



**National Pg 4**  
TMA issues 'evolution' of climate systems



**National Pg 5**  
Unfaithful AMCOS leaders in hot water



**National Pg 6**  
Evolving system for sesame buyers




Tusonge Community Development Organisation coordinator Aika Manase runs a public Covid-19 sensitisation campaign at Sanya Juu's Lawate foodstuff market in Kilimanjaro Region yesterday. Photo: Godfrey Mushi

## Haulage transport operators seeking fairer terms with Nairobi and Kigali

By Guardian Reporter

TRUCK owners in Tanzania have raised concerns over continued harassment of drivers at the Namanga and Rusumo borders with Kenya and Rwanda, respectively, appealing for government intervention to resolve the matter before it turns into a trade war.

They say Tanzanian truck drivers are routinely forced to swap with Rwandan drivers at the Rusumo (Tanzania-Rwanda) border, with officials claiming the measure is part of a strategy to curb the spread of Covid-19 infections.

They also complain that Kenyan authorities at the Namanga border in Longido District have continued refusing to recognize Covid-19 test certificates presented by Tanzanian truck drivers, despite being tested by competent authorities in Tanzania.

Addressing journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Tanzania Truck Owners Association (TATOA) Vice Chairperson Elias Lukumay said a trade war is afoot. "Otherwise, why should our truck drivers have to swap with Rwandan drivers at the border while our government has permitted Rwandan drivers to travel more than 1,000 kilometers to Dar es Salaam port, and they are not harassed?"

He said that truck drivers spend needlessly many days at border points, which adds operational costs to transporters owing to increased container demurrage charges now

standing at an average of 120,000/- per day. "There is no fairness. We deserve and demand a level playing field. Truck drivers from Tanzania should be allowed to directly transport cargo to customers in Rwanda. If the situation is left unsolved it will kill our business as customers now prefer Rwandan trucks," the truck owners spokesman declared.

He explained that Tanzanian truck drivers including those under escort and those carrying essential goods have been having an especially hard time accessing social services at the two border points.

"It is discouraging to see drivers being harassed at the borders while they were in the frontline when countries struggled to battle the Covid-19 pandemic. They are the ones who transported medical equipment, drugs and other supplies," he stated.

TATOA chairperson Angelina Ngalula, who doubles as Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) chairperson, recommended that the government seek negotiations with Kenya and Rwanda with a view to ending this conflict, as it has seriously disrupted the transport business.

She said that drivers who have tested negative for Covid-19 should be allowed to directly transport cargo to customers instead of being forced to swap at the border.

"The government maintains a level playing field for Tanzanian and Rwandan transporters as we all pay US\$152 road toll despite that

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## TPDC widens filling station market cover

By Guardian Reporter, Musoma

ENERGY minister Medard Kalemani (pictured) has launched state-run retail fuel business by inaugurating the first petrol station for selling petrol and diesel to be operated by the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) through its subsidiary, TanOil Investments.

The minister said the event complies with the government's pledge in strengthening TPDC in the provision of quality fuel to be sold at a cheaper price, and bringing it closer to the people.

The petrol station in Musoma municipality on Saturday (June 6), inaugurated by the minister in the company of his deputy, Subira Mgalu, permanent secretary Zena Said and various other senior officials.

Dr Kalemani said that after engaging in the business in earnest, TPDC through TanOil would be obliged to work with local councils to set up petrol stations in every district as well as establish infrastructure and fuel storage depots.

"We have started the business of selling fuel to the people. I do not expect to hear that fuel is sold at inflated prices at state-run petrol stations. TPDC and TanOil must understand this," he declared.

He said TPDC and TanOil would

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## Global lender projects 2.5pc growth this year

By Guardian Reporter

A NEW World Bank report says that despite the country's strong growth performance in 2019, the economy will, like many other countries, suffer the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and global economic recession.

The bank's 14th Tanzania Economic Update (TEU) forecasts that economic growth will slow sharply in 2020 to 2.5 percent from the 6.9 percent growth the government reported in 2019.

The report recognizes mitigation steps taken by the government, forecasting that authorities will take additional health and economic policy measures to mitigate negative impacts of the pandemic.

"The vulnerable people especially those employed in the informal economy are likely to bear the most severe impacts," said Mara Warwick, World Bank country director for

Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe. "Women and women-headed families will be more significantly impacted."

World Bank lead digital development specialist Tim Kelly asserted that if the digital economy is to rapidly expand to support the government's response to the pandemic, there are a number of interventions that need to be considered.

These include making mobile money and low-value data packages affordable for the poor and removing barriers that currently prevent competitive mobile operators from investing in their own infrastructure.

However the bank warns of downside risks which may lead into even slower growth if additional policy responses are delayed or not well-targeted.

The TEU analyzes key transmission channels of the global crisis to the Tanzanian economy,

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## World Bank deletes Maasai indigenous people identity

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

AS the World Bank revises the benchmark standards for indigenous people, this time eliminating the Maasai from the fold, the nomadic pastoralists here have come up to protest against this exclusion.

"Maasai communities still survive naturally in their ancestral lands, leading down-to-earth lives practising shifting-grazing of indigenous cattle while also playing important roles of safeguarding nature and biosphere," stated the Executive Director of the Tanzania Pastoralists Community Forum (TPCF), Joseph Parsambei.

He said removing the Maasai from the indigenous peoples listing will expose the endangered nomadic pastoralists to high levels of vulnerability, including losing ancestral lands and being evicted from some protected areas that they have been permitted to occupy, such as the Ngorongoro.

"The World Bank is the most influential

global institutions and leading donor agency. Its decision will drastically change how other organizations and states view the Maasai. We therefore appeal to the bank to reconsider this decision," the TPCF executive intoned.

Neema ole Ndemno of the Tanzania Center for Research and Information on Pastoralism (TCRIP) stated that the NGO was still advocating for the right of land ownership among indigenous societies. Therefore taking out the Maasai from this group will "smash" such efforts, she said.

Kisarei Parimayo of Loliondo said the fifth phase government has played a major role in shielding indigenous communities from hostile 'investors' and 'developers.' The community therefore appeals to the government to continue recognizing the Maasai as a minority and vulnerable group.

Anna Moinan Shinini, working at a Maasai Children Center in Emboreti Ward of Simanjiro District, Manyara Region, said women and

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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 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 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.

**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

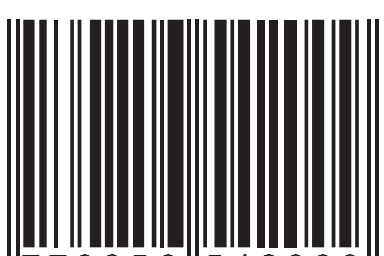
AND

- 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.



03/15/20 03/16/2020

cdc.gov/COVID-19



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## World Bank deletes Maasai indigenous people identity

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children in pastoral communities will be most affected once the Maasai are no longer regarded as indigenous people. The majority of them lack education and are as yet unable to own land and property.

The Maasai occupy mostly semi-arid and sparsely populated parts of northern Tanzania and southern Kenya, with their number estimated at two million. The Maasai population in Tanzania is assessed at 900,000 by some available surveys.

Other indigenous communities in Tanzania include the Hadza, the Barbaig, the Akiye (Ndorobo) and Sandawe. Much of the land occupied by indigenous peoples, including the Yaeda Chini Valley of Mbulu District in Manyara where the Hadza reside, is under indigenous customary ownership.

The World Bank report says indigenous people are supposed to be culturally distinct societies and communities. The land on which they live and the natural resources on which they depend are inextricably linked to their identities, cultures, livelihoods as well as their physical and spiritual well-being, it says.

There could be 476 million members of indigenous groups worldwide, scattered in nearly 100 countries, and although they make up over six percent of the global population, they account for about 15 percent of the

extreme poor.

Indigenous peoples' life expectancy is claimed to be up to 20 years lower than the life expectancy of non-indigenous peoples worldwide.

They occupy or use a quarter of the world's surface area, safeguarding 80 percent of the world's remaining biodiversity and holding vital ancestral knowledge and expertise on how to adapt, mitigate and reduce climate and disaster risks.

Indigenous Peoples often face impediments to their access to natural resources, basic services, the formal economy and justice, as well as their participation in decision making. This legacy of inequality and exclusion has made indigenous communities more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and natural hazards, including disease outbreaks such as Covid-19.

Vulnerabilities to the pandemic are exacerbated by the lack of access to national health systems, food insecurity due to shutting down of markets as well as mobility restrictions.

Indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation or extremely remote areas, such as the Amazon are at very high risk in the face of the novel coronavirus, as pathogens have historically been one of the most powerful factors in decimating indigenous peoples. Many indigenous communities have traditional practices of lockdowns and isolation to protect themselves from diseases, and these need to be respected.

## Z'bar to make chicken feeds from seaweed

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Zanzibar Ministry for Agriculture, Natural Resources and Livestock is in the final stages of the production chicken feeds from seaweed.

The Minister for Agriculture, Natural Resources and Livestock Mmanga Mjengo Mjawiri said this is part of adding value to the seaweed crop to enable farmers reap big profits.

Speaking in the House Representatives, Mjawiri said research conducted showed that chicken feed made from seaweed was better with high nutritional value which ensures the poultry withstand various chicken diseases.

He said that was good news to seaweed farmers as now they have big opportunity to make efforts to produce seaweed through modern means for more profits.

He said seaweed farmers are now required to cultivate seaweed in deep water due to climate change which has of late seen seaweed drying up.

"There are reports that a huge quantity of seaweed was infected with various diseases due to heat brought by climate change," he said.

He called upon Members of the House of Representatives from seaweed growing areas to mobilise farmers, many of who are women to increase production pace to enhance their economic wellbeing.



Constitutional and Legal Affairs minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba (R) moves to "set the record straight" at a press conference in Dodoma city yesterday with respect to what he referred to as raging distortions on Tanzania's human rights record. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Ibrahim

## Haulage transport operators seeking fairer terms with Nairobi and Kigali

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truck drivers from Rwanda travel over 1,000 kilometres to reach Dar es Salaam port," she said. The distance from the Rusumo border to Rwanda is nearly 150 kilometres.

"This is more of a trade war. If the Rwanda government really wishes to protect their people from Covid-19 by restricting Tanzanian drivers from entering that country, how can they allow their truck drivers to directly load cargo at the Dar es Salaam port?" she demanded.

Truck drivers are continuously permitted to enter Uganda and Burundi, unlike Kenya and Rwanda border points. The same applies to Southern African Development Community (SADC) member states of Zambia, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Botswana.

Works, Transport and

Communications minister Isack Kamwelwe urged transporters to submit their complaints to the government.

Last month, EAC transport ministers issued a communiqué stating that truck drivers will be tested for Covid-19 before commencement of their journeys at the point of origin using standards set by the World Health Organisation.

The meeting followed a directive by Heads of State of Tanzania and Kenya to ministers responsible for transport and regional commissioners at the various border points to work on the dispute so as to facilitate trade between EAC member countries.

They agreed that tested truck drivers should be issued with a 14-day Covid-19 free certificate by competent authorities, which should be mutually recognized by the two countries.

## Momba residents need 400m/- to expand salt processing plant

By Guardian Correspondent, Momba

ITUMBULA villagers in Ivuna Ward, Momba District in Songwe District have appealed to the government for 400m/- for the expansion of the salt processing plant in order to expand production.

The salt processing plant was earlier being run by the villagers but did not perform well and as of now it is being run by Momba District Council while villagers earn a certain percentage from the sales, but production has now stopped after it was submerged by water.

Mamka Silumbu, an Itumbula villager said the factory has been especially beneficial to the youth who have been employed, hence they are asking the government for funds for expansion work to increase production.

Another villager from Ivuna Michael Raphael said the factory has provided employment to the youth as well as earning dividends to the village, but they need to renovate it.

He said the factory's environment is

still wanting - it has no fence, electricity, buildings and other requisites but added that the salt produced is of high quality and has big market demand, hence what is needed is refurbishment.

Representing the district's executive director, the acting district planning officer Geoffrey Mwambasi said the factory's project is being implemented from 535,000,000/- for renovation, revival of salt beds and other factory buildings.

He said 120m/- was provided for fencing works and power and water infrastructure, revival of 64 salt beds and a small shed for drying and storing the salt produced.

He said research was done by the Tanzania Geological Survey (TGS) on the project and discovered huge quantities of salt as shown by the research report and the council need to install adequate infrastructures to increase production.

He said in the first phase the project produced 77.5 tonnes of salt earning 22m/- and added that the project is important as it has provided seasonal employment to the youth.



Board members of Simanjiro District's Orkesumet School tour the school's maize farm at the weekend. Farming is meant to make the school's food budget more affordable. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

## Global lender projects 2.5pc growth this year

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including lower export demand, supply chain disruptions for domestic producers and suppressed private consumption.

It states that international travel bans and caution against contracting the virus have severely hurt the tourism sector, which had been one of the fastest-growing sectors in the economy.

Tourism operators in the country are now forecasting revenue contractions of 80 percent or more this year, and only a mild recovery next year, conditional on how well global demand rebounds.

Beyond the macro numbers, the analysis said the pandemic is impacting lives and livelihoods.

Simulations using the recent Household Budget Survey data released in December 2019 show that the crisis

could push 500,000 more people below the poverty line, particularly those in urban settings relying on self-employment and informal/micro enterprises.

The report also highlights on the benefits of investing in Tanzania's digital economy, both to support stronger policy responses to the current crisis as well as boosting the recovery in productivity and job creation.

The bank says Tanzania has already

made good progress in the ICT sector which it can build upon, including the strong network of existing mobile accounts to streamline new cash transfer schemes and widen the coverage of existing social programs.

Tanzania is also connected to three international undersea cables and working with the private sector, could harness greater internet capacity to ensure continuity of public services and education, it added.

## TPDC widens filling station market cover

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participate in the fuel importation and distribution business just like other firms in order to enhance competition.

This would also enhance and widen the presence of local companies in the fuel business as it is overly dominated by foreign firms at present, he said.

Dr Kalemami explained that TPDC would establish 100 petrol stations in the next five years, adding that some district councils had started processing plot allocations for the purpose. Ultimately, half of fuel imports will be managed by TPDC, he noted.

He said the drive to open filling stations constituted part of a strategy by the government to strengthen the public sector for faster economic development.

"This was the reason for establishing TPDC in 1969 and the TIPER refinery the same year, with the former owning 50 per cent of the latter's shares. All this was intended to move towards self reliance," the minister underlined.

TPDC Managing Director Dr James Mataragio said TanOil was "adequately mobilised to ensure stability of fuel supply and distribution across the country".

After the liberalisation of fuel importation in 2000, TPDC established a subsidiary, Commercial Petroleum Company of Tanzania (COPEC), the forerunner of TanOil, to participate by competing in the trade.

Mataragio said TPDC purchased and also built various petrol stations including at Segerera and Muheza in Tanga Region, Makuyuni and Makumira in Arusha Region, Singida, Geita, and Mara Region - where two

petrol stations were bought in Musoma and Tarime.

While TPDC participated in the fuel business through the fuel stations, it had no strong law to support it so its participation in the business waned, he noted.

"The Fuel Act of 2015 elevated TPDC to become a national oil company able to operate commercially, thus TPDC has strengthened its subsidiaries," he added.

These are Gas Co. (T) Ltd (GasCo) and TanOil (formerly COPEC), where GasCo engages in fuel trade.

During the current financial year TPDC will finalise building two petrol stations in Singida and Geita regions, and acquire more land for the business in Dar es Salaam, Tanga, Dodoma and Morogoro, he elaborated.

Mara Regional Commissioner Adam Malima appealed to traders and fuel consumers to support government efforts in the fuel business by purchasing fuel from its petrol stations.

Off-road fuel traders have been storing the fuel in unsafe storage places that pose danger to life and property. These areas will now be accessed by new filling stations.

Before liberalisation, TPDC was the main importer and distributor of fuel consumed in the country.

TPDC imported crude oil, refined it and imported additional refined fuel to satisfy the domestic market.

"TPDC took that responsibility with great achievements including its being the sole distributor of fuel to the frontlines during the 1978/1979 Kagera War after private companies declined to do the job," the CEO added.





Rev Ken Igini (R) of the Christ Embassy Church at Mbezi in Dar es Salaam presents foodstuffs to clerics with Pentecostal churches in Chalinze, Coast Region, at the weekend in assistance to the needy. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

# NIRC needs 271.89bn/- for dam maintenance and renovation - govt

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

THE National Irrigation Commission (NIRC) is seeking 271.89bn/- for construction and renovation of irrigation dams in dry regions across the country.

Minister of Agriculture Japhet Hasunga announced here yesterday, saying his ministry through the commission has submitted to the Prime Minister's Office, Policy, Coordination and Investment a project concept for verification.

The remarks were made in a written response to a question from Bunda Urban Member of Parliament Ester Bulaya (Chadema) who wanted to know when will the government renovate dams and fulfill its promises that also includes construction of new dams for irrigation.

The minister said that the project is designed to cover several districts countrywide including Bunda Town in Mara region.

"Out of the 271bn/- project budget, 3.06bn/- shall be used for feasibility study and construction works for irrigation dam alongside Suguti river,"

said the minister.

The minister admitted that the government through the mwanza regional irrigation office conducted a preliminary design and obtained preliminary drawings and identified the possibility of constructing a water reservoir of approximately six million cubic meters.

He asserted that once the funds are made available the government will begin to undertake a detailed feasibility study and construction of the dam will begin immediately.

"However, the government continues its efforts to raise funds from a variety of sources for implementing irrigation projects in the country including this irrigation project in the Suguti river basin," he added.

In her principal question Bulaya who is also the Opposition Chief Whip claimed that the government through the Lake zone irrigation office had already evaluated and prepared the drawings for the construction of the Suguti irrigation dam in Kiwasi village but, it has been nearly five years nothing seemed to be done.

# Tanzania annual inflation slowed down in May to 3.2 pc

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE annual headline inflation rate for the month of May, 2020 has decreased to 3.2 per cent from 3.3 per cent recorded in April 2020, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said yesterday.

Releasing the statistics yesterday, the director of population census and social statistics, Ruth Davison said the decrease of the headline inflation

explains that, the speed of price change for commodities for the year ended May, 2020 has decreased compared to the speed of price change recorded for the year ended April, 2020.

She said the overall index went up to 120.93 in May, 2020 from 117.23 recorded in May 2019, adding that food and non alcoholic beverages inflation rate for the month of May, 2020 has decreased to 4.4 percent from 4.6 percent recorded in April 2020.

"Annual inflation rate for food consumed at home and away from home for the month of May, 2020 has stagnated at 5.2 percent as it was recorded in April 2020," she said.

On the other hand, the 12 month index change for non food products in May, 2020 has decreased to 2.4 percent from 2.5 percent recorded in April, 2020.

The director observed that the annual inflation rate which excludes

food and energy for the month of May, 2020 has slightly increased to 2.2 percent from 2.1 percent that was recorded in April, 2020.

She added that the overall monthly consumer index for the month of May, 2020 has increased to 120.93 from 120.67 recorded in April, 2020, noting that the increase of the overall index is mainly attributed to the price increase for both food non food items.

Some of the food items that contributed to such increase include pasty cook products by 1.5 percent, sorghum grain (4.1), fish (3), sardines (1.2) groundnuts (2.2), beans (5.7) cassava (2.6) and cooking oil (4.4).

On the other hand, some of the non food items that contributed to such an increase include cleaning and maintenance products by 1.1 percent, men's suits (1.1) gowns (1.39) firewood (3.0) exercise books (1.8) and

hair dressing for women (1.1).

In comparison with other East African countries of Kenya and Uganda, she said the annual inflation rate in Kenya has decreased to 5.47 percent in May, 2020 from 5.62 percent recorded in April, 2020.

The same applies to Uganda where the annual headline inflation rate for the same month has decreased to 2.8 percent from 3.2 percent recorded in April, 2020.

## Ecobank Transnational Incorporated 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting & Extraordinary General Meeting Notice of Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Thirty Second Annual General Meeting and an Extraordinary General Meeting of Ecobank Transnational Incorporated (ETI) will be held at Eko Hotels & Suites, 1415 Adetokunbo Ademola Street, Victoria Island, Lagos, Nigeria on Tuesday, 30th June 2020 at 11.00am (Lagos time) to transact the following business:

### I – Annual General Meeting

1. Approval of the accounts
2. Appropriation of the Profits
3. Election of Directors
4. Ratification of the co-option of directors
5. Renewal of the appointment of the joint auditors
6. Approval of the Final Board Fees for Retiring Directors

### II – Extraordinary General Meeting

1. Withdrawal of resolution on consolidation of shares
2. Amendment of the Articles

### COVID-19 guidelines

As a result of the significant public health concerns associated with the Covid-19 pandemic, the various governments and regulators in the countries where Ecobank operates including the Federal Government of Nigeria, the Nigerian Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and the Government of Lagos State (the host state of the meeting) have issued new orders and directives limiting the number of people at public gatherings. As a responsible corporate citizen, ETI intends to strictly comply with this restriction in addition to other applicable health and safety measures. Accordingly, attendance at this year's General Meetings shall be mainly by proxies in accordance with the Articles of Association of the Company and applicable law.

In view of the above reasons, a shareholder may choose any of the following persons as her/his proxy to represent her/him.

- 1) Mr Emmanuel Ikazoboh (Chairman),
- 2) Mr Patrick Akinwuntan (Managing Director, Ecobank Nigeria),
- 3) Mr Olayiwola Olaleru (Managing Director, EDC Securities Limited),
- 4) Mr Akeem Oyewole (Managing Director of Stanbic Nominees),
- 5) Sir Sunny Nwosu (President, Independent Shareholders' Association).

Shareholders are encouraged to submit in advance the proxy form available on the Ecobank website duly completed indicating their voting intentions and deposit same at Ecobank Transnational Incorporated, 2365 Boulevard du Mono, B.P. 3261 Lomé, Togo, or send an email to AGM@ecobank.com by close of business on 26 June 2020.

Shareholders will also be able to submit questions in advance of the General Meetings by sending an email to AGM@ecobank.com. Answers to the questions on key themes will be displayed on the Investor Relations page of the Ecobank website (www.ecobank.com/group/investorrelations) as soon as possible.

All relevant documents in connection with the meeting are available to all shareholders from the date of this notice at the Registered Office of the Company at the address above as well as on the Company's website (www.ecobank.com).

Dated this 2nd day of June 2020.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

Madibinet Cisse  
Company Secretary

ecobank.com



**Ecobank**  
The Pan African Bank

## DEPOSIT INSURANCE BOARD



## PUBLIC NOTICE

### IN THE MATTER OF FBME BANK LIMITED (UNDER LIQUIDATION) REMINDER NOTICE ON REIMBURSEMENT OF INSURED DEPOSITS

Following the closure of FBME Bank Limited in May 2017, the Deposit Insurance Board (DIB) of P.O. Box 2939, Dar es Salaam, commenced reimbursement of insured deposits to the depositors of the closed bank in line with provisions of the law. The DIB wishes to issue this reminder notice that;

1. The reimbursement of unclaimed insured deposits to the depositors of the defunct FBME Bank Limited is still going on through the office premises of former FBME Bank Limited located at Kinondoni, Dar es Salaam. Until end of April, 2020, number of depositors equivalent to 51.77% of all eligible depositors have been reimbursed.
2. By this reminder notice, the DIB reminds all eligible depositors who are yet to collect their insured deposits to collect their deposit at the Kinondoni office premises of the former FBME Bank Limited.

**All inquiries should be addressed to:**

**Director  
Deposit Insurance Board  
2 Mirambo Street  
P. O. Box 2939  
11884 Dar es Salaam  
Tel: + 255 22 223 5390  
Fax: + 255 22 223 4200  
E-mail: DIB-INFO@bot.go.tz**

**Issued by:  
The Director, Deposit Insurance Board  
Dated: 28th May, 2020**



By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

## 'Coming General Election raises alarm for persons with albinism'

As Tanzania gears up for General Election, demand for good luck charms is rising. And so is the danger to persons with albinism. Some people mistakenly believe their unusually white body parts hold mystical powers perhaps enough to guarantee victory in the polls.

Fear of being attacked for their limbs and other parts is driving persons with albinism - people who lack pigmentation in their skin, hair and eyes - into hiding. They face amputation and even death.

The observation was made by Michael Salali, founder of a Dodoma based local non-governmental organisation (NGO), Foundation for Disabilities Hope (TDH) while addressing a press conference.

Speaking a head of the 13th June, 2020 International Albinism Awareness Day, Salali who is also with albinism noted that there is increasing fear among them since most of violence and death against them occur during election periods.

"I call upon the government to increase security for people with albinism especially during the electioneering period which is known to be a dangerous period for them" he said.

He also called on parents with

children with albinism and the society at large to protect them against attack and murder, saying, "People with albinism deserve to live without fear just like other members of the society".

On the international albinism awareness day, he noted that it is an opportunity to raise awareness of the human rights of persons with albinism.

Globally, member states of the United Nations are encouraged to continue their efforts to protect and preserve the rights to life and to security of persons with albinism.

They are encouraged to safeguard their right, not to be subject to torture and ill-treatment, and to ensure access to adequate health care, employment, education and justice for persons with albinism.

On a different note, Salali appealed to the government to consider importing the sunscreen lotion suitable for albinism skin through the medical stores department (MSD) to make it more affordable and easily available to persons with albinism.

He argued that the lotion currently being imported by private sector players is quite expensive, costing between Sh 35,000 up to Sh 200,000 which many people cannot afford,

leading to increased deaths through skin cancer.

"It is our plea to the government to consider importing the lotion through MSD that can distribute it throughout the country at quite affordable price and rescue PWAs dying of skin cancer" he noted.

While pleading with the government to change the modality, he also said there is need to continue with public education and awareness on albinism, noting that stigmatization is still rife.

According to Salali, by 2012 census, there were 16,337 people with albinism in Tanzania whereby about 820 die annually due to skin cancer. However he said the statistics might be higher due to lack database as others die unreported.

On her part FDH director, Epiphania Kabunduguru appealed to the government and other stakeholders to join hands in the fight skin cancer on persons with disabilities.

"Together we can save our brothers and sisters from death caused by skin cancer" she said. She observed that the sunscreen lotion is expensive, costing between Sh 35,000 up to Sh 200,000 which many people cannot afford.



Tanzania Breweries Limited sales officer Catherine Lyakurwa (2nd-L) pictured in Arusha at the weekend presenting to Andrew Kessy (2nd-R), a manager at one of the bars in the city, items to help staff and patrons steer clear of Covid-19 infections. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

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Email: Contact@cbagroup.com  
www.cba.co.tz  
8th June 2020



### NOTICE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC OF TRANSFER OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES OF COMMERCIAL BANK OF AFRICA (TANZANIA) LIMITED TO NIC BANK TANZANIA LIMITED

We, Commercial Bank of Africa (Tanzania) Limited (CBA), do hereby NOTIFY the general public that in at least 30 days from the date of this notice i.e 8 July 2020, we shall be voluntarily merging the banking business with NIC Bank Tanzania Limited (NIC). Upon completion of the merger, the merged banking business will be undertaken under the new name and brand of NCBA Bank Tanzania Limited.

The merger will be effected through the acquisition of the majority of the assets and all of the liabilities from CBA by NIC. The Notice of Transfer of Assets and Liabilities was published by CBA and NIC in the Guardian and Mwananchi newspapers on 23 December 2019 and in the Government Gazette on 17 January 2020 (as GN No.48). The Notice of Transfer of Assets and Liabilities was issued in line with section 4 of the Transfer of Businesses (Protection of Creditors) Act, Cap 327 R.E 2002.

