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ISSN 0856 - 5434 ISSUE No. 7903 • PRICE: Tsh 1,000, Kenya sh100

TANZANIA

SATURDAY 16 MAY, 2020

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Industry and Trade minister Innocent Bashungwa (3rd-L) and Mwanza regional commissioner John Mongella (2nd-L) inspect vehicles loaded with sugar meant for distribution in various regions in the country. This was shortly after a ship carrying 20,000 tonnes of the sweetener, which has been especially scarce across the country for over a week now, docked at the Mwanza South Port on Thursday from Uganda. Photo: Courtesy of Eliud Rwechungura

Treasury set to undertake coronavirus impact study

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

THE government has said it is carrying out an impact assessment of the magnitude of the Covid-19 pandemic on various sectors of the economy as it works on fixing the overall short and long-term upsets brought about by the disease.

Finance and Planning minister Dr Philip Mpango told the National Assembly here yesterday that the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic had greatly affected the government's ability to implement its fiscal and

monetary policy.

Dr Mpango made the remarks when he tabled the ministry's 12.39trn/- Budget estimates and expenditures for the fiscal year 2020/2021, saying that the country's economy grew at an average of 7.0 per cent for the second year in the row since 2018.

The performance puts Tanzania behind Rwanda that recorded a GDP growth rate of 9.4 per cent, and ahead of Kenya and Uganda that registered 5.6 and 4.9 per cent growth rates respectively.

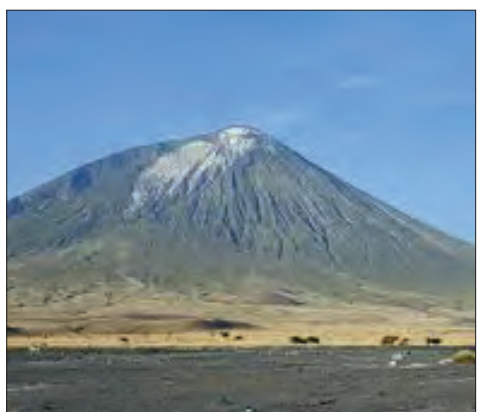
The Treasury projected, however, that owing to the impact of the coronavirus, GDP growth will be 4.0 per cent in 2020 with inflation rate remaining at single digit level.

Although the minister did not provide details on the team reviewing the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, he assured MPs that the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) will take effective



The Treasury projected, however, that due to the impact of the coronavirus, GDP growth will be 4.0 per cent in 2020 with inflation rate remaining at single digit level

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Pre-historic footprints seen on 'sacred volcano'

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

SCIENTISTS have just come up with new evidence regarding newly discovered, prehistoric human footprints impressed at the base of the active 'Oldonyo Lengai' volcano.

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No EAC observers for Burundi polls

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THE East African Community (EAC) Secretariat in Arusha has just called off the mission that was to be dispatched to Bujumbura to monitor the Burundi General Elections, official sources say.

The move follows an internal memo from Secretary General Liberat Mfumukeko with the subject, 'Cancellation of Deployment of the EAC Technical Observation Mission for General Elections in Burundi 2020.'



We regret to inform you that the mission has been cancelled due to reasons beyond our control ...Any inconvenience caused is highly regretted

Addressed to the Clerk of the East African Legislative

Assembly, the body text in the dispatch reads: "I have the honor to refer to the above subject and the memo dated 6th of May 2020 inviting nominees from the Honourable Members of EALA to join the EAC Technical Observation Mission for the General Elections in the Republic of Burundi scheduled for May 12 to 22, 2020."

"...We regret to inform you that the mission has been cancelled owing to reasons beyond our control ...Any inconvenience caused is

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Mishaps in fishing claim seven lives

By Guardian Reporters

SEVEN fishermen have been reported dead in different drowning incidents, among them four members of the same family from Kerege in Bagamoyo District whose canoe capsized in Mkuza River.

Coast Regional Police Commander Wankyo Nyigesa (pictured) said the incident occurred on Thursday at around 5 p.m.

RPC Nyigesa said the deceased failed to control the canoe due to



strong winds accompanied by heavy rain.

"All of them drowned when attempting to rescue one of their own who got stuck in deep mud," he said.

They are Juma Charles (21), Emmanuel Charles (21), Felister Charles (18) and Ashura Emmanuel (23), residents of Amani village.

He cautioned the residents to be careful when fishing at the

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SHARE FACTS ABOUT COVID-19

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

FACT 1

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

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

FACT 2

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

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

FACT 3

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

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



© 2020 CDC

FACT 4

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

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

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

- Stay home when you are sick.

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

FACT 5

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

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

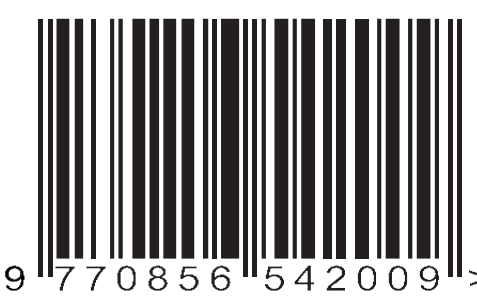
Seek medical advice if you

- Develop symptoms

AND

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

cdc.gov/COVID-19



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No EAC observers for Burundi polls

FROM PAGE 1

highly regretted."

The Guardian contacted EAC Corporate Communications and Public Affairs Department official Florian Mutabazi, who confirmed that indeed the secretariat has called off its Election Observation Mission to Burundi.

Observer missions are tied to Article 124 of the EAC Treaty which affirms the need for observation of events shaping peace and security among the Partner States. The article further spells out wide-ranging approaches for implementation in order to have a stable and secure environment within the region. The treaty further mandates the secretariat to observe electoral processes within the context of the national constitutions of the partner states.

Last February, an EAC Secretariat team led by Ambassador Mfumukeko held consultative meetings with various key stakeholders in Burundi including the country's National Electoral Commission (CEN), various ministries including Home Affairs and Security, as well as major political parties.

The broad objective of the meetings was to consult with stakeholders and prepare the ground for the deployment of an EAC Electoral Observer Mission ahead of the May 2020 General Elections there.

The East African Community has always deployed Election Observer Missions to the partner states going through elections over the years, in line with principles of promoting democratic governance as part of East African integration.

The Electoral Observatory Mission to Burundi was to be deployed in two phases, the first a long-term election observer mission to observe all activities before, during and after the elections, while a short-term election observer mission would observe elections on the polling day.

The EAC Election Observer Mission was expected to enhance public confidence in the electoral process by encouraging voters and political parties to participate in a free, fair and competitive environment free of intimidation and violence.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa shares a light moment with Sikonge legislator Joseph Kakunda (L) and Special Seats MP Felista Bura (2nd-L) outside Parliament in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: PMO.

Treasury set to undertake coronavirus impact study

FROM PAGE 1

measures to ensure data on economic trends and impact in various sectors is delivered to the government and other stakeholders on time.

Dr Mpango said the gov-

ernment took various policy and administrative actions in the 2019/20 financial year, especially the implementation of the business blueprint to boost economic activities, use of central bank interest policy

to project the direction of monetary policy and issuance of large short term loans to commercial banks.

Others include purchasing of foreign currencies from the local market, reducing mandatory deposits

to the central bank by commercial banks from 8 percent to 7 percent of their total deposits. This also includes an increase of statutory minimum reserves from 10 to 20 percent for banks. The mining which

grew at 17.7percent was the leading sector, followed by construction, which grew by 14.1percent. Other sectors include sports and arts (11.2percent), and then logistics and transport (8.7 percent).

In other East African countries like Kenya the mining sector grew at 5.6percent while in Uganda it grew at 4.9percent and Rwanda at 9.4 per cent, the minister added



Trucks loaded with cargo begin moving into Tanzania from Zambia yesterday shortly after Zambia re-opened its side of the border between the two countries. Photo: Correspondent Manuel Kaminyoge.

Mishaps in fishing claim seven lives

FROM PAGE 1

river especially during the rainy season.

In another incident, three fishermen from Tamau village, Bunda district in Mara region died in Lake Victoria after two boats collided.

Tamau village chairman Asaph Ernest said the accident occurred in the morning of Monday, May 11.

Narrating, the local leaders said the fishermen's manually operated boat collided with a motor powered boat which was said to be used by pirates.

"They went into the lake in search of their fishing gears which they earlier claimed were stolen by pirates. When in the lake, they maintained constant telephone communication with their relatives, but they went off all of a sudden," he stated.

The fishermen's relatives embarked on a search mission the following day where they only found a sinking

boat with bodies missing.

"Village divers went into the search for the bodies, and managed to recover two bodies on Tuesday, May 12. The third body was recovered on Thursday," said the village chairman.

Nyantwali Ward Executive Officer Dainos Sijaona mentioned the deceased as Kulwa Rhobati (31), Muhoja Munze (32) and Sengelema Abdallah (31), residents of Tamau village in Bunda district, Mara region.

Sijaona thanked the management of Mwanza Marine Services Co. for supporting the villagers' rescue efforts by providing boat fuel and food for the divers.

Nyantwali Ward Councilor Ndovu Chacha commended the villagers and partners for their efforts in recovering the bodies. He also acknowledged efforts by Bunda District Commissioner Lydia Bupilipi who arrived at the scene shortly after she was informed of the incident.

Pre-historic footprints seen on 'sacred volcano'

FROM PAGE 1

A new scientific report entitled "Snapshots of human anatomy, locomotion and behavior from Late Pleistocene footprints at Engare Sero, Tanzania" indicates that about 17 people had trekked down the sacred mountain 19,000 years ago.

The study findings were compiled by a team of researchers including Kevin Hatala, William Harcourt-Smith, Adam Gordon, Brian W. Zimmer, Brian G. Richmond, Briana L. Pobiner, David J. Green, Adam Metallo, Vince Rossi and Cynthia M.

Liutkus-Pierce.

Published by Chatham University in Pittsburgh, the evolutionary biologist Kevin Hatala and team stated that the 408 footprints, stamped onto the cemented volcanic mud flow and caused by the eruption which occurred nearly 20,000 years ago, could have been made by 17 individuals.

The report notes that the footprints were made by barefoot humans, among them 14 women, two men and a male child. What they were doing on the plains is

something which leaves a lot to imagination, but the scientists are on view that those individuals seem to have been 'moving at different speeds.'

In reaction to that, the Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Dr Hamis Kigwangalla typed on his Tweeter handler that "Tanzania is endowed with much grace. God must have created this country before moving along to make other areas," he maintained.

Initially, the discovery made by a local villager back in 2008, remained

in wraps until foreign researchers set foot onto the windswept Engaresero plains located between Longido and Ngorongoro districts of Arusha.

Engaresero is located more than 120 kilometers from Arusha city. The area features the third highest mountain Oldonyo Lengai, an active volcano and the flamingo breeding site at Lake Natron, at its foot.

Amongst the footprints, 17 sets of tracks look like they were created by individuals at moderate walking speed, likely representing a group

that was moving together in unison in a south-west direction.

In this group, it's thought that 14 of the individuals were adult females, together with two adult males and one young male.

Another set of six individuals left tracks moving in the opposite direction, and displaying a range of movement speeds, with at least two suggestive of fast walking, and one set of prints being left by a running individual.

Due to the difference in speeds in that set moving in the north-east

direction, the researchers suggest it's unlikely that those six people were travelling together.

While we can't be entirely sure why the composition of the track-makers overall was primarily adult females, the researchers suggest a cooperative foraging activity could be a plausible hypothesis for the tracks we can still see.

"Modern human foragers are unique among primates in that they typically forage together, and in that they typically divide labour between the sexes," the report noted.

PCCB recovers 11bn/- from cooperatives

By Guardian Reporter

THE Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) has recovered 11bn/- out of the 103bn/- in the cooperatives which has been paid back to farmers.

Speaking to reporters in Dar es Salaam yesterday, PCCB Director General, Brigadier General John Mbungu, said the bureau has initiated investigations and open up court cases against those who did not cooperate in returning the money belonging to farmers.

He further said 92bn/- is still under investigation and called upon the cooperatives who are hardcore debtors to return the money as soon as possible.

The PCCB boss mentioned the regions and the amount of money returned in brackets as Njombe (4,049,294,856/-

), Lindi (1,361,209,809/-), Ruvuma (1,078,027,619/-), Kilimanjaro (108,005,700/-), Manyara (81,148,617/-), Kinondoni (33,728,000/-), Katavi (73,172,500/-) and Coast (347,514,550/-).

Other regions are Mbeya (107,450,790/-), Iringa (714,417,198/-), Singida (43,194,500/-), Simiyu (83,972,750/-) Ilala (50,610,000/-), Arusha (64,435,350/-), Kigoma (36,150,400/-) and Tanga (10,842,480/-).

Brig Gen Mbungu mentioned the hardcore cooperatives for embezzlement of farmers' money as Kyeku of Mbeya that is owed 476m/-, Tanecu of Mtwara 359m/- and Neema Saccos of Njombe 234m/-.

Others are Mamcu of Mtwara 2.5b/-, Runali in Nachingwea 856m/- and SSULT of Dar es Salaam that is owed more than 4.8bn/-.



The bureau has initiated investigations and open up court cases against those who did not cooperate in returning the money belonging to farmers.



National Assembly Deputy Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson Mwansasu cuts a ribbon in Dodoma city yesterday to launch the recently rehabilitated surgical ward for women at the Dodoma regional referral hospital. This was at the climax of celebrations to mark International Nursing Day week. She is flanked by Dodoma regional commissioner Dr Binlith Mahenge (to her right) and the hospital's Doctor In-charge, Dr Ernest Ebenzi. Photo courtesy of National Assembly

Protect your children against Covid-19 infections - minister

By Guardian Reporter

HEALTH, Community Development, Gender, Elders and Children minister, Ummu Mwalimu yesterday called on parents and guardians to protect their children against Covid-19.

She also called on families to make follow ups of the elders in

this period including abiding by and follow up their dietetic situations.

Mwalimu was speaking yesterday during celebrations to mark International Family Day that takes place every year on May 15.

She called on the community not to stigmatize those infected with Covid-19 disease.

"I appeal to parents and guardians to be close to your families, especially the children and elders and any symptoms of the disease should be reported for appropriate action to be taken," she said.

He also called on parents to devise various games that will attract children as well as enhancing their learning while at home, instead

of leaving them roaming in the streets.

She said in this period when schools are closed as a measure against the disease's infection, it would be better for the parents to assist the children in following study lessons through media outlets or online.

"The family is the foundation of

community development hence it is important to protect it to attain sustainable development and ensure we protect it against Covid-19 infections," said Ummu.

Ummu said due to the importance of the family for community development, parents and guardians have every reason of changing the behavior and concept and

knowledge increase while at the same time increase methods to enable the family face up to various challenges including those from the disease's infections.

She also stressed on the importance for Tanzanians to follow up directives from health experts in their own and others protection against Covid-19 infections, includ-

ing avoiding gatherings, regularly washing hands with soap and running water, wearing of masks, use of sanitizers and social distancing.

She also called upon regional and district authorities to ensure they mark the day by educating the families on how to protect themselves against the pandemic's infections.

At last, 246 Tanzanians back home from India

By Correspondent James Kandoya

AT last 246 Tanzanians who were stranded in India amid the Covid-19 lockdown and travel restrictions yesterday arrived in Dar es Salaam.

After landing at the Julius Nyerere International Airport (JNIA), the Tanzanians were screened for coronavirus before being released to join their families.

The repatriation was made by Tanzanian embassy in India, Tanzanian Diaspora in India and ATCL.

The National flag carrier— Air Tanzania Company Limited (ATCL) using its Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner aircraft carrying 246 repatriated Tanzanians landed at JNIA at around 12.25 hours from Bombay, India.

Among the passengers repatriated were business persons, patients who were in India for treatment before the lockdown and higher learning students. Speaking soon after landing at JNIA, Emilian Deus, a second year stu-

dent at Rimt University in India said: "I'm happy to join my family, I thank the government for arranging special plane for us." "Few days before the journey, I was tested for Covid -19 and I did the same after arriving here," she said, adding that health experts will inform them on the results of their tests.

She called on the government to lower the airfare tickets cost saying the price of US\$ 850 was very high hence made other Tanzanians to remain in India. "Lockdown is very tough life I have ever experienced in my life. I call on the government to reduce the price for the airfare tickets so that Tanzanians may come back," she said.

A student at Chandiga University in New Delhi Martias Kitambi said: "We're happy to meet with our families after a number of days followed by lockdown in India."

Kitambi said he had travelled almost three days - 1400 kilometres

from Chandiga to New Delhi where he could board a flight to Bombay before boarding ATCL plane.

"One of big challenge was to get the basic needs like foods, thanks for the government for arranging route we are back to the land of fathers and mothers," he said

"I further call the government to send another plane for Tanzanian who are still in India who were unable to pay for the airline fare tickets," he said.

Another student from CT University from Punjab, India, Kelvin Christian thanked the government for its response to send the plane to repatriate them. Over 200 Tanzanians remained in India after March 23 following the imposition of a countrywide lockdown by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The restrictions were extended to May 17 as the earliest day for possible departure as part of efforts to curb the spread of the novel coronavirus.

'Tanzanians should brace for COVID-19 pandemic impact'

By Guardian Reporter

MINISTER for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elders and Children Ummu Mwalimu wants Tanzanians to learn and adapt living with Covid-19 pandemic as the disease will be around for many months to come hence life should go on and production should continue while taking precautions by following guidelines from health experts.

She was speaking during her visit training session for community health workers provided by the Ministry of Health under the sponsorship of Benjamin Mkapa Foundation (BMF) in collaboration with UNICEF and Irish Aid Organisation from Ireland.

Mwalimu said training for community health workers is part of government strategies to strengthen health service and solve challenges thereof.

The minister said as of now the whole health service delivery system will not be staring at dispensary level, but from the community level.

"We unveiled this plan on April 17 this year, and today I am pleased to start implementing the government's plan of utilizing community health workers," she said.

A total of 620 health workers have received training whereas as of now every area of the city of dar es Salaam will have at least one community health worker to be known as 'Commando'.

She said Ubungo area will have 90 health workers, Ilala 184, Kigamboni 59, Temeke 158 and Kinondoni 129.

"These have been providing service in their own areas hence they are well mobilized and ready to serve the community.

The BMF director Dr Ellen Mkondya said the training for the community health workers has been provided by the Health ministry with the guidelines thereof from the same ministry.

He said BMF, after the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in the country has tried to be in the front line in fighting it in collaboration with the ministry's community health department.

"Through collaboration with the ministry we have been able to acquire sponsorship funds from UNICEF and Irish Aid organisation from the Irish embassy who have assisted us employ about 620 community health workers," Dr Mkondya said.

Mwalimu thanked BMF, Irish Aid organisation and UNICEF and appealed to other stakeholders to continue cooperating with the government in the fight against Covid-19 pandemic as the government alone cannot do it.

A training participant, Daniel Mayir said, a community health worker thanked for having received the training saying it will assist him in educating people in the community to fight the pandemic.



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- For our customers and consumers in Dar es Salaam, you can buy Kilimanjaro drinking water while at home through our online partners for home delivery which are Shoponline Tanzania www.shoponline.co.tz and Piki Deliveries www.piki.co.tz.

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KILIMANJARO DRINKING WATER IS THE WATER YOU CAN TRUST EVERYDAY!



Pudensiana Rwezaula (R), World Vision Tanzania's East Zone manager, presents to Tanga regional commissioner Martine Shigella on Thursday personal protection equipment for use in the war on Covid-19 in Korogwe District. Photo: Correspondent Boniface Gideon

Simcard factory put on hold due to COVID-19

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

THE official launch of a 13bn/- worth Simcard manufacturing factory—Rushap Investment (T) Limited has been put off due to the outbreak of Covid-19.

The factory was initially set to be launched in April, according to the firm's director, Rashid Hamoud.

Briefing Tanga Regional Commissioner Martin Shigella who toured the factory recently, Hamoud said launching of the factory will be delayed as some important machines were yet to arrive following grounding of planes and lock downs in many countries including Germany where most machinery are procured.

He informed the Regional Commissioner that the firm's official launching have now been scheduled for July, this year. Rushap Investment (T) Limited is jointly owned by a Tanzanian businessman—Rashid Hamoud and famous Indian investor, Kumar Pujara.

"Tanzania is set to have the second largest factory after South Africa that manufacturers NIDA and ATM cards as well as driving licences", said Hamoud noting they have already secured markets in Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Zambia, Zimbabwe and several other countries in West Africa.

The director was optimistic that the company will monopolise the country's smart

card market including making of SIMCARDS for operating mobile phone companies.

"We aim at making Tanzania self-reliant in the production of the high-tech items", he noted adding that all is set for the factory to start production since it is equipped with ultra-modern machines.

He assured the RC that they are determined to capture markets around the world.

RC Shigella reiterated the government's commitment to support all the investment and development initiatives by investors. He said the government welcomes investors who want to build industries in the country in a bid to speed the nation's transformation into a middle income sized country.

Once operational, the company will provide direct jobs to 55 people. It is expected to employ more people depending on the product demand.



We aim at making Tanzania self-reliant in the production of the high-tech items", he noted adding that all is set for the factory to start

More investors attracted in adding value to livestock products - Mpina

By Guardian Reporter

LIVESTOCK and Fisheries minister, Luhaga Mpina has said that for the past four years the government has attracted more investors who are interested in adding value in livestock products.

He said there are three investors who have established meat processing industries in different parts of the country, in a

move aimed at improving the sector hence relieve cattle keepers from the poverty trap.

Citing examples, minister Mpina said that the newly established meat processing factories include the Kibaha-based Tan Choice Limited in Coast region which is completed by 98 per cent.

The minister said upon completion the factory will be able to slaughter 1,000 cows, and

4,500 goats per day.

He also said that construction of Elia Foods Overseas Ltd in Longido district, Arusha region has completed by 97 per cent and will be able to slaughter 1,000 cows and 4,000 goats per day. "Construction of a slaughtering plant in Shinyanga Municipality—Binjiang Company Ltd has completed by 99 percent and will be able to slaughter 1,000 cows per day," the minister

told the August House.

Mpina also revealed that the government in partnership with the Public Service Social Security Fund (PSSSF) continues with the expansion of the Moshi-based Karanga Leather Industries Company Co Ltd (KLICL) worth 75bn/- and its expansion has reached 80 percent. Upon completion, the factory, according to Mpina, will

be producing 4,000 pairs of civilian shoes and 3,000 soles per day.

On vaccination, the minister said in order to have ample drugs for livestock vaccination to satisfy the nation's needs, the Ministry has continued to mobilize the construction of factories to produce vaccinations for livestock diseases whereas in 2019/20 achievements that have been attained include

the construction of a big vaccinations production factory by Hester Biosciences Africa Limited at Kibaha costing 41.1b/-, whose construction is now 90 per cent complete and is expected to be inaugurated in June this year.

He said the factory will produce 27 different kinds of vaccinations that are currently imported and has the capacity to produce a total of 1.5 billion vaccination doses. He said other achievements

include the increase of the number of warehouses for cold-room storage of fisheries products saying these have increased from 6 in 2017/18 to 90 in 2019/20 that spurred an increase of distribution and the availability of fisheries products for home consumption and export.

He said as of now the warehouses have a capacity to store 350 tons of fish products per day.

COSTECH sets aside 4.5bn/- to promote inventions and innovations in Tanzania

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

TANZANIA Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) through Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) has set aside at least 4.5bn/- to support implementation of 5-year programme over identification and promotion of inventions and innovations in the country.

The timely initiative (2016-2020), has already saw establishment of a total of 15 innovation and production clusters in different categories and region within Tanzania mainland and isle.

In an exclusive interview with the Guardian on the sideline of the on-going National Week for Science and Technology Innovation Competition in capital city, COSTECH's information specialist, Deuseddit Leonard said the vision of the program was to inspire more Tanzanians to become innovative, being in efforts to spur development of industries from across the country. "Through the programme, we have so far managed to establish 15 inventions -production clusters in different categories, ranging from tailoring, livestock keeping, agriculture and fishing and many others," he said.

Moreover, he named Singida, Morogoro, Manyara, Arusha and Kilimanjaro among mainland regions where the said clusters have been initiated, apart from isle.

"In Dodoma we have established a major grapes cluster, in Morogoro a tailoring cluster, whereby in Singida there's a giant sunflower production cluster," he expressed.

For his part, COSTECH's director general (DG), Dr. Amos Nungu expressed that the mission behind the clusters was to identify and promote key innovations in the country, with an eye to assist small-scale entrepreneurs.

Throughout the programme, the beneficiaries (entrepreneurs) are receiving relevant trainings, but also are injected with capitals to assist them start key production clusters as per their areas of productions.

"As prime driver of science, technology and innovation for sustainable development in Tanzania, we have decided to embark on the innovation and cluster program in a bid to foster knowledge based economy through promotion, technology development for economic growth, as well as to attain social well-being and competitiveness in Tanzania," he observed. Sharing her testimony to the Guardian, Saida Msuya, one of beneficiaries from Morogoro-based tailoring cluster under the auspices of COSTECH, said the program has assisted her to cheat poverty as she is currently earn lucrative profit from her tailoring career, under the cluster.

"Formerly, I used to run my activities just like a small single tailor, but after COSTECH identify and put me (and others) in a special clothes production cluster, I am currently receiving many giant tenders from within and outside the country," she said. The National Week for Science and Technology Innovation Competition, which started from grassroots levels from across the country, is held as per the directives from national guideline to identify and promote inventions, innovations and traditional knowledge practices.

