




LIKE & FOLLOW US

ISSN 0856 - 5434 ISSUE No. 7850 • PRICE: Tsh 1,000, Kenya sh100

TANZANIA

MONDAY 16 MARCH, 2020

**National Pg 3**  
Lake Victoria pipeline reaches Tabora

**National Pg 4**  
Online trade in hazardous wastes

**National Pg 7**  
Swedish firms to invest in Tanzania

**Sport Pg 20**  
Students urged to promote sports, arts



# Minister decries financial laxity in foreign missions

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

**F**oreign Affairs and East African Cooperation Minister Prof Palamagamba Kabudi has decried serious financial irregularities in Tanzanian embassies abroad, saying an ongoing audit is likely to expose more rot.

Addressing the ministry's Workers Council here at the weekend, the minister cited two incidents of misappropriation in our embassies in Addis Ababa and Muscat, in Ethiopia and Oman respectively.

In Addis, a top official misappropriated \$472,684 that he said was enough to build a two-storey building.

In Muscat, officials failed to adhere to procedures, showing a building plan that was merely downloaded from the internet and had no bill of quantities for the construction.

"What happened in Ethiopia is a wake-up call to all ministry officials, and let me warn that the government will not tolerate such violations of law and procedural requirements" he said.

He expressed disappointment that while the government is committed to implementing development projects, most embassies do not have income generating projects as part of efforts to



Alliance for Change and Transparency (ACT-Wazalendo) Leader Zitto Kabwe (L), Vice Chairperson (Mainland) Dorothy Semu (C) and national Chairman Maalim Seif Shariff Hamad in jubilant mood moments after confirmation that they had triumphed in the general election held in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Beating of Chadema leaders: Party, police narratives differ

By Henry Mwangonde

**C**HADEMA and the police have issued contradicting versions of the circumstances that led to the beating of the opposition party's leading cadres at Segerea Prison gates last Friday.

Senior party members and some of those who suffered in the beating said there was no threat to the prison and therefore the assault was unwarranted.

**"The police were told that the leaders were causing chaos and bent on 'forcing their way into the prison.'"**

However, the zonal police office maintains that those attacked by wardens deserved

"proportionate" use of force because they disturbed the peace.

Dar es Salaam Special Police Zone commander Lazaro Mambosasa said that police received information about a group of Chadema leaders led by Kawe MP Halima Mdee and her Bunda colleague Ester Bulaya, as well as Ubungu mayor Boniface Jacob.

The police were told that the leaders were causing chaos and bent on "forcing their way into the prison."

Mambosasa said during the

confrontation the Chadema supporters tore a prison warden's uniform, which forced police to intervene.

"What they did was wrong and let me use this opportunity to issue a strong warning to any group or individuals who will go against the law that we will not hesitate to take serious legal actions against him or her," he said.

On Friday, Chadema officials in -



## Zanzibar set for launching of 18 factories in rapid industrialisation implementation

By Guardian Correspondent, Zanzibar

**Z**ANZIBAR is to open 18 new factories, with one to be unveiled every month in the Isles' industrialisation drive.

Trade and Industries Minister Amina Salum Ali announced here at the weekend during the launch of the first unit that the factories are being put up in both Unguja and Pemba as part of efforts to attain middle income status driven by industrial production.

"At the ministerial level, we are working with the private sector to ensure that we launch one factory every month for 18 months," she said at the launch of Swahili Coast Salt Co. (SCSC) at Shangani area.

A recent study by American and British experts found that salt found in the archipelago has ingredients of the highest quality, she said.

That is what has informed the decision to train people in Pemba on sea salt farming, conducted by the Small and Medium Industrial Development Agency (SMIDA) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the minister noted.

"Currently, there are 56 groups of sea salt farmers in the Isles. We expect stable jobs to be created for our people by opening factories like this," she said.

The Director of Investment Facilitation at the Zanzibar Investment Promotion Authority (ZIPA), Sharif Ali Sharif said the industrialization drive is part of the Zanzibar Vision 2020-2050 blue economy which was unveiled recently.

"This vision focuses on industries that process marine resources such as fish and

TURN TO PAGE 2

TURN TO PAGE 2

## Global geological tourism conference starts midweek

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

**A**N international network bringing together all geoparks to a single platform is set for launching here this week, as Tanzania hosts the first ever African Global Geoparks international conference.

Dr Guy Martini (pictured), chairman of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council, explained how this umbrella body shall work with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

With the creation of the African Global Geoparks Network, UNESCO

intends to create a platform to support the promotion of the global geopark concept and capacity building of the numerous geopark initiatives and projects on a continent that boasts an extremely rich geological heritage, he said.

Geopark is a UNESCO-designated area containing one or more sites of particular geological importance, intended to conserve the geological heritage and promote public awareness of it, typically through tourism.

Speaking at the Ngorongoro Geopark site at the weekend, Dr Martini noted that so far Tanzania is



the only country south of the Sahara which has established a geopark.

It is the the Ngorongoro Conservation Area run by an authority, in which case Tanzania was honoured to host the African Global Geoparks international conference.

There are 147 geopark sites found in 41 countries around the world, while Africa has just two geopark sites, Ngorongoro and the other in Morocco.

The Ngorongoro Lengai Geopark is the second to be established in Africa after the M'Goun Geopark, in Morocco. The Ngorongoro Geopark encompasses Ngorongoro, Karatu,

and Monduli districts in Arusha, as well as some geological sites in Mbeya and Tanga regions.

Dr Freddy Manongo, the Commissioner of Conservation at the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA), explained that with the geopark, Tanzania is hatching a new form of tourism where practically everybody can participate and benefit.

"We hope that the geopark concept will spread throughout the country, because Tanzania is endowed with rich geological and land formation

TURN TO PAGE 2





## Global geological tourism conference starts midweek

FROM PAGE 1

features that if packaged well will create a sustainable and profitable form of tourism," he specified.

The Tanzanian geopark is marketed as a special site which features an extraordinary unique active volcano, paleoanthropological sites and wildlife, all being rolled up into one. Recently the Songwe meteorite of Mbeya and the Amboni sea-side caves of Tanga, were included in Ngorongoro-Lengai Geopark.

For his part, Joshua Mwankunda, the manager in-charge of the Ngorongoro-Lengai Geopark said the first African Global Geoparks international conference starts Wednesday, March 18 and will close shop on Sunday, March 22nd.

The conference, as well as the forthcoming UNESCO Global Geoparks Network for Africa proceeded from a declaration signed by UNESCO, the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) and the UNESCO Global Geoparks in Africa and the Arab World last year.

It was signed at the second

national symposium of the Morocco Geological Heritage in Rabat, highlighting UNESCO's mandate and stressing the importance of multilateralism in the advancement of sustainable development.

The promotion and management of UNESCO Global Geoparks for sustainable development is the theme guiding the Arusha conference, officials said.

UNESCO Global Geoparks are single, unified geographical areas where sites and landscapes of international geological significance are managed with a holistic concept of protection, education and sustainable development.

This declaration opened the path to the creation of a Global Geoparks regional network dedicated to the African continent. With the M'Goun UNESCO Global Geopark, Morocco was the first country to establish such an entity in Africa and the Arab World, before the Ngorongoro-Lengai Geopark was formally recognized.

## Minister decries financial laxity in foreign mission

FROM PAGE 1

the council to come up with new sources of revenue collection apart from visa fees. Prof Kabudi raised concern that employees in our embassies currently receive minimal payments to sustain their living. He maintained however that there was a positive relationship between embassy staff and the government and they were a happy lot.

"It is time to sacrifice and fasten our belts at this crucial moment when the government is struggling to invest in large scale strategic development projects," he said.

He explained before the council that the current sacrifice would have enormous impact even for 100 years to come. Ongoing massive government funded projects include the construction of Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) now in its Singida-Makutopora section, revival of Air Tanzania, provision of free education and construction of the Nyerere Hydropower project.

He said as Tanzania is geographically located

connecting several countries to the sea, improving infrastructures would have a multiplier effect on the economy.

He appealed to members of the council to deliberate on how best to raise new sources of revenue. He was quick however to suggest that staff should be paid more only when necessary.

During the current financial year the ministry envisioned to collect 2.5bn/- from its sources but the minister says more can be generated should the ministry diversify its options.

He said the first phase government under President Julius Nyerere managed to acquire land at prime locations in foreign countries that if developed is a better method of increasing revenue collections.

Ambassador Mohamed Hamza, a member of the council assured the minister that the ministry's staff are now aware of government directions and that they are committed to work towards the realization of the state vision.

The Deputy Secretary General of the Tanzania Union of Government and Health Employees (TUGHE), Amani Msuya expressed concern that many employees in the ministry avoid joining the union.

He said the union was suffocating as new staff are reluctant and seek to know if there is a pay rise, querying how civil servants will survive if the mandated organ is not active.

Out of 450 employees of the ministry of foreign affairs only 50 employees are active members of the union, he pointed out.



Kemilembe Lwota (R), Chairperson of the Parliamentary Lands, Natural Resources and Tourism Committee, issues directives to Shinyanga municipal director Geoffrey Mwangulumbi (5th-L) when the team made a land surveying inspection tour yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Munir Shemweta

## Beating of Chadema leaders: Party, police narratives differ

FROM PAGE 1

cluding the women's wing chairperson Halima Mdee, who went to Segerea Prison to receive the party's national chairman Freeman Mbowe were arrested.

Prison wardens fired several rounds into the air after hundreds of Chadema supporters converged at the

correction facility where Mbowe was incarcerated two days earlier.

Those arrested included Mayor Boniface Jacob, Bunda MP Bulaya and the party's regional secretary for Dar es Salaam, Henry Kileo.

Later, during the day Bulaya and Mdee were rushed to Aga

Khan Hospital after sustaining injuries in the beating. The two MPs were admitted.

Chadema has issued a statement saying prison wardens and police used force excessive force to control the Chadema supporters even when they were not violent.

Mbowe visited the two MPs

yesterday and was expected to address the media late yesterday on the saga, while officially also intending to express gratitude to those who contributed monies in a fundraising campaign to free several MPs and party cadres from prison.

The Chadema supporters

were pressing prison officials to let Mbowe come out quickly after the 70m/- fine slapped on him was paid.

Mbowe and others were convicted to pay fines totaling 350m/- after being convicted of sedition and incitement at the Kisutu Resident Magistrate's Court.



