa faces as a direct result of pandemic.

"Respondents showcased significant alarm around reduced civic participation with nearly all respondents raising concerns around prohibitive government policies on Covid-19 negatively impacting human rights or restricting civil liberties," reads the report.

The study also found that Africa's younger population show increasing concern around crisis-generated gender-based issues. When asked about future policies to address the pandemic, respondents called for gendered economic and social policies.

It also established that over half of respondents would like to see improved health infrastructure. Some 58 per cent noted that healthcare access and provision in their country is either mostly or completely "inadequate". Over half 52 per cent) of this group are not confident they can access healthcare when necessary during the pandemic.

"Information on COVID-19 is overwhelmingly perceived to be reliable. Sharing information is vital to tackling the pandemic in Africa. 90 per cent of the young people surveyed believed they have access to reliable data. The survey shows that information is largely consumed online with Facebook, Twitter and Instagram being the primary source

of information noted. Followed by TV, online news and messaging apps."

With a median age of 19.7 in 2020, Africa's population is the youngest in the world. The continent's population below the age of 35 represents almost a billion people. Given the pivotal role young people will play in Africa's post-pandemic future, it has never been more important to understand their needs and expectations.

Drawing on views from 143 members of the Foundation's Now Generation Network (NGN) - a group of young and mid-level career African citizens from various sectors and disciplines - covering 35 African countries, the report shares insights on how young Africans perceive this crisis

The report further found that Africa's youth participate actively in the response to Covid-19 with 64 per cent of respondents choosing to act in a collective group to support the response to the pandemic. Many of the respondents are engaged in Covid-19 activities such as making masks.

They remain cautiously optimistic for the future, with a majority considering the current crisis as an opportunity to alter the current growth model. 84% of those surveyed said that the crisis provides an opportunity to reform current policies. The results show confidence that Africa will overcome the challenges presented by Covid-19.

Mo Ibrahim, Chair and Founder of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation commented: "It is encouraging to see this cautious optimism from our young people - who account for almost 60% of Africa's population. I share their optimism and hope that, through sound governance; countries manage this crisis and move closer towards their social and economic goals. Decision making must include our continent's greatest asset, its young people, now more than ever."

"..The survey shows that information is largely consumed online with Facebook, Twitter and Instagram being the primary source of information noted. Followed by TV, online news and messaging apps."

500m/- set aside for building production centre for Dodoma city entrepreneurs

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

SMALL scale entrepreneurs in the capital city have all reasons to smile following plan by Dodoma City Council (DCC) to construct a special cluster for them.

The envisaged project, to occupy a total of 8 acres in Nanenane area, is projected to play a vital role in stimulating a pace of economic development within the fast growing city, apart from boosting service delivery.

At a cost of at least 500m/-, the cluster will incorporate a special section for milk collection hub, food processing and packaging, tailoring of different attires, leather processing, food vendors as well as traditional decorations, among others.

Head of the Youth and Social Development Department at the Dodoma City Council, Sharifa Nabalang'anya said: "The set amount will be utilised for the construction of the cluster's structures, but there will be special loaning schemes to enable the envisioned entrepreneur groups to acquire friendly capital loans to expand and improve their products."

She informed that the city council is also well prepared to assist the entrepreneurs to manufacture best products that comply with the set Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) standards.

"Dodoma is the country's capital city which receives and harbors high profile officials and thus it's prudent to ensure products produced and marketed are of high quality," said Nabalang'anya in

an interview with this paper.

Dr Gratian Mwesiga, Head of Department of the Livestock and Fisheries Development in Dodoma city council, observed that his department in cooperation with other key stakeholders will continue to seek possibilities to earmark more areas for supporting a number of entrepreneur groups within the council to initiate numerous income generating activities.

As part to spearheading the fifth phase government' drive to economically empower youth, women and disable in the country, Dr Mwesiga added: "We're very determined to see all key groups within societies are practically engaging into profitably and useful economic projects, a move which will also help curtailing poverty levels from grassroots levels."

He said his department has already coordinated and assisted numerous entrepreneur groups (women, youths and disables) to start-up different economic projects, including poultry.



Dodoma is the country's capital city which receives and harbors high profile officials and thus it's prudent to ensure products produced and marketed are of high quality



This is Kibamba overhead bridge near Mloganzila in suburban Dar es Salaam, as captured by Correspondent Miraji Msala yesterday. It constitutes part of the first phase of the widening of the 19-km stretch of Morogoro Road from Kimara to Kibaha into a six-lane dual carriageway, including the construction of three bridges - at Kibamba, Kiluvya and Mpiji.

THRDC calls upon human rights defenders to refrain from politics ahead of forthcoming General Election

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) has called on all human rights defenders in the country to avoid partisan politics ahead of the coming general elections.

The coalition also urged its members to work closely with the government to attain the common goals of addressing challenges facing the common people.

Addressing a press conference here, THRDC Coordinator, Onesmo Olungurumwa said human rights defenders in the country are doing

a good job, working to make things better for people.

He said a tour in the coalition's central zone, the team realized a lot of things happening on the ground, some of which are very helpful while others are just small challenges.

He said it is time for the organisation to work closely with the relevant government entities in ensuring that human rights are attained at all levels.

Olungurumwa said it has come to their attention that the central zone comprising of Morogoro, Dodoma and Singida have human

rights violation issues in the areas of gender based violence. "Human rights defenders need to work closely with the government, communities and law enforcement organisations in eliminating bad practices like early marriages and genital female mutilation, among others" he said.

Moreover, he said, they should refrain from politics as it delays some of the projects when the public links or affiliates them with a certain political party.

He called upon law enforcing institutions to give priority to cases

against gender based violence which are filed by the human rights defenders to reduce the level of human rights violation.

He further said that human rights defenders organisation should come up with a common understanding and focus in dealing with human rights violation.

Olungurumwa wanted members of the human rights defenders coalition to create a strong base of their institutions and come up with projects that will make them fully fledged in their operations.



It's oranges aplenty at Dar es Salaam's Buguruni mixed-foodstuffs market, as captured by Correspondent Jumanne Juma' roving camera yesterday. The wholesalers complained that a biting shortage of customers had forced them to settle for a "throwaway" price of 60/- per orange - down from as high as 100/-.

PCCB in Morogoro Region saves 498 million in levy

By Guardian Reporter, Morogoro

THE Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) in Morogoro Region has rescued a total of 498m/- in levies from the Sinohydro Corporation Limited which is implementing Julius Nyerere Power Project in Rujifi.

According to the Morogoro Regional Commissioner Janeth Machulya, the funds have been saved by PCCB after the company failed to pay its taxes on time.

Machulya made the remarks here while presenting a PCCB implementation report for the past three months. She said that the delay in the payment of service tax done by the company was against the Local Government Finance Act No. 9 of 1982.

She noted that as per the law, commercial companies are required to pay a levy of 0.3 percent from its raw sales after deducting the appropriate taxes. "After close investigation done by PCCB officials, the company managed to make payment of 211.9m/- to the Morogoro District Council and 211.9 m/- to Rujifi District Council as the project

area touches both areas. The penalty payment process is also ongoing," she said.

Machulya commended PCCB for their tremendous job calling on them to maintain the pace so as to rescue public funds which could be ending up in wrong hands.

The RC cited poor monitoring by some leaders as one of the major reasons that make the companies delay the payment of levies.

"There are some district officials who are required to conduct close monitoring of the levies payment, but they do not do so thus commissioning loss of public funds," she noted.

She further added that the PCCB measures have also helped to secure payment of 74.8m/- in levies to the Ilala District Council, an amount which was also delayed due to lack of regular follow-ups by the council's executives.

Meanwhile, the agency has also managed to save 19.5m/- in the Education Programme for Results (EPR) that was misappropriated some unscrupulous staff at the Morogoro municipality education department.

Govt set to improve community dev college at Mabughai

By Guardian Reporter, Tanga

THE government through the community development department and the ministry of Industries and Trade is working to conduct major improvements of the Mabughai Community Development Technical Training Institute located in Tanga Region so as to enable it to provide prolific education to graduates and the community at large.

This was said by Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly Dr John Jingu during his recent visit at the college to oversee its operations and progress.

According to him, he has already held talks with the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Industries and Trade Prof Riziki Shemdoe so as to implement the plan.

He said that under the new plans of improvements, the college will be able to produce more innovative and competent young graduates who will be able to employ themselves and transform their communities through innovation.

"We want the college to provide sustainable innovative training to the public, the renovations and improvements will be conducted in close collaboration with the Small Industries Development Organisation

(SIDO) and experts from the Mabughai College," he said.

Dr Jingu said that the experts will also develop a special platform which will bring together graduates to gain more knowledge and practical skills for their future development.

He said the implementation of the plans is expected to commence soon after the preparation procedures are completed.

"We have witnessed efforts made by the government which has made Tanzania attain middle income status, a feat that has been achieved five years ahead of schedule. So to support these achievements, we have to ensure that we invest heavily in

education and technology so as to produce excellent graduates who will be able to compete in the national and international markets or be able to employ themselves easily," he further said.

The innovation field is very important for youth to grab, we have witnessed several innovators making wonders and employing hundreds of Tanzanians...We will strengthen efforts to ensure that we produce more innovators."

Meanwhile, the community development department is also finalising processes to establish a security company which will be fully owned by the Mabughai college.

Artificial intelligence to forestall rhino poaching

By Maija Palmer

A NEW project to crack down on the illegal hunting of endangered animals in Africa is set to (literally) take off, with drones equipped with image recognition systems sent to weed out poachers.

The system is the result of an imaginative collaboration between UVAid, a UK startup that develops drones for humanitarian assistance work, mainly in Africa, and Archangel Imaging, an AI surveillance company.

UVAid has already been working in Africa since 2018, delivering medicines to hard-to-reach villages in places like Sierra Leone and Malawi.

"We realised that flying the drones on one-way trips was inefficient," said UVAid cofounder James Ronen. He started looking for something else that

the drone could do on the way back, once a consignment of vaccines had been dropped off.

Mapping and wildlife monitoring seemed like obvious projects - there has already been some testing of aerial anti-poaching solutions in areas like South African national parks. But sitting for hours monitoring a live video feed is a tedious task for a drone operator.

The system is already being trialled in the UK by Network Rail. Archangel recently won a small business research initiative grant from the rail operator to see if the system could be used to monitor railway lines for trespassers and copper cable theft - and for people potentially contemplating suicide.

This would be done with static cameras (UK aviation authorities are still not terribly keen to allow drone flights over railway infrastructure).

Govt directs NGOs to submit quarterly financial statements

By Guardian Correspondent, Iringa

THE government through the Registrar of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) has called upon the organisations to submit to the registrar quarterly financial statements and reports on activities implemented in their specific operation areas.

The directive was given by the Assistant Managing Director in the Office of NGOs Registrar, Grace Mbwilo during her recent visit in Iringa Region to inspect the various projects implemented by NGOs.

Mbwilo said the government is pleased to see NGOs are working together with it in projects that assist the society in their areas by adhering to the operation procedures set by the government.

She said when NGOs receive funds from sponsors for implementation of various development projects they are required to ensure that Tanzanians benefit with the intended projects.

"The guideline we recently unveiled stresses transparency and accountability because we are aware that you have been requesting for funds on behalf of Tanzanians hence it is the government's responsibility to ensure that citizens benefit from the projects. Concerned communities also have the right to know the funds expenditures," she said.

Mbwilo said that the government is working closely with NGOs pleading to the organisations to adhere to provided guidelines to properly execute their activities.

Community Development Officer from the Office of the Registrar of NGOs, Jaina Said stressed for the NGOs to abide by the existing laws and procedures

by not delaying in the submission of required financial reports. She said that delayed submission may lead to the organisations be fined.

However, the visiting team congratulated Ilula Orphanage Programme (IOP) for its projects that help the community especially in educating children living in difficult surroundings.

On the implementation of IOP projects its Executive Secretary Edson Msigwa said his NGO is engaged in various activities that assist the community, including providing education to vulnerable children and construction of classrooms.

"Our institution has more than 20 projects and in the main we are engaged in educating orphans and those living in difficult surroundings and already 2,000 children have benefitted by the project," he said.



Our institution has more than 20 projects and in the main we are engaged in educating orphans and those living in difficult surroundings and already 2,000 children have benefitted by the project



Manyara Regional Information Officer Haji Msovu donates blood on the sidelines of a Media Day festival held in Babati on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

ARUSHA Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS) Richard Kwitega has called on farmers and pastoralists to team up with the government to attain goals in the development of food security, nutrition and water availability within their communities.

Speaking at the launching of sustainable farming programme that will be implemented in a three years period (2020/2023), Kwitega said the government recognises activities done by agriculture and livestock stakeholders in efforts to achieve development goals.

He however called upon

Farmers, pastoralists urged to liaise with government for food security

stakeholders to implement the projects for the interest of human and livestock development in their communities.

Longido District Commissioner, Frank Mwaisumbe hailed the project being implemented in his district saying it will help in pushing up human development especially among farmers and pastoralists.

The Project Manager, Ayesiga Buberwa, said the project will be

implemented in Karatu, Longido and Arusha districts and that its aim is to improve the availability of farming tools as well as livestock.

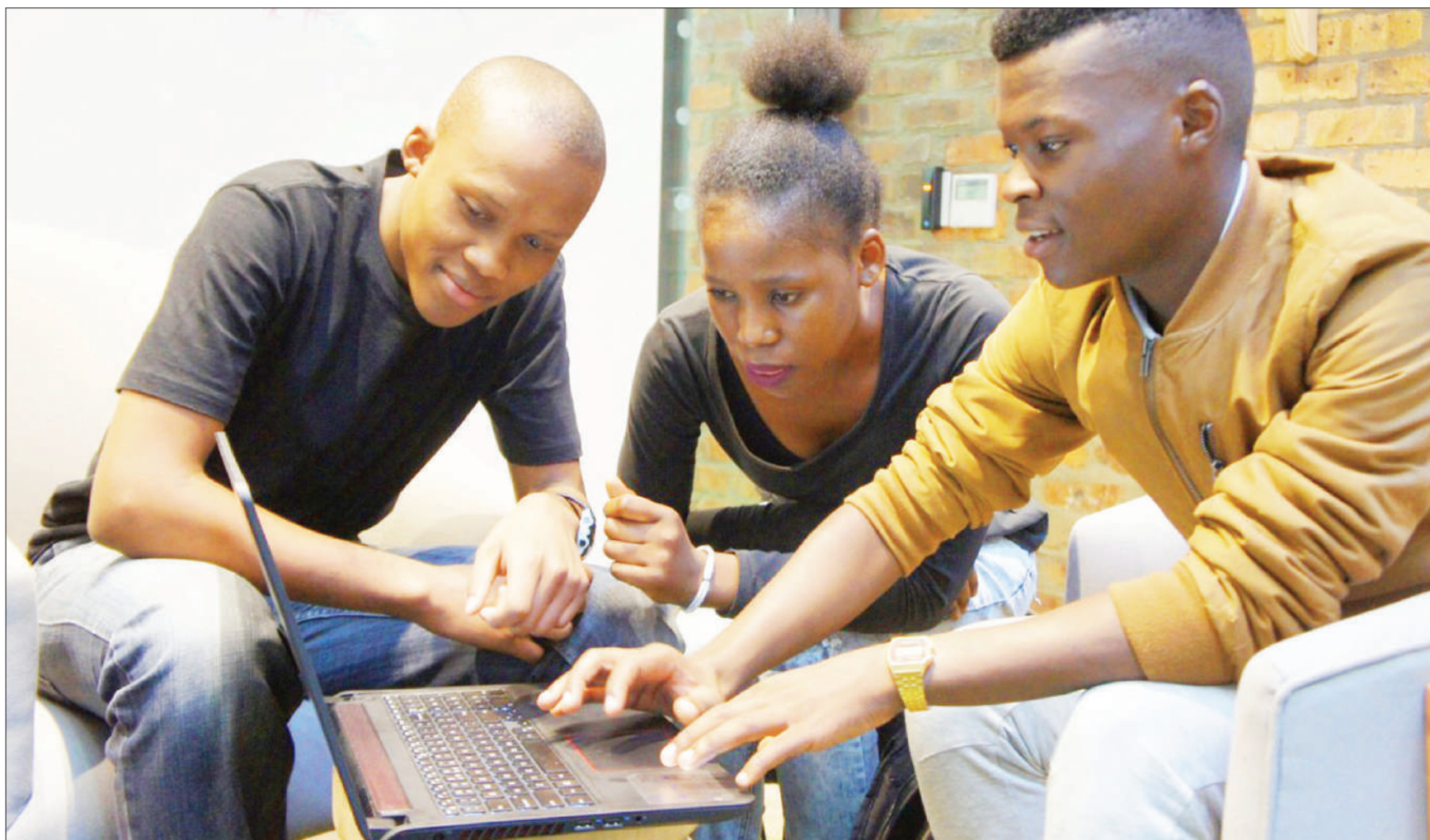
He also said the project will assist farmers and pastoralists to look for markets for their products, adding that it will train small scale farmers on techniques of reserve farming.

Tanzania is rich in livestock resources with a total of 32.2 million

cattle, according to Livestock and Fisheries Minister, Luhaga Mpina.

From the 32.2 million cattle, the country is endowed with 20 million goats, 5.5 sheep, 2 million pigs and 636,997 donkeys.

According to data from Tanzania Dairy Board (TDB) the livestock sector contributes 74 percent to the gross domestic product (GDP) whereby 30 percent of it is from the dairy industry.



The survey reviewed more than 100 digital solutions in Europe and Africa and interviewed 50 respondents from 30 African countries in charge of coordinating digital investments related to the COVID-19 outbreak.

By Joe McCarthy

African countries are leading on climate action as developed countries fall behind - new SDG report

DOZENS of developing nations across the globe have achieved the targets for the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13: Climate Action – reducing greenhouse gas emissions and investing in climate resilience – while developed countries remain far behind, according to a recent report by the UN.

The Sustainable Development Report 2020 notes that 43 countries in Africa have achieved the targets for SDG 13, alongside more than a dozen other countries throughout Asia and Latin America. Moldova is the only country in Europe to have achieved SDG 13.

A color-coded map in the report shows where countries stand in terms of general progress on the goal based on several academic papers from the past few years, including from the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research. Countries that have achieved the five targets of SDG 13 are in green, while those farthest behind are in red.

This map shows progress made towards SDG 13. Countries in green

have achieved the SDG. Yellow indicates that challenges remain; orange that significant challenges remain; red that major challenges remain; grey that information is unavailable.

Of the top 10 greenhouse gas emitters in the world, which account for nearly 70% of global emissions, only India is in green. China, the largest emitter in the world, has improved on climate action in recent years, but faces challenges that currently make achieving the goal by 2030 unlikely, including an overreliance on coal, a relentless construction industry, and growing energy demands.

The US, the second largest emitter, has regressed on goal 13 in recent years and is nowhere near achieving the targets. In recent years, the Trump administration has withdrawn from the Paris agreement, scrapped plans to improve the gas mileage of cars, unraveled a plan to increase the efficiency of power plants, and has made it easier for

companies to drill for fossil fuels.

Countries such as Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali, Vietnam, and Pakistan have all reached the targets of goal 13. In the case of Ethiopia, the government is working to reduce agricultural emissions, promote forest growth, invest in renewable energy, and implement energy efficiency throughout industries.

What this means in terms of achieving the Paris climate agreement, which aims to keep temperatures from rising more than 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, isn't discussed at length in the report. The SDGs do not include concrete emissions reductions or temperature increase targets.

As a result, critics have argued that the SDGs fail to meaningfully address climate change and that even if they're achieved, the global environment will continue to deteriorate and emissions will remain at catastrophic levels.

The Climate Action Tracker, which assesses how the emissions reductions of countries relate to a warming climate, found that only Morocco has developed a plan compatible with the Paris climate agreement. Only two countries – India and Ethiopia – have plans compatible with staying under a 2 degrees Celsius rise.

Because leading polluters have failed to take climate change seriously, the world is far from achieving SDG 13 by 2030, and will likely blow past the Paris climate agreement goal of keeping temperatures from rising more than 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. Unless dramatic interventions are made, then the world could pass the 1.5 degree Celsius mark in the next four years and temperatures could rise by as much as 5 degrees Celsius by the end of the century, which would usher in apocalyptic consequences.

UNDP, European Investment Bank identify effective digital response to Covid-19 in Africa

By Special Correspondent

THE health, economic and social impact of Covid-19 across Africa continues to evolve with more than 12,000 deaths, in excess of 540,000 confirmed cases and the livelihoods of millions of Africans damaged.

In recent weeks the European Investment Bank, the United Nations Development Programme and BearingPoint have analysed the impact of COVID-19 with policy makers and business leaders across Africa and identified digital solutions that can be shared to strengthen resilience and better address the impact of the pandemic.

The new report published today by the EIB, UNDP and BearingPoint "Africa's digital solutions to tackle COVID-19" highlights how proven digital innovation can be replicated to curb the spread of COVID-19 in Africa. It also estimates investment required to implement such high impact solutions.

Ambroise Fayolle, European Investment Bank's Vice-President responsible for innovation and development, said: "The global development community is united to support Africa at this time of need. The European Investment Bank is pleased to join forces with UNDP and BearingPoint to identify smart and cost-effective technological investment that can increase the resilience of African countries to COVID-19.

In the coming days we will host discussions amongst policy and business leaders from across Africa to enable practical and proven solutions to be shared. This ground-breaking report complements the EIB's accelerated financial and technical response to support COVID-19 related health and economic resilience investment across Africa as part of Team Europe. The digital solutions presented in this study are good examples of investment that we intend to support together with our partners."

"This paper comes at a time when Africa has demonstrated leadership in digital innovations in the area of financial technologies replicated across the world, such as mobile money. Building on this progress, it is time to invest more aggressively in digital capabilities for the socioeconomic transformation of

Africa," said Ahunna Eziakonwa, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Africa.

In Africa, the Covid-19 pandemic is disrupting millions of people's livelihoods, with disproportionate impact on poor households and small businesses. This creates urgency to secure supplies of essential products, contain the spread of the virus, support health systems, stabilise financial systems and help businesses to survive.

The EIB and UNDP analysis shows that African countries can quickly launch powerful digital projects to better tackle the pandemic. ICT solutions presented in the report cover a broad range of key policy challenges, including crisis management coordination, by helping medical personnel, enabling to anticipate and control the spread of the virus, supporting the poor communities and assisting governments to better communicate.

The survey reviewed more than 100 digital solutions in Europe and Africa and interviewed 50 respondents from 30 African countries in charge of coordinating digital investments related to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Pioneering and innovative digital solutions identified as offering easy to implement and affordable solutions include a telephone based application for contact-tracing in Kenya, drones spreading messages in rural areas in Ivory Coast and delivering samples to medical laboratories in Ghana and Rwanda, a self-diagnosis application available in 15 African countries, an online learning platform in Tanzania for students and teachers in secondary schools, a platform to organise and monitor food and non-food distribution to the poorest people, as well as a system to map the effects and responses to the COVID-19 pandemic through social media data. The study reveals that investment needed to implement ICT solutions is not massive compared to other development programmes and financing initiatives, and has the capacity to generate tremendous benefits in terms of saving lives and safeguarding economic and social resilience. Global investment required to carry out these digital solutions in the 30 African countries studied has been estimated at €680 million in the first year.



People lined up as administrators of the upcoming (late October) General Election for Tanzania mainland attend a one-day working session organised by the National Electoral Commission in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

At least 29m have registered to vote in 2020 General Election, says NEC

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

AT LEAST 29 million people have been registered to vote in the October, 2020 General Elections, the National Electoral Council (NEC) said yesterday, noting that more updates in the register will follow before the polls.

Speaking while officiating at the opening of a one-day working session for election administrators in Tanzania mainland, NEC Chairman, Judge Semistocles Kajjage said the council is updating the voters register to have exact number of expected electorates in the coming polls.

He noted that NEC carried out two phases of updating the voters register, the first one started on 18th July, 2019 and completed on 23rd February, 2020.

The second phase started on 17th April, 2020 and ended on 4th, May, 2020 whereby in all the phases some 7,325,552 new voters were registered, being 31.63 percent of the 23,161,440 voters registered in 2015.

Judge Kajjage explained that at least 3,548,846 voters had their information rectified and 30,487 voters were expunged from the register after being disqualified. Some of the disqualified were the deceased.

He said preparations for the next general elections are at advanced stage, calling on the administrators to maintain ethics, regulations, policies and laws governing elections.

Judge Kajjage warned the officials not to side with any parties participating in the elections, saying any wrong start during the elections can lead to unmerited result, staining image of the country.

"As election administrators you have the role to ensure credible elections by adhering to standards, policies, regulations set by NEC since the public

have trust in you," he said.

According to the chairman, NEC has identified and recruited 28 coordinators, 194 supervisors and 7,912 assistant supervisors. He reminded the administrators to have good and clear working plan to ensure successful elections.

Judge Kajjage said the leaders are supposed to understand the geographical, infrastructural, economic, political and social factors in their areas that can hinder successful voting process and work on them.

In ensuring timely preparation, he said NEC has disbursed money to all district councils in the country in efforts to help adequate preparation.

He urged them to engage political leaders in all the processes of preparation for the election, bearing in mind to take minutes of every meeting since such documents help in election conflicts resolution.

The judge reminded the leaders to be very vigilant in the coming polls, noting that there were some laxities in the past elections, sighting absenteeism by several election officials at some polling stations.

Kajjage also noted that the past few by-elections were marred by problems caused by party agents, insisting that such should not happen in the coming General Election.

Speaking at the same meeting, NEC director, Wilson Charles said the working session meeting brought together all district executive directors in the country who are directly answerable to NEC in preparation for the elections.

He said the aim of the meeting is to ensure that the 2020 elections are conducted without complains, calling on the attendants to heed all the instruction and teachings from NEC.

By Guardian Reporter

Jafo directs Temeke municipal to construct 20 classrooms to fight overcrowding of students

SELEMANI Jafo, Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government), has directed the Temeke Municipal Council to construct 20 new classrooms in four primary schools so as to fight overcrowding of students.

He named the schools as Kongowe, Upendo, Mzinga and Kizinga.

Jafo made the directives on Thursday in Temeke when he conducted a tour to inspect the implementation of the Dar es Salaam Metropolitan Development Project (DMDP) which involves construction of feeder roads, health centres and markets.

The minister also directed the Temeke District Executive Director (DED) Ludubilo Mwakibibi to send 300

desks to Kizinga Primary School as the majority of pupils are currently sitting on floors.

He also wanted the district authorities to ensure that they commence the construction of the classrooms immediately.

"I want you to use the sand available in here, at Mzinga Primary School to produce enough bricks which will be used to construct classrooms in the schools and the remaining three others," he said.

He also directed heavy cleanliness to be conducted at the Mzinga school compound to allow children to have bigger space to play.

"This area has turned into a bush, we cannot allow this. It is dangerous because our children could be raped. So clean the area immediately and the sand can be used to produce bricks," Jafo explained.

While at the Kizinga Primary School, Jafo directed the district's director to ensure that he purchases 200 to 300 desks within three weeks to accommodate children at the school.

He also inspected the construction progress of the 7.5km Mwera-Mbagala road which is built by Jasco contractors whereby its implementation has reached 42 percent and it will be

completed in September, this year.

He also hailed authorities for the supervision of the construction of Buza dispensary at a tune of 1.9bn/-.

"The construction has been completed and it will commence operation soon after having been equipped with all the essential equipment," he said.

Temeke District Commissioner (DC) Godwin Gondwe commended the minister for his tireless efforts which have in-turn produced positive impacts to the public.

He assured that he is going to ensure that all the directives issued by the minister are implemented on time.

By Guardian Reporter

EWURA links shortage of fuel with reopening of economic activities after Covid-19 outbreak

THE Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) has linked the current shortage of fuel in some parts of the country with increased consumption caused by reopening of most economic activities which were closed during the outbreak of Covid-19.

The regulator however said that more fuel ships are expected to dock at the Dar es Salaam port in a few coming days. According to EWURA, the current fuel reserve can be used for several months even during the October general election campaigns.

EWURA's Communications and Public Relations Manager, Titus Kaguo said that in June the country's fuel

consumption increased by 7 percent while the July's consumption has so far increased by 12 percent.

"We should all know that fuel importation is done two months before, the petroleum products we are consuming today were imported in April, this year. By the time, global oil prices had already dropped due to the pandemic outbreak," he noted.

He said the increase in oil prices was different with traders' expectations when planning to import the petroleum products.

According to Kaguo, one emergency fuel ship docked at the Dar es Salaam port on July 13th 2020. He said the ship was loaded with some 28 million liters of oil. He said more ships carrying 89.6 million litres will arrive in the country in between July 27th and August 13th.

"The available stock can go up to 20 days, but on August 10, this year, another ship will dock carrying 67 million liters of oil. We are doing all these efforts to address the product's scarcity gap which has started to rise in the country," he said.

However, he said it had already instructed the Petroleum Bulk Procurement Agency (PBPA) to ensure it brings two oil ships next month so as to ensure that there are steady availability of petroleum products as the country was heading for general election in a few months to come.

The authority has also noticed that there were some stations that have started violating rules and regulations by selling the fuel in barrels and at high prices.

"There are some people who sell fuel at a price of up to 7000/- per litre, this is illegal. Last week, someone called me

from Ifakara in Morogoro that there are some fuel stations owners who put fuel in small barrels, take them to streets and sell them at hiked price...we are going to deal with them effectively," he said.

Kaguo reminded all fuel traders to adhere to the country's rules and regulations and they should always be aware that they are serving the public.

He also pointed the finger at some fuel station owners in Mbinga district, Ruvuma Region over violation of rules and regulations.

By Ines Magoum

Kenya implants contraceptives in lionesses to protect rhinos

THE Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) has been testing a new approach to wildlife protection for some time.

The Kenyan Wildlife Management Authority is using contraceptives in lionesses to limit births and thus protect the endangered black rhino. This KWS solution is condemned by conservationists who consider it "inappropriate".

In Kenya, conservationists are angry and are expressing their concern. The reason for their frustration is a new method of protecting black rhinos developed by the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS).

The solution proposed by KWS is the use of contraceptives on lionesses in order to limit births within the species, the main predator of the black rhinoceros. According to conservationists, the KWS could have found better ways to protect endangered animals, especially as the lions themselves are becoming rare in Kenya and across the African continent.

The Africa Wildlife Foundation estimates that over the past two decades, the African lion population has declined by 43 percent and now stands at only 23,000.

In the face of complaints from animal rights activists, the KWS wants to reassure them that everything is being done with "great care". For the pilot



phase of the black rhino protection project, six 5-year-old female lions were selected from the close to 2,000 lions in the country. The contraceptive implanted on the lionesses will be effective for one year.

Kenya has less than 1,000 black rhinos. The country loses four of them every year to the lions. This causes a huge imbalance in the wildlife. We want to do something about it. So if contraceptives work, this will be an option that the KWS will consider when trying to manage lion populations," says Patrick Omondi, director of biodiversity research and planning at the Kenya

Wildlife Service (KWS).

Before considering the option of using contraception to protect Kenya's black rhinos, the KWS looked at the possibility of relocating them to new habitats. "We concluded that relocation of predators is not recommended, as it takes a long time for them to settle in new areas and during this adaptation period, many of them usually stray off the protected area. Others even get killed in the new areas," explains Patrick Omondi.

In 2018, for example, eight of the 14 black rhinos transferred to Tsvo East National Park died after consuming salt water.



PUMZIKA KWA AMANI

TANESCO Tunayaangaza maisha yako



RAIS MSTAAFU MHE.
Benjamin William Mkapa

TUTAKUKUMBUKA DAIMA



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MCT, media personnel know how best to handle this issue

DEBATE is still raging on the move by the Media Council of Tanzania (MCT) to issue a special appeal to journalists who sought nomination by political parties to contest parliamentary and councillorship posts in late October's General Election.

The council said such aspirants - or candidates - ought to quit the profession or at least forget about working in newsrooms.

As expected, the views of media professionals and other stakeholders interviewed on the issue were widely divided.

To some of the respondents, the council's appeal sought to dislodge the media profession from expressions of loyalty to political parties, and this was neither acceptable nor indeed possible.

Many were of the view that such journalists ought to be away from the newsroom only during the time they were actually seeking nomination, or perhaps until the polls were concluded - and the losing scribes knew their fate.

The crucial point that MCT executive secretary Kajubi Mukajanga raised in that regard was the problem of public trust. The argument was that after an individual had shown public loyalties to a specific political party, those working with him or her as well as the wider public in the course of professional interaction would be nagged by the feeling that they are talking to a party militant.

The underlying idea is that journalism as a profession is supposed to be neutral and open-minded, reporting correctly - and therefore respecting - all shades of opinion. Indeed,

There is an implicit argument or supposition on which the MCT's executive position may not have been laboured enough - namely, the idea that picking up forms to seek nomination for a political post isn't an easy affair.

It is usually reserved to those with means to get by such that, if the gamble doesn't come out fine, immense and even costly reorganisation soon follows. And then it is business as usual for the person is likely to be well connected, as politics is a luxury.

If one takes into consideration this impression, the position he becomes all the clearer.

It is to say that persons who pick up forms to seek nomination to field their abilities in elections are venturing into taxing business. Electioneering is costly and if one starts the journey it means one is ready to go the full distance. Losing could prove as costly, if not more so.

The financial and general ability to seek election couldn't have been fully produced within the newsroom and, thus, the person is unlikely to be dependent on newsroom proceedings for survival or the pursuit of a political career.

It also implies that, were one to lose access to the newsroom, one would be scarcely disturbed if one were adequately well to do enough whatever the odds.

Admittedly, criticisms of the viewpoint of the media council took for granted a different line of thinking altogether - that an ordinary journalist may take forms to contest, while relying on media work for survival.

Given that constituencies aren't large zones and don't call for many or onerous public meetings, poor people can presumably participate with some hope of emerging triumphant.

All in all, there is a point worth digesting further here: MCT is a creation of the Tanzanian media fraternity itself and one hopes both the council and the fraternity know exactly what the official position on this particular issue is and how the issue ought to be handled.

restored on the political landscape and supervision of actions of public agencies both in government and in the economy is clear before everyone, elections are exercises of freedom to get oneself elected.

Obviously, some will raise doubt on the veracity of feelings that the country is being run properly and with a sense of direction. However, it is not that point or argument that they will labour to bring out - but, rather, how they can themselves make a difference. When the onus is proving the worth of the services one is proposing to offer, the claimant gets calmer.

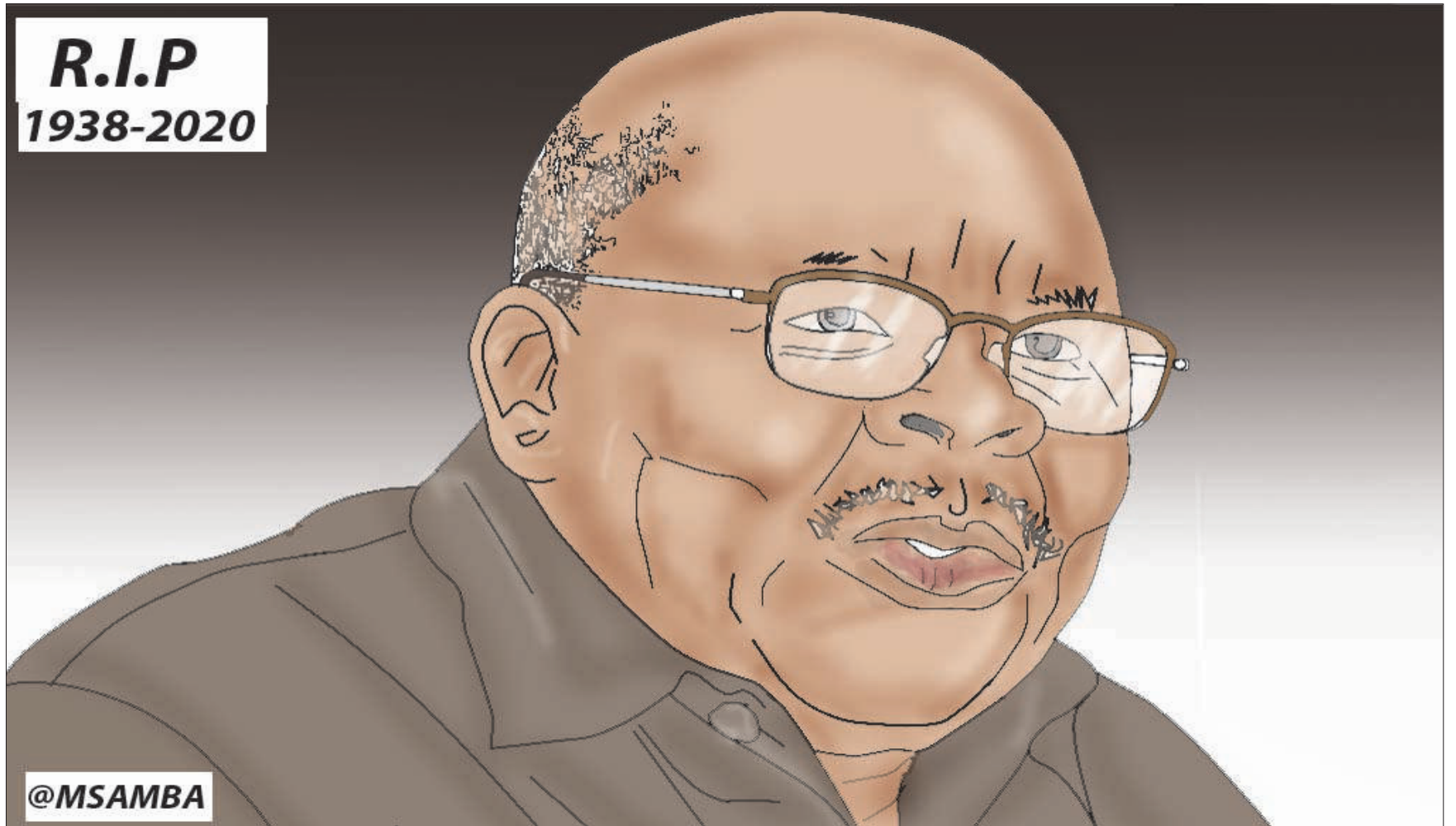
Without much excitement in relation to the presidential election, parliamentary and councillorship polls have each a particular array of circumstances, which don't mingle much one with another.

Again, in a situation where the sense of ethics in conducting the polls has been underlined, without any public agencies under any impression that they are supposed to help out so that nothing is disturbed, even at constituency and ward levels the contention will be orderly. "Adventures" could occur, but they will be few and far between.

With the sort of spectacles witnessed in the past few years, and what happened during the nomination run for selection of CCM and other parties' candidates, there won't be much excitement for disturbances.

Still, it is vital to bear in mind that excitement or excessive zeal that puts public peace in danger will simply not impress anyone. This in itself is a sure enough check for any excesses, as they will find no one to buy them.

R.I.P
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Covid-19, telecommuting and Africa's digital space

BY OPEOLUWA RUNSEWE IN LAGOS

IT is no news that the outbreak and proliferation of Covid-19 have had some of the most acute implications on global economies in recent times.

For one thing, most private and public institutions have been put on edge and are being forced to mitigate these unforeseen contingencies by adopting the swiftest and most dynamic mechanisms.

Gradually, the virus has spread to 188 countries, with its ramifications cutting across all demographics. According to verified data by John Hopkins University in the United States, as at this July 16, more than 13.5 million cases and 584,000 deaths had been reported.

Schools, businesses and airports have been closed, restrictions on movement and large gatherings have been enforced, and one too many businesses have been obligated to urgently close shop. This is regardless of concerted efforts by governments and health care professionals to curtail the rate of infection.

However, it remains largely uncertain and highly debatable as to whether the recently imposed restrictive measures will be totally terminated in a bid to ensure that economic activities can imminently reach full potential.

According to the International Monetary Fund, the global economy will shrink by 3 per cent this year in what is described as the worst decline since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

The effects of restrictions on countries expectedly differ. The availability of universal healthcare, digital devices, access to data, digitalisation of systems and processes, good and affordable broadband internet service, financial inclusion, social prosperity and other proactive measures all have been consequential in countries that appear to attenuate the enormous economic impact.

For instance, the central banks of several countries have managed to slash interest rates alongside other fiscal and monetary policies, all in an effort to encourage borrowing and spending.

These measures have however proven to be some of the most feasible ways to theoretically boost their respective economies. The UK, Germany, Italy and France are some of the countries that have furloughed government-supported job retention schemes extended to the millions of people that constitute their workforces.

However, the impacts of Covid-19 join a long list of factors that expose Africa's perceived economic backwardness, evidently prompted by some of the earlier mentioned infrastructure lying

in poor state, being totally dormant, lagging behind on up-to-date trends or being summarily unavailable to majority of the working population.

In turn, this constricts the capacity to remain productive, keep businesses running and ensure optimal revenue generation.

With more than 590,000 confirmed cases in all African countries as at this July 17, the pandemic has undoubtedly caused significant social and economic disruption.

African countries have been propelled to impose various preventive and containment measures, with South Africa, Rwanda, Tunisia and the Democratic Republic of Congo being some of the countries that announced complete lockdowns. Governments, through their machineries and the media, have urged residents to stay home and distant, all in order to limit person-to-person transmission.

Many employers across the continent have therefore transitioned to telecommuting, which has made it possible for employees to work from home or outside their traditional workspaces, and using video conferencing platforms to conduct staff and client meetings. These employers are also adopting technological solutions that enable them to shift the bulk of their operations online.

With the exemption of a few essential service providers, most organisations swiftly directed members of staff in various locations to work from home. Ringier One Africa Media (ROAM), a media company with operations in eight sub-Saharan African countries, is one of those organisations. On March 24, it signalled its readiness to adjust by announcing that it required its 400 employees to work remotely, as part of its efforts to protect them from the spread of the virus.

Organisations are also taking advantage of Africa's booming digital space to convene virtual management and shareholder meetings in order to maintain the standard procedures required for effective decision-making and corporate governance.

United Bank for Africa Plc (UBA) is a pan-African financial institution offering bank services to more than 20 million customers across 1,000 business offices and customer touch points in 20 African countries.

On April 29 the bank held its first virtual annual general meeting. In attendance were representatives of relevant regulatory bodies, shareholders, management and the organisation's staff. Similar industry leaders like Zenith Bank and Standard Bank Group Plc have since followed suit.

Finally, businesses have adopted strategies that have allowed both staff and customers to transition smoothly from routine cash payments to online

transactions.

Paga, a mobile money organisation with 500 employees and a presence in two African countries, is one of such. On March 24 it announced strategies to reduce cash handling in order to slow the spread of Covid-19, and adjusted its fees in such a way that merchants can accept payment with its platform without incurring any charges.

Covid-19 has also had enormous implications in the education sector. UNESCO says that 9.8 million African students are experiencing acute interruptions in their education, and this undoubtedly raises pressing concern.

In Nigeria, a few state governments including Ogun, Kwara and Lagos have made provisions for continued learning via local television and radio. That is, following the indefinite closure of schools, as declared on March 19 by the federal government.

This is also the case in Ivory Coast and Botswana, with both countries operating similar models aimed at bridging this threatening gap. In Ghana, meanwhile, the University of Ghana conducts online classes and has since negotiated free internet data with indigenous telecom companies.

In Rwanda, South Africa and Tunisia, universities have partnered with governments and internet service providers to avail students across the various institutions free access to select educational websites.

March saw Eneza education partnering with Safaricom Plc to deliver free revision material to Kenyan students for 60 days. OJAR foundation, an NGO committed to the capacity development of young innovators and African digital education leaders Sapphical partnered to deliver an initiative dubbed 'E-learning4impact'.

The initiative provides free access to an impressive catalogue of specially curated courses for young African across different disciplines. Private organisations and NGOs have adopted similar strategies in Egypt, Liberia, Libya, Morocco, Nigeria, Tunisia and South Africa.

While 'Work From Home' (WFH) and 'Learning Never Stops' strategies are admirable, their plausibility raises important questions. That is, against a backdrop of twin challenges - power supply and internet access. In Africa, these are crippling the digital solutions and other digitalised measures aimed at taking the edge of the effects of the virus.

While the rate of global access to electricity is 87 per cent, the rate in Africa is a sultry 43 per cent. Residents in African countries like Chad, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda suffer epileptic power supply.

In addition, going online presents complications in an Africa where only

24 per cent of the population has access to internet. Related problems include poor connectivity and exorbitant costs.

Getting online is expensive for the vast majority of the populace, with reports suggesting that purchasing a mobile phone and 500MB worth of internet data costs an average 10 per cent of monthly income.

Transion Holdings, an Asian company, produces mobile phone brands like Techno, Infinix and Ite, specifically tailored to be a hybrid option providing top-notch features as well as relatively low-cost.

Some people also purchase previously owned phones flooding the markets from various parts of the world, thus considerably reducing the cost of mobile phone purchases amid the barely existent credit or instalment payment options.

Yet, most of the continent's African telecom service providers do not offer the high-speed internet access and affordable data packages to facilitate the necessary adoption of telecommuting, easy digital transactions, etc.

In usual African fashion thriving amid long-existing turbulence, Africa is experiencing fast growth in its digital space. There is visible increase in tech-enabled businesses in Africa.

Notably, mobile technology on the continent is its fastest growing market. Seventy per cent of the world is already connected via mobile, with Africa experiencing the fastest growth in this respect.

PwC reports that mobile phone usage in Africa increased by 344 per cent between 2007 and 2016. Mobile broadband is accessible to two-thirds of the population and has hugely contributed to the continent's socio-economic development by promoting digital and financial inclusion.

Importantly, mobile phones have afforded small businesses the means to participate in e-commerce. Nigeria's e-commerce sector is Africa's largest, valued at \$13 billion.

Meanwhile, WhatsApp is a free mobile app used by millions of Nigerians. Small businesses have become smart, using WhatsApp to build strong consumer relationships, increase market share and to boost revenue generation.

The challenges in Africa's digital space, as unveiled by the pandemic, have been perceived to be slowing down the expected utilisation of technology on the continent.

However, the present awareness of these problems presents endless opportunities and should become an important launch pad for innovation in infrastructure and the digital marketplace.

The workplace and the education sector, for instance, can now create new, sustainable models which are accessible, inclusive and qualitative.

Residents lament substandard road improvement work at Bagamoyo town suburb, TARURA cite inadequate funds

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

WELFARE issues for 5265 residents at Kiembeni suburb, Mapinga ward in Bagamoyo district are being raised in connection with the upgrading of the road from Mingoï suburb via Kiharaka and Kiembeni suburbs to Mpigi river. The residents cite the work as substandard, saying that they are not happy with the quality of work that the contractor has displayed.

Speaking on behalf of Kiembeni villagers, Kiembeni suburb village government secretary Ramadhani Panga said that there are five serious potholes in the section from Kiharaka Catholic Church to Kiembeni local government office that was not repaired well.

The road that was upgraded by contractor is already in a deplorable condition, and during the rainy season it will be difficult for residents to travel from one location to another as well as ride motorcycles smoothly on the road due to potholes, he said.

The road does not have drainage system in place and is poorly constructed, waterways aside.

Also the construction of culvert is of poor quality, and during the rainy season water will form large pools in the location because there is no proper drainage system to remove the water from the road and its surroundings.

Instead of constructing two culverts, has built one culvert of a poor standard. The contractor didn't even put sand rubble during maintenance, only levelled and pressed on the road, leaving it in a bad condition.

The villagers feel cheated because they expected a road of high standard from Mingoï suburb through Kiharaka, Kiembeni to Mpigi river, not what they are seeing at present, the villager official asserts.



Kiembeni suburb secretary, Ramadhani Panga show the quality of work being done by contractor on Mingoï to Kiembeni road. Photo: Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

During the rainy season it is difficult for residents to move from Kiembeni to Bagamoyo or Mbweni for health services and various household needs as the road is mostly flooded, that is why they are asking the government to help them get the road properly improved and with a reliable drainage system, he further noted

"We are grateful to the government for selecting our road to be among those considered for upgrading but we are not happy with the work done by the contractor," he stated.

The villagers are appealing for government intervention on this issue as, apart from the quality of work, they want to know if the funds allocated to TARURA for maintenance of that road were correctly used.

The road infrastructure has become an essential part of daily life for individual road users, logistic firms and for public transportation. All these agencies expect a reliable and safe road infrastructure for traveling from one location to another and transporting goods and people.

"This implies that TARURA should

make sure the contractors winning the tender from them for road upgrading should deliver standard roads that meet people's expectations and cater for their needs where they live," he asserted

He admits TARURA has done a lot of road maintenance in those localities, but still the residents have been contributing funds for road maintenance.

For his part, Kiharaka suburb chairman Simon Kilian expressed gratitude to Kiharaka residents for joining him and contribute funds for road maintenance

in the suburbs.

"Up to 90 percent of residents joined together by offering funds and repaired a dilapidated road that was left neglected for years, he says. By repairing the much-needed two-kilometre road they have solved their commuting hassle significantly, the suburb leader affirmed.

"In the 2018/2019 financial year Kiharaka residents were contributed 8m/- for road rehabilitation from Mingoï suburb to Kiembeni suburb. The funds was used for heavy reshaping of the road, with the contribution ranging from 20,000/- to 500,000/- in accordance with what local government officials assessed as individual ability to pay, he elaborated.

Commenting on the quality of work being done on the road sections, he says the quality of work is not good. The problem is not solved yet because the truth of the matter will be vivid during the rainy season. "We expect that with the long rains water will continue to fill up on the road sections because there is no drainage system," he says

Commenting on the roads maintenance work, TARURA district manager for Bagamoyo, Juliana Massoro says the road is not substandard because they did heavy reshaping of the road surface up to four kilometers.

"We did heavy reshaping of the road because the funds which were allocated to us for road maintenance were limited," she says, noting that in the 2019/2020 financial year about 16m/- was allocated to TARURA for heavy reshaping of the road from Mingoï to Kiembeni suburbs, but even for 4km the money is not enough even to construct the drainage system," the manager stated.

"The four kilometer road maintenance work is not as yet finalized as the contractor will be filling potholes in areas that need more repair to give the roads a longer life span, and once the contractor will finish his work people will be informed."

Juliana stressed that as there were several areas that required attention and more repair especially from Kiharaka Roman Catholic Church area, urging that Kiembeni and Kiharaka residents be patient as the work is not finalized.

The contractor said that failure to perform work in accordance with the project schedule was due to water that remained in the areas that required heavy reshaping.

The Mingoï to Mpigi river road section has many challenges that require more funds as that will help people to have the use of a good road, she says, noting that from Mingoï suburb to Mpigi river is about 6.9km, so paving the road requires more investment.

"TARURA will ensure the people get good infrastructure if the government will allocated more budget funds for the purpose. The government knows what the people are facing," she says

Elaborating on how much TARURA received from the government, she said in 2019/2020 the ministry gave them about 631m/- while in the next financial year, 2020/2021 the government has approved 603m/- that will be used for road maintenance, office administration, salaries and other scheduled activities.

Due to insufficient budget funds, TARURA failed to build the drainage system from Mingoï to Mpigi river that stretches for 6.9 kilometers, she stressed.

Commenting on the culvert, she said funds allocated to TARURA were for only one culvert, and the agency installed it in Mingoï suburb road section to prevent road damage.

TARURA shall build a road drainage system to remove water from the road and its surroundings to the nearby seashore, but that will perhaps be done in the next budget, the manager added.

There's good news about the immune system and the coronavirus epidemic

By Dana G Smith

MORE than any other facet of Covid-19, the question of immunity has been a stressful source of good news/bad news whiplash.

Good news: Scientists discovered early on that most people who have been infected with SARS-CoV-2 - the official name for the novel coronavirus - create virus-specific antibodies.

These are special proteins produced by immune cells that help fight off the coronavirus and provide immunity against future infections. This finding helped guide the dozens of vaccines currently under development.

Bad news: Those antibodies may hang around for only a couple months - a phenomenon called waning immunity. There have been anecdotal accounts of a few people potentially contracting the virus a second time.

A new preprint paper, which has not yet been peer reviewed, meanwhile shows that in some recovered patients, antibody levels declined to undetectable levels after three months. These reports have caused some people to speculate that a vaccine will be largely ineffective and that we may never develop herd immunity to the virus.

Before you start to doom spiral, though, let's turn back to the good news: antibodies aren't the only tools the immune system has to fight repeat invaders. Several recent studies have shown that, in addition to antibodies, people also develop virus-specific T cells.

These immune cells are an important component of long-term immunity and in some cases they're detectable in the body many years after antibodies dissipate. But because nothing is simple with SARS-CoV-2, the T cells produced in response to the coronavirus are a little unusual.

B cells and T cells work as a team

The immune system has two waves in its defence against an invader: the initial innate response, which looks the same for pretty much any attacker, and the slower adaptive response, which takes about a week to develop

but is tailored to the current assailant.

The adaptive response also serves as a type of immunological memory, so that if the same virus tries to re-infect a person, their immune system can kick into gear and immediately mount a virus-specific defense. It's this second phase that scientists are especially interested in right now - because it's also the one that is activated by vaccines.

There are two main cell types involved in adaptive immunity that work as a team, B cells and T cells, both of which are white blood cells - technically called lymphocytes - that primarily live in the lymph nodes.

B cells make antibodies - those coveted proteins that latch onto the virus and either disarm it or block it from entering the body's cells. But in order to learn what the virus looks like and what kinds and shapes of antibodies to make, B cells need T cells.

"To make really good quality B cells and get good antibodies, you need T cell help," says Richard Locksley, MD, a professor of medicine at the University of California, San Francisco. For example, he says: "When you get a vaccine, like a flu vaccine or a tetanus toxin or whatever, the T cell help is what makes you get the good antibodies by the B cells."

There are several different flavours of T cells that play a role in the immune system, but the two variations that are especially important when it comes to immunity are referred to as memory T cells, because they remember the virus in case it comes back.

The first memory T cells, known as "helper" T cells, educate the B cells about what the antibodies should look like to combat the current invader. They also provide the B cells with growth factors and general support to produce as many antibodies as possible.

The other memory T cells are called "killer" T cells. These also learn what the current viral threat looks like, and they go off to find infected cells and destroy them so the virus can't spread further inside the body. One expert called them "the special forces" of the immune system.

When antibody levels go down, T cells have your back

Several studies have shown that people infected with the novel coronavirus create memory T cells that react specifically to SARS-CoV-2. In one paper published last month, 100 per cent of people who had recovered from mild Covid-19 infections developed virus-specific helper T cells and 70 per cent developed killer T cells.

A follow-up study by the same scientists similarly found that, in people who were hospitalised with severe Covid-19 infections, 100 per cent produced helper T cells and 80 per cent produced killer T cells. Two other groups in Germany and Sweden have released preprint papers showing similar results.

"The good news is that, despite all the worries at the time that there was no immunity whatsoever, we did find immunity in all the factors that we analysed," says Alba Grifoni, PhD, a scientist at the La Jolla Institute who worked on both of the published studies.

"One month after the infection, we were able to detect a good immune response both for the B and T cell sides," she added.

The discovery of virus-specific memory T cells is good news for several reasons. First, those T cells boost the immune response and help guarantee that B cells create high-quality antibodies.

Potentially even more important is the fact that the memory T cells can remain in a reservoir in the body for a long time, in some cases for decades.

This fact is especially critical in the light of the possibility that SARS-CoV-2 antibodies might decline rather quickly. Memory T cells can remind the B cells which antibodies to make, replenishing the pool on command.

"The advantage of having really good T cells is that even if the antibody levels have gone down, every time you get exposed again, the T cells will clone up and provide help really quickly, and those antibodies will be expanded again," Locksley says.

He says even if "antibody levels are quite low in coronavirus infection, having T cells around to get them up



quickly will give you quite a bit of protection."

Based on what scientists know about SARS and MERS, coronaviruses related to the current infection, there was speculation that SARS-CoV-2 antibodies would provide immunity for several years.

Since the new coronavirus has been circulating for only six months, it's too soon to know how long the antibodies will last, but the latest research suggests that the timeline might be months rather than years, especially in people who had mild or asymptomatic infections.

"There's some information now emerging that antibodies may decline over time," says John Wherry, PhD, director of the Institute for Immunology at the University of Pennsylvania.

He elaborates: "That concerns some people, suggesting that our antibody memory, our protective immunity, may wane over time. Jury's still out on that. But what we think happens is almost all of those patients will have T cell memory, and the T cells seem to be quite durable."

Scientists don't yet know how long SARS-CoV-2 T cells will last, but one recent study published in the journal Nature found that people who were exposed to the original SARS virus in 2003 still had T cells that responded to the virus this year - a whole 17 years later.

Of course, it can never just be easy with this virus. While people do produce T cells in response to SARS-CoV-2, evidence has emerged that the cells are delayed, suppressed and out of balance - a phenomenon known as lymphopenia, meaning a deficiency of lymphocytes.

Disrupting the immune system isn't unique to the coronavirus, as virtually all viruses do it to some extent to help them thwart the immune response. But in SARS-CoV-2, the lymphopenia is more severe and appears to target the killer T cells. "When you see this lymphopenia, the loss of lymphocytes, in other infections, often it is B cells and T cells and the other minor cell populations. In SARS-CoV-2, it seems to be preferentially impacting the killer T cells," says Wherry, who released a preprint paper on the finding.

He adds: "We don't really know why. That occurs in some other very severe infections - it can occur in Ebola, it may occur in some others - but it's a little bit unusual. It's also unusual for the lymphopenia to be lasting a long time. In other infections, it tends to be very transient, only lasting for maybe a few days."

Lymphopenia is more pronounced in people with severe Covid-19 infections, although scientists don't know if it is the cause or the result of the prolonged, exhausting war the immune system wages against the virus.

One possibility is that, without the anticipated T cell response, the initial innate immune defence goes into overdrive, resulting in the so-called cytokine storm, where inflammatory immune proteins cause irreparable damage to the body's tissues.

The adaptive immune system does rebound eventually, though, and people

who recover from the virus produce adequate numbers of B cells and T cells to fight off the infection.

Another question mark when it comes to T cells is the discovery by Grifoni and others that up to 50 per cent of people have memory T cells that respond to SARS-CoV-2, even if they've never had the virus.

The leading theory is that exposure to other similar coronaviruses, like the ones that cause the common cold, prompted people to produce T cells that also respond to the new strain. This discovery could potentially explain why some people have very mild or asymptomatic infections - perhaps their immune systems have a running start to mount a response and quickly produce antibodies to the novel coronavirus. Grifoni says these cases are important to keep in mind for vaccine development because a higher baseline level of memory T cells could influence how a person's immune system responds to the vaccine, potentially speeding up their production of antibodies and enhancing their protection against the virus.

"If you have a T cell response before the vaccine, and you don't measure that and just look at the response after the vaccination, you would not know whether the vaccine actually worked or you got lucky," she says.

A report originally published in Elemental, a new Medium publication about health and wellness, where Dana G Smith is a senior writer covering health and science.

A game-changing Covid-19 treatment no one's talking about

By Markham Heid

FOR months, the world has watched and waited as the medical-science community labours to identify a remedy that will end the Covid-19 pandemic.

In the United States, most of the public's interest has been focused on the progress of the various vaccine candidates that could provide the ultimate form of protection against the novel coronavirus.

Much less attention has been paid to monoclonal antibodies, which are drugs that contain specialised proteins meant to stop SARS-CoV-2 from infecting healthy cells. In many ways, these drugs do the work of a vaccine, only that they do it more quickly and efficiently - if also less durably.

"Antibody-based therapies may offer one of the best near-term options for developing safe, effective treatments for Covid-19," Francis Collins, MD, PhD, director of the National Institute of Health, said in May. Since then, research teams have isolated monoclonal antibodies that - in test tubes and in monkeys - have blocked SARS-CoV-2 from spreading.

Experts say that, in a best-case scenario, monoclonal antibodies could act as a "bridge" drug to carry us safely forward until that time when a vaccine is available for wide dissemination. And they say that best-case scenario is not far-fetched.



Vaccines versus monoclonal antibodies

Human blood contains hundreds of thousands of different antibodies. Antibodies are proteins made by the immune system that can attack or repel viruses and other pathogens (disease-causing organisms).

In oversimplified terms, vaccines work in part by encouraging the immune system to make new antibodies - ones that are able to defeat a particular pathogen.

Once the immune system starts to make these antibodies, it doesn't stop. And so, unless a virus mutates in a way that renders those antibody proteins ineffective, anyone who possesses them is protected from that virus.

Monoclonal antibody treatments are, basically, an infusion of these same virus-repelling proteins. The idea is that, once inside the body, they'll circulate widely in the blood and neutralise the offending pathogen. But because the immune system isn't making them, they stop working after a while.

"They generally last about a month,

but you can modify them to last as long as six months," says Myron Cohen, MD, a distinguished professor and director of the Institute for Global Health & Infectious Diseases at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine.

Cohen is helping to lead the monoclonal-antibody arm of a US government-led Covid-19 research network. He says that the monoclonal antibodies now in trials are ones that have been isolated from the blood of Covid-19 survivors.

Cohen points out that these drugs can't offer the same level of protection as a vaccine but vaccines can, in some cases, require several doses and several months before they become effective. With monoclonal antibody drugs, the helpful proteins are likely to work almost immediately - albeit temporarily.

"Conceptually, monoclonal antibodies make sense - we're essentially giving sick people the antibodies they need to fight the infection," John Swartzberg, MD, clinical professor emeritus of infectious diseases and vaccinology at the University of California, Berkeley School of Public Health.

He adds: "What is making all of this very difficult to predict is that we don't know what part of our immune system correlates with protection from SARS-CoV-2."

Swartzberg explains that antibodies are not always the immune system's primary weapon. In many cases, specialised immune cells - not antibodies - are needed to stop an infection.

"If the cell-mediated immune response turns out to be critical, monoclonal antibodies may not play much of a role," he says. It's also possible that a large variety of antibodies - not just one or two - are required to knock out SARS-CoV-2. That's something a vaccine could provide but which monoclonal antibody therapies likely cannot.

Cohen agrees that there are a lot of challenges and unanswered questions. He says that monoclonal antibodies have been around for two decades, but they're typically used to treat diseases in which the body's inflammatory processes are doing damage.

"For infectious agents, we don't have a lot of experience with them," he says. Also, because of the way Covid-19 progresses in the body, monoclonal antibodies may be most helpful during the early stages of the disease or as an immunity booster; they may be less helpful as a treatment for advanced Covid-19 cases.

"The solution to the Covid-19 pandemic is not just monoclonal antibodies. For that, you need a vaccine," Cohen says. However, until a vaccine is ready, doctors could give monoclonal antibodies to newly infected people in the same way that they currently give antibiotics to those who have a bacterial infection.

"Once a person has Covid-19 symptoms, they could go to their doctor and get the monoclonal antibody treatment, which is how we treat most

infections today," he says, adding. "It would mean that we might be done with ICUs and hospitalisations."

Monoclonal antibodies could also be administered for protection in some high-risk groups - such as older adults in nursing homes or people who live with someone who has Covid-19. "It would be protection-as-needed until a vaccine is ready," he says.

Knowing if the antibodies work

At least two different private drug companies - Eli Lilly and Company and Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc. - are now conducting human clinical trials on monoclonal antibodies. Cohen says several more research efforts aren't far behind.

"It is possible, and probably even likely, that monoclonal antibody trials will give us answers more quickly than vaccine trials," he says, adding that those answers may come as soon as September or October.

As is the case among vaccine developers, some of the companies exploring monoclonal antibodies are already producing tens of thousands of doses of these treatments. If these work, they could quickly turn the tide in the world's war against the coronavirus.

A lot remains to be seen. But along with vaccines and antiviral drugs, monoclonal antibodies are another promising area of research that could help the world escape from the pandemic's grasp.

An Elemental dispatch. Markham Heid is a health and science writer.

China injects confidence and momentum into world economy

BEIJING

WITH China's achievement in resumption of work, the accelerated construction of Hainan Free Trade Port, the organization of 127th China Import and Export Fair (Canton Fair), China has coordinated epidemic prevention & control and economic and social development, with its economy gradually stabilizing and rebounding.

The revitalized Chinese economy is injecting strong confidence into the global economic recovery. -- Online fairs also attractive

"China's Canton Fair is of great significance in international trade field. Whether it is held offline or online, I would not miss it," said Rodrigo, general manager of a Brazilian trade consulting company. Since his first visit to China in 1990s, he has participated in Canton Fair held in Guangzhou almost every year. "I have participated in more than 30 sessions of Canton Fair, it has brought us more opportunities."

"Online participation is also very rewarding," Rodrigo said that he was surprised that China has managed the Canton Fair so successfully in such a short preparation time. Through online exhibition, we can not only check product pictures and information, but also directly communicate with suppliers."

During the online fair, Rodrigo has contacted with more than 200 suppliers. In recent years, bilateral trade between China and Brazil has continued to heat up, and buyers from Brazil at the Canton Fair have gradually increased. Rodrigo believes that China's developed manufacturing industry and high-quality products are very attractive to Brazilian buyers.

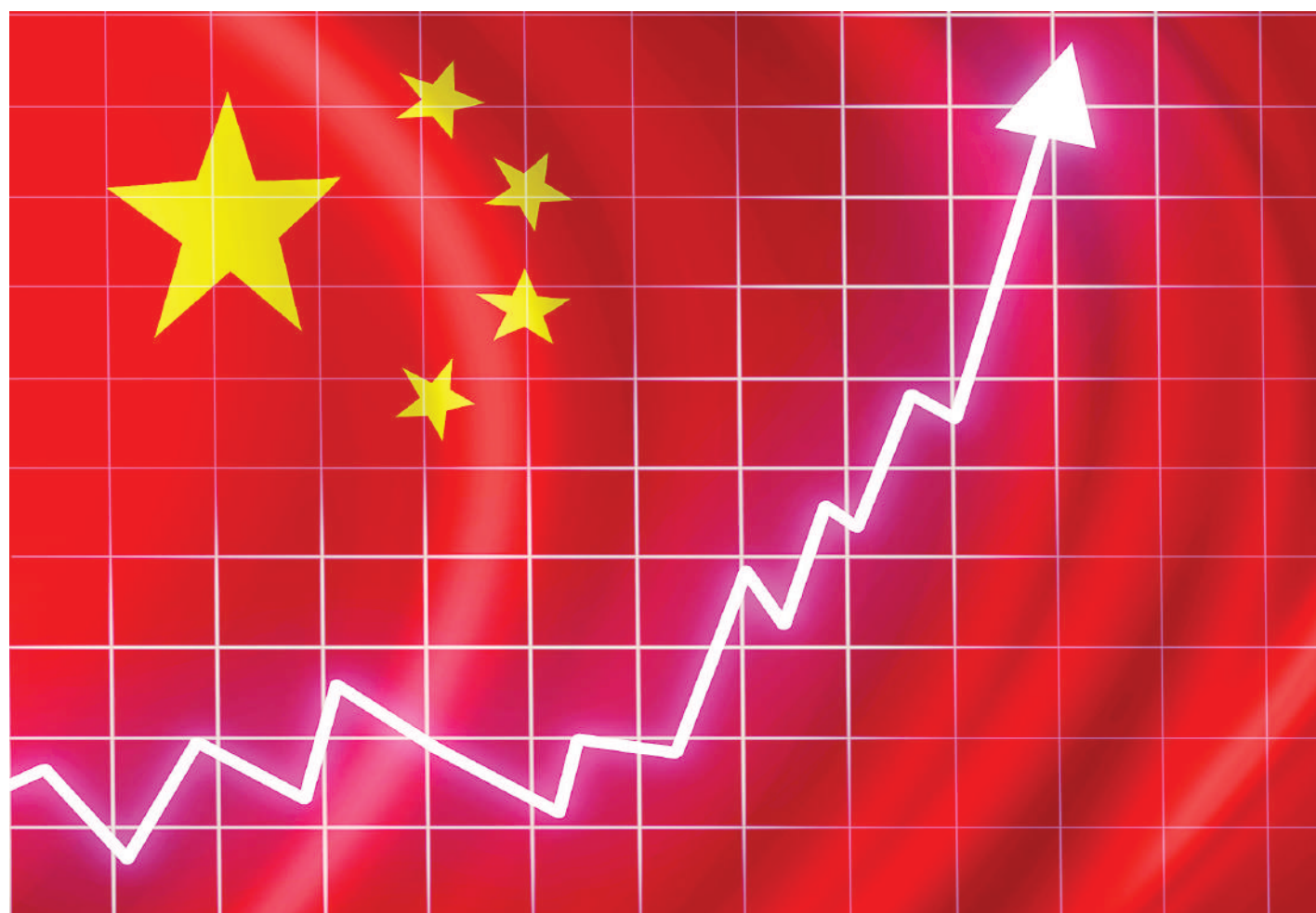
The online Canton Fair has broken the space limitation and the number of exhibitors has greatly increased, according to Rodrigo. -- Hainan Free Trade Port provides new opportunity for low-carbon economy

On June 13, the signing ceremony for the first batch of key projects of the Hainan Free Trade Port was held in Haikou. Electricite de France Group (EDF Group), as one of the contracted enterprises, will deeply participate in Hainan's low-carbon economic development, covering smart energy, regional energy services and low-carbon transportation.

"Hainan's good ecological environment and an open, tolerant and innovative development environment will attract more foreign invested enterprises," said Fabrice Fourcade, vice president of EDF Group.

Hainan's support for green development, good mutual trust with its local partner, and the results achieved in the Sanya cooling project are all reasons why EDF chooses to continue investing in Hainan.

"Our cooling project in Sanya can greatly improve energy ef-



iciency, thus reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 87,900 tons per year, which supports the development of local low-carbon smart city," pointed out by Fabrice Fourcade.

In Fabrice Fourcade's opinion, Hainan has unique geographical conditions, rich solar and wind energy resources, and favorable policies supporting the construction of the free trade port, the new energy industry has a huge development potential.

This year, EDF Group and CF Energy

Corp. start to build new energy vehicle swap station network in Sanya. According to Fabrice Fourcade, the two companies plan to invest and build 150-300 new energy vehicle swap stations across the island, providing support for the infrastructure construction of the free trade port. -- Obtaining broad development

space in Chinese market With China's normalization of epidemic prevention and control, Schneider Electric has resumed production in an efficient and orderly manner, even surpassing its usual produc-

tion capacity.

Schneider Electric has once again entered the Gartner Supply Chain Top 25 this year, ranking the 4th from the 11th last year.

Schneider Electric is growing continuously with the development of China. In 1995, Schneider Electric made the decision to expand investment in China and began large-scale investment in building factories, in 1999, it established a research and development center in China, and gradually set an integrated local operating system based on the introduction of advanced

technologies. Now, China is Schneider Electric's second largest market and one of the three R&D bases in the world.

The steady and positive development momentum of China's economy has given foreign enterprises more confidence in the Chinese market. With the full implementation of the Foreign Investment Law, China has further strengthened the protection of intellectual property rights and treated domestic and foreign investment equally, which will help multinational companies to gain broader development space in China.

China's continued expansion of overseas investment and sharing of scientific and technological progress with other countries will help economic growth and job creation. While on the other hand, the rebound in consumer demand in China's domestic market will also give impetus to the development of foreign companies, making it an engine that drives the recovery of the world economy.



Xinhua

The steady and positive development momentum of China's economy has given foreign enterprises more confidence in the Chinese market. With the full implementation of the Foreign Investment Law, China has further strengthened

Environmental and human rights groups unite for declaration urging more cocoa sustainability action

By Neill Barston

A TOTAL of 350 environmental, human rights and NGO groups have combined as signatories for a landmark letter urging the governments of Ivory Coast and Ghana to take key steps ensuring environmental sustainability and support for farmers within the cocoa supply chain, reports.

Among those backing the move are the Ivorian research institute (INADES) and key coalitions such as the Ivorian Civil Society Convention (CSCI), the Ivorian Observatory on Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (OIREN), and the Coalition of Ivorian Human Rights Actors (RAIDH).

It comes as the Federal Association of the German Confectionery Industry (BDSI), also called for precise measures that deliver the recently introduced concept of a living income differential of \$400 per tonne of cocoa on export prices, reaches farming communities directly.

Significantly, the joint declaration stressed that more urgently needed to be done on reducing child labour in the industry. "The coronavirus pandemic has compounded existing problems - more farmers are going hungry and child labor is skyrocketing as the economic impacts worsen," said Amourlaye Touré, Mighty Earth's West Africa representative. "We need a well-managed cocoa floor price to protect people's livelihoods and consolidate the gains we have made in recent years for sustainable cocoa."

In addition to calls for a cocoa floor price, the signatories are seeking additional safeguards to guarantee that the new price floor provides income to cocoa farmers without incentivising additional deforestation, which is having a key environmental impact that has threatened many of the nations'



native wildlife species.

As the group noted, the letter echoes earlier calls for a well-managed price floor from civil society organisations in Ghana, Cameroon, and the EU and US. The joint declaration further highlights that these issues have taken on added urgency as the global coronavirus pandemic exacerbates poverty and disrupts the economy.

With many farmers working within West Africa attempting to farm on sub-poverty level wages, many observers have called into question the future viability of the industry unless major change is instituted. As Confectionery Production has previously reported, there have been a number of initiatives across the sector from leading confectionery businesses in-

cluding Mars, Mondel z International, Ferrero, Nestle, Cargill and Barry Callebaut that has led to the signing of the Cocoa and Forests Initiative which is continuing to address major issues including deforestation.

"Civil society is coming together to fight for sustainable cocoa," added Amourlaye Touré. "A cocoa price floor is an important step, but the governments must now ensure that industry actually pays the mandated price and that the new funds raised from this initiative actually make it back to the cocoa farmers - many of whom are surviving on less than a dollar a day."

The joint statement from the NGOs stresses the importance of preventing possible diversions and says that the revenue

generated by the price floor must be managed transparently, with benefits accruing to impoverished farmers.

Furthermore, the joint group claimed that within the Ivory Coast, the agency responsible for managing protected areas of forest had experienced notable management issues, as well as similar problems within Ghana. According to the World Bank, as reported by Reuters, the scenario over a perceived lack of transparency has "hurt production and harmed farmers" and highlighted the requirement for urgent reforms.

Crucially, the signatories highlighted studies by the Mighty Earth group that indicated that while it welcomed the industry embracing firm policies on management of forests, levels of deforestation linked directly to cocoa production in Ivory Coast and Ghana have actually increased rather than decreased since the Cocoa and Forests Initiative between the two West African governments and 35 cocoa and chocolate companies was unveiled at the end of 2017. The agreement was built on creation of greater transparency in supply chains, which included farm mapping and monitoring of operations.

However, in 2018, according to analysis highlighted by Mighty Earth, Ghana and Ivory Coast had in fact registered the highest increases in deforestation in the world, with both countries' forests believed to now be depleted by up to 90% since comparable levels in 1960.

Speaking on its efforts to tackle the issue, Minister of Water and Forests Alain-Richard Donwahi said, "Ending deforestation is a complex social, economic, and environmental challenge. Our new Forest Policy adds momentum for sustainable management of Ivory Coast's forests, and our National Plan for the Cocoa & Forests Initiative defines the key actions that the government will take. We welcome the initial action plans of industry, and look forward to robust implementation of these public and private commitments to restore our forest heritage and ensure sustainable livelihoods for cocoa farmers. Companies and governments are stepping up - we call on development partners and civil society organisations to join us and support long-term solutions for sustainable cocoa production and forest management."

According to Mighty Earth's studies, which included a major direct assessment of forest areas within Ivory Coast over the past few years, there were areas of protected forest that had been almost entirely cleared for cocoa production - which has remained a significant problem within the sector.

Kenyan enterprises suffer amid prolonged school closure due to Covid-19

NAIROBI

FOR the past four years, Caroline Nkatha has worked in a bookshop whose aisles were always thronged by students and parents either selecting a book or skimming through its pages.

But now the bookshop that is located on the eastern fringes of the Kenyan capital, Nairobi stands devoid of customers and precipitates a massive loss due to the termination of the school calendar amid COVID-19 risk.

"The last bulk sale was made in January when schools resumed after the December holiday, we are yet to receive an order surpassing that month. We are worried," Nkatha said.

Kenyan enterprises dependent on the operations of schools

are facing an uncertain future with the unprecedented closure of learning institutions.

Dealers in the production of school uniforms, textbooks and printing of exam papers are desperately trying to survive losses occasioned by the global pandemic.

"My employer has responded to the prevailing circumstance by reducing my salary. His decision is well informed but it has cast a dark spell on my future. I have had to cut back on a lot of expenses," said Nkatha.

She confessed that she had never witnessed such a downturn in business since she started working in the bookstore.

Nkatha said that she had been forced to make adjustments to her lifestyle to bear the negative

effects of COVID-19.

"I used to buy food from vendors within the premises but since the pandemic threw my life in chaos, I brought packed food from home to save some money," said Nkatha.

"My self-care routine which encompassed putting makeup on has also taken a beating as I have shelved the purchase of beauty products and redirected the funds to serve other pressing needs," she added.

Earlier this month the prospects of the revival of these businesses was shattered after the government announced the suspension of this year's academic calendar, following soaring COVID-19 cases and the logistical stress of achieving social distancing in schools.

Nkatha's colleague, Abigail Munyasya has countered her economic tribulations by sending her child to her ancestral village in order to maximize on the meager income she is now getting. "It has proved to be expensive to sustain both of us with reduced cash flow. It is never easy being separated from your child but I had to do that to ensure continued supply of his basic needs," said Munyasya.

At the moment, the bookshop is trying to subdue the economic pressure it is facing by selling revision books, storybooks and photocopying documents.

The two female employees hope revenues from the sales will sustain them until schools resume in January 2021.

Peter Gachoki, a self-taught

tailor located in a busy market has been tailoring school uniforms since he left his rural home 30 years ago.

"I have been making uniforms long before permanent structures in this market took form, and in those years I have never been as broke as I am," said Gachoki.

He admitted that he was choking in debts, unable to service loans that he secured to expand his business, adding that he sold one sewing machine to stay afloat. "I have rolls of fabric I can use to make uniforms but even if I do make them, who will buy uniforms for children learning from home?" said Gachoki.

He is now mulling over closing his business and pursues alternative ventures that might

provide him with sustainable revenue. The Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) in May predicted at least 75 percent of small and medium-sized enterprises in the country stood the risk of closure by June due to cash flow challenges linked to COVID-19.

"There was a survey that was done at the end of April and that survey indicated that three quarters do not have cash beyond two months. That means by the end of June three quarters of small and medium-sized enterprises are already on the ropes and will be gone because they do not have any cash to keep the lights on," said Patrick Njoroge, governor, Central Bank of Kenya.

Away from Nairobi and in Western Kenya, a couple dealing

with the distribution of learning materials to schools is counting losses and on the brink of closing their business.

"We have been forced to send our employees on furlough and temporarily close our business premises. Letting go of long-serving employees is never easy, however there is absolutely nothing we can do to deal with the situation at hand," said Emmy Barongo.

The couple said the preference given to electronic books in these times has further exacerbated their misfortune.

"As the learners and teachers utilize digital books instead of the traditional books for online learning, our business has experienced a downturn," said Boston Barongo, Emmy's husband.

Cargill partners with The Nature Conservancy to boost incomes of seaweed farmers across Zanzibar

By Bob Koigi

INCOMES for hundreds of seaweed farmers will be improved and globally important coastal ecosystems will be restored with a new and innovative partnership in Tanzania between The Nature Conservancy and Cargill.

The program will be supported by a local partner, C-Weed Corporation, and conducted in collaboration with the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar and the people of Zanzibar.

Seaweed farming is one of Zanzibar's largest export businesses, employing more than 25,000 people, 80 percent of whom are women. International buyers predict increased demand for seaweed since it is a raw material used in a wide range of increasingly popular products as diverse as confectionary, yogurts, and cosmetics.

When done sustainably, seaweed aquaculture also provides co-benefits to the planet, including improved water quality and conservation of wildlife habitats.

But warming oceans due to climate change, impacts of coastal development, limited aquaculture knowledge and poor seed stocks are combining to make it harder for farmers to sustainably and cost-effectively keep up their yields and maintain their livelihoods through seaweed farming.

That's driving them to use inappropriate farming practices that amplify negative impacts to the fragile marine environments that their businesses need to thrive, which have already been under threat by a broad suite of human activities.

The pilot program will work with farmers in Pemba and Unguja Islands in the Zanzibar archipelago in the Indian Ocean. Zanzibar is a semi-au-



tonomous region of the United Republic of Tanzania with its own devolved government. This partnership between The Nature Conservancy, Cargill, and C-Weed Corporation, supports the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar and the people of Zanzibar and aims to increase seaweed farming's productivity, environmental performance, improve livelihoods, and empower women.

Sada Himidi Selemani, a seaweed farmer from Tumbwe, one of the three villages in northern Pemba where the program will be piloted, said: "I am happy to participate in the new training program. Local women seaweed farmers are excited to gain insight into how to improve our seaweed production, so we can earn more for our families but also look after our environment."

The program will first work together with farmers to co-develop a locally appropriate set of voluntary industry best practices. In the first year of the project, The Nature Conservancy will train more than 100 farmers on how best to site, design, and manage their farms and to increase yields while also reducing farming impacts such as impacts to

seagrass, mangrove areas, and marine debris on beaches and waterways.

Working with seaweed farming communities, it will identify, train and mentor individuals to be 'village implementers' to mentor other farmers, build much-needed local capacity, and ensure farmers involved will have a local specialist to consult throughout the process.

Dr Omar Amir, Deputy Principle Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources, Livestock and Fisheries for the Government of Zanzibar, said: "Seaweed farming is a major contributor to our economy, and the industry has become increasingly important by bringing foreign revenue into Zanzibar. This new project's support to improve seaweed farming is very timely. We envision it will help address some of the key challenges facing our seaweed sector, and hope it will among others boost local incomes, improve food security, and help conserve the health of our marine environments sustainably."

Longer term, collaborators will work with local research and government partners to iden-

tify specific scientific research needs to maintain healthy seaweed stock such as improved seaweed strains that thrive in a changing climate, and potential seaweed policy improvements, that could benefit both seaweed and the environment.

Robert Jones, Global Lead for Aquaculture for The Nature Conservancy, said: "Our research shows that when farmed well, seaweed has the unique ability to improve ocean health by providing benefits to water quality and providing habitat for wild fish, in addition to providing a low impact form of jobs in rural coastal communities. And we've determined that the marine areas in which seaweed farming is most established in Tanzania are among the highest priority locations to protect anywhere in Africa."

He added: "Protecting these areas and educating and partnering with women seaweed farmers is a new and important focus of our conservation work in Tanzania and our work with the aquaculture sector globally. Through improved seaweed farming practices that better long-term farming yields and incomes, we aim to help coastal communities become more resilient to environmental change and economic shocks, such as impacts from COVID-19, which is affecting the local tourism sector."

The program will help to ensure that volumes of sustainably farmed seaweed continue to grow for the industry and is traceable through the supply chain, to assure end producers of the social and environmental responsibility of seaweed production.

The program is part of a broader collaboration between The Nature Conservancy and Cargill aimed at ensuring sustainable food and agricultural production for future generations. Cargill and its Tanzanian supplier, C-Weed Corporation, are major purchasers of seaweed in Tanzania, supporting around 2,500 seaweed farmers.

With 30 years of experience in the seaweed business, Hamil Soud, General Manager of C-Weed Corporation, said: "Sustainability is going far beyond just supplying seaweed to our customers. For us, sustainability also means ensuring long term partnership with our seaweed farmers and providing them adequate support and access to the right infrastructures, so they can improve efficiency while delivering high quality seaweed."

He said: "To facilitate cultivation and harvesting process, we equip our farmers with boats, inputs such as ropes and technical guidance so they can perform better in their farms. We are proud to collaborate with The Nature Conservancy, Cargill and the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar in a project that will drive significant changes and improve considerably livelihoods of seaweed farmers on the long term."

To help ensure a long-term sustainable red seaweed supply chain, in 2019 Cargill launched its Red Seaweed Promise™. The program is designed to address sustainability challenges of harvesting and cultivating red seaweed, while enhancing producers' livelihoods, supporting local communities, and conserving the marine environment.

Sebastien Jan, Seaweed Sourcing and Sustainability Project Manager at Cargill, said: "The Red Seaweed Promise™ was launched a year ago with the ambition to enable seaweed producers and their communities to achieve better incomes and living standards in a way that will accelerate progress towards a sustainable and transparent global seaweed supply chain. This new partnership with The Nature Conservancy is one among various initiatives we are excited to announce today that will focus on empowering seaweed producers, improving production & harvesting practices, community support and strengthening partnerships, our four impact areas to deliver on our promise."

Time for voters to ‘turn lids off’ and release steam

By Gaudensia Mngumi

AS the 2020 electoral campaigns loom, Tanzanians particularly the voters have to stand tall knowing that the ‘power is in their hands’.

It is said, ‘voters the power is yours’ because the candidates and their political parties from 25th of August 2020 when the countrywide electoral campaigns kick off will have to use all means and ways to convince you to vote for them.

Perhaps it is time for the ‘voting voters’, to turn the ‘lids off’ to release their ‘steam and pressure’ in the cooking pots.

This time around as the candidates and their political parties use a variety of techniques like campaigns meetings, SMSs, mainstream and social media to reach voters, the electorates should use the campaigns to exercise their freedom of expression to say to the candidates, the government and political parties whatever they like or dislike, what is wrong or anything that they feel is wrong, to ensure that the government and the politicians regulate themselves.

According to the Amnesty International, “your voice matters. You have the right to say what you think, share information and demand a better world. You also have the right to agree or disagree with those in power and to express these opinions in a peaceful manner.” That is freedom of expression.

According to Alliance for Democratic Change (ADC) Secretary General, Doyo Hassan, the time for electoral campaigns is here and that is the moment for individuals or communities to eloquently express their opinions and ideas without fear.

For leaders, aspirants and the political parties it is important to hear and learn about voters and public views and opinions on issues regarding people’s interests, protests, disputes and anything that will challenge personal conducts, laws, policies and the government as well, Hassan observes.

Monitoring the former lawmakers,

councillors, public institutions and communicate publicly or through other channels during electoral campaigns is what we want, not hate speeches says Hassan.

“Use your right to freedom of expression, talk about common problems. Rise issues like why most primary schools in your communities continue to have largest class sizes with 200 kids in a small class room. Why do they have continued to have that large number of students in classes at this time when corona is a critical subject matter? Articulate things which affect your communities which the MPs and the government have failed to address” says Hassan.

Wilfred Kambagha, is a staunch supporter of freedom of expression who during discussion with The Guardian, insisted that freedom of expression is a very significant tool during electoral campaigns, as it opens the lid to allow people to articulate their ‘pressures or steams.’

He believes that if people are allowed to talk they can make lawmakers, political parties, oversight bodies, agencies, the private sector and the government more accountable.

Kambagha a university students, says as a member of Kibamba constituency in Dar es Salaam, like other people in Tanzania he is sometimes confused with the Tanroads agency responsibilities.

“We need to challenge the agency freely that it should not wait until the houses or structures are constructed on the road sides and tell owners to demolish or come with bulldozers to raze them. Where was the Tanroads when the builders started the work? The agency is making people to fall back to destitution. Those are things to bring forward during the electoral campaigns.”

Tanroads needs to know that losing the entire house into the ‘arm’ of bulldozers is a new beginning in the poverty life thus, it has to stop anyone who invades or builds in the road reserves and not to wait until the work is accomplished, asserts Kambagha.

He adds that such kind of messages



should be raised during the electoral meetings.

Pemba Youths Voice Organisation in Pemba is one of the champions of freedom of expression; the young blood organisation says that its feels that for more than a decade they have been informed about the Constituency Development Fund (‘CDF’) for both the law makers and for the members of the house of representative.

The youths perceive that as an additional finance for community development voters needs to know much more about the effective use of CDF and how

the youths can benefit from the local sourced funds.

They believe that everyone has the right to access information held by public authorities or agencies which is necessary for them and for that matter they will challenge the aspirants, the government official to explain to people or voters issues regarding those funds and suggest more ways to administer the funds.

Youths in the archipelago are confident that their potentials can be harnessed if they are provided with skills and competencies that make them marketable in the labour markets or in self-employment region, in a bid to end poverty and achieve sustainable empowerment and thus, the CDF has a role to play.

When reached for comments on the importance of free-

dom of expression during electoral processes, Egbert Mkoko, the School of Journalism and Mass Communication tutor, says it is important this time around for the voters to express their views using a variety of communication channels.

They can send SMSs, use mainstream media, communicate with aspirants, political parties, oversight bodies and the government through online media platforms, he observes.

Mkoko, adds that, it is important that they need to be free from political interference and laws that curtail their freedom of expression as they use their right to hold opinions and have a free speech.

The electoral calendar issued by National Electoral Commission (NEC) indicates that campaigns starts countrywide on Friday August 28th while Wednesday October 28th, 2020 is the general elections day.

Tables laid bare around South Africa as industry fights back

KIM MAXWELL Cape Town

1 million seats on the street. You’ve watched or read a lot about it this week. A collaborative campaign by restaurants around South Africa, where President Cyril Ramaphosa was asked to “take up a seat at any of our empty tables to talk to us about the hardships we’re facing” on Wednesday 22 July, using the #jobsavelives hashtag.

“Wendy Alberts and the Restaurant Association of South Africa (RASA) put the million seats concept together. The goal of the peaceful protest is to allow alcohol sales and to lift the 9pm

curfew,” explained Liam Tomlin, the Cape Town and Winelands chef and restaurateur behind three Chefs Warehouse restaurants, Thali and Jewell’s. Out of season, those five restaurants provide 230 jobs.

“#Jobsavelives was something I started straight after the President’s speech about banning alcohol sales. I said to all my chefs that I wanted them to stand outside their restaurant and to write down how many each restaurant employs. Then share it on Facebook and Instagram,” said Tomlin. Frustrated and fed up, South Africa’s hospitality industry quickly followed

suit.

On Wednesday, the peaceful restaurant protests came too. On a massive national scale, dining tables and placards were moved outdoors, chefs chanted slogans and wore whites - in Franschhoek, some laid them out symbolically below a #JobsSaveLives banner, to crowd applause. Owners, waiting staff, musicians and customers spilled onto roads in Hout Bay to Hermanus, Caledon to Hartenbos, Kalk Bay to Paarl, Port Alfred to Umhlanga, Howick to Clarens, Fourways to Boksburg.



Single mother Mignon Maile, manager of @Four Cousins restaurant in Robertson.

The hospitality industry is both family-owned eateries and high-end dining, urban franchises and small country venues, guesthouses and cafes to artisanal butchers, food, coffee and beverage suppliers. Here are some of their stories: The staff of popular @ Four Cousins restaurant wanted to peacefully protest in Robertson, but were stumped when the local police station denied their request because they deemed it a social gathering.

Restaurant manager Mignon Maile had a creative solution, measuring out 10 metres between every staff member seated on a restaurant chair, so they would be “properly socially distanced”. In view of the restaurant, chairs were spread on the road from Robertson town in the direction of Worcester.

“Amongst ourselves, we decided we couldn’t do a protest because they said we’re having a social gathering and we’re not. So each one of us would be there individually,” said Maile. “We were there to voice our opinion about places closing down and people losing their jobs. Each of us had a mask. We weren’t causing trouble or burning tires, we just

wanted to silently sit there with our signs.”

The restaurant employs 55 people, all permanent workers. “We haven’t retrenched anyone, but we’re not even at half capacity staff. We’re only working with a certain number of people, so we have a group A and group B, and alternate week to week.”

“Our bosses have loaned extra money from the bank - we are living off R750 a week. At soon as everything is back up and running, we’ll be paying back the interest-free loan. There was UIF in July, but you wait so long for it. If it wasn’t for that R750, I don’t know how I’d survive.”

Maile is a single mother of three children who need funding for school fees. “Me personally, I feed six people, including my parents. Others here at the restaurant are feeding 10 people. Waiter Albert Taruwinga, is supporting four families, here and in Zimbabwe.”

Four Cousins has been trading for two months. “If we can at least sell two bottles of wine per customer, it will be much better,” Maile suggested. “They don’t want to sit in a restaurant in a wine area if they can’t enjoy a bottle of wine.”

DM

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 113 00--

WORD-FIT

3 LETTERS: ACT, MAI, AOK

4 LETTERS: SCAR, ALLY, ABLE, ROON, EELS, UNIT ALOE,

5 LETTERS: PORTS, YEARN, THEME, HORSE, TONER

6 LETTERS: DETECT, PRESET, KRAKEN, PHASES, SENATE,

7 LETTERS: CHANNEL

8 LETTERS: MEANDERS

10 LETTERS: SLAVE TRADE

CROSSWORD

1 Deepest lake in East Africa to encounter

2 minutes, hours, days etc call for, demand

3 Monetary unit of China

4 unarmed combat using the hands and feet to deliver and block blows

5 behave in a particular way

6 Oslo is the Capital city

7 building where dramatic performances are presented

8 the act of causing to exist

9 abet, aid

10 a flat dish

11 partial darkness

12 at a higher level

13 device for giving light

14 the final part of something

15 the lawn around someone’s house

16 a metal coin equal to one penny of a dollar

17 the act of causing to exist

18 the opposite of sinister

19 a metal coin equal to one penny of a dollar

20 the opposite of sinister

SOLUTIONS

1 DEEPEST LAKE IN EAST AFRICA TO ENCOUNTER: VICTORIA

2 MINUTES, HOURS, DAYS ETC CALL FOR, DEMAND: CALL

3 MONETARY UNIT OF CHINA: YUAN

4 UNARMED COMBAT USING THE HANDS AND FEET TO DELIVER AND BLOCK BLOWS: JIU JITSU

5 BEHAVE IN A PARTICULAR WAY: BEHAVE

6 OSLO IS THE CAPITAL CITY: OSLO

7 BUILDING WHERE DRAMATIC PERFORMANCES ARE PRESENTED: THEATRE

8 THE ACT OF CAUSING TO EXIST: CAUSE

9 ABET, AID: AID

10 A FLAT DISH: PANCAKE

11 PARTIAL DARKNESS: DIM

12 AT A HIGHER LEVEL: ABOVE

13 DEVICE FOR GIVING LIGHT: LAMP

14 THE FINAL PART OF SOMETHING: END

15 THE LAWN AROUND SOMEONE’S HOUSE: FRONT GARDEN

16 A METAL COIN EQUAL TO ONE PENNY OF A DOLLAR: PENNY

17 THE ACT OF CAUSING TO EXIST: CAUSE

18 THE OPPOSITE OF SINISTER: DEXTER

19 A METAL COIN EQUAL TO ONE PENNY OF A DOLLAR: PENNY

20 THE OPPOSITE OF SINISTER: DEXTER

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT

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2 MINUTES, HOURS, DAYS ETC CALL FOR, DEMAND: CALL

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REVERED

Youth of Africa: Nelson Mandela is top influencer

ACCRA

FINDINGS from the inaugural African Youth Survey of 2020 reveal that while almost seven years since his passing, the spirit of South Africa's 'Madiba' continues to loom large with young people across the African continent, with 86% of respondents believing that Mandela's values are still relevant today.

Acclaimed human rights icon and global statesman, South Africa's former President Nelson Mandela will have his indelible legacy again celebrated on July 18th, a date commemorated by the United Nations as 'Nelson Mandela Day' and celebrated internationally.

According to the groundbreaking study of 4,200 young men and women, aged 18-24, held across 14 Sub-Saharan African nations, commissioned by the Ichikowitz Family Foundation, over half (55%) of those polled believe Nelson Mandela was the single individual to have had the greatest impact on Africa, as far as respondents can remember within their lifetimes.

Only former U.S. President Barack Obama garnered double digits from Africa's young people polled (12%), while Bill Gates and Donald Trump each registered 6%. Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg appealed to 5% of those polled from Africa's budding digital generation. Despite China's investment on the continent, the Chinese leader, Xi Jinping, polled only 2% while Russian President Vladimir Putin garnered only 1% of respondents

believing they had the biggest impact on the continent.

When asked about which of Mandela's values have held the greatest impact on Africa, 30% of respondents suggested his struggle for freedom, 19% cited non-racism, 11% believed Mandela's commitments to justice and reconciliation, and 10% also suggested that Mandela's principle of equality was at the top of their list. Non-violent protest (5%), kindness (4%), dignity (4%), empathy and public service were also deemed to have had the biggest impact across the continent.

Nearly nine in ten (86%) believe that Mandela's values are relevant to helping Africa find working solutions for its most pressing problems. Indeed these sentiments held true across the continent, with over nine in ten polled in Ethiopia (95%), Senegal (95%), Mali (93%) and Ghana (92%) believing Nelson Mandela's values still play an important role.

Looking at the leaders who will have the greatest impact on Africa over the next five years, the balance changes. The future of African youth, it seems, will be primarily driven by American leaders with Donald Trump (22%) leading the charge, followed by Bill Gates (13%), reflecting the global reach of Microsoft and the charitable programmes of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in Africa, and Mark Zuckerberg (10%), confirming the vast influence of Facebook as the second most important source of news for young people on the continent. Sur-



Flashback: Nelson Mandela has fun with youths in Johannesburg.

prisingly, no current-day African leaders reached beyond Uhuru Kenyatta's 5%. Xi Jinping garnered the fourth highest share of expected impact at 9%.

Ivor Ichikowitz, African industrialist, philanthropist and Chairman of the Ichikowitz Family Foundation, stated, "Compounded by the numerous stressors of the COVID-19 pandemic, there's no longer any denying that the world is facing crisis in lack of leadership. We grapple daily with populist borne fissures within society's fabric, including surging political, religious, racial and ethnic divides. In the fight against such hatred and division, Nelson Mandela's struggle for freedom, non-racism, justice and equality are today more relevant than ever."

"While we must continue to cherish Mandela's significant contribution to peace, fairness and reconciliation, we must choose to prioritize fostering a climate of true equality and greater tolerance, and press our leaders to do the same; tackling the real challenges that perpetuate hate across our planet, such as poverty and conflict, while pursuing cooperation rather than confrontation."

The African Youth Survey also investigated whether

young people thought that a shared African identity existed on the continent. More than three quarters of Africa's youth agree that a shared African identity exists, brought forth by a common culture, shared history and the values epitomized by Nelson Mandela.

Mandela's legacy in shaping a shared African identity was acknowledged in most countries with more than 90% of Ghanaian and Kenyan youth believing in a Pan-African identity. Regionally, West Africa reported the highest level of support for an African identity (78% agree), followed by Southern Africa (77%) and East Africa (69%).

Ichikowitz added: "The findings of our study serve as a critical barometer as to just how significantly the life and legacy of Mandela resonated across our continent; the values that Mandela not only espoused, but embodied, are continuing to inspire our next generation."

In Africa's youth, we stand a real chance of making the dream of the African Century a reality, and shaping a better tomorrow for the rest of the world. As Mandela once said, 'as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously let other people do the same.'

Looking towards the future, 21% of African youth predict that war and conflict will have the biggest impact on their African identity; but two-thirds list positive developments as having the biggest impact on identity.

These include: the digital revolution (16%), increased freedoms (15%), rise in prosperity (15%) and increased equality (13%).

The rise of nationalism was also found to be a concern, with 12% reporting this would have the largest impact on African identity.

The African Youth Survey (AYS) was conducted by PSB Research (part of WPP Group) across the major urban centers of Congo-Brazzaville, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Mali, Malawi, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Togo, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

INCLUSIVE

The six Black designers tipped for CFDA Fashion Awards

NEW YORK

"IN this time of unprecedented challenge and change for our industry, we feel very strongly that it is important to recognise the nominees representing the best of fashion creativity," CFDA Chairman Tom Ford said. "We look forward to returning to an in-person celebration honoring the American fashion industry in 2021."

"In lieu of the in-person event, we will be prioritising new and existing programming to support our designer community during the global pandemic - by redirecting efforts towards the next generation scholarships and making important changes to bring racial equity to the fashion industry," said Steven Kolb, President and CEO of the CFDA.

"The annual gala serves as our largest fundraiser, and our hope is to continue raising money to support this work through industry contributions"? Nominations for each award category were submitted by 13 March 2020 as per the deadline by the CFDA Fashion Awards Guild, made up of members of the CFDA, along with top fashion retailers, journalists, and stylists.

Before we take a look at the nominated black designers, it must be said that the fact that we're still at a point - in 2020 - where we can count on one hand the number of brown skin folk who are recognised for their stellar contributions in any industry, is get-

ting a bit embarrassing.

The fact that the feat is not unusual does not make it trivial, but makes one think for how long black people have not had access to the means for success. Black excellence then and the recognition thereof, is not - and should not be - an anomaly.

The tokenisation of black excellence and the "first black" sashes we drape black and POC figures in when white spaces give them a nod they've long-deserved, is a mentality of internalised (deliberate) exclusion we will perhaps need to interrogate beyond these awards. And beyond The Academy discovering black people in 2020.

Alas, today our black designers must be celebrated and cheered on in the hope that they will claim their victories in their respective categories.

American Womenswear Designer of the Year: No black designers nominated. A fun fact about this category is that Tom Ford - the chairman of the CFDA - is one of the nominees, but uhm... we won't dwell on that.

American Menswear Designer of the Year: (Tom Ford is nominated here again.); Kerby Jean-Raymond for Pyer Moss. Loved, celebrated and worn by a long list of A-listers including Tracee Ellis Ross, Gabrielle Union, Lena Waithe, Megan Thee Stallion, Jhene Aiko, Snoh Aalegra, Yara Shahidi, and Issa Rae. Why he is not nominated in the womenswear category as well is a mystery we won't attempt to figure out right now.



Everybody wants a Telfar on their arm

American Accessories Designer of the Year: Telfar Clemens for Telfar

The Telfar shopping bag was listed in the top three "hottest women's products" on the 2020 Q1 Lyst Index report - a quarterly ranking of fashion's hottest brands and products. Telfar's handbags have also

appeared on hit TV series Insecure, where costume director Shiona Turini often weaves black designers' merchandise into her wardrobe storytelling.

American Emerging Designer of the Year: The first category to feature more than one black or POC designer, of course. Christopher John Rogers,

Recently seen on Zendaya, Kenneth Nicholson and Vietnam-born Peter Do, was one of the 2020 LVMH Prize finalists, who earned a split victory due to the coronavirus pandemic. Also loved by Zendaya and Celine Dion, who are both styled by Law Roach.

CONCERN

Most workers report for duty with flu-like symptoms, global survey shows

OXFORD

MOST people around the world say they would continue to work if they had flu-like symptoms, an online survey finds. In the face of the coronavirus pandemic, researchers called the findings disturbing.

The survey - conducted online

between October 2018 and January 2019, before the emergence of Covid-19 - included responses from 533 workers in 49 countries. Respondents included 249 healthcare workers and 284 others.

Large majorities (over 99% of healthcare workers and 96.5% of others) said they'd work through

"minor" symptoms, such as a sore throat, sneezing/runny nose or cough. And 58.5% said they'd work with flu-like symptoms, including major ones such as muscle aches and fever.

The obligation to work

In fact, nearly 27% of health-

care workers said they would go to work with a fever, as did 16% of others. And nearly 46% of healthcare workers would avoid a colleague with flu-like symptoms, compared with about 61% of other workers. Healthcare workers were more willing to get a flu shot (81%) than workers

in other fields (nearly 57%). The study was published in the journal PLOS One. Ermira Tartari, of the International Society of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy Infection and Prevention Control Working Group, led the study. In a journal news release, she and her co-authors called the find-

ings concerning. "At the time of the present Covid pandemic it is important to realise that healthcare workers, despite feeling moderately sick during flu seasons, feel the obligation to work," they said.

They said strategies to prevent transmission of flu-like

illnesses in workplaces are crucial, especially in healthcare, where workers often care for patients with weakened immune systems. Major cultural change is required, along with sufficient sick leave and access to flu vaccination, the researchers added.

HUMANITY

Engineering student asks for R67 from each Facebook follower

JOHANNESBURG

LORRAINE is half-way through her final year of studies, pursuing a Bachelor of Technology degree in Quality Engineering at the University of Johannesburg. Next year she is certain she will graduate after acing her two remaining subjects.

However, her main obstacle was the outstanding fees that are meant to cover this year's studies. Like many South Africans, Lorraine had accumulated a mountain of student debt while attempting to earn a tertiary qualification.

As year-end approaches, she wants to start her job applications for 2021. However, because of her outstanding fees, she was unable to receive her latest academic results to attach to her job applications.

An overwhelmed, Ammaarah Creighton, collected her matric results from Trafalgar High School in Cape Town on Wednesday. She was awarded a pass after she and her family struggled through a difficult year of being homeless and financially unstable.

In her long struggle with student debt, she's thought of multiple plans to get assistance, including calling into radio stations and approaching parlia-

mentarians. Early this year, a top parliamentarian had an interview on a radio station where Lorraine phoned in to ask for assistance. "I spoke to her about my situation and she [said], 'leave your number with the producers'. I was thinking the lady was going to call me but she didn't. Even now I'm waiting for that call," Lorraine says.

While this attempt did not result in assistance, Lorraine persisted. She was hoping to register for this academic year and complete her final year of studies, so she kept reaching out for assistance. Her first breakthrough came after asking for help on LinkedIn. She couldn't register because she had outstanding fees from the previous year and didn't have the funds for this year's registration fee. She reached out to a well known CEO via direct messages on LinkedIn regarding the dilemma with her university fees and received a donation towards her registration.

"She just paid off the R12 000 that was needed in order for me to register," says Lorraine. "If it wasn't for her, I wouldn't have registered and I wouldn't have even put up the post on BrownSense requesting for the rest of my fees to be paid up." When the month of July start-



Student Lorraine Tolo.

ed she was thinking of ways to see if Nelson Mandela month would present an opportunity to help with her student fees, because she believes that "this is a month where people are more generous".

She managed to come up with an idea, once again using social

media hoping to appeal to the generous spirit of the month of Madiba. "This time she reached out on Facebook through the BrownSense, a private group that works to advance Black-owned businesses.

"On the morning of the eighteenth of July, I thought to myself

why not write a post? Because I was thinking of the little money that I could ask for from people," says Lorraine. So, I thought, R67 will do for 67 minutes of Mandela Day. "I sat down and calculated. I thought to myself if only 650 people out of the 195 000 that we have on the group could

contribute R67 into my student account that would be enough to cover all my fees. I put up the post in the morning. At around 12 [I thought] they probably didn't approve it but it's okay, I understand, so I went on with my day," she says.

"At about 15:30 I started getting notifications, a lot of notifications on Facebook, and when I went on I saw people were commenting on my post. I was in shock," Lorraine says. "It was not easy putting up that post, I'm a very private person. I should've done this a long time ago but going on a public platform to put out my problems, I didn't want to do that ... I felt like I was stripped walking in the street naked, it's not a nice feeling. But once everything is done, the fulfilment I feel right now is beyond explaining. I'm very happy with how everything has turned out, I wasn't even expecting a response."

Of her total outstanding fees of R43 693, about R30 000 has been paid into her student account by the group members. She is now waiting for Wednesday to see the rest of the donations that will reflect on her account. "I'm out of words but I'm grateful to them, I'm really happy. I'd like to thank everyone who helped so much," she says.

DELICIOUS

George grills meats into sizzling success

NAIROBI

NOTHING captures the story of George Kariithi, the founder of George Grill King, quite like meat does. From barbecued beef in the bush to grilled pork at home, lamb and beer, chicken with friends, his is as meaty as a life can be.

During the Covid-19 pandemic when businesses are shutting down, his fortunes seem to be going in the opposite direction. Unable to keep his IT consultancy job, George set up a barbecue business in Kilimani, Nairobi in May.

With restrictions on movement that affected eating out, residents of Nairobi and the surrounding counties turned to food deliveries, pushing the arc of demand up. It's this gap that he had his eyes on. George Grill King deals with all types of meat besides their signature wedges that are infused with beef, operating between Friday and Sunday. He

has employed eight people and works on a pre-booked basis, where consumers make orders before the meat is prepared and dispatched.

"It takes a lot of time and attention to the meat to derive this kind of flavours and aroma. Customers just don't walk in. This also allows us to get the right cuts from our meat supplier," George explains, delicately poking a large succulent slab of pork with a pair of tongs.

"This is a blend of our signature rubs that we use to barbecue the meat. Sometimes customers order the rubs which we package together with the meat." George loves bulk. It's easy to see how, because here, ribs measure 1.5 kilogrammes and chicken is sold whole. "I'm struck by the large portions. I ask him what inspired this approach.

"Kenyans love barbecue. We wanted to offer portions that would be value for money; cuts that customers would not only enjoy but have their fill as well.



George Kariithi, the founder of George Grill King (GK), located at Kilimani, Nairobi

There's uniqueness in the large sizes, which is our identity." The cuts are sold for Sh1,500 while chicken goes for Sh1,400. A natural adventurer, George likes to curate meat with gin, whisky or cognac sauces.

Before Covid-19, he and his friends held 'Mbuzi Friday', where a few people converged on Friday to enjoy pork and beef glazed with expensive whisky sauce. It's upon this concept that this business was founded.

What has the reception been like? Everything is going as he has expected, George replies with animation. His

secret has been to experiment with a handful of people. This, he notes, has been key in damage control.

"The majority of our customers are the people who participated in 'Mbuzi Friday' experience. We also have new customers and multiple repeat ones." He describes his business as agile and small. "We don't want to grow into the masses. Keeping it small is necessary for purposes of quality control because we've a specific clientele that we target."

Who's this clientele then? "When you target people, you sort of target

yourself. I'm targeting people who, like myself, are curious about meat, people with subtle palates who love to grill and eat tasty food." Sometime between a luscious beer-marinated chicken and potato wedges and the accompanying vegetable salad, George breaks into a brisk narration of how Covid-19 has been a wakeup call to him.

"It's only natural to want to do what others are doing and what's seemingly more profitable," he says, lamenting that this has resulted in mass duplication of business ideas in the last three months. "I've realised that I need to create my value and to be unique in my business approach. It's important to do what you're passionate about, because, at the end of the day, it's what you value most that will see you through any crisis."

With reduced sit-ins, many local hotels and restaurants have added delivery services to their portfolio. It's the natural direction to go to survive. Except George doesn't see it that way. He tells me the focus for George Grill King has been trying to understand the had elsewhere in the world. "There's something about charcoal and smoke from our local trees that derives the essence from meat."

ACTIVISM

Mastercard launches 10-year plan to enable youths in Uganda access work

KAMPALA

THE Mastercard Foundation today announced its Young Africa Works strategy in Uganda, which has set a goal to enable more than 3 million young people in the country to access dignified and fulfilling work opportunities by 2030.

Under Young Africa Works, the Foundation has committed \$200 million to ensure young women, men, and refugees in Uganda have access to economic opportunities. Presiding over the virtual launch of the strategy, President Yoweri Museveni noted Young Africa Works' alignment to the government's national development plan.

"I commend Mastercard Foundation for your efforts towards youth empowerment and transformation in Africa over the last decade. I am glad to note that your focus over the next decade is on uplifting young people by expanding employment opportunities. The Young Africa Works strategy is in line with the work that our government is doing to achieve the goal of a healthy, educated, and prosperous population" said President Museveni during his keynote address, which was live-streamed from the State House.

Young Africa Works in Uganda focuses on three economic sectors, in-

cluding agriculture, tourism and hospitality, and construction/housing. The Mastercard Foundation is working with a range of partners to realize its goals under Young Africa Works. Partners already working with the Mastercard Foundation include: the Private Sector Foundation Uganda, The Innovation Village, Gudie Leisure Farm, GOAL Uganda, the National Social Security Fund, and Equity Bank Uganda.

Speaking at the launch, Mastercard Foundation President and CEO Reeta Roy noted that the implementation of Young Africa Works is already underway and discussed the importance of collaboration among all stakeholders involved in Young Africa Works.

"We have formed partnerships with a number of organizations and together, if we are successful, they already represent 30 percent of the goal of having 30 million people in dignified and fulfilling work," she said. "What's special is how our partners have come together to intentionally collaborate and leverage each other's strengths," she added.

During the launch, speakers recognized the impact of COVID-19 on various economic sectors in Uganda. In April, Mastercard Foundation announced the Mastercard Foundation COVID-19 Recovery and Resilience Program in Uganda to mitigate the adverse



Young Africa Works beneficiary in Uganda, Ainembabazi Catherine attending her poultry.

effects of the pandemic on businesses, the education sector, and on communities, while strengthening the country's public health system and response. To date, the Foundation has committed approximately \$23.7 million to its COVID-19 response in Uganda.

The Mastercard Foundation has been working in Uganda since 2008 and has invested a total of more than \$282 million in expanding access to finance, education, and/or skills training to more

than two million people, including farmers, students, teachers, and out-of-school youth across the country.

"In many ways, the Foundation's relationship with Uganda is special. Uganda was the Foundation's first partner country in Africa," said Samuel Adela Yalaw, Country Head at the Mastercard Foundation. He also noted that Young Africa Works would be building on a decade of work and achievements. The Honourable Minister for Education and Sports Janet Museveni also reflected on the long-standing partnership of the Mastercard Foundation in the area of education.

"I believe we can now say that the Mastercard Foundation is a faithful friend of Uganda. In the last decade alone, they have provided quality education opportunities to over 6,000 young people in the country," she commented.

Uganda is home to the second largest population of young people in the world with 82 percent of the population under the age of 35. Young Africa Works has already begun positively impacting Uganda's young people. "It has helped me to get some money to buy food and to clothe myself" said Akiding Elizabeth Oumo, a program participant who benefitted from skills training conducted under Young Africa Works.

PROGRESS

Rwandan Senate lands face masks from Chinese to check Covid-19

KIGALI

THE Rwandan Senate on Thursday, July 23, received facemasks from the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) through the Embassy of China to Rwanda to help in efforts to prevent and contain Covid-19.

The event was held at the Parliament where 22,000 face masks were handed over to the upper chamber that was represented by Sosthène Ciyatire, Secretary General of Senate. Ciyatire told the media that the masks will facilitate in the ongoing efforts to contain the virus. He said that the masks will be used by the chamber for the next three months.

"The masks are very important and will be useful. We will use them for at least three months and that is a long time in terms of Covid-19 prevention," he said. The masks were delivered on behalf of the Chinese embassy by Wang Jiaxin, the Economic and Commercial Counsellor at the Embassy.

He emphasized that China is ready to support Rwanda's efforts to contain Covid-19 and provide assistance. "Both countries have been working well together over the past few decades. We will continue to work together to fight against Covid-19 pandemic," he said.

Wang also revealed that the second donation of China to Rwanda is on its way to Rwanda. "China is with Rwanda in this fight. We will continue to partner with Rwanda and strengthen both countries partnership," he said.

The donation comes weeks after the First Lady of China donated medical equipment support to the First Lady of Rwanda to help combat the pandemic. In April, Rwanda also received face masks, body temperature testers and other medical equipment. So far, Rwanda has tested over 225, 652 tests and 1,689 of them have tested positive, 867 have recovered and 5 have died.

OBSESSION

Teenager spends 4 hours a day applying makeup to look like a human Ken doll

SAO PAULO

HE SAYS, "I loved Barbie when I was a child and always used to watch Barbie cartoons and draw pictures of her. I was impressed with her whole look and then I became obsessed with Ken. The Ken doll is like a god to me - a god of beauty of aesthetic perfection. I love his clothes, hair and even shoes - everything about him is perfect." When it comes to humankind's quest for surgically enhanced physical improvements, there's a lot more to it than just the odd bit of Nip/Tuck.

"I'm very creative so I used make-up to look like Ken as I am not old enough for surgery yet. I use a strong liquid foundation then enhance my features further by contouring - using a highlighter and darker powder." "It takes me exactly four hours to complete. When I was at school, I would wake up every day at 2:30 so I could calmly get ready and ensure nothing went wrong," he says.

Felipe doesn't promote plastic surgery but feels it is imperative for him to undergo multiple procedures - including a rib removal and silicone implants.

He has carried out services such as lawn mowing and pot-washing in a kitchen to save for future aesthetics. Felipe estimates he would need to spend a whopping 2 million Brazilian Real (just over R9 million) to look exactly like Ken.

"It is one of my biggest dreams to get surgery - I am very passionate about aesthetic procedures and surgical interventions. I am in love with the human body, and surgery gives us the power of us to become who we want. I want to become a doll and I hope that surgery will make my dreams come true," Felipe says. "I want to get the procedures done when I am 18 to improve my appearance and stay with high similarities to the doll."

PASSION

'I was missing my wife': Story behind Dubai cleaner who drew a heart on the streets

DUBAI

ON July 15, Nesma Farahat was wrapping up her workday at her home office in Downtown Dubai when something outside the window caught her eye.

A cleaner tending to the street had drawn a heart on the pavement, using fallen petals from the trees. After a while, he swept it away. The moment was so sweet, she captured a snap. "It was so heartwarming to watch him doing it but also bittersweet because you don't know the emotion behind it. You want it to be happiness," says Farahat.

The National has located the man, Ramesh Gangarajam Gandhi, who works as an external house-keeping attendant with facilities management provider Emrill. Gandhi hails from Telangana, India, and came to Dubai 10 months ago to take up his position with

Emrill. On the day the picture was taken, he was just finishing his duties when he thought about his wife, leading him to draw the heart.

Gandhi got married just a month before relocating to the UAE, and his wife has stayed in India. "I have been enjoying my work and it has really helped keep my mind busy, but on that day, I was missing my wife and wishing I could spend time with her. I know a lot of people are missing those they love and feel the same way I do," he says.

Like many around the world, Gandhi's life has been affected by the pandemic in numerous ways. "I have been thinking about my parents and wife back home in India, and my brothers in Oman, and hoping they are all OK," he says.

"Unfortunately, my father has been taken ill recently, so I will

be returning to India on leave to spend some time with him and will come back to my job in a month or so." "I didn't even know anyone was watching me."

Since the image was posted on Instagram on Sunday, July 19, it has gone viral. Numerous people have approached Farahat, trying to locate Gandhi. "The Good News Movement account, which has 1.5 million followers, posted it as an Instastory," she says. "Dr Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi also shared it as an Instagram Story."

Dubai arts and crafts company The Happy Box reposted the image, describing it as the "best thing we've seen all year." "A bittersweet moment. Think this resonates with us all, we are all longing to be with our loved ones," read the caption.

Meanwhile, numerous people have approached Farahat asking if there is any way they can



Ramesh Gangarajam Gandhi was pictured creating a heart out of fallen petals earlier this month.

reach out to Gandhi, or thank him for making their day brighter. "It's been amazing to see how many people have taken an interest in what I thought was an innocent picture," she says. Gandhi is also surprised by the attention the photograph has received.

"Someone saw the photograph and got a gift for me, which she passed on to my colleague to give to me," he says. "I was so touched. I didn't think something as simple as creating a heart out of petals would be interesting for other people - I didn't even know anyone was watching."

COVID-19



Marcus Donnelly in central London near Liverpool Street Station.

The 'self-effacing' British are all actually revolting against roles on facemasks

LONDON

IN the eyes of some, a landmark assault on British values comes into effect on Friday as shoppers are finally mandated to wear face masks to limit exposure to Covid-19.

Despite being the worst hit European country by the pandemic, with more than 45,000 deaths, the government is only now introducing measures to compel face coverings as a barrier to infections.

Research released last week by YouGov found that the proportion of Britons wearing face masks during the crisis "has remained stubbornly low" compared to other countries, with 37 per cent of those surveyed admitting they had not worn a mask in the last week.

The reasons why are complex and can in part be blamed by confused messaging from Conservative government, which has constantly been criticised for its sluggishness in imposing lockdown measures. Even on Thursday it still remained unclear exactly when people would have to wear the mask inside.

At Liverpool Street train station in central London, observance public transport mask rules was not universal. Marcus Donnelly, 27, wears a plastic visor covering his entire face as he handed out flyers offering discounted haircuts.

off by the potential negative reaction of others. Nonetheless he added Friday's new rules should have been introduced sooner.

"I personally feel it's a bit too late in my opinion. Because I'm doing a job now where I'm communicating with people, it's more of a respect thing. But I think that had they made people wear masks earlier on a lot more people would have taken it seriously," he said.

"I think a lot of people are wearing them because they have to like on public transport. If you didn't have to I don't think people would wear it as many because they're scared, I think people do it because they'll get told off if they don't." Roughly 22 per cent of those questioned by YouGov said they had not recently worn a mask because it wasn't mandatory.

Others said they had instead been abiding by social distancing rules or felt they were at low risk of the disease. Peter Hansen sells clothes - including fashionable face masks - in London's Spitalfields Market and believes there has been a complete lack of transparency from the government.

"I'm not opposed to masks. I'm opposed to the fact that when something is killing people that there's not a public debate about the effects of wearing masks. This has not happened." But the antipathy in parts towards wearing a face mask point towards a much deeper sentiment in British society, according to Raj Persaud, a consultant psychiatrist working in private practice on Harley Street.



ISIDINGO MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM



ITV PGM SCHEDULE

SATURDAY 18 July

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Shika Bamba 5
10:30 Mjue Zaidi rpt
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
12:15 The Great Queen Seonduk
13:00 Korean drama rpt: Hwarang
13:45 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost
16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe
16:20 Igizo: Mtego
17:00 Shamsham za Pwani
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Korean drama: Hwarang
19:00 Jungu Kuu
19:30 Shika Bamba
20:00 Habari
21:00 Art and lifestyle
21:30 ITV TOP 10
22:10 Hawavumi lakini wamo
22:45 Isidingo rpt
01:30 DWTV

SUNDAY 19 July

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Watoto Wetu
10:00 Isidingo
11:40 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt
12:00 Bongo Movie rpt: Wrong hope
14:00 Tamasha la Michezo
15:00 Mshindano ya vishale (Dar es salaam Darts open championship)
17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Mapishi
18:30 Matukio ya wiki
19:30 Igizo: Mtego
20:00 Habari
21:05 Mizengwe
21:20 Mjue Zaidi
22:05 Bongo Movie: Sijapoteza
00:05 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost

MONDAY 20 July

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Isidingo
09:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 ITV Top 10 rpt
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera News
12:30 Mtego rpt
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Mjue Zaidi
13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt
13:55 Habari za saa
14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:10 Albu yako rpt
18:15 Mapishi
18:45 Kesho leo
19:00 Afya ya Jamii
19:30 Isidingo
20:00 Habari
21:05 Dakika 45
21:45 Kipindi Maalum: Utalii

22:15 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost
23:00 Habari
23:30 The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera
02:00 DWTV

TUESDAY 21 July

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Isidingo
09:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:30 Jungu Kuu rpt
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 The Base rpt
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Afya ya jamii rpt
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Kipindi maalum: TMDA na Jamii
13:30 Shika Bamba rpt
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza huru
16:30 Watoto wetu
17:00 The Base
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:10 Yu wapi
18:15 Mapishi rpt
18:30 Uchumi na biashara
19:00 Jarida la wanawake
19:30 Isidingo
20:00 Habari
21:00 Tanzania yetu
21:30 Chetu ni chetu
22:15 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost
23:00 Habari
23:30 The Base
00:30 DWTV

WEDNESDAY 22 July

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Isidingo
09:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 The Base rpt
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Dakika 45
13:45 Kipindi Maalum rpt
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Korean drama rpt: The great queen Seonduk
19:00 Ijue Sheria
19:30 Isidingo
20:00 Habari
21:00 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco
21:30 Kipindi Maalum: Ripoti Maalum
22:15 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost
23:00 Habari
23:30 The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera
2:00 DWTV

THURSDAY 23 July

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Isidingo
09:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 The Base rpt
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Dakika 45
13:45 Kipindi Maalum rpt
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Korean drama rpt: The great queen Seonduk
19:00 Ijue Sheria
19:30 Isidingo
20:00 Habari
21:00 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco
21:30 Kipindi Maalum: Ripoti Maalum
22:15 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost
23:00 Habari
23:30 The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera
2:00 DWTV

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Isidingo
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto
10:30 Shamba lulu rpt
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 The Base rpt
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Ijue Sheria
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Ripoti Maalum rpt
13:30 Tanzania yetu
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Kipindi Maalum rpt
14:15 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost
15:00 Meza huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Mapishi
18:30 Jagina
19:00 Usafiri wako
19:30 Isidingo
20:00 Habari
21:00 Malumbano ya hoja
23:00 Habari
23:30 The Base
00:30 DWTV

FRIDAY 24 July

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Isidingo
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:30 Usafiri wako rpt
11:00 The Base
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco
13:00 Jagina rpt
13:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt
14:15 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost
15:00 Meza huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base
17:30 Ibad ya kiislamu
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Mizengwe rpt
18:30 Shamba lulu
19:00 Kipindi Maalum: TMDA na jamii
19:30 Isidingo
20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipima Joto
21:30 Mjue Zaidi
23:30 The Base
00:30 DWTV

SATURDAY 25 July

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu
9:55 Shika Bamba 5
10:30 Mjue Zaidi rpt
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
12:15 The Great Queen Seonduk
13:00 Korean drama rpt: Hwarang
13:45 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost
16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe
16:20 Igizo: Mtego
17:00 Shamsham za Pwani
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Korean drama: Hwarang
19:00 Jungu Kuu
19:30 Shika Bamba

20:00 Habari
21:00 Art and lifestyle
21:30 ITV TOP 10
22:10 Hawavumi lakini wamo
22:45 Isidingo rpt
01:30 DWTV

SUNDAY 26 July

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 Watoto Wetu
10:00 Isidingo
11:40 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt
12:00 Bongo Movie rpt: Sijapoteza
14:00 Tamasha la Michezo
15:00 Mwangaza
16:00 The Great queen Seonduk
16:45 ITV Top 10
17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Mapishi
18:30 Matukio ya wiki
19:30 Igizo: Mtego
20:00 Habari
21:05 Mizengwe
21:20 Mjue Zaidi
22:05 Bongo Movie: The heart attack
00:05 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost

CAPITAL

Sat 18 July

08:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 Rev rpt
09:30 Turning the Spotlight rpt
10:00 Culinary delight rpt
10:30 Innovation rpt
11:00 Out n' about rpt
11:30 Sports Gazette rpt
12:00 Usafiri wako rpt
12:30 Eco@Africa rpt
13:00 Business edition rpt
13:30 Korean Drama rpt: Kimchi Family
14:30 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny
17:15 Tanzania Yetu rpt
17:45 Bundesliga kick off
18:15 Capchat rpt
19:15 Mizengwe
19:30 The Decor
20:00 Korean Drama: Beating Again
21:00 Out n' About
21:30 Movie: A lobster tale
23:00 Series rpt: Grapes of justice
01:00 Al Jazeera

Sun 19 July

08:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 In good shape
10:00 Capchat rpt
11:00 Sports Gazette rpt
11:30 Korean Drama rpt: Beating again
12:00 Jagina rpt
12:30 Bundesliga Kick Off rpt
13:00 In good shape rpt
13:30 Series rpt: Grapes of justice
15:15 Albu yako
15:30 Rev rpt
16:00 Dakika 45 rpt
16:45 Mizengwe rpt
17:00 The Decor rpt
17:30 Meza huru
19:00 Turning the Spotlight rpt
19:30 Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights
20:00 Korean Drama: Beating again
21:00 Shift
21:15 Capchat live
22:15 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny
00:00 Al Jazeera

Mon 20 July

06:00 Al Jazeera
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)

13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny
14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
16:00 Series rpt: Grapes of justice
16:30 Tanzania Yetu rpt
17:00 Eco@Africa rpt
17:30 Meza huru
19:00 The Decor rpt
19:30 Shamba lulu
20:00 Series: Grapes of justice
20:45 The Monday Agenda
21:30 Capital Prime News
22:00 Kipima Joto
00:00 Al Jazeera

Tues 21 July

06:00 Al Jazeera
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny
14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
16:00 Series rpt: Grapes of justice
16:30 Capchat rpt
17:30 Meza huru
19:00 Innovation
19:30 Jagina rpt
20:00 Series: Grapes of justice
20:45 Telenovela: (Destino) Destiny
21:30 Capital Prime
22:00 Turning the spotlight rpt
22:30 Eco@Africa
23:00 Al Jazeera

Wed 22 July

06:00 Al Jazeera
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny
14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
16:00 Series rpt: Grapes of justice
16:30 Culinary delight rpt
17:00 Innovation rpt
17:30 Meza Huru
19:00 Sports Gazette
19:30 Chetu ni chetu
20:00 Series: Grapes of justice
20:45 Telenovela: (Destino) Destiny
21:30 Capital Prime News
22:00 Dakika 45:
22:45 The Decor
23:15 Al Jazeera

Thurs 23 July

06:00 Al Jazeera
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny
14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
16:00 Series rpt: Grapes of justice
16:30 Business edition rpt
17:00 In good shape
17:30 Meza huru
19:00 Turning the spotlight
19:30 Tanzania yetu
20:00 Series: Grapes of justice
20:45 Telenovela: (Destino) Destiny
21:30 Capital Prime News
22:00 Capchat rpt
23:00 Al Jazeera

Frid 24 July

06:00 Al Jazeera
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny
14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
16:00 Series rpt: Grapes of justice
16:30 The Monday Agenda rpt
17:30 Meza huru
19:00 Rev
19:30 Eco@Africa
20:00 Albu Yako
20:15 Local Pgm: Business Edition
20:45 Telenovela: (Destino) Destiny
21:30 Capital Prime News
22:00 Malumbano ya hoja rpt
00:00 Al Jazeera

US responsible for China's countermeasure against consulate closure

BEIJING

THE Chinese Foreign Ministry on Friday informed the US Embassy in China of its decision to withdraw its consent for the establishment and operation of the US Consulate General in Chengdu.

The ministry also made specific requirements on the ceasing of all operations and events by the Consulate General, said a statement issued by the ministry.

The measure is a legitimate and necessary response to Washington's unjustified, abrupt and unilateral demand for Beijing to close China's Consulate General in Houston, a US-style bullying and provocation that must be held accountable for the current tensions in bilateral ties.

The responsibility lies entirely with the United States, which has seriously breached international law and the basic norms governing international relations, as well as the bilateral consular agreement, and deliberately undermined bilateral relations by launching another political provocation against China.

The US side claimed that it professed

to "protect American intellectual property and American's private information" by closing China's Consulate General in Houston, but has failed to offer any concrete evidence to support its ravings.

Ironically, despite US notoriously poor track record of respecting other nations' sovereignty, US State Department spokeswoman Morgan Ortugus claimed that under the Vienna Convention, states should "have a duty not to interfere in the internal affairs" of the receiving state.

No wonder global media outlets, including the US ones, have raised questions about ulterior motives for the US provocative act. Quoting US Senator Angus King, a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, CNN reported that King was not aware of any "recent intelligence of particular Chinese activities, either with regard to our elections, or the whole confrontation between our two countries... that may have driven the decision."

The responsibility lies entirely with the United States, also because some US politicians have reached the point of hysteria in damaging US-China relations in recent years.



The Chinese flag flies outside of the Chinese consulate in Houston after the US State Department requested China to close the consulate in Houston, Texas, on Wednesday. (AFP)

For the past few months, some senior White House officials have been stigmatizing China by politicizing the COVID-19 pandemic. The US side has also used its state apparatus to suppress Chinese companies on fabricated charges.

Washington has also targeted in a frenzy Chinese nationals within its border. Apart from its political crackdown on Chinese media outlets in the United States, the US side has also targeted some Chinese students in America by threatening, interrogating, confiscating personal electronic equipment and even detaining them for no reason.

According to Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin, the US side, well before this recent political provocation, has also imposed unwarranted restrictions on Chinese diplomats, and even searched diplomatic bags without permission and seized official articles.

The unilateral closure of China's Consulate General in Houston is an unprecedented escalation by the United States against China, and China has no

choice but to counter it.

There are two motivations behind Washington's anti-China campaign. One is that by lashing out at China amid the ravaging COVID-19 pandemic, some US politicians, who have long been criticized for disastrous handling of the pandemic crisis and the mounting racial tensions in the country, are scrambling to shift the blame and smear China.

It also showcased some US politicians' desperation to improve the falling poll ratings in the election year by stigmatizing China and politicizing bilateral ties.

By initiating and escalating provocation against China, some US politicians are endangering not only one of the most important bilateral relations in the world, but also the rules-based international order.

History has shown that a constructive China-US relationship is a win-win for both sides, and neither can afford the costs of full-blown confrontation. The onus is now on the US side to prevent bilateral ties from further deteriorating. **Xinhua**

WHO chief says questioning of his independence 'unacceptable'

GENEVA

THE head of the World Health Organization said on Thursday that reported comments by US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo questioning his independence were untrue and would not distract the organisation from its work in fighting the coronavirus.

Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has come under criticism, especially from US President Donald Trump and Pompeo, who have accused him of being pro-China.

"And the comments are untrue and unacceptable and without any foundation, for that matter," Tedros said in response to a question at a Geneva briefing about remarks by Pompeo reported in London on Tuesday.

"Our sole focus - and the focus of the entire organisation - is on saving lives.

"...And WHO will not be distracted by these comments. We don't

want the international community also to be distracted."

The WHO is beginning to reach out to experts at the international level for a mission to identify the zoonotic source of COVID-19, Mike Ryan, WHO's top emergencies expert, said.

The animal source of the virus is a very important question, and experts in both Chinese and international scientific communities are "anxious to move forward with the appropriate studies," said Ryan. He believes that the experts' high level of engagement will "drive a successful mission."

An advance team comprised of two WHO experts was sent to China to prepare for the international mission two weeks ago.

Tedros said the WHO was seeing intense transmission of the coronavirus in relatively few countries.

"Two-thirds of all cases are from 10 countries. Almost half of all cases reported so far are from just three countries," he said, referring



Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

to the United States, Brazil and India. Worldwide more than 15 million cases have been reported and nearly 620,000 deaths, he said. Recorded US coronavirus infec-

tions exceeded 4 million on Thursday, with more than 2,600 new ones every hour on average, the highest rate in the world, according to a Reuters tally.

Infections in the United States have rapidly accelerated since the first COVID-19 case was detected on Jan. 21. It took the country 98 days to reach 1 million cases. It took another 43 days to reach 2 million and then 27 days to reach 3 million.

It has only taken 16 days to reach 4 million at a rate of 43 new cases a minute.

Tedros said that just because cases may be at a low level where someone lives, it doesn't mean they should let down their guard.

"Know your situation - do you know how many cases were reported where you live yesterday? Do you know how to find that information? Do you know how to minimize your exposure?" **Xinhua**

Libyan crisis in focus of Lavrov's conversation with Egyptian top diplomat

MOSCOW

THE Libyan crisis and the situation in the region were in focus of a conversation between Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and his Egyptian counterpart, Sameh Shoukry, the Russian foreign ministry said.

"The ministers discussed the situation in the Middle East and North Africa with a focus on the crisis in Libya," the ministry said.

"Both sides confirmed that the situation in that country can be settled only by means of talks involving all Libyan sides as part of the implementation of the Berlin conference decisions endorsed by United Nations Security Council Resolution 2510.

"The two top diplomats stressed the importance of the Cairo declaration of June 6 to promote the key principles of the Berlin process with an aim of



organizing an inclusive intra-Libyan dialogue on ways to build the post-conflict order in Libya on the basis of balance of interests

of the country's three historic regions," the ministry added.

Currently, Libya has two supreme executive authorities, namely the internationally-recognized Tripoli-based Government of National Accord (GNA) headed by Prime Minister Fayez al-Sarraj, and the interim government of Abdullah al-Thani, seated in the east of the country, along with the elected parliament, which is supported by the Libyan National

Army (LNA) led by Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar. The conflicting parties have been fighting to control of the capital city for more than a year after Haftar launched an offensive in early April 2019 to liberate the city, as he put it. Following that, the GNA turned to Turkey for support. Backed by Ankara, the Government of National Accord regained control over some regions seized by the LNA. **Agencies**

Migrant worker returns to home town, runs eco-friendly farm and contributes to poverty alleviation

"WE have 50 mu (about 3.33 hectares) of grapevines and 240 mu of kiwi fruit trees in our farm. All these fruit trees and our ducks on the farm have followed a circular agricultural development model that combines poultry, marsh gas, and fruit or vegetables," a brown middle-aged Chinese man said in a sonorous voice to a group of visitors, introducing to them his special family farm.

After the brief introduction, these guests flocked to the central part of the farm, where grapevines and kiwi fruit trees with luxuriant foliage are flourishing in the high summer.

The middle-aged man is Zhang Yuanchao, operator of the eco-friendly family farm in Hong-

ing village, Longmen township, Lushan county, Ya'an, southwest China's Sichuan province.

"I can both learn skills and make money here, and everybody is assured working here," said Yang Guomin who works for the farm.

"My job here rid me of poverty," said Li Song, who has worked on the farm for seven years and knows very well about Zhang's story of the farm business.

Zhang was once a migrant worker trying to make a living in many Chinese cities including northeast China's Shenyang and southwest China's Chengdu before 2006. He had often struggled just to make ends meet at that time.

In 2007, Zhang learnt that raising ducks might be a good oppor-



Zhang Yuanchao works in his grape orchard. (File photo)

tunity, as there's less competition in the industry and the local government also provided ducklings and technical training.

However, after deciding to re-

turn to his hometown to set up his own duckery, Zhang found it difficult to have an appropriate site.

Zhang reported his problem to the government of Longmen

township and the Communist Party of China (CPC) Longmen township committee, and got six mu of land for his new business through transfer of land contract and management rights with the help of local authorities.

Since Zhang was new to the business, the Party chief of Hongxing village introduced him to duck breeding specialists and helped establish a "development alliance" under which the specialists handle the technical part of the business, and Zhang takes charge of the management and duckery maintenance.

As the number of ducklings kept in the duckery grew, Zhang's income increased too. He was soon referred to as "the guy who has

earned more than 10,000 yuan (\$1,428)" by his fellow villagers.

Unfortunately, an unforeseen catastrophe ruined Zhang's business. Because of a violent earthquake that hit Lushan county on April 20, 2013, the duckery Zhang had spent painstaking efforts on for years was completely destroyed. The duck shed collapsed and all the ducks died in the disaster, making Zhang rather dispirited.

When he was ready to work outside his hometown as a migrant worker again to repay his debts, the local government came to help him start over.

Thanks to the help of local authorities, who helped Zhang rebuild the duckery, apply for loans

and industrial support funds, and expand marketing channels, the duckery was brought back to life and started to make profit within two years.

However, as the number of ducks increases continuously, Zhang was faced with a new challenge - the disposal of the ducks' droppings.

As Zhang was trying to figure out a solution to the problem, he heard that the local government was encouraging eligible people to develop crop farming through land transfer. So he contracted the land near his duckery, and started planting grapes and kiwi fruits, which, together with the duckery, later became his eco-friendly farm. **People's Daily**

Istanbul's Hagia Sophia opens for Muslim prayers

By Bloomberg

AFTER a gap of nearly a century, Istanbul's iconic Hagia Sophia on Friday echoed with the sounds of Islamic prayer, with Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan joining the faithful to witness the fulfillment of a move calculated to boost his popularity at home and in the broader Muslim world.

Yesterday's service is the first since Erdogan's decision earlier this month to act on a court order he had encouraged and convert the gracious domed structure originally built as a Byzantine cathedral from a museum to a mosque.

In sharp contrast to the international criticism that greeted the decision, the president's followers reacted with joy. Hundreds of men slept outside Hagia Sophia from late Thursday, reciting prayers and chanting Islamic hymns as they waited for the grand opening.

Erdogan's Islamist-rooted ruling AK Party has lost ground in Turkey's major cities in recent years, and the president hopes to rally the support of nationalist Turks by portraying the monument's new status as a milestone in the country's rebirth as a powerful Muslim nation after a century of misguided efforts to imitate the Christian West.

But the move is likely to damage already difficult relations with European neighbors led by Greece, for which the Hagia Sophia carries a special significance as one of the most important monuments of Orthodox Christianity.

Inside the building's security perimeter, hasty preparations have made it suitable for Muslim worship for the first time since secular leader Mustafa Kemal Ataturk gave it museum status.

Hundreds of meters of turquoise carpets were laid on the marble floor while curtains were installed to cover the early Christian mosaics that line the great dome.

The first and only posting so far from a newly created Twitter account to mark the occasion read: "In the name of Allah the Merciful," in Arabic letters. The expression, known as the Basmala, is said at the opening of Koranic chapters in order to receive blessing from God.

Why Now?

The Byzantine cathedral has been converted on two previous occasions in the past millennium, both of them momentous junctures for the region.

It was turned from a Christian church into a mosque after the Ottoman conquest of Constantinople, now Istanbul, in 1453 - and from mosque to museum in 1934, as part of Ataturk's efforts to secularize his new Turkish Republic.

The latest decision has been a long time coming. And like Ataturk's museum conversion - which helped smooth the path to a defense pact with Greece at a time of rising military threats in Europe - the timing was political. Erdogan's popularity has been sagging under the weight of a damaged economy, and conservative rivals who threaten to eat into his vote.

"He hopes this will be his legacy that he will be remembered with," said Ozgur Unluhisarcikli, Turkish head of the German Marshall Fund of the United States, said. "And all right-wing voters support such a cause."

Agencies

Meng's lawyers ask Canadian court to stay extradition

OTTAWA

LAWYERS of Huawei Chief Financial Officer Meng Wanzhou have applied to a Canadian court for a stay in the proceedings for her extradition to the United States, Reuters quoted documents released on Thursday as saying.



Noting that US President Donald Trump and other senior members of the administration intend to use Meng "as a bargaining chip in a trade dispute," Meng's lawyers said that Trump's stated willingness to intervene in the case is "offensive and ominous."

Meng's lawyers also said that the United States misled Canada about the evidence in Meng's case, calling the omission "far below the expected standard of diligence, candour and accuracy," according to the documents.

Meng was arrested on Dec 1, 2018 at Vancouver International Airport at the request of the United States, which is seeking her extradition on fraud charges. Both Meng and Huawei have repeatedly denied any wrongdoing.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said in May that China expresses its strong dissatisfaction and firm opposition to a Canadian court's ruling on the case against Meng, and has made solemn representations to Canada on the issue. **Xinhua**

The wealthy Republicans who want to oust Trump in November's election

WASHINGTON

JIMMY TOSH, who runs a multi-million dollar hog and grain farm in Tennessee, is a lifelong Republican. He is pro-gun, supports lower taxes and agrees with most of Republican President Donald Trump's agenda.

He is also spending his money to help defeat Trump (pictured) in November's election.

"I agree with 80% of the things he does; I just cannot stand a liar," Tosh, 70, said of Trump.

Tosh is one of a growing number of wealthy conservative Americans who say Trump is a threat to democracy and the long-term health of the Republican Party. They are actively supporting his Democratic opponent in the Nov. 3 vote, former Vice President Joe Biden.

Several billionaire and millionaire donors to The Lincoln Project, the most prominent of Republican-backed groups opposing Trump's re-election, told Reuters that elected Republicans should also be published for

enabling him. Some even support the ouster of vulnerable Republican senators to hand control of the chamber to Democrats.

Their money has fueled an unprecedented campaign from members of a sitting president's own party to oust him from office. This is a sign that Trump has alienated some Republicans, most recently with his response to the coronavirus pandemic and nationwide protests over police brutality against Black Americans.

The ultimate impact of these actions remains to be seen in a country so deeply polarized. The "Never Trump" Republicans failed to stop his ascent in 2016 and became marginal figures as Trump came to dominate the party during his presidency. But this year could be different, some strategists from both parties said.

"The distinction in 2020 that we didn't see in 2016 is the amount of money backing their efforts and their size," said Karen Finney, a Democratic strategist and a spokesperson for Hill-



ary Clinton's 2016 presidential campaign. "The number of people willing to go public about Trump and put serious money behind beating him – I don't think we've seen an effort on this scale."

Besides The Lincoln Project, several Republican-backed groups have been formed in recent months to support Biden including 43 Alumni for Biden,

a super PAC involving hundreds of officials who served in Republican President George W. Bush's administration, and a coalition of former Republican national security officials.

Others are skeptical, noting that Trump is vastly out-raising and out-spending the Never Trump groups and still enjoys nearly 90% support among Republicans. In June alone,

Trump's campaign raised \$55.2 million, compared to the \$20 million that The Lincoln Project has raised since its formation in December.

Yet in a close election, even peeling away a sliver of wavering Republicans and some independents could make a difference, analysts said.

Tosh, who has given \$11,000 to The Lincoln Project after seeing one of their ads attacking Trump, said he might give to other Republican-led groups too.

"I made the decision I will not support a Republican candidate in an election until Trump is gone," he said.

Other top individual donors to The Lincoln Project include Christy Walton, the Walmart heiress who has mainly given to Democratic candidates in recent years; hedge fund billionaire Andy Redleaf, who sits on the board of visitors at the conservative Federalist Society; and Sidney Jansma Jr., an oil and gas executive from Michigan and a frequent donor to Republican candidates and causes. **Agencies**

HKSAR gov't deplores Britain's interference in Hong Kong affairs

HONG KONG

THE Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government said on Thursday that it deplores and opposes the announcement by the British government on providing a pathway for Chinese nationals in Hong Kong who are holders of the British National Overseas (BNO) passport or eligible for it to reside and obtain citizenship in Britain.

Given the history, it is hypocritical for Britain to deliberately violate its pledge made in the British memorandum associated with the Sino-British Joint Declaration despite the Chinese firm opposition and repeated representations, and insist on using the BNO passport or status, which some people in Hong Kong still hold, for political maneuver on the pretext of changing the policy to provide a route for relevant persons to reside and obtain citizenship in Britain, said a spokesman of the HKSAR government.

Since the establishment of the HKSAR, the Chinese central government has been upholding and implementing the principle of "one country, two systems". The HKSAR enjoys a high degree of autonomy in accordance with the HKSAR Basic Law and has maintained prosperity and stability, the spokesman noted.

National security falls squarely under the purview of the central authorities, and the enactment of the Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the HKSAR is constitutional, lawful, rational and reasonable, the spokesman said, stressing that matters of the HKSAR is China's internal affairs in which no other state is allowed to interfere under any pretext.

Taking account of the historical background and the existing circumstances of Hong Kong, the central government has permitted the Chinese nationals in Hong Kong who were born before June 30, 1997, to use the BNO passport as a travel document for the purpose of travelling to other states and regions. Since Britain violates its pledge in the first place, the Chinese foreign ministry has announced that China will consider not recognizing the BNO passport as a valid travel document and reserve the right to take any further measure. **Xinhua**

China's first Mars mission attracts global attention

BEIJING

CHINA'S successful launch of its first Mars mission on Thursday attracted global attention as the country has taken the first step in its planetary exploration of the solar system.

The Mars probe aims to complete orbiting, landing and roving in one mission.

The mission -- consisting of an orbiter, a lander, and a rover -- is "the most ambitious thing one could do on a first attempt," says John Logsdon, a space policy expert at George Washington University.

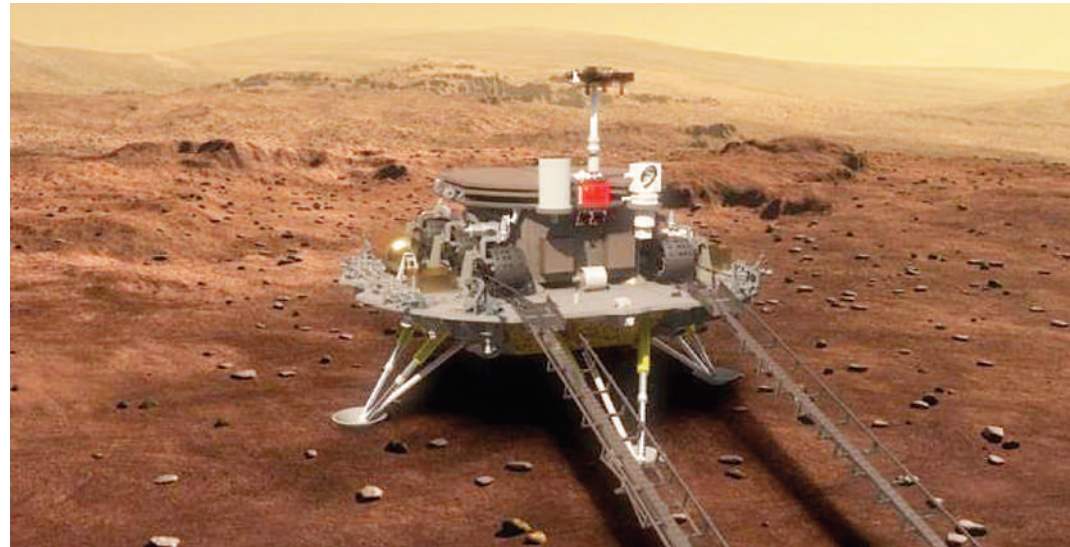
Chinese scientists are preparing for more missions in the Tianwen series, including ventures to return rock samples from Mars and an asteroid, to perform a flyby of Jupiter and to explore the margins of the sun's vast heliosphere. But if Tianwen-1 reaches Mars as planned, "it will put China in

the space exploration business in a big way," said Logsdon.

"Mars mission would put China among space leaders ... A Mars landing is among the most challenging feats in space-flight," said the Science magazine in a news piece published on June 25.

China's first Mars mission is named Tianwen-1, which literally means Questions to Heaven and comes from a poem written by Qu Yuan (about 340-278 BC), one of the greatest poets of ancient China. The name signifies the Chinese nation's perseverance in pursuing truth and science and exploring nature and the universe, said the China National Space Administration (CNSA).

"Tianwen-1 -- 'quest for heavenly truth' -- consists of not only an orbiter, but also a lander and a rover, a trifection no other nation has accomplished on its first Mars bid," said the Science



article.

A Long March-5 rocket, China's largest launch vehicle carrying the spacecraft with a mass of about five tons, soared into the sky from the Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site on the coast of southern China's island province of Hainan at 12:41 p.m. (Beijing Time).

About 36 minutes later, the spacecraft, including an orbiter and a rover, was sent into the Earth-Mars transfer orbit, embarking on an almost seven-month journey to the red planet, according to the CNSA.

"Tianwen-1 is going to orbit, land and release a rover all on the very first try, and coor-

minate observations with an orbiter. No planetary missions have ever been implemented in this way. If successful, it would signify a major technical breakthrough," said an opinion piece on Nature, a world-renowned weekly international science and technology journal.

Deutsche Welle (DW), Ger-

many's international broadcaster, said the mission to Mars is "ambitious," not for the inclusion of an orbiter and a Mars rover, but also because it has only taken China several years from the initial planning and mission design to launch in July 2020.

"As with many Mars missions, Tianwen-1 is about learning more about the Red Planet and, through that, for scientists to learn more about our own planet," the DW added.

The scientific goals of Tianwen-1 include mapping the morphology and geological structure, investigating surface soil characteristics and water-ice distribution, analyzing the surface material composition, measuring the ionosphere and the characteristics of the Martian climate and environment at the surface, and perceiving the physical fields and internal structure of Mars. **Xinhua**

US politicians slandering China goes against civilisation

FOR a while, some U.S. officials seem to have formed a team of rumor mongers to stigmatize China.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Robert O'Brien, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, Christopher Wray, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and U.S. Attorney General William Barr have successively cooked up lies and put on shows on the world stage to slander China.

By defaming China in an organized manner, these politicians have greatly violated civilization and disgraced the diplomatic history of the U.S.

As some U.S. politicians are reluctant to face the situation in their own country and have failed to find solutions to the problems related to governance, they have adopted a narrow and distorted mindset to treat the achievements other countries have made through hard work.

Out of evil intentions, some American officials have continuously spread the "China threat theory".

William Barr, for one, alleged on July 16 local time that China is engaged in an "economic blitzkrieg" to replace the U.S. as the world's preeminent superpower,

which is absolutely absurd.

It is in fact the U.S. that has gone out of its ways to suppress and threaten other countries, as has been acknowledged by the international society.

Some American politicians have recently started a series of rumors against China, the Communist Party of China (CPC), strategic intention and future development of the country, which has seriously disobeyed the basic norms of international relations and fully exposed their deep-rooted Cold War thinking and ideological bias.

The most important national condition of China is the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

The CPC has been chosen by history and people as the ruling party of the country and firmly supported by about 1.4 billion Chinese people.

More than 93 percent of Chinese people support and are satisfied with the rule of the government under the leadership of the CPC, according to a survey conducted by the Harvard Kennedy School that lasted for 13 years. It fully demonstrates that any attempt to separate the CPC from the Chinese people is doomed to

fail.

Some U.S. politicians, however, determine to remake China based on their political schemes when they should really have listened to former U.S. President Richard Nixon, who pointed out that a system that works for the U.S. may not work for others with different experiences.

"We believe in our values, but a basic tenet of these values is not to impose them on others," the former president said.

It should be noted that the mutually beneficial and cooperative relationship established by China and America over the past 40 years suits the interests of the two sides, people in the two countries and even the entire world.

Many governments in the history of America have actively promoted the cooperation with China and win-win results for the two countries.

Some American politicians have claimed that "win-win in China means China wins twice" and accused China of taking advantage of the U.S., which are barefaced lies with no grounds at all.

Even when the bilateral relations are encountering unprecedented difficulties, the fact

remains that the two countries have secured mutually beneficial cooperation.

The bilateral trade volume between China and the U.S. increased to \$41.2 billion in April and China once again became the largest trading partner of the U.S. The number rose to \$46.5 billion in May.

84 percent of American enterprises are unwilling to withdraw from the Chinese market and 38 percent of them will maintain or increase their investment in China, according to a recent survey conducted by the American Chamber of Commerce in China.

Decoupling countries with complex economic relations is like carrying out a difficult surgical operation, said an article titled The Folly of Decoupling from China published on Foreign Affairs, an American magazine of international relations and U.S. foreign policy.

Chinese economy is not a discrete organism that can easily be separated from the global economy but rather a Siamese twin, connected by nervous tissue, common organs, and a shared circulatory system, the article added.

People's Daily

Trump, Putin discuss virus, arms control over phone

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin on Thursday discussed issues of COVID-19 and arms control during a phone conversation, White House spokesman Judd Deere said in a statement.

The two leaders discussed efforts to defeat the coronavirus pandemic while continuing to reopen global economies, said the statement.

"President Trump reiterated his hope of avoiding an expensive three-way arms race between China, Russia, and the United States and looked forward to progress on upcoming arms control negotiations in Vienna," it added.

Earlier this month, Fu Cong, director-general of the arms control department of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, made it clear that it is unrealistic to expect China to join US-Russia negotiations on nuclear arms reduction, given the huge gap between Chinese and US nuclear arsenals in terms of quantity and sophistication.

The United States and Russia had consultations on arms



control and strategic stability in Vienna last month, with no tangible progress made on the extension of the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START).

In 2010, Washington and Moscow signed the New START, which stipulates the limits to the numbers of deployed nuclear warheads and strategic delivery systems by both. The New START, the last remaining

nuclear arms control treaty in force between the two nuclear superpowers, will expire on Feb 5, 2021.

The agreement can be extended for at most five years with the consent of the two countries. Russia has expressed willingness to extend the treaty, while the Trump administration has yet to officially reply.

Xinhua

S. African president vows to fight corruption in health sector amid COVID-19

CAPE TOWN

SOUTH African President Cyril Ramaphosa on Thursday pledged to combat corruption in the health sector and better manage resources dedicated to the fight against COVID-19.

Since the COVID-19 outbreak in early March, social and economic relief packages have been implemented and much-needed support has been delivered to its recipients, the president said in a televised speech to the nation.

"But what concerns me, and what concerns all South Afri-

cans, are those instances where funds are stolen, where they are misused, where goods are overpriced, where food parcels are diverted from needy households -- where there is corruption and mismanagement of public funds," Ramaphosa said.

He referred to increasing allegations about fraudulent Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) claims, overpricing of goods and services, violation of emergency procurement regulations, collusion between officials and service providers, abuse of food

parcel distribution and the creation of fake non-profit organizations to access relief funding.

Ramaphosa was speaking after South Africa's Corruption Watch claimed in a report on Wednesday that corruption in the country is affecting service delivery in the health sector particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The criminals occupying the halls, offices, wards and dispensaries of our health centers are compounding the problems we face by siphoning funds from a



kitty that is running dry and by thieving from depots that are short on medical supplies," said Corruption Watch researcher Melusi Ncala, author of the report.

Ramaphosa said in apparent

reference to the report: "From the outset of our response to the pandemic, we have been quite clear that there should be no scope for corruption in the use of these resources." More so than at any other time, corruption puts lives at risk, he noted, adding that several preventative measures have been put in place, including the regulations to ensure that emergency procurement of supplies and services meet the constitutional requirements of fairness, transparency, competitiveness and

cost effectiveness.

The government is also working to prohibit unjustified price hikes and ensure the availability of essential goods, according to Ramaphosa. Since the declaration of the national state of disaster in mid-March, the Competition Commission has investigated over 800 complaints of excessive pricing, he said.

The commission has so far prosecuted or reached settlements with 28 companies, imposing penalties and fines

of over 16 million rand (about 950,000 U.S. dollars).

Special audits have been undertaken to detect and prevent misuse of these funds and to identify risks in the system, Ramaphosa said.

"In addition to all these measures we have established a collaborative and coordinating center to strengthen the collective efforts among law enforcement agencies, so as to prevent, detect, investigate and prosecute COVID-related corruption," he said. **Xinhua**



Simba Queens' midfielder, Asha Jaffary (L), gets the better of Mlandizi Queens' players when the squads locked horns in a Mainland Women Premier League match, which took place in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA.

Tokyo 2020 must be simple and safe, says IOC's Coates

SYDNEY

SENIOR Olympic official John Coates has reiterated that Tokyo must stage a simplified Summer Games next year with the health and safety of athletes the most important consideration in the planning.

Australian Coates heads up the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) Coordination Commission for the Tokyo 2020 Games, which have been postponed until 2021 because of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

"The good news is that all 42 Games' venues ... have been resecured. The competition schedule is the same," the IOC Vice President wrote in Sydney's Daily Telegraph on Friday, a day after the one-year countdown to the opening ceremony.

"But we must reduce the cost impact of postponement as well as simplify the Games to ensure they can be organised efficiently, safely and sustainably, in this new context."

"With one year to go, there is no clear picture of what shape the simplified Games will take. The situation with COVID-19, both domestically and internationally, is constantly changing."

Coates wrote that putting in place counter-measures against COVID-19 would be no easy task but welcomed the top level commitment from the Japanese government, Tokyo regional government and Games organising committee to get it done.

"The IOC and our Japanese partners ... are doing everything in their power to ensure that not only will the Games go ahead next year, but the athletes remain first and foremost in all our planning," he added.

"Yes, we want the athletes of the world to have their Olympic moment of competition, just as they would have dreamt. But critically, they must experience that moment in an environment where their health and safety ... is assured."

Coates is also President of the Australian Olympic Committee and added that the reaction of his country's athletes to the postponement had been "inspirational".

"All athletes with a Tokyo dream in their hearts have had to recalibrate their plans for a Games ... they have demonstrated remarkable resilience in making that adjustment," he wrote.

REUTERS



Waluguru Original Music Band's soloist, Kinde Makengela, puts his skills to show at his band's recent show, held in Morogoro. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT SABATO KASIKA

WTA, ATP tennis cancel all tournaments in China over coronavirus



The WTA Wuhan Open was set to be a highlight of the Chinese tennis swing (AFP Photo)

SHANGHAI

ALL international tennis tournaments in China this year, including the Shanghai Masters and WTA Finals, were cancelled on Friday because of the coronavirus, the ATP and WTA said.

The major blow to attempts to restart tennis comes after China said it would not stage most international sports events for the rest of 2020 to keep the pandemic in check.

"We are extremely disappointed that our world-class events in China will not take place this year," Steve Simon, head of the Women's Tennis Association, said in a statement.

"We do however respect the decision that has been made (by Chinese authorities) and are eager to return to China as soon as possible next season."

Among the seven WTA events cancelled is the Wuhan Open in October, which promised to be hugely

symbolic as the city was at the centre of the coronavirus outbreak when it emerged late last year.

The ATP said it too was cancelling its tournaments in China for the rest of the year, including the prestigious Shanghai Masters and China Open -- a men's and women's event -- in Beijing.

"Our approach throughout this pandemic has been to always follow local guidance when staging events. We respect the Chinese government's decision to do what's best for the country in response to the unprecedented global situation," said Andrea Gaudenzi, ATP chairman.

"It's with a heavy heart that we announce ATP tournaments will not be played in China this year."

The tennis season has been at a standstill since mid-March due to the virus outbreak worldwide and is struggling to restart.

The ATP said earlier this week that a tournament in Washington DC that

marked the start of the men's tennis season next month has been cancelled.

US Open organisers insisted that would "in no way impact" the behind-closed-doors Grand Slam scheduled for the end of August. The Cincinnati Open and US Open are still scheduled to take place back-to-back in New York from August 20, despite several leading figures in men's tennis casting doubts over the hardcourt Grand Slam.

World number one Novak Djokovic earlier this month said he was undecided over whether to travel to compete in the US Open.

The women's WTA tour is scheduled to restart on August 3 in Palermo, Italy, making it the first event on the recently announced new calendar.

The China cancellations -- which are a setback to tennis's hopes of building its popularity in the world's most populous nation -- come as domestic sport is slowly returning to the country.

"We share in the disappointment of

many around the world who were looking forward to this (China) swing and appreciate all of the continued support from our fans, partners and the entire region, as we continue to navigate the remainder of the 2020 season," WTA chief Simon said. On Thursday the Chinese Basketball Association league said it would allow spectators to watch matches from Sunday and on Saturday Chinese Super League football starts behind closed doors.

However, after China's announcement all major international sports events are in major doubt, with the postponed Formula One Grand Prix in Shanghai also now appearing doomed.

AFP

Amber Heard says she 'did not want to expose' Johnny Depp

LONDON

AMBER Heard insisted Thursday that she never wanted the world to know the details of her years of alleged abuse by Johnny Depp, as she concluded her evidence in her ex-husband's libel case against a British tabloid.

Taking the witness stand for a fourth straight day, Heard testified that everything she had said at the High Court in London was true.

She said she just wanted to be "left alone" after the breakup of her and Depp's tempestuous marriage and that she wanted to "save him the embarrassment."

"I didn't want to do this, I did not want to expose this totality of what really happened to me," Heard said. "I didn't want to talk about everything that happened in our marriage and happened in our relationship."

She also suggested that having details of her relationship with Depp dissected in open court had and would continue to damage her career.

"What woman has ever benefited from being a victim of domestic violence?" she asked.

Heard was in court because Depp, 57, is suing News Group Newspapers, the publisher of The Sun, and the newspaper's executive editor, Dan Wootton, over an April 2018 article that labeled him a "wife beater."

The Sun's defense relies on 14 allegations made by Heard of violence by Depp between 2013 and 2016, in settings as varied as a rented house in Australia, his private island in the Bahamas and a private jet.

In her testimony on Thursday, the actress-model reiterated allegations that Depp would go on a "bender" that often lasted days and abuse her when he was high on drugs or was drunk.



American actress Amber Heard waves at the media as she arrives at the High Court in London, Thursday, July 23, 2020. Actor Johnny Depp is suing News Group Newspapers, publisher of The Sun, and the paper's executive editor, Dan Wootton, over an April 2018 article that called him a "wife-beater." Depp strongly denies all allegations. (AP Photo)

"Johnny, when he was clean and sober, could be a wonderful person, generous, loving," she said. "He's a remarkable man when he's like that and I loved him. The other side of him was a monster but I always held out hope he would get clean and sober."

In her first three days of testimony, Heard, 34, accused Depp of an array of acts of violence, including throwing bottles at her "like grenades," headbutting her and even of stubbing out a cigarette on his cheek. She has claimed that she often feared for her life during their tempestuous relationship.

Sasha Wass, the lawyer representing NGN, read out a series of text messages that Heard had sent to her mother, including one from March 2013 that said: "He's nuts, mum. Violent and crazy. I'm heartbroken that this is who I love."

Depp denies abusing Heard and claims she was the aggressor during their relationship. He missed Heard's testimony on Thursday after arriving late to court.

Heard was followed on the witness stand by her sister, Whitney Henriquez, who was quizzed by Depp's lawyer, Eleanor Laws, about a number of alleged incidents that are at the heart of the case. Henriquez denied Laws' suggestion that she was doing her "absolute best" to throw her sister a "lifeline."

In written evidence to the court, Henriquez said she "felt sick" in September 2013 when she learned her sister was going to marry Depp and told Heard that "putting a ring on her finger was not going to stop him hitting her."

During the first two weeks of case testimony at the High Court, judge Andrew Nicol heard from Depp and from several current or former employees who backed his version of events. In his testimony, Depp said he was the one being abused by Heard and that she had a history of being violent against him.

In written testimony released to the court, Heard said that at various times during her and Depp's relationship she endured

"punching, slapping, kicking, head-butting and choking." She said some incidents were so severe she was "afraid he was going to kill me, either intentionally or just by losing control and going too far." She said he blamed his actions on "a self-created third party" that he referred to as "the monster."

Depp and Heard met on the set of the film "The Rum Diary," released in 2011. They married in Los Angeles in February 2015. Heard filed for divorce the following year, and it was finalized in 2017.

The case is due to finish next week with closing submissions from both sides' legal teams on Monday and Tuesday.

AP

Arrests made in Liverpool, Leeds after fans gather to celebrate trophy lifts

LONDON

A TOTAL of 13 arrests were made in Liverpool and Leeds as thousands of fans gathered outside stadiums on Wednesday night to celebrate their clubs' title triumphs despite warnings to stay at home.

Merseyside Police introduced a 48-hour dispersal zone around Liverpool's Anfield stadium during the club's match against Chelsea.

Nine arrests were made as large numbers congregated outside the Kop end, where Liverpool lifted the Premier League trophy after a 5-3 victory.

Ahead of the match in Liverpool, the club, council, police and supporters' group Spirit of Shankly had urged people to celebrate from their homes due to ongoing concerns over the spread of coronavirus.

"Although the numbers who gathered last night could have been significantly higher, it is still disappointing that people did not listen to requests from ourselves, Liverpool Football Club and Liverpool City Council not to gather in large numbers because of the risks still posed by COVID-19," said Merseyside police assistant chief constable Natalie Perisichine.

Thousands of supporters also celebrated outside Anfield last month when the team's first top-flight title in 30 years was confirmed and huge numbers gathered at the city's Pier Head the following night, where police reported violent confrontations.

"Officers made a total of nine ar-

rests outside Anfield last night for affray, assault, people who were drunk and disorderly and drug-driving," added Perisichine.

Leeds defended the club's decision for players to parade the Championship trophy in an open-top bus at Elland Road after their 4-0 win over Charlton on Wednesday.

In a repeat of scenes outside Elland Road when promotion back to the Premier League for the first time in 16 years was confirmed on Friday, thousands of supporters gathered to celebrate.

Four arrests were made and a police officer suffered minor injuries.

Fans were then joined by the players on the bus after their pitchside trophy presentation had concluded.

"Following consultation with the SAG (Safety Advisory Group) and (Leeds City) Council, Leeds United arranged for a bus to be parked outside the East Stand reception as a contingency to assist dispersal should a crowd congregate at Elland Road, despite a month-long campaign from the club and supporter groups to encourage supporters to stay at home," said a club spokesman.

"The safety group believed that a brief appearance from the players with the Championship trophy would help to signal an end to proceedings, encouraging fans to head home safely.

"In challenging circumstances fan safety has always been our priority."

AFP

Longest Premier League season set for nerve-racking climax

LONDON

THREE hundred and fifty-three days since Liverpool kicked off the Premier League season it will stagger to a conclusion on Sunday with unresolved issues at both ends of the table set to provide last-day drama.

Liverpool are champions and Norwich City, the side whom they beat on Aug. 9 to launch their title charge, are down and Manchester City are distant runners-up.

After that everything is up for grabs. Leicester City entered the near three-month shutdown caused by the COVID-19 pandemic looking odds-on for a top-four finish, but have faltered in the frenetic weeks since last month's restart.

Brendan Rodgers's side have been offered one last chance to seal a Champions League qualification berth, however, as they finish at home to Manchester United.

Two wins in their eight games since the Premier League resumed behind closed doors means Leicester go into the final day in fifth spot with 62 points, one point behind United who are ahead of Chelsea on goal difference.

Incredibly, after 25 games Leicester were 14 points clear of Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side and eight clear of Chelsea.

After a 3-0 defeat at Tottenham last weekend Rodgers promised the United showdown, which has effectively become a Champions League playoff, would be "all in".

United have more wriggle room as a draw would suffice but Solskjaer has promised they will go for victory.

"It's like a final," Solskjaer said. "We pinpointed the Leicester game and thought if we had the chance to go and win there (to get into the top four) we'd be delighted.

"But we've caught up and given ourselves a fantastic opportunity. But they are very dangerous."

Chelsea's 5-3 defeat by Liverpool on Wednesday means Frank Lampard's team must avoid defeat at home to sixth-placed Wolverhampton Wanderers to guarantee a top-four spot, although they could even lose, if Leicester are beaten by United.



Liverpool's players celebrate with the trophy after winning the Premier League at Anfield, in Liverpool, Britain on Wednesday. REUTERS

Conversely, Leicester could scramble back into the top four with a draw if Chelsea come unstuck against a Wolves side trying to lock down a guaranteed Europa League qualification berth.

"Not many people expected us to be in the top-four race. We now have it in our own hands," Lampard said.

Seventh-placed Tottenham Hotspur, who are one point behind Wolves, finish at Crystal Palace who have lost seven matches in a row. Seventh spot would be good enough for a Europa League berth

if Arsenal do not beat Chelsea in the FA Cup final.

At the bottom, two of Bournemouth, Watford and Aston Villa will join Norwich through the trapdoor.

Second-from-bottom Bournemouth must win at Everton and hope Watford lose at Arsenal and Villa lose at West Ham United.

Villa, who moved above Watford on goal difference by beating Arsenal in midweek, when Watford were hammered by Man City, will be guaranteed survival

if they win as long as Watford do not beat Arsenal by at least a two-goal larger margin.

Watford could stay up without securing a two-goal greater winning margin than Villa, but this would involve them making up a six-goal deficit in the goals scored column.

Villa could even survive with a loss or draw depending on other results. Calculators may be required.

REUTERS

'Fall for everything': Former South Africa star Fish in race row

JOHANNESBURG

FORMER South Africa and Lazio star Mark Fish became embroiled in a social media storm Thursday over the Black Lives Matter movement, claiming: "If you stand for nothing you will fall for everything ... all lives matter".

It began when the centre-back, who helped South Africa win the Africa Cup of Nations for the only time in 1996, said he "liked" an anti-BLM tweet.

The tweet said Springbok 2019 World Cup-winning captain Siya Kolisi was an affirmative action appointment and criticised the national cricket and rugby bodies for backing BLM.

Fish later responded to another tweet by saying "if you stand for nothing you will fall for everything ... all lives matter".

In another tweet, Fish wrote that "I love all ... no one is different ... 2000 years ago Jesus ended the debate on which lives matter. He died for all."

Fish also played for then English top-flight clubs Bolton Wanderers and Charlton Athletic before retiring in 2011 after four seasons with Johannesburg club Jomo Cosmos.

His tweets drew an angry response with many social media users accusing the one-time favourite of South African football followers of racism.

The South African Football Association (Safa) said they wanted to "engage with Mark and find out what triggered the tweets that evoked

such an angry response from South Africans".

Safa later issued a statement supporting BLM and urging South Africans to "uproot all manifestations of discrimination in sport and society generally".

Race is a hot topic in South African sport with two of the three most popular sports - cricket and rugby - accused for decades of discriminating against black players.

- Wearing black armbands -

Current national cricket team bowler Lungi Ngidi created headlines recently when he urged his teammates to back the BLM movement. Several former white national team cricketers, including Boeta Dippenaar and Pat Symcox, objected to the call from Ngidi, arguing that "all lives matter".

Ngidi was heeded, though, with all 24 black and white cricketers involved in an exhibition match last weekend near Pretoria wearing black BLM armbands.

Kolisi later joined the debate, saying racial inequality in South Africa needed to be addressed.

"It is time for all of us to change and actually start to live in a South Africa that so many people have fought for ... so many people have died for."

"I felt my life did not matter since I was a little kid growing up in the townships. 'Until our lives matter, no lives matter. We are all important, black lives actually matter," said the first black Test skipper of the Springboks.

Premier League pulls off 'Project Restart' without a hitch

LONDON

THE longest Premier League season on record will finally come to a close on Sunday just two weeks short of a calendar year since it began, but the fact it will finish on the pitch at all is cause for celebration after months of uncertainty caused by coronavirus.

In the 100 days without play between March 9 and June 17 there were huge doubts the season could be restarted in the country with the highest death toll from COVID-19 in Europe.

The return of the world's richest league has not been flawless. Empty stands have seen matches played out to the echoes of players' cries to each other rather than the atmosphere generated by full houses.

Water breaks in each half, even in matches played in rainy English conditions, and the chance for each side to make five substitutes have further disrupted the flow of a league that often sells itself on a fast-paced product.

But amid the backdrop of financial ruin that cancelling the season would have caused, those imperfections and a few drab matches were worth living with for most.

"You make the best of what you can," said Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp after his side lifted the Premier League trophy at the famous Kop end at Anfield.

"Everything would be better with fans but for months we knew that would be impossible. A few months ago I thought it was impossible that we play football."

By returning even behind closed doors, the financial implications for the Premier League of a potential £1 billion (\$1.3 billion) loss have been mitigated but not completely eradicated.

English top-flight clubs are reportedly facing a rebate bill of around £30 million to broadcasters as matches could not be completed on schedule.

- Broadcasters kept on side -

Matchday income has also been lost with no fans in the stands and it remains uncertain if and when they can return for the 2020/21 season, which is due to start in September.

Broadcasters were kept on side, though, by being awarded rights to more live games, many of which were shown on free-to-air in the UK, and a made-for-TV schedule that saw just four days without a Premier League game between June 17 and July 22.

Free-to-air games also had the added benefit of maintaining public interest with Southampton's 1-0 victory over Manchester City shown on the BBC breaking the Premier League record with a domestic audience of 5.7 million viewers.

By completing the season on the field, the Premier League has also avoided potentially very costly legal cases when it comes to who is promoted, relegated and qualifies for European competitions next season.

Liverpool got the chance to win a first league title for 30 years without the asterisk of a season decid-



Manchester United's Paul Pogba takes a knee in support of the Black Lives Matter movement (AFP Photo)

Sane says he won't suffer if City lifts Euro Cup without him

MUNICH

IN a season shaken up by the pandemic, Leroy Sane took the decision to prioritize the next one.

Spurning the chance to resume the Champions League with Manchester City, the winger decided to take the first opportunity to launch the next stage in his career at Bayern Munich, with a five-year deal confirmed early July.

Had the coronavirus not intervened to prevent the season finishing in May, Sane could have tried to lift the European Cup with City before heading home to Germany.

"Obviously it was hard for me to

say no to the Champions League - for everyone it is a dream to play in the Champions League," Sane said Thursday on a video call from Munich.

Missing the second leg of City's last-16 game against Real Madrid next month, Sane is also ineligible for a Bayern side protecting a 3-0 advantage over Chelsea.

"If (City) win (the Champions League) then I'm happy for the club, for the team, for all my friends there," Sane said. "But this was the way that I took. If it really happens, I don't really think I will suffer a lot because I made the decision and nobody else."

At 24, Sane believes his time will come again in the Champions League.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



Mwakalebela contemplating resigning from Yanga vice-chairman post

SPORT

Longest Premier League season set for nerve-racking climax

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

IPL now to start on September 19, final on November 8 or 10

DELHI

THE 2020 Indian Premier League (IPL) will be played between September 19 and November 10 in the UAE.

Brijesh Patel, the IPL Governing Council chairman, told ESPNcricinfo that the final could be played on November 8 or 10, with a definitive decision expected soon.

Even as the BCCI has set the ball rolling for relocating the IPL to the UAE, it still needs the nod of the Indian government.

Earlier this week Patel had said that the permission "will come" and had confirmed Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah will be the three main venues for the tournament.

Patel (pictured) said the tournament dates had been "circulated" among the IPL Governing Council members but he did not confirm whether there is a Governing Council meeting scheduled which was speculated to take place this weekend.

He further said that key points including the schedule along with the contours of what a biosecure bubble would comprise would be finalised and communicated to the franchisees soon.

It is understood the franchisees were informed only about the tournament dates on Thursday and were told further details would emerge soon.

One key advantage of having the tournament in the UAE is the quarantine period is less relaxed.

Currently anyone travelling into the UAE needs to test negative before flying in, and also has to take a test upon landing. If both those tests are negative there is no quarantine required.

But if a person lands without having done a test prior to flying in, then a quarantine period is mandatory.

The IPL will comprise 60 matches and will be played over 51 days (in case final is on November 8).

In the original schedule prepared in March for this year, the tournament days stretched to 50 to keep the double-headers minimal, a request of the franchisees who did not want players to suffer during the peak Indian summer.

It is likely the double-headers will remain minimal even in the UAE.

It remains to be seen whether the IPL will stick to evening matches commencing at 8pm IST despite reservations from host broadcaster Star Sports, which was sceptical about games stretching past midnight.

It is likely that the IPL will reconsider advancing the start time to 7.30 pm IST.

With the final on November 8 or 10, the Indian players will also have enough time to quarantine for two weeks in Australia for the Test series scheduled to start on December 3 in Brisbane.

AGENCIES



By Correspondent Faustine Feliciane

CRITICISM that some of Yanga members and fans have lately been heaping on the outfit's vice-chairman, Fredrick Mwakalebela, is said to be one of reasons for the official to contemplate resigning from the post.

The members and fans have been strongly criticising Mwakalebela through social media platforms' groups.

Mwakalebela on Wednesday evening expressed his disappointment over criticism he has to endure whenever something goes wrong at the club.

The official has, for

instance, come under severe criticism for seeking to see Yanga players stay at a hotel, which also harbours Lipuli FC players, before the two outfits meet in a Vodacom Premier League match in Iringa this weekend.

Mwakalebela said a section of the club's officials have also began expressing misgivings over the way he operates.

"I'm facing criticism for allegedly attempting to bring Yanga down, how can I do so? I have been experiencing plenty of unkind remarks issued by Yanga members on social media platforms, a section of officials at the club know that," he noted.

"If they feel I do not deserve to be an official at this club they should tell me so that I can opt out of the post in peace, I have honestly gone as far as thinking of resigning."

He said he has operated as an official in soccer for a long time and he always stands for professionalism.

He pointed out he has been operating professionally at Yanga in cooperation with his fellow officials but the criticism is now frustrating his efforts.

"I'm always linked with anything which goes wrong at Yanga, how can I do all that?" he queried.



Fredrick Mwakalebela

A section of Yanga stakeholders have though strongly opposed a tendency by Mwakalebela to speak of leadership wrangles at the club in the media.

The stakeholders are of the opinion the issues need to be settled within the team.

One of the side's members, Athuman Mabele, said the decision by Mwakalebela to divulge the club's

leadership chaos will fuel misunderstanding.

Mabele noted Yanga lately have many problems, citing the misunderstanding between the squad's Ghanaian winger, Bernard Morrison, and the officials, and failure by the club to win a trophy this season.

The Mwakalebela issue, he stated, will for that matter bring about more problems in the club.

Morogoro DC orders contractors to hand over Kola memorial tower on Sunday



Contractors pictured working at Kola cemetery's memorial tower in Morogoro recently. Morogoro District Commissioner, Bakari Msulwa, had ordered the project worth 18m/- must be completed this weekend. The tower is expected to be among the region's tourist attractions as it will provide details on people, who lost their lives in a fuel tanker explosion in the region last year. PHOTO: MICHAEL SIKAPUNDWA

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Morogoro

MOROGORO District Commissioner, Bakari Msulwa, has ordered contractors that are overseeing construction of the Kola memorial tower in the region, to see to it they complete the project and hand the tower over tomorrow.

The construction of Kola memorial tower, worth 18m/-, has been funded by the government.

The tower will be the region's historical site, as it is a place where a fuel tanker exploded last year, leading to loss of lives.

The District Commissioner issued the order recently during a week-long inspection of the Morogoro Municipal Council's efficiency in overseeing development projects.

Msulwa wanted to know why the council oversees a section of the development projects at a snail's pace, whereas the government has already funded them.

He said the government has handed over 18m/- for construction of over 90 cemeteries, plus a memorial tower which will display names of people that lost their lives in the fuel tanker explosion, as identified through DNA technology. "I do not expect an excuse on July 26 (tomorrow), this project has taken a long time without technical factors for the delay, serious steps will be taken for failure to hand over the site, hopefully this will be a lesson to other contractors," he disclosed. Msulwa disclosed the Kola memorial tower will be

among Morogoro's historical sites, noting he is optimistic people will visit the site for tour and worshipping.

He said a memorial site is an important thing in African culture and, for that matter, delay in completing the project discourages not only members of the deceased but also religious leaders who want to conduct a mass.

"It is our only place for praying to God for the deceased's forgiveness, please make it serious," he added.

Morogoro Municipal Council's Director, Sheila Lukuba, said apart from the memorial tower, newcomers will enjoy a modern roundabout, located at Msamvu Bus Terminal, which has decorated statues of big five wild animals available in Morogoro.

Aces A cricketers target top spot in 2020 Nasser Memorial League's Division A

By Guardian Reporter

ACES A's cricketers will be out to dislodge Gymkhana from the top spot in the 2020 Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML)'s Division A, when they confront Caravans in Dar es Salaam tomorrow.

The league's Division A has Aces A placed second in the log, two points below leaders Gymkhana that have collected four points from two victories and boast of net run rate of 3.9454.

Aces A have notched two points from the outfit's 116-run victory over GP Pak Stars in the first clash, which took place in the city early this month.

Aces A have, for that matter, recorded net run rate of 2.3200, having scored 209 runs and leaked 93 runs.

A lot is expected from both Caravans and Aces A in tomorrow's clash, as the two sides will seek to step up their pursuit of successful spell in the top tier of the league.

Aces A are set to depend on their key players including Salum Jumbe, Jaffary Kanyita, Kelvin Nassib, Kibwana Salum and Ally Mpeka to humble Caravans and put pressure on Gymkhana.

Caravans will be out to notch their first victory after they endured a wobbly start to their campaign, succumbing to five-wicket loss to SC early this month.

Caravans have posted a net run rate -0.6576 to stay fifth in the table, having scored 141 runs and leaked 142 runs.

Experienced players that include Jitin Singh, Hamisi Abdallah, Gokul Das, Adhitya Kumar, Anoop Kumar and up-and-coming all rounder Ivan Ismail are a section of performers that Caravans are highly expected to bank on for victory in tomorrow's duel.

Should Aces A come out with a resounding victory over Caravans, the former will move to the top spot depending on the better net run rate.

In the KNML Division A1, Dar Cricket Club will lock horns with GP Pak Stars B at the Leaders Club venue tomorrow morning.

Gymkhana B cricketers will confront Annadil Burhani in the tier's other morning fixture at the Annadil oval.

Union SC will take on Aga Khan SC B in the tier's third clash, to be played at Leaders Club venue in afternoon.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

MR SINGH IS THAT A MASK?



WHAT MASK?