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Saanane park registers more tourists



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New expert on older people's rights



'Seek modest hotels during coronavirus quarantines'

By Guardian Reporter

REGIONAL commissioners and regional administrative secretaries have been directed to identify affordable hotels for isolation of arrivals after a complaint emerged that those designated are too expensive.

A group of arrivals recorded and posted a video clip on social media, with one of them reading an appeal to the government to designate other isolation facilities, saying those listed cost between USD55 (over 120,000/-) and USD100 (over 220,000) per night.

"These hotels are too expensive; honorable President, honorable Prime Minister and honorable Minister Umyy (Mwalimu). We can't afford to pay these rates," said a woman in Kiswahili as others

nodded.

Speaking from what appeared to be a hotel lobby, the woman called on authorities to act quickly and designate new facilities, saying the four based in Dar es Salaam were not pocket friendly to them.

"As you can see, we have been brought here and left alone without further assistance," she said.

The clip which went viral on various social media platforms caught the attention of the minister who reacted with a directive to RCs and RASs to swing to action.

"We have received this challenge with regard to places designated for 14-day mandatory isolation for all arrivals from countries affected by

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CRDB Bank Plc managing director Abdulmajid Nsekela (R) presents a dummy cheque for 30m/- to Medical Association of Tanzania president Dr Elisha Osati in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The money is meant to go into supporting a national public education and awareness campaign on the spread of Covid-19 infections. See story on Page 13. Photo: Guardian Photographer



Consult before upcountry journeys, motorists told

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

MOTORISTS, especially those on long distances upcountry trips, need to consult with district or regional road authorities beforehand to ascertain the state of the roads since many have been damaged and bridges swept away by heavy rains.

The Minister for Works, Transport and Communications, Isaac Kamwelwe, made this appeal yesterday, pointing out many areas are damaged on the national road network.

Contractors and other road users, especially those who move equipment to different places in the country, should consult district managers of the Tanzania

Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) or regional managers of the Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS) to be sure of the state of roads.

Contractors at the Nyerere Hydropower Project in Rufiji was from last week stranded with equipment as the road to the site was deep in mud, he said.

There are three routes leading to the hydropower project, through Kibiti, Kepo and Miska, the latter being some 210 kilometres away.

Kamwelwe explained that the road at Kepo area is seriously damaged following flooding in the region, hindering motorists to use that road.

"The situation is completely unpredictable. I therefore urge motorists and those working on development projects to check with district and regional road agencies to know the state of the roads to avoid undue delays after embarking on their journeys," he cautioned.

Speaking at an event to mark the World Meteorology Day, he urged the

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Covid-19: Tourism sector now appeals for bailouts

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

TOURISM stakeholders now want the National Assembly to convene and table an emergency 'Covid-19 Bailout Bill,' to save the sector that has by and large succumbed to the wave of coronavirus travel cancellations.

Mustafa Akoonay, a corporate lawyer representing a number of entities here, said the tourism industry and related sectors in the country have been hard hit by the global shut down due to coronavirus infections and therefore in urgent need of bailout.

He said the 'Bailout Bill' can be introduced as an emergency agenda in Parliament, because things are getting bad.

"That could come in form of loans from the government, tax waiver or slashed costs of property rent," he suggested, noting that most of



He said the 'Bailout Bill' can be introduced as an emergency agenda in Parliament, because things are getting bad

his clients are seeking advice on what steps to be taken next, now that the whole world has come to a standstill.

"We do not want to see workers being sent home as companies cut down overhead costs or close shops. We also believe that wage slashing should be the last resort when all other means have failed. The tourism industry especially needs to be bailed out until things stabilize," the tourism sector advocate underlined.

"To avoid mass terminations based on operational requirements we can learn from the 2008 global economic meltdown in which many companies were rescued by being bailed out. The ongoing Covid-19 effects are reminiscent of that situation," he asserted.

Previously, Akoonay worked in the tourism

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Spain sinking, exceeds 500 deaths in one day

MADRID

THE coronavirus death toll in Spain jumped by 514 within 24 hours yesterday, as the situation in the country quickly worsened.

Official figures showed that 2,696 people had died in the country and close to 40,000 having been infected.

About 5,400 health care workers were among those confirmed cases.

Spain is the worst affected country in Europe



after Italy, which as of yesterday recorded more than 6,077 deaths—the highest in the world.

While cases were mostly concentrated in Madrid, Catalonia and the Basque Country, infection numbers were growing in other regions.

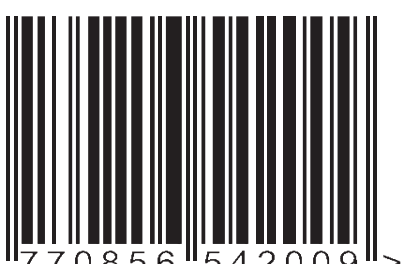
Castilla-La Mancha and Castilla y Leon, which border the capital, have seen a big jump in cases. Both regions have large elderly populations.

The capital Madrid continues to be the epicentre of Spain's pandemic, with 1,535 deaths. The north-east region of Catalonia is now also becoming a big cause for concern with 1,939 cases in the past day, higher than Madrid.

Health emergency chief Fernando Simón stressed that almost 3,800 people have now recovered from the virus but 2,636 remain in intensive care.

"This is a tough week and we are all hoping to see if we are managing to reach the peak and start

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Principal Judge Dr Eliezer Feleshi addresses journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on how the country's judicial system can use ICT to keep the spread of Covid-19 infections in check. Left is the judge overseeing the Dar es Salaam zone, Lameck Miacha. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Consult before upcountry journeys, motorists told

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public to take meteorological reports seriously to avoid damage, loss of property or death by unpreparedness.

Heavy rain has several times affected many parts of the country, blocking roads in various regions and destroying a vital bridge in Morogoro.

Media reports of closed roads in and

around the commercial capital, Dar es Salaam buzzed early in the month, while some public transport services were suspended.

Heavy rain has also affected Mbeya and Mwanza regions, where some roads have been blocked and drivers left stranded.

A bridge on the key Morogoro-

Dodoma highway collapsed on March 2 due to heavy rains. The slow pace of rehabilitating the bridge in Kilosa District of Morogoro Region irritated President John Magufuli when he made an impromptu visit there.

The Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) warned that more torrential rains are expected, in

particular in eastern areas of the country.

Heavy rain and flooding has over the last two months caused vast harm in some regions, with early February flooding in Lindi, Mwanza, Morogoro and Manyara regions left at least 40 people dead, 1,750 houses destroyed and 15,000 people displaced.

'Seek modest hotels during coronavirus quarantines'

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Covid-19. I direct RCs and RASs in all regions to identify affordable facilities," the minister posted on twitter, tagging the same video clip.

President John Magufuli announced a mandatory 14-day isolation for all arrivals from Covid-19 affected countries last Sunday which came to effect on Monday for both foreigners and Tanzanians.

The containment measure followed the doubling of cases from six to 12 at the weekend announced by the Head of State.

Eleven of the confirmed positive cases had arrived in the country from affected countries except one person, the first local transmission case registered.

Other containment measures taken include strengthening of the national Covid-19 response committee to be

under the Prime Minister's Office.

The president stressed that there was still no fatality in the country and current patients were fairing well including the first patient in Arusha whose multiple tests came out negative.

He also cancelled travel permits for government officials to countries affected by Covid-19, and sought for the private sector to also avoid non essential travels.

After the first case was confirmed on Sunday 15th March, the closure of kindergarten, primary, secondary schools, colleges and universities for 30 days was proclaimed as authorities put in place containment measures.

Entertainment activities including music bonanzas and sports were also suspended.

Non essential travels and flights have been cancelled whereas social gatherings have been discouraged to stop the virus from spreading further.

Covid-19: Tourism sector now appeals for bailouts

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industry before joining the National Assembly as MP for Mbulu in Manyara Region, and now serves as corporate lawyer heading the Akoonay and Associates firm of Arusha.

We contacted the Tanzania Tour Operators Association (TATO) executive Sirili Akko regarding the suggested bailout plan for the sector, now that the industry was on the brink of collapse.

"Through TATO, tour operators are currently arranging to consult Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa and the

bailout proposal is definitely on the agenda, to seek state assistance," he said.

More than 500 tour companies operate in the country, with the licences issued to the entire industry comprising of tourism and hospitality adding up to more than 1000 entities, stakeholders say.

Around 1.5 million tourists were already being received per year, with the country targeting to increase this flow to two million visitors by the end of this year, but now the sector is in tatters as long as travel restrictions the world over remain in place.

Spain sinking, exceeds 500 deaths in one day

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going down, with these very aggressive measures that have been imposed on Spain."

Attention has also turned to the alarming rate of infection among health professionals. Of the 39,763 infected people around the country, 5,400 are healthcare staff - meaning they make up nearly 14 per cent of those with the disease.

The government asked MPs to extend the state of alert to 11 April.

By press time yesterday, a total of 394,614 cases were confirmed globally with 17,266 deaths and 103,710 recoveries.

The World Health Organization warned yesterday that the US had the potential to become the global epicentre of the coronavirus outbreak.

Speaking in Geneva, WHO spokeswoman Margaret Harris said there had been a "very large acceleration" in cases in the country.

"We cannot say that is the case yet but it does have that potential" to become the next Covid-19 hotspot, she told reporters, Reuters asserted.

So far, there have been more than 46,000 cases in the US and 593 deaths, according to data collated by Johns Hopkins University.

The African saxophone legend Manu Dibango died in Paris yesterday after catching coronavirus.

Dibango - best known for his 1972 song Soul

Makossa - is one of the first global stars to die from Covid-19.

The 86-year-old fused jazz and funk music with traditional sounds from his home country, Cameroon.

"It is with deep sadness that we announce you the loss of Manu Dibango, our Papy Groove," a statement on his official Facebook page reads.

This is the second death of prominent entertainers after that of Republic of Congo's Sokous maestro Aurlus Mabele who also succumbed to coronavirus in Paris last week.

The organisers of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games have agreed to a one-year postponement of the event because of the global coronavirus pandemic.

Speaking to reporters yesterday, Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said the International Olympic Committee (IOC) had agreed to the delay.

An Italian priest who gave his respirator away to a younger patient he didn't know died of the coronavirus yesterday.

Father Giuseppe Berardelli, 72, died in a hospital in Lovere, Bergamo - one of Italy's worst-hit cities.

The hospital said Father Berardelli's parishioners from the town of Casnigo had brought him a respirator, but he refused to use it, choosing instead to give it away.

Traditional leaders perform rituals 'to keep Covid-19 at bay'

By Guardian Correspondent, Songwe

AS the rest of the country observes hand washing and social distancing to avoid the spread of coronavirus, traditional chiefs here have resorted to rituals in a bid to keep the disease at bay.

In what points to the need to increase public education about the dos and don'ts in relation to the novel virus, chiefs from all over Songwe Region converged in Mbozi District yesterday and performed rituals that they said could save the region from the devastating effects of the disease.

Speaking on behalf of his colleagues, chairman of the traditional chiefs in Songwe Region Mwene Nzunda said Chiefs in the region have the tradition of coming together to perform rituals during such calamities.

Mlotwa Mwang'amba of Malonji village in Mbozi District in the region said they believe that after performing the rituals, people in the region won't be affected by the calamity. "Chiefs here perform

rituals, but during the time we also urge our people to pray to God so that this calamity brings fewer effects in our country," he said.

The health officer for Mbozi district Jolamu makwelu called upon the chiefs to continue taking precautions to contain the disease as directed by the ministry of health as well as continue educating the society on the importance of hand washing practices.

Songwe region borders Malawi and Zambia but so far the region has not recorded any Corona case despite the country recording 12 cases so far.

In his address to the nation, Last Sunday, President John Magufuli said the 12 cases include eight Tanzanians and four foreign nationals who are all under medical care.

As part of the additional measures to curb the spread of the virus, the president announced that with effect from last Sunday, Tanzania will put all visitors and Tanzanians arriving from the high risk countries under quarantine at their own expenses for 14 days.



A tourist from Romania makes popcorn in style in keeping with Tanzanian 'tradition' while on a Moivaro Cultural Tourism Programme in Arusha city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

Kenya's Covid-19 patients rise to 25

NAIROBI

NINE more people tested positive for Covid-19 in Kenya yesterday, bringing the number of confirmed cases in the country to 25, Health Cabinet Secretary (minister) Mutahi Kagwe said.

Out of the nine cases, seven are Kenyans while two are foreigners.

The CS said patients have been put in isolation and are being monitored. He said that the government was tracing those who have been in contact with the patients. Mr Kagwe said that confirmed coronavirus cases are spread out in Nairobi, Mombasa, Kilifi and Kwale counties.

He said the government will carry a mandatory testing for travellers and those who have been in contact with the patients.

This followed news that a German army shipment of six million face masks needed to protect against the novel coronavirus in the European country vanished in Kenya, the defence ministry in Berlin confirmed.

"We are trying to find out what happened" to the massive order of protective equipment meeting the FFP2 standard for protection against particles and aerosols, a spokeswoman says.

News weekly Der Spiegel reported that the masks went missing at a Kenyan airport at the end of last week. It was not immediately clear why the shipment was transiting via the East African country, the spokeswoman said.

Since the outbreak of the new coronavirus, protective mask business has become a gold mine worldwide. Because of the high demand, the protective gears are traded like rare spices used to be.

Der Spiegel reported: "Insiders therefore suspect that after the deal with the German procurement office, the manufacturer might get a better price for its goods and sell the masks there (in Kenya).



Tanzania Railway Corporation director general Masanja Kadogosa pays his last respects at Lugalo Military Hospital in Dar es Salaam yesterday to the five TRC employees who died in an accident involving a train and a motor trolley. The crash occurred between Mwakinyumbi and Gendagenda stations in a Coast Region section of the Dar es Salaam-Moshi railway on Monday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

NHC tenants given one month to settle 1.3trn/- rent arrears or face legal action

By Correspondent James Kandoya

TANZANIA'S state-owned National Housing Corporation (NHC) has issued one month ultimatum to 265 former and current tenants across the country to settle their debts amounting to over 1.3trn/- or else face stern legal measures.

In the NHC statement yesterday urged the tenants to ensure that they settle their outstanding arrears on time to avoid legal measures.

The statement further revealed accrued debts amounted to 1.399 trn/-.

The statement mentioned the regions and debts in brackets as Arusha (over 9.2bn/-), Dodoma (over 5.6bn/-), Ilala (964bn/-), Iringa (over 1.9 bn/-) and Kigoma (399m).

Others are Kilimanjaro (over 15.9bn/-) and Kinondoni (over 15.4bn/-), Lindi (over 14.8bn/-), Mara (over 1.1bn/-), Mbeya (over 15.9bn), Morogoro (over 2.1bn/-), Mtwara (over 4.bn/-), Tanga (over 15.4 bn) and Temeke (over 232.9bn/-).

The statement further said it was the corporation's hope that all tenants will

clear their accrued debts on time.

On January 20 this year, Minister for Lands, housing and Human Settlements Development William Lukuvi, asked the police to find out how the state company accumulated over 8.2 bn/- (U.S.\$4.2 million) in unpaid rents by the end of 2019.

The cash-strapped NHC is being investigated for dubious sale of units and what the government termed backyard renting to individuals.

Currently, the corporation is undertaking housing projects worth about U.S. \$400 million under its ongoing investment programme, two of which according to the latest report from the chief government auditor, pose a financial risk to NHC.

The two projects worth 473BN/- (\$185 million), were to be implemented in three years and completed by 2019.

Lukuvi submitted a list of NHC houses suspected to have been sold off illegally, to the Director of Criminal Investigations. The minister said two of the houses on the list were sold to individuals, one to a foreigner without ministerial consent and approval.

Two people arrested for allegedly stealing mattresses

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

POLICE in Mbeya are holding two people for allegedly stealing 161 mattresses worth 12.5m/- from a Chinese based- Chang Qing company located in the sothern highland city. Addressing reporters yesterday here,

Mbeya Regional Police Commander (RPC) Ulrich Matei said that the suspects include the company's sales officer Fredy Ngodonki (34).

Commander Matei named the other suspect as Thadei Matamba, a mattress trader at Veta in the city.

According to him, the suspects were

arrested following an intensive patrol conducted by police on March 21 and 22, this year in various parts of Mbeya city, Mbalizi Town and Ikonya village in Mbozi district, Songwe region.

"After we had nabbed the sales officer, Ngondoki, he admitted to have stolen the 161 mattresses and sold them

to the businessman (Matamba)," he said.

Matamba also admitted to have received 143 mattresses worth 10m/- from Ndongoki but he was yet to pay the money even after being given a receipt.

"In the patrol, 89 mattresses were

found at the Matamba's house. The sales officer also admitted that he also sold 10 mattresses in Uyole area in the city."

RPC Matei said that the investigation of the case was ongoing and once completed the suspects will be dragged to court to face their charges.

He wanted the region's residents to conduct their businesses legally so as to avoid falling into hands of security organs.

Matei also urged the general public to cultivate the behaviour of cooperating with the police to unearth criminals and fight crimes in their areas.

Saanane Island National Park sees big increase in tourists in six years

By Guardian Correspondent,

Mwanza

SAA Nane Island National Park has recorded increase of both local and foreign tourists during the past six years totaling 74,890 following mobilisation and advertising the numerous attractions therein.

This was revealed by the assistant commissioner for conservation and the park's chef conservator Eva Mallya during a special programme to advertise the attractions aimed to attract more local tourists.

Mallya said the 74,890 tourists received in the Park between July 2013 and October 2019 reflects an increase of 5,968 visitors between FY 2013/2014 and 2018/2019.

She said for 2013/14 the park received 147 foreign tourists, 2015/16 451 tourists 2016/2017 (448 tourists), 2017/2018 (450), 2018/2019 (392) hence the total up to October 2019 recorded 226 tourists.

Speaking on the achievements on the increase of domestic tourists, Mallya said it was a result various efforts in advertising the attractions therein at schools, private and public institutions, and individuals.

"Among our duties in the park is to conserve breeding grounds for fish and we make regular patrols to drive away fish poachers who use nets with small mesh or dynamite, all to ensure the fish continue to breed for

future generations," she said.

She mentioned the tourist attractions in the park as including wildlife such as hyenas, wild cats, crocodiles, lizards and various types of fish, various species of snakes such as pythons, and 70 species of birds.

She mentioned planted wildlife as lions, wildebeest, zebras, monkeys, tortoises and peacocks.

In the early 1960s Saa Nane island was owned by Mzee Saa Nane Chawandi and in 1964 the government paid him compensation to give room for conservation purposes and in 2014 the island was officially gazetted a national park whose area is 2.18 sq kms including Big Chankende and Small Chankende islands.

It is 15 minutes drive from Mwanza City.

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BARRICK NORTH MARA

REQUEST FOR TENDER

NORTH MARA GOLD MINE LIMITED

Requests the Submission of Tenders for the provision of Security Services at the North Mara Gold Mine

North Mara Gold Mine Limited ("NMGM") which is owned ultimately by Barrick Gold Corporation and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, requests the submission of Tenders from interested and qualified parties, to provide mine security services within the perimeter of the North Mara Gold Mine (the "Services"). The Services will include the protection of infrastructure, plant, equipment and of the people who work at the North Mara Gold Mine, and will also involve the development of strategies to ensure the Services are provided in the most cost effective and appropriate way. Any Tenders submitted are to include techniques and strategies which if deployed at the North Mara Gold Mine would benefit relations with the surrounding community; North Mara Gold Mine is a unique and challenging environment where any successful tenderers will work closely with the local community and the mine's management team to maintain and build on the mine's social license to operate.

The contract to supply the Services is intended to be awarded through a competitive tendering process based on the evaluation criteria set out in the Invitation to Tender. North Mara Gold Mine Limited is not bound to accept the lowest Tender offer received.

If you are interested to receive a copy of invitation to tender please submit your company profile with cover letter to nm.proposal@barrick.com

The key dates for Tenderers is as follows:

Event	Date
Last Submission for Technical and Commercial Clarifications	Wednesday 01 April 2020 at 12.00 p.m. (Dar es Salaam Time)
Tender Closing Date	Monday 06 April 2020 at 9.00 a.m. (Dar es Salaam Time)
Proposed target commencement of the Services	Friday 1 May 2020

Interested and qualified parties may obtain copies of the Invitation to Tender from nm.proposal@barrick.com

Please quote reference "North Mara Gold Mine Security Services Ref: SEC03/2020" in the subject line of your email.

North Mara Gold Mine Limited
Tan House
Plot 34/1
Ursino South
New Bagamoyo Road
P.O. Box 1081
Dar es Salaam
Tanzania
23 March 2020

215679201



Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority technicians work on a pipe meant to supply water to Tatedo and National Examinations Council of Tanzania premises, Mbezi Juu and several other parts of the city, as captured yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Mbeya hospital facing acute shortage of accommodation

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

MBEYA referral hospital's maternity ward is facing an acute accommodation shortage as a result two patients sleep on one bed.

Mbeya regional medical officer Dr Salum Manyatta said on Monday when the Tanzania Postal Bank donated 300 cement bags for the construction of a maternity ward at the facility.

He said following the challenge the regional authorities in collaboration with other stakeholder's decided to begin mobilising funds for the construction of a three storey building to address challenges facing the hospital.

"On the current building we have done all we can so that our mothers do not sleep on floor. However we are determined to address all major challenges at the facility, he explained"

He said during a fundraising they collected a total of 170m/- with pledges such as cement which the bank was among the stakeholders.

Speaking when handing over the donation, the director for technology and operation at TPB Bank Jema Msuya said the bank decided to contribute after realising that the hospital was facing such a challenge.

He said the donation is worth 4.8m/- saying they were touched after receiving a request from the regional authorities.

"We know that maternity ward was very important, because children are a nation of tomorrow that is the reason we are here today," she said.

In her remarks, the medical officer of the hospital Dr Glory Mbwile said despite the accommodation incapability, the building was also in bad condition.

According to her the building is expected to cost about 3bn/- and that the cement donated will only end up in making bricks for the building.

Despite the contributions, authorities are still seeking for more support from stakeholders to ensure the project is completed.

Judiciary goes digital, embraces e-justice

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

COURTS in the country have begun using Information Technology System (ICT) in cases registration and proceedings whose aim is to simplify judiciary services by bringing them closer to the people without them going to the courts physically.

Elucidating about dispensation of judiciary services during the time the country is under the threat of Coronavirus the Chief Justice Prof. Ibrahim Juma said ICT is an important answer in preventing people gatherings of people during proceedings of various cases that will from now on be registered electronically.

He said rules for e-registration of court cases have been in place since April 13 2018 hence these rules are important now and will be distributed countrywide for the wananchi and other stakeholders to start using them.

"Use of ICT is the fruits of the five-year plan in the improvement of the Judiciary; hence our stakeholders

should abide by the set conditions, such as going to courts without crowds, washing hands, and above all, making use of ICT," said Prof Juma.

He said all criminal cases in Dar es Salaam that are adjourned for various reasons, it will no longer be necessary for the accused at Keko and Segerea remand prisons to come to the courts, instead the cases will be adjourned

electronically and soon criminal cases will be e-filed by the relevant authorities via applications that will be prepared for them.