COSTECH is a public institution established by an Act of Parliament No.7 of 1986 as successor of UTAFITI that was in 1972. The Commission is under the ministry of Education, Science and Technology and Vocational Training and is the principle advisory organ to the government on all matters relating to scientific research, innovation, technology development and transfer (STI)



Selemani Jafo (L), Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), has a quick word with Kiteto District officials on Thursday shortly after inaugurating a health centre in Sunya ward. Right is Kiteto district commissioner Tumaini Magessa. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Mtibwa to produce 38,000 tonnes of sugar this season

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

MVOMERO-based sugar producing firm, Mtibwa Sugar will week start production in a move curb shortage of the sweetener in the country.

Speaking on behalf of the firm's management during the visit by the Energy minister Dr Medard Kalemami, the infrastructure and electrical manager, Juma Paramba said production is set to begin on May 21.

Dr Kalemami visited the factory to assess the plant's power consumption after he received a letter from the management to be provided with independent power supply as opposed to the situation now.

Paramba said in the last season, the factory targeted to produce 32,000 tonnes of sugar, but due various challenges including heavy rains the targeted was not met.

"Our target is to produce 38,000

tonnes this season," said.

Earlier, Paramba thanked the government through the Energy Ministry for the implementation of the firm's request for the construction of an independent power supply line from Msamvu substation that will solve the challenge of power outages. He said the current five-year plan is to increase sugar production from the expansion of its sugar cane farms, hence the availability of ade-

quate and reliable power will enable it attain that goal. He said in the last season the average sugar production was 200 to 300 tonnes per day.

Dr Kalemami said in order to strengthen the industrial sector to reach the industrial economy level, his ministry has set aside 1.2bn/- for the construction of an independent power supply line to Mtibwa sugar factory. The minister said the factory lacks reliable power because it

gets its power supply from Msamvu substation 100kms away, the power that is also used in the surrounding villages.

"Currently you are using 8MW of electricity and in your five-year plan you say you will need 27MW, hence we are constructing your own power line for more sugar production that will enable you pay more taxes and provide more employment for the people," said Dr Kalemami.

Bill to preserve African liberation heritage areas in offing - ministry

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

THE Ministry of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports is preparing a Bill to be tabled in Parliament, that will protect and preserve the African Liberation Heritage areas so that they cannot be affected by several ongoing constructions countrywide, parliament was told here yesterday.

"Equally, the ministry continues with a robust construction of buildings that were initially the headquarters of the United Nations Liberation Committee in Dar es Salaam," noted the ministry.

The Information Ministry was responding to a question posed by Tunduru North MP, Eng Ramo Makani who had wanted to know when the government would incorporate Masanya, a centre located at FLELIMO Freedom Fighters area in the African Liberation Heritage Programme, under the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

In a written response, the ministry stated that the government was seriously implementing the African Lib-

eration Heritage Programme under UNESCO.

"This Programme is being implemented in the African continent and of recent, it is being implemented in Southern African Development Community (SADC) region," said the ministry adding that the programme was approved by the 2005 UNESCO summit and endorsed by the ordinary meeting of AU heads of States in 2011.

SADC ministers convened for the African liberation heritage summit that aimed at bringing together ministers of arts and culture, senior government officials and technical experts from the region to deliberate on the best strategy to effectively achieve the implementation of the African Liberation Heritage Programme (ALHP) as a collective.

The meeting which was attended by the then minister of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports Nape Nnauye, in November 2016, unanimously agreed that the SADC ministerial roundtable discussion should seek to reinvent inclusive integrated planning on the implementation of the ALHP.



Equally, the ministry continues with a robust construction of buildings that were initially the head-



CCM Special Seats legislator Mariam Ditopile has a word with widows from Chang'ombe ward in Dodoma Region earlier this week shortly after presenting them with Ramadan-time foodstuffs. Right is Dodoma regional sheikh Mustapha Rajabu. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

State to provide specialised mobile health services to elder people across the country

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

THE government has started offering specialised mobile health services to the elderly in some districts around the country, the National Assembly was told yesterday.

The services include screening and medication upon diagnosis, according to the Ministry of Health, Community Develop-

ment, Gender, Elderly and Children.

The ministry said in a written response to a question by special seats Member of Parliament Ritta Kabati (CCM) who wanted to know the government's plan on having a special mobile programme for providing special health services to senior citizens.

The MP asked "Most of the time the government has been insist-

ing on provision of free health services for the elderly, this group needs super specialised services and they mostly found in rural areas, what is the government plan to take these services to villages?"

In the response, the ministry named some of the districts where the services are being offered as Morogoro municipal, Morogoro district councils, Gairo, Kilosa, Malinyi, Mlimba, Mvomero and Ifakara township.

The ministry said the services

which are being offered in collaboration with Helpage International are also being offered in Magu municipal council in Mwanza region and Korogwe Municipal council in Tanga region saying the programme will expand to other districts countrywide.

The ministry further said reports show most of the senior citi-

zens suffer from non-communicable diseases including diabetes, high blood pressure, cancer and many others.

"Apart from providing these services we expect this programme to give the ministry a greater picture on how to better offer these services to the elderly," reads the response in part.

On the construction of a special hospital for the elderly, the

minister said the government has no plans to do so but, has established special windows for them and that the government has also been offering sponsorship for medical doctors who want to pursue further studies on medication for the elderly (Geriatric Medicine).

According to the ministry, every year, the government sets aside funds for procurement of

Morphine powder on average amounting to 50 kilogrammes saying the government also has put in place compounding areas in its four main zonal referral hospitals namely Ocean Road, Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre (KCMC), Bugando Medical Centre (BMC), Mbeya Zonal Hospital and Benjamin Mkapa Hospital to facilitate provision of Morphine solution.

Government urged to ban exporting of logs to promote domestic business in furniture

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

INVESTORS ready to add value in forest products in Tanga Region have appealed to the government to look into the possibility of prohibiting the exportation of logs and instead it should export furniture.

One of the investors, Ally Burhan said allowing exportation of logs has been killing the local market that uses the raw materials for the manufacture of furniture of various kinds. Burhan gave the appeal when presenting furniture as donation for the offices of the Tanga Regional Commissioner, Martine Shigella.

Burhan, the Director of Burhan Furniture Ltd said investors in the furniture industries would like to see the government ditch logs business and instead have strategies to export furniture thereof to assist in the country's industrial development.

He said despite logs exports, furniture made from wood is still being imported into the country to compete with locally produced furniture, whose only translation is to kill the local furniture market.

Since he came to power, President John Magufuli has been insisting on the importance to use locally made furniture instead of imported ones so as to protect local furniture industries.

Speaking on the assistance of the furniture, Burhan said they were for office use and cost 1.4m/- and are to be used in the new Lands office building in the region.

Tanga RC Shigella hailed the businessman and called on others to emulate him saying it was important for businessmen to contribute towards the improvement of social services delivery.

He said the assistance has come at the appropriate time as the new office building has been looking for various items including furniture.



GFF representatives (in red T-shirts) pictured yesterday presenting to Kongwa district commissioner Deogratius Ndejemi (2nd-R) and district executive director Omari Mkulo (R) buckets, liquid soap and sanitiser for use in the war on Covid-19. Photo: Correspondent Paul Mabeja

Police hold Lindi trader over 'affair' with school girl

By Guardian Correspondent, Lindi

POLICE in Lindi Region are holding a cereals trader in Lindi Municipality allegedly for being involved in a love affair with a secondary school girl student (name withheld).

The suspect, who deals in cereals including rice, beans and others resides in Nachingwea Ward in Lindi municipality.

Lindi Regional Police Commander Stanley Kulyamo said the suspect was arrested on May 11 this year at 11:00 pm with the student in a guest house located in Mikumbi Ward in the municipality. He said his arrest was facilitated through cooperation with the student's parents and the police following the girl's behavioural change at home including her disappearance for long hours.

RPC Kulyamo said on April 23 this year, due to the girl's behavioural change, the girl's father reported the issue to the police that her daughter had been abducted.

He said thereafter on May 11 at around 11:00pm the police arrived at the guest house and found the suspect with the student in a room named "Mali".

Kulyamo said initial police investigations

discovered that the room was rented for the student since April 10 this year.

He said suspects are expected to appear in court any time after investigations are completed. Some of the neighbours of the student's parents told this paper that since the government ordered the closure of schools due to Covid-19 pandemic many students have not been staying at home for self studies.

Burhan, the Director of Burhan Furniture Ltd said investors in the furniture industries would like to see the government ditch logs business and instead have strategies to export furniture thereof to assist in the country's industrial development.



CCM National Executive Committee member Flora Magabe (R) pictured in Mwanza city yesterday presenting to Salum Kali, the party's Mwanza regional secretary, personal protection equipment for use in the war on Covid-19 in the party's offices across the seven districts in the region. Photo: Correspondent Rose Jacob

NIRC carries out studies to identify areas suitable for dam construction

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

THE government through the National Irrigation Commission (NIRC) is carrying out studies to identify areas countrywide suitable for construction of dams to harvest and store rain water to be used for agriculture activities, the National Assembly was told here yesterday.

The Ministry of agriculture said in a written response to a question from Mbulu Rural MP, Flatei Massay who sought to know when the government will implement its promise of constructing dams at villages of Dirim, Esketch, Mungu wa Mono, Maretadu chini and Yayedda Chini in his constituency.

The MP asked the ministry as to when will the government construct the dams.

According to the ministry, the government was looking for funds from local and foreign sources to implement development activities including construction of dams for harvesting and storing rainwater for irrigation activities.

In implementing, the government was working in collaboration with Mbulu municipal council as well as irrigation groups in the area to prepare some proposals for loans from various institutions including

the Tanzania Agriculture Development Bank (TADB).

"The government will work with various stakeholders including district and municipal councils, financial institutions and development partners to search for funds to finalise construction of the dams to be used for irrigation," reads the response by the ministry in part.

Since 2006, Tanzania has aimed to expand irrigation to one million hectares by 2020. Currently, only five per cent - 461,000 hectares of Tanzania's cultivated land is irrigated, out of an estimated 29.4 million hectares available.

Experts say the first thing that Tanzania should do to achieve the target is drumming up finance for investment. Irrigation requires considerable initial investment. Private finance offers an alternative to governments going into debt, hence the appeal of public-private partnerships (PPPs).

While in some parts of Tanzania water is relatively abundant, in other parts water is limited. Conflicts arise between different sets of irrigators, and between farmers and urban water users. Two cases illustrate issues with irrigation interventions in Tanzania.

EWURA challenges urban water authorities to improve services

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda, Mwanza

THE Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) has challenged urban water authorities to expand their storage facilities to be able to supply the precious liquid to good number of people.

EWURA Lake Zone Manager, George Mhina made the statement here yesterday during a function to hand over awards to water authorities in the Lake

Zone regions.

According to Mhina some water authorities are yet to utilise their full water production capacity over shortage of storing facilities such as tanks as well as poor distribution network.

"There are needs to improve water infrastructures including storage tanks and distribution network. Water production is high yet some people don't have access to the services only because they are not reached with the distribution

network," he said.

He suggested for the authorities to construct storage facilities at places with serious shortage of water since it may take long to complete installation of distribution networks.

The manager directed the authorities to prepare business plans which incorporate strategies on how to they intend to increase production, treatment and supply of water at their specific areas.

According to Mhina water authorities are required to put

in place technologies that will ensure environment conservation as well as improve hygiene at areas they operate.

He noted that one of the technologies include installation of the decentralised wastewater treatment systems (DEWATS) which treats and remove wastewater at low cost.

According to the Lake Zone report of 2018/19 on the management of water supply and sanitation, urban water authorities that emerged winners in regard to provision of

clean and safe water services and ensuring sanitation are Mwanza Urban Water Supply and Sanitation (MWAUWASA) and Kahama-Shinyanga Water Supply Authority that emerged as the overall best water utility.

Tabling budget estimates for the Ministry of Water in the National Assembly recently, the Minister Prof Makame Mbarawa said the government has increased water budget by over 99bn/- aiming to achieve 85 percent supply

of the precious liquid in both rural and urban areas during the 2020/2021 financial year.

He said during the year, plans are also to implement the strategic National Water Grid system that will ensure availability of clean and safe at places with reported limited freshwater sources.

Shadow Water Minister, Zubeda Sakuru said the 2017 National Environmental Status Report indicates that by 2016 only 6 out of 10 people (59.7 percent) had access to

clean and safe water in rural areas while 9 out of 10 people access clean and safe water in urban areas.

She added: "With approximately 60 percent of the country's population having access to water, over 50 percent of Tanzanians spend more than 30 minutes searching for the precious liquid".

Sakuru said that Tanzanians spend at least 5 percent of their income on water against the international standard which is 2 percent.

Serengeti allocates 25.2m/- for buying 838 kgs sunflower seedlings in 2020/21

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

SERENGETI District Council has allocated about 25.2m/- for purchasing 838kilogrammes of sunflower seedlings during 202/2021 Financial Year, the house was informed here.

Equally, the government is doing awareness campaign to the private sector in buying, distributing as well as investing in sunflower processing factories.

According to the ministry of Agriculture, as of March 2020, there were six industries processing sunflower in the district.

The ministry was giving a written response to a question by Serengeti MP, Marwa Rioba Chacha (CCM) who requested the government's intervention in supplying sunflower seedlings after residents in Serengeti district decided to switch from tobacco to sunflower farming as tobacco market was shrinking.

In the same response, the ministry said that the government had in December last year approved nine new types of seedlings that were capable of producing more sunflower oil of between 32 and 42per cent as well as harvesting up to between 2 and 5tonnes per hector as well as resisting diseases.

"The ministry through Agricultural Seed Agency (ASA) and private companies will continue producing sunflower seedlings in order to increase their availability in the country," the ministry noted.

The government further added that Serengeti District Council had purchased 400 kilogrammes of Hysun 33 sunflower seedlings valued at 12m/- which had benefited about 400 farmers in ten wards.

The seedlings, according to the government had the capacity to produce 800kilogrammes per acre.



The ministry through Agricultural Seed Agency (ASA) and private companies will continue producing sunflower seedlings in order to increase their availability in the country.



Foundation for Civil Society executive director Francis Kiwanga (R) presents to Tungi Mwanjala, Vice Chairperson of the Tanzania Federation of Organisations of People with Disabilities, Braille books with information on how to fight Covid-19. The event was held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The foundation also presented to the federation 10,000 face masks and 2,500 bottles of sanitisers worth a combined 20m/-. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Researcher wants Tanzanians to eat organic grown foods for better health

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

A Mbeya-based researcher and producer of organic food crops Prof Dorcas Kibona has called on the government to come up with a plan that will mobilise Tanzanians to imbibe

a culture of eating organically grown food crops.

She said the move will save the country from having a huge population of unhealthy people who eat cheap and junk food.

Prof Kibona issued the call yesterday when

talking to this paper on the issue on the importance of eating natural foods that help people having good health.

She said as of now many young people lack tradition of eating natural foods that puts into question their mental and physical abilities in

making right decisions for the country's development.

She said any nation with unhealthy people due to not eating nutritional foods is in a danger as such people cannot make the right decisions.

She congratulated President John Magufuli for the industrial mobilisation in the country and noted the factories should evaluate themselves on the types of food products they produce without affecting the quality of natural foods to consumers.

Power transmission project for SGR trains now 94 pct complete

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

WORK on the power transmission line project that will transmit electricity for the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) trains is now 94 percent complete and will be finalised by the end of this month - May 2020.

This was revealed by the Minister for Energy, Dr Medard Kalemami in Morogoro Region during his inspection visit of the power transmission infrastructure for high voltage electricity, saying he was pleased with the project's pace.

He said the completion of the project will in a large measure contribute to the country's economy by increasing the country's revenue as more power will be bought from the power utility - Tanzania Electric Supply Company (Tanesco) and the Tanzania Railways corporation will reduce the cost for buying fuel for its locomotives.

The power transmission line will pass through four centres along SGR line - Pugu in Dar es Salaam Region, Ruvu in Coast Region Kidugallo and Kinguliwira in Morogoro Region.

"The project will be completed within the time agreed by the project's contract because already 450 out of the 455 pylons have already been erected and the remaining five are still in

various stage of construction, hence before the end of this month (May) the project will be completed," Dr Kalemami said.

He said the project is the first of its kind in East Africa, to be followed by Kenya which will start in 2021 and Uganda in 2025.

The project has cost more than 72.6b/- and the contractor has been paid in time.

Dr Kalemami also visited Mtibwa sugar factory where he said the government has set aside 1.2b/- for the construction of power line to be used by the sugar factory alone.

He said the power line is expected to be completed in six months time beginning this month (May 2020) and will assist the sugar factory get reliable power needs for the next five years.

He said as of now Mtibwa Sugar factory gets 5 to 8 MW of power but sometimes the power becomes weak due to long transmission distance and added that there have been frequent outages that have been causing damage to the machinery.

The factory was built in 1954 and started production in 1963 up to now. It has the capacity to produce 200 up to 350 tonnes of sugar per day and the target is to produce 1,000 tonnes per day as they are making improvements to the infrastructures including power infrastructures.



Residents of Bwira village in Musoma District captured on Thursday collecting sand for the construction of a house for teachers at a local primary school. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

NGO introduces home learning programmes for primary school pupils

By Correspondent James Lanka,

Moshi

MOSHI-based non-governmental organisation-Kilimanjaro Women against HIV/Aids (Kikwakuki) has initiated home learning programmes which includes providing primary school pupils with home works twice a week.

Kiwakuki Programme Coordi-

nator, Egla Matechi said the programme will be implemented in rural areas to enable pupils to continue learning after the government closed all the schools, colleges and higher learning institutions due to the outbreak of Covid-19.

Matechi said the programme will be implemented using 'para teachers' who will be distributing the home works and collecting exercise books from selected

pupils. She added that the special programme will only cover Standard Two and Three pupils.

Para teachers include trained patrons/matrons from pupils learning clubs in various schools. They will mainly work to help pupils' literacy and numeracy skills.

"The programme is implemented through our existing project dubbed Improving Learning Outcomes to Children which was launched in 2014 with financial

support from US based Firelight Foundation," she said. According to Matechi, beneficiaries will be from five primary schools in Kibosho and Okaoni wards namely Usagara, Matinya, Nkosangana, Mango and Kirima Juu. She further explained that the NGO has been providing on job trainings to teachers with intentions to improve their teaching methodology as well as being able to ensure pupils

maintain discipline. She said, at times, the trainings also involve parents and guardians.

Matechi noted that officials from Kiwakuku conduct regular inspection to the trained teachers to see whether they use the acquired skills in teaching.

"We did a research and discovered that teacher's harshness during learning sessions may negatively impact children's understanding on the

particular subject. We always encourage them to be friendly to the pupils and apply role-play approach," she noted. Minister for Education, Science, Technology and Vocational Training Prof Joyce Ndalichako said last month that the government has introduced online learning sessions that are broadcasted by a number of televisions and community radios across the country.

Prof Ndalichako said the government has also eliminated charges and fees at its libraries as well as enable free accessibility of learning materials and publications from the Tanzania Institute of Education (TIE).

Previously, students had to pay fees to access various educational publications. The learning materials at TIE include those for preparatory classes, primary and secondary schools.

ActionAid trains women, young leaders in Kilwa about COVID-19

By Beatrice Philemon

TWENTY-FIVE women and young leaders in Kilwa district have been trained on Covid-19, the highly infectious respiratory disease caused by the Coronavirus.

The training offered by ActionAid Tanzania in collaboration with the Kilwa district council health committee will see beneficiaries sharing crucial information on the disease to their fellows in respective areas.

ActionAid Kilwa Project Coordinator Steven Benard said training participants were from two non-governmental organisations - 'Tumaini Jipya la Wanawake Kilwa Platform' (Tujiwaki) and Kilwa Youth Development Initiatives (Kiyodi).

The training was conducted on May 8th this year by Epidemiologist and Surveillance Officer Dr Daudi Selemam from the Focal Development College in Kilwa.

Benard said the trainees will share acquired skills to people in ten wards namely, Kivinje, Singino, Lihimalyao, Mandawa, Mitole, Njinjo, Miguruwe, Mingumbi, Somanga, Kinjumbi and Namayuni.

"We are glad because trained women and youth leaders have started taking initiatives to raise Covid-19 awareness in their communities. They are educating people on how to prevent the virus spread," he noted adding that they also distribute personal protective equipment (PPE) to the residents.

He however said despite efforts to educate resident on the pandemic, the villagers are likely to find it difficult to combat the deadly disease due to water scarcity.

He called upon the government to consider improving water availability at the area to facilitate frequent hand washing since most of the villagers cannot afford to buy hand sanitisers.

Secretary of Tumaini Jipya la Wanawake Kilwa Women Platform, Pili Mohamed mentioned the five wards which face critical water problems as Mandawa, Njinjo, Miguruwe, Kivinje and Singino. She said despite sensitisation campaigns on frequent hand washing with soap and running water, villagers at the wards do not wash their hands frequently owing to water scarcity.

"Water shortage has affected more women especially in Njinjo and Miguruwe. The two wards were hit by floods in between January and February this year hence the need for them to walk 3-7 kilometers in search of water," said Mohamed.

She however noted that there are good numbers of people who are still unaware of the novel disease as well as its preventive measures. She said efforts are required to make sure similar educative programmes on Covid-19 reaches the people in remote rural areas.

Others include time to wear face masks as a precaution and if one can be shared from one person to another.

"There are some who ignore to adhere to preventive measures insisting the disease has been brought by God, so it is the Almighty Lord who will protect them from being infected," she said.



It's green bananas aplenty at Dar es Salaam's Temeke Stereo market, with a bunch fetching between 9,000/- and 11,000/-, as Correspondent Jumanne Juma found yesterday.

Police hold one person over impersonation, seize six stolen vehicles

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

POLICE are holding Shaban Wasandala (32) of Mdeli in the Dodoma city for allegedly masquerading as an officer with the Tanzania Intelligence and Security Service (TISS).

The fake official was also found in possession of six stolen vehicles.

Speaking to reporters here yesterday, Dodoma Regional Police Commander, Gilles Muroto said the suspect was arrested on Wednesday this year at Medeli area, Tambukareli ward. He said Wasandala was found while impersonating as an officer with the national security service.

Muroto claimed that Wasandala has been identifying himself to various people as an intelligence officer, threatening people's lives and soliciting money from them.

He said the suspect has been using the names of various top government officials to acquire money from a number of people. "We are still interrogating him before he is taken to court," said RPC Muroto.

The RPC pointed out that on May 10th this year at Mbande village in Kongwa District along the Morogoro-Dodoma highway police seized a white Toyota Land Cruiser-T 936 with chassis number HDJ800003615 and Engine No IHZ80-0019603.

He said the vehicle was driven by one

Ramadhani Sekiondo (31) a resident of Magomeni Mikumi in Dar es Salaam who claimed that it was handed to him by a person he did not know.

"We are still following up on him to nab other people in the car theft network for the law to take its course," Muroto said.

He said two other cars that had no number plates were seized on May 11 from one house in Dodoma's Area 'A' in Kizota ward. They are a Toyota Harrier with Chassis No MCU310001691, and Engine No, 1MZ1589700 and a Toyota IST with Chassis No. NCP600209833 and Engine No. 2MZ3578179. "Initial investigations showed that they had no records on how the vehi-

cles were legally imported. Investigations are on-going in collaboration with Interpol," said the RPC adding that they arrested Omnari Chilipachi (29) a resident of Sinza in Dar es Salaam in connection with the car theft network.

He further said that on May 11 at Area 'A' in Kizota Ward a Land Rover Discovery with S. Africa's registration number SJV576 GP with chassis and engine numbers (SALLAA135A339616 and 049053121030305071757 respectively) was recovered. He said police are also investigating Jamal Rashidi (28) a resident of area 'A' in Dodoma who is suspected to be involved in the car theft scandal.

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SATURDAY 16 MAY 2020

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Global commitment to mitigate effects of climate change highly commendable

IN the last 40 years Tanzania has experienced severe and recurring droughts with devastating effects to agriculture, water and energy sectors. The Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative (ND-GAIN) Index ranks Tanzania as the 34th most vulnerable and 54th least ready to adapt to climate change, of the countries it covered for 2015. Currently more than 70 per cent of all natural disasters in Tanzania are climate change related and are linked to recurrent droughts and floods. Tanzania published its National Climate Change Strategy in 2012, to address both adaptation and mitigation in line with the country's vision for sustainable development.

The goal of the Strategy is to enable Tanzania to effectively adapt to climate change and participate in global efforts to mitigate climate change with a view to achieving sustainable development in line with the Five Years National Development plan; the Tanzania Development Vision 2025, as well as national sectoral initiatives.

Indeed [HYPERLINK "https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_impact_on_the_environment"](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_impact_on_the_environment) \o "Human impact on the environment" human activities can also change earth's climate, and are presently driving climate change through [HYPERLINK "https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global_warming"](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global_warming) \o "Global warming" global warming. [HYPERLINK "https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change"](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change) \cite note-1 There is no general agreement in scientific, media or policy documents as to the precise term to be used to refer to [HYPERLINK "https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_impact_on_the_environment"](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_impact_on_the_environment) \o "Human impact on the environment" anthropogenic forced change; either global warming or climate change may be used. [HYPERLINK "https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change"](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change) \cite note-12 The first describes the average effect on a global scale, whilst the second describes how different geographical regions are af-

ected differently.

It is against this backdrop that Italy has expressed in February, this year to give Tanzania two million euros, equivalent to over five billion shillings to mitigate effects of climate change.

The Minister of State in the Vice-President's Office (Union and Environment) Mussa Zungu, made this affirmation after holding talks with Italian ambassador Roberto Mengoni. The envoy has assured the government that the Italian pledge would be carried out.