Boniface Wilson (L), Dar es Salaam's regional education officer (academic), and Feza Schools board chairman Ismail Yilmaz (r) congratulate winners of the Mathematics & Science Olympiad 2020 in innovation for secondary school students. This was at during World PI Day anniversary celebrations held in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Zanzibar set for launch of 18 factories in rapid industrialisation implementation

FROM PAGE 1

seaweed as well as exploration of oil and gas," he said.

SCSC Director Stephanie Said affirmed that the company is set to contract 10,000 salt farmers to supply the company as more people are being trained to follow best practices in sea salt

farming.

Sea salt farming occurs in warm climates with little precipitation such as Zanzibar. Sea salt is harvested from shallow ponds called salterns through evaporation.

President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein told the 10th Zanzibar

Business Forum here last week that as part of implementation of the blue economy vision, three new ports have been lined up for construction, at the Mpi-gaduri passenger terminal area, oil and gas terminal at Mangapwani and a fishery spot at Malindi.

The recently revamped Zanzibar Fishing Co. is tasked with modernizing fishing by deploying equipment that can operate in deep sea, plus conducting sale of the catch.

A new fishing boat has been procured with another under construction, meanwhile as an

improved fish market is being built, all of which is similarly designed to attract more tourists, he stated.

President Shein affirmed that implementation of the blue economy vision will be overseen by the Zanzibar Planning Commission.

**It is time to sacrifice and fasten our belts at this crucial moment when the government is struggling to invest in large scale strategic development projects**





**NMB Bank Plc's Chief of Retail and Agri Banking, Filbert Mponzi, has an audience with some 300 members of Dar es Salaam regional chapter of the bank's business club at a one-day business and financial literacy training it held for them in the city at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent**

## TRA appeals to traders, customs agents to stop illegal cross-border deals

By Guardian Correspondent, Kyela

THE Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) has appealed to businesspeople and customs agents at the Kasumulu - Tanzania-Malawi border post in Kyela district, Mbeya region to desist from smuggling of goods as it adversely affect the country's economy.

The call was made at the weekend by the TRA Manager for Taxpayers Education, Diana Masalla when speaking at a training seminar on the effects of smuggling in the country's border areas.

She said smuggling business in border areas greatly hinders economic growth because goods being smuggled in are not taxed and the quality thereof is not verified.

"TRA's big task is to educate traders and customs agents by explaining to them adverse effects of smuggling to the economy and its impacts on people's health because some sub-standard illegally imported goods may cause harm to people's health",

she said insisting on traders to abide to the laws and make sure they follow all the importation procedures.

Masalla said apart from the issues of smuggling TRA will also educate taxpayers in various areas of Mbeya region on tax issues and the importance of paying tax on time.

Mbeya TRA Taxpayers Education Officer Serapio Luanda, called on customs clearing agents at the Kasumulu border post to provide reports on generated income from their activities.

He said early provision such reports will remove ease TRA in following up the reports on goods imported and tax paid thereon.

Ramadhani Msangi, one of the traders said education given will assist in enhancing the urge to pay tax and asked TRA to visit them from time to time.

He said TRA is supposed to be close to traders so as to listen on the obstacles they encounter instead of visiting them only when demanding tax payments.

# At last, Lake Victoria pipeline make it to Tabora

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

LAKE Victoria water has finally reached Tabora region whose residents have started to benefit from the 600bn/- project that began over a decade ago.

The project will benefit 1.8 million residents in more than 90 villages that cover the project area from the lake zone to Tabora municipality including Igunga

and Nzega. This was revealed here yesterday by chief government spokesman Dr Hassan Abbas who said the project had passed over 300 kilometers of land.

"As I speak, for the first time in the country's history land locked Tabora residents are bathing, drinking and generally benefiting by water from Lake Victoria, over 300km away", he said.

He noted that currently project

implementers are working to put in place water distribution infrastructures so as to reach all the intended villages.

"After many years of the project the water has finally reached Tabora, Igunga and Nzega, this is indeed good news", he stated.

He explained that since the country was created Tabora residents have never had water from the Lake but they are now enjoying

it. He called on the residents to start applying for the services so they are connected on time.

He said the government continues to improve the availability of clean and safe water to the wanchi in both urban and rural areas adding a total of 875 water projects are being implemented countrywide whereas 802 projects are in rural areas and 73 in urban places.

"We expect to achieve our target of ensuring availability of clean and safe water by 85 percent in villages and 95 percent in urban areas", Dr Abbas said.

On infrastructures, Dr Abbas said the government and African Development Bank (AfDB) have signed five agreements including implementation of three strategic projects from a US \$ 495.59 million loan, (1.14trn/-). The projects

include construction of Msalato International Airport in Dodoma at US \$ 271.63 million, construction of a 120.8km Bagamoyo-Horohoro-Lungalunga-Malindi at tarmac level at a cost USD 168.76 million. On the International Monetary Fund (IMF) report issued on March 5 this year, Dr Abbas said the Fund completed its evaluation report on the Tanzania economy and stressed that the economy is strong.

"The IMF was pleased by the country's adequacy of foreign currency, low inflation rate of below 5 percent, increase of exports and increase of commercial banks with ability to issue loans to the private sector. The national debt is manageable," he said.

He also said IMF was pleased by the ongoing war against corruption and government efforts in tax collection.



**THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**  
MINISTRY OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION  
**TANZANIA SHIPPING AGENCIES CORPORATION**  
TASAC



---

**INVITATION TO ATTEND STAKEHOLDERS MEETING TO CLARIFY COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS WITH THE GOVERNMENT NOTICE NO. 342 OF 2018 ON REGULATED SERVICE PROVIDERS LEVY**

The Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation (TASAC) has organised Stakeholders Meeting to be attended by the **Regulated Service Providers in the maritime transport sector at Karimjee hall on Wednesday, 18th March, 2020 from 9:00 am to 1.00 pm.** The purpose of the meeting is to enhance awareness on the Tanzania Shipping Agencies (Service Provider Levies and Fees) Rules, 2018 (Government Notice No. 342 of 2018) and to clarify compliance requirements with the Government Notice No. 342 of 2018.

The invited stakeholders for this meeting are **Maritime Transport Services Providers** (including Ports Operator and Terminal Port Operators), **Shipping Agents, Dry Port Operators** (including Inland Clearance Depots-ICDs and Empty Container Depots-ECDs), **Cargo Consolidators and De-consolidators, Miscellaneous Port Services Providers** and **Gross Mass Verifiers (GMVs)**. Please note that a maximum number of representatives from each stakeholder's firm should be two (2) people, one of them should be from finance/accounts.

The meeting was organised as continuation of awareness programme following the earlier meetings held on 20th February, 2019 and 20th November, 2019 in Dar es Salaam and Mwanza respectively.

**You are all welcome**

**Polite Reminder:** It is an offence and punishable under the laws to operate in maritime transport sector and provide regulated services without a valid Certificate, Permits and/or TASAC License.

**Issued by**  
**Director General**

Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation  
PPF Tower Building 8th Floor, Garden Avenue/Ohio Street,  
P. O. Box 989, Dar es Salaam - Tanzania,  
Tel: +255 222 127 314, Fax: +255 222 127 313,  
Email: dg@tasac.go.tz, info@tasac.go.tz, customercare@tasac.go.tz,  
Website: www.tasac.go.tz



CONQUER YOUR TERRAIN

GO GOODYEAR

BUY

GOODYEAR TYRES

GET

FREE

FUEL VOUCHER



With Two Passenger Tyres

TZS 20,000

Fuel Voucher

With Two SUV or 4X4 Tyres

TZS 40,000

Fuel Voucher

\*Terms and Conditions apply

AutoXpress Kariakoo

Tel: +255 782 399 231

AutoXpress Masaki

Tel: +255 752 672 907

AutoXpress Arusha

Tel: +255 748 041 033





## PM instructs school heads to control monetary contributions from parents

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has called on schools heads in the country to make sure they abide by the government's directive to control rampant monetary contributions from parents.

He said the aim of free primary education was to bring together all students especially those from poor families to get their children educated.

The Prime Minister was speaking at the weekend at a meeting with education stakeholders in Ruangwa district.

He said the education sector is an instrument for economic, technological and social changes in any country hence it is essential for it to be given priority for the people's development in general.

He said in order for the sector to realize the anticipated achievements parents and guardians should also be fully involved in flowing up their children academic development and ensure they attend classes instead of leaving the task solely to teachers.

He also hailed teachers in Ruangwa district for their hard work from good results recorded in various national examinations.

Speaking about the Coronavirus disease, the Prime Minister stressed

on the stakeholders including teachers to educate students and the wanchi in general on how to protect themselves from the deadly viruses including not to greet each other wind handshake.

On his part, the Ruangwa district secondary education officer Ernest Haule said in the 2020 school year 86 per cent of students selected to join Form I reported to schools.

On challenges facing the education sector in Ruangwa district, Haule said they include classrooms, teachers' quarters and students' truancy.

Speaking at the meeting, the Lindi region education officer Vincent Kayombo congratulated education stakeholders for their cooperation that made schools in Ruangwa district do well in various national examinations.

He said due to this, education stakeholders in the district led by Ruangwa District Council had embarked on means to reward teachers and students who did well and advised all other councils in Lindi region to emulate the spirit.

The Prime Minister joined Ruangwa district council officials to present prizes to teachers and students who did well in the Form VI, Form IV and Std VII national examinations.



Brigita Stephen (L), head of sale for Vodacom Tanzania Plc's north zone, presents a mobile phone to Sketa Mollel as an International Women's Day gift at a ceremony held in Longido District last week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## 'NEMC will soon start issuing online permits for trade in hazardous wastes'

By Guardian Reporter

THE government through the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) will soon start issuing permits for hazardous wastes trade through online to easy license issuance process.

The trade involves importation, exportation, recycling, and collection of hazardous waste including scrap metal, used batteries, electronic waste and hospital dischargeable.

Minister of State in the Vice President's Office -Union and

Environment, Mussa Zungu, unveiled this in Dar es Salaam over the weekend when speaking to journalists soon after meeting with control dealers of hazardous wastes.

Minister Zungu said the government was determined to ensure that the business and investment environment is friendly to traders and investors.

So far, he said that importation, exportation, recycling and collection of hazardous wastes have been suspended "and during this period the government is work-

ing on the challenges that lead to suspension of the trade including protecting raw materials for local industries, delays of permits issuance and destruction of rail and bridges infrastructure."

