



National Pg 3

Alert about heavy rains in regions



National Pg 4

Contractor suspended for alleged fraud



National Pg 6

Mo Ibrahim calls for coordinated governance



MPs fully agree on coronavirus routine testing, distancing rule

• No dissent as Halima Mdee (Chadema) makes mandatory testing proposal

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE National Assembly is working on logistics to have members of Parliament undergo Covid-19 testing as a precautionary measure to rein in the spread of the disease, Speaker Job Ndogai announced yesterday.

Observations by this paper at Parliament grounds noted a number of interventions taken to respond to the deadly disease.

Body temperature scanners were mounted to test everyone who entered the grounds with hand sanitizers placed on all entry points.

Officiating the session yesterday here, Ndogai said that as the country scales up efforts to curb

the Covid-19 pandemic, it was vital for MPs to undergo mandatory testing.

Responding to a question from Halima Mdee (Kawe, Chadema) Ndogai said that the secretariat will discuss with the Prime Minister's Office on the best way for testing MPs.

He emphasized that MPs, parliamentary officials and other staff or guests attending sessions to all the time maintain social distancing.

In her question, Mdee wanted the Speaker to consider taking immediate measures and enable all MPs to undergo Covid-19 testing so as to give an opportunity for more legislators attend the

TURN TO PAGE 2



Dodoma city commuter bus touts (L and 2nd-L) move to ensure that all would-be passengers wash hands properly - with a sanitiser - yesterday before getting on board. It was all part of a recently introduced initiative meant to beat the spread of Covid-19 infections. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila



US pharmaceutical unveils COVID-19 vaccine candidate

By Guardian Reporter

AMERICAN multinational company Johnson & Johnson yesterday announced the selection of its lead Covid-19 vaccine candidate from constructs it has been working on for over two months.

It said in a statement yesterday that the development is a result of significant expansion of its existing partnership with Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies and the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA), a government organization.

It involved the rapid scaling of the firm's manufacturing capacity with the goal of providing global supply of more than one billion doses of the vaccine.

"The company expects to initiate human clinical studies of its lead vaccine candidate at the latest by September 2020 and anticipates the first batches of a COVID-19 vaccine could be available for emergency use authorisation by early 2021, a substantially accelerated

TURN TO PAGE 2

Now, first Covid-19 fatality registered

By Guardian Reporter

THE first case of a Tanzanian to die from the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) was registered yesterday.

Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children minister Ummu Mwalimu confirmed that a 49-year-old Tanzanian male who had other disease preconditions succumbed to Covid-19 in a Dar es Salaam hospital, where he was undergoing treatment.

"The death occurred today at a unit designated for Covid-19 patients within Mloganzila Hospital (in suburban Dar es Salaam)," she said, refraining from mentioning his name.

Statements released later by the family of the deceased and Simba Sports Club, where he was reportedly an influential member, identified the deceased (name

withheld).

"The family regrets to announce the death of our beloved younger brother, which occurred early today at Mloganzila Hospital (though minister Mwalimu later clarified that it was at a designated centre some distance away from the teaching hospital)," the statement said.

"Because of the cause of his death, coronavirus, the government will bury him this afternoon and only select members of the family will attend - and there will be no funeral ceremony thereafter."

A person who said he knew the deceased but asked not to be named "because I was not authorised by the family", described him as someone who got on very well with both friends and

TURN TO PAGE 2

'Touts must go' cries as level seat policing starts

By Guardian Team

BUS owners were yesterday calling on municipal authorities to remove all touts from major stands for one month



as a measure against the spread of coronavirus.

Tanzania Bus Owners Association (TABOA) secretary general Enea Mrutu (pictured) told this paper in an interview that the touts—who are not employees of bus operators—pose risks of spreading the disease due to what they do, including emitting saliva in shouting and touching passengers.

"Buses should remain with skeleton staff, namely, driver and conductor. Touts are unnecessary at these difficult times."

TURN TO PAGE 2

SHARE FACTS ABOUT COVID-19

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



CS 31546A 03/16/2020

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

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

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

- Fever
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath
- Seek medical advice if you
- Develop symptoms
- AND
- Have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.

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



9 770856 542009 >



Y&P Architects consultant Anna Shayo (2nd-L), who is supervising the construction of the Tanzania Fishing Research Institute laboratory in Dar es Salaam, briefs Livestock and Fisheries minister Luhaga Mpina (C). The latter toured the site of the project at Kunduchi yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

MPs fully agree on coronavirus routine testing, distancing rule

FROM PAGE 1

sessions.

She wanted the government to come up with a clear statement on budgetary measures it has taken to fight the spread of Covid-19 as well as an update on the real situation of Covid-19 for the MPs to discuss.

"Most places in Tanzania do not adhere to social distancing. We have witnessed it ourselves; what is the government doing to ensure that experts' advice are observed?" she demanded.

She was echoed by the Peter Msigwa (Iringa Urban, Chadema) who also emphasized for the government to come up with concrete measures to rescue the country's economy.

"This is a national war, it should be taken seriously. Social distance is not the only solution without testing, so the government should come here and tell us what is its plan to rescue the economy and our people," Msigwa said.

Explaining, Speaker Ndugai noted that social distancing is not only applied to humans but animals as well during disasters, "so we should all respond to experts' advice."

"During this tragic period, we should stand as one. We should unite and pull our socks to fight the spread of the disease," Ndugai intoned.

He further urged authorities to continue taking measures and educate the public on how to prevent themselves from the disease.

On Monday Speaker Ndugai said they have decided to reduce the number of MPs from the total of 393 to a maximum of 150 as part of measures to control the spread of Covid-19.

The sessions, contrary to other meetings, will be held for four hours in the afternoon instead of the normal nine hours.

Visitors have been restricted throughout the meeting period with exception of a few potential ones, while parliamentary staff will ensure availability of hand sanitizers and other useful gears.

"Normally the National Assembly brings together more than 700 people during its meetings. We don't want to host too many people due to the outbreak of coronavirus," he had declared.

Documents related to the ongoing meeting will be electronically delivered to the law makers and journalists. They will be sent early in the morning for MPs to go through them before the afternoon sessions, he specified.

During the session, Ndugai said MPs will keep distance and speak directly from microphones in front of their seats while previously MPs could share microphones.

Now, first Covid-19 fatality registered

FROM PAGE 1

acquaintances in Dar es Salaam city.

Before testing positive for Covid-19 and being transferred to the government facility, the person is reported to have been admitted to a private hospital in the city where he received and came into close contact with many visitors.

"He had influential friends in politics and private firms as well as at the club (meaning Simba Sports Club)," the source said.

The death takes Tanzania's fight against Covid-19 a notch higher with contact tracing being a more complicated assignment, as the likely number of people to have come close

to the first fatality case exceeds the 19 confirmed cases so far.

The World Health Organisation says that people may be infected with the virus for one to 14 days before developing symptoms. The most common symptoms are fever, tiredness and a dry cough.

Confirmed cases globally had

surpassed the 800,000 mark as of early this week, with over 38,000 deaths and 170,000 recoveries. Spain recorded highest number of fatalities in a single day - 849.

American Airlines said it would apply for USD12 billion in government aid, while British Airways suspended all flights from London's Gatwick airport.

'Touts must go' cries as level seat policing starts

FROM PAGE 1

he said.

This come as businesses were disrupted in Dar es Salaam yesterday due to late reporting at work places as operators of commuter buses adhered to a government directive requiring that all passengers be seated.

The directive announced on Monday is meant to reduce congestion in public transport vehicles as it is likely to spread the virus further.

The move also affected the rapid transit buses (BRT), causing panic and anxiety as passengers waited for hours at various bus stops to reach various places of work or commerce.

A random check at several bus stops saw large numbers of people opting to walk after waiting for a long time as some opted for motorcycle and tricycle rides.

At the Mbezi Mwisho bus stop a huge number of passengers waited for commuter buses as they picked to sitting capacity, totally unusual for city commuters.

Some conductors went to carry standing passengers but asked them to kneel down whenever a traffic officer was on the horizon.

"This is good if we are to protect ourselves against the virus, but the number of buses offering the services is too small," said a commuter who had

been at Mbezi Mwisho bus stop since six in the morning and was still there by midmorning.

Stranded passengers appealed for the number of buses to be increased to ease congestion at bus stops across the city, as that situation also poses a serious threat to people's health.

Along Bagamoyo Road, commuter buses were carrying only sitting passengers to the city centre and refusing to pick anyone along bus stops.

A Bunju to Morocco bus conductor said for now they are not ready to exceed the number of passengers because when they are arrested they pay huge fines.

The same situation was witnessed at Mbezi BRT bus stop where a huge number of passengers were waiting for transport.

Chanika residents who use commuter were forced to walk as operators implemented the directives.

Zawadi Abdallah, a resident of Ngwale told this paper that she was forced to walk a distance and turn with the vehicle so that she gets a seat.

"Am tired as every vehicle I come across is full. I don't know if my boss will understand me but I have to go to work," she said.

Bus stops all over Dar es Salaam were dense with stranded commuters as coronavirus effects bit harder.



National Assembly Speaker Job Ndugai (back row) addresses legislators in Dodoma yesterday on how the House will run its daily activities while in session during this time of the global Covid-19 pandemic. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

FROM PAGE 1

timeframe in comparison to the typical vaccine development process," the statement indicated.

BARDA is part of the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Along with Johnson & Johnson, in what it termed a landmark new partnership, the two organizations have committed more than one billion dollars of investment to co-fund vaccine research, its development and clinical testing.

"Johnson & Johnson will use its validated vaccine platform and is allocating resources, including personnel and infrastructure globally as needed, to focus on these efforts.

US pharmaceutical unveils Covid-19 vaccine candidate

Separately, BARDA and the company have provided additional funding that will enable expansion of their ongoing work to identify potential antiviral treatments against the novel coronavirus," it further states.

Johnson & Johnson is expanding the company's global manufacturing capacity, setting up new U.S. vaccine manufacturing capabilities and scaling up capacity in other countries.

Additional capacity will assist in the rapid production of a vaccine and enable the supply of more than one billion doses of a safe and effective vaccine globally. The company plans to begin production at risk imminently and is committed to bringing an affordable vaccine to the public on

a not-for-profit basis for emergency pandemic use.

Alex Gorsky, its chairman and chief executive officer, said that the world is facing an urgent public health crisis and that the firm is committed to doing its part to make a Covid-19 vaccine available and affordable globally as quickly as possible.

"As the world's largest healthcare company, we feel a deep responsibility to improve the health of people around the world every day. Johnson & Johnson is well positioned through our combination of scientific expertise, operational scale and financial strength to bring our resources in collaboration with others to accelerate the fight against this pandemic."

Paul Stoffels, the firm's chief scientific officer, said the company greatly values the U.S. government's confidence and support for its research and development efforts.

Its global team of experts has ramped up R&D and its teams are working tirelessly alongside BARDA, scientific partners and global health authorities.

"We are very pleased to have identified a lead vaccine candidate from the constructs we have been working on since January. We are moving on an accelerated timeline toward phase 1 human clinical trials at the latest by September 2020 and, supported by the global production capability that we are scaling up in parallel to this testing,

we expect a vaccine could be ready for emergency use in early 2021."

Johnson & Johnson began efforts in January as soon as the novel coronavirus (Covid-19) DNA sequence became available, to research potential vaccine candidates. Research teams at Janssen, in collaboration with Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center which is part of Harvard Medical School, constructed and tested multiple vaccine candidates using the Janssen AdVac® technology.

Through collaborations with scientists at multiple academic institutions, the vaccine constructs were then tested to identify those with the most promise in producing an immune response in preclinical testing,

the statement underlined.

"Based on this work, Johnson & Johnson has identified a lead Covid-19 vaccine candidate (with two back-ups), which will progress into the first manufacturing steps. Under an accelerated timeline, the Company is aiming to initiate a Phase 1 clinical study in September 2020, with clinical data on safety and efficacy expected to be available by the end of the year. This could allow vaccine availability for emergency use in early 2021. For comparison, the typical vaccine development process involves a number of different research stages, spanning five to seven years, before a candidate is even considered for approval," it added.



Mourners carry the casket bearing the body of Tanzania Private Sector Foundation chairman Salum Shamte at his residence in Dar es Salaam's Mbweni suburb yesterday. He was buried in the city later in the day. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Tanzania's weather agency issues latest alert about heavy rains in 17 regions

By Guardian Reporter

Tanzania's weather agency Meteorological Authority (TMA) yesterday issued its latest alert warning of two days' of consecutive heavy rains in 17 regions tomorrow and Friday, including Dar es Salaam.

TMA's statement said tomorrow (Thursday) heavy rains are expected in some areas of Njombe, Iringa, Songwe, Mbeya and Rukwa regions.

TMA's manager for the main forecasting centre Samuel Mbuya said due to the expected rains, there are possibilities of floods in people's settlements and roads infrastructures that may impact transportation.

He said for Friday heavy rains are forecasted in some areas of Dar es Salaam, Zanzibar, coast, Mafia, Tanga, Manyara, Kilimanjaro, Arusha, Morogoro regions as well as repetition for Njombe and Iringa regions.

He said residents in the said areas should take precautionary measures and continue follow ups of weather forecasts issued by TMA.

infrastructures and damage people's settlements after being surrounded by water hence it is advisable for people in those area to continue following up TMA weather forecasts," he added.

He said TMA will continue to follow up weather systems and issue statements accordingly for the wananchi to take precautions.



For Friday destruction can occur on infrastructures and damage people's settlements after being surrounded by water hence it is advisable for people in those area to continue following up TMA weather forecasts

"For Friday destruction can occur on

Development partners contributed 7.1tr/- to national budgets - MPs

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE government has in the past three fiscal years received a total of 7.1tr/- as contributions and soft loans from development partners to implement the national budgets, the House heard yesterday.

According to the Ministry of Finance

and Planning, development partners and donors have been implementing their promises by 77 percent.

Responding to question from Momba MP (Chadema) David Silinde, the ministry acknowledge that sometimes the partners have been filing to fulfill their promises by 100 percent.

In his basic question, Silinde sought

to know why some of the development partners and donors who have been failing to implement their pledges during the implementation of the country's development budgets.

The legislator claimed that in the last three consecutive fiscal years, a number of partners failed to fulfill their pledges.

According to the ministry's response, development partner and donors have largely been supporting Tanzania to implement its development budget annually something which should be commended.

"Despite other development partners and donors failing to fulfill their promises, the government has

been receiving a good amount of funds from them which have been used to implement various development projects in the country," noted part of the ministry's response.

It was stated that in the 2016/17 fiscal year, a total of 3.4tr/- (84 percent) was received from development partners and donors

out of the expected 3.9tr/-.

"In 2018/19 fiscal year a total of 2.08tr/- (78 percent) was received out of the expected 2.68tr/-. In the period from July 2019 to February 2020, we have received a total of 1.63tr/- which is equivalent to 90 percent of all pledges," the ministry responded.

United Nations Development Programme



Empowered lives. Resilient nations.

SECURITY SERVICES PROVIDER

Establishment of Long-Term Agreement for Provision of Security Services for UN Agencies in Tanzania

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Tanzania Country Office wishes to procure services of qualified **Security Company** to accomplish the Security Services;

REQUEST FOR ADVERTISEMENT: PROVISION OF SECURITY SERVICES FOR UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES IN TANZANIA

Type of Contract: Long Term Agreement for all UN Agencies in Tanzania.

Links:

- 1) http://procurement-notice.undp.org/view_notice.cfm?notice_id=64547
- 2) <https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice/106093>

Deadline for submission of proposals: Wednesday 07 May 2020

A highly recommended Pre-bid meeting will take place at 10:30 am on 08 April 2020.

A highly recommended site visit meeting will take place after pre-bid meeting

MODE OF SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS: Through E-tendering

Please note that this procurement process is being conducted through online tendering system of UNDP. Bidders who wish to submit an offer must be registered in the system. If already registered, sign in using your username and password. Use "Forgotten password" link if you do not remember your password. Do not create a new profile. If you have never registered in the system before, you can register by visiting the link below and entering the following login details.

<https://etendering.partneragencies.org>

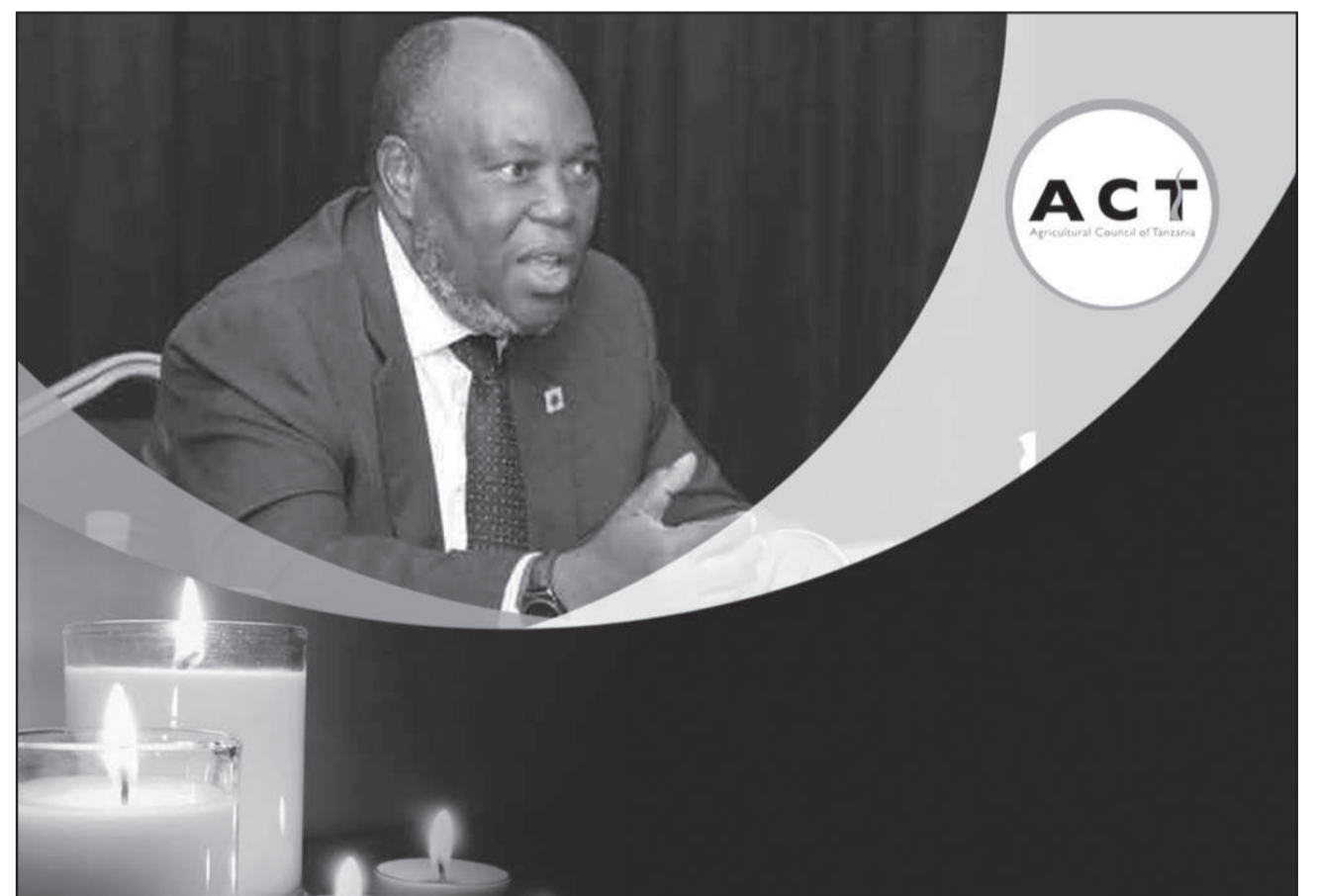
Username: event.guest

Password: why2change

Proposals must be submitted electronically (through Etendering method), following above Instructions and thereafter accessing the Event ID#: 0000005658

Plot 182, Mzingo Way, Off Mwasani Road, Oyster Bay. P. O. Box 9182, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Tel: +255-22-2195000 - 4 Fax: +255-22-2195011 Website: <http://www.tz.undp.org/> Email: registry.tz@undp.org

215684601



The Board of directors and Agriculture Council of Tanzania (ACT) secretariat has received with very great sadness, the death of our former Chairman of ACT **Mr. Salum Shamte**.

Agriculture Council of Tanzania will remember **Salum Shamte** as one of the founders of ACT and certainly his experience and contribution has helped significantly to develop and lift up the agricultural sector.

ACT offers condolences to the family during this difficult moment.

May God give the family and the Tanzania business community strength to withstand this tough situation.

R.I.P Salum Shamte.

Laboratory contractor suspended, fraud cited

By Guardian Reporter

LIVESTOCK and Fisheries minister Luhaga Mpina has suspended all payments due to Petra Construction Co Limited, the firm contracted to build a modern laboratory for Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute (TAFIRI), Dar es Salaam centre until verification of the project's true cost is established following claims of embezzlement of public funds to the tune of 2.6b/-.

The minister has formed a probe team comprising experts from the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB), the office of the Controller and Auditor General (CAG), Tanzania Building Agency (TBA), Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) and the Livestock and Fisheries ministry. He said the team is expected to complete investigation in seven days.

Speaking soon after inspecting the ongoing TAFIRI laboratory construction project in Dar es Salaam, Mpina said he discovered that its infrastructures are of undersize contrary to the specifications in the signed 2.6b/- contract agreement, and added that the team's findings and its recommendations will be submitted to the ministry for further steps.

Earlier, one official from the contracting firm told the minister that upon completion some 500m/- will remain unused; the statement that raised many questions over the project's true cost and prompted the

minister to come up with the decision to form a probe team.

Mpina said after seven days the project's true cost will be known and whether the 2004 PPRA Act was adhered to and legal measures will be taken against all those who will be found to have embezzled public funds.

He said he does not believe the project's true cost is 2.6b/- but ordered the work on the project to go on and should be completed by April 20 as per contract agreement after which the building's inauguration will be held as part of efforts to bring about great revolution in the country's fishing sector.

The Manager of South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Governance (Swiofish) Flora Luhanga said construction work on the TAFIRI laboratory project began on June 10 2019 at a cost of 2,609,491,754/-.

She said the project also involves the construction of the perimeter fence, guards' offices, borehole drilling and respective water tank.

An official from Petra Construction Co Limited, the project's contracting firm Nicholas Mlayi said the work is 70 per cent complete and the firm had already been paid 963m/-.

On his part, the representative from the ministry's Permanent Secretary Magese Bulayi told minister Mpina that he will act on all the directives he issued in ensuring the government gets the value for money spent in the project.



Commuter buses in Dar es Salaam now observe road traffic regulations more keenly, including ensuring that there are only as many passengers as there are seats. The practice, popularly known as "level seating", is mainly in implementation of calls for precautions against the spread of Covid-19 infections. This scene was captured yesterday on the city's Mbaga-Gongo la Mboto route. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Senapa hosts some 2m domestic tourists

By Guardian Correspondent, Serengeti

A TOTAL of 1,959,779 domestic tourists have visited Serengeti National Park (SENAPA) in the past six years since 2013 due to available attractions including the annual migrating wildebeest.

The head of tourism division and senior conservator Tutinga Mwakijambile said yesterday in an

interview with this paper on strategies in enhancing domestic tourism.

He said advertising strategies included various exhibitions and fairs, radio, magazines, TV and door to door mobilisation in schools, private firms and government offices.

He said among the attractions included the migrating wildebeests huge prides of lions, elephants, wild dogs, giraffes, ostriches, leopards,

rhinos, and great Grumet and Mara rivers.

"In fact the attractions in our national parks have been attracting many tourists from all over the world such as the wildlife 'big five' " he said.

The wildebeest are more than 1.5 million in one migrating at the same time to Masai Mara in Kenya in search for better grazing grounds and water.

SENAPA chief conservator,

Senior Assistant Commissioner of Conservation Massana Mwishawa said Tanzanians are visiting the park in great numbers due public awareness.

SENAPA with 14,763 square kms was established in 1959 and is part of Serengeti ecosystem in Mara region and is World Heritage and "biosphere reserve designated by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 1981.



WWF for a living planet®

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) Re- Advertised Consultancy: Engaging Private and Public Sector Institutions on Sustainable Investments

WWF Tanzania Country Office (WWF TCO) is a Non- Government Organization dealing with environmental protection in Tanzania since 1990 and it has supported the Government of Tanzania in implementing various projects on Marine, Forest, Fresh Water, Energy and Wildlife. WWF global mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by:

1. conserving the world's biological diversity;
2. ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable and
3. promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption

Consultancy Goal and Objective:

WWF has proposed to promote joint collaborative efforts towards sustainable investments in Tanzania. The overall objective of this consultancy is to engage an individual consultant who will help to mobilise private and public sectors to promote Sustainable Investments that will support increase resilience of communities which have high level of natural resources dependencies from the impacts of climate changes. The goal of the project is to attract private sector collaborative investments which will enable WWF to:

- Engage private and public sectors in sustainable impact investment initiatives
- Build capacities to CSOs and CBOs for managing natural resource and community enterprises which will provide alternative sources of income.
- Develop linkages community based value chain enterprises as alternative sources of income generating activities

Scope of Work:

A Sustainable Investment Consultant is required to providing support to the WWF Tanzania Partnership and Development team at the level of planning, policy advice and putting appropriate mechanism for the engagement and resource mobilisation for sustainable investments from both the private and public sectors. More specifically, the Sustainable Investment Consultant shall consist of providing support to the WWF Tanzania to:

- Establish and maintain private and public sector dialogues
- Put a system to administer information flow among different stakeholders—private, public, CSOs and CBOs
- Carry out reviews of existing financial management systems, procedures and practices and identify areas of improvement to support sustainable investments fund flow.
- Put in place the necessary procedures, practices and training to fill capacity gaps and strengthen the Financial Department;
- Preparing monthly, quarterly and annual financial reports for the sustainability Investment funds under WWF Tanzania administration
- As the WWF Tanzania financial sustainability fund manager arrange timely financial information for internal audits;
- Review invoices and contracts together with the relevant government authorities and the procurement specialists;
- Carrying out control and filing of all payment documents, invoices and other financial documents relating to Sustainability Investment Fund transactions;

4. Institutional Arrangement

a) The Sustainable Investment Consultant will be working under the direction and supervision of the WWF Tanzania Partnership and Development Manager (PDM); b) Submit progress report on a Monthly Basis to the PDM. c) The Sustainable Investment Consultant will be supported by Partnership and Development

Manager (PDM) at WWF Tanzania.

5. The duration of the consultancy is of 10 months. The starting date is upon contract signature.
6. Duty Station: Sustainable Investment Consultant own offices. However, the Contractor will be required to report regularly and be present for meetings when need be.
7. Please, send request for ToR and all enquiries to tz.procurement@wwf.panda.org or visit us at: Kiko Street, Mikocheni – Off Mwai Kibaki Road Plot 252, P. O. Box 63117, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania Tel: +255 22 277 5346/277 2455/270 0077 Fax: +255 22 277 5535; website. www.panda.org
8. Complete a data compilation template that will be provided. The consultant will be facilitated to see the template in advance to give a picture of the kind of data required. Make presentations as will be required at the inception and feedback meetings
7. Registered, eligible and reputable, firms, institutions and individuals are advised to submit both technical and financial proposals for this assignment. The technical proposal should clearly indicate the individual's/institution's team's experience on SIMILAR assignment relevant to the subject matter.
8. **Applicant Requirement and qualifications:**
The desired applicant to undertake this assignment with other key qualities, must meet the following minimum qualifications:
Academic Qualifications: a. Master's Degree in Sustainable Investments, Accounting and Finance, Corporate Social Responsibility and Reporting.
i. Years of Experience: a. Local relevant experience of not less than 10 years. b. Experience with International Development Sector for at least 10 years will be a plus.
ii. Competencies: a. Good communication skills c. Proficiency in finance investments and bankable projects; Knowledge of Natural Resource Management is a plus d. Demonstrated analytical Skills e. Teamwork
9. Please, submit your full proposal tz.procurement@wwf.panda.org
10. **Deadline for submission:** Applications should be a concise full combined technical & financial proposals fully signed, highlighting company profile, concrete evidences of experiences on similar works, the proposed approach and methodologies, work schedule and timings of the process. Team CVs should also be attached. Also apart from one pager application letter, financial proposal should clearly specifying time and other expenses both direct and reimbursable, these include unit costs on professional fees and the eligible taxes; kindly submit your applications as instructed by Friday, 17th April 2020 at 17.00hrs Tanzania local time. Only successful applicant will be contacted.
11. Evaluation of the consultancy applications will be done based on WWF procurement guidelines and that WWF Tanzania is not bound to accept any lowest or highest proposal/bid
12. Only successful applicants will be contacted

215686002

Mpanda motorcyclist killed by lightning

By Guardian Correspondent, Katavi

A RESIDENT from Mpanda hotel area in Mpanda Municipality in Katavi region Paulo Chundu (27) has died on the spot after he was struck by lightning bolt as he was coming back from his farm.

A lightning bolt is a discharge of potential energy built up between the negatively charged cloud and positively charged earth in cloud to ground lightning or in between the negatively charged portion of a cloud and the positively charged portion in

cloud to cloud lightning.

Katavi Regional Police Commander Benjamin Kuzaga said in a press statement that the incident happened Tuesday this week at around 6.00 in the evening at Kalilankuluku area, Kabungu Ward in Tanganyika district.

Kuzaga said before the tragic incident the deceased left home saying he was taking food for his rice farm workers located in Ikaka village where he arrived safely.

The RPC further said after reaching his farm and delivered food, he briefly inspected the farm and then left for

home.

While on the way there were signs for rain. However, he continued with his journey but on reaching Kalilankuluku he was struck by a lightning bolt and died on the spot. His body was found by passers sprawled on the middle of the road.

He said thereafter the wananchi reported the incident to the police who arrived and took the body to Katavi Referral Hospital where it was preserved.

RPC Kuzaga said after autopsy the body will be given to relatives for burial.



Livestock and Fishing deputy minister Abdallah Ulega (L) presents hand-washing supplies to Longido district commissioner Franck Mwaisumbe at the weekend for use at mixed-goods auctions as a precaution against the spread of coronavirus disease infections. Photo: Correspondent Cynthia Mwilelezi,

'Blast fishing in Zanzibar decreasing'

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Zanzibar government has said illegal dynamite fishing has greatly decreased following regular patrols along the Zanzibar coast.

Head of patrols from the Department of Fisheries Development Haji Shomari revealed during one of the patrols within the Minay Bay Conservation

Area (MBCA).

Shomari said illegal fishing using dynamites was to a large extent being conducted in collaboration of fishermen from outside the Isles and was one of the main causes for the destruction of corals some of which are now extinct.

He said in the period of two years 2018-19 they had conducted over 1,532

patrols during which no fisherman was caught using dynamite.

He said another type of illegal fishing that also has decreased is the use of nets that are hauled including firearms.

"We congratulate fishing committees in various 'shehias' (administrative areas) for the great work against illegal fishing by fishermen bent on merely making profits," he said.



John Wanyancha (R), Serengeti Breweries Ltd's corporate relations director, receives a consignment of Covid-19 flyers and posters from Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children ministry official Zaidan Wilfred in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The firm has offered to help the government distribute the posters to all regions in Tanzania free of charge. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt embarks on major project for extending more water to Mtwara

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

ACUTE water shortage facing residents in various parts of Mtwara region will soon become a history as the government is working to embark on a mega project to produce sufficient water from Ruvuma river, the National Assembly heard yesterday.

According to the statement by the Ministry of Water in response to questions from Mtwara Rural MP (CCM) Hawa Ghasia, the government has finalised feasibility study whereby the implementation of project expected to commence in 2020/21 financial year.

In her basic question, Ghasia sought to know the government's strategies to address water blues which have been facing the region's residents for years.

According to her, there are some major water projects in the region which have remained stagnant for years such as the Mbuo Nkunwa and Makonde water projects.

In the ministry's response, it was stated that: "This is a very big project. After completing the feasibility exercise, we are now looking to get funds to commence the architectural designing ready for the project to take off."

According to the ministry, the implementation of the project will be a major relief to the residents of Mtwara region as it will be one of mega projects to be implemented in the area.

The statement further noted that, rehabilitation of the Mbuo-Nkunwa water project was ongoing and it has started to supply water to some of the residents in the region.

"In the rehabilitation work, we have

already installed a 3.6-km long water pipe, the contractor has also drilled a deep water well so as to increase the amount of water. We expect that the project will be completed by end of April, this year," read part of the ministry response.

On the Makonde water project, the government is planning to rehabilitate it by phases whereby the first phase involve installation of water pipe of a 17-km long from the Mitema water source in Newala district, Mtwara region.

"In the first phase also, the government will also install water pipe from the water source to Nambuga area where a water tank with capacity to carry five million litres of water will be built so as to supply in the areas of Newala town and neighboring villages."

The second phase will involve rehabilitation of water pipes network in Tandahimba area," the ministry added.

Reports show that, only 57 per cent of Tanzania's population had access to an improved source of safe water, and only 34 per cent of Tanzania's population has access to improved sanitation. Under these circumstances, the poor, particularly women and girls spend a significant amount of time traveling some distance to collect water.



The second phase will involve rehabilitation of water pipes network in Tandahimba area

By Guardian Correspondent, Moshi

Kinapa contributes 4.4bn/- to 48 development projects

THE Kilimanjaro National Park (KINAPA) has made monetary contributions to 48 development projects valued at 4.4bn/- in village surrounding the park in the last 10 years.

A statement issued yesterday by the Tanzania National Parks Authority (TANAPA) Commissioner for Conservation for the Northern Zone Herman Batiho said the projects were out of good neighbourliness.

KINAPA Budget for 2019/20 will see a total of 25 projects valued at 899.5m/- continue to be implemented in various villages bordering Mt Kilimanjaro.

According to Batiho the villages that benefited by the good neighbourliness plan include Mowo, Kokirie, Mahoma, Arisi, Mshiri, Kinyamvuo, Mbahe, Omarini, Kimanganuni and Lyasongoro.

He said some of the projects are in the second phase of implementation for those of 2018/2019 in Moshi District implemented in 10 villages.

"The aim here is to realize TANAPA's goals of contributing part of its income

to the community for the people to benefit from conservation activities," he said.

Commissioner Batiho said all these projects are the fruits of our Good Neighbourliness Department because the park borders 92 villages in Hai, Moshi, Rombo, Siha and Longido districts that have also been educated on environmental conservation.

On his part the Kilimanjaro Regional Commissioner Anna Mghwira called

on villages' leadership and KINAPA to provide education on environmental conservation to children and the benefits from Mt Kilimanjaro for tourism purposes.

Mghwira also directed the Kilimanjaro Regional Administrative Officer (RAS) Dr Habibu Kazungu to prepare Kilimanjaro climbing expedition to assess the mountain's problems and other challenges in order to find solutions thereof.



Mtoni ward acting executive officer Sepeku Mhina (L) briefs Mtoni councillor Bernard Mwakymbe (2nd-L) on a temporary market built in the ward when the latter toured the Dar es Salaam-based facility yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

MPs want government to prepare report on hazards due to flooding

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE National Assembly has directed the government to come up with a special report on the impacts of floods from the ongoing heavy rains in the country which had claimed lives of people and left thousands of them homeless.

Speaker Job Ndugai made the call yesterday in the House when responding to a question from Rufiji MP (CCM) Mohamed Mchengerwa.

In his question, Mchengerwa sought to know the measures taken by the government to support Rufiji residents who have been affected by the ongoing floods in the district.

According to him, the floods had left about 20,000 to 50000 people homeless who are currently starving as

the available aids are insufficient. He also advised the government to immediately work on restoring the various social infrastructure services which had been destroyed by floods.

"Heavy rains that swept away most areas of Rufiji had made thousands of people homeless and they have no food. The floods had brought great pains to our people. What measures do we take to rescue these people?" the legislator queried.

Responding, Speaker Ndugai acknowledged that this year's floods had destroyed infrastructures in Rufiji, saying that the government will take immediate measures to support the victims.

He wanted minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Labour,

Employment, Youth and the Disabled), Jenista Mhagama to prepare the floods report and present it to the National Assembly.

"My condolences to the MPs of Rufiji and Kibiti for floods tragedy, this is the first time Rufiji had experienced such floods, the government will take possible measures," Ndugai added.

According to Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) there would be heavy rainfall in a large parts of the country between March to May this year, where the rain were expected to start in the first or second week of March and is expected to end in the first or second week of May.

The authority advised the public to take necessary precautions in order to avoid disasters.

USAID | TANZANIA
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

USAID/Tanzania Water Resources Integration Development Initiative (USAID/WARIDI)

Request for Proposals

For Construction of Gravity Water Supply Scheme in Gombe – Lukande Village, Ulunga District – Morogoro.

Winrock International is a sub-contractor to Tetra Tech, the prime implementing partner for the USAID/Tanzania Water Resources Integration Development Initiative (USAID/WARIDI) pursuant to the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, and in accordance with USAID Contract No AID-OAA-I-14-00068/AID-621-TO-16-00003.

WARIDI is a USAID funded five-year activity which seeks to achieve improvements in health, water resources management, agriculture, and the environment in Tanzania. WARIDI promotes state-of-the-art approaches in cross-sectoral, integrated management of water-related resources and services.

This RFP is a re-bid that was originally issued September 13, 2019. USAID/WARIDI requests for quotations from qualified locally registered contractors (Contractor's Registration Board) to bid for the Construction of the following Gravity Water Supply Scheme:

WARIDI-0001-2020 – Gombe Lukande (Ulunga District, Morogoro Region)

A complete set of the Bidding Documents may be obtained via email from **Winrock International, JR House, Old Dar es Salaam Road, P.O Box 768, Morogoro, Tanzania**, email: waridi.procurement@winrock.org no later than Tuesday April 7, 2020. Any questions should be sent by Tuesday April 7, 2020 at 5.00pm East Africa Time; and will be responded to in one all-inclusive written document provided to all bidders via email on Wednesday April 8, 2020.

Proposals must be received no later than 12:00 Noon East African Time on Friday, April 17, 2020. Late submissions will not be accepted. All quotations are to be submitted following the guidelines listed in the bidding documents. Telephone requests will not be honored.

Bids shall be opened in public, in the presence of the bidder's representatives who choose to attend, at **Winrock International offices, JR House, Old Dar es Salaam Road, P.O Box 768, Morogoro, Tanzania**, at 2.00 pm, on Friday, April 17, 2020.

Winrock International

Tari puts in place oil palm seed road map

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu, Kigoma

TANZANIA Agriculture Research Institute (TARI) has put in place a new comprehensive Oil Palm Seed Road Map (OPSRM), which among other things, will ensure production and dissemination of a total of five million improved seeds of oil palm variety called TENERA by June this year.

The new OPSRM also involves further studying of the characteristics of TENERA parents that is Dura and Pisifera to get the best TENERA progenies to be used to raise the yield from 5 metric tonnes per hectare to 9 metric tonnes.

TENERA is improved seeds of oil palm variety being new variety after crossing two local seeds namely DURA and PISIFERA which are female and male respectively.

TARI board Chairman Dr Yohana Budeba said this yesterday during a field visit at TARI-Kihinga in Kigoma to inspect the centre and the progress of improved oil palm research and production.

He said Tenera is a popular commercial variety in large oil palm producing countries like Malaysia and Costa Rica and it is characterized by thick mesocarp and thin shell with high yielding potential.

He said the government has given TARI Kihinga a total of 540 acres for construction of the new excellent research and production centre for free.

He said the centre is one of TARI centres which was established in 2018 and since then it was tasked to conduct fruitful research and production of oil palm to ensure that the nation becomes self sufficient in terms of edible oil production.

He said the government has set aside 3bn/- for TARI Kihinga so that 1bn/- can be used to scale up research and production activities and 2bn/- for development and construction of the centre's infrastructures such as offices, laboratories and other facilities.

"This is the government directive; so far we have produced more than 1.7 million improved seeds of TENERA variety by this March 2020. We are currently working on the Oil Palm Seed Road Map. Researchers have told me that by June this year will reach production

of 5 million improved seeds. I urge them to ensure they work around the clock to surpass our target by June," he said.

He called on TARI and all district councils in Kigoma region and elsewhere in the country to work together and ensure they speed up production and the dissemination of the improved seedlings to the farmers.

Asked how the centre will raise the yield from 5 metric tonnes per hectare to 9 metric tonnes, TARI-Kihinga Acting Centre Director Dr. Filson Mbezi Kagimbo said that the researchers will study the TENERA varieties and variations to see which TENERA progenies will be the best.

He explained further that after getting the best tenera progenies, researchers will go back and trace which parents produced those best tenera progenies and after getting them, will be kept and be used as parental materials for production of the best tenera progenies. By so doing, the yield will raise from 5 metric tonnes to 9 metric tonnes as it is in Malaysia.

TARI Director General Dr. Geoffrey Mkamilo explained that Tanzania has a potential to be a big producer of palm oil because there is ample land suitable for oil palm production. It is possible for the country to be able to produce more than 570,000 metric tonnes of vegetable oil which actually required every year. So, we only produce 40 percent of these, so, 60 percent is actually imported from other countries.

Importation of this costs the nation dearly but basically if Tanzanians can effectively and efficiently use this potential land and produce locally, we can be able to meet the requirement and produce surplus, he added.

Citing an example, he said in Kigoma region 114,000 ha are suitable for oil palm production but only 23,000 ha are planted.

In Tanzania, Tenera variety constitutes about 10 percent of all oil palm trees grown and it produces five times higher palm oil compared to Dura. Most farmers in Tanzania grow exclusively Dura type with low yielding potential in old farms which have been established in 1920s and have never been replanted ever since. This is one of the main causes for low oil palm yield in Tanzania.



Domestic tourists have a good time Saanane Island National Park, just a stone's throw away from Mwanza city, at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Daniel Sabuni

Livestock auctions to go on without huge gatherings - govt

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

GOVERNMENT leaders in regions with livestock auctions have been directed to ensure the auctions should go on without huge gatherings but must take precautionary measures against the Covid-19 disease.

The directives were given yesterday by the Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Abdallah Ulega when he visited the international livestock market in the area bordering Kenya in Longido district and the Meserani livestock market in Monduli district.

Ulega said business and economic activities must go on for the government to get revenue while communities in the areas also earn income for their basic needs.

"We cannot close these auctions because many Tanzanians live from the day's earning, hence shutting down the business is the same of wishing them dead, and we in the government have deeply considered this and decided against auctions closure," he said, and stressed the need to take precautions including reducing the size of gatherings.

"What I stress is that there should

only be buyers and sellers of livestock and after transactions are completed they should leave the place," he added.

He however hailed the two auctions he visited after finding the presence of sanitizers and running water for those entering auction areas to wash their hands with, and ordered that whoever refuses to wash his hands stern steps should be taken against him.

The Longido district commissioner Frank Mwaisumbe thanked the government for the decision to continue holding livestock auctions

saying this is part of life for the communities in the area.

He added: "At first, when Covid-19 entered the country we suspended the auctions, the decision that was not well received by the herders but later the Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa, after consultations with Kenya leaders across the border, he allowed the continuation of the auctions."

Two livestock traders, Solomon Laizer and Lomnyaki Mollel thanked the government for the decision and suggested that all entering the auction areas should first have their body temperatures taken.



Residents Dar es Salaam's Gongo la Mboto suburb stranded at a bus stand yesterday following city commuter bus owners' compliance with the requirement barring the carrying of more passengers than the number of seats available. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

AICT in Mwanza conducts service to pray for the nation against Covid-19

ADHERENTS of Africa Inland Church Tanzania (AICT) in Mwanza region have conducted special service and 10-hour fast praying for the nation against various epidemics including Covid-19, cancer, epilepsy, diabetes and others that plague the world.

Leading the service AICT Priest Makongoro Constantine Mbandya said the aim of the prayers is to seek God's help over the fear of Covid-19 epidemic and other diseases.

"We Tanzanians need God and

this should not be a joke so that He saves from evil, hence AICT recognizes and hails President John Magufuli and his government in their tireless efforts to tame Covid-19 and for showing his heart in depending on God and for urging Tanzanians to be brave," he said and added that the Holy scriptures say the Lord should be

our sanctuary.

On his part AICT secretary Joseph Kahungwa said as of now the only sanctuary is to depend on God and ditch all bad deeds to shun the disasters that have instilled fear in the human race.

The chairperson of AICT women and children council Eunice Bangili said trust in God heals

hence everyone who prays to God will be cured, but also people should abide by the directives by the government.

Esther Mashauri and Moses Juma who are adherents of the Church said to avoid the satanic disasters is to pray to God by being with Him as He is the enabler of all things.

Covid-19: Mo Ibrahim pleads for coordinated governance

By Guardian Reporter

THE Mo Ibrahim Foundation yesterday launches its report on COVID-19 in Africa, calling for coordinated governance, improved health structures and better data to mitigate this crisis.

In the publication, the Foundation analyses Africa's readiness and capacity to manage the pandemic. It draws on a wealth of data, statistics and information from the Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG) and other sources to examine the current COVID-19 context and its immediate challenges. In providing this analysis, the Foundation aims to present a clear and accurate picture, highlighting where efforts can be concentrated in the management and mitigation of this health crisis across the continent.

Based on data and indices collated from the IIAG and a number of sources and organisations, the publication identified some immediate challenges calling for action:

One of them is sound and coordinated governance needed across the continent, noting that any pandemic requires, by nature, a general coordination of efforts across national and regional borders, and with multilateral actors and partners, even more so in a globalised world.

"There is an urgent need to act on the lessons learned from the Ebola outbreak in 2015 and address the specific weaknesses of Africa's health structures: improve health systems, and citizens' access to them, and more generally strengthen data and statistical capacity," reads the statement.

It adds that only 10 African countries provide free and universal health care to their citizens, while healthcare in 22 countries is neither free nor universal. Governments need to make swift improvements in handling and improving access to basic health services.

According to Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), 43 African countries can test for COVID-19. However, countries are less prepared for the effective point of entry screening and monitoring of travelers and treatment of cases. Efforts to strengthen and enhance preparedness could help to save lives.

"Data coverage on health facilities and health outcomes in Africa is low. Only eight African countries have complete birth registration systems. This impacts the timely production of data, crucial during health emergencies. Quality statistics, and the funding and autonomy of National Statistics Offices, are essential for all stages of evidence-based decision-making and policy formulation, namely in health care," reads the statement.

With the general weakness of health structures, from human resources to equipment and supply chains, the publication notes that working together is critical now more than ever. Many National Public Health Institutes (NPHIs) have been created after health systems failed to respond to crises due to fragmented and insufficient responses. Finding ways to collaborate and work together to fight this challenge, protect lives and improve health capabilities is critical.

It adds however that Africa has shown increasing improvement in Public Health Campaigns (+0.6 since 2008 according to the IIAG) with 20 countries seeing an improvement in score. But 15 countries have also registered a decline. All parties should contribute to national information and awareness-raising campaigns and help tackle misinformation and fake news.

"Infrastructure weakness can prevent personnel from reaching affected areas at the required speed, while communications infrastructure is similarly important as it allows for reporting and diagnosis. The data show that any action to strengthen services in these areas would be beneficial."

In terms of the wider impact of COVID-19, on the economy and beyond, according to UNECA, the pandemic will hit economic growth from an expected 3.2 per cent down to 1.8 per cent.

"If not addressed in a collective and organised way, this could reverse the positive growth of the past decade and impact areas where Africa has steadily progressed, be it the fight against malaria or against poverty. Moreover, this could spill over beyond the economy and put to test the institutional fragility of some countries, fuelling further conflicts and instability."

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

'Standards for non-charcoal production on drawing board'

TANZANIA Bureau of Standards (TBS) is set to come up with standards needed for local producers of non-carbonated and carbonated briquettes, being in efforts to curb illegal tree felling in the country.

A briquette is a compressed block of combustible biomass material like charcoal, grasses, sawdust, wood chips, peat, or paper used for fuel and kindling to start a fire.

TBS's senior standards officer Joseph Ismael said here yesterday in an interview that the standards watchdog has already dispatched the minister of industry and trade with a special proposed document on recommended standard requirements for the production of non-carbonated briquettes (alternative fire woods).

"The document is currently at the hand of the minister, waiting for approval. It is our high expectations that if endorsed, the recommended standards will play pivotal role in guiding local factories to produce standard alternative fire woods" he expressed.

Moreover, he communicated that TBS was also at an advanced stage to set requirement standards to be used for governing production of carbonated briquettes (alternative charcoals), added: "The process is currently at public opinion gathering level."

He detailed that the country has currently with at least 12 factories which engages in production of alternative

fire woods, whereby remaining others based on production of carbonated briquettes (alternative charcoals).

"However" Ismael observed "most of these producers are still crippled with poor production capacity in reflect to expanded demand for charcoal from across the country. For instance, in Dar es Salaam per se, consumption of charcoal stands at 500,000 tones in a year."

As part to fuel campaign over containment of tree cutting and deforestation in Tanzania, chiefly propelled by fuel-wood harvesting and charcoal production, most of local investors are currently investing largely into production of alternative charcoals.

Paul Deogratus, Environmental Officer from Vice President's office-Environment, told this paper that there was a good response over production and uses of environmental friendly charcoal in the country.

"For example, currently at least 40 per cent of food vendors (mama lishie) at Ubungu Bus Terminal have adopted uses alternative charcoals, but also key high learning institutions like Universities of Dodoma (Udom) and University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) are also using products of the environmental friendly technology," he expressed.

And he added, the country has more than 140 producers of alternative

charcoals, a good number which according to him, plays key role in fanning the country's most needed quest to contain deforestation.

"Our role, at the Vice President's office- Environment, is to run a series of public awareness over the important of the public to adopt the alternative charcoals in order to attain environmental conservation within the country," he unveiled.

An estimated 85 percent of Tanzania's energy needs are met through biomass use in the form of charcoal and firewood, predominantly for cooking and heating, whereby nationally, about 79 percent of urban households use charcoal as their largest source of household energy, as it is considered cheap and easy to transport, distribute, and store.

As per the Tanzania's National Energy Policy (2015), demand for charcoal is projected to double by 2030, from approximately 2.3 million metric tons in 2012.

World Bank Report, 2009, depicted that charcoal is currently produced either illegally in forest reserves or from forests (woodland) on village land for which no sustainable harvesting is in place, and charcoal consumption levels are expected to increase further due to population growth coupled with urbanization and relative price increases of other fossil fuel-based energy sources.



Masons systematically arrange stones yesterday in an effort to protect the Kigamboni segment of Dar es Salaam's Indian Ocean shore from erosion by raging sea waves. The operation has gone on for years, with qualified success. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Study: Treated chairs, mats cut outdoor mosquito densities

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

CHAIRS and ribbon mats fixed with a repellent could cut outdoor mosquito densities by 85 per cent, thus protecting people against the malaria vector's bites, a study says.

In Sub-Saharan Africa, people spend time outdoors performing social activities before they sleep, or in the early mornings after they wake up. This increases their risk of exposure to mosquito bites, according to the study, which adds that outdoor mosquito bites compromise the effectiveness of indoor malaria prevention methods including the use of bed nets.

Researchers fixed chairs and ribbon mats with transfluthrin, a fast-acting pyrethroid insecticide that can repel and kill mosquitoes. Results of the study conducted between September 2019 and February 2020 in rural south-eastern Tanzania show a reduction of the mosquito densities or populations per given area.

"We demonstrated that mosquito-free outdoor spaces can be created by using simple and locally sourced interventions."

John Paliga, Ifakara Health Institute "The study is the first attempt to create long-lasting mosquito-free zones which can significantly expand protection against malaria mosquitoes and several other mosquito species," says Fredros Okumu, a co-author of the study and director of science at the Ifakara Health Institute in Tanzania.

Researchers targeted Anopheles funestus and Anopheles arabiensis, which are prevalent in areas of Tanzania where government-supplied bed nets are widely used.



In the study, the researchers surveyed 200 households where repellent-treated chairs were mounted outside, and fitted underneath with fabric mats. Each morning and evening researchers captured mosquitoes through the use of net traps, counted and analysed them.

"Transfluthrin-treated chairs reduced outdoor-biting An. arabiensis densities by 70-85 per cent while transfluthrin-treated hessian ribbons fitted to the outdoor kitchens caused 77-81 per cent reduction in the general peri-domestic area," says the study published in the Malaria Journal this month (10 March).

"Almost all the field-collected An. arabiensis (99.4 per cent) and An. funestus (100 per cent) exposed under transfluthrin-treated chairs died," the study adds.

John Paliga, the lead author of the study and a public health entomologist at the Ifakara Health Institute, calls for the development of new tools to complement the current efforts aimed at eliminating malaria.

"We demonstrated that mosquito-free outdoor spaces can be created by using simple and locally-sourced interventions. We believe that they will have a significant contribution in reduction of malaria in communities,"

Paliga says. "If we could reach a point where people live in the environment free of mosquitoes, this means that there would be no malaria transmission at all, but the journey to reach there is still long."

Gordian Kikompoli, a tropical disease control expert and technical specialist at Abt Associates, Tanzania, tells SciDev.Net that malaria-transmitting mosquitoes are changing their biting behavior, such as the time they bite and the areas they tend to inhabit.

"Continued supply of bed nets and indoor spraying as major preventive tools alone cannot address such a problem in Tanzania and other malaria-endemic countries," explains Kikompoli. "If treating outdoor chairs with transfluthrin can protect people from bites, that's an important step in malaria prevention. It augments the current efforts."

Kikompoli adds that he has been studying the behaviour of An. arabiensis mosquitoes in south-eastern Tanzania and found them to be abundant, with increased outdoor-biting capabilities.

"I believe the study has come with a solution to such malaria-transmitting vectors. Authorities in Tanzania should consider [the solution] in the coming days."

The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar Ministry of Education and Vocational Training



Construction and Equipping of Secondary Schools in Zanzibar Project

"Request for Expressions of Interest"

CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR DESIGN REVIEW AND SUPERVISION OF CONSTRUCTION OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN ZANZIBAR

- This Invitation for Expressions of Interest follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project that appeared in the Tanzania local newspapers of 18th February 2020.
- The United Republic of Tanzania has received a loan from the **ARAB BANK FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA ("BADEA")** to finance the Construction and Equipping of Secondary Schools in Zanzibar and it intends to apply part of the loan to cover the costs of consultancy services for design review and supervision of construction of three (3) Secondary Schools in Zanzibar.

The works include construction and equipping of three (3) Secondary Schools each includes (1) no. classrooms and administration block, (1) no. Staff's Quarter with eight (8) houses of three (3) bedrooms each (Ground +1), (2) nos. Hostel (Ground +1), (1) no. Cafeteria & Kitchen (Ground), those schools are:-

 - Secondary School in the Western Urban area of Unguja Island in Mfenesini Village.
 - Secondary School in the Northern area of Unguja Island in Gamba Village.
 - Secondary School in the Northern area of Pemba Island in Kifundi Village.
- The services included under this project are:-
 - Pre-Contract: Conducting soil investigation and topographical survey and produce report, review and improve provided architectural drawings, prepare detailed design and tender documents, assisting the executing agent in evaluating bids and awarding.
 - Post-Contract: Commissioning of construction sites, supervision of execution of works during construction and defect liability periods upon performing the pre-contact stage in excellence professional ethics to the satisfaction of the Client.
- The Principal Secretary, Ministry of Education and Vocational Training Zanzibar now invites "Expression of Interest" from eligible consultancy firms from Africa or Arabs or Afro-Arab to indicate their interest in providing the services. Consultants may constitute joint-ventures to enhance their chances of qualification. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services by providing the following information:

(a) For the Firm: Description of the assignments undertaken by firm on building designs, preparation of tender documents and supervision of works performed to demonstrate:-

- General experience of the firm for the last ten (10) years.
- Specific experience of the firm in similar conditions and nature for the last five (5) years.

(b) For the Staffs: Descriptions for each individual available staff to demonstrate:-

- Education qualifications and professional membership.
- Specific experience of the staff for the assignment of similar nature and condition for the last five (5) years.

5. Eligibility criteria, establishment of the short-list and the selection procedure shall be in accordance with BADEA Rules of Procedure for the Procurement of Consultancy Services (First Edition, 2001).

6. Interested Consultants may obtain further information on the assignment from the Secretary of Ministerial Tender Board, P.O Box 394, Mazizini, Zanzibar from 07.30 to 15.30 hours local time, from Monday to Friday inclusive except on public holidays or e-mail: pmu@moez.go.tz or info@moez.go.tz.

7. Expressions of Interest must be delivered to the address below by **Wednesday, 6th May 2020 at 10.00 hours local time** and shall be typed and clearly marked on the envelope **"EOI NO.MoEVT/BADEA (II)/CS (1) OF 2020 "EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR DESIGN REVIEW AND SUPERVISION OF CONSTRUCTION OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN ZANZIBAR"**. The EOI will be publicly opened in the presence of the consultants designated representatives and anyone who choose to attend at the address below at 10.30 hours local time of Wednesday, 6th May 2020.

The Secretary, Ministerial Tender Board,
Ministry of Education and Vocational Training,
Ground Floor, Room Number 17/18
Mazizini, Airport Road,
P.O Box 394,
ZANZIBAR.
City: Zanzibar Town
Country: Tanzania
Telephone: +255-24-2234356
Website: www.moez.go.tz

World Autism Awareness Day should rekindle our efforts

COUNTRIES around the world converge on April 2 annually, for a recently UN Day that is now just over ten years old, to mark global awareness for people with autism, and especially young people. Their having that condition, if the wider society and immediate family to start with does not exercise a high degree of care or vigilance, risk having their lives wasted as supplementary to the needs of society, and uncared for. As all interaction with persons having a problem of that kind is difficult, awareness of human rights and the duty to care is essential, and that is why the United Nations brought up this day to raise awareness on the matter.

Available chronicles show that the day was pioneered by the National Autistic Society (NAS) in the United Kingdom to draw attention to the 700,000 people living with autism in the UK - to educate those unaware of the condition, and to help make the world friendlier to those who are affected by it. This year's event shall be the eleventh annual World Autism Awareness Day. Joined by the international community, hundreds of thousands of landmarks, buildings, homes and communities around the world, light blue in recognition of people living with autism. Autism-friendly events and educational activities are expected to take place all month long in some countries, where non-governmental organisations dedicated to this purpose are strong.

Various international level activities are expected on the material day and the following days, with the UN setting out that the 2018 World Autism Awareness Day observance will be brought under the motto "Empowering Women and Girls with Autism." A key moment is expected on Thursday, 5 April 2018 at the Economic and Social

Council Chamber of the United Nations headquarters in New York, to draw both inter-governmental experience on the issue as well as interactions at high level between various stakeholders. It is not clear what sort of structured action is expected, like a preliminary presentation of a UN report on the issue or reflecting on previous Economic and Social Council deliberations on the condition of autism earlier.

World Autism Awareness Day aims to increase people's awareness about people, especially children, with autism. The day was moved to that status on December 18, 2007, when the UN General Assembly designated April 2 as World Autism Awareness Day, and this year the marking will be of an elevated kind, with a ceremony at UN headquarters, evidently to raise greater awareness and readiness among world governments to play a greater role in pushing action related to people with autism. The fact that they do not themselves form a lobby group complicates the matter, but it also makes actual effort even more solemn.

Among others, observations on this Awareness Day seek to raise awareness of the autism spectrum disorders and improve the lives of those living with autism. Autism refers to a lifelong brain development disorder that affects social interactions, learning, routines and communication. It is estimated that around one per cent of people around the world suffer that condition, that they ought not to be forgotten, or taken as excess to our needs. They are entitled to care, and the greater each of us understands and appreciates their humanity, the better for us all. Having compassion for the weak improves regard for public needs generally, and reduces incidences of violence interposed between awareness and compliance upon society.

Conservation, sustainable management of forests are essential to biodiversity

CLIMATE change and other forces are chipping away at the world's forests on a daily basis. On March 21, the International Day of Forests put the spotlight on the great variety of animal, plant and other life supported by the world's forests with the theme, "Forests and Biodiversity: Too precious to lose." While this observance encourages us to appreciate the benefits of forests—from Pacific coastal redwoods to tropical mangroves—it is more of an urgent call to action than a celebration.

Forests are home to most life on land, an estimated 80 per cent of the world's terrestrial biodiversity. This natural wealth goes far beyond the 60,000 species of trees that have been identified to date. It includes plants, animals, organisms and ecosystems which help to keep our air, soil and water healthy and which provide us with food, fuel and shelter. Roughly one billion people depend directly on forests for their food, and that figure does not include the farms that rely on nearby forests for pollinators like bees and bats.

All this biodiversity is under serious threat from climate change and other forces that are chipping away at the world's forests on a daily basis. An estimated 73 percent of deforestation in the world is driven by the clearing of land for agriculture. How, then, do we meet our needs as a growing population without damaging the very forests and biodiversity on which we all depend?

The conservation and sustainable management of forests is essential to biodiversity. So, too, is a better understanding of the conditions and activities that affect forests, such as food and timber production, urbanization, poverty, and land access.

Last year, the first-ever global report on food-related biodiversity, produced by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), showed that biodiversity-friendly practices in food production

were actually on the rise. Eighty percent of the 91 countries surveyed indicated they were using organic agriculture, sustainable forest management, ecosystem restoration or other approaches to conserve and restore forest resources.

Still, much more needs to be done. Many countries have started to introduce policies and other tools to support sustainable land use but often, these fall short of yielding results. There are various reasons for this, including insufficient implementation or not targeting the true causes of biodiversity loss. We need to improve the actual implementation of existing solutions, if we want to manage forests and biodiversity in more sustainable ways. We need to back up these efforts with increased monitoring of the effects of various factors on biodiversity, and greater legal and financial incentives for people and investors who influence decisions on land use.

FAO recently adopted a strategy to help countries mainstream biodiversity-friendly practices across agricultural sectors. The aim is to support the development of strategies, policies and practices that reflect the essential role that forests play in various aspects of our lives, whether they sit within protected areas, near agricultural fields, or in urban areas.

Many of the people whose daily activities have the greatest impact on the health of our forests are also among the poorest and most marginalized in the world. Their situations need to be taken into account in encouraging more sustainable forest use.

It is vital, too, for all of us to take an interest in the political and organisational decisions that can affect our natural forests. There is no quick way to substitute all those forest creatures and ecosystems which have evolved over millions and millions of years. Forests, with their wealth of biodiversity, have always sustained our lives. It is time for us to return the favour.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

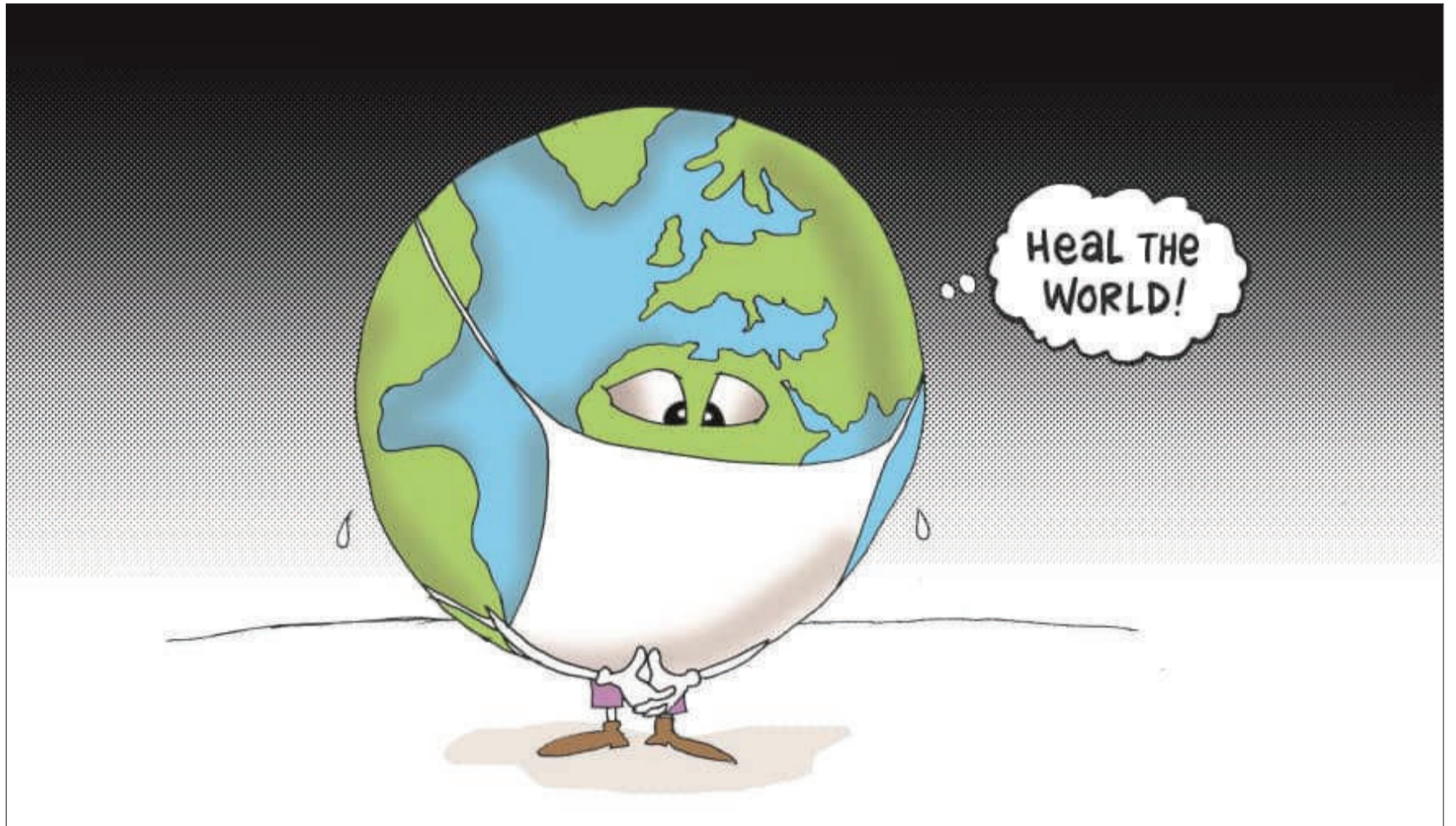
Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO
Circulation Manager: EMMANUEL LYIMO

Newsdesk

News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757154767
General line: 0745700710
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Mobile: 0686101335
E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: www.ippmedia.com
epaper.ippmedia.com



The US could see worst COVID-19 outbreak in industrialised world - 3

By Ed Yong

WHETHER through accumulating herd immunity or the long-awaited arrival of a vaccine, the virus will find spreading explosively more and more difficult. It's unlikely to disappear entirely.

The vaccine may need to be updated as the virus changes, and people may need to get revaccinated on a regular basis, as they currently do for the flu.

Models suggest that the virus might simmer around the world, triggering epidemics every few years or so. "But my hope and expectation is that the severity would decline, and there would be less societal upheaval," Stephen Kissler of Harvard Medical School says.

In this future, COVID-19 may become like the flu is today - a recurring scourge of winter. Perhaps it will eventually become so mundane that even though a vaccine exists, large swaths of Generation C won't bother getting it, forgetting how dramatically their world was moulded by its absence.

III. The aftermath

The cost of reaching that point, with as few deaths as possible, will be enormous. As my colleague Annie Lowrey wrote, the economy is experiencing a shock "more sudden and severe than anyone alive has ever experienced".

About one in five people in the United States have lost working hours or jobs. Hotels are empty. Airlines are grounding flights. Restaurants and other small businesses are closing.

Inequalities will widen: people with low incomes will be hardest-hit by social-distancing measures - and most likely to have the chronic health conditions that increase their risk of severe infections.

Diseases have destabilised cities and societies many times over, "but it hasn't happened in this country in a very long time, or to quite the extent that we're seeing now", says Elena Conis, a historian of medicine at UC Berkeley.

"We're far more urban and metropolitan. We have more people traveling great distances and living far from family and work," notes Conis.

After infections begin ebbing, a secondary pandemic of mental-health problems will follow. At a moment of profound dread and uncertainty, people are being cut off from soothing human contact.

Hugs, handshakes and other social rituals are now tinged with danger. People with anxiety or obsessive-compulsive disorder are struggling. Elderly people, who are already excluded from much of public life, are being asked to distance themselves even further, deepening their loneliness.

Asian people are suffering racist insults, fuelled by a president who insists on labelling the new coronavirus the "Chinese virus".

Incidents of domestic violence and child abuse are likely to spike as people are forced to stay in unsafe homes. Children, whose bodies are mostly spared by the virus, may endure mental trauma that stays with them

into adulthood.

After the pandemic, people who recover from COVID-19 might be shunned and stigmatised, as were survivors of Ebola, SARS, and HIV.

Health-care workers will take time to heal: one to two years after SARS hit Toronto, people who dealt with the outbreak were still less productive and more likely to be experiencing burnout and post-traumatic stress.

People who went through long bouts of quarantine will carry the scars of their experience. "My colleagues in Wuhan note that some people there now refuse to leave their homes and have developed agoraphobia," says Steven Taylor of the University of British Columbia, who wrote *The Psychology of Pandemics*.

But "there is also the potential for a much better world after we get through this trauma", says Richard Danzig of the Centre for a New American Security.

Already, communities are finding new ways of coming together, even as they must stay apart. Attitudes to health may also change for the better. The rise of HIV and AIDS "completely changed sexual behaviour among young people who were coming into sexual maturity at the height of the epidemic", Conis says, adding: "The use of condoms became normalised. Testing for STDs became mainstream."

Similarly, the washing of hands for 20 seconds, a habit that has historically been hard to enshrine even in hospitals, "may be one of those behaviours that we become so accustomed to in the course of this outbreak that we don't think about them", Conis notes.

Pandemics can also catalyse social change. People, businesses and institutions have been remarkably quick to adopt or call for practices that they might once have dragged their heels on, including working from home, conference-calling to accommodate people with disabilities, proper sick leave and flexible child-care arrangements. "This is the first time in my lifetime that I've heard someone say, 'Oh, if you're sick, stay home,'" says Adia Benton, an anthropologist at Northwestern University.

Perhaps the nation will learn that preparedness isn't just about masks, vaccines and tests but also about fair labour policies and a stable and equal health-care system.

Perhaps it will appreciate the fact that health-care workers and public-health specialists compose America's social immune system, and that this system has been suppressed.

Aspects of America's identity may need rethinking after COVID-19. Many of the country's values have seemed to work against it during the pandemic.

Its individualism, exceptionalism and tendency to equate doing whatever you want with an act of resistance meant that when it came time to save lives and stay indoors, some people flocked to bars and clubs.

Having internalised years of anti-terrorism messaging following 9/11, Americans resolved to not live in fear. But SARS-CoV-2 has no interest in their terror,

only their cells.

Years of isolationist rhetoric had consequences too. Citizens who saw China as a distant, different place, where bats are edible and authoritarianism is acceptable, failed to consider that they would be next or that they wouldn't be ready. (China's response to this crisis had its own problems, but that's for another time.)

"People believed the rhetoric that containment would work," says Wendy Parmet, who studies law and public health at Northeastern University.

"We keep them out, and we'll be okay. When you have a body politic that buys into these ideas of isolationism and ethnonationalism, you're especially vulnerable when a pandemic hits," notes Parmet.

Veterans of past epidemics have long warned that American society is trapped in a cycle of panic and neglect. After every crisis - anthrax, SARS, flu, Ebola - attention is paid and investments are made. But after short periods of peacetime, memories fade and budgets dwindle.

This trend transcends red and blue administrations. When a new normal sets in, the abnormal once again becomes unimaginable. But there is reason to think that COVID-19 might be a disaster that leads to more radical and lasting change.

The other major epidemics of recent decades either barely affected the US (SARS, MERS, Ebola), were milder than expected (H1N1 flu in 2009), or were mostly limited to specific groups of people (Zika, HIV).

The COVID-19 pandemic, by contrast, is affecting everyone directly, changing the nature of their everyday life. That distinguishes it not only from other diseases but also from the other systemic challenges of our time. When an administration prevaricates on climate change, the effects won't be felt for years, and even then will be hard to parse. It's different when a president says that everyone can get a test, and one day later, everyone cannot.

Pandemics are democratising experiences. People whose privilege and power would normally shield them from a crisis are facing quarantines, testing positive and losing loved ones.

Senators are falling sick. The consequences of defunding public-health agencies, losing expertise and stretching hospitals are no longer manifesting as angry opinion pieces, but as faltering lungs.

After 9/11, the world focused on counterterrorism. After COVID-19, attention may shift to public health. Expect to see a spike in funding for virology and vaccinology, a surge in students applying to public-health programmes, and more domestic production of medical supplies.

Expect pandemics to top the agenda at the United Nations General Assembly. Dr Anthony Fauci, director of the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, is now a household name.

"Regular people who think easily about what a policeman or firefighter does finally get what an epidemiologist does," says Monica Schoch-Spana, a medical anthropologist at the Johns Hopkins Centre for Health Security.

Such changes, in themselves, might protect the world from the next inevitable disease. "The countries that had lived through SARS had a public consciousness about this that allowed them to leap into action," said Ron Klain, the former Ebola czar.

Klain said: "The most commonly uttered sentence in America at the moment is, 'I've never seen something like this before.' That wasn't a sentence anyone in Hong Kong uttered." For the US, and for the world, it's abundantly, viscerally clear what a pandemic can do.

The lessons that America draws from this experience are hard to predict, especially at a time when online algorithms and partisan broadcasters only serve news that aligns with their audience's preconceptions.

Such dynamics will be pivotal in the coming months, says Ilan Goldenberg, a foreign-policy expert at the Centre for a New American Security, noting: "The transitions after World War II or 9/11 were not about a bunch of new ideas." Goldenberg adds: "The ideas are out there, but the debates will be more acute over the next few months because of the fluidity of the moment and willingness by the American public to accept big, massive changes."

One could easily conceive of a world in which most of the nation believes that America defeated COVID-19. Despite his many lapses, Trump's approval rating has surged. Imagine that he succeeds in diverting blame for the crisis to China, casting it as the villain and America as the resilient hero.

During the second term of his presidency, the US turns further inward and pulls out of NATO and other international alliances, builds actual and figurative walls, and disinvests in other nations. As Gen C grows up, foreign plagues replace communists and terrorists as the new generational threat.

One could also envisage a future in which America learns a different lesson. A communal spirit, ironically born through social distancing, causes people to turn outwards, to neighbours both foreign and domestic.

The November 2020 election becomes a repudiation of "America first" politics. The nation pivots, as it did after World War II, from isolationism to international cooperation.

Buoyed by steady investments and an influx of the brightest minds, the health-care workforce surges. Gen C children write school essays about growing up to be epidemiologists.

Public health becomes the centrepiece of foreign policy. The US leads a new global partnership focused on solving challenges like pandemics and climate change.

In 2030, SARS-CoV-3 emerges from nowhere, and is brought to heel within a month.

This is the third and last part of a syndicated story from The Atlantic, where Ed Yong is a science writer. He is also author of I CONTAIN MULTITUDES, a New York Times bestseller on animal-microbe partnerships. We published the first and second parts in Monday's and yesterday's issues, respectively. - Editor.

By Westcliff, Gumedé

'Stand for your values - even if you stand alone'

Now that I am a grown-up, there are so many things I wished I had known when I was a teenager in Grade 7 in 1983 at Webner Street Primary School, a township school on the Cape Flats.

The circumstances in which one was born, might have been dire; but it is not what will determine the outcome of one's life. It is how one shapes one's future with the tools one has inherited, even if these were limited. I did not know before, that admitting to being vulnerable is not weak; but shows strength, courage and character - and this is how one develops into a well-rounded individual. I used to believe that men don't do vulnerable. I also used to think asking for help is weak. Now I know that asking for help is the coolest thing ever.

Do not strive for perfectionism. Perfectionism is not excellence; but rather it is about trying to earn external approval. It's about what will people think? Am I good enough?

Rather, focus trying to do your best under whatever circumstances. Do not seek constant validation from others.

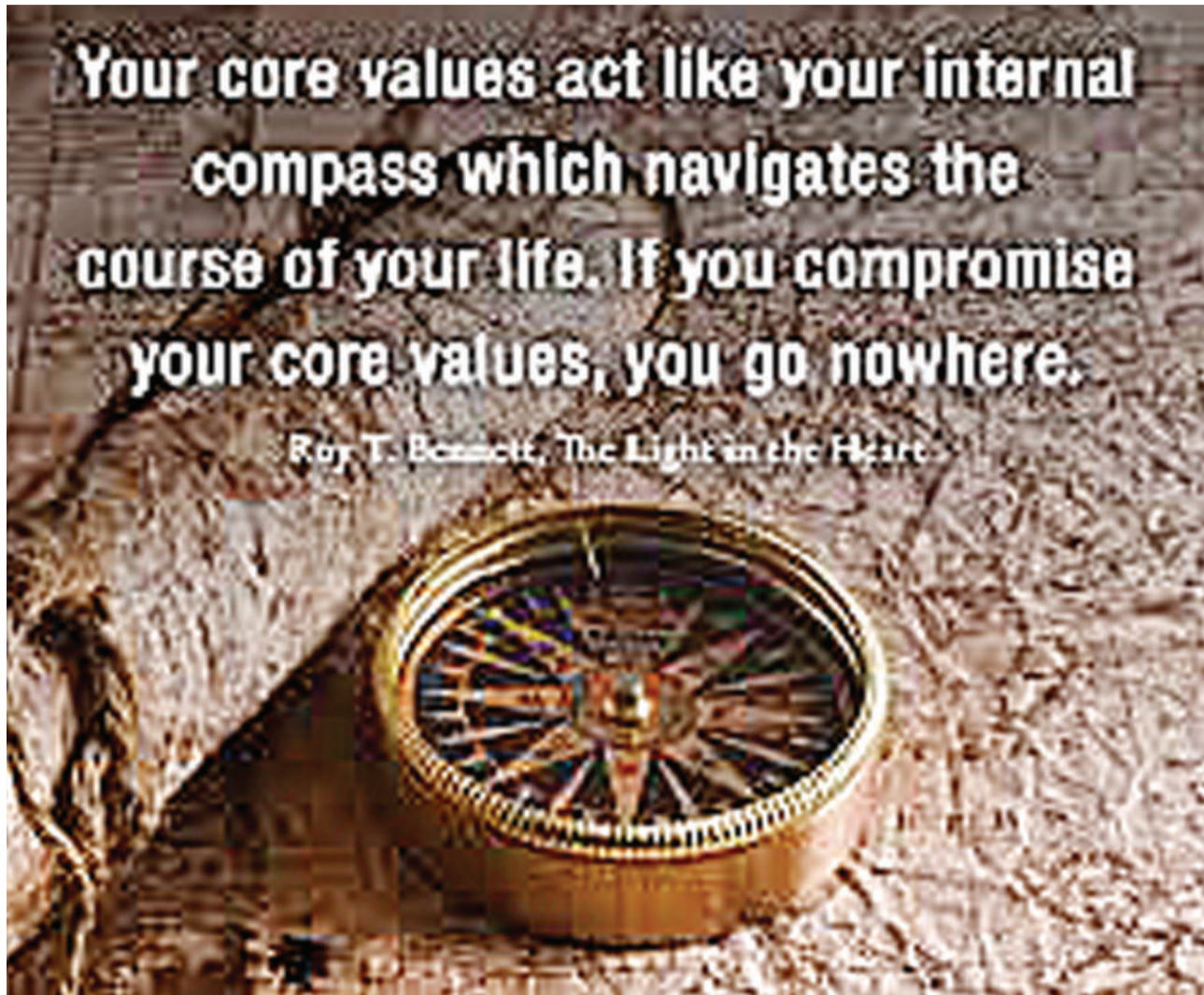
A few years ago I was asked to write the Forward to Nelson Mandela's No Easy Walk to Freedom. What struck me immediately was that his speeches were not perfect rhetorical flushes; but they were honest, genuine and expressed his values.

Generously own when you are at fault, but accept your faults without self-blame.

Self-care is important. A healthy relationship with oneself is crucial.

There is no reason to feel shame about who you are.

Be kind and gentle to your-



self. Love yourself. Treat yourself as your best friend. Each of us are born unique - beautiful in our own image.

You are worthy of happiness. If you don't learn to like yourself as you are, not only will others will find it hard to do so, but it stunts your potential. When you find yourself veering into negative criticism of yourself, self-answer it with compassion.

Asking for help, especially when those we trusted have failed us in the past may be difficult, but it is crucial for self-care.

I used to think that one is born with talent. Wrong, talent

is acquired through dedication, effort and commitment.

When in school, I used to think that if I get educated, get a job, life will be smooth sailing, with no obstacles, and only good.

Life will have ups and downs - it is how we navigate it that matters.

Don't let bad teachers, family members and friends with negative judgements about you define who you are.

Desist from entitlement, to claim one's preferences deserves priority over that of others.

Not only does a culture of entitlement lesson the motivation to put in the hard work, it fuels anger, resentment and opposition.

Don't base your sense of self on being a victim, no matter how justifiable it may be.

This means not to play the victim when things go against you; but to endeavour to rise in spite of outside forces.

Forgive people quickly - that does not condone their behaviour.

Do not be controlled by setbacks - let it motivate you. Mistakes are not judgements of

your character, sense of self or identity; but opportunities for learning.

Banish the fear of failure, the fear of trying, and the fear of taking on unfamiliar challenges. See failures as learnings, opportunities for growth and development.

Character is when everything goes wrong, and one still does one's best, coping with setbacks and not influenced by someone else's prejudiced view of oneself - whether friends or partners.

What appears to be rejection, failure and disappointment should not define who you are, should not result in a loss of your sense of self, identity or self-worth.

Such things are not permanent, but transitional.

Often what appears to be failure is the catalyst for success.

I was pushed out of job in government for being critical - but that in unleashed new opportunities.

I decided to establish a foundation, Democracy Works Foundation, to promote the democratic ideals I believe in, which is now in seven other countries - and the largest of its kind in the region.

Self-worth should not be defined by material success, ostentatious displays of wealth and bling. Neither is success about being superior to others.

Success is about striving to develop to your full potential - to become the best you.

It is about doing your best, continuously learning and improving.

The good thing is one is not born with fixed intelligence, talent and natural skills. In fact, all of these can be developed over time.

The importance is to develop a "growth" mindset, rather than a fixed mindset.

Carol Dweck, who wrote the book, Mindset, calls the idea that intelligence can be developed as a growth mindset through consistent application.

Alfred Binet, who invented the IQ test was disturbed at how it has been abused to foster a mindset that intelligence is fixed.

"A few modern philosophers assert that an individual's intelligence is a fixed quantity ... which cannot be increased. We must protest and react against this brutal pessimism ... With practice, training, and above all, method, we increase our attention, our memory, our judgement and literally become more intelligence than we were before."

Sadly, many people are overly conscious about being perceived to be "clever", and only do things they are already good at, because they fear failure of attempting new things will show they are not clever.

Attempting new challenges, unfamiliar things, will increase one's intelligence, skills and talent.

Similarly, one's personality is also not fixed. One can cultivate the kind of personality one desires if one works on it.

Always treat others in the same way you want to be treated.

Abandon toxic beliefs that you may have learned from family, community, even school - hopefully not.

The skill to at all times retain the hope that things can be turned around however wretched it may appear is as important.

As the US writer Rebecca Solnit so convincingly argue in another context that hope doesn't mean denying difficult realities.

It means "facing them and addressing them", and acting on them.

Stand for your values, even if you stand alone.

I was sued by former President Jacob Zuma for R20 million for alleged defamation after criticising his appalling behaviour. Now many years later Zuma may finally face corruption charges.

Life is not about how long you live; but about the legacy you leave, that will outlive you. Think about Steve Jobs - who brought us the Apple computer.

Others live up to 100; but hardly leave any legacy.

Look at the problems as entrepreneurial opportunities - if you can solve it here - you can export your solutions to the world.

The action of individuals matter.

Think about Nelson Mandela, Mahatma Gandhi and more recently Swedish climate change activist Greta Thunberg, who, at 15, has inspired millions around the world to take to the streets and demand action on climate change.

Or about Tarek Bouazizi, a Tunisian street vendor, who, in protest against corruption, set himself alight on 17 December 2010, and ignited the Tunisian Revolution, which led to the Arab Spring and the toppling of many North African autocratic governments.

Be, as Gandhi said, the leader you want to see in others in your own arena.

Time for strategic leadership: Sirleaf, Obasanjo, Motlante and Oppenheimer

It is critical that leaderships, and their populations, don't take the wrong long-term message from this. It is important not to double-down on isolation. Don't use this opportunity to wriggle out of overdue economic reforms.

The world faces an unprecedented crisis.

The full health consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic are yet to be calculated. Which is not to say we should diminish the extent of previous catastrophes. The Great War of 1914-18 cost, lest we forget, 40 million lives, or 2.5 per cent of the 1914 world population. This trauma was followed, within a generation, by twice that number of deaths during the Second World War, or 4 per cent of the total population in 1939. The Spanish flu epidemic, which followed the Great War, the deadliest in history, cost an estimated 50 million deaths, or 3.3 per cent of the global population, and infected perhaps ten times this number.

The difference today is both in the rapidity of the spread of COVID-19, reflecting our changes in technology, trade and transport over the last century, and the media context in which this is occurring.

Despite the dip in global trade caused by the wars of 1914 and 1939 and the Cold War, world exports as a proportion of GDP are today 40 times larger (in constant values) than the 1913 figure.

The speed of



communications is astounding. Between 1914 and 1918, some 80 million telegraphic messages passed through the hands of censors. In 2017, people sent 23 billion text messages each day, American students spending on average more than an hour and a half a day texting. Information spreads faster than ever, which means that more people know about the disease and how to reduce its impact. But panic also spreads faster, sometimes accelerated by fake news, making it harder for leaders to stay focused on what must be done to mitigate its effects.

Trade and technology have fundamentally changed the world economy.

This is especially important to developing economies, which lifted their share of world exports from one-third to half of global trade in just 30 years from 1980. Integration with world markets richer than their own has been a crucial aspect, especially, of the Asian development story. As supply chains have developed, world trade has consistently grown nearly twice as fast as production.

A billion people have, as a consequence, been lifted

out of poverty in just a single generation.

The correct global response is to make it easier for businesses to invest and hire, to radically reduce tariffs and other barriers to international trade. We must democratise access to technology. We should strengthen multilateral responses. We are all in this together.

Thus, the correct tactical response to COVID-19 has been to isolate and slow the pace of infection, allowing time to build immunity, to reduce the stress on public resources, and hopefully to develop a vaccine.

But it is critical that leaderships, and their populations, don't take the wrong long-term message from this. It is important not to double-down on isolation. Don't use this opportunity to wriggle out of overdue economic reforms.

Herein lies a great danger, perhaps graver than COVID-19 itself: the collapse of our economies, mortally wounded by a world feeding on its fears, turning in on itself to the exclusion of others.

Our citizens are increasingly self-employed, though the balance of reforms is politically tilted towards the public sector. It is crucial that small businesses don't go under in the short-term, worsening the effects of the disease. Governments have a responsibility to act now to stem what could become a jobs catastrophe, as businesses close doors due to dwindling cash flow. Many developing economies, and especially those in Africa, have few resources to enable a soft landing.

It is crucial that the world's leaders recognise that disease knows no boundaries, that this is not someone else's problem, somewhere else.

And if the longer-term effects of this crisis are to be mitigated, now is the time to focus on how to develop sustainable economic growth and employment.

The correct global response is to make it easier

for businesses to invest and hire, to radically reduce tariffs and other barriers to international trade. We must democratise access to technology. We should strengthen multilateral responses. We are all in this together.

The virus may have disrupted global supply chains, led to (temporary) border closures, and for some to question aspects of globalisation. But the crisis demonstrates the limits of isolated national responses; its resolution will demand unprecedented levels of international scientific and other collaborations.

Countries that have been more open have generally fared better in development. This is the lesson not only from Asia's successful export-driven growth model, which has spurred competitiveness to the benefit of domestic consumers, but also from countries that have liberalised in terms of fundamental rights, democracy and freedoms.

'Openness' relates also to a willingness to learn, and to permit and even encourage external influences. This was the fundamental lesson from Japan throughout the Meiji Restoration, which provided the catalyst for the entire region to develop and prosper. Singapore relied heavily on external advisers, and deliberately sought to attract multinational companies, given that they brought with them

not only skills, capital and technology, but logistics and ready markets.

We might be experiencing a temporary discontinuation of global integration, prompting us to think carefully about the world we live in and how we limit the spread of negative shocks, similar to the effect of previous financial crises.

The virus may have disrupted global supply chains, led to (temporary) border closures, and for some to question aspects of globalisation. But the crisis demonstrates the limits of isolated national responses; its resolution will demand unprecedented levels of international scientific and other collaborations.

Putting people, not politics, first will ensure the conditions for continued prosperity post-COVID-19.

Tip O'Neill, the former speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, famously declared, following his only electoral defeat in 1935, that 'All politics is local'.

Today, despite the temptation to hunker down and isolate, we need to continue to reform and push for openness and competitiveness. We must act locally, but we need to keep thinking globally.

Olusegun Obasanjo, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Kgalema Motlante and Jonathan Oppenheimer wrote this on behalf of the board of The Benthurst Foundation, of which they are members. The Benthurst Foundation, just published The Asian Aspiration: Why and How Africa Should Emulate Asia - and What It Should Avoid.

The world's problems don't stop because of a pandemic

By Ela Vasilescu

I put on jeans today. On Friday, when I was still in pajamas by 3 p.m., I spoke to a friend outside of Italy. She told me about her day: going to work, picking up her daughter from school. I started laughing. Intrigued, she asked why.

"We're living on different planets right now," I replied, adding: "Going out and about, taking the kids to school and picking them up - it just feels like a different reality."

A few days ago, it was a cold, rainy day in Florence. The atmosphere was gloomy. While cooking dinner, my husband joked that our lives seem to revolve around eating and sleeping. I nodded. I'd spent most of my day in bed with a runny nose and a headache.

"Great time to catch a cold," I laughed while sipping a hot, lemony drink for the tenth time that day.

When I checked in with friends and family, I learned that most of them are about to lose everything they've worked for in the past year. Some of them, us included, woke up in debt.

Today marks eight whole days of lockdown for us. And, today, I put on jeans.



I woke up energised, probably from the litres of hot water with lemon and honey I've been drinking. But also because it was trash day.

I rushed to the bathroom, washed my face, put on some face cream, and opened my closet with a huge smile. I chose a pair of jeans and a nice sweater. I took my time getting dressed. I went to the kitchen and excitedly removed the trash bag, then put on my shoes.

As I opened the door, I turned

to my people: "I'm going out!" I cried. My daughter laughed: "You're only taking the trash out!"

I stepped into the empty street. No one was around. Our garbage containers are less than 100 meters away from our house, and it takes a minute to reach them. For seven days, the view from our balcony was all we could see of the outside world.

Suddenly, I heard the squeak of a gate. A neighbour was tak-

ing the trash out, too. He adjusted his pace to remain at a safe distance behind me. He allowed me to throw my bag into the dumpster, and as I stepped away, he followed.

Before the lockdown, I would have raised my eyebrows. I would have been wary of a man following me from a steady distance. Today, I appreciated it. How quickly perspectives change. How quickly we adjust.

I went back inside and spoke words I never thought would

leave my mouth: "Taking the trash out was such an amazing thing to do!" We all laughed.

It's midafternoon, and I can still see people taking walks on the street. People jogging. Congregating. I understand the urge, not the action. The sun is shining, inviting, alluring. Distancing ourselves is not an easy task to manage, but it's such a small one compared to the consequences.

I've read the pleas of nurses and doctors, medical staff urging people to stay home. People are dying alone in hospitals without the possibility of being touched or saying goodbye to their loved ones. It's heart-breaking. I read some of my friends' messages, heard how they couldn't buy groceries after waiting in long lines because the shelves had been emptied.

I also plead, as they do: Stay home! Be kind. Think of others. We are all in this together.

The world's problems didn't stop because of this pandemic. The pandemic was simply added to the list of issues the world was already grappling with.

Some still fight for custody; others are still poor. Some don't even have a roof over their heads.

People are still dealing with PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder), some are literally locked in abusive relationships, and others are having trouble reaching out for help though they contemplate suicide every single day.

There is still so much evil in the world. We are focused on the virus, but that does not negate humanity's ongoing issues.

There is a Romanian say-

ing that roughly translates into: "The old lady combs her hair while the world is on fire!" Don't be that oblivious old lady, the one who can't see beyond her own life.

In our house, we invented our own saying to help us when our seven-year-old daughter is bratty, or overstimulated, or when - like most children - she believes she's the centre of the universe.

We look at her and ask: "Who is the most important person in this house?" She looks at us, lowers her gaze, and answers: "All of us." We reply: "Who is the most important person in the world?" She lifts her gaze and shows us a big smile: "All of us!"

Stay home. Be kind. We are all in this together. And if a seven-year-old understands why she can't go out for walks, I'm sure you can too.

The coronavirus outbreak is rapidly evolving. Stay correctly and adequately informed.

• **A dispatch from Italy, and a lesson in looking out for each other.** Ela Vasilescu is a story hunter/writer based in Florence, Italy.

Lockdown regulations are not a ban on all informal food traders

By Jaap De Visser

South Africa has gone into lockdown to curb the spread of Covid-19. One of the very many concerns surrounding the impact of the lockdown relates to access to food.

The rules with respect to supermarkets, and our access to them during the lockdown, are reasonably clear. However, while supermarkets are key to South Africa's food system, there are other food outlets and distributors that are equally, if not more, important, particularly when it comes to the ability of people living in townships and informal settlements to access food.

One key question concerns the permissibility of food systems that operate as an alternative to supermarkets. This could refer to spaza shops and street traders but also box schemes and community-based home delivery mechanisms. Are they permitted to continue operating?

The Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, issued regulations on 17 March 2020. These were amended on 25 March 2020, and again on 27 March 2020 ("the Lockdown Regulations"). The minister also issued directions to municipalities and provinces. The question is whether the rules are clear about what type of food trading is permitted.

The general business lockdown provisions

The first provision that must be examined is Regulation 11B(1)(g) of the Lockdown Regulations. This is the general business lockdown provision. It states that "all businesses and entities shall cease ... save for any business or entity involved in the manufacturing, supply, or provision of an essential good or service".

The starting point must be: what type of entity would be eligible for the ex-



A street trader looks out from his store in Masi-phumelele, Cape Town.

emptions mentioned here? Is it established businesses only, i.e. the well-known supermarket chains? Does it apply only to registered business entities? Or are community organisations and street traders also eligible?

In my view, this rule is aimed at a broad category of entities. It uses a broad definition that clearly intends to go beyond formal established and registered businesses. This is because of the use of the phrase "any business or entity". "Entity" in this context encompasses any legal entity but also any natural entity, i.e. a person trading in his or her own name or any organisation or organised group. If it was limited to the closed list of business entities, the phrase "business or entity" would have been illogical.

The next step is to examine the two types of exemptions, namely "essential goods" and "essential services". They are listed in Annexure B of the Lockdown Regulations.

Exemption on the basis of 'essential goods'

Item A.1.(i) of Annexure B lists "any food product" as an essential good. Taken together with the general business lockdown provision, the message is clear, namely "any entity involved in the manufacturing, supply, or provision of any food product" may continue operations.

In the context of the variety of food sales and distribution

mechanisms, it is important to note that the regulations do not specify any operating model that is required to qualify, i.e. business or not-for-profit. It also doesn't specify how the entity must operate, i.e. whether the entity must operate from a premises, from a stall or on the basis of an online platform. All that is required is that the entity must 'manufacture, supply or provision food products'. The business model is not what matters. In my view, this exemption is not written exclusively for supermarkets and spaza shops.

Exemption on the basis of 'exempted services'

The above argument is underscored by what is listed in section B of Annexure B, which deals with the "exempted services". First, the "[p]roduction and sale of the goods listed in Category A" is exempt from the lockdown (B.4 Annexure B). In other words, "the production and sale of any food product" is exempt from the lockdown because it is an essential service.

Second, there is a more specific (and narrower) category of services that is exempt, namely "[g]rocery stores, including spaza shops". This clearly exempts all supermarkets, smaller stores and spaza shops. It does not extend to alternative food networks such as box schemes, online deliveries etc. However, I have already argued that

they are covered by the other, broader, exemptions mentioned above.

Places and premises that must be closed

The above two arguments are based on how the Regulations approach the products and services that are exempt from the lockdown. However, in dealing with the other end of the spectrum, i.e. places and premises that must be closed, the regulations pull in a different direction. This is true at least with respect to street vendors.

Annexure D, item (c)(iii) of the Lockdown Regulations firmly states that "open air food markets" are examples of places or premises normally open to the public, that must now be closed to the public. What does this mean for street vendors?

If any food stall in a public space constitutes an "open air food market", the single street vendor must close. However, if an "open air food market" is interpreted as a large grouping of stalls that all sell food, the single street vendor would be fine to continue operating as she does not constitute a "market" on her own. What is the correct interpretation? It may be useful to look at how the Constitution distinguishes these matters. In listing the powers of municipalities, the Constitution makes a useful distinction. In Schedule 5, Part B, of the Constitution lists "markets" as an area over which

municipalities have authority. However, in that same Schedule, it also lists "street trading" as a separate local government function.

This is significant: the Constitution clearly does not consider "street trading" and "markets" to be the same. It does not consider each single street vendor to constitute a market. In my view, the same distinction must be applied to the meaning of the phrase "open air food market" in the Lockdown Regulations.

A congregation of stalls, which attracts a considerable volume of shoppers, is banned for obvious reasons. However, street trading as such has not become prohibited because of the ban on "open air food markets". A single stall does not fall under the ban, because it is not a market. A more nuanced approach will be required to distinguish between a group of stalls, constituting a "market" and a single stall that does not constitute a "market".

Duty to impose hygienic conditions and social distancing

Regulation 11B(1)(c) of the Lockdown Regulations places an obligation on retail shops and malls where essential goods are sold to "put in place controls to ensure that customers keep a distance of at least one square meter from each other, and that all directions in respect of hygienic conditions and the exposure of persons to Covid-19 are adhered to". These are specifically directed at retail shops and malls. They seem to miss the spaza shops, street traders and other types of food distributors.

However, it is reasonable to assume that the same duty applies to any business or entity that continues manufacturing, producing or selling food. In other words, if it is argued that spaza shops, street vendors and alternative food distributors fall within the exemptions, it must then also be argued that these duties apply

to them. Of course they apply mutatis mutandis, i.e. tailored to the circumstances. A street trader in a confined area cannot be expected to implement the exact same measures as a retail store in a large mall. However, depending on the circumstances, some (but not all) spaza shops and street vendors must be able to adapt their trading practices. For alternative food distributors (such as box schemes and home deliverers), this must also be possible.

Permits

The Regulations do not state anywhere that a permit is needed to continue operating an entity that is involved in the manufacturing, supply, or provision of food.

With respect to the performance of an essential service, the situation seems to be different. The Regulations contain an Annexure C with a "Form 1 Permit to Perform Essential Service". This must then mean that the performance of an essential service may not be done without said permit (even though the Regulations do not make that explicit).

The minister's directions to municipalities on the closure of public spaces and facilities

The final important mechanism that impacts on the permissibility of alternative food systems and networks is included in the Directions to municipalities. The Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs has issued Directions to municipalities and provinces under the Disaster Management Act. Unfortunately, these add confusion on the issue of food systems. The minister's instruction to municipalities is the following: "All markets including street vendors must be closed, other than food markets".

So this instruction seems to (1) exempt any food market, even if it attracts high volumes of shoppers in a limited space and (2) ban all street vendors, even the singular street trader. On

both accounts, the direction seems ill-advised. The exemption of all food markets is too generous and the ban on all street vendors is too narrow. It is suggested that this Direction must be amended or at least clearer guidance must be given. It is important to note that these directions are aimed at municipalities. Enforcement officials may not rely directly on them and they do not bind individuals. That is not the nature of these directions. Their intention is to direct municipalities. Simply put: if they are ignored or misapplied, it is the municipality that will be in trouble, not the member of the public.

If ever the application of new rules took us into uncharted territory, it is now. The Lockdown Regulations and the accompanying directions were of course drafted in great haste and under tremendous pressure. In general, the government must be commended for the manner in which it is handling the crisis. However, continued food security in townships and informal settlements during the lockdown is absolutely critical if we want to avoid calamitous effects such as widespread hunger and social unrest.

It is unclear whether food provisioning (i.e. the handing out of food parcels) will be sufficient. In fact, it is dangerous to assume that food provisioning can replace the existing patchwork of formal and informal food systems that feed millions of people living in townships and informal settlements. It is therefore important to have legal clarity on what food systems are permitted under the Lockdown Regulations. This is all the more important, given the fact that the enforcement of these regulations is extremely intensive, heavy-handed and carried out by a combination of SAPS officials, municipal law enforcement officials and members of the armed forces.

Endangered black rhino numbers on the rise

By Sheree Bega

AFRICAS critically endangered black rhinos may be lumbering slowly towards recovery, but they are "not out of the woods yet", says wildlife vet Dr Jacques Flamand.

Last week, the update of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species found that between 2012 and 2018, the black rhino population grew at a "modest" annual rate of 2.5% from an estimated 4 845 animals to 5 630 in the wild.

Population models predict a further slow increase over the next five years.

The IUCN credits the slow increase to conservation efforts to counter the persistent threat of poaching.

"While it's true numbers are growing, it should be noted that growth of most populations is slow in most regions, that poaching further slows that growth rate and that numbers are not that huge," points out Flamand, who heads WWF's Black Rhino Range Expansion Project (BRREP). "Without concerted conservation effort, that growth would not have occurred."

Black rhinos in southern Africa have been "lucky", as there are many more white rhino to bear the brunt of poaching.

But numerous threats continue to jeopardise the species' survival. This includes the demand for rhino horn; habitat loss; a "laissez-faire" attitude by some conservation bodies; under-funding by governments and "lazy officials"; and corruption in law enforcement agencies, he says.

"Poverty and greed make it not only attractive to poach, but also to keep quiet about poachers in an area in exchange for possible benefits. This can mean unsympathetic communities."

Very often, game parks have huge



There are now more than 5,600 black rhinos in the wild

neighbouring communities that "get no benefits from the parks" while porous game parks and international borders allow easy transit from inside to outside.

The IUCN says the rise in black rhino numbers is largely due to continuing law enforcement efforts and successful population management measures, including moving selected rhinos from established populations to new locations to keep populations productive and increase the species'

range.

Flamand started the BRREP in 2004 to address the low growth rate of black rhino in South and southern Africa.

"Its newly created South African populations are nearly all increasing at a greater than 5% level and areas from which black rhino were removed to create those populations are also increasing faster."

The project has created 13 new populations of black rhino and the

animals have also been moved within other countries, such as Namibia and Kenya.

While Flamand feels a sense of achievement, his was a team effort. "The creation of partnerships between landowners and conservation bodies was key to making it happen. That involved many dedicated people.

"We still need much more land if the impetus is to be maintained. Land is the limiting resource and having landowners with the means and will

to take part in the project is not easy in this day and age."

Anti-poaching efforts, de-horning and engagement with communities neighbouring rhino reserves and parks and in southern Africa, have helped too, to stem the onslaught.

The largest populations of black rhino are found in huge reserves difficult to police adequately without huge resources, which poachers then target. Criminal syndicates fan the demand.

Flamand says ways must be found to make black and white rhino add value to the landowner on whose land they sit.

"State reserves are under-funded and have large, difficult to protect reserves. People have tried to bring in rhinos for tourism, but that's a very competitive market.

"At the moment, and because they don't have much commercial value, we rely very much on passionate people who have spare resources to invest in protecting rhinos. Otherwise, no one would keep them."

The IUCN say numerous more white rhino continues to be categorised as near threatened. Numbers fell by 15% between 2012 and 2017 from an estimated 21 300 to 18000 animals, which largely cancelled out most of the growth in white rhino numbers from 2007 to 2012, from poaching in the Kruger National Park, home of the largest population in the world.

The White Rhino is more vulnerable to poaching as it has larger horns, and favours more open habitats so is easier to find than the black rhino.

The poaching of African rhinos to supply the illegal international rhino horn trade remains the main threat to the two species.

But strong counter-measures by range states, private landowners and communities are having a positive effect: recorded poaching of African rhinos has been declining at a continental level in recent years.

"With around half of white rhinos and close to 40% of black rhinos now conserved on privately or community-managed land, the trend towards rhinos being increasingly viewed as costly liabilities could threaten to limit or reverse the future expansion of the species' range and numbers."

IT training: Transfer of skills has crucial part to play for companies

By Laurent Sarr

IN the context of Africa's digital transformation, the next generations must be trained in the future professional requirements induced by the Fourth Industrial Revolution - for which the continent is ill-prepared, in the absence of a strategic plan and clear framework for the emergence of technological and digital professions.

When it comes to assessing the level of ICT training and skills in Africa, the picture is rather disheartening. In its 2017 ICT Development Index, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) indicated that Africa was lagging behind in terms of ICT skills, still below the global standard.

For its part, the World Economic Forum study entitled *The Future of Jobs and Skills in Africa - Preparing the Region for the Fourth Industrial Revolution*, which was published in May 2017, estimated that young Africans with a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) degree represented only 2% of the continent's total university-age population.

This observation calls for another one: the growing gap between the digitization of the continent and the lack of young graduates to meet the needs. Given the explosion in demand, the training offer remains very insufficient and far too costly for most Africans. In addition, the decrease in scholarship offers contributes to worsening the inequality of access to qualifying training courses in the sector.

Despite the awareness of their importance in the emergence to which many African countries aspire, ICT is still suffering today from a shortage in training structures, despite a few excellence centres such as the International Institute for Water and Environmental Engineering (2iE) in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) or the Carnegie-Mellon campus in Kigali (Rwanda).

Many countries are still struggling to offer training, due to the lack of funding, equipment and qualified study directors. However, Africa must train its growing youth - more than half of the population is under 25 - to meet the ever-increasing demands of a more qualified and international labour market.

Private actors to the rescue

Until African governments invest in an education system that better integrates ICT skills, private initiatives are multiplying. For instance, the American company Andela, specialized in the training of software developers, launched several youth digital training programmes across the continent.

On the GAFAM side, Google invested in training in 2016, through its programme aimed at training more than 10 million young people for five years. For its part, IBM invested 70 million in a training program called IBM Digital - Nation Africa in 2017, which hosts free educational programmes on a learning platform.

However, these private initiatives are a drop in the ocean of needs: by

2030, more than 30 million young Africans will enter the employment market each year. In view of the impact that the Fourth Industrial Revolution will have on all strategic segments of the economy, Africa must accelerate its training pace to provide its youth with the required ICT skills. In the meantime, bridging this digital divide will notably involve PPPs. While the Smart Africa Alliance stands out with emblematic programmes such as the Smart Africa Scholarship Fund or the "Education for All through ICTs" programme on a continental scale, companies have an important role to play, on their own scale, to promote skills transfer.

This is precisely the approach we favour at Global Voice Group (GVG), by deploying our cutting-edge IT solutions in Africa through BOT contracts, so that our customers - governments and regulatory authorities - can benefit from various ICT programmes for capacity building, which allows them to bring their officials up to speed when it comes to ICT.

In addition, these rich ICT programmes enable our clients to take charge of the acquired ICT systems and thus positively stimulate the digital transformation of their country. This formula involves a series of annual training courses for management and project managers, agents working on-site, advanced system configuration training and technical training for engineers, with one constant: well trained on-site, engineers also associate with the local technical team of our

clients. It is the best way to transfer knowledge.

Regional disparities

Over the years, it has been confirmed that East Africa - starting with Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda - has very good engineers, as a result of good ICT education policies. For instance, Rwanda invests a lot in IT programmes in local universities, instead of favouring scholarships and studies abroad. Rwandan teachers are well paid, which is a great way to encourage experienced foreign teachers to teach there. This is a great example to be followed by other African countries.

It is crucial that Africa should develop its skills base, in order to acquire the critical mass of human capital. Strategic investment in the ICT sector, like the IT solutions offered by GVG, would allow the continent to play a growing role in the development of new applications and innovative systems that meet its needs. This will inevitably have a positive impact on the economy and development of Africa. By not training Africans in these skills, the whole continent loses out in the face of a continuously changing and innovating sector.

To harness its potential, Africa must certainly develop partnerships, researchers and students networking, as well as the establishment of foreign schools. It must also focus on the skills transfer programmes of IT companies that operate on its soil, as the latter are working behind the scenes to support the digital transformation of Africa.



East African who breached lockdown eaten by crocodile, as two others shot by police

KIGALI

A man got eaten by a crocodile after breaching lockdown protocols to allegedly go fishing, while two other violators were killed by police in the East African country of Rwanda.

Alice Kayitesi, mayor of the Kamonyi district, said the fishing incident occurred in the Nyabarongo river yesterday, March 25, as per BBC on the same day.

"He had broken the stay-home rule, he's among very

few people here who are not cooperating with the lockdown to stop the [corona]virus," the mayor was quoted as saying.

Rwanda, which currently has 41 confirmed COVID-19 cases, has been on a two-week lockdown since March 21 as a preventive measure against the spread of the novel coronavirus.

Under the lockdown, non-essential businesses are closed, travel between cities and districts are suspended and non-essential

movement outside the home is suspended, the country's Ministry of Health announced on Twitter yesterday.

Rwandan police meanwhile shot and killed two men in their twenties who also disobeyed lockdown orders, according to a Bloomberg report earlier today, March 26.

The two allegedly "attempted to tussle with officers," Rwanda National Police spokesperson John Bosco Kabera said.

By Special Correspondent

COVID-19 is a killer capable of eradicating 2.3 million Gambians from the face of the earth.

This must not be forgotten. The virus is contagious and can move rapidly from one human being to another through close contact. This is why reasonable distancing between people and frequent washing of hands are some of the preventive measures recommended to defeat the virus. Powers are provided to control borders, keep people in ideal locations to observe the symptoms for the period required to detect any prevalence of the virus, temporary closure of schools in the absence of adequate protective outfits and reasonable justifiable measures in a democratic society.

On the other hand, many measures are now being implemented without proper assessment of their impact on the living conditions of the population. It is vital for the government to evaluate the impact of the regulations on those who deliver or benefit from services to see whether the regulations could be adjusted to ensure the delivery of efficient services without compromising the preventive measures outlined to deal with the illness. Anywhere it is discovered that services could be rendered by maintaining social distancing and the sanitary conditions required to prevent the spread of the illness the regulations should be recalibrated to suit the prevailing circumstances.

Foroyaa will continue to monitor compliance and link them to the authorities responsible for addressing such complaints.

It is noteworthy that the National Assembly should sit within 21 days to evaluate whether the state of public emergency should continue or not. Otherwise the declaration will be null and void.

How long will the state of public emergency last?

Section 34 of the Constitution empowers the presi-

Emergency powers must serve the public interest, with the National Assembly standing as overseer

dent to declare a state of public emergency and section 35 calls for the enactment of an Act spelling out the emergency powers that could be exercised in a period of the emergency.

The Emergency Powers Act spells out the powers that the President could exercise through the publication of emergency regulations. The regulations may curtail the exercise of certain fundamental rights. However, whatever is provided for in the regulation should be reasonably justifiable in a democratic society.

Foroyaa will trace the Gazettes containing the regulations and guide the nation to know their content. The Inspector General of Police, being the custodian of the regulation should also know and educate the law enforcement agencies to know the limits in the exercise of their function. We are being informed by those whose daily means of survival lies in being vendors, taxi drivers, mechanics and so on and so forth, of their inability to earn an income due to suspension of their activities or limitations imposed on them. Mechanics have claimed that they have people's transports to fix but have been forbidden by security personnel to open their workshops. Vendors are claiming that they have to close their shops even though they are selling essential goods. In short people are generally confused and are engaged in trial and error in terms of continuing to run their businesses or closing them. There is no uniformity in action because of the absence of uniformity in understanding what is broadcast over the electronic media.

It is important for all citizens to know that a proclamation read over GRTS does not automatically become law without publication in the Gazette. Secondly all regulations must be reasonably justifiable in a democratic society. Thirdly there must be uniformity in enforcing the regulations.

The Gambia officially the Republic of The Gambia, is a country in Western Africa that is almost entirely surrounded by Senegal with the exception of its western coastline along the Atlantic Ocean. It is the smallest country within mainland Africa. The Gambia is situated on both sides of the lower reaches of the Gambia River, the nation's namesake, which flows through the centre of The Gambia and empties into the Atlantic Ocean. It has an area of 10,689 square kilometres (4,127 sq mi) with a population of 1,857,181 as of the April 2013 census. Banjul is the Gambian capital and the largest cities are Serekunda and Brikama.

The Gambia shares historical roots with many other West African nations in the slave trade, which was the key factor in the placing and keeping of a colony on the Gambia River, first by the Portuguese, during



Gambia's female farmers receive loan to enhance productivity

which era it was known as A Gambia. Later, on 25 May 1765, The Gambia was made a part of the British Empire when the government formally assumed control, establishing the Province of Senegambia. In 1965, The Gambia gained independence under the leadership of Dawda Jawara, who ruled until Yahya Jammeh seized power in a bloodless 1994 coup. Adama Barrow became The Gambia's third president in January 2017, after defeating Jammeh in the December 2016 elections. Jammeh initially accepted the results, then refused to accept them, which triggered a constitutional crisis and military intervention by the Economic Community of West African States, resulting in his exile.

The Gambia's economy is dominated by farming, fishing and, especially, tourism. In 2015, 48.6 per cent of the population lived in poverty. In rural areas, poverty is even more widespread, at almost 70 per cent.

The name "Gambia" is derived from the Mandinka term Kambra/Kambaa, meaning Gambia River (or

possibly from the sacred Serer Gamba, a special type of calabash beaten when a Serer elder dies). According to the CIA World Factbook, the United States Department of State, the Times Comprehensive Atlas of the World and the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names for British Official Use, The Gambia is one of two countries whose self-standing short name for official use should begin with the word "The" (the other being The Bahamas). Habitually, the definite article is sometimes still used when addressing many other countries, including Netherlands, Philippines, Congo, Sudan, Yemen, Comoros, Central African Republic, Seychelles, Maldives, Solomon Islands, Dominican Republic, Czech Republic, Marshall Islands, United Kingdom, United States of America and Lebanon, with varying degrees of accuracy. Upon independence in 1965, the country used the name The Gambia. Following the proclamation of a republic in 1970, the long-form name of the country became Republic of The Gambia. The

administration of Yahya Jammeh changed the long-form name to Islamic Republic of The Gambia in December 2015. On 29 January 2017 President Adama Barrow changed the name back to Republic of The Gambia.

Arab traders provided the first written accounts of the Gambia area in the ninth and tenth centuries. During the tenth century, Muslim merchants and scholars established trans-Saharan trade routes, leading to a large export trade of local people as slaves, along with gold and ivory, as well as imports of manufactured goods.

By the 11th or 12th century, the rulers of kingdoms such as Takrur, a monarchy centred on the Senegal River just to the north, ancient Ghana and Gao had converted to Islam and had appointed to their courts Muslims who were literate in the Arabic language. At the beginning of the 14th century, most of what is today called The Gambia was part

of the Mali Empire. The Portuguese reached this area by sea in the mid-15th century, and began to dominate overseas trade.

In 1588, the claimant to the Portuguese throne, António, Prior of Crato, sold exclusive trade rights on the Gambia River to English merchants. Letters patent from Queen Elizabeth I confirmed the grant. In 1618, King James I of England granted a charter to an English company for trade with the Gambia and the Gold Coast (now Ghana). Between 1651 and 1661, some parts of the Gambia were under the rule of the Duchy of Courland and Semigallia belonging to Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth—modern-day Lithuania—and were bought by Prince Jacob Kettler.

During the late 17th century and throughout the 18th century, the British Empire and the French Empire struggled continually for political and commercial supremacy in the regions of the Senegal River and the Gambia River. The British Empire occupied the Gambia when an expedition led by Augustus Keppel landed there following the Capture of Senegal in 1758. The 1783 First Treaty of Versailles gave Great Britain possession of the Gambia River, but the French retained a tiny enclave at Albréda on the river's north bank. This was finally ceded to the United Kingdom in 1856.

As many as three million people may have been taken as slaves from this general region during the three centuries that the transatlantic slave trade operated. It is not known how many people were taken as slaves by intertribal wars or Muslim traders before the transatlantic slave trade began. Most of those taken were sold by other Africans to Europeans: some were prisoners of intertribal wars; some

were victims sold because of unpaid debts; and many others were simply victims of kidnapping.

Traders initially sent people to Europe to work as servants until the market for labour expanded in the West Indies and North America in the 18th century. In 1807, the United Kingdom abolished the slave trade through-out its empire. It also tried, unsuccessfully, to end the slave trade in the Gambia. Slave ships intercepted by the Royal Navy's West Africa Squadron in the Atlantic River were also returned to the Gambia, with people who had been slaves released on MacCarthy Island far up the Gambia River where they were expected to establish new lives. The British established the military post of Bathurst (now Banjul) in 1816.

Gambia Colony and Protectorate (1821-1965)

In the ensuing years, Banjul was at times under the jurisdiction of the British Governor-General in Sierra Leone. In 1888, The Gambia became a separate colony. An agreement with the French Republic in 1889 established the present boundaries. The Gambia became a British Crown colony called British Gambia, divided for administrative purposes into the colony (city of Banjul and the surrounding area) and the protectorate (remainder of the territory). The Gambia received its own executive and legislative councils in 1901, and it gradually progressed toward self-government. Slavery was abolished in 1906 and following a brief conflict between the British colonial forces and indigenous Gambians, British colonial authority was firmly established.

During World War II, some soldiers fought with the Allies of World War II. Though these soldiers fought mostly in Burma, some died closer to home and a Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery is in Fajara (close to Banjul). Banjul contained an airstrip for the US Army Air Forces and a port of call for Allied naval convoys.

A pledge to build unity and solidarity during a global crisis

By Sharon Ekambaram

This virus does not distinguish on the basis of nationality, and all within our borders have a role to play in its containment, and a right to be treated equally under the law.

Last week we noted with disappointment that at a press conference during which Cabinet ministers detailed plans for the 21-day lockdown, Small Business Development Minister Khumbudzo Ntshavheni said that during this period, only spaza shops owned by South Africans would be allowed to function, to ensure that the quality of food that is sold can be "assured".

This is offensive, discriminatory and exactly how xenophobic sentiment and violence are fuelled in South Africa. The minister expressed a prejudicial view, in these comments, that spaza shops owned by foreign nationals sell food that does not meet health and quality standards, without a shred of supporting evidence. This othering fuels toxicity, and goes against the spirit of ubuntu that we as people living in South Africa have witnessed and engaged in over the last few weeks, under the leadership of the president as he called for cooperation, collaboration and common action in dealing with Covid-19.

We note with relief that



the official regulations published on Thursday regarding the implementation of the lockdown, make no distinction between South African and "foreign-owned" spaza shops. It remains to be seen, however, what the impact of Ntshavheni's statements will be in adding fuel to the xenophobic fire in South Africa during the course of this lockdown. These discriminatory comments by our leaders cannot stand in the normal course, and during this time of global crisis there is even less room for them.

Xenophobic sentiments sowing divisions at this criti-

cal moment in the history of humanity are more than reckless. They are destructive.

The traditions of the anti-apartheid struggle and more recently the struggle of the Treatment Action Campaign (TAC) for access to affordable and quality healthcare for all are instructive.

While we use words like "unprecedented" to describe the crisis that humanity faces today, we must acknowledge that South Africa has faced significant challenges before, in our not-too-distant past. Taking down the apartheid regime was not the result of the ef-

forts of one man. Nor was it done by spreading hatred. It was an international movement, in which we united as human beings, irrespective of nationality, race, creed, class or sexual orientation, and built on foundations of respect for human dignity standing firm to eradicate racial hatred, discrimination and to fight for equality and against the injustice of poverty.

Today we enjoy living in a democracy, with a Constitution that is a shrine to the respect for human dignity and human rights for all who live in this country. Sentiments expressed by Ntshavheni

must be denounced and withdrawn. They have no place in our democracy, let alone during this time of global crisis.

We must also reflect, learn, and take courage from what the TAC achieved in another era of darkness that engulfed the world. South Africans built an international movement to fight for access to treatment for all people living with HIV and AIDS. The TAC was able to lead this movement by organising communities through education and by campaigning on principles of solidarity. This is how it was able to address the stigma, othering

and toxicity against people living with HIV and AIDS that was fuelling vulnerability and risk of infection.

The TAC membership form has these words etched in print in the form of a pledge:

These are the reasons that I pledge to support the Treatment Action Campaign:

- I am scared and fear that tomorrow my friends, my schoolmates and colleagues and everybody may have HIV/AIDS;
- I do not have enough knowledge and treatment and care, I want to learn more. I care about my life and the lives of my friends;
- Millions of people have HIV/AIDS and they will die for no reason other than the fact that the treatment costs are too high;
- I will use my anger, fear, knowledge, emotions and care to win affordable treatment and care for people;
- I will use my anger, fear, knowledge, emotions and care to win affordable treatment and care for people with HIV/AIDS;
- Everywhere I will encourage openness about HIV/AIDS;
- I might not be ready to

tell others that I have HIV/AIDS, I will tell them when I am ready; and

- I pledge time, energy, courage and other resources to build the Treatment Action Campaign and to struggle for access to affordable and quality healthcare for all.

The legacy of the TAC continues to reverberate as we hear calls to consider the language we use as we struggle to change behaviour and bend the curve. In other words, as we fight to save lives by stopping the further spread of Covid-19.

Changing behaviour includes eradicating xenophobia and all forms of toxic othering that has become so prevalent in the world today. Because the reality remains that this virus does not distinguish on the basis of nationality, and all within our borders have a role to play in its containment, and a right to be treated equally under the law. Selfishly refusing to consider the impact of our risky behaviour by not heeding the call to embrace social solidarity and physical distancing is what is resulting in an increase in the numbers of people contracting Covid-19. This will impact disproportionately on people living in impoverished con-

ditions.

Indeed, never before has the stark reality of how inequality affects our very existence as a species been more clearly demonstrated than we are witnessing through the devastating impact of Covid-19. It is in confronting this reality that we need brave leadership on principles of equality, unity and solidarity to save the lives of human beings - not cheap populism.

As the country embraces the hard reality of a 21-day lockdown, Lawyers for Human Rights in coalition with many other NGOs and community and movement leaders, remains available to ensure the protection of the rights of all within our borders. We will work to guard against an implementation that disproportionately affects impoverished communities and vulnerable individuals. At the same time, we will continue to disseminate information and government health directives and call on all who live in South Africa to contribute to flattening the curve of this virus.

Now is the time for us to unite as the human race and ensure that all resources available are directed to the most vulnerable sections of our society in our common fight to protect us from the spread of Covid-19.

BUSINESS

RELIEF

FNB fourth bank to offer payment holiday amid Covid-19 outbreak

JOHANNESBURG

FNB is the fourth bank to announce its relief interventions for individuals and businesses that are financially impacted by Covid-19.

On Monday morning CEO Jacques Celliers announced that FNB will join Standard Bank, Nedbank and Absa from April 1 to June 30 in assisting customers who demonstrate sound banking behaviour, such as having honoured their repayments to the bank on a consistent basis prior to the epidemic.

The bank says its intervention amid Covid-19 for the next three months include: No instalments/repayments will be due for a specific period; A preferential interest rate will apply to the Covid-19 relief interventions given; No fees will be charged for any relief granted; Assistance with processing credit insurance claims, where possible; Individualised bridge facilities for those who need it.

The bank notes that interest and fees will continue to accumulate on outstanding balances. Customers who have queries may contact the bank via its digital and assisted banking channels to enquire about these services. "Customers will also be able to get more information on our current Covid-19 relief measures through a

dedicated icon on the landing page of our banking app," Celliers says.

Celliers says together with the Banking Association of South Africa (Basa) and the banking industry, FNB is assessing potential financial solutions for those customers who do not qualify under the current criteria. "We encourage all customers who can honour their financial obligations to continue servicing their repayments," Celliers says.

Celliers says FNB is also prioritising early invoice settlements for suppliers across the FirstRand Group and over R1 billion has been processed in the last few days. "We are committed to continuing expediting payments to local suppliers to help improve their financial stability.

"FNB has also made a significant contribution to FirstRand's SPIRE initiative announced today, contributing, alongside the FirstRand Foundations and RMB, to the group's total anchor funding of R100 million," Celliers says.

He says that through SPIRE FNB is also providing critical operational capacity including its payments and governance platforms, to help the healthcare system scale its response to Covid-19, with a particular focus on testing equipment, protective clothing and ventilators for hospitals.



FNB CEO Jacques Celliers.

SURVEILLANCE

Tourism industry stakeholders reassure tourists of safety, thanks to govt action

By Guardian Reporter

TOURISTS coming to Tanzania have been assured of their safety and security against coronavirus thanks to a raft of measures being taken by the government and the private sector.

In a joint statement, Tanzania Association of Tour Operators (TATO) and Hotel Association of Tanzania (HAT) CEOs reiterated that destination Tanzania remains open for business and continues to welcome tourists, taking precautions and health measures put in place by the government.

In their statement, TATO and HAT CEOs, Sirili Akko and Nuralisa Karamagi respectively said they recently met to look at ways on how to work with the state and ensure compliance to safety directives issued by Ministry of Health in the interests of the public and tourists at large.

Their statement comes following media reports of a potential 45-day no activity in the country's tourism industry owing to the Covid-19 outbreak. "TATO and HAT would like to assure the holidaymakers that our government is taking all necessary measures to ensure their safety and that there will be minimal inconveniences during their stay in Tanzania," reads part of the



Foreign tourists arriving at Kilimanjaro International Airport earlier this year before the Covid-19 pandemic struck.

statement.

On the 23rd of March, the government issued a travel advisory for tourists coming to the country stating that all travellers whether foreigners or returning residents arriving from COVID-19 affected countries will be subjected to mandatory isolation for 14 days at their own cost at designated facilities set up by the state.

All arrivals are required to fill in health surveillance forms while aboard the plane, or any other means of transports and submit them to health authorities at the port of entry. All travellers arriving into the country will also be subjected to an intensive screening and where necessary COVID-19 rapid testing, the state declared.

Tanzania's tourism industry is one of

the fastest growing in the East African country's economy with figures showing continued growth in terms of arrivals. As a result the country's earnings from tourism leapfrogged by 7.13 per cent from US\$2.19 billion in 2017 to US\$ 2.43 billion in 2018 with arrivals also increasing from 1.33 million to 1.49 million over the same period of time, according to Prime Minister, Kassim Majaliwa.

CLIMATE CHANGE

D'salaam, Nairobi SMEs among first beneficiaries of UN climate initiative

By Guardian Reporter

Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Kenya and Tanzania will be among the first countries to benefit from a recently launched programme by the UN Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN).

In a statement, CTCN's Director, Dr Rose Mwebeza said the programme seeks to identify and support mechanisms that will enable industrial SMEs to adopt environmentally sound technologies. The programme will be replicated in other regions including Asia later this year.

"Working across numerous adaptation and mitigation sectors, the CTCN provides technical assistance, knowledge sharing, capacity building and networking. We are supported by more than 550 network member institutions all over the world, half of which are from the private sector," said Dr Mwebeza.

The programme consists of three stages: introducing climate technologies and international suppliers to local SMEs, creating linkages to finance, and building capacity and awareness of local industrial SMEs. The CTCN has started working closely with SMEs in partnership with local organizations.

"This new programme aims to help identify challenges and specific solutions for the SMEs and support them with the uptake of climate-smart technologies," she added.

In Kenya and Tanzania, the pro-

gramme is implemented in partnership with the Kenyan Climate Innovation Centre (KCIC) which offers incubation, capacity building and financing options to SMEs. It kicked off earlier this year with the KCIC carrying out a research and analysis of SME profiles in East Africa.

"As part of the industrial SME cluster mapping exercise, we have identified some technologies that include increasing efficiency in production processes, minimizing the use of natural resources, promoting energy conservation and efficiency, use of renewable energy sources and reducing toxic waste emissions and pollutants," said Christine Mwangi, the Programme Lead from the KCIC.

The KCIC has also engaged stakeholders in Kenya and Tanzania with the aim of validating the preliminary report findings. According to the findings, industrial sub-sectors that showed significant environmental and technological challenges based on the technological themes assessed are real estate, mining and construction, paper and board, textile and apparel, timber, wood and furniture and energy and electricals and automotive.

Selected SMEs from each country will attend the CTCN SMEs clinics (the format to be updated according to coronavirus status), where they will be supported by experts with business plan development, access to strategic partnerships, networking or financing.



UN Climate Technology Centre and Network's Director, Dr Rose Mwebeza.

WARNING

Burundi blocks cargo trucks from EAC

KIGALI

The government of Burundi has blocked entry of cargo trucks from different East African Community (EAC) countries transiting through Rwanda, a situation which started last week, according to reports from several border posts.

Since last week, Burundian immigration has reportedly been refusing entry of different cargo trucks transiting through Rwanda, leaving many business owners stranded. The latest blockade is likely to hurt cargo owners who

are already challenged by the global epidemic of coronavirus, the COVID-19.

Reports show there are nearly 15 trucks that were cleared by both Rwanda and Burundi Immigration and customs officials (under the One Stop Border Post), but remain in the no-man's land of different border posts with Rwanda, as of March 30.

Efforts by truck drivers and merchandise owners to negotiate with Burundian authorities to process the cargo through to Burundi, have remained futile. The trucks are mainly transporting Burundi-bound cargo transiting

through Rwanda from the Kenyan port of Mombasa.

At Nemba One Stop Border Post in Bugesera District, three freight trucks have failed to get clearance to take their goods, while at Ruhwa border post in Rusizi, two cargo trucks have been barred entry since Friday last week. This follows a decision by Burundi Immigration to close its borders with Rwanda.

At Akanyuru-Haut, two trucks are said to be stranded at the border on Rwandan side, as cargo owners try to negotiate with Burundian authorities for entry, according to available infor-

mation. As a consequence some eight EAC trucks have been parked at the no man's land at Mirama Hills border post with Uganda in Nyagatare District, since March 29.

This, according to officials, is because of the uncertainty of their being cleared by Burundi after transiting through Rwanda. The decision by Burundi to bar the cargo trucks is contrary to the resolutions made by ministers in charge of health and EAC affairs, which among other things, resolved to fight the coronavirus outbreak and facilitate continuity of business in the region.

Burundi's Minister of Public Health and Fight against HIV/AIDS, and Minister in the office of the President responsible for EAC Affairs, were part of the virtual meeting which took place on March 25. Ministers resolved to facilitate free movement of goods and services in the region, according to the joint statement released after the meeting that was held virtually.

They also directed all partner states to ensure that trucks and vehicles carrying goods have a maximum of three crew members per vehicle to facilitate smooth border crossing in the region. In

a related development, by the time we went to press, there was a family of six Burundians that was stranded at Akanyuru border, after Burundians refused them entry from Rwanda where they were hospitalized.

This family includes a mother and her child who had been undergoing cancer treatment in Butaro Hospital in Rwanda. Rwanda Immigration officials at Akanyuru border explained that the family which exited on Saturday 29 March 2020, and was denied entry in Burundi, remaining stranded at the no man's land without food or shelter.

ASSURANCE

Raha Liquid offering faster internet access to people working from home connection with COVID-19 digging in

By Guardian Reporter

IN a bid to help people working from home have access to faster and reliable internet connection Raha Liquid Telecom has assured customers of affordable prices as the Covid-19 claimed its first fatality in the country yesterday.

Raha Liquid's CEO, Hussein Kitambi said at such unsettling times, the company assured its clients that its services and products are readily available in different packages. "We are pleased to offer our valued customers and their families' solutions that would see them enjoy continuity of their livelihood," Kitambi said.

He named some of the measures being taken to improve services as: an internet connectivity of up to 5mbps at cheap price with free installation within 48 hours to ensure a many Tanzanians have access to super fast internet connectivity for themselves and their families.

The company is also providing a virtual workplace solution to businesses on a six month free trial through Microsoft Office 365 and Microsoft Teams which are geared towards transforming the way organizations work, connect and get productive while out of office.

Further, Raha Liquid is also providing a virtual education solution to educational institutions at no cost. "We are keen to have Microsoft Office 365 Education, Microsoft Teams and Minecraft Education Edition transforming the way your classrooms work by being in class without physically being in class," the Raha Liquid Telecom CEO added.

The statement noted that Raha Liquid is guided by the enduring belief that every individual on the African continent has the right to be connected hence with the COVID-19 outbreak, the company is mindful on the increasing demand for reliable, resilient network connectivity and capacity at home to enable re-

mote work and remote learning. "Our superfast unlimited internet will enable you to keep up with work, learning and experience true family moments. This offer is valid for one month, however, we will continue to monitor the situation as we go along and advise accordingly," Kitambi stated.

Effective last week, the company upgraded clients' Hai Home internet subscription to double bandwidth/capacity with a 5mbps subscription being automatically increased to 10mbps.

"Our promotion which was due to lapse on 30th March has also been extended and now all new customers continue to enjoy double bandwidth and an extra free month of monthly subscription. We remain committed to offering the best in class services and solutions while supporting our customers to have business and academic continuity most so during this trying time globally," the CEO promised.



Raha Liquid Telecom's CEO, Hussein Kitambi.

EMPOWERMENT

IFC in deal with bank for women enterprise financing

NAIROBI

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) is offering technical advisory services to KCB Kenya to help it lend more to small and women-owned enterprises.

The advisory project will cost \$200,000 (Sh21.2 million) and is the latest such undertaking with a local bank. Other lenders that have signed advisory deals with the international financier include Equity and Co-op Bank.

"This is a Banking on Women Advisory Services project with KCB Kenya and is designed to provide Banking on Women Advisory support in two key areas: (1) KCB Staff training (2) Design a training programme for KCB's women SMEs," IFC said in a disclosure.

The global financier said the initiative will increase financing for businesses, ultimately creating more jobs and reducing poverty. The programme with KCB has been running since 2018 and is set to be concluded at the end of this month.

IFC defines SMEs using various measures including firms having between 10 and 300 employees or annual sales of Sh10 million to Sh1.5 billion. The loan size per borrower usually ranges from Sh1 million to Sh200 million. "IFC analysed its client data over the past four years and found that loans to women-owned SMEs have lower non-performing loans across countries and over time," the institution said.

"Banking on Women programme provides financing and expertise to an extensive network of financial institutions to help them acquire women-owned SME and retail customers – and profitably finance them."

IFC has leveraged its existing lending relationships with Kenyan banks to offer them loans and advisory services. The institutions have taken medium term loans running into billions of shillings from IFC for onward lending to specific client groups including SMEs. One of the IFC's loans to KCB, for instance, is a seven-year facility of \$75 million (Sh8 billion).



PESSIMISM

Here's how much a downgrade to junk will cost South Africa

JOHANNESBURG

What's the cost of becoming junk? South Africa will soon find out. The country lost its last investment-grade rating late on Friday when Moody's Investors Service cut it to Ba1, citing a weak economy and an unreliable power sector.

When markets re-opened on Monday in Asia, the effect was immediate. The rand fell to a record low, weakening beyond 18 per dollar for the first time, before paring losses. The government's local-currency debt and Eurobonds, as well as banking stocks, also dropped. The rand weakened 0.1% to 17.93 against the dollar as of 06:45 in Johannesburg on Tuesday, extending its decline this year to 22%.

There could be more to come. The downgrade will trigger South Africa's exclusion, probably around late April, from the FTSE World Government Bond Index. The gauge includes 14 currencies, including the dollar, yen and euro, and is tracked by around \$3 trillion of funds.

Passive funds following the WGBI will have to dump rand bonds once they're excluded. South Africa has a 0.45% weighting in the main index, suggesting there could be roughly \$14 billion of passive money holding rand government bonds. But it's impossible to tell accurately since funds can be under- or overweight South Africa, which is the highest-yielding member of the WGBI. Here's what analysts



South African finance minister, Tito Mboweni.

say the impact could be on the rand and in terms of outflows from South Africa:

Barclays
The Moody's downgrade may lead to \$6 billion of forced bond selling, London-based analysts Michael Kafé, Nikolaos Sgouropoulos and Andreas Kolbe said. If so, that would cause foreign holdings of the government's rand debt to fall to about 30%-32% of the total from 37%. An-

other downgrade is possible, they said, if South Africa doesn't quickly reduce a budget deficit that was expected to rise to a three-decade high in the next year even before the coronavirus struck.

Citigroup
The Wall Street bank had previously estimated that South Africa would experience \$6.6 billion of outflows on a Moody's downgrade. "However, the

event has been expected and thus priced in for a long time and, with markets also selling off significantly this month, the actual outflow is likely to be far smaller than the original estimate," Gina Schoeman, a Johannesburg-based economist at the bank, said on Monday.

Deutsche Bank
Deutsche had been advising clients to wait for a downgrade and then buy rand debt

as yields rose. The coronavirus pandemic has changed that and it now thinks the rand could depreciate another 10% to 20 per dollar. "We find risk-reward as not attractive enough to get bullish immediately post the downgrade, considering the domestic challenges and the external backdrop," said Christian Wietoska, a strategist in London.

Intellidex

Around \$3 billion of passive outflows will occur directly because of the rating cut, according to Peter Attard Montalto, London-based head of capital-markets research at Intellidex. Another \$2 billion will probably exit the country once the WGBI exclusion happens, he said. He believes S&P Global Ratings and Fitch Ratings Ltd. may lower South Africa's rating in the coming months and that Moody's will do so again in the next year.

The US lender is in the more optimistic camp, predicting \$2 billion to \$4 billion of capital will exit South Africa. The rand will still weaken, according to analysts including Andrea Masia, who's based in Johannesburg. That will be driven in part by the central bank's decision last week to buy government bonds in the secondary market for the first time. The effect of the operation will be "to print money and expand the money supply," they said.

Standard Chartered
Outflows could total anywhere between \$4 billion and \$10 billion, according to Geoff Kendrick, London-based head of emerging-market currency research at Standard Chartered. But further rand losses will be limited, he said, recommending that clients sell the dollar if the exchange rate gets to 19. That's because by the end of last month, funds had already hedged their rand exposure to the greatest degree since 2015, according to the bank's calculations. Moreover, the fall in rand bonds in March - their average yield is now 11.2%, according to Bloomberg Barclays indexes - is starting to make them attractive, he said.

EXPANSION

South African Fintech JUMO secures US\$55-million

JOHANNESBURG

South African Fintech company JUMO has raised a US\$55-million funding round from new and existing investors to support its expansion into new markets and the launch of new

products.

Founded in 2015, JUMO partners with financial service providers and mobile network operators to provide credit and savings solutions to customers. Its products give anyone with a cell phone and mobile wallet access to financial

choice, with JUMO having so far served over 15 million customers and disbursed over US\$1.8-billion in loans.

The company last raised funding in December 2018, and has now taken the total secured investment to US\$158-million with a US\$55 million

debt and equity funding round which introduced new investors to join existing ones such as Goldman Sachs, Odey Asset Management and Leapfrog Investments.

The investment will be used for further expansion. Already active

in Ghana, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia and Pakistan, JUMO has plans to enter Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire and India this year.

"I'm excited for our next phase. This backing will help us build a better business and break new ground. The

strong vote of confidence, along with the world-class tech talent we now have in the business, means we can achieve exceptional outcomes for our partners and customers," said Andrew Watkins-Ball, JUMO's Founder & Group chief executive officer.

DEFIANCE

Shops still open and restaurants still running in Sweden

STOCKHOLM

The streets of Stockholm are quiet but not deserted. People still sit at outdoor cafes in the centre of Sweden's capital. Vendors still sell flowers. Teenagers still chat in groups in parks. Some still greet each other with hugs and handshakes.

After a long, dark Scandinavian winter, the coronavirus pandemic is not keeping Swedes at home even while citizens in many parts of the world are sheltering in place and won't find shops or restaurants open on the few occasions they are permitted to venture out.

Swedish authorities have advised the public to practice social distancing and to work from home, if possible, and urged those over 70 to self-isolate as a precaution. Yet compared to the lockdowns imposed elsewhere in the world, the govern-

ment's response to the virus allows a liberal amount of personal freedom.

Standing at bars has been banned in Sweden, but restaurant customers can still be served at tables instead of having to take food to go. High schools and universities are closed, but preschools and primary schools are still running classes in person.

"Sweden is an outlier on the European scene, at least," said Johan Giesecke, the country's former chief epidemiologist and now adviser to the Swedish Health Agency, a government body. "And I think that's good." Other European nations "have taken political, unconsidered actions" instead of ones dictated by science, Giesecke asserted. It remains unclear how long Sweden's exceptional state will last.

Prime Minister Stefan Löfven, warning of "many tough weeks and months



People walk along the main pedestrian shopping street in Stockholm, Sweden on March 25.

ahead," announced on Friday that as of Sunday, gatherings would be limited to 50 people instead of 500. The government noted that weddings, funerals and Easter celebrations would be affected.

Still, to reduce the spread of

the virus in Germany and the UK, groups larger than two are currently prohibited unless they are composed of people who already live together. Officials in Italy and France introduced increasingly restrictive limits on public activities

and eventually authorised fines because they said too many people ignored social distancing recommendations.

For now, the Swedish government maintains that citizens can be trusted to exercise responsibility

for the greater good and will stay home if they experience any COVID-19 symptoms. Many Swedes are indeed keeping the recommended distance from others. Victoria Holmgren, 24, praised the Swedish government's handling of the public health crisis as "very good." "And it's partly because I don't think I could manage being inside the whole day," Holmgren said.

But some scientists have criticised the Swedish Public Health Agency's approach as irresponsible during a worldwide pandemic that has already killed over 21,000 people in Europe. In an open letter to the government, some 2,000 academics called for greater transparency and more justification for its infection prevention strategy.

Sten Linnarsson, a professor at Karolinska Institute, a prominent medical university in Sweden, said the concern centers on "the assessments and the course that the Swedish government has taken through this epidemic, and especially because there is really a lack of scientific evidence being put forward for these policies."

Linnarsson compared Sweden's

handling of the virus to letting a kitchen fire burn with the intent of extinguishing it later. "That doesn't make any sense. And the danger, of course, is that it burns the whole house down," he said.

Sweden's current chief epidemiologist, Anders Tegnell, argued that even if the country's comparatively permissive policies are an anomaly, they are more sustainable and effective in protecting the public's health than "drastic" moves like closing schools for four or five months.

Sweden, a nation of 10 million, had a total of 3,447 confirmed virus cases and 105 deaths by Sunday, according to a Johns Hopkins University tally. However, there has been limited testing, with some 24,500 tests conducted by Wednesday, according to official statistics.

"The goal is to slow down the amount of new people getting infected so that health care gets a reasonable chance to take care of them. And that's what we all do in every country in Europe," Tegnell said. "We just choose different methods to do it."

EXPANSION

Careem CEO launches appeal for 500,000 gig workers across M. East

DUBAI

Careem's drivers are "in grave danger of losing everything", the ride-hailing company's chief executive wrote in an open letter that appealed to governments, potential employers, lenders and individuals to offer a lifeline amid economic hardship linked to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"The state of the business is evident by looking at the streets," Mudassar Sheikh, the chief executive and co-founder told The National. Across the 13 countries where Careem operates, the company estimates that 500,000 of its 1.3 million registered 'captains', what it calls drivers, earn a full-time living from the job, based on data from its platform.

Those half a million people are seeing their earnings dwindle amid stay-home orders as governments seek to contain the coronavirus pandemic. Careem estimates each captain needs about \$500 (Dh1836) a month to make ends meet - or a total of \$250 million per month to keep every full-time captain in need afloat.

This represents "a fairly large financial gap that no single company can handle on its own", Mr Sheikh said. He and other Careem executives have foregone their salaries for the year to support drivers. The company declined to disclose the sum. The appeal echoes parent company Uber's chief executive Dara Khosrowshahi, who last week asked US President Donald Trump to include gig workers in relief measures.

Uber, which acquired Careem for \$3.1 billion last year, has fought in several jurisdictions to keep its workers classified as contractors, avoiding expenses like health insurance and paid time off. Still, Mr Khosrowshahi asked the Trump administration and Congress to consider changing labour laws to provide a "third way" to classify workers "to remove the forced choice between flexibility and

protection."

His request was heeded. The US government included financial assistance to gig workers, including Uber employees, in its historic \$2 trillion economic relief package. Under the provisions, they can apply for unemployment benefits and are eligible for a weekly stipend in federal support for up to four months.

The safety net Careem is attempting to provide to drivers will be more piecemeal, given the diversity of nations where it operates. Mr Sheikh asked governments in the Middle East, North Africa and Pakistan to include gig economy workers in their economic relief plans and consider how they may play a role in public health efforts.

It also appealed to lenders to consider how they might offer temporary relief to those with car or home loans. Careem itself is looking for ways to shore up lost income for its drivers. "There is a big push from our side," Mr Sheikh said. Its tech team of 500 people - spread across Berlin, Egypt, Dubai, Karachi and Lahore - are working to roll out services that are relevant to the current moment.

If anything, the current crisis has hastened the development of new products at Careem to meet new, pent-up demand for grocery and e-commerce deliveries as people adjust to life indoors for the time being. Ride-hailing drivers in Saudi Arabia and Jordan recently woke up to an app update allowing them to opt into becoming delivery drivers. Some have become pickers at grocery stores. The company also sees potential in more government partnerships. Careem is working with health ministries across its service areas to expand pharmaceuticals delivery services.

The 'Essentials' offering, made available in Jordan in recent days, is another example. Users can order groceries and medicines by sending notes to captains and identifying the shop and home where it should be delivered.



Careem's captains are on the frontlines of the company's experience in dealing with Covid-19.



ISIDINGO MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

MONDAY 30 March	Tuesday 31 March	Wednesday 01 April	Thursday 02 April	Friday 03 April	Saturday 04 April	Sunday 05 April
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 Habari	6:00 Habari	6:00 HABARI	6:00 HABARI	6:00 HABARI	6:00 HABARI	6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha	6:40 Kumekucha	6:40 Kumekucha	6:40 Kumekucha	6:40 Kumekucha	6:40 Kumekucha	6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI	7:30 HABARI	7:30 HABARI	7:30 HABARI	7:30 HABARI	7:30 HABARI	7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa	8:55 Habari za saa	8:55 Habari za saa	8:55 Habari za saa	8:55 Habari za saa	8:55 Habari za saa	8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Soap: Isidingo the need	9:30 Soap: Isidingo the need	9:30 Soap: Isidingo the need	9:30 Soap: Isidingo the need	9:30 Soap: Isidingo the need	9:30 Soap: Isidingo the need	9:30 Soap: Isidingo the need
9:55 Habari za saa	9:55 Habari za saa	9:55 Habari za saa	9:55 Habari za saa	9:55 Habari za saa	9:55 Habari za saa	9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Watoto wetu
10:55 Habari za saa	10:55 Habari za saa	10:55 Habari za saa	10:55 Habari za saa	10:55 Habari za saa	10:55 Habari za saa	10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 Jagina rpt	11:00 Jagina rpt	11:00 Jagina rpt	11:00 Jagina rpt	11:00 Jagina rpt	11:00 Jagina rpt	11:00 Jagina rpt
11:30 Igizo rpt: Mtego	11:30 Igizo rpt: Mtego	11:30 Igizo rpt: Mtego	11:30 Igizo rpt: Mtego	11:30 Igizo rpt: Mtego	11:30 Igizo rpt: Mtego	11:30 Igizo rpt: Mtego
11:55 Habari za saa	11:55 Habari za saa	11:55 Habari za saa	11:55 Habari za saa	11:55 Habari za saa	11:55 Habari za saa	11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera	12:00 Al Jazeera	12:00 Al Jazeera	12:00 Al Jazeera	12:00 Al Jazeera	12:00 Al Jazeera	12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Jungu kuu rpt	12:30 Jungu kuu rpt	12:30 Jungu kuu rpt	12:30 Jungu kuu rpt	12:30 Jungu kuu rpt	12:30 Jungu kuu rpt	12:30 Jungu kuu rpt
12:55 Habari za saa	12:55 Habari za saa	12:55 Habari za saa	12:55 Habari za saa	12:55 Habari za saa	12:55 Habari za saa	12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Mjue Zaidi	13:00 Mjue Zaidi	13:00 Mjue Zaidi	13:00 Mjue Zaidi	13:00 Mjue Zaidi	13:00 Mjue Zaidi	13:00 Mjue Zaidi
13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt	13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt	13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt	13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt	13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt	13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt	13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt
14:00 Habari za saa	14:00 Habari za saa	14:00 Habari za saa	14:00 Habari za saa	14:00 Habari za saa	14:00 Habari za saa	14:00 Habari za saa
14:00 Art and Lifestyle rpt	14:00 Art and Lifestyle rpt	14:00 Art and Lifestyle rpt	14:00 Art and Lifestyle rpt	14:00 Art and Lifestyle rpt	14:00 Art and Lifestyle rpt	14:00 Art and Lifestyle rpt
14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost
14:55 Habari za saa	14:55 Habari za saa	14:55 Habari za saa	14:55 Habari za saa	14:55 Habari za saa	14:55 Habari za saa	14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza huru	15:00 Meza huru	15:00 Meza huru	15:00 Meza huru	15:00 Meza huru	15:00 Meza huru	15:00 Meza huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu	16:30 Watoto Wetu	16:30 Watoto Wetu	16:30 Watoto Wetu	16:30 Watoto Wetu	16:30 Watoto Wetu	16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base	17:00 The Base	17:00 The Base	17:00 The Base	17:00 The Base	17:00 The Base	17:00 The Base
18:00 Jiji Letu	18:00 Jiji Letu	18:00 Jiji Letu	18:00 Jiji Letu	18:00 Jiji Letu	18:00 Jiji Letu	18:00 Jiji Letu
18:10 Aibu yako rpt	18:10 Aibu yako rpt	18:10 Aibu yako rpt	18:10 Aibu yako rpt	18:10 Aibu yako rpt	18:10 Aibu yako rpt	18:10 Aibu yako rpt
18:15 Mapishi	18:15 Mapishi	18:15 Mapishi	18:15 Mapishi	18:15 Mapishi	18:15 Mapishi	18:15 Mapishi
18:45 Kesho leo	18:45 Kesho leo	18:45 Kesho leo	18:45 Kesho leo	18:45 Kesho leo	18:45 Kesho leo	18:45 Kesho leo
19:00 Afiya ya Jamii	19:00 Afiya ya Jamii	19:00 Afiya ya Jamii	19:00 Afiya ya Jamii	19:00 Afiya ya Jamii	19:00 Afiya ya Jamii	19:00 Afiya ya Jamii
19:30 Isidingo	19:30 Isidingo	19:30 Isidingo	19:30 Isidingo	19:30 Isidingo	19:30 Isidingo	19:30 Isidingo
20:00 Habari	20:00 Habari	20:00 Habari	20:00 Habari	20:00 Habari	20:00 Habari	20:00 Habari
21:05 Dakika 45	21:05 Dakika 45	21:05 Dakika 45	21:05 Dakika 45	21:05 Dakika 45	21:05 Dakika 45	21:05 Dakika 45
22:00 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost	22:00 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost	22:00 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost	22:00 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost	22:00 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost	22:00 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost	22:00 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost
23:00 Habari	23:00 Habari	23:00 Habari	23:00 Habari	23:00 Habari	23:00 Habari	23:00 Habari
23:30 The Base	23:30 The Base	23:30 The Base	23:30 The Base	23:30 The Base	23:30 The Base	23:30 The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera	00:30 Al Jazeera	00:30 Al Jazeera	00:30 Al Jazeera	00:30 Al Jazeera	00:30 Al Jazeera	00:30 Al Jazeera
02:00 DWTV	02:00 DWTV	02:00 DWTV	02:00 DWTV	02:00 DWTV	02:00 DWTV	02:00 DWTV
22:15 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost	22:15 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost	22:15 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost	22:15 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost	22:15 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost	22:15 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost	22:15 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost
23:00 Habari	23:00 Habari	23:00 Habari	23:00 Habari	23:00 Habari	23:00 Habari	23:00 Habari
23:30 The Base	23:30 The Base	23:30 The Base	23:30 The Base	23:30 The Base	23:30 The Base	23:30 The Base
00:30 DWTV	00:30 DWTV	00:30 DWTV	00:30 DWTV	00:30 DWTV	00:30 DWTV	00:30 DWTV
23:00 Habari	23:00 Habari	23:00 Habari	23:00 Habari	23:00 Habari	23:00 Habari	23:00 Habari
23:30 The Base	23:30 The Base	23:30 The Base	23:30 The Base	23:30 The Base	23:30 The Base	23:30 The Base
00:30 DWTV	00:30 DWTV	00:30 DWTV	00:30 DWTV	00:30 DWTV	00:30 DWTV	00:30 DWTV
10:00 Isidingo	10:00 Isidingo	10:00 Isidingo	10:00 Isidingo	10:00 Isidingo	10:00 Isidingo	10:00 Isidingo
11:40 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt	11:40 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt	11:40 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt	11:40 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt	11:40 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt	11:40 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt	11:40 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt
12:00 Bongo Movie rpt:	12:00 Bongo Movie rpt:	12:00 Bongo Movie rpt:	12:00 Bongo Movie rpt:	12:00 Bongo Movie rpt:	12:00 Bongo Movie rpt:	12:00 Bongo Movie rpt:
14:00 Tamasha la Michezo	14:00 Tamasha la Michezo	14:00 Tamasha la Michezo	14:00 Tamasha la Michezo	14:00 Tamasha la Michezo	14:00 Tamasha la Michezo	14:00 Tamasha la Michezo
15:00 Mwangaza	15:00 Mwangaza	15:00 Mwangaza	15:00 Mwangaza	15:00 Mwangaza	15:00 Mwangaza	15:00 Mwangaza
16:00 The Great queen Seonduk	16:00 The Great queen Seonduk	16:00 The Great queen Seonduk	16:00 The Great queen Seonduk	16:00 The Great queen Seonduk	16:00 The Great queen Seonduk	16:00 The Great queen Seonduk
16:45 ITV Top 10	16:45 ITV Top 10	16:45 ITV Top 10	16:45 ITV Top 10	16:45 ITV Top 10	16:45 ITV Top 10	16:45 ITV Top 10
17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo	17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo	17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo	17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo	17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo	17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo	17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo
18:00 Jiji Letu	18:00 Jiji Letu	18:00 Jiji Letu	18:00 Jiji Letu	18:00 Jiji Letu	18:00 Jiji Letu	18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Mapishi	18:15 Mapishi	18:15 Mapishi	18:15 Mapishi	18:15 Mapishi	18:15 Mapishi	18:15 Mapishi
18:30 Matukio ya wiki	18:30 Matukio ya wiki	18:30 Matukio ya wiki	18:30 Matukio ya wiki	18:30 Matukio ya wiki	18:30 Matukio ya wiki	18:30 Matukio ya wiki
19:30 Igizo: Mtego	19:30 Igizo: Mtego	19:30 Igizo: Mtego	19:30 Igizo: Mtego	19:30 Igizo: Mtego	19:30 Igizo: Mtego	19:30 Igizo: Mtego
20:00 Habari	20:00 Habari	20:00 Habari	20:00 Habari	20:00 Habari	20:00 Habari	20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Biko	21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Biko	21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Biko	21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Biko	21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Biko	21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Biko	21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Biko
21:10 Mizengwe	21:10 Mizengwe	21:10 Mizengwe	21:10 Mizengwe	21:10 Mizengwe	21:10 Mizengwe	21:10 Mizengwe
21:30 Mjue Zaidi	21:30 Mjue Zaidi	21:30 Mjue Zaidi	21:30 Mjue Zaidi	21:30 Mjue Zaidi	21:30 Mjue Zaidi	21:30 Mjue Zaidi
22:15 Bongo Movie:	22:15 Bongo Movie:	22:15 Bongo Movie:	22:15 Bongo Movie:	22:15 Bongo Movie:	22:15 Bongo Movie:	22:15 Bongo Movie:
23:45 ITV Top 10	23:45 ITV Top 10	23:45 ITV Top 10	23:45 ITV Top 10	23:45 ITV Top 10	23:45 ITV Top 10	23:45 ITV Top 10
00:30 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	00:30 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	00:30 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	00:30 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	00:30 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	00:30 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	00:30 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost
19:30 Tanzania yetu	19:30 Tanzania yetu	19:30 Tanzania yetu	19:30 Tanzania yetu	19:30 Tanzania yetu	19:30 Tanzania yetu	19:30 Tanzania yetu
20:00 Series: The Secret	20:00 Series: The Secret	20:00 Series: The Secret	20:00 Series: The Secret	20:00 Series: The Secret	20:00 Series: The Secret	20:00 Series: The Secret
20:45 Telenovela: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa?	20:45 Telenovela: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa?	20:45 Telenovela: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa?	20:45 Telenovela: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa?	20:45 Telenovela: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa?	20:45 Telenovela: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa?	20:45 Telenovela: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa?
21:30 Capital Prime News	21:30 Capital Prime News	21:30 Capital Prime News	21:30 Capital Prime News	21:30 Capital Prime News	21:30 Capital Prime News	21:30 Capital Prime News
22:00 Capchat rpt	22:00 Capchat rpt	22:00 Capchat rpt	22:00 Capchat rpt	22:00 Capchat rpt	22:00 Capchat rpt	22:00 Capchat rpt
23:00 Al Jazeera	23:00 Al Jazeera	23:00 Al Jazeera	23:00 Al Jazeera	23:00 Al Jazeera	23:00 Al Jazeera	23:00 Al Jazeera
06:00 Al Jazeera	06:00 Al Jazeera	06:00 Al Jazeera	06:00 Al Jazeera	06:00 Al Jazeera	06:00 Al Jazeera	06:00 Al Jazeera
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)	09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)	09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)	09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)	09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)	09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)	09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa?	13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa?	13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa?	13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa?	13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa?	13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa?	13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa?
14:00 Club 101 (Via Capital Radio)	14:00 Club 101 (Via Capital Radio)	14:00 Club 101 (Via Capital Radio)	14:00 Club 101 (Via Capital Radio)	14:00 Club 101 (Via Capital Radio)	14:00 Club 101 (Via Capital Radio)	14:00 Club 101 (Via Capital Radio)
16:00 Series rpt: The Secret	16:0					

WORLD

US coronavirus death toll rises past 3,000 on deadliest day

NEW YORK

THE U.S. death toll from the coronavirus pandemic climbed past 3,000 on Monday, the deadliest day yet in the country's mounting crisis, while New York cheered the arrival of a gleaming 1,000-bed U.S. Navy hospital ship as a sign of hope in the city's desperate fight.

In a grim new milestones marking the spread of the virus, total deaths across the United States hit 3,017, including at least 540 on Monday, and the reported cases climbed to more than 163,000, according to a Reuters tally.

People in New York and New Jersey lined both sides of the Hudson River to cheer the U.S. Navy ship Comfort, a converted oil tanker painted white with giant red crosses, as it sailed past the Statue of Liberty accompanied by support ships and helicopters.

The Comfort will treat non-coronavirus patients, including those who require surgery and critical care, in an effort to free up other resources to fight the virus, the Navy said.

"It's a wartime atmosphere and we all have to pull together," said New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, who was among the dignitaries to greet the ship's arrival at the Midtown Manhattan pier.

Hospitals in the New York City area have been overrun with patients suffering from COVID-19, the respiratory illness caused by the virus. Officials have appealed for volunteer health-care workers.

"We can't take care of you if we can't take care of ourselves," said Krystal

Horchuck, a nurse with Virtua Memorial Hospital in New Jersey. "I think a lot of us have accepted the fact that we are probably going to get this. It's just that we want to survive. We're all being exposed to it at some point."

The United States has the most confirmed cases in the world, a number that is likely to soar when tests for the virus become more widespread.

President Donald Trump told a White House briefing that more than 1 million Americans had been tested for coronavirus - less than 3% of the population. While the United States has ramped up testing after a series of setbacks, it still lags countries like Italy and South Korea on a per capita basis.

In California, another hard-hit state, Governor Gavin Newsom said the number of COVID-19 hospitalizations had nearly doubled over the past four days and the number of ICU patients had tripled. Officials there also appealed for medical volunteers.

CENTRAL PARK HOSPITALS

To ease the pressure in New York, construction of a 68-bed field hospital began on Sunday in Manhattan's Central Park. The white tents being set up evoked a wartime feel in an island of green typically used by New Yorkers to exercise, picnic and enjoy the first signs of spring.

The makeshift facility, provided by the Mount Sinai Health System and non-profit organization Samaritan's Purse, is expected to begin accepting patients on Tuesday, de Blasio said.

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, one of the most prominent public figures of the coronavirus crisis, told a



Medical students and physician assistants from Touro University Nevada wait to screen people in a temporary parking lot shelter at Cushman Center, with spaces marked for social distancing to help slow the spread of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Las Vegas, Nevada, U.S. on Monday. REUTERS

news conference the state might have to step in to close playgrounds in the country's most populous city in order to enforce social distancing and slow the spread of the virus.

Cuomo and de Blasio are among a growing chorus of officials who have voiced frustration at Trump's handling of the crisis and a shortage of ventilators and personal protective equipment. "I am not engaging the president in politics," Cuomo, a Democrat, said of Trump, a Republican. "My only goal is to engage the president in partnership."

Ford Motor Co said on Monday it will produce 50,000 ventilators over the next 100 days at a Michigan plant in cooperation with General Electric's healthcare unit, and can then manufacture 30,000 a month.

Officials in states hard hit by the pandemic have pleaded with the Trump administration and manufacturers to speed up production of ventilators to cope with a surge in patients struggling to breathe. On Friday, Trump said he would invoke powers under the Defense Production Act to direct manufacturers to produce ventilators.

CHILLING NUMBERS

U.S. health officials are urging Americans to follow stay-at-home orders until the end of April to contain the spread of the virus, which originated in China and has infected about three-quarters of a million people around the world.

"If we do things together well - almost perfectly - we could get in the range of 100,000 to 200,000 fatalities," Dr. Deborah Birx, coordinator of the White House's coronavirus task force, told NBC's

"Today" show.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the head of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said at a White House briefing that he expected a coronavirus outbreak in the fall, as well, but he said the nation would be better prepared to respond.

Authorities in New Orleans were setting up a field hospital at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center - the same site where thousands of Hurricane Katrina refugees gathered in 2005 - to handle an expected overflow of patients.

Dr. Thomas Krajewski, an emergency room doctor at St. Barnard Parish hospital in New Orleans, said he had watched patients be admitted to the hospital and seem ready to get better only to get worse.

"Many of them have passed away already in a way that ... it's not normal," he said. "It's not something that any of us had prepared to do. And we're kind of writing the book as we go."

The governors of Maryland, Virginia and Arizona issued "stay-at-home" orders as cases rose in those states, as did Washington, D.C.

At the Stateville Correctional Center in Crest Hill, Illinois, 12 prisoners were hospitalized and several required ventilators, while 77 more showing symptoms were isolated at the facility, officials said.

Renowned country and folk singer John Prine was among the latest celebrities - including several members of Congress - to come down with the virus. Prine was in stable condition on Monday after being hospitalized with symptoms of the illness, his wife said on Twitter. Prine, a 73-year-old cancer survivor, lives in Nashville, Tennessee.

Agencies

Local COVID-19 cases drop to under 1,500 on mainland

BEIJING/WUHAN

THE confirmed cases of indigenously-transmitted COVID-19 on the Chinese mainland has decreased to under 1,500, with 510 patients suffering from severe symptoms, said Mi Feng, the spokesperson for the National Health Commission, yesterday.

The situation of epidemic prevention and control, which moves steadily in a positive direction, has been consolidated, Mi said at a press conference in Beijing, noting that the Chinese mainland reported no locally-transmitted confirmed cases or suspected cases of COVID-19 on Monday. The commission said earlier on Tuesday it received reports of 48 new confirmed cases on the mainland on Monday, all of which were imported.

By the end of Monday, 771 imported cases had been reported, said the commission.

Also on Monday, one death in Wuhan, provincial capital of Hubei province, and 44 new suspected cases, all imported, were



People wearing face masks rest on a bench on a commercial street in Wuhan, central China's Hubei province, on Monday. XINHUA

reported on the mainland.

No new confirmed cases were reported in Wuhan Monday, as also in Hubei, according to the commission. As of Monday, Wuhan had seen zero increase in confirmed cases for seven consecutive days.

On Monday, 282 people were

discharged from hospitals after recovery, while the number of severe cases decreased by 105 to 528.

The overall confirmed cases on the mainland had reached 81,518 by Monday, including 2,161 patients who were still being treated, 76,052 patients who

had been discharged after recovery, and 3,305 people who died of the disease.

The commission said that 183 people were still suspected of being infected with the virus, adding that 19,853 close contacts were still under medical observation. On Monday, 1,199 people

were released from medical observation.

Hubei has so far reported a total of 67,801 confirmed COVID-19 cases, including 50,006 in Wuhan.

Hubei saw 271 patients discharged from hospital after recovery Monday. Among the 1,461 patients being treated in hospital, 350 were still in severe condition and another 147 in critical condition.

Mi said that the country would continue to reinforce curing patients with severe cases of COVID-19, as well as isolation and follow-up visits of patients discharged from hospital after recovery in the next stage.

By Monday, 682 confirmed cases including four deaths had been reported in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR), 39 confirmed cases in the Macao SAR, and 306 in Taiwan including five deaths.

A total of 124 patients in Hong Kong, 10 in Macao and 39 in Taiwan had been discharged from hospitals after recovery.

Xinhua

China to continue sharing experience, medical resources in COVID-19 fight - FM

RECENTLY, China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) announced the country's effort to contribute to the global response of COVID-19 in five areas.

During a regular press conference, MFA spokesperson Geng Shuang was asked that what will China do to help enhancing international epidemic response.

The spokesperson replied that thanks to the Chinese people's united and arduous efforts, the situation in China is getting better, with prevention and control efforts resulting in important progress at this stage. Meanwhile the epidemic broke out in many places across the world and keeps spreading, and some countries are suffering gravely from it. While combating COVID-19 at home, China is ready to contribute to the global response.

Geng Shuang (pictured) further announced China's detailed efforts in following five areas:

First, China will step up communication and coordination with the WHO and the international community.

Exchange of information is an important part of a joint global response. After the virus outbreak, China shared its genetic sequence with the WHO at the earliest time possible and notified other countries in a timely manner.

With openness, transparency and a high sense of responsibility for global public health security and people's well-being, the country will continue information-sharing with the international community including the WHO. China will also strive to enhance coordination and cooperation to advance joint response at regional and global levels to stem the spread of the virus.

Second, China will continue experience-sharing and exchange with other countries.

The country has so far published seven guidelines on COVID-19 diagnosis and treatment and six guidelines on prevention and control, all of which have been translated into multiple foreign languages. China would like to share these Chinese solutions with the world and hold exchanges over them.

Chinese officers and medical experts have discussed their work against the epidemic in video conferences with the European Union, ASEAN, African Union, Caribbean Community, Shanghai Cooperation Organization, South Pacific island countries, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Moldova, Georgia and others. They will continue exchanges and mutual learning with each other to jointly enhance regional and global capacity in safeguarding public health security.

Third, China will send medical specialists to more countries and regions in need.

China's Red Cross Society has sent experts to Iran and Iraq, where they conducted intensive work and were acclaimed by local authorities and people. The country is planning to send medical experts to Italy as well and stand ready to help more countries in need in this way.

Fourth, China will provide medicines and other supplies to the international community.

Humanity shines through the dark cloud of the epidemic. China has decided to donate \$20 million to the WHO. China has provided some countries with masks, medicines, protective suits and other supplies and exported medical supplies and equipment to those in urgent need of them.

China's Sub-national governments and civil organizations are all extending a helping hand overseas. While fighting hard against the epidemic at home, China is ready to offer as much help as they can to countries in need.

Fifth, China will ramp up cooperation with the international community on science and technology. China would like to collaborate with other countries in medicines, vaccines and testing reagents, contributing China's wisdom and proposals to securing an early global victory over the virus.

China will contribute to the global fight in these five areas. It will work with the international community with solidarity and mutual assistance to overcome the epidemic.

People's Daily

President of Mozambique declares state of emergency

MAPUTO

PRESIDENT of Mozambique Filipe Nyusi on Monday declared a state of emergency due to COVID-19 for 30 days, starting from April 1.

In his speech to the nation, broadcast live on national television and radio, the president said the decision had been sent to the parliament for ratification.

"Guided by the supreme interest in safeguarding public health, for every Mozambican and foreigners residing in our country, we decided to require mandatory quarantine for all citizens who have recently returned to the country or have had contact with the confirmed cases of COVID-19," said the president.

Xinhua

East African leaders in joint approach to curb spread of COVID-19 pandemic

NAIROBI

EASTERN African leaders on Monday resolved to formulate regional response strategies to contain COVID-19 pandemic which ravaged many countries across the globe.

The presidents from the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) said they will forge a joint approach to curb the spread of coronavirus disease.

Kenya's presidency said in a statement issued after leaders from Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Sudan, Somalia and South Sudan held a teleconference that said they discussed the challenges the region is facing in

managing the global pandemic.

"The leaders appealed to the international community to provide support for vulnerable groups particularly refugees within IGAD countries and to support national efforts to ensure that humanitarian corridors remain open," they said.

The African leaders tasked the IGAD Secretariat to urgently formulate a regional response to COVID-19 that adopts a whole-of-government approach. The leaders also agreed to intensify information sharing including tracking of infected persons.

While briefing his counterparts on the measures Kenya is taking to cur-

tail the spread of the virus, Kenyatta said the country's willingness to assist regional nations that may require its support, saying it is imperative for IGAD countries to forge a common front against the global pandemic.

"My administration will do whatever is within its power and capacity to extend any support that our brothers and sisters in our neighboring countries might require," he said.

Kenyatta also briefed the leaders on the outcomes of a teleconference of the Bureau of the African Union Heads of State and Government held March 26, saying one of the key outcomes of the meeting was the agreement to

establish a continental anti-COVID-19 Africa Fund to which members of the Bureau agreed to immediately contribute 12.5 million U.S. dollars as seed funding.

The bureau, according to Kenyatta, also agreed to contribute a further 4.5 million U.S. dollars towards boosting the capacity of the African Union Centre for Disease Control (Africa CDC).

On its part, Kenya pledged to contribute 2 million U.S. dollars and 1 million U.S. dollars to the Fund and the Africa CDC respectively.

Kenyatta reminded IGAD member states to continue the fight against desert locust invasion even as they work

to curtail the spread of the coronavirus.

He said the desert locust invasion risks plunging the region into a food crisis at a time when the world's attention is focused on dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic.

During the teleconferencing, the seven African leaders agreed to direct their relevant agencies to enhance cooperation in border control and management, with a view of ensuring safety along common borders and guarantee movement of cargo.

They agreed to pursue joint mobilization of financial resources from international institutions and partners,

noting that the region needs resources to help in combating the virus as well as in mitigating the social-economic impact of the disease.

The leaders urged the private sector to contribute more to the fight against the infectious disease. "To mitigate the economic impact of the pandemic, the Heads of State tasked regional ministers of finance to carry out a comprehensive assessment with a view of establishing an IGAD emergency fund," said the leaders.

They tasked the IGAD secretariat to formulate appropriate response programs that will be discussed by the leaders.

S. African president defends national lockdown against COVID-19 amid growing defiance

CAPE TOWN

SOUTH African President Cyril Ramaphosa on Monday defended the 21-day national lockdown against the coronavirus pandemic which began on midnight Thursday, saying it is "absolutely necessary."

"This is an extreme measure we had to embark upon in response to the COVID-19 pandemic," the president said in a televised speech to the nation.

He said that the number of infections continues to grow in the country and that 1,326 people have tested positive for the virus, with 3 deaths, up to date.

"That is why we took the radical step of locking down the country for 21 days," he said.

The quarantine has disrupted people's lives, he said, "but we all know and agree that this nationwide lockdown is absolutely necessary to save the lives of thousands, even tens of thousands, of our people."

ple."

Many countries in Africa have adopted similar measures, said Ramaphosa (pictured), adding that "our own researchers and scientists have told us that our decision to lock down the country was a correct one."

Without quick actions, South Africa is only a few weeks away from a similar situation in other countries hit hard by the virus, the president said.

The lockdown, however, has been facing growing defiance. Over 1,100 people have been arrested around the country for violating lockdown rules in the past few days, said the South African Police Minister Bheki Cele.

Ramaphosa called for people's understanding of the tough measures against the raging pandemic. "We have never experienced a situation like this before ... we ask for our people's understanding that all this is being done for the good of everyone," he said.



The president said he was concerned about those who have not realized the seriousness of the disease. "I am therefore once again calling on each and every

President Cyril Ramaphosa

South African to stay at home for the next 17 days," he said.

Those who infringed the rules put themselves and others at risk, helping the pandemic to spread, Ramaphosa added. In the coming days, the government will roll out a screening, testing, tracing and medical management program, he said, adding that around 10,000 field workers will visit homes around the nation to screen residents for COVID-19 symptoms.

With mobile technology, an extensive tracing system will also be rapidly deployed to trace those who have been in contact with confirmed coronavirus cases and to monitor the geographical location of new cases in real time, said Ramaphosa.

"We are pushing ahead to implement the necessary health interventions and economic and social measures to contain the spread of the disease and alleviate its effects on our people," he said.

Xinhua

China to give more support for businesses hit by COVID-19 - Xi

HANGZHOU

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, said China will roll out more targeted measures to help small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) hit by the COVID-19 outbreak restart production and further develop.

Xi (pictured) made the remarks during an inspection to east China's Zhejiang Province which began on Sunday.

Visiting the service center of an industrial park producing high-grade auto parts and molds in Ningbo on Sunday, Xi talked with the managing staff of the park, and representatives of SMEs management and employees returning to Zhejiang.

Various industries and enterprises have been affected during the fight against the COVID-19 epidemic, said Xi. A series of policies have been introduced and will be improved in tandem with the changes of the situation, said Xi, adding more targeted measures will be rolled out to help SMEs restart production and further develop.

"We need to rise to the challenges. With the support of the Party and the government, we must stick together through thick and thin to overcome the difficulties," Xi stressed. Xinhua



Agencies

Russia sends plane with medical equipment to US, says Trump

WASHINGTON

RUSSIA has sent a plane with medical equipment to the United States amid the pandemic of COVID-19 (the disease caused by the novel coronavirus), US President Donald Trump told reporters on Monday.

"I have to say, we've had great

relationships with a lot of countries. China sent us some stuff," he told reporters during a briefing at the White House. "Russia sent us a very, very large plane load of things. Medical equipment. Very nice."

He did not go into further details about Russia's aid.

"Other countries sent us

things that I was very surprised at, very happy surprised," the US leader continued.

The Johns Hopkins University, which calculates statistics based on the government, WHO and other official source numbers, the US has more than 160,000 confirmed coronavirus cases, while over 2,900

people died from it.

In late December 2019, Chinese authorities notified the World Health Organization (WHO) about the outbreak of a previously unknown pneumonia in the city of Wuhan, central China. Since then, cases of the novel coronavirus - named COVID-19 by the WHO - have

been reported in more than 160 countries, including Russia.

The WHO on March 11 declared the coronavirus outbreak a pandemic. As of now, more than 720,000 people have been infected around the world and over 35,000 have died.

As of March 30, a total of

1,836 coronavirus cases have been confirmed in Russia. Sixty-six patients have recovered.

According to data as of 12:00 Moscow time, nine patients died. Later in the day, coronavirus-associated deaths were reported from Moscow, St. Petersburg, and the Vladimir region.

Agencies

Working together to promote sound development of international human rights

CHINA'S achievements on human rights are widely praised at the ongoing 43rd regular session of the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland, where the country held a series of activities to introduce its human right progress to the international community.

In his opening speech at the session, UN Secretary-General António Guterres launched a "Call to Action" for human rights, urging countries to take immediate action to promote the balanced development of all human rights.

Guterres (pictured) outlined seven points to promote human rights in the plan, with one being human rights at the core of UN Sustainable Development Goals.

He pointed out that human rights permeate the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and called on all countries to put human rights principles and mechanisms front and center in implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

At the crucial moment when countries are fighting against the novel coronavirus, Michelle Bachelet Jeria, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, paid respect to the medical workers and called on countries to prevent and object any kind of discrimination.

As there is more than one way to protect human rights, countries should respect the right of every country to choose its own path to achieve peace and development, said Chen Xu, Permanent Representative of China to the UN Office at Geneva and other International Organiza-



tions in Switzerland, at a high-level panel discussion during the session. Chen believes that forcing countries to follow the same path is neither democratic nor scientific.

Only by observing the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, respecting the social systems and human rights development paths of other countries, advocating dialogues and cooperation, and opposing double standards and the politicization of human rights, can the international human rights cause witness a healthy, stable and sustained progress, he said.

Liu Hua, Special Representative for Human Rights of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, suggested the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights pay more attention to the appeal of the developing countries, invest more to protect these countries' economic, social, cultural, and development rights, and provide technical assistance and capacity building for them with respect to their wills.

The China Society for Human Rights Studies and the Permanent Mission of China to the UN Office at Geneva jointly held

a photo exhibition - "Home: Glimpse of People from Various Ethnic Groups in Xinjiang" - to display the life of people from various ethnic groups in China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

Khan-Inh Khitchadeth, permanent representative of the Lao PDR to the UN Office, WTO and other International Organizations in Geneva, said the photo exhibition will help people around the world better understand the real situation in Xinjiang. The Lao official introduced that he has visited Xinjiang and witnessed its rapid economic development and the harmonious co-existence of ethnic groups.

During the session, the Permanent Mission of China to the UN Office at Geneva, the Permanent Mission of Cameroon to the UN Office at Geneva, and the China Society for Human Rights Studies cohosted a symposium on anti-terrorism, de-radicalization and human rights protection.

Representatives attending the symposium believe it is necessary for countries to draw experience in the fight against terrorism and extremism and jointly seek effective approaches to enhance

international cooperation in this respect.

Terrorism, extremism and separatism have greatly threatened the world security, said Awoumou, Chargé d'Affaires of the Permanent Mission of Cameroon to the UN Office, the WTO and other International organizations in Geneva.

He called on the international society to strengthen cooperation and cut the terrorists off financing channels in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions.

Participants also criticized some Western countries and media for employing double standard on eradicating terrorism and extremism.

Countries need to get rid of such double standard, share their experience and strengthen cooperation in fighting terrorism and extremism, said Predrag Marković, Director of the Institute of Contemporary History in Serbia.

During a seminar on the rights of immigrant children jointly organized by the Permanent Mission of China to the UN Office at Geneva and the Permanent Mission of Venezuela to the UN Office at Geneva, experts condemned the U.S. for infringing upon the rights of the immigrant children.

Experts suggested that the international community care more about the human rights of this group along the U.S.-Mexico border, especially those detained in detention centers, and urged the U.S. to improve the protection mechanism on immigrant children and abolish policies that violate their rights.

People's Daily

Authorities in Russia's Far Eastern region impose coronavirus lockdown



VLADIVOSTOK

AUTHORITIES in the Primorsky region, in Russia's Far East, have imposed a lockdown to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus, the regional government's press service said yesterday.

"Citizens who reside or temporarily stay in the Primorsky region should not leave the places of their residence (stay)," says a document, outlining the amendments to the decree on anti-coronavirus measures.

People are allowed to leave home only in cases of urgent medical assistance or a direct threat to their life and health, if they go to and back from work, visit nearby facilities to buy goods or use services, which are not banned under the legislation.

Citizens are also allowed to walk their pets at a maximum radius of 100 meters from their house and dispose waste.

The citizens in the region are required to keep the distance of at least 1.5 meters in public places. The self-isolation regime cannot be applied to medical staff and the personnel whose presence at the workplace is of critical importance.

Employers should refrain from sending their staff on business trips and measure their temperature, shift them to remote work if possible and disinfect furniture and office equipment.

Earlier, the Primorsky region's branch of Russia's sanitary watchdog (the Federal Service for Surveillance on Consumer Rights Protection and Human Wellbeing) confirmed two new

cases of the novel coronavirus in the region. The citizens, who contracted the virus, had arrived from overseas.

A total of four citizens have been diagnosed with the coronavirus.

They have been sent to an infectious diseases hospital and their close contacts have been isolated. According to the regional authorities, some 3,000 citizens of the Primorsky region have been self-isolated over the coronavirus.

So far, Russia has reported 1,836 coronavirus cases, including 1,226 in Moscow, 9 fatalities and 66 recoveries. The Russian government set up an Internet hotline to keep the public informed about the coronavirus situation.

Agencies

China's wind power generation exceeds 400 billion kwh for first time

CHINA'S wind power generation capacity exceeded 400 billion kilowatt-hours (kwh) for the first time last year, reaching 405.7 billion kwh, or 5.5 percent of the country's total electricity output, according to National Energy Administration (NEA).

The figure is almost quadruple the amount produced by the Three Gorges Hydropower Station in the same year.

Meanwhile, China's photovoltaic power generation capacity reached 224.3 billion kwh, a year-on-year growth of 26.3 percent.

China's wind and photovoltaic power generation witnessed continuous and stable progress in recent years.

The country's first pilot commercial wind farm in Yumen, northwest China's Gansu province has been connected to the national grid and started power generation, bringing the country closer to a new era when clean energy can be connected to the national power grid at a low price.

At a wind farm in Pearl Bay, Nanpeng island of Yangjiang, Guangdong province, giant turbines are rotating in the wind, expanding the capacity of China's offshore wind power generation, and northwest China's Qinghai province has connected all of its poverty-alleviated villages with photovoltaic power.

China's export of photovol-



Employees of opto-electronics producer WG Tech (Jiangxi) Co., Ltd. grind and polish in the company's TFT-LCD cleaning workshop in an opto-electronics industrial park, National High-Tech Economic Development Zone of Xinyu, east China's Jiangxi province, Feb. 19.

taic products reached \$20.78 billion last year, marking a

year-on-year growth of 29 percent and the second high-

est in history, introduced Wang Bohua, Vice Chairman of China Photovoltaic Industry Association.

Clean energy such as natural gas, hydropower, nuclear power and wind power accounted for 23.4 percent of China's total energy consumption in 2019, 1.3 percentage points higher from a year ago, according to the Statistical Communiqué of the People's Republic of China on the 2019 National Economic and Social Development released on Feb. 28.

China's Clean Energy Consumption Action Plan (2018-2020) has set a goal for the country to raise the utility rate of generated wind power to a world-class level of 95

percent, and that of photovoltaic energy higher than 95 percent in 2020.

Indeed, the goal had already been reached by China last year, a year earlier than scheduled. However, the consumption of clean energy can be further expanded, said Tao Ye, Deputy Director of the Center for Renewable Energy Development of Energy Research Institute of National Development and Reform Commission.

He suggested that the country keep improving the utility rate of wind and photovoltaic power by strengthening monitoring and early warning of the industry, improving relevant energy consumption mechanisms and reforming

the electricity market.

As a matter of fact, in recent years, apart from the surging installed capacity and output of wind and photovoltaic power generation, the utility rate of clean energy in China is getting closer to the global average, with some indexes even exceeding it.

NEA officials noted that this year, China will ensure orderly development of wind and photovoltaic power generation, improve its managing policies, intensify competition and proactively promote commercial wind and photovoltaic power projects.

People's Daily



Tokyo 2020 Olympics President Yoshiro Mori holds the Olympic Flame during a ceremony at Japan Air Self-Defense Force Matsushima Base in Higashi-Matsushima, Miyagi prefecture, northern Japan March 20, 2020. REUTERS

EXCLUSIVE

Japan businessman paid \$8.2 million by Tokyo Olympics bid lobbied figure at centre of French corruption probe

TOKYO/PARIS

A BUSINESSMAN who received millions of dollars for his work on Tokyo's successful campaign to host the 2020 Olympics, which was postponed last week due to the coronavirus, said he played a key role in securing the support of a former Olympics powerbroker suspected by French prosecutors of taking bribes to help Japan's bid.

Haruyuki Takahashi, a former executive at the advertising agency Dentsu Inc, was paid \$8.2 million (6.66 million pounds) by the committee that spearheaded Tokyo's bid for the 2020 Games, according to financial records reviewed by Reuters. Takahashi told Reuters his work included lobbying International Olympic Committee members like Lamine Diack, the ex-Olympics powerbroker, and that he gave Diack gifts, including digital cameras and a Seiko watch.

"They're cheap," he said.

The payments made Takahashi the single largest recipient of money from the Tokyo bid committee, which was mostly funded by Japanese companies. After his involvement in Tokyo's successful campaign, Takahashi was named to the board of the Tokyo 2020 organizing committee, a group tasked with running the summer Games after it was awarded to Japan.

Takahashi acknowledged receiving the payments but declined to give a full accounting of how he used the money. He said he urged Diack to support the Tokyo bid and denied any impropriety in those dealings. He said it was normal to provide gifts as a way of currying good relations with important officials like Diack. He said there was nothing improper with the payments he received or with the way he used the money.

"You don't go empty-handed. That's common sense," Takahashi told Reuters, referring to the gifts he gave Diack.

Banking records from the Tokyo 2020 bid committee, which were examined by Reuters, show it paid around \$46,500 to Seiko Watch. A senior official at the bid told Reuters "good" watches were handed out at parties organized as part of Tokyo's campaign to win the Olympics, although he did not specify the brand.

International Olympic Committee (IOC) regulations allowed for the giving of gifts of nominal value at the time of the 2020 bid, but didn't stipulate a specific amount.

A day before the 2013 vote on the host city, Diack informed a meeting of African Olympic representatives that he planned to support Tokyo on merit, a lawyer for the influential Senegalese sports figure told Reuters. But he didn't instruct anyone how

to vote, the lawyer said.

The Tokyo bid committee also paid \$1.3 million to a little-known non-profit institute run by former Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori, a powerful figure in Japanese sports and the head of the Tokyo Olympics organizing committee.

The payments to Takahashi's company and Mori's non-profit are enumerated in banking records from the Tokyo 2020 bid committee examined by Reuters. The payments were first reported by Japanese magazine Facta. French investigators have not questioned anyone about the payments to the Japanese recipients.

The banking records were provided to French prosecutors by Japan's government as part of France's investigation into whether Tokyo's bid committee paid \$2.3 million through a Singaporean consultant to win Diack's support for Japan to host the 2020 Games.

Diack, 86, has consistently denied any wrongdoing. His lawyer said Diack "denies all allegations of bribery."

The French are also investigating Diack's son, Papa Massata Diack, on suspicion that he received the bulk of the money paid to the Singaporean consultant, and passed money on to his father to secure votes for Tokyo. Diack's son has also denied any wrongdoing and said via email that he would "deliver my version in courts!!!"

Mori did not respond to questions from Reuters. A representative of Mori's non-profit said the entity was paid by the bid committee to "mainly analyze international information."

Nobumoto Higuchi, the secretary general of the bid committee, said Takahashi earned commissions on the corporate sponsorships he collected for the bid. "Takahashi has connections," Higuchi said. "We needed someone who understands the business world."

The International Olympic Committee said it would not have been made aware of payments between private parties or gifts given to IOC members.

Olympic preparations have cost Japanese taxpayers some \$13 billion, and the delay of the Games has rattled corporate sponsors, who had paid a record \$3 billion to be affiliated with the Olympics as of June last year.

Mori and Takahashi were central to Tokyo's bid to win the Olympics, a campaign that began in 2011 and became a national priority under Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. Mori has publicly recounted how he lobbied a key International Olympic Committee official ahead of the vote.

REUTERS

African celebs should do more in the fight against COVID-19

BY CORRESPONDENT LLOYD ELIPOKEA

BY now, Dear Reader, I trust that you are well-acquainted with several buzzwords related to the coronavirus as the lethal virus dubbed COVID-19 has now wholly spread right around the globe even to the extent of affecting us Tanzanians in our own humble neck of the woods.

Indeed, right after this scourge infected a Tanzanian in Arusha all of a sudden certain buzzwords concerning the coronavirus like social distancing have become very much part of our everyday speak as each one of us in this country strives relentlessly to avoid being infected by the deadly virus.

It is a given, of course, that this writer has also tried immensely to be sufficiently armed with helpful information about COVID-19 so as to bolster his exertions to avoid being infected by the virus.

In the midst of the seemingly ceaseless fretting and nervous nail-biting, I am encouraged to report that there are still some developments afoot in the sports world and elsewhere which should give us enough reason to have a little bit of good cheer.

For example, it has been heartwarming to witness celebrities overseas across the board ranging from household names in all manner of sports to famous musicians and actors all straining every sinew



Renowned Bongo Movie actress, Yvonne Cherry

to offer words of encouragement and hope to the teeming masses of their fans across the world.

A good case in point of these admirable strivings by renowned personalities abroad concerns how the likes of actor Kevin Bacon and the acclaimed British singer-cum-master composer Elton John among other celebs

recently listed their reasons for staying at home in a video and then uploaded these videos onto social media for people to watch and then glean some hope from them, with optimism, of course, being an extremely precious commodity in these daunting times.

In addition to the aforesaid vir-

tuos efforts, prominent figures in the world of sports such as the evergreen tennis maestro Roger Federer, the genius they call the 'Little Flea' Lionel Messi, and the top notch football manager Pep Guardiola have each given attractive sums of money as their contributions to the ongoing battle against the coronavirus pandemic.

Having said all of this though, it has been a bit of a let-down to see that at least in comparison to their counterparts in the Developed World, African sports stars and other heavyweights dominating the continent's lucrative creative industry have to a great degree failed to assume the lead role where the lifting of low spirits brought about by COVID-19 is concerned.

I would like to hastily make the distinction that my criticism is not to say that African celebrities have done absolutely zilch in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Indeed, to say that all African celebs have offered NOTHING at all to the battle against the COVID-19 pandemic would be a grossly fallacious characterization of the true state of affairs.

Instead, what this writer is calling for is for the likes of the continent's instantly recognizable celebrities to assume more of a public role in the fight against COVID-19.

And, lest we forget, doing this does not entail a reinvention of the wheel.

Indeed, simply making financial donations to health ministries on the continent would suffice.



A man takes pictures of a countdown display for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and Paralympics Tuesday, March 31, 2020, in Tokyo. The countdown clock is ticking again for the Tokyo Olympics. They will be July 23 to Aug. 8, 2021. The clock read 479 days to go. This seems light years away, but also small and insignificant compared to the worldwide fallout from the coronavirus. (AP Photo)

The countdown clock is clicking again for the Tokyo Olympics

TOKYO

THE countdown clocks have been reset and are ticking again for the Tokyo Olympics.

The model outside Tokyo Station, and others across the Japanese capital were switched on almost immediately after organizers announced the new dates – July 23 to Aug. 8, 2021.

The clocks read 479 days to go. This seems a long way away, but also small and insignificant compared with the worldwide fallout from the coronavirus.

Then again, it's not much time to reassemble the first Olympics to be postponed since the modern games began 124 years ago; not for 11,000 Olympic athletes, 4,400 Paralympic athletes – and not for sponsors, broadcasters,

the fans that have already bought tickets, and Japanese organizers and taxpayers who have spent billions, and will have to come up with billions more to pay for the setback.

"I believe that these Olympics are going to have great historical significance," Yoshiro Mori, the president of the Tokyo organizing committee, said after confirming the new dates.

Mori, an 82-year-old former Japanese prime minister, also recalled there's no guarantee that the coronavirus pandemic will be under control a year from now. That includes the new dates for the Paralympics now set for Aug. 24-Sept. 5.

"This is a prayer that we have and I do believe that someone is

going to listen to our prayers," Mori said.

After cursory talk about an Olympics in the spring, the new summer dates overlap perfectly with the same time slot that was picked for 2020. Organizers are hoping to overlay the old plans with new plans, keeping venues in place, securing thousands of rooms in the Athletes Village, deploying the same volunteers, and letting people who bought tickets keep them.

The summer date also avoids conflicts with the crowded North American and European sports schedules. But summer in Tokyo also means grappling with intense heat and humidity, the major worry for games organizers before the pandemic.

"Obviously in the summer there might be typhoons and the heat problems," Mori said. "However, this situation is the same. We always had those problems so we will be prepared for those issues."

Though the international sports federations went along with the new dates, some like the International Triathlon Union preferred the cooler spring during Japan's cherry blossom season. But that was overridden by the easiest route to lining up venues.

"We are having discussions with all the venues at the moment," said Toshiro Muto, the CEO of the organizing committee. "At this point we don't have a final decision. However, some problems have already become apparent."

AP

UEFA to meet to debate options for ravaged football fixture calendar

PARIS

UEFA will hold a videoconference on Wednesday this week with its 55 member federations as part of discussions on the potential re-scheduling of matches postponed due to the coronavirus crisis, European football's governing body announced on Monday.

The meeting will see UEFA share an update on the progress made by the two working groups that were created two weeks ago in response to the crisis caused by the pandemic and following the decision to postpone the European Championship by a year.

"The meeting will look at developments across all UEFA national team and club competitions, as well as discussing progress at FIFA and European level on matters such as player contracts and the transfer system," UEFA said in a statement.

UEFA previously stated their wish to finish the current season by June 30, the date when many players' contracts expire.

Carrying the season on beyond that date runs the risk of clubs losing their out-of-contract players before matches have been com-

pleted, unless a solution can be found.

However, UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin told Italian daily La Repubblica at the weekend that all options were under consideration in an effort to salvage the season, including starting again "in mid-May, in June or even late June".

The impact of the pandemic on Europe has forced UEFA to put Euro 2020 back 12 months and suspend all club competitions until further notice. The Champions League and Europa League have both been frozen at the last-16 stage.

UEFA's working group features three of its own members along with three from the European Club Association, one from the European Leagues body representing nearly a thousand clubs in 29 countries, one representative from La Liga in Spain and one from the English Premier League.

World football's governing body FIFA has also set up a working group to deal with the consequences of the pandemic, including on players' contracts and transfers and to deal with the economic impact on the game.

AFP

Messi confirms pay cut for Barca players, criticises board

BARCELONA

LIONEL Messi said Barcelona's players are "surprised" that people inside the club would want to pressure them into taking wage cuts and confirmed the squad are happy to take a 70% hit on their salaries because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Messi also said the players will make an additional contribution so that none of the non-sporting staff's earnings will be reduced during Spain's state of emergency, which has been in place in the country since March 12.

Sources told ESPN that the 32-year-old, who was the No. 1 footballer on Forbes' Rich List in 2019, earning \$127 million that year in a combination of his salary and endorsements, has a wage in excess of €600,000 per week from Barcelona. The reduction will only come from his wage and not his endorsements.

The Argentine forward made the comments in a statement posted on social media in the name of the first-team players. Other members of the squad shared it later.

Barca have now also confirmed that an agreement has been reached for the players to take a temporary hit to their wages as the club struggles to deal with the financial effects of the coronavirus crisis. The reduction will not only affect the men's first team, but all of the club's professional teams, including the basketball side, among others.

"We want to clarify that our desire has always been for a reduction to be applied to our salaries because we understand that this is an exceptional situation and we are the first that have ALWAYS helped the club with what they have asked of us," the statement first published by Messi read.

"Many times we have even done things on our own accord, at moments when we felt it necessary or important to do so.

"For that reason, it doesn't cease to surprise us that from inside the club there would be people that want to put us under a magnifying glass or try to pressure us into something that we were always clear we wanted to do. In fact, if the agreement has dragged on, it's because we were looking for a formula to help the club and its workers in these difficult times.

"For our part, the moment has arrived to announce that, aside from the 70% wage cut during the State of Emergency, we are going to also make contributions so that all the club's employees can earn 100% of their salaries for as long as this situation lasts."

FC Barcelona president Josep Ma-

ria Bartomeu praised the commitment of the players to help the club during the coronavirus crisis and said team captains were on board with the salary reduction from the beginning.

"From the first moment, Messi said that this must be done," Bartomeu told Spanish outlet Sport. "It is a gesture that demonstrates their commitment to the club. I wanted it to be something agreed and not imposed.

It has been achieved as I wanted and the players were committed from day one."

Bartomeu acknowledged that the player's decision to further cut their salaries as to assure the rest of Barcelona employees don't see their pay affected.

"The squad will not only have their salaries cut by 70% during this period of inactivity, but an additional 2% so that club employees who are non-sporting staff can keep their salaries. This proposal came from the captains," Bartomeu said.

Negotiations between Barca's board of directors and the players began last week. Sources revealed to ESPN that the first proposal made by the club was rejected by the players, who remained keen for an agreement to be reached.

Given the standstill, Barca then announced that the club would be using Spanish labour legislation known as an ERTE to reduce the wages of all of the club's employees -- even if that meant applying the measures unilaterally.

But the contribution to be made by Barca's first-team players -- who earn more than €500 million annually between them -- means that non-sporting staff will now continue to earn their full wage.

Barca, who are owned by their members and don't have outside investment, fear the crisis could have severe repercussions on their finances.

The club is already losing match-day revenue, as well as money from the club museum, which draws thousands of visitors every week. There is also uncertainty about how much they will make in prize money and television money this season, with football across Europe suspended.

Other clubs have already announced wage cuts for playing staff due to the spread of the coronavirus. Borussia Dortmund were among the first to confirm that the club's players will forgo part of their salaries to ease the financial pressure on the club, while Juventus players announced over the weekend they would give up their salaries for the next four months.

(Agencies)

Scenarios for a potential return of the Premier League

LONDON

ENGLISH football's major stakeholders will meet on Friday to discuss their options to rescue a season derailed by the coronavirus outbreak.

The Premier League campaign has been postponed until at least April 30 because of the pandemic, but the chances of a return in May look bleak.

AFP Sport takes a closer look at the various scenarios that are likely to be considered in the talks over if and how to finish the season:

Go behind closed doors

One option is for clubs to converge on a neutral location in which all remaining games are played behind closed doors, with only essential personnel and broadcasters allowed to attend.

There is believed to be growing support among clubs for this plan, with nine rounds of matches potentially in line to be staged in June and July.

Fixtures would reportedly be played in one or two locations in the Midlands and London.

That could mean players and coaches being quarantined away from their families in World Cup-style camps to avoid infection, with stadiums, hotels and training facilities undergoing a deep clean.

A radical upturn in testing for the virus in the United Kingdom over the next two months is the key to this plan for a number of reasons.

Firstly, to ease players' concerns of contracting COVID-19 while playing, but also to avoid criticism of privileged professional players being tested with mild or no symptoms if that is not available to the general public and in particular frontline workers.

If the curve of cases is not signifi-



Liverpool could be denied their first English title for 30 years if the season is cancelled (AFP Photo)

cantly flattened come the summer the optics for the Premier League to have medical officials at non-essential events would also not be good.

Play the waiting game
Given the massive impact of the virus on society in general, it is seen in some quarters as morally inappropriate for football to return too soon.

Instead of rushing back to action, waiting until the virus is completely under control before play resumes is the preferred strategy in this scenario.

With the virus reportedly set to peak in the UK in June, that could mean remaining in sporting lock-

down until August or September.

Waiting would allow the current season to be completed in full, ensuring the Premier League does not have to repay an estimated £750 million (\$930 million, 842 million euros) to television companies for breach of contract.

But it would have a huge knock-on effect for next season, potentially leading to a shortened schedule in 2020-21 in a bid to be ready for the delayed European Championship.

Tottenham striker Harry Kane believes the campaign should be cancelled if it cannot be finished by the end of June.

"Playing into July or August and pushing next season back, I don't see too much benefit in that," Kane said.

"Probably the limit for me is the end of June. If the season's not completed by the end of June we need to look at the options and just look forward to next season."

Cancel the season
In what would be the worst-case scenario for the Premier League, some clubs reportedly want to abandon the current season immediately.

Senior figures in English club football believe there is "no place for sport at the moment", according to a

recent report in the Athletic.

FA chairman Greg Clarke reportedly told the Premier League earlier this month he does not believe the season will be completed.

Declaring the season over could trigger legal action from a host of clubs, regardless of whether or not the standings are allowed to count.

Liverpool need only two more wins to confirm their first league title since 1990 and hold a 25-point lead over Manchester City.

Cancelling the season would scupper their hopes of ending a 30-year title drought, unless it was agreed to declare them champions anyway.

Manchester United, Wolves, Sheffield United and Tottenham, all currently outside the top four, would surely claim they had been unfairly denied a chance of Champions League qualification.

Aston Villa would be relegated along with Norwich and Bournemouth, but Dean Smith's team would point to the game in hand that would lift them above Watford to safety if they won it.

In the Championship, the current top two are Leeds and West Bromwich Albion and they would be furious if a 'null and void' ruling robbed them of a lucrative promotion.

AFP

If the season is cancelled because of COVID-19, these records will disappear

BY MARK OGDEN, SENIOR WRITER, ESPN FC

FOR the first time, leading figures in the game have raised the prospect of the 2019-20 season being cancelled because of the coronavirus pandemic. UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin has admitted that this season could be "lost" if it isn't re-started by the end of June, while Tottenham and England striker Harry Kane has said that "there needs to be a point where enough is enough" and "the limit for me is the end of June."

But if we have to start preparing for the prospect of a null and void season ("null and void" means everything is wiped off), all records would be expunged from the history books, leaving 2019-20 as some kind of ghost season.

Such a move would cause disappointment for supporters of Liverpool, who would see their hopes of ending a 30-year wait for the title disappear. It would also lead to a financial nightmare for clubs, associations and broadcasters. But if time runs out to get the outstanding fixtures played and the season is lost, it won't just be Liverpool who will see all of their efforts go to waste. Many other records and achievements would also vanish.

LIVERPOOL

Liverpool sit 25 points clear of the rest at the top of the Premier League. Prior to the shutdown in mid-March, Jurgen Klopp's team were just two wins from claiming the title.

No team would lose more than Liverpool if the season was abandoned. Not only would they see the title evaporate from their grasp, they would also have to accept a series of landmarks and milestones being erased too. This season, Liverpool have equalled Manchester City's record 18-game winning streak in the Premier League and also eclipsed City's mark of 20 straight home wins, taking their tally to 22 with the victory against Bournemouth in March.

If the season is declared null and void, all of the above would be wiped out.

LIONEL MESSI

Messi started 2020 just 25 strikes adrift of Pele's all-time record of scoring goals for one club, with the Brazilian legend ending his Santos career with 643.

Messi has scored 24 goals in 2019-20 for Barcelona, with nine coming in 2020 alone, taking him to 627 in the all-time list. But if 2019-20 is lost from the record books, the Argentine would find himself rewinding to 603.

Pele's tally would still be within reach, but with Messi's 33rd birthday approaching in June, could he really bag 41 more goals for Barcelona to claim top spot?

CRISTIANO RONALDO

Ronaldo created a number of personal milestones in 2019-20 and they could all be wiped out. He made his 1,000th career appearance on the same day that he scored in an 11th successive game for Juventus, against SPAL, to match a Serie A record accomplished by Gabriel Batistuta and Fabio Quagliarella.

The former Manchester United and Real Madrid forward hit 700 career goals while playing for Portugal against Ukraine in October, but while his international goals would stand (unless they were scored in a game which was abandoned), all 25 of his club goals from Juve this season would be knocked

off his overall tally.

SERGIO AGUERO

When Agüero scored a hat trick during Manchester City's 6-1 win at Aston Villa in January, the Argentine surpassed Thierry Henry as the all-time leading foreign goal scorer in the Premier League and broke Alan Shearer's record for hat tricks with his 12th.

Former Arsenal forward Henry racked up 175 league goals for the Gunners during his two spells at the club, but Agüero claimed his crown as the most prolific foreigner this season and he sits in fourth position in the all-time list on 180 goals -- seven behind former Manchester United striker Andy Cole.

But if a decision is made to press the reset button on this season, all of Agüero's 16 league goals would be declared null and void too. He would also lose his record-breaking 12th hat trick. This would drop the City striker back to 164 goals, placing him seventh in the all-time list, one goal clear of former Liverpool star Robbie Fowler.

ERLING HAALAND

Haaland has been a star of the 2019-20 season,

emerging as one of the most exciting talents in the world, initially with FC Salzburg and now with Borussia Dortmund. The 19-year-old emulated Marco van Basten, Faustino Asprilla and Wayne Rooney by scoring a hat trick on his Champions League debut for Salzburg against Genk in September, and he also became the quickest player to score 10 goals in the competition when scoring in Dortmund's 2-1 win against Paris Saint-Germain in February.

The good news for Haaland, though, is that if the 2019-20 campaign is erased, he will have another opportunity to score on his Champions League "debut" next season.

LEICESTER CITY

When Manchester United sealed a 9-0 victory against Ipswich Town at Old Trafford in March 1995, it seemed as though Sir Alex Ferguson's team had set a record that would never be beaten. But by matching that scoreline in a 9-0 win at Southampton in October, Leicester City joined United in the record books with the biggest victory in Premier League history.

Jamie Vardy and Ayoze Perez both scored hat tricks for Brendan Rodgers' team at St Mary's that night, but those hat tricks and Leicester's record win would both be wiped out.

LEEDS UNITED

Leeds United are one of the best supported and most historic clubs in England, but a financial meltdown at Elland Road saw them relegated from the Premier League in 2004 and they haven't been back since. They've even dropped as far down as the third tier during their top flight exile, but this really looked to be the year that Leeds finally made it back to where many believe they belong.

Manager Marcelo Bielsa has taken Leeds to the top of the Championship with nine games left to play and they have a seven-point cushion in the promotion spots. With 71 points from 37 games, they are on course to record their best Championship points tally -- the 85 points set when Howard Wilkinson's team won promotion in 1989-90 -- but if the season cannot be finished, Leeds face missing out on promotion again and the 1990 record will remain.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Scenarios for a potential return of the Premier League

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Premier League clubs must have youth squads in 2020/21 season- TFF



Simba SC's youth squad keeper, Abdallah Omary, makes a save in front of JKT Tanzania youth team's forward, Bilal Hussein, during a friendly match involving the two teams which took place at JMK Youth Park in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA Football Federation (TFF) has said next season will be mandatory for all elite

clubs to have U-15 teams. Oscar Mirambo, TFF Technical Director, said the directive gears towards making sure that the clubs have strong junior teams. The program, the official disclosed, should

consequently see the clubs have senior players coming from the outfits' structures.

He said this development will also help clubs serve revenue which would have been used to buy players and also make it easy for the country to implement its playing philosophy.

"From next season (2020/21) all Premier League clubs will be required to have junior teams especially U-15, the aim is to have strong junior teams," he said. Mirambo said the federation will make sure that the U-15 teams are trained by well qualified coaches.

The youth sides, he disclosed, should also be given enough attention unlike currently where

junior teams are not given enough attention.

The TFF official said having U-15 sides is also done in compliance with FIFA Club Licensing requirements.

"This time around we want clubs give more attention to junior teams, the aim is to see to it that we have well organized junior teams," he said.

Nearly all elite clubs in the country have junior teams but they are not given the attention they deserve.

The national soccer governing body has also been organizing a youth competition, which brings together Premier League outfits' U-20 squads, with the aim of boosting promotion of the sport at the domestic level.



Mateus Galiano

Mateus urges Angolans to take Coronavirus fight seriously

LUANDA

ANGOLA international Mateus Galiano has urged his countrymen to take the battle against the coronavirus seriously.

The Palancas Negras legend, who plays for Boavista in the Portuguese Primeira Liga, says fans must listen to authorities if they are to halt the spread of the virus in the country.

As of Tuesday, Angola had seven confirmed cases of the coronavirus and two deaths.

Health Minister Silvia Lutukuta said the deceased are two Angolan nationals, age 37 and 59, who both returned from Portugal two weeks ago.

The country also has 1,089 people under institutional quarantine.

"Today I'm speaking to you as a citizen rather than a player," Mateus said.

"Let us all fight and prevent against this pandemic that is ravaging the world.

"Follow all instructions from the health authorities, and if you do that then sooner rather than later we will get our lives back. Times are, and will be, tough, but with everybody's help we will win the battle."

Mateus is a veteran of the 2006 FIFA World Cup in Germany and was named captain of the Angola national team in 2018.

He was captain of the Angola side at the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations, having scored four goals in their qualification campaign.

Mateus is adhering to the guidelines laid out by the World Health Organization in the bid to combat the coronavirus outbreak, which include:

Wash your hands frequently: Regularly and thoroughly clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand rub or wash them with soap and water.

Maintain social distancing: Maintain at least 1 metre (3 feet) distance between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing.

Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth: Hands touch many surfaces and can pick up viruses. Once contaminated, hands can transfer the virus to your eyes, nose or mouth. From there, the virus can enter your body and can make you sick.

Practice respiratory hygiene: Make sure you, and the people around you, follow good respiratory hygiene. This means covering your mouth and nose with your bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze. Then dispose of the used tissue immediately.

If you have fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical care early: Stay home if you feel unwell. If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical attention and call in advance. Follow the directions of your local health authority.

'Consider this break a chance to reinvigorate yourself'

KARACHI

CRICKET has come to an indefinite halt, globally, thanks to the coronavirus pandemic, and no one knows when the game will resume. What is a player to do in this unfamiliar and frankly scary situation? Misbah-ul-Haq, Pakistan's coach and chief selector, has one bit of advice for his players: think of this break as a "chance to reinvigorate yourself."

The break, Misbah feels, will help players recharge their batteries away from the otherwise ceaseless workload of the game, and make them hungrier than ever when cricket eventually resumes.

"Going forward, I feel mentally what players are thinking is the most important aspect," Misbah told ESPNcricinfo.

"I will be emphasizing that you've got to believe in yourself and stay positive. Yes, it's a tough situation but at the same time consider this break a chance to reinvigorate yourself. Several players have been playing consistently and we all need a break from the load of cricket.

"We will be speaking with players and instilling this in their mind that you are not going to forget your basics, and your game and skill sets will remain with you. All you have to do is analyse yourself, and we will help them with feedback from watching their videos. This break will basically spark more hunger in them, and they will want to play with heart when they return to action. Intrinsicly a passionate sportsperson doesn't want to sit idle, that's natural, and once you've held him

back for some time he will come back with more intensity than ever."

While the current situation lasts, most of Pakistan's players will have no way to practise their cricketing skills. In order that they don't lose their rhythm completely, Misbah said it was important for them to know their own game inside-out.

"Obviously you need practice, that is integral," he said. "But when you thoroughly know your basics - your feet movements, point of release, your stance, understanding the bowlers - all this is imprinted in your mind, and it's not really hard to return to the game. You don't need a lot of time to get back in your groove, it's just the basics in your mind that will drive you.

"So knowing in your mind about the mechanics of your game makes it easy to come back. Obviously you need practice to shake off the rustiness but it becomes easier if you have a full knowledge of your game. So this is the time to know your own game, and if you are clueless about yourself and how you do things then it's very difficult for you to pick up the game and start where you left off. This is the time to understand yourself and break it down in your mind, and life will be easier going forward."

At the same time, Misbah stressed the importance of players keeping themselves fit. This, he said, was within their control, and ESPNcricinfo has learned that some of them - Babar Azam and Imam-ul-Haq, for instance - have set up gyms in their homes.

"Problem is that at this time nobody has the facilities to practise, so for now the one thing I am talking to players is about fitness," Misbah said. "We are in touch with players on an individual basis, both with the batters and bowlers, and we are talking and keeping them in track. But we are not really sure for how long we will be stuck this way. We are doing our homework and doing all we can to plan and prepare ourselves in the present circumstances. Nobody expected this stoppage so it's a completely new situation for us and we are thinking how we can keep players in the game virtually. We need to keep on talking to them.

"Along with my assistant coach Shahid Aslam, I'm getting players' videos from the PSL and the recent series we played, and breaking them down in terms of strengths and weaknesses, and getting back to the players with our feedback. It's tough to get them on board collectively and make them practise, but with some clarity in the situation we can at least be ready to execute with a clear mind [when cricket resumes]."

As much as the situation is an unfamiliar one for the players, it's equally so for Misbah, but he has found ways to keep himself busy.

"I don't think I have sat around facing such uncertainty in my entire career. I once sat at home recovering from jaundice. But this time, I'm lucky that I have taken the timely decision to have a fully equipped gym and nets facility at home. It's good to have time to yourself,

not doing anything, because I have been very busy recently and couldn't manage my fitness routine.

"I'm spending my full time with family and even my kids are working out with me. I'm spending around 120 to 150 minutes in a day on my training routines, and I think I'm ready again to undergo fitness test along with the national players."

Misbah is quite a cricket nerd, and it isn't surprising that he's spent a lot of time watching videos as well.

"Yes, that's a part of my routine," he said. "In fact, recently I was watching the 92 World Cup, and it was interesting to see how Pakistan came back out of nowhere. On YouTube you just go deep, watching old classic games, and overall it's a mixture, nothing in particular. But I've also been watching some games I played, like the 2012 England series, the Sri Lanka chase [in Sharjah], and PSL games on TV.

"This time off, you've got to utilise it very smartly and reflect on your game. It's not just me but for other players as well, they have time to look back - what good and bad they have done and where they can improve themselves. This is probably the off time when you have no obligation and all you have to do is sit and relax. Otherwise, when you are playing, you do not have much time to think. You're just going with the flow.

"There are things you won't be able to understand while playing or even practising. But now, when you are mentally free and not occupied, this is the best available time for your learning curve. In terms of

and continuity has broken down. "But nobody can do anything because the situation we all are in is bigger than cricket. It's important for us to not think about anything other than how to save humanity from this virus. This is the time when you shouldn't be thinking like a cricketer but as a man, how you can help and how to get out of this situation, and that is the biggest fight for any profession in the world. Cricket will eventually come back, but the focus is mainly about how you can sort this out and restore normalcy." AGENCIES

TONIGHT @ 7:00

WEDNESDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE

12:00 Weekend Movie (r)

13:30 Kali Za Wana

14:00 Planet Bongo (r)

14:30 Bongo Hits

15:00 Funguka

15:30 Nirvana (r)

16:00 Skonga (r)

16:30 #HASHTAG

17:00 5SELEKT

17:55 Kurasa

18:00 eNewz

18:30 Music/Soap

19:00 EATV SAA 1

19:45 MJADALA

20:00 DADAZ (r)

21:00 Kibishara Zaidi

EATV SAA 1

Coverage of the days current events accompanied by interviews with prominent people on diverse topics ranging from national to social interests.

eastafrika RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast

10:00 MAMAMIA

12:00 Kipenga Xtra

13:00 Planet Bongo

16:00 EA Drive

20:00 Kipenga

21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM

DAR ES SALAAM

Flexibles by David Chikoko

DID YOU STEAL MEAT FROM THE POT?



WHO? ME? STEAL? MEAT? WHEN? HOW? WHICH POT?