He said the Judiciary has installed modern equipment at the Dar es Salaam Main High Court Registry, including Mbeya and Bukoba.

Others include the Kisutu Training Centre, Lushoto Judicial College,

and Keko and Segerea Prisons, and added that efforts to install similar equipment in other remaining areas are continuing.

"I as Judiciary officials at all levels that this is the time to show quality leadership in helping Tanzanians to continue getting just, legal services in a world plagued by the Coronavirus epidemic," he said.

'Poor hygiene due to lack of attention has turned Misima market hazardous'

By Guardian Correspondent, Handeni

TRADERS of Misima market in Mabanda Ward, Handeni district are in danger of infectious diseases including water borne diseases due to poor sanitation. The market place had not been cleaned for the past two months now.

Ally Ramadhan, a butcher owner at the market explained that the big problem lies on the Ward leaders and officials from the Handeni Town Council despite the fact that they collect levies.

Mwanaisha Bakari, a vegetable seller appealed to health officials to take urgent steps against those responsible for cleanliness of the market.

"I believe there is a huge conflict between Mabanda Ward leaders and council officials as for two months now the market had not been cleaned despite being a major source of the Council's revenues," said Kassim Seif, Mabanda Ward resident.

Many said the market also lacks toilets, the issue that has been the subject of complaints for a long time without response from authorities.

On his part, the chairman of Handeni Town Council Twaha Mgaya said the market is among big markets managed

by the council hence complaints were unfounded.

He said cleanliness is conducted regularly but confessed for the delay in refuse removal, and in regard to toilets he said there is one toilet even though it cannot serve all the people at the market.

He said the market that serves over 500 people cannot be left uncleaned a health risk to market goers.

"There are many toilets at the bars that surround the market as well as the office of the Ward secretary that have been of great help," saying measures were underway to address the challenges facing them.



There are many toilets at the bars that surround the market as well as the office of the Ward secretary that have been of great help



Sharik Choughule, CCM chairman for Kivukoni ward in Dar es Salaam, washes his hands moments after presenting a donation of soap and buckets to ward executive officer Remmy Mishekhe (2-nd-R) at Ferry 'bajaj' stand yesterday to help in fighting off Covid-19 infections. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

ALGIERS

ALGERIA'S health ministry said yesterday that hospitals in the North African nation can use chloroquine to treat patients infected with coronavirus.

However, the statement specifies that the drug should be used to treat "certain cases" of Covid-19, the respiratory illness caused by the virus, in accordance with "specific medical protocol".

Chloroquine is one of the oldest and best-known anti-malarial drugs - though it is no longer recommended in much of Africa because of the

resistance built up to it by the malaria parasites.

In treating malaria patients, the drug has been used to reduce fever and inflammation.

The World Health Organization (WHO) says that so far there is no

definitive evidence of its effectiveness when treating Covid-19, but it is part of the continuing trials.

"Chloroquine seems to block the coronavirus in lab studies. There's some anecdotal evidence from doctors saying it has appeared to help,"

says James Gallagher, BBC health correspondent.

Last week, there was confusion over whether the US had approved the drug to treat coronavirus. But the body licensing medicines in the US said it was still being considered.

Algeria approves chloroquine to treat Covid-19 'in certain cases'

as well as suspending public transport between cities.

It has also sent 50% of the work force on paid leave for two weeks, ordering them to stay in their homes.

Private businesses have been promised state financial assistance to compensate for their loss in wages paid to their employees and workers.

In neighbouring Morocco and Tunisia, which are also in lockdown, the army has been deployed to enforce social distancing and the closure of shops and businesses deemed to be unessential by the authorities.

Seventeen people have died of Covid-19 in Algeria, which currently has 230 cases of coronavirus, 54% of them in the province of Blida, south of the capital Algiers.

Last week, the government closed all borders, banned flights and ferries



Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development deputy minister Dr Angeline Mabula (R) has an audience with lands deputy commissioners in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Munir Shemweta

K'njaro authorities order commuter buses operators to sanitise vehicles

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

AUTHORITIES in Kilimanjaro Region have embarked on a special exercise to ensure that public bus operators and drivers adhere to all preventive measures against the COVID-19 spread which include sanitising their vehicles in every tour end.

The drivers now have an extra duty besides driving the vehicles to make sure that passengers and other people who use the cars are safe from the disease.

A survey conducted by this paper in various public stations in Moshi Municipality yesterday saw public bus operators 'forcing' their customers to wash their hands using detergents and water before entering into their vehicles.

Speaking, Kilimanjaro regional traffic officer (RTO) said: "We expect that after Moshi, this exercise will be expanded in all districts of Kilimanjaro region, we had a meeting with Transport



So now, as drivers finish the ends of their runs, they wipe down all the areas with bleach products

Regulatory Authority (LATRA), Moshi Municipal Council (MMC) authorities, and the traffic whereby in the meeting we had agreed that all bus companies and drivers have to ensure that they take extra precautions with the COVID-19 virus and thoroughly sanitising their fleets."

She added that, all bus operators should ensure that they adhere to the directives issued for best results.

"So now, as drivers finish the ends of their runs, they wipe down all the areas with bleach products," she explained.

According to latest update by the World Health Organisation (WHO), more than 200,000 confirmed cases of the Covid-19 have been reported globally killing more than 10,000 people --the vast majority in mainland China and Italy.

Elephant population on rise in Ruaha following enhancing of strategies to fight poaching - STEP

By Aisia Rweyamamu

WILDLIFE animals especially elephants in Ruaha National Park are now living a fearless life following beefed up strategies set by the government and stakeholders to fight poaching.

Unlike in the past where it was difficult to encounter wildlife animals walking in groups, because they were unstable due to the fearful life they were living.

Speaking, Frank Lihwa, an official from the Southern Tanzania Elephant Programme (STEP) based in Iringa said that poaching incidences have gone down due to strengthened patrols and community engagement.

He said that efforts done by the government and stakeholders tackling poaching in the country have seen the number of wild animals like elephants, buffaloes and giraffes also increasing.

According to him, STEP is an elephant conservation programme, working across southern Tanzania in the critical elephant ecosystems of Ruaha, Udzungwa and Selous, the homes to about half of East Africa's elephants.

According to him, since the project started in 2013, the number of wildlife seems to be increasing and animals are

now walking freely and in groups.

Lihwa told journalists recently during a field visit in the region organised by Journalist on Environment Tanzania (JET) through the project on Promoting Tanzania's Environment, Conservation and Tourism (PROTECT) funded by the USAID.

He said the project seeks to promote effective and consistent oversight by the media on reporting wildlife conservation, trafficking and poaching in Tanzania.

He added that, since 2018 they have never met a wildlife carcass resulted from poaching, the very few available are due to natural death and not poaching.

"The last time we met carcass was in 2018 but to this day there is no new carcass of elephants," he stresses.

However, he said the national ant poaching efforts has also contributed to bring positive impact to wild animals.

Lihwa said that there is also a challenge of honey hunters who are not only coming to take honey but they have also been destroying the living organism's growth system by burning down trees which is used as a food by animals.

He added: "During the dry season we have also faced the challenge of fisherman and honey hunters".

Speaking about tourism in the region,

a tourism officer from the Ministry of tourism and natural resources Paul Isazi noted that lack of adequate accommodation services in the region is among the challenges facing to sector in southern zone.

The tourism officer told journalists that more than 1500 beds are needed in order to improve the sector in the region.

He invited various stakeholders to invest in the area especially in construction of five star hotels for better tourist accommodation.

Isazi said they are working in eight southern regions of the country, to further promote the tourism industry especially in the region.

The southern highlands regions are Morogoro, Iringa, Mbeya, Songwe, Ruvuma, Katavi, Rukwa and Njombe.

Tourism activities in the park include game viewing, long and short wilderness walking safari, bird watching, picnic, bush meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner) in the untouched bushes.

Ruaha National Park is one of national parks in Tanzania. The addition of the Usangu Game Reserve and other important wetlands to the park in 2008 increased its size to about 20,226 km² (7,809 sq mi), making it the largest protected area in Tanzania and East Africa.

Villagers in Muheza District express concern over roads

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

VILLAGERS in five wards in Amani Division, Muheza District, Tanga Region say poor road situation connecting them with Muheza Town forces pregnant women to deliver babies on the way as they travel in motorcycles (bodaboda) or tricycles (bajajs) at night assisted by men.

The 40km road that connects Muheza town with Amani Division where there are many economic activities that provide much revenue to the government is in very poor state.

The villagers in Amani Division at different times said due to the poor road they feel like they are in an island of their own totally neglected by the government.

Sarah Simon, a villager, said pregnant women about to deliver hire

motorcycles to take them to Muheza designated hospital, but some of them deliver along the way.

She said small vehicles like taxis cannot come to the said villages due to poor roads; hence pregnant women deliver babies in a famous cave along the way now used for the task.

The councillor for Misalai Ward David Buge said the road condition is pathetic and even the fares have been hiked by owners of buses, motorcycles and tricycles 'Bajajs'.

He said from Fanusi to Kibaoni, Derema, Namba sita, Shamba Ngeda, Bulwa, Misalai, Zirai up to Kizerui the road is virtually impassable with many residents blaming the government for their neglect, while bus owners are planning to strike because the roads cause great damage to their vehicles.

Meanwhile, councillors in the area questioned Tarura manager for Muheza District Joseph Khahozo demanding to know whether there are plans to repair the roads in the Financial Year 2019/20.

Khahozo failed to mention the wards whose roads are earmarked for repairs in FY 2019/20.

For his part, the chairman of Muheza District Council Bakari Mhando said complaints over poor roads and electricity have reached crescendo calling on relevant authorities to solve the issues so that wananchi can be happy.

For his part, the Member of Parliament for Muheza Constituency Adadi Rajabu said a Chinese contractor has been found for the construction of the 40km Muheza-Amani road at tarmac level and work will begin any time.



POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT COMMUNICATION ASSISTANT

IITA-TZ2020-CRS-003-NRS-DSM

Background:

The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) invites applications for the position of Communication Assistant.

The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) is a member of a world-wide network of International Agricultural Research Centers. IITA's research focuses on smallholder cropping systems in sub-Saharan Africa. IITA has a regional hub in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania which co-ordinates the work of the institute in East Africa.

Duty Station:

This is a Nationally Recruited Position and the incumbent will be based in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Responsibilities:

- Document and communicate news, updates and stories from various projects for wider dissemination and contribute to the various IITA communications tools including blog, web and bulletin.
- Monitor and archive stories in the print and news media in Tanzania that cite IITA.
- Provide editorial and communication support and documentation of project activities.
- Support the production and dissemination of communication materials on IITA's technologies and success stories through writing features, press releases, production of books, training manuals, posters etc.
- Support planning and implementing information campaigns organized to promote IITA's generated findings and knowledge as needed.
- Contribute to the dissemination of knowledge and experiences of the project through participation in related events such as field visits, training and workshops.
- Perform any other activities as may be assigned by the Regional Corporate Communications Officer, Eastern Africa.

Qualification and Experience

Bachelor's Degree in Communication with at least 3 years' experience or a Post Graduate Diploma in Communications or Journalism or a related field from a recognized university.

Skills:

- Ability to conceptualize, design and implement communication campaigns, strategies and programs.
- Very good knowledge of oral and written English.
- Communication and facilitation 'generalist' – editing, writing, policy communication, community engagement, Internet tools and skills, information management, process facilitation, reporting and administration.
- Experience in working with different national media.
- Excellent knowledge of modern communication tools and approaches, and solid experience in knowledge management, including ICT and web 2.0 tools applications like wiki, Flickr, slideshare, Yammer, Youtube, Dropbox and blogging.
- Self-starter able to work on agreed priorities and deliverables.
- Excellent interpersonal and networking skills in an international environment.
- Good knowledge of the agricultural development scene.

General information:

The initial contract for the position is for two years: renewable subject to performance and availability of funds. The duty station for the position will be IITA in Dar es salaam. This is a nationally recruited position and IITA offers a competitive remuneration package.

Applications:

Applications including curriculum vitae, copies of certificates, telephone number, email address, and names and addresses of two referees should be sent to the Country Representative, IITA-Tanzania, Plot No. 25, Mwenge – Coca-Cola Road, Mikocheni Industrial Area P.O. Box 34441, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania or by email to IITA-Tanzania@cgiar.org

Applicants are requested to please indicate the reference number for the position as indicated on the heading of the announcement in your application as well as on the subject of your email if sending by email. If sending by post or hand delivery, please indicate the reference number on your application as well as on the left-hand side of your envelope.

Please note that any applications without the reference indicated will be automatically disqualified.

Closing date: Two weeks from the date of advertisement appearing in the newspaper.

Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Multi-stakeholders' partnership is badly needed in fighting COVID-19 - experts

By Guardian Reporter

THE International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases (The Union) has said that a multi-stakeholder approach to infectious disease control based on a partnership between governments, the private sectors, researchers and affected communities is essential if the COVID-19 virus is to be defeated.

José Luis Castro, Executive Director of The Union said in a media statement urging governments and stakeholders across the globe to strengthen efforts and unity to fight the spread of the pandemic disease.

According to him, as the World marked the TB Day yesterday, the organisation recognised that people living with tuberculosis (TB) are likely to be more vulnerable to COVID-19 and its effects and reiterated that it is essential to ensure that access to TB prevention, diagnosis and treatment continue in what is an unsettling environment.

"We know what works to fight COVID-19 from our experience and the tools we have developed to end TB: infection control, wide-spread testing, contact tracing, X-rays, artificial intelligence, telemedicine and psychosocial support," "Today, prevention of any disease requires in the first instance, political will - and prevention remains the biggest tool we have to address COVID-19.

He noted that there is a growing concern in the global health community of the potential impact of COVID-19 in some countries in regions such as sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia whose healthcare systems will struggle to cope with the effects of the new virus and that people affected by TB, HIV and other infectious diseases as well as prisoners, migrants, and people living in poverty, will be at greater risk of reduced access to health care.

"It is so important to put vulnerable

people first in the fight against COVID-19," said Claire Forlani, film and television actor and Ambassador for The Union. "We have learnt from many TB survivors who have gone through the isolation, fear, discrimination and stigma that we are facing with COVID-19. Let's not repeat this, let's learn from it. We all need each other. Now is the time for collaboration and sharing any practical lessons from fighting TB that we can."

"The importance of collaboration in research and development is also critical," said Professor Kevin Mortimer, Director of Lung Health at The Union. We need knowledge, resource sharing and pooling of information to maximise our ability to deliver effective care for everyone in need and develop new innovations, including a vaccine.

"It's extremely important that we don't stop here or allow ourselves to only value these systems during an outbreak - we need to maintain these principles of collaboration more broadly so that we can tackle other real and present threats to human health and to be one step ahead of future emergencies."

Castro noted: "Years of under-investment in supporting health systems in the TB response made TB and its drug resistant forms the biggest infectious disease killer with over 4000 deaths per day. We can't afford to repeat these mistakes and be unprepared for pandemics like COVID-19."

TB is now the largest infectious disease killer in the world. Some 1.5 million people die each year of TB and the number of people who develop TB disease each year - approximately 10 million - has been relatively static for decades. Today, TB disease overwhelmingly affects low- and middle-income countries, where widespread poverty, a lack of access to medical care and few public health interventions allow the disease to spread in crowded living conditions.



TPB Bank technology and operations director Jema Msuya (L) symbolically presents to Mbeya regional administrative secretary Mariam Mtunguja 300 bags of cement donated by the bank to help with the construction of a labour ward at Mbeya referral hospital. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

By Guardian Reporter

THE government in Kilimanjaro Region has warned public servants who contemplate not going to their offices on the pretext of the Coronavirus epidemic saying they will be contravening public service laws and regulations.

The warning was issued as directives to all departments by the Ag Regional Administrative Officer, Renuat Msangira.

In the directives, Msangira instructed all public servants not to use the

Govt warns public servants who will not attend work on pretext of coronavirus

Coronavirus epidemic as an excuse to contravene the laws and regulations governing public service.

Msangira further stressed that it will be an offence for any public servant not to come to the office and perform his duties.

Meanwhile, the Kilimanjaro regional Health Officer Jonas Mcharo

has called on public servants not to disregard the directives given by health experts on precautionary measures against Coronavirus disease.

For his part, the Kilimanjaro regional Medical Officer Dr Creadianus Mgimba appealed to public servants to ditch fear and instead they should continue

servicing the wananchi while taking precautions.

According to latest update by the World Health Organisation (WHO), more than 200,000 confirmed cases of the Covid-19 have been reported globally killing more than 10,000 people - the vast majority in mainland China and Italy.



Tanzania Truck Owners Association deputy chairman Elias Lukumai (R) shows items donated by transportation stakeholders in support of efforts to fight the spread of Covid-19 infections. Left is Tanzania Private Sector Foundation board chairperson Angelina Ngalula. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

THE newly appointed independent expert on older people's rights at the UN Human Rights Council, Claudia Mahler has been welcomed by HelpAge International as it prove the UN commitment to the rights of older people.

"Claudia has been instrumental in her role at the German Institute of Human Rights in bringing the rights of older people to the attention of governments and national human rights institutions around the world. She has always collaborated closely with civil society and we look forward to working with her in her new role",

HelpAge welcomes appointment of new older people's rights independent expert

said Justin Derbyshire, CEO of HelpAge International.

Claudia Mahler, who is due to take up the position in May 2020, told HelpAge International: "I am very happy about my appointment and look forward to the challenges. I rely on working with older people because they are experts on their own behalf. I will work to ensure that the rights of older persons are strengthened and that the voices of older people are increasingly

recognized in all settings around the globe!"

Claudia succeeds Rosa Kornfeld-Matte, who was the first Independent Expert on older people's rights and held the position for six years.

"Rosa has done a great service to older people during her time as Independent Expert, highlighting critical issues such as the implications of new technologies on older people's rights and the need for a UN convention on the rights of

older people," said Derbyshire.

He added: "We thank Rosa for all her work in establishing this important role with the UN human rights system".

Independent human rights experts report and advice on human rights in all parts of the world from a thematic or country-specific perspective.

They work on a voluntary basis, are independent from any government or organisation and serve in their individual capacity.

Traders warned against price hikes amid COVID-19 epidemic

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

TRADERS in Ruvuma region have been warned against unlawful price hike of essential commodities amid the battle against the spread of COVID-19 infections.

Songea District Commissioner Pololeti Mgema said that there were some of dishonest traders in the district who are taking advantage of the situation by increasing the price of goods saying that stern measures will be taken against any trader who will be found doing so.

Addressing traders and transport stakeholders meeting on behalf of the regional commissioner, Mgema said traders found to be hiking prices of the commodities could be subject to action under the country's laws.

He directed experts to conduct regular inspections in shops and trading centres to find if the directives are well adhered to.

He said the government will continue taking proactive actions by conducting regular monitoring and inspections to ensure that consumers are well served with fair prices.

He also said that traders who engage in substandard goods will face penalties as per the law.

"The government requests the general public to report any unnecessary hike of prices for a quick feedback. Traders involved shall be punished in accordance with commercial laws... we encourage consumers to submit complaints to the government whenever they notice price hike situations on the essential commodities," he added.

Meanwhile, DC Mgema wanted operators and drivers of public buses to ensure that their vehicles are always clean and passengers are sanitized.

"Essential cleanliness equipment such as hand wash soaps and sanitisers should be stationed in bus stations and inside the vehicles for passengers to

wash their hands before entering into the buses," he said.

For his part, Regional Traffic Police Commander Salumu Morimori said that in order to win the battle against Covid-19, concerted efforts were needed to supervise health experts' directives.

He directed bodaboda drivers to stop carrying more than one passenger warning that stern measures will be taken to anyone found violating road safety rules and regulations.

According to latest update by the World Health Organisation (WHO), more than 200,000 confirmed cases of the Covid-19 have been reported globally killing more than 10,000 people - the vast majority in mainland China and Italy.

To prevent the spread of coronavirus, experts advise that there should not be unnecessary overcrowding in markets or shopping centres.

They advise that a distance of one meter among customers and the dealer is 'a must'. To contain further spread of Covid-19, efforts have been taken by various states which include closure of public and private schools, putting sanitisers in public places, among others.

The general public has been urged to follow specific preventative instructions including washing hands regularly, avoiding large gatherings and reporting any coronavirus signs and symptoms.



...we encourage consumers to submit complaints to the government whenever they notice price hike situations on the essential commodities



Rhobi Samwelly (C), executive director of Hope for Girls and Women Tanzania, with girls who escaped being subjected to female genital mutilation and are cared for at a "safe home" at Mugumu in Serengeti District, Mara Region. This was on Monday, shortly after the centre received the Land Cruiser Hardtop pictured donated by USAID. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Beatrice Philemon

PWDs at Lukooni village appeal for govt and donor support to improve their lives

A TOTAL of 35 persons with disabilities at Lukooni village, Chanika Ward in Ilala District, Dar es Salaam are appealing for the government, stakeholders and donors support to enable them embark on economic activities to improve their incomes and become more independent.

Speaking to journalists in Dar es Salaam, Said Kwaro, a 82-year-old man and a person with disability from (UKWACHA) a Chanika-based group said that they have been living a vulnerable life due to lack of capital and equipment for them to initiate income generating activities.

"We are asking for support from financial institutions and other well wishers who can support us to buy motor vehicles or land where we can initiate vegetable farming to improve our livelihood," he noted.

According to him, the situation is

worse as most of them are homeless and they are daily struggling to get something to eat and whenever they fall sick they can only use herbs instead of going to hospitals for proper treatment. "So far, the group has 35 members ranging from crippled, persons with albinism, and persons with vision impairments, among them 20 are women and 15 are men.

Kwaro said that the group is also urging the government to allocate a special land for them so that they can build their own houses and reduce cost used for house rent.

"We will also be happy if we can get motorcycles and sewing machines so as to help us expand our businesses, we have all the ability to engage to

the named activities so no one should worry about our fitness," he added.

Currently the group has one maize milling machine in area, but they are struggling to get raw materials to produce flour that in turn can help them to improve their livelihood, pay school fees for their children, medical bills and other social services.

So far all members of the group are largely dependent on the maize milling machine that they have to survive, obtain cash for medical bills and other social services.

"Lack of raw materials to be used for flour milling has affected members' lives, the milling machine which we have now was donated to us in 2016 by the former Ilala Municipal Council

Mayor, Jerry Slaa," he said.

Kwaro further said that the only farm which the group was owning has forceful been taken by someone who is now practicing vegetable farming living them with nothing. "As you can see, our lives have changed, people are starving, homeless, they can't manage to put food on the table or pay medical bills," he said.

He said from 2004 to 2016, the group was working in its farm and was able to generate incomes from it thus reducing life challenges.

Through farming together, we were able to do business with different people and get income that in turn allowed us to improve our living standards.

People living with HIV/Aids advised to follow health expert advice to stay safe during Covid-19 epidemic

By Correspondent James Kandoya

PEOPLE living with HIV/AIDS in the country have been urged to make well use of the advice provided by health experts for them to stay safe during this time when the world struggles to contain the spread of the Covid-19 infections.

Chairperson of the National Council of People Living with HIV/AIDS (NACOPHA) Leticia Morris made the advice over the weekend during the tour to inspect the projects in Morogoro region.