Minister Zungu said that his ministry has been working with other public institutions to come up with best practices for the trade. "And one of the best practices is to start issuing the permits online, a move that will be easier for traders to get licenses," he said.

"As government, we see this will reduce unnecessary bureaucracy, time in getting the document on the side of dealers of the sector," he added.

Zungu asked traders to remain calm when the government was busy working on different challenges facing the hazardous wastes sector. "This suspension is not affecting traders only, but it also affects the government's income through taxes collected through this business."

He, however, said: "We want to see all the shortfalls that

were experienced in the trade are addressed for the well-being of our people and the environment."

The meeting was organized by NEMC and involved traders, who are involved in collecting, importing, exporting, recycling and collection of hazardous waste such as scrap metal, used batteries, electronic waste and hospital dischargeable.

For his part, NEMC director-general, Dr Samuel Gwamaka allayed fears for traders who have been using permits issued

by the National Environment Management Council on the Zanzibar side, saying that they won't be required to have two permits at once - NEMC and Zanzibar Environment Management Authority (ZEMA).

"We've talked with our colleagues in Zanzibar on this matter and we've put in place a proper procedure that will make traders in Isles to use ZEMA permits when transporting waste goods to Tanzania mainland," Dr Gwamaka said, stressing that the NEMC task will only be verifying

the documents.

For his part, director of Stop One & Company, Yusuph Ally commended the government's proposed online system in the permits' issuance process, saying that it will be productive and efficient for the two sides.

On March 21, last year the government suspended importation, exportation, recycling, and collection of hazardous waste and traders were also been prohibited from receiving hazardous waste from anyone who does not have a permit from NEMC.



**USAID | TANZANIA**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

### U.S. MISSION DAR ES SALAAM SOLICITATION ANNOUNCEMENT

The U.S. Mission in Dar es Salaam is seeking eligible and qualified applicants for the position identified below at the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

**Position Title:** Development Assistance Specialist  
(Policy Advisor)

**Solicitation Number:** 72062119R10009

A copy of the complete solicitation, listing all duties, responsibilities and qualifications required, is available at:

<https://tz.usembassy.gov/embassy/jobs/>

#### HOW TO APPLY:

Effective immediately only online applications will be accepted via [usaidthzlesapps@usaid.gov](mailto:usaidthzlesapps@usaid.gov)

Applicants **MUST** follow instructions in the solicitation on the website:  
Failure to do so will result in an incomplete application.

**CLOSING DATE FOR THIS POSITION:**  
April 8, 2020



**Tanzania  
Forest  
Conservation  
Group**

#### ADVERT FOR NEW PROJECT - ACCOUNTABILITY IN TANZANIA (AcT)

TFCG is a national Non-Governmental Organisation, established in 1985 with registration number 1760. TFCG's priority geographical areas are the Eastern Arc Mountain and Coastal Forests. These forests are globally important biodiversity hotspots, and provide vital ecosystem services including water catchment, soil conservation, and carbon storage.

TFCG is governed by a voluntary committee comprised of dedicated conservationists from development partners, government, academia, civil society and private sector.

#### Our mission

To reduce poverty in rural communities and to conserve the biodiversity of globally important forests in Tanzania for the benefit of the present and future generations. We achieve this through capacity building, advocacy, research, community development, and protected area management, in ways that are sustainable and foster participation, gender equity and partnership.

#### Our vision

We envisage a world in which Tanzanians and the rest of humanity are enjoying diverse benefits from well-conserved high biodiversity forests in Tanzania.

In January TFCG signed a two-years contract agreement (2020 to 2022), to receive a grant from Accountability in Tanzania programme (AcT) for the amount not exceeding £800,000 to increase accountability and responsiveness of central and local government to protect the climate and other ecological services that natural forests provide to Tanzanian citizens.

**For contact**  
**Tanzania Forest Conservation Group,**  
**Box 23410,**  
**Dar es Salaam**  
**Email: [tcfcg@tfcg.or.tz](mailto:tcfcg@tfcg.or.tz)**  
**Website: [www.tfcg.org](http://www.tfcg.org)**



# Minister appeals for better work strategy to ease construction of Kiyegeya Bridge

By Guardian Reporter

WORKS, Transport and Communications minister Isack Kamwele has directed the Chief Executive of Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS) to prepare and submit to him work plan on the construction of Kiyegeya Bridge by today.

Kamwele said among other things, the work strategy should be submitted showing what has already been done and what is expected to be done including report on the finances spent up to now. He said the financial statement will help in cost assessment.

The minister gave the directives during his visit in Morogoro region to inspect progress implementation of Kiyegeya Bridge construction and renovation of a diversion road. The Kiyegeya Bridge collapsed recently due to the ongoing rains.

"We cannot work without having a written work plan, I know it was impossible at first due the issue's urgent nature, but now I am directing the TANROADS CEO Patrick Mfugale to make sure that by Monday he submits to me the work plan and finan-

cial statements in order to have right records", said the minister.

He added that a permanent bridge will be built at the site despite the challenge posed by a lot of flood water that sometimes made vehicles use one way to ease congestion of vehicles.

However, he explained that congestion has eased as the vehicles were passing freely as opposed to the situation when the bridge collapsed.

The bridge's work supervisor Eng Boniface Mkumbo said his team is adequately prepared as the road diversion ordered by the Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa during his visit earlier this month has been completed and vehicles are passing without difficulties.

He said other work being carried out is the construction of the bridge itself and promised that within 14 days the work will be completed except restoration of the tarmac surface.

On March 2 this year the Kiyegeya Bridge along Morogoro - Dodoma highway collapsed due to heavy rains causing big communication challenges for road users.



Construction of a side road meant to pave the way for major rehabilitation of a strategic bridge at Kiyegeya in Morogoro Region recently swept away by floodwaters in progress. The bridge lies along the Morogoro-Dodoma highway. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# Government sets up isolation coronavirus centres

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has identified at least one hospital in every zone as an isolation centre in case of any reported coronavirus case, the spokesperson, Dr Hassan Abbas said yesterday.

Addressing a press conference, he said in preparedness to tackle any cases of the virus, the government has seen it fit to have isola-

tion centres in every zone in the country for immediate response.

While he declined to name the hospitals, the government spokesperson said the government through the ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elders and Children is prepared to tackle any reported cases, stressing that the virus is very dangerous.

"There is a hospital in Dar es

Salaam, just like in other zones, ready as isolation centre but we cannot name it since there is no reported cases" he said, calling on the public to take the necessary precaution.

His statement comes in just hours after the minister of State in the President's Office, Regional Authority and Local Government, Selemani Jafo said that all schools intending to convene

advanced level secondary school graduation parties not to include guests from outside the schools in efforts to avoid any possible cases of coronavirus.

"In efforts to avoid any cases of the disease, it is important that we avoid crowded areas as much as possible and that is why I said the graduation ceremonies should not be attended by outsiders" he said, adding that

if it must be held, then should be within the school community only and not involving people from other regions.

According to the minister, his directive is in line with a call made by the ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children that people should avoid crowding as much as possible.

While stressing the danger of

the virus, Jafo announced the cancellation annual sports competitions for primary schools (UMISHUMTA) and secondary schools (UMISETA) that were to be held soon.

Two days ago, President John Magufuli called on the public to avoid unnecessary body contacts such as kissing and handshake in the wake of Coronavirus.

"Tanzania has not reported

any case of corona but that does not mean we are safe, we should avoid handshake and kissing" he said.

Several heads of state of different African countries have issued strong statements and taken actions to support their health, internal and foreign ministries in preventing the spread of the coronavirus within their territories.



## REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES ARE ON THE RISE!

Our extensive knowledge and experience across Africa allows us to provide credible and relevant insights to our clients on specific sectors that help inform their investment decisions.



Corporate and Investment Banking

Toll free no: **0800 751111**  
Email: [tanzaniacc@stanbic.com](mailto:tanzaniacc@stanbic.com) | [www.stanbicbank.co.tz](http://www.stanbicbank.co.tz)

**Stanbic Bank Moving Forward™**  
A member of Standard Bank Group





**Heristraton Genesis (2nd-R), Absa Bank Tanzania's head of retail products, reads the names of the winners of the first draw of the bank's 'Double Your Salary' promotion in Dar es Salaam yesterday. To get a chance to win cash up to 100 per cent of the deposited salary, new customers need to open a salary account and old customers channel their salaries through the account during the particular promotion month. Others (from-L): Gaming Board of Tanzania inspector Rasuli Masudi, Absa Tanzania head of branch networks John Beja and marketing and communications manager Beda Biswalo. Photo: Guardian Correspondent**

## Minister roots for increased pace of surveying and formalising plots

By Guardian Correspondent, Shinyanga

MINISTER for Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development, William Lukuvi has directed district and municipal councils in Shinyanga region to increase pace of surveying and formalising land plots to enable more people own land and improve their incomes.

According to him, the move will eventually increase government revenue collections but also fight unplanned settlements and thus attract investors.

Speaking during the tour to inspect various projects here, Lukuvi warned land reckless officers in implementing their responsibilities.

"Unsurveyed land has a number of impacts, apart from denying the government revenues, the challenge also goes further to affect people's economic development by lacking access to loans," he said adding that; "When you issue more land title deeds to the public, it increases government incomes but also enables a person to use the certificate as a bond to obtain bank loans and thus promote economic growth.

The minister also said that the ministry has established land offices in every region to facilitate land surveying and planning for sustainable urban and cities development.

According to him, with the establishment of the offices, no one will incur costs of traveling from one region

to another just to get a title deed.

He further noted that Shinyanga region has a total of 15,000 new title deeds produced by the ministry and will soon be transferred to the region for the owners to access them.

"Shinyanga has a lot of banks and financial institutions, all of these are looking for potential borrowers because most of people in the region have failed to meet the loan requirements...but having the title deeds on hands will be a huge step to improve people's income," he added.

He wanted land officers to work hard and with due diligence to ensure that more plots are surveyed and customers given their titled deeds on time.

Meanwhile, the Parliamentary Committee on Lands, Natural Resources and Tourism has been satisfied with the implementation of a project that aims to plan, survey and allocate 320 plots in Shinyanga Municipal Council.

The project is implemented by the municipal authorities with support of 240m/- soft loan from the Ministry of Housing and Human Settlements Development.

Speaking when visited the project here, the chairperson of the committee Kemilembe Lwota commended the ministry for supporting the municipal with the loan to accelerate the planning, surveying and title deeds issuance and thus eliminate land disputes.