Kudos to the Italian government. The money was to be given to Tanzania in 2016. But the money could not be given because there was a change in leadership in Italy. Now we have been assured that the money will be delivered. We should thank the Italian government for this timely support as the money would be gainfully used and would greatly help Tanzania protect the environment by toning down the effects of climate change.

In other words we should be grateful to Italy for making protection of the world's environment one of its priorities.

Effects of climate change are trans boundary underscoring the value of international cooperation in mitigating the effects. No doubt Italian support would help Tanzania protect the environment for generations to come.

The protection of beaches, water sources and use of alternative energy sources, exploring ways and means of turning solid waste into friendly energy for domestic and other uses is equally extremely essential. For energy sources currently in use, mainly fossil fuels, were doing great harm to the environment, he said.

European countries dumping toxic waste in some African countries also contributes greatly to harming Africa's environment.

With this Italian gesture the two countries would strengthen existing friendship even with leadership changes in Italy.

COVID-19 should not divert attention from needs of children down with TB

TUBERCULOSIS is caused by bacteria that most often affect the lungs. TB is spread from person to person through the air. When people with lung TB cough, sneeze or spit, they propel the TB germs into the air. A person needs to inhale only a few of these germs to become infected. TB is one of the top 10 causes of death and the leading cause from a single infectious agent above HIV/AIDS.

A total of 1.5 million people died from TB in 2018 including 251 000 people with HIV worldwide. In 2018, 1.1 million children fell ill with TB globally, and there were 205, 000 child deaths due to TB including among children with HIV.

The International Union Against Tuberculosis (IUAT)

has warned that if resources are diverted away from child and adolescent tuberculosis programmes in order to fight COVID-19, the consequences for the estimated 400,000 children and adolescents in the African region needing TB and multidrug-resistant TB care each year could be devastating.

As the coronavirus pandemic makes its way into the African continent, there are concerns about its potential impact on the large number of children and adolescents living with TB infection or disease across the region. TB is both curable and preventable but remains a major cause of morbidity and mortality in children and adolescents and has only recently been afforded the attention that was long overdue.

"There is clear overlap in the public health response required to confront the coronavirus pandemic with what is already required for TB - case detection, contact screening and management, and infection control", said Dr Grania Brigden, Director of The Un-

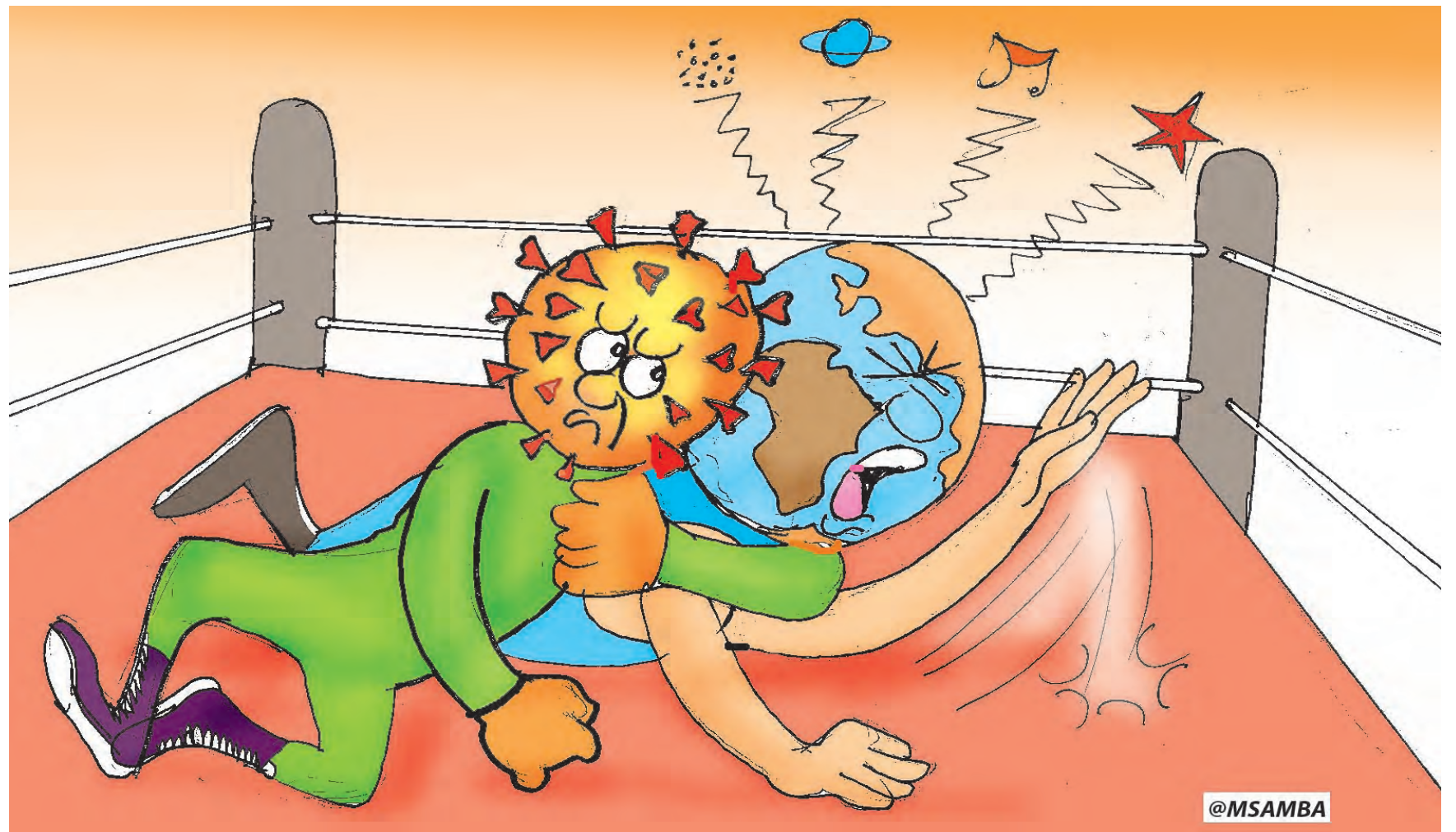
ion's TB Department. "This provides an important opportunity to integrate rather than disperse health services. The needs of children and adolescents should be considered when developing alternative methods for screening, referral and medication delivery as countries determine how to shift routine service delivery to minimise contacts in health facilities"

An estimated one million children fall ill with TB every year, and one-quarter of all people with TB disease in the world live in Africa. In 2018, of all the people living with HIV in the world who developed TB, 72 per cent of them were in Africa. And sub-Saharan Africa accounted for 82 per cent of all HIV-associated TB deaths that same year.

It is very true that evidence to date would suggest that children and adolescents (0-19 years) are less susceptible than adults to severe COVID-19, the disease caused by SARS-CoV-2. Indeed, the numbers of TB-related deaths in children and adolescents globally in 2020 - around a quarter of a million - will far exceed those due to COVID-19.

We also share the concerns about the impact of COVID-19 on recent efforts to scale up TB preventive therapy, particularly in young child contacts (less than five years) or children and adolescents living with HIV. Efforts to secure supply chains of needed medical equipment, laboratory commodities and medications for this vulnerable population will be critical to averting negative impacts.

We appreciate the Union's call on donors and partners to continue to support TB care and prevention responses - including a focused effort on child and adolescent TB. The Union is also calling on national TB programmes and ministries of health to keep TB and comorbidities on the agenda during the COVID-19 response.



COVID-19: Elusive cure and the human cost

By Mohammed Dahiru Lawal

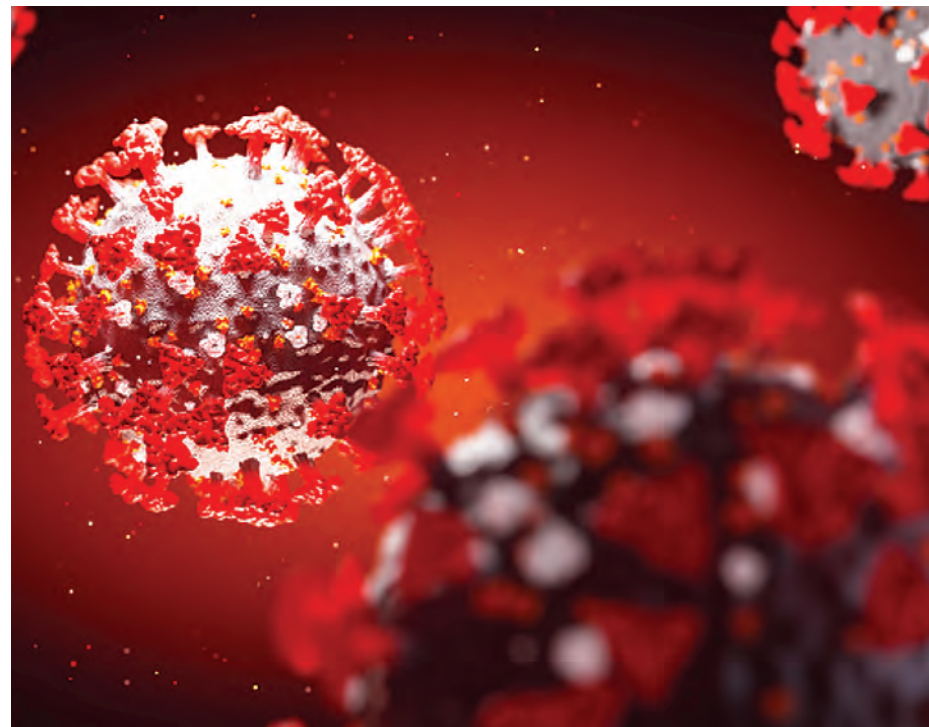
WHEN in December 2019, COVID-19 which is caused by a new strain of coronaviruses called severe acute respiratory syndrome 2 (SARS-CoV-2) broke out in faraway China, the world stood with hands on the hips and elbows turned outwards, watching the East Asian Socialist country struggle tenaciously with what everyone wanted to believe was their own headache.

As part of their strategic response to minimize casualty and curb escalation, 'their headache' culminated into the now controversial country constructing a 645,000-square-foot makeshift medical facility, made up of two floors and equipped with 1,000 beds, several isolation wards, and 30 intensive care units at Wuhan, the epicenter of the outbreak in just 10 days.

However, before the end of the first quarter of the new year, the virus overwhelmed China's purported sagacity, caught the world off guard and sent us reeling for solutions.

Understandably, it was a strategic panic reaction rather than a curative means of solving the problem, with various world leaders imposing measures they agree was best under the prevailing circumstance, and lockdowns - practicable in some advanced

climes with appreciable level of social security but devastating for other regions especially economically inferior nations - became the most adopted course of action in the shared battle against the pandemic, while the world



awaits a scientific cure. But what if the cure for COVID-19 is never found, shall we then remain in our tents at the expense of all aggregated human consequences?

Already, cases in Nigeria are exponentially increasing and the effect of lockdowns are manifesting in the form of job loss, hunger, inaccessible health care, increase in domestic violence, rising cases of sexual assault, to mention a few.

In Kano for example, there is a drastic decline in the number of women attending antenatal care in primary health centers due to issues of mobility, law enforcement excesses and financial constraints. Some cannot afford as paltry as NGN100 for PCB and urinalysis tests because their hus-

bands are no longer earning anything, thereby increasing the risk of maternal mortality.

While on the other hand, sexual assault counsellors cannot see victims because they are not on the list of identified essential workers thereby risking at least five cases daily which aggregate to about 100 cases in a month at danger of unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases. While predictions show it could take anything from nine months to two years to create a vaccine, it is worthy to note - while clarifying that a vaccine prevents a disease and a cure ends it - there are diseases that have no vaccines till date.

In 1984, the US Secretary of

Health and Human Services Margaret Heckler announced at a press conference in Washington, DC, that scientists had successfully identified the virus that later became known as HIV - and predicted that a preventative vaccine would be ready for testing in two years.

Nearly four decades, 72 million infections and 32 million deaths later, the world is still waiting for an HIV vaccine.

While science may eventually come to the rescue, I do not think it is the answer at this point because its processes are painstaking. I prefer a more proactive humanity that will manage the situation at minimal or no risk.

I also believe that since the last global pandemic, if natural science has keenly advanced at the pace with which technology has remarkably evolved, the Coronavirus would have been settled by now.

Instead of wasting billions on palliatives that will either never be adequate or be enmeshed in fraudulent and corrupt acquisitions, the federal government should deploy resources in purchasing test kits and training manpower for aggressive testing in all polling units and primary health centers, isolate positive cases for the duration of their recovery period, ease lockdowns for negative cases to go about their businesses and earn legitimate livelihood while enforcing usage of personal protective equipment, social distancing and the use of the new Brazilian made eyeball fever scan - one of the most frequent symptoms of COVID-19 capable of measuring body temperature from a distance and in crowded environments - at every entry and exit points in work places, markets, social and religious gatherings, transport systems and even homes.

The is the best way to ensure that lockdowns don't cave in on us!

Enterprises need to plan for physical distancing and a cashless economy

By Sabine Lehmann

WHEN lockdown ends, people are going to want safe spaces in which to meet, do business and have fun. What can venues do to get ready?

China has ended lockdown in Wuhan, the city where the novel coronavirus first appeared, but it has become clear a return to "normal" life is not on the cards for that city - or indeed anywhere.

After 10 weeks in lockdown, residents of Wuhan are reeling, with the New York Times reporting that re-opened businesses are facing difficulties in getting back up to speed and that strict regulations on people's movements remain in place.

In South Africa, we should be planning for when we, too, are allowed to venture out. For popular entertainment and tourist venues, this is especially important.

Attractions such as museums, national parks, aquaria and water parks and shopping malls are an important part of the economy and need to be ready to respond to plenty of pent-up demand.

US and UK polls indicate that museums and other cultural attractions will be at the top of the list of places people will want to visit in order to spend

time with family and friends again.

Research in the US by Colleen Dillenschneider looks at adults' "intention to visit" cultural entities and indicates that "most people are currently maintaining comparatively strong intentions to visit" within the next three to six months.

Similarly, in the UK, BVA BDRC, a consumer insights consultancy, has been tracking consumer sentiment towards travel, leisure and hospitality. Twenty-nine percent of respondents said they would "go on a day out to a visitor attraction" within the next three to six months.

It should be noted that this relates to the US and UK summer, traditionally indicating higher intentions to visit places than during winter.

Dampened economic activity and depressed international tourism will affect South African visitor numbers for the foreseeable future. But what can managers of facilities and attractions do now to minimise the impact?

Firstly, they need to assess their sites and customer bases to understand what demand might look like after lockdown. Open, outdoor sites are likely to be in higher demand than closed, confined spaces. A place that was heavily dependent on international

visitors will look very different to the attraction that was dependent on local and domestic travel.

Sites that depended on older customers may see very different demand levels to those catering to a younger profile.

Venues for conferences, events and concerts will have a different recovery trajectory to those that rely on individual visitors. What role will school groups play in the next six months, as the school year remains significantly disrupted?

Restarting micro-economies is likely to happen in segments, with highly localised demand at first (i.e. the closest neighbourhoods to customers), followed by daytrippers who can visit in cars or via public transport, then domestic visitors from further afield, and eventually international visitors. Timelines for such evolution are unknown, but destinations need to start assessing their historical consumer data to understand likely demand curves.

Places designed to accommodate large groups will clearly need a rethink, with physical distancing and contactless transactions essential. Such measures might well be anathema to business people hard-wired into attracting crowds. Structural changes could be costly and take time to set up.

Ministry urges military institutions in Kigoma to boost oil palm farming

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu, recently in Kigoma

MINISTRY of agriculture has promised to provide full support to military institutions in Kigoma region to effectively and efficiently engage and run their main role of production, economic activities and the recent given role of production of improved seedlings of the TENERA variety of oil palms.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture Gerald Kusaya gave the promise in different occasions when he visited the institutions saying they need to effectively carry out their task of production and multiplication of improved seedlings of Oil Palm called TENERA variety as per the directive of the Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa.

Kusaya, accompanied by directors in the Ministry of agriculture visited different Military institutions including Kwitanga Prison, and Bulombora JKT which were assigned by the Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa to produce and multiply the improved seedlings of Oil Palm called TENERA for the farmers in the country.

While at JKT Bulombora Military Camp, the Permanent secretary said he would take soil scientists from TARI-Mlingano in Tanga to conduct soil analysis at the National Service Camp to determine the crop-available concentrations and nutrients. He also promised to support irrigation system so that the Military Camp can carry out agricultural activities effectively.

"I direct that soil scientists from TARI Mlingano in Tanga should come here immediately to conduct soil analysis. They will tell you everything you need to know about your soil and available nutrients, the soil structure and even its microbiology. This will help you make informed decision of where to grow a particular crop in this area," he said.

If you understand the type of soil you need for agriculture, you will stand a better position to manage your soil properly and improve yield and that is the best way to increase yield of the improved seedlings of Oil Palm called TENERA variety and other crops being grown here for yourself and for the farmers, he added.

"You cannot explain the genesis of this oil palm crop without mentioning Kigoma region. This initiative by the Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa started here. The government is working to revamp this crop of Oil Palm and JKT is part of the government. Specifically, I want to thank JKT leadership for backing up this initiative and I hope together, we will achieve this goal," he said.

Ministry of agriculture has 17 agricultural research centres and other 14 agriculture training colleges. I am also



Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture Gerald Kusaya, directors and other researchers listen to Kwitanga Prison Commanders on the progress of improved oil palm seedlings of TENERA variety. Photo by Gerald Kitabu

thinking on how we can take them on board help carry out this work of production and multiplication of the improved TENERA seeds.

"My researchers have told me that they have a road map to research and produce five million improved seeds per year, but I have directed them to produce more up to ten million per year. If they need help, I will direct some institutions and colleges under my Ministry to join them fast track this work," he said.

TARI Director General Dr. Geoffrey Mkamilo said with soil health knowledge, Bulombora JKT Military Camp will be able to balance the nutrients available in the soils and understand how physical properties like compaction are reducing the crop's rooting depth and drought tolerance among other things for improved production.

If they address chemical imbalances and soil structural issues, the biodiversity in the soil will increase naturally and with time this will result in better fruits and proper utilization of many crops per small area.

Earlier on, JKT Bulombora Military Camp Commander Major Victor Faustin told the Permanent Secretary that the task of production and multiplication of improved seedlings of Oil Palm called TENERA variety is going on well and so far the Camp is preparing 2,000 acre farm for develop-

ment of the oil palm.

"So far we have cleared and prepared 800 acres out of 2,000 acres and this work is going on. We have managed to control and manage the germinator for better results and only few seedlings seem to shrink because of the shock sustained during transplanting, but a good percentage have survived and thriving well," he added.

Commander Faustin lauded TARI for regular visits for technical backstopping saying they have acquired enough knowledge and skills to fruitfully produce the seedlings.

He said establishment of the farms to produce and conduct multiplication of improved seedlings of Oil Palm has also played multiple roles, first as part of JKT work but second as demo farms for the youth joining the National service.

"These youth are learning good agriculture practices. They have learnt

how germinators work and different steps taken for the seeds to grow. They have learnt what nursery and primary seedlings is all about, how to plant in the farm, intervals, spacing which is a full education of farming the oil palm," he said. At Kwitanga Prison, the Permanent Secretary Kusaya commended the Camp for big progress made in the production of improved oil palm seedlings of variety TENERA.

"At least every Kigoma district council has been given the task to produce more than 30,000 improved seedlings, if you add with the improved seedlings that comes from Military institutions like yours, the private sector and other institutions, we are likely to surpass the target and achieve the goals," he said.

He also promised to support Kwitanga prison conduct its economic activities of increasing production of the improved seedlings for the farmers in

the region and the country at large.

The Officer in-Charge, Kwitanga Prison, Senior Superintendent of Prison (SSP) Dominic Kazimil said Kwitanga Prison is committed and determined to heed the Prime Minister's directive to ensure the exercise of multiplication of the seedlings is done around the clock and be distributed to as many farmers as possible.

"We have been working very closely with the Ministry of Agriculture through TARI Kihinga, and Department of agriculture in Kigoma region. So far we have produced more than 273,050 seedlings of oil palm variety called TENERA that will be distributed across the country," he said.

TARI Kihinga Centre Acting director Dr Filson Mbezi Kagimbo, said to produce more seedlings, the centre is planning to raise the yield from 5 metric tonnes per hectare to 9 metric tonnes. Kagimbo said the researchers will study the TENERA varieties and variations to see which TENERA progenies will be the best.

"After getting the best TENERA progenies, researchers will go back and trace which parents produced those best TENERA progenies and kept them to be used as parental materials for production of the best TENERA progenies. By so doing, the yield will raise from 5 metric tonnes to 9 metric tonnes as it is in Malaysia," he said.

TARI Director General Dr Geoffrey Mkamilo explained that the production and dissemination of the improved seedlings of TENERA variety aims also at getting raw materials for the industrial economy as per the President John Pombe Magufuli's vision.

He commended the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture Gerald Kusaya for being a visionary leader saying the visit has rekindled a new zeal, curiosity and commitment for the workers.

The time to prepare for a second Covid-19 wave is now

By Andy Slavitt

AMERICAN physician and immunologist Dr Anthony Stephen Fauci has served as director of the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases since 1984. Since January 2020 he has been one of the lead members of the Trump Administration's White House Coronavirus Task Force addressing the Covid-19 pandemic in the US.

Dr Fauci has just testified before the US Senate that it is an absolute certainty that there will be new outbreaks of Covid-19 cases. But he expressed concerns that "reopening" the country could cause even further outbreaks.

Kentucky Republican Rand Paul, the first US senator to test positive for Covid-19, however says that there will be no second wave. Who to believe?

The White House forecasts that there will be an additional 10,000 deaths as a result of starting to open the country. But they aren't doing anything to discourage this.

The idea of a wave makes people think about peaks. People talk about peaks as if peaks are what allow people to ease their circulation with people: "Don't worry, we've passed the peak."

We create the peaks. We end the peaks. We lower the peaks. And we can make new peaks. Passing peaks only means hospital beds are more empty. It doesn't mean that you need to fill them.

One question is whether there will be a big wave or lots of small waves? In the 1918 flu pandemic, when 650,000 Americans died, different parts of the country had different patterns based on how they managed social distancing.

Even though cases haven't dropped in many places, and could grow over the summer. Let's talk about the autumn when people think about larger peaks. We could have millions of children returning to colleges and schools, flu season, sports and other things could be starting.

Will a second wave be worse? Unmitigated: if we go into the autumn scrambling for PPE (personal pro-



tection equipment), not able to get hands on Remdesivir or therapies, with exhausted nurses and without the ability to test and contain, it could be worse. Mitigated: if we stop wishful thinking and plan, we can make it different.

Guidelines are emerging on how to be safer in workplaces, on public transit transport system, and in other parts of public life. These need to be present for all elements of society. The guidelines here are good.

With all that we have to do, why prepare for a second wave now? If we are going to tempt fate and then relax social distancing, we had better prepare. Save every life possible.

We don't want to live through March again. In February after I was sent the projected Italy and South Korea curves, I wrote letters to all the governors urging us to be South Korea and act aggressively to contain. We didn't. Next time, we should aim to be South Korea.

How should we prepare? Build intelligence and respond fast; generate the best clinical evidence; access therapies and supplies in Emergency Use Authorisation; red team scenarios with emergency response; train contact tracing workforce; set up telemedicine to keep care going for patients; and flu immunisations.

Also: create caches of PPE; have

masks for every resident; get nursing homes safe from infections now; call centres implement new OSHA regulations; and prepare schools for flexible closings if in session.

Prepare for Day 1 of a second wave: deploy testing community wide; isolate those who test positive; contact trace and isolate; have businesses prepare for shutdown in 24 hours; close air and rail; prepare hospital support; and shift resources to hot spot cities.

It is important for every political leader to think about how to build and maintain the political capital needed to take quick action. Start communicating now about the likely

need for action. If you can't handle the leadership that is required, consider resigning.

If a second major wave never comes some will say all this preparation will be for nothing. But that's what we do. We prepare to keep our people safe. Like the \$600 billion every year on the military. Of course, we will need this preparation.

The coronavirus saga will take twists and turns - many, sadly, of our own making. But there's no excuse now that we're out of April not to be prepared for future twists and turns.

Don't count on the government to put sufficient value on your lives and the lives of your family members. If

it doesn't prepare for a second wave, we should prepare ourselves.

If we create conditions where a second wave is more likely, we had damn well better be prepared to cut it off. Leadership is easy in good times. Leadership is important in challenging times.

Getting burned by lack of preparation is something we should never have to go through again. We need to learn from our earlier mistakes to mitigate the suffering when new outbreaks occur.

Andy Slavitt is former Medicare and Medicaid head for President Barack Obama.

Chinese govt, enterprises win acclaim for anti-COVID-19 solidarity with Africa

ADDIS ABABA

AMID the rapid spread of COVID-19 across the African continent and a growing need for swift response to tackle the virus, the Chinese government and Chinese companies are winning acclaim for exerting solidarity and support to Africa's fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to the latest figures from the Africa Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), the death toll from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic on the African continent reached 2,403 as the number of confirmed cases hit 69,578 as of Wednesday afternoon.

China, which is also presently fighting COVID-19 at home, is strengthening its support to African countries and regional organizations in support of the continent's fight against the virus.

As part of China's support to Africa's anti-COVID-19 response efforts, the Chinese medical experts who were on a special mission to help Djiboutian people fight COVID-19 have just left the country on Monday after winning honors for their work. On behalf of the Djiboutian government, Foreign Minister Mahmoud Ali Youssouf and Health Minister Mohamed Warsama Dirieh saw them off at the airport after rewarding them certificates of merit.

The Chinese medical team, composed of 12 experts specializing in respiratory and infectious disease control, intensive care, traditional Chinese medicine, and others, arrived in Djibouti on April 30 after spending about two weeks in Ethiopia, working with Ethiopian colleagues to prevent and control the spread of the novel coronavirus.