The projects worth 15m/- were established to eliminate stigma in clusters located in Mlimba, Kilombero and Gairo districts in the region.

"It is very important to follow what our health experts' tell us in order to be free from the deadly disease which has killed thousands of people in the world," she said.

She said that the experience had shown that COVID-19 affect many with weak body immune and therefore they were supposed to be carefully.

Citing the projects management, she said lack of knowledge among the groups was a big challenge facing them.

She said the project dubbed 'Tuyajenge' has planned to reach 65 clusters while the previous project dubbed 'Sauti Yangu' reached 46 clusters.

The chairperson visited rice processing project locate in Mlimba and during the tour, she

For his part, the Morogoro Region Aids Control Coordinator Dr Emanuel Mihayo urged them to ensure that all projects were supervised in a good manner in order to make them sustainable.

Apart from the project management, it was important for them to test for viral workload, nutrition as well as using Antiretroviral (ARV) at right time to avoid all related challenges.

NACOPHA manager in Dodoma region Edna Edson underscored the need to having small-scale projects managed by the groups.

She said through the groups members can easily be in a position to be future entrepreneurs hence on so doing generate income.

On March 12 this year, the Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa launched an ambitious nationwide campaign which engages religious leaders as front-runners in the fight against HIV and AIDS.

The campaign christened "Hebu Tuyajenge Tufike 95-95-95" (Let's commit to attain 95-95-95), a brainchild of the national assembly and the national council of people living with HIV and AIDS, seeks among other things to end stigma and places more focus on best preventive approaches to fight the epidemic.

"I urge all the religious leaders to use their associations and powers to help end stigma especially among the children," the premier urged while guaranteeing government's support in the cause.

He said; "The government is committed in ensuring it sets a supporting environment to ensuring all programmes seeking to end HIV and AIDS become successful," he assured.

Statistics shows that about 1.4 million people are currently living with HIV, and approximately 11 percent of them are children under 15. Among young people aged 15 to 24 years, the average HIV prevalence is 3.6 percent and is significantly higher among females than males.

"It is very important to follow what our health experts' tell us in order to be free from the deadly disease which has killed thousands of people in the world"

Main defensive weapon against Covid-19 is regular washing of hands, minister says

By Guardian Correspondent, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR'S Health Minister Hamad Rashid Mohamed has said the main defensive weapon against Covid-19 disease is for the people to remain in their homes and stop roaming about in people's gatherings.

He expressed this when he spoke to reporters on various steps taken by the government against the epidemic.

He called upon the wananchi to continue taking more precautionary measures to protect themselves against the disease including avoiding gatherings and unnecessary trips.

"It's better you remain indoors if it's not necessary to go to the market," he said and advised the wananchi to develop the habit of washing hands every after one hour to protect themselves against the disease.

He said the government is adequately

prepared to make sure all incoming visitors are quarantined for 14 days on their own expenses and called upon Zanzibaris outside the country, especially in countries with the disease to remain where they are.

However he said so far only one person has been found with Covid-19 infection and continues to receive treatment at a special centre at



It's better you remain indoors if it's not necessary to go to the market

Kidimni in Zanzibar Central District.

He also advised the wananchi to avoid huge gatherings as they do when going to hospitals to see their sick relatives suffering from various diseases.

In the meantime despite government's order to close schools and madrasas so that children remain at their homes, many children are seen roaming about in the streets, the situation that he said was hazardous to them.

Tanzania Media Women Association (TAMWA) has called upon parents, guardians and the society in general to ensure children remain at home during the period.

Speaking to reporters TAMWA Director for Zanzibar Dr Mzuri Issa said children could be seen playing or roaming about in various areas posing risks be infected with the disease.

Jubilee
INSURANCE

Jubilee Insurance Company of Tanzania is a top ranking insurance company operating in Tanzania. They wish to recruit the following personnel for their head office in Dar Es Salaam.

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- Excellent analytical, interpersonal, facilitation, and negotiation skills.
- Should possess sufficient capability for business communication, financial analysis & presentation.

REQUIREMENTS

- Should have at least 15 years of experience in a general insurance company with at least 8 years as head of underwriting/claims/re-insurance.
- Should have ACII or equivalent qualifications with a post-graduate degree.
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Only Tanzanian Nationals should apply.

The ideal candidates should exhibit high levels of professionalism, integrity and professional ethics.

The company offers competitive compensation package based on candidate's experience and qualifications.

Interested candidates should forward their detailed resume stating name, age, qualification details, all experience details, telephone numbers and email address via electronic application to consultancy@genius.co.tz

Applications should clearly mention post/function being applied for along with current remuneration.

Submit your electronic application before the Friday April 10th 2020.

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yapi merkezi

CONDOLENCE MESSAGE

THE Board of Directors and the Management of Yapi Merkezi, the Contractor who is building the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) from Dar es Salaam to Makutopora, Dodoma, wish to express their heartfelt condolences to the Minister for Works, Transport and Communication, Engineer Isack Kamwele and Management of the Tanzania Railway Corporation (TRC) following the deaths of five TRC workers in a sudden railway accident that occurred in Tanga on March 22, 2020. The TRC has lost highly dependable workers.

Yapi Merkezi joins the TRC and the bereaved families in mourning the untimely deaths of the workers in this very difficult period.

God gave and has taken. The name of the Lord be praised.

AMEN.

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The Guardian

www.ippmedia.com

WEDNESDAY 25 MARCH 2020

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Railway accident, fatalities an indicator of unfinished reforms

DISBELIEF was the way many people reacted to the news about a head-on crash of a railway line trolley car and a train where five officials of the Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC) lost their lives and others are being treated in hospital. It was a case where a 'rescue train,' implying it was on special duties for instance conveying repair materials or conducting inspections as was the case in this incident, was not aware of another service or inspection vehicle coming from the opposite direction. It was a total breakdown of communications, apparently.

Readers with some long memories will recall how in 1998 there was a ghastly accident that led to the loss of lives of some 300 people on the railway track beyond Dodoma to the sloping plateau towards Tabora. It was also a restive environment where workers' unions were at loggerheads with the third phase government on a whole host of things, partly having to do with scheduled privatization and how workers' welfare would be sorted out. None of these issues was ever really clarified - as such explanation wouldn't serve much of a purpose.

It is hard to see what is the difference between that situation and the present environment or incident, except that there is no privatization going on, nor indeed are there cut-throat issues of workers' welfare at TRC. Instead, there are two situations mirrored in this incident, where on the one hand Tanzania is building a highly modern speed train railway line, and then it demonstrated surprising levels of incompetence in maintaining its old fashioned steam engine railway line. How far does it translate into capacity for running a modern railway system,

at present?

These are questions for which there are no simple answers, as during the earlier period those in government and a section of academia and especially foreign think tanks had a simple answer to all this: privatization. There is however plenty of evidence as well that in advanced countries some huge accidents were explained from excessive deregulation, lack of peer review on what a company is doing. It would appear that there is a similar climate here as TRC isn't regulated by anyone but itself, and the worst it can suffer is to lose its chief executive and get another.

At the time that the liberalization and privatization approach to reform was ditched, gradually during the third phase and more emphatically during the fourth phase and its being a non-issue at present, another view came up.

The World Bank, which is often wrongly criticized as a privatization champion whereas some of its top economists have battled it stridently, in office and well beyond their terms of office, came up with the capacity building strategy. We could measure TRC way of handling operations by that precept, but even in 1998 total communications failure was something difficult to comprehend, but a repeat 22 years later is even stranger.

There is an expression about the need for special solutions for special problems, and perhaps there is something of that sort here. It will be up to top levels of the government in the relevant ministry and other think tanks or advisory bodies to figure out if the same management that has a trolley car colliding with a service train can run a rapid train network. There ought to be clear answers on that matter.

It's definite: The sun is rising on revolution in Africa's solar power

MANY countries have installed significant solar power capacity into their electrical grids to supplement or provide an alternative to conventional energy sources. Solar power plants use one of two technologies: Photovoltaic (PV) systems use solar panels, either on rooftops or in ground-mounted solar farms, converting sunlight directly into electric power. Concentrated solar power (CSP), also known as "concentrated solar thermal" plants use solar thermal energy to make steam, that is thereafter converted into electricity by a turbine.

Worldwide growth of photovoltaics is extremely dynamic and varies strongly by country. By the end of 2016, cumulative photovoltaic capacity increased by more than 75 gigawatt (GW) and reached at least 303 GW, sufficient to supply approximately 1.8 per cent of the world's total electricity consumption. The top installers of 2016 were China, the United States, and India. There are more than 24 countries around the world with a cumulative PV capacity of more than one gigawatt. Austria, Chile, and South Africa, all crossed the one gigawatt-mark in 2016. The available solar PV capacity in Honduras is now sufficient to supply 12.5 per cent of the nation's electrical power while Italy, Germany and Greece can produce between 7 per cent and 8 per cent of their respective domestic electricity consumption.

After an almost two decade long hiatus, deployment of CSP resumed in 2007. However, the design for several new projects is being changed to cheaper photovoltaics. Most operational CSP stations are located in Spain and the United States, while large solar farms using photovoltaics are being constructed in an expanding list of geographic regions. As of January 2017, the largest solar power plants in the world are the 850 MW Longyangxia Dam Solar Park in China for PV and the 377 MW Ivanpah Solar Power Facility in the United States for CSP.

In the same vein, a new report released by the German Solar Association (BSW-Solar) and the Becquerel Institute have

revealed that with the arrival of many international investors and the race for solar projects, Africa is on track to multiply its current solar capacity six-fold or 30 gigawatts (GW) by 2030.

According to the Solarise Africa Market Report, the solar potential in Africa is at least as great as the demand.

It is estimated that Africa will need about 2,000 terawatt hours (TWh) of photovoltaic energy to decarbonize the continent's electricity consumption by 2040.

The report was based on an analysis of the top 10 African countries with the highest solar potential, namely: Egypt, Morocco, Nigeria, Ghana, Algeria, Ethiopia, Angola, Namibia, South Africa and Tanzania. The report indicates that Africa accounts for only 1 per cent of the world's installed photovoltaic capacity. However, during 2018, the continent developed an additional 1 GW, representing a 25 per cent growth rate for the sector.

In February 2016, Morocco inaugurated "Noor", the seventh largest thermodynamic solar power plant in the world. Only eight months later, in October 2016, Senegal inaugurated "Senegy 2", the largest solar power plant in West Africa with 75,000 photovoltaic panels and a capacity of 20 megawatts (MW), covering the needs of 200,000 Senegalese households.

The most recent, the Zagtoui power plant in Burkina Faso, with a maximum production capacity of 33 MW, has in turn become the largest solar farm in West Africa.

The Egyptian government announced, last week, the inauguration of the largest solar plant in the world built in the eastern region of the Sahara Desert. The plant is set to produce between 1.6 and 2.0 GW of solar power by mid-2019.

The Benban solar park is set to generate the equivalent of 90 per cent of the energy produced by Aswan's High Dam.

Already home to the most important electricity production plant in Egypt, Aswan is set to bear and implement Egypt's dream of having 20 per cent clean energy by 2022.

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By Teresa Anderson and Niclas Hällström

LIKE the climate crisis, coronavirus and its spiralling impacts will hit women, the poor and marginalised the hardest - that is not an acceptable trade-off for reducing emissions.

With the coronavirus pandemic gripping the planet, industries are shutting down, planes are being grounded and shoppers are staying home. COVID-19 has already reduced China's greenhouse gas emissions by 25 per cent. Other countries may experience similar trends, leading to lower emissions in 2020 than in previous years.

But this doesn't mean that we should be cheering the climate benefits of the outbreak.

Instead, advocates for climate justice recognise that like the climate crisis, the pandemic and its spiralling impacts, will hit women, the poor and most marginalised the hardest.

We believe that responses to climate change - and all global emergencies - must have social justice at their core. This means rejecting the idea that the suffering of vulnerable people and increasing inequality are acceptable trade-offs for reducing emissions.

The global response needed for the pandemic provides lessons for the action needed to tackle climate change. Governments, movements and society must internalise these principles to address these emergencies with

By Abdul Savage

THERE are two features, two crucial mechanisms that must be present and in place for democracy to stand, survive and flourish.

And these two mechanisms or features are: The smooth transition of power, and term limits.

As to the first, we, as a nation, are unsure if we do have or possess that mechanism. We have not tested yet if we have a "smooth transition of power".

Throughout our history of self-rule, we have only had two incidents of transfer of power, and both times were not what you would call "smooth transition" of power. The 1994 coup was not a "smooth transition" of power, and 2017 was certainly not another smooth transition.

And so, after all is said and done, as a nation, we have not yet tested whether or not we have the mechanisms in place to endure a prominent feature of democracy: the smooth transition of power.

And as to term limits, I submit we are far away from that. The CRC (Constitution Review Commission) is yet to make any recommendation that have been adopted or incorporated into the Constitution and become law. This means that as you read this, the

Just how to bring climate justice thinking to COVID-19 pandemic...

solutions that ensure justice for all:

Equality: Governments must protect women, the poor and vulnerable from both crises and their impacts, valuing every human life equally regardless of nationality, wealth, gender, race or age. Similarly, it is not acceptable for one generation to continue business-as-usual in the knowledge that they are relatively safe, while increasing the risk and impact for another generation.

Social protections: Free, universal healthcare, paid sick leave and unemployment benefits for workers in the formal and informal economies, are urgently needed so that people don't have to choose between protecting their livelihoods and protecting society during the pandemic. Similarly, social protection measures, such as job guarantees, income support or guarantees of the same wage and benefits, will be key to helping workers in carbon-intensive industries make a just transition away from jobs that harm the climate. Governments must also address the fact that women are disproportionately affected by both crises, as they tend to carry a greater burden of unpaid care and frontline work.

Solidarity: No country can 'go it alone'. Governments must work

together and avoid retreating into nationalistic and competitive approaches. As with climate change, wealthy countries must do their 'fair share' and scale up financial and technology support for lower-income countries. True solidarity also means embracing and sharing solutions, many of which are being pioneered in the Global South.

The 'invisible hand of the market' won't fix this: Both crises show the need for deep systemic change. These emergencies expose the injustices of neo-liberal economic systems, in which powerful corporations prioritise profits over the common good and do all they can to avoid regulations. Governments' responses to the pandemic require them to make public policy decisions, including strong regulatory measures, in the interests of their citizens rather than their corporate political donors. Calls for a massive scaling up of public financing, and nationalisation of health and other services to deal with the pandemic, must be expanded to energy, water provision and public transport.

Build back better: When crises hit, responses must strengthen people's ability to cope with future emergencies. Just as responses to the pandemic

must protect society now and in future, humanitarian responses to climate disasters must also strengthen communities' longer-term resilience through social protections and climate-resilient interventions.

It's never too late to act: Every day that passes counts. Every action that limits harm is worth it. Even if we're slower out of the starting blocks than we should have been, we must start now. Giving up is not an option, however bad the situation may appear.

Do what it takes - but don't abuse power: As many governments have been slow to take stringent measures to halt the pandemic, citizens have called for stronger measures to contain the crisis. Society has shown its willingness to accept inconvenience, strong government intervention, social protections and yes, less shopping and flying, if it means protecting millions of vulnerable lives. Governments must take heed of this. Our resolve to do what it takes to solve the climate crisis, in ways that advance social justice, is just as strong. But they must not abuse their power, nor cement measures taken in times of emergency into authoritarian limits on freedom after the crisis has passed.

Is the Gambia truly ready for democracy?

1997 Constitution, with all its flaws, is still law of the land. You do not need to be reminded that the 1997 Constitution was adopted during the Jammeh regime, and which dictator Jammeh used brilliantly to solidify his brutish rule. And that 1997 Constitution made no reference on term limits for high political offices.

The Barrow government was generally considered and perceived to be a "transitional government", and as such, was expected to put in place the mechanisms to ensure term limits and the "smooth transition" of power. And by all indications, estimates and forecasts, it is safe to ascertain that Adama Barrow will not be receptive to any suggestion of term limits, especially term limits of only two terms.

And if Adama Barrow wins this upcoming election, The Gambia will still not have tested whether or not it can ensure a smooth transition of power. So, throughout our self-rule to date, well over half a century now, and counting, The Gambia has not peacefully transitioned power from one leader to another within its own borders.

True, our young and fragile "Democracy" is still at its infancy, but

the mechanisms are in place, the "baby steps" needed are going to be fraught with hiccups that are anything but democratic. On the contrary, the mechanisms need to be in place so that the "baby steps" this Young Democracy takes will be rested on concrete, solid foundation.

It all starts with the Constitution and ends with the Constitution. The 1997 Constitution needs a complete make over, a thorough sober and drastic overhaul.

In a few months, political parties and politicians will start gearing up for the campaign season, leading up to the presidential election in early next year.

Is The Gambia truly ready for Democracy?

True, the pluralism of our politics breeds diverse participation, albeit concentrated in one or two dominant players, but the future of our political discourse and landscape will benefit enormously from a fresher, newer and younger dynamism if and when term limits are in place. And this is what our Young Democracy needs the most at this crucial junction in our history.

Term limits should not only be considered for the Presidency, but also for the Legislature, that is, the

National Assembly members. Imagine for a second, both the Presidency and National Assembly members have a term limit of two five-year terms, or some other term limits, as determined by the Constitution.

The two, smooth transition of power and term limits, work in tandem.

It is difficult, or even impossible, to say you have a smooth transition of power or term limits when it is the same Folks who have been there for donkey years.

We all understand different political or non-political landscapes operate under different sets of circumstances, events and so on. AND as such, we must give the Gambia a sense of hope not shrouded in, or wrapped around egos, self-centered perspectives, interests or other ulterior motives.

As a Nation, it would be extremely difficult, if not, impossible, to totally and fully eliminate the Vices of Cronyism and Favoritism, BUT together we can, again, as a Nation, minimize and reduce its dreadful impact on our socio-economic and political development. Democracy, TRUE Democracy allows for diverse points of view, tolerance and participation. Are we TRULY ready for that as a Nation?

Stronger UN leadership needed to cope with coronavirus threat

SYDNEY and KUALA LUMPUR

THE economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic is hard to predict as events are still unfolding, and estimates vary dramatically. UNCTAD estimates lost output in the order of US\$1 trillion, just over a third of Bloomberg's expectation of US\$2.7 trillion in losses. The OECD expects global economic growth to halve from already anaemic levels.

Dire consequences for achieving the already failing Agenda 2030 for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are inevitable. Developing countries are particularly vulnerable, with meagre resources available for the new threat and its consequences.

As resources are urgently needed to cope with the pandemic, their ability to spend on other development priorities will be even more constrained. As with previous economic and health crises, poor and vulnerable sections of the population will be worse affected.

Ahead of the forthcoming G20 leaders' virtual emergency meeting, the UN Secretary-General warned that current national responses to the coronavirus pandemic "will not address the global scale and complexity of the crisis".

Millions could die without a more "coordinated global response, including helping countries that are less prepared to tackle the crisis", as "global solidarity is not only a

moral imperative, it is in everyone's interests".

Impact on developing countries

Besides the direct socio-economic impacts of the Covid-19 crisis, the pandemic will affect developing countries otherwise via: global value chain and tourism disruptions, falling commodity prices and foreign direct investment, as well as the consequences of capital flight and a stronger dollar.

Analysts project reduced investments in global value chains, energy, mining, and other sectors, as well as falling travel and tourism in African countries due to reduced Chinese demand for raw materials as its economy slows further. Sub-Saharan Africa is also expected to lose up to US\$34 billion in export revenue due to reduced global demand, especially collapsing oil prices.

Commodity prices have already fallen sharply, and exporters expect more problems due to falling demand as the global economy slows. Heavily indebted developing countries are in a particularly difficult situation as their exports decline with falling global demand, and import and debt service costs rise due to weaker currencies as money flees to 'safe havens'.

The Institute for International Finance estimates that around US\$67.45 billion has flowed out of emerging countries since late January, an amount larger than emerging



market capital outflows in the aftermath of the 2008-2009 global financial crisis and the 1997-1998 Asian financial crisis.

Impacts on working people

A new International Labour Office report projects almost 25 million jobs could be lost worldwide, and workers could lose some US\$3.4 trillion in income by year's end.

Without paid sick leave, workers in the informal economy cannot afford to stay home.

Lockdowns will disproportionately hurt low-income households, casual workers

and the poor, especially where social protection is grossly inadequate. Many lack the means to stockpile food or seek medical treatment.

Malnutrition, poverty and hunger induced health stresses compound vulnerability and feed vicious cycles of disease, destitution and death. As the Ebola epidemic revealed, poverty worsens contagion, which can, in turn, deepen poverty.

Studies of 11 sub-Saharan African, South and Southeast Asian countries found that without universal health coverage, poor people respond to health shocks with impoverishing 'distress sales' of their limited assets and

by taking on more usurious debt.

Urban slums and refugee camps can become virus hotspots. For the world's more than 65 million displaced people, who have fled war and persecution, and live precariously, the risks posed by the pandemic are dire.

By disrupting economic activity and cutting incomes, the pandemic is a new cause of impoverishment, besides limiting the ability of vulnerable households to escape from - and stay out of - poverty.

Support measures lack coordination

As of 9 March 2020, 'donors' (including governments, multilateral organizations and private funders) had

pledged or given an estimated US\$8.3 billion - directly to countries and to the WHO - for COVID-19 responses.

This included US\$15 million from the UN's Central Emergency Response Fund to help vulnerable countries, not very much as the organization struggles with its own persistent underfunding.

Meanwhile, the World Bank announced US\$12 billion in immediate support, while the International Monetary Fund (IMF) made available about US\$50 billion in emergency financing for low income and emerging market countries, and "stands ready" to use its US\$1 trillion lending capacity to help countries coping with the pandemic.

Concessional support from the IMF and the World Bank usually comes with onerous "one-size-fits-all" policy conditionalities, typically favouring influential shareholders.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Wellcome Trust have set up a US\$125 million coronavirus drug fund, while Michael Bloomberg's US\$40 million plan seeks to stem the coronavirus spread in developing countries. Philanthropic support is typically oblivious of national development priorities, and may 'distort' public health or social protection.

These funds are inadequate, given the scale and complexity of the problem, especially as an early end to the pandemic remains highly unlikely. Different modes of pandemic control need to be considered to minimize the scale of disruption and threat.

Crucially, multilateral coordination remains seriously lacking beyond the valiant efforts of the WHO in the face of persistent criticisms and its own financing problems. The UN should show how slow progress on the SDGs has made us all much more vulnerable to the pandemic and its various consequences.

It will be important for the UN to play a stronger coordinating and leadership role, e.g. with the UN Sustainable Development Group (UNSUNG) rapidly assessing the adverse impacts and funding needs of the Covid-19 pandemic in relation to Agenda 20.

Agencies

Could another regional alliance be what the Horn needs?

BY SELAM TADESSE DEMISSIE

THE new regional cooperation between Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia comes amid a long history of distrust and unresolved boundary disputes between Ethiopia and Eritrea, Djibouti and Eritrea, and Kenya and Somalia. It also comes on the heels of internationally praised rapprochement between Ethiopia and Eritrea.