# TCCIA to become an agent for iCHF health promotion

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Dodoma

TANZANIA Chamber for Commerce, Industrial and Agricultural (TCCIA) will this week sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government) to become an

agent for registering members who wish to join with improved Community Health Fund (iCHF) insurance scheme.

The improved CHF (iCHF), has been introduced by the government for national-wide rollout as part to push for the country's policy to move towards Universal Healthcare Coverage (UHC).

iCHF gears to increase access to

quality healthcare for people in the informal sector, mostly rural and low-income groups.

Speaking during an exclusive interview to the Guardian, TCCIA's Dodoma regional director, Idd Senge said the chamber has decided to chip-in and become an agent for promotion and iCHF's members registration because it's delivering network

reaches larger population in diverse communities from across the country.

"We thought it would be of prudent for us, as a chamber which caters for large population to assist the government to easily ensure all Tanzanians are registering themselves with the improved, but and affordable health insurance scheme," he said.

He detailed that the chamber (TCCIA) was working with different groups in the private sector, including farmers, livestock keepers, traders and other small scale entrepreneurs, and thus, it becomes easier for them to register the groups with the improved health insurance.

Moreover, he said health insurance was key factor for enabling

the country to industrialize her economy, added "Strong economy need healthier human resources. Our role at TCCIA is to mobilise and support Tanzanians to engage more professionally in doing different income generating activities for the advancement of the country's economy," he expressed. Ally Kebby, manager with Health Promotion and Sys-

tem Strengthening (HPSS) said TCCIA's involvement in the initiative will play major role in ensuring large number of Tanzanians join with the key health insurance scheme.

"TCCIA is a potential partner because the chamber vast network and we remain optimistic that their involvement will bare fruitful results," he said.



## VACANTY ANNOUNCEMENT

### SUMMARY

Amref Health Africa Tanzania is a leading public health organization that is committed to improving the health of people by collaborating with and empowering communities, and strengthening health systems at various levels in Tanzania. Amref Health Africa is submitting a project proposal to USAID in response to the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Number: 72062120RFA00005 for local institutions to activity Title: Tuberculosis and Family Planning Integrated Community Solutions Program (TB&FP LON). Specifically, this NOFO's main intended outcomes are improved service delivery for TB and FP; strengthened linkages between communities and health facilities; better health outcomes for Tanzanian citizens; improved health worker capacity; and greater self-reliance, as local Tanzanian organizations become directly responsible for addressing local development problems. In this regard, Amref Health Africa in Tanzania invites suitable applicants for the following position to be filled contingent to the organization winning the award.

| JOB TITLE    | Chief of Party  |
|--------------|---|
| REPORTING TO | Head of Programmes  |
| PROJECT      | USAID TB and Family Planning Integrated Community Solutions |

PHYSICAL LOCATION Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

The Chief of Party (COP) will be responsible with full implementation of the project programmatically, and financially and ensure to ensure the project starts rapidly and runs smoothly. He/She will advise the Amref's management, on periodic performance against program targets and financial burn rates. He/She has the responsibility to lead the development of detailed work plans and other technical documents, supervise the implementation of planned activities, and provide administrative, financial and technical oversight. The COP will manage and ensure coordination and communication with the various stakeholders involved in the implementation of the program including USAID Tanzania, MoHCDGECs departments such as NTLF, RCHS; PORALG, and other NGOs and CBOs working in the community. In addition, collaborate with other projects under the DCP program

### PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

- Provide technical guidance and leadership to ensure that activities related to community TB and Family planning interventions are implemented and monitored and objectives are implemented as planned.
- Provide strategic leadership and technical and managerial direction for the successful implementation of the project.
- Lead the planning of project activities and set high quality performance targets ensuring adherence to technical standards, best practices and donor guidelines;
- Serve as primary point of contact and collaboration for USAID Tanzania, government partners and other key stakeholders;
- Provide regular knowledge and skill update to all key personnel within the project on new community TB and Family planning developments.
- Serve as the team lead for the project and ensure strong

communication and coordination with and between all team members to effectively achieve program objectives.

- Support the Deputy Chief of Party to ensure timely and quality completion of all program technical and financial deliverables and reports in accordance with USAID/Tanzania guidelines;
- Ensures that the project documents lessons learned and implements best practices.
- Interact with USAID/Tanzania teams on relevant technical issues affecting the project.
- Ensure timely submission of major technical reports to USAID/Tanzania and other stakeholders.
- Foster strong partnerships and collaborations with the MOHCDGEC, LGAs, other local organizations and other relevant stakeholders.
- Promote sustainability of project activities with effective networking linkages to other programs.

### REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Master's Degree in Public Health, Social Sciences and related fields
- At least seven years of senior-level management experience in the design, implementation, and management of programs of similar size, complexity, and setting
- Demonstrated experience in institutional strengthening approaches
- Demonstrated leadership skills and experience in building and maintaining productive working relationships with a wide network of institutional partners and stakeholders, including the GOT
- Proven record of building teams and fostering collaboration to achieve program goals, meet program milestones, and produce quality results
- Knowledge of U.S. government (USG) health initiatives and related reporting requirements and funding parameters
- Exceptional English written and oral communication skills; fluency in Swahili also required
- At least seven years of experience working in Tanzania.

### How to apply:

If you meet the criteria given above and interested in the vacancies, please send an application letter and CV combined in as one document indicating your present employer and position, daytime telephone contact, names and addresses of three referees. To be considered, your application must be received by 16.30 HOURS March 20, 2020. Please mention the job title/vacancy name or use the job title as the subject line when applying for this position failure to do that your application may not be retrieved. All correspondences should be directed to: Email: [jobs.tanzania@amref.org](mailto:jobs.tanzania@amref.org). Direct application through mail will not be accepted.

- Amref Health Africa is an equal opportunity employer however women and people with disability are encouraged to apply and has a non-smoking environment policy;
- "Amref Health Africa is committed to the principles of safeguarding in workplace and will not tolerate any form of abuse, wherever it occurs or whoever is responsible"
- Amref health Africa -Tanzania regrets that only short-listed candidates will be contacted.



## VACANCY: PROGRAM MANAGER POST

Social Action Trust Fund (SATF) provides support to Most Vulnerable Children (MVC) by channeling grants to registered grassroots organizations. Our main thematic areas include: Child protection, Education, Community Empowerment, Health and Nutrition. We are looking for a dynamic well qualified and motivated individual to fill the position of Program Manager:

### Job Summary:

Reporting to the Chief Executive Officer and part of the management team as well as the Secretary to the Program Committee. The Program Manager provides strategic leadership to the Program Department as well as the Coordination of the network of Implementing Partners, Donor engagement and all fundraising and proposal writing. S/he is proactive in identifying new and non-traditional sources of funding from a range of institutional donors and developing high quality institutional and high value donor proposals that are aligned with defined priorities of the Trust. S/he builds the capacity of program staff and Implementing Partners to meet the set targets. S/he will oversee, plan, organise and communicate the start-up and ongoing activities of the program department.

### Key responsibilities:

- Develop and oversee the annual plans for the program department in line with the Strategic plan,
- Establish controls to ensure the beneficiaries enrolled are in line with national guidelines,
- Regular scrutiny of funding opportunities using available networks and search engines and serve as the lead writer on specific components of the proposal by facilitating strategy discussions,
- Develop, Nurture and Manage relationship with donors and identify and negotiate potential consortium partnerships with other organizations, where possible negotiate potential for co-funding opportunities,
- Coordinate and oversee the management of the program activities in accordance to the Trust's grant management guidelines,
- Building the capacity of program staff through coaching, and mentorship. Also build the capacity of Implementing partners during engagement and execution process for greater impact.
- Develop publicity materials to capture the impact of the SATF program to the Community,

### Qualifications, Knowledge, Skills and Abilities Required:

- Minimum Master's degree in social sciences, humanities, development studies, human rights, political science or other relevant discipline.
- 6+ years of working experience in Civil society organizations with national wide setup at Management level
- Demonstrated Fundraising experience from a variety of donors including but not limited to multinational and local donors,
- Excellent interpersonal, communication and negotiation skills to work effectively with grassroots organizations and most vulnerable children.
- Excellent writing skills with a sharp focus on details.
- Ability to prioritize own workload and work with minimal supervision.

Please send your CV including three work related referees and cover letter (not more than 2 pages) addressed to the ; Chairperson of the Selection Committee, Social Action Trust Fund at the following address: [info@satf.or.tz](mailto:info@satf.or.tz).

The closing date for submitting applications is Friday 27th March, 2020.



## Solar power brings hope to villagers in Korogwe

By Rahma Suleiman, recently in Tanga

LIFE in Mpale village of Korogwe district, Tanga region has been peaceful for more than 50 years since the village was established.

The villagers are self-sufficient with crops and livestock, thanks to the fertile land and abundant water. The village is very close to the Dar es Salaam-Arusha highway; a situation that makes it easier for villagers to get access to the market of their crops.

However, there is one issue. The village has no electricity and there is no immediate hope of linking to the national electricity grid.

The villagers have been burning biomaterials for cooking and using oil for lighting.

It was in 2017 when solar power firm-ENSOL installed a solar power plant and supply that power to 250 households, the move that has completely transformed people's lives in the village with 9,613 villagers.

"With solar power, things have changed completely here," Mpale village chairman Abdallah Muhamed Mdoe told journalists who visited the village recently.

He says with the 1bn/- solar power project, schoolchildren are able to do their homework after school hours without any problem as compared to the past when they were relying on kerosene lamps, which exposed children to health hazards such as respiratory diseases and eyesight challenges.

Apart from improving education,

Mdoe said that the introduction of solar power in the village has created employment opportunities for villagers who are employed in different businesses such as beverage business, saloon, welding, and other metal joineries.

"Before solar power, mobile phone communication was very poor due to lack of power to recharge mobile handsets, but now things have improved," he said.

Headteacher at Mpale Primary School, Humphrey Mhina said that availability of solar power has improved security at the school and it has also improved performance as pupils are able to learn during the evening. "With this, we came to learn that power is everything when it comes to socio-economic development," the school head affirmed, adding that despite the fact the school had small windows, with little sunlight, but teachers use solar power in the afternoon.

Mhina attested that education has improved at the school as in the past, some pupils were unable to read and write, but now things are different as out of 263 pupils who sat for last year's Standard Four exams, 234 past their exams. He also stated that before solar power, the school had only three teachers as most of them used to get transfer "but now, this is no longer a problem and since 2017, the school has 13 teachers."

According to the school headteacher, there is a huge difference in the school performance as homework is now done and delivered on time.



Jenista Mhagama, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament, Youth, Employment, Labour and People with Disabilities) joins residents of Ngahokola villagers in Songea District yesterday in removing trees to facilitate the construction of six-kilometre road leading to the district hospital. Photo: Correspondent Gideon Mwakanosya

Some of the interviewed pupils described solar power as a redeemer, saying it has improved their performance in school as they have more time to study after school hours. The Energy Access Situation Report, 2016 Tanzania Mainland, reveals that solar power is the dominant electricity source in the country's rural areas.

The report, released earlier this week by the National Bureau of Statistics and the Rural Energy Agency shows that grid electricity is the second-largest source of power in rural areas with 34.5% of households connected, while solar is leading by nearly 65%.

"The results show that solar power is the dominant electricity source in rural areas as 64.8% of the rural households were using electricity generated from solar power. Private entity and individual electricity generated from own sources (excluding solar) was the least source of electricity among rural households at 0.6%," part of the report reads.

## MP invites Swedish firms to invest in Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

MINISTER of State in Prime Minister's Office tasked for Investment and Empowerment Angellah Kairuki has invited Swedish investors to come and invest in various sectors of economy, saying Tanzania is blessed with abundant investment opportunities.

Speaking at the East African business and investment forum in Dar es Salaam over the weekend, Minister Kairuki assured the investors of their good returns as the government has put in place conducive business environment to attract both local and foreign investments inflow.

"The government commitment towards attracting as many investments as possible can be evidenced that since 2015 to-date a total of 168 taxes, fees and charges have been removed to stimulate business growth and development," said Kairuki who represented Premier Kassim Majaliwa, adding that no new taxes, fees or charges during the period under review.

Kairuki told the investors that National Investment Policy of 1996 and the National Investment Act of 1997 would soon be reviewed so as to align or cope with changing global investment trends.

"President John Magufuli has taken deliberate measures to improve business environment. For instance, the government is now implementing the Blueprint Action Plan which among others aimed at streamlining regulatory processes and get rid of unnecessary constraints that had been a burden for businesses," she explained.

She said the Fifth-Phase government under the stewardship of President Magufuli was currently implementing three mega projects whose completion would have major impacts on Tanzanian fast-growing economy.

"The government is committed to transforming the country's economy into medium size and industrial base by 2025," she said, calling for Swedish investors to fully exploit investment opportunities. Minister Kairuki named the projects as construction of Standard Gauge Railway,

construction of Julius Nyerere Hydro Electronic Power Plant capable to produce 2,115 megawatts and guarantee the country of reliable power supply. "These infrastructure projects will stimulate industrial production and interconnect the country domestically, regionally and internationally," she said, noting mod-

ern airports would be constructed in all major regions across the country.

She listed a number of sectors of economy wanting investors including tourism which grows very fast and contributing 17.2 per cent of Growth Domestic Product (GDP), mining, manufacturing and agro-processing to mention few.

"Tanzania is reputable as the best country in the world for touristic attractions with about 16 national parks, 28 game reserves, and 44 game controlled areas, two marine parks, and the famous Mount Kilimanjaro," she said, stressing that beautiful beaches of Zanzibar and vast savannah plains of the Serengeti.



### Terms of Reference FIND – System Analyst and Designer

#### I. About FSDT

The Financial Sector Deepening Trust (FSDT) was incorporated in Tanzania on 1 July 2004. It commenced operations in 2005 and is supported by Global Affairs Canada (GAC), Sida represented by Embassy of Sweden Tanzania, DANIDA and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

FSDT adopted a market development approach toward addressing systemic constraints in the market and to contribute toward achieving pro-poor growth in the financial sector.

#### OUR GOAL

The FSDT interventions aim to make a contribution in generating sustainable improvements in the livelihoods of poor households through reduced vulnerability to shocks increased incomes and employment achieved through providing greater access to financial services for more men, women and businesses.

#### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

The interventions prioritized by the Programme aim at realising the following changes in the financial sector:

- Improved policy, institutional, legal and regulatory framework, and data gathering and dissemination for delivery of financial services,
- Enhanced market infrastructure and support services for financial service providers,
- More and better financial services available to meet the needs of urban and rural enterprises,
- More and better financial services available to meet the needs of poor urban and rural households and individuals.

#### Bid submission

Proposals, Technical and Financial, must be submitted electronically and received at the email address below no later than 3rd April 2020 at 17:00 Hours local time (Tanzania) with the subject line "Proposal: FIND-System Analyst and Designer."

Email: [procurement@fsdt.or.tz](mailto:procurement@fsdt.or.tz)

For specific responsibilities and more details on application requirements visit: [www.fsdt.or.tz/opportunities](http://www.fsdt.or.tz/opportunities).

We will only consider applications that adhere to proposal requirements.



### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL: No. RFP/2020/SUP/001 FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FRAME AGREEMENTS FOR PROVISION OF ROAD CARGO AND PASSENGERS TRANSPORT SERVICE IN TANZANIA.

#### 1. Background:

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Representation Office in Tanzania, invites qualified suppliers to make a firm offer for the establishment of Frame Agreement(s) for the provision of Road Cargo and Passengers transportation services (referred to hereinafter as services).

UNHCR may award Frame Agreement(s) with initial duration of 2 (two) years, potentially extendable for a further period of 1 (one) year. The successful bidder(s) will be requested to maintain their quoted price proposal for the duration of the Frame Agreement(s).

#### 2. Eligibility:

Service providers or traders duly registered with relevant government authorities, with sound financial basis, relevant experience, reputed clientele and with knowledge of how to meet UNHCR's needs are invited to participate in the bidding process.

The tender documents can be collected from the following UNHCR Offices:

UNHCR Representation Office Tanzania  
Plot 1658 Masaki, Rufiji Street  
P.O. Box 2666 - Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

UNHCR Sub- Office Kibondo  
Kabigwa (Near TANESCO)  
P.O. Box 49  
Kibondo

UNHCR Field Office Kasulu  
Kimobwa (Mlimani Area)  
P.O. Box 332 - Kasulu,  
Kigoma

UNHCR Field Unit Mwanza  
Mwanza Airport  
P.O. Box 2273 - Mwanza

#### CRUCIAL DATES FOR THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Deadline for receiving requests for clarification | Tuesday 22nd March 2020 at 23.59 hours EAT  |
| Suppliers' conference meeting                     | Wednesday 25th March 2020 at 11.00hours EAT |
| Deadline for submission of offers                 | Tuesday 14th April 2020 at 16.00 hours EAT  |

UNHCR tenders are free of charge, no fees are charged to collect the tenders.



### INVITATION TO BID (ITB) ESTABLISHMENT OF LOCAL FRAME AGREEMENTS FOR SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ASSORTED NON-FOOD ITEMS

#### 1. Background:

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Representation Office in Dar es Salaam invites reputable and qualified suppliers and manufacturers to submit firm offers for Establishment of Multiple Frame Agreements for the supply and delivery of any or all of the below listed Non-Food Items.

#### 2. Requirement:

| TENDER REFERENCE NUMBER | TENDER ITEM DESCRIPTION           |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ITB/2020/SUP/006        | Plastic Jerry Cans                |
| ITB/2020/SUP/008        | Sanitary Napkins (Re-Usable Pads) |
| ITB/2020/SUP/009        | Sleeping Mats                     |
| ITB/2020/SUP/010        | Kitchen Sets                      |
| ITB/2020/SUP/011        | Solar Lamps                       |
| ITB/2020/SUP/012        | Mosquito Nets                     |

#### 3. Eligibility:

Manufacturers, authorized resellers, wholesalers, or traders duly registered with relevant government authorities, with sound financial basis, relevant experience, reputed clientele and with knowledge of how to meet UNHCR's needs are invited to participate in the bidding process.

The tender documents can be collected from the following UNHCR Offices:

UNHCR Representation Office Tanzania  
Plot 1658 Masaki, Rufiji Street  
P.O. Box 2666 - Dar es Salaam

UNHCR Sub- Office Kibondo  
Kabigwa (Near TANESCO)  
P.O. Box 49, Kibondo

UNHCR Field Office Kasulu  
Kimobwa (Mlimani Area)  
P.O. Box 332 - Kasulu, Kigoma

UNHCR Field Unit Mwanza  
Mwanza Airport  
P.O. Box 2273 - Mwanza

#### CRUCIAL DATES FOR THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Deadline for receiving requests for clarification | Monday 23rd March 2020 at 16.00 hours EAT |
| Deadline for submission of offers                 | Wednesday 08th April 2020 16.00 hours EAT |

UNHCR tenders are free of charge, no fees are charged to collect the tenders.



## The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

MANAGING EDITOR: WALLACE MAUGGO  
CIRCULATION MANAGER : EMMANUEL LYMO

## Newsdesk

General Line: 0745 700710  
News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON  
0757 154767  
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

## Advertising

Cel: + 255 686 101335 E-mails: Advertise@guardian.co.tz  
Website: lppmedia.com, epaper.ippmedia.com

## Scientific knowledge allows us to build new technologies

SCIENCE and technology feed off of one another, propelling both forward. Scientific knowledge allows us to build new technologies, which often allow us to make new observations about the world, which, in turn, allow us to build even more scientific knowledge, which then inspires another technology ... and so on.

Technology is the application of scientific knowledge for practical purposes, especially in industry. It also implies machinery and equipment developed from the application of scientific knowledge. In other words term technology refers to methods, systems, and devices which are the result of scientific knowledge being used for practical purposes.

Therefore, there must be a coordinated effort between the education and employment sectors to ensure that the education system is producing not only qualified graduates, but those whose knowledge and skills are both in demand and which will meet the development needs of the country.

Unfortunately, issues of student performance, quality of teaching and students' lack of readiness for jobs in science and technology are widespread in Tanzania.

Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology is a public institution in northern Tanzania based in Arusha city. It is one in the network of Pan-African Institutes of Science and Technology located across the continent.

Science and technology in Tanzania describes developments and trends in higher education and science, technology and innovation policy.

According to reports the ministry of Science, Education and Technology is finalising review of 'Science and Technology Policy' to incorporate innovation to cope with rapid technological changes likely to take place in the country.

Indeed without innovation, it will not be easy to cope with changes in technology that has huge impact in the industrial agenda. We are hopeful that once the reviews are done, it will have big impact in the industrial development agenda currently implemented by the fifth-phase government.

Innovation is very crucial for our country development because it is aligned with the government industrial agenda. Once it is incorporated in the policy, we can easily achieve our agenda.

There were a number of challenges in rural that need innovation to provide solutions such as water shortage and health services. We cannot separate science and technology. For science is a systematic enterprise that builds and organises knowledge in the form of testable explanations and predictions about the universe.

Modern science is typically divided into three major branches that consist of the natural sciences (e.g. biology, chemistry, and physics), which study nature in the broadest sense; the social sciences (e.g., economics, psychology, and sociology), which study individuals and societies; and the formal sciences (e.g., logic, mathematics, and theoretical computer science), which study abstract concepts.

Science is based on research, which is commonly conducted in academic and research institutions as well as in government agencies and companies.

The practical impact of scientific research has led to the emergence of science policies that seek to influence the scientific enterprise by prioritizing the development of commercial products, armaments, health care, and environmental protection.

The distinction between science, engineering, and technology is not always clear.

## The pursuit of happiness is a human right and a fundamental human goal

THE International Day of Happiness is celebrated worldwide every March 20, and was conceptualised and founded by philanthropist, activist, statesman, and prominent United Nations special advisor Jayme Illien to inspire, mobilize, and advance the global happiness movement.

In 2011, Illien brought the idea and concept of creating a new global day of awareness, the International Day of Happiness, to senior United Nations Officials.

Illien successfully campaigned to unite a global coalition of all 193 United Nations member states, and secured the endorsement of then Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki moon, to support the concept of establishing a new official international UN calendar day of observance known as the International Day of Happiness.

Illien authored UN resolution "International Day of Happiness", which was ultimately adopted by the unanimous consensus of all 193 UN member states of the United Nations General Assembly on June 28, 2012. Jayme Illien chose March 20 for its significance as the March equinox, a universal phenomenon felt simultaneously by all of humankind, and which occurs the moment when the plane of Earth's equator passes through the center of the Sun's disk.

On September 17, 2012, Secretary General Ban Ki moon emphasised the importance of the new international day of happiness in his closing remarks to the 66th session of the UN General Assembly, "Mr. President, during your tenure, the General Assembly also instituted a new observance on the UN calendar: the International Day of Happiness. Let us hope that through our work, including in the new session that begins tomorrow, we can turn that aspiration into reality."

The first ever international day of happiness was celebrated on March 20,

2013.

Every March 20 since 2013, the International Day of Happiness is celebrated in 193 UN Member states, 2 observer states, and 11 territories.

On the 3rd every international day of happiness, UN Secretary Ban Ki moon said "Happiness for the entire human family is one of the main goals of the United Nations," and called upon all human beings to "dedicate our efforts to filling our world with happiness."

The General Assembly, ... Conscious that the pursuit of happiness is a fundamental human goal, ... Recognising also the need for a more inclusive, equitable and balanced approach to economic growth that promotes sustainable development, poverty eradication, happiness and the well-being of all peoples, decides to proclaim 20 March the International Day of Happiness, invites all member states, organisations of the United Nations system and other international and regional organisations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organisations and individuals, to observe the International Day of Happiness in an appropriate manner, including through education and public awareness-raising activities ...

The effort of United Nations adviser Jayme Illien conceptualised the idea for a UN resolution that would recognize the pursuit of happiness as a human right and a "fundamental human goal."

Jayme Illien, founder of the International Day of Happiness, and Illien Global Public Benefit Corporation, gained the support for the idea of the new International Day of Happiness from the President of the UN General Assembly and United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, as well as all 193 UN member states to draft and adopt a new UN resolution to create the new international day, the International Day of Happiness. Jayme Illien authored UN resolution and campaigned for its adoption by consensus of all 193 member states.



# Why silencing the guns means silencing youth unemployment

By Edwin Ikhuoria

ONE is a global movement campaigning to end extreme poverty and preventable disease by 2030, so that everyone, everywhere can lead a life of dignity and opportunity.

The city of Addis Ababa is playing host to African leaders for the 33rd summit of the African Heads of States themed "Silencing the Guns: Creating Conducive Conditions for Africa's Development". Amidst the barrage of armed conflicts, uprising and insurgencies that has festered on the continent since the leaders muted the project to silence the guns by 2020, it has become imperative for African leaders to review their actions in achieving peace and security on the continent since 2013, when they first made a collective pledge to "not bequeath the burden of conflicts to the next generation of Africans and undertake to end all wars in Africa by 2020".

Today, of the thirteen peace-keeping missions globally, seven are on the continent of Africa. Armed conflicts on the African continent are still alive and well in North Africa, the Sahel, Lake Chad region, West Africa, the Horn, and the Great Lakes. While some progress can be seen in reduction of inter-country disputes in Africa in recent times, there are growing intra-country conflicts with casualties that match the count in 2013. There are also indications of new conflicts brewing, given the trend in election related violence and agitations in some parts of the continent. At the current rate and conditions, it will take a miracle to silence the guns in Africa if drastic reforms are not undertaken to make the conditions possible.

This summit of the African leaders must be a time to reflect on root-cause-targeted approaches to 'silencing the guns'. Current efforts correctly place emphasis on prevention of illicit flow of small and light arms into and circulation within the continent, disarmament, peace building initiatives, mediation and military responses. While these approaches are significant to 'fight the fires' of conflict, it has become impera-



to prioritize a strong economic push in a renewed approach to "silencing the guns" that targets the foot soldiers of conflicts. African leaders must determine with renewed vigour to respond to the needs of African citizens, particularly the youths, in terms of job creation, employment and improvement in living standards, within a culture of popular democracy and strong institutions. Otherwise, the cycle of conflicts may never end.

### The role of Africa's youth in Silencing the Guns

Research has shown the prominent placement of the youth in armed conflict, unrest and insurgencies. This vibrant population of young people are often visible in the frontlines bearing arms even when they have very little or nothing at stake in the conflict they are involved in. The youth are uniquely vulnerable to recruitment for armed conflicts, and a huge number of young persons are already associated with State and non-State armed groups.

It is therefore imperative to make this significant population group a focal point of any intervention that must be both effective and sustainable.

Any strategy without the active engagement of the youth population is at best a long shot to meaningful resolution. In a system where the youth population is gainfully engaged in decent employment, the chances of arm-bearing, engagement by insurgents or conflict-stirring becomes too costly. This is why the African youth must as a matter of strategy and urgency be brought to the forefront and centre stage of "Silencing the Guns".

### Silencing the Guns means Silencing unemployment

If as projected, Africa's population is set to double to 2.5 billion by 2050, with more than sixty percent being youth, it is terrifying to think of the level of chaos that could result from a lack of opportunities for decent and profitable employment on the continent. In a bid to truly harness the demographic dividend that could arise from a large productive workforce, prioritizing job creation and youth employment becomes the fundamental step at preventing disaster. Urgent steps must include:

Commitment to, and promotion of job creation: Inclusive on this agenda is modernizing agriculture, promoting entre-

preneurship, increasing access to finance, reducing bottlenecks for business operations, government patronizing youth-led enterprises, improving the matching of supply and demand for skilled labour in fragile states and ensuring the implementation of the African Free Trade Area. The AfCFTA is a game-changer for accelerating progress on agricultural transformation and employment creation.

Active and meaningful Youth empowerment: This would significantly involve policy changes as well as enforcing laws that end all forms of discrimination against youth and women, providing a platform for intergenerational dialogues on development and security issues, and ensuring that social safety nets systems reach at least half of the most vulnerable youth.

Improved access to education and learning outcomes: Must involve partnership with the private sector to scale up programs that enrol youth, improve their learning outcomes and match the needs of the job market through more and better investments into education.

This should also ensure children and young adults in conflict regions or other difficult to access areas continue to receive high quality education by supporting local responders with investments in technology enabled delivery platforms.

Periodic reporting of progress on commitments to Demographic Dividend plans: States must become accountable in reporting progress on their demographic dividend plans committed in 2017. Verbal commitment without tracking progress has always resulted in wasted efforts. This year of 'silencing the guns' therefore provides a fresh opportunity for African leaders to make result-driven reviews and track progress for the purpose of accountability.

With the exponential growth of the youth demography, the continent is on the brink of what could bring a 'demographic dividend' - but only if the right action is taken right now, by the leaders and torch-bearers of the continent.



# IPCC moves to raise global ambition on climate change

In 2018, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) which is the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change issued a special report that gave alarm that the global temperature is increasing. However, to date, commitments in terms of cutting down emissions do not marry with the increase of temperature. Our reporter GERALD KITABU caught up with ForumCC Executive Director REBECCA MUNA who sheds light on the subject:

**QUESTION: We understand that climate change is real. What is your important key message?**

**ANSWER:** We actually need to influence developed countries to increase their ambition in terms of cutting emissions starting now towards COP 26 because actually in May 2020 all Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC's) must be submitted, so we expect that between now and May, most of the parties will change their NDC's and increase their commitment in terms of cutting emissions.

**Q: What about Tanzania?**

**A:** Tanzania like any other African countries, the cost of adaptation is increasing and unfortunately we don't have data to track these costs but by looking at impact of extreme weather events at the moment for example in Tanzania it is very evident. Our infrastructures are being destroyed, the floods are destroying households and the houses, in some areas there are no business taking place and so forth. The impact is on all sectors of the economy. So, it is high time now the decision makers should make sure that the sectors especially those which are key in terms of mainstay of many Tanzanians to be resilience. There is a need for more resource mobilization and allocation to make sure that enough money is directed to improve resilience in these key sectors. We have key sectors that contribute to the DGP but might not be real the mainstay of many vulnerable people in the country. That's why we are saying we need more resources allocation and efforts and resilience to target the most sectors which provide livelihood for many Tanzanians such as water and agriculture. Another thing, renewable energy is very key. For any economy to real sustain the demand of energy for productive use it is high time now to start implementing the commitments, policies, plans and strategies. We have full potential of renewable energy, the efforts of electrification should go hand in hand with investing

in renewable energy because this will be a very good back up when drought for example hit the country so that we don't face black out in the future.

**Q: NGO's are key stakeholders; do you any message to them?**

**A:** To the NGO's, I think it is high time we joined hands to advocate all things that I have mentioned, we should speak the same message so that the policy makers can listen. We should also take advantage of this year's general elections to make sure that whoever wants to vie for any leadership position must prioritize climate change agenda so that vulnerable people are secured. It is also important to create awareness which will adhere towards increasing demand for clean energy and sustainable energy because we need to strike a balance between supply and demand. We have real been pushing for the supply side but forgetting the demand side. If the community will demand clean energy, resilience energy, energy for poor and appliance which are energy server it means that the private sector will be forced to make sure that they increase innovation and bring products which are energy serving, are efficient and also sustainable in terms of energy.

**Q: By the way what was COP25 and why important?**

**A:** The Conference of the Parties (COP) is the annual meeting of the nations signed up to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Its purpose is to advance global action to tackle climate change. Last year's conference, the 25th (hence COP25) was held in Madrid, Spain, due to cancellation by the original location, Chile. Paris Agreement (2015) 195 countries signed up to keep global temperatures "well below" 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial times and "endeavor to limit" them to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Industrialized countries agreed to pay US\$100 billion a year by 2020 to help developing countries to decarbonize their economies. Thus, COP25 had an important role to play in bringing the 2015 Paris Agreement into force, paving the way for more ambitious carbon reduction commitments from governments at the next conference (COP26 to be held in Glasgow, UK).

**Q: What other areas did you focus on?**

**A:** We also focused on adaptation to climate impacts, loss and damage suffered by develop-



ForumCC Executive Director Rebecca Muna. Photo by Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

ing nations due to climate change, finance for decarbonization and more.

**Q: What happened at the COP 25?**

**A:** It was the longest on record, over-running by almost two days. The most fractious and ultimately disappointing in terms of the progress it made. Some of the outcomes were the decision on improved emissions reduction plans moved to COP26 in 2020 "Rule 16" of the UN climate process and disagreement on rules for setting up international carbon market (Article 6)

In fact contentious issues under article 6: double counting of emissions, carbon credits from the previous Kyoto Protocol system and share of proceeds' to fund adaptation. The overall mitigation in global emissions, reporting requirements for transparency and common timeframes for climate pledges were all punted into 2020.

In 2020, nations are due to submit new or updated national climate action plans, referred to as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

Since pre-industrial times, human activities have caused approximately 1.0°C of global warming. Already the consequences for people, nature and livelihoods are seen. At current rate, would reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052. Past emissions alone do not commit the world to 1.5°C

The climate change is already affecting people, ecosystems and livelihoods around the

world. Limiting global warming to 1.5°C is not impossible – but it would require unprecedented transitions in all aspects of society. There are clear benefits to keeping warming to 1.5°C rather than 2°C or higher. Limiting warming to 1.5°C can go hand in hand with achieving other global goals.

Consequences of 1°C of global warming: extreme weather events, rising sea levels and diminishing Arctic sea ice...among other changes. Difference between the effects of 1.5 ° C and 2 ° C warming is significant. Limiting global warming to 1.5 ° C would create greater chances: economies, ecosystems and societies to adapt and, remain below relevant risk thresholds making climate efforts difficult, and the risk of irreversible interference with the climate system increases. facilities.

He says referral rates of pregnant women from the interventions and control health centres to the referral hospitals have gone down from 5.4 per cent to 3.5 per cent, while in control health centres referral rates have gone up to 1.7 from 0.8 per cent.

"So the services have been improved and referral rate has gone down," he says, adding that healthcare providers provided with face to face training in comprehensive emergency obstetric, newborn care and anaesthetic complications followed by supportive supervision, mentorship teleconsultation and e-learning.

Dr Mtey reveals that in 2015, 12 per cent of health facilities were offering surgery services and the Tanzanian government's strategy was to ensure that by 2020, 50 per cent of all the public health centres were capable of providing surgery services.

On data collection and use, which is a crucial aspect for monitoring and evaluation of services and decision making, Dr Mtey says: "Data collection, reporting and use, we've realised that data are sub-optimally used at the health centre level. Data are collected and sent to be used at higher levels, but should be used at the same facility before being sent to other places".

"Together with other stakeholders, and managers from the region and councils we look for solutions for all these challenges."

For his part, Principal Investigator of the ASDIT Project, Dr Angelo Nyamtema says that the response to the number of expectant mothers giving birth at the health centres had been great because there has been a significant improvement of the aforementioned services at the centres.

"This suggests the community's trust for the quality of services provided by these facilities. That's why they seek delivery services in the ASDIT project supported facilities," he says.

Dr Nyamtema adds that since they started supporting the centres there have been no recorded deaths of mothers or infants. Among other things, through the project healthcare providers in the selected health facilities were empowered with skills on how to handle surgeries and anaesthesia and anaesthetic complications.

Before the project, he says health facilities including those which are in the project did not provide such services because service providers had little capability to handle such services.

He, however, says: "During the implementation of the project we encountered several challenges such as inadequate number of skilled healthcare providers, shortage of drugs and essential supplies for mother and child, sub-optimal data collection and use as well as inadequate infrastructure."

After the implementation of the project, the number of service users has remarkably increased leading to congestion in the maternity wards, says, adding: "We're implementing researches that are geared at influencing changes, and more efficient and sustainable provision of services."

Based on the findings, ASDIT project's recommendations to the government and other stakeholders are to scale up the ASDIT model.

Senior Programme Specialist at the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Sana Naffa also suggests the need for the government to endorse the curriculum and keep on training healthcare practitioners even if the project ends.

"We're very supportive of the idea that the government is interested to disseminate and expand this project, not only in Morogoro but all over Tanzania."

Dr Ukio Kusiry, Morogoro Regional Medical Officer (RMO) says: "The main lesson learnt is that if care providers are well skilled and adequately equipped with essential supplies, in the presence of effective management team, maternal and newborn deaths can be reduced."

"So, we intend to scale up the ASDIT model in the whole region. It is not an easy task, but it has to be done. We'll support the district councils to copy and paste the model for their facilities."



## PUBLIC NOTICE

### FRAUDULENT

## USE OF THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP'S (AfDB) NAME

It has come to our attention that individuals and various agents are purporting to be in a position to help in doing business with the African Development Bank Group with fraudulent intentions, including the of soliciting funds as compensation. Such misrepresentations are usually, but not exclusively, in the form of fraudulent email using fake emails accounts.

The African Development Bank Group takes this violation of the Bank's corporate value of integrity seriously and is committed to working with the appropriate authorities to fight illegal schemes of this nature.

We, the African Development Bank Group, hereby confirm that we:

- **PUBLISH** all genuine corporate procurement requests exclusively on the Bank's website at [www.afdb.org/en/about-us/corporate-procurement](http://www.afdb.org/en/about-us/corporate-procurement). If a procurement request has not been advertised at that website, it does not exist;
- **NEVER** request payments from service providers, suppliers, consultants, job seekers, etc. in order to be awarded a contract to provide goods or services, or in exchange for employment;
- **DO NOT USE** email addresses from third parties such as Gmail, Yahoo Mail, etc.
- **ADVERTISE** all vacant positions on our website: [www.afdb.org/jobseekers](http://www.afdb.org/jobseekers). If a vacancy has not been advertised at that website, it does not exist.

We therefore, advise all individuals and business entities wishing to do business with the Bank to:

- **ONLY** respond to advertisements regarding public procurement on the Bank's corporate website;
- **NEVER** give or send any money to anyone in order to get a job or service contract, or to do any business with the Bank.
- **REPORT** all fraudulent activity to the relevant national authorities of the United Republic of Tanzania, and also inform the Bank using the following email address: [security@afdb.org](mailto:security@afdb.org).



THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY

## CLINICAL EPIDEMIOLOGIST, MEDICAL COLLEGE

As a faculty member in the Department of Population Health the candidate will have research and educational responsibilities to support teaching and research at the undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate levels across the disciplines of health sciences. The candidate will support faculty and trainees across clinical disciplines and within the discipline of epidemiology and biostatistics. The candidate is expected to develop and sustain an original research portfolio in clinical or population health sciences.

### Key Responsibilities:

- Support faculty and Master of Medicine residents in research methods, statistical analyses and interpretation.
- Teach in the Medical College Masters Programmes on topics including research methodology, epidemiology and biostatistics up to advanced level
- Supervise students at MSc and PhD level as primary and co-supervisor.
- Research results communication through written and oral outputs including peer-reviewed publications.
- Support and engage in research grant development including as principle investigator.
- Explore and implement strategies to expand research portfolio of the health sciences.

### Skills, Qualifications and Experience

- MSc and PhD in Epidemiology or equivalent
- At least 3 years of experience in clinical health research design and implementation
- At least 3 years' experience in postgraduate teaching in epidemiology and basic statistics
- Demonstrated advanced experience in using STATA, SAS and/or R
- Demonstrated excellent analytical skills
- Demonstrated experience in supervising Master and/or PhD students as a Primary Supervisor
- Demonstrated excellent grant writing and scientific writing skills
- Strong publications track record in international peer-reviewed journals
- Attentive to detail and quality
- Ability to work independently and within stipulated deadlines and schedules
- Highly motivated and excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- A team player and ability to work in a multi-cultural environment

Candidates meeting the above requirements, and seeking professional growth and an excellent work environment should forward their letter of application, curriculum vitae, testimonials and addresses (postal and email) of three referees to the Associate Dean, Medical College c/o Human Resources Office, AKU, P.O. Box 125, Dar es Salaam; Fax (+255) (0)22 2150875 or email [hr.tanzania@aku.edu](mailto:hr.tanzania@aku.edu)

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.  
More information about this position is available via the following website  
<http://www.aku.edu>

Applications close: 31st March 2020



# TARI determined to improve sunflower seeds and production

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

**D**ESPITE being a10th country in the world for sunflower production, 2nd in Africa and the 1st in East Africa, Tanzania still faces a major challenge of shortage of edible oil within the country.

Statistics depicts that the country is annually spend at least 675billion/- to import between 400,000 and 570,000 tonnes of crude oil in a bid to curtail the tall shortage of edible oil.

In Tanzania, the prestigious cash crop, sunflower, is found to grow well in almost all regions from across the country.

Thus, there is a potential for producing sunflower in the country, and this, is attributed to suitable climatic conditions and availability of the market among others.

But despite of being endowed with such rarely economic opportunity, it's a grim revelation that the country has yet to benefit from the key sub-sector due to diverse challenges.

Among others, shortage of high seed varieties appears to be among factors that dilute efforts by farmers, and the government to benefit accordingly from the sector.

Recently, the Agricultural Markets Development Trust (AMDT) organised the Tanzania National Sunflower Round Table Forum, in Dodoma region, attracting key stakeholders in the Sunflower sector.

During the forum, The Guardian managed to conduct an insight interview with National Coordinator for Sunflower Research at the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) Ilonga Centre, Dr Frank Reuben.

**Q: How many varieties produced in Tanzania and how are they maintained?**

**A:** In Tanzania there is only one public variety "Record" produced and distributed to farmers, however, TARI will release other three new varieties in this year.

TARI Ilonga is responsible to ensure for maintenance cycles of the variety for the purpose of keeping its associated genes at a homozygote status. The Sunflower Research Programme (SRP) at TARI Ilonga is producing high quality seeds genetically identical to the cultivar released by the breeder.

For TARI, this is specific than the production of seed of varietal populations and the most important is the variety purity that is pure source material which gives quality seeds.

However, seed purity largely depends on non-genetic factors that is, the environment in which the seed is being multiplied. As Record variety is an open pollinated, it is highly possible that the pollen of one plant fertilizers another plant.

Therefore, at TARI Ilonga the production of seed is performed in a good spatial isolation sufficient to prevent pollination by undesired pollen. We're using scientific techniques and economic aspects of sunflower variety maintenance and multiplication.

**Q: In which way TARI assures the seeds reach the targeted farmers?**

**A:** The seeds of the variety produced by TARI is distributed in different classes (Pre basic, basic, Certified and Quality Declared Seeds (QDS) by TARI Centres, Agricultural Seed Agency (ASA) as well as other different companies of local investors like TEMNAR Company Limited (Mtwara), BioSustain Tanzania Limited (Singida), Highland Seed Growers Limited (Mbeya) and AgriSeed Technologies Ltd Company (Mbeya and Morogoro) among others.

These companies are closely working with farmers by training them on good agronomic packages as well as linking farmers with the market. They have expanded quality seeds production to smallholder farmers through contract farming and successfully, these companies are realizing mass production of quantity and quality seeds at lower price.

These companies follow normal seed certification process to ensure seeds are properly inspected and ul-



**National Coordinator for Sunflower Research at the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) Ilonga Centre, Dr Frank Reuben as seen inspects a sunflower plantation.**

mately certified. Farmers who have received seed production trainings to produce Quality Declared Seeds (QDS) from Record variety are encouraged to produce.

Because of high seed demand by farmers, the country permits other seed varieties registered in Tanzania to be imported to cover the demand gap. These include Kenya fedha, Swathi (NSHF 145), NSHF 36 and Hysun 33.

**Q: What are you (TARI) doing to ensure sunflower has high oil content?**

**A:** TARI (Ilonga) has developed some improved technologies which increase oil content in sunflower. These technologies are now recommended to be applied in the fields, they include good agronomic practices and apiculture.

TARI Ilonga is planning also to train the farmers and companies on how to use these techniques to un-

dertake modern farming, aiming at increasing oil content.

The Sunflower Research Programme, under TARI, is working to increase the rate of genetic gain generated in terms of oil content and grain yields.

This comes due to the reason that, we are breeding depending on the preferences of farmers who need high grain yielding varieties, processors who require grains with high oil content and consumers who

seek for high quality oil products for consumption, and the possibility of obtaining good protein yield for livestock feed.

TARI Ilonga is now in progress to create new varieties with greater pathogen resistance, better suited to specific climatic or ecological conditions in the cultivation environment where the varieties will be introduced.

This is made possible by the great genetic variability of the sunflower accessions which TARI is collecting for exploring genetic potentials. TARI Ilonga does all these because a good collection of local germplasm is vital, for preferred grain quality, oil and adaptation to biological environment (especially for resistance to prevalent pests and diseases

**Q: What are the efforts, or plans for Ilonga to produce sunflower hybrid seeds?**

**A:** TARI Ilonga Centre has a national mandate to coordinate sunflower research. The Centre has the plan in place for accelerating breeding and delivery of new sunflower varieties of both open pollinated varieties (OPVs) and hybrids.

The former is interesting in semi-arid zones, or in marginal areas, and the later for intensive agriculture capable of exploiting their high yield ability. TARI Ilonga is towards modernization of sunflower breeding which is associated with utilization of heterosis in the production of superior hybrids.

TARI Ilonga has already developed the strategic breeding program for sunflower which intends to keep sunflower sector in Tanzania on track overtime and which allows to respond to changes while remaining faithful to sustainable edible oil production.

The purpose of this strategic plan is to ensure sunflower breeding program in developing and delivering high quality seeds which are resilient in demand by smallholder farmers and processors in various geographic regions of Tanzania.

The intention of this strategy is to accelerate the development, delivery and scaling of use of improved seeds that meet the productivity and income needs of both farmers and processors and provide resilient adaptation to climate change. The strategy will release the varieties which are most promising to adapt to various agro ecological zones of the country.

To implement these plans successfully and sustainably, a concerted effort and a strong support interms of resources is definitely needed. Therefore, our program is calling different stakeholders to join these efforts so as to implement our short- and long-term plans to sustain the sunflower seed production at hat is the position of Tanzania in Sunflower production?

# Policy design, TIRDO and prospects of industrial revitalisation

By Nimi Mweta

**C**OUNTLESS reflections and discussions have been held in the country during the past three years in particular, where efforts to revitalize industries have been going apace. There was something like a new start given the doldrums into which the old industrial sector fell as the state removed subsidies and privatized dozens of firms in the early 1990s in particular. Other commercial entities were liquidated in the course of the first term of the second phase government, but most industrial entities needed a legal cadre as to being shifted to the private sector, not just bankruptcy.

One organization that is actually preoccupied with this problem on a day to day basis and how to make it a success is the Tanzania Industrial Research and Development Organisation (TIRDO). Dr Lugano Wilson, the TIRDO director of engineering development, has been working on how to revive industries that were privatized during that period and mainly failed. While it is not mandatory that a failed industry must be repossessed by the government and then handed to another investor for new plans to start, that has in many cases

been the only viable option.

TIRDO is mainly concerned with assisting owners or operators of industry set up a working facility, establish their needs especially in terms of appropriate technology designed to bring up a product of certain specifications and quality. It therefore isn't keeping updated records on movement at the level of ownership or legal entitlement to operating industries which seek advice from that organization. TIRDO would usually be aware if it is a new entrepreneur or the old beneficiary of privatization seeking to revive its operations, but the issue isn't at the table there.

What comes up in discussion with Dr Lugano on the matter is that most of those who benefited from the earlier privatization were not prepared in terms of what it takes to take up a production premise. All prior aspects of what is needed, like having the capital for purchase of technology, thus equipment and requirements of assurance of quality, were simply lacking. The TIRDO expert focuses on the design of what it takes to do those things, not on the economics - and psychology - of what those who obtained the production premises expected, and mostly failed.

In that sense the discussion does not



**Dr Lugano Wilson, the TIRDO director of engineering development**

bring holistic issues and their solutions but a case by case comprehension and focus on the challenges, as issues or settings that are brought to TIRDO for consulting and advice differ markedly from one company or entrepreneur to another. They vary from small scale to large scale, which means differ-

ent models of technology, their sourcing, costs and productivity in relation to envisaged markets, the local sphere and possibly an export component, etc. Again it isn't easy to pin down the TIRDO expert on precise figures on what has been achieved, as one obtains the picture that it isn't at TIRDO that this is clarified but with managements of companies seeking advice.

One impression that a discussant leveling questions at the TIRDO expert comes up with is that there is a firmer foundation for private sector take up of the old industries, though the challenges have not been entirely overcome.

There are areas where a broad outlook on what industries can expect from the government in terms of how the market can be structured quite simply have to be compromised, as their traditional design can scarcely obtain results given a changed global environment. It is difficult to 'wean' most local experts and policy designers from that track...

An oft-debated matter in that

regard, and Dr Lugano asserts that it ought to be primary to current policy design as well, is the protection of local industries. When it comes to textile industries, partner states of the East African Community agreed in 2016 to phase out importation of second hand clothing especially from the United States so as to enable the local textile industry to get a market foothold. This scheme failed as it contravened a minor portion of usual US leveraged trading expectations where a series of charities make a small profit in second hand clothes.

A number of US critics differed with the Trump administration or its Department of Trade when caution was given to EAC members that they would be removed from AGOA eligibility (preferential trade status, customs-free entrance into the US of around 350 types of goods) if they excluded US second hand clothes or highly taxed those imports. Most EAC members abandoned that plan but Rwanda opted to stand its ground, and was duly removed from AGOA considerations,

which means it will direct its exports to Europe (Everything But Arms facility), and other zones. As Rwanda is a relatively small economy it could countenance such pay offs or balancing, not Kenya with a vast industrial sector, or Tanzania and Uganda as well.

There are similar problems with the sugar industry, where local firms fail to sell their sugar as foreign sugar is lowly taxed, or dumped. This happens with excess production that a country looks for a market, but by selling at cut price that puts other producers at a competitive disadvantage.

The argument for protection is solid, and here one would be hard put to notice any difference between the position given by Dr Lugano and regular affirmations on the issue by Kigoma Urban MP Zitto Kabwe, as to taking the interests of producers first. Yet the counteracting position is in economic terms more effective, as interests of consumers are vaster and covering virtually the entire population while production stakeholders are few.



# Tanzanians urged to increase efforts to get more people into testing for HIV

By Felister Peter

FOLLOWING concerns of stigmatisation to people living with HIV/Aids and key vulnerable population, health practitioners have been called upon to avoid discrimination to encourage more people to check up their HIV status.

There has been challenges in the community whereas when people who are HIV positive disclose their health status are being isolated, rejected by their families and sometimes face mistreatment at health centers and hospitals.

Speaking at the handover ceremony of the renovated centre of excellence on provision of health services to key vulnerable population in Dar es Salaam recently, Acting Regional Medical Officer, Dr Ayoub Kibao insisted on the need for friendly health services to youth.

The centres of excellence at Magomeni health centre in Kinondoni and Roundtable health centre in Mbagala, Temeke district have been constructed by Jhpiego Tanzania with financial support from Elton John Aids Foundation.

Dr Kibao who is also the regional AIDS coordinator, said that guidelines provided by the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children insists on friendly health services to youth and requires all the hospitals and health centres to offer counseling, testing and treatment services to people living with HIV/Aids.

"We need friendly services to encourage youth to go for testing or disclose their HIV positive status because they are the most infected according