To support African countries in their response to COVID-19, the Chinese government has sent medical teams to Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Cote d'Ivoire, Zimbabwe, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Algeria.

Besides, there are nearly 1,000 Chinese medical personnel working in Africa long-term, according to China's National Health Commission. China has sent about 22,000 medical workers accumulatively to Africa during the past decades, and benefited about

220,000,000 local patients in total, according to Chinese Ambassador to Togo Chao Weidong.

During the past months, massive medical supplies donated by the Chinese government and companies have also distributed to African countries and regions, including facial masks, disposable protective clothing, forehead thermometers, medical protective goggles, gloves and shoe covers for medical use, among other equipments.

High-level African officials and experts, representatives of national and international organizations and offices, diplomats of various African countries, as well as representatives of the African Union (AU) and the Africa CDC have commended the anti-COVID-19 support exerted by the Chinese government and various Chinese companies, which they described as "critical" in curtailing the rapid increase of COVID-19 across different parts of the African continent.

Dawit Yirga, Director General of Asia and Oceania Affairs at the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said during the event that the ever-growing China-Africa strategic partnership has shown vitality and strength amid the common fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Africa and China are all weather friends and the Sino-Africa strategic partnership has shown vitality and strength in this time of unprecedented challenges," Yirga said, adding that "solidarity is indeed the bedrock of the Africa-China partnership and when the corona pandemic outbreak happened in China, Africa stood firmly in solidarity with China."

Yirga, expressing appreciation to the "leadership and commitment of the people and government of China in successfully containing the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic," also stressed that as COVID-19 spreads to across the globe including in Africa, China is supporting the African continent.

"We are indeed very grateful to China for its support and solidarity at this difficult moment in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic," the Director General said.

"The support mobilized by the Chinese government and the private sector, including



the Jack Ma Foundation, to assist the COVID-19 response efforts in Africa is very much appreciated," the director general stressed.

Noting China's "commendable willingness" in sharing its successful experience by deploying medical teams in Ethiopian and other African countries, Yirga also expressed his confidence that the "Sino-Africa strategic partnership, which has passed the test of time, will once again prove its resilience."

The China-aided medical supplies that arrived in Addis Ababa on April 23 were transferred to 12 African countries and regions that are Angola, Cameroon, Central African Republic (CAR), Chad, Djibouti, Lesotho, Madagascar, Namibia, Niger, Rwanda, Somalia as well as Tanzania's Zanzibar, it was noted.

Ethiopia has already received medical supplies from China recently, while more is said to be on the way to the East African country, while another batch of China-aided medical supplies has been shipped to some other African countries via Accra, Ghana earlier last month.

Members of a Chinese medical team posed for a photo upon their arrival at the airport in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, April 16, 2020. (Xinhua)

Mafa Sejanamane, Permanent Representative of Lesotho to the AU and the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and Ambassador of Lesotho to Ethiopia, also stressed that "China's support is essential in Africa's anti-COVID-19 fight."

Sejanamane, who noted China's medical supplies' aid to African countries as a crucial part of the continent-wide strategy to beat the COVID-19 pandemic, also said that "COVID-19 has brought about the worst crisis in a century, in combating the worst crisis in a century. We need to put our hands together."

"We are pleased that the Chinese people and government are on the forefront of this particular struggle. With the cooperation of all our international partners we will be able to triumph," Sejanamane said.

Tewelde Gebremariam, CEO of Ethiopian Airlines Group, also hailed the China-Africa cooperation and solidarity in the fight against COVID-19, saying that "as an African, I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of all Africans to thank Chinese government for the generous donation of COVID-19 personal protective equipments and medical supplies."

"These are lifesaving medical supplies, so speed is very important," the CEO said, as he emphasized the Ethiopian flag carrier's resolve to deliver the latest medical supplies

"very fast and intact to all African countries."

"Africa needs China and China needs Africa. We're in this together in the fight against COVID-19," Gebremariam said.

In addition to the Chinese government's solidarity with Africa on the face of COVID-19, Chinese companies and civil organizations are also providing urgently needed supplies to African countries.

The AU Commission Chairperson, Moussa Faki Mahamat, has commended the Chinese tech entrepreneur and philanthropist, Jack Ma, following Ma's latest announcement of the third batch of medical supplies donated by the Jack Ma and Alibaba foundations in support of the AU and the Africa CDC's efforts in containing the spread of COVID-19 across Africa.

"I thanked Jack Ma for the donations of supplies to the AU Commission. This includes 4.6 million masks, 500,000 test kits, 200,000 Personal Protective Equipments, as well as 300 ventilators," Mahamat said after holding a phone call with Jack Ma on the latest medical supplies donation.

The chairperson of the 55-member pan African bloc also stressed that "these vital supplies will enhance the Africa CDC's strategic stockpile to assist member states in the COVID-19 fight."

The AU Commissioner of Social

Affairs, Amira Elfadil, also echoed Mahamat's comments as she emphasized the vital role of the latest batch of massive medical equipment donation from the Jack Ma Foundation, calling it "a true solidarity with Africa."

Elfadil emphasized that the donation from Jack Ma would support the AU's recently launched Partnership to Accelerate COVID-19 Testing "Test and Trace" initiative.

Ahmed Ogwell, Deputy Director of Africa CDC, also hailed the donation made by Jack Ma, saying that "this is a partnership that works. The Africa CDC values friends of Africa."

On March 22, the first batch of massive medical supplies donated by China's Jack Ma Foundation and Alibaba Foundation arrived in Africa. The medical supplies include 5.4 million face masks, kits for 1.08 million detection tests, 40,000 sets of protective clothing and 60,000 sets of protective face shields, according to the Jack Ma Foundation, in which each of the 54 countries receiving some 100,000 medical masks, 20,000 test kits and 1,000 protective suits and face shields.

Also on April 6, the Jack Ma Foundation and Alibaba Foundation made the second round of donations, which went to all 54 countries in Africa as the continent grapples with the pandemic.

Xinhua

Newest developments in SARS-CoV-2 research: Some 'abnormal' discoveries

By Special Correspondent

THE United States has seen huge growth in Covid-19 cases, far outpacing previous estimates in terms of the number of Americans infected and dead.

Current projections by various organisations show that Covid-19 mortality and morbidity will only increase in the coming months as most states are in the process of reopening.

In previous weeks, we described the multi-organ effects of SARS-CoV-2 infection - its effects on the lung, brain, kidneys, and intestines to name a few.

As the pandemic continues, clinicians are beginning to note an increasing number of symptoms and effects normally not seen in respiratory infections. This week's post will give updates on two mystery effects of SARS-CoV-2 infection.

The first is the Paediatric Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome (PMIS). Media headlines this week have been filled with news about nearly 100 children in the US having symptoms of an inflammatory condition termed Pediatric Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome that may have been related to Covid-19.

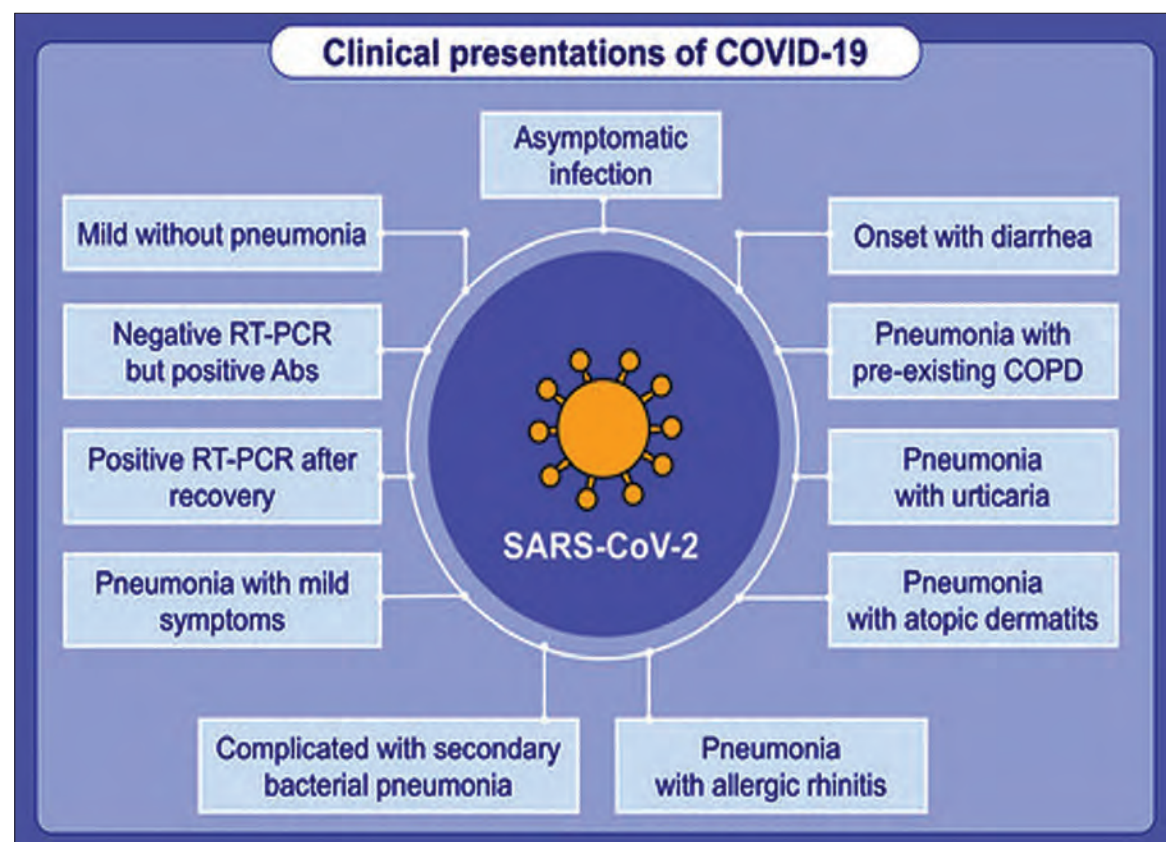
In hard-hit New York, Governor Andrew Cuomo announced that at least 73 children had been diagnosed with PMIS - with three fatalities.

First identified by physicians in the UK, some children were found to have toxic shock syndrome, fevers, cardiac inflammation, gastrointestinal symptoms, and atypical Kawasaki syndrome. Kawasaki disease (KD) is most often seen in children under the age of five and more in males than females.

While the origins are yet to be established, the CDC reports that there may be seasonality associated with KD. KD causes an inflammation of the arteries and is the leading cause of acquired heart disease in the US.

Many children diagnosed with PMIS tested positive for the coronavirus, although some did not. Some children also did not develop PMIS until a month after exposure to SARS-CoV-2.

While an inflammatory response is normal during infections, causing observable effects such as fevers, the response in children with PMIS is different, perhaps owing to individual genetic factors, thus manifesting



as PMIS.

More research is needed to definitively link PMIS and Covid-19 as well as the long-term effects on morbidity and mortality in children.

The second is coronavirus in semen. SARS-CoV-2

is known to spread via respiratory droplets that originate from an infected individual. What was not known until recently was the relation between the virus and other bodily fluids.

A study found no evidence of SARS-CoV-2 in the se-

men and urine of an infected male; however, the authors do admit that other factors could be at play - such as clearance of the virus from the body (samples were provided eight days after the man tested positive for Covid-19 through a nasal swab).

Another limitation of the study was the study size: one male. A larger study of 34 patients later also found no evidence for viral presence in seminal fluid. However, it should be noted that the semen samples were collected around 31 days after testing positive for Covid-19.

On the other hand, a more recent study with 38 individuals found that two of 23 recovering patients had detectable SARS-CoV-2 in semen as opposed to four of the 15 males in the acute stage of the infection.

These numbers indicate that detectable viral quantity in semen may be high during the acute phase of the infection and subsequently decrease during recovery, perhaps explaining the results of the two previously mentioned studies.

More evidence is needed to evaluate whether SARS-CoV-2 can be sexually transmissible. The presence of viruses in semen is not uncommon during certain viral infections and does not automatically mean that it can be spread through sexual activity, but enhanced preventative measures may be needed if that is found to be true.

Science continues to supply guidance and insight despite the virus-imposed slowdown, and serves as a source of hope during otherwise uncertain days.

•A Princeton GMOP dispatch written/edited by Jeffrey Lee, Noel Park and Ezra Levy, graduate students in the Department of Molecular Biology at Princeton University in New Jersey, the US. However, the views expressed herein are of the authors themselves.

Environmental foundation calls for stiffer measures to curb poaching amid Covid-19

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE Morogoro-based Sustainable Holistic Development Foundation (SUHODE) has underscored the need for the government and other players to reinforce wildlife conservation efforts, at this critical time when the world is grappling with Covid-19 pandemic.

The foundation's director, Frank Luvanda said that there are unscrupulous people who have been using the spread of Coronavirus as a leeway for them to ponder wildlife resources, something which poses a threat to the growth of tourism, which in Tanzania remain the leading Forex earner.

"We're fully aware of the efforts made by the government to combat elephant poaching and poaching of other wildlife species. But, as nation we should not rest but continue to fight against wildlife

poaching in whatever ways possible so long as they conform to human rights principles and rule of law," he said.

Poaching, according to Luvanda, if left unchecked and prevented will contribute towards weakening tourism sector in Tanzania. Tourism contributes a great role in our national economy by contributing 25 per cent of foreign exchange revenues and 17percent of the total GDP.

"It is a simple logic; failure to protect wildlife species and their habitats is also a failure to protect tourism hence allowing sabotage to our national economy. The current COVID-19 pandemic has in many ways affected tourism not only in Tanzania but all over the world hence impeding economic performance to many countries," Luvanda said in a five-page statement.

Therefore, the environmentalist said: "In order to protect tourism we must all



unite to fight against wildlife poaching, destruction of water sources and rivers, address the negative impact of climate change, protect natural forests, and protect wildlife corridors and dispersal areas."

There is a great need to improve policies and legal framework governing tourism in the country for the purpose of addressing several legal-framework based challenges that affect tourism industry in Tanzania such as conflicting policies/acts, the need to have a one stop centre for payment of various taxes, fees, levy, and royalties, according to him.

SUHODE Foundation requests the government to increase more efforts in protecting natural forests, water sources, wildlife species, wildlife habitats, and river banks.

Luvanda said environmental protection provides a basis for sustainable economy as most economic interventions depend on healthy ecosystem.

"It is quite evident that most investments need water for various uses. Furthermore, local communities who most of them are farmers depend more on healthy ecosystems for rain stability, soil fertility, water sources, balancing weather, and ecosystem services."

He however encouraged Tanzanians to embrace sustainable investments at local, national, and international levels for the purpose of safeguarding our ecosystems and people.

Some of the drivers of environmental destruction in Tanzania include but not limited to higher population, agricultural expansion, human settlements, over grazing, bush fires, poaching, water pol-

lution, air pollution, mining extraction, infrastructure development, encroachment farming, dynamite fishing, poison fishing, and expansion of monoculture plantations in grassland ecosystems.

He vowed: "SUHODE foundation will continue to work in collaboration with various stakeholders to support conservation and sustainable uses of natural forests by supporting all forms of joint or participatory forest management where local communities participate fully in sustainable management of natural forests in their respective localities.

"As foundation, we believe that all forms of participatory forest conservation such as Joint Forest Management (JFM), Participatory Forest Management (PFM), and Community Based Forest Management (CBFM) are very crucial and should be supported and

strengthened.

"In many areas where communities have been involved in the protection and management of natural forests under Village Land Forest Reserves (VLFs) there is improvement of natural forests in terms of conservation. That's why involving communities in conservation is crucial for conservation as local communities must enjoy the benefits of conservation through various mechanisms such as Payment for Ecosystem Services as we see in most WMAs," Luvanda stressed.

He further said: "At this time when the country and world continue to fight against COVID-19 pandemic, we need not to blame each other, but rather it is time for collaborating with various government institutions, private sector, CSOs, and the citizens to fight the virus until it is off in our beloved country Tanzania. As foundation we call upon all citizens, institutions, private sector, and CSOs to ensure that we take all precautions such as washing our hands frequently, using sanitizers, wearing masks, and embracing social distancing as part of the efforts in combating COVID-19."

He also acknowledged different programs that are conducted by WWF Tanzania in the protection of natural forests, wildlife species, water sources, marine ecology, and in supporting renewable energy interventions in Tanzania.

WWF Tanzania country director Dr Amani Ngusuru once quoted as saying: "It is very encouraging to see a stable elephant population, the government and other conservationists, WWF included have put in a lot of efforts towards ensuring increased wildlife security which are now starting to pay off. I know it will take much longer to see significant increase of elephants but we are celebrating this milestone together. All the same we still need to work towards increasing the numbers by ensuring safer environment for the elephants so that they recolonise their former range and reproduce optimally."

SIDO works hard to make Tanzania semi-industrialised nation

By Guardian Reporter

ENTREPRENEUR and small-scale redevelopment is one of the key aspects in job creation and economic growth at individual and national level. Due to this importance, the government established the Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO) as a parastatal organization that was established by the Act of Parliament No.28/1973, with the aim to plan, coordinate, promote and offer every form of services to small industries.

SIDO director general Prof Sylvester Mpanduji describes SIDO as a state-run entity designed to spearhead development of small industries in the country. Its focus being to build, invent, and sustain innovation in entrepreneurship by empowering people, groups and different institutions so that they can positively to the country's sustainable development.

He says the fifth-phase government under President Dr John Magufuli has been implementing the industrial economy strategy, which is meant to transform Tanzania into one of the semi-industrial nations by 2025, whereby contribution of the industry sector is expected to reach 40 per cent of national GDP.

Eng Mpanduji says to reach the target Tanzania is set to change its economic system from the current that rely on selling unprocessed goods, tourism and minerals to the new system that rely on selling agro-goods which have been added value and processed industrial goods.

Since the government, came into power, SIDO facilitated the establishment of a number of small industries in the country such as spearheading new technologies for small and medium industries.

For the past four years, SIDO has invented a total of 699 new technologies and distributed to beneficiaries across the country. Among of those technologies include cashew nuts, cassava and palm processing as well as food processing, reducing the use of fuel wood for cooking energy, food packaging, brick-making machines, chalks making, cooking oil extraction from edible oil seeds. Others are soap making and packaging and small machines that were distributed to beneficiaries

during that time, says Prof Mpanduji. "These new technologies have helped to strengthen and improve quality of products of entrepreneurs and it has led to the introduction of new projects/industries, which were 7,651 and the introduction of 4,513, which created new 19,873 employment opportunities."

According to Prof Mpanduji, the invention of the technologies meant to support the industrialization agenda and the country's zeal of becoming a middle income nation by 2025.

He said that the organization's strides intends to encourage and facilitate the growth of manufacturing products in the small and medium-sized industry, using the best technology, and ultimately to grow and increase productivity by increasing employment and income, as well as to contribute to poverty eradication in the country.

He noted that entrepreneurship and small scale industries are vital in curbing employment crisis and improving economy in the country.

On entrepreneurs training, business management, Prof Moanduji says: "In several training that we have conducted, we fed entrepreneurs and small-scale industrialists with prerequisite skills and knowledge on factory establishment, agribusiness, food processing and packaging. We trained the group to be more innovative in business and market strategies."

According to him, a total of 62,543 entrepreneurs have benefited from various courses provided by Sido.

On building infrastructure for entrepreneurs, the official says SIDO owns industrial areas with at least 467 factories across the country. The industrial areas have all the required infrastructures and services such as Technology Development Centres (TDCs), Training Cum Production Centers (TPCs), factory buildings, electricity, water, roads and communication systems. In 2017/18 fiscal year the government provided 5bn/- for the construction of four new offices in Simiyu, Geita, Chato and Katavi and twelve factory buildings in Dodoma, Manyara, Kagera, Mtwara and Geita," he explains.

He further says that in 2018/19 financial year, the organisation received 2bn/- for the construction of factory buildings and TCDs in Mtwara, Ruvuma, Kigoma, Lindi, Shinyanga and Kigoma regions.

On Market and Information, Eng. Mpanduji says that market is an important aspect in sustaining production. During this period, the ministry in collaboration with SIDO organized trade fair that involved small and medium entrepreneurs at zonal and national levels. For instance, zonal trade fair were held in Dodoma, Mwanza (Lake Zone), Tabora and Kigoma, Mbeya and Iringa (Southern Highlands) and Morogoro and Lindi (South-eastern zone).

In 2015 and 2018, SIDO organized national wide trade fair held in Simiyu Region and last year it was held in Singida. All the showcasing events attracted 1,063 entrepreneurs, who showcased their merchandizes. The fairs generated 439m/- and pledges worth 1,023bn/-. Detailed data show that in Simiyu (2018), the trade fair involved 518 participants and the amount collected was 244m/- cash and pledges were 568m/-. But, the following year in Singida, the trade fair brought on board 548 entrepreneurs and 195m/- was collected with 455m/- pledges.

On national Entrepreneurship Development Fund (NEDF), SIDO director says: "In 1994, the government established Microfinance Credit Scheme known as National Entrepreneurship Development Fund under Small Industries Development Organisation (NEDF-SIDO) to finance and support all small entrepreneurial business activities."

He says that for the past four years, a total of 15,780 loans worth 35.8bn/- were issued to entrepreneurs, whereby 53 percent were women and 38 percent of those loans went to rural-based entrepreneurs and 62 percent went to urban entrepreneurs.

This shows that rural-based women are being encouraged and are venturing more in business activities as compared to the past.

Those projects was established through loans, which has led to the increasing number of employment opportunities, whereby

40,222 jobs were created (53percent of the employment are women). "Women have been benefiting a lot with these services, who are seen to be interested in agro-processing," he says.

On other programmes executed by the organization, the official says that since 2006, SIDO is ventured in developing entrepreneurs who are in small-scale industries. By 2017, a total of 60 clusters across the country under different supports-SIDO, COSTECH, University of Dares Salaam and LGAs.

Prof Mpanduji says SIDO through JICA and SIDA sponsorships has been implementing different innovative programmes, which were meant to increase production and increase competitiveness amongst clusters in order to transform the economy and industries.

So, far according to Mpanduji, SIDO works with 20 clusters, whereby 18 are on the Tanzanian mainland and remaining from Zanzibar. Fifteen clusters have been sponsored by SIDA while five were sponsored by JICA. Other stakeholders include COSTECH, Södertörn University of Sweden (SIDC). During

that time a total of 497 business organizations were established with 3,978 members. He said that the programme is designed to add value to grapes (Dodoma), honey (Manyara), hides and skins (Mwanza, Mwanza -Kilimanjaro) dairy (Siha-Kilimanjaro), welding and carpentry (Kagera) sisal (Kishapu-Shinyanga).

Other crops include sunflower (Babati-Manyara, Mtinko -Singida Mjini, Singida) rice (Magu-Mwanza, Mwanjelwa-Mbeya) and cereal processing (Morogoro). In Zanzibar; fish farming (Pemba) and seaweed farming (Unguja). In order to accomplish this, SIDO staffs were trained on the importance of those clusters, when Tanzania is heading to industrial economy.

On Incubation Program, Prof Mpanduji says: "This program is aimed at supporting entrepreneurs with innovative and creative technological or industrial ideas by nurturing them direct from the conceptual stage, product development to establishment of commercial undertakings. Usually, incubation period ranges between six months and three years depending on the idea.

Beneficiaries of this program

include those with small and medium businesses, which are operating, individuals and university graduates, who have innovative business ideas. "These innovators get sponsor of offices, working facilities, being linked with different institutions and get soft loans," he says.

According to him, SIDO introduced incubator program for the first time in 2003 as a pilot program in about four regions-Dar es Salaam, Arusha, Singida, Mwanza and Mbeya. Since then, the program has been contributing immensely to the growth of start-ups that have ultimately risen to be successful enterprises in the country. Between 2003 and 2017, about 100 ideas were incubated in Dar es Salaam resulting into establishment of 17 enterprises that were able to generate 94 direct jobs.

On the One District One Product (ODOP), the director general says that since July 2007, SIDO introduced 'One District One Product (ODOP)-a strategy that seeks to promote small-scale industries in each district in Mainland Tanzania.

He says ODOP is designed to provide room for stakeholders in

every district to chose and invest in small industries and produce one product hence, bring development in rural areas.

"In this program Value addition is enhanced through facilitating processing, quality control and packaging, which enables the products to perform well in the market. Implementation is being done collaboratively by the farmers, processors and the Local Government Authorities as main beneficiaries, and technically supported by SIDO and other stakeholder."

ODOP focuses on promoting enterprises engaged on product development through value addition by maximizing the resources available in a particular district and facilitation of market access for income generation and community pride.

As the world grapples with Covid-19, Prof. Mpanduji says SIDO through a number of entrepreneurs across the country have been producing hand washing facilities, sanitizers and full body sanitizing machines.

"The organization is encouraging people to contact SIDO to get all the facilities related to sanitizing," he says.



Entrepreneur Theresia Mbili showcases her products at trade fair organised by SIDO in Singida last year.

Social media and digital footprints

YOUR outfit is ready, you have just the right experience or even more to it that perfectly fits the job requirements, a speedy out layed referees list, your communication skills are up the sky and eventually the suitable kind of confidence one wears when they are aware that their performance will be assessed, weighed and compared to someone else's.

Literally, you are so outrightly presentable to the extent that your presence will still linger in the minds of those present at the panel and probably remain deeply imprinted on the HRs medulla oblongata for quite awhile after you walk out of that interview room.

You are well prepared for the interview and it's not a bad thing.

Infact that should be the day you ought to give your best shot.

This is a typical interview preparation for anyone who's eager to smash those interview questions and ultimately bring the award home - the job.