In July 2018, neighbours Eritrea and Ethiopia ended their two decades of no war, no peace over the 1998-2000 border dispute war. A few weeks later, Eritrea and Somalia agreed to resume diplomatic relations, ending over a decade of tensions. Since 2006, Somalia has accused Eritrea of supporting the Islamic militant rival group to the transitional government in Mogadishu while Ethiopian troops were supporting the latter.

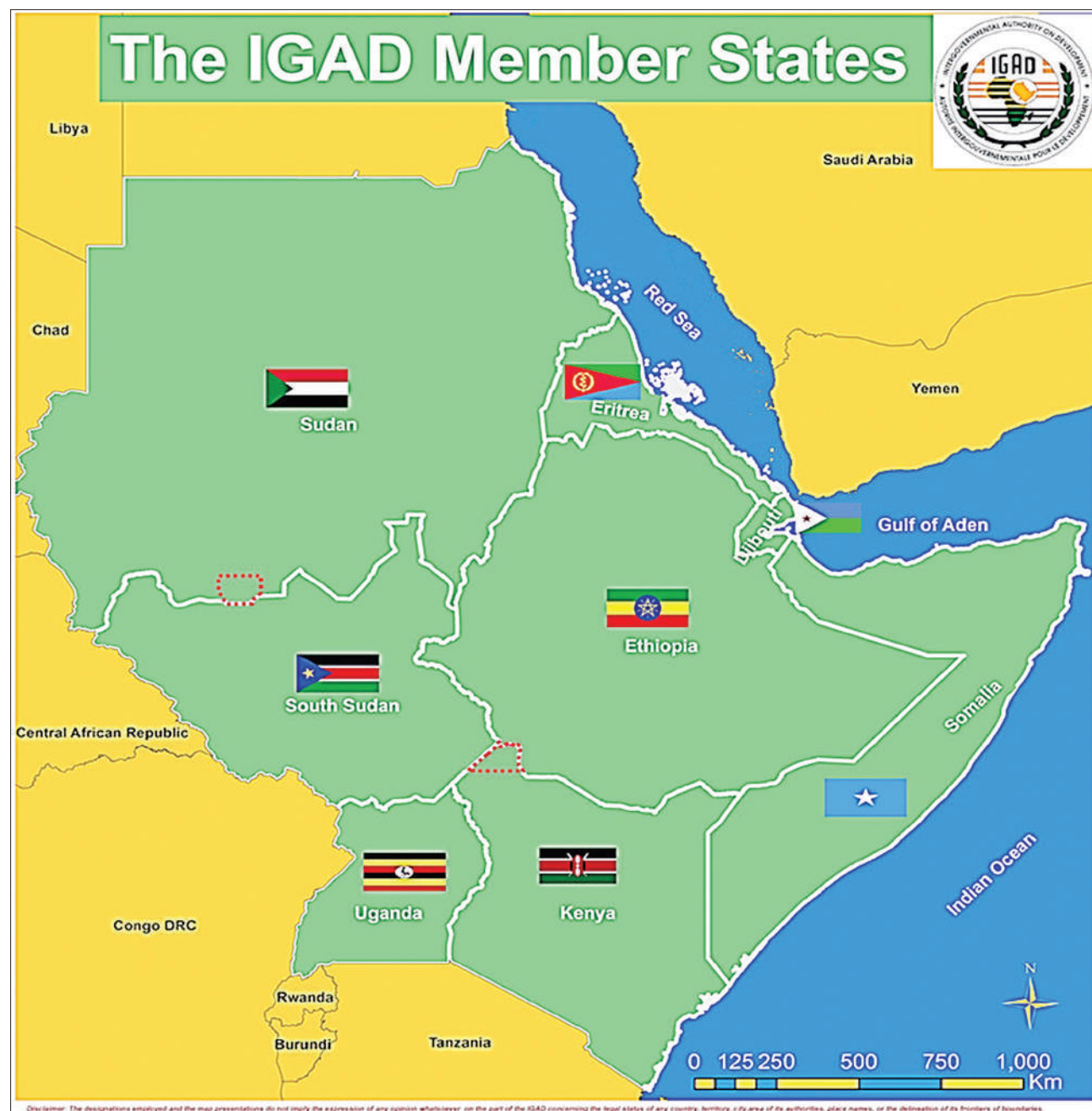
In September 2018, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia held their first meeting to build comprehensive cooperation, resulting in a joint commitment to build closer political, economic, social and security ties and promote regional peace and security.

Many observers have wondered about the motivation behind this new alliance and its impact on interstate relations in the Horn of and East Africa, and what it means for the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) regional body.

IGAD has a robust security sector and counter-terrorism programmes - what new approaches does the alliance propose?

What value would a new regional bloc of three states bring to the vast and diverse East African region? And might it add to the complexities and tensions in an already fraught region, or reduce them? What does it mean for interstate relations in the region and for the future of IGAD?

The cooperation could contribute to regional stability in two ways. First, it already represents an improvement of relations among previously conflicting countries. It could also help Eritrea and Ethiopia align their vision on how to resolve Somalia's conflict. This is critical



in the context of the proxy war between the two countries over Somalia's internal politics.

Second, if managed well the new cooperation could be a vehicle for Eritrea's return to the IGAD family. Eritrea has stayed away from IGAD since its suspension in 2011. Eritrean leaders have made it clear that it will only rejoin a reformed IGAD, and it's hoped that this new alliance could provide opportunities for this to happen.

So the new cooperation, by virtue of rapprochement among the three, opens the door for IGAD to constructively engage its member states on issues that concern the region. The fact that Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia initiated efforts to mediate the conflict between Djibouti and Eritrea also highlights the bloc's potential to stabilise the region. The mediation effort hasn't progressed in addressing the main issues of the border and Djibouti's miss-

ing soldiers, but the normalised relations are nevertheless a positive step.

If managed well the new cooperation could be a vehicle for Eritrea's return to the IGAD family

The new tripartite alliance does however pose risks for integration in the Horn of Africa. If the three states concerned aren't cautious, their agreement could increase distrust between states in the region. Already the lack of communication and consultation

with other IGAD heads of state (Kenya, Uganda, Sudan, Djibouti and South Sudan) on the details of the cooperation has raised suspicion that the three states aim to establish another bloc in the region that could rival IGAD.

Apart from general statements about the three countries' regional security and economic development, their joint communiqué stated that the 2020 joint plan of action included combating common security threats and improving economic ties. Details about what this means and how these goals will be achieved aren't clear.

IGAD has a robust security sector and counter-terrorism programmes and one wonders what new approaches the alliance proposes. Clarifying this is essential. The communiqué mentions 'terrorism, arms and human trafficking and drug smuggling' as examples of common security threats, although such threats in the region are covered by IGAD's mandate. Sharing these details with IGAD and the rest of its member states builds transparency and trust among the region's states, avoiding unnecessary speculation and suspicion.

It would also be useful to know why countries like Djibouti, Kenya, Sudan, South Sudan and Uganda were excluded from the alliance, especially as this is happening amid dampened diplomatic relations and cross-border security tensions, and the maritime boundary dispute between Kenya and Somalia. Other thorny issues for the alliance are the unresolved boundary dispute between Djibouti and Eritrea and tensions between Somalia and Somaliland.

The new alliance will only be useful if it complements and strengthens IGAD

There could be domestic and regional interests for the three countries' alliance. Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali is steering a delicate democratic transition at home, while building on a firm foundation of a peace deal with Eritrea and seeking greater regional peace and stability. In Somalia, President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed is set up for a tightly contested election later in the year, and needs the support of both Ethiopia and Eritrea.

Many analysts say Eritrea's President Isaias Afwerki is behind the new alliance. Some believe the new bloc could be Eritrea's strategy to establish an alternative intergovernmental arrangement in its move from 'isolation to regional influence'.

Other regional analysts say the new alliance could be a response to IGAD's failure to perform as an effective regional bloc. Although it has performed well in brokering regional peace, the continued tension between its members and lack of economic integration shows its underperformance.

This raises the question of how the new alliance will relate to and work with IGAD. The alliance must complement IGAD and avoid overlapping mandates. Competition between the blocs would make regional integration more difficult than it already is. Ethiopia and Somalia should ensure their continued commitment to IGAD and encourage Eritrea to be an active member. This would help minimise the risk of weakening regional cohesion among countries in the Horn.

IGAD should strengthen its ability to serve the diverse interests and get the buy-in of its member states, making it more relevant in the region. IGAD's reform process, which aims to review and update its structure to ensure a rule-based, effective and predictable organisation, must be fast-tracked.

IGAD is already working to become more effective in the region and internationally, starting with the new Executive Secretary's 100-day plan focusing on reform. What the proposed reform entails is however still unclear.

More than any other time, the Horn requires a strong regionally coherent bloc that articulates and negotiates the interests of its over 282 million citizens. In the face of security threats such as political conflicts, terrorism, drought, and external powers' interference, the new alliance will only be useful if it complements and strengthens IGAD, rather than creating disharmony with other member states. If well managed, the new alliance could make IGAD stronger.

AGENCIES

White supremacists, yellow peril and and coronavirus add to volatile political mix

UNITED NATIONS

WHEN US President Donald Trump repeatedly characterized the fast-spreading COVID-19 as a “Chinese virus” last week, it prompted some white supremacists to resurrect an age old ethnic slur against Chinese and East Asians: the “Yellow Peril” which, in a bygone era, was touted as a xenophobic threat to the Western world.

But Tendayi Achiume, UN Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Racism, Racial Discrimination and Xenophobia, is highly critical of the racist interpretation to a disease which has claimed over 16,500 deaths worldwide and accounted for more than 378,000 infections, with the epicenter shifting from China to Europe.

Singling out Trump, she said: it’s dismaying, however, “to witness State officials—including the President of the United States—adopting alternative names for the COVID-19 coronavirus”.

“Instead of using the internationally recognized name of the virus, these officials have adopted names with geographic references, typically referring to its emergence in China,” said Achiume, who is Assistant Professor of Law at the University of California, Los Angeles, School of Law.

“This sort of calculated use of a geographic-based name for this virus is rooted in, and fosters, racism and xenophobia. In this case, it serves to isolate and stigmatize individuals who are, or are perceived to be, of Chinese or other East Asian descent”, she added.

Meanwhile, white supremacist groups in the US have justified the label, mostly in Facebook postings, by arguing that if diseases like German measles (1814), Spanish flu (1918) and Lyme disease (1975), are widely accepted, why not a “Chinese virus”?

Asked for her response, Achiume told IPS it’s disingenuous to try and make this an issue of semantics, where defenders of racialized disease-names point to historical examples of related naming practices.

“We have individuals today who are being

attacked and abused on racial and ethnic grounds, in part because their attackers are emboldened by xenophobic leaders stoking intolerance on the basis of national origin”.

She said this is not a time for semantics.

“We are facing a global pandemic that requires leaders to defend and protect the dignity of all people, irrespective of race or ethnicity”, declared Achiume, who is also a research associate of the African Center for Migration and Society at the University of Witwatersrand in South Africa.

According to the National Broadcasting Company (NBC), one of the primary TV channels in the US, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has, in an intelligence briefing last month, revealed plans involving white supremacist groups allegedly attempting to “weaponize the coronavirus” to attack non-whites and minorities—through infected saliva, spray bottles and laced items.

And in a report on Yahoo News, Hunter Walker and Jana Winter write: “Violent extremists continue to make bioterrorism a popular topic among themselves,” reads the intelligence brief written by the Federal Protective Service, which covered the week of Feb. 17-24.

“White Racially Motivated Violent Extremists have recently commented on the coronavirus, stating that it is an ‘OBLIGATION’ to spread it, should any of them contract the virus.”

Matthew Lee, a health policy researcher and a doctoral candidate in sociomedical sciences at Columbia University’s Mailman School of Public Health, points out that during disease outbreaks, attacks on marginalized groups are not an exception, but the norm.

This racism and xenophobia are additionally stoked by discourse that casts the bodies and behaviors of Chinese Americans and other Asian Americans as suspicious, and even at fault, for spreading disease, he noted.

“While viruses and other pathogens do not discriminate between hosts based on race, ethnicity, nationality or immigration status – stigma and misinformation certainly do,” Lee added. Achiume said irresponsible, discriminatory State rhetoric is no minor issue.

As noted by the World Health Organization in 2015: ‘disease names really do matter to the people who are directly affected ... certain disease names provoke a backlash against members of particular religious or ethnic communities ... This can have serious consequences for peoples’ lives and livelihoods’.

“These consequences have already become a reality. Over the past two months, people who are perceived



or known to be of Chinese or other East Asian descent have been subject to racist and xenophobic attacks related to the virus. These attacks have ranged from hateful slurs to denial of services to brutal acts of violence,” she added.

COVID-19-related expressions of racism and xenophobia online have included harassment, hate speech, proliferation of discriminatory stereotypes, and conspiracy theories.

Not surprisingly, she argued, leaders who are

attempting to attribute COVID-19 to certain national or ethnic groups are the very same nationalist populist leaders who have made racist and xenophobic rhetoric central to their political platforms.

“Political responses to the COVID-19 outbreak that stigmatize, exclude, and make certain populations more vulnerable to violence are inexcusable, unconscionable, and inconsistent with States’ international human rights law obligations”.

“Furthermore, political rhetoric and policy that stokes fear and diminish the equality of all people is counterproductive. To treat and combat the spread of COVID-19 effectively, individuals must have access to accurate health advice and sufficient healthcare without fear of discrimination,” she declared.

AGENCIES

Global action on universal health a necessity

BEIJING

FROM the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001 to the 2008 global financial meltdown, humanity has been no stranger to daunting challenges so far this century.

Coincidentally, those challenges often pop up around the turn of a decade.

This time around, a previously unknown coronavirus has caught the world off guard. As the infectious disease it causes, COVID-19 has spread to over 180 countries and regions, posing an unprecedented risk to global health security.

While nations around the world are racing against time to contain the virus and uncover a remedy, the pandemic has also prompted a time for reflection.

“What has happened to the world and how should we respond?” That was the question posed to the world by Chinese President Xi Jinping at the UN Office at Geneva in 2017.

In fact, Xi tried to answer that penetrating question as early as seven years ago, when he first put forward on an international occasion the idea of building a community with a shared future for mankind, the theme of his Geneva speech.

“It is a world where countries are linked with and dependent on one another at a level never seen before. Mankind, by living in the same global village within the same time and space where history and reality meet, are increasingly emerging as a community of common destiny in which every one has in himself a little bit of others,” Xi said in his speech at Moscow State Institute of International Relations on March 23, 2013.

When addressing the general debate of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in 2015, Xi set forth a five-point proposal on how to build a new type of international relations featuring win-win cooperation and create a community with a shared future for mankind, with partnership, security, development, culture and ecology being the key aspects.

Those remarks ring even truer today as the strike of the coronavirus pan-

dem has tied together the fates of all people inhabiting this global village once again.

Viruses know neither borders nor ethnicities, attacking anyone anytime and anywhere. And once they strike, no country can stand alone in this age of super-connectivity.

Since the outbreak was first reported in China, Beijing has all along held fast to Xi’s idea that mankind is a community with a shared future.

To protect the health of its own people and everyone on this blue planet, China rolled out a chain of unprecedented measures to contain the fast spread of the virus. Such efforts and sacrifice bought valuable time for the world to better prepare.

Bearing in mind its responsibility as a member of the global village, China has been sharing information and cooperating with the World Health Organization (WHO) and other countries in a timely, open and transparent manner.

When China was in the most difficult time of its epidemic fight, countries around the world extended a helping hand. Now that the pathogen has gone global, China has been rushing to the aid of those in urgent need by offering medical supplies, sharing containment experience, and sending teams of medical experts.

As Xi said, solidarity and cooperation are the most powerful weapon to tackle public health crises.

However, as the global fight against the pandemic rages on, some politicians in the West chained to a zero-sum mentality are seeking to weaponize the coronavirus to stigmatize China and hype up “de-coupling” theories. Their attempts to spread this “political virus” will only sow division and hate at a time when solidarity and trust are badly needed.

Opponents of globalization have a new opportunity to bolster their protectionist bent. They argue that globalization expedites massive flows of people and an international division of labor, and thus it is to blame for the proliferation of the pathogen and the strain in global supply chains.



Staff members load Chinese medical materials for Italy at Zhejiang Provincial People’s Hospital in Hangzhou, east China’s Zhejiang Province, March 17, 2020. (Xinhua)

Yet as Xi pointed out in his landmark speech at the World Economic Forum at Davos, Switzerland, in 2017, “it is true that economic globalization has created new problems, but this is no justification to write economic globalization off completely.” The world, as he suggested, “should adapt to and guide economic globalization, cushion its negative impact, and deliver its benefits to all countries and all nations.”

One major problem exposed in the ongoing pandemic is a deficit in global public health governance, which resulted in a mainly country-based approach so far when the common health of global villagers is under assault.

There is an urgent need for govern-

ments to better coordinate their respective prevention and control measures to avoid trans-border spread as the epidemic has become global.

Due to the absence of a global pool of emergency medical supplies, countries are tightening their control on exports of masks and protective suits, leaving places with fragile health systems, such as Africa, even more vulnerable.

Moreover, countries should also pool their resources to develop drugs and vaccines as early as possible.

In the long run, a global architecture for the common health of mankind should be strengthened so as to better respond to future health emergencies. To do that, the UN and the WHO should

be given a core role.

Along with joint efforts against the pandemic, the international community should do everything in its capacity to prevent this global health crisis from dragging down the global economy.

As Xi told UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in a recent phone call, in an era of economic globalization, COVID-19 will not be the world’s last major emergency, and various traditional and non-traditional security issues will constantly bring about new tests.

Following the Sept. 11 attacks, the world demonstrated great international solidarity against terrorism.

In the aftermath of the 2008 international financial crisis, leaders of the

Group of 20 (G20) major economies came together for the first time.

Now the G20 has become a main forum for international cooperation on financial and economic issues and a primary platform for global economic governance.

Today, as the world jointly battles the coronavirus, it can be a desirable place for countries to build solidarity and seek a global approach to both the health and economic crises.

For our shared future, we brave human beings always emerge stronger from a crisis. And for the common health of mankind, the pandemic should serve as a call for action.

Xinhua

One year after Mozambique cyclones, local crisis for global climate action

By Sven Harmeling

WITHOUT a strong international response to climate change, people's efforts to get back on their feet after disasters will not keep them safe in future.

Last March, the devastation caused by Cyclone Idai claimed more than 1,000 lives and displaced tens of thousands of people in Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe.

The situation at the time was catastrophic. With wind speeds of about 200 kilometres per hour, the cyclone hit the poorest the hardest, particularly women and girls.

For weeks people sought refuge on top of roofs, trees and school buildings, amid floodwaters that rose up to 8 metres high. Hundreds of thousands not only lost their homes in the disaster, but also their belongings and livelihoods.

Shortly thereafter, Cyclone Kenneth hit parts of northern Mozambique,

marking the first time in recorded history that two strong tropical cyclones hit the country in the same season.

The cyclones in Mozambique are only one of many climate-linked disasters that have battered the world in the last year, including unprecedented wildfires sweeping Australia and California, and severe flooding in Southern Africa as well as the UK.

These devastating events should not be seen in isolation but are all scars in an increasingly disrupted climatic system which, according to widely accepted scientific findings, are a consequence of, or at least exacerbated by, global warming.

Their impact also lasts far longer than the pictures in the headlines. The actual consequences of disasters, particularly ones of this scale, only reveal themselves in the weeks and months after.

In Mozambique, the situation only looks marginally better than it did a year ago. Aid organisations such



as CARE International have reached more than 300,000 people with vital help: food, clean water and emergency shelter. But for many, their needs have multiplied.

An estimated 2.5 million people, almost 10% of the population, rely on humanitarian aid, according to the United Nations. The agricultural losses from the storms were estimated at \$141 million, a colossal number by any standards but particularly for a struggling country like Mozambique. Behind those numbers there are families and people who continue to suffer from lack of food or income due to the loss of harvests. Today, more than 1.6 million people don't have enough food - a number that is expected to increase in the coming months.

CLIMATE AGREEMENT FOR ALL

Five years ago, governments from almost all countries signed and thereafter ratified the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. All scientific findings show that many countries - particularly those

most responsible for causing the climate crisis and most able to manage the costs of climate action - lag far behind the required commitment. Fully implementing the Paris Agreement - by at least halving global CO2 emissions by 2030 - would limit the global temperature increase to levels that could prevent a disastrous escalation of the climate crisis, and help all countries build resilience to the unavoidable impacts. Vulnerable people suffering from the harmful climate impacts, particularly women and girls, must be at the centre of such responses.

Richer countries have an obligation to financially support those who are most vulnerable to the climate crisis and have contributed least to its escalation. Promoting ways to increase such support will be essential to the agenda of the UN climate conference, COP26, that the UK is hosting in November in Glasgow.

But, in essence, the Paris Agreement is a global compact for all people, and governments must

start upholding the commitments they made in ratifying it. This is precisely what youth activists, inspired by Greta Thunberg, are demanding over and over again on the basis of solid climate science: that governments live up to their promises and implement the Paris Agreement.

In Mozambique, people have not sat back and waited for support to come. Women and their families who were displaced by last year's storms have rebuilt their houses, started farming again, and engaged in disaster preparedness activities.

As part of its humanitarian response to the cyclones, CARE is distributing drought-resistant seeds - which include sorghum, cowpea, ground nuts, pineapple seedlings, maize and millet - to more than 27,000 small-scale farmers in regions where crops were destroyed by the storms.

Those most impacted will continue to seek solutions within their constraints. But without immediate, strong action on climate change everywhere, these will not be investments in a future of hope, but only piecemeal steps that will continue to be wiped away by the next storm or dried up by the next drought.

With coronavirus, the world is now a cave

By Simbo Olorunfemi

ONE can only hope that the coronavirus does not trigger such a devastating effect on the global economy, but we must take on-board that the world is no longer a village, it is now a cave and we are all in it. Joseph Nye cautions us that "in a world where borders are becoming more porous than ever to everything from drugs to infectious diseases to terrorism, nations must mobilize international coalitions and build institutions to address shared threats and challenges..."

What began as "several cases of unusual pneumonia" in Wuhan, China towards the end of last year, to shortly thereafter become a public health emergency there, has within a few months turned into a growing global pandemic. As declared by the World Health Organisation (WHO), it has

emerged that what the world is dealing with is a new coronavirus responsible for an illness now officially known as COVID-19, which has spread to over 100 countries and territories, with 150,000 infections and almost 6,000 deaths, till date.

Sad and frightening as this is, it is a reminder, even if a grim one, of what the world was predicted to become - a global village. With the world less than 36 hours apart by air travel, nothing better demonstrates the inherent danger that comes with the world as we now have it than the threats that come with the rapid transportation of viruses and their vectors from one part of the world to another through air travel. The world has never been this inter-connected. While the aeroplane gave us wings to fly from one end of the world to the other, international television, with the live broadcast

of news and events from every and anywhere, is further reducing the world, and bringing us together, even while also pulling us apart, in its own way. But it is the internet that has radically shrunk the world to the point that by virtue of convergence, we now carry the world around in our palms, bags and pockets. An event in one part of the world suddenly becomes one in pain, grief, joy, anxiety or panic, as these have presently gripped the globe, in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

It should be apparent now, to those who had been in doubt that we are all one, after all. By now, those who think otherwise should have realised that we are all holed up in one cave, even if in different parts of it. We are all in one cave and we all have to tread with caution for the sake

of our survival. Terrorism, migration and disease sit on one of the multi-dimensional boards around which the mighty and the not-so-mighty, of necessity, must engage and cooperate. The world has moved from the bifurcation of forced bi-polarity on account of East-West rivalry and the pseudo unipolarity of a single dominant super-power.

