



ACCIDENT



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REVENUE



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EDUCATION



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IT IS A MILESTONE AS TANZANIA'S FIRST WIND POWER PROJECT STARTS BUSINESS AT MUFINDI

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Covid-19 relief: IMF unveils \$14.3m grant

By Guardian Reporter

THE International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved a grant under its Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust (CCRT) to cover Tanzania's debt service falling due to the Fund from October 13 2020, the equivalent of US\$14.3 million.

Additional relief covering the period reaching April 13, 2022 will be granted subject to availability of resources in the CCRT, potentially bringing total relief on debt service to about US\$25.7 million.

The debt service relief will contribute to alleviate Tanzania's balance of payment needs stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The pandemic has weakened near-term macroeconomic prospects for Tanzania. The country is facing a drastic reduction in tourism receipts, budget pressures, and a projected deceleration of GDP growth from over 6pc to 4pc in the current fiscal year and to 2.8pc in the upcoming fiscal year.

Following discussion in the IMF Executive Board, Tao Zhang (pictured), deputy managing director and chairman of the board, issued a statement on the decision.

It said the COVID-19 pandemic is having an adverse economic impact on Tanzania, creating exceptional fiscal and balance of



It said the COVID-19 pandemic is having an adverse economic impact on Tanzania, creating exceptional fiscal and balance of payments needs

payments needs.

"The authorities have implemented containment measures and avoided an economic lockdown. They remain vigilant to the risk of spiraling infections and uncertainty surrounding the pandemic.

"The IMF's debt service relief under the Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust will free up public resources to help address the pandemic.

"The authorities are committed to using the additional resources for their intended purposes and in a transparent manner, including through ex-post audits of COVID-19 related spending.

"To deal with the remaining risks, it will be important to safeguard appropriate funding for health and other priority social spending in the FY2020/21 budget, as well as ensure close cooperation with the World Health Organization, multilateral agencies and donors.

"Looking ahead, structural reforms remain crucial to support a robust economic recovery. The focus includes addressing arrears on VAT refunds and government expenditures, enhancing human capital and the business environment, and improving the affordability of bank credit," the statement added.

Taxable wage minimum now raised to 270,000/-



Herein lie the closely-guarded details on the Government's proposed Budget for financial year 2020/2021, Finance and Planning minister Dr Philip Mpango appears to be silently notifying the nation and the world as he brandishes a briefcase while heading for the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday afternoon to tell it all. Photo: PMO

By Guardian Reporters

BOOSTING local industries, reducing imports for manufacturing essential social goods and alleviating scarcity of sugar and wheat for food security were prioritised in the proposed 2020/2021 Budget estimates unveiled by Finance and Planning minister Dr Philip Mpango yesterday.

The minister said that the government plans to collect tax revenue amounting to 20.33trn/-, non-tax revenue 2.92trn/- and revenue from local government own sources 815.0bn/-.

Development partners are expected to contribute grants and concession loans amounting to 2.87trn/-, equivalent to 8.2pc of the budget. Out of the amount, 2.46trn/- will be channelled through projects financing, about 138.3bn/- from basket financing and 275.5bn/- through General Budget Support (GBS).

In 2020/21, the government plans to spend 34.88trn/- for recurrent and development expenditure, with 22.10trn/- allocated for recurrent expenditure. This is equivalent to 63.0 percent of the total budget, while 12.78trn/- is slated for development expenditure.

The minister raised the minimum threshold of employment income not liable to tax from 170,000/- per month to 270,000/- per month and adjusting higher income brackets accordingly.

To strengthen the availability of medical equipment the government intends to abolish, reduce or harmonise levies which are charged by more than one organization. Currently, a

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JPM lends weight to medicinal herbs role

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT John Magufuli has directed ministerial authorities to prioritize funding for local medical remedies considering their immense contribution in the reduction of Covid-19 infections in the country.

Dr Magufuli cautioned Tanzanians on disregarding traditional medicines, saying it was high time people value and promote the use of these remedies.

Laying a foundation stone for 51.2km

road construction and inauguration of the Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) headquarters, he reminded the public to continue adhering to existing directives on protective measures against the virus.

He said that already he had directed the Ministry of Health to strengthen its herbal medicines department and increasing its funding.

"It is high time that we valued our own.

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Treasury trims 2020/2021 growth projection to 5.5pc

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

THE outbreak of Covid-19 will affect the country's economic growth projections from 6.9 percent to 5.5 percent in the coming fiscal year.

Presenting the economic survey 2019 report and the national development plan 2020/21, Finance and Planning minister Dr Philip Mpango said the economy is likely to recover in 2021.

The minister noted that in 2019, the country's economy grew at 7 percent compared to Rwanda at 9.4 percent, Uganda 4.9 percent and Kenya 5.4 percent. The country's gross domestic

product (GDP) also grew at 7 percent in 2018. The growth was due to increased investment in infrastructure like the construction of railways, roads and airports. The government also invested in the production of electricity, improvement of transportation services.

There was also greater extraction of minerals especially gold and coal as well as a surge in the production of agricultural produce, he stated.

Economic activities which registered high growth rates were mining and quarrying (17.7 percent), construction (14.8 percent), arts and entertainment (11.2 percent) along with

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SHARE FACTS ABOUT COVID-19

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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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)



Taxable wage minimum now raised to 270,000/-

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total of 144 of levies and fees have already been abolished, the minister noted.

The budget proposals also seek to exempt Value Added Tax on agricultural crop insurance and increase the minimum threshold of primary cooperatives societies liable to income tax from 50m/- to 100m/- per annum.

The proposals seek to exclude income derived by Special Economic Zone operators who produce 100 percent for local supply from the list of exempt amounts on account of the equity principle of taxation to all producers. Special economic zone producers and those outside the zone and who produce for local supply will be taxed in the same way.

There will be 100 percent deduction of contributions made to the AIDS Trust Fund and in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic similar deduction be made for contributions in that direction until the government announces the end of the pandemic.

Withholding tax of 10 percent is to be imposed on commission paid to bank and digital payment agents, to bring equal treatment to all bank operators, digital payment agents and mobile money agents.

The minister responsible for Local Governments will be tasked with collecting a Service Levy (0.3 percent of turnover) from telecommunication companies on behalf of local governments, he said "This measure aims at resolving disputes between Local Government Authorities and telecommunication companies and ensure that every council fairly benefits from the service levy collected from telecommunication operators, the minister underlined.

He moved to propose amendments to the Treasury Registrar Act, CAP 370 by removing the words "not financed through Government Budget" in order to allow the registrar to collect 70 percent of excess revenue from state companies, institutions and agencies which have surplus revenue.

"This measure aims to enhance controls in public funds management," he stated.

Also billed for amendments is the Motor Vehicle (Tax Registration and Transfer) Act, CAP 124, introducing Special Registration Number for Motor Vehicle (e.g. T. 777 DDD) fee at the rate of 0.5m/- to enable customers to be allocated with their preferred registration number available at that moment. It is a measure expected to increase government revenue by 200m/-.

Applicants for new or renewal of mining license will have Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) and Tax Clearance from the Tanzania Revenue Authority, a measure aimed at promoting tax compliance.

The Vocational, Educational and Training Act, CAP 83 will be amended by reducing the Skills Development Levy from 4.5 percent to 4 percent to relieve employers of extra costs of employment. It will reduce revenue by 42bn/-, he said.

A grant of duty remission is proposed at a duty rate of 0 percent for one year on raw materials used by domestic manufacturers of items used specifically for diagnosis, prevention, treatment and management of the COVID-19 pandemic.

These include mask, sanitizer, ventilators, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), intended to promote domestic production of these items and supporting efforts of managing the pandemic.

He also proposed a stay of application of the EAC Common External Tariff rate of 25 percent and apply a duty rate of 35 percent for one year on importation of basic ceramic tiles in order to protect local manufacturers of these products and create more employment.

He also included a stay of application of the EAC CET rate of 25 percent and apply a duty rate of 35 percent for one year on importation of tea, whether or not flavoured, to protect local tea processors and promote growth of employment in the agricultural sector.

Stay of application of the EAC CET rate of 25 percent and applying a duty rate of 35 percent for one year on sacks and bags, of jute or other textile bast fibres was also proposed. The intention is to protect local manufacturers of sisal bags, promote employment in sisal farming and increase revenues.

a. It also grants duty remission at a duty rate of 0 percent instead of 25 percent for one year on packaging materials used by domestic processors of cotton link. The measure aims at attracting investment in cotton link processing to add value on locally grown cotton, he pointed out.

A grant of duty remission on agricultural seeds packaging materials at duty rate of 0 percent instead of 25 percent

one year was listed, as essential requirements for preserving the quality of agricultural products. The measure will reduce the costs of seed producing entities in the country and hence seeds will be available at affordable prices, he stated.

Stay of application of the EAC CET rate of 25 percent and applying a duty rate of 35 percent for one year on roasted coffee for one year was also proposed, aimed at protecting local industries, and create more employment in the agricultural sector.

Staying of application of EAC CET rate of 25 percent or USD 200/MT whichever is higher and applying a duty rate of 25 percent or USD 250/MT whichever is higher for one year on reinforcement bars and hollow profiles was another key inclusion. The objective of this measure is to protect local manufacturers of reinforcement bars in the region and enhancing competitiveness of domestically produced iron and steel products, he pointed out.

Staying of application of EAC CET rate of 25 percent and applying a duty rate of 35 percent for one year on horticultural products was proposed, to protect local farmers and promote employment in horticultural products.

Staying of application of the EAC-CET rate of 10 percent and applying a duty rate of 25 percent for one year on papers was made, relating chiefly to papers produced by Mufindi Paper Mills. The firm needs protection in order to enhance competitiveness of locally produced papers and paper products, the minister noted.

Granting duty remission and applying an import duty of 10 percent instead of 35 percent on wheat grain was listed, a measure taking into account that the level of production is not sufficient in the EAC region to satisfy the demand in order sustain industries and ensure food security.

Granting of duty remission and applying a duty rate of 0 percent instead of 25 percent for one year on printed Aluminium Barrier Laminates was introduced, to reduce production costs and promote competitiveness of domestic industries producing toothpaste.

Similarly, granting duty remission and applying a duty rate of 0 percent instead of 10 percent for one year on RBD Palm Stearin was proposed, in order to ensure availability of RBD Palm Stearin for stand-alone soap industries.

Granting a stay of application of the EAC-CET rate and applying a duty rate of 25 percent or USD 1.35 per kilogram of safety matches was also introduced, as there is sufficient capacity to produce this product in the EAC region. Hence there is a need to protect local industries by addressing the issue of under-invoicing or under-valuation, he stated.

Staying of application of EAC CET rate of 25 percent and apply a duty rate of 25 percent or USD 350/MT whichever is higher for one year was made on nails, tacks, drawing pins, corrugated nails and staples. The objective of this measure is to protect local producers of these products against imported cheap or under invoiced products, he said.

Staying of application of an import duty rate of 25 percent and instead applying a duty rate of 60pc for one year on mineral water was included, as there is sufficient capacity to produce this product in the country;

Staying of application of the duty rate of 25 percent and instead applying a duty rate of 35 percent for one year on meat and edible offal was introduced, with the view to protect and promote domestic processing and value addition.

The minister also proposed continuing with an import duty of 25 percent on crude edible oil (including sunflower oil, palm oil, groundnuts oil, olive oil, maize corn oil etc.) for one year

. The objective of this measure is to continue promoting production of edible oils by using locally produced seeds, create employment and increase income for farmers, he said.

Staying of application of the EAC-CET rate of 25 percent and instead applying a duty rate of 35 percent for one year on semi refined, refined/double refined edible oils (for example sunflower oil, palm oil, ground nuts oil, olive oil, maize corn oil etc) was introduced, to promote domestic processing of edible oil using locally grown seeds and save foreign exchange used in the importation of edible oil.

Continuing with import duty rate of 35 percent instead of 100 percent on sugar for domestic consumption was another key proposal. Sugar will be imported under special permits to cover the sugar gap in the domestic market, the minister elaborated.

Staying of application of the duty rate of 35 percent or USD 0.40 per kilogram whichever is higher and instead applying a duty rate of 35 percent for one year on worn clothes was introduced, to protect local manufacturers of finished textile products and make them competitive.

He especially proposed to increase the valuation of imported Kitenge from the current valuation of USD 0.40 per meter to USD 1 per meter. "The aim of this measure is to discourage under-invoicing and under-declaration done by some unfaithful importers to the revenue authority," he stated.

The proposals reduce import levy charged by the Sugar Board of Tanzania (SBT) on industrial sugar from 2 percent of CIF value, or 2 percent of USD 460 (equivalent to USD 9 or more) per metric ton, whichever is higher to USD 7.5 per metric ton on imported sugar.

The proposals abolished Occupational Safety and Public Health Training fees of 250,000/- for each participant since the provision of public education on Safety and Health is a core obligation of OSHA.

They also abolish inspection fees charged at 80 percent of administration fee as the registration fee itself as a base has already been abolished.

Similar steps were taken to reduce accident investigation fees from 500,000/- on each expert who conducts investigations to 120,000/- on each expert but the gross amount should not exceed 1m/-, he specified.

The proposals reduced fire and rescue inspection fees on mining areas with coverage area between 4,001 to 9,000 square metre from 6m/- to 0.2m/-. They reduced fire and rescue inspection fees on gas cylinder shops with less than or equal to 100 square metre from 100,000/- to Tshs. 40,000/-, while reducing fire and rescue inspection fees on mini hydro power stations of less than 10 Megawatts from 6m/- to 0.2m/-

By contrast, the proposals moved to charge fire and rescue inspection fees of 2m/- on gas deposits of between 11 to 20 tons.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa has a word with Bumbuli legislator January Makamba (R) in the National Assembly in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: PMO

Treasury trims 2020/2021 growth projection to 5.5pc

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transport and storage (8.7 percent), he said.

Dr Mpango highlighted that economies in the East African Community (EAC) will experience growth challenges induced by the outbreak of Covid-19, particularly in the current year.

"Economies in EAC will recover in 2021 due to fiscal and monetary measures being undertaken by the partner states to combat the effects of the deadly respiratory disease," he affirmed.

An April 2020 report by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) indicates that the world economy grew at an average rate of 2.9 percent in 2019 compared to 3.6 percent in 2018.

In 2020, the global economy is projected to contract by 3.0 percent due to the effects of Covid-19 and recovers to 5.8 percent growth in 2021 if there is no new wave of the pandemic.

Economic growth in Sub-Saharan Africa decreased from 3.3 percent recorded in 2018 to 3.1 percent in 2019 due to Covid-19. These economies are expected to recover to 4.1 percent growth with current initiatives in combating the novel coronavirus, expectations of increased grants for fighting the disease and stable oil price level in the world market.

"Projected growth is associated with prospects of combating the disease, including

availability of workable vaccines in the second half of 2020, and recovery of global economic activities including trade and industrial production."

He said that in the 2020/2021 financial year, the national development plan gears to maintaining the inflation rate at single digit level, ranging between 3.0 to 5.0 percent, domestic revenue to GDP ratio to reach 14.7 percent from the projected 14 percent in the 2019/20 fiscal year.

In the coming fiscal year, government expenditure is expected to reach 22.1 percent of GDP while the budget deficit (including grants) is projected at 2.6 percent. It is still below 3.0 percent that is required in the context of the EAC extended customs territory.

Some priority areas for the 2020/21 financial year include industries, creation of an enabling environment for doing business and investment and improvement of the minerals sector. This includes the construction of eight regional offices for minerals trading and one centre of excellence.

On industrial development, the government is expected to renovate machines and workshops in technological research and industrial development of CAMARTEC, TIRDO, TEMDO and SIDO as well as strengthening of the Tanzania Automotive Technology Centre (Nyumbu).

It will also strengthen the leather industrial pack (Dodoma - Zuzu) and development of special economic zones (SEZ) in Bunda, Manyoni, Tanga, Mtwara, Dodoma, Bagamoyo and the Benjamin William Mkapa special economic zone in Dar es Salaam.

In the specific year, the government will strengthen research in crops and increase productivity by facilitating accessibility to seeds and inputs, extension services, warehouses and markets for strategic crops such as palm tree, coffee, cotton, tea, tobacco and sugarcane, he said.

The government will also put emphasis on interventions for human development where it will continue with mass training in rare and specialized skills such as mining, oil and gas, specialized medical doctors, geology and geomorphology.

The government will continue with construction and rehabilitation of teaching and learning infrastructure for schools, teachers' colleges and higher learning institutions, he said.

The fisheries sector will be strengthened and fishery resources environment protected more intensely, while the Tanzania Fishing Corporation (TAFICO) is revamped. The government shall rehabilitate landing site and fishing markets and build a fishing port, he added.



NMB Bank Plc central zone manager Nsolo Mlozi (2nd-L) pictured yesterday presenting buckets to Singida regional commissioner Dr Rehema Nchimbi for use by her Office in the fight against Covid-19. Left is the bank's Singida branch manager, Willy Mponzi. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

JPM lends weight to medicinal herbs role

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Everywhere in the world including in developed countries such as China and in Europe they put value on traditional medicines," he said.

"We should acknowledge that herbal medicines have played a huge role in the fight against Covid-19 infections in Tanzania, and this should be commended. We should not ignore natural remedies as steam inhalation has largely helped us in battling the disease."

The deadly respiratory infection has been successfully battled with few remaining cases, he emphasised.

Commenting on TARURA performance, Dr Magfuli praised the agency's management for proper supervision of projects. He mentioned plans for several projects in Dodoma to make the city unique and attractive.

"We are working to commence construction

of a 110km ring road for Dodoma city which will cost over 600bn/-. The funds have been issued by the African Development Bank (AfDB)," he specified.

The project will involve construction of a four lane road to decorate the city with attractive infrastructure, he stated.

President Magfuli urged the TARURA management to stop constructing offices in every district and instead use available government buildings.

"We established the agency to improve rural and urban roads not constructing offices across the country. You should only concentrate with improvement of roads," he instructed.

Earlier, TARURA executive director Victor Seif said construction of the 51.2km-raod at tarmac level had commenced since February and it is expected to be completed by mid-

2021.

"This involves construction of a four lanes road (11.2km) and a 28km-two lane road. The road is built at Mtumba area, the government town in Dodoma at a tune of 88.6bn/-," he said.

The inaugurated agency's office in Dodoma which has two floors has been constructed at a cost of 1.97bn/-. The construction commenced in March in 2019.

TARURA spends 1.19bn/- to settle office rent bills annually in various districts, as they have so far built offices in Dodoma, Dar es Salaam and Gairo District. Plans are afoot to build offices in all regions, a project which depends on resource availability, he stated.

Selemani Jafo, the minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), said the fifth phase government has implemented numerous development projects through the agency.

JPM pardons four Fire and Rescue Force commissioners

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

PRESIDENT John Magufuli yesterday announced to have pardoned four commissioners of the Tanzania Fire and Rescue Force that were widely mentioned in the dubious project worth 408m/-.

He said there were recommendations that some of the four commissioners be demoted and others fired but he has since learnt they had changed, thus deserved forgiveness.

He made the statement while inaugurating the fire and rescue force's headquarters in Dodoma where he also pledged to give the fire rescue force 5 billion/- for the construction of officers' residential houses in the city.

Among those forgiven by the head of state also include former Commissioner General of the Tanzania Fire and Rescue, Tobias Andengenyne, whom he said will be returned to public service but in a different capacity.

However, Magufuli yesterday decline to name the other commissioners who still hold office, saying it was not proper. He said Andengenyne had in several times appealed for forgiveness and as a God fearing man he saw it prudent to pardon them.

In January this year, President Magufuli sacked Andengenyne, for overseeing a dubious project worth some 408 million/- . He also sacked the then minister for Home Affairs, Kangi Lugola.

He said Andengenyne was involved in the preparations and the signing of the project for the Tanzania Fire and Rescue Force, operating under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

He said the project was authorized by officials in the ministry without the knowledge of the Ministry of Finance and Planning, and without the approval of the National Assembly.

But yesterday the commissioners who were widely mentioned in

the project had shown elements repentance, urging them to change completely. "Let us forget about the past but you should never repeat the same mistake," he said amid applause from the gathering.

He reminded the gathering that tax payers money should be used to create the targeted impacts and value for money, adding that he loves the officers with all his heart.

Magufuli praised the fire and rescue force for the good work it is doing to save people's lives and property, adding that more often than not, they have swiftly responded to emergency calls like when there was fire in Morogoro.

The president also thanked the force for building a modern office at its headquarters in the capital city, adding that it is in line with the government decision to move to Dodoma.

He said the government has no plans to move back to Dar es Salaam, saying

that he is ready to support the forces get residential houses in the city. He promised to give the fire and rescue force five billion shillings for the project.

"I will look for the money as soon as next week because this government is rich and can afford such projects aimed at empowering our forces," he said. He also reminded them to use force account when building the residential houses as it helped save money during the construction of the office building.

The president also thanked other security forces in the country for doing good work that had helped maintain peace in the country, earning Tanzania respect among other countries.

He acknowledged the good work done by the Commissioner General of Tanzania Fire and Rescue Force, John Mahunga for good work too. Speaking about the current situation of COVID-19 in the country, the president said the

pandemic is slowly disappearing in the country.

He thanked religious leaders contributions in the fight against the pandemic stating that there was one patient in Dodoma who has since recovered and probably some other four in Dar es Salaam who have recovered too. "This is a clear indication that God who is omnipresent has saved Tanzanians," he noted.

Earlier, Commissioner General Mashunga said the fire and rescue force is doing a lot to help rescue incidents but they are faced with a lot of challenges including lack of enough residential houses for the officers.

He said the demand for the houses is 2457 while the existing ones are only 42. He thanked the government for doing a lot to improve the force within since it came to power, stating that the budget had increased development budget from 4.4bn/- in July 2015/16 to 4.5bn/- in 2018/18.

"This has helped the force move services closer to people by building more offices and stations in the country" he said, adding that currently there are 74 fire stations and 17 offices in the country.

However the demand is to have some more 147 stations. He said the inaugurated headquarter office building have cost 2.66bn/-.

Minister for Home Affairs, George Simbachawene on his part said the ministry is working closely with the fire and rescue force, modernizing it to help provide services to people.

"They have helped save lives and property of Tanzanians and we look forward to having a modern force that work efficiently" he said.

He thanked the president for the good intention to support forces in the country, noting that he recently gave 700m/- to the police force which has been wonderfully spent in building hostels in Dar es Salaam.



Nafisa Jidawi (R) from Zanzibar-based NGO Jawamama makes remarks yesterday shortly after presenting to Zanzibar House of Representatives member Simai Mohamed Said (to her right) 200 litres of liquid soap and various other items in support of the war on Covid-19. Photo: Correspondent Martin Kabemba

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

EIGHT people have died on the spot and five others injured after a Scania lorry registered T.322 DCB hauling a trailer T.1351 DCA rammed into a tractor.

The tractor, T 952 that had no lights skidded off the road and rammed head-on with a passenger vehicle carrying a coffin, stated Mwanza Regional Police Commander Jumanne Muliro.

Commander Jumanne said the accident happened on Wednesday at around 7.45 pm adding the eight deceased and the five injured were in a Nissan Hiace minibus with registration T 775 DEG heading to Magu district from Mwanza city.

"The accident occurred at Ihayabuyaga village, Bukandwe ward in Sanjo division along the Mwanza-Musoma highway," said the RPC.

He added that among the dead were the driver and owner of the minibus identified as George Phillip Msangi a resident of Magu district.

Eight dead in Mwanza as lorry collides with tractor

Muliro said they were holding the lorry driver, Poniface Clifford (37) after the accident. The lorry, property of Texas Hardware Co was heading to Mwanza City from Busega.

Muliro said two bodies of the deceased had been identified as George Msangi, driver of the Hiace and Hamis Masige (35), a teacher of Lugeye secondary school and resident of Lugeye village.

Six bodies have not been identified and have been preserved at Bugando referral hospital, said the RPC.

He said the five injured undergoing medical treatment at the Bugando referral hospital include Kasabuku Kishela (32), a resident of Magu, Ayubu Mindule, Chabula ward education coordinator, Elias Lutandula (46) Elias Francis (44) and Edibin Makubo

(28) a Form VI student at Bariadi high school, all residents of Nyanguge village.

RPC Muliro further said they are still looking for the driver of the tractor who fled to unknown destination. He said investigations on the cause of the accident continue, even though it was largely contributed by gross negligence of the lorry driver.

Head nurse of the men's Ward at Bugando referral hospital, Lucas Alfred confirmed receiving the five injured persons, among them two are in the orthopaedic department and three in the neurology department.

Mwanza Regional Commissioner John Mongella visited the injured at Bugando referral hospital urging police in the region to take stern steps against negligent drivers.

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has repatriated 146 Tanzanians who were stranded in Saudi Arabia following travel restrictions and lockdown posed by the country due to Covid-19 pandemic.

In a statement issued by the director for communications, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation Emmanuel Buhohela stated that the Tanzanians smoothly landed in the country yesterday using SV3433 aircraft of the Arabia Airline.

According to Buhohela, the aircraft departed from Jeddah International Airport at 2:30am and arrived at the Julius Nyerere International Airport (JNIA) at 7:20 noon.

"So far a total of 671 Tanzanians have been brought back home through the government's repatriation system among many Tanzanians who are stranded in various foreign countries," he said.

He also said that the government has also been coordinating various trips to repatriate various foreigners back to

Govt repatriates 146 Tanzanians caught in Saudi Arabia lockdown

their countries.

"Up to May 17, this year, 1172 foreigners and 44 Tanzanians were repatriated to various countries. Tanzania through its embassies is also coordinating the repatriation of other 1165 Tanzanians who are stranded in various nations," he said.

Earlier last month, Air Tanzania Company Ltd (ATLC) said it repatriated Tanzanians who were stranded in India the following the coronavirus outbreak.

The government also enabled the return of 119 Tanzanians who were stranded in Dubai amid Covid-19.

Countries around the world imposed travel restrictions to curb spreading of the pandemic, leading to grounding of most of the global airlines.

According to the Tanzanian High Commission in India, some 405 people had registered for the repatriation by Saturday following the announcement

to do so.

All returning residents entering Tanzania were subjected to a mandatory isolation for 14 days at their own cost at designated facilities identified by the government, according to the Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA).