The implementation of the merger shall be through the transfer of assets and liabilities which has been approved by the Bank of Tanzania and the Fair Competition Commission. Both CBA and NIC are in the process of concluding other regulatory conditions. Once the merger is completed, NCBA Bank Tanzania Limited will assume all liabilities, obligations and rights of the assets transferred from CBA. NCBA Bank Tanzania Limited will also assume all existing CBA customers and creditors.

This notification is also issued in fulfilment of the regulatory requirement to provide notice to depositors, creditors and any other person otherwise entitled to any funds or properties held by CBA at least 30 days prior to the transaction date.

Signed on behalf of CBA Tanzania by:

Mr Gift Shoko,

**Chief Executive Officer, Commercial Bank of Africa (Tanzania) Limited,  
Amani Place – 2nd Floor, Ohio Street, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania,  
P.O. Box 9640, Dar-es- Salaam, Tanzania,  
Email – gift.shoko@cbagroup.com,  
Telephone – +255 22 2130113.**

Commercial Bank of Africa (Tanzania) Limited

Director: NN Kitomari (Chairman), G Shoko\*\*\*(CEO), I O Awuondo\*(Group Managing Director), JS Armitage\*\*, N J Mainnah\*, V C Somaiya, M KR Shah\*, Hon. A H Abdi\*, S Ndomba

\*Kenyan\*\* British \*\*\* Zimbabwean

CBA Tanzania is regulated by Bank of Tanzania

## TMA issues 'evolution' of the climate systems

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) yesterday issued an evolution of the climate systems and outlook for the June to August (JJA), 2020 season which shows the likelihood of Coastal belt areas having fewer cool nights compared to the long term average experienced during the same period between 1981 and 2010.

TMA attached the outlook with advisories and warnings to various weather sensitive sectors noting that usually strong winds, cool and cold conditions dominate over most parts of the country during this season.

According to TMA, cold temperatures are expected to reach the peak during the third and fourth week of June indicating an earlier peak for the cold temperatures during this season. Cold conditions are likely to recede earlier as the season progresses.

In a statement signed its Director General Dr Agness Kijazi TMA said mainly normal cool temperatures are expected in many areas of the coastal regions (Lindi, Mtwara and Tanga), northeastern highlands (Arusha, Kilimanjaro and

Manyara regions), the Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Geita, Mwanza, Shinyanga, Simiyu, and Mara regions), central (Dodoma and Singida regions), western parts (Tabora and Kigoma regions) and some parts of Iringa and Ruvuma regions.

The statement further most parts of southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Mbeya, Njombe, and Iringa regions), and southern region (Ruvuma and southern Morogoro), normal cool to cooler than normal temperatures are expected.

"Occasionally, high ground areas are expected to be colder than normal during the nights and early mornings," the outlook showed.

TMA said the expected dry, windy and cold conditions in some areas of the country may be unfavourable to human, animal and crop health.

The agency said communities are therefore, advised to take precautionary measures such as use of water sparingly and other protection gears to mitigate any negative impacts that may be associated with the expected weather conditions on human, crops and animals including fish.

## TFS establishes charcoal factory from rice husks

By Guardian Correspondent,

Kahama

TANZANIA Forest Services Agency (TFS) in Kahama district, Shinyanga region has established a small charcoal factory that will use rice husks and other solid wastes from forest products to make charcoal as alternative to charcoal made from natural trees.

Speaking here yesterday the Kahama Forests Conservator Juma Ally said the factory is a joint venture with Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO) and aims to mass produce alternative charcoal.

He said the project will assist in adding value to farm and forest crops and that they will teach various groups as well as individuals in order to have many factories to be producing alternative charcoal.

"The charcoal being

produced here is made from raw materials from various wastes such as rice husks, maize stalks, and other waste from timber factories," Ally said.

Speaking after visiting the factory at Kahama TFS offices, the Kahama District Commissioner Anamringi Macha hailed TFS for their creativity as the factory aims to eradicate the use of charcoal made from natural trees.

She said the factory is a great assistance to Kahama residents in the environmental destruction challenge brought about by wanton tree cutting for charcoal and added that the government will continue to assist the factory to serve many more people.

The DC called upon the youth to go to TFS offices in Kahama town to learn about the new technology so as to have many such factories in Kahama District that produce environmentally friendly charcoal.





Kibiti District is enjoying an especially generous supply of cassava this year, with reports saying that it is chiefly thanks to conducive weather. Most of the surplus is transported to Dar es Salaam markets, at times by motorcycle, where the price is much higher than internally. Correspondent Jumanne Juma confirmed this while in the district at the weekend.

## TanESCO working to address power challenges in Ngara, Kalemmani says

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Electric Supply Company (TanESCO) is working to address the power blackouts challenge which has been facing Ngara District in Kagera Region for some years now, the House heard yesterday.

Kalemmani said this when responding to a question raised by Ngara MP Alex Gashaza who sought to know when will the government resolve power blues in the district.

He said that the company has so far employed a number of initiatives including installing an Automatic Voltage Regulator (AVR) with 3MVA capacity in Nyakaura village.

In his basic question, the lawmaker said that since Ngara district was connected to the National Grid electricity in early 2017 there have been endless problems associated with power outages thus affecting people's development initiatives.

Responding, Minister Kalemmani said that the government has continued to take several initiatives to make sure that

there is reliable supply of electricity in the district for people to conduct their economic activities smoothly.

Dr Kalemmani asserted that TanESCO has made maintenance of electrical infrastructure including replacement of poles and scrap cups, installing a device known as capacitor bank in Biharamulo District. This device helps to increase the power supply in Biharamulo and Ngara districts and has continued to make improvements to the electrical infrastructure in the areas of Biharamulo to Ngara as well as refining the route.

"Currently, the availability of electricity in Ngara District has improved compared to previous years due to TanESCO continuing efforts to improve infrastructure including the upgrading of the electricity route," he said.

According to him, electricity supplied in Ngara comes from Nyakato-Mwanza feeder through Sengerema, Geita to Ngara. The completion of the construction of an electrical cooling station in Geita region through the

Bulyahulu - Geita project will boost the power of electricity transported to Ngara and thus eliminate the problem once and for all.

He further said, power outages in Ngara district and in particular in the past have been due to various challenges including the deterioration of the power supply from Chato to Ngara via Bihartari.

Others include human activities including burning of forests with the aim of finding new pastures thus causing electric poles to burn.

The distance of 33 kilometers from Geita through Chato district, Biharamulo to Ngara had contributed to Ngara district receiving electricity with low voltage.

*"Currently, the availability of electricity in Ngara District has improved compared to previous years due to TanESCO continuing efforts to improve infrastructure including the upgrading of the electricity route"*

## Agriculture ministry now vows to hold accountable unfaithful AMCOS leaders

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

THE Ministry of Agriculture has vowed to continue taking serious legal measures against all Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Societies (AMCOS) leaders who have been using weight measuring machines as a tool to swindle money from farmers.

In a written response to a question raised by Bunda Rural MP Boniphace Getere in the House yesterday, the Deputy Minister Hussein Bashe warned against the behaviour of some AMCOS leaders saying that the ministry was working hard to make sure farmers benefit from their hard work.

In his basic question, Getere queried when would the government wake up and ensure that cotton farmers are paid on time and fairly.

"The government's intention of establishing AMCOS was to bring together farmers for them to have the power to manage good payments from buyers, this has been contrary to initial plans as many AMCOS leaders have become money launderers by not paying them and swindling money from them by tampering with the weights and measures machines," the lawmaker claimed.

Responding, the deputy minister said: "To solve the problem the government through the Weight and Measures Agency (WMA) conducts annual inspections before the season begins to check the quality of the weight machines. The Cooperative Development Commission and the Cotton Board of Tanzania (CBT) also supervise to ensure that the applicable machines are checked and sealed to prevent tampering."

According to Bashe, the government through the Cooperatives Development Commission will continue to take serious legal measures against corporate leaders and executives that include imposing severe penalties to those who will be found misusing public goods.

However, the ministry will continue providing regular training to enable them to carry out their duties effectively. The government has continued to regulate the cooperative societies to comply with the rules and procedures of the Cooperatives Act, 6 of 2013 with a view to enhancing efficiency and reducing various operational defects including theft and mismanagement of farmers' money," he added.

In addition, the government has directed the cotton companies to ensure that they pay farmers their monies for cotton sales through their bank accounts and not through AMCOS.

"The government will continue to take action in accordance with the law for all persons suspected of being involved in any form of theft, including swindling farmers' money," added the deputy minister.

Further, in his response, Bashe added that Mara region has a total of 559 AMCOS of which 133 (23.8 percent) were audited.

"Audits conducted on the cotton AMCOSs in the region revealed a number of shortcomings in the associations including misappropriation of books and funds totaling 47.1m/- thus affecting 103 farmers," he said.

Rural Bunda District has identified a shortfall in the amount of 45m/- and three cases are already in court.



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8th June 2020

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Signed on behalf of NIC Tanzania by:

**Margaret Karume,**  
Managing Director, NIC Bank Tanzania,  
Ohio Street, PSPF Building (Golden Jubilee) Tel: +255(22) 2295000,+ 255 768987003 Ext. 7003,  
P.O Box 20268, Dar-Es-Salaam, Tanzania.  
Email: Margaret.Karume@nicgroup.com website: www.nicgroup.com

### APOLOGY

In yesterday's issue, we ran two NIC Bank and CBA advertisements entitled "NOTICE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC OF TRANSFER OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES OF COMMERCIAL BANK OF AFRICA (TANZANIA) LIMITED TO NIC BANK TANZANIA LIMITED". However, owing to technical hitches we ran the wrong versions. We sincerely regret the error and apologise for any inconvenience caused. Accordingly, we have published the correct versions, as a gesture of goodwill – Editor.



# Unemployed arts subjects' teachers urged to exercise patience for jobs

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

UNEMPLOYED art subjects teachers will have to continue waiting for their turn as right now the government's priority is on science subjects' teachers, minister for State in the President's Office (Public Service and Good Governance), George Mkuchika has said.

The minister said that the government will only employ arts subjects' teachers after employing enough science subjects teachers, who are on high demand.

He said that other teachers who are on high demand include those who pursued mathematics, agriculture, commerce, special education and specialized laboratory technicians in secondary schools.

Mkuchika was responding to a question by Korogwe Urban MP, Mary Chatanda who sought to know the government's plan for art subjects' teachers to be employed.

In his response, Mkuchika said that the government was grappling with the shortage of science subjects' teachers in public schools. "We're encouraging arts subjects teachers to seek employment in other public institutions and private schools," said Mkuchika.

According to the minister, in the public service, the vacancies of various cadres, including teachers, are allocated according to government's priorities. In the past years when notable public servants were few, the government provided direct entry-level employment for all cadres.

"As a result of having enough staff and in order to get qualified, professional and ethical staff, the government changed the direct employment

process and began to compete competitively through interviews of various cadres except teachers and health sector staff," he said.

In recent years, the public service has faced a number of challenges including the absence of some experts in the labor market especially for some of the Health and Education (Science) subjects. In light of this challenge, the government has prioritized new employment for Science, Mathematics, Agriculture, Commerce and Special Education teachers as well as the professional laboratories specialists.

He asserted that due to the presence of art subjects' teachers in secondary schools especially in urban areas, the government directed employers in local government authorities to assess the actual needs of teachers and to transfer additional teachers to primary and secondary schools with a significant shortage of teachers to maintain a good ratio of teachers to students.



**We're encouraging arts subjects teachers to seek employment in other public institutions and private schools**



Residents of Mtunda village in Kibiti District, Coast Region, draw water from a public shallow well in their neighbourhood at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

AGRICULTURE minister Japhet Hasunga has instructed Dodoma regional authorities to establish centres for buying the sesame crop under the Warehouse Receipt System in all villages producing the crop.

He also directed to look for reliable buyers who are duly registered by the government and to ensure all payments to farmers should be said within three days of the crops sale.

Hasunga issued the directives at the weekend following complaints from farmers on the new procedures, saying the government has not yet mobilised itself as there are no cooperatives which are the main supervisors of the warehouse receipt system.

## Establish sesame buying centres in all relevant villages - minister

Speaking to farmers at Pahi Village in Kondoa District, Hasunga said the aim of the government is to see its citizens benefit from their sweat by looking for them reliable markets. He said the region was putting in place the procedure of buying the sesame crop and stressed: "I want my directives to be implemented, I don't want to see or hear sesame farmers complaining."

Earlier, some farmers including Maulid Dunga and Haruna Mwinjuma complained, saying that the new

system has come up abruptly without involving them hence they fear of bad people conning their products.

Dodoma Regional Commissioner Dr Binlith Mahenge promised to meet with all local council officials and farmers' representatives for joint strategies over the issue that will not undermine any side.

He said farmers are supposed to have faith as the regional government will implement what the minister directed.

The RC said Dodoma Region through

its Bahi, Chamwino and Kondoa districts are big sesame producers as during the current farming season, the market price through the warehouse receipt system reached 2,250/- per kg.

Dodoma is among Tanzania regions that are major producers of the sesame crop, others being Lindi, Mtwara, Ruvuma, Coast, Morogoro, Tanga, Rukwa and Mbeya.

The crop is grown as food and cash crop, and its seeds have 45 percent fat content.

### CHAMA CHA WAFANYAKAZI WA SERIKALI ZA MITAA TANZANIA (TALGWU)



#### TANGAZO LA NAFASI ZA AJIRA

Katibu Mkuu wa Chama cha Wafanyakazi wa Serikali za Mitaa (TALGWU) anawatangazia nafasi ya Ajira kama ifuatavyo:-

##### 1.0 AFISA TEHAMA DARAJA LA I TLGS D (Nafasi 1)

##### 1.1 SIFA NA UZOEFU

- Kuajiriwa mwenye shahada ya kwanza au Stashahada ya juu ya Kompyuta katika moja ya fani zifuatazo; Sayansi ya Kompyuta, Teknolojia ya Habari na Mawasiliano, Menejimenti ya Mifumo ya Habari au mafunzo mengine yanayohusiana na fani hii.
- Awe na uzoefu wa kufanya kazi si chini ya miaka mitatu (3)
- Awe na Ufahamu zaidi wa mifumo ya kutunza Takwimu (Data Base)
- Awe na umri usiozidi miaka 45.

##### 1.2 KAZI ZA KUFANYA

- Kutunza na kuhakiki mfumo wa hifadhi Data
- Kutoa huduma za hifadhi Data kwa watumiaji.
- Kutengeneza kiunganishi kati ya hifadhi Data na Programu tumizi (Develop back – end and front – end connectivity)
- Kusanifu, kutengeneza na kufanya majaribio ya Programu za hifadhi – Data (Design, Implement and test Data Base)
- Kuweka usalama wa hifadhi Data ( Implement Security and access control into database)
- Kufanya majaribio ya vifaa vya mtandao wa kompyuta (Test network equipment and devices)
- Kusimamia utekelezaji wa maelekezo ya usalama wa mtandao kwa mujibu wa usalama wa mtandao wa kompyuta, (Implement network security guide lines)
- Kufanya kazi nyingine atakazo pangiwa na Mkuu wake wa Kazi zinazoendana na sifa na fani yake.

##### 3.0 NAMNA YA KUTUMA MAOMBI

Waombaji wenye sifa zilizotajwa watumie maombi yao kwa:-

**Katibu Mkuu,  
Chama cha Wafanyakazi wa Serikali za Mitaa (TALGWU),  
S. L. P. 16097,  
DAR ES SALAAM.**

**NB.** Barua zote za Maombi ni lazima ziambanishwe na Wasifu (CV) wa muombaji, picha moja ya Passport size ya hivi karibuni. Na nakala zilizothibitishwa za viwango vya ufaulu na vyeti vya taaluma. Majina matatu ya Wadhamini yaonyeshe anuani na namba zao za simu. Maombi yatumwe kwa njia ya posta.

Pia Tangazo hili linapatikana kwenye Tovuti ya TALGWU [www.talgwu.or.tz](http://www.talgwu.or.tz).

Mwisho wa kutuma maombi ni siku kumi na nne (14) tangu tarehe ya tangazo hili.

**Rashid M. Mtima,  
KATIBU MKUU – TALGWU.**

By Guardian Reporter

NORDIC countries - Norway, Sweden, Finland and Denmark have pledged to continue working together with Tanzania to ensure the country makes progress in social, political and economic development.

Speaking at the occasion to mark Nordic Week in Dar es Salaam, the Ambassador of Norway to Tanzania Elisabeth Jacobsen said the Nordic countries have marked Nordic Week in Tanzania and have discussed issues on sustainable development goals adding that they have used the event to among other things develop great cooperation and ties between Nordic countries and Tanzania.

"The Nordic Week provided opportunity for cooperation and to

## Tanzania-Nordic working ties stressed at Nordic Week event

learn about various issues including social, political and economic issues as well as acquiring development experience from each one of us," said Ambassador Jacobsen.

She added that Nordic countries have always been ready to work closely with Tanzania to ensure the country makes development strides.

Speaking soon after he was handed a ball inscribed with 17 Sustainable Development Goals the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation Dr Damas Ndumbaro said the ball is a sign for the mobilisation of excellent ties between

Nordic countries and Tanzania

"Our ties with the Nordic countries are decades long, before and after our independence. We have been happy with the cooperation that has been getting stronger year after year, it is our hope, we as the government that this cooperation will get stronger," Dr Ndumbaro said.

In November 2019 a meeting was convened by Ministers for Foreign Affairs of African countries and those from Nordic countries that offered opportunities to discuss various issues including those of education, agriculture, trade and investment.



**RATHER THAN LIE IDLE...:** By their own admission, these are students from schools based in Dodoma city now closed owing to the spread of Covid-19 infections - and have decided to engage in sugarcane retail sale as an income-generation activity. Correspondent Peter Mkwavila caught up with them at the weekend.



# RUWASA to spend over 2bn/- on water supply in Musoma District

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

A TOTAL of 2.136bn/- will be spent in different water projects executed by Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) in Musoma District, Mara Region in the next fiscal year.

Among the projects to be implemented include expansion of the Lake Victoria Water and Sanitation programme (LVWATSAN) from Suguti village to Wanyere and Saragana villages. Thereafter, the project is to be extended to villages in Nyambono and Bugoji wards.

Musoma district commissioner Dr Vincent Anney revealed yesterday

when speaking with "The Guardian" in an interview.

According to Dr Anney, RUWASA will also do a feasibility study for the project to supply water from Chumwi village to Mabuimerafuru, Mikuyu and Seka villages. Other villages to benefit from the project include Bulinga, Bujaga, Bugunda, Kome, Makojo, Chitare, Bwasi, Chimati, Busekera, Bukima, Kwikerege, Kusenyi, Chirorwe and Wanyere.

DC Anney also said that three villages of Masinono, Muhoji and Kinyang'erere will be supplied with deep water wells.

"The entire project is to cost

2.136bn/-, the amount that will be issued by the central government," he said.

He added that part of the water generated by the Musoma Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Authority (MUWASA) will be supplied to nearby wards of

Etaro, Nyegina, Nyakatende and Ifulifu.

The DC also revealed: "We've another water project that supply water from Mugango, Kiabakari to Butiama villages. The project is financed by Saudi Arabia, Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) and Tanzanian government.



Dodoma Regional Police Commander Gilles Muroto leads TPB Bank Plc's Dodoma Branch manager, Shaban Telatela (L), at the weekend to the site where the construction of buildings for a police station at Mbande in Kongwa District is in progress. The bank has donated ten tonnes of cement worth 3m/- in support of the work. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# TBS calls upon Tanzanians to check whether food is safe before eating

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

THE Director of quality management at the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS), Lazaro Msasalaga, has called on Tanzanians to ensure that the food they purchase is safe before consuming.

Msasalaga made the call over the weekend when speaking at the climax of the World Food Safety Day, which was marked at National level in Dar es Salaam.

Msasalaga urged Tanzanians to take precautionary measures to avoid contact with unnecessary diseases which are caused by unsafe food.

"It is important for the consumer to check the food to ensure it is in good condition or expired or altered in any way," he said, adding that consumers have the right to get information on food through descriptions written on the label.

He insisted producers to put accurate information sticking on standards, principles and regulations.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), more than 420,000 died in 2015 due to diseases resulting from unsafe food.

In Africa alone it is estimated that 137,000 people died due to the disease whereas children and pregnant women are at more risk.

He said the government through TBS has an obligation to control food safety.

The government has put enabling environment to implement this assignment including establishment of policy, acts, principles and regulations, improving food markets to ensure that the issue of food safety is strictly followed in the whole chain.

According to him, the bureau has been educating the public on the importance of food safety, conduct assessment of food hazards and control, and impromptu inspections.

Diseases caused by taking unsafe food are preventable if every one will be careful.

The second World Food Safety Day (WFSDD) was celebrated on 7 June 2020 to draw attention and inspire action to help prevent, detect and manage food borne risks, contributing to food security, human health, economic prosperity, agriculture, market access, tourism and sustainable development.

Following the success of the first

celebration in 2019, this year again WFSDD reinforces the call to strengthen commitment to scale up food safety made by the Addis Ababa Conference and the Geneva Forum in 2019 under the umbrella of "The Future of Food Safety". WHO, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) is pleased to facilitate Member States efforts to celebrate the World Food Safety Day.

Under the theme "Food safety, everyone's business", the action oriented campaign will promote global food safety awareness and call upon countries and decision makers, the private sector, civil society, UN organisations and the general public to take action.

Food safety is a shared responsibility between governments, producers and consumers. Everybody has a role to play from farms to tables to ensure the food we consume is safe and will not cause damages to our health.

Through the World Food Safety Day, WHO pursues its efforts to mainstream food safety in the public agenda and reduce the burden of foodborne diseases globally.

# RC hails Madaba council for getting clean audit reports for three years

By Correspondent Gideon Mwanosya,

Madaba

RUVUMA Regional Commissioner Christina Mndeme has congratulated Madaba District Council in Ruvuma Region for receiving a clean audit report for three years consecutively.

Mndeme gave the commendations when closing a special Madaba councillors meeting that discussed issues and recommendations raised by the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) report for FY 2018/19

The CAG report said Madaba District Council received a clean audit report beginning FY 2016/17 to 2018/19 and Mndeme said to get a clean report for three consecutive years is a thing to be

emulated.

She also hailed the council for contributing 81.67 percent of the funds to women, youths and people with disabilities by dishing out 32m/- in loans from its 2018/19 budget and for collecting 578m/- revenue equivalent to 70.13 per cent.

"You must ensure you control loss of revenue in the council and revenue sources have to be controlled by taking appropriate steps, ensure all of your debtors pay their debts through POS machines as soon as possible," she said.

In the meantime Mndeme instructed the council's health experts to mobilise farmers to increase the production of the ginger crop and build processing plants thereof.

Research has found out that Madaba district council has more than 888 hectares of land fit for cultivation of the ginger crop, whereas only 256 farmers cultivate the crop, and the RC said it should be accorded priority.

She advised the council to increase production pace from its target for 2019/20 season to harvest 7.511 tonnes from 288 hectares saying the crop's market demand is huge both inside and outside the country.

The Madaba District Council chairman Fetus Mfikwa assured the RC that they will implement all the directives she had issued for it to continue receiving clean audit report every year, as well as increase the cultivation of the ginger crop and others including maize and avocado.



MADRASA EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMME

## JOB ADVERTISEMENT – 2 POSITIONS:

**Position 1: Project Officer – Human Rights Advocacy;**  
**Position 2. Project Officer- Inclusive Education and Integrated Early Childhood Development**

<b>Background</b>	Madrasa Early Childhood Programme -Zanzibar (MECP-Z) is an affiliate of The Aga Khan Foundation (AKF). For 30 years MECP-Z has been implementing Early Childhood Development (ECD) programmes in Zanzibar and in 2014 started to deliver its programming in mainland Tanzania.  Currently MECP-Z is implementing <b>Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID)</b> project in Zanzibar aimed at airing the voices of people with disability and to show everyone that disability is not inability. The project is delivered in partnership with Department of Disability Affairs (DDA) and Shirikisho la Jumuiya za Watu Wenye Ulemavu Zanzibar (SHIJUWAZA) under the support of Norwegian Association of Disabled (NAD).
	MECP-Z is looking for two committed and qualified professionals to fill the following positions:
<b>Position 1:</b>	<b>Project Officer - Inclusive Education and Integrated Early Childhood Development.</b>
<b>Roles and Responsibilities</b>	<p><b>General:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work as a Liaison officer between SHIJUWAZA and MECP-Z in the project.</li> <li>Liaise closely with NAD Regional IE Adviser (Kampala), and with NAD Oslo when required, while keeping MECP-Z and other actors informed.</li> <li>Liaise with key CBID actors on the CBID capacity development of key government structures, which includes IE and ECD elements, when requested.</li> <li>Verify/Monitor the work undertaken by the partners and service providers and reporting.</li> <li>Promote gender mainstreaming and inclusiveness within the project.</li> <li>Identify local challenges and risks that may affect the project and propose mitigation options.</li> <li>Ensure a harmonious relationship between the project, the communities, the government and other stakeholders.</li> <li>Facilitate smooth working conditions for external technical advisers on both IE components</li> </ul> <p><b>Specific focus:</b></p> <p><b>Component 1: DPO Capacity Building on IE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinate and lead facilitator of the capacity building of Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs) on IE, responsible for ensuring implementation of both national and district level activities.</li> <li>Coordinate the development of work plan and budget, request funds for activities and timely retirement of implemented activities</li> <li>Ensure the selection, capacity building and maintenance of a strong team of DPOs trainers at national and district levels.</li> <li>Ensure the development of a sound IE documentation and monitoring system within SHIJUWAZA</li> <li>Inform the project coordinator with reports which cover activities accomplished, targets reached, and ongoing monitoring information.</li> <li>Identify potential success stories and learnings from the field.</li> </ul> <p><b>Component 2: Teacher Training on IE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In collaboration with Inclusive Education and Life Skills Unit, SUZA and other actors involved in this component, coordinate the development of work plan and budget, request funds for activities and timely retirement of implemented activities.</li> <li>Ensure sound monitoring of IE teacher training activities, outputs and outcomes, and report to project management. Identify potential success stories and learnings from the field.</li> </ul>
<b>Qualifications and Experience required for position 1:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least Degree in Education, Masters is an added advantage.</li> <li>Knowledge and/or experience working rights based with civil society organizations.</li> <li>Experience working as a facilitator of participatory learning and active grassroots engagement.</li> <li>Experience coordinating collaboration between several actors.</li> <li>Possesses social organization skills and experience in Educational chains.</li> <li>At least 2 years of successful work with results-based project management.</li> <li>Good Command of English and Kiswahili.</li> <li>Strong in computer skills (Ms. Word, Excel and PowerPoint)</li> <li>Good communication skills in speaking and writing both English and Kiswahili.</li> </ul>
<b>Position 2:</b>	<b>Project officer: Human Rights Advocacy (HRA)</b>
<b>Roles and Responsibilities</b>	<p><b>General:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work as Liaison officer between SHIJUWAZA and MECP-Z in the project.</li> <li>Liaise closely with NAD Oslo when required, while keeping MECP-Z and other actors informed.</li> <li>Liaise with key CBID actors on the CBID capacity development of key government structures, which includes HRA elements, when requested.</li> <li>Verify/Monitor the work undertaken by the partners and service providers and reporting.</li> <li>Promote gender mainstreaming and inclusiveness within the project.</li> <li>Identify local challenges and risks that may affect the project and propose mitigation options.</li> <li>Ensure a harmonious relationship between the project, the communities, the government and other stakeholders.</li> <li>Facilitate smooth working conditions for external technical advisers on both HRA components.</li> </ul> <p><b>Specific focus:</b></p> <p><b>Component 1: Capacity Building and strengthening of SHIJUWAZA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lead human rights advocacy (HRA) work in Zanzibar and work closely with Federation of Disability People's organizations (SHIJUWAZA).</li> <li>Collaborate in building the organization capacity of SHIJUWAZA.</li> <li>Produce project reports including activities accomplished, targets reached, and ongoing monitoring information.</li> <li>Develop work plan and budget, request funds for activities and timely retirement of implemented activities.</li> </ul> <p><b>Component 2: Mainstreaming disability through the process of CBID</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote gender mainstreaming and inclusiveness in the selected districts.</li> <li>In collaboration with appropriate stakeholders, identify DPOs in selected area of project implementation.</li> <li>Maintain good communication with other NGOs and other local government officers, implementing partners and other relevant stakeholders.</li> <li>Follow up and observe the practice of rights of People with disability and in collaboration with DPOs take actions where needed.</li> <li>Identify potential success stories and learnings from the field.</li> <li>Identify local challenges and risks that may affect the project and propose mitigation options.</li> <li>Ensure a harmonious relationship between the project, the government and other stakeholders.</li> </ul>
<b>Qualification, Requirements and experiences</b>	<p>The applicant is expected to have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least a Degree in law, Social Sciences, Project Management. (Masters is an added advantage).</li> <li>Knowledge and/or experience working with rights based civil society organisations.</li> <li>Experience working as a facilitator of participatory learning and active grassroots engagement.</li> <li>Experience in coordinating and collaboration between several actors</li> <li>Social organization skills and experience in Human rights chains</li> <li>At least 2 years of successful work with results-based project management.</li> <li>Strong computer skills (Ms. Word, Excel and PowerPoint).</li> <li>Writing and speaking skills in both English and Swahili.</li> </ul>
<b>Application Process and Deadline</b>	<p>Interested candidates should submit a cover letter, a CV and the names and contact information of three referees before close of business <b>20<sup>th</sup> June 2020</b> to:</p> <p>Programme Director, Madrasa Early Childhood Program – Zanzibar Kiponda Street P. O. Box 3716 Zanzibar</p> <p><b>OR by e-mail to:</b> <a href="mailto:recruit.mecpz@akfea.org">recruit.mecpz@akfea.org</a></p> <p>Please mention the <b>Title of the Position</b> in the subject of your Email and <b>do not</b> attach any document other than the CV and cover letter.</p> <p><b>Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.</b>  <b>Women are encouraged to apply.</b>  <b>MECP-Z is an equal opportunity employer.</b></p>



# The Guardian

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TUESDAY 9 JUNE 2020

Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

## Food security critical issue for Africa today

FOOD security in sub-Saharan Africa is under threat. The ability of many Africans to access sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs has been disrupted by successive natural disasters and epidemics. Cyclones Idai and Kenneth, locust outbreaks in eastern Africa, and droughts in southern and eastern Africa are some examples. In some countries, over 70 per cent of the population has problems accessing food.