The world has changed, in terms of configuration, and the nature of power had become evident with the unfortunate incident of 9-11. It signalled there and then that the era in which raw military strength or economic power was all that mattered was coming to an end. It was no longer simply about power transition but also power diffusion, with non-state actors wielding as much influence and even power as state actors. The world has become a multi-dimensional board with multiple

dimensions to it and overlapping interconnections. One might be the master on one board with military hardware or economic might but vulnerable to a minuscule power or even a non-state actor on another board. It is a different world now.

While the world, in a large part, seemed to have been coming to a gradual understanding of this new world order, with the most powerful nation in the world moving more in the direction of co-operation and collaboration under the last administration, a new Sheriff came to town who seems to lack an understanding of the demands of the time we live in and the appropriate tools for the age.

Whereas the smart thing to do, even for self-interest is to push for collaboration, he rather chose to go the direction of isolationism and misguided exceptionalism, weakening already formed inter-

national alliances, while talking down the place of long-established international institutions and protocols. While the United Nations system was yearning for some bolstering from the principal party behind its formation, the new Sheriff was rather trumpeting it, right at the UN General Assembly that "the future does not belong to globalists; it belongs to patriots," urging world leaders to put nationalism ahead of multilateralism.

It should be no surprise that many of the international institutions set up as specialised agencies under the United Nations have not been able to optimally play the roles they were designed for. One of such agencies is the World Health Organisation (WHO) which was set up in 1948 with the mandate for the public health of the people of the world.

Impact of coronavirus on creative arts: Stakeholders go speaking out

By Edem Mensah-Tsotorme

THE creative arts industry has become dormant as of now following the directive by government to all unions and other groups to suspend their activities in the face of the outbreak of coronavirus.

The Director of Public Health of Ghana Health Service (GHS), Dr Badu Sarkodie who made this known at a press conference on Sunday, March 15, 2020, said the country had recorded about six cases.

Currently, the GHS has announced that a 9th person had tested positive of coronavirus.

In light of this, the president, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo on the night of same day issued some directives in an attempt to stop its spread.

In the directives, the government of Ghana suspended all public gatherings in the country and closed down schools with immediate effect.

The situation has led to the cancellation of this year's Kwahu Easter festivities by traditional authorities.

Some entertainment industry players disclosed to The Spectator the level of impact COVID-19 pandemic had had on them.

Kofi Kinaata

The "Things Fall Apart" hitmaker disclosed that he had a show in the United States of America scheduled for March, however, due to the pandemic the event had been put on hold for now.

He said that other gigs during the Easter festivities had been seriously affected due to the situation, thus compelling him to cancel other bookings.

"Now if you go to the studio, you feel like sani-

tising the microphone before you start recording, due to the virus," he stated.

Kofi Kinaata appealed to the public to adhere to the precautionary measures outlined, "for nothing is important than human lives."

Fameye

Peter Famiyeh Bozah, known in the showbiz industry as Fameye told this paper that the directive in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic had led to a lot of shows being cancelled, a situation he believed had negatively impacted on the sector.

"Those who have booked you are demanding for refund, and there are no new bookings due to the directive to prevent the spread," Fameye said.

According to the "Nothing I get" hitmaker, it was his prayer that a vaccine be discovered quickly to bring things under control and urged all his fans to value their lives and follow the safety precautionary measures announced by the government

Akese Brempong

Gospel musician, Akese Brempong, in an interview also noted that those in the gospel ministry had been seriously affected, as churches where artistes got most programmes from, had been closed.

He said that campuses, had also shutdown, as a result of the social gathering ban to stop the spread of coronavirus.

However, he was optimistic that now that many people were at home, there would be increase in streaming among others, which would become the revenue for musicians.



He called all musicians to position themselves digitally to benefit from the increase in streams which is about to happen as a result of the pandemic.

In a Biblical inference to Psalm 91, Akese Brempong was optimistic that God would be a shelter in times of challenges.

Abeiku Santana

On the impact on the tourism sector, media practitioner who is also the Chief Executive Officer (C.E.O) of Kaya Tours Company, Gilbert Aggrey, known in broadcast circles as Abeiku Santana disclosed that the pandemic

had badly affected both inbound and outbound tourism.

He attributed this to the various measures taken by countries and companies, where flights, hotel bookings, among others had been cancelled and said that

all these, would invariably affect the economy, since, tourism had direct impact on transportation, accommodation, food, creative arts, trade and destinations among other areas.

Abeiku Santana further added that it was his prayer that the pandemic did not linger for long else, the negative impact would be cata-

strophic

Andy Dosty

Disc Jockey, and host of DayBreak on Hitz FM, Andy Dosty born Andrew Amoh, said that cancellation of events had also affected him as a DJ.

According to him, he was to play at a programme in Spain and other nations, but due to the pandemic, the event had been cancelled.

This notwithstanding, he called for calm among Ghanaians and the need for them to follow the preventive measures currently put in place.

INNOVATION

Ubongo's online platform to help home learning as schools closed

By Guardian Reporter

AN online edutainment company, Ubongo has said it will bridge the gap created by the closure of schools and colleges due to coronavirus outbreak through its Ubongo Toolkit.

Ubongo which is Africa's leading producer of kids' edutainment and creators of Ubongo Kids and Akili and Me series, said in a statement that it is taking and sharing reliable, preventative measures and supporting caregivers and kids to learn at home during school closures.

According to UNESCO monitoring, the number of young learners affected by the coronavirus is rapidly growing, reaching an unprecedented 1.2 billion children across 102 countries as of March 20th.

"We are working hard as partners in the education sector to rapidly

respond to this situation in the best way we can, and that is through dissemination of content that will promote safe measures and practices at home. We officially launched our Ubongo Toolkits platform this month and we are working to populate it with even more content and guidance for caregivers to use at home to support learning for kids," said Ubongo's Chief Product Officer, Christina Bwana.

Bwana said Ubongo Toolkits also offers a full library of free edutainment for kids and caregivers, covering a wide stream of topics in local context, soon to be adapted in even more African languages.

Parents, teachers, caregivers and kids are encouraged to make use of this online platform along with television and radio where full episodes of Ubongo shows will continue to air.



Children aged between 4 and 10 years assemble toys during an early childhood development conference dubbed 'Building Brains' hosted by Ubongo in Dar es Salaam earlier this month. File photo.

"We are offering our library of TV and radio edutainment content for free to any broadcasters and partners who can share it with communities in need, as well as public service announcements and educational videos to support health and hygiene. These are the steps that we as Ubongo have committed to take at this time," she added.

Ubongo Toolkits is a large library of quality, African-made early learning materials and educational resources for kids aged 0 - 14 and caregivers, covering various topics from early numeracy, pre-literacy, and social and emotional skills to engineering, science, and technology.

The learning materials are currently available in Kiswahili and English,

and also in production on versions in Kinyarwanda, Hausa, Kikuyu, Luo, and Chichewa.

The toolkits serve as teaching aids for the purpose of improving the quality of instruction with play-based visual and audio learning.

"We are also working on mapping our content and other learning resources such as e-books, apps and

worksheets against the education curriculums from pre-primary to grade 7 in African countries where schools have been closed," the Ubongo CPO noted.

In the long-term, Ubongo plans to create even more health-related content that will support public awareness and practices around hygiene and infectious disease prevention.

COVID-19

Bank donates 30m/- to doctors association to tame coronavirus spreading

By Guardian Reporter

THE country leading banking conglomerate, CRDB Bank Plc has donated 30m/- to Medical Association of Tanzania to help in a nationwide campaign to tame Coronavirus outbreak.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam

yesterday, CRDB's Managing Director, Abdulmajid Nsekela said the donation is aimed at supporting MAT's campaign against the deadly virus which has already attacked dozens in the country. Nsekela said MAT's 'Tunaweza kujikinga' campaign is an important scientific approach to stop

COVID-19 spreading as it sensitizes the public on practical ways to avoid contracting the virus.

"CRDB Bank has already taken a number of measures aimed at protecting its employees and customers from the virus and such measures include deploying hand sanitizers at all of our offices and ATM outlets," he said.

He commended MAT for practically joining government efforts targeting to protect the public from contracting the virus which has already caused thousands of deaths in the world including two in Africa by yesterday.

In a vote of thanks, MAT President Dr Elisha Osati paid tribute to CRDB management and

staff for the support which will be invested in the sensitization campaign to targeting the public so that people can know how to avoid the virus.

Dr Osati said precisely, the donation will also go toward educating health workers most of whom are rural based and are first respondents to any COVID-19 case

in their neighbourhoods countrywide. "Our responsibility is to ensure that all health workers at every level have a clear understanding of the virus and how to handle cases of victims but also sensitize the public on preventive measures," he added noting that the campaign is jointly run with Ministry of Health and Tanzania

Medical Students Association.

During the handover ceremony, the MAT and CRDB officials also sensitised the public on how to use sanitizers in ensuring that their hands are safe from disease germs at all time. MAT's Secretary General, Dr Lilian Mnabwiru also attended the ceremony.

UNATTRACTIVE

Why South African bonds are exploding

JOHANNESBURG

THE yield on the 10-year South African government bonds has spiked to above 12% on Monday. This is not a good thing. Bond yields are important because they guide the interest rates the government ends up paying to borrow money.

If bonds yields are high, government will have to borrow money at higher interest rates. The state will have to pay billions more in interest to pay for local roads, hospitals, and services. As recently as last year, yields were trading around 8%. This means that if government had to issue new bonds today, it will have to offer interest rates that may be up to 50% more (from 8% to 12%).

The spike in South African bond yields reflects massive global uncertainty, with investors dumping everything perceived as risky, says Izak Odendaal, investment strategist at Old Mutual Multi-Managers.

Over the past two weeks there has been a meltdown on global market as economies shut down amid the coronavirus crisis. Odendaal says that other emerging market commodity producers have seen their bond yields rise by a similar magnitude.

"The difference is that their starting point is lower. Because of worries around our fiscal situation and the risk of a Moody's downgrade, our bond yields never declined in line with our peer group in 2019."

Moody's is expected to finally announce that South African govern-

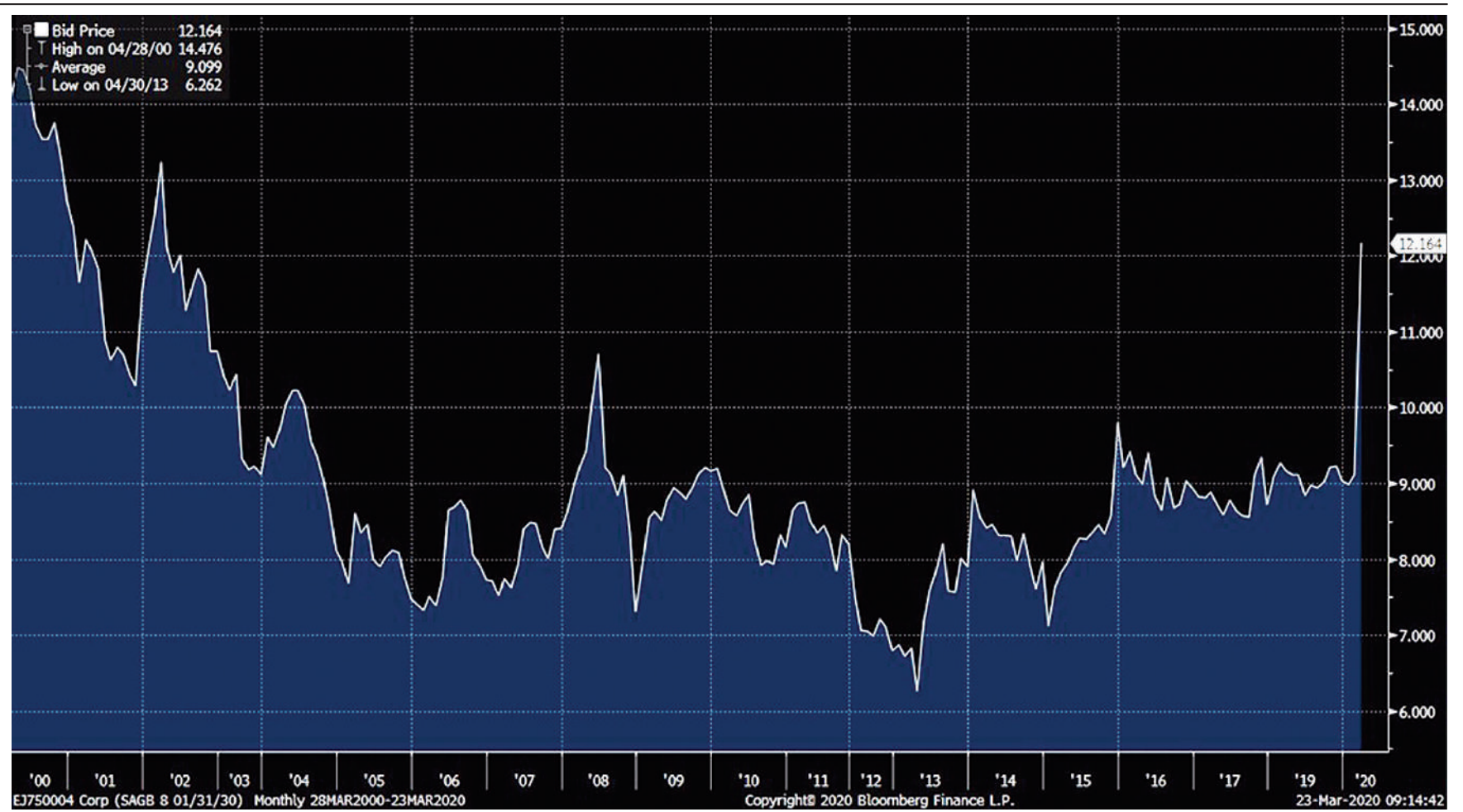
ment bonds will lose their investment grade rating on Friday. This means our bonds will be "junk", and will be kicked out of a key international index of bonds. Some international funds are not allowed to invest in junk bonds, and is expected to trigger sales of SA bonds.

This fear has pushed South African yields higher for many months. It's ironic that everyone was worrying about Moody's, and along comes Covid-19, completely overwhelming any potential impact of a downgrade, says Odendaal. He now does not expect that the downgrade will by itself have a big impact. South African bonds are already very cheap, and trade at higher levels than other countries with worse credit ratings.

High yields and government finances

If the spike in yields is temporary, the impact on government finances should be limited. "The bigger worry is of a sustained global economic downturn, which would hurt government tax revenues (which were already under pressure), while measures aimed at curbing the spread of Covid-19 could lead to increased spending. Wider deficits and additional borrowing are a realistic risk. But this will be true of most governments around the world," says Odendaal.

Odendaal says that following the coronavirus market crash, South African government bonds should benefit as global investors search for attractive interest rates. "I think once



the dust settles investors will realise two things: One, global interest rates are going to be stuck at zero for an extended period, and yield will be in short supply.

Two, local inflation is going to face further downward pressure (especially now with the lower oil price) and therefore the potential real returns from local government bonds is substantial." South African bonds are offering a much higher interest rate than any bonds offered by richer countries.

"Either our bonds are very cheap

right now or US is very expensive," says AfriFocus Securities. In many rich countries - including Germany, the Netherlands, Japan and France - governments are paying negative interest rates: lenders are paying these governments for the privilege to lend to them.

"The world is highly unpredictable, and we cannot know when foreign selling of SA assets will stop, nor how much economic damage we will end up inflicting on ourselves.

However, what we do know is that common sense will once again prevail at some point. When that point comes,

domestic bonds are currently the most oversold in history," says Nolan Wapenaar, Chief Investment Officer at Anchor Capital.

Also, the expected Moody's downgrade may even work in South Africa's favour, says Schalk Louw, a portfolio manager at PSG Wealth.

While South Africa is now the most risky government bond in the investment grade club, it will be among the most exemplary in the junk category. When international investors start looking for yield again, they will start in the junk group, which offer the best

interest rates. And in this group, South Africa is among the safest options.

This is because the majority of South Africa's government bond debt is in rand - not dollar.

So even given the rand's recent slump (from below R15/\$ a month ago to near R17.66 currently), this won't threaten its ability to settle its debt.

Many other emerging markets are not in the same position, which was the reason emerging bonds were hit by a sell-off of 20% this month, says Louw.

EQUALITY

Legal Services Facility helps Nkasi divorced woman get into micro-business

By Guardian Reporter

A DIVORCED woman whose husband wanted to deny her share of wealth which they generated together has successfully managed to get her fair share and start a business.

In a statement, Legal Services Facility's Paralegal,

Filbert Milambo said Lilian Ally from Nkasi district of Rukwa region was given legal aid that enabled her get her marital share of the wealth hence allow her to evade the poverty trap which is associated with women.

"We helped the mother of two get her matrimonial wealth share after being di-

vorced by her husband recently," Milambo said adding that many women are divorced and denied their share of wealth by their spouses because they lack legal support.

"Lilian's incident gives a broad picture of the huge number of women who are progressively discovering

that their lives can be improved when they are knowledgeable about their rights," he said. After successfully getting her matrimonial share of wealth, the lady has since engaged in micro businesses and is comfortably running her life with the two kids.

The LSF works closely with

the government and other stakeholders in increasing access to justice for women in the country especially vulnerable groups like women and children whose rights have been trampled by men for years.

Countrywide, LSF paralegals at both regional and districts levels provide free legal

aid services to marginalized groups who can't afford legal representation which is costly. "This is the awakening call that has helped thousands of women in the country to access legal assistance on various cases to empower them socially, politically and economically," said Milambo.

"Legal interventions is

considered to have an influence on women empowerment through raising awareness of girls and women towards their rights," he noted while stressing that women's empowerment is a vital component towards reducing poverty among vulnerable groups in the community.



Legal Services Facility CEO Lulu Ng'wanakilala speaks at a past event.

RELIEF

AccessBank waives charges on mobile banking transactions of less than 200k

By Guardian Reporter

CUSTOMERS conducting mobile banking transactions of less than 200,000/- will not pay any charges, AccessBank Tanzania Limited has announced.

In a statement yesterday, the bank said in a bid to encourage digital transacting to tame the deadly coronavirus, the waiver will apply to 40 percent of its total transactions. The bank said the move will also encourage customers and the public to undertake more cashless transactions.

The bank's Head of Banking Services, Michael Fraterne said that through AccessMobile, its clients are able to pay for utilities such as (Luku, Dawasco, DSTV, Star Times, Azam) as well as purchase airtime,

send money from their bank accounts to all mobile money wallets in the market.

"We also encourage our clients to make purchases from merchants accepting Mastercard QR for instance at Puma Tanzania petrol stations and many other merchants across the country," Fraterne said.

He said being a socially responsible commercial bank targeting small and medium businesses in the market, AccessBank also has a responsibility to protect its clients and the general public from COVID-19.

The bank which has very strong international shareholders such as AccessHolding Limited, International Finance Corporation of World Bank Group, KfW from Germany, African Development Bank

and MicroVest, also has an international obligation to help tame the deadly virus.

ABT's vision is to be committed to the development of financial system that support social progress by rendering services to all people with the same ambition for excellence and quality, the statement concluded.



We also encourage our clients to make purchases from merchants accepting Mastercard QR for instance at Puma Tanzania petrol stations and many other merchants across the

INCENTIVE

CBK cuts main loan rate, lowers growth estimate

NAIROBI

The Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) has cut its benchmark rate by the largest margin in three and half years and lowered the amount of deposits banks must hold with the regulator in efforts to boost flow of cheap loan in an economy plagued by the coronavirus outbreak.

The benchmark rate was on Monday cut by 100 basis points or one percentage point to 7.25 percent, a pointer of policy bias towards cheaper loans in an environment where the government is not controlling cost of credit.

The regulator also reduced the cash reserve ratio for commercial banks to 4.25 percent from 5.25 percent, saying the move will release an extra Sh35.2 billion for lending to customers hit by the outbreak, the Monetary Policy Committee said.

This is the first time since 2008, at the peak of the global financial crisis and the deepest world recession for a generation, that the CBK is cutting the cash reserve ratio. The extra billions of shillings will provide banks with low-cost funds for lending to households and small businesses expected to suffer reduced cash flow due to the virus.

"The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) met on March 23, 2020, in the context of the ongoing global Covid-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, which has devastated many countries, with significant human, economic and social costs," CBK Governor Patrick Njoroge said in a statement.



CBK governor Patrick Njoroge

"In light of this adverse economic outlook, the MPC therefore decided...to lower the central bank rate to 7.25 percent from 8.25 percent (and) to reduce the cash

reserve ratio to 4.25 percent from 5.25 percent, releasing Sh35.2 billion as additional liquidity availed to banks to directly support borrowers that are distressed as a re-

sult of Covid-19."

The bank has also cut its 2020 economic growth forecast from an initial estimate of 6.2 percent to 3.4 percent - the lowest growth rate

since 2008 when Kenya was buffeted by the global financial crisis and effects of the bloody post-election violence.

Growth dropped from 7.1 percent in 2007 to 1.7 percent in 2008. Kenya has confirmed 16 cases of the coronavirus and its crucial tourism and farm exports have already been hit by the impact of the outbreak.

The government has responded with tough measures on travel and mass gathering and isolation rules meant to curb the spread of the virus.

On Sunday it imposed additional restrictions, including cancellation of all international flights save for cargo planes, ordered shutdown of bars and nightclubs, with restaurants only allowed to operate takeaway services, banned church congregations and weddings, and capped funeral gatherings to 15 people.

The social distancing rules look set to impact on consumer spend-

ing, setting the stage for job cuts and unpaid leave for workers struggling with reduced cash flow. Restrictions on foreigners coming into Kenya have delivered a big hit to the country's tourism industry, with some hotels on the Coast reporting occupancy rates well below 10 percent compared to the normal 75 percent.

The restrictions in Europe have slashed daily flower orders to half for a continent that accounts for 70 percent of Kenya's cut flower exports.

"The fundamental concerns and anxieties centre on the health impact, job losses, and duration of the crisis," said Dr Njoroge. Credit to the private sector, the CBK said, grew by 7.7 percent in the year to February, compared to 7.1 percent in the year to December, which are both below the ideal growth level of between 12 and 15 percent to support economic growth.

ANXIETY

Uncertainty as COVID-19 grips Nigeria's tech sector

LAGOS

IN response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) tech companies in Nigeria are taking steps ranging from improving hygiene conditions to fully embracing work-from-home approach. Local Fintech giants Paystack and Flutterwave told ITWeb Africa they are doing all they can to ensure as little impact on their operations as possible.

"Our immediate response to the escalation of Coronavirus (COVID-19) is to continue to support our merchants without disruption to our normal operations, while we take precautionary measures to protect members of our team and our community," said Paystack spokesperson, Stephen Amaza. He noted that the company's response to COVID-19 index case in Nigeria was to sensitise its team on recommended safe practices to prevent infection which includes improved hygiene protocols and social distancing.