After 14 days of mandatory quarantine, passengers with no symptoms of Covid-19 were allowed to leave the facilities immediately after registering their personal information for future follow-up.

Effective April 11, TCAA announced a suspension of both scheduled and non-scheduled international passenger flights into and out of the country, in an effort to lower coronavirus imported cases.

Cargo flights were allowed on condition that crew members be quarantined at designated places by the government at their own cost for the duration of their stay.

VACANCIES - SHIPPING POSITIONS

A multi-cultured leading shipping agency with head office in Mombasa representing a major shipping line engaged in liner shipping invites applications from suitable candidates for the below positions based in Dar es Salaam in order to strengthen the present set up and further improve the service levels.

Applicants need to have good academic record, commitment to the core objectives, requisite experience, proven track record, self-driven, excellent communication and interpersonal skills, computer literacy, integrity and a good team player in addition to the professional capabilities.

The ideal candidates should be organised, able to do multi-task, prioritize work and be able to work under tight deadlines.

1. SHIPPING ACCOUNTANT – 1 POSITION.

The ideal candidate must be a mature, competent qualified accountant and hold a bachelor degree in accounting, finance or a related field and have a minimum of 5 years work experience in audit, taxation, accounting, finance role or a similar position, preferably in a shipping industry and familiar with Voyage/Disbursement Accounting, VAT Computation Preparation and submission, Freight Tax Payable, Various disbursement reporting, Revenue Commission workings and local statutory procedures up to finalization of accounts.

The candidate must possess detail-oriented and multi-tasking skills; have strong interpersonal and communication skills; excellent organisation and administrative skills; Integrity and leadership skills; good analytical and problem solving skills and be a Computer literate proficient with ERP accounting systems.

2. EQUIPMENT CONTROL EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT – 1 POSITION.

Equipment Control Executive Assistant will be responsible to monitor closely and handle/supervise independently the entire movement of containers, data up-dation in system, notifications based on interchanges, raising invoices for demurrages / detentions / damages as applicable, arranging surveys, co-ordination with depots, clients, various offices and internal daily reporting.

3. SALES & MARKETING EXECUTIVE – 1 POSITION.

Key responsibilities areas will be cargo canvassing for both imports and exports for various sectors of shipping services, dedicated field activity to meet the clients to generate business, making and following up on quotations, establishing rates, preparation of various sales reports, meet the targets etc. Compiling of trade statistics and market information on regular basis. Additionally Senior Sales Executives and Sales Manager may also apply.

4. DOCUMENTATION EXECUTIVE – IMPORT AND EXPORT – 2 POSITIONS.

Ideal candidate will be fully responsible to handle entire import and export documentation work independently and attend to all import/export related queries from clients, liaise with customs/port authorities, lodge manifest with authorities etc. Must have knowledge of local customs/port documentation procedures (TPA CARGO & TANCIS SYSTEM). Applicant must be self-driven and self-disciplined team player, flexible on working hours and be able to work under pressure.

5. DELIVERY ORDER-EXECUTIVE – 1 POSITION.

Responsibilities include scrutinizing respective shipping documents and issuing delivery order, receiving payments, providing information and assistance to customers on the front desk.

6. TOP LOADER OPERATOR / MACHINE OPERATOR CUM DRIVER – 2 POSITIONS.

The candidate should be able to operate and drive various models of Port equipment including but not limited to CVS Tugmasters, Caterpillars, Top-loaders, Reachstackers, trailers and semi-trailers. Having mechanical and electrical experience will be an added advantage. The candidate should possess a valid driving licence covering all equipment mentioned above.

Please email your applications with detailed curriculum vitae and providing three references and contact numbers to tanzaniarecruitment@outlook.com clearly stating the position being applied for and also indicating your current and expected remuneration including benefits (if any) along with copies of your last three months' payslips. An earliest date of joining shall be preferred.

We are an equal opportunity employer and the deadline for submitting your applications with the supporting testimonials and other documents is **17th June 2020**.

By Henry Mwangonde

Covid-19: Govt says efforts to revive tourism will be funded in 2020/21

THE government has set aside funds in the 2020/21 budget to support tourism institutions that have been hardly hit by the Coronavirus pandemic.

The funds according to Finance and Planning Minister Dr Philip Mpango will be given to the Tanzania National Parks Authority (TANAPA), Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA) and the Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA) to support payment of salaries and other expenditures.

Dr Mpango made the remarks in the National Assembly when presenting estimates for the 2020/21 national budget in Dodoma.

"The funds are meant to rescue these institutions including payments of salaries, renovating infrastructures and other expenses caused by the Covid-19 pandemic," he said.

Dr Mpango said the pandemic has also caused the budget to focus most of medical research, virus and industrial development.

The minister listed down a number of measures put in place by the government to rescue the economy from the pandemic including entering into agreement with global airlines for transportation of products from Tanzania such as fish and flowers.

Last month, when tabling budget estimates for the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Dr Hamisi Kigwangalla said the government's revenue collections from the sector dropped by 75 percent in the fourth quarter of the 2019/2020 financial year from over 132bn/- to 33bn/-.

Dr Kigwangalla told the legislature that collections from the tourism sector will drop further in the 2020/2021 financial year due to global economic recession caused by the outbreak of

Coronavirus.

He said in the 2020/2021, the Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) projected to collect 363.9bn/- but it is now expecting collect 64bn/- only.

However, collections from the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA) will drop to 58bn/- from the estimated 162.7bn/-, Tanzania Forest Services Agency (TFS) will collect 121bn/- lower than the projected 153.6bn/- while the Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA) will see its collections dropping to 22bn/- from the projected 58.1bn/-.

Minister Kigwangalla said the outbreak of Covid-19 has hardly hit the tourism sector following decreased number of visitors and decisions by major airlines to ground their planes.

In the 2019/2020 financial year, the ministry projected to collect 71,538,430,944/- but it only collected 47,010,442,123/- until March this year, equivalent to 66 percent.

However, TANAPA, NCAA, TAWA and TFS were expected to collect 701,805,841,651/- by March, 2020, but they were able to collect 503,865,454,314/- equivalent to 72 percent.

The presence of Covid-19 affected employment in the sector whereas the number of direct jobs dropped to 146,000 from the previous 623,000.

In another development Dr Mpango said the country's debt for the period ending April this year has reached 55.43trn/-.

Domestic debt stock from the gross figure amounted to 14.85trn/- with external debt stock accounting for

40.57trn/-.

Finance and Planning Minister Dr Philip Mpango has however, assured the nation that debt remained sustainable in the short, medium and long term.

Earlier, when he presented the state of the national economy in Parliament yesterday Dr Mpango said Tanzania's economy is expected to grow at a rate of 5.5percent compared to earlier estimates of 6.9percent Finance and Planning Minister Dr Philip Mpango said yesterday.

Minister Mpango attributed the slow in growth to the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic which has affected economies of the country's trading partners as well as other sectors.



Mwanza regional commissioner John Mongella (2nd-L) and regional police commander Jumanne Muliro (R) pictured at Bugando referral hospital yesterday consoling one of five people injured in a road accident and admitted to the facility. Photo: Correspondent Rose Jacob

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA President's Office TANZANIA SOCIAL ACTION FUND



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES – INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

Country: Tanzania
Name of Project: Productive Social Safety Net Project II (PSSN II)
Assignment Title: Director of Finance and Administration
Reference No. TZ-TASAF-174854-CS-INDV

- The Government of the united republic of Tanzania has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Productive Social Safety Net II. This project will be jointly financed by the Agency for International Development, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis & Malaria, International Fund for Agriculture Development, The government of NORWAY and OPEC. The Tanzania Social Action Fund the implementing agency for this Project intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.
- The consulting services ("the Services") objective is to manage the financial, accounting and administration functions of the Project as specified in the Financing Agreement and the project documents but not limited to the project appraisal document (PAD) and the Operational Manual.
- The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be found at the following website: www.tasaf.go.tz and can be obtained at the address given below.
- The Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) now invites eligible Individual Consultant ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide CVs demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The Individual Consultant must have the following qualifications and skills.
 - Holder of Master's Degree in Finance, Accounting, Business Administration, Human Resources Management, Public Administration, or any other related field from recognized university.
 - Must possess internationally recognized accounting professional qualification such as CPA (T), ACCA, CIMA or other related profession.
 - Must be registered with the National Board of Accountants and Auditors (NBAA) in the category of Associate Certified Public Accountant (ACPA) or Fellow Certified Public Accountant (FCPA).
 - At least ten (10) years' experience in finance, human resource and administration in Public and / or Private Sectors of which seven (7) years must be at senior managerial position.
 - Must have a working knowledge of computerized Accounting systems.
 - Must have a thorough knowledge and understanding of and experience with donor funded project.
 - High level of communication and interpersonal skills and ability to work with people at all levels. .
 - Ability to supervise, train and coach staff in relevant skills.
 - Self-motivated with integrity and high level of confidentiality
- The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" July 2016 and revised in November 2017 and August 2018 ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.
- Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours from 8.00 to 16.00 Local Time on Mondays to Fridays inclusive except on Public Holidays.
- A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Individual Consultant method set out in the Procurement Regulations.
- Expressions of interest enclosing scanned certified copies of certificates and curriculum vitae must be delivered in a written form to the address below in person, or by mail, or by e-mail by 9th July, 2020.

The Executive Director,
Tanzania Social Action Fund,
Board of Trustee of PSSSF Building,
Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Road,
P. O. Box 2719,
Dodoma, Tanzania
Tel: +255 26 2963866
Fax: +255 26 2963871
E-mail: hmr@tasaf.go.tz

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Z'bar to start using EFDs next year

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Zanzibar government will next year start using Electronic Fiscal Devices (EFDs), the Minister for Finance and Planning Mohamed Ramia Abdiwawa said yesterday.

He announced it in the Zanzibar House of Representatives when responding to issues raised by members while contributing to the ministry's budget estimates for Fiscal Year 2020/21.

The minister said the use of the EFDs had been delayed for various reasons

including research on their proper use and deficiencies that emerged to some countries that were using them including Tanzania Mainland.

Abdiwawa said groundwork for their use has been finalised and the ministry plans to start using them next year after some basic issues are cleared.

He said the EFDs had been earmarked to come into operation last year following the discovery of gross financial frauds by some traders who refused to issue on sales they made.

He called upon the citizens to demand for receipts when purchasing

various goods because when they don't do so, the government stands to lose its revenues.

"After research we have discovered one area where the government is losing a lot of its revenue is the receipts... ..people lack the culture of demanding receipts after purchase of goods, thereby making the government lose a lot of its revenue," he said.

Some members of the House of Representatives called on the Ministry of Finance to speed up the acquisition of EFDs to save revenue that was being lost.

Tanzania exported more food crops in East, central African region during COVID-19 outbreak - Mpango

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA has exported more food crops in the East and Central African region during the outbreak of Covid-19, Finance and Planning Minister, Dr Philip Mpango has said.

Tabling the national budget for the 2020/2021 financial year in the National Assembly yesterday, Dr Mpango said despite the adverse impacts of the new Coronavirus, the country has explored several economic opportunities.

"Apart from the health and economic impacts of Covid-19, the disease also brought opportunities which include increase of digital space and internet demand, electronic transactions, demand of food crops and the use of traditional medicines," Dr Mpango said.

The disease also led to the decrease of transport expenses due to the fall of fuel prices in the global market.

He also said that the pandemic has taught the government and the country at large on the importance of developing own strategies during disasters instead of copying from other countries.

"However, Covid-19 will not affect the implementation of various development projects in the coming fiscal year. My plea remains to the general public to continue adhering to the health experts' directives on protective measures against the virus," he said.

The minister said that the pandemic also affected the tourism sector immensely, after 21 international airlines cancelled a total of 632 trips in the country effective from March 20, this year.

"The cancelation of the aircraft trips in the country has deteriorated further some of the economic activities, especially tourism and related services such as transportation of tourists,

accommodation, food, beverages and entertainment," he added.

He further said tax revenues and collections from sectors which were most affected by Covid-19 decreased significantly especially in the tourism and hospitality sector. Some of the hotels were closed with others reducing workers.

"Prices of crop commodities including cotton, cashew nuts, coffee and tea also decreased due to low demand. Export of transit goods also decreased as majority of the countries closed their borders. Wholesale and retail business was also affected especially in the commodities imported from China, India and other European countries due to travel restrictions," Dr Mpango explained.

Dr Mpango also said that the rate of growth of loans for the private sector decreased to 5.8 percent in the year ended in April 2020 from 10.6 percent of the year ended April 2019.

Pandemic accelerating in Africa, test kits needed, WHO says

GENEVA

THE coronavirus pandemic is accelerating in Africa, spreading to the hinterland from capital cities where it arrived with travellers, the World Health Organization (WHO) has said.

But the WHO said there was no indication that severe cases and deaths were not being missed, nor has the virus caused significant infections in refugee camps across the continent.

Ten countries are driving Africa's epidemic, accounting for 75% of the some 207,600 cases on the continent, with 5,000 deaths reported, according to Matshidiso Moeti, WHO's Africa regional director.

South Africa, which last month began a phased easing of the lockdown, is the hardest-hit, accounting for a quarter of all cases, she said.

"Even though these cases in Africa account for less than 3 percent of the

global total, it's clear that the pandemic is accelerating," Moeti said.

"We believe that large numbers of severe cases and deaths are not being missed in Africa."

Africa's population is relatively youthful and many countries had already established "point of entry" screening measures against Ebola fever - two factors which may have so far limited the spread of COVID-19, she said.



Iringa regional administrative secretary Happiness Seneda (4th-R, foreground) pictured yesterday launching hand-washing machines made at Rungemba Community Development Training Institute and meant for use at the institute. Photo: Correspondent Francis Godwin

Magufuli offers 20 million/- for village's primary school project

By Guardian Correspondent, Rungwe

TANZANIA Roads Agency (TANROADS) has handed out 20m/- towards the ongoing construction project of a primary school at Isyonje Village in Rungwe District, Mbeya Region.

The money was given yesterday one day after President John Magufuli ordered the agency in Mbeya Region to give the money for completion of the school.

Handing out the money, Mbeya

Regional Commissioner Albert Chalabila, accompanied by TANROADS officials said the money is line with President Magufuli's pledge to help the villagers towards the construction of the school. "When president Magufuli spoke to Isyonje villagers via my mobile phone, he promised that TANROADS will provide 20m/- contribution towards the school and now he has executed his promise and directed me to hand out the money to your district leaders," he said.

Rungwe District Executive Director

Loema Peter thanked the government for the assistance and pledged that the money will be used for the construction of two classrooms that will be completed within four months as well as purchase of desks.

The chairman of Isyonje Village Naomi Mwamakula promised to supervise the school's construction work saying that villagers own labour force will be their priority.

Much earlier, 100 households from Isyonje Ward in Rungwe District appealed to TANROADS for permission

to develop their areas following the agency's decision barring them to do so after assessment over the payment of 1.5bn/- compensation for the area to be used for the installation of a modern weigh bridge.

The villagers said three years have passed since the assessment and they have not been paid, the delay that saw their houses become dilapidated hence President Magufuli instructed TANROADS to return the area to the villagers and find another area for installing the weigh bridge.

Teachers acting on JPM's directives on reducing monthly membership fees

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa,

Dodoma

THE Tanzania Teachers Union (TTU) has started working on President John Magufuli's directives of reducing monthly membership fees.

The strategies include crosschecking the exact number of TTU's active members across the country, so that the union works on the percentages that need to be deducted monthly as per President Magufuli's directives he made last Friday, when he addressed TTU annual general meeting.

President Magufuli said teachers have been complaining that two percent reduction from their monthly pay is high, tasking the union to sit down and work on the matter.

In an interview, TTU's president Leah Ulaya said that the move is meant to resolve teachers' complains as directed by president Magufuli.

"So, we're currently cross-checking to know the exact number of teachers who are TTU active members and from there we'll see how this will be addressed," she said.

On monthly basis, TTU collects over 3bn/- from members, but the expenditure is high as the amount is used to run offices from the union's headquarters to the district level, Ulaya said.

However she said that report shows some members across the country, are not active, hence they aren't deducted the disputed 2 percent, that's why we're cross-checking the number."

"After getting the exact figure, we'll encourage those who are out of the union to enroll and from there we'll

sit down to review the deduction percentage," the official said.

TTU's vice president, Dinah Elias said that there are some local government authorities, which are working hand in hand with the union in the exercise of identifying teachers who their salaries aren't deducted the 2 percent on monthly basis.

She cited Morogoro Municipal Council (MMC) as one of the LGAs, which are working closely with the country's giant union.


According to her, MMC has identified over 300 teachers whose salaries were not deducted. "To us, this is a recommendable effort and we're appealing to other local government authorities to emulate the spirit," she suggested.

Elias further said that the TTU new regime needs committed leaders as to avoid unnecessary disputes for the smooth operation of the 27-year-old trade union.

According to her, Kilombero District will be the next to cross-check the number of active member of the union.

TTU was formed for the purpose of advocating for and promoting the rights of teachers in Tanzania. It is a voice of teachers in the country where it seeks to inform teachers on their rights.

"So, we're currently cross-checking to know the exact number of teachers who are TTU active members and from there we'll see how this will be addressed"



African Trade Insurance Agency
Agence pour l'Assurance du Commerce en Afrique

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AT ATI

Senior Accountant, Senior ESG Officer, Senior Actuary and Credit Analyst

The African Trade Insurance Agency ("ATI") is a pan-African multilateral financial institution established in 2001 by African States. ATI was originally launched with the technical and financial support from the World Bank Group and has had more recent support from the African Development Bank. ATI has grown into a market leader for risk mitigation in Africa, establishing itself as Africa's primary trade and investment insurer and one of Africa's largest Development Finance Institutions with an outstanding portfolio exceeding US\$6bn at year end 2019.

ATI provides political and credit risk insurance to companies, investors and lenders doing business in Africa. For over a decade, ATI has maintained an A rating for Financial Strength and Counterparty Credit by Standard & Poor's, and in 2019 obtained a second A3/Stable rating from Moody's. ATI's membership includes African Member States as well as a number of corporate and institutional shareholders. Besides its head office in Nairobi, ATI currently has offices in Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

Working at ATI offers unique career opportunities. Candidates are invited to apply for the following open positions: **Senior Accountant, Senior Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG) Officer, Senior Actuary and Credit Analyst.**

Role Descriptions
The role descriptions and fuller details of the duties are posted on ATI's website www.ati-aca.org

Qualifications, Experience and other Attributes
The successful candidates must have suitable qualifications, experience and attributes as indicated under the respective job descriptions on ATI's website. All the roles require excellent communications skills in written and spoken English. Knowledge of French and an ability to work in a multi-cultural environment, will be an added advantage.

How to Apply:

- i) Please submit an **Application Letter, Personal History Form** (this may be downloaded from the ATI website), **CV, plus details of your current remuneration package along with details of three referees to recruitment@ati-aca.org**
- ii) For a detailed job description of each role, please visit ATI's website <http://www.ati-aca.org/about-us/current-opportunities/>
- iii) The closing date for application is **Saturday, 11 July 2020** at Midnight Nairobi time
- iv) ATI will only contact those applicants who are being actively considered for an interview

ATI offers a competitive salary and benefits package and a collegial working environment commensurate with other multilaterals. ATI reserves the right to not make an appointment to the above vacancies, or to make an appointment at a slightly higher or lower grade, or to make an appointment with a modified job description.

www.ati-aca.org

Chief Credit Officer

Ref 32237

Our Client, **NMB Bank Plc.**, is seeking to recruit a **Chief Credit Officer (CCO)** who will provide strategic leadership to the Credit, Loan Center and Special Assets Management functions and provide oversight of all aspects of lending operations as well as participate in Management and other committee meetings in support of the bank's overall strategy and in supporting the bank's day to day operations, ensuring loan portfolio growth, risk management and contribution to earnings. The CCO will also enforce ongoing training in best of breed credit analysis, credit management and data analytic trends.

Responsibilities

- Assist the bank in meeting its overall business plan goals and maximizing loan profitability within the bank's defined risk framework, particularly in relation to portfolio at risk and non performing loans.
- Develop, implement, and monitor compliance with credit policies, procedures and practices that strategically support the bank's risk objectives.
- Supervise and coach the teams on credit analysis, credit quality assurance (support and monitor branches in all credit matters), credit admin (loans documentation and collateral), (monitoring, collections and central disbursements of all retail and MSE loans) and special asset management.
- Participate in strategic planning, credit policy development, and credit quality management of the bank.
- Oversee regulatory compliance with BOT regulations in credit domain.
- Submit accurate and timely reports as required by the Board, Board Committees and executive management and regulatory agencies.
- Work with the business units, Compliance & Risk Department and HR to assure that training and education relating to lending rules and regulations are effective.
- Oversight of Special Assets Management department to assure collections and recovery functions are well defined and effective in meeting the overall objectives of the bank.
- Balances between risk mitigation and commercial banking.
- Periodic self-assessment of (credit) risk and controls.

Attributes

- Proven track record in credit operations in a very competitive environment.
- Possess an intimate knowledge of credit analysis, bespoke deal structuring and risk mitigation as well as best practice loan/deal management post origination.
- Broad and detailed technical knowledge of general banking practices and procedures (including wholesale).
- In-depth understanding of full range of banking business (including wholesale), market management and market segmentation i.e. "Market competent".
- Ability to quickly obtain an in-depth understanding of the bank's strategy, operating structure and interfaces with other functions.
- Preferably knowledge of competitor and local market activity.

Qualifications & Experience

- Master's degree in Finance or a related field gained from a recognized university or an accounting certification e.g. CPA/ACCA/CIMA, or at least 15 years appropriate experience in credit management with at least 5 years at a senior level in institutions recognized for good credit management. Post grad qualifications in banking is an added advantage
- Proven track record in a heading credit management in banking



Key Competencies required are Execution, Collaboration, Business Judgement, Intellectual Potential, Change Potential and Independent

How To Apply

Email your CV and application letter to jerome@radarrecruitment.com stating the Reference Number **32237** in the subject line.

To view the full job description go to www.radarrecruitment.co.tz and enter the Job Reference Number in the search field.

The closing date for applications is **Friday 26th June 2020**.
Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

www.radarrecruitment.com

UNWTO releases guidelines to promote tourism post Covid-19

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

THE World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) has released a set of guidelines to help the tourism sector bounce back stronger and more sustainable after Covid-19 across the world including Tanzania.

The guidelines provide both governments and businesses with a comprehensive set of measures designed to help open tourism up again in a safe, seamless and responsible manner.

A report from UNWTO seen by The Guardian highlights the need to act decisively to restore confidence and embracing innovation for digital transformation of global tourism.

The guidelines were produced in consultation with the Global Tourism Crisis Committee and aim to support governments and private sector to recover from an unparalleled crisis. Depending on when travel restrictions are lifted.

The global tourism body warns that international tourist arrivals could fall by between 60 percent and 80 percent. This puts 100-120 million jobs at risk and could lead to US\$ 910 billion to US\$ 1.2 trillion lost in exports.

UNWTO Secretary-General Zurab Pololikashvili said: "These guidelines provide both governments and businesses with a comprehensive set of measures designed to help them open tourism up again in a safe, seamless and responsible manner."

Highlighting on safe and security protocols for tourism recovery, it indicate that the new guide, a follow up of the recommendations for action already endorsed by the committee is focused on seven priorities for tourism recovery based on the pillars of mitigating the economic impact, developing safety protocols and coordinated responses and fostering innovation.

The guidelines highlight the importance of restoring the confidence

of the travelers through safety and security protocols designed to reduce risks in each step of the tourism value chain.

These protocols include the implementation of check procedures where appropriate, including temperature scans, testing, physical distancing, enhanced frequency of cleaning and the provision of hygiene kits for safe air travel, hospitality services or safe events.

The UNWTO guidelines also highlight the opportunity to foster a digital transformation of destinations, companies and employees with initiatives such as the free online training with the UNWTO Online Academy and the implementation of apps such as the Hi Card to improve international interoperability at the airports and hotels.

The role of technology in promoting social distancing in hotels and tourist destinations is also highlighted.

This comes as UNWTO strengthens its partnership with Google. Through this enhanced collaboration, the UN agency will work with Google to promote digital learning and online skills training so as to provide new opportunities across the global tourism sector.

Pololikashvili added: "We are thrilled to be working more closely with Google. The past weeks have highlighted the enhanced role technology plays in our lives and furthering the digital transformation of tourism will make the sector more resilient and create opportunities for people all around the world," he says.

The committee comprises representatives of UNWTO's Member States and Affiliate Members, alongside the World Health Organisation (WHO), the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), World Bank Group and the International Maritime Organisation (IMO).



Water ministry permanent secretary Prof Kitila Mkumbo takes part in the digging of a tunnel in which to lay a pipe to supply water to Chato airport in Geita Region, as captured yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Mohamed Saif

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Zanzibar government has mobilised itself in the implementation of special plan to fight the Covid-19 pandemic that will ensure the country's economic recovery after its effects.

Zanzibar Minister for Finance and Planning Amb Mohamed Ramia Abdiwawa expressed so while responding to issues raised by Members of the House of Representatives when contributing to the ministry's budget estimates.

He said the plan to revive the economy after the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic is being coordinated in collaboration with the

Z'bar devising plan for post Covid-19 economic recovery

mainland government through the Bank of Tanzania (BoT).

He said BoT has formed a team to look into the effects that have come up from the pandemic and will involve Zanzibar government officials.

He said among groups to receive priority in the post-pandemic period include entrepreneurs in various businesses.

He congratulated international

financial institutions including the World Bank (WB) for their trust in Zanzibar in various projects implemented from their sponsorship.

He said the projects included the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) which the WB has sanctioned funds for another phase whose aim is to reach more than 200 households that has not yet benefited.

He told members of the House

of Representatives that during its visit in the country a team of WB officials inspected TASAF projects and expressed their satisfaction on the fund's right use to the targeted households.

The World Bank has already sanctioned funds for TASAF implemented by the union government aimed at rescuing households in abject poverty.



Hellen Massanja, who conducts steam-based therapy, introduces the practice at a tourism stakeholders meeting held in Zanzibar on Wednesday. Photo: Correspondent Martin Kabemba

New Mbarali District hospital begins operations

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbarali

NEW Mbarali District hospital in Mbeya Region under construction at the cost of more than 1.5bn/- is now 90 percent complete and is already offering some health services to the citizens.

This was revealed yesterday by the Mbarali District Executive Director (DED) Kivuma Msangi at the final councillors' meeting sitting in Rujewa Town.

He said as of now the hospital has started offering some health services including those in the Community Development Department and Out

Patients Department (OPD) while the offices of the District Medical Officer (DMO) also shifted to the hospital's premises.

"In the five year period of the fifth phase government our council started building the new district hospital and the central government assisted us with 1.5bn/-, and I am pleased to see our hospital is now 90 percent complete and has started offering medical services to the people," Msangi said.

He said in order to fully complete the project, recently the central government has provided extra 300m/- to ensure the hospital's

essential infrastructures needed are finalised, adding that the extra funds will be used to complete the laboratory, ultra-sound, vaccination, pharmacy buildings as well as the incinerator for solid waste.

"Out of the extra funds 25m/- will be used for the ultrasound wing, 48m/- to pay contractors and technicians, 17m/- for the completion of the laboratory wing and 27m/- for the incinerator," Msangi said.

He said in addition to the government good intention in seeing the hospital is completed,

there are other issues to be finalised before the people start enjoying the hospital services.

He said among these is the improvement to the infrastructures, in particular roads to the hospital as well as asking relevant authorities for enabling the provision of public transport for patients to easily come to the hospital.

He said even though the hospital has begun offering services to the public, the old hospital will continue to offer health services to the people until all essential infrastructures are in place at the new hospital.

Food value chain stakeholders counselled to maintain safety

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

STAKEHOLDERS along the food value chain have been urged to put in place a strong management system during production, processing and distribution that would ensure food safety.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam, a senior food safety officer with Tanzania Bureau of Standards, Dr Analice Kamala said everyone is at risk of getting a food borne illness.

However, some groups of people are more likely to develop one.

These include: older adults, young children, people with immune systems weakened from medical conditions, such as diabetes, liver disease, kidney disease, organ transplants, or HIV/AIDS, or from receiving chemotherapy or radiation treatment and pregnant women.

She was speaking during commemoration of second World Food Safety Day, celebrated at national level in Dar es Salaam.

Dr Kamala said the main objective of having strong food safety systems is to ensure that food available within a country is safe, wholesome and fit for human consumption.

As such, food control systems protect the health and safety of consumers and help assure the safety and quality of foods being traded both nationally and internationally.

She said, in order to operate effectively, a food control system requires appropriate legal and policy instruments, well-qualified human resources, sound institutional frameworks as well as equipment and infrastructure including access to laboratories and public education.

She further said, food becomes unsafe for human consumption when is exposed to hazardous agents which result in contamination of that food. Food hazards may be biological, chemical or physical in nature.

Narrating, TBS official said biological hazards include pathogenic organisms such as bacteria, viruses and parasites.

Biological hazards can be found in the air, food, water, animals, and in the human body and introduced to food from the environment such as soil bacteria, agricultural run-off or from inadequate sanitation practices and cross contamination during transportation, handling, processing, and storage example poor food hygiene practices.

The type and magnitude of microbial growth is determined in part by the nature

of the food, package conditions and storage environment.

Regarding chemical hazards, she said, this type of hazards occurs when chemicals are present in foods at levels that can be hazardous to humans. Some chemical hazards include naturally occurring chemicals, such as mycotoxins, intentionally added chemicals, including the preservative, and intentional use of chemicals such as pesticides and veterinary drugs.

Dr Kamala said physical hazards are objects that are found in food products and can be considered hazardous due to its hardness, sharpness, size or shape.

They are either naturally found in the specific food item, such as stems in fruit, bones in meat or fish or not normally part of the food item, such as piece of glass or metals. It may cause lacerations, perforations and wounds or may become a choking hazard.

She also pointed out that, unsafe food can have negative impacts on both healths and economy. Health effects resulting from unsafe food can be acute including diarrhea, vomiting, or other gastrointestinal manifestations such as dysentery or chronic renal disease, cardiac and neurologic disorders, and nutritional and other malabsorptive disorders in nature causing a number of different diseases, from relatively mild cases of food poisoning to deadly infections and cancer.

Unsafe food causes clear economic impacts, due to treatment of the sick people due to foodborne diseases, lost or reduced manpower, reduced sales of food products in both local and international market, as well as food insecurity as the contaminated food should be destructed.

The second World Food Safety Day (WFSYD) was celebrated globally on June 7, with the theme "Food safety, everyone's business", to draw attention and inspire action to help prevent, detect and manage foodborne risks, contributing to food security, human health, economic prosperity, agriculture, market access, tourism and sustainable development.

The Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) joined the world to celebrate the day focusing on food safety awareness creation and calling upon all stakeholders along the food value chain to take action in order to reduce the burden of food borne diseases and its negative impact on the economy.



Expansion of Dar es Salaam's River Ng'ombe gets under way at the Kwa Mtogole section in Kinondoni District yesterday. The idea is to ensure that the river no longer bursts its banks, with water invading residential and other buildings. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Momba District water project benefits over 22,000 villagers

By Guardian Correspondent, Momba

MORE than 22,000 residents of Tindingoma and Chitete villages in Momba District, Songwe Region are now benefiting from 1bn/- water project.

Speaking to visiting reporters, the villagers who for a long time faced scarcity of safe and clean water said they are now relieved as the completion of the project has been a solution to their water woes.

Julian Daid from Chitete village said they had to use dirty water which they fetched after walking long distances especially during dry seasons hence they were unable to do other chores.

"Since we were born... and now I am very old, our village had an acute water scarcity, but now I thank the government for bringing to us water which we draw at all times through pipes installed by the government," Juliana said.

Another villager Prisca Tadeo said they were depending on water from rivers and streams but many of these used to dry up in dry seasons, hence they were content using unclean water that was also used by livestock.

Momba District Planning Officer Geoffrey Mwambasi, representing the

district's executive director said the project is 85 percent complete and already five centres out of 11 have been completed and are used by villages' residents.

He said pipes have been laid in regard to other centres and added that what remained was to finalise water drawing infrastructure for people to start getting water. "Our plan in the project is to reach 25,000 people who used to walk long distances - three to four kms to fetch water. We are using emergency funds from force account so that the entire project is completed as soon as possible," he said.

“Our plan in the project is to reach 25,000 people who used to walk long distances – three to four kms to fetch water. We are using emergency funds from force account so that the entire project is completed as soon as possible”

By Guardian Reporter, Musoma

Suspension of construction at regional hospital irks Mabula

DEPUTY Minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development Dr Angeline Mabula has shown her displeasure over the suspension of infrastructure construction at the strategic Mara Region's Referral Hospital at Kwanga in Musoma Municipality by the project's Consulting Advisor - ARU Environment Consulting Company Ltd (ABECC).

Speaking in Musoma mid this week during her inspection visit of the project, Dr Mabula said she cannot understand what spurred the consulting advisor to disrupt the hospital project costing 15,082,481,832,82/- while it is among

strategic projects which President John Magufuli provided funds for their completion.

She said only the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, the project's employer has the mandate to take such kind of decision, and not the consulting

advisor.

She said the National Housing Corporation (NHC) who are the project's contractors, have done a great job to ensure it is completed in time as some of the funds used - 1,657,755,635.25/- was beyond that provided by the employer.

NHC Manager for Mara Region Goodluck Thomas told the Deputy Lands Minister that the corporation had faced various challenges during the project's implementation, including the suspension of the infrastructure construction and purchase of door locks.

He said in dealing with these challenges the NHC has communicated with the consultant and the Health Ministry explaining the effects from the decision to suspend infrastructure construction in their letters dated May 13 and June 3 2020 with ref NHC/GEN/1427/27/GM and NHC/

GEN/1427/28/GM respectively.

Musoma Member of Parliament Vedasto Mihayo also displayed his pleasure over the suspension of some of the work on the project's infrastructure taking into consideration the fact that the referral hospital is eagerly being awaited by the region's residents.

NHC was assigned with the project's implementation of its four phases on August 15 2019 and up to now the work completed included the building of additional areas, water supply and power infrastructures that have been completed by 80 percent.

Other areas completed are the hospital's mortuary, washing rooms, workshop and the incinerator.

AfDB announces resignation of vice president

By Chike Olishah

THE African Development Bank (AfDB) has announced the resignation of its Vice President for Agriculture, Human and Social Development, Dr Jennifer Blanke, with effect from July 4.

This was confirmed by the AfDB through a tweet post on the bank's official Twitter handle on Wednesday June 11, 2020.

Jennifer Blanke, who joined the bank in early 2017 and has overseen a number of the bank's key programmes, pointed out that her decision to leave was purely for family reasons. She intends to rejoin her family in Switzerland after a very fulfilling time at the bank.

The statement from the bank said:

"The African Development Bank has announced that Dr Jennifer Blanke, Vice President for Agriculture, Human and Social Development, will be leaving the bank effective July 4, 2020."

Blanke said: "I thank President Akinwumi Adesina for his strong leadership, guidance and support which have undoubtedly motivated and helped my team and I to play a key role in the transformation of the bank. I feel privileged to have been given an opportunity to contribute to the bank's agenda for accelerating Africa's social and economic transformation."

Going further, the outgoing Vice President said, "I am leaving purely for family reasons to rejoin my family in Switzerland after a very fulfilling time

at the bank. I will miss the bank and the excellent team we have built. I will continue to strongly support the bank from wherever I am."

Meanwhile, in his own message, the President of the Bank, Akinwumi Adesina, expressed his delight at working with Dr. Jennifer Blanke over the past three and a half years. He said that she had demonstrated genuine leadership skills and wished her all the best.

It can be recalled the AfDB has been bedevilled with a leadership crisis as the United States, the second-largest shareholder, had asked for an independent probe of the bank's President, following series of allegations by a group of whistleblowers.



Dar es Salaam regional commissioner Paul Makonda (L) talks with members of an interfaith committee after a meeting focused on the need for peace and harmony during the General Election lined up for this October. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

The United Republic of Tanzania
President's Office
TANZANIA SOCIAL ACTION FUND

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The TASAF Executive Director is inviting applications from suitably qualified Tanzanian nationals to fill the below vacant posts:

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7. Technical Support Manager	1 post
8. Procurement Officer	1 post
9. Assistant Procurement Officer	1 post
10. Program Officer Public Works and Infrastructure	1 post
11. Development Communication Officer	1 post
12. Legal Officer	1 post
13. Internal Auditor	2 posts
14. Registry Officer	1 post
15. Driver	2 posts
16. Motor Vehicle Mechanic	2 posts
17. TASAF Monitoring Officer	23 posts

Job Descriptions and required qualifications for these posts are available in TASAF website www.tasaf.go.tz

How to apply:
1) a) Applications, enclosing scanned certified copies of certificates and Curriculum Vitae be sent to the following address:

Executive Director
Tanzania Social Action Fund
Board of Trustees of PSSSF Building
Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Road
P.O. Box 2719
DODOMA.

OR

b) Applications (In PDF Format), enclosing scanned certified copies of certificates and Curriculum Vitae be sent through the following email address: hmr@tasaf.go.tz

2) Applications made in a way other than the above will not be considered,
3) Deadline for receiving applications is 9th July, 2020,
4) Those who will not hear from us, 14 days after the deadline, should consider themselves as unsuccessful.

Ladislaus J. Mwamanga
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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COVID-19: Children merit more protection now than ever before

NOT all work done by children should be classified as child labour that is to be targeted for elimination. Children's or adolescents' participation in work that does not affect their health and personal development or interfere with their schooling, is generally regarded as being something positive.

This includes activities such as helping their parents around the home, assisting in a family business or earning pocket money outside school hours and during school holidays. These kinds of activities contribute to children's development and to the welfare of their families; they provide them with skills and experience, and help to prepare them to be productive members of society during their adult life.

The term "child labour" is often defined as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development. It refers to work that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children; and/or interferes with their schooling by: depriving them of the opportunity to attend school; obliging them to leave school prematurely; or requiring them to attempt to combine school attendance with excessively long and heavy work.

The worst forms of child labour involves children being enslaved, separated from their families, exposed to serious hazards and illnesses and/or left to fend for themselves on the streets of large cities - often at a very early age. Whether or not particular forms of "work" can be called "child labour" depends on the child's age, the type and hours of work performed, the conditions under which it is performed and the objectives pursued by individual countries. The answer varies from country to country, as well as among sectors within countries.

World Day Against Child Labour on June 12, this year will focus on the impact of crisis on child labour. The COVID-19 health pandemic and the resulting economic and labour market shock are having a huge impact on people's lives and livelihoods.

Unfortunately, children are often the first to suffer. The crisis can push millions of vulnerable children into child labour. Already, there are an estimated 152 million children in child labour, 72 million of which are in hazardous work. These children are now at even greater risk of facing circumstances that are even more difficult and working longer hours.

This year, the World Day will be conducted as a virtual campaign and is being organised jointly with the Global March Against Child Labour and the International Partnership for Cooperation on Child Labour in Agriculture (IPCCLA).

The World Day Against Child Labour is an International Labour Organization (ILO)-sanctioned event first launched in 2002 aiming to raise awareness and activism to prevent child labour. It was spurred by ratifications of ILO Convention on the minimum age for employment and ILO Convention on the worst forms of child labour.

The World Day Against Child Labour, which is held every year on June 12, is intended to foster the worldwide movement against child labour in any of its forms.

The International Labour Organisation the United Nations body that regulates the world of work, launched the World Day Against Child Labour in 2002 in order to bring attention and join efforts to fight against child labour. This day brings together governments, local authorities, civil society and international, workers and employers organisations to point out the child labour problem and define the guidelines to help child labourers.

According to ILO's data, hundreds of millions of girls and boys throughout the world are involved in work that deprives them of receiving an adequate education, health, leisure and basic freedoms, violating this way their rights. Of these children, more than half are exposed to the worst forms of child labour. These worst forms of child labour include work in hazardous environments, slavery, or other forms of forced labour, illicit activities such as drug trafficking and prostitution, as well as involvement in armed conflict.

Biogas technology slowly but surely growing popular among Tanzanians

BIOGAS is the mixture of gases produced by the breakdown of organic matter in the absence of oxygen (anaerobically), primarily consisting of methane and carbon dioxide. Biogas can be produced from raw materials such as agricultural waste, manure, municipal waste, plant material, sewage, green waste or food waste. Biogas is a renewable energy source. Biogas is produced by anaerobic digestion with methanogen or anaerobic organisms, which digest material inside a closed system, or fermentation of biodegradable materials.

Biogas can be compressed after removal of Carbon dioxide, the same way as natural gas is compressed to CNG, and used to power motor vehicles. In the United Kingdom, for example, biogas is estimated to have the potential to replace around 17 per cent of vehicle fuel. It qualifies for renewable energy subsidies in some parts of the world. Biogas can be cleaned and upgraded to natural gas standards, when it becomes bio-methane.

Biogas is considered to be a renewable resource because its production-and-use cycle is continuous, and it generates no net carbon dioxide. As the organic material grows, it is converted and used. It then regrows in a continually repeating cycle. From a carbon perspective, as much carbon dioxide is absorbed from the atmosphere in the growth of the primary bio-resource as is released, when the material is ultimately converted to energy.

The acting director of the Centre for Agricultural Mechanisation and Rural Technology (Camartec), Pythias Ntella, said recently that the institution had already employed more than 10,000 people in Tanzania with biogas technology.

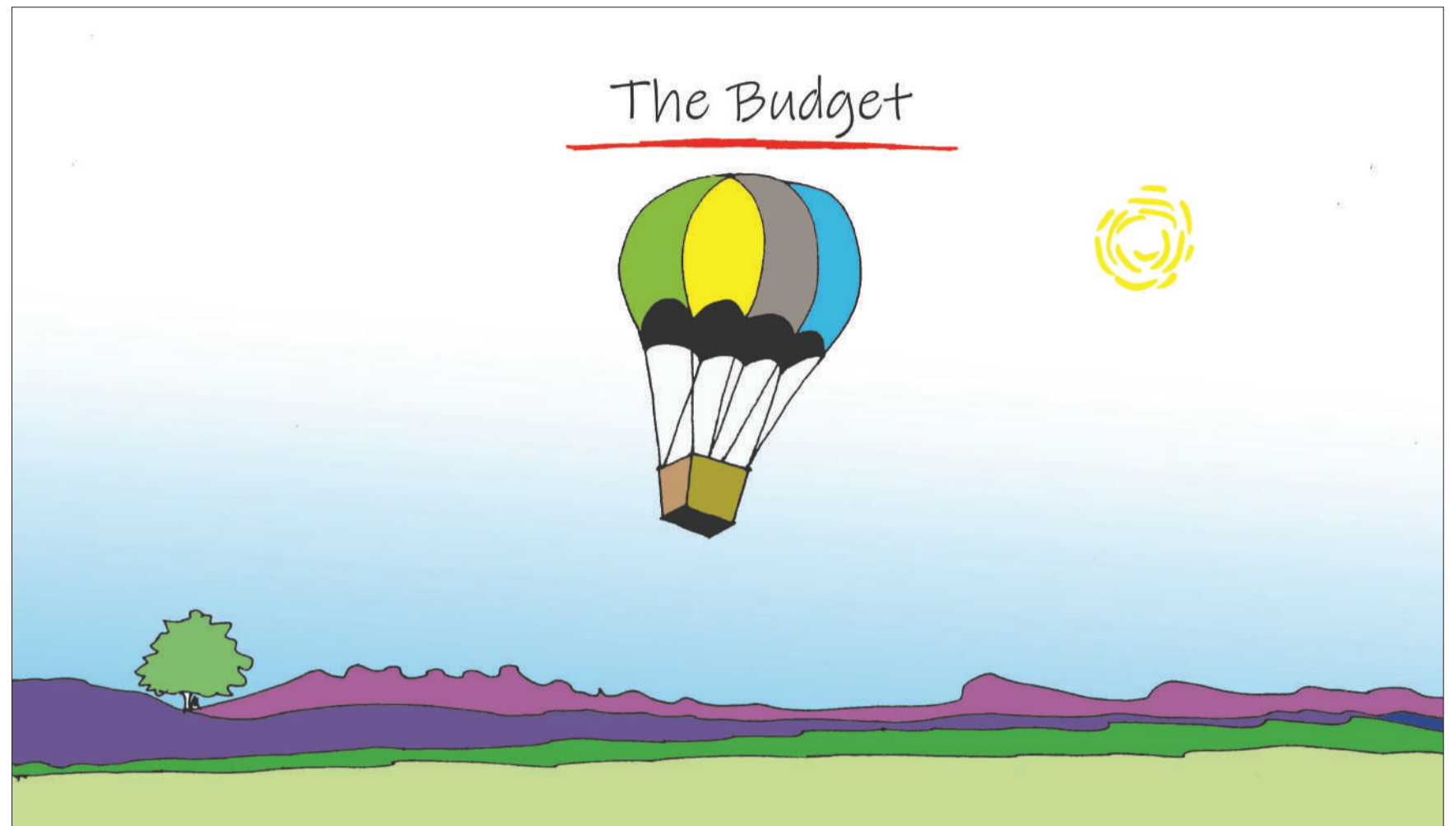
These figures were made public at a workshop on renewable energy in Dar es Salaam, organised by Hivos East Africa Nukta Africa, an international development organization, and Journalists for Environment (JET), a Tanzanian organisation of media professionals. The workshop aimed to train journalists in the country to enable them to improve the quality and quantity of reporting in the field of renewable energy.

Camartec, a government organisation responsible for the production and marketing of agricultural implements in Tanzania, introduced biogas technology to the country in 1983, in collaboration with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), a German international development cooperation agency. To carry out its activities, the institution needed an abundant workforce.

More than 10,000 temporary and over 100 permanent jobs have been created over the years. Thanks to this labour force, Camartec has already built 12,000 facilities (biogas digesters and tanks) for households and 125 facilities for various institutions (schools, companies...) in Tanzania. Communities have also received training in the use of biogas.

The biogas plants set up by Camartec use animal waste such as cow dung to make clean and cheap fuel. These plants are also used to produce electrical energy for household use.

Despite the Camartec's good results, much remains to be done. The centre needs more employees to work in its biogas plants in order to produce more electricity to supply the population. The Tanzanian company also needs funds to monitor and evaluate the implemented facilities.



Walking into another debt trap

By Special Correspondent

IN March this year, the National Assembly approved a foreign loan of \$2.7 billion under the 2016-2018 Medium Term External Borrowing (Rolling) plan. About \$17.06 billion of the total loans will be provided by China's Eximbank, while the World Bank, African Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank and German Development Bank are also in the mix of the new borrowings. Although it remains unclear if the country is also going ahead with its plan to sell a \$3.3 billion Eurobond this year to refinance existing maturing loans, the National Assembly last week approved for President Muhammadu Buhari a loan of \$5.5 billion to finance the current budget as well as address socio-economic realities foisted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

While borrowing is inevitable, especially at a period like this, there are serious concerns at the rate these debts are being piled up in Nigeria. Aside the fact that the funds are not being

deployed into projects that generate income, borrowing should not be done in such a way to mortgage the future of the country and its sovereignty, as we now see with some African countries and China.

In the revised 2020, budget, debt service provision rose from N2.453 trillion to N2.678 trillion. Debt service provision was also increased from N2.453 trillion to N2.678 trillion and the federal government is to fund the fiscal plan with N5.58 trillion. As of 31st December 2019, Nigeria's total debt stock stood at about N27.4 trillion and in the past few months, more have been added.

Experts within Nigeria and multilateral lenders have continued to advise against increased borrowing and mounting debt amid plummeting revenues. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has in recent times sounded notes of caution that the federal government should not hide under the mantra of debt-to-gross domestic product (GDP) ratio

for debt accumulation. In its 2020 Macroeconomic Outlook, the Nigeria Economic Summit Group (NESG) also stated that "Nigeria's mounting debt profile is a major concern despite the country having about \$900 billion worth of dead capital in properties and agricultural lands (PwC Nigeria, 2019)."

While we understand the funding challenge that has now been compounded by COVID-19 and the collapsed oil prices, the federal government must understand that we cannot borrow our way into prosperity. To tackle the revenue challenge, the NESG has reaffirmed the recommendation of several other stakeholders that the federal government should consider unlocking finance and economic growth by the commercialisation or privatisation of many dead capital/assets. They include the National Arts Theatre; the national stadium in Lagos and Abuja; Tafawa Balewa Square, Lagos; and the Federal Nursing Hospital, Ikoyi, Lagos, and several others.

We hope the federal government will

consider the counsel of the MPC of CBN and other stakeholders that there is a need to build fiscal buffers against the growing impact of the country's high debt profile. Sadly, there are bigger challenges in many of the 36 states.

The current governors on assumption of office complained of inheriting heavily indebted states on account of funds taken from the capital market by their predecessors. But many of these governors have also gone to secure their own loans which they also expect future governments in their states to repay. Aside the fact that many of the states can hardly meet their routine obligations after servicing their monthly debts, most of the loans were not deployed to tangible projects.

While it is understandable that the federal government would borrow to bridge the huge infrastructural gap in the country, there are growing concerns about repayments. It is therefore incumbent on the authorities in Abuja and the 36 states to reflect on the implications of the debt burden on the future of our country.

By Nidhi Nagabhatla Reprint

DO migrants willingly choose to flee their homes, or is migration the only option available? There is no clear, one-size-fits-all explanation for a decision to migrate - a choice that will be made today by many people worldwide, and by an ever-rising number in years to come because of a lack of access to water, climate disasters, a health crisis and other problems.

Data are scarce on the multiple causes, or "push factors," limiting our understanding of migration. What we can say, though, is that context is everything.

UN University researchers and others far beyond have been looking for direct and indirect links between migration and the water crisis, which has different faces - unsafe water in many places, chronic flooding or drought in others.

The challenge is separating those push factors from the social, economic, and political conditions that contribute to the multi-dimensional realities of vulnerable migrant populations, all of them simply striving for dignity, safety, stability, and sustainability in their lives.

A new report, 'Water and Migration: A Global Overview,' from UNU's Institute for Water, Environment and Health, offers insights into water and migration interlinkages, and suggests how to tackle existing gaps and needs.

Its information can be understood easily by stakeholders and proposes ideas for better informed migration-

Water, climate, conflict and migration: Coping with a billion people by 2050

related policymaking, including a three-dimensional framework applicable by scholars and planners at multiple scales and in various settings.

The Report also describes some discomforting patterns and trends, among them:

- By 2050, a combination of water and climate-driven problems and conflicts will force 1 billion people to migrate, not by choice but as their only option;
- Links to the climate change and water crises are becoming more evident in a dominant trend: rural-urban migration;
- That said, there is a severe lack of quantitative information and understanding re. direct and indirect water and climate-related drivers of migration, limiting effective management options at local, national, regional, and global scales
- Global agreements, institutions, and policies on migration are concerned mostly with response mechanisms. Needed is a balanced approach that addresses water, climate, and other environmental drivers of migration
- Unregulated migration can lead to rapid, unplanned, and unsustainable settlements and urbanization, causing pressure on water demand and increasing the health risks and burdens for migrants as well as hosting states and communities

Migration should be formally recognized as an adaptation strategy for water and climate crises. While it is viewed as a 'problem,' in fact it forms part of a 'solution'

Migration reflects the systemic inequalities and social justice issues pertaining to water rights and climate change adaptation. Lack of access to water, bad water quality, and a lack of support for those impacted by extreme water-related situations constitute barriers to a sustainable future for humankind.

Case studies in the report provide concrete examples of the migration consequences in water and climate troubled situations:

- The shrinking of Lake Chad in Africa and the Aral Sea in Central Asia
 - The saga of Honduran refugees
 - The rapid urbanization of the Nile delta, and
 - The plight of island nations facing both rising seas and more frequent, more intense extreme weather events.
- In addition, the added health burdens imposed on people and communities by water pollution and contamination create vicious cycles of poverty, inequality and forced mobility.
- While the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agenda does not include an explicit migration target, its mitigation should be considered in the context of SDGs that aim to strengthen

capacities related to water, gender, climate, and institutions. These issues resonate even as the world deals with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Recent news stories have chronicled the plight of desperate migrant workers trapped in the COVID-19 crisis in India, and of displaced people in refugee camps where social distancing is unachievable, as is access to soap and water, the most basic preventive measure against the disease.

Add to that the stigma, discrimination, and xenophobia endured by migrants that continue to rise during the pandemic.

Even at this moment, with the world fixated on the pandemic crisis, we cannot afford to put migration's long-term causes on the back burner.

While the cost of responses may cause concerns, the cost of no decisions will certainly surpass that. There may be no clear, simple solution but having up-to-date evidence and data will surely help.

On World Environment Day, last week (June 5), we were all encouraged to consider human interdependencies with nature.

Let us also acknowledge that water and climate-related disasters, ecological degradation and other environmental burdens causes economic, health and wellbeing disparities for migrants and populations living in vulnerable settings.

Don't ask what caused the spike in cases. Ask what the country will do about them

By Yasmin Tayag

CORONAVIRUS case counts are rising in 21 states in the United States. The obvious question is: Why?

Fingers are pointing in many directions. President Donald Trump blames the ongoing protests against racism and police brutality. He also argues that the increase in testing will inevitably result in higher case counts.

Public health experts, meanwhile, say it's all because the US rushed to reopen states. The Washington Post reports a sharp rise in hospitalisations since Memorial Day (for the US) – the last Monday of May, meaning May 25 for this year.

The unfortunate confluence of these events will make it extremely difficult – if not impossible – to determine the exact cause of each spike.

While increased testing is indeed catching more cases, health experts interviewed by NBC widely agreed that the spikes we're seeing are due to the reopening of states and the relaxed social distancing. Other experts have raised concerns about the political narrative being spun around the protests.

"The president has a transparent motive to link a rise in #COVID19 to #peacefulprotests against police brutality. However, reopening entire states nationwide is far more risky than targeted protests in select cities," wrote Dr Rob Davidson, executive director of the Committee to Protect Medicare, in a viral tweet thread.

The New York Times reports that 15 cases nationally have been linked to protests, though those links must be appraised carefully. Kansas's Parsons Sun, for example, reported that a person who attended a local protest recently tested positive the very next day, but the incubation period for the virus is estimated to be between 3 and 14 days, with a median of 5 days.

Abraar Karan, MD, MPH, an internal medicine doctor at the Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School, previously stated: "Getting a test the day after a protest would not be as useful and you may still develop infection days

later."

The most effective use of public energy amid all this uncertainty would be to prepare to deal with the consequences of the spikes, whatever their cause: girding hospitals for a wave of people with Covid-19 and containing the spread in areas where spikes have occurred.

Many states are currently unprepared in this regard. Before the country reopened, experts repeatedly raised concerns that it was risky to reopen states that had no plan to deal with potential spikes, like the ones we're seeing now.

Andy Slavitt, a former head of the Centres for Medicare and Medicaid Services, wrote about the lessons to be learned from the crisis unfolding in Arizona – which is seeing an uptick in cases and is running out of hospital beds.

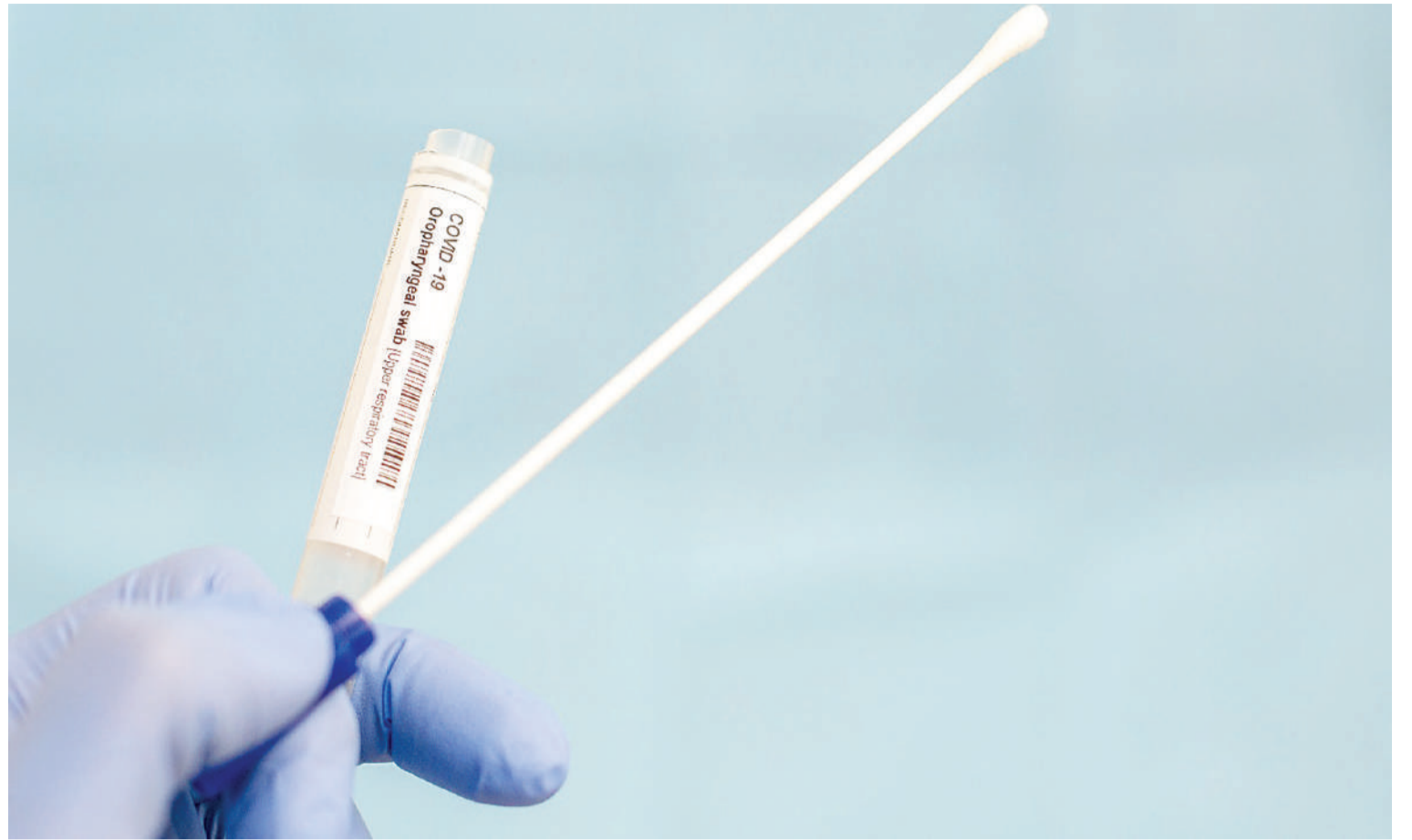
The state's hospitals have had to activate emergency plans. Meanwhile, the president "has refused to even respond to the pleas of the hospitals", Slavitt writes. He adds: "What's happening in Arizona will happen and is happening in different states at different times."

A major concern in Arizona is that it lacks the capacity for contact tracing, a process that identifies the individuals who have come into contact with infected people so they can be quarantined.

Contact tracing is a well-established tool for controlling an epidemic – it was crucial in the elimination of the coronavirus in New Zealand and Iceland – but it requires a lot of human-power to call strangers and ask them about their recent activities.

Many states do not have the contact tracing capacity needed to reopen safely. At the beginning of May, NPR created a map of states whose contact tracing forces met the need estimated by public health officials, and the vast majority did not meet them. Some states are working to increase their capacity, but some experts still caution that it's not enough.

There are other obstacles to the process, too. Contact tracing can feel invasive for people who are concerned about their privacy and who don't understand why it's important. In Louisiana, for



example, millions have been spent on contact tracing, but people are not picking up their phones.

Adding to privacy concerns is the fact that a Minnesota police officer used contact tracing as an analogy for police surveillance of protesters.

Some have argued that it was the government's responsibility to educate the public about the value of contact tracing. Jeremy Konyndyk, a senior policy fellow at the Centre for Global Development, said in an interview with NBC: "It's a massive messaging failure from this administration."

Meanwhile, a US\$3 trillion relief package narrowly passed last month by House Democrats, which included \$75 billion

for contact tracing, has been rejected by Senate Republicans.

Regions without sufficient contact tracing are left to figure out how to cope with the consequences of reopening. In New Jersey, for example, local health departments have scrambled to recruit volunteers and train employees to do contact tracing on their own because they have not received sufficient funding from the state.

"We were bombarded with positive

cases and didn't have enough people doing investigations in a reasonable amount of time. We understand that this is not something that happens overnight, but it's now June," Paschal Nwako, the health officer for the Camden County Department of Health, said in an interview with the New Jersey Herald.

• **Yasmin Tayag is senior editor at OneZero at Medium covering science.**

Unsung heroines: Who cares for the carers?

KUALA LUMPUR

EVEN before Covid-19, the world was facing a care crisis. The plight of often neglected, under-appreciated, under-protected and poorly equipped 'frontline' health personnel working to contain the pandemic has drawn attention to the tip of the care crisis iceberg.

Rising care work burden

Ageing populations as well as cuts to public services and social protection were making matters worse, increasing the burden on carers, or care givers/providers, regardless of their employment status.

Elderly people need long-term care as they age, while existing social arrangements, including government services, remain inadequate and ill prepared. Such demands on caregivers will continue to increase as populations grow and people live longer.

Oxfam's annual early 2020 Davos report, Time to Care, estimates that 2.3 billion people will need care by 2030, 200 million more than in 2015, including 100 million more older people and an additional 100 million children aged 6 to 14 years.

Care work, unpaid or underpaid, is generally not visible, greatly undervalued and typically taken for granted. It is often not considered real or proper 'work', with spending for care work considered a cost, not an investment.

The nature of care work and gender discrimination undermines the health and well-being of its mainly female workers. Women and girls, especially the poor and marginalized, do 12.5 billion hours of care work daily for free, and much more for poor wages.

The women and girls are left 'time-poor', often unable to meet their own needs. Consequently, they have less time for education and paid work, let alone fully participate socially and politically.

Unpaid care work

The study argued that unpaid care work is essential for our economies, businesses and societies. However, unpaid care work is often underappreciated when measuring economic progress and social wellbeing, not least because this burden is mainly borne by women and girls, who do more than three-quarters of all unpaid care work.

Oxfam estimates that the monetary value of women's unpaid care work



A Pakistani child domestic worker. File photo

globally, for women aged 15 and over, is at least US\$10.8 trillion annually. Although high, this figure is still believed to be an underestimate, with the true figure far higher.

Women thus often earn less because their unpaid care work limits their time for paid work; in fact, 42 per cent of working age women, compared to six per cent of males, cannot get paid work due to their caregiving responsibilities.

Climate change is also increasing the need for unpaid care. In five years, up to 2.4 billion people will be living in areas without enough water, forcing women and girls to carry more water even further. Also, as global warming and other developments adversely affect health and food production, many women and girls will have to work more to cope.

Domestic workers

Besides doing care work for free at home, many poor women also provide care for others, especially as domestic workers, among the most poorly treated employees in the world. Hence, they are also more likely to be in undesirable, poorly paid, dirty and precarious jobs.

Only about a tenth of domestic workers are covered by labour laws as much as other workers,

while only around half have minimum wage protection. For more than half of all domestic workers, national laws do not limit working hours.

Meanwhile, 3.4 million domestic workers in forced labour do not get US\$8 billion yearly, or about three-fifths of the wages due to them. Forced labour and trafficking cause domestic workers to be "trapped in other people's homes", with "their lives controlled", but also "rendered invisible and unprotected".

Two-thirds of the paid 'care workforce' are women. Jobs – such as nursery workers, domestic workers, and 'care assistants' – are often physically and emotionally draining, besides being poorly paid, with few benefits, despite having to work irregular hours.

Redistributing care burden

The Oxfam report notes that governments greatly under-tax the wealthy, and hence do not collect enough revenue to better fund vital public services, including social services and infrastructure.

Progressive taxation and spending, including subsidized social services and social protection, would reduce the burden of care work and social inequality. Better investments in electricity, water, sanitation, childcare and healthcare would improve the quality of care workers' lives by easing their care work responsibilities.

Such efforts should recognize unpaid and poorly paid care work as providing real value. Better, affordable and equitable access to time-saving care-supporting infrastructure and devices would also reduce the burden of unpaid care tasks.

With government and employers reducing the burden of care work, redistributing unpaid care work more fairly within households would become more feasible. Enabling meaningful participation by care givers, paid and unpaid, in policy-making would also help.

Oxfam proposals

Oxfam proposed various actions, including national care systems, to help care givers including: improving the lot of both the unpaid and the underpaid; addressing the greater burden on women and girls; improving and protecting care workers' rights, with paid employees entitled to living wages and decent working conditions.

Governments were urged to ratify ILO Convention 189, protecting domestic workers and eliminating gender wage gaps. Societies should also challenge the harmful and discriminatory social and cultural norms that care work is the responsibility of women and girls, including by encouraging men and boys to share care work responsibilities.

Businesses must also recognize the value of care work for employees' wellbeing and productivity. Employers should provide benefits and services, such as crèches and other childcare entitlements, while ensuring decent working conditions for care providers.

Investing in nutrition key to reducing poverty, creating more inclusive societies

By Correspondent James Kandoya

HUMAN capital consists of knowledge, skills, and health that people accumulate throughout their lives, enabling them to realise their potential as productive members of the society.

But, investing in nutrition, health care, education, jobs and skills help build human capital - key to ending extreme poverty and creating more inclusive societies.

It is also vital for countries to sustain economic growth, prepare workers for more skilled jobs and to compete in the global economy.

Prof of Human nutrition at the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) in Morogoro Region, Joyce Kinabo, says that the type, magnitude and cause of food and nutrition problems are environmentally specific.

The don says that it is evident that there is no single country without problem of malnutrition in the world.

In Tanzania, as is with the case with other developing countries, the major and persistent Food and Nutrition problem is that of under-nutrition, although over-nutrition is on the rise.

"In view of the fact, agriculture and nutrition share a common entry point: 'food,' she said while calling for a stronger nutrition-agriculture alliance.

She however points out that Tanzania's ability to accumulate and utilize human capital to drive economic growth is faced with several challenges.

One of big challenges is high level of stunting among children under five years, where 3 million children are stunted.

"This affects physical, emotional and cognitive development, and thus compromising their ability to thrive and reach their full potential," she said.

Also, gender related factors that disempower women and promote child marriages and teen pregnancy which compromise girls' educational attainment as well as their children's are health and nutrition outcomes.

The Managing Director Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre (TFNC) Dr Germana Leyna, says that at least 1 in 3 children under 5 is undernourished or overweight.

Also, 1 in 2 suffers from hidden hunger due to deficiencies in vitamins and other essential nutrients, undermining the capacity of millions of children to develop to their full potential.

He says the daily consumption of fruit and vegetables is important for human health and nutrition because the vitamins, minerals, essential micronutrients, fibre, vegetable proteins and bio functional components they provide are crucial for bodily function.

Without adequate diversity and frequency, infants and young children are at high risk of under-nutrition, especially stunting and micronutrient deficiencies, and to increased risk of morbidity and mortality.

He made his presentation at the 6th Annual Agriculture Policy Conference (AAPC) held recently in the country capital city of Dodoma.

He says that agriculture and nutrition share a common entry point: "food," noting that food is a key outcome of agricultural activities, and, in turn, is a key input into good nutrition.

"Without agriculture there is little food or nutrition, but availability of food from agriculture doesn't ensure good nutrition," he notes.

According to him, it is estimated that by 2025 the lives of 26,290 Tanzanian women will be lost due to maternal anaemia related to iron deficiency and 209,638 children under five be lost due to vitamin A deficiency.



ciency.

He warns that if there is no change or improvement in anemia among adult women then U.S \$ 1.428 billion will be lost in future economic productivity related to anemia.

In his presentation, titled "Linking Agriculture Production Efforts to Consumption Patterns of Fruits and Vegetables to Address Micronutrient Deficiency in Tanzania" Dr Leyna said the country will also lose U.S. \$ 950 million in future economic productivity related to iodine deficiency.

He mentions some reasons contributing to that as low dietary diversity (affordability & availability) and inadequate micronutrient status of pregnant & lactating women (inadequate stores & intake for the child).

Others are complementary foods with too low nutrient-content, and -density; too early introduction (watery porridg-

es, foods with limited nutrient-content) and poor bioavailability of micronutrients (absorption inhibitors, especially in plant-source based diet.

"Promotion of production and consumption of fruits and vegetables can largely avert many deaths and other sufferings from micronutrient deficiencies," he suggests.

"In order to promote and support the fruit and vegetable consumption from field to table in Tanzania, it is important to capitalise on agricultural programmes and projects that are already underway," he added.

According to expert, strategies for improving the nutritional status of population should include efforts to increase dietary diversity.

While agricultural production is a necessary component of an adequate food supply, it is not sufficient. A well-functioning food value chain is also necessary to deliver food to the con-

sumer.

Low consumption of fruit and vegetables is often simplistically attributed to unhealthy diets in developed countries and to poverty and food insecurity in developing countries.

Dr Leyna elaborates more that barriers to adequate fruit and vegetable consumption differ greatly between countries/communities.

Starchy staples like cereal make up 70 percent of Tanzanian diets, making fruit and vegetable consumption low.

In the southeastern regions of Tanzania, a staggering 82 percent of people do not meet the recommended intake for fruits and vegetables of five portions per day.

It is the sector best placed to affect food production and consumption of nutritious foods needed for healthy and active lives.

However, World-wide per capita consumption of fruits and

vegetables is estimated to be 20-50 percent short of the minimum level recommended by Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the World Health Organisation (WHO).

According to the WHO, low fruit and vegetable intake is among the top ten identified risk factors for global human mortality and poor health.

An estimated 3.9 million deaths globally are attributed to inadequate fruit and vegetable intake in 2017.

In Tanzania for instance, 57 percent of children under 5 are anaemic, 45 percent of women of reproductive age (15-49 years) are anaemic, 36 percent of women of reproductive age (15-49 years) are iodine deficient, 33 percent of children under 5 are vitamin A deficient.

Dr Leyna says that Tanzania's ability to accumulate and utilise human capital to drive economic growth is faced with several challenges:

High levels of stunting among children under age 5: 3 million children under age 5 are stunted, affecting physical, emotional and cognitive development, and thus compromising their ability to thrive and reach their full potential.

Poor learning outcomes and gender related factors that disempower women and promote child marriage and teen pregnancy which compromise girls' educational attainment as well as their children's health and nutrition outcomes;

"Investing in between food production and health or nutrition outcomes can lead to win-win for women to provide for the food security, access to clean water and better hygiene to improve health and nutrition of their families," he recommends.

Furthermore, increase of access to and year-round availability of high-nutrient content food as well as improving nutrition knowledge among rural households to enhance dietary diversity.

The Nutrition Officer at the World Food Programme (WFP), Neema Shosho said the foundation of a healthy future for every child is the 1,000 days between a mother's pregnancy and her child's second birthday.

She described that the right nutrition during this critical period puts a child on track to be stronger, healthier and ready to learn.

The officer notes that investing in food production and health or nutrition outcomes can lead to win-win for women to provide for the food security, access to clean water and better hygiene to improve health and nutrition of their families.

"The window of opportunity to build the critical infrastructure of brain closes quickly. Much of brain development occurs in the first 1000 days," she says

Furthermore, to incorporate explicit nutrition objectives and indicators into agricultural investments.

COVID-19 pandemic offers chance to rethink city planning

LONDON

In the city center of Wolverhampton, England, a big change is taking place that will see some of its most used roads closed to encourage more people to walk and cycle as more shops and other businesses are set to open up in town and city centres.

What follows then will be the creation of new two-way pop-up cycle lanes, pavements widened and roads pedestrianized.

Heading to the British government's call to encourage greater use of cycling and walking to aid in social distancing, Councillor Steve Evans, Wolverhampton Council's cabinet member for city environment, said: "We have heeded the call and are now introducing a series of temporary, trial measures which will make it easier for people to walk and cycle into and around the city centre, as well as enabling social distancing for pedestrians and residents queuing at bus stops."

It's not just Wolverhampton who have heeded the call. Across Britain, cities from Belfast to Newcastle, are using, or have used the lockdown as an opportunity to experiment with road closures and the pedestrianisation of streets amid a broader shift in urban landscape.

RETHINK PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Geraint Ellis, a professor of environmental planning at Queen's University Belfast, has spent a large portion of his career researching how urban planning is used to improve people's health and wellbeing. He has seen a number of British cities use the lockdown as an opportunity.

"Quite a lot of places have suddenly shut streets that they were meant to have done before - partly as an experiment, because one of the issues when you close streets the pressures against it are: 'Where will all the traffic go?' And

so on," Ellis told Xinhua.

"If you close streets now, when there isn't a lot of traffic. When traffic slowly comes back it sort of organically adapts to it. It generally goes elsewhere, when it has been done in experiments - there generally aren't any consequences."

Over the last decade, there has been investment pushed into public transport networks in cities across Britain. But the coronavirus pandemic it brings its own new set of problems that will make councils have to rethink transport in general, Ellis said.

"With public transport, it's been the best option up until now, but under infectious conditions it's the worst option. We need to rethink public transport. The default option would be to private travel in cars, because then you're sealed if you're on your own. But clearly that's an option that we know doesn't work in cities long term.

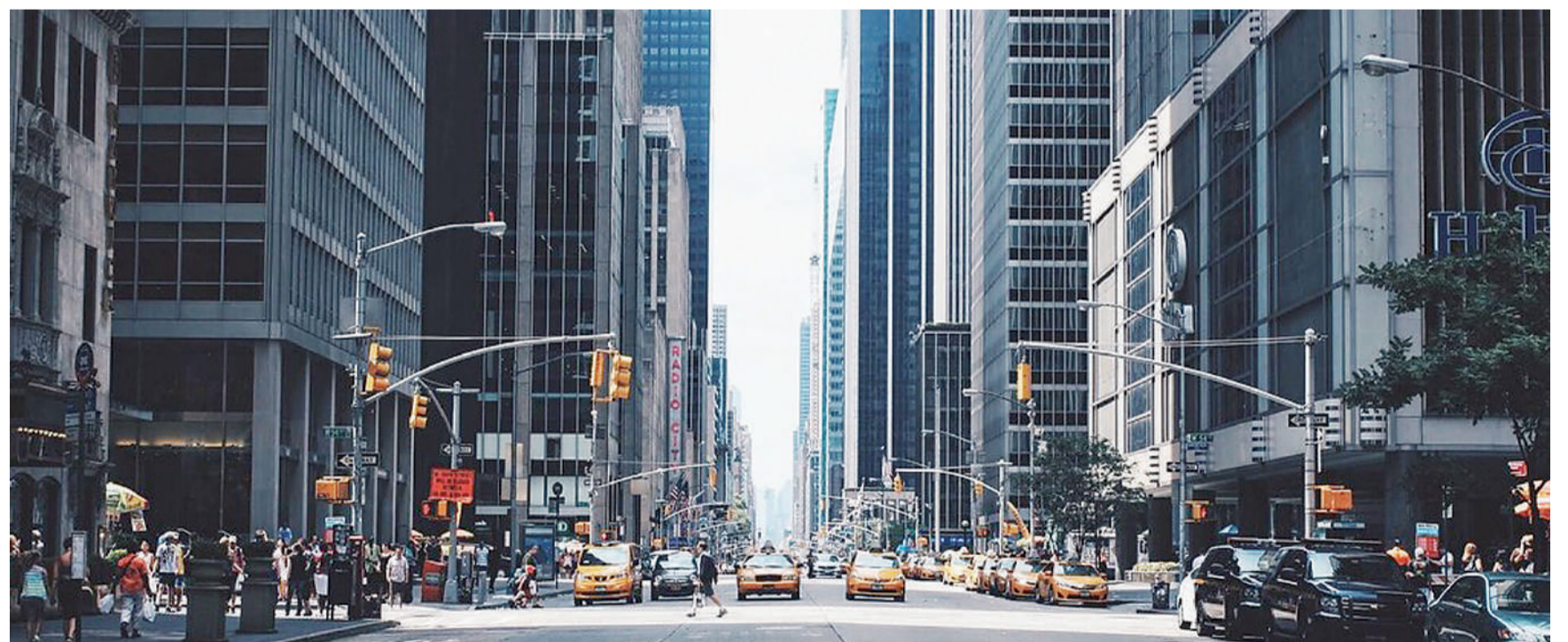
"That's why people are coming back to the idea of more walking and more cycling and other forms of transport. I think that's probably where we're going to see the most change - as there already is a head of steam on that anyway," Ellis said.

REDUCTION IN OFFICE SPACE

The coronavirus lockdown has also caused behavioural changes in the way people work, and where they work.

As lockdown was implemented in late March by the British government, the public were told to stay at home unless they were considered key workers. This saw a huge increase in people working from home, which greatly reduced the demand for the use of public transport and office space.

From a recent study carried out by StarLeaf on the public's attitude towards current working practices, once lockdown measures are fully lifted, 60 percent of people would like to work from home more often than they did previously. This not only suggests a



Cities could undergo a vast transformation after the pandemic has exposed the weaknesses of modern infrastructure in the face of disease.

long-term effect to many economic sectors, but also a behavioural change that could have a lasting impact on public transport, office spaces and university campuses.

Ellis said that this could be significant to how our cities may change. He said that technology had already given British workforce the ability to work from home when possible, but due to the coronavirus lockdown it could have accelerated that process.

"A lot of the economies and landscapes of cities are driven by centralised functions. If you think of offices, they're there because they have to be. Particular issues are universities. We have huge estates for teaching, but suddenly we've found out that with all that investment we can do quite a lot with what we were doing without them."

Many of the public are finding it cheaper, and at times more preferable, to work from home.

"I think the knock-on effect, and it may take a while, but what happens to all that real estate. It will have to be reconfigured. We might see a long term change in the office space, that particularly could

be changed and whether that gets converted into residential areas, I don't know. That is potentially even more radical than just re-allocating different parts of the street for users."

GREEN RECOVERY

The lockdown has almost offered a glimmer of hope for those looking to push forward more environmental and sustainable city designs.

As streets have cleared across the globe, and air quality has improved due to a reduction of industry and cars, public opinion has swayed to look to sustain a cleaner environment for cities.

"I hope we really learn from that because overtime, if we keep going back to what it was, it will kill more people than who died in the (coronavirus) crisis anyway over time," Ellis said.

"It's been estimated that over 40,000 people die in Britain because of bad air quality every year anyway," he said. Ellis said that with this in mind, and a firm drive by the government for social interaction to take place safely in wide-open spaces, planners will look to push for more ambitious green space

concepts. "Ideally, planners should be thinking of what new green spaces could we have and which economic sectors may no longer be needed," Ellis told Xinhua.

"If there is going to be a massive decline in car use which we all hope there is, that could open space in the city. And what do we do with that?" he asked. "Do we build more offices or do we actually try to improve the quality of life by using some of that space for green space and recreational facilities?"

Ellis, whose work partly focuses on sustainable and environmental planning, said that the lockdown has brought a political opportunity to carry out the "green recovery".

"It's a coming together of a policy window that's just opened up. I don't think it can be forced, but I think it might come at a very good time when climate change has become mainline and people knew that they had to do things."

"But actually the inertia and other things were stopping that. If we could have some national conversation on a green recovery and what that might mean then I think that could give rise to loads of interesting things," he said.

Xinhua

FEATURE

Africa: Covid-19 exposes healthcare shortfalls

By Meghan Daum

THE Covid-19 pandemic has exposed gaps in health services that require urgent attention in many African countries, Human Rights Watch said yesterday.

African governments should urgently address healthcare deficiencies to meet the demands of the Covid-19 pandemic and ongoing healthcare needs of their populations. They should act to ensure everyone's right to health is in line with international human rights law, including the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

"The current global health crisis from the spread of the novel coronavirus has brought to the fore the need for African Union (AU) member states to carefully analyze the current state of their healthcare infrastructure and make meaningful investments to improve access to quality health care," said Carine Kaneza Nantulya, Africa advocacy director at Human Rights Watch.

In April and May 2020, Human Rights Watch interviewed African health experts, including pathologists, epidemiologists, and public health officials. They said that inadequacies in resources are due to insufficient government investment in health, which in turn affects the ability of health workers to fulfill their duties, especially during the pandemic.

The health experts and representatives of human rights organizations interviewed said that a chronic lack of investment in healthcare infrastructure and equipment has made it harder for African nations to retain skilled healthcare workers, provide essential medicines, and reduce the mortality rates of perennial diseases like malaria.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) as of June 8, 187, 875 cases of Covid-19 had been reported across 54 African countries. The global health agency warned on May 7 that up to 190,000 people could die on the continent and up to 44 million could become infected, if the disease is not contained.

Lack of access to testing is hampering efforts to save lives, some experts told Human Rights Watch. While many African countries have responded swiftly by enacting measures to slow the spread of the pandemic, many also lack the capacity to test for Covid-19, isolate people with confirmed or suspected cases, trace contacts, and treat those with severe illness.

In 2001, African leaders signed the Abuja Declaration, voluntarily pledging to allocate a minimum of 15 percent of each country's national budget to health. Nineteen years later, there have only been modest increases in the health budgets of a few African countries. In 2011, WHO reported that 27 countries had increased the proportion of total government expenditures allocated to health since 2001.

According to a subsequent report released in 2013, only three countries had attained the percentage pledged: Botswana (17 percent), Rwanda (20 percent), and Zambia (16 percent). In 2019, the Pan-African Parliament and the WHO Regional Office for Africa said that African governments should ensure the right to health for all and increase domestic resources for HIV prevention and treatment and overall health.

Norman Matara, a Zimbabwean doctor said that African governments need to take the Abuja Declaration seriously.

"When you look at the de-

fense budget, they buy state-of-the-art military equipment, so this is not about poverty; it is about genuine political commitment," he said.

"Our health sector is poor... This is not something that will change overnight. But if we continuously invest, we will see progressive, then full, realization of the right to health."

A recent report by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) said that healthcare systems across the continent are under-resourced, with lower proportions of available hospital beds, intensive care units, and health professionals than other regions of the world.

Solomon Dersso, chairperson of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), the primary AU human rights entity tasked with promoting and protecting human rights on the continent, said the Covid-19 pandemic underscores the fact that health is a fundamental human right and that its realization and fulfillment is not just for the health of individuals but for the society as a whole: "Ultimately, the right to health is a policy choice," he said.

"Governments have the primary responsibility to be at the forefront of preventive and palliative measures."

He said African nations should pause and reflect during the current crisis.

In a March 24 statement, the ACHPR said that governments should provide health workers with the necessary protective equipment and establish treatment protocols to ensure that they are protected from exposure to infection. The commission also highlighted the importance of integrating human rights within the continental response to the pandemic in a May letter to the AU chairperson, President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa.

The right to health is a fundamental right under international human rights law. It is also a critical component of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and is recognized in at least 115 constitutions across the world, including the 55 AU member states. A key goal of the AU's Agenda 2063, the institution's master plan for democratic governance and sustainable development, is to ensure that citizens are healthy and that adequate investment is made to expand access to quality health care.

Article 16 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights guarantees the right of every individual to enjoy the best attainable state of physical and mental health. The charter says that AU member states should take the necessary measures to protect the health of their people and to ensure that medical services, goods, and facilities are available, accessible, and of good quality.

"Beyond the current pandemic, African governments should bring the right to health front and center in their policies and programs to improve people's lives," said Kaneza Nantulya. "They should engage African human rights institutions like the ACHPR as key partners to fulfill their obligations under the African Charter."

A doctor in Soweto, South Africa, who, along with some of the others interviewed, requested anonymity to speak freely said that the government's neglect of adequate protective equipment and other factors threaten nurses' lives and affects their morale.

"We are overstretched and are not sufficiently protected. Our wages are being reduced but I still must pay for my own personal protective equip-



Healthcare workers treating Covid-19 patients in Tanzania wear personal protective equipment used to protect against the transmission of the disease

ment (PPE). If I die, I am gone. Many nurses and doctors have left the country at a time when nursing colleges have been closed, so medical staff end up not getting solid qualification. We get low wages and are unmotivated. We have not received the promised 5.5 percent increase of salary, instead they cut our pay by 1 percent since the Covid-19 pandemic. My salary has not improved for the last three to four years. I am tired, very tired."

A Tanzanian nurse said: "I have been working at Amana Regional Referral Hospital for 10 years. Here is what my normal day looks like: I do not have any PPE, but I commute in public transport. How am I supposed to protect myself and others? How am I supposed to protect my family? We are struggling...we hear that nurses abroad are well paid, so we consider that as the best option...people are demoralized."

Dr. Matara spoke about the Zimbabwean government's longstanding neglect of health workers and the public health sector saying: "Doctors went on a strike for five months. They were paid for the first month, and then the government fired close to 400 doctors, although the sack was reversed after one month. I have been involved in more than 10 strikes in the last 9 years."

"What is peculiar about our most recent strike is that we were asking the government to provide us with basic equipment, gloves, PPE. We took the government to court and we won the court case. The government was compelled to provide PPE to health workers. Our senior government officials keep flying to China, Singapore, and South Africa to get treatment. Covid-19 had to come for the government to realize that it was important to rehabilitate hospital facilities - how ironic."

Speaking about the lack of basic equipment, Emmanuel Othieno, a senior pathologist at Uganda's Soroti Hospital, said: "Our biggest challenge

is the lack of diagnostic laboratories. Patients and doctors are still consulting private labs. Sometimes samples are taken outside of the country for diagnosis, without proper records. We do not have a nationwide data management system, not to mention diagnostics."

He added: "We have lots of referrals to India. When testing results are delayed, the fear of rising death tolls becomes real. We should avoid patients always having to travel abroad for testing and treatment."

A Burundian medical student in New Delhi, India said: "We want our governments to do the simplest things: provide diagnostic labs for our medical schools. How can we provide quality service when some countries do not have a single research facility within entire medical schools? I honestly do not intend to work in an African country. It is a waste of time. I have studied too hard, too long for this."

Dr. Awada Mohamed, director of the Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Ignace Deen in Conakry, Guinea said: "A major challenge is that we do not have enough nursing staff and care givers. The government does a lot, but we need personnel."

Professor Oyewale Tomori of Nigeria, senior health expert based in Nigeria and a former WHO official, spoke about the importance of an "enabling environment" to build health system capacity:

The Lassa flu was discovered 50 years ago in Nigeria. "We are a continent that fails to learn lessons. Every time we have a Lassa outbreak, we always approach it as a new outbreak. In 1989, I taught a young United States-based medical student here in Nigeria.

"But when the flu broke out again in 2019, my former student was invited to the country as an adviser to a panel on which I served. That is because he evolved in an environment that appreciated his skills and enabled him to grow his expertise. It is not enough to build local capacity; you must create an enabling environment for the

capacity to function effectively. Also, Africa must learn how to upgrade and appreciate its medical expertise."

Right to Health and Covid-19, and Previous Disease Outbreaks

The experts said that many African governments' responses to previous outbreaks of diseases such as measles, HIV, and malaria suggest that governments will not recognize the need to prioritize investment in the health sector after the Covid-19 pandemic.

Silas Majambere, a Burundian malaria expert, said: "I am unsure about governments' abilities to learn from this crisis. Despite having hundreds of thousands of Africans dying of malaria each year, African governments have failed to invest in research for its treatment, or in the manufacturing of preventive bed nets locally."

Lassa fever is a severe viral hemorrhagic fever (VHF), like Ebola, that was declared an "active outbreak" by the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) in February 2020. Edozor Emiogun, a Nigerian independent health consultant, said: "The Lassa flu kills more than Covid-19 but no one does anything, because it is seen as 'the poor man's disease.'"

Covid-19 in a way has now equalized people, but I am not sure whether our leaders will learn anything from it.

On possible lessons to be drawn from the Ebola epidemic in Guinea, a Senegalese expert, Professor Fay Sylvain, said: "Not much was learned from our Ebola experience.

We now have in some of our neighboring West African countries many Covid-19 patients lying in the corridors. Yes, we have the expertise, the know-how, but beyond this, have we increased our testing capacity? Where are our laboratories? How many hospitals have we built since the recent Ebola outbreak in 2013?"

An ACHPR commissioner, Jamesina King, said: "We must go back to the drawing board. Allocating more funds ... to health care is a must for African States. After Covid-19 should

be the opportunity to address emergency health care, healthcare infrastructure, and a comprehensive health insurance scheme in Africa so that no one dies because they are too far from a health facility or they cannot afford expensive private hospitals."

He said that states should make healthcare systems in Africa sound and efficient so that the privileged do not always travel abroad to seek medical care.

Dr. Djoudalbaye Benjamin, Africa Center for Disease Control's head of policy and health diplomacy, cautioned against a one-size-fits-all approach:

We must realize that deficiencies are multisectoral and consider that we have 55 countries; 15 percent from government GDP is not enough to build resilient systems, and it does not consider the economic discrepancies between countries. If you take South Africa, Morocco, and Burkina Faso, you immediately see that the impact will be different. We must go beyond the 15 percent, re-evaluate our methods of calculation of the allocation. This is important work that must be undertaken.

Speaking about governments' lack of investment in the health sector, a Ugandan senior public health expert said:

The minister of health once told me that the public health expenditure had increased, but when I insisted and asked to see their budgets and figures, they realized that they had been decreasing their health budget per capita. At that time, they were spending US\$10 per capita while WHO standards were \$40 per capita. They had not known for some time because they were not tracking their health budgets. We must take advantage of Covid-19 to make the case to expand and track our health investments.

On the importance of building an efficient and equitable health system, Professor Salim S. Abdool Karim, a South African clinical infectious diseases epidemiologist, said:

On the issue of the Covid-19, we must remember that hu-

man beings will always be faced with a virus which we have not found out yet as we do not have an endless natural immunity. Let us be ready. If I could turn back the clock, we could have created a much more equitable medical system. Medical care is critical, you need a good and solid medical system, for any threat - it's not just about equity but also about efficiency, power, correctness - a medical system that provides health promotion, both preventive and curative.

A UN secretary-general's policy brief published in May on the impact of Covid-19 in Africa says that Mauritius has the second-highest level of preparedness for Covid-19 on the continent. Speaking about Mauritius' perceived success in addressing the pandemic, Dr. Catherine Gaud, a Mauritian immunologist and a government adviser on Covid-19, said:

Mauritius has a lot to offer in terms of best practices. As of May 21, 2020, we have not had new cases for 23 days and we are conducting 3,000 screenings per day. Besides our natural advantage of being an island, because it is easier to control people's movement in and out of the island, we have had universal health coverage, a strong laboratory system where we even conduct molecular biology, and a strong political will. Like in some African countries, we have adopted a multisectoral approach, and meet every single day with representatives from finance, military, foreign affairs, commerce, and, quite interestingly, the attorney general.

Legal and Policy Framework

Key relevant standards relating to the right to health include general comments by UN human rights treaty bodies, institutions monitoring the implementation of treaties. These include General Comments No. 14 (2000) and No. 22 (2016) of the Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, and General Comment No. 15 (2015) of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

In 2008, the ACHPR adopted Resolution 14I on Access to Health and Needed Medicines in Africa in 2008. The Resolution, which says that governments should take various measures and precautions to guarantee access to essential medicines and treatments for citizens, reaffirmed Article 16 of the African Charter.

The AU specifically addresses women's right to health in the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights of Women in Africa ("Maputo Protocol") of 2003. Article 14 of the Maputo Protocol provides comprehensive provisions about the right to health, including sexual and reproductive health.

The African Union has endorsed various policy and normative tools, including: the 2015 Addis Ababa Action Agenda on the Third High-Level Conference on Financing for Development; the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescent Health 2016-2030; the Catalytic Framework to End AIDS, TB, and eliminate Malaria by 2030; the Continental Policy Framework for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and its Maputo Plan of Action 2016-2030; the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa; the African Regional Nutrition Strategy 2015 - 2025 and the AU Decade on Traditional Medicines.

The Africa Health Strategy (AHS) 2016-2030 advocates stronger collaboration among various stakeholders, including government, civil society, and the private sector to better leverage knowledge and expertise and mobilize resources.

Your tax deductible gift can help stop human rights violations and save lives around the world.

Asymptomatic spread of Covid-19 infections: What you need to know

By Markham Heid

NEARLY six months have passed since Chinese officials first reported the emergence of a strange new pneumonia in Wuhan City. Despite months of concerted effort from the world's scientific community, experts still aren't certain just how the virus spreads - or who is capable of spreading it.

During a media briefing on June 8, a World Health Organisation official set off a broad volley of expert rebukes when she said that it "appears to be rare" for an asymptomatic person to transmit the virus to others.

"We have a number of reports from countries that are doing very detailed contact tracing. They're following asymptomatic cases, they're following contacts, and they're not finding secondary transmission onward. It is very rare," said the official, Maria Van Kerkhove, PhD, who is that organisation's Covid-19 technical lead.

In addition to Van Kerkhove's comments, the WHO published a report that stated: "Asymptomatically-infected individuals are much less likely to transmit the virus than those who develop symptoms."

If people who do not develop noticeable symptoms are unlikely to spread Covid-19 to others, that would be a significant revelation. It would radically change the way governments and health officials approach quarantines and closures, and it would make tracing and controlling the virus much simpler.

Unfortunately, most experts feel that there is little evidence to support the WHO's statements - which the organisation itself partly retracted the day

after its controversial briefing.

"It was all really unfortunate because it engendered a lot of confusion. We know that asymptomatic people can infect others," says Eric Topol, MD, a professor of molecular medicine at the Scripps Research Institute in California.

Topol has published work on those who contract Covid-19 but do not develop symptoms - and on the "silent spread" that they may unwittingly induce.

He says that it's not clear what proportion of cases stem from people who do not have symptoms, a group that may include 40 per cent or more of those infected with Covid-19.

The WHO report mentions one study of 63 asymptomatic patients in China that found that 14 per cent seemed to have passed on Covid-19 to others.

But the UN health agency says that the data on this are poor owing in part to the limitations of contact-tracing techniques, which attempt to track a virus by monitoring those who have been in contact with someone who tests positive.

This is an important qualification that other experts echo. "The message should have been that symptom-free spread has been difficult to detect via contact tracing - and that it isn't happening," says Jeremy Faust, MD, an instructor at Harvard Medical School and an emergency medicine physician at Brigham and Women's Hospital.

Faust, who has published research comparing Covid-19 to seasonal flu, explains that the WHO's contract tracing procedures call for monitoring people who are in touch with a Covid-19 carrier within 48 hours of either



symptom emergence or a positive test result.

"That's a great approach in infections that do not spread asymptotically or for very long. SARS-CoV-2, unfortunately, does not play by those rules," he notes.

"Some people shed virus and are contagious further back than just two days before first symptoms," Faust says, adding that it's also very possible that those who test positive for Covid-19 are spreading the virus outside of the WHO's 48-hour window.

According to Scripps's Topol, another problem surrounding asymptomatic cases is that a lot of the messaging from doctors and the media has unhelpfully downplayed the potential seriousness of these infections. He says just because someone is asymptomatic does not mean that the virus is not doing damage.

"If you do a CAT scan of these patients' lungs, you see significant abnormalities tied to Covid, and these are woefully understudied," Topol says, adding: "We also know that this the virus can go to the heart and kidneys, so that needs to

be looked at too."

He notes that it is possible that these "below-the-surface problems" may increase a person's risk for long-term health complications, such as the eventual development of lung disease.

Finally, Topol points out an issue more related to media coverage of the WHO statements than to the statements themselves.

The UN agency's Van Kerkhove, before saying that asymptomatic transmission may be "very rare", took pains to point out that there's a difference between people who are asymptomatic - meaning those who never develop noticeable symptoms - and those who are pre-symptomatic, which refers to those who are infected with Covid-19 and will eventually go on to show symptoms. According to the WHO, it may take as long as 14 days for these pre-symptomatic carriers to become symptomatic.

"We know that pre-symptomatic people are highly infectious, and they're responsible for a lot of the virus's spread,"

Topol says.

In fact, there's some evidence that these pre-symptomatic people may be even more likely to transmit the disease than people who have symptoms, he says. And so the idea that people who don't have symptoms are unlikely to spread the virus is flawed and dangerous on many levels.

"We're still in the dark on a lot of things. There are a lot of very important questions we need to answer," Topol adds.

A report from Elemental, a new Medium publication about health and wellness. Markham Heid is a health and science writer.

NEW YORK and BRUSSELS

AFTER a period of forced silence because of the Covid-19 quarantines, citizens around the world are defying coronavirus restrictions and claiming the streets to fight for real democracy, jobs, living wages, public services, human rights and against corruption, inequality and injustice. We predict an increasing wave of protests all over the world led by different types of people defying the status quo. Unless policies change, clashes in the street are likely to become the new normal.

In the last weeks, we have seen protests against racism and police brutality explode in the US and internationally after another black man died in police custody. We see Chileans protesting lockdown-food shortages, scarcity of work, and costly social services, and Ecuadorians demonstrating against IMF-supported austerity cuts. Lebanon has convulsed with riots over corruption, lack of jobs and public services. Protesters in Hong Kong continue to defy China's tightening grip. In Israel they denounce West Bank annexation, while in the Philippines they condemn President Duterte's Anti-Terrorism Act as a breach of civil rights and the Constitution. Young people are taking to the streets in Senegal over the lockdown and lack of jobs and opportunities. In Spain we see health workers demanding safer working conditions while workers from other industries face massive layoffs. In many countries, people protest in car-based caravans to maintain social distancing because of the pandemic.

There have been periods in history when large numbers of people rebelled against the status quo and demanded change, such as in 1848, 1917 and 1968. While protests have intensified in recent weeks because of the pandemic, the level of protests worldwide has remained high for more than a decade, with some of the largest protests in world history. They were set off by the 2008 financial crisis and commodity price spikes, such as those that sparked food riots in Africa

and Asia, three years before the "Arab Spring", the "Indignados" (Outraged) in Spain or "Occupy" in the US and Hong Kong. More recently, we have seen massive protests in Latin America and a global feminist wave set off by the "Me Too" movement. Now, as Covid-19 makes its way around the world, we are experiencing the continuation of this period of rising outrage and discontent.

We have been studying recent world protests and found interesting lessons. To start, the number of protests has been increasing on a yearly basis. Protesters' main general demand was for economic and social justice in the face of prescribed "austerity" reforms; however, the overwhelming grievance of protesters, regardless of the political system of their country, was the lack of "real democracy". Other common demands relate to people's rights such as racial, gender or labor rights. The main target of the protests was national governments, but global institutions and corporations were also targeted.

A profile of demonstrators reveals that not only traditional protesters (eg. activists, unions) are demonstrating; on the contrary, middle classes, youth, older persons and other social groups are actively protesting in most countries because of lack of trust and disillusionment with the current political and economic system.

People around the world are acutely aware that policy-making has not prioritized them. Across the political spectrum, there is rebellion against politics as usual. Governments both authoritarian and democratic are failing to respond to the needs of ordinary people. Many demonstrations and marches also explicitly denounce the international system and institutions such as the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the European Central Bank, which have been widely perceived as the chief architects of inequitable reforms.

Not only is the number of protests increasing, but also the number of protesters. Crowd estimates suggest that dozens of rallies had more than one million protesters;

World protests show rising outrage and mounting discontent



Protests against racism in New York City. File photo

some of those may well be the largest protests in history (eg. 100 million in India in 2013, 17 million in Egypt during the Arab Spring).

Repression is well documented in over half of the protests in our study. According to media

reports, the protests that generated the most arrests were in Iran, the UK, Russia, Chile, Malaysia, US and Cameroon (different years). Our research, that we continue updating, also documents a rising concern with some modes of repression that do not imply the use of physical violence: citizen surveillance.

If there is repression, what are the contro-

versial demands that protesters are putting forward? The grievances demanded cross over virtually every area of public policy, from jobs, public services and social protection to the environment, finance, taxation, corruption and justice. The majority of the demands are in full accordance with United Nations proposals and the Universal Declaration of

Human Rights.

Governments need to listen to the demands from citizens legitimately protesting the denial of social, economic and civil rights. Leaders and policymakers will only invite further unrest if they fail to prioritize and act on the demand for real democracy.

Agencies

IT IS A MILESTONE AS TANZANIA'S FIRST WIND POWER PROJECT STARTS BUSINESS AT MUFINDI

By Property Watch Reporter

TANZANIA registered a milestone earlier this week after the first of Mwenga Power plant's turbines roared into life, kick-starting a maiden wind power generating plant in the domestic market.

In a statement, Rift Valley Energy which is the investing company in the 2.4 megawatts wind to electricity project in Mufindi district of Iringa region, said the country's first ever wind farm started generating small amounts of electricity from the first of its three wind turbines, as part of its prescribed start up testing procedures.

"This generation capacity will be gradually increased, and the additional two turbines brought on line, until the total generation capacity matches the demand of the 32 villages that are currently connected to the Mwenga rural electricity distribution network. The new facility, once fully commissioned, will be able to generate up to a maximum of 2.4MW," the company said.

The statement further added that the additional renewable energy generation capacity will ensure continued availability of affordable power to the rapidly growing number of rural customers within the Mwenga rural electricity distribution network throughout the year, specifically in the dry season, when the available water for the Mwenga Hydro generation plant (which has been feeding the rural electricity distribution network since 2012) is low.



An aerial view of Mwenga Power plant's three turbines of which one is already on test trials.

"Additionally, it will cater for further expansion of the rural electricity distribution network into those remaining areas of villages that are located near to the rural network area, and are still unconnected," the company added.

The new wind farm will also provide the needed additional future generation capacity

that will be required to meet the anticipated growth in small and medium sized industries that are now establishing themselves within the Mwenga rural electricity distribution network area, the statement added.

Rift Valley Energy further noted that 'Mwenga Power,' which is the service brand name of the Rift Valley Energy Group, who has been

developing this project, recognises the importance of industrial and agro-industrial activities and their associated economic and developmental impact within the communities that surround them.

"Applications from new industrial customers who might wish to establish their operations within the rural distribution area are al-

ways warmly welcomed," the company noted while extending appreciation to all stakeholders who contributed to the successful completion of the Mwenga Wind Farm at Usokami Village.

The company named some of the stakeholders as: Ministry of Energy and its agencies and regulators; Ministry of Works, Transport and Communication and its affiliates; commercial financiers, being both the Trade and Development Bank (TDB) and the Renewable Energy Performance Platform (REPP), each of whom have provided part of the required long term financing to the project, and so enabled the project to be implemented.

Rift Valley Energy also paid tribute to various contractors, all of whom have been 100 percent Tanzanian companies; turbine supplier Enercon GmbH, for the supply of the turbines, as well as for providing all of the necessary capacity building for the various teams who have been involved with this project.

"In recognition of the achievement of this important milestone, as well as in recognition of the economic impact that the COVID-19 pandemic is having on the surrounding economy, we are pleased to be able to offer up until October 2020 any of our new customers that may be located next to our network a discounted connection fee for a single phase customer of only 25,000/- (before taxes), so that they too can enjoy the benefits of the new wind generation capacity, at an affordable price," the company added.

EAC to issue COVID-19-free certificates for truck drivers

NAIROBI

East Africa member states are set to roll out digital Covid-19-free certificates to eliminate the possibility of truck drivers using fake documents to travel within the region.

This comes as Kenya crosses the 3,000 mark after recording 105 new Covid-19 cases bringing the total number of persons infected to 3,094. Some 175 persons, the highest number of recoveries so far, were also discharged from hospitals.

The Ministry of Health said that the roll-out of the electronic certificate will be implemented in a week's time once the member states put in place technology that will link all the laboratories and ensure a seamless operation.

The move follows claims that truck drivers are using

fake certificates to cross to neighbouring countries and into Kenya. It is also designed to ensure that truck drivers follow laid down protocols that include taking Covid-19 tests at the point of departure, 48 hours before the commencement of the journey.

"At the moment we are working on a small issue with the linkages of the laboratories, because you want your results to be visible by each partner state so that it can be a true attestation that test is valid," said Acting Director of Public Health Dr Francis Kuria.

The move is hoped will eliminate traffic snarl-ups currently being experienced along border points. At the Uganda-Kenya border in Busia, traffic snarl-up has lasted over three weeks owing to drivers not adhering to laid down

Covid-19 protocols. Drivers are expected to have a valid Covid-19-free certificate during transit. The certificate is to be renewed every 14 days.

The precautionary measures laid down by the Health ministry are meant to stop the spread of Covid-19 along transport corridors. Busia County has over the past few weeks emerged as the third Covid-19 hotspot after Nairobi and Mombasa. On Wednesday, it reported 18 cases. Most of them are of truck drivers. Nairobi accounted for 43 cases, Mombasa 11, Turkana seven and Migori six. Kiambu had five cases, Kilifi Taita Taveta and Machakos three each and Kisumu two. A case each was also reported in Uasin Gishu, Siaya, Garissa and Kajiado counties. About 2,273 samples were tested.



Thousands of trucks stuck at the Malaba border last month due to coronavirus disease testing by Uganda.

Dar RC hails reopening of Kilimanjaro Hotel after months of Covid-19 closure

By Correspondent Beatrice Shayo

THE reopening of Hyatt Regency Kilimanjaro Hotel in Dar es Salaam this week is an important milestone towards returning to normal business after over two months of partial lockdown to tame the novel coronavirus outbreak.

Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner, Paul Makonda said in Dar es Salaam earlier this week that the opening of the 5-Star iconic hotel which hosts elite tourists and business people, is vital for the commercial capital's economy.

"Let me congratulate the hotel's owners and employees for resuming services because this is one of the largest and most modern hotels in the country. As you all know, the government has already reopened the country's skies to allow tourists carrying planes to bring the visitors to our nation," Makonda said.

He further added that the coronavirus pandemic in the country has slowed down significantly but advised the public and hotel owners to continue following health experts guidelines to stop the virus from spreading which may force the government to take stringent lockdown measures.

"I am also happy with use of technology such as mobile phone scanning to pay for food and drinks"

bills which is an important step in containing the coronavirus spreading," the Dar es Salaam RC added noting that the deployment of personal protective equipment at the hotel was also an important step.

He requested the hotel management to consider lowering prices for locals so that they can afford to spend some nights at the iconic hotel as the world continues to fight against the coronavirus outbreak.

Briefing the RC on the hotel's reopening, Marketing Manager, Lilian Kisasa paid tribute to the government for lifting the partial lockdown which has allowed tourists to start coming into the country after two months or so of closure.

"We welcome members of the public to come and sample our services, food and drinks which are offered at affordable prices," Kisasa said while stressing that management will consider Makonda's request on lowering prices. President John Magufuli ordered resumption of business activities and reopening of the country's air space to allow passenger planes with tourists to start arriving over two weeks ago following the declining of Covid-19 cases. President Magufuli ordered partial lockdown in mid March this year after the virus' first reported case which later escalated killing dozens of people while infecting over 400.



Hyatt Regency Kilimanjaro Hotel in Dar es Salaam. File photo.

GOVT CALLS ON MOROGORO RESIDENTS TO USE NMB CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS WELL

By Property Watch Reporter

RESIDENTS of Mkuyuni Ward of Morogoro Rural district have been challenged to use NMB Bank Plc's 25m/- construction material donation to build vital infrastructure in the area which has acute shortage of classrooms, among others.

The Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Omar Mgumba said in Morogoro earlier this week after receiving the materials that the public should be creative and volunteer to build health centres, teachers' houses and other infrastructure to improve delivery of services.

Mgumba who thanked NMB Bank Plc for the donation which included iron sheets, nails and timber, said the public has an important role in the development of the country starting from grass root levels. "The government appreciates that there are challenges in almost all important social services sectors but it is also a responsibility of the public to play a role in deciding on which projects should be given priority and also volunteer in construction work," the deputy minister noted while stressing that education and health remains the most sensitive areas with shortfalls.

Briefing the deputy minister, Morogoro Rural District acting Education Officer responsible for primary schools, Salim Samboka said the district has acute shortage of classrooms citing Mkuyuni Primary School which has 900 pupils who use nine classrooms only against a recommended 20 as per regulations.

"I would like to thank NMB Bank for this donation of iron sheets, nails and timber which will help us finish construction of three classrooms and reduce the overcrowding of pupils in one classroom," Samboka said.

He also paid tribute to NMB's management for donating 100 pieces of iron sheets to Kibwaya and Mfumbwe Primary Schools in the same district last year and urged the public to volunteer in construction work to speed up the project.

NMB's Eastern Zone Manager, Baraka Ladislaus said in the past 12 months, the bank donated construction materials for schools, health centres in Morogoro region valued at 140m/- with Mkuyuni ward getting



NMB Bank Plc Eastern Zone Manager Baraka Ladislaus (L) presents desks to a Morogoro district official recently.

25m/- of the amount.

"Some of the materials that we have donated include desks, tables and chairs for laboratories, beds and mattresses,

medical equipment and other accessories," Ladislaus noted while pledging to continue investing in communities which back NMB's business activities which gen-

erate profits annually.

The country's largest bank allocates a percent of its net profits annually to invest in community projects as part of its good

corporate governance programme. NMB Eastern Zone Manager, Baraka Ladislaus (L) handing over desks to a Morogoro district official recently.

Pesapal and Oracle to market Kenyan hotels as one team

NAIROBI

PAYMENT solutions provider Pesapal has joined the global IT giant, Oracle, to market Kenya's tourism facilities.

Pesapal which has 4,000 hotels from Kenya and across Africa on its Reserveport platform, has integrated with Oracle Partner Network (OPN) allowing tourists to locate, book and pay for reservations for any hotel.

Pesapal chief executive Mark Mwongela said achieving Oracle validation gives tourists a one-stop platform to plan their Safari, thereby reducing costs usually consumed by travel operators, agents and other people involved in searching for required partner hotels. "Kenya has expertise to power technological solutions that facilitate hotel business deals," he said.

Oracle Worldwide ISV Cloud Business Development vice president David Hicks said customers now have confidence using the Reserveport 2.6 portal that will ride on the Oracle Hospitality OPERA 5.5 platform that boasts of 35 years' experience in providing technological solutions to food and beverage operators.

"For solutions deployed on premises, in the cloud, or both, Oracle Validated Integration applies a rigorous technical review and test process that helps to reduce deployment risk and improves the user experience of the partner's integrated offering," said VP Hicks.

The development addresses Covid-19 concerns reducing interactions between tourists, travel and tour operators while directly searching for tour destination and placing reservations for reception, transport and hotel services from one portal from anywhere in the world.

Covid-19 has hit the hospitality sector hard after



One of Pesapal's affiliated hotels in Kenya.

social distancing measures and travel restrictions were imposed by governments across the world. The development has also seen hotels embrace use of digital platforms for bookings via own websites and through online travel agents. Restaurants now allow placing of orders through online food order and delivery platforms.

Reserveport integration to Oracle Hospitality OPERA provides real time availability and pricing of hotel rooms and services sold in one marketplace that online travel agents, among them Booking.com, Expedia and Hotels.com use to place orders for their clients.

This takes away the need for calls, pa-

perwork calls and involvement of a long chain of people in travel agent offices, travel operators and banks in favour of a one-stop shop solution. Kenya's Pesapal is a payment gateway enabling customers use their credit cards, banks and mobile networks to settle hotel bookings and related services from one portal.

Mall operator Hyprop reports some increase in collections of rent

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH African shopping mall operator Hyprop Investments said on Wednesday that rent collections were increasing as outlets reopened and customers slowly start returning after more than two-months of lockdown. Non-food brick-and-mortar retailers are among the worst hit by a government order to close all stores in a bid to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. The country's oldest department store chain operator Edcon entered into bankruptcy protection in April.

Retailers were allowed to resume operations from May 1 but footfall is still significant down. "Rent collections are improving as these negotiations are concluded with individual tenants and should return to normal levels once all are finalised," Hyprop said in a statement. Hyprop collected 43.6% of rent for April and 54.6% for May. The company, which owns upmarket Hyde Park Corner mall and Rosebank mall in Johannesburg, said it is currently in talks with 86 of its national and larger retailer groups in South Africa and has concluded negotiations with 37% of these. Its liquidity is strong and it has R1.6 billion (\$96.22 million) in available cash resources, it said.

Hyprop, which counts Edcon as one of its tenants, said it has 47,762 square meters of exposure to the company, or 6.7% of its gross leasable area in South Africa. Edcon's administrators have identified about 1,360 square meters of that as non-viable space, it said.

DURBAN

AS part of it Covid-19 rental relief to tenants, diversified JSE-listed property group Fortress Reit has already written off a portion of rentals due for April and May. It has done so not just in its retail property portfolio, but also within its logistics, industrial and office property portfolios.

In an operational update on the impact of Covid-19 published on the JSE on Monday,

the group noted that it had only collected 51.3% of rental due for April and would write off 26.2% of retail rent for the month. It has deferred 0.1% of retail rentals due for the month, which takes the overall relief given to its retail tenants (as a percentage of billings) in April to 26.3%.

The group has also done "write-offs" of 4%, 2.7% and 3.4% respectively for logistics, industrial and office sector tenants for April. For these sectors, it has offered rental deferrals of 16%,

Fortress writes off 26% of retail rent for April

18.2% and 9.3%, respectively for April.

Negotiations continuing

The group's retail property rental collection for May improved to 70.8%. It has written off 8.9% of retail rentals for May and deferred payments of 1.4% due for the month. Fortress did not indicate the total rand value of the write-offs, and is still negotiating payment of the bal-

ance of rentals due.

While rental collections came to 77.3%, 78.8% and 82.8% for its logistics, industrial and office portfolios for April, this worsened to 70.9%, 63% and 71.6% in May. Fortress has also undertaken small write-offs for rent due in May for these sectors; however, it has offered rental deferrals in the double digits.

"We have spent a considerable

amount of time on engagements with our tenants, both directly and through collective industry initiatives, over the past two months to understand the impact of the Covid-19-related lockdown on their businesses," the group said in its Sens statement.

"As rentals are payable in advance, the May 2020 rental was invoiced and due while the

lockdown was in effect and the regulations around the different levels were uncertain," it noted. "However, it is pleasing to note that the negotiations post May 1, 2020 have been constructive, particularly in the retail segment."

Keillen Ndlovu, Stanlib's head of listed property funds, tells Moneyweb that Fortress seems to be the first South African real

estate investment trust (Reit) to publicly announce that it is writing off a portion of rentals due for April and March. "It's not surprising to see that the biggest write offs (26%) for April rent was in the retail space. This was driven by the Level 5- or hard lockdown.

"April was the toughest trading month ever for retail tenants, save for essential supermarket and pharmacy tenants," he says. "May has seen an improvement in collections [versus April] and

TECHNOLOGY

WORLD'S MOST EXPENSIVE PROPERTY MARKET VISIBLY RETAINS ITS APPEAL

HONG KONG

A SECURITY law that threatens to upend Hong Kong's status as an Asian financial hub hasn't slowed the world's most expensive property market.

Dozens of would-be buyers lined up in the rain last week for a chance to bid on 94 apartments in The Campton project in central Kowloon, with prices starting at HK\$6.8 million for a one-bedroom property. All but one of the units were snapped up in eight hours, bringing in HK\$880 million for the developer, China Vanke.

"When the political system and economy are unstable, cash depreciates quickly," said a woman named Li, who joined the line in the Tsim Sha Tsui neighborhood and only gave her surname. "I want to use up the money for an apartment to preserve value."

On the surface, it doesn't seem like the best time to buy a property in Hong Kong. The future of the former British colony is clouded by China's introduction of the security bill, prompting the US to threaten removal of Hong Kong's special status.

The legislation is triggering concerns about capital outflow in a city trying to recover from the pandemic. Hong Kong's economy is expected to see a record 7 per cent contraction this year.

For some residents, political and economic turmoil make real estate a better bet than other assets. Last month, Sun Hung Kai Properties sold 97 per cent of its 298 apartments worth almost HK\$2 billion in one day, according to the developer. Ms Li, a housewife in her 40s, believes the housing market can withstand a deteriorating economy because the supply of homes will never catch up to demand.

"Hong Kong is a very small place," she said outside the Vanke project sales centre. "If you look at home prices 20 years ago and now, properties bought then are all making huge profits." The numbers back her up. Property prices have surged 230 per cent since 2000, data from Centaline Property Agency



Fishermen are reflected in a puddle as Hong Kong's skyline looks in front of them.

shows, bolstering the view of many Hong Kong residents that property will always be a haven. Despite a contracting economy, existing home prices have risen 1.2 per cent this year, and are the highest since November, based on the Centaline index.

Even as prices and sales have dropped in many global markets such as London and Singapore, Hong Kong recorded 6,885 property deals in May, a 12-month high as the city eased pandemic measures.

The average price citywide stands at HK\$15,589 per square foot, according to Midland Realty, making it the world's least affordable market.

"Prices have proved remarkably resilient, especially if you consider that the Hong Kong market has become a byword for unaffordability," said Simon Smith, head of research and consultancy at Savills. Mr Smith cites persistently low real interest rates and the city's relatively successful handling of the pandemic to explain the market's resilience.

In the long-run, limited supply, high demand stemming from a low rate of home ownership and close-to-zero interest rates will support the market, according to a Morgan Stanley report published last month. That's not to say the property market isn't without risks. Businesses are shutting down and unemployment is at its highest in a decade. While job losses have mostly been in low-skilled sectors such as retail and catering, the spread of unemployment to profes-

sionals will affect their ability to repay mortgages. Savills expects residential home prices to drop 5 per cent in 2020.

The recession and plunging retail sales have also taken their toll on real estate stocks, though they rallied last week. The Hong Kong Hang Seng Properties Index, which includes the city's biggest developers, has declined 18 per cent this year versus a 12 per cent drop in the benchmark. Developers focusing on residential real estate such as Sun Hung Kai Properties have fared better than commercial landlords.

Doubts about Hong Kong's future have prompted some residents to consider emigration. Non-resident bank deposits surged to a record in Singapore last week, an early sign that some people in Hong Kong are moving their money.

For now, though, homebuyers seem willing to look past the risks. "Hong Kong is one of the most livable cities in China, if not Asia," said Mr Smith. "If it maintains its status as a global first-tier city, a gateway to China and an international financial centre, there is no reason why both the commercial and residential markets shouldn't continue to thrive."

Despite pandemic and slowing economy, US property market is still attractive to investors

NEW YORK

THERE are strong opportunities to invest in the US real estate sector despite the slowing down of the economy due to coronavirus pandemic, according to experts.

"We are negative and bearish on hospitality and retail sector but bullish on select multi-family, office and industrial segments because of continued demand," said Ian Russ, managing partner of Delta Rhino Capital, a real estate investment management firm.

Second-tier cities in the midwest, centre and southeast of the US including Indianapolis, San Antonio, Cincinnati, Kansas city and Houston, offer good investment opportunities, he added. Middle East sovereign wealth funds and investment firms from the region have been actively investing in the US real estate sector for many years because of attractive returns.

Earlier this year, Bahrain-based alternative asset manager Investcorp invested \$164 million to acquire two properties in the US to boost its portfolio of real estate investments in the country. In November, the Bahraini company, which counts Mubadala Investment Company as its biggest shareholder also bought a portfolio of 126 industrial properties in the US for \$800m.

Gulf Islamic Investments (GII), the UAE based investment manager also acquired a commercial property in upstate New York, increasing the value of its real estate portfolio in the US to more than \$230m. "We are specifically interested in mid-tier class b properties in multi-family segment," Mr Russ added.

"With offices, corporate tenants will continue to require office space despite new social distancing guidelines. In industrial we are optimistic about the distribution, logistics side of the Amazon effect, which is having a negative impact on



Statue of Liberty in New York.

the retail but positive impact on logistics side of industrial properties."

Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (Adia), the sovereign wealth fund of the emirate, has investments in the US property market.

Last year, it bought the remaining 25 per cent stake in 330 Madison Avenue from Vornado Realty Trust, gaining full ownership of the Manhattan property.

Investment in the US property and real estate market has become more attractive amid the pandemic. Properties in hospitality sector are badly hit due to coronavirus pan-

dem with 30 to 35 per cent of urban US hotels estimated to never re-open, according to Mr Russ. "Hotels have been incredibly hard hit. Recovery likely to take several years and will depend on recovery of other sectors like travel."

Last month US based Hyatt Hotels Corporation decided to lay off 1,300 employees to cut costs. It also decided to close some properties due to lack of demand. In March, GII co-founder and GCC chief executive, Mohammed Al-Hassan said his investment firm "has great confidence in the US market given the attractive risk spread, strong liquidity and transparent business environment."



The Leaning Tower of Pisa.

More than 197m travel and tourism jobs at risk worldwide if movement restrictions aren't ended

GENEVA

MORE than 197 million jobs could be lost within the travel and tourism sector if movement restrictions to contain the spread of Covid-19 continue, the World Travel and Tourism Council said in a statement on Wednesday.

The latest forecast is nearly 96 per cent higher than WTTC's previous estimate of 100.8 million jobs in April. The organisation forecast that prolonged travel restrictions could wipe out \$5.5 trillion of the sector's contribution to global gross domestic product.

"The sector's recovery will be delayed by heavy-handed restrictions just as it emerges from one of the most punishing periods in its history - in addition to the airlines, the entire travel ecosystem will suffer, including millions of SMEs," said Gloria Guevara, WTTC president & chief executive.

"Hotels, destinations, travel agents and others will all be devastated by the economic domino effect of prolonged restrictions on movement, plunging millions of travel businesses and their employees into financial ruin."

The WTTC said that the 197.5 million job losses would occur if global travel restrictions continued past summer. It also forecast that international visitor numbers could decline by 73

per cent, while domestic tourism could fall 64 per cent in the event of prolonged restrictions.

However, if curbs were lifted sooner it could save 99.3 million jobs within the industry and the hit to the GDP could be narrowed to \$2.6tn. The pandemic has hit airlines, tourism and the hospitality sector particularly hard, battering air travel demand as countries closed their borders to stem the spread of the coronavirus.

Airlines grounded most of their fleet while hotels had to temporarily shut down their properties and furlough hundreds of thousands of staff to stay afloat during the pandemic. While the number of infections have reduced in some countries, they are still climbing in others, meaning governments remain wary of fully reopening borders. In order to help the industry, the WTTC recommended governments open air corridors or routes between countries that have successfully controlled the pandemic to recommence travel.

"This will be vital to kickstart the economic recovery and rebuild the livelihoods of millions of people," said Ms Guevara. The travel and tourism supported one in 10 jobs, making a 10.3 per cent contribution to global GDP and generating one in four of all new jobs in 2019.

Major milestone seen reached in Dubai solar power mega project

ABU DHABI

SHEIKH Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, chairman of the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy, and Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, chief executive of Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) were on hand as a Molten Salt Receiver was hoisted above the ground and installed on top of the tower.

The receiver will play a crucial role in ensuring the tower can store sunlight and convert it into thermal energy. The project is part of the Dh15.78 billion fourth phase of the vast solar park, called Noor Energy 1, and aims to provide power for 320,000 homes while slashing carbon emissions by 1.6 million tonnes.

The sprawling solar park has a planned capacity of 5,000 megawatts (MW) by 2030 and investments of up to AED 50 billion. Dubai has set out ambitious plans to derive 75 per cent of its total power output from clean energy by 2050.

Abdul Hamid Al Muhaidib, executive managing director of Noor Energy 1, briefed Sheikh Ahmed on the progress and installation of the MSR. Noor Energy 1 is owned by DEWA, the Silk Road Fund, which is owned by the Chinese Government and ACWA Power from Saudi Arabia. "ACWA Power is proud to partner with DEWA and Silk Road Fund and support all efforts to make the Dubai Clean Energy Strategy 2050 a reality," said Mohammad Abunayyan, chairman of ACWA Power.

"Today, we reached another significant milestone in the world's largest concentrated solar power plant, Noor Energy 1. We have completed the lifting of the Molten Salt Receiver in a record time, keeping the highest standards of safety despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and many other challenges." The solar park will become operational in stages, starting in the third quarter of 2021.

Are taxi motos ready for cashless payments?

KIGALI

RWANDA Utilities Regulatory Authority (RURA) on March 27 issued guidelines for commercial motorcyclists as part of efforts to control the spread of Covid-19. Taxi-moto operators had spent more than 70 days out of service due to covid-19 restrictions.

Among the guidelines, motorcyclists and passengers must carry hand sanitizers to use before every trip, a passenger must have a piece of cloth to wear under the helmet, and motorcyclists must observe social distancing where they park.

Other guidelines are that passengers who can afford it should buy their own helmets and people were encouraged to use cashless payments. There was also the mandatory use of meters by commercial taxi-motos in Kigali City from June 1, but it was extended to July 1, because motorcyclists couldn't get the meters in time.

According to FERWACOTAMO, a federation of motorcycle cooperatives in Rwanda, only 7,500 motorbikes had meters, as of May. The number represented 29 per cent of the total 26,000 motor-bikes in Kigali City. So far, an additional 5,000 motorcyclists have been given phones installed with a meter application by Pascal Technology, a software development company that operates in the transport sector.

"We thought of coming up with a software to improve on how the payments are done. So, when this project kicks off, we shall be using cashless mode of payment; mobile money and cards," Ronald Mugisha, the Chief Operations Officer at Pascal Technology.

For cards to be used, Mugisha explained that their company was in talks with AC Group to see if their Tap&Go smartcards could be used. But if it doesn't work, Pascal Technology will come up with their own cards, according to Mugisha.

WORLD

UK scientists defy Johnson to speak out on virus failures

By Bloomberg

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson is battling to contain a public split with his own top scientific advisers, after they warned the government must learn from the catalog of failures it made during the coronavirus crisis.

Standing next to Johnson on live television, Chief Medical Officer Chris Whitty highlighted a "long list" of potentially flawed decisions on the pandemic response that will need to be reviewed.

At the much-watched daily news conference on Wednesday, the epidemiologist admitted that his greatest regret was the UK's failure to get a testing program up and running fast enough.

Hours earlier, Neil Ferguson, a specialist who worked on modelling the outbreak in its earlier stages, said that had the UK imposed a lockdown sooner, the death toll could have been halved.

Johnson insisted it was premature to draw conclusions. He also pushed back on Ferguson's criticism, saying that the UK followed the advice of its Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE), of which Ferguson was a member at the time. "All such judgments will need to be examined in the fullness of time," he said, when pressed on whether he would've

done anything differently. "It's simply too early to judge ourselves."

The reckoning

With more than 41,000 coronavirus deaths so far, the UK has the second-highest toll in the world after the US, and the government has faced a cascade of criticism over its response to the pandemic.

The admissions by the scientists are some of the frankest yet by senior figures. Johnson's ratings have taken a tumble, just six months after winning a big majority at the general election.

The prime minister, who contracted the virus and almost died of it, has struggled to manage the deepest crisis of his premiership. His closest adviser, Dominic Cummings, was at the center of a row over whether he violated lockdown rules, a controversy that cut through to the public and damaged trust in the government. Meanwhile, with the rest of Europe opening up its borders, the UK is still largely shut down.

The ongoing business closures are now a grave threat to the economy, according to analysts. The OECD warned the UK economy could shrink 11.5 percent this year. The slump is almost twice as much as what's expected for the global economy, and the 9.1 percent for the euro



UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson

area. Against this backdrop, Johnson now needs to contain a conflict between scientists and some government ministers that has spilled out in the open. Even as the prime minister sought to close down the discussion of what he'd got wrong, his medical advisers said learning lessons now will be vital to countering a potential second wave of the virus in winter.

"There's a long list actually of things that we need to look at very seriously," Whitty told journalists, when asked what he regretted about the UK's efforts. "If I were to choose one, it would probably be looking at how we could speed up testing very early on in the epidemic."

'The fog'

Whitty said there were "many other" issues that will need to be re-examined ahead of a possible second wave in winter, but "many of the problems that we had" came from the lack of testing evidence on the outbreak. "We were trying to see our way through the fog," he said.

Johnson is trying to return the country to normality as the number of daily deaths from the coronavirus slows. People can already meet in parks and gardens, so long as they maintain social distancing, and car showrooms and outdoor markets were allowed to reopen June 1. From Monday June 15, non-essential shops will be allowed to reopen, as well as zoos, safari parks and drive-in cinemas.

But Johnson is facing criticism over his handling of the return of schools, which is vital to enabling workers to return to their jobs.

He has had to delay the re-opening of all school classes until September because the education service is not ready. There are also calls from Johnson's own Conservative Party colleagues to reduce the 2-meter (6 feet) social distancing rule in an attempt to help the hospitality and retail sectors. While he is sympathetic, government scientists say the measure is still necessary.

Bad timing

The clash with the scientists came after Johnson announced a further easing of limits on social contact: under the new rules, single-adult households will be allowed to form bubbles with others who can support them.

From this weekend, adults who live alone, as well as single-parent families, will be able to form a support "bubble" with one other household, which can have more than one adult. They won't have to heed social distancing rules requiring people to stay 2 meters away from each other. But households won't be able to link up with more than one other under the plan.

"There are still too many people, particularly those who live by themselves, who are lonely and struggling with being unable to see friends and family," Johnson said. "It's a targeted intervention to limit the most harmful effects of the current restrictions."

He stressed that there's a balance of risk to be struck. "I have to be very mindful of the risk of new outbreaks," he said. "My judgment at present is we must proceed cautiously." **Agencies**

IMF chief urges countries to guard against retreat from globalisation

WASHINGTON

INTERNATIONAL Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva on Tuesday urged countries to recognize the importance of global trade amid the COVID-19 pandemic and guard against a "dramatic retreat" from globalization.



Noting that inequality tends to go up after a pandemic, the IMF chief said at a virtual event held by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce that "we must put this squarely on our radar screen and recognize the importance of global trade in contributing to lower costs, higher incomes and lower levels of poverty."

"There would be a natural tendency after this pandemic for countries to turn inwards to build health security and build more independent operations," Georgieva (pictured) said. "But we must guard against a dramatic retreat from globalization."

The IMF managing director said 170 countries -- almost 90 percent of the world -- will be worse off with lower per capita income by the end of 2020. "Never in our history have we seen such a tremendous reversal of fortunes for so many," she said.

In mid-April, the IMF projected in its World Economic Outlook that the global economy is on track to contract by 3 percent in 2020. Georgieva said in May that the multilateral lender would "very likely" further cut global growth forecasts, as COVID-19 continues to sweep the world.

Noting that governments have rolled out fiscal measures totaling 9 trillion U.S. dollars globally, Georgieva said at the virtual event that the massive measures have provided a lifeline to many businesses, calling them "well-targeted and well-thought through."

The IMF chief also noted around 100 billion dollars left emerging markets and developing countries in March amid the COVID-19 pandemic, three times more than during the global financial crisis.

"But in April and May -- thanks to this massive injection of liquidity in advanced economies -- some emerging markets were able to go back to the markets and issue bonds with competitive yields, with total issuance of around 77 billion dollars," she said, adding that this is almost three and a half times as much as in the same two months last year.

The IMF chief said some 75 percent of countries are now reopening, and so now is the moment to think carefully about what comes next.

"I believe we should think about building forward -- not back -- and building a recovery that is focused on a great transformation as we emerge from this exceptional crisis," she said.

"On the risk side, we will emerge from this crisis with more debt, higher deficits and -- in all likelihood -- higher structural unemployment and higher levels of poverty," Georgieva said, calling on countries to think carefully how to mitigate these risks with right economic policies.

The crisis, however, also generates opportunities in areas such as digital transformation, green development, as well as building fairer societies, she said. **Xinhua**

But in April and May -- thanks to this massive injection of liquidity in advanced economies

WHO hopes to work with US on Ebola despite Trump criticism

GENEVA / ZURICH

THE World Health Organization hopes to work "side by side" with the United States to contain an outbreak of Ebola in Congo, its chief said on Wednesday, despite their differences over the new coronavirus.

US President Donald Trump said last month he was ending the US relationship with the WHO over its handling of the coronavirus pandemic.

But WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said he had met US Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar last week. The meeting appeared to be the first sign of high-level cooperation between Tedros and the Trump administration since the president said he was cutting ties.



"We had a very good discussion with the secretary as of last week and he assured me of US continued commitment to support in the fight especially against Ebola," Tedros (pictured) said.

The WHO said on Monday 12 people had been infected with Ebola in the outbreak of the deadly disease in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Tedros said the meeting with Azar did not mean the WHO was receiving money directly from Washington, until now its top donor.

"It's not about the money. The relationship (with the United States) is more important," he said.

It is not clear when Trump's decision on cutting ties will come into effect and the WHO has not confirmed receiving official notification of with-

drawal.

Trump has accused the WHO of issuing bad advice on the coronavirus and pandering to China, where the pandemic was first reported. The WHO has defended its handling of the crisis.

Mike Ryan, head of the WHO's emergencies programme, said on Wednesday there were equipment shortages for fighting the coronavirus in some regions including Central and South America.

Asked about a Harvard Medical School study using satellite images that suggested the coronavirus might have been spreading in China in August 2019, he urged caution.

"It's really important that we don't speculate too much," he told the virtual briefing. **Xinhua**

Aussie PM draws criticism for 'no slavery in Australia' comment

SYDNEY

AUSTRALIAN officials warned Black Lives Matter supporters they could be arrested if they breach coronavirus restrictions to take part in public protests, as debate erupted over the country's own indigenous history.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison drew strong criticism yesterday after he said "there was no slavery in Australia" during a discussion of the early days of British settlement, which he acknowledged was "pretty brutal."

Historians, Aboriginal activists and some lawmakers expressed shock and dismay at the comments.

"Slavery of indigenous, men,

women and children is well documented," said Sharman Stone, a former federal lawmaker and now politics professor at Monash University. "Slaves worked in pearling, fishing, the pastoral industries and as domestic labour."

The Black Lives Matter movement has refocused attention in Australia on the mistreatment of indigenous Australians, including Aboriginal deaths in custody.

Victoria state officials confirmed on Thursday that one of eight new cases of COVID-19 reported on Thursday was a man who attended the Melbourne weekend rally. More unauthorised protests are planned for Friday.

Morrison said the initial motives of protesters were "fair," but



the push for removal of the statues was being driven by political agendas. Australia on Tuesday recorded

its first day without any community transmissions of COVID-19 since the crisis began. It has recorded 7,285 cases, including 102 deaths.

"We will start writing tickets of A\$1,000 (US\$700) and we can use all of our powers to move people on," New South Wales Police Commissioner Mick Fuller told 2GB Radio. "If you don't move on, well then you'll be arrested."

Morrison rejected growing calls to remove statues of white leaders, including one of the country's first prime minister, Edmund Barton, which is located near an Aboriginal burial site. Barton played a key role in drafting the national constitution, which negated Aboriginal rights. **Agencies**

China to build strong disease prevention, control system

PREVENTION is the most economical and effective health strategy. To build a strong public health system, the key is to put disease prevention first, reform and improve the disease prevention and control system, and stay prepared for health emergencies.

"Only by developing a strong public health system, improving the early warning and response mechanisms, comprehensively enhancing the capacity for prevention, control and treatment, weaving a tight prevention and control network, and consolidating the wall of quarantine, can we provide a strong guarantee for safeguarding the people's health," Chinese President Xi Jinping made the remarks when presiding over a symposium

attended by experts and scholars on June 2.

The disease prevention and control system serves as an important guarantee for protecting people's health and public health security as well as maintaining economic and social stability, said Xi, who is also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee.

Xi required efforts to make disease prevention measures more calibrated and effective, calling for greater reform in streamlining systems and mechanisms, clarifying functions and improving professional competence.

Since the 18th National Congress

of the Communist Party of China (CPC), the CPC Central Committee, with comrade Xi at the core, has issued guidelines for health work in the new era and elevated the Healthy China initiative as a national strategy. Based on previous experiences, it has adhered to carrying out institutional reforms on the medical and health system, which is a worldwide challenge, with Chinese approaches.

In a short period of time, the country has established the world's largest basic medical security network, and pushed the overall strength of public health and disease prevention and control capabilities onto a higher level, which

has played an important supporting role in improving people's health.

To prioritize disease prevention is to stick to, carry forward and develop conducts that have long been proved effective in practices. To implement the guideline, the key is to adhere to the people-centered development philosophy and to protect people's health.

Prevention plays an important role in curing diseases. To provide a strong guarantee for the protection of people's health, China must unwaveringly put prevention in the first place and integrate prevention with treatment, strengthen society-wide efforts to prevent and con-

rol diseases, and strive to provide whole-of-the-life-cycle health services for the people and comprehensively improve people's health.

In the face of the unexpected COVID-19 epidemic, China's public health and medical service systems have played their key roles, but some weak links and inadequacies were also exposed.

To build a strong public health system, it is necessary to increase reform efforts, and reinforce the weak links and plug the loopholes as soon as possible.

It is also necessary to set up a mechanism to ensure steady input in public health, which will help improve the basic facilities for disease

prevention and control and improve the quality of public health service programs.

Efforts should also be made in optimizing the set-up of the functions of disease prevention and control agencies, and establishing mechanisms for better division of work and closer coordination between agencies at different levels.

Besides, it is necessary to build up the capacity of national disease prevention and control agencies in terms of technology, expertise and human resources.

The country will improve the mechanisms for disease control agencies to better coordinate with

urban and rural residential communities, so as to strengthen joint prevention and control at the community level.

It will develop new mechanisms for collaboration between medical institutions and disease prevention agencies, to facilitate exchanges of personnel, information and resources, as well as cross-supervision and monitoring.

It will also build a strong team of disease control professionals, modernizing the training and career development mechanism for them.

It is also necessary to strengthen early-stage monitoring and warning for epidemics as a pressing task in improving the public health system.

People's Daily

One of four Minneapolis police charged over Floyd's death freed on bail

MINNEAPOLIS

ONE of the four former Minneapolis police officers who were charged over the death of George Floyd, a black man whose death in custody set off protests for police reform and racial justice, was released on bail on Wednesday.

Protests flared for a 17th day early on Thursday with crowds in Portland, Oregon, flooding city-center streets with some activists throwing bottles at police and removing temporary security fencing and using it to block traffic.

The former police officer released, Thomas Lane, 37, had been held on \$750,000 bail and was freed from Hennepin County jail, sheriff's office records showed.

He was one of three officers charged with aiding and abetting second-degree murder and aiding and abetting second-degree manslaughter in the 46-year-old Floyd's death on May 25.

A fourth officer, Derek Chauvin, 44, was videotaped pressing his knee to Floyd's neck as he gasped "I can't breathe" and called for his mother be-

fore he died. Chauvin was charged with second-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter.

All four officers have been fired from the Minneapolis police department.

Lane's attorney, Earl Gray, did not immediately return telephone calls to Reuters on Wednesday night but Gray has told media that his client tried to help Floyd.

Gray also told the media that Lane was only on his fourth day on the job on patrol duty and that Chauvin was his training officer, whom he should obey.

"What was my client supposed to do but follow what his training officer said?" Gray said in a court hearing, Forbes and other media reported.

Chauvin's lawyer was not immediately available for comment.

Many of those joining the more than two weeks of protests have been calling for a ban on choke holds and other methods of restraint used by police.

Police have also been criticized for heavy-handed tactics against protesters in various places. Indiscriminate use of tear gas, flash grenades as well as many



Former Minnesota police officer Thomas Lane poses in a combination of booking photographs at Hennepin County Jail in Minneapolis, Minnesota, U.S. June 3, 2020. REUTERS.

incidents of police hitting protesters with batons have been recorded.

The protests have seen fewer clashes in recent days but in Portland, some in

the crowd threw bottles at police and cut down a fence near the federal courthouse, police said on Twitter, warning that offenders are subject to arrest. It

was unclear if arrests were made overnight, but Portland police tweeted that the crowd dispersed on its own about 2 a.m. local time.

Media earlier reported a crowd of more than 1,000 in Portland calling for the resignation of the mayor.

Protesters in Portsmouth, Virginia, defaced a Confederate monument and toppled parts of the statue of Confederate President Jefferson Davis. A man was injured when the structure tumbled down, a reporter with WAVY News said on Twitter.

Chauvin remains in jail in lieu of \$1.25 million bail. The other officers, Tou Thao and J. Alexander Kueng, remain in jail in lieu of \$750,000 bail, each charged with aiding and abetting second-degree murder and aiding and abetting second-degree manslaughter.

In Minnesota, pleas are not entered in preliminary hearings.

Lane's next hearing is scheduled for June 29 and his attorney is planning to file a motion to dismiss the charges, media reported.

Agencies

Kremlin hoping that new sanctions proposed in US will not translate into action

MOSCOW

THE Kremlin is hoping that the new anti-Russian sanctions proposed by the Republicans in the US House of Representatives will not be imposed. Moreover, such impulses do not improve bilateral relations, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov is certain.

"Of course, we can only regret that these new impulses are out there advanced by certain people in the general US policy," he said yesterday. According to Peskov (pictured), "this definitely does not contribute to normalization of bilateral ties." "We are hoping that these plans will not translate into action and will not be implemented in any way," he stressed.

The Russian-American relations are being sacrificed for the benefit of certain political forces, Peskov noted. "Overall, as presidential campaign in the US progresses, our country and the Russian-American relations traditionally become a proverbial lamb that must be sacrificed, if one wants to achieve any success in the electoral business," the Kremlin spokesman commented. "This is regrettable," he added.

TASS earlier reported that Republicans in the US House of Representatives suggested imposing unprecedentedly tough sanctions against Russia, Iran and China in the history of the US legislature.

The proposal is laid out in the 120-page long report entitled "Strengthening America & Countering Global Threats" published by the Republican research committee gathering around 150 Republican congresspeople.

The initiatives set out in the document are recommendations but not a bill submitted to Congress. "We are following the reports about such ideas and proposals [to impose] new restrictions," Peskov added. "We generally believe that such restrictions are illegal from the international law viewpoint."

Agencies



Italy's coronavirus blood tests advancing slowly but providing 'essential' information

ROME

SEROLOGICAL testing aimed at charting the extent of the spread of coronavirus in Italy is going slower than expected, officials told Xinhua, though the information it is providing is still "essential."

In late May Italy began a national pilot test of at least 150,000 individuals to determine the prevalence of the coronavirus antibody in the population.

But Italian Red Cross officials told Xinhua that fewer than one in four Italians asked to provide blood to be tested for potential exposure to the virus gave their immediate permission.

Though the Red Cross did not say what acceptance rate they expected, the organization did say the rate was lower than their models predicted.

"We expected more citizens to participate," Rosario Valastro, vice president of the Italian Red Cross, said in an emailed statement. Of the estimated 150,000 calls made so far, just 24 percent resulted in an immediate agreement to be tested.

Valastro said around 13 percent agreed to reconsider their decision, while nearly two-thirds -- a total of 63 percent -- declined to respond at all.

Valastro said the testing, which had been scheduled to wrap up by mid-June, would now be extended to at least the end of the month. The government is not the only entity supporting such testing.

Local governments, organizations, and companies -- from individual regions and trade unions representing healthcare workers to private companies such as carmaker Fiat-Chrysler and multinational tire manufacturer Pirelli -- have funded their own testing regimens.

Health officials in the northern Italian city of Bergamo, one of the those hardest hit by the pandemic, said this week that 57 percent of the nearly 10,000 residents tested showed the presence of the coronavirus antibody, meaning they had come into contact with the virus at some point.

Researchers have said those with coronavirus antibodies in



Some of the coronavirus blood samples (File photo).

their systems could be immune to COVID-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus, or could at least have heightened resistance to the disease.

According to Fabrizio Pregliasco, a researcher at the Department of Biomedical Sciences for

Health at the University of Milan, the testing plays an essential role in the government's policymaking going forward.

"Slowing the spread of an outbreak like the coronavirus is a complex matter," Pregliasco said in an interview. "There are anti-

bodies that show up immediately after infections and others that show up 14 days later. No information set is perfect, and there is always a margin for error. But this kind of data is essential to understand how the virus spread and what parts of the population may

still be vulnerable."

Pregliasco said serological testing at the San Donato Hospital in Milan, where he works, found that 11 percent of employees showed signs of having been exposed to the coronavirus, even if some of them never showed COVID-19 symptoms.

Most data associated with the outbreak of the coronavirus in Italy -- the infection rate, the mortality rate, and patients in intensive care units -- has been trending in a positive direction since early May, when the government first began easing lockdown measures in place since early March.

The government is planning further loosening of lockdown rules in the coming weeks, including the reopening of cinemas and concert halls, a restart to the professional football season, and the removal of travel restrictions for visitors arriving in Italy from beyond Europe. Italian Red Cross officials including Pregliasco, and others said testing data will help guide that reopening process and guard against a reversal of the recent coronavirus trends.

Xinhua

African countries urged to work on conserving ocean, marine resources

NAIROBI

AS the world celebrated World Ocean Day on Monday, African countries were called on to take bold and innovative actions toward promoting, developing and implementing a sustainable conservation of the ocean and its marine resources.

The African Development Bank said with its 38 coastal states, the African continent has countless assets to take advantage of the blue economy.

The bank said African oceans are among the richest environmental resources in the world, and potentially offer sources of income to populations. It however said many obstacles remain to be overcome to achieve the ambitious objective.

Barry Faure, Seychelles' secretary of state for foreign affairs and the blue economy said humanity's fate has always been intricately tied to that of the ocean.

He said Seychelles has always attached great importance to

the ocean as its people have a direct dependence on the ocean resources for their identity, sustenance and livelihood.

"Both tourism and fisheries, our traditional economic pillars, have thrived on the ocean," Faure said in a webinar organized by the European Union on Monday.

With tourism brought to its knees in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, Faure said people have been forced to pay greater attention to the ocean in ways which will maximize benefits.

He said the ocean is already under pressure from overfishing, illegal fishing, threats to maritime safety, and the impact of climate change.

"As responsible members of the global community, it is incumbent upon us to take bold and innovative actions to coordinate our moves to promote, develop and implement a sustainable conservation of the ocean and its marine resources," Faure

said.

"Whether it is within national jurisdictions, the borders beyond national jurisdictions or on and below the sea bed, we need to be coherent in our actions."

Faure said Seychelles has shown the world that it is possible to achieve a critical balance between marine conservation and development, especially in actively promoting the Blue Economy concept, and at the same time continue to exert its role as custodians of the marine ecosystem.

He said Seychelles has banked on innovation, with the Seychelles Debt for Nature Swap and the Seychelles Blue Bonds, being two unique financing mechanisms to drive its blue economy.

Bridge the gap
"It is only through finding the exact balance between economic growth and protection of our marine environment that we can hope to truly save our oceans. Bridging the gap between the needs of our people and clean

and sustainable oceans should therefore be the commitment of our governments," Faure said.

"As the ocean has been instrumental in our sustenance and growth, we should now strive to ensure its preservation."

The South African department of environment, forestry and fisheries, said that over the last five years it has partnered with the department of science and innovation to develop South Africa's Ocean and Coasts Information System.

The system relies on several government agencies contributing their specialized data or information to a central platform that creates products that can be used by the shipping, fishing and aquaculture industries.

The system can track vessels around the South African coast to assist in vessel operations, pollution incident management, search and rescue as well as monitoring fishing by larger vessels in offshore marine protected areas.

Xinhua

British statue of scout founder Baden-Powell to be taken down

LONDON

A LOCAL authority in southern England said it would remove a statue of Robert Baden-Powell, founder of the worldwide scouting movement, the latest memorial to be taken down in the wake of anti-racism protests sparked by the death of George Floyd.

The demonstrations sweeping across the United States and Europe following the death of Floyd in Minneapolis have reignited a debate about monuments to those involved in Britain's imperialist past.

Poole council said yesterday the statue of Baden-Powell, a British Boer War hero, would now be moved from its location on the quayside of the seaside town where it has been for just over a decade to safe storage while there were discussions with local communities about its future.

"Whilst famed for the creation



of the Scouts, we also recognise that there are some aspects of Robert Baden-Powell's life that are considered less worthy of commemoration," council leader Vikki Slade said.

His statue currently looks across the harbour to Brownsea Island where he started the scout movement in 1907.

While Baden-Powell, who in 2007 was voted the 13th most influential person in the United

Kingdom in the 20th century, was hailed as far-sighted for setting up the scouts, critics said he held racist views and was a supporter of Adolf Hitler and fascism.

Last Sunday, protesters in Bristol, western England, pulled down and threw a statue of 17th Century slave trader Edward Colston into the harbour. It was retrieved on Thursday and the local council said it would be displayed in a museum.

Electronic inspection system put into operation on Great Wall of China

EMERGENCY and abnormality detection for the Great Wall, located in mountainous areas, has long been a tricky issue, but now an electronic inspection system is changing history.

Beijing's Huairou District, home to sections of the Great Wall, recently equipped each of its 131 conservators with an electronic device that reports their locations every two minutes. With the device, the conservators can also report problems they spot by sending photos to relevant departments of cultural relics.

The system proved its value soon after its debut. On June 2,

it added a new piece of cultural relic - a pedestal - to the collection of the Huairou Museum.

The pedestal was spotted by conservator Li Binglong in the bushes near the Great Wall when he was on patrol. He soon took a photo and reported his finding to relevant authorities, as instructed during the training.

"This machine came in very handy. Li and I immediately uploaded a photo of the pedestal when we found it. Soon we received a call from the head of Huairou's cultural heritage authority, and the pedestal was sent to the Huairou Museum," said Li



Photo taken on May 26 shows the Jinshanling section of the Great Wall located in Luoping county, Chengde, Hebei Province.

Linyuan, a Great Wall conservator in Huairou's Yanxi township.

Shen Wei, one of the developers of the system, introduced

that the location and patrol route of every conservator on duty in Huairou district is shown by the system in real time on a big screen of the command center. With the system, each township in the district can have a grasp of the conservators' work and receive the information they transmit.

"It was very hard to find scribbling, damages to the walls or injured hikers in the past as we always spent a huge amount of time negotiating with conservators over the locations. Sometimes we couldn't find these locations without the conservators leading the way," said Guo Dapeng, deputy

director of Huairou Cultural Commission. "Thanks to this system, we can now get to the accurate location very quickly," he said.

"The system also protects the conservators, as it enables us to know exactly where they are if an accident happens during the patrol in the perilous mountains," Guo added.

Besides, the system also serves as a real-time messenger for conservators in the same town. "We can inform our colleagues instantly when off-route tourists head to other directions," said Wang Guijiang, a conservator of Dazhenyu village, Bohai township.

Equipped with this new instrument, conservators now patrol in key areas on a regular basis, and the photos they upload will form a data base that helps future Great Wall reservation.

"If I find a crack in the wall, I can take a picture of it every day to keep track of it, see if it's getting bigger," said Wang.

More functions of the system are to be expected in the future, such as alarming and video calls, which helps the conservators to handle emergencies such as forest fires and floods together with other departments.

People's Daily



LeBron James wears a T-shirt to honor Eric Garner during warmups before a game on Dec. 8, 2014. (Agencies)

Activism will forever be part of LeBron's legacy

NEW YORK

LeBRON James has long been able to captivate audiences with a word or photo while simultaneously keeping another eye on maintaining his basketball excellence.

As he's gotten older, more experienced and mature, James has recognized the importance of "the moment" – giving the game what it needs when it's called for. Now, perhaps realizing the world is in a moment of reckoning, he's still pushing and being more direct in what he sees.

First, there was James and his Miami Heat teammates wearing hoodies in honor of Trayvon Martin, who was slain in 2012, before embarking on James' journey to his first NBA title.

The "I can't breathe" shirts he and other NBA players wore in 2014 after the chokehold death of Eric Garner, a New York man who died in police custody following suspicion of selling single cigarettes out of a carton.

Derrick Rose started that trend but James didn't hesitate to lend his support, knowing such statements would be viewed as controversial and could alienate a segment of fans.

The world is in a moment, listening to black cries, black grievances and black demands in a way it hasn't since the days of Martin Luther King Jr. It was dangerous to say the phrase "black lives matter" as recently as four months ago, as it was easily distorted by those who didn't want to hear the reasonable request to stay alive during routine police interactions.

King's greatest weapon was shaming White America and pointing out its treatment of black people was counter to the creed this nation claimed to be built on.

For a while, it felt like shame was no longer a weapon that could be used on America. Many pointed to "gains" black Americans made to neutralize relative shame, the ability to amass wealth, a black president in Barack Obama and the select few who were embraced by the masses – someone like LeBron James.

But James wouldn't allow his popularity, the influence of money or the risk of losing wealth to

stay silent on things that matter. So many athletes felt the need to maintain the economic benefits they've acquired by not upsetting the apple cart of America – an example set by Michael Jordan, who until very recently chose not to use his voice on black issues for fear of backlash.

James has bucked that trend, and if these were the Jordan days, James would be daring his corporate sponsors to abandon him. But James has so much economic freedom today to speak out, they'd be losing more than him.

James has taken calculated stances in some instances while staying out of the fray in others. His silence in the killing of Tamir Rice, a 12-year-old who was shot by police while playing with a toy gun in 2014, was curious considering it occurred in Cleveland – where James had just returned to play months earlier.

Perhaps condemning the police so close to home would've put his own life in danger or the practical risk wasn't worth it, and if he's all-in for the fight, he should have to answer for that particular silence.

But activists don't have to be perfect figures. What they have to be is effective, and James has proven to be that, quickly criticizing New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees for his stance on NFL player protests.

When black athletes speak out against racism, be it systemic or personal, the usual suspects will crawl out from their corners to ask about a plan – as if calling out racism isn't a powerful thing in itself, and forgetting that a plan should usually come from legislators and civic leaders whose lives supposed to be dedicated to breaking down the structural racism that's existed for centuries.

But Tuesday, James took aim at a specific form of racism – voter suppression in the suburban Atlanta area. As crazy as it sounds in a technologically advanced country such as the United States, broken voting machines and malfunctioning machines are still a problem, leading to long lines, frustrated voters and a negative sign of things to come with a critical November presidential election ahead.

(Agencies)

IOC to open talks about easing protest ban at Olympics

GENEVA

AMID a global wave of demonstrations against racism, the IOC said Wednesday it would open talks that could let athletes make stronger protests at the Olympic Games.

Only five months ago the Olympic body strengthened its ban on political statements by specifying that gestures such as taking a knee or raising a fist on a medal podium remain prohibited.

But the IOC's public stance eased slightly on Wednesday when its president Thomas Bach said the in-house athlete committee would "explore different ways" opinions could be expressed during the games – while still "respecting the Olympic spirit."

"The Olympic aims are a very powerful global demonstration against racism and for inclusivity," Bach said at a news conference after an executive board meeting.

Still, he sought to separate "support for the principles enshrined in the Olympic Charter and potentially divisive demonstrations."

The current rule 50 of the charter tries to uphold political neutrality for the Olympics but allows athletes to express opinions in interviews

after their events.

However, gestures made on the field of play or at medal ceremonies were classed in January as "divisive disruption."

According to the current stance, athletes copying the iconic raised fist salutes by American sprinters Tommie Smith and John Carlos at the 1968 Mexico City Olympics could still be sent home from the Olympics. They also would face disciplinary action by their national Olympic team, their sport's governing body, and the IOC.

It was unclear if the new talks could lead to those kinds of gestures being tolerated in the future. Bach twice referred to "dignified" gestures, but wouldn't specify what he wants to see from the upcoming talks.

"I will not preempt in any way these consultations," Bach said.

No details or timescale were given for the process, which Bach said would be led by the athletes panel that includes IOC members elected by their peers, and others who are appointed. The panel led by Kirsty Coventry, an Olympic gold medalist swimmer from Zimbabwe, has typically followed the views of the Bach-chaired IOC board of which she is a member.

(Agencies)

Harmonize avec Luambo: From 'Na Biso Candidat' to 'Magufuli' dubbing

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

ENTHUSIASTS of Bongo Flava have something to chew about as the preliminary stage of election preparations start invading the field of entertainment, almost as if artistes were waiting to be allowed to move in. In the past there were campaign songs and other lyrics, or at various national occasions, timed to take place at the moment of that event, but this time there are precocious productions in a number of places. Perhaps the most noted production so far is a dubbing of a throbbing song to suit electoral purposes by noted artiste, Rajab Abdul Kahali, known largely as Harmonize, extolling the successes of the fifth phase leader.

This genre of music can't be said to be especially popular as not each election has its productions, but some artistes made a career from extolling the work of the ruling party, at times working within its organs. The most remarkable such artistes was the late Moses Nnauye, who rose to the military rank of colonel and was in charge of culture in the defence forces, as well as a mobilizing for overall support and engagement with the newly founded unified political party early 1977. He coined the phrase 'utukufu wa chama' (the glory of the party) not via slogans and speeches but in ardent martial singing and excitement.

Even among our neighbours there are moments where election excitement is high enough, or conversely it is the popularity of a sitting president that is at its zenith or something of that sort, and this is an occasion for frenzied productions, not all of which last long in memory. In neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo, then known as Zaire, a notable production was 'Chantent Candidat Na Biso Mobutu,' meaning 'sing (together) for our candidate Mobutu,' released in 1984 when the former Congolese leader was campaigning for re-election. As it was put up by none other than Luambo Luanzo Makiadi in his usual prowess, it reached real fame.

A number of other artistes have been on stage with numbers extolling the performance of the fifth phase, but those are in several cases new songs, while there are other cases of dubbing, including one from tiny Faustina Charles 'Nandy,' from her trend setting 'Nngeshe' production. All these songs are yet to be tested



Bongo Flava musician, Rajab Abdul Kahali, popularly known as 'Harmonize'.

at the platform of the campaign as activity is as yet low key, with preparations awaiting the conclusion of the Budget sitting of the legislature. At that time meetings to nominate candidates, or rather picking up forms to seek nomination will start being commonplace, whereas during the past month or so people do so in hiding.

Ordinarily the songs that one hears in Tanzania that touch politics are directed at the party, for instance during the decade-long domination of airwaves by Captain John Komba, a composer and team leader with a military cultural outfit who decamped to civilian life with a troupe of his own. He died early 2015 and wasn't available for the change of guard later that year, or sing for a jolted CCM after his own role model, former premier Edward Lowassa decamped to the opposition. During this election year it is unclear if the ruling party has its own groups of artistes who can come up with

notable productions, or Bongo Flava fills the gap, a situation that will be entirely understandable with arduous limitations of the Covid-19 situation.

What is unclear though is how far these artistes are card bearers or just composers for the situation, as in the case of Captain Komba he was in actual fact a party militant, but others who have sung praises for the ruling party like the late Mbaraka Mwinshehe were at most patriots. They were never marked politically, and even groups like NUTA Jazz or DDC Mlimani Park Orchestra despite institutional affiliations with state organs or departments, were pretty dissociated with politics. Col. Nnauye was a creative militant as well.

Looking over some online data on various musicians and their political engagements over the past few years, one finds a noted rhythmic artiste like Ali Kiba to be somewhat near the higher echelons of politics than Harmonize. But there is a saying in

Kiswahili, 'the one feared most in the sea is the shark, but there are others,' in which case there are artistes who can go one better to Ali Kiba or anyone else, whether it is in the campaign songs aspect or elsewhere. Indeed there is still plenty of time for others to add new clips.

One tantalizing aspect however is that entertainment productions come up when there is least need for them in the sense of adding testimony as to how much a leader has succeeded in the tasks he set out to do at the start of that specific mandate. Song composers are obviously sensitive to public moods, widespread sentiments, and will not hurt their fans with ill advised intrusion into 'electoral entertainment' if there are doubts about the popularity of the candidate the composer seeks to extol. It is clear no such risks come up with the president, that a portion of those who watch his numbers on Youtube will feel disappointed, etc.

Golf passes initial test with no positive virus results

FORT WORTH, Texas

THE PGA Tour is not simply picking up where it left off.

Very little about the Charles Schwab Challenge at Colonial resembles the opening round of The Players Championship on March 12, the last professional golf played before the COVID-19 pandemic shut down golf and most everything else.

Players return to a new set of rules, starting with mandatory tests for the coronavirus when they first arrive and having their temperatures taken before they can get to the parking lot.

The tour said all 487 tests of players, caddies and essential personnel were negative.

On the course, players are to make every effort to practice social distancing and 'show best practices for playing golf to our fans watching the telecast.'

Good thing Wednesday's activity wasn't shown on TV.

Players and caddies exchanged clubs (players are supposed to handle the clubs themselves). Caddies were not wiping down the flagsticks or bunker rakes after use. Social distancing felt more like a guideline.

It was just like normal in a return that is supposed to be anything but that.

"It's going to be very easy to fall back into old habits because it's just what we've done," Rory McIlroy said Wednesday. "I'd say for the viewing public just to give the players and caddies a little bit of leeway if they see something on TV that isn't quite



Dustin Johnson putts on the 13th green during practice for the Charles Schwab Challenge golf tournament at the Colonial Country Club in Fort Worth, Texas, Wednesday, June 10, 2020. (AP Photo)

right. We're having to figure it out as we go along, as well."

Of equal concern is what they do off the golf course, even with a designated hotel. Some are staying in houses. Justin Thomas, Rickie Fowler and Jason Dufner have their own chef.

The most obvious difference is no spectators on the course, making Colonial look like it does for the members except for ropes lining the fairway to give carts and mowers some guidance on where to drive.

Another difference is likely to be the number of people watching from home.

Golf is only the second major sport to return in the U.S. (motor sports are back in action), and a field featuring

McIlroy, Thomas, Dustin Johnson, Jon Rahm and Brooks Koepka is appealing.

There also is the underlying responsibility to show that returning at this time was the right move, and that golf can live up to its reputation as one of the safer sports.

"I think this week is very important because golf will be the center of the sports world, which it usually a few weeks a year is," McIlroy said. "But for people to have something to watch on TV where they actually don't know the outcome I think is going to be nice for them. So I think that'll be a good thing."

"And I think it's an important week because golf can show that we can play in a socially distant manner," he

said. "We can conduct a tournament and adhere to all the safety protocols that have been put in place."

Koepka made no apologies for working with caddie Ricky Elliott the way he always does, mainly because his caddie is staying with him this week and both have been tested.

"You look at any other sport. I'm pretty sure LeBron James isn't going to worry about setting a pick. Football, you're not going to worry about tackling a guy because of social distancing," Koepka said.

But he recognized the importance of getting through this week without incident, so that golf can continue until just short of Christmas.

AP

Legacy of 2010 World Cup ended 'Afro-pessimism', says S.Africa football boss

SOWETO, South Africa

DANNY Jordaan, the man who spearheaded the 2010 World Cup, believes the tournament put an end to "Afro-pessimism" and helped transform the African continent from "hopeless to hopeful".

Ten years after the event, Jordaan told AFP the World Cup put sceptics firmly in their place and sparked a boom for Africa.

In 2004, when then-FIFA president Sepp Blatter announced South Africa would be the 2010 host, it had already been a century since the governing body was formed.

"It took 100 years... and the reason for that is a doubt that had been created around Africans and the African continent that they don't have the capacity and they will never deliver the infrastructure," Jordaan said.

"This is something that we have to contend with - Afro-pessimism."

After it won the bid, the country embarked on a six-year journey to deliver the required infrastructure including rail, rapid-transport systems, roads and freeways, as well as upgrading broadcast and telecommunication systems.

That came at a 33-billion rand (\$1.9 billion) price tag.

"After 2010, Africa became a destination for tourism, for investment for trade," Jordaan said.

"The environment has changed from a hopeless continent to a hopeful continent, a continent of the future and now, no one can ignore the African continent."

He added: "There is no contradiction between being African and being world class."

"It is again, the Afro-pessimism. We are not going to allow them to put their knees on our necks," he said metaphorically referring to George Floyd, the African-American man whose death at the hands of a white policeman in Minneapolis has sparked worldwide protests.

- Mandela's appearance - Jordaan, who was head of the 2010 organising committee and is now the president of the South African Football Association (SAFA), hailed the tournament's legacy.

"The infrastructure legacy to-

gether with 25 new hotels, which have been built, places this country with some of the best infrastructure on the continent," said Jordaan at his office at SAFA house, situated at the FNB stadium on the fringes of the Soweto township.

Of the 10 stadiums that hosted the 64 matches during the month-long tournament, five were built from scratch, and five received upgrades so they could collectively seat more than half-a-million spectators.

The stadiums are now used by football and rugby teams.

For Jordaan, the moment when former President Nelson Mandela came to wave to the crowd on the day of the final at the stadium, previously named Soccer City, remains emblematic of the significance of the tournament for South Africans.

"He was already very frail and sick, but he insisted... he must be there," said Jordaan.

"Of course, that was his last public appearance. He never appeared in public again."

The tournament also catapulted women's football to prominence, said the 68-year-old who played a critical role in preparing the bid to host the 2010 premier event.

"As a result now we have more than 400,000 women playing football," at various levels including developmental, he said.

A plethora of female referees and coaches have also emerged over the last decade.

A premier women's football league, established a year before the World Cup, has since grown to boast more than 140 teams and thousands of female players.

Banyana Banyana, the national women's team, is rated among the top 50 by the FIFA Women's World Rankings.

Among the many memorable and uniquely African icons of the 2010 World Cup, were the 'vuvuzelas', long plastic trumpet horns now adopted worldwide.

"Most of the European fans didn't like the sound of the vuvuzelas," Jordan chuckled, "they said it's like bees, angry bees humming in the stadium."

AFP

Italian football emerges from virus crisis with cup semis in balance

ROME

THIS week's Italian Cup semi-final, second leg matches were set to bring football back to a nation emerging from the coronavirus crisis, but with two days until the scheduled kick-off the two matches are still awaiting government approval.

Juventus' home clash with AC Milan on Friday was supposed to be the first competitive match played in Italy since the country became Europe's COVID-19 epicentre, and the start of what the football authorities hope will be a return to normality.

More than 34,000 people on the peninsula have died because of the virus since the start of the crisis, with the vast majority in northern regions like Piedmont and Lombardy which host Juve and Milan.

However, although the virus still persists, Italy began to gradually emerge from a stringent lockdown last month and has been slowly moving back towards regular life since, with the return of football pitched as the latest sign that the worst should be over.

Public broadcaster RAI has already announced its coverage of the two last four encounters, with Napoli v Inter Milan scheduled for Saturday.

However, while Health Minister Roberto Speranza on Wednesday confirmed the dates for the semis and the June 17 final in Rome, he only said that the government was "leaning towards authorising" the last three matches of the competition.

Speranza's comments at the Italian Senate come just as it appeared that weeks of squabbling between Italy's football authorities and the government had been left behind, with what will likely be a large, sport-starved TV audience ready for the two matches behind closed doors.

Should, as expected, Friday's match take place fans will see a tie delicately poised at 1-1 following February's entertaining first leg at the San Siro, which saw the 'Rossoneri' leading until Cristiano Ronaldo scored a stoppage time penalty to take a draw and an away goal back to Turin.

- 'Very odd situation' - Milan will be without injured Zlatan Ibrahimovic, who had sparked the seven-time European champions into life after returning in December, as they attempt to beat Juve in Turin for the first time since 2011.

Forward Samu Castillejo, who said he was robbed at gunpoint in Milan on Tuesday, and defender



Cristiano Ronaldo's late first-leg penalty gives Juventus the advantage going into Friday's second leg of the cup semi-final (AFP Photo)

Theo Hernandez are suspended.

Milan coach Stefano Pioli will likely point to Ante Rebic, who had scored seven goals in nine games before football succumbed to the virus, as the goal threat.

They will be helped by Wednesday's ruling which eliminates extra-time in the event of deadlock after 90 minutes for both last-four second legs and next week's final.

The cup is more of a priority for fallen giants Milan, whose last major honour came nine years ago, than for Juventus, who later this month resume a tight Serie A title tussle with Lazio.

However Juve coach Maurizio Sarri told Sky on Wednesday that Juve were "lucky" to have the cup, Serie A and Champions League seasons played at separate

intervals as they chase European glory to go with their domestic dominance.

"We can focus on our targets one at a time, and this could be an advantage for us," he said.

"But we'll only know once we're out on the pitch because this is a very odd situation. After such a long break we've not even been able to play proper matches in training."

Sarri is reportedly wary of risking players who are not 100 percent fit, and will leave out Gonzalo Higuain for his starting line-up.

However with Ronaldo, Paulo Dybala and Douglas Costa likely to start, goals should not be a problem.

Whoever comes out on top will face either Antonio Conte's Inter Milan or

Napoli, who hold a 1-0 lead ahead of Saturday's second leg in Naples.

The cup is Napoli's best chance of European football next season following a tumultuous campaign that has featured dressing room disputes and the sacking of Carlo Ancelotti.

Inter are off the pace in the title race and in search of their first trophy since winning the cup in 2011.

Fixtures (pending government approval) (All times GMT)

Semi-final, second legs

Today

Juventus v AC Milan (2000) (first leg 1-1)

Tomorrow

Napoli v Inter Milan (2000) (first leg 1-0)

AFP

Premier League's restart hamstrung by injury fears

LONDON

THE Premier League will return after a 100-day stoppage on June 17, cramming the remaining 92 games of the season into just five-and-a-half weeks.

A deluge of football may be welcomed by fans starved of live action for three months.

But it is expected to take a heavy toll on players hit by the combination of a long layoff, little contact training, fixture congestion and less hands-on treatment.

"We are expecting more injuries at this time," Newcastle club doctor Paul Catterton told the BBC.

"We have had players asking if they can have ice baths after training and they can't at the moment - all we can do is give them ice to take home. It's like going back 15 years."

The injury risk is of particular concern for those players who are out of contract at the end of the season and fearing for their future.

Championship side Charlton will be without top scorer Lyle Taylor for their battle against relegation as the 30-year-old has decided not to play and put a lucrative move at risk.

"It makes me think what would happen if I had an injury now that threatened the rest of my career," Taylor told Sky. "I'll be honest with you, it scared the life out of me."

Olivier Giroud was also out of contract at the end of the campaign when coronavirus hit, but has been handed an extra year on his deal at Chelsea.

But at 33, the French World Cup winner is feeling the effects of pre-season-style training without the help of physios to aid his recovery.

"I'll admit that if I could have more care and treatment to look after my body, it would be better," he said.

- 'Russian roulette' -

To help lighten the load on players, the Premier League has not only adopted a temporary change to allow five substitutes per side, but also increased the size of a matchday squad from 18 to 20.

However, the lesson from Germany's Bundesliga, which returned on May 16, is that an increase in injuries is almost inevitable.

According to sports science specialist Joel Mason, Bundesliga injuries went from a pre-lockdown average of 0.27 per game to 0.88 in the first round of fixtures after the competition resumed.

"The early indications from both training and matches continue to point in one direction - that post-lockdown injury rates are comfortably outside the boundaries of the typically observed injury rates," Mason wrote in a blog post.

Conditioning expert Raymond Verheijen has been a consistent critic of the grind Premier League players are put under even without the complicating factor of coronavirus.

The Dutchman, who served as part of Guus Hiddink's coaching staff and has worked with Barcelona,



Premier League players face an increased risk of injury on their return to action (AFP Photo)

Chelsea and Manchester City in the past described the return as "Russian roulette with the health of players at stake."

"I am convinced the players sense the danger, but they are in a difficult and de-

pendent position," Verheijen told the Mirror. There is so much still to play for at both ends of the Premier League that players can ill afford to bed themselves back into rhythm.

The battle for survival or European qualification could come down to those lucky enough to have their stars on the pitch and not the treatment table.

AFP

Court expects July verdict in Man City's European ban case

GENEVA

A VERDICT in Manchester City's appeal against a two-year UEFA ban from European competitions is expected within five weeks.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport set the target Wednesday of "during the first half of July" to publish the decision of its three-judge panel.

The panel finished hearing three days of evidence about allegations City broke UEFA's club finance monitoring rules and obstructed the investigation.

The CAS hearing was held by video link between Switzerland and England at an undisclosed location in Lausanne, with expert witnesses "in various countries," the court said.

Confidentiality was requested by UEFA and City, which is owned by Abu Dhabi's royal family.

"At the end of the hearing, both parties expressed their satisfaction with respect to the conduct of the procedure," CAS said in a statement.

The verdict will not affect City playing in this season's Champions League. It is due before City should resume play in August at home to Real Madrid in the round of 16.

The English champion won 2-1 in Spain and the second leg was postponed in March due to the spreading coronavirus pandemic.

UEFA punished City in February after a panel of independent judges found the club guilty of "serious breaches" of UEFA's Financial Fair Play rules and withholding cooperation from investigators.

The investigation was opened after leaked club documents were reported in German magazine Der Spiegel in November 2018.

The published evidence appeared to show City deceived UEFA by overstating sponsorship deals from 2012-16 and hid the source of revenue linked to state-backed companies in Abu Dhabi.

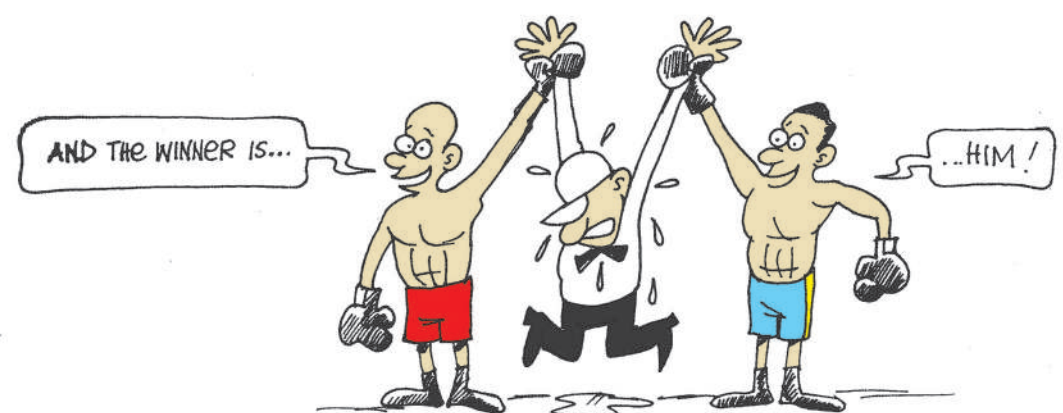
City has denied wrongdoing. The club is also challenging a UEFA order to forfeit 30 million euros (\$33.9 million) from its Champions League prize money - about one-third of its annual payout.

If City remains banned from next season's competition, its place will go to the fifth-place finisher in the Premier League. Manchester United is currently fifth.

City could make a further appeal to Switzerland's supreme court. Federal judges can intervene only on narrow legal grounds and would not re-try the merits of the case.



Gwiji by David Chikoko



Azam FC happy with friendly matches

SPORT

Italian football emerges from virus crisis with cup semis in balance

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Azam FC fullback, Abdul Omary (R), negotiates his way past KMC FC defender, Ally Ramadhan, when the teams met in a friendly clash in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

VODACOM Premier League giants, Azam FC, have said they are happy with the two friendly matches they have played in Dar es Salaam ahead of the league resumption this weekend.

Azam, who are preparing for their league clash with Mbao FC, which will take place at the Azam Complex in the city, played two friendly matches.

They confronted Transit Camp in the first friendly last weekend which had the two teams settle for a 0-0 draw.

In the second friendly, which was held on Wednesday evening,

Azam were again held to a 1-1 draw by fellow Premier League outfit, KMC FC.

Azam FC website said the outfit's coaching panel, headed by Romanian Aristica Cioba, has promised to rectify the weaknesses which they saw during the two friendly matches.

"The coach is happy with the team performance in the two games and he has promised to rectify the weaknesses which he and his technical panel observed during the two games," said part of the information from the club website.

During the game, the visitors were first to score through midfielder, Serge Tape, on the 55th minute of the game.

Azam equalized on the 88th minute through midfielder Mudathir Yahya's strike which went past KMC FC keeper and captain Juma Kaseja.

Azam FC are positioned second in the Vodacom Premier League standing with 54 points from 28 games.

The side is still missing the services of their first choice players, keeper Razack Abalora, defenders Daniel Amoah and

Yakubu Mohamed, all from Ghana.

Zimbabwean left fullback, Bruce Kangwa, and compatriots, midfielder Never Tigere and forward Donald Ngoma, and Ugandan defender Nicholas Wadada, are as well yet to join the team.

The foreign professionals are lately in their respective countries, which have imposed lockdown due to coronavirus disease.

The ice cream makers will have a very tough time beating relegation-threatened Mbao FC, currently placed second from bottom with 23 points from 29 games which they have played so far.

Mbao FC head coach, Abdulmutik Haji, is reported in the media to have said his charges are ready to fight to avoid relegation to the First Division League (FDL).

"We will play our lungs out, our aim is to remain in the league, we will fight to the end, we will start with this weekend game against Azam FC, I'm optimistic that we will remain in the league," he said.

TONIGHT @ 9:00

EATV FRIDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 Mid Week Movie (r)
13:30 Kali Za Wana
14:00 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Wakilisha (r)
16:00 Ujenzi (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Skonga
19:30 EATV SAA I
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 Friday Night Live
23:00 Kurasa (r)

Friday Night Live The Weekend begins here! Listen to upbeat mixed music by the hottest Djs, Gossip, showbiz updates and exclusive interviews with celebrities from home and abroad. Don't you dare miss this.

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 Friday Night Live

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

KMC FC player apologizes for fouling Jonas Mkude

By Correspondent Adam Fungamwango

DAR ES SALAAM'S KMC FC fullback, Kelvin Kijiri, has issued an apology to Simba midfielder, Jonas Mkude, after the latter had suffered an injury when he clashed with the former in a friendly duel which was held in the city early this week.

Simba commanded 3-1 victory over KMC FC in the game, targeting to help the sides shape up for the rest of their fixtures in the Vodacom Premier League.

Mkude sustained a dislocated shoulder after Kijiri had tackled the former in the duel.

Kijiri (pictured) pointed out he has been saddened by the incident, insisting he did not foul Mkude intentionally.

The KMC FC defender disclosed it was part of the sport and he later phoned Mkude to apologize for the incident.

"After the match's final whistle, I asked for Mkude's phone number, I phoned him and apologized for the foul, I told him it was bad luck," he disclosed.

"It is good he understood me and he told me I should not worry about it."

Kijiri stated he felt sad to have seen Mkude taken to a hospital, disclosing he felt the Simba player had suffered a serious injury.

He pointed out he had wanted to visit Mkude at the hospital, if the midfielder would have been admitted to the hospital.

"I have done so, given there is life after football. I have learnt a lot from it and Mkude is my brother," Kijiri disclosed.

He said he has also apologized on behalf of his club and his family.

Mkude had to be taken to the hospital once he sustained the injury and reports disclosed he was responding well to treatment.

The tests which were conducted disclosed the midfielder had a swollen on the shoulder, therefore, he is expected to begin training within two days.

He will, nevertheless, not be part of Simba's players set to feature in the club's coming Vodacom Premier League clash with Ruvo Shooting.

Simba, currently enjoying the driver's seat in the top flight, will take on Ruvo Shooting at National Stadium

Mkude set to start training soon

By Correspondent Faustine Feliciane

SIMBA SC leadership has disclosed the outfit's midfielder, Jonas Mkude, who recently suffered an injury, is expected to start training in the next two days, pointing out the player has not sustained damaging injury.

Mkude had sustained a dislocated shoulder when Simba took part in a friendly encounter with KMC FC at the former's ground in Dar es Salaam early this week.

The friendly was aimed at helping the two clubs shape up for the rest of this season's Vodacom Premier League clashes.

Simba thrashed KMC FC 3-1 in the well attended friendly match.

The Vodacom Premier League leaders had walloped First Division League (FDL) squad, Transit Camp, 4-2 in a friendly held earlier the same day.

Simba's information officer, Haji Manara, disclosed the last examination which was done on Mkude's injury, has revealed he has not suffered broken shoulder.

"Mkude is at the side's camp receiving treatment, he has minor swollen which is now treated and he will start training with his team mates within two days," he stated.

Manara noted there is stiff competition for a place in Simba's first choice team, particularly at the time the top flight is inching closer to completion.

"This is the period players want to see to it they nail a place in their respective clubs next season, therefore, the competition in the squad is really



Jonas Mkude

huge," he said.

"Every player, therefore, wants to prove his worth."

He pointed out Mkude, in this case, has opted to stay in the camp to receive treatment, recover and get back to action.

"We all know Mkude. One would have chosen to, at this juncture, go for treatment at his home but he has opted to stay as he is eager to make his way back

to the pitch," he added.

The official, though, clarified Mkude stands great chance to be sidelined in Simba's coming clash with Ruvo Shooting.

Simba will host Ruvo Shooting in a Vodacom Premier League duel, which will be played in Dar es Salaam on Sunday.

It will be the first clash for both teams since the domestic top flight and the rest of sporting activities in

Tanzania were suspended with a view to fighting the coronavirus outbreak.

Simba SC, currently leading the 20-team Premier League with 71 points.

The domestic top flight, FDL and Second Division League (SDL) sides were given green light to start training from June 1 to shape up for the rest of their respective tournaments' games.

Government urges Paralympic associations to operate efficiently

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE government has directed Paralympic bodies to come up with strategies and means which will see the sports improve and develop in Tanzania.

Ally Possi, the Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, stated in an interview last week he had a meeting with representatives of the bodies in which, among other things, he asked the associations to come up with their strategic plans which will help them become self-reliant.

He said there is a need for Paralympic associations to develop mechanisms and marketing strategies that can help them generate sustainable income for their operations.

"Yes, I had a very fruitful meeting with Paralympic associations, the aim is to see the associations have mechanisms and strategies which will help them become self-reliant, they should not depend on government and well-wishers only, but must have a plan to help them generate their own income," he said.

The government official also disclosed that he has directed the associations with guidance of the National Sports Council (NSC) to form a committee which will be speaking on their behalf and the names of members of the committee should be submitted to him mid August.

"We want to see Paralympic bodies have one voice, we have directed the NSC to help them form a committee which will be speaking on the behalf of all other Paralympic associations," he said.

The Deputy Permanent Secretary promised that personally he will follow development and activities of sports involving people with disabilities so as the sector can grow and develop.

Tuma Dandi, Tanzania Paralympic Committee (TPC) Secretary General, described the meeting with Possi as very successful and fruitful.

He said the government emphasized at the meeting that sports have a rehabilitative influence, not only on the physical body, but also on the mind, sports moreover teach independence while encouraging team work.

He pointed out sports can serve as a space where those with and without disabilities can equally participate, demonstrating what real inclusion looks like to those who would try and keep them segregated.

"It was a good meeting, I'm really happy with it as the Deputy Permanent Secretary promised that he will personally follow and look for sponsors to help our associations and, if possible, convince the government to start giving subvention to Paralympic associations, but his main emphasis was on our associations' ability to be self-reliant," he said.

The TPC is the mother body of all associations which supervise sports involving people with disabilities, wheelchair tennis and Special Olympics.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