However impressive your resume may look, how immaculate and neat your outfits are, however confident you may seem, your efforts will still be deemed futile if you have a controversial social media presence.

Shoking right?

For today's organisation, image is



everything, and the last thing an employer wants is an employee that will make the company look bad and unfortunately, what you may not have realized is that personal things you enjoy doing on social media may have unintended consequences. Your facebook account, Twitter timeline, Instagram photos and Snapchat could be what is standing between you and that terrific job.

One Facebook post, a single tweet or a tagged picture may be enough to keep you unemployed literally!

Essentially, social media sites like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn give the public a glimpse into your personality and it's highly important to regulate what's being posted and to consider social media as only a tool for positive utilization.

Ever wondered why the interview might have gone smoothly and you walk out of that room with high hopes of landing the job but to your utter surprise you realise that you were't even shortlisted.

You only get a brief text message .."thank you for showing up for the interview, but sorry, you did not make it to the shortlist".

You sit down, head reeling, wondering what you did not do right.

It may seem trivial or even insignificant, but your social media presence could be your greatest undoing while approaching that interview room for

that job you've been praying for. In today's digital world of employment, what you post, what you like, share and retweet plus those you follow and your entire timeline activity lives an nonerasable digital footprint on your name as an individual and as a future employee.

Isn't that what we could refer to as digital legacy? which will remain there forever even though you won't be around anymore. Well, an employer, recruiter or whatever in that case, will use those digital footprints you left behind to make their decisions.

It's easier said than done but well, a personal image matters regardless online or physically.



However impressive your resume may look, how immaculate and neat your outfits are, however confident you may seem, your efforts will still be deemed futile if you have a controversial social media presence.

Why most post-pandemic predictions will finally emerge as entirely wrong

By Rob Walker

A deadly global pandemic is a self-evidently world-changing event - but world-changing how? While the coronavirus nightmare is nowhere near resolution, we are awash in predictions about what will come next, how our professional and business lives will be permanently altered, and how they will look a decade from now or beyond.

That's only natural, and in some ways, it's necessary: We sense that things will never be the same, and thoughtful speculation about the future helps us cope with the present - and, among other things, figure out economic perils and opportunities.

Yes, it seems that the massive work-from-home experiment will be here to stay, that virtual education is having its moment, and that even meal-delivery subscription companies, which were recently on life support, may once again have a future.

Just keep one thing in mind about these predictions: Most of them will be wrong. As this moment ought to remind us, the most influential and important events are the ones that emerge spontaneously and with little warning - like the coronavirus itself.

That's only natural, too. When a cataclysmic event is fresh or still unfolding, it's hard to see beyond its immediate contours and even harder to imagine what the next unpredictable events will be and how those will af-

fect whatever change is in motion right now.

But it's so seductively easy to go about doing things in an even more determined way than before: Expect to see a recurrence of sweeping pronouncements: E-sports will replace football and basketball, movie theatres will never return, and telemedicine will become the new normal. (We've even made a few.)

Anything is possible, but take a closer look at how often definitive predictions about permanent change are simply extrapolations of recently observable trends taken to some maximum extreme.

In other words, the future will be like this new present - only much more so. These predictions are the equivalent of then-Vanity Fair editor Graydon Carter declaring, "the end of the age of irony" in the immediate aftermath of 9/11: a reasonable reaction to a moment that just didn't hold up. (Carter later joked that he meant "ironing.")

Let's look back, for example, at pronouncements forged during our most recent financial crisis. In early 2009, in the depths of the Great Recession, Time magazine declared: "The End of Excess."

Conspicuous consumption dating back to the 1980s had caught up with us in the form of a recession so brutal that "now everything really has changed. The party is finally, definitely over", wrote Kurt Andersen, who's built his career on astute cultural observations.

Optimistically, he imagined a healthy societal reset marked by a more temperate and frugal approach to consumption.

This became a widespread view. "Reluctance to Spend May Be Legacy of Recession," mused an August 2009 analysis in the New York Times.

Summarising expert views, the piece asserted that "the recession has endured so long and spread pain so broadly that it has seeped into the culture, downgrading expectations, clouding assumptions about the future and eroding the impulse to buy".

And the experts predicted that the resulting frugality was no passing trend. "We're at an inflection point with respect to the American consumer," Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's, said. "It's a change in norms," agreed Robert Barbera, chief economist at the research and trading firm ITG.

"The Great Depression imbued American life with an enduring spirit of thrift," the piece noted, suggesting a similar generational impact: "The current recession has perhaps proven wrenching enough to alter consumer tastes, putting value in vogue."

To take one specific example of how consumer behaviour was predicted to change decisively: the end of SUVs, conspicuous symbols of the old excess. In 2008, GM drastically slashed SUV production in favour of sedans, marking an "end of the SUV era".

Gas prices approaching \$4 per gallon "are changing consumer behav-



our and changing it rapidly," GM's CEO said, adding: "We don't believe it's a spike or a temporary shift. We believe it is permanent."

Experts agreed: "The trend away from these vehicles is irreversible," said one analyst, as an economics academic added: "The SUV craze was a bubble - and now it is bursting. It's an irrational vehicle. It'll never come back."

And after all, according to a widely noted book published in 2009, the rise of gas prices to \$20 a gallon was "inevitable".

All of this was perfectly plausible. But it is not what happened. For better or worse, unpredicted developments such as the fracking boom and other factors put an end to talk of "peak oil". Today we are "drowning in oil", and US West Texas Intermediate crude is lately selling for about \$20 a barrel.

SUVs, of course, came back: They make up about half the market and in recent years the production of sedans has been slashed as carmakers responded to the demand for SUVs and trucks.

Some of this proved true but far less lasting than predicted. Consumer spending has risen by about a third since 2009, from about \$10 trillion a year to around \$13.5 trillion last year, and still accounts for more than two-thirds of the total economic activity. Credit card debt dipped for a few

years after the Great Recession but has climbed steadily since 2011 and hit an all-time high last year. The global sales of personal luxury goods have more than doubled in the 21st century.

This does not mean that nothing ever changes. While 9/11 didn't rewrite the culture's sense of irony, it certainly changed air travel; security procedures seem unlikely ever to revert to their earlier form. The terror attacks also led to the creation of the Department of Homeland Security and the passage of the Patriot Act - developments with far-reaching implications.

Similarly, while excess didn't magically vanish in the wake of the Great Recession, some manifestations of it did fade away. And today's SUVs have evolved into more fuel-efficient vehicles, as the broader car market includes electric and hybrid models from both mainstream players and the disruptive newcomer Tesla.

In what could be considered the biggest move of unpredictability, GM eventually did dump its absurdly excessive, gas-guzzling SUV, the Hummer - only to recently announce that it plans to resurrect the brand back in electric form.

In other words, things really are different, just in more complex and subtle ways than predicted. Because if you're considering a time horizon of 12 years as opposed to 12 months, other things will happen - good and bad -

that you cannot foresee but that will have some effect, however oblique, on whatever it is that you are predicting.

This is not an argument against predictions - and it is certainly not a critique of any specific prediction. Speculation about what might happen is useful; it can actually start interesting discussions about a future in which shareholder rights aren't so predominant or provoke us to imagine the implications of cities segregated by immunity status.

Predictions of death rates or economic consequences can help shape or inspire responses that prevent those predictions from coming true.

But that's why, when someone makes a sweeping declaration, the best response is to start asking questions. Every prediction is just a point on a spectrum of possibilities to consider, and that will be influenced by developments no one has thought of yet.

Predictions look like declarations that end the conversation, but it's much more productive to think of them as exactly the opposite. After all, if this pandemic has taught us anything, it's that the future is always more unpredictable than it seems.

Rob Walker is a columnist and senior writer for Marker, writing on design, technology, marketing, business and culture.

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 84 00--

WORD-FIT

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

3 LETTERS: PET, APE, CUM
 4 LETTERS: FLOW, OVER, EVEN, REAL, OVER, ROME, MOOS, POUR
 5 LETTERS: LARGE, NOVEL, OMBRE, SPORT, METER
 6 LETTERS: EAGLES, LEAN TO, MTWARA, MODERN, REJECT
 7 LETTERS: MOROCCO
 8 LETTERS: ACCOUNTS
 10 LETTERS: FREE MARKET

SOLUTIONS

WORD-FIT: F R E E L O A D E R, T A B U, N E S T M E A N T, E A S E L U, P E T, M E K O N G, H I, A G E D E M B E D, U B E R A L S, L I B E R A L S, A N O N A P, Y Y E M E N I, L

CROSSWORD: O U R N A L I S M, U M, E A, L O M E S E R V E, Y A D A P T O, G A R P U T, F R A N C E, R, K N O W D A I R Y, A D D I C T I E D, A H R O, A D I C T I E D, S E A T C I E D, K M E N I A L N

CROSSWORD

1 fail to impress
 5 a memorandum
 7 accumulate over time
 8 a corner
 10 heaven
 11 known about by many people
 13 the refuse of grapes that have been pressed for winemaking
 15 out of the way
 17 Kuala Lumpur is her capital city
 19 one as a quantity
 20 a small stone made smooth and round by the action of water

CLUES: Across

Down:

1 Muslims bound together
 2 a legislative body in the ruling assembly of Russia
 3 a house
 4 Zambia's capital
 6 on to
 7 Largest state in U.S.A
 9 vehicle equipped for living in
 12 the holding of an office
 14 a slatted wooden case used for transporting goods
 16 an accomplice of a hawkler
 17 Mother
 18 labium

BUSINESS

RESTRICTIONS

Europe shelves delivery of ten million 'inferior quality' Chinese masks

BRUSSELS

The European Commission said on Thursday it has suspended the delivery of 10 million Chinese masks to member states and the United Kingdom after two countries complained about the poor quality of the batches they received.

As part of its efforts to tackle the Covid-19 crisis, this month the European Union's executive arm started dispatching the masks to healthcare workers. After the first batch of 1.5 million masks was shipped to 17 of the 27 member states and the UK, Poland's Health Minister Lukasz Szumowski said the 600 000 items Polish authorities received did not have European certificates and failed to comply with the medical standards required for their distribution.

"We have decided to suspend future deliveries of these masks," Commission health spokesperson Stefan De Keersmaecker said. "We will then see what action needs to be taken if there is indeed a quality problem with these masks." According to De Keersmaecker

er, another member state, the Netherlands, has identified similar problems so far. The whole stock of masks was purchased from a Chinese provider via an EU fund.

It was set to be distributed in weekly instalments over six weeks. De Keersmaecker insisted that the Commission scrupulously followed all control measures when it bought the masks, and verified they were usable. "If necessary we will of course take any necessary legal action," De Keersmaecker said.

He added that the commissioner for health and food safety, Stella Kyriakides, has alerted all the countries which have already received masks about the potential problems and asked them to provide feedback on their quality.

"It is of utmost importance that personal protective equipment sent out by the Commission is of very high quality," De Keersmaecker said. "That's fundamental because that equipment is used by citizens and by professionals in the health sector."



European Commission Health spokesperson, Stefan De Keersmaecker.

Covid-19 war: Namibia bans car purchases for politicians

WINDHOEK

Namibia's president on Thursday slapped a five-year ban on buying new cars for top politicians and government officials in order to channel funds into fighting coronavirus, his office said.

President Hage Geingob "has directed that the vehicle fleet of the Namibian government will not be renewed for the period 2020-2025," presidential spokesperson Alfredo Hengari announced in a statement. "No new vehicles will be purchased for members of the executive and public office bearers in the Namibian government."

He said the decision would save some 200 million Namibian dollars

(\$10.7 million), which will be directed "to urgent priorities, specifically at a time when the country is dealing with the health and economic implications of Covid-19."

The southern African country of 2.5 million people has so far recorded 16 cases of Covid-19, with no deaths. Namibian ministers and their deputies each qualify for Mercedes-Benz vehicles upon their appointment.

The president also directed a limit on monthly fuel consumption for top politicians, the government said. In 2002, then-president Sam Nujoma had banned the use of Mercedes-Benzes, insisting that ministers should ride in Toyota Camry cars.

INNOVATION

Could we soon diagnose Covid-19 at home with use of a smartphone?

PITTSBURGH

To slow the spread of COVID-19 at nursing homes in the United States it is crucial that nursing home residents and staff be tested regularly, according to a former FDA Associate Commissioner.

A team of researchers at the University of Pittsburgh are re-imagining a way to test Americans (and hopefully the rest of the world) through something most of us own - the smartphone. According to a news release, their project aims to use the existing hardware and computing power of smartphones to promote non-invasive at-home testing for Covid-19.

The goal is ultimately to be able to test on a mass scale without special equipment and clinicians. "In this project, we will develop new mobile sensing and artificial intelligence techniques for in-home evaluation of Covid-19 in an effort to quickly and effectively identify viral disease carriers," said Wei Gao, lead researcher and associate professor of electrical and computer engineering at Pitt's Swanson School of Engineering in a press release.

The Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Dr. Anthony Fauci says the government is working on several potential vaccines for COVID-19. "We hope this work will also help identify negative cases caused by other diseases with similar symp-



Wei Gao, lead researcher and associate professor at Pitt's Swanson School of Engineering.

oms, and therefore, help eliminate unnecessary hospital visits during this pandemic," he stated.

How will the technology work?

Gao and his research team will look towards the microphones and speakers of smartphones to develop acoustic sensing to measure changes in the human airway linked to Covid-19. "We will begin by designing new acoustic

waveforms to minimise acoustic signal distortion in human airways," Gao said. "We will then develop new signal processing techniques for accurate measurements and eventually apply deep learning techniques to create generic models that depict the core characteristics of airway mechanics."

Users will be able to download and install an app and will need to use a smart-

phone adapter as a mouthpiece, where acoustic signals from the airways will be transmitted and recorded through the phone's microphone.

If the project is successful, it could help accurately diagnose Covid-19 cases without people having to go to hospitals and test centres, which could also help curb the spread among healthcare personnel and other frontline workers.

RECYCLING

Slow fashion designer who upcycles mielie-meal packets

DURBAN

The sustainable fashion conversation seems to have been finally handed the megaphone it deserves in the wake of a global pandemic that has threatened the retail fashion industry. As a result, shopping habits have changed and adopting a slow fashion approach is now more of a reality than we predicted when it was first suggested.

An article published in The Conversation titled, Why you should stop buying new clothes, explains how the "fast fashion business model, first developed in the early 2000s is responsible for the increase in consumer demand for high quantities of low-quality clothing."

"Many fashion products now being designed and made specifically for short-term ownership and premature disposal. Clothing quality is decreasing along with costs, and the increased consumption levels of mass-manufactured fashion products are pushing up the consumption of natural resources," it highlights.

Future Fabrics expo aims to revolutionise fashion with materials

At the ninth edition of the Future Fabrics Expo in London, the textile industry showcases new and cleaner materials. "The Sustainable Angle", a non-profit organisation, founded the expo to help revolutionise the fashion industry.

This is why thrifting has become increasingly popular in a small fraction of our local fashion community, while some designers innovate to create 'green' garments from sustainably sourced materials. Durban University of Technology graduate, Katekani Moreku, is an example of a designer whose work can be considered a hybrid of both these environmentally friendly approaches.

"Previously loved clothing" plays a big role in this fashion designer's eponymous label. He finds his materials in thrift stores, at car-boot sales and from people selling fabric off-cuts and discarded textiles. He's also used the packaging of mielie meal products. "I want to help slow down fast fashion," says the designer who will soon relocate back to Mbombela, in the Mpumalanga province where he grew up, to launch his brand.

Moreku will be featured in a new initiative that celebrates the creativity and ingenuity of the makers behind some of South Africa's most inspiring projects, products, ideas and experiences hosted by the V&A Waterfront, in partnership with Platform Creative Agency. The initiative features 100 Beautiful Things, all of which are designed with either compassion, sustainability, future-thinking



Fashion designer, Katekani Moreku.

or local essence at their core, with some being recognised for just simply being beautiful.

It is fitting that he will be making his one-off pieces of clothing from this part of the country where his mother's sePulana culture first piqued his taste for upcycled fashion. Living next door to a sePulana school of initiation in the village of Welverdiend, he would see women from this sePedi subculture dressed in brightly coloured wrap-around garments that they would make from scraps of fabric and mielie-meal packets, decorated with mismatched buttons, bottle caps and sweet wrappers.

He himself has always been an avid thrift-store shopper. "I was trying to live sustainably without even being aware of

it," he says of his life before fashion studies. "Now that I am aware of it, I'm thinking about what change I can bring." Part of the change is to create gender-neutral clothing that allows men to also inhabit this colourful sphere usually reserved for sePulana women.

"It always looked like men didn't embrace their heritage," Moreku says of the way in which the men he saw growing up never wore anything similar to the vibrantly clad women. His range now dresses men in knee-length pleated skirts, button-up dresses and wrap-around trousers, in bright orange, blue and pink. "I'm using the female aesthetic and bringing it into the male part of the culture, in clothes that can be shared by men and women," he says.

Part sustainable fashion, part heritage expression, Moreku's first range, Nascent, which debuted at South African Fashion Week 2019, has already got style enthusiasts gushing. Last year, he walked away with Twy's Sustainable Fashion Student Award and the KZN Fashion Council MEC Recognition Award for Eco-Friendly Fashion.

As for the sePulana people being celebrated in the collection, Moreku says they are excited to see a modern take on their culture. "They're helping me with ideas, and the elders are giving me information because it's not so easy to find. But they're happy someone is taking their culture out there, and they're able to look at themselves through me now."

BAILOUT

Women-owned businesses disrupted by Covid-19 look forward to financial aid

JOHANNESBURG

Gig workers and small business owners have either had to pivot or scramble for assistance as a result of the lockdown. But all is not lost yet as NPOs such as SAveabusiness and brands hosting virtual events are offering lifelines to those in need.

When President Cyril Ramaphosa addressed the nation about two weeks ago, updating the country on the way forward into Level 4 lockdown, there was an outcry over the lack of support provided for freelancers and creatives.

In a Fin24 article poignantly headlined 'The freelancers and commission earners who fell through the cracks, it's detailed how film and media production freelancers (for example, "do not qualify to claim under the Unemployment Insurance Fund's (UIF) Covid-19 Temporary Employer-Employee Relief Scheme."

What this means is that these professionals "cannot seek relief under the numerous schemes that have been set up for small and medium enterprises (SMEs), the tourism relief fund or assistance that is given to informal traders. Nor can they even qualify for the temporary Covid-19 unemployment grant or borrow from employers since they do not have permanent jobs."

The article further revealed that "the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture set aside R150 million for a relief

fund that would help athletes as well as production teams and freelancers in cultural and creative industries, if they had scheduled events that had to be cancelled. Freelance workers had to submit proof before 6 April showing that they were contracted to companies that had to cancel events."

"There will, however, be no relief for projects that have been postponed," it added. In light of this, it's worth recognising the efforts of various brands who are ensuring artists and freelance workers that make up South Africa's gig economy, continue to get booked during lockdown.

If you're active on Instagram, you should be familiar with the popcorning of virtual live concerts that have kept music enthusiasts entertained behind their screens. One such recent example was the #PasstheBeat virtual music festival hosted by Barcadi. This alcohol brand partnered with artists in South Africa, the Philippines and India for a first-of-its-kind virtual music experience, passing the beat from country to country to keep fans moving and connected during lockdown.

This experience also included energetic supporters Bontle Modiselle and Sne Mbathe, dancer-choreographers who gave life to the #DoWhatMovesYou hashtag during the event.

This is particularly worth mentioning because dancers form part of a group of entertainers whose skills are difficult to monetise during a pandemic, but are less



A South African woman inside her tailoring mart in Johannesburg

spoken of and considered not as urgently deserving of aid from the likes of the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, which purports to be a government structure they can rely on.

Beyond entertainers, the other parties affected by this lockdown include your nail tech, your hairdresser, the specialist who does your brows, your helper, your seamstress, the woman you buy your fresh produce from around the corner from your office, and makeup artists... among others.

In fact, you might also be one of these women. W24 ran a poll not too long before the country went into lockdown, posing the following question: "In what way has the recent coronavirus outbreak inconvenienced/concerned you the most?"

The poll amassed over 900 participants. While the majority of these participants felt slighted in terms of travelling abroad and stockpiling groceries, a fair

amount of people had work-related concerns. 152 respondents indicated that they take public transport to work, and have no option but to keep going to work, while 72 others were freelance creatives (DJ, photographer, MUA, music artist, stylist), whose income is dependent on actually seeing people in person.

The food and hospitality industry is also in hot water financially due to Covid-19. Speaking to Fin24, Natasha Sideris, founder of trendy dining hotspot Tashas, said the pandemic "...is just the nail in the coffin for the restaurant industry," pleading for government assistance. Similarly, Cape Town's delectable Charlys Bakery is in need of Covid relief.

The women-run bakery - owned by Jacqui and her two daughters Alex and Dani - issued a plea for help to customers and fans this week, saying "There is no easy way to say this, we're at

risk of losing our business. There is a very real possibility that after lockdown, we won't be able to keep our doors open."

The business has now teamed up with JUMPSTARTER to launch their #MuckingAfazing reward-based Crowdfunding campaign. SAveabusiness is a new initiative that recognises the plight of women who run businesses who may find themselves in similar situations. This is a fast turnaround and transparent business relief fund, paying grants to hard hit township-based and women-owned businesses due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Every week, SAveabusiness will upload 5 - 10 small businesses to its web-based platform. The organisation fundraises aggressively for these businesses; raising capital from foundations, trusts, businesses and individuals alike. They have already partnered with various artists to assist in raising funds for women-owned

small businesses in dire need of help during the pandemic.

"We allocate R20 000 to each business to ensure we can assist as many as possible. We have partnered with Black Coffee who helped us raise R167 000 as well as Laduma Ngxokolo (Maxhosa) and Nelson Makoma who raised R670 000," S'innamon, the PR agency (co-owned by two women) assisting this initiative, revealed.

The NPO declares that "with so much uncertainty and lack of clarity on existing relief options", they look to the public to "swiftly and meaningfully take action and give small business a fighting chance during the pandemic."

How SAveabusiness works

According to their site, the raised funds will be purposed to avoid layoffs; non-payment of workers and expenses that would impede continuation when South Africa returns to business as usual. The NPO believes that this is an essential initiative that will mitigate the rise in unemployment and the further destabilization of our economy. Donations over R1000 can choose to receive a tax exemption certificate as the initiative operates with NGO status.

The public has two options: (1) Donate directly to the listed business of your choice or (2) Donate to the SAveabusiness Covid-19 Relief Fund to be evenly distributed at the end of each phase. Small business owners can apply here to get listed on the platform, and if you would like to make a donation to Project #SaveABusiness, you may do so here.

ENTERPRISING

From hawking clothes to owning a boutique: Entrepreneur's journey

KIGALI

As a young boy, Clement Gutunga always knew he would one day become a business person, just like his mother. However, he wasn't sure how this would happen until he joined secondary school.

How it all started
Back in high school, Gutunga started developing an interest in fashion; he would admire well-dressed teachers and anyone who sported a classy outfit. To develop and build on his passion for fashion, he started to partner with owners of some local shops around the school.

"I would get clothes from different shops; sell them to my fellow students and to other people outside the school, especially during the weekends. I would get a discount from every sale I made," he says.

Apart from loving what he was doing, he was able to make some little money from it, to cater for his upkeep while at school. The 'hustle' didn't stop there, as he continued even after joining campus. While at the University, he hawked different attires in different offices within Kigali, and also partnered with a few shops in Kigali earning discounts on every single sale he would make.

"I used to move around with my school bag with clothes and books inside. I would deliver clothes to different customers during breaks, before and after classes," he said. He later created a network of clients on different social media platforms where he would receive more orders.

A year before completing university, he managed to secure a permanent retail space in Remera with the profit made from his sales. After completing school in 2017, he had accumulated enough savings enabling him to move to Central Business District at Makuza Plaza where he is based currently as a boutique owner.

When the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi started, Gutunga was living in Ruhango District with his family of eight. As many other Tutsis, his family feared for the worst, the whole community was surrounded by killers. Since there was nowhere to run to, his father decided that they stay in the house and wait for their fate.

After three days locked in their house, the Interahamwe arrived, took his father together with other men away to be killed. With his mother, they managed to escape on that day and found refuge. After the Genocide, his mother started a small bakery business that she would tirelessly work to ensure they are fed, and get other basic needs.

"I think this enabled me to develop some survival skills from my mother's business, as sometimes I would help out where there was a need. This inspired me to work hard and not only to be independent but also to help my younger siblings," he said. Through the business, he said he gained some experience in selling which inspired him to do the same.

After the Genocide, with the help of FARG (the Genocide Survivors Assistance Fund), Gutunga managed to pursue his secondary and university education.

Gutunga, who holds a bachelor degree in business administration, is now running his own boutique, selling clothes, shoes and other related products specifically for men. Aside from this, he has now taken on a role in mentoring some young entrepreneurs who are still in school with a passion for doing business.



Rwandese entrepreneur, Clement Gutunga.

PROMOTION

Comoros receives COVID-Organics donation

ANTANANARIVO

The Comorian president Azali Assoumani thanked the people of Madagascar and President Rajoelina for donation of COVID-Organics, the purported virus preventative and curative mixture.

Also included in the Malagasy donation were doses of chloroquine and surgical masks, the president further disclosed. Azali said the gesture was a "perfect testimony to the solidarity which unites the peoples of the Indian Ocean, faced with the coronavirus pandemic."

A delegation from Comoros flew to Madagascar to receive the donation weeks after the country expressed interest in the mixture. Other African countries that have been supplied include Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Republic of Congo, DR Congo and Tanzania.

The Guinea-Bissau consignment was also meant for countries in the West African bloc, ECOWAS. Nigeria has said it will import its part but subject it to necessary tests before using them or otherwise.

"With respect to Covid Organics, Madagascar is with his African brothers to heal and save lives. Our duty is to preserve the health of our people. Chad sent a plane to collect CVO donations. Thanks to President Idriss Deby for his confidence," these sentences were in a tweet posted by the Malagasy President Andry Rajoelina on Saturday, May 9.

Accompanying the text were photos of an official Chadian plane in Antananarivo to take delivery of the Covid Organics medication that Madagascar insists cures the virus. A second version of it can act as a preventative measure, Rajoelina said weeks back.

Tanzania receives Madagascar 'virus



Comorian president Azali Assoumani speaks in Anjuan after receiving a consignment of Covid Organics.

cure'

Barely a week since President Magufuli of Tanzania said the country was interested in COVID-Organics, the Malagasy preventive / curative, potion for coronavirus, a consignment was delivered on Friday according to reports. The donation comes days after the Republic of Congo and the Democratic Republic of Congo received their donations. Equatorial Guinea and Guinea-Bissau have also been served.

The Guinea-Bissau consignment, according to Malagasy President Andry Rajoelina, was a donation for the West African bloc, ECOWAS, but the group this week said it had not ordered for nor does it recommend the

untested and unscientific medication.

Tanzania is currently the East Africa Community's second most impacted country behind Kenya. The country has 509 cases with 21 deaths and 183 recoveries as of May 9. The president also made news headlines this week after claiming that non-human samples had tested positive for the virus. Head of the country's national laboratory was subsequently dismissed. The Africa Centers for Disease Control rejected Magufuli's claims stressing that the said kits were certified.

In the case of Tanzania, President John Pombe Magufuli while speaking at an event on Sunday disclosed that the country will also make requests of the herbal cure to help in the fight

against the pandemic.

"I have been in talks with Madagascar. They say they have discovered the medicine for COVID-19. We will send a plane to bring the medicine to Tanzania so that Tanzanians can benefit from it," he is quoted to have said.

Meanwhile the Guinea-Bissau delegation that took flew to Madagascar to take the consignment have returned home with the products. Equatorial Guinea was the first country to receive the donation.

The Republic of Congo also announced on Saturday that a consignment will soon be imported. So far, Rajoelina has received praise from a number of his peers including presi-

dents of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Senegal - all of whom he has held teleconferences with.

During an African Union meeting late last month, he stressed the importance of the herbal cure - a variant of which prevents the virus, while another cures it. Speaking to colleague heads of state with a bottle of COVID-Organics on his table, he reiterated the viability of the herbal cure.

"There are two treatment protocols (curative and preventive). The state of health of Covid-19 patients who took Tambavy CVO CovidOrganics improved after 7 days and fully recovered after 10 days," Rajoelina said in an April 30 tweet.

OPTIMISM

Why Alber Elbaz believes creativity will flourish after pandemic

DUBAI

In October 2019, luxury group Richemont announced that it was partnering with fashion designer Alber Elbaz on a new venture called AZ Fashion.

Although the new company is yet to launch and all preparations have been put on hold due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the designer has revealed that he started putting a team together before the global crisis.

"I had put the new team together and we started to work for a few weeks and then we had to go on quarantine, so it's only a beginning," he said in an online talk with The Business of Fashion founder Imran Amed this week.

"I realised that this is one of the times to whisper, to say it right, and to wait. There is nothing wrong with giving time and taking time and slowing down the sys-

tem. I am trying to create a story with a company that is made-to-measure to what I believe in." This new label marks Elbaz's first real venture back into the industry since 2015, when after 14 years at the helm of Lanvin, he was unceremoniously pushed out by owner Shawn Wang.

Despite achieving huge critical and financial success, the brutal nature of his exit rankled many, not least because Elbaz is widely regarded as one of the nicest people in the industry. This new partnership now marks something of a coup for Richemont, which also owns the Yoox Net-A-Porter group, Chloe, Cartier and Van Cleef and Arpels, among other brands.

Elbaz said he was "excited" about working with the luxury group, because "they are not only fashion." "They are a company that produces watches - time itself - and jewellery. It's all about long-

term, not short-term. They whisper, they don't shout."

Deeply wounded by his treatment at Lanvin, Elbaz famously refused to join another house, preferring instead to stay low-key, with a few collaborations, biding his time until the right opportunity came about.

"One of the reasons why I didn't feel comfortable to go back [into a fashion house] is that I didn't want to just replace someone in his own work. It isn't that I didn't want to be the second wife, but it's just about doing things from A to Z. Now this is a reset, a restart, a start-up. It has to be small, for me to start small."

The new project may be a better fit with Elbaz's ideas, however, he will be attempting to launch in the midst of a global pandemic. Though faced with a gloomy fiscal outlook, the designer is engagingly optimistic, preferring to see this as a moment of opportunity.



Alber Elbaz spoke at length earlier this week about his vision for the future of fashion.

"During quarantine, I have been reading articles and history books and it shows that after every pandemic, every big war, there is a peak of economy and art, so now is the time to be optimistic

about a better future," he explained.

"We are now all thinking and observing about what is next. We are all looking for something different. It's like the moment of truth." A

veteran of the industry, Elbaz lamented the failure of huge American stores such as Neiman Marcus and Barneys. "For my new project, I thought it would be only online, but then I realised that

part of being sustainable is supporting these stores. We need to work together."

Part of that relationship, Elbaz insists, is helping get customers offline and back into brick-and-mortar stores. "What if we take online and do it on the shop floor?" he suggests. "Imagine if we take one of the big department stores and divide it not by designer, but divide it by category. All the white shirts are together, and all the coats. It's organised like an online store."

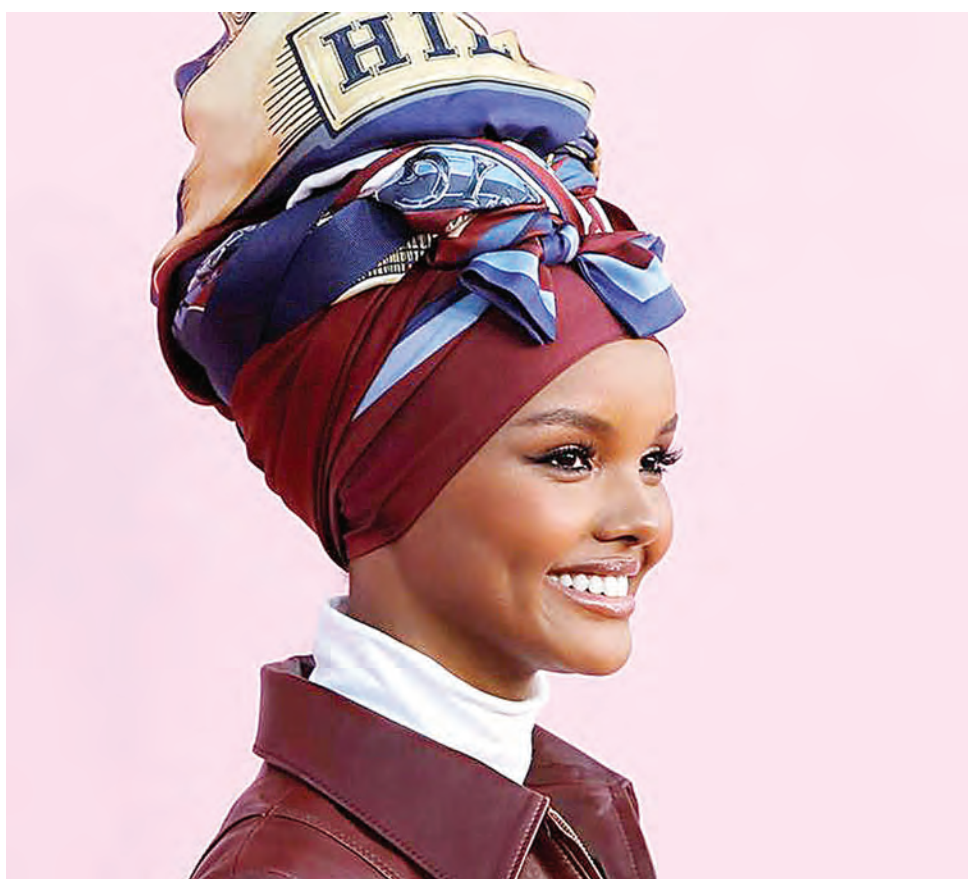
The optimistic designer is aware that this moment offers a unique opportunity to shift away from mindless excess and towards something more thoughtful and considered. "People should not buy nothing, because part of what we do [as designers] is give joy to people. This is what fashion, art and design is all about," he said.

"Yes, I think there were too many shows, too many collections, we were travel-

ling like there is no tomorrow, with no time to rest and think. For a long time, designers were pushed away from the driver's seat and marketing was more important. But I have always said that what people want is not necessary what they would love to have."

Despite the frustration of starting on a new venture only to have it put on hold, Elbaz has not stopped working. Citing endless Zoom conference calls with his new team, he is adamant that AZ Fashion is now, finally, under way.

"After 52 days, I have finished all the ideas I was working on, and this morning, I sent an email with all the things we are going to be doing and, yes, we are starting. After a long time of not being in love with fashion any more, I was looking to fall in love again. And I am happy to announce that I am."



Model Halima Aden is part of a project that is upcycling fabrics to create hijab and face mask sets.

COVID-19

Halima Aden designs matching face mask and hijab sets to help front-line workers

NEW YORK

The onset of the coronavirus pandemic has seen numerous fashion houses, brands and designers address the crisis by producing and donating face masks to front-line workers.

And now it looks like Halima Aden is joining the fray. The Somali-American model recently announced that she was part of #BandingTogether - a project in association with Allure magazine and Anywear Design, which will see her designing fashionable face masks and hijab sets - while giving to a good cause.

"When you purchase one of my limited-edition face covering and hijab sets, @AnywearDesign will donate an adjustable headband, hijab set or medical hat to a doctor, nurse or healthcare professional working tirelessly on the frontline," the model announced in a post on Instagram.

Anywear Design is an AI tech company that was scheduled to launch this summer but pushed back the opening date due to the coronavirus pandemic. However, after "seeing images of the skin irritation front-line workers are experiencing from wearing face masks during long shifts while fighting Covid-19", the company decided to start the #BandingTogether project.

It worked with medical professionals in the US to create headbands with buttons that

can hold mask straps and ease discomfort. This resulted in comfortable sets made from upcycled fabrics. The company then reached out to members of the fashion community to channel their creativity into designing the sets. They ended up with fashionable and eco-friendly products, with proceeds going towards a noble cause.

"Having worked in a hospital, even several months into my modelling career, it was important for me to support this project," Aden said in an official statement on the brand's website. "As many hijab-wearing women are working at healthcare facilities, I wanted to make sure they have a comfortable option for wearing a mask while keeping their hair covered."

"It can also get hot running around at the pace healthcare employees are right now, so a breathable fabric was a must. And I really wanted the pieces to give a feeling of tranquility and calm, so I went with soft shades that bring a feeling of peace. Like everyone, my livelihood has been turned upside down. I just keep reminding myself [of] something that my mom always says: 'Hard times don't last, but strong people do.'"

Some of the designers behind these limited-edition sets, alongside Aden, include Chris McMillan, a Los Angeles-based hairstylist, Nikki Nelms, a hairstylist, and Mei Kawajiri, a New York City-based nail artist.



ISIDINGO MONDAY - FRIDAY
STARTING 7:30 PM



ITV	CAPITAL			
<p>MONDAY 11 May</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 Habari 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Soap: Isidingo the need 10:00 Watoto wetu 11:00 ITV Top 10 rpt 12:00 Al Jazeera News 12:30 Igizo Mtego rpt 13:00 Mjue Zaidi 13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt 14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 15:00 Meza Huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:10 Albu yako rpt 18:15 Mipishi 18:45 Kesho leo 19:00 Afya ya Jamii 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:05 Dakika 45 21:45 Kipindi Maalum: Utawala bora na utumishi 22:15 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 02:00 DWTV</p> <p>TUESDAY 12 May</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 Habari 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:30 Jungu Kuu rpt 11:00 The Base rpt 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Afya ya jamii rpt 13:00 Kipindi maalum: TMDA na Jamii 13:30 Shika Bamba rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza Huru 16:30 Watoto wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:10 Yu wapi 18:15 Mipishi rpt 18:30 Uchumi na biashara 19:00 Jarida la wanawake 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:00 Tanzania Yetu 21:30 Chetu ni chetu 22:15 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 DWTV</p> <p>WEDNESDAY 13 May</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa</p>	<p>9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 09:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:30 Uchumi na biashara 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 The Base rpt 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Dakika 45 13:45 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Utawala bora na utumishi 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Korean drama: The great queen Seonduk 19:00 Ijue Shera 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:00 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka 21:10 Albu Yakol! Hata wewe? 21:15 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco 21:45 Ripoti Maalum: Watumishi housing 22:15 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 2:00 DWTV</p> <p>THURSDAY 14 May</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto 10:30 Shamba lulu rpt 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 The Base rpt 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Ijue Shera 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Watumishi housing 13:30 Tanzania yetu rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mipishi 18:30 Jagina 19:00 Usafiri wako 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:00 Malumbano ya hoja 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 DWTV</p> <p>FRIDAY 15 May</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo</p>	<p>09:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:30 Usafiri wako rpt 11:00 The Base 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco 13:00 Jagina rpt 13:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt 14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 17:30 Ibada ya kiislamu 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mizengwe rpt 18:30 Shamba lulu 19:00 Kipindi Maalum: TMDA na jamii 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:05 Kipima Joto 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 DWTV</p> <p>SATURDAY 16 May</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera 9:00 Watoto wetu 10:00 Shika Bamba 5 10:30 Mjue Zaidi rpt 11:15 The Base rpt 11:45 The Great Queen Seonduk 12:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt 13:15 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 15:30 Igizo rpt: Mapito 16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe 16:20 Igizo: Mtego 17:00 Shamsham za Pwani 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mipishi 18:30 Igizo: Mapito 19:00 Jungu Kuu 19:30 Shika Bamba 20:00 Habari 21:00 Art and lifestyle 21:30 Hawavumi lakini wamo 22:15 Kesho leo rpt 22:45 Isidingo rpt 01:30 DWTV</p> <p>SUNDAY 17 May</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera 09:00 Watoto Wetu 10:00 Isidingo 11:40 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt 12:00 Bongo Movie rpt: 14:00 Tamasha la Michezo 15:00 Mwangaza 16:00 The Great queen Seonduk 16:45 ITV Top 10 17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mipishi 18:30 Matukio ya wiki 19:30 Igizo: Mtego 20:00 Habari 21:05 Mizengwe 21:20 Mjue Zaidi 22:05 Bongo Movie: 23:35 ITV Top 10</p>	<p>Mon 11 April</p> <p>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?) Where is Elisa? 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) 16:00 Series rpt: Itohan 16:30 Tanzania Yetu rpt 17:00 EcoAfrica rpt 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 The Décor rpt 19:30 Shamba lulu 20:00 Series: Itohan 20:45 The Monday Agenda 21:30 Capital Prime News 22:00 Kipima Joto 00:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>Tues 12 May</p> <p>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?) Where is Elisa? 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) 16:00 Series rpt: Itohan 16:30 Capchat rpt 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 Innovation 19:30 Jagina rpt 20:00 Series: Itohan 20:45 Telenovela: (Destino) Destiny 21:30 Capital Prime 22:00 Turning the spotlight rpt 22:30 EcoAfrica 23:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>Wed 13 May</p> <p>06:00 Al Jazeera 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) 09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) 13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) 16:00 Series rpt: Itohan 16:30 Culinary delight rpt 17:00 Innovation rpt 17:30 Meza Huru 19:00 Sports Gazette 19:30 Chetu ni chetu 20:00 Series: Itohan 20:45 Telenovela: (Destino) Destiny 21:30 Capital Prime News 22:00 Dakika 45: 22:45 The Décor 23:15 Al Jazeera</p> <p>Thurs 14 May</p> <p>06:00 Al Jazeera 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) 09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) 13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) 16:00 Series rpt: Itohan 16:30 Business edition rpt 17:00 In good shape 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 Turning the spotlight</p>	<p>19:30 Tanzania yetu Series: Itohan 20:45 Telenovela: (Destino) Destiny 21:30 Capital Prime News 22:00 Capchat rpt 23:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>Frid 15 May</p> <p>06:00 Al Jazeera 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) 09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) 13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) 16:00 Series rpt: Itohan 16:30 The Monday Agenda rpt 17:30 Movie: Keeping mum 19:00 Drive it 19:30 EcoAfrica 20:00 Albu Yako 20:15 Local Pgm: Business Edition 20:45 Telenovela: (Destino) Destiny 21:30 Capital Prime News 22:00 Malumbano ya hoja rpt 00:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>Sat 16 May</p> <p>08:00 CNN International 09:00 Drive It 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 EcoAfrica 13:00 Business edition rpt 13:30 Korean Drama rpt: Kimchi Family 14:30 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny 17:15 Tanzania Yetu rpt 17:45 Bundesliga kick off 18:15 Capchat rpt 19:15 Mizengwe 19:30 The Decor 20:00 Korean Drama: Kimchi Family 21:00 Out n' About 21:30 Movie: Behind the wall 23:00 Series rpt: Itohan 01:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>Sun 17 May</p> <p>08:00 CNN International 09:00 In good shape 10:00 Capchat rpt 11:00 Sports Gazette rpt 11:30 Korean Drama rpt: Kimchi Family 12:00 Jagina rpt 12:30 Bundesliga Kick Off rpt 13:00 In good shape rpt 13:30 Series rpt: Itohan 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: Kimchi Family 21:00 Shift 21:15 Capchat live 22:15 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny 00:00 Al Jazeera</p>

WORLD

Pelosi: White House's rhetoric on China 'interesting diversion'

WASHINGTON

US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said on Thursday that the White House's rhetoric on China is a "diversion" from its own missteps in handling the coronavirus outbreak.

Speaking to reporters during her weekly press conference on Capitol Hill, Pelosi (pictured) said what President Donald Trump is saying about China is "an interesting diversion."

"Right now, our focus should be on meeting the needs of the American people," the California Democrat said. "I've even said putting aside how we got here in our own country because we should be using our energy on how we go forward than making judgments about what his administration did or didn't do."

"Instead of diverting attention from mistakes that may have been made here, let's just put that all aside and go



forward for what we can do working together for the good of the American people," she noted.

The remarks also came against the backdrop that some Trump administration officials have tried to push a debunked conspiracy theory that the coronavirus originated in a Chinese lab, despite wide scientific consensus that the virus was not man-made or genetically modified.

Weighing in on the issue, Pelosi said "there will be scientists and others who will be tracing, rightfully."

"It's urgent and needed for them to trace the origins of such a pandemic scientifically, but not politically," she added.

Xinhua

Xi chairs leadership meeting on regular epidemic response, industrial and supply chains

BEIJING

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, on Thursday chaired a leadership meeting on the effective implementation of regular epidemic prevention and control measures.

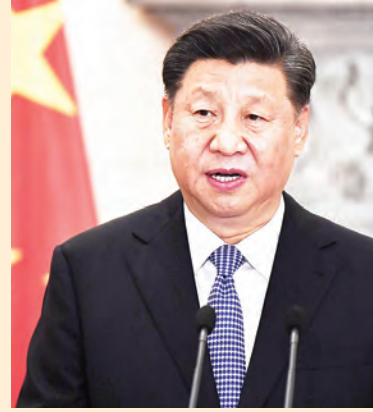
The meeting of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee also studied measures to boost the stability and competitiveness of industrial and supply chains.

Noting the complex COVID-19 situation overseas and the arduous task of preventing domestic rebounds, Xi demanded unremitting efforts to forestall imported infections and do-

mestic resurgence by ensuring that the prevention and control measures are implemented down to every detail.

"We must never allow our hard-earned previous achievements on epidemic control to be made in vain," Xi stressed. "We must ensure the victory in the battle against extreme poverty and the completion of the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects."

Xi stressed intensifying containment measures in key regions and places to forestall resurgence of infections, urging targeted prevention and control measures in Heilongjiang and Jilin provinces where cluster infections were reported, and improved community containment efforts in



Hubei Province and Wuhan City.

Xi also demanded Beijing strengthen its epidemic control during the upcoming annual sessions of China's national legislature and political advisory body.

All localities should draw lessons from the recent cluster infections, overhaul loopholes in their respective prevention and control work to guard against epidemic rebound, according to a statement issued after the meeting.

More flexible and effective measures should be taken in response to the new trend of overseas epidemic situation, the statement said, urging efforts to shore up the weak links in the prevention of imported cases.

The meeting stressed further deepening the supply-side structural reform and leveraging the advantages of China's super-large market and domestic demand potential to create a new development pattern where domestic and foreign market can

boost each other.

Efforts should be made to re-establish the foundations of industries, upgrade industrial chains and beef up scientific and technological innovations, according to the meeting.

On the premise of implementing regular epidemic prevention and control measures, China should promote the coordinated business resumption focusing on major industrial chains, leading enterprises and key investment projects.

The meeting also urged efforts to facilitate various shopping malls, markets and life service sectors to return to normal operations and strengthen international cooperation to ensure the stability of global industrial and supply chains. Xinhua

NEW YORK

SNUFFER'S Restaurant & Bar in Dallas, Texas, served its legendary burgers and cheddar fries again last weekend.

Two Rhode Island drive-in movie theaters were scheduled to reopen on Friday, and on Wednesday in the town of Washington, Connecticut, people will be allowed to eat outdoors again at the George Washington Tavern.

In Texas, Rhode Island, Connecticut and more than 30 other states across the United States, the reopening of the country from restrictions put in place to stem the COVID-19 pandemic is underway.

But a hedgepodge of rules that vary by counties and cities within those states along with a sharp divide among elected officials on when and how to resume business reflects a "two Americas" reopening.

Polls show a political divide on reopening, with Republicans led by US President Donald Trump, generally favoring opening up quickly, while Democrats support gradual reopenings.

Since March, the pandemic has put more than 300 million people behind doors under differently named directives, such as "stay-at-home", "stay safe" and "pause".

The inability of many US citi-

US faces the great divide on reopening

zens to put food on the table, along with economic stagnancy, has spawned resentment and placed pressure on governors across the country to ease restrictions.

As in the rest of the pandemic-stricken world, COVID-19 in the US is a story of loss.

The death toll from the virus in the country has surpassed 81,000, according to the COVID Tracking Project, including at least 28,000 residents and workers at nursing homes and other long-term care facilities.

Last month, the unemployment rate soared to 14.7 percent the highest since the Great Depression having stood at 3.5 percent just two months earlier.

Some 33 million new unemployment claims have been made in the past two months, while business losses total billions of dollars.

More than 100,000 small businesses have shut permanently since the pandemic escalated in March, according to a study by researchers at the University of Illinois, Harvard Business School, Harvard University and the University of Chicago.

In the restaurant industry, 3 percent of operators have gone out of business, according to the National Restaurant Association.



Protesters demonstrate in Lansing, Michigan, denouncing Governor Gretchen Whitmer's stay-home order and business restrictions. (AP)

As governors reopen their states and ease restrictions, they face questions of choice and risk, such as how much of public life should be reopened? And most important, will reopening lead to a new wave of the virus and even greater loss?

The answers could determine the health of 328 million people and a US\$22 trillion economy.

J. Stephen Morrison, senior vice-president of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said, "We are in the midst of a very murky and confusing transition here in the United States, as federal guidance has been lifted and many states begin to reopen

their economies.

"There remains deep tension between public health safety on the one hand and a desire understandable desire to exit the economic crisis and see a reopening of business and schools. The American public remains very uneasy about premature lifting of shelter-in-place."

On Tuesday, Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and a member of the White House coronavirus team, warned about opening too fast.

"There is a real risk that you will trigger an outbreak that you might not be able to control, not

only leading to some suffering and death, but it could even set you back on the road to economic recovery," he told a US Senate health committee.

Trump has acknowledged that there might be more deaths from COVID-19 during reopening.

"It's possible there will be some, because you won't be locked into an apartment or a house or whatever it is," he said in a television interview. "But at the same time, we're going to practice social distancing, we're going to be washing hands, we're going to be doing a lot of the things that we've learned to do over the last period of time."

Economy versus lives

In New York state, Democratic Governor Andrew Cuomo has said the national debate over when to reopen outbreak-ravaged economies ultimately boils down to the value placed on people's lives.

His state has been the hardest-hit area of the country by the coronavirus, with more than 340,600 cases, nearly 25 percent of all those in the US, and more than 26,600 deaths.

"How much is a human life worth?" Cuomo asked on May 5 at his daily news briefing. "That's the real discussion that no one is admitting openly or freely. But we should."

Xinhua

Africa CDC commends Chinese support on COVID-19 fight

ADDIS ABABA

CHINESE medical experts are helping African countries to manage COVID-19 outbreak, the Africa Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) said on Thursday.

Speaking to press on Thursday, John Nkengasong,



Africa CDC Director, said medical experts from 32 African countries recently held a webinar with Chinese counterparts on how to better handle the COVID-19 outbreak in the continent.

"We recently held a special webinar involving 32 African Union (AU) member states with Chinese experts to discuss case management of COVID-19 patients in Wuhan and traditional Chinese medicine as an alternative treatment to COVID-19," said Nkengasong (pictured).

"In the past week, Africa CDC held the ninth weekly seminar on clinical community of practice involving 312 active participants to discuss current treatment approaches to COVID-19," said Nkengasong.

There are nearly 1,000 Chinese medical experts working in Africa long-term, according to China's National Health Commission.

Over decades, Chinese medical teams in Africa have established a solid reputation for applying traditional Chinese medicine therapy to treat diseases, many of which are chronic and difficult.

As COVID-19 cases continue to surge across the African continent, the Chinese anti-pandemic medical experts dispatched by the Chinese government have greatly helped Africa in confronting the pandemic.

Speaking to journalists recently, Benjamin Djoudalbaye, head of the division policy, health diplomacy and communications at Africa CDC, said Chinese assistance to Africa in the fight against COVID-19 pandemic has been crucial to contain the danger posed by the disease.

"The successful COVID-19 experience from China has been an inspiration to us," said Djoudalbaye. "China together with the Jack Ma foundation has organized webinars for African medical professionals on how to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic in various scenarios including in emergency set up, as well as experience sharing on field medical treatment and Intensive Care Unit treatment," said Djoudalbaye.

Djoudalbaye also said webinars on COVID-19 prevention and control of COVID-19 outbreaks have been facilitated by the Chinese government and the Jack Ma foundation.

The Africa CDC is also launching mobile health platforms, with major development partners like China expected to assist in the development of the platform.

Development partners like China are expected to boost the capacity of the Africa CDC mobile health platforms through knowledge sharing and training of African health care workers.

Djoudalbaye further commended the donation of COVID-19 medical supplies by China and the Jack Ma foundation, including through the supply of Personal Protective Equipments, face masks, gloves and testing kits.

In April, the Africa CDC received several rounds of medical equipment and supplies donated by China's Jack Ma Foundation and Alibaba Foundation in support of the African continent's fight against the spread of COVID-19. The Africa CDC in its latest situation update disclosed the number of COVID-19 confirmed cases in Africa has reached 73,176 on Thursday evening. Meanwhile, the death toll from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic on the African continent reached 2,496.

Xinhua

New Prime Minister of Iraq invites Vladimir Putin to visit Baghdad

MOSCOW

THE newly elected Prime Minister of Iraq Mustafa al-Kadhimi handed over an invitation for Russian President Vladimir Putin to visit Baghdad through Russian Ambassador to Iraq Maksim Maksimov, Iraq's INA news agency announced Thursday, citing the Prime Minister's office.

"Al-Kadhimi hosted the Russian Ambassador to Iraq Maksim Maksimov, and the Ambassador handed over written congratulations from Russian President Vladimir Putin and Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin, which also included an invitation to visit Moscow," the PM's office said in a statement.

In response, the Iraqi Prime Minister relayed an invitation "for the Russian President to visit Baghdad," and noted that he would be glad to visit Moscow.

He thanked the Russian top officials, adding that Iraq "takes pride in close relations with Russia" and seeks "to strengthen them in political, economic, cultural fields and in the field of security."

Agencies

China, Africa write new chapter of mutual assistance while combating COVID-19

CHINA, attaching high importance to the development of the COVID-19 pandemic in Africa, has taken an active part in the cooperation with the continent to fight the virus by conducting teleconferences, dispatching medical teams and offering material assistance. It has provided the maximum support and help for African countries within its capability.

China's practices echo Chinese President Xi Jinping's proposal to build a closer community with a shared future between China and Africa, setting an example for the world to build itself into a community with a shared future.

African countries and regional

organizations showed powerful and valuable support to China when the latter went all out to fight COVID-19. In return, China, which always repays goodwill with great kindness, is also lending a helping hand to Africa for cooperation on pandemic control when African countries are currently seeing an increasingly severe situation.

Since the onset of the novel coronavirus disease, China has established a team for medical guidance to exchange control experiences with foreign countries through teleconferences at the request of the latter.

China held the first teleconfer-

ence on COVID-19 with African countries on March 18, which was attended by nearly 300 people, including officials and health experts from 24 African countries and the African Union (AU), as well as WHO representatives in some countries.

In an open, transparent and responsible manner, China shared epidemic control experiences with Africa and deepened international cooperation, in an attempt to jointly enhance the capability in coping with the outbreak.

Chinese provinces including Hubei and Sichuan also paired up with Algeria and Mozambique and conducted teleconferences to exchange and share experiences.

As of April 12, China had offered

anti-pandemic assistance for 139 countries and four international organizations in five batches, including 53 African nations. China's assistance has effectively alleviated the material shortage for recipients.

China's Tianjin municipality and Sichuan province on April 16 dispatched medical experts to Burkina Faso and Ethiopia at the request of the two countries' governments. The two medical teams established by China's National Health Commission (NHC) marked the first batch of Chinese medical teams dispatched to Africa for COVID-19 relief.

At present, China is organizing

medical teams to assist Algeria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Zimbabwe to fight the pandemic. Such a move will largely boost the confidence of Africa to defeat the virus, inject new energy into the solidarity of the international society, and write a new chapter of China-Africa mutual assistance.

This year marks the 57th anniversary of China's medical assistance to Africa since the country dispatched its first medical team to Algeria in 1963. In the past half a century,

China has sent a total of 22,000 medical workers to 48 African countries in 993 batches, offering medical services for 220 million

people there. Currently, China has 100 medical stations in 45 African countries providing free services for local communities.

Over the past 57 years, Chinese medical staff aiding Africa have won high appraisal from both the governments and people on the continent for their skills and morality.

Many of the Chinese medical workers consider Africa as their second hometown, and some even made medical aid to Africa a family tradition, with their second and even third generation contributing medical expertise to the continent.

Faced with the exacerbating situation and extreme shortage of

medical supplies, Chinese medical experts have done a great job to help Africa with science-based approach while ensuring their own safety.

The medical team assisting Equatorial Guinea translated treatment plans into Spanish and offered training for local medical workers; the teams in Cameroon, Senegal, and Lesotho helped local hospitals and health authorities make containment measures; Chinese medical workers in Zimbabwe lent a hand to a local hospital to upgrade the ICU; and those aiding Tunisia made cash donation to the hospital they work at.

People's Daily

World awaits Washington's answers to swarm of questions about COVID-19 crisis

WASHINGTON

AS the COVID-19 pandemic keeps ravaging across the globe, the United States has reported more than 1.4 million cases of infections and over 84,000 deaths, making it the country with the largest number of confirmed cases and fatalities worldwide.

Such a worrisome situation has not only dealt a blow to the U.S. public and economy, but also revealed more serious and perplexing questions surrounding its response to the novel coronavirus crisis.

In a recent opinion piece published in the latest issue of *The Atlantic*, U.S. foreign policy writer George Packer lamented: "Every morning in the endless month of March, Americans woke up to find themselves citizens of a failed state."

It might be impossible to reverse time and make up for the squandered months and lost lives, but it's possible to complete the puzzle by picking up the missing pieces. Just as Americans are desperate for the missing facts of the U.S. fight against COVID-19, the world is awaiting Washington's answers to a swarm of unanswered

questions.

IS IT STILL LIKELY TO TRACK DOWN "PATIENT ZERO"?

On March 27, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) restored the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases, a military center for biological research in Maryland state, to full operation.

However, the gloom surrounding the abrupt shutdown of the institute did not fade subsequently. In July, the CDC, citing "national security reasons," ordered the institute to halt research involving biological select agents or toxins, without providing more information.

An online petition was later submitted on the White House petition site, demanding the U.S. government explain the real reason for the closure of the institute, which has a history of multiple accidents, and clarify whether there was a virus leak from its Fort Detrick lab.

As a matter of fact, the Fort Detrick lab is merely the tip of the iceberg of mysteries surrounding the U.S. administration's handling of the corona-



A man wearing a face mask takes a walk near the U.S. Capitol building in Washington D.C. May 13, 2020. (Xinhua)

virus epidemic in the country.

The United States reported its first case of COVID-19 on Jan. 21, and the first death on Feb. 29, according to

U.S. CDC data. On May 5, U.S. media disclosed that the novel coronavirus had infected as many as 171 people in Florida as long as two months before

officials announced it had come to the state.

In late April, health authorities of Santa Clara County in California confirmed that two patients had died of COVID-19 on Feb. 6, at least three weeks before the first official known U.S. death from the virus.

On April 30, Belleville Mayor Michael Melham tested positive for COVID-19 antibodies and believed he had contracted the virus in November, despite a doctor's reported assumption that what Melham went through was just flu, he said in a news release.

On March 11, CDC Director Robert Redfield told a hearing on Capitol Hill that some COVID-19 deaths have been diagnosed as flu-related in the United States.

Last week, the University of Washington revised up its projection of COVID-19 deaths in the United States to more than 134,000 through August. Regretably, the U.S. government has yet to make public the real epidemic data in a comprehensive, timely and accurate manner.

Xinhua



Lavrov blasts rumours Russia seeks to 'hide' data on Covid-19 deaths

MOSCOW

MOSCOW has no intention of hiding information about the country's coronavirus death rate, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said in an interview with RBC yesterday.

"As for the coronavirus statistics, I can assure you that the Russian authorities would be the last to try to hide the truth," he pointed out.

"This is no joke, it is about human lives and I think that it is outrageous to play with them. Just like it is outrageous to try to take advantage of the situation in order to tarnish a country's image," Lavrov added.

When asked about the possibility of revoking the credentials of the *Financial Times* and the *New York Times* newspapers because of their articles about Moscow's alleged attempts to hide the actual number of COVID deaths, the Russian top diplomat said: "I haven't heard anything about it. I principally oppose kangaroo trials of journalists but journalists should take responsibility for what they publish."

The *Financial Times* newspaper wrote earlier that "Russia's national death toll from coronavirus could be 70% higher than the government's official data show."

Agencies



As for the coronavirus statistics, I can assure you that the Russian authorities would be the last to try to hide the truth

Global Times

China-Ethiopia relations to strengthen after pandemic - ambassador

ETHIOPIA'S Ambassador to China said he believed the China-Ethiopia partnership would strengthen after the COVID-19 pandemic, stressing that China-Africa relations have always been based on mutual respect and benefit.

As for the influence of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) projects in the country, Ambassador Teshome Toga Chanaka told the *Global Times* in an exclusive interview that "social distancing and other measures aimed at protection and control of the virus might affect the timely completion but for sure the projects are working in progress."

Ethiopia's BRI projects include the Addis Ababa-Djibouti Railway, the economic corridor, and the development of the industrial park.

"Many economic movements and other projects execution will be slowed but we hope that as soon as the situation improves implementation

will be enhanced," said the diplomat. China and Africa have been working together closely in tackling the coronavirus and "the pandemic will strengthen China-Africa friendship, solidarity and cooperation in the coming times," Chanaka said.

China-Ethiopia cooperation amid pandemic

There are roughly 30,000 confirmed COVID-19 cases across the African continent, with Ethiopia reporting over 123, according to public statistics. Experts warned the continent might face an outbreak disaster and humanitarian crises due to the fragile health care systems of several nations.

The UN and World Health Organization (WHO) warned that COVID-19 is on a rise in Africa and if measures could not be taken to enhance prevention and control, the damage would be severe.

"As Africa has fragile health-



care facilities, efforts should be made to enhance the continent's capacity to investigate alerts, treat patients in isolation facilities and improve infection, ensure prevention and control of COVID-19," the ambassador said.

Some observers questioned that compared to other developed countries and regions, the relatively low confirmed COVID-19 cases might not tell the whole story, as Ethiopia doesn't have enough test kits to conduct mass testing.

In response, the Ethiopian diplomat told the *Global Times* that their government is working relentlessly to strengthen national efforts to enhance its emergency preparedness and response through the establishment of a task force at the national and regional levels, and has prepared isolation centers for detection and contact tracing with confirmed cases in and out of Addis Ababa, and deployed human resources to manage the isolation centers.

Chanaka admitted the number of infected people might increase if mass testing is employed.

The capacity is being built but has not reached to the required level, he said. "We are in need of foreign assistance and philanthropic support to procure medical supplies and equipment which will be used to fight the spread of the pandemic in our country."

According to Chanaka, the

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) from China and Ethiopia are now actively cooperating to build a strong African public health infrastructure by sharing information, providing expertise, and expanding resources. A team of 12 Chinese medical experts, including specialists in infectious diseases, respiratory and critical care, and public health, arrived at Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa on April 16 to assist the country in its fight against COVID-19.

Chanaka praised China's help by sharing its resources and experts.

Ethiopian public health authorities identified items they are in critical shortage of such as ventilators, patient monitors, suction machine, oxygen face masks, test kits, and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

Chanaka said the logistics are another challenge as flight

services have stopped due to the outbreak. Ethiopian officials are working with pertinent Chinese government agencies to assist Ethiopia in this regard.

No discrimination against Africans

The diplomat noted that the year 2020 marks the Golden Jubilee of the establishment of formal diplomatic relations between China and Ethiopia, and they "have over the years forged strong partnership at all levels and in all sectors," which "was further enhanced during the fight against COVID-19."

"Both believe the victory over COVID-19 and post pandemic equally require global strategy and unity," he added.

The envoy refuted reports by Western media outlets, claiming that Africans in China have faced discrimination because of the virus.

Global Times

Clamps eased across Japan as cases fall

TOKYO

JAPAN on Thursday lifted a state of emergency that had been imposed on 39 of the nation's 47 prefectures, reflecting declining rates of coronavirus infection in those areas.

However, among the 39 prefectures, Ibaraki, Ishikawa, Gifu, Aichi and Fukuoka have been designated as requiring "special caution" due to the high number of cases relative to the prefectures freed from the emergency order.

Big urban regions like Tokyo and Osaka will remain under the emergency order until they report sustained falls in case numbers and the burden on hospitals eases.

South Korea on Thursday reported a steady rise in new virus infections linked to nightclubs and bars in Seoul's most popular nightlife neighborhood, putting health authorities on alert against secondary and tertiary infections traced to the capital's second-largest virus cluster. The country reported 29 new

cases on Wednesday, taking the nation's total to 10,991.

The weekend will be a critical juncture determining whether the infection cluster - centered on the Itaewon district - leads to community-wide spread, the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said.

The agency has also confirmed the detection of tertiary infections in Incheon related to a private academy instructor who had lied about his occupation after a visit to a club in Itaewon.

The government has started offering anonymous testing for those who visited the Itaewon district, urging them to get tested in a responsible manner before the virus further spreads in communities.

Elsewhere in Asia, India's federal railways authority on Thursday ordered the cancellation of train tickets that had been booked ahead of a national lockdown for trips before June 30.

However, the Shramik Special

trains ferrying migrant workers back to their home districts will continue, as will services between Delhi and 15 major destinations this week.

As of Thursday, India had reported 78,003 cases with 2,549 deaths.

In the Middle East, children aged under 14 in Turkey were allowed outside for the first time in 40 days as the country implements its normalization plan.

The health ministry said Turkey is getting ready to test foreign tourists for the virus when tourist flights are expected to resume in late May.

More broadly, the tourism sector plans to resume operations in a controlled way in June under the anti-COVID-19 measures, Culture and Tourism Minister Nuri Ersoy said on Wednesday.

The number of COVID-19 cases in Turkey rose to 143,114 on Wednesday, with 3,952 deaths.

Job losses

In Australia, Prime Minister Scott Morrison warned citizens to brace

for more bad news as data released on Thursday showed the country's monthly job losses rose to a record high because of lockdown measures.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics data showed 594,300 jobs were lost in April, the largest fall on record, underscoring Morrison's decision to slowly begin reopening the country. The unemployment rate shot up to 6.2 percent, the highest since September 2015.

In Latin America, Brazil registered a record number of new cases of the coronavirus on Wednesday, surpassing France's tally to become the sixth-worst hit country.

The government confirmed 11,385 new cases in the latest 24-hour period, taking its total count to 188,974.

Mexico's government on Wednesday announced it will ease a nationwide lockdown from May 18 to reactivate an economy that ground to a halt two months ago.

Agencies

US says Islamic State launched attack on Kabul hospital

WASHINGTON

THE United States on Thursday blamed Islamic State militants - not the Taliban - for a gruesome hospital attack in Afghanistan this week that killed two newborn babies, and it renewed calls for Afghans to embrace a troubled peace push with the Taliban insurgency.

But it was unclear if the US declaration would be enough to bolster the peace effort and reverse a decision by the Kabul government to resume offensive operations against the Taliban.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani ordered the military on Tuesday to switch to "offensive mode" against the Taliban following the hospital attack in Kabul and a suicide bombing in Nangarhar province that killed scores of people.

US Special Representative

Zalmay Khalilzad blamed Islamic State for both attacks in a statement issued on Twitter, saying the group opposed any Taliban peace agreement and sought to trigger an Iraq-style sectarian war in Afghanistan.

"Rather than falling into the ISIS trap and delay peace or create obstacles, Afghans must come together to crush this menace and pursue a historic peace opportunity," Khalilzad said.

"No more excuses. Afghans, and the world, deserve better."

An affiliate of the Islamic State militant group claimed responsibility for the Nangarhar bombing, according to the SITE Intelligence Group. No one has claimed the hospital attack.

The Taliban denied involvement in either attacks, but the government accused the group of fostering an environment

in which terrorism thrives or of working with other militant groups who could have been involved, straining US efforts to bring the insurgents and Afghan government together.

The attacks were another setback to US President Donald Trump's stalled plans to bring peace to Afghanistan and end America's longest war.

A Feb 29 US-Taliban deal called for a phased US troop withdrawal and for the Afghan government and Taliban to release some prisoners by March 10, when peace talks were to start.

Intra-Afghan peace talks have yet to occur and there is some bitterness within the Afghan government, which was not a party to the Feb 29 deal, that the United States undercut their leverage by negotiating directly with the Taliban.

Agencies

Huzhou city in E China's Zhejiang province builds a clean energy system

"THE environment of our village has become better in recent years because of the upgrading of power supply," said Pan Chunlin, a villager who runs an agritainment business in Anji county, Huzhou city, east China's Zhejiang province.

"The more beautiful the environment is, the more tourists we have and the more confident we are to achieve greater development," the 49-year-old said. Pan's experience proves that electricity must come first in implementing the rural revitalization strategy.

In recent years, State Grid Huzhou Electric Power Company has played an active part in build-

ing a beautiful countryside by accelerating its pace in removing the last obstacles in upgrading and renovating rural power grids.

Huzhou has a reputation for white tea industry. Taking the seasonal changes in electric consumption of tea factories into consideration, State Grid Anji County Power Supply Co., Ltd. has developed two power supplies in parallel. This new mode could guarantee electric power for the peak season of frying tea.

"The machines in tea factories have been in full swing these days. We certainly don't hope for power outages," said a local tea grower named Xu Xin'an.

Bao Yueliang runs a homestay business on the mountainside of Mogan Mountain, Deqing county, Huzhou. On April 6, he was informed of the abnormality of electricity supply by a local electric power company on the phone. Several minutes later, the service team arrived and started to find the cause of the abnormality.

"I signed the electric power maintenance agreement on the newly-established industrial cluster platform called 'green synergy'." According to the agreement, the electric power of my business is under monitoring, and the electrical facilities are

checked on a regular basis. Lack of professional electrician is no longer a problem now in this area," said Bao.

Jointly launched by the government of Mogan Mountain town, State Grid Deqing Power Supply Co., Ltd. and a couple of other units, "green synergy" mainly helps local homestay industry establish the Internet of Things, in an attempt to multiply the effect of clean consumption of power.

Another homestay owner Hu Qingyu revealed that intelligent monitoring equipment was installed on photovoltaic panels and his household appliances to monitor electricity consumption.

"The real-time data analysis can be achieved on an application on my smart phone, which helps me adjust power consumption. It's very convenient and environmental-friendly," said Hu, who came back to his village and started his homestay business last year.

Through the "Internet plus power supply", State Grid Huzhou Power Supply Co., Ltd. initiated a smart energy program in 2019, which serves as a new growth driver for ecological economy and industrial transformation.

The mulberry-dyke fish-pond system in Nanxun district, Hu-

zhou city integrates fish ponds with breeding of mulberry silkworm.

The solar panels installed on the surface of the pond generate electricity, while the water area below the photovoltaic panel can be used for fish cultivation. The combination of the mulberry-dyke fish-pond, which has a history of over 2000 years, and photovoltaic energy, presents an image of harmony.

State Grid Huzhou Power Supply Co., Ltd. actively develops clean power, including the combination of aquaculture and solar power station, the combination of agriculture and solar power

station, and roof power generation projects.

Up to now, with an installed photovoltaic capacity of 1.64 million kw and the electricity generated by photovoltaic power came to four billion kwh in Huzhou.

Clean energy also unveils a new chapter of low-carbon life.

Green travel has become a new trend in Huzhou. In 2018, all the public transportation vehicles are driven by electricity, which means the goal of zero emission is achieved. The company also works hard on a better network of charging piles to facilitate the development of green travel.

People's Daily



A passerby wearing a protective face mask following an outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) walks past a screen displaying logos of Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo, Japan in this March 19, 2020 file photo. REUTERS

Olympics: IOC expects costs of up to \$800 million for delayed Tokyo Games

LONDON

THE International Olympic Committee expects to bear costs of up to \$800 million for its part in the organisation of the postponed Tokyo 2020 Olympics, now due to be staged next year, IOC President Thomas Bach said on Thursday.

In March, the International Olympic Committee and the Japanese government decided to delay the Games, which were due to start this July, for a year because of the coronavirus pandemic that has killed 300,000 people worldwide.

"We anticipate we will have to bear costs of up to \$800 million for our part and responsibilities in the organisation of the postponed Games Tokyo 2020," Bach told a conference call at the end of the IOC's executive board meeting.

He said out of the amount that would be set aside \$650 million would go towards the organisation of the Games next year and \$150 million to support international federations and National Olympic Committees.

International federations rely on the Olympic Games contribution every four years, and with a ban on sports competitions worldwide all of their major sources of revenue have dried up in recent months.

"We are discussing with international federations the consequences of the postponement... and the postponement of the share of the international federations from the commercial success of the Games," Bach said.

"We are very well advanced in these discussions and we will continue to assist," he said.

The figure announced by Bach does not include any costs Tokyo Games organisers

and the Japanese government have to incur due to the 12-month delay of the world's biggest multi-sports event.

IOC COSTS

"We are assessing and continue to discuss jointly the respective impact caused by the postponement," he said. "What you have seen today, this envelope of \$800 million, is the assessment for the IOC side."

"This discussion with the (Tokyo Games) organising committee will continue in the way we have agreed."

The IOC last month was forced to remove a comment from its website that referred to Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe when discussing costs for the postponement, following objections from the Games organisers.

Bach noted that the first priority now was to secure the Olympic venues, including the athletes' village and the media centres, for another year.

"This is not an easy undertaking. Our Japanese friends are working with full force on this," he said.

Bach declined to speculate on a possible new delay to the Games if the coronavirus is still a major concern next year.

More than 90 vaccines are currently being developed globally, with eight in the clinical trial phase. But experts say the process could take years and may not happen at all.

"We are now working with full engagement for the success of Tokyo 2020 in 2021 and to have these Games in a safe environment for all participants," Bach said.

"We are one year and two months away from the opening of these postponed Olympic games. We should not fuel any speculation on any future development."

REUTERS



Rory McIlroy

Muumin reconstituting band: He needs to change to succeed

BY CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL ENEZA

MUUMIN Mwinjuma, a singing specialist who made a mark with African Stars Band "Twanga Pepeta" and has for more than a decade attempted to go solo, is reported to have readied a group of 18 musicians or artistes with whom he intends to form a band. In the early independence days these groups used to be known as jazz bands, but anyone with a knowledge of jazz, basically instrumental with often just a few artistes, knows they were closer to choirs and singing groups. In the continental tradition there were groups of many singers and a conductor for classical music, an orchestra.

There is another tradition that has in the past two decades or so informed local dancing groups, not using the title of jazz or orchestra anymore, but having the tendency to form fairly large groups of the sort that Muumin is seeking to rebuild. It is an environment where their dancing vocation is a little pronounced, and times the whole group is really meant to occupy the stage physically. It becomes a little difficult to tell what really animates that group on the stage, if it is the singing which is either absent or distinctly secondary, or their energetic, ferocious dancing.

In the continental tradition when music is accompanied by a series of actions designed to distinctly preoccupy the viewer, it is no longer a music band but an opera, and there is usually a story they are telling through images, where



Mwinjuma Muumin

the music just accompanies it. One needs some training in literature of music to decipher, see clearly the motif of actions that are being enacted on stage. Usually it was a sort of play or insinuation on royalty, what was passing by the grapevine, as it is these stories that marked loyalty to rulers, the rise and fall of dynasties, etc.

Only in the later period did music start addressing the commonplace fears or worries of the lot of the people, and popular music in a sense shifted to addressing the fears of youths isolated from tradition, living a life of momentary, slippery attachments. These themes are at present mixed up in the Tanzanian entertainment scene, but what is shaping up the stage is narrowing finances even before the current pandemic is considered. The sort of music model that Muumin belongs has for a decade suffered a decline of fortunes, and returning to the same model may fail again.

Some people could even demand if there is any possible role of music as an organized group at the moment, as its standard atmosphere or way of living is music halls filled with 'revelers,' which proceeds from the idea that they stay until the early hours of the morning. In these days of empty bars during weekends, what sort of band can be organized, when social activities are being put on hold, where scarcely any proper weddings can be held? It would just be a family event that the son of their neighbor has married a daughter two streets or villages away, period. Expecting to do things as of old is likely to be difficult, and if people can't let go, music fails.

The current situation suggests that those who have discovered the internet niche to put their music there and expect that fans will pay some amounts of cash to access the music regularly are the ones likely to succeed. It implies

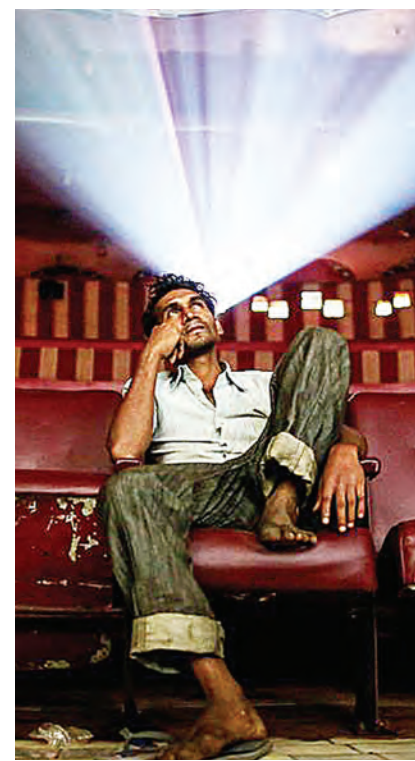
that even in the past Muumin needed to start thinking how he can join this rather elite band of musicians, those who can put a stamp on the field not by filling halls of revelers but by attracting them to an online outlet. The model of obtaining an 18 strong troupe to start taking up the stage looks like it is the old model and they are likely to wait.

Even within the old model of filling music or bar halls with revelers, there would still be things that Muumin and definitely a few others would need to take care of, so that they may at least get a fair share of the cake. It is to learn to check the usual weakness of interspersing with their own instruments, such that when the lead singer is on the microphone, the beat is sniffed out or there is a distant instrument that is heard. Only when the lead singer steps back can instrumentation be made live again, which implies that lead singers have some clipping to do, to check their egos.

Muumin may have begun to realize he has work to do when he dropped his old nickname that never made sense in the first place, 'coach of the world' put in the national language. In reality he was one with his peer and competitor Ali Choki, the difference being that Choki sang little and reiterated some thematic mimicry, a chorus that serves as a 'style' of dancing. There was also their other deceased colleague Ramadhan Masanja 'Banza Stone', and accompanying female voices. They must at least learn from Congolese groups to blend stage 'rapping' with instruments intensity - not their being sidelined and brought up later when the 'coach of the world' takes a rest. It just can't work.

Amazon Prime snags Bollywood premieres, angering theater owners

MUMBAI



FILE PHOTO: A cinema goer watches a Bollywood movie inside Maratha Mandir theatre in Mumbai December 11, 2014. REUTERS

AMAZON Prime Video, Amazon's streaming service, will screen several new Indian films originally meant for theatrical release this month, sparking protests from cinema owners as the novel coronavirus outbreak upends Bollywood.

India has been under a strict lockdown since March 25 to battle the virus, leaving about 9,500 theatres shut and depriving Bollywood of box-office revenue.

So producers of seven films, including two Bollywood movies starring A-listers, such as Amitabh Bachchan and Vidya Balan, will stream the movies directly on Amazon Prime Video following a deal, the company said in a statement on Friday.

"Gulabo Sitabo", a family comedy with Bachchan and Ayushmann Khurrana, which was set for release in April, will now stream directly on Amazon Prime Video in June, as will

"Shakuntala Devi", a biopic of the Indian mathematician of the same name.

Two of India's biggest cinema chains, Inox and PVR, who were meant to screen "Gulabo Sitabo", bemoaned the decision.

"INOX will be constrained to examine its options, and reserves all rights, including taking retributive measures, in dealing with such fair-weather friends," Inox said in a statement.

The producers' guild said the comments from Inox were "abrasive and unconstructive".

PVR chief executive Kamal Gianchandani told the Indian Express on Thursday, after Amazon announced it would stream "Gulabo Sitabo", that he was disappointed by the news.

The other five films in the Amazon deal are productions from the prolific, southern-language film industry.

Streaming platforms like Amazon and Netflix have in the past signed deals with Indian studios

for digital rights, but mainstream releases have always prioritised theatrical revenues first.

In China, regulators aim to protect the industry by enforcing rules to stop movies premiering online, in particular by strictly managing "theatrical window period" requirements, a period for movies to be screened in cinemas before they can be shown elsewhere.

But analysts say the Amazon deal in India is likely the beginning of a broader trend, as lingering fears of coronavirus infection and lower discretionary spending keep people away from multiplexes and single-screen cinemas.

"There will be a reset in the way that producers and studios think about their portfolios," Vijay Subramaniam, director and head, Content, Amazon Prime Video, India, told Reuters in an interview.

REUTERS

'A big responsibility': Charity match aims to set standard amid pandemic

NEW YORK

TELEVISED golf returns in the United States on Sunday with caddies barred from the course and a barrage of screening measures plus organisational changes to ensure the players observe social distancing amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Northern Ireland's Rory McIlroy teams up with Dustin Johnson to take on American duo Rickie Fowler and Matthew Wolff for

a \$3 million charity skins match, one of the rare live sports events available as golf adapts to the COVID-19 era.

"We have a big responsibility," American Johnson told reporters on Thursday. "Everyone is going to be watching what we're doing, so I think it's very important for us to do it all correctly."

All the participants at Seminole Golf Club in Juno Beach, Florida, will have been tested and then sub-

jected to screening when they arrive at the venue, with the PGA Tour mandating social distancing throughout the event.

Players will not be able to have any contact with each other - ruling out handshakes and high fives - and although they do not have to wear masks during play, they must put them on off the course when social distancing is not possible.

Bunker rakes have been removed from the course and everyone on the prop-

erty will be given sanitizer and sanitary wipes.

Without caddies, competitors will also have to carry their own clubs.

"I haven't carried my own bag since I can't remember when," said Johnson, who will play without his longtime caddie, his brother Austin. "Feel like I'm in good enough shape to carry my bag around for 18 holes without it being a problem."

The event, which will benefit COVID-19 relief

efforts, comes amid upheaval in the professional sports calendar, with three of the golf's four majors rescheduled and the British Open cancelled due to the coronavirus outbreak.

Fowler, the runner-up at the 2018 Masters, and 21-year-old Wolff, who got his first PGA tour win last year, are widely considered the underdogs against 2016 U.S. Open winner Johnson and four-time major champion McIlroy.

REUTERS

German doctor warns footballers of 'irreversible' damage from coronavirus

BERLIN

DESPITE rigid hygiene guidelines for the restart of the Bundesliga this weekend, a leading German sports doctor has warned footballers are still at risk of suffering "irreversible" and potentially career-ending lung damage from the coronavirus.

With Europe's other top leagues at least a month away from resuming, the German Football League (DFL) has drawn up strict rules for when games restart this Saturday.

Matches will be played behind closed doors, with only a limited number of media and officials allowed to attend.

The key games see second-placed Borussia Dortmund at home to Schalke in Saturday's derby and leaders Bayern Munich, who are four points clear, visiting Union Berlin on Sunday.

Players have been told to limit contact, even on the pitch, and must avoid pre-match handshakes and hugs to celebrate goals.

The DFL says while no plan could ever be "100 percent safe", the guidelines aim to create a playing environment with a low, "medically-justifiable risk".

However, professor Wilhelm Bloch, from the German Sports University in Cologne, warns that contracting the coronavirus has the potential to end a player's career.

"There is a risk that top athletes may lose their level of performance and never regain it," Bloch told AFP in a phone interview.

"Generally, the physical makeup, immune system and cardiovascular system of elite athletes means that the risk to them is low.

"However, we do not know at this time whether even minor infections, or even mild symptoms, do not cause damage, such as minor scarring of the lungs after an inflammation.

"This damage may be irreversible, or may last a very long time before the body repairs it.

"We've already had players infected in Europe and we'll soon

know if they recover their full potential."

- Increased injury risk -

Bloch said it is near impossible to estimate what the risk is to footballers in Germany, which currently has 172,239 recorded cases of the virus and over 7,700 deaths.

"Players are not in total quarantine, they are with their families, even if they have been instructed to limit contact," he said.

"And there are also risks during matches.

"They will all be tested, but not all the coronavirus tests work perfectly. There is a relatively large margin of error."

The sports doctor says another concern is injuries to players, given their lack of match fitness since the league stopped in mid-March.

"Obviously, the players are not optimally prepared," Bloch said, with clubs only resuming full team training last week.

"Depending on the degree of preparation, the risk of injury increases.

"We can expect that the players will be more prone to injuries.

"We will see muscle injuries, but also injuries to the musculoskeletal system and tendons.

"You can't compare it with the start of the season.

"At the beginning of the season they normally have a very intensive training period, then a short break so that the body can regenerate, and then they attack the season.

"Now, that hasn't been possible for all the teams."

Bloch also wonders how players can be expected to throw themselves into tackles after weeks of being told to observe social distancing.

"I'm not a psychologist, it's difficult to assess, but I think it's going to be a difficult transition and it won't necessarily be good for their performance," said Bloch.

"It's also going to be one of those factors that you have to consider and one of the risk factors for injury."

AFP

President's football shirt irks leader of Brazilian club

BRASILIA

THE head of a progressive football club from Brazil's impoverished northeast expressed unease on Thursday at seeing his team's shirt worn by the country's far-right president on the same day the death toll from the coronavirus hit 10,000.

Jair Bolsonaro wore Bahia's red, white and blue striped shirt while riding a jet ski on a lake in the capital Brasilia on Saturday.

"Of course, it was bad seeing the Bahia shirt linked to that moment," club president Guilherme Bellintani told a local radio station.

"But I can't condemn the presi-

dent of the republic. Our fans vote for A, B or C. I can't condemn people specifically. I have to fight for causes and that is what Bahia have done."

The first division club have won fans around the world with progressive campaigns aimed at fighting sexism and racism and wooing LGBT supporters.

Bolsonaro, who often wears football shirts in public, has consistently downplayed the coronavirus and this week encouraged business to reopen.

Brazil's coronavirus death toll hit 13,149 on Wednesday, the highest in Latin America.

REUTERS

I'm better than Ronaldo, Messi, Neymar - Edilson

RIO DE JANEIRO

FORMER Brazil star Edilson has said that he was better than Cristiano Ronaldo, Lionel Messi and Neymar at the peak of his playing career.

Edilson helped the national team win the 2002 World Cup and also claimed four Brazilian league titles with Palmeiras and Corinthians.

"At my best, I played better than Neymar," he told TV Bandeirantes. "He needs to win the World Cup in order to be better than me.

"I have personality, and for Messi to be better than me, he also has to win the World Cup.

"Cristiano Ronaldo is just strength; he strikes the ball well with both feet, but I'm more skillful than him."

(Agencies)

Debate swirls around adding Africa Cup of Nations to list of postponements

PARIS

THE Africa Cup of Nations is the latest international sports event to become embroiled in a debate about rescheduling in the fallout from the coronavirus pandemic.

The Olympics, the Euros and the Copa America, all scheduled for this summer, have already been put back a year.

The Cup of Nations -- CAN to give it its acronym in French -- is set for the start of 2021 in Cameroon, but several leading figures in African football are pleading for a postponement.

Others worry that the likely traffic jam in the 2021 football calendar means they will struggle to find other "free slots".

Cameroon was originally scheduled to host the event in the summer of 2019 but Ahmad Ahmad, president of the Confederation of African Football (CAF), decided the hosts were not ready and moved the tournament to Egypt. That gave Cameroon two extra years to prepare.

After experimenting with a summer tournament in Egypt, CAF has returned to the winter slot, so unpopular with the European clubs, and the event is scheduled to run from January 9 to February 6, 2021.

"The most important thing is health, and the African football authorities have understood that. I don't see my elder brother Ahmad risking the health of football lovers for an Africa Cup of Nations," former Cameroon captain Samuel Eto'o told France 24 at the end of April.

"The most important thing is that



Algeria won the last Cup of Nations in Cairo in July 2019 but do not know when they will defend their title (AFP Photo)

we are out of danger. We'll have plenty of time to organise this CAN," he added.

Two days later, Algeria midfielder Adlene Guedioura, a member of the country's title-winning squad in 2019, agreed.

"I know that Africa Cup of Nations is important and it's good for the countries to organise it but this one in 2021, I think it should be cancelled or postponed," he told the BBC.

Officially, the virus has caused fewer than 2,500 deaths in Africa, but there are signs that the death toll is being seriously underestimated, particularly in Nigeria.

"As we see the ratio of tests that have been carried out in these countries, it is always alarming because we lack visibility in the management of this pandemic," Ahmad told Deutsche Welle last Friday.

Beyond the threat from Covid-19, the failure to complete the pre-tournament qualifiers is also worrying African leaders with four rounds of games remaining.

"If we have trouble organising qualifiers before September, it would be difficult to hold the final tournament next January," wrote Augustin Senghor, president of the Senegalese FA, in an internal CAF newsletter in early May.

In Cameroon, where the national league was declared over last week with six rounds of matches still to play, the virus is posing problems in checking on the host nation's readiness.

"The Cup of Nations will no longer be able to take place in January. Our borders are closed and no CAF inspection mission is possible," a Cameroonian football official told AFP on

condition of anonymity.

- 'We must wait' -

Ahmad refused to commit, telling Deutsche Welle: "Our priority is first and foremost health, protecting players, protecting officials, and protecting the public."

"We must wait," he said.

FIFA, the governing body of world football, set up a working group in March to "agree on a coordinated approach" to the international schedule.

That makes it difficult for CAF to act alone.

"For the time being, we are on standby, monitoring the situation closely. If necessary, the postponement of a competition will be discussed in due course," CAF's general secretariat said in an e-mail to AFP.

There are voices arguing the tournament should kick off on schedule.

"It's out of the question to touch it," one African football leader told AFP on condition of anonymity.

"Between the Euro, the Tokyo Olympics and other competitions postponed to 2021, there are no more free slots. Even a postponement to March is complicated because European clubs will never want to let the players go."

The players want to play.

"Personally, I'm not in favour of postponement," Stephane Bahoken, a Cameroonian international striker who plays for Angers in France, told RFI. "It's a real headache."

But, he added: "As long as we play it at home, I'm happy!"

AFP

Is staying at Old Trafford best for Pogba and Man United?

BY MARK OGDEN, SENIOR WRITER, ESPN FC

REWIND the clock to the start of 2020 and it looked set to be a very big year for Paul Pogba. A move from Manchester United in the summer seemed increasingly likely, but only after he had played a central role in France's attempt to add the Euro 2020 title to the World Cup won in Russia two years ago.

The second part of Pogba's grand plan was taken off the agenda two months ago when UEFA postponed the Euros until June 2021 as a consequence of the coronavirus pandemic, which continues to affect all aspects of society across the world. But with football still locked in a cycle of uncertainty and financial panic due to the outbreak, the first element of Pogba's big year could also be taken off the agenda and it may ultimately lead to him extending his stay at United rather than cutting it short.

The transfer battle for the 27-year-old involving Real Madrid, Juventus and United had all the elements of a summerlong saga -- a player who wanted to move, two superclubs fighting for his signature and United, a financial giant, refusing to be bullied into selling for anything less than their £120 million valuation. But the financial impact of the coronavirus on football has changed everything -- a reality spelled out this week by Bayern Munich chief executive Karl-Heinz Rummenigge -- and it will directly affect what happens next with Pogba.

"I'm convinced there will be an impact in the next summer transfer window," Rummenigge said on a Zoom call with journalists on Wednesday. "I'm listening to many colleagues in Spain, in Italy or in England. Everybody has to take care of their financial situation.

"I'm hearing that many clubs would like to give players on the market to sell and there are not so many clubs able to pay in cash or to fulfil the demand and requests of these clubs. I believe prices will go down and maybe salaries as well."

None of Rummenigge's forecast is good news for Pogba. Up until football was suspended in March, the midfielder had made just eight appearances for Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's team -- and none since December -- due to a persistent foot injury. Pogba's fitness and future became a source of irritation to Solskjaer, who



Paul Pogba

made clear his frustration with the player's agent, Mino Raiola, in a number of public comments, to which Raiola responded with outspoken remarks of his own.

The January arrival of Bruno Fernandes from Sporting Lisbon, in a deal that could reach €80m, then seemed to edge Pogba closer to a move away, with the Portuguese midfielder making an instant impact at Old Trafford and offering United a clear vision of how they could survive and prosper without their most high-profile player.

But the shutdown has changed everything for United and Pogba. The financial concerns cited by Rummenigge have left the Frenchman with nowhere to go. Reports in Italy said that Juventus have installed a self-imposed salary cap of €9m-a-year (£7.9m) on new signings -- which is just over half of Pogba's £15m-a-year wages at United -- while Real Madrid's players have already agreed pay cuts of between 10-20% while the shutdown is in place. If Pogba wants to move and earn the same salary he currently enjoys at United, he will find it impossible to do so in the current climate.

Yet even if Solskjaer and United had decided that this summer was the time to cash in on a player who cost £89.3m from Juventus in August 2016, they will discover that no club is capable of stumping up £120m, with so many doubts about how football will be able to generate finances if, as feared, stadiums must remain empty for the remainder of 2020.

Indeed, United executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward delivered just such a warning last month, when asked about his club's summer transfer plans. "It feels somewhat inappropriate to see speculation about transfers for hundreds of millions in current circumstances," he said. "There's a big disconnect between those stories and the economic realities facing football clubs in general."

This summer was not simply about Pogba wanting to get away, though. It was also the peak time for United to sell. Pogba's deal expires in June 2021, with United holding the option

of a one-year extension, so he actually has two years left on his contract. However, for United to get anything like market value for Pogba, they had to sell him this year to avoid being left in the difficult position of negotiating a fee for a player who could instead run down the final 12 months of his contract and leave for nothing -- even agreeing a free transfer to a foreign club as early as January 2022.

Perhaps United and Pogba had both accepted that this summer would see them part ways, but now, it is an option that simply doesn't work for either party. Which leads to the scenario which seemed impossible earlier this year: handing him a new contract.

From their own business perspective, United need to protect the value of their asset, so a new deal for Pogba makes sense. In terms of football, he may divide opinion, but there is no question that United's squad is stronger with Pogba in it, so Solskjaer would unlikely be opposed to holding onto a world-class midfielder.

From Pogba's perspective, he could sit tight until he is 29 and see his career remain on hold for another two years -- after barely playing during the 2019-20 season -- before seeking a free transfer in 2022. Or, he could commit to helping Solskjaer lead United out of the wilderness and spend the best years of his career at Old Trafford with a lucrative new contract in his pocket.

The problem is, neither United nor Pogba has a perfect option right now. For both parties, though, the least worst may be a new contract.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Debate swirls around adding Africa Cup of Nations to list of postponements

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TONIGHT @ 9:00

EATV MONDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
14:00 Wanawake Live (r)
14:30 Bongo Hits
15:00 Fungua
15:30 Copa Coca-Cola (r)
16:00 Akili & Me (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELECT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNews
18:30 Music/Saap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 SPORTS LIVE
22:30 Bongo Hits

TONIGHT on EATV
Find out how using glass blocks from Canghui Traders Limited can improve your home decor

And Tonix Quality Choice has an innovative solution for wall fungus

It's all on Ujenzi at 9PM

eastafrica RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Street competitions boosted former soccer players, says Liseki

By Correspondent Adam Fungamwango

FORMER Simba SC, Yanga, Mtibwa Sugar and senior national football side's striker, Monja Liseki, has disclosed competitions, which took place in streets, played crucial role in moulding a good number of former domestic players into great performers.

Liseki said the former players were, in the process, way better than the current domestic players.

The veteran, in a recent interview with a Dar es Salaam-based radio station, pointed out although the street competitions' games were mostly attended by rowdy fans, former players put in good displays whenever they graced the pitch.

He disclosed former players played the sport in an extremely hostile environment, given they regularly faced threats from opposing teams' fans.

The games, Liseki said, were moreover characterized by poor refereeing because the match officials were as well facing threats from the spectators.

Monja noted in one of memorable incidents he experienced when he was featuring in the competitions in the 1990s, he had close shave with death when he played in the Lucky Rangers competition's game involving his squad, Msasani Steet's Namanga FC and Tandale's National, a team he had featured for before joining the former.

He disclosed the duel, which took place at Mwananyamala Primary School ground, ended with National's fans, armed with crude weapons, chasing him because he scored against the outfit.

He disclosed he had previously featured for National but then opted to play for Namanga, a decision which did not go down well with the former's fans.

"Namanga were slated to face National and I featured for the former, the latter's fans were not happy with my decision," he disclosed.

"I was forced to run into a house, which was a few feet away from the venue, shortly after the kick off because National's fans chased me."

"I had to wait for the fans to leave and I ultimately came out of the house at 8pm, otherwise they would have killed me."

"With the experience you have via your participation in the street tournaments, you will definitely be a better performer in well organized competitions, including the Premier League," he stated.

"You will not be troubled by fans' taunts when you participate in the well organized tournaments, given you are familiar with threats by the more rowdy spectators."

"In street events, players are used to experiencing threats that include offensive utterances by the fans, the players though simply brush them off and put their skills to show."

Liseki stated current domestic soccer players are seemingly lazy because they have not come across a kind of experience former players had during their participation in street events.

The street competitions, as disclosed by Liseki, boosted the former players psychologically.

The former players, he pointed out, could therefore easily withstand ill treatment by the opposing teams when the former took part in continental competitions' matches, which took place outside Tanzania.

Nafasi Art Space's artists curate Quarantine Residency program



An artwork dubbed 'Happy Day', created by Dar es Salaam's Nafasi Art Space artist Thobias Minzi, is one of the works the center displayed in a Virtual Gallery, which took place in the city recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF NAFASI ART SPACE

By Guardian Reporter

AN online visual art residency program, known as Quarantine Residency, which involves Tanzanian visual artists and their counterparts in other parts of the world is in progress, with Dar es Salaam's Nafasi Art Space's team members, Jesse Gerard and Rebecca Corey, serving as guest curators on the project.

Nafasi Art Space is collaborating with several international partners on the Quarantine Residency program, which invites artists to submit work made in quarantine.

The work, as revealed by Nafasi Art Space recently, should be accompanied by a photo of the artists' working space, and a reflection on what it means to create in quarantine.

The program, according to organizers, will culminate in a digital exhibition

and gallery show.

Throughout the submission period, selected artists have been invited to engage in a series of online critiques and artist talks, as well as being selected for the exhibition.

One of the artworks currently on display in the program is a work titled 'Unknown Muse' created by Tanzanian artist, Hussein Juma, who works at Nafasi Art Space.

The artist has used charcoal and newspaper on manila to create his 100X80cm work.

"The world is facing a challenge, a challenge that changes the whole system of life. A challenge that to overcome we need to pray, but praying alone is not enough," Juma said of his work.

"We must follow the instructions provided by medical practitioners."

"This is the really important

thing right now, let's follow the instructions. Apart from instructions, also information -- and by that I mean correct information -- about corona is important"

"Where do you get information? Most of us get information from social media that may be correct or incorrect. Wherever you get your information, the thing is don't panic."

"Newspapers play a major role in providing information. This is

the reason why I include them in my artwork. Maybe this will be an easy way of conveying information to people."

The Quarantine Residency program is held in partnership with Istanbul Artist Residency, Redbase Foundation, Celu Studio, ArtBureau of Investigation, and Youth Leader Fund.

The Quarantine Residency program is all about building an online platform for artists and curators all over the world to connect with one another.

Weekly conversations, art critiques and artist talks for selected artists, as revealed by the organizers, are taking place during the pandemic.

The organizers's VR exhibition and a 2D virtual gallery space will be hosted on their website.

The VR exhibition will allow people from around the world to interact in the space to experience and discuss art.

The virtual gallery allows audience to see the artworks with a high resolution and read the stories and experiences of the artists.

Gallery exhibition will take place with organizers' partnered art spaces and galleries in China, Turkey, Tanzania, Indonesia and more.

The organizers are as well currently finalizing the preparation for exhibitions in Shanghai and Istanbul later in the year.

A 'Quarantine Museum', a digital library of the thousands of artworks and experiences collected during this time is moreover created by the organizers.

The submissions for the Quarantine Museum, they noted, will always be open to everyone who has made artwork during this time, and artwork submitted to them will be considered for their gallery exhibitions.

Jamieson rewarded for India demolition with central contract

WELLINGTON

TOWERING pace bowler Kyle Jamieson has been rewarded for an impressive debut series against India earlier this year by being awarded a central contract by New Zealand Cricket (NZC) for the next 12 months.

South African-born batsman Devon Conway and left-arm spinner Ajaz Patel also received their first central contracts, NZC said in a statement on Friday.

The contracts, which include a base salary alongside usual match fees, are awarded each year to the 20 players expected to feature prominently for the national side in the next 12 months.

It's really exciting to offer contracts to Kyle, Ajaz and Devon who have all impressed over the past 12 months, selection manager Gavin Larsen said in the statement.

Kyle's performances against the might of India were nothing short of outstanding and at 25



New Zealand's Kyle Jamieson appeals for a wicket during the New Zealand v India's Second Test played at Hagley Oval in Christchurch on March 1, 2020. REUTERS

years of age he's certainly got a big future.

We see Ajaz as the incumbent test spinner

at present and he'll be looking to stamp his mark on that spot after some superb efforts with the ball

in the sub-continent. Devon's form with the bat across all three formats these past two seasons

made him impossible to ignore and he's going to be a great option to add to the batting mix.

Conway, 28, will be cleared to play for the national team from late August after he completes his three-year residency requirement.

He topped the scoring charts in all three forms of cricket in New Zealand's domestic competitions last season.

The 25-year-old Jamieson, however, was New Zealand's find of the test series against India in February and March where he used his 2.04-metre height to extract steep bounce off a length and consistently trouble the batsmen.

Jamieson took nine wickets, including his first five-wicket haul, in the test series that New Zealand won 2-0, a result that helped propel Australia above India to the top of the International Cricket Council test rankings.

Limited overs specialist Colin Munro, legspinner Todd Astle and opening batsman Jeet Raval dropped off the list.

REUTERS

Flexibles by David Chikoko