"We also outfitted different parts of the office with hand sanitisers which all team members are encouraged to use, and which we provide to visitors as they access the building," said Amaza. Emmanuel Quartey, who is tasked with directing the



company's growth, does not anticipate any disruption to its services.

"Many members of the Paystack team

already work remotely, and our internal tooling and processes are highly optimised for distributed work," he added.

Flutterwave's approach is similar to that of its competitor.

CENSURE

11 companies being investigated for price gouging in coronavirus crisis

JOHANNESBURG

ELEVEN firms are being investigated for selling products such as face masks and hand sanitisers at inflated prices amid the Covid-19 crisis, Minister of Trade and Industry Ebrahim Patel has announced.

Patel was speaking at a briefing media in Pretoria, where a number of ministers from the country's economic cluster outlined interventions in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

This comes in the wake of President Cyril Ramaphosa on Monday announcing a 21-day nationwide lockdown - starting in the early hours of Friday morning - in an effort to slow down the spread of the virus. The number of confirmed infections in SA rose to 554 on Tuesday.

Last week government announced strict regulations to prevent businesses from hiking prices excessively for certain products - such as basic foods, personal care and hygiene products, as well as key medical supplies like surgical masks and gloves.

Patel told journalists on Tuesday that government had received complaints of firms and individuals flouting regulations by "increasing prices unjustifiably". He did not name the firms. He said the Competition Commission and the National Consumer Commission met on Monday, and are investigating 11 firms.

"[The firms] have been found to be selling products like face masks, hand sanitisers and others for high prices, and abusing the situation. More firms are now being investigated and prosecutions will follow," he said. Penalties for flouting the regulations include fines of R1 million, fines of up to 10% of a company's turnover, or one year in jail.

CORONAVIRUS

China's factories work non-stop to build ventilators for hospitals around the world

BEIJING

ABOUT A 40-minute drive to the east of China's capital, Beijing Aeonmed has been working around the clock since January 20.

After meeting the country's needs two weeks ago, its factory lines have been working flat out on orders from overseas for its lifesaving ventilators. With three shifts and even research and development staff working the production line, the company's machines have been going non-stop.

"There is literally no country in the world that does not want to buy a ventilator from China right now," said Li Kai, director of Beijing Aeonmed. "We have tens of thousands of orders waiting. The issue is how fast we can make them."

As the global death toll from the coronavirus crosses 15,000, doctors from Milan to New York are desperately seeking ventilators. In severe cases, the availability of a ventilator that can help a Covid-19 patient breathe can determine if he lives or dies. Last week, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo said the state, which has about 5,000 to 6,000 ventilators, might need 30,000 of them.

"It's ventilators, ventilators, ventilators," Mr Cuomo said. "That is the greatest need." The state "has people in China shopping for ventilators." Overall in the US, the Society of Critical Care Medicine estimates that 960,000 patients would need ventilator support due to Covid-19, but the nation only has about 200,000 such machines. In Italy, the country with the most number of fatalities from the pandemic, a severe ventilator shortage has forced doctors to triage patients.

The mad scramble for scarce medical supplies comes as China and the US try to deflect blame for their handling of the disease. China has been seeking to claw back an international leadership role after early cover-ups helped the virus spread well beyond its borders. The country has sought to brand itself as Europe's savior in the fight against the pathogen, providing masks and other supplies to the region's virus hot spots.

For companies like Beijing Aeonmed, though, it is roaring business as orders pour in from dozens of countries, many of which are chartering planes or using military aircraft to pick up the machines. Aeonmed is not the only Chinese company racing against the clock to build ventilators.

"All the ventilator factories in China have reached their maximum capacity, occupied fully by foreign demand," said Wu Chuanpu, director of supply chain at Vedeng.com, one of the main platforms in China connecting medical equipment suppliers and buyers.

The factories have orders to keep them at full capacity until

May, according to Mr Wu. Vedeng is still getting more than 60 to 70 new orders every day, each asking for hundreds or thousands of such machines, he said. Many are from governments.

Ventilators pump oxygen into the lungs and remove carbon dioxide from the body. Many patients inflicted by the coronavirus need the machine because their blood oxygen level drops precipitously - a condition called hypoxemia - which can cause organ damage and be potentially life threatening.

The ventilator demand is so great that US President Donald Trump has given car makers the green light to reconfigure their plants to make the machines. Ford, General Motors and Tesla have been given the "go ahead" to make ventilators, Mr Trump said on Twitter on Sunday.

However, unlike face masks or thermometers, where companies can quickly ramp up production, ventilators have a higher barrier to entry, making a rapid expansion of production more difficult,



Chinese factory workers for ventilators at work

Mr Wu said. "The expansion of the production line is very time-consuming and resources-intensive," he said. "It also involves personnel training. It is too cumbersome."

The dramatic increase in demand for the machines is in stark contrast to their need in normal times. Ordinarily, hospitals have a few dozen machines that are required for only critical cases. Now, they may need them for every bed in their intensive care units.

China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology said earlier this month that as of March 3, the country's main manufacturers delivered about 14,000 non-invasive ventilators and 2,900 invasive ones to Hubei, the region where the coronavirus outbreak originated. That compares with the nationwide demand for ventilators in 2018 of 14,700, according to Huajing Research.

China is able to supply at least 14,000 non-invasive ventilators in April, according to Bloomberg Intelligence analyst Nikkie Lu, based on what factories supplied Wuhan, the capital city of Hubei, in the month of March. She estimated the collective value of these machines at US\$100 million to \$300m.

Meanwhile, as the orders come in, Beijing Aeonmed expects to ring in sales that are several times more than last year. "The epidemic is not a problem of just one country," said Mr Li. "The global fight against the pandemic is a test of made-in-China speed and quality."

GLOOMY

Asia and Middle East face twin shock over virus and oil price drop as global recession looms

WASHINGTON

The impact of plunging oil prices and acceleration of the coronavirus pandemic on Central Asia and the Middle East has been "substantial" and could intensify, with the fallout set to be equal or worse than the global financial crisis more than a decade ago, as the global economy heads into recession, the International Monetary Fund said.

With three-quarters of countries in the wider region reporting confirmed cases and some facing a major outbreak of Covid-19, the pandemic has become "the largest near-term challenge to the region," Jihad Azour, IMF director of the Middle East and Central Asia department, said on Tuesday.

Challenges stemming from the virus will be especially daunting for the region's fragile and conflict-torn states - such as Iraq, Sudan and Yemen. The difficulty of preparing weak health systems for the outbreak in these states could be compounded by reduced imports because of disruptions in global trade, he added.

The pandemic has infected more than 382,000 people worldwide, killed over 16,500, according to Johns Hopkins University, which is tracking global data on the outbreak. More than

101,800 people have recovered.

"Beyond the devastating toll on human health, the pandemic is causing significant economic turmoil in the region through simultaneous shocks - a drop in domestic and external demand, a reduction in trade, disruption of production, a fall in consumer confidence, and tightening of financial conditions," Mr Azour said.

The region's oil exporters face the additional shock of plummeting oil prices. The global health scare is forcing countries to close borders and impose lockdowns to stem the spread of infection. Subsequent travel restrictions have reduced global demand for oil, and the failure of the Opec+ alliance to extend a production cut agreement earlier this month has led to a glut in oil supply. Oil prices have slumped by about 60 per cent since the start of the public health crisis.

"The intertwined shocks are expected to deal a severe blow to economic activity in the region, at least in the first half of this year, with potentially lasting consequences," Mr Azour said. Economic policy responses, Mr Azour said, should be directed at preventing the pandemic - a temporary health crisis - from becoming a protracted economic recession.



Jihad Azour, IMF director of the Middle East and Central Asia department.



MONDAY - FRIDAY
STARTING 7:30 PM



DAY	TIME	PROGRAM
SATURDAY 21 March	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
	6:00	HABARI
	6:40	Kumekucha
	7:00	Habari
	8:00	Al Jazeera
	9:00	Watoto wetu
	10:00	Mjue Zaidi rpt
	10:45	Usafiri wako rpt
	11:15	Shamba lulu rpt
	11:45	Mapishi rpt
	12:00	Chetu ni chetu rpt
	12:40	Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost
	14:40	Igizo rpt: Dhoruba
	15:15	Igizo: Kibafute
SATURDAY 28 March	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
	6:00	HABARI
	6:40	Kumekucha
	7:00	Habari
	8:00	Al Jazeera
	9:00	Watoto wetu
	10:00	Mjue Zaidi rpt
	10:45	Usafiri wako rpt
	11:15	Shamba lulu rpt
	11:45	Mapishi rpt
	12:00	Chetu ni chetu rpt
	12:40	Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost
	14:40	Igizo rpt: Mapito
	15:15	Igizo: Kibafute
SUNDAY 22 March	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:
	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	
MONDAY 23 March	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	Soap: Isidingo the need
	9:55	Habari za saa
	10:00	Watoto wetu
	10:55	Habari za saa
	11:00	Jagina rpt
	11:30	Igizo rpt: Mtego
	11:55	Habari za saa
TUESDAY 24 March	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 wetu
	10:30	Shamsham za pwani
	10:55	Habari za saa
	11:00	Shamsham za pwani
	11:20	Shangweka rpt
WEDNESDAY 25 March	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 wetu
	10:30	Korean drama: The great Queen Seondok
	10:55	Habari za saa
	11:00	Korean drama: The great Queen Seondok
	11:20	Uchumi na biashara rpt
THURSDAY 26 March	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 wetu
	10:30	Igizo: Mkaguzi
	10:55	Habari za saa
	11:00	Igizo: Mkaguzi
	FRIDAY 27 March	5:30
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 wetu
10:30		Hawavumi lakini wamo
10:55		Habari za saa
11:00		Hawavumi lakini wamo
SATURDAY 28 March		5:30
	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:
	14:00	Tamasha la Michezo
	15:00	Mwangaza
	16:00	The Great queen Seonduk
	16:45	ITV Top 10
	17:30	Kipindi cha kikristo
SUNDAY 29 March	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:
	14:00	Tamasha la Michezo
	15:00	Mwangaza
	16:00	The Great queen Seonduk
	16:45	ITV Top 10
	17:30	Kipindi cha kikristo
MONDAY 30 March	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 wetu
	10:30	Korean drama: The great Queen Seondok
	10:55	Habari za saa
	11:00	Korean drama: The great Queen Seondok
	11:20	Uchumi na biashara rpt
TUESDAY 31 March	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 wetu
	10:30	Korean drama: The great Queen Seondok
	10:55	Habari za saa
	11:00	Korean drama: The great Queen Seondok
	11:20	Uchumi na biashara rpt
WEDNESDAY 1 April	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 wetu
	10:30	Korean drama: The great Queen Seondok
	10:55	Habari za saa
	11:00	Korean drama: The great Queen Seondok
	11:20	Uchumi na biashara rpt
THURSDAY 2 April	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 wetu
	10:30	Hawavumi lakini wamo
	10:55	Habari za saa
	11:00	Hawavumi lakini wamo
	FRIDAY 3 April	5:30
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 wetu
10:30		Hawavumi lakini wamo
10:55		Habari za saa
11:00		Hawavumi lakini wamo
SATURDAY 4 April		5:30
	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:
	14:00	Tamasha la Michezo
	15:00	Mwangaza
	16:00	The Great queen Seonduk
	16:45	ITV Top 10
	17:30	Kipindi cha kikristo
SUNDAY 5 April	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:
	14:00	Tamasha la Michezo
	15:00	Mwangaza
	16:00	The Great queen Seonduk
	16:45	ITV Top 10
	17:30	Kipindi cha kikristo

CAPITAL

Sat 21 March

08:00	CNN International
09:00	Drive II 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: Ijima
14:30	Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está Elisa?)
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:
21:00	Out n' About

Sun 22 Mar

08:00	CNN International
09:00	In good shape
10:00	Capchat rpt
11:00	Sports Gazette rpt
11:30	Korean Drama rpt:
12:00	Jagina rpt
12:30	Bundesliga Kick Off rpt
13:00	In good shape rpt
13:30	Series rpt: The Secret
15:15	Albu yako
15:30	Drive it 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:
21:00	Shift
21:15	Capchat live
22:15	Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está Elisa?)
00:00	Al Jazeera

Mon 23 March

06:00	Al Jazeera
07:00	Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00	Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
13:00	Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está Elisa?)
14:00	Club 101 (Via Capital Radio)
16:00	Series rpt: The Secret
16:30	Tanzania Yetu rpt
17:00	Eco@Africa rpt
17:30	Meza huru
19:00	The Décor rpt
19:30	Shamba lulu
20:00	Series: The Secret
20:45	The Monday Agenda
21:25	Bundes Spoti
21:30	Capital Prime News
22:00	Kipima Joto
00:00	Al Jazeera

Tues 24 March

06:00	Al Jazeera
07:00	Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00	Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
13:00	Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está Elisa?)
14:00	Club 101 (Via Capital Radio)
16:00	Series rpt: The Secret
16:30	Capchat rpt
17:00	Meza huru
19:00	Innovation
19:30	Jagina rpt
20:00	Series: The Secret
20:45	Telenovela: (Dónde está Elisa?)
21:30	Capital Prime
22:00	Turning the spotlight rpt
22:30	Eco@Africa
23:00	Al Jazeera

Wed 25 March

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

WORLD

China to lift Wuhan lockdown on Apr 8

WUHAN

THE virus-hit Hubei province will lift outbound travel restrictions yesterday in all areas except the provincial capital Wuhan, local authorities said yesterday.

Migrant workers who hold green codes and negative nucleic acid testing results will be sent out of the province to their workplace directly, according to a circular issued by the provincial COVID-19 control headquarters.

Hubei will continue to postpone the opening of schools until further notice, according to the circular.

Wuhan, meanwhile, will lift outbound travel curbs from April 8 after over two months of lockdown.

People in Wuhan will be allowed

to leave the city and Hubei province, where Wuhan is the capital, if they hold a green health code, meaning no contact with any infected or suspected COVID-19 cases.

Wuhan will take differentiated measures to promote the resumption of business operations based on the health risks of different regions to mitigate the impact on the economy, the circular said.

About 85 percent of all industrial enterprises with an annual turnover of 20 million yuan (US\$2.8 million U.S. dollars) in Hubei had resumed production as of Monday, according to the provincial department of economy and information technology yesterday.

As of March 23, 13,155 such enter-



People wearing masks are seen on the street in Xiaogan, Central China's Hubei province, on Monday.

prises in Hubei had resumed work, with 1.71 million employees having returned to their posts, accounting for 60.3 percent of the total.

The department has been providing assistance to enterprises on issues such as manpower shortage, logistics and capital flow to help them resume work in an orderly manner, it said.

So far, of the 103 enterprises with an annual revenue or output value of over 1 billion yuan in Hubei's raw materials industry, 87 have started work, with a resumption rate of 84.47 percent.

All 28 enterprises in the pharmaceutical in-

dustry with an annual revenue or output value of more than 1 billion yuan have resumed work.

On Jan 23, Wuhan declared unprecedented traffic restrictions, including suspending the city's public transport and all outbound flights and trains, in an attempt to contain the epidemic within its territory.

One new confirmed COVID-19 case was reported Monday in Wuhan after the city had seen zero new reports for five consecutive days. The case was the sole new confirmed case reported in Hubei province on Monday.

Xi says China backs Egypt's fight against COVID-19

BEIJING



CHINESE President Xi Jinping said on Monday night that China supports Egypt's epidemic prevention and control efforts and stands ready to jointly fight the COVID-19 outbreak.

Xi (pictured) made the remarks in a telephone conversation with Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sisi.

The coronavirus disease is currently erupting at different places around the world, said Xi, adding that facts have shown once again that mankind is a community that shares weal and woe, and that all countries must unite and work together to jointly cope with the epidemic.

China, he said, will work with other countries to step up international cooperation in epidemic prevention and control, jointly address common threats and challenges, and safeguard global public health security based on the notion of a community with a shared future for mankind.

After COVID-19 broke out in China, the Egyptian side has expressed its support for China's fight against the epidemic, demonstrating the profound friendship between the two countries that always stand together through thick and thin, as well as the high level of their comprehensive strategic partnership, said Xi.

Noting that the North African country is also facing the urgent task of battling the epidemic, he said China is willing to share epidemic-related information, experience on prevention and treatment, and outcomes of medical research with Egypt and provide it with medical supplies to support its prevention and control efforts and jointly beat the disease.

The Chinese president added that he believes the traditional friendship between China and Egypt will be deepened through the joint fight against the epidemic.

China attaches great importance to the development of its relations with Egypt, and is willing to join hands with the Egyptian side to deepen their practical cooperation in various fields, and build their relationship into a pilot model of a China-Arab as well as a China-Africa community with a shared future.

For his part, Sisi noted that China's fight against COVID-19 has achieved positive progress, which has once again demonstrated the strength of Xi's wise leadership and the solidarity of the great Chinese people.

The Egyptian side always firmly believes that China will prevail over the epidemic and will grow ever stronger, he added. Egypt, he said, is grateful for China's support and help, and is confident that through the joint fight against the disease, the friendship between the two countries will be further cemented.

Stressing that Egypt and China are special and friendly partners, Sisi said he attaches great importance to the bilateral ties and stands ready to work with China to boost their practical cooperation of mutual benefit in various fields and enhance communication and coordination in international affairs.

Xinhua

Russian military experts deployed to Bergamo to aid Italy in fight against COVID-19

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN military virologists and epidemiologists will be first deployed to Italy's Bergamo, the Russian Defense Ministry informed reporters.

On the outcomes of the consultations, it was decided that Russian military experts experienced in combating epidemics caused by dangerous infectious diseases all over the world would begin their work from Italy's Bergamo.

Currently, military officers are approving the 600-km route, preparing the equipment for the move," the ministry noted.

Bergamo, a city in northern Italy (the province of Lombardy) is one of the epicenters of the COVID-19 outbreak in Italy with a record number of infections and deaths in the country.

Under the order of Russian President Vladimir Putin, the Russian Defense Ministry sent several military jets to Italy that transported virologists, epidemiologists and the necessary equipment to the country.

According to the ministry, the group includes specialists who directly took part in fighting outbreaks of African swine fever, as well as developing vaccines against Ebola and the plague.

The planes also delivered mobile stations for aerosol disinfection of transport and territories and medical equipment.

A pneumonia outbreak caused by the COVID-19 virus (previously known as 2019-nCoV) was reported in China's city of Wuhan, a large trade and industrial center with a population of 11 million, in late December 2019.

Cases of the new coronavirus have also been reported in more than 190 countries and territories, among them Russia, which documented 495 cases as of March 24.

According to recent data, novel coronavirus cases across the globe have exceeded 390,000, with about 17,000 deaths. The World Health Organization (WHO) has officially described the situation with the novel coronavirus as a pandemic.

Agencies

Britain wakes up to coronavirus lockdown, confusion continues

LONDON

BRITAIN awoke to a virtual lockdown yesterday after Prime Minister Boris Johnson ordered people to stay at home, shops to close and an end to all social gatherings to halt the spread of coronavirus.

The unprecedented peacetime restrictions, which will last for at least three weeks, were brought in to prevent the state-run National Health Service from being overwhelmed as the number of deaths in Britain rose to 335.

However, social media images showed that London Underground trains were still packed with commuters and one large retail chain suggested it wanted to stay open.

There were complaints that the advice was confusing or did not go far enough. There was also confusion about who should be allowed to continue going to work and what powers police had to enforce the new guidance.



Commuters queue at a bus stop outside St Thomas's Hospital in London, yesterday. (AP)

Meanwhile, Britain's supermarkets have started limiting the number of customers in stores at any one time to enforce social distancing during the outbreak.

The curbs on movement, under which people should only leave their homes for very limited reasons such as going to supermarkets or once a day for exercise, were announced in a national ad-

dress by Johnson late on Monday. All but essential shops must close immediately and people should no longer meet family or friends. Police will break up gatherings of more than two people and social events such as weddings, although not funerals, will be stopped.

The measures were unveiled after a new emergency bill to

give the British government great powers to fight coronavirus was approved by lawmakers Monday night. The bill will stay in place for two years, with a review every six months.

Cabinet Office minister Michael Gove said Tuesday stronger measures than 30-pound (US\$35) fines for people who flouted the new restrictions could be introduced.

As of Monday morning, there had been 6,650 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the UK, according to the latest figures released by the Department of Health and Social Care. A total of 335 patients had died, the figures showed.

The US military was preparing to deploy field hospitals to New York and Seattle, the Pentagon said on Monday.

US Army General Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the Pentagon had issued prepare-to-deploy orders to 10 expeditionary units that could set up field hospitals.

Tens of thousands of National

Guard are eventually expected to be deployed nationwide, as the military expanded its support role to the US government's domestic coronavirus response effort.

A total of 573 people have died from COVID-19 in the country, where there are 41,511 confirmed cases, according to the Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) at Johns Hopkins University.

New York City has become the new epicenter of the outbreak, as the confirmed cases reached 13,119 with 124 deaths as of Monday night local time, according to CSSE.

Several more US governors on Monday joined the procession of states ordering millions of Americans to stay at home to slow the spread of the coronavirus, while President Donald Trump he was considering how to reopen the US economy when a 15-day shutdown ends next week.

UN chief calls for global cease-fire in face of COVID-19

UNITED NATIONS

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Monday called for an immediate global cease-fire in face of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

"It is time to put armed conflict on lockdown and focus together on the true fight of our lives (against the coronavirus)," he said in a virtual press encounter.

He asked warring parties to pull back from hostilities, put aside mistrust and animosity, and silence the guns.

A global cease-fire is crucial to help create corridors for life-saving aid, to open precious windows for diplomacy, and to bring hope to places among the most vulnerable to COVID-19, he said.

"Let us take inspiration from coalitions and dialogue slowly taking shape among rival parties

in some parts (of the world) to enable joint approaches to COVID-19. But we need much more: end the sickness of war and fight the disease that is ravaging our world," he said. "It starts by stopping the fighting everywhere, now. That is what our human family needs, now more than ever."

COVID-19 is a common enemy to the world. The virus does not care about nationality or ethnicity, faction or faith. It attacks all relentlessly, said Guterres.

Meanwhile, armed conflict rages on around the world. The most vulnerable -- women and children, people with disabilities, the marginalized and the displaced -- pay the highest price. They are also at the highest risk of suffering devastating losses from COVID-19, he said.

"Let's not forget that in war-



ravaged countries, health systems have collapsed. Health professionals, already few in number, have often been targeted. Refugees and others displaced by violent conflict are doubly vulnerable," he noted. "The fury of the virus illustrates the folly of war."

Guterres said he has directed his special representatives to engage with local governments "to create a global dynamic" in order for all countries to put pressure on all warring parties to stop fighting.

"My special envoys will be now working with the parties to the conflict to try to make sure that this global appeal is not only listened to but leads to concrete action, leads to a pause in fighting, creating the conditions for the response to COVID-19 to be much more effective."

He noted that war-ravaged areas are those where the capacity of response is very limited. "If the fighting goes on, we might have an absolutely devastating spreading of the epidemic."

The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration have been working hard to have a plan in order to create conditions in facilities housing refugees and displaced people to prevent the arrival of the virus and to create the capacity to respond and to mitigate the impact inside those

facilities, he said.