Sub-Saharan Africa is the world's most food-insecure region, and in the June 2020 sub-Saharan Africa Regional Economic Outlook, we show that climate change is increasing that insecurity.

The sub-Saharan is particularly vulnerable to the forces of climate change. Almost half the population lives below the poverty line and depends on rain-fed agriculture, herding, and fishing to survive. With each climate shock, whether drought, flood or cyclone, farmers suffer directly, while shortages elevate the price of food for all.

Africans are easily pushed into food insecurity because their ability to adapt is limited by many factors, including low savings and access to finance and insurance. As a result, lives are lost, malnutrition rises, health worsens, and school enrollment drops. All this, ultimately damages the economy's productive capacity.

At this critical juncture, sub-Saharan Africa needs to prioritize policies targeted at reducing risks to food security as part of fiscal stimulus packages.

African policies should focus on increasing agricultural output, and strengthening households' ability to withstand shocks. This would have the

added benefit of reducing inequalities while boosting economic growth and jobs.

Many countries in the region were proactive in protecting their food supply by raising crop productivity and reducing their sensitivity to inclement weather.

Maintaining this momentum calls for continued progress in improving irrigation, seeds, and erosion protection, all of which would substantially boost production. Meanwhile raising farmers' awareness would also accelerate implementation of these measures.

Adapting to climate change is critical to safeguarding the hard-earned progress in economic development sub-Saharan Africa has achieved in recent decades. However, adaptation will be especially challenging given countries' limited capacity and financial resources.

The priority then should be on making progress in select, critical areas which could have an outsized impact in reducing the chances of a family becoming food insecure when faced with shocks from climate change or epidemics.

For instance, progress in finance, telecoms, housing, and health care can reduce a family's chance of facing food shortages by 30 per cent.

Higher incomes from diverse sources, and access to finance would help households buy food even when prices rise, allow them to invest in resilience ahead of a shock, and better cope afterwards.

Access to mobile phone networks enables people to benefit from early warning systems and gives farmers information on food prices and weather—just a single text or voice message, could help them decide when to plant or irrigate.

## Climate-smart agriculture: What is it good for, really?

CLIMATE-SMART agriculture (CSA) is an integrated approach to managing landscapes to help adapt agricultural methods, livestock and crops to the ongoing human-induced climate change and, where possible, counteract it by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, at the same time taking into account the growing world population to ensure food security. Thus, the emphasis is not simply on sustainable agriculture, but also on increasing agricultural productivity.

CSA is in line with FAO's vision for Sustainable Food and Agriculture and supports FAO's goal to make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and more sustainable. CSA lists different actions to counter the future challenges for crops and plants. With respect to rising temperatures and heat stress, e.g. CSA recommends the production of heat tolerant crop varieties, mulching, water management, shade house, boundary trees and appropriate housing and spacing for cattle.

A growing global population and changing diets are driving up the demand for food. Production is struggling to keep up as crop yields level off in many parts of the world, ocean health declines, and natural resources—including soils, water and biodiversity—are stretched dangerously thin. The absolute number of undernourished people has increased to nearly 821 million in 2017, up from 784 million in 2015. The food security challenge will only become more difficult, as the world will need to produce about 70 percent more food by 2050 to feed an estimated 9 billion people.

The challenge is intensified by agriculture's extreme vulnerability to climate change. Climate change's negative impacts are already being felt, in the form of reduced yields and more

frequent extreme weather events, affecting crops and livestock alike. Substantial investments in adaptation will be required to maintain current yields and to achieve the required production increases.

Agriculture is also a major part of the climate problem. It currently generates 19-29 per cent of total GHG emissions. Without action, that percentage could rise substantially as other sectors reduce their emissions.

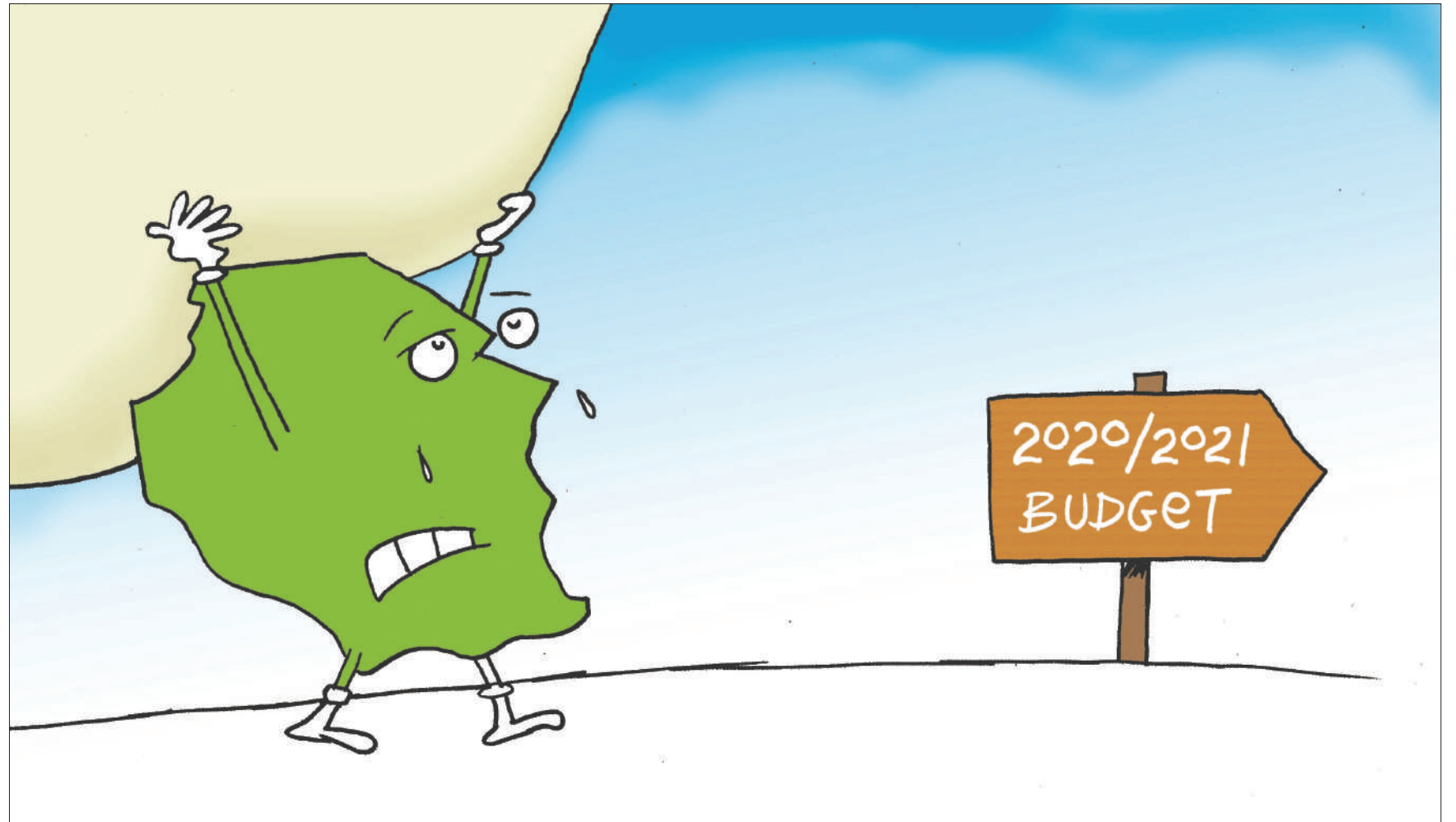
Food production in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda has to increase significantly to feed the population that is growing at an average of three per cent in Tanzania and Uganda and 2.5 per cent in Kenya, experts believe.

Adoption of climate smart production, harvesting and processing methodologies is key to improving productivity and efficiencies of the existing food crop production and supply systems. Achieving an increase in food production however requires concerted efforts and joint investments by supply chain actors, service providers and public sector partners, working in the different targeted value chains to support effective adaptation and mitigation strategies.

A five-year multi-country project for Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda is investing two million euros in grants to 14 agri-businesses in the three countries. The investment from the Climate Resilient Agribusiness for Tomorrow (CRAFT) project is specifically targeting companies and farmers working in the sunflower, soybean, sesame, common beans, potato and sorghum value chains in the three countries.

Menno Keizer, the CRAFT project manager for Tanzania, said recently in an interview that co-investment with the private sector is one of the key strategies identified by the project to achieve sustainable results.

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By Wandile Sihlobo

IT is crucial to assist small-scale farmers that were already struggling prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, but it is important to also continuously assess the impact of the pandemic on established farmers to ensure that national food security is maintained at all times.

While it is early to make a definitive assessment, one can argue that South Africa's agricultural sector has been relatively more insulated from the Covid-19 pandemic than other sectors of the economy that are on complete lockdown. The food production value chains are operational, albeit not at optimal levels, as take-aways, ready-made meals, meal deliveries and the informal traders selling cooked food along the sidewalks are still prohibited.

The sub-sectors that are still in complete lockdown from a trading perspective include wool and mohair, cotton, tobacco, wine and alcoholic beverages, and floriculture (flowers). The harvesting and storage of primary agricultural produce to prevent wastage is permitted under strict health regulations. With that said, without trading, the farming business that has been adversely affected by lockdown restrictions could experience short-term cash flow challenges.

Over the past few weeks, there have been two major policy interventions that I think will help to ease financial

## What policy interventions have been implemented to support agriculture?

pressures in the agricultural sector. The first, which was not directed specifically at the agriculture sector, is that the South African Reserve Bank has swiftly cut interest rates by a cumulative 225 basis points year to date. For a sector that has a record debt of R168-billion, the relief that lower interest rates could bring is substantial. Assuming that all the debt is on flexible interest rates, I estimate that the lower interest rates could bring savings in debt-service costs of about R3.8-billion for farmers over 12 months.

Second, for financially distressed small-scale farmers, the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development has ring-fenced R1.2-billion. This prioritises the poultry sector, livestock and vegetables, among other agricultural commodities that will be selected on a case-by-case basis. The farmers within the Proactive Land Acquisition Strategy programme are also included in this package.

While it is crucial to assist small-scale farmers who were already struggling prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, it is important to also continuously assess the impact of the pandemic on established farmers to ensure that national food security is maintained at all times. To

this effect, the manner in which the department evaluates the impact of the Covid-19 regulations on these specific farmers and the mechanisms on how the funds will be disbursed has to balance the need for transformative disbursements and food security.

I believe that an assessment of farmers' financial conditions and the ability to produce over the coming months could be helpful in strategically selecting additional beneficiaries for this fund. Ultimately, the goal should be to assist those who have been negatively affected by either weak demand and struggling to proceed into the next production cycle or those whose farming businesses were hard hit by regulations. For this process, one requires a longer time-frame than the one currently stipulated by the government, which is 8-22 April.

What's more, it is plausible to argue that regulatory easing in the agricultural sector could be more effective than financial interventions. As we approach the end of the lockdown, 30 April, policymakers will have to devise strategies to gradually ease trading conditions in the currently prohibited sub-sectors of agriculture. Some of these sub-sectors, such as the wool and mohair industry, support small-

scale farmers in the rural Eastern Cape. The wine industry is also among the key job-creating industries, with roughly 43,000 jobs. The same is true for all the aforementioned industries in terms of economic and job-creating importance in the rural economy.

Overall, the recent policy interventions, specifically on interest rates, are a welcome relief on easing the financial conditions of the indebted farmers. The financial support to small-scale farmers will need further refinement on the criteria and also the timing of the release of the finance to maximise its impact.

Ultimately, the easing of the lockdown restrictions, with strict adherence to health regulations in the process, could have a more positive impact on South Africa's agricultural sector. In the process, however, it would be important to monitor regulations in South Africa's trading partners as those could ultimately influence business conditions domestically. Global supply chains are likely to take months to normalise, even after the lockdown restrictions around the world start to ease. South Africa's agricultural sector is export-dependent, with exports accounting for nearly half of the production in value terms.

## The problem with modern monetary theory

By Willem H Buiter

MODERN Monetary Theory (MMT) offers a dangerous half-truth that has become particularly seductive now that governments are desperate for tools with which to keep their economies afloat.

In a recent statement by MMT proponent Stephanie Kelton to the Financial Times, referring to the United Kingdom's current Conservative government, argues that, "They're going to have massive deficits. And it's fine."

The problem is that while this assessment is correct for now, it won't necessarily be correct in the future. Indeed, we should anticipate that the year following the end of the Covid-19 lockdown could be when MMT falls flat on its face - starting, perhaps, with a burst of inflation in the UK. But, even barring that specific outcome, policymakers are flirting with disaster if they accept MMT's main message, which can be paraphrased as: "Deficit, schmeficit. Just boost public spending or cut taxes, then monetise the resulting imbalance."

To be sure, some parts of MMT make sense. The theory views the treasury (or finance ministry) and the central bank as components of a single unit called the state. The treasury is the beneficial owner of the central bank (or, put another way,

the central bank is the treasury's liquidity window), which implies that central-bank independence is an illusion, especially when it comes to its fiscal and quasi-fiscal operations.

MMT holds, correctly, that because the state can print currency or create commercial bank deposits with the central bank, it can issue base money at will. And because the monetary base is irredeemable, it is not in any meaningful sense a liability (even though it is certainly viewed as an asset by the holder). As long as the non-monetary debt issued by the state is denominated in domestic currency, sovereign default is a choice, not a matter of necessity, because debt servicing can always be funded (by creating money).

But if sovereign default is a choice, there are circumstances in which it might be chosen. If the deficit that needs to be monetised is large enough, and if the interest on the public debt accounts for a significant part of that deficit, the monetary financing required to maintain sovereign solvency might result in a politically unacceptable rate of inflation. In that case, the sovereign might opt for the "lesser evil": defaulting on its domestic-currency-denominated debt.

To get to the heart of the matter, forget about issues such as bond financing, and focus directly on how the state funds the deficit by creating money. Assume that

public spending and tax revenues are fixed in real (inflation-adjusted) terms. The resulting real deficit will be equal to the increment in the real stock of base money that the private sector must be willing to absorb each period.

There are two "regimes" for base-money demand. The first is where many of the advanced economies now find themselves: in a liquidity trap at the effective lower bound (ELB) for the nominal policy rate. At the prevailing near-zero risk-free short-term nominal interest rate, the effective demand for real-money balances is infinitely elastic. In this case, it is proper for fiscal authorities to follow a simple dictum: when in doubt, shovel it out. "Helicopter money" - monetised increases in public spending or tax cuts - is an appropriate policy response under such extraordinary conditions. So long as interest rates are stuck at the ELB, cash disbursements will not be inflationary.

Yet one must remember that domestic or foreign developments affecting financial markets or the real economy can quickly eject a country from its ELB perch, landing it in what economists would call a normal monetary regime, where the policy rate is above the ELB. With Japan stuck at or near the ELB for the past 20 years, the concept of "normal" may require some rethinking. Nonetheless, it would be reckless to design policies on the assumption that

the neutral interest rate (the interest rate that would prevail with the economy at full employment and inflation on target) will hover near zero for the foreseeable future.

In this second, normal scenario, there still would be no inflationary threat so long as the economy has excess capacity (idle resources). But when demand for the monetary base is constrained by interest rates and the level of economic activity (measured, say, by income or consumption), the unbridled monetisation of state deficits would eventually exhaust what slack there is, putting upward pressure on the rate of inflation.

At this point, no one can know whether the Covid-19 pandemic will have lasting effects on supply relative to demand. Although weak investment and strong precautionary saving are likely to depress neutral and market interest rates while the pandemic persists, we should be prepared for when social distancing becomes a thing of the past and supply chains are at least partly restored. Governments will have to adjust their fiscal position and its financing accordingly. MMT thus ignores the level of demand for base money at its peril. DM

Willem H. Buiter, a former chief economist at Citigroup, is a visiting professor at Columbia University.



# Could the coronavirus be weakening as it spreads?

By Markham Heid

ON May 31, the news agency Reuters published an article with an optimistic but incendiary headline: 'New coronavirus losing potency, top Italian doctor says'.

The story included comments from hospital leaders in Milan and Genoa, cities in two regions of northern Italy that have been hit hard by Covid-19. The doctors' comments were pulled from published news reports in the Italian media, and both suggested that the virus is growing weaker.

Matteo Bassetti, MD, PhD, is head of the Infectious Diseases Clinic at the San Martino-IST University Hospital and a professor of infectious diseases at the University of Genoa. He is quoted in the Reuters piece as having said: "The strength the virus had two months ago is not the same strength it has today."

Reached for comment sometime later, Bassetti elaborated on his prior statement for Elemental. "What is happening in our hospitals - at least in the northern part of Italy - the clinical impression is that the disease is now different compared to the disease of three months ago," he says.

He explained further: "The majority of patients who presented in our emergency rooms or wards during March and April were very sick with acute respiratory distress syndrome, shock, multiple organ failure, and the majority died in the first days after admission. Now in May, we no longer see these types of patients."

Bassetti, who has completed a post-doctoral fellowship at Yale University, was quick to say that he was not basing his views on lab-confirmed findings - that his statements were based on his own interactions with patients and his conversations with other doctors.

"The clinical impression here is that the virus is different," he said, adding: "Is this because the virus lost some viral potency? Or because the viral load or total count of the virus is lower? I don't know."

Expert speculation that the virus could be weakening is unpopular - and maybe also dangerous. The Reuters piece was republished in the New York Times and elsewhere, and it triggered an immediate wave of backlash.

Health officials within Italy and at the World Health Organisation refuted the Italian doctors' comments, and a panel of UK-based experts said that any claims that the virus is weakening were dubious and not supported by evidence.

"I think it's just not plausible at this point in time. We've seen no evidence of widespread attenuation," says Oscar MacLean, PhD, one of those panelists and a bioinformatician at the Institute for Infection, Immunity and Inflammation at the University of Glasgow in the UK.

It's also worth noting that the push to loosen business and quarantine restrictions in Italy is politicised, as it is in the US. Some government officials there have accused their colleagues in the north of manipulating patient data and testing protocols in order to expedite the reopening process in their regions.

But some say that the Italian doctors' claims are plausible - if not proven. "Every time a virus passes from one person to another, it goes through mutations. Over time these mutations can accumulate, and the virulence of the virus can ultimately lessen," notes Lee Riley, MD.

Riley, a professor and chair of the division of infectious disease and vaccinology at the University of California's Berkeley School of Public Health, says that it's possible that these mitigating mutations are occurring in Italy - and maybe even in parts of the US.

"I think this is happening in many places already, including in New York City. It's the nature of these viruses to get tired after a while," he adds.

## How some viruses evolve

While plenty of viruses kill, high lethality is not a trait that the most successful viruses possess - at least not in the long term. And no one doubts that Covid-19 could, theoretically, become weaker as time passes.

"This is definitely something that can happen. Over time there can be a general selection for decreased virulence," says MacLean.

How does that occur? In oversimplified terms, some different mutations or "strains" of Covid-19 - scientists around the world have already identified roughly 10,000 of them - could be milder than others.

And if this mildness helps them spread more rapidly - for example, by helping them elude detection - then that could lead to a softening of the virus over time.

But MacLean says that plenty of scientists are on the lookout for these types of changes - in large populations and in small communities - and so far they don't see evidence that mild strains are taking hold and displacing more severe ones.

However, that doesn't mean that patient outcomes are not improving in some places - as Bassetti says he has observed.

MacLean highlights an Italian study published in late May that found that the virus's lethality in April had "significantly decreased" compared to its lethality in March.

But that study's authors cite improved clinical management as the likeliest cause of the decrease. "This makes sense," MacLean says. As doctors and health care systems gain experience treating the virus, they're likely to get better at it.

"Along with changes in hospital capacity, triage and treatment methods, as testing efforts get amplified, more mild and asymptomatic cases will be detected," he says.

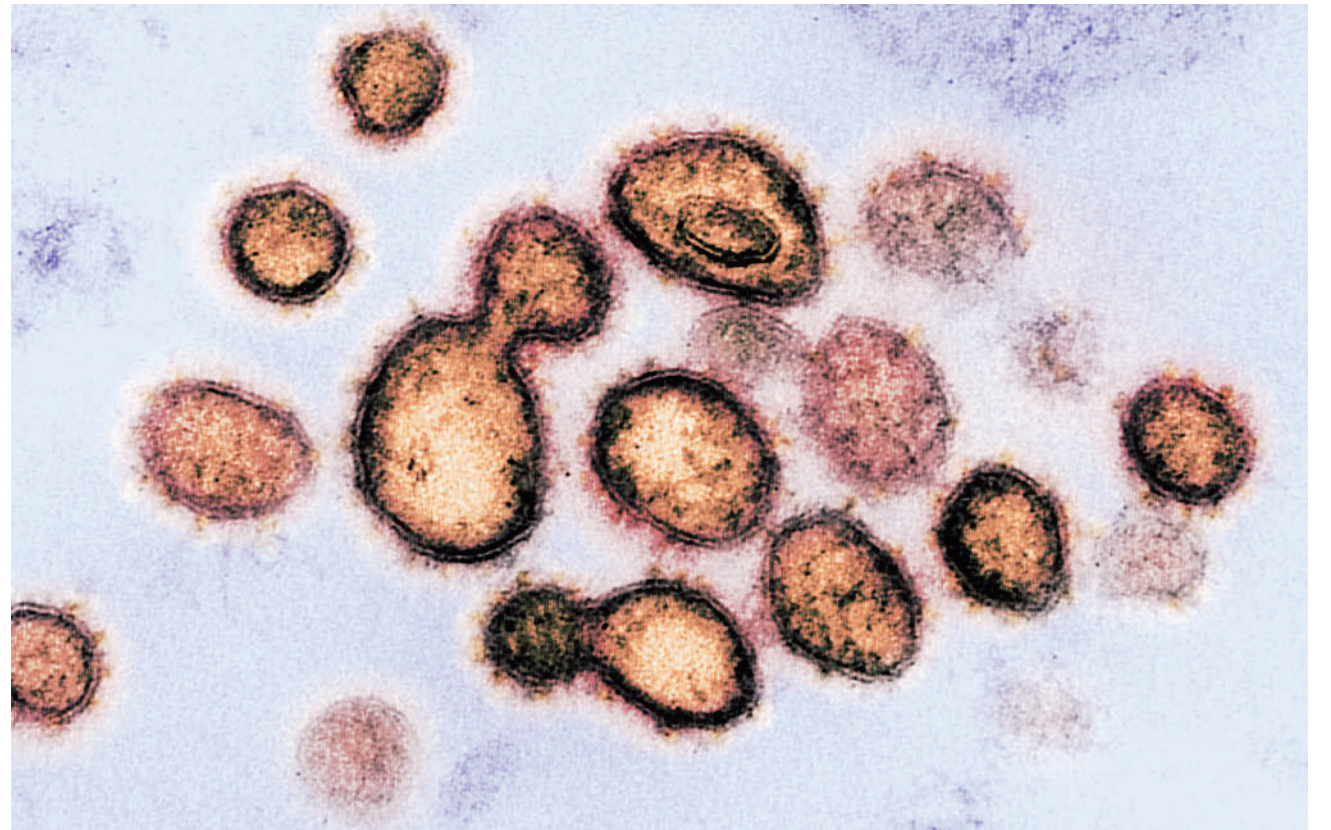
He adds: "On the ground, that will probably look like a change on the virus's part, but you need to be far more systematic in controlling those confounders to make the claim that it's attenuating."

Other experts echo MacLean's sentiments and say that Covid-19 is unlikely to weaken in the near term. Mark Cameron, PhD, an infectious disease researcher and associate professor at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, says: "Yes, the Golden Rule is that viruses tend to mutate and evolve over time to become less pathogenic while we become more resistant. But that doesn't happen over a matter of a few months - it's more like a matter of years."

Cameron says that coronaviruses, compared to other viruses such as influenza, are genetically very stable - which means that they're less likely to mutate in ways that could lessen the severity of the resulting illness. He says that, in some ways, this stability is a good thing; it means that if and when a Covid-19 vaccine is available, we won't have to worry about the virus changing in ways that render the vaccine ineffective.

"The virus has changed with small mutations since it emerged from Wuhan, but the sum total of those mutations has not changed the pathogenesis or severity of the disease it causes in humans, or its ability to spread among us," Cameron explains, adding: "I think it's highly unlikely that this virus is going to help us out by evolving into a less pathogenic version."

Robert Salata, MD, one of Cameron's colleagues at Case Western Reserve, is a professor of medicine and also physician in chief at the University Hospitals. "To make these



statements without genetic evidence, in my opinion, was the wrong thing to do," he says of the Italian doctors' comments.

He says that these sorts of unsubstantiated claims are dangerous because they may encourage some people to lower their guard or take fewer precautions, which could lead to an elevated risk of infection. He adds that, in his hospital system in Cleveland, he has seen no evidence that the virus is weakening or changing.

## An uncertain outlook

UC-Berkeley's Riley meanwhile says that his belief that Covid-19 could be weakening is not one that his colleagues share. "I don't know of other experts who think the way I do, and I could be totally off the mark. But I look at real-world data instead of predictive models to come up with my ideas," he says.

He points out that the number of new cases and deaths has steadily declined

in New York City and many other hard-hit areas, and that there are no places in Asia where, once the epidemic swept through a city or a community, another wave of similar magnitude returned.

Riley argues that there are multiple explanations for this, and that social-distancing guidelines partly explain the encouraging trends, adding: "But a more likely reason is that the virus itself has evolved during the initial big wave of the epidemic and lost its high pathogenicity."

He offers a hopeful prediction, though one he readily admits is speculative: "We'll continue to see low numbers of mild-to-moderate cases, but the severe cases and deaths are likely to gradually disappear over the six months following the initial big wave."

But he quickly adds that this prediction assumes that most people will continue to wear masks in public places, practise social distancing, and follow other safety measures.

However, others say the data - both

on Covid-19 and on related viruses - do not support such a sanguine take. "In Toronto in 2003, we thought we had beaten back SARS, but then we got hit with a second wave that lasted as long as the first," says Case Western Reserve's Cameron.

"That may be where we are now. We think the worst might be over, but a second wave may wash over us and reset the clock," he adds.

If people underestimate Covid-19 or ignore public-health guidelines, Cameron says, a second wave is still the likeliest scenario.

He elaborates: "That's the risk we're taking right now if we loosen our public-health response. I hope it doesn't take a new peak in infections to get people to adhere to some of the simple things that they can do to prevent new infections and potential suffering."

**A piece originally published in Elemental, a new Medium publication about health and wellness. Markham Heid is a health and science writer.**

## Man behind Sweden's controversial virus strategy admits mistakes

By Rafaela Lindeberg

SWEDEN'S top epidemiologist has admitted that his strategy to fight Covid-19 resulted in too many deaths, after he persuaded his country to avoid a strict lockdown.

"If we were to encounter the same illness with the same knowledge that we have today, I think our response would land somewhere in between what Sweden did and what the rest of the world has done," Anders Tegnell said in an interview with Swedish Radio.

Tegnell is the brains behind Sweden's controversial approach to fighting the coronavirus, and the government of Prime Minister Stefan Lofven has deferred to the epidemiologist in its official response to the pandemic.

Gatherings of more than 50 people continue to be banned, but throughout the crisis Swedes have been able to visit restaurants, go shopping, attend gyms and send children under 16 to school.

The laxer approach to containing the virus has drawn both praise and condemnation from across the globe. What is beyond debate, however, is the effect that the strategy has had on the country's death toll.

At 43 deaths per 100,000, Sweden's mortality rate is among the highest globally and far exceeds that of neighbouring Denmark and Norway, which imposed much tougher lockdowns at the onset of the pandemic.

"Clearly, there is potential for improvement in what we have done in Sweden," Tegnell said.

The comments appeared to frustrate some members of the government. Sweden's Health and Social Affairs minister Lena Hallengren, said Tegnell still can't give an exact answer on what other measures should have been taken. "That question remains, I think," Dagens Nyheter quoted the minister as



Anders Tegnell, state epidemiologist at The Public Health Agency of Sweden, speaks at a news conference in Stockholm. Photo: Mikael Sjöberg/Bloomberg

having said. Until now, Tegnell had argued that the long-term nature of the Covid-19 pandemic required a more sustainable response than severe and sudden lockdowns and - despite criticism from abroad - his strategy enjoyed widespread support in Sweden.

But with many other European Union countries now rolling back their lockdowns after appearing to bring Covid-19 under control, there are signs that Sweden may be left behind. That includes the freedom of movement of its citizens, as some EU countries restrict access to people coming from what are deemed high-risk Covid zones.

What's more, there's so far limited evidence that Sweden's decision to leave much of its society open will support the economy. Finance minister Magdalena Andersson recently warned


that the country is facing its worst economic crisis since World War II, with GDP set to slump 7 per cent this year, roughly as much as the rest of the EU.

The government has started to grow concerned at the apparent missteps taken to fight the spread of the coronavirus in Sweden. Lofven earlier this month promised that there would be an inquiry into the handling of the crisis before the summer.

Some lawmakers in Sweden's parliament were quick to weigh in. Jimmie Akesson, the leader of the anti-immigration Sweden Democrats, tweeted that the comments by Tegnell are "astounding".

"For months, critics have been consistently dismissed. Sweden has done everything right, the rest of the world has done it wrong. And now, suddenly, this," Akesson said.

**Bloomberg**



## NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Notice is hereby given** that the 35th Annual General Meeting of **Swissport Tanzania Plc**, in respect of the year ended 31st December 2019, will be held virtually on Monday, 29th June 2020 at **14:00 hours**.


**AGENDA:**

1. Notice and Quorum
2. Confirmation of the Agenda
3. Confirmation of the minutes of the 34th Annual General Meeting
4. To discuss matters arising from minutes of the previous meeting
5. To receive, consider and adopt the Directors' Report, Auditor's Report and Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2019
6. Appropriation of Profits
7. To fix directors' remuneration
8. Appointment of External Auditors for the financial year 2020 and Authorize Board of Directors to fix auditors' remuneration
9. Any other business

**NOTES**

1. A member who intends to attend the meeting must register by submission of a copy of his/her share certificate together with his/her personal identification (Passport, National ID or Driving Licence) to [info@cadsecurities.com](mailto:info@cadsecurities.com). Registration will be closed at **16:00 hours** on Friday, 26th June 2020. Login credentials will be emailed to individual shareholders after successful registration.
2. A member entitled to attend and vote at the meeting is entitled to appoint a **PROXY** to attend and vote on his/her behalf in accordance with the provisions of the Articles and of Association of the Company.
3. A proxy form and identification of the proxy must be deposited at the registered office of the Company or emailed to [info@cadsecurities.com](mailto:info@cadsecurities.com) before registration is **closed at 16:00 hours on Friday, 26th June 2020**.
4. For clarifications please call on **+255 777 787845 or +255 765 422 664**

**BY ORDER OF THE BOARD**  
Dated at Dar es Salaam this 9th day of June, 2020

  
**KW KAPINGA & PARTNERS**  
 COMPANY SECRETARY

**From landing to take-off: we care!**



# Role of improved seeds towards boosting livelihoods and food security in Tanzania -2

**IMPROVED seed is pivotal in improvement of food security and farm household livelihood in the country. In this second part, Our reporter GERALD KITABU talks to the Chief Executive Officer of Agriculture Seed Agency (ASA), Dr. SOPHIA KASHENGE-KILLENKA on the role of Agriculture Seed Agency (ASA) and achievements made so far in minimizing seed availability challenges.**

**QUESTION: What are the challenges facing your Agency?**

**ANSWER:** Despite huge challenges ASA is facing including inadequate funds ASA needs only Seed money to unlock the existing challenges and become self sustaining. Lack capital investments such as irrigation infrastructures, poor and old farms implements, poor seed storage facilities, dilapidated staff houses and offices, difficulties in preparing title deeds for some of ASA farms due to high and escalating long outstanding land rents acquired even before ASA ownership, this contributing to failure in processing the title deeds for some farms), and inadequate of working capital such as farming inputs, processing cost and distribution cost), ASA still made a good progress recently in increasing both quantity and quality of seed production. This has been done using mainly Own Source Revenue (OSR).

**Q: What is your functions?**

**A:** The Agency was launched in June 2006 as a semi-autonomous body under the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA). The aim of establishing ASA is to ensure high quality agricultural seeds are available to farmers at affordable price. ASA key functions includes; Expanding seed production and distribution networks so as to facilitate seed accessibility by farmers, Promotion of increased private sector participation in the seed industry development through establishment of public-private partnerships or joint ventures in seed pro-

duction. Distribution and promote the use of improved seeds and Strengthening collaboration with research institutions in matters related to breeding and producing varieties that address farmers' specific demands. ASA is the government institution under the law mandated for multiplication and distribution of government seeds. The main ASA product is therefore seed of different crops and grades (basic and certified).

Although other seed companies are marketing similar products, ASA products and services are different and unique. ASA concentrate in crops that most companies are not producing and therefore there is less competition in the market. For example, for maize, most seed companies are producing hybrid maize, but ASA is producing mainly OPV and small quantities of hybrid maize for selected locations. The trend is some of 26 different type of seeds ranging from Sorghum, Sesame (2 varieties), sunflower, beans (5 varieties), Maize OPV (4 varieties), Maize hybrid (2 varieties), vegetables (5 types), paddy (5 types), wheat (2 varieties), Cassava (3 varieties) and others. Private companies do not produce all these crops, most companies' produce 2-3 crop types to maximize profit. But farmers need improved seed for the crops they are producing regardless of how small the crop is in the market. Furthermore, researchers have developed the new and range of varieties, they need to get them to farmers. This is when the government understood the scenario and established a semi autonomous institution to make sure farmers gets the improved seeds for the varieties developed by researchers and for a range of crops needed by farmers but not interested by seed companies.

**Q: Despite the challenges how are you performing?**

**A:** In recent years between 2015 and 2019, total seeds produced by ASA showed an increasing trend from 587 ton to 1,436 ton per annum (CAGR



Chief Executive Officer of Agriculture Seed Agency (ASA), Dr. SOPHIA KASHENGE-KILLENKA

28% per annum). Though, the total volume is very small compared to the market demand but its contribution to country seed availability is remarkable and increasing. In Tanzania, as I mentioned earlier, we have more than 170 seed companies and all have produced a total of 51,040MT of improved seeds 35,000MT were for cotton seeds that means all the companies produced about 16,040 MT of the established effective seed demand is 187,197 MT and a potential seed demand is 371,753 MT. Therefore the work ahead to all seed player (Private and public) is huge, so we all need to work around the clock minimize the existing gap. Of the 16,040 MT of seeds produced ASA's contributed 9% of total improved seed available in the county in 2019, an increase from 3% in 2015. With the level of production recorded in 2019, ASA rank second in the list of companies produce seeds locally in the country.

Despite all the progress, ASA operations are still at a lower level compared to its resources. For example, though the arable ASA's land that is currently cultivated (in 2019/20) is 34.5% this is an increase from 9% used in 2013/14. A

portion of the land is leased to private sector for their production activities and for contract farming. As mentioned earlier, promotion of increased private sector participation in the seed industry development through establishment of public-private partnerships or joint ventures in seed production is one of the key functions of ASA. Since 2015, ASA has started to invite private seed companies to produce seed using ASA land resource under public-Private partnership. Through this partnership the contribution of ASA in availability of improved seed in the country has increased from 9% to 28%. A plan still exists to invite more partners and make fully utilization of ASA land resource. This will involve acquiring more land reserve for seed production, opening of new land, looking for financial capacity and install irrigation infrastructure to minimize drought challenges and increase seed production circles.

**Q: One of the most challenging issues for the majority of seed companies is having suitable land for seed production. What is your comment on land requirement for seed production?**

**A:** One of the most challeng-

ing issues for the majority of seed companies is having suitable land for seed production. One of the requirements for proper seed production is to have big land area that allows isolation distance (the distance between two varieties of seeds of similar crops or distance from farmers' fields and seed production plots). Taking example of sunflower seed production plot, a minimum of one 1500 meters away from one sunflower field to another is needed as an isolation distance. Available ASA land (as a government institution) is utilized by some of the companies to get areas that qualify to such requirements. Again, companies are trying to secure land areas close to seeds consumers to minimize costs of seeds production. Generally, producing seed more than 400km away from the sales points it is not economical. Therefore it is a special need to most of the companies to have farm land in areas they can produce at minimum costs. Looking into future projections on food demand and security, enhancing local seed production and production of our own seeds is of high a prerequisite. Having a seed farms close by the seed consumers is an important thing to do for ASA so

that farmers can timely access improved seed and companies can utilize the resource.

**Q: Now, what is your efforts to acquire more land reserve for seed production?**

**A:** ASA seed production activities are implemented using its farms located in different agro ecological zones of Tanzania. ASA is having nine seed farms with a total of 12,188ha of land, of which 8,346ha are arable land for farming, equivalent to 70% of farm land. As a government institution, this is the only land allocated for seed production in the country. With the current growing population most agricultural land turned into construction and cities. We have seen dwindling of potential land for agriculture. Looking into the future, getting enough food will be a challenge if we don't spare some land for seed production today. The available land is inadequate for future seed production to get enough to feed the growing food needs. Through this understanding, ASA has been into securing more government land reserve for food production focusing Lake Zone areas where there is a potential market for ASA seeds. ASA is currently serving farmers in Lake Zone from Morogoro and Bugaga - Kasulu farms, the distance always hinders quick services as well as increasing seed production costs. Efforts are therefore geared towards looking for potential farms around Lake Zone. These farms can also provide the opportunity for Private seed company to produce their own seeds and increase the volume of improved seeds production in the country. Our aim is to make sure the country is seed secured.

**Question: We have seen that since 2018 that TARI centers and other private sector have also started producing and distributing seeds, what is your comments on this?**

**Answer:** In my view, yes we need more improved seeds to be produced and whoever can contribute in minimizing the existing seed demand gap will be appreciated. TARI have more

than 16 research centers and have more than 700 staffs, this is a good capacity for such activity to be conducted. However, seed production is another huge task and a very expensive one. The original and core mandate of TARI is to conduct Research and this is a huge task and core to every developmental agenda including food and seed security. Apart from having discovering the new varieties, TARI have a task of testing them in different environments generate good agriculture practices, pest and disease management practices and control research, understand their grain qualities nutritional values and some genetically changes and fluctuations occurring in varieties due to climate and environmental changes as well as new diseases and pests occurring and damages the existing varieties. When such changes occurs, companies and to this stage, ASA return the varieties to researcher for more observation, modification and genetic enhancement to suit a particular environment or mitigating for a particular challenge. They need to go father on social economical studies, Marketing, Soil health research and so many Issues.

Creating a balance between all these and avoiding skewing toward seed production is essential and again design a variety, (selecting parents, making crossing, doing series of selection up to 6 to 8 circles to acquire uniformity, then testing it into different location, researching for their agronomic practices, grain qualities, performance under disease and pest pressure, studying the nutritional status, marketing research at the same time producing all the seed classes (Breeder, prebasic, basic and certified seeds) and taking the seeds to farmers (while ASA and Private sectors are doing the same) It is extremely huge task that if not well monitored can compromise quality and speed of the core mandate activities. It needs a proper strategy and strong monitoring on quality management of the products. So a serious check and balance is needed to make sure the activities are not compromising each other.

## How a global ocean treaty could protect biodiversity in high seas

By Jennifer Silver, Leslie Acton, Lisa Campbell and Noella Gray.

OCEANS cover 70 per cent of the Earth's surface. But, because many of us spend most of our lives on land, the 362 million square kilometres of blue out there aren't always top of mind.

While vast, oceans are not empty. They are teeming with life and connected to society through history and culture, shipping and economic activity, geopolitics and recreation.

But oceans – along with coastal people and marine species – are vulnerable, and good ocean governance is critical to protect these expanses from pollution, overfishing and climate change, to name just some of the threats.

The laws, institutions and regulations in place for the oceans are a multi-layered patchwork and always a work in progress.

Common heritage of humankind  
Some characterize oceans as the "common heritage of humankind." As such, the United Nations plays a critical role in ocean governance, and the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) is a key international agreement. The agreement grants coastal and island states authority over swaths of ocean extending 200 nautical miles (360 kilometres) from the shore. These are called exclusive

economic zones (EEZ).

EEZs are domestic spaces. Countries enshrine law and delegate authority to state agencies that lead monitoring, management and enforcement in these zones.

Indigenous peoples also assert jurisdictional authority and coastal peoples hold critical insight about coastal and marine ecosystems. Governance is improved when state agencies share power and collaborate.

For example, during the Newfoundland cod collapse, inshore fishermen had local ecological knowledge about changing cod stock dynamics that might have helped avoid the disaster.

**Areas beyond national jurisdiction**

A vast portion of the ocean lies beyond EEZs: 64 per cent by area and 95 per cent by volume. These regions are often referred to as the high seas. The high seas are important for international trade, fishing fleets, undersea telecommunications cables and are of commercial interest to mining companies. The high seas also host a wide array of ecosystems and species. Many of these are understudied or altogether unrecorded.

UN agreements identify high seas using a technical term "areas beyond national jurisdiction" that refers to the water column. The sea floor is identified separately and called "the area." UNCLOS and other pieces of international law regulate activity in these



spaces and are responsible for ensuring that no single country or company dominates or benefits unfairly.

Other multilateral, sector-based arrangements manage particularly complex resources. For example, regional fisheries management organizations bring na-

tion states together to collaborate on monitoring and managing fish stocks, like tuna, that have large ranges and cross multiple borders and boundaries.

**The biodiversity governance gap**

Currently, international law

does not meaningfully address biodiversity monitoring and conservation in the high seas. This "biodiversity governance gap" has been of concern for the past two decades.

Without a binding mechanism under international law, countries are not obligated to co-op-

erate on developing and implementing conservation measures in the high seas. In addition, monitoring the impacts of various economic activities, such as fishing and mining, on biodiversity is piecemeal and inadequate. Marine species or even entire ecosystems could be lost before we have had a chance to identify and understand them.

On Dec. 24, 2017, the UN General Assembly voted to convene a multi-year process to develop a treaty on "the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction."

Three of the scheduled negotiation sessions have taken place, while the fourth and final one, scheduled for March 2020, was postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic. Some progress has been made. Notably, the draft treaty addresses four key areas: marine genetic resources; area-based management tools, including marine protected areas; environmental impact assessments and capacity building and the transfer of marine technology.

**Yet, many disagreements remain.**

For example, countries diverge on the extent to which governance should prioritize the principle of oceans as the "common heritage of humankind." Very pragmatic questions underlie this tension: should marine genetic sequences be commercialized? If so, how would this work and will it be possible to agree on a way to share benefits fairly? These are critical and how they are addressed will determine if persistent inequities between the Global North and Global South are lessened or exacerbated.

Another challenge relates to marine protected areas (MPAs), especially how they are defined and implemented. What levels of protection are needed for an area to count as an MPA? How much should the treaty predetermine processes used to establish new MPAs and how will MPA rules be enforced?



# Small traders urged to utilise fully recently issued IDs

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

PETTY traders in Dodoma city have been urged to utilise fully the issuance of traders Identification Cards (IDs) provided by the government so as to conduct their activities freely and profitably.

Speaking at a meeting with the leadership of petty traders here,

Dodoma city council marketing officer James Yuna urged the leaders to promote and encourage more petty traders to take the IDs.

"Leaders have a huge role to play and they are able to educate the traders on the importance of the IDs, we should all work together to complement the government's efforts which are aimed to improve lives and in-

come of petty traders," bhe said.

Yuna said that the IDs mainly focus on youth, men and women who are engaging in small scale entrepreneurship to enable them improve their businesses and thus cater for their daily basic needs.

"We want our petty entrepreneurs conduct their activities peacefully without being disturbed by anyone, we want them

to grow, improve their businesses and earn more," Yuna added.

For her part, Petty Trader Secretary in Dodoma District Anna Ndaga commended the government for the move as it has helped a number of petty traders who were previously conducting their activities in a stressful condition.

She wanted the traders to avoid conducting their activities

in restricted areas to avoid entering into conflict with the government authorities.

"The provision of the special IDs to petty traders is a big step which should be commended. The IDs have brought positive impacts to the traders and the government, they have enabled small-scale traders to be recognized and respected and being able to grab various business op-

portunities," she added.

Ndaga noted that as the country mulls to become middle income and an industrialised nation by 2025, petty traders are among key drivers of the agenda.

Late 2018, President John Magufuli launched the programme to provide vendors and small-scale entrepreneurs with special taxpayer ID cards which he printed in efforts to expand

tax base in the country.

When handing over the cards to regional commissioners, he charged the leaders to ensure proper distribution of the cards.

The ID cards will be renewable annually and are available at a price of 20,000/- . Anyone running a business with a maximum profit turnaround of 4 million/- is eligible to have one.

## Space tech supports conservation efforts in better informing pro-Africa growth

By Sara Jerving

AT the Balule Nature Reserve in South Africa, rangers were using decades-old maps to track down poachers. They patrolled the entire 155-square-mile reserve – with limited success.

Then in 2014, the reserve recruited consultant Tom Snitch, who brought in satellite imagery of the park – outlining features such as game trails and watering holes. It was the first time these rangers saw an overhead view of the park they patrol every day.

The rangers stuck colored pins onto the map to mark the spots where they had found a dead elephant, rhino, or lion. They identified clusters of pins – all within about 520 feet of a couple roads outside the reserve. It became clear the poachers were driving on the road outside the park's fence, looking in to spot the animals. They would then wait until nightfall, hop the fence, and kill the animals.

In response, the reserve instructed its rangers to focus on patrolling the road. When they found animals within 520 feet of the road at the end of the day, they would try to encourage them back into the bush.

"Almost immediately, the poaching stopped," Snitch said. "This was not a great intellectual leap of mathematics. ... What they needed to do is use satellite imagery to reduce the amount of space they needed to cover."

This is just one of the ways that satellites are being used to support conservation efforts on the African continent. Beyond poaching, space technology can also be used to identify deforestation and grassland degradation, as well as to better inform wildfire management – helping to protect wildlife and the communities that depend on these animals for tourism revenue and to support their livelihoods.

Habitat loss is the leading threat to wildlife in Africa, as agriculture, infrastructure projects, and resource extraction jeopardize habitats and animal migration corridors. It is also the main threat to 85% of endangered or threatened species globally.

Kenya is a popular destination for nature-based tourism, which helps employ communities and fund conservation efforts.

"Wildlife is important to Kenya and the Kenyan economy – it's very, very critical in terms of driving Kenya's economy and improving people's livelihoods," said Yussuf Wato, wildlife expert for WWF Kenya.

But in addition to the threat of poaching, the country's wildlife is facing habitat loss and degradation, among other significant challenges, as the growing population of humans competes for the same land and resources. "Most of the species that we are managing are reducing in numbers," Wato said.

In 2015, the World Wide Fund for Nature and its partners started putting GPS satellite tracking devices on elephants in Kenya to help understand their behaviors and prevent poaching. Currently, 10 elephants are collared in the country, and the organization is doing the same in Cameroon, Gabon, and Tanzania.

The collars allow WWF to identify elephants' locations and the park to allocate more rangers to those areas. Alerts can also be issued when elephants are killed or approach communities – helping rangers prevent retaliatory killings if the animals destroy property or hurt people.

"The conservation of our environment ... is critical to national development, enhancing human well-being, and sustaining the country's economy," said Jean Kapata, Zambian minister of lands and natural resources



An elephant in Kenya with a GPS satellite tracking device collar around its neck

By identifying where elephants spend their time, researchers can determine landscape highlights – such as water or certain plants – that draw in the animals. Local officials can use this data to select areas for land reserves, helping retain biodiversity and conserve the elephants' habitat.

WWF also works with communities in areas that are frequented by elephants to put up fences around their crops, grow plants the animals do not like to eat, and set up beekeeping operations, helping to keep the elephants away.

But the collaring process is not easy. It is a huge, expensive operation, requiring a helicopter to sedate the animal from above and a veterinarian to assist. One collar alone can cost up to \$10,000, but together with the collaring process and monitoring for the item's three-year life span, this can reach up to \$30,000, Wato said.

WWF is now partnering with Wageningen University in the Netherlands and the Kenya Wildlife Service on a project for collaring antelopes to better understand how the animals react when poachers are nearby. The antelopes could act as a harbinger, alerting to the presence of poachers, so that conservationists do not have to collar endangered species.

A park in South Africa has also provided rangers with GPS tracking devices so they can document signs of poachers – footprints, cigarettes, and cloth tied to fences – while they are patrolling, Snitch said. This can then be used to identify where the poachers are frequenting.

In Tanzania, The Nature Conservancy, or TNC, is monitoring forest loss in the Greater Mahale ecosystem and Lake Tanganyika water basin with satellite imagery, comparing it with historical photos. This information is verified on the ground, helping identify the drivers of forest loss. Communities are then consulted on forest management plans, according to Anne Trainor, remote-sensing expert at TNC.

It found that the forest cover loss in the Lake Tanganyika basin declined about 26% over the past three decades, and forest loss in the Greater Mahale ecosystem declined about 10% during that time, according to a 2018 report from TNC.

East Africa is estimated to have lost nearly 15 million acres of forest between 2000 and 2012 for reasons including timber harvesting and agriculture. These forests absorb carbon and play a key role in preventing climate change.

In collaboration with the University

of York, TNC also uses satellite imagery in Tanzania to identify grassland degradation, which has a negative impact on wildlife populations and pastoralist communities that the ecosystem supports. The imagery helps identify invasive species that can make the land not grazeable for livestock and can crowd out biodiversity. When livestock does not have access to adequate grassland, the income of pastoralist communities can be harmed.

Between 2015 and 2018, TNC used satellite imagery to map the entire country of Zambia, in partnership with the government, to identify where animals such as giraffes and hippos congregate and create a species distribution model. Satellite imagery was overlaid with aerial surveys from planes to identify the animals.

This assists in understanding the environmental features that these animals are drawn to and predicting areas where they are likely to go. Jean Kapata, Zambia's minister of lands and natural resources, said in a report on the project that the government would use the map to identify areas that are critical to conserve and to evaluate future development plans, within the context of the need to protect these areas.

"The conservation of our environment and its natural resources is critical to national development, enhancing human well-being, and sustaining the country's economy while maintaining ecosystem integrity and resilience," she wrote.

Using data from MODIS – an instrument that sits on a satellite with a tool to detect temperature change – TNC has also worked in the country's Kafue National Park, one of the largest parks in Africa, to better understand the ways that the forest burns and the routes it takes while burning. According to McRee Anderson, director of the interior highland and fire program at TNC, this informs strategies around early, controlled burning, which helps prevent widespread, uncontrollable fires that can damage the park's biodiversity and the animals' habitat.

Satellite data is becoming simpler to use and more accessible for the conservation community, TNC's Trainor said.

One tool making this easier is Google Earth Engine, a cloud-based platform for satellite imagery and geospatial datasets with analysis capabilities. Through this platform, it is possible to write computer code to calculate vegetation from satellite data, among other tasks. The data is then processed in the cloud.

A decade ago, before the platform was launched, much of this data had to be downloaded and processed on a personal computer with proprietary software, meaning someone would need software and an expensive computer with high levels of computing capacity.

"It's made remote sensing in the conservation world so much easier because you don't need these huge machines," Trainor said, adding that now freely available and accessible remote-sensing datasets such as Landsat, MODIS, and Sentinel are increasingly being used in the conservation world.

Even so, there is still a relatively steep learning curve to interpret this data. But there are more training resources available to build capacity, such as online courses.

"Every remote-sensing map is a model, and models are an estimation of reality. They are not actual reality," Trainor said. "Every map has assumptions to them. They're very powerful, as long as those assumptions are understood."

## Rebuild employees' trust to navigate new realities from Covid-19, experts tell employers

By Guardian Reporter

HUMAN resources and business management experts have called on employers to rebuild employees trust as they prepare to resume work after Covid-19, which has crippled businesses in different ways since the announcement of the pandemic four months ago.

They made the call recently in a virtual meeting organised by the Dar es Salaam-based human resources and talents management firm–BrighterMonday Tanzania. The virtual meeting themed: 'Actions Business Must Take Now to Effectively Navigate the New Normal'.

The platform provided a room for human resources and business experts to share experience on how experts and employers can embrace the new wave of change in business operations for effective management and sustainability.

Experts said that business sector has suffered greatly because most of preventive measures taken to contain the spread of Covid-19 affected how business operates. Measures like lockdown and social distancing have changed the corporate culture and force many businesses to minimize their operations or shut down.

ROAM Group, head of talent, Heather O'Shea touched the base on how employers can effectively manage their teams without falling victims of the new normal.

He insisted on the importance of employers considering difficulties that employees may face in trying to letting go of the working remotely culture and adapting to new realities such as social distancing and getting comfortable with each other and clients while taking protective measures at the office. "Getting people working remotely was not easy, getting them back to the office is not going to be easy either. How are we going to get them back?" he queried.

The expert advised employers to rebuild employees trust as they prepare to resume, calling managers to effectively communicate and reassure officers of their safety back to the office.

According to him, employers should employ protective measures, health measures, and office guidelines to help employees interact with clients without endangering their safety.

"The most important part for employers during this period is to show that they care for their employees especially parents who might have special needs back to the office. Employers should consider that employees are human and they should treat them as such," said Heather.

Araika Mkulo, founder and cognitive psychologist at Safe Space Group also said: "Employers should consider psychological impact resulting from Covid-19 and how they can negatively affect productivity."



Araika insisted on the importance of employers introducing first aid service for employees' mental health-related problems resulting from trauma and anxiety brought by Covid-19 challenges.

"This is a delicate time for mental health in general, HR managers and employers should consider adopt-

ing different coping mechanisms for employers to deal with mental health problems. It is difficult to say that everyone will be able to deal with it accordingly.

"Some people might break down in the office, some people might get overstressed, some people might get overwhelmed, some people might act

out of character, some people might be impulsive, some people might be super angry, some people might be overworking and completely antisocial. This is all reactions to what is going on around us, if HR managers and employers are not aware of these coping mechanisms, we might aggravate the situation," she said.

Araika suggested the need for employers to normalize anxiety and stress at the workplace as a way of getting employees talking about their problems.

"Employees should set a safe space at the office where employees can feel safe and free to talk about their problems," she suggested.

Nandi Mwiombela, Head of Brand, Communication and Brand Marketing at Vodacom Tanzania called on businesses not to focus on sales at times taking into consideration that people are afraid to spend because of uncertainties brought by a coronavirus. Instead, she advised business to focus on social marketing as part of leveraging the opportunity to communicate their stances.

"I recommend businesses to maintain a human face in their communications as much as they are trying to maintain relevance in the market during these times. They should not pressure customers to buy their products," Nandi said.

Reshma Bharmal-Shariff, the CEO of BrighterMonday Tanzania insisted that as businesses strive to adapt to the new realities, BrighterMonday Tanzania will keep embracing technology to ensure business sustainability.

All over the world, businesses are resuming operations after months of lockdown but this doesn't mean that life is going back to how it used to be. The new normal is the new way of life; therefore businesses should be prepared to face new realities.



# Breaking terrorism supply chains in West Africa

BY SAMPSON KWARKYE

LAST month Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire jointly conducted Operation Comoé along their borders. They captured 38 suspected terrorists, killed eight, and dismantled training camps. The operation reflects growing concern in these and other West African coastal states about a spillover of violent extremism and the need to prevent attacks from being staged in their territories.

But the spread of attacks isn't the only problem terrorism brings, and these operations shouldn't be the only way countries address it. They need to also focus on the factors that allow these groups to function. Extremists are increasingly tapping into a terrorist economy, using Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo as sources or transit zones of funding and logistics.

Motorbikes are valuable to extremists because of their robustness and mobility through difficult terrain

Institute for Security Studies (ISS) research shows that livestock stolen from Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger is sold in Benin, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana at below market prices. The profits are ploughed back through the networks of accomplice dealers. Various accounts point to terrorists being among the armed groups funded by this illicit trade. They use the income to buy arms, fuel, motorbikes and food.

Motorbikes are valuable to extremists because of their robustness and mobility through difficult terrain. They are also easy to maintain, light on fuel and can carry more than one person for combat and combat support operations.

Many motorbikes found in Niger's Tillabéry region are trafficked from Nigeria through the Togolese border town of Cinkassé and Burkina Faso's Boucle du Mouhoun Region. Some are also trafficked from Togo to Burkina

Faso with a few trafficked further to Niger.

Both Tillabéry and Boucle du Mouhoun are hotspots for violent extremism. Although groups may not be directly involved in trafficking, they gain access to goods through vendors or criminal entrepreneurs who organise their procurement.

Evidence is also emerging of extremists sourcing materials to make explosives from Ghana. Ghanaian officials say fertiliser, a key ingredient for improvised explosive devices, is smuggled in sizable quantities to Burkina Faso. Police frequently arrest smugglers and seize consignments in northern border towns such as Hamile, Kulungugu and Namori.

In July 2019, Upper West Region Minister Dr Hafiz Bin-Salih said Ghana had lost US\$12 million to fertiliser smuggling from Ghana to neighbouring countries the previous year. Although terrorist groups may not be directly involved in the smuggling, an apparent rise in availability of the material in Burkina Faso means increased access and affordability.

Also, a 2018 counter-terrorism operation in Ouagadougou's Rayongo neighbourhood led to the seizure of an electric cord for making improvised explosive devices which was traced to northern Ghana. This suggests the involvement of trafficking networks from Ghana's north where artisanal and small-scale mining is a long-standing economic activity.

Interviewees told the ISS that the northern Ghanaian town of Dollar Power has many West African illegal miners, including Ivorian former rebels and Burkinabe nationals, and is known for armed robbery. In eastern Burkina Faso, gold from some mining sites controlled by violent extremist groups is purchased by buyers from Benin and Togo. This may be providing valuable funding to terror groups, although the scale is unclear.



The region's coastal states need to disrupt the funding and logistics networks used by violent extremists. File photo

Leaders of coastal states are preoccupied with preventing a southward spread of attacks. This informed the February 2017 meeting of the presidents of Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo in Accra. They had called for an extraordinary Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) summit on terrorism, and launched the Accra Initiative in September that year.

Attacks in southern Burkina Faso, close to the borders with Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo, have deepened concerns among counter-terrorism officials. At the 14 September 2019 ECOWAS summit in Ouagadougou, leaders also decried the spread of terrorism in the region, though there was no specific reference to coastal states.

Extremists use Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo as sources or transit zones for funding and logistics

Burkinabe officials have often alerted their coastal counterparts to suspected extremists crossing into their northern territories to avoid arrest. Such alerts followed the March 2019 Otapuana operation in southern Burkina Faso. In Ghana extremists hide or rest in the north, counter-terrorism officials told the ISS - a situation that elicits complaints from Burkina Faso about the country's commitment to countering terrorism.

Coastal states acknowledge the importance of addressing

the root causes of violent extremism, including governance and developmental deficits. Extremists could exploit the lack of basic services, such as roads, health and education facilities, and socio-economic opportunities, to penetrate and implant themselves in communities. The 2020-2024 ECOWAS Priority Action Plan outlines actions to tackle these shortcomings.

But capacity to address the vulnerabilities that enable terror groups to source and move funds and logistics remains limited. These vulnerabilities include weak border surveillance and security, porous borders and strong communal, family and socio-economic ties. The content of cross-border trade transactions is largely untracked as border officials don't have sufficient capacity and the necessary technology.

To prevent violent extremism, the various dimensions of the problem must be understood, particularly terrorists' covert dealings. This will enable officials to strike a much-needed balance between counter-terrorism operations and breaking the funding and logistics supply chains used by violent extremists.

Border officials lack the capacity and technology to track cross-border trade transactions

West Africa's coastal states must also address the weak-

nesses that allow these groups to operate. Capacity is needed to track trade consignments between countries, beef up border control and surveillance, enhance intelligence gathering and analysis, and garner the support of people living in border areas. This could help identify extremists who may be exploiting cross-border ties.

The disruption of supply chains could set the stage for more terrorist attacks. Violence could be used to protect hideouts, secure supply routes, or attack border posts that extremists believe are impediments to their supply of materials. This means that - to avoid generating community resentment - strategies aimed at disruption must be balanced with preserving the livelihoods of individuals and communities who rely on cross-border trade.

Agencies

# Project helps improve cassava seed sector, creating seed entrepreneurs

ABUJA

FOR the past decades, Africa has been grappling with the sustainable distribution of improved cassava varieties, largely owing to a weak and uncoordinated dissemination strategy. Consequently, improved varieties have often failed to reach farmers, forcing the yields of cassava on the continent to remain low.

However, a project known as Building an Economically Sustainable, Integrated Cassava Seed System (BASICS) has demonstrated that the cassava seeds system can be profitable for the players involved across the value chain and can sustainably deploy improved varieties of cassava stems to farmers while also creating jobs.

Researchers say that the last five years have seen the project create a viable and sustainable cassava seed system in Nigeria, opening a vista of opportunities for seed entrepreneurs and cassava farmers looking for new and improved varieties for cultivation.

The project's director, Dr Hemant Nitturkar, explains that they have succeeded in linking breeders and researchers who developed improved cassava varieties and technologies on the one hand with farmers and processors who benefited from high quality planting materials on the other.

He says BASICS has created over 150 community-based seed entrepreneurs who are running viable cassava stem businesses in several states in Nigeria.

The project has also facilitated the establishment of two seed companies - IITA GoSeed located on the IITA campus in Ibadan and Umudike Seed at National Root Crops Research Institute (NRCRI) in Umudike, Abia State - to ensure reliable supply of breeder and founda-

tion seeds of varieties in demand.

Until the coming of BASICS, there was no formal seed sector for cassava stems. Farmers would usually share stems with their fellow farmers.

In some cases, the government would buy improved stems and share them to farmers free of charge. However, most of the stems shared by the government are usually not certified and come in small quantities chiefly owing to the bulky nature of cassava.

According to Dr Nitturkar, such distributions used to happen only occasionally either to address some exigencies or to introduce new varieties, and were targeted at certain segments or locations of farmers. This approach has proved unsustainable - with the spread of improved varieties still hovering at less than 40 per cent.

"In Nigeria, 46 varieties were released in the last 20 years, but we have seen that people do not know about or use more than about five of these varieties," reports the director.

"We encouraged the development of village seed entrepreneurs because cassava stems can be costly to transport over long distances, so we aimed at locating seed production closer to the cassava growing communities," he notes, adding: "These village seed entrepreneurs multiplied improved stems, and they made certified seeds available to the farmers on a commercial basis."

Nitturkar stated that, apart from ensuring that seeds of different varieties are always available to farmers, the seed entrepreneurs formed a link between researchers and farmers.

He says the reason for this is that "as they are selling these seeds, they also learn from the farmers what new features they require in the varieties. The seed entrepreneurs push



up this information to the seed companies, which take it back to the breeders".

The director stresses that the Nigerian seed market "has come to stay" - with 50 per cent of the informed farmers doubling as seed entrepreneurs and root farmers who made additional profits of up to \$1,200 from selling stems for two seasons and harvesting the roots in the second season.

He says that interested seed entrepreneurs can talk with the village seed entrepreneurs or reach out to IITA GoSeed or Umudike Seed for training on how to produce quality stems,

how to get certified and how to approach the market.

Dr Peter Kulakow, Cassava Breeder with the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), meanwhile explains that one of the greatest achievements of BASICS has been its ability to work with young people and women and to empower them in seed production.

BASICS ran as a four-year (2016-2019) project designed to strengthen all components of the cassava seed value chain. It was led and implemented by a CGIAR programme on Roots, Tubers and Bananas in partnership with IITA, Nigeria's National Agricultural Seeds Council, NRCRI, Catholic Relief Services, Context Global Development, Sahel Capital and Fera Science Limited.

CGIAR is a global partnership that unites

organisations engaged in research for a food secure future. The name comes from the acronym for the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research.

In 2008 CGIAR underwent a major transformation. To reflect this and yet retain its roots, the name has been maintained.

CGIAR research is dedicated to reducing rural poverty, increasing food security, improving human health and nutrition, and ensuring more sustainable management of natural resources. It is carried out by 15 centres, all of them members of the CGIAR consortium, in close collaboration with hundreds of partner organisations including national and regional research institutes, civil society bodies, academia and the private sector.

The 15 research centres generate and disseminate knowledge, technologies and poli-

cies for agricultural development through the CGIAR research programmes.

The CGIAR Fund meanwhile provides reliable and predictable multi-year financing to enable research planning over the long term, resource allocation based on agreed priorities, and the timely and predictable disbursement of funds.

The multi-donor trust fund finances research carried out by the 15 centres through the consortium's programmes, banking on some 10,000 scientists and staff, quality research infrastructure and dynamic networks across the globe.

CGIAR's collections of genetic resources are ranked among the most comprehensive in the world.

• IITA





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# CTI expert: We are working with EABC in addressing Kioo tariff hike by Kenya

By Smart Money Reporter

**T**HE Confederation of Tanzania Industries has said it is working with East African Business Council to lobby East African Community governments to harmonise some of their domestic taxes especially those impacting on intra-regional trade.

CTI's Policy Specialist, Frank Daffa said in Dar es Salaam last week that the current issue of increased excise duty imposed on Kioo Limited's glass products exported to Kenya cannot be addressed by the existing EAC customs Union Protocol because it's a domestic tax affair.

"As things stand, there is nothing that we can do because this is a domestic tax issue which is not covered by the existing Customs Union Protocol which is focused on external tariffs," Daffa said noting however, CTI and EABC are already talking about lobbying governments to harmonise some domestic taxes.

He pointed out that the EAC Protocol has a common external tariff which all members' countries are expected to respect but also taxes imposed on imports from third parties unless there is an exemption agreed by all



Kioo Limited's glass bottles at the firm's factory in Dar es Salaam.

members.

Kenya and Tanzania which are

EAC's largest economies have been involved in tit for tat tariff and non tariff imposition as protective measures for their markets. The

CTI expert further pointed out that currently, some manufactured exports from Kenya are also subjected to hiked local taxes imposed by the 2019 Finance Act.

"For example cigarettes from Kenya are charged a bigger excise duty as per Finance Act of last year," he added while pointing out that such domestic taxes which are frustrating the smooth conduct of intra-regional trade, are aimed at protecting local manufacturers.

Kioo Ltd has since filed a case against Kenya Revenue Authority at East African Court of Justice to protest introduction of a 25 percent excise duty imposed on its glass exports to Nairobi. Based in Dar es Salaam, Kioo is one of the largest manufacturers of container glass used for packaging of soft drinks, beer, alcohol and food in southern Africa. The company exports almost 60 per cent of its products outside Tanzania, after meeting its local requirement.

In the application, Kioo claims

Kenya recently enacted the Business Laws (Amendment) Act 2020, which amended Kenya Excise Duty Act 2015 by introducing excise duty on imported glass at a rate of 25 per cent with effect from March 18, 2020.

They say the introduction of excise duty, excluding glass bottles for packaging pharmaceutical products, is a breach of the Customs Protocol. Kioo is represented by the firm Anjarwalla & Khanna, and Kenya's Attorney General Paul Kihara is the respondent.

The company wants the EACJ to ensure Tanzania's rights under the customs union protocol are not violated, the enacted excise duty is removed, and that Kenya is fined for its protectionist actions.

Under the Kenyan Excise Duty Act there are no exemptions granted to goods imported from the EAC partner states as the Act defines importation "as bringing or causing goods to be brought into Kenya from a foreign country, a special economic zone or an export processing zone."

## New curfew hours prove a blessing for businesses

NAIROBI

**B**USINESSES have received a big boost following the review of onset of the curfew hours from 7 to 9pm as President Uhuru Kenyatta relaxed measures aimed at containing the spread of Covid-19.

Businesses such as supermarkets and banks now say that they will extend their working hours to serve more customers following Saturday's directive. The initial 7pm to 4am curfew hours imposed in April had complicated the operations of many companies, which had to close earlier to ensure employees and customers got to their home before the dusk deadline.

Retail Traders Association of Kenya (Retrak) chairman Willy Kimani said changing the curfew hours to between 9pm and 4am would allow supermarkets to serve an increased number of customers. Mr Kimani, who is also the Naivas Supermarkets chief commercial officer, said the supermarket will now adjust its closing hours from the current 5.30pm

to 8pm, to give customers more time to shop.

"We have been closing at 5.30pm but we will now take that to 8pm. I believe by extending these hours, we will be able to serve more customers," said Mr Kimani in a phone interview. Kenya Bankers Association CEO Habil Olaka said banks would also revert to the traditional closing hours of 4pm in line with the new curfew hours. Banks had adjusted their closing time to 3pm when the curfew was imposed.

"A number of branches were closing earlier to enable staff do end of day work and get home in time. The 9pm means they can now work up to normal time and still get home on time," said Mr Olaka. Evening hours are particularly crucial for supermarkets since they are synonymous with high traffic of customers. However, shopping had been impacted as customers rushed so as to be home by 7 p.m.

"Evening period is very crucial for most retailers because many people shop



Retail Traders Association of Kenya chairman Willy Kimani.

after work. That is when our business usually peaks. But what people have been doing is leave work then rush to catch matatus to home," said Mr Kimani.

President Kenyatta noted on Saturday that the original curfew hours had made it difficult for businesses to run on full shifts as a result of which their revenues had been hurt. "This variation should enable Kenyans to have a full work day schedule," he said while revising the hours.

Most supermarket branches located in Nairobi's Central Business District have been recording reduced numbers as many employees opt to work from home. Those reporting to work have had to balance between shopping and rushing home. "Nairobi CBD branches have been the most hit. There has not been enough time to allow for shopping. We are likely to see an improvement," said Mr Kimani.

Carrefour Kenya supermarket, which has been closing at 8.30pm, has also extended its working hours. "All our stores will remain open from 8.30 am to 7pm daily as we comply with the new government directives," the retailer said.

Tuskys Supermarket had in April closed three branches - Tom Mboya (Nairobi), Kitale Mega and Digo Road (Mombasa) due to reduced customers. The retailer issued pay cut of up to 30 percent, delayed paying suppliers and restructured loans in the wake of cash flow challenges.

## New Zealand ends social distancing after getting rid of Covid-19

WELLINGTON

**N**EW ZEALAND will remove social distancing requirements after reporting zero active cases of Covid-19, indicating it has achieved its aim of eliminating the virus.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said Monday that all remaining restrictions on people and businesses, other than strict border controls to keep the virus out, will be lifted at midnight tonight, paving the way for a resumption of normal life. The South Pacific nation earlier reported that the last of its coronavirus patients has recovered, making it one of the few countries in the world to have successfully eradicated the pathogen.

"We united in unprecedented ways to crush the virus," Ardern said at a press conference in Wellington. "Our goal was to move out the other side as quickly and as safely as we could. We now have a head-start on our economic recovery."

New Zealand has pursued an explicit elimination strategy rather than seeking to merely suppress transmission of the virus. It enforced one of the strictest lockdowns in the world, asking everyone to stay at home and allowing only essential services to operate. While this has almost certainly triggered

a deep recession, the government says elimination of the virus should allow the economy to recover more rapidly than many of its peers.

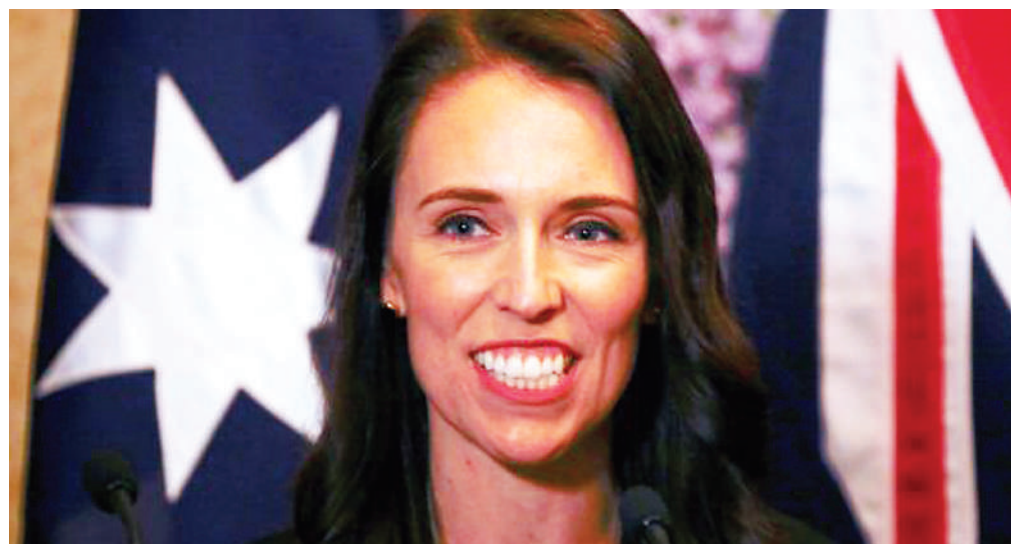
The seven-week lockdown ended May 14 and cabinet today decided it was safe to lower the nation's alert level to 1, which allows the removal of the last remaining restrictions. People will only be asked to keep track of who they've met and where they've been to aid contact tracing if future cases emerge.

Moving to level 1 "is a statement that we have achieved the goal of eliminating the Covid-19 virus from this country," said Michael Baker, Professor of Public Health at the University of Otago. "This is, however, only the first battle in what will be a long-term war against this virus. The threat from Covid-19 obviously remains while this pandemic continues across the globe."

The government is taking a cautious approach to the elimination milestone. "We are confident we have eliminated transmission of the virus in New Zealand for now, but elimination is not a point in time, it is a sustained effort," Ardern said.

### Masterclass

Ardern's masterclass in crisis management has won her praise at home and abroad. Support for the prime minister and her Labour Party surged in recent opinion polls, forcing the main opposition party to replace its leader less than four months out from a general election.



Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern.

But it is not a foregone conclusion that Ardern will sweep to victory at the Sept. 19 vote, with unemployment expected to

soar in coming months. The closed border is taking a heavy toll on the tourism sector, which was the nation's biggest source of foreign exchange earnings before the pandemic, and there is little prospect of it fully recovering until a vaccine is found.

There has also been criticism that New Zealand's response to the virus was too ex-

tre, as neighbouring Australia appears to have achieved similar results with less stringent measures. During its lockdown it allowed more industries to continue operating, such as construction, and consumers were still able to get a haircut or buy a take-away meal, keeping many workers on lower incomes employed.

However, there are early signs that New Zealand's status as a virus-free haven will work to its advantage. It is in talks with Australia to open a so-called travel bubble, and the Education Minister has said the country may become an even more desirable destination for foreign students, even if they need to serve a two-week quarantine on arrival.

The theory behind New Zealand's elimination strategy is that Covid-19 has a longer incubation period than influenza - an average of five to six days and as long as two weeks, compared with just two to three days for the flu.

That means authorities have time to identify and isolate those who have been in contact with an infected person before they themselves become infectious. New Zealand recorded a total of 1 504 confirmed and probable cases of Covid-19 and 22 deaths. It hasn't had a new case for 17 days.



## Anti-tobacco forum's executive commends health minister for denouncing commodity

By Smart Money Reporter

**H**EALTH Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children minister Umy Mwalimu's commitment to tame tobacco farming and smoking in line with World Health Organization convention has attracted the attention of Tanzania Tobacco Control Forum's Executive Director, Lutgard Kagaruki.

Kagaruki said last week that Minister Mwalimu's statement when launching Tanzania Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS) of 2018 that tobacco has more negative impacts on people's health and the environment as established by the survey, is a move in the right direction.

"TTCF express their sincere congratulations to honourable Umy for appreciating tobacco use problems and the need to develop an effective tobacco control law that is in line with the World Health Organisation Framework Convention on Tobacco Control," Kagaruki said.

She added that the WHO FCTC requires signatory governments like Tanzania to put in place stringent regulations such as banning advertisements and promotions done by tobacco companies that target the youth and entice them to use tobacco at a young age when they are not yet aware of its harmful effects.

"We pledge to honourable Umy that we are willing to cooperate with Ministry for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children if allowed, to ensure that an effective tobacco control legislation is enacted, to protect the public from the health, economic, environmental and social hazards of tobacco use," the TTCF's CEO added.

Among other things, the GATS report has shown on average that tobacco consumption per person per month costs 28,840/-, which would be enough to reduce the level of basic needs per person per month by 58 percent and excessive poverty (food demand) per person per month for 85 percent.



TTCF's executive director, Lutgard Kagaruki.

According to the survey, the results also showed that one in 10 people (8.7 percent), 15 year olds or more in Tanzania use tobacco of any kind and make up 2.6 million people out of the population of 55 million of which men account for 14.6 percent and women 3.2 percent.

Also, research results indicated that 9 out of 10 people (92.3 percent) aged 15 or older, believe that smoking causes diseases, while 8 out of 10 (84.4 percent) believe that smoke from another person can cause diseases even if they themselves do not smoke.

The report further said over the past 12 months, 4 out of 10 (32.9 percent) of people have been affected by tobacco smoke at workplaces mainly bars and recreation areas by 77 percent (about three million people), 31.1 percent (3.5 million people) at restaurants and other food areas and, 13.8 percent at homes (4.1 million people).

During the launch, Mwalimu said the study is of special interest to the ministry, as its findings will help in assessing the progress made in the fight against the four major non-communicable diseases namely; cancer, heart

## Coronavirus: Robots ease risk for Rwandan medical workers

KIGALI

AKAZUBA, Ikizere and Ngabo are part of the treatment team at Rwanda's Kanyinya Covid-19 treatment facility, a short distance from the capital Kigali, but they are no ordinary healthcare workers.

The three robots carry out simple tasks like taking temperatures and monitoring patients to help minimise the exposure of doctors and nurses to the coronavirus. White with big bright blue eyes and a rather human appearance, the robots were donated by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and developed by Belgium-based Zorabots.

Together with two other robots at the Nyamata Covid-19 treatment centre in south-east Kigali, they are helping front-line workers tackle the coronavirus crisis in the East African nation which so far has 355 confirmed cases of the disease.

"The three robots that we have are part of the treating team," said David Turatsinze, a doctor at the 75-bed Kanyinya centre, which housed 65 patients when the Reuters team visited. By relaying messages to doctors and helping the team assess the effectiveness of their clinical decisions, the robots cut the number of bedside visits that doctors have to make.

Francine Umutesi, a bio-medical engineer who works as a health technology operations specialist at the ministry of health, said the robots were a first for Africa and had the potential to offer even more support to medical teams.

"It doesn't remove the tasks the doctors are supposed to do, it's just complementing their efforts," she said. Rwanda already uses drones to deliver blood and enforce restrictions designed to slow the spread of Covid-19.

Fabrice Goffin, joint chief executive of Zorabots, said his robots had been in hospitals, care homes and hotels since 2013, but had found a new role with the coronavirus pandemic. They have been deployed at the Antwerp University Hospital in Belgium, where they take the temperature of arriving patients and make sure they are wearing a mask correctly, before gauging the likelihood and severity of infection and directing them



An engineer operates one of the robots, which cost about US\$33,000 each.

to the appropriate part of the clinic.

"If the patient or visitor has a temperature or a mask that is not correctly worn, the screen will show: 'You have a problem, you cannot go into the hospital like that,'" said Dr Michael Vanmechelen, manager of the hospital's operating theatres. "You have to check with an employee of the hospital nearby. So the robot is never going to work alone, it's always in support of an employee who works there," he said.

"The big advantage of this robot relative to a fixed terminal is that the robot can move, can go towards people, can speak to people and speak in their native tongue," said Mr Goffin.

"It speaks more than 53 languages."

Jan Bussels, head of digitopia, which developed the software and interface, said the robot was designed to help take over repetitive work and allow over-stretched medical staff to focus on their core job as care givers. The robot was also able to learn on the job, he said.

The robots, typically costing €30,000 have also been sold to clinics in France, the Netherlands and the United States. Rwandan officials said the robots could be programmed to carry out additional tasks in future. "In the future if they are programmed to take even blood pressure and the [blood] sugar, that definitely would be so helpful," said Dr Turatsinze.

## Covid: Airtel Malawi banking on increased demographics to grow its base of subscribers

LILONGWE

AIRTEL Malawi is anticipating suppressed disposable incomes owing to economic activity disruption from the COVID-19 pandemic which has so far claimed four lives and infected 438 people.

The telco has approximately four million mobile network users in the southern African country and is banking on increased demographics to boost its user numbers. Subscribers on Airtel Malawi grew by 19.4% in the full year period to December 2019, but this growth is likely to be impacted by the pandemic.

"We enter a period of increased volatility as a result of the impact of Covid-19 on the economy and customer demand, due to lower disposable income," said Charles Kamoto, Managing Director of Airtel Malawi in an annual report published on 5 June 2020.

However, the medium-to-long-term outlook still holds opportunities of growth for the telco, with executives saying telecommunications in Malawi "will continue to benefit from population growth and need for increased connectivity" especially in under serviced areas.

"We expect to continue to execute our strategy focused on increasing mobile penetration in Malawi through investment in rural unserved markets as well as digitise the economy by increasing penetration of data usage," said the company.

Revenue, excluding mobile money operations, for the full year to December was up by 12.8%, driven by data income which surged a massive 42.1% against voice revenue increase of 3.1%. Under new Reserve Bank of Malawi regulations, the Airtel Money mobile wallet operations have to be incorporated under Airtel Mobile Commerce Limited with effect from the beginning of this year.

## Amid lockdowns, Africa goes online for groceries

HARARE

IN between her shifts, Zimbabwean nurse Sinothando Mpfu used to go to Bulawayo's open-air markets to buy tomatoes and cabbages for her family of nine – until the country's coronavirus lockdown closed all stalls.

Mpfu worried about where she would get fresh food, until she saw a message in her local church WhatsApp group about Fresh in a Box – one of rising numbers of African technology companies getting fresh food to people under lockdown.

Now she puts in an order online and gets a box of produce delivered to her home every week. The fruits and vegetables are better quality than the food she used to buy at the supermarket, she said, at about a third of the cost.

"Buying vegetables at a local supermarket is very expensive, but now I get a variety of vegetables and I eat balanced meals all the time," Mpfu, 37, said. She will keep using the site even after lockdown ends. In many African countries, measures put in place to slow the spread of Covid-19 have made it harder for people to access affordable, nutritious foods, sparking warnings from aid groups that the pandemic will worsen malnutrition rates.

An estimated 73 million people in Africa are already acutely food insecure, noted Matshidiso Moeti, the World Health Organisation's regional director for Africa, in a press release last month. "Covid-19 is exacerbating food shortages, as food imports, transportation and agricultural production have all been hampered by a combination of lockdowns, travel restrictions and physical distancing measures," she said.

### Tech solution

A possible global GDP loss of 5% this year could push another 147 million people into extreme poverty – more than half of them in sub-Saharan Africa, according to the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).

Mobile tech startups are helping people get hold of fresh food during the pandemic by tapping into the rapid rise in smartphone use across Africa. About a third of people in sub-Saharan Africa had access to a smartphone in 2018, more than double the number four years earlier, according to the Pew Research Center, a Washington-based think tank.

Launched in October 2018 and selling surplus fruits and vegetables from local farms, Fresh in a Box found itself scrambling to add more farmers to its roster to supply the sudden rush of new customers, said co-founder Kudakwashe Musasiwa.

He added that it now distributes about 2.6t of vegetables daily from nearly 2 000 small-scale farmers to customers' doorsteps. "With Covid-19, something incredible happened. We had to find a way of scaling up really quickly because all of a sudden our demand shot up," Musasiwa said.

Like Zimbabwe's Fresh in a Box and the Market Garden app in Uganda, which is connecting women produce vendors to a new wave of online customers, Namibia has also seen a rise in the popularity of online markets under lockdown.

A website called Tambula – meaning "take" in the local Oshiwambo language – is described as "an online mall" by its founder Jerobeam Mwedihanga, who launched the site about a week into Namibia's lockdown, which started in March.

"Rental fees in malls are high in Namibia," said Mwedihanga, 36, an IT engineer, whose site delivers electronics, beverages, furniture and more. "And there are many home-run businesses with no place to showcase their products." Last month, Tambula partnered with the UN Development Programme on a pilot project to sell informal market goods online, including local foods like dried spinach, mopane worms and ground nuts.

"For many consumers, this is their first time buying traditional foods online," said Mwedihanga, adding that products from informal vendors have grown to make up 35% of online sales. One positive to come out of the new coronavirus pandemic, he said, is that people are becoming more aware of e-commerce and realising that food from informal traders is often more affordable than that from retail shops.

### Digital co-operative

In Nigeria, entrepreneur Luther Lawoyin realised that bulk purchases could save consumers from overspending on food. He launched PricePally – described as a digital food co-operative – in November 2019, as a way of letting people buy food online in bulk from farmers and wholesalers and split the cost with other site users.

"When the coronavirus outbreak was really picking up in Nigeria, we noticed a spike in our traffic and sales, so we figured that people need help to get their food items and, especially, to avoid the market," said Lawoyin. The site's customers save at least 15% on the food they buy, he added.

PricePally had about 320 paying users before the virus hit – that number shot up to more than a thousand after the country's lockdown kicked in on 30 March, Lawoyin said. Just as lockdowns around the world have disrupted food trade across borders, they have also made it difficult for people working abroad to send food to their loved ones back home.



## Relief as needy agro-based college students get SBL full scholarships

By Smart Money Reporter

ELIZABETH Mjengi's both parents passed away six years ago in quick succession, forcing her and two young sisters to relocate to start a new life with an aunt in rural Singida region.

The new life was tough from the onset, she said as her aunt was a widow eking out a living through subsistence farming with little surplus to dispose of to enable her get an income to support the new family with essential needs including paying for education.

"Life was hard, my aunt had her own three children to take care of with no reliable source of income. When the rain failed or was scarce, the situation would be even more unbearable," Mjengi narrated.

Though with difficulty, the young lady managed to complete her ordinary level education, with her ambition and passion being to study a course in agriculture in order to serve the community where she grew up.

"I was not sure where I will get the school fees, however, I applied for a diploma course in general agriculture at Bagamoyo-based Kaole Wazazi College of Agriculture. Luckily, I was enrolled," she said adding, "I hoped that life would improve once I completed my college education because I would get a job and help in taking care of my aunt and my other siblings."

To Mjengi, the news about her enrollment was bitter-sweet because on one hand, she was excited since it was an accorded opportunity but on the other, it denoted sadness because she was staring at grim chances of advancing her education due to the prevailing financial constraints.

"I had to go out and work on other people's farms so as to raise school fees. When I finally reported to college, I had managed to raise only a quarter of the required amount but after pleading with the college management, I was allowed to start classes," she recalled.

Well, the industrious and hard working student managed to finish her first year through tough struggling. To make matters worse, her aunt who had been an important pillar in supplementing her meager earnings, fell ill and could no longer support her. It was at such a gloomy point that she lost any glimmer of hope that she had to completing her diploma course.

Then luckily on 18th December 2019, she received a call from the college's principal informing her that there were scholarship opportunities for needy students at the college. "My eyes were filled with tears of happiness when I heard the good news," she recalled.



Serengeti Breweries Limited managing director Mark Ocitti (seated L) and Kaole Wazazi College of Agriculture's principal, Sinani Simba (seated R) in a group photo with some students beneficiaries of the 'KilimoViwanda' Scholarship Programme shortly after its launch in January this year. File photo.

Mjengi who is now in her third year, is among ten students from Kaole Wazazi College of Agriculture who are benefiting from Serengeti Breweries Limited (SBL)'s KilimoViwanda Scholarship, a program tailored to benefit students from underprivileged families with farming backgrounds.

A total of 40 students benefitting from the SBL's program, are currently studying at four different local colleges taking agriculture related courses in line with the beer brewer's objectives of beefing up the existing pool of experts in the sector needed to support farmers increase productivity.

Another beneficiary of the program is Moshi-based Kilacha Agricultural and Livestock Training Centre, 25-year-old Domina Minja. Minja who lives with her single mother in Moshi and was previously spending her time performing menial jobs to raise her college fees, is all excited to narrate her story.

"In 2016, I was forced, due to lack of fees, to postpone my studies. My peasant mother could not afford the fees, so I had to do odd lowly jobs in order to finance my education. It was sweet relief when I was informed that I was the proud recipient of SBL's Kilimo-Viwanda scholarship," she stated noting that as a result, the burden of paying for her education has been cleared.

"SBL has been our proverbial guardian angel because I can now comfortably continue with my studies," Minja said beaming with joy adding, "I am very grateful to SBL. Without their support, my chances of ever completing my studies would have been remote."

Kaole Wazazi College of Agriculture's Principal, Sinani Simba said training of agricultural personnel is one of the priorities spelt out in

the Agriculture Sector Development Program Phase 2, a government blue print for agriculture development. "We thank SBL for introducing the scholarship program because it aligns well with government's plans to develop agriculture," Simba said. SBL's Corporate Relations Director, John Wanyancha said the brewer sets aside over 120m/- to bankroll the 40 students' educational needs every year to pursue agriculture related courses.

"We believe this program will go a long way in strengthening the existing pool of agricultural experts in the country which is crucial in helping advise farmers on how to increase productivity and their incomes," Wanyancha noted.

The other two colleges which have students benefiting from the SBL scholarship program are Igabiro Training Institute of Agriculture in Bukuba and St. Maria Goretti College of Agriculture in Iringa. According to Wanyancha, SBL is solely dependent on local farmers to produce raw materials such as barley, maize and sorghum to manufacture its beers.

"Last year alone, we sourced 17,000 metric tons of these grains locally, which is equivalent to 70 percent of our total annual raw materials requirement," he added while noting that currently SBL gets barley, maize and sorghum from around 400 farmers located in eight regions, namely: Kilimanjaro, Arusha, Manyara, Singida, Dodoma, Shinyanga, Mwanza and Mara. Plans are underway to extend the program to other regions in the country.

The brewer supports farmers by providing them with free seeds, field technical services and linking them to financial institutions to access credit facilities with a target to increase locally sourced raw materials to 85 percent by the end of 2020 in line with the company's growth trajectory.

## Connectivity a bedrock for riding fourth industrial revolution wave

By Hussein Kitambi

THERE could be little doubt that the much-touted Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) is underway, to the extent that this latest evolution could be described being less about the technology itself than how to use it to enable advancement.

The 4IR could be seen as being about the 'rise of connectivity,' which will unlock new avenues for creating value and additional opportunities to deliver solutions and services that can significantly and positively alter society as a whole.

Essentially, this means that the digital economy is not just about devices, but rather more about enabling communities across Tanzania to receive better healthcare, improve access to online education and to open up new avenues of growth for citizens of all ages. It is about providing the platform to enable small businesses and entrepreneurs to ascend the ladder of opportunity towards sustainability and profitability.

Already, large multinational operators recognise the country's potential, and much has already been written on the benefits that will accrue following the opening of locally hosted Azure stack and other local data centres. This is viewed as something that will be extremely beneficial for local businesses - from a cost, security and regulatory perspective.

So why are we not leveraging the 4IR? The answer lies in the foundation on which all of the above is built, namely connectivity. Without reliable high-capacity, omnipresent connectivity underpinning it, the 4IR is doomed to be stillborn on the continent.

Think about it: one of the most talked-about benefits of the 4IR is that of the Internet of Things (IoT), and how it may well be the solution to addressing multiple urban challenges such as reducing traffic congestion, decreasing pollution, improving agriculture yields, fighting crime, promoting economic development, improving city services and making local governments more accessible and efficient.

For example, a recent Global Competitiveness Index report, which focuses on how countries are progressing with digital transformation, suggests that connectivity is a great way to measure a country's digital economy. In fact, some 151 countries worldwide have now acknowledged that broadband, first and foremost, needs to be a vital part of a national development strategy.

The reason the future is all about connectivity is that ultimately, the 4IR is all about making new connections. Therefore, those businesses that will



lead in the future will be those that are already combining connectivity with technologies - like the IoT and analytics - and a deep understanding of human behaviour, to enable such connections.

After all, with connectivity as the bedrock, one can combine data, systems, analytics and human behaviour in ways that will enormously benefit a wide range of industries throughout the continent. Just some of the examples of how the world can be changed in this manner include: In the agricultural sector, farmers can use IoT sensors for everything from weather predictions and soil conditions to how they sell their products at the market; Healthcare organisations can potentially begin to identify risks and illnesses, even before their patients are aware they have a condition; and The education vertical will be able to effectively deliver e-learning solutions to remote schools, offering them access to the same quality content that is available in urban areas and remotely making available expert instructors.

For Tanzania, if one looks closely, virtually every sector will be able to benefit from effective connectivity, highlighting how high-speed Internet access will be able to turn the concept of the 4IR into a thoroughly transformative reality.

**Hussein Kitambi (pictured) is CEO of Raha Limited**

VIEW FROM THE TOP

## Red tape thwarts South Africa's green energy potential

JOHANNESBURG

WORLD-LEADING renewables companies are lining up to invest in South Africa's energy sector and help remedy a chronic generation shortfall that pushed the continent's most advanced economy into recession even before the Covid-19 pandemic struck.

But their investment proposals are on hold as red tape and political considerations delay procurement, undermining a government pledge to prioritise wind and solar generation. Indebted state utility Eskom's coal-fired stations, which produce more than 80% of South Africa's electricity, have long struggled to meet demand, culminating in rolling blackouts that last year hobbled industries central to the economy.

Power experts say adding renewables would be one of the quickest and cheapest ways to end outages and reverse years of economic decline. Based on the government's plan to add 2.6 gigawatts (GW) of as yet unprocured wind and solar capacity in 2022, the next auction could attract more than \$2 billion in investment, a Reuters analysis of industry estimates found.

Billions more could flow if procurements happen regularly, contributing to much-needed economic development when the new coronavirus has exacerbated budget constraints. "South Africa has a brilliant solar resource, and there is a lot of international and local interest," said Wido Schnabel of Canadian Solar, which hopes to supply new projects. "Why are we still waiting?"

When it launched its first renewables auction in 2011, South Africa was at the vanguard of clean energy converts, Anton Eberhard,

a University of Cape Town professor, said. Six years after the last procurement round, "South Africa is falling behind," said Eberhard, who has advised President Cyril Ramaphosa on reforming Eskom.

"There is no question. Engie would bid for both solar and wind," said Mohamed Hoosen, chief Africa power and gas officer for the French power company. Italy's Enel Green Power will also consider bidding if tender and market conditions are as favourable as in the past, a spokesman said.

Tender delays  
In an energy plan in October, the government aimed to increase installed wind and solar capacity roughly sixfold to more than 26 GW by 2030. More than seven months on, none of the new capacity has gone out to tender. Energy Minister Gwede Mantashe said in February he was seeking the agreement of energy regulator Nersa for procurements.

But in March, Nersa said it needed around six months for its electricity subcommittee to make a submission and to consult the public before it could make a decision. Even 2,000 megawatts (MW) of "emergency procurement" identified as a priority and given a green light by Nersa last month has yet to happen.

The energy ministry told Reuters the law was clear on how procurements should take place and it was following established procedure. A spokeswoman declined comment when asked whether red tape was holding up procurement, while a Nersa spokesman said its rules were designed to ensure installations were safe.

Mining companies, as major energy users and a plank of South Africa's economy, have been lobbying the government via an industry



SA Energy minister Gwede Mantashe.

association to ease regulations so they can build their own large solar plants.

These could greatly ease the strain by ensuring power for their own operations, as well as generating surplus supplies for the grid, while appeasing shareholders concerned about the miners' carbon footprint. But companies, including Sibanye-Stillwater and Gold Fields, say regulations and uncertainty over costs are delaying their plans.

Although the energy ministry tweaked the rules for small generators in March, it

maintained strict licensing requirements for plants over 1 MW. Sibanye wants to add up to 150 MW of solar capacity, while Gold Fields is aiming for 40 MW.

The energy ministry told Reuters the rules "effectively enable companies to generate their own power." A spokesman for industry group the Minerals Council said the March amendment "was not intended to deal with self-generation on the scale that mines are seeking."

Killing coal

Not all the obstacles are bureaucratic. Analysts blame the governing African National Congress' (ANC) close ties with organised labour for its reluctance to unleash renewables. Unions - heavily represented at Eskom and in the coal mines that fuel its power plants - have resisted renewables because they fear they could cost coal miners their jobs. With unemployment at 30% even before COVID-19, the ANC is alive to those concerns.

"The renewable energy sector is allowed space as well to grow. But it's allowed space to grow without killing coal," Sello Helepi, a senior advisor to the energy minister, told Reuters.

Helepi noted there had been few renewables projects in Mpumalanga province, the country's coal-mining heartland and an ANC stronghold. "Let's say hypothetically we switch off coal-fired power stations, what are we saying to the people of Mpumalanga?" he asked. An ANC spokesman did not answer phone calls seeking comment.

Proponents of renewables say additional clean energy capacity would not threaten coal jobs directly and that the government's reticence could stifle employment in a new sector. Max Bögl, a German construction firm that manufactures wind towers, told Reuters it was interested in establishing production in South Africa that could create around 400 direct jobs.

But it awaits the government's next move, said Bruno Geadas, a company official who visited South Africa several times last year to evaluate investment prospects. "We are waiting for another level of commitment," he said.



## WORLD

## Minneapolis city council pledges to disband police; Trump lashes out at NFL

WASHINGTON

MINNEAPOLIS city council members pledged to abolish the police force whose officer knelt on the neck of a dying George Floyd, as the biggest civil rights protests in more than 50 years demanded a transformation of U.S. criminal justice.

Demonstrations have swept a country slowly emerging from the coronavirus lockdown in the two weeks since Floyd, an unarmed black man, 46, died after choking out the words "I can't breathe" under the knee of a white police officer.

Though there was violence in the early days, the protests have lately been overwhelmingly peaceful. They have deepened a political crisis for President Donald Trump, who repeatedly threatened to order active duty troops onto the streets.

Trump took to Twitter around midnight to lash out at the boss of the National Football League, America's biggest sport, who, in a sign of a cultural shift, swung behind protesting players and adopted their slogan "Black Lives

Matter".

Huge weekend crowds gathered across the country and in Europe. The high-spirited atmosphere was marred late on Sunday when a man drove a car into a rally in Seattle and then shot and wounded a demonstrator who confronted him.

"I have cops in my family, I do believe in a police presence," said Nikky Williams, a black Air Force veteran who marched in Washington on Sunday. "But I do think that reform has got to happen."

The prospect that Minneapolis could abolish its police force altogether would have seemed unthinkable just two weeks ago. Nine members of the 13-person city council pledged on Sunday to do away with the police department in favor of a community-led safety model, though they provided little detail.

"A veto-proof majority of the MPLS City Council just publicly agreed that the Minneapolis Police Department is not reformable and that we're going to end the current policing system," Alondra Cano, a member of the Min-



Trolice Flavors holds up a fist during a "We Want to Live" march and protest against racial inequality in the aftermath of the death in Minneapolis police custody of George Floyd, in Seattle, Washington, U.S. on Sunday. REUTERS

neapolis council, said on Twitter.

In New York, Mayor Bill de Blasio told reporters he would shift some funds out of the city's vast police budget and reallocate it to youth and social services. He said he would take enforcement of rules on street vending out of the hands of police, accused of using the regulations to harass minorities.

Curfews were removed in New York and other major cities including Philadelphia and Chicago.

### NFL APOLOGIZES, TRUMP FIRES BACK

Trump said on Twitter he ordered the National Guard to start withdrawing from Washington D.C. "now that everything is under perfect control".

Trump has used the Black Lives Matter protest movement as a foil for years to promote himself as a law-and-order candidate.

When black football players knelt during the national anthem to protest against police brutality in 2016, Trump denounced them with an

expletive and the NFL effectively took his side, telling players to stand or stay off the field for the song.

Over the weekend, the NFL issued a video of Commissioner Roger Goodell apologizing for failing to listen to black players: "We, the NFL, believe Black Lives Matter," Goodell said.

Trump fired back overnight: "Could it be even remotely possible that in Roger Goodell's rather interesting statement of peace and reconciliation, he was intimating that it would now be O.K. for the players to KNEEL, or not to stand, for the National Anthem, thereby disrespecting our Country & our Flag?" he tweeted.

In the nation's capital, a large and diverse gathering of protesters had packed streets near the White House, chanting "This is what democracy looks like!" and "I can't breathe."

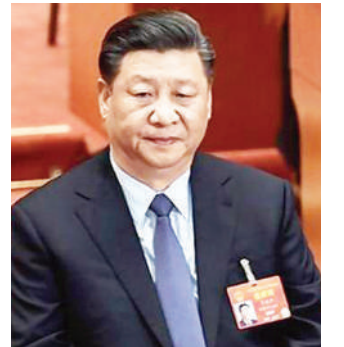
A newly erected fence around the White House was decorated by protesters with signs, including some that read: "Black Lives Matter" and "No Justice, No Peace."

Agencies

## Russian scholar advocates implementation of Xi's ideas on sustainable development, international cooperation

MOSCOW

THE international community needs to reread and implement the ideas proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping at the 23rd St. Petersburg International Economic Forum a year ago, a Russian scholar has said.



In his address to the plenary session of the forum on June 7, 2019, Xi (pictured) said China stands ready to make joint efforts with the international community to create an open and pluralistic world economy, a happy society that is inclusive and benefits all, and a beautiful homeland with harmonious coexistence between humanity and nature, and explore a new path of sustainable development.

"President Xi spoke at the forum about building a common house for humanity, about how all the nations can move together towards a harmonious future," said Alexei Rodionov, senior deputy dean of the Faculty of Asian and African Studies at St. Petersburg State University.

In a recent interview with Xinhua, Rodionov said he was impressed by Xi's idea of integrating the international cooperation under China's Belt and Road Initiative into the general progress of mankind towards achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030.

"A year ago, Xi said that China was ready to open up to the world more. It seems to me that what he spoke about deepening openness then is fully consistent with the interests of China and the whole world," he said.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has greatly affected people's lives and economic activities globally, China has effectively contained the spread of the coronavirus and is now providing aid to others, the scholar noted, stressing "this mutual assistance makes it possible to build new relations between nations."

Rodionov suggested rereading Xi's speech at the forum last year and thinking about how to implement his ideas.

"It is time to carry out the ideas voiced by President Xi about sustainable development, cooperation, harmonious international relations and a multidimensional world economy," the scholar said.

Xinhua

## Experts say China's white paper on COVID-19 fight inspires world

BEIJING

MANY overseas observers have agreed that the white paper "Fighting COVID-19: China in Action" released on Sunday by China's State Council Information Office brings great inspiration to the international community in the global anti-epidemic battle.

The paper, an authentic record of China's arduous fight against the disease, has not only shown the country upholding a people-centered policy, a life-first principle and a cooperative mindset throughout its anti-epidemic battle at home, but also demonstrated China being a responsible major country in promoting global anti-epidemic cooperation, they said.

Cavince Adhere, an international relations expert with a focus on China-Africa relations, said the paper "comes at a time when much of the world is still struggling with how to bring the infectious disease under control."

"It is a welcome document and an important contribution to the international scientific community's efforts to cushion the world from the vagaries of the disease," Adhere said.

By documenting the broad and deep global interactions and information sharing on epidemics control, Adhere added, China has "aptly demonstrated the veracity of international collaboration as the most sustainable and effective way of con-

taining the spread of the virus around the world."

"China, after its success in controlling the spread of COVID-19, has turned towards helping countries hit by the disease, and is working seriously to develop a vaccine for treatment," said Ahmad al-Marikh, vice chairman of Egypt's state-run Television and Radio Magazine.

China's help, such as offering scientific and medical expertise in dealing with the disease, as well as providing medical supplies to many countries, has "an important humanitarian dimension, which is not strange to the civilization of China," said al-Marikh.

Serik Korzhumbayev, editor-in-

chief of the Delovoy Kazakhstan newspaper, said under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, the country has managed to put the epidemic under control very soon and saved a great many lives, which is "a remarkable achievement."

"Pursuing a people-centered policy, the Chinese government has demonstrated its capability to rally, mobilize and organize all walks of life as well as push forward the implementation of policies in the fight against COVID-19," he said.

Its epidemic response also reflects Chinese people's fearless spirit and their courage amidst hardships, Korzhumbayev added.

Alfredo Bruno, head of the National Reference Center of Influenza and Other Respiratory Viruses at Ecuador's National Institute for Public Health Research, said that the white paper is of global scientific value.

By sharing scientific information and its anti-epidemic experience with other countries, China is helping the world better fight the disease, he said.

Noting that the Asian country plays an irreplaceable role in pushing forward global anti-epidemic cooperation, Bruno urged other countries to actively respond to China's call for international solidarity, the only way to win the fight against the disease.

Xinhua

## New Zealand says coronavirus 'eliminated' and life can resume without restrictions

WELLINGTON

NEW ZEALAND has eliminated transmission of the coronavirus domestically and will lift all containment measures except for border controls, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said yesterday, making it one of the first countries to do so.

Public and private events, the retail and hospitality industries and all public transport could resume without social distancing norms still in place across much of the world, she said.

"While the job is not done, there is no denying this is a milestone ... Thank you, New Zealand," Ardern told reporters.

"We are confident we have eliminated transmission of the virus in New Zealand for now, but elimination is not a point in time, it is a sustained effort."

The South Pacific nation of

about five million people is emerging from the pandemic while big economies such as Brazil, Britain, India and the United States grapple with the spreading virus.

This was largely due to 75 days of restrictions including about seven weeks of a strict lockdown in which most businesses were shut and everyone except essential workers had to stay at home.

"Today, 75 days later, we are ready," Ardern told a news conference, announcing the government would drop social distancing restrictions from midnight on Monday and move to a level 1 national alert from Level 2.

Border controls would remain and everyone entering the country would be tested, she said.

There were no active cases in New Zealand for the first time since the virus arrived in late February, the health ministry said. New Zealand has reported 1,154



Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern

infections and 22 deaths from the disease.

New Zealand vowed to eliminate, not just contain, the virus. This means stopping transmission

for an extended period after the last known case is cleared, while being ready to quickly detect and isolate any new cases including from abroad.

New Zealanders cheered the lifting of curbs and the topic quickly trended on Twitter. Rugby fans in particular were looking forward to attending stadiums to watch the opening games of the domestic competition this weekend.

Ardern said she did a "little dance" when she was told there were no more active COVID-19 cases in New Zealand, surprising her two-year-old daughter, Neve.

"She was caught a little by surprise and she joined it having absolutely no idea why I was dancing around the lounge. She enjoyed it nevertheless," Ardern said.

### ECONOMIC REBUILD

Ardern, 39, has won global praise for her leadership during

the pandemic and her popularity has seen stratospheric growth over the last few months.

She is well placed to win a second term in office in September elections, according to recent opinion polls.

Even so, the government will need to show it is up to the task of reviving the economy, which is expected to sink into recession.

Opposition parties have criticised Ardern's decision to keep restrictions for so long despite there being no new cases for over two weeks.

Ardern did not commit to a timeline for a proposed 'travel bubble' to open with Australia, although the tourism industries in both countries have been pushing for it.

"We will need to move cautiously here. No one wants to jeopardize the gains New Zealand has made," she said.

Agencies

A DECISION on establishing and improving the legal system and enforcement mechanisms for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) to safeguard national security was recently approved by deputies to the 13th National People's Congress (NPC).

However, the U.S., attempting to obstruct the decision, even threatened to impose sanctions on Hong Kong. It is blatant intervention in Hong Kong affairs and the internal affairs of China, as well as insolent violation of the international law and the basic norms governing international relations, fully exposing the double standards and bullying practices of Washington.

## US sanctions against Hong Kong doomed to fail

We sternly warn the U.S. that sanctions against the HKSAR are doomed to fail, and it will only meet a dead end playing Hong Kong cards.

Hong Kong belongs to China, as well as the 1.4 billion Chinese people, including 7.5 million compatriots in the SAR. The high degree of autonomy in the region has never been defined by the U.S. Washington's accusation on the national security legislation for impeding the high degree of autonomy and freedom of the SAR is total defamation that distorts the principle of "one country, two systems."

It's recognized by everyone non-biased that the practice of "one country, two systems" has achieved universally acknowledged success since Hong Kong returned to China, and the compatriots in Hong Kong have enjoyed wider democracy and freedom than ever before.

The national security legislation is a right and responsibility of the central government of China, and the national security law only targets the minor practices and activities that seriously damage national security. The law doesn't affect the high degree of autonomy of Hong Kong, the

legitimate rights and interests, as well as the freedom of Hong Kong residents, or the legitimate rights and interests of foreign investors in the SAR. It will only complete the legal system of Hong Kong and bring more stability to the region's social order, and help protect the principle of "one country, two systems" and maintain the long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong.

National security is fundamental for a sovereign country, and national security legislation is a sacred and inviolable sovereign right of a country. While the U.S. is doing everything around the

world to protect its so-called national security, it is demonizing China for the latter's legitimate and reasonable practices in national security legislation and even threatened to impose sanctions. Such double standards and bullying practices are just arbitrary, rude and shameless.

The U.S. said blatantly that it has taken Hong Kong as a bastion of liberty for decades, and hoped that free and prosperous Hong Kong would "provide a model" for China. Such "confession" exactly revealed the White House's vicious intention to use the SAR as a bridgehead to split, subvert,

infiltrate and undermine the Chinese mainland. It also proved that it is urgent for the NPC to make relevant laws and plug its national security loopholes.

It is self-evident why the U.S. has been making ceaseless and groundless accusation on China. Threats and intimidation will never shake China's resolution and will to safeguard national security, or stop Hong Kong citizens from supporting the national security legislation. So far, over two million residents in Hong Kong have signed petition in support of the legislation.

Rita Fan Hsu Lai-tai, former

president of the Legislative Council of Hong Kong, noted that the NPC's decision to make national security law for Hong Kong has no impact on the region's high degree of autonomy. On the contrary, if the violent and almost terrorist activities keep going on, there would be no future for Hong Kong, she said, adding that the special status of the region would be meaningless then.

Since Hong Kong returned to its motherland, it has established reciprocal cooperation with multiple trading partners, including the U.S., which has 1,344 companies and around 85,000 Americans live in Hong Kong.

People's Daily



# 'Black Lives Matter' protests spread to European cities

## BRUSSELS

MORE "Black Lives Matter" protests against racism and police brutality took place on Sunday in European cities such as Brussels, Copenhagen, London, Budapest, Madrid and Barcelona.

On Saturday, tens of thousands of people took to the streets of European cities like Berlin, Paris, Munich, Hamburg, Frankfurt, Dublin and Prague in support of the "Black Lives Matter" movement, which has swept the United States and other countries worldwide following the U.S. police killing of George Floyd, an unarmed African American.

Floyd, 46, died on May 25 in the U.S. city of Minneapolis after a white police officer knelt on his neck for nearly nine minutes while he was handcuffed facing down and repeatedly said he couldn't breathe.

## EUROPE "CAN'T BREATHE"

In Brussels, home to the European Union headquarters, more than 10,000 people demonstrated on Sunday afternoon at Place Poelart in the city center. Protesters of all ages and ethnic backgrounds came from all over Belgium, chanting "Black Lives Matter," "No Justice, No Peace."

Their banners and placards read – "The Police Kill, it's written white on

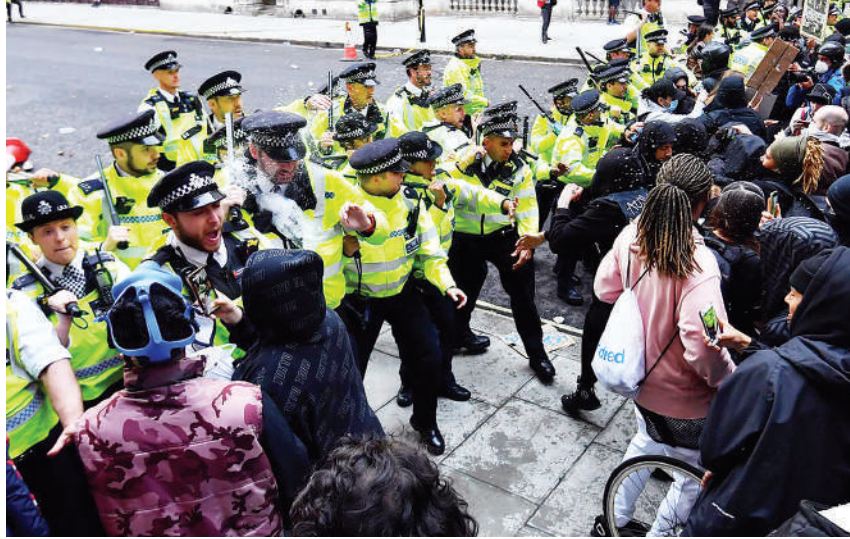
black," or "We can't breathe," echoing the last words of George Floyd. "The murder of George Floyd has visibly awakened many people," newspaper Brussels Times quoted Ange Kazi, spokesperson of the Belgian Network for Black Lives Matter, which called for the protest, as saying. "Many people are fed up with police violence, which systematically affects Blacks," she said.

In the Danish capital of Copenhagen, more than 15,000 protesters gathered peacefully in front of the U.S. embassy on Sunday afternoon, shouting slogans and holding banners as part of the Danish "Black Lives Matter" demonstration.

After demonstrating in front of the U.S. embassy for about an hour chanting "I can't breathe", demonstrators marched through central Copenhagen, in the vicinity of the iconic Little Mermaid, along Kongegade street, before arriving at Christiansborg Slotsplads, home of the Danish parliament, for speeches.

In Spain, thousands of people added their voices to the "Black Lives Matter" protests worldwide. According to Spanish TV station RTVE, an estimated 3,000 people took part in a demonstration in Madrid, which began outside the U.S. embassy.

The Spanish Government Delegate had given permission for 200 people to participate in the protest, but far more



Police clash with demonstrators in Whitehall during a Black Lives Matter protest in London, following the death of George Floyd who died in police custody in Minneapolis, London, Britain, on Sunday. REUTERS

people than expected turned up to show their support, as also happened in other European cities.

A further 3,000 people also marched in Barcelona for the same cause. There were also demonstrations in cities such as Bilbao, San Sebastian and Vitoria in the Basque Region of northern Spain, as well as in Logrono and Murcia.

In the Hungarian capital Budapest, more than 1,000 people gathered at a peaceful demonstration in front of the

U.S. embassy. Almost all of the protesters wore masks. The police presence was strong, but they did not intervene.

Demonstrators, mostly young Hungarians, held up banners reading "Black Lives Matter" at the front of the demonstration. Other banners displayed messages such as "Police everywhere – justice nowhere" or "No Justice – No Peace."

After the speeches and music, protesters knelt in silence for eight minutes and

46 seconds, the time it took for Floyd to lose consciousness as the police officer knelt on his neck.

## UK ON SECOND DAY OF PROTESTS

Across the English Channel, tens of thousands of people joined a second day of protests in British cities – including London, Manchester, Cardiff, Leicester, Bristol and Sheffield – despite officials advising against mass gatherings due to coronavirus.

Thousands of people gathered in London, the majority donning face coverings and many with gloves, BBC reported.

In one of the protests which took place outside the U.S. embassy in central London, protesters dropped to one knee and raised their fists in the air amid chants of "silence is violence" and "color is not a crime," the report said.

In other demonstrations in London, some protesters held signs that made reference to coronavirus, including one which read: "There is a virus greater than COVID-19 and it's called racism." Protesters knelt for a minute's silence before chanting "no justice, no peace" and "black lives matter," BBC said.

In the southern British city of Bristol, a statue of a 17th-century slave trader was pulled down by "Black Lives Matter" protesters. **Xinhua**

## Iran says it is ready for more prisoner exchanges with US

### DUBAI

IRAN is ready for further prisoner exchanges with the United States, Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi said on Sunday, according to the official IRNA news agency.

"If the possibility of exchanging prisoners exists, we have the readiness to free the rest of the individuals who are imprisoned in America and return them to the country," Mousavi said.

An Iranian-American doctor has returned to Iran, Iranian state media reported on Monday, after a swap deal between Tehran and Washington that resulted in the release of a US Navy veteran detained in the Iran.

In a slight thaw in US-Iranian enmity, the United States allowed Majid Taheri to travel to Iran as part of the swap deal. Michael White, an American who said he contracted the coronavirus while detained in Iran, was freed last week.

"The government of Iran has done an extreme effort in order to help people like me who were somehow accused of violating the US sanctions," Taheri told state TV after his arrival at Tehran's Imam Khomeini Airport, where he was welcomed by deputy Foreign Minister Hossein Jaber Ansari.

He said he had been punished by the United States for sending material to Iran to help a research group that was making vaccines.

Taheri, detained in the United States for 16 months for violating US sanctions, was freed on June 4 as Iran released White, who had been sentenced to 13 years in 2019 for insulting Iran's supreme leader and posting private information online.

Taheri's lawyer said he would visit family in Iran and seek medical treatment before returning to the United States. He had pleaded guilty to violating US sanctions, the lawyer added.

"My charges were futile and unfair," Iran's semi-official Fars news agency quoted Taheri as saying.

The prisoner swap deal is a rare bright spot in the relationship between the two foes that has grown more hostile since President Donald Trump took office in 2017. He exited a nuclear agreement Iran had signed with world powers, and reimposed sanctions that had been lifted under the deal. **Agencies**

# Uzbek student supports Chinese medical team in Uzbekistan as interpreter

By Murodjon Kenjabaev from Uzbekistan

DURING my 6 years of studying in China, I've been taken good care of by my Chinese friends and teachers. China, where I met my wife, is my second home.

I was extremely anxious when the novel coronavirus epidemic broke out, and immediately purchased a large number of medical masks with the money I earned from scholarships and part-time job, and sent them from my hometown Guliston in east Uzbekistan to Guangzhou, spending around a dozen hours on the flight. The overweight baggage cost even more than the flight ticket.

This earned me an award and 20,000 yuan (\$2807.33) from a public welfare program by China's Alibaba Group and the Information Times, a local newspaper. At that time, my

wife, who applied for a second Chinese teaching site in Guliston for students from grade 5 to grade 11, was informed that her application was approved by local government. Without hesitation, we invested the money into the decoration of the classrooms, textbooks and other teaching materials. To have more Uzbek people study Chinese and experience the charm of the Chinese culture is a shared hope of us.

After learning that a joint working team from China was to arrive in Tashkent on April 17 to assist my country's efforts to fight COVID-19, I volunteered to work as an interpreter for the Chinese experts on the team and their Uzbek counterparts.

To fulfill this honored task, I made full preparation. I studied the medical knowledge as much as I could, accumulated relevant medical vocabularies in both Uzbek and Chinese, practiced



Murodjon Kenjabaev (first on the right) poses for a photograph with the experts on a joint working team from China in Tashkent, capital of Uzbekistan on April 19. (File photo)

interpreting, and consulted one of my teachers in my alma mater, Guangdong University of Foreign Studies, who once interpreted for the Chinese medical team aiding Iraq on fighting the COVID-19 disease.

It was not easy to expand my

medical vocabularies within such a short time. However, I must go all out.

During a dozen days, the Chinese medical experts and I visited tens of medical facilities in over half of Uzbekistan's states and cities, leaving our

footsteps on all the hardest-hit areas. We also communicated with the research institute of epidemiology, microbiology and infectious diseases, the national emergency medical center and designated hospitals on prevention and treatment experience, held consultation for patients in severe conditions, and donated medical supplies and materials.

I always consulted the Chinese experts in detail to ensure the accuracy of my translation, and they would patiently explain for me to help me better understand what they were saying.

Working 12 hours a day was extremely exhausting, both mentally and physically. But I found my work rewarding when I saw the Chinese medical experts working around the clock. In the face of the pandemic, the international community is strengthening co-

operation to safeguard public health security. I was proud to be part of it as a volunteer. It is the highest honor that enabled me to overcome all the fatigue.

Recently, a major collapse has occurred in the dam of Sardoba Reservoir in Uzbekistan, causing extensive flooding. To help the local people, staff members of the Chinese Embassy in Uzbekistan and teachers and students in Guangdong University of Foreign Studies donated supplies for them.

The kind act is another touching chapter of mutual help between the two countries, and once again proves that if you treat others sincerely, you will be treated sincerely in turn.

I am confident that if the international community stays united and countries help each other, people of the world will overcome the huge challenges imposed by the disease. **People's Daily**

## Poor, vulnerable hopelessly suffer in US

THE US has just gone through a chaotic weekend, with large-scale violent protests sweeping across many cities. The historic St. John's Church, 300 meters away from the White House, was one fire, and the White House was also harassed and threatened by demonstrators, both of which are landmark events in the ongoing protests.

But few people believe the chaos would bring any reflection on US politics. It will bring superficial impact and destruction, but the US political structure has been solidified.

The US can hardly form any strong force to push forward reforms. The protests are now mainly pushed by African Americans. Yet, even if they are joined by mainstream Americans, perhaps nothing will change.

Racial discrimination has been the most touchy issue among ethnic minorities in the US. But US administrative authority, and most US Congress members, did

not take this opportunity to condemn the issue to comfort those hurt. The fundamental reason is that they don't want to displease the white electorate.

The Democratic Party also needs the vote of the white people, so they were also cautious on the issue.

During the riots, a large part of the protesters' grievances came from the fact that they, as the people at the bottom, suffered most of the pain caused by the novel coronavirus epidemic.

Because the campaign strategy of the president's team is to downplay the pain of the epidemic, the White House has rarely mentioned the epidemic in the past week, except when it needed to exploit the virus to attack China.

The US is not there for ethnic minorities and poor people. Through the epidemic and the attitude of the ruling elites in the riots, people can see that these groups live in desperation. Be-

cause the poor have no way to unite under the US system and can easily be divided, their common dissatisfaction has a limited impact on elections, and they have never become the focus of attention of policymakers.

China's massive poverty alleviation program is just unthinkable in the US. The frosty attitude of capitalism against the vulnerable groups has been laid bare in the past few months. The poor in the US are experiencing a very bad 2020.

Partisan politics has created severe divisions in society. Such divisions restrict and disturb people's thinking. People's support for a particular party is only a matter of stance, which provides a shelter to politicians who violate people's interests.

As elections come and go, it is simply about one group of elites replacing the other. The intertwined interests between the two groups are much greater than those between the victori-

ous one and the electorate who vote for them.

To cover such deception, the key agenda in the US is either a partisan fight or a conflict with foreign countries. The severe racial discrimination and wealth disparities are marginalized topics.

The US presidential election is held once every four years, while the poor actually have no choice. There is no policy that addresses the issue of racial discrimination for them to vote, nor is there any social policy that truly benefits the poor and the vulnerable.

African Americans and people at the bottom protest once in a while, with isolated cases being the fuse of the eruption. But it will not change anything, and they will eventually foot the bill for most of the destruction they make. Before a reasonable solution comes out, this periodic breakout becomes an unavoidable cycle. **People's Daily**

## Moscow mayor waives self-isolation rules, travel permits, walking schedule starting today

### MOSCOW

MOSCOW'S authorities have decided to rescind self-isolation rules, travel permits and walking schedules starting on June 9, Mayor Sergei Sobyanin wrote on his blog yesterday.

"Self-isolation rules and travel permits will be waived tomorrow, on June 9, 2020. There will also be no more walking schedules," he said.

All Moscow residents, including those over the age of 65 and people with chronic illnesses, will be able to freely travel around the city and visit public places.

### 'Self-protection' rules

Moscow residents will have to keep the 'self-protection' rules after the lifting of coronavirus-related restrictions, Sobyanin wrote on his blog on Monday, warning that the risk of being infected remains and the battle against the novel coronavirus has not ended

in the city.

"Each of us still has to abide by the self-protection rules, and care for the people around us. Meanwhile the enterprises that have reopened must strictly abide by the requirements of the sanitary services," the mayor stressed.

Earlier, Sobyanin specified that these rules implied compulsory facemasks and the social distancing of one-and-a-half meter.

### Possible changes

Dates for lifting the coronavirus lockdowns in Moscow may be subject to changes depending on the epidemiological situation in the city, as follows from the mayor's decree released on Monday. "Dates for lifting the restrictions may be changed depending on the current epidemiological situation," the document reads.

The number of confirmed coronavirus cases in Russia's hardest hit area, Moscow, grew by 2,001 in the past 24 hours, to 197,018 peo-

ple overall. The daily growth rate has been hovering at around 1% in the past week. As many as 1,633 patients recovered in the past 24 hours, bringing the overall number of recoveries to 104,347. Fifty-one patients died, which is the lowest figure in the past two weeks. Overall, 2,970 people have died in Moscow, or 1.51% of all cases.

Moscow declared a high alert over the coronavirus on March 29. All residents were told to self-isolate, while numerous shops, eating establishments, parks, gyms and other facilities were closed. However, the city's authorities have recently begun to ease restrictions as the coronavirus situation is improving. On May 12, construction businesses were allowed to reopen. The second phase of easing restrictions began on June 1, when some public services reopened and people were allowed out for walks based on a rotation system. **Agencies**

# Mask-wearing worshippers in temples as India reopens amid rise in coronavirus cases

## NEW DELHI

India reopened shopping malls and restaurants on Monday and people trickled into temples and mosques wearing masks even as the country added a record number of infections in a single day and was closing in on Spain and the United Kingdom's caseload.

After imposing a severe lockdown in March, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government is under pressure to fully open up the economy and get people back to work to prevent mass

distress.

Strict guidelines have been issued for the opening up of public places and offices to prevent a further surge of infections in the world's second-most populous country.

Underlining the challenge that authorities face, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal went into self-isolation at home after a bout of fever and throat pain, his party said. A coronavirus test is scheduled for Tuesday.

"He has been a corona warrior, he has been at the front-line of this fight, we hope he

recovers soon," said Raghav Chadha, a party legislator. Delhi, along with Mumbai, is a coronavirus hotspot.

Worshippers wore masks, stood 6 feet (2 metres) apart and went through thermal scanners at Hindu temples in the capital city and elsewhere in the country that are usually filled to capacity.

Harsh Vyas of an ISKCON (International Society for Krishna Consciousness) temple in the western city of Ahmedabad said access was strictly controlled.

"We are allowing only a



A woman sanitizes her hands as a man gets his temperature checked inside a temple after the opening of the most of the religious places after India eases lockdown restrictions that were imposed to slow the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), in New Delhi, India, yesterday. REUTERS

small number of devotees inside the temple at one time. We have drawn circles where they need to stand to ensure proper distancing of at least 6 feet," Vyas said.

Delhi will not allow hotels to reopen because it said it might need to convert them into temporary hospitals if there were a big jump in cases.

India's total number of coronavirus cases reached 256,611, the health ministry said, just behind Spain after a record one-day jump of 9,983 infections.

Only the United States, Brazil, Russia and the United Kingdom have more cases, and health experts say India's peak could still be weeks away, if not months.

Deaths from COVID-19 stood at 7,135, still low compared with other countries that have suffered tens of thousands of fatalities.

In Mumbai a few offices opened, and in the suburbs there were long queues at bus stops as the commuter trains that are its lifeline have not yet opened. **Agencies**



The  
**Guardian**

# SPORT



Barack and Michelle Obama took part in YouTube's Dear Class of 2020 broadcast and deliver joint commencement speech. (Agencies)

## The Obamas deliver speeches during YouTube virtual ceremony

LOS ANGELES

PRESIDENT Barack Obama said in a commencement speech Sunday that the nationwide protests following the recent deaths of unarmed black women and men including George Floyd were fueled from "decades worth of anguish, frustration, over unequal treatment and a failure to perform police practices."

Obama along with his wife, Michelle, delivered speeches during YouTube's "Dear Class of 2020" virtual ceremony. The duo, along with a wide-ranging, star-studded lineup including Beyoncé, Lady Gaga and Tom Brady, offered inspirational messages in hopes of uplifting new graduates.

The former president told graduates that the coronavirus shined a light on a plethora of America's ongoing issues.

"In a lot of ways, the pandemic just brought into focus problems that have been growing for a very long time," he continued. "Whether it's widening economic inequality, the lack of basic health care for millions of people, the continuing scourge of bigotry and sexism, or the division or dysfunction that plagued our political system."

Obama added: "As scary and uncertain these times may be, they are also a wake-up call. And they're an incredible opportunity for your generation."

Michelle Obama said the ongoing protests following Floyd's death are a "direct result of decades of unaddressed, prejudice and inequality." She said she understands those who are "scared or confused or angry, or just plain overwhelmed" with the events the past few months.

"Over these past couple of months, our foundation has been shaken," she said. "Not just by a pandemic that stole too many of our loved ones, upended our daily lives and sent tens of millions into unemployment, but also by the rumbling of the age-old fault lines that our country was built on, the lines of race and power that are now once again so nakedly exposed for all of us to grapple with."

Beyoncé delivered a stirring 10-minute speech to graduates. She spoke about the recent protests as well as shared her secrets to success and the importance of ownership.

"You are achieving things your parents

and grandparents never could imagine for themselves," she said. "You are the answer to a generation of prayers."

Beyoncé advised graduates to believe in themselves as she did when the singer started her own company a decade ago. She said creating her own lane was challenging in an entertainment business that is still "very sexist" and "male-dominated." The singer also said the protests have already made an impact.

"Look what you've been able to do in the last 14 days," she said. "We've seen the power of the collective. We've seen what happens when we join for the same cause. Please, continue to be the voice for the voiceless."

The four-hour ceremony was filmed over the last several weeks, but Lady Gaga decided to re-record her message. Her initial speech touched on the effect COVID-19 had on this year's graduating class, but she wanted to speak more on the Floyd's death, the Black Lives Matter movement and racism in America.

"While my original commencement speech may not be directly relevant to what this country needs most right now, I wish to tell you today that though there is much to be sad about, there is also much to be celebrated," she said. "You are watching what is a pivotal moment in this country's evolution. ... Change will happen, and it will be for the better."

Taylor Swift said her high school graduation wasn't what she expected. The singer told a story about how she was on tour and unable to go to her own ceremony.

"I know this isn't the kind of graduation you thought you were going to be having," she said. "I ended up getting mailed my diploma. ... It wasn't exactly what I had pictured."

Lizzo began the ceremony with a rousing performance. While wielding her flute, the "Truth Hurts" singer performed the classic "Pomp and Circumstance" before she congratulated graduates as the New York Philharmonic accompanied her.

Several music artists from Cynthia Erivo, Camila Cabello, Coldplay's Chris Martin, Ty Dolla \$ign, Khalid and others collaborated to sing a rendition of U2's "Beautiful Day." Katy Perry led graduates in the ceremonial tassel turn at the end of the commencement celebration.

## New tennis tournament in France aiming for younger audience

PARIS

WITH discussions ongoing over whether the U.S. Open or the French Open can even take place later this year, a new digitally friendly tennis tournament starts Saturday in southern France with four Top 10-ranked players involved.

Co-founder Patrick Mouratoglou hopes the Ultimate Tennis Showdown (UTS) – whose first edition features ATP Finals winner Stefanos Tsitsipas and U.S. Open semifinalist Matteo Berrettini – can change the way tennis is viewed by allowing a younger audience to access the raw feelings of players.

"I would like the fans to benefit from better access to the players' emotions, especially on the court where the code of conduct is a significant obstacle to that," Mouratoglou said. "UTS aims to appeal to a younger, more engaged new generation of fans in order to grow its fanbase community."

Players compete every weekend for five weeks in a round robin format, their matches streamed on a live platform, with multiple screens, cameras and speakers capturing every sight and sound, according to organizers.

And that's the whole point: allowing viewers unprecedented access to all that goes on in a game. Ramping up the rawness, rather than filtering it out.

Mouratoglou, who is also the coach of 23-time Grand Slam winner Serena Williams, founded the

UTS with Australian player Alexei Popyrin, who is also playing.

They want to change how tennis is experienced through a faster-pace format featuring more interaction, where on-court coaching is encouraged rather than frowned upon.

"(Players) will interact in real time with their fans, share conversations between themselves and coaches and carry themselves more freely on court," the UTS said. "Spectators play a role in what unfolds; they interact with the players and can ask questions on changeovers, see what's happening behind the scenes in the lives of players, and hear every word exchanged between coaches and players." That could well turn Benoit Paire into a global online star.

The 30-year-old Frenchman, ranked No. 22, is known as much for his explosive temper and his on-court rants – often directed at himself – as for his erratic but sometimes ingenious stroke play.

The event is being held at Mouratoglou's academy near Antibes on the sun-soaked French Riviera. Because of coronavirus restrictions no fans are allowed on site. A safety protocol with social distancing and a limited amount of staff has been established.

The 10th-ranked David Goffin is also playing and the final Top 10 member will be announced this week. The others entered are: No. 20-ranked Felix Auger-Aliassime; No. 50 Richard Gasquet; No. 58 Lucas Pouille; and No. 239 Dustin Brown.

## Yanga post-'lockdown' drubbing in friendly bears out structural weaknesses

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

A disconcerting return to this year's unfinished soccer season greeted fans of city giants Young Africans SC (Yanga) with its 3-0 drubbing at the hands of the steadily rising Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) outfit. It was a post-'lockdown' friendly encounter at the Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam. In the refurbished league format, which would have been a memorable anti-climax had it been the Jangwani Street opening tie in the Premier League return. A defeat of that sort ruins not just points but the morale.

The significance of the results isn't likely to be sufficiently explored as it doesn't the league run, but it tells something about inner defects of a club side that still has remote chances of contending for the title. What may be noticed is that instead of this result writing off ability to contend by the second placed arch-rivals, it may eventually be the fillip with which the technical bench can rein in disorderly, lackluster attitude among players. It is a wakeup call that the technical bench and the club leadership will have taken into account as the league goes to its last lap, in which case defeat permits the club to improve much faster.

It was a discreet feeling that the side would be returning to the pitch reinvigorated with new players – the way their opponents netted a goalkeeper from Burundi who is said to be on the transfer watch list of sides like Horoya AC of Guinea, or our own neighbours Nkana FC. That would place him on the same level of market acceptability like ex-Yanga great Heritier Makambo now with Horoya – who the club leadership was talking about signing him back during the 'lockdown.' That would mean players had started having an impression that their goal-getter was about to step into the team again, so they can hang up their feet.

Losing by that margin means that there are 'loose bolts' in how the technical bench is working, as the result is a pointer to structural weaknesses as the team trains. Brief training could be one reason as Yanga is an international squad in its lineup and technical bench, and in these 'lockdown' days they may not be



Yanga forward, Tariq Seif (L), dribbles past KMC FC midfielder, Kenny Ally, in a friendly match, held at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Sunday. KMC FC won 3-0. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

easy to assemble at short notice. The fans must be brought to believe they can still expect an impressive outfit, even with this; many will feel free to air their sentiments as the technical bench suffers exposure.

A couple of reasons were being mentioned on the sidelines, as if they were initial reactions to the opening match fiasco, that Yanga marksman Morrison wasn't around – and more importantly, the head coach did not find his way back in time. Some pundits were questioning why this had to be the case as their departures and returning dates are supposed to have been agreed much early, while another line of argument indicated that the club leadership may have ignored certain channels to get their two actors back on time. They were saying arranging return by diplomatic channels, rather than just bookings, was better.

Of the two missing actors, one explains why the side didn't find the

net of the opponents, not simply by his absence as a scorer but even as a playmaker, to enable others to be in a position to score. When a player is being excessively marked by opponents' defence, the others get wider room to maneuver, and a clever pass can make a difference in that situation. The trouble is that the head coach was also away, and if the club doesn't have practiced playing methods known to the whole technical bench, it means that those who remained behind can't give the right instructions – as they lack intuitions of their head coach.

While this might seem to be a lacuna in what the club is doing at the technical level, perhaps it should be accepted that this can't be improved upon in current circumstances. The club head coach has scarcely six months in the club even including the 'lockdown' period, and the techniques with which Yanga soundly defeated Simba in earlier, happy days

were just born of that moment, not a club 'philosophy' as one may often hear of premier league sides abroad. Still even in that context there are personal philosophies rather than club philosophy, such that various top clubs keep shopping for players instead of tuning up tactics.

What however can be expected in the coming days is a hurt and vengeful Jangwani Street side hungry for goals, with its expectations of challenging their next street rivals for the title abating, psychologically pruned, seeking to prove to all and sundry that they are not to be written off as yet. Whether that brings up really good soccer depends on how they cover the two gaps or how quickly – as it can't be expected that an interim coach can polish up tactics and obtain results. Were Yanga to pull up their socks, the defeat would be a blessing in disguise as it makes each one keen on their responsibilities, with nowhere to hide.

## Corruption trial of former athletics chief Diack begins in Paris



Former President of the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) Lamine Diack, wearing a face mask, arrives for his trial at the Paris courthouse, France, yesterday. REUTERS

PARIS

LAMINE Diack, the former head of athletics' governing body, arrived in court in Paris yesterday to stand trial on charges of corruption, money laundering and breach of trust linked to a Russian doping scandal.

Prosecutors allege he solicited 3.45 million euros (\$3.9 million) from athletes suspected of doping to cover up the allegations and allow them to continue competing, including in the 2012 London Olympics.

Wearing a dark grey suit, Diack, who turned 87 on Sunday, read

through his files as he awaited the arrival of the judges.

He has previously denied wrongdoing. His lawyers have said the accusations are baseless.

Diack, from Senegal, led the governing International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF), now renamed World Athletics, from 1999-2015 and was among the most influential men in the sport. He lives under house arrest in Paris and faces a jail sentence of up to 10 years if convicted.

The trial had been due to start in January but was postponed after new documents containing testimony from his son and co-defendant, Papa

Massata Diack, were submitted to the court.

Senegal has refused to extradite Papa Massata, who worked as a marketing consultant for the IAAF. He also faces charges of money laundering, corruption and breach of trust, according to the indictment, and will be tried in absentia.

The other defendants are Habib Cisse, Diack's former lawyer at the IAAF; Gabriel Dolle, who oversaw doping tests at the IAAF; and Russians Valentin Balakhnitchev and Alexei Melnikov, who were Russia's athletics' federation chief and head athletics coach respectively at the time of the alleged cover-up.

Balakhnitchev and Melnikov were not in court. Investigators at the French National Financial Prosecutor's Office (PNF) describe a web of corruption in world athletics under Diack's leadership.

In a separate case, French prosecutors are investigating alleged bribes related to the Olympics and World Athletics Championships.

They suspect Tokyo's bidding committee bribed the Diacks in 2013 to secure votes, which the committee has denied.

Sebastian Coe, Diack's successor, has undertaken to rebuild trust in athletics and has introduced changes to the sport's governance.

REUTERS



## Racism 'only disease right now,' says Sterling

LONDON

MANCHESTER City and England footballer Raheem Sterling on Sunday insisted that racism is "the only disease right now".

The 25-year-old, who has often and powerfully spoken out on discrimination, admitted his remarks may appear ill-chosen as the globe fights the coronavirus pandemic.

"I know this might sound a little bit cheesy but the only disease right now is the racism that we are fighting," said Sterling in a BBC TV interview to be broadcast on Monday.

Sterling is the latest sports star to voice support for protests against racism in the United States and across the world following the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis last month.

"This is the most important thing at this moment in time because this is something that is happening for years and years. Just like the pandemic, we want to find a solution to stop it," he added.

"At the same time, this is what all these protesters are doing. They are trying to find a solution and a way to stop the injustice they are seeing, and they are fighting for their cause.

"As long as they are doing it

peacefully and safely and not hurting anybody and not breaking into any stores, they continue to protest in this peaceful way."

Sterling has previously been prominent in calling out racism in both the domestic and international game.

Last year he advised fellow players against walking off the pitch in the event of racial abuse.

But Sterling believes it is now time for the talking to develop into real change - in society and in the notoriously tribal world of professional football.

"There's only so much communities and other backgrounds can take - especially black people.

"It's been going on for hundreds of years and people are tired and people are ready for change.

"This is something that needs more than just talking. We need to actually implement change and highlight the places that do need changes.

"But this is something that I myself will continue to do, and spark these debates and get people in my industry looking at themselves and thinking what they can do to give people an equal chance in this country."

AFP

## La Liga fans may come back if it is safe - Tebas

MADRID

THE Spanish league is not ruling out the return of fans to stadiums this season.

League president Javier Tebas said Sunday he is in favor of having fans back as soon as regions are cleared by health authorities, contradicting an earlier message by Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez who said it wouldn't be fair for some clubs to have fans and others not.

"Fans should be back as soon as they are allowed to be back," Tebas said in his weekly interview with league broadcaster Movistar, adding that he doesn't think it's a problem that only some teams would likely benefit.

Spain has been gradually lifting confinement restrictions because of the coronavirus pandemic, with some regions entering advanced stages that could allow them to have matches with at least some fans in the stadiums.

Second-division club Las Palmas had wanted to host its match next weekend with fans at its base on the Canary Islands, which has made more progress than other areas controlling the outbreak. Madrid and Barcelona are among the regions lagging behind. Until recently, Tebas and the government were not considering having fans back in any of the stadiums until next season.

Tebas said no player or team member has tested positive for COVID-19 recently. He said it's important for everyone to be extra cautious now that the confine-

ment restrictions are being lifted across Spain, which was one of the hardest-hit countries by the pandemic but recently has appeared able to control the outbreak. The league is expected to oversee all of the clubs' trips for matches to minimize the risk of infections.

Tebas also confirmed that fans will have the option to watch matches with virtual crowds including supporters' chants when it restarts this week. Fans will be able to either watch the original feed from the empty stadiums or an alternative one with crowds superimposed on the stands, similar to video games. Tebas said the league had been testing virtual crowds along with video game company EA Sports, which will provide the audio that it uses in its FIFA titles.

"The virtual atmosphere will be very good," Tebas said. The league said it will use new camera angles as it will be able to move camera locations to positions where they would have previously affected fans. The aerial camera will modify its flight path to offer new shots. Robotic cameras will be used in the tunnels for health safety reasons.

The league's first game back will be the Seville derby between Sevilla and Real Betis on Thursday, nearly three months after it was suspended because of the pandemic. Tebas said that a limited number of media members will be allowed in the stadium to cover games.

(Agencies)

## Liverpool mayor wants Merseyside derby at Goodison Park

LONDON

LIVERPOOL's potential title-winning clash against Everton should be played at Goodison Park instead of a neutral venue, according to the city's mayor Joe Anderson.

The Merseyside derby will be the first match for Jurgen Klopp's side once the Premier League restarts following the coronavirus interruption.

If second placed Manchester City lose at home to Arsenal on June 17, then leaders Liverpool can wrap up their first English title for 30 years with a victory over their city rivals.

At present the game is scheduled for Goodison on June 21, but there have been calls from police chiefs to move it to a neutral venue to avoid fans congregating outside in violation of social distancing rules.

The fixture was on a list of 'high risk' games drawn up by police chiefs last month and Anderson previously said it was not a good idea to restart

the season because fans would not stay away.

Yet Anderson has changed his mind and believes the match could safely be staged at Goodison.

"We are in a better place than we were four weeks ago and we've been able to convey why it's so important nobody congregates outside or near grounds," he told The Athletic website.

"We have had the opportunity since then to speak to fans and the clubs have done their part and got the message across that supporters need to stay away.

"Both clubs have made it clear. Jurgen Klopp has made it clear.

"So I would have no objection to the games being played at our clubs' home grounds, both the derby at Goodison and Liverpool's games at Anfield."

Merseyside Police have no objections to the derby being played at Goodison.

AFP

# Unfamiliar homes offer Barca and Madrid fresh challenge in frenzied title race

MADRID

"I've missed this place," Lionel Messi said after stepping onto the Camp Nou grass for the first time in three months but when Barcelona return to action he knows it will not be the same.

Instead, La Liga's frenzied title race will take another step into the unknown as Barca run out into the biggest and now emptiest stadium in Europe after Real Madrid switch to a different home altogether.

Two points separate Spain's greatest rivals ahead of the return to top-flight games on Thursday, when the derby between Sevilla and Real Betis will end a 93-day hiatus and launch a five-week sprint to the finish.

When games were suspended on March 12, Madrid had handed first place back to Barcelona, just after beating them at the Santiago Bernabeu, a seemingly significant shift in momentum that lasted exactly a week.

Given the many frailties of the two teams, few could predict who will emerge the stronger from the final 11 games of the season but a fresh factor will be who adapts better to strange surroundings.

Instead of their 81,000-capacity stadium in the city-centre, under renovation this summer, Real Madrid will play at the 6,000-seater Alfredo di Stefano Stadium, usually the home of the club's reserve and under-18 teams, at their training ground in the northern suburbs.

Barcelona, meanwhile, will trade the advantage of Europe's largest home crowd for the challenge of its most empty arena, where the absence of fans will, in numerical terms at least, feel starker than anywhere else.

"It's the first time we have to play games without the fans," said Madrid's Toni Kroos earlier this month. "The team that adjusts best to this situation is the one that will win."

For Barca, it will not be the first time. Lionel Messi, Luis Suarez, Sergio Busquets, Gerard Pique, Sergi Roberto, Jordi Alba and Marc-Andre ter Stegen all played against Las Palmas in October 2017, when the club closed its doors at Camp Nou in protest against the game going ahead amid political unrest.

They won 3-0 but while that was a one-off, this time there are five home games to navigate,



Barcelona played Las Palmas in an empty Camp Nou in October 2017. (AFP Photo)

including Atletico Madrid, who would be more easily overcome with the help of a crowd. Leganes and Espanyol, sitting 19th and 20th respectively, may feel emboldened too.

"I love that connection with the fans, it's what allows us to feel those moments of happiness, to live them," said Barca's Arturo Vidal. "But we will have to adapt."

On Saturday, the team held their first full training session at Camp Nou in almost seven years and Real Madrid have been trying to acclimatise too, with Zinedine Zidane overseeing regular meetings at their new ground.

The pitch replicates exactly the 105 x 60-metre measurements of the Bernabeu while the club's groundsman, Paul Burgess, has been moved over to work on

the surface.

### - Neutral venue -

But innovations are needed, with the club having to improve the lighting for broadcasting, add advertising boards and install the technology for VAR.

For Zidane, the setting is familiar because he led Madrid's reserve side, Castilla, for 28 games there before taking charge of the first team. He even made his last appearance there in a Real Madrid shirt, to open the stadium in 2006.

Dani Carvajal, Sergio Ramos, Casemiro, Fede Valverde, Vinicius Junior, Lucas Vazquez and Rodrygo all came through the ranks playing on the Alfredo di Stefano grass.

Yet six home games against Eibar,

Valencia, Mallorca, Getafe, Alaves and Villarreal offer no guarantees and, unlike Barcelona's opponents, those teams will not even feel an historic anxiety.

For them, the Alfredo di Stefano Stadium might feel more like a neutral venue.

"Personally, I would prefer to play at the Bernabeu," said Ramos.

If home advantage is less certain, Barcelona could suffer most. They have collected the most home points so far in the division and nine more than Real Madrid.

But if they find away points are easier to collect, Barcelona have more room for improvement than Real. The unknowns make an erratic title race even more unpredictable.

AFP

## Werder slip towards drop, Union eye safety as teams take knee for Floyd

BERLIN

WERDER Bremen were staring at relegation from the Bundesliga on Sunday after a 1-0 home defeat to Wolfsburg, while Union Berlin edged towards safety on a day that featured a renewed show of solidarity with the global protests sparked by the death of George Floyd.

Wout Weghorst headed home the decisive goal for Wolfsburg eight minutes before the end to push his team back up to sixth and into the Europa League spots.

The Dutch international's 12th league goal of the season came just seconds after Xaver Schlager crashed a shot off the bar and leaves Werder, the team with the most seasons in the Bundesliga, facing the drop for the first time since 1980.

"It is very disappointing, but everything is still possible. We will give everything until the end," said Werder captain Niklas Moisander to DAZN.

With four matches left, Florian Kohfeldt's side are second-from-bottom, six points from safety and three from the relegation playoff place following back-to-back home defeats.

Werder are the league's lowest scorers with 30 goals and have won just once at home all season, losing 11 times.

They travel to bottom side Paderborn next weekend in a match that could be decisive for their survival, with league leaders Bayern Munich the following weekend and relegation rivals Mainz, who are just outside the drop zone and won 2-0 at Eintracht Frankfurt on Saturday, three days later.

The match began after both starting elevens gathered round the centre circle at the Weser Stadium before dropping to one knee, echoing a gesture made by Borussia Dortmund and Hertha Berlin players and Mainz midfielder Pierre Kunde Malong on Saturday.

Union Berlin and Schalke players then did the same before their 1-1 draw in the German capital.

### - Bundesliga takes knee -

Favourites to go down in their first ever Bundesliga season, Union are 14th on 32 points, seven ahead of Werder who occupy the final automatic relegation place, and four away from the playoff spot.

However their Nigerian striker Anthony Ujah failed in his attempt to score and take the knee himself, as he had promised he would do on Saturday. Ujah did set up Robert Andrich's neat 11th-minute opener.

Union are level on points with Augsburg, who snatched a late draw at home to Cologne thanks to Philipp Max's 88th-minute equaliser, which came just three minutes after Anthony Modeste had fired the away side into the lead.

Cologne are 12th on 35 points after a draw which also saw Florian Niederlechner miss a first-half penalty for Augsburg.

Schalke, who grabbed a point at Union thanks to a fierce Jonjo Kenny strike in the 28th minute, have failed to win in 12 league games but are 10th and are seven points from the European places.

"It's a tough situation we're in but it's a good step to come away and get a point at a difficult place to come," said English goalscorer Kenny.

With protests against police brutality and for racial



Werder Bremen and Wolfsburg players take a knee in solidarity with protests in the USA over the death of George Floyd (AFP Photo)

equality taking place around the world on Sunday, the Bundesliga has become a stage for tributes to Floyd, a black American man who died last month at the hands of police in Minneapolis.

On Saturday, Dortmund players also wore messages on their T-shirts during

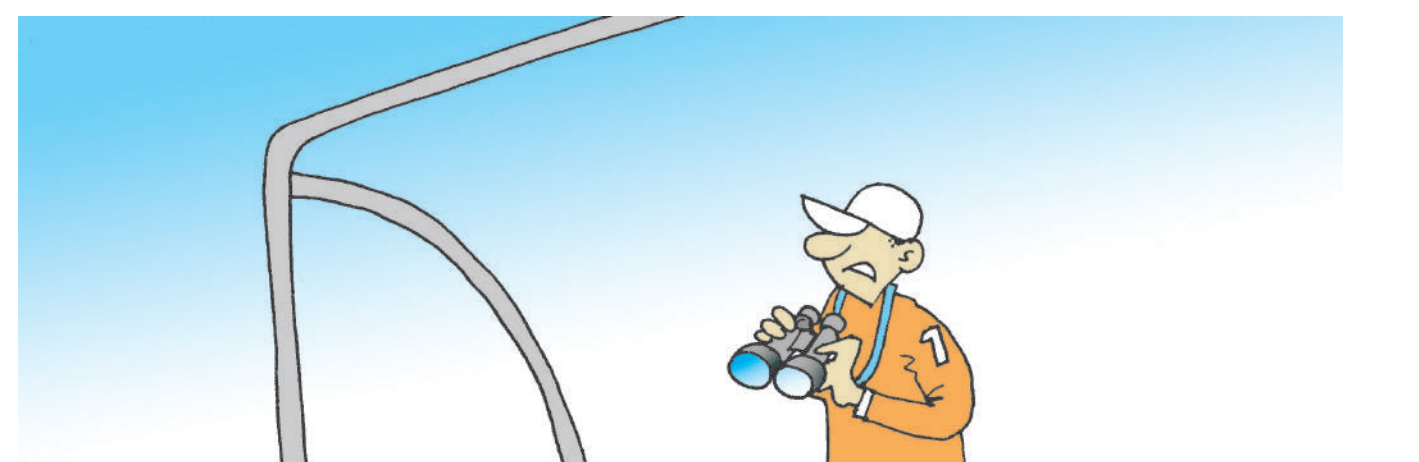
their warm-up in honour of Floyd.

Jadon Sancho and Achraf Hakimi wore the messages "no justice, no peace", while midfielders Axel Witsel and Emre Can's T-shirts displayed the words "black", "white", "yellow" and "red" crossed out, with the word "human" below.

Prior to their 4-2 win at Bayer Leverkusen on Saturday, Bayern Munich players warmed up in T-shirts bearing both the Black Lives Matter hashtag and the slogan of the club's official "Reds Against Racism" campaign.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

Unfamiliar homes offer Barca and Madrid fresh challenge in frenzied title race

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

## Yanga coach keen on improving team performance

By Guardian Correspondent

YANGA assistant coach, Charles Boniface Mkwasa, has promised to improve his team's performance before the Vodacom Premier League game against Mwadui FC, which will take place in Shinyanga on Saturday.

Mkwasa (pictured) issued the comments after his side suffered 3-0 defeat to KMC FC in a friendly match which took place at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Sunday.

In a monitored interview, the assistant coach said he will work on the weaknesses which he saw in his squad during the match and promised that the team will be ready for the match against Mwadui FC.

He said the 3-0 defeat in the hands of KMC FC was due to his charges' own mistakes.

"I saw the way my players played, it was not that bad but there are some mistakes which we committed, I promise to work on them before facing Mwadui FC but generally the game against KMC FC was good and it has helped me



and my technical bench have a good analysis of the team," he said.

The coach also attributed the friendly clash's results to Yanga's lack of time to prepare well for competitive matches.

He stated the match has, though, helped him assess his charges before the league resumes later this week.

"As you know the players have never played active football since March 17 when the govern-

ment announced the suspension of all sporting activities due to Coronavirus disease," he stated.

"This was their first competitive game, the fitness levels of many of my players was not that good but I'm happy with individual performances," he said.

In the Sunday friendly, Yanga rested many of their regular players including Bernard Morrison, skipper Papy Tshishimbi and Lamine Moro.

The side though fielded many first team players that include keeper Metacha Mnata, Juma Abdul, Kelvin Yondani, Haruna Niyonzima, Feisal Salum, Ditram Nchimbi and Balama Mapinduzi.

Yanga, who were lacking match fitness, were outplayed by their opponents throughout 90 minutes.

KMC FC scored their three goals through Sadalah Lipangile on the 30th minute, Charles Ilanfy on the 47th minute and Hassan Kabunda on the 65th minute.

## Eymael set to jet into Dar tomorrow

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

AFTER failing to arrive in Tanzania on two occasions, Young Africans SC (Yanga) head coach, Luc Eymael, is expected to jet in tomorrow.

Yanga information officer, Hassan Bumbuli, yesterday said the Belgian coach has communicated to the club that all is set for his arrival tomorrow.

"As I'm talking to you, I have just finished having discussions with him via Skype, he has assured me that he is coming on Wednesday, he said all arrangements for his trip have been completed," he said.

He said once the coach arrives, he will accompany the team to Shinyanga where they will play Mwadui FC in a Vodacom Premier League game, to be played on Saturday.

Bumbuli also downplayed the late arrival of the coach, saying the team is in safe and able hands of assistant coach, Charles Boniface Mkwasa.

"If he will not come on Wednesday as he promised, there is nothing to worry, the team is in safe and able hands of Boniface Mkwasa," the Yanga official stated.

"There is nothing to fear, the team will do well in Shinyanga as Mkwasa is also one of the best and top coaches in the country."

The Belgian tactician was expected in the country last Saturday but he did not show up amidst media reports that he has pocketed 40m/- for his air ticket and other needs.

Asked what action the club will take in case the coach did not show up on Wednesday, Bumbuli said it is not good to predict and speculate on the matter.

"We will wait for his arrival on Wednesday, he has promised that he will come on Wednesday and join the team, for now we should wait for that day," he said.

Eymael has established himself as one of prominent gaffers in Tanzania after leading Yanga to many wins in the Vodacom Premier League.

Currently, Yanga are occupying the third spot in the league table with 51 points from 27 games.

They are also expected to face Kagera Sugar in quarter-finals of the Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) on June 30.

The coach is also well known in the continent after coaching many clubs, which include AS Vita Club of Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Missile of Gabon, MC Oran of Algeria, AFC Leopards of Kenya, and Rayon Sport of Rwanda.

South Africa sides, Black Leopards, Polokwane and Free State Stars, as well as Tunisia's JS Kairouan and Tala El Geish of Egypt are also in the list of clubs he has coached.



Yanga midfielder, Haruna Niyonzima (L), dribbles past KMC FC midfielder, Hassan Kapalata, in a friendly clash, which took place at the Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Sunday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

## Mkwasa rues sloppy Yanga performance in friendly

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YOUNG Africans SC (Yanga) assistant coach, Charles Boniface Mkwasa, was left to rue his side's misfiring performance in a shocking 3-0 defeat to KMC FC in a friendly match, held at the Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Sunday.

Mkwasa admitted that things did not work their way and that his side were far from their best as a result of lack of match fitness.

Yanga were sloppy in possession and lacking bite in attack.

"We absolutely lost the game, looking back, we conceded

through sloppy defensive mistakes of our own making. It's been a good match to identify our weaknesses and areas that we need to work on," the coach said. "We got a good preparation match, I congratulate our opponents because they had early preparations while we have been training for just ten days."

Yanga never got going against a fresh looking KMC FC who were superb from start to finish and have now emerged victorious in back to back matches against the Jangwani Street side's boys.

KMC FC struck the crossbar before deservedly going in front when Sadallah Lipangile shot

past Yanga keeper, Metacha Mnata, to complete a neat one-two move that was initiated by midfielder Emmanuel Mvuyekure's decisive pass just after the half-hour mark. It was no surprise that KMC FC doubled their advantage. Charles Ilanfy was put through on goal by Mvuyekure and the big striker calmly lifted the ball over an on rushing Mnata and into the net.

Twenty minutes after the restart, winger Hassan Kabunda then completed a routine victory for the Kinondoni Municipal-owned side, curling a free kick into the back of Yanga's net from the edge of the area following a

foul. Yanga barely have a week to regroup as they will face Mwadui FC in their first league match on June 13 after a three-month hiatus because of the Coronavirus pandemic.

They will then travel to Dodoma for another tricky away assignment against JKT Tanzania, to be played on June 17.

With only 11 games to go play, Yanga are 20 points behind league leaders, Simba SC, who are well on course for a third consecutive title.

However, Yanga's main focus is on the Federation Cup where they have booked a quarterfinal date with Kagera Sugar.

## National Athletics Championships slated for August

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

ATHLETICS Tanzania (AT) has confirmed that it will host this year's National Championships in August, with athletes from across the country expected to compete in the showdown, set to take place at the National Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Ombeni Zavalla, AT acting secretary general, stated the National Sports Council (NSC) wrote them recently informing them to start preparations for the championships.

She said AT officials have agreed that the championships should be held for two days, August 15-16, at the National Stadium.

The association, according to her, has written all regions across the country to start preparations for the championships.

In April, AT set August 15-16 as dates for the championships, but the association was waiting for the government to give nod to the resumption of sporting activities, which had been suspended from March 17 in an effort to prevent the spread of Coronavirus disease.

Initially AT planned to host the National Championships in May, but the government, on March 17, announced suspension of all sporting activities with a view to curbing the disease.

"Following the decrease in Coronavirus cases in the country, the NSC wrote us that we can now host the National Championships, AT top leadership met recently and agreed that the championships should be held for two days at the dates and venue which we early planned," she stated.

"We have written all regions informing them of the development so they can start preparing their athletes," she said.

She said unlike previous championships where winners earn qualification for international events, this year AT has not received any invitation, mainly due to Coronavirus which has led to suspension of sporting activities in many countries.

In an interview that was held in April, AT information officer, Tullo Chambo, said depending on the status of Coronavirus in the country and government directive, the association plans to host the championships at the National Stadium from August 15-16.

Chambo said the decision to host the National Championships in August this year was reached at AT's technical committee meeting.

He said the meeting was held to discuss a directive by International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF), which asked all of its member associations to host national championships between August 8-9 this year.

The IAAF had presented the directive to the member associations after the disruption of its calendar of activities due to the Covid-19 pandemic in the globe.

**EATV TUESDAY**  
TONIGHT @ 9:00  
NIRVANA

11:00 DADAZ LIVE  
12:00 MPYA  
12:30 Msoi Kitaani (r)  
13:00 Wanawake Live (r)  
13:30 Kofi Za Wana  
14:00 DK 10 za Maangamizi  
14:30 BBall Kings Highlights (r)  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 SPORTS (r)  
16:30 #HASHTAG  
17:00 SSELEKT  
17:55 Kuraso  
18:00 eNewz  
18:30 Music/Soap  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
19:45 MJADALA  
20:00 DADAZ (r)

Nirvana explores the hottest trends in fashion, beauty, art and lifestyle as well as interviews with notable people from the entertainment, art and fashion industries.

**eastafrika RADIO**  
88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

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

## Flexibles by David Chikoko



Following the decrease in Coronavirus cases in the country, the NSC wrote us that we can now host the National Championships, AT top leadership met recently and agreed that the championships should be held for two days at the dates and