Guterres asked the international community to fully support those measures.

He reaffirmed the world body's determination to lead.

This is the moment in which the United Nations must be active. The UN must fully assume its responsibilities, first doing what it has to do: peacekeeping, humanitarian assistance, support to the different bodies of the international community, the Security Council, the General Assembly, he said.

At the same time, the United Nations must be able to address the concerns of the peoples of the world and appeal for a massive mobilization and for a massive pressure on governments to suppress the disease and to address the dramatic economic and social impacts. Agencies

China to play bigger role in Africa's virus fight

THE COVID-19 pandemic situation in Africa continued to worsen, as 30 countries on the continent have reported more than 400 confirmed cases as of Tuesday, according to the latest report of the Africa Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC).

The Africa CDC said in its latest report on the pandemic situation that as of Tuesday, 443 COVID-19 cases have been reported in 30 African countries. Four countries have reported a total of 10 deaths. And Egypt currently has the largest number of confirmed cases on the continent at 166, followed by South Africa with 62.

"In the aftermath of the deadly Ebola outbreak from 2014 to 2015, Africa established a public health system, which has since January acted quite

effectively in training medical personnel for COVID-19 detection and prevention in large parts of the continent.

However, such a public health system remains relatively less developed than that on other continents, and the lack of supplies and relevant manufacturing capability would add to the adversity as the situation worsens and prolongs on the continent," Liu Haifang, executive director of the Beijing-based Center for African Studies and associate professor at the School of International Studies of Peking University, said.

Among the 30 African countries with reported infections, the report said, 18 of them were imported ones,

and such importation was mostly from European countries such as Italy, France and Spain.

For instance, in South Africa, the second hardest-hit country by the pandemic on the continent, five of the local COVID-19 cases were linked to the UK, four from the USA, three from France and two from Italy.

To defend and tackle the pandemic, many African countries such as Egypt, Morocco, and Djibouti have temporarily suspended international flights, while Sudan also sealed off all its sea ports.

Liu is worried about how long the African countries that have already implemented lockdown measures

would be able to maintain the practice, before such measures weigh heavily on their relatively weaker economic foundations.

"The situation has improved in China. While continuing our fight against the disease at home, China will support and help African countries and regional organizations to the best of our ability," Geng Shuang, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson, said at a routine press conference on Tuesday.

"We have delivered a batch of testing reagents for African countries through the Africa CDC and emergency supplies to countries affected. Our medical teams are also assisting them

in fighting the epidemic. Chinese companies and civil organizations also provided urgently needed supplies to African countries," he noted at the Tuesday event.

Geng added that Chinese experts and officials from the health and customs departments are scheduled to share information and experience on COVID-19 in a video conference with officials and healthcare specialists from the Africa CDC and over 20 African countries on Wednesday afternoon.

China's bigger role in the pandemic fight in Africa is urgently needed. For example, China's successful public governing experience in its own victo-

rious battle against the COVID-19 will guide African countries to mobilize the public to curb the local transmission and better understand their governments' measures, Liu said.

China can also work together with Africa to establish a joint epidemic prevention and control mechanism, as it did with South Korea and Japan, to share information.

Zimbabwe's Embassy in China told the Global Times recently in an exclusive statement that while the country has not recorded any infections except for a few suspected cases under observation, it shall continue to seek China's assistance in taking robust and facts-based preventive measures that would also include the necessary equipment in preparation for any possible outbreak. Global Times



China remains stabiliser for global supply chain

THIRTY-TWO automotive wire and cable manufacturers in east China's Shandong province recently received a letter of thanks from South Korea, which praised their effectiveness in production resumption amid the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) epidemic. The letter reflected China's deep integration into the global industrial chain.

Wires and cables are very important automobile parts. More than 90 percent of wire and cable suppliers of South Korean automobile manufacturers are located in Shandong. Therefore, their resumption of production is of vital importance for the auto industry in South Korea.

The COVID-19 epidemic had brought about short-term challenges to China's manufacturing industry in the early stages of the outbreak and temporarily interrupted the global supply chain.

However, as enterprises have speeded up resumption of work, China's export sector is projected to return to normal and even bounce back to make up for the losses caused by the suspension of production and impeded logistics.

China will remain the stabilizer of the global supply chain.

At present, Chinese governments at various levels have rolled out a package of policies to attract and stabilize foreign investment, and spared no effort to help enterprises restart production.

The Chinese governments have also endeavored to efficiently guarantee a stable supply chain, prioritize production resumption of leading foreign-funded companies and supporting businesses on important position of the global supply chain, and actively coordinate and promote upstream and downstream enterprises in key industries to resume work.

Foreign trade companies in China are accelerating resumption of production and improving their capability to fulfill contracts signed before the COVID-19 epidemic. Li Xingqian, director of foreign trade department under the Ministry of Commerce told a news briefing on March 13.

Supported by the government's policies, nearly all major foreign trade firms in Zhejiang and Jiangsu provinces and Shanghai have resumed production, according to Li. As a result, the global supply of important materials has been effectively guaranteed and the safety and stability of the global supply chain has been ensured to the maximum.

In addition, Chinese enterprises have played an active role in ensuring the reopening of overseas-contracted projects and the supply of materials, helping foreign suppliers resume production capacity, promoting up-

stream and downstream enterprises to resume normal operation and stabilizing the global supply chain.

The COVID-19 epidemic once again shows that China and the world are economically interdependent. It also fully demonstrates the resilience of China's supply chain and its unique position in the global industry.

By accelerating resumption of production amid challenges, Chinese enterprises have not only effectively alleviated the panic of the world market about the risk of supply chain disruption, but also consolidated their role of "stabilizer" in the global supply chain.

As the COVID-19 epidemic is gradually subdued in China, the market panic decreased. China still remains the most important destination for the majority of foreign-funded companies, who are always confident in investing in China and have not changed their investment strategies.

The annual China Business Climate Survey released by the American Chamber of Commerce in China on March 10 found that less than 20 percent of member companies have transferred or are considering moving their production capacity out of China - a percentage that has been declining in the recent three years. The figure indicates the impossibility of massive relocation of supply chains from China.

China's timely and efficient resumption of production effectively guarantees the smooth and orderly progress of international trade and production capacity cooperation, highlighting the country's important role of "world factory" and a global supplier.

China's proportion of global exports rose to 10.6 percent in 2018 from 4.8 percent in 2003, and its proportion of the value added of global manufacturing increased to 30 percent from 8.4 percent in the same period. The importance of major export products, including electronic products, computers and communication equipment in the global supply chain has risen significantly.

The impact of the epidemic on China's supply chain is temporary and phased. China is working hard to stabilize the fundamentals of foreign investment and foreign trade, coordinate relevant departments to ensure supplies to foreign companies in terms of materials, labor, water and power, and logistics, so as to quickly and effectively resume supply for production.

In the long run, with the support of a series of policies, the self-repairing ability of China's supply chain is continuously improving, and its indispensable position in the world will not be changed by the impact of the epidemic.

People's Daily

Russia to commemorate Victory Day in May

MOSCOW

IN Russia, the end of World War II and the defeat of nazism isn't celebrated on the 8th of May but on the 9th of May. Indeed, when the armistice was signed between the Allied and the Nazi leadership, it was already May 9th in Russia.

Nowadays, the 9th of May is one of the most important day in Russia and in the lives of many Russians (if not the most important).

Indeed, if in Western Europe the end of World War II is celebrated through official ceremonies and bank holiday, in Russia it became a real commitment for the people to celebrate the USSR victory over nazism and the sacrifice of millions of

Soviets.

The Victory Day became an official celebration and non-working day in 1965. Since then military parades have been held almost every five or 10 years to celebrate the different anniversary of the nazi defeat.

Progressively the victory of the Great Patriotic War has been erected a founding myth for the USSR...and more recently to the Russian international power and strength.

The military parade on the Red Square became an annual unmissable event in 2008.

It aims, as almost every military parade across the world, at spreading patriotism among the population and showing to the world the military strength of the country.

But what makes the Victory Day celebrations in Russia so special is what follows. Indeed, many countries can brag and show their newest military toys in city centers. But what is really unique and impressive in Russia is the Immortal's Regiment.

After the military parade, thousands of Russian march on Moscow's biggest boulevard towards the Red Square, handling picture of their fallen relatives.

Even more than 70 years later, and because the Soviet Union lost about 27 billions people during World War II, Russians continue to mourn their death and remember their sacrifice. The atmosphere there is unique: a mix of sadness, happiness, mourning, gratefulness and joy! **Agencies**



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

Netanyahu ally, Israeli Supreme Court clash, PM's future at stake

JERUSALEM

ISRAEL'S Supreme Court ordered the speaker of the parliament on Monday to put into motion a move in parliament, which he had rejected, that could weaken close ally Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's hold on power.

The rare court intervention in parliamentary procedure followed Yuli Edelstein's refusal to hold a vote on March 25 that would likely remove him as speaker and fast-track legislation to bar Netanyahu from forming a new government with a corruption trial looming.

Edelstein, a member of Netanyahu's right-wing Likud party, had cited the coronavirus crisis and the Israeli leader's call for a "national emergency government" as reasons for delaying a vote for the speaker's position, following an inconclusive national election on March 2.

Although no government has been formed to replace Netanyahu's caretaker coalition, a new parliament has been sworn in and Netanyahu's main rivals - the centrist Blue and White party and its allies, which include a coalition of Arab parties, control a slim majority - 61 of its 120 seats.

Hearing a petition from Blue and White and democracy advocacy groups on Monday to force Edelstein to schedule a vote for a new speaker, the court gave him until the evening to say whether he would be prepared to do so at a parliamentary session on Wednesday.

After the deadline passed, Edelstein took to Twitter with an emphatic no.

"With all due respect, I cannot agree to the ultimatum presented to me and Israel's parliament to hold the session no later than March 25," Edelstein wrote, saying that setting the legislature's agenda was the speaker's prerogative, not the court's.

Soon after that, the court issued a ruling instructing him to hold the vote within the next two days.

"The continued refusal to allow for a full vote in the Knesset for the election of a permanent Knesset speaker undercuts the foundations of the democratic process," Chief Justice Esther Hayut wrote in the ruling.

There was no immediate word from Edelstein whether he would obey the order.

Defiance of the ruling would put Israeli democracy to a new test amid allegations by Netanyahu's critics that he has taken a turn toward autocracy, Israeli political commentators said.

Netanyahu, 70, made no immediate public comment on the issue. Israel's attorney-general, who has indicted the prime minister on bribery, fraud and breach of trust charges that Netanyahu has denied, had backed Blue and White's position. **Agencies**

Biden battles for attention as virus blunts Democrat's momentum

WASHINGTON

JOE Biden's presidential campaign installed a television studio in his basement over the weekend so the Democratic front-runner could demand bolder action from US President Donald Trump on the coronavirus crisis and speak directly to the country.

But when he delivered the debut speech on Monday morning, major cable news networks broadcast New York Governor Andrew Cuomo's coronavirus briefing instead.

It was yet another sign of the upheaval the global pandemic has wrought on a presidential campaign that just a week ago seemed to be moving full steam toward a Nov 3 general election matchup between Biden and Trump.

Instead of the former vice-president wrapping up the Democratic nomination, the coronavirus has taken attention away from the 2020 White House race and threatens to blunt Biden's momentum by postponing state nominating elections and indefinitely halting in-person campaign events and fundraisers.

By contrast, Trump, who initially played down the virus' impact, has used his daily televised White House briefings on the crisis to project optimism about getting the pandemic under control and grab media attention.

The turn of events frustrates Democrats who were eager to move past the nominating contest's intraparty fighting. It is forcing the Biden campaign to recalibrate quickly to find new ways to connect with voters and donors and compete for attention as Trump leads the national response to the crisis.

"You're not going to have high-dollar donor parties," said Ed Rendell, the former Pennsylvania governor and Democratic National Committee chairman, who supports Biden. "That's going to hurt."

Before the spreading respiratory virus upended American life by shutting down a large swath of the economy and curtailing social activity, Biden's crowds were growing larger. Donors once cool to his candidacy rushed to make contributions.

He had hired a new campaign manager and was thinking about running mates. With decisive wins in a series of state Democratic nominating contests through last Tuesday, he expanded his lead over his lone remaining competitor, US Senator Bernie Sanders.

Although he was holding calls with reporters, donors and advisers from his Delaware home, Biden's lack of a public event for several days meant he



Joe Biden

all but disappeared from television. Internet memes questioned his whereabouts.

After seeking advice from donors on how to improve Biden's digital presence in light of the coronavirus, the campaign is responding to their feedback by boosting Biden's appearances from his in-house studio.

Biden's name recognition from decades in public life will help him stay relevant in the absence of regular TV coverage, Rendell said.

NEW METHODS, MIXED RESULTS

Several of the Biden campaign's videos in recent days, including Monday's speech, were widely viewed online. Still, there were growing pains. On Monday, Biden looked off to the side of the camera for a cue to start speaking and then gestured with his hand during the speech in apparent guidance to a teleprompter operator.

Biden's campaign also is reaching out to consultants and other fundraising experts to seek ideas on how to raise money while people are stuck in their homes, according to a person familiar with the efforts.

One idea being considered is "relational organizing," a technique that Biden's onetime rival Pete Buttigieg relied on with some success during normal times, the person said. The plan relies on supporters to host virtual fundraisers, hoping to collect small-dollar donations from friends, neighbors and other people in their network. **Agencies**

Huoshenshan Hospital discharges a total of 1,800 COVID-19 patients

ANOTHER 100 or so patients were discharged from makeshift hospital Huoshenshan, Wuhan, bringing the total number of cured patients to over 1,800.

Huoshenshan Hospital was formally delivered to military medics tasked with treating patients in the hospital on Feb. 2, and started receiving patients two days later.

Over the past month, with the support from 7 academicians from major medical institutions, the Huoshenshan Hospital has established research teams on COVID-19 prevention and treatment, a military joint expert team, and a multi-discipline medical expert team. The Peo-

ple's Liberation Army (PLA) General Hospital located in Beijing also established an expert team for teleconsultation.

From the first batch of patients received by the hospital, department directors would organize doctors to evaluate severity.

Joint discussions were held for those in severe conditions, and for those in complex situations, expert teams would be invited to discuss and then optimize treatment plans.

Those in critical conditions would be immediately transferred to ICUs.

On Feb. 14, experts from the PLA General Hospital visited the Huoshenshan Hospital and car-

ried out a group consultation, where they were introduced to the cases in severe and critical conditions at the hospital.

They conducted scientific discussion with the medical teams at Huoshenshan, and helped optimize treatment plans based on thorough analysis and science-based evaluation.

Thanks to a 5G teleconference system, experts from the PLA General Hospital in Beijing are able to have teleconsultations and offer guidance and technical assistance for treating critical patients at the Huoshenshan Hospital.

The Huoshenshan Hospital has also established an expert

team of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM).

Visiting patients in the wards, the experts completed TCM syndrome differentiation, determined routine TCM prescriptions, and established and improved the synergetic plans for the combined treatment of western and traditional Chinese medicine.

They held joint consultations for patients across the hospital, made routine prescriptions for patients with mild and moderate symptoms, and prescribed individualized treatment plans for those in severe and critical conditions.

Many patients developed

mental issues during quarantine and treatment, so timely psychological counseling and intervention are of vital significance.

To address this issue, the Huoshenshan Hospital established a team of psychological and mental health experts.

Under the instruction of experts and medics, patients started taking mental intervention practices, which largely alleviated the stressful atmosphere in the wards.

Over the days, the experts took multiple approaches to improve the treatment plan, enhanced psychological counseling for patients, and boosted the confidence of both patients

and doctors in winning the anti-coronavirus fight.

Meanwhile, the Huoshenshan hospital has also made active exploration of new treatments, trying its best to prevent patients with mild symptoms from developing into severe conditions. It steadfastly promotes plasma treatment for patients in recovery, maintains contact with discharged patients through messaging, and encouraged discharged patients to donate plasma.

Besides, expert teams at the hospital also made a clinical application plan of plasma treatment for recovered patients so as to smooth procedures, moni-

tor transfusion, and ensure safety. **People's Daily**



Visiting patients in the wards, the experts completed TCM syndrome differentiation, determined routine TCM prescriptions, and established the synergetic plans for the combined



A group of Morogoro musicians, made up of Rastafarians, put their skills to show at a concert at Jamhuri Stadium in the region recently. The region's Rastafarians have called on female entrepreneurs to unite with a view to investing 100m/- in development projects and ultimately improve their life standards. The musicians composed a song thanking Morogoro Regional Administrative Secretary, Emmanuel Kalobelo, who recently handed over funds to over six over groups consisting of entrepreneurs that include beneficiaries of the 10 percent of national budget presented to the former annually. PHOTO: MICHAEL SIKAPUNDWA

Coronavirus: Company assures customers of extended information, education and entertainment

By Guardian Correspondent

MULTICHOICE Tanzania has announced its plan to continue providing its DStv customers with access to invaluable content during this time of disruption.

This strategy is a major move for DStv on its mission to ensure Tanzanians are up to date with all that is happening around them, and also goes a long way in keeping families educated, entertained and reliably informed.

This plan comes in the wake of many recent changes and adjustments in the daily lives of Tanzanians, which include closure of schools and colleges and restrictions in travels and gatherings which compel families to spend hours in isolation at home.

"With everything that is changing around us in these challenging times, you can rely on us to put your needs at the heart of everything we do. As circumstances require you and your loved ones to spend more time at home, we remain committed to supporting you with the best available programming, to keep you and your family entertained and informed. As we all adjust to new ways of living, you can trust us to be your constant companion wherever you are," says Jacqueline Woiso, Managing Director of MultiChoice Tanzania.

"Our core role is to bring trusted news and information to audiences in Tanzania. We will provide you with broad access to credible information at this time, by making news channels more widely available," says the Managing Director.

She further revealed that MultiChoice is in constant communication with the local and international health authorities such as the Ministry responsible for health as well as the World Health Organisation, and soon they will be rolling out a public service announcement on Covid-19.

"It is important that all of us take heed of the announcements and advice from relevant

authorities and trusted experts," she adds.

In implementing this strategy, with immediate effect, DStv customers shall have access to the following:

- Stay in the Know: "To ensure that DStv provide its subscribers with broad access to credible information at this time, news channels are being made more widely available. From today CNN (channel 401) and Euronews (channel 414) have been pulled down to the lowest DStv Bomba package. New channel - Afrinews (417) has also been introduced.

- For the Kids: "Also, in light of the disruptions to the school schedule, DStv widens to the best available educational content, to help keep young minds stimulated and engaged."

- We are making revision accessible for lessons and edutainment, adding educational channels Da Vinci (DStv 318) and fun programming on Cartoon Network (channel 310) on DStv Bomba until the end of May to help keep young minds stimulated and engaged."

- Re Live Sports: "As you are aware, live sport is massively impacted; we have acquired the best award-winning sport documentaries from around the globe and produced thematic channels for you to relive the greatest sporting moments of all time. In addition, we have opened SSI to DStv Compact plus and Compact, this channel will thrill customers with past sport stories that have created some of sports most magical moments. Also opened is SS7 which will showcase Motorsport action to DStv Bomba package."

- Customer Care: "In supporting health experts' advise on social distancing, during this time we have encouraged our staff that are able to work from home to do so. This means that you may experience a delay in our ability to service you. However, we have a number of self-service and online platforms available, and we will do our best to sort out any issues you may have, timeously."

African jazz legend Manu Dibango dies from coronavirus in France

PARIS

WORLD-FAMOUS singer and saxophonist Manu Dibango has died from a coronavirus infection at the age of 86 in France, his management team said on Tuesday.

"It is with deep sadness that we announce the loss of Manu Dibango, our Papy Groove, who passed away on March 24, 2020, at 86 years old, further to Covid 19," read a statement on Dibango's Facebook page.

Cameroon-born Dibango arrived in France in the early 1950s and studied jazz and saxophone in the northern city of Reims, where he started playing in clubs, according to a biography on his Facebook page.

Dibango died early Tuesday morning in a hospital in the Paris region, Thierry Durepaire, a member of the artist's management team, told Reuters.

In the early 1960s, his style of playing took on more African rhythms as he collaborated with Brussels-based musicians from Congo and he began touring in Africa, developing his trademark pumping saxophone rhythms.

"Sax is sexy. I play other instruments too, but my voice sounds best through a saxophone," Dibango - who also played piano, organ and vibraphone - told French music programme Basique last year.

In the late 1960s, Dibango started his own band, played with a string of French musicians and in 1972 he had a major hit with "Soul Makossa",



Manu Dibango

a song that brought him international success and was reinterpreted by many other artists.

In 2009, Dibango filed a lawsuit in a Paris court against the producers of Michael Jackson for using the "Mamase, mamasa, makossa" riff from Soul Makossa. The riff became world-famous through Jackson's hit "Wanna Be Startin' Somethin'". The case was later settled out of court.

In an interview in 2019, Dibango said the song was now there for all

to use. "It has moved beyond me. It is good in a way, once a song becomes a standard, it no longer belongs to the composer but to the person who interprets it," he said.

On Dibango's 1992 album Wakafrika, produced in France, he reinterpreted a string of African hits and played with top African stars including Youssou N'dour, King Sunny Adé, Salif Keita, Angélique Kidjo and Papa Wemba, as well as British rock singers Peter Gabriel and Sinéad O'Connor.

In 2010, Dibango received the "legion d'honneur" medal in his adopted country France. He was diagnosed with a coronavirus infection earlier this month.

Last year, on the sidelines of a tour celebrating 60 years on stage, he said jazz music needed to have a danceable beat.

"We are the leg specialists, things have to move, that is how I see music," he said.

REUTERS

Tokyo 2020 postponement decision 'within days', say sources



A banner for the upcoming Tokyo 2020 Olympics is seen behind traffic lights, following an outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), in Tokyo, Japan, March 23, 2020. REUTERS

ATHENS/TOKYO

A FINAL decision whether to postpone the Tokyo Olympics because of the coronavirus pandemic will be taken in the coming days, sources within the Olympic movement told Reuters on Tuesday, as the United States joined calls for a delay.

With pressure mounting every day, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach have scheduled a telephone conference at 1100 GMT on Tuesday, the Japanese government said.

Japan's Sankei newspaper reported on Tuesday that the government were negotiating with the IOC to postpone the Games for up to a year, in what would be a first in the 124-year modern history of the Olympics.

The IOC and Japanese government had announced they would undertake a month-long consultation before making a final decision but there looks to have been a rethink as more and more voices joined the chorus of calls for a postponement.

On Monday, former IOC board member Dick Pound said the Swiss-based body appeared to have decided

to delay the event, likely for a year, due to the virus.

The outbreak has now infected more than 377,000 across 194 according to a Reuters tally on Tuesday morning, with over 16,500 deaths linked to the virus.

Efforts to contain it have led to major travel, commercial and social restrictions, which have also hindered the ability of many athletes to prepare for the Games.

Canada and Australia have already said they will not be sending teams to Tokyo if the Games go ahead as scheduled this year, while Britain said it was likely to follow suit after meeting with sporting body representatives on Tuesday.

The United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee said it had listened to feedback from athletes and was encouraged by a clearer path towards postponement.

"Even if the current significant health concerns could be alleviated by late summer, the enormous disruptions to the training environment, doping controls and qualification process can't be overcome in a satisfactory manner," the USOPC said in a statement on Monday.

The United States is by far the most successful nation in the history of the modern Summer Games, while the rights deal with American broadcaster NBC to televise the Olympics represents from 50% to 70% of the IOC's total annual revenues.

"THEME PARK OF EMOTIONS"

Tony Estanguet, head of the Paris 2024 Olympics organising committee and an IOC member, said a delay of the 2020 Olympics was likely.

"Today the Games are not the priority, the priority is health, and that is how the world of sports contributes to that international solidarity," Estanguet said on France Info radio.

Japan and the IOC have said calling off the Games entirely is not an option but a delay would present major logistical difficulties given the crowded global sporting calendar and other commercial considerations.

World Athletics said on Monday they would be willing to move their 2021 world championships, scheduled for Aug. 6-15 in Eugene, Oregon to clear a path for a 2021 Olympics.

A groundswell of concern from athletes - already struggling to train as gyms, stadiums and swimming pools

close around the world - appeared to be tipping the balance towards that outcome.

"I have ridden not just a rollercoaster but the entire theme park of emotions," Keesja Gofers, part of the Australian women's water polo team, said on Instagram.

"I am relieved. Athletes around the world will now have the chance at a proper preparation and the Olympics can, on whatever date they are held, continue to be a coming together of the world's best at their best."

An Olympics postponement would be a blow for host country Japan, which has pumped in more than \$12 billion of investment, and huge sums are also at stake for sponsors and broadcasters.

A poll showed about 70% of the Japanese think it is appropriate to delay the Olympics, the Sankei said.

The Olympics have never before been delayed, though they were cancelled altogether in 1916, 1940 and 1944 during the two world wars. Major Cold War boycotts also disrupted the Moscow and Los Angeles Games in 1980 and 1984.

REUTERS

Australia's Coates, the man in the middle stuck with a muddle

SYDNEY/MEBOURNE

THE surest sign that the tide had turned definitively against plans to press ahead with the Tokyo Games this year might have come on Monday when the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) instructed its athletes to prepare for 2021.

The decision was made after a meeting of the AOC board chaired by John Coates, which unanimously agreed that restrictions introduced to contain the coronavirus made it impossible to send a team to Tokyo in July.

Coates, self-isolating after a trip to Lausanne, did not recuse himself from the teleconference and played a full part in a meeting that concluded with the decision that Australian athletes would not go to Japan this year.

Given that AOC President Coates is also the head of the International Olympic Committee (IOC)'s Coordination Commission for the Tokyo Games, it was quite a statement.

Coates, an IOC vice president and close ally of IOC President Thomas Bach, had religiously followed the official line that the Games would go ahead as planned on July 24 up until last week.

After the AOC statement was released, Coates immediately self-imposed another lockdown, this time on the media, and started working on plans to deliver the Games in 2021.

The 69-year-old lawyer certainly knows his way around a Summer Games having made his name in Olympic circles by playing a leading role in the bid for, and successful delivery of, the 2000 edition in his home city of Sydney.

Coates was a cox who cut his teeth in sports administration at Rowing Australia before going on to lead his country's delegation as Chef de Mission at six Summer Games from 1988.

Renowned as a fine administrator with the interests of athletes firmly at heart, he can also be a fierce adversary.

Champions League final postponed indefinitely

LYON

THE 2019-20 UEFA Champions League final has been postponed indefinitely because of the coronavirus outbreak, UEFA announced on Monday.

The final of Europe's elite club competition had been scheduled for May 30 at the Ataturk Olympic Stadium in Istanbul.

UEFA also announced the postponement of the UEFA Women's Champions League final and the Europa League final, both originally scheduled for May.

"No decision has yet been made on rearranged dates," the UEFA statement said. "The working group, established last week as a result of the conference call among the stakeholders of European football, which was chaired by UEFA President, Aleksander Ceferin, will analyse the options available. The group has already begun its examination of the calendar. Announcements will be made in due course."

Twelve teams remain in this season's Champions League after only half of the competition's round-of-16 ties could be completed before UEFA postponed the remaining matches due to the virus outbreak.

Four teams advanced to the Champions League quarterfinals last week, including Atletico Madrid, who beat holders Liverpool across two legs, and Paris Saint-Germain, who overcame Borussia Dortmund. Atalanta advanced past Valencia,

while RB Leipzig beat Tottenham.

Four round-of-16 second-leg ties have yet to be played: Manchester City vs. Real Madrid, Juventus vs. Lyon, Barcelona vs. Napoli and Bayern Munich vs. Chelsea.

Euro 2020 has been postponed until 2021 after UEFA reached an agreement with key governing bodies last week.

In other sports, the NBA and NHL have suspended their seasons, the MLB has delayed Opening Day, and the popular NCAA men's and women's basketball tournaments have been cancelled for the first time in their respective histories.

COVID-19 is the official name of a new strain of coronavirus that has surged around the world in recent months.

The coronaviruses are a family of viruses that cause illnesses ranging from the common cold to more serious respiratory diseases. Flu is caused by a different virus. There is no vaccine for the coronavirus, though researchers are working on one and hope to begin testing soon.

Older people, especially those with chronic illnesses such as heart or lung disease, are most at risk. The coronavirus spreads mainly through coughs and sneezes, though it also can be transferred from surfaces.

The best way to prevent infection is by frequent hand-washing, cleaning surfaces with regular household sprays and wipes, and avoiding close contact with people who are sick.

(Agencies)

Messi, Ronaldo and Neymar the world's best-paid footballers, study claims

PARIS

LIONEL Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo and Neymar remain the three best-paid footballers in the world, according to a study by France Football magazine.

The study estimates the income of the world's highest-paid players by adding their estimated gross salaries and income from image rights to bonuses earned last season.

As a result, the publication calculates Barcelona star Messi's total annual income as 131 million euros (\$141 million).

That puts the Argentine ahead of Ronaldo, with the Portuguese forward second on the list with 118

million euros of estimated income.

Paris Saint-Germain's Brazil star Neymar, who moved to France from Barcelona for a world record transfer fee in 2017, is third on the list with total pay of 95 million euros, way ahead of Real Madrid's Gareth Bale.

The Welshman is fourth on the list with 38.7 million euros.

Meanwhile, according to the magazine, Atletico Madrid's Diego Simeone is the best-paid coach with total wages of 40.5 million euros, way ahead of Antonio Conte at Inter Milan on 30 million euros and Pep Guardiola at Manchester City on 27 million euros.

AFP

COVID-19 gives Barcelona Neymar dilemma - sources

BARCELONA

BARCELONA must choose between pursuing Neymar or Lautaro Martinez this summer, various sources have told ESPN, as the club are forced to reconsider their transfer plans due to the financial effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

One source explains that signing both was always a long shot, but La Liga leaders have now accepted that they will only be able to afford one.

Neymar remains the preferred option. Barca failed to strike a deal with Paris Saint-Germain last summer following negotiations with the French club but will try again once this season ends. When that will be remains up in the air, with the announcement on Monday that the league has been indefinitely suspended as Spain grapples with one of Europe's worst outbreaks of coronavirus.

If Barca and PSG cannot reach an agreement, sources have explained to ESPN that the Blaugrana could look to invoke Article 17 of FIFA's transfer regulations. Article 17 states that players can unilaterally cancel their contract after the three-year protection period ends with FIFA then dictating the cost of the transfer.

President Josep Maria Bartomeu is particularly keen to bring Neymar back to Camp Nou before his mandate ends in 2021.

However, there are other members of the club's hierarchy who prefer Inter Milan's Martinez. They feel an out-and-out striker is more necessary as Barca seek a long-term replacement for Luis Suarez, who turned 33 in July. At 22, Martinez is also six years Neymar's junior.

The Argentina international has a clause in his contract that would allow him to leave for €111 million in the first two weeks of July. A source explains that Barca feel that price is excessive, though, and the club would rather negotiate a player-plus-cash deal.

However, Real Madrid's interest in Martinez means Barca will have to act quickly to avoid missing out on the forward. Sources close to Martinez first told ESPN in February that Madrid were ready to compete with Barca for the player's signature.

The Catalan club, therefore, feel under pressure to decide on their transfer strategy for the summer. The economic uncertainty generated by coronavirus means it's impossible for them to truly assess what sort of position they will be in financially when -- if -- the season ends.

The club is already missing out on vital match-day revenue, as well as the income generated by the club's museum, which counts on thousands of visitors a day. It's currently shut with Spain in lockdown until at least April 11. Longer-term repercussions of the coronavirus pandemic could see the club miss out on television money as well as prize money from competitions such as the Champions League and La Liga. The club don't know what sort of a knock-on effect that could all have on advertising and marketing revenue.

Meanwhile, the club are expected to make decisions this week on saving money in the short-term. At a meeting last Friday, a temporary reduction to the players' wages was discussed.

(Agencies)

Fitness, focus, frustration: Life in lockdown for Europe's footballers

MADRID

JUVENTUS midfielder Sami Khedira is learning to play the piano, La Liga clubs are facing off on playstation and Atalanta's Robin Gosens has been revising for exams in psychology.

Yet as thousands of footballers, from the highest levels to the lower leagues, remain on lockdown while coronavirus spreads across Europe, all of them are tasked with keeping themselves fit, as well as entertained.

"Everyone needs to be ready so that when the health advice says resume, we can resume straight away," Emmanuel Orhant, medical director of the French Football Federation (FFF), told AFP.

Nobody knows when that will be and with the global death toll from coronavirus passing 13,000 on Saturday, there is little appetite yet even to address the question.

But within football, the absence of a deadline only enhances the sense of urgency. In theory, the season could restart in a matter of weeks and clubs are determined to be ready.

"Players may even need to get their summer break in now," Brighton striker Glenn Murray told AFP. "We might finish the 2019/20 season and then roll into 2020/21 without any break at all." Asked if the players would accept that scenario, Murray said: "We don't have any choice."

It means fitness coaches and club doctors are creating week-to-week conditioning programmes, personalised for individual players, explained through Whatsapp and Skype, and dependent on both technology and trust.

"Every one of our players has been given the guidance they need from our coaches, nutritionists and doctors," Real Betis head of medical Jose Manuel Alvarez told AFP. "It is up to them to take it."

Betis, who sit 12th in La Liga, have divided their squad into groups depending on physical characteristics, with one coach assigned to each.

Devices then send data on fatigue, sleep, pain and even moods while players submit reports to the doctors on their weight and temperature, and to the fitness department regarding targets achieved.

"Players know if they don't do their job they will be at a clear disadvantage against their teammates when normal training resumes," Alvarez says.

In that sense, they are given no excuses. Many players already have gyms at home but club owners have paid thousands to ensure those without have all the equipment they need.

"A football player's mechanics are precise, complex and sophisticated," Marseille president Jacques-Henri Eyraud told AFP. "And they require almost daily maintenance."

How Premier League stars stay busy during coronavirus shutdown

By Mark Ogden, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

TRAINING plans delivered by email, fitness sessions over Skype and food parcels delivered on a daily basis. Welcome to the new normal for professional footballers in the midst of the coronavirus crisis.

At some point soon, you may even see a footballer jogging down your street or doing shuttle runs on a field nearby. Due to the wide-scale shutdown of society, it's not just schoolchildren or office workers who are facing the physical and psychological challenge of working from home.

"Lots of top players have pretty well-stocked gyms at home nowadays," an agent of a Premier League player told ESPN. "But the next few weeks will be tough for them, especially while training grounds are closed, because they are going to have to get used to training alone and motivating themselves to do so."

"I'm just waiting for the first player to post something on social media like the scene from 'Rocky,' with kids joining him on a run through the streets. That probably wouldn't be good for social distancing, but some players will need to break out from behind four walls to keep themselves fit and mentally stimulated."

We have seen elite players such as Sergio Ramos and Paul Pogba posting videos on social media, showing how they are keeping fit during the coronavirus shutdown. But without the daily monitoring that takes places at a club, how will footballers, at any level, maintain their fitness levels throughout an indefinite period without competitive action?

Liverpool are one of many top clubs to give their players detailed, individual training plans, initially covering the next two weeks with work underway on longer-term instruction. West Ham, meanwhile, are preparing to send some of the fitness equipment from the team's training ground to each member of David Moyes' squad, including spin bikes and weights to maintain their fitness.

An agent of a leading Manchester United player has told ESPN that his client has hired a personal trainer for sessions over Skype. The player has a running machine and weights in his personal gym and also is training on his own with a ball in the yard, but the Skype sessions are crucial because they enable him to train with intensity from a cardiovascular perspective.

Eating well while stuck at home
In addition to the fitness demands, clubs are



A deserted Olympic stadium in Rome (AFP Photo)

Yet many clubs believe there is more to it than bikes and treadmills.

-- Self discipline -- In Germany, Bayern Munich held their first 'cyber-training' session on Wednesday, when the players worked out through video-conference and then stayed online for an almost an hour to catch up.

In France, Lyon have told their players to rest until March 24, while in Spain, Atletico Madrid have done tactical work, with video meetings held between players and coaches to reinforce key messages.

Atletico are also particularly stringent on diets. Like most clubs, they deliver meals devised by their nutritionists but players also choose between options for lunch and dinner, which they then eat at the same time as their teammates.

Self-discipline will not come easy to some. "Of course some players are better than others at handling this situation," Jonathan Barnett, agent of Gareth Bale

and Stella Group, told AFP. "Players are human beings too and at the moment they're very frustrated."

Much will depend on personal circumstances. Lockdown can either offer the chance to spend more time with family or leaves family far away and unusually difficult to reach.

Inter Milan's Belgian striker Romelu Lukaku is unable to see his mother, who has high-risk diabetes, while Real Madrid's Luka Jovic broke self-isolation rules when attempting to visit his girlfriend in Serbia.

"Some of our foreign guys have missed the opportunity to go home," Brighton's Murray said. "It's extremely difficult for them."

Older players like Murray, who is 36, also feel the frustration of time being wasted. "It's made me more determined to play as long as I can," Murray said.

And for those where football has forever been a way of life, boredom can

quickly take hold. "It's so strange not being able to train," AC Milan goalkeeper Asmir Begovic said last week. "You try to do other things but there's only so much Netflix you can watch."

More generally, there seems to be an acceptance that no matter how thorough the programmes, players will return considerably less fit and far more prone to injury.

Philippe Piat, president of FIFPro, which represents professional players worldwide, told AFP: "The doctors say 15 days off needs 15 days of training so what will it take if there are three weeks off? They were clear: don't be surprised if there are injuries."

"The risk of injury is something we really do expect," said Betis doctor Alvarez. "They will never reach the level of a normal training session, that's obvious. It's a strange and completely new situation for everyone."

AFP



Sergio Agüero has posted his in-home training sessions on social media, but every Premier League team has been active with their squads. (Agencies)

and focused on the mental toughness of footballers when earning a degree in psychology, has told ESPN that the players will have to overcome many challenges.

"Primarily, running on a treadmill will get you fitter. The same goes for cycling and rowing," Davis said. "But the only way to stay match fit for football is to be playing football."

"The big issue will be motivation, because nobody knows when the start date will be again. Usually, you have the season opener [a fixed start date] or a particular match to be ready for, but it is all very open-ended right now."

Lack of motivation is only one of a number of responses: others could be sadness, irritation, frustration at not being able to play.

It's all down to the personality of the player. But it is interesting to see players like Marcus Rashford and Phil Foden, even Lionel Messi, doing the toilet roll kick-up challenge and Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain doing the stair-dance challenge. Keeping occupied is a coping strategy.

"A worst-case scenario is depression, and clubs should be helping players who may be falling into a downward spiral with psychological help. Developing coping strategies and routine will help. Now more than ever, the whole team -- not just the players, but the back-room staff and

support staff -- become very important."

Premier League clubs employ player liaison officers, who serve as the first point of contact for players when problems arise, regardless of whether they're trivial or significant. One player liaison officer told ESPN that his job ranges from care worker to maintenance man but these days, his focus is on ensuring single and/or foreign players are contacted daily.

"The majority of our foreign lads are married or live with their families," he told ESPN. "But it is still important to make sure they are OK, especially if they are new to the country and everything is unfamiliar."

Making the best of the layoff

Despite the specific difficulties that lie ahead, the prolonged layoff can provide a positive opportunity. For those players whose usual workload is "play-train-play" from game to game, Davis says that the next six to eight weeks could be used to help them overcome long-standing fitness issues.

"With an enforced break, players may be able to work on weaknesses that just cannot [get addressed] during a season," he said. "For example, strengthening hamstrings to be less prone to injury. This kind of strength work could only be done in the offseason, or if the player is injured."

Gwiji by David Chikoko



WORKING FROM HOME

SPORT

Tokyo 2020 postponement
decision 'within days', say sources

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



A Dar es Salaam athlete features in a training session at National Stadium in the city recently to prepare for events, scheduled for later this year. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

TOC supports fight against Coronavirus pandemic

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA Olympic Committee (TOC) has disclosed it is doing all it can to contain the spread of the Coronavirus disease in the country.

The committee's Secretary General, Filbert Bayi, said their aim is to see to it the virus is contained so that sporting activities will again take place.

He said TOC, as it is the case for many organizations, are committed to see to it that the health of everyone is protected.

The TOC, he noted, is also supporting the containment of the virus and also safeguards the interests of the athletes and Olympic sport.

He said TOC and International Olympic Committee (IOC) are encouraging all athletes to continue to prepare for the 2020 Olympic Games, to be hosted by Tokyo, as best they can.

The TOC official said his committee, in conjunction with IOC, will keep supporting the athletes and will keep on providing the athletes with the latest information and developments.

Bayi said TOC's action is in response to IOC directive that all national sports bodies should do all they can to contain further spread of coronavirus.

In the IOC communique, the committee said it will continue acting as a responsible organization to end the spread of the outbreak.

"This communique sets out the principles established by the IOC Executive Board, together with their implementation in cooperation with all the stakeholders concerned," the IOC disclosed.

"The IOC will continue to act as a responsible organization. In this context, the IOC asks all its stakeholders within their own remit to do everything to contribute to the containment of the virus," said part of the communique from IOC.

IOC further said its thoughts are with those who are affected by the virus.

"This is an unprecedented situation for the whole world, and our thoughts are with all those affected by this crisis."

"We are in solidarity with the whole of society to do everything to contain the virus, the situation around the COVID-19 virus is also impacting the preparations for the Tokyo Olympic Games, and is changing day by day," IOC said.

The IOC affirmed it remains fully committed to the Tokyo Olympic Games and, with more than four months to go before the Games, there is no need for any drastic decisions at this stage.

The committee said any speculation at this moment would be counter-productive.

IOC said it will continue to monitor the situation everyday.

"Already in mid-February, a task force was set up consisting of the IOC, the World Health Organization (WHO), the Tokyo Olympic Games Organizing Committee, the Japan authorities and the Tokyo Metropolitan Government," the committee noted.

The purpose of the task force, as noted by the committee, is to ensure coordinated actions by all stakeholders.

"The task force's mission is to keep a constant appraisal of the situation to form the basis for the ongoing operational planning and necessary adaptations," IOC disclosed.

"The task force also monitors the implementation of the various actions decided."

"The IOC will continue to follow the guidance of this task force. The IOC decision will not be determined by financial interests, because, thanks to its risk management policies and insurance, it will in any case be able to continue its operations and accomplish its

Ruangwa District soccer squads benefit from SportPesa support

By Guardian Reporter

GAMING company, SportPesa Tanzania, has said impressive showing Lindi's Namungo FC has displayed in this season's Mainland Premier League has motivated the firm to hand over sports equipment to the region's other outfits.

Namungo FC, based in Ruangwa District, is lately placed fourth in the domestic top flight behind the league favourites, Simba, Yanga and Azam FC.

SportPesa officials last week visited Ruangwa to hand over sports equipment to the district's soccer clubs.

The gaming firm had received the equipment from England clubs, sponsored by the firm, through the firm's campaign known as 'Kits For Afrika.'

SportPesa presented sports equipment to eight soccer clubs in Ruangwa.

The equipment, which include modern footballs, had been used by renowned England clubs like Hull City FC and Everton FC.

SportPesa Tanzania's Director of Administration and Compliance, Tarimba Abbas, disclosed they hardly regret presenting the sponsorship to Namungo FC which is lately riding high in Mainland Premier League.

Abbas noted Namungo FC deserves a lot of praise for putting impressive showing in Mainland Premier League.

Namungo FC is making its debut appearance in the domestic top flight this year.

"I predict Namungo will perform well in the coming Mainland Premier League seasons, given it has managed to hold the fourth position in the league in the club's first season in the competition," he noted.

"We therefore do not regret sponsoring Namungo because they are representing us well in the league."

"Namungo have motivated us to hand over sports equipment to the district's other outfits which participates in various competitions."

"We are gearing towards seeing to it Ruangwa produces teams which will excel in top domestic tournaments, as it the case for Namungo FC."



Chess players battle it out in one of the round one games of this season's Tanzania Chess League which took place at Russia Cultural Center in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA CHESS ASSOCIATION

National Chess League suspended indefinitely

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA Chess Association (TCA) has indefinitely suspended the National Chess League which was taking place at Russia Cultural Center in Dar es Salaam.

Nurdin Hassuji, TCA Secretary General, said they have suspended the league in accordance with the government's directive of suspending all sporting activities in the country due to Coronavirus disease, which has hit the country.

The 11-team league, which was in the fourth round, had seen Dar es Salaam's Alliance Insurance team lead the league table with eight points while Don Bosco Rising Star was holding second position with six points.

"We have suspended the National Chess League, which was taking place at Russia Cultural Center in Dar es Salaam, this was done following the directive by the government on banning all gatherings," he noted.

"We take the safety and health of our players seriously," he said.

He said the league will resume after the government's decision on the outbreak.

The teams, which were competing in the league, are Alliance Insurance, Don Bosco Rising Star, Ahead Africa, HS Computers, Barketilly, Flash Net, Specialized Engineering, My World Pre School, Pawn Pushers, Kamal Steel and Unique.

Meanwhile, Hassuji said the association is waiting for communication from the

International Chess Federation (FIDE) on the coming Olympiad, which is slated to take place in Russia in August.

Tanzania was set to send four male players and four female players to the Olympiad.

The four were selected at the just ended National Chess Championships, which took place in Dar es Salaam.

"The International Chess Federation (FIDE) sent us a communication that by May this year they will communicate with all national chess associations on the Olympiad, up to now the future of Olympiad is not known," he disclosed.

"TCA urges all players to keep on training at their respective homes," he said.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

IF IT IS YOUR PARFUM
You GO, PAR! PAR! PAR!



IF IT IS SOMEBODY ELSE'S
PARFUM YOU GO PAAARFUM!
PAAARFUM! PAAARFUM!

TONIGHT @ 7:00

EATV SAA 1

WEDNESDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 Weekend Movie (r)
13:30 Kali Za Wana
14:00 Planet Bongo (r)
14:30 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Nirvana (r)
16:00 Skonga (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 Kibishara Zaidi

EATV SAA 1
Coverage of the days current events accompanied by interviews with prominent people on diverse topics ranging from national to social interests.

eastafrika RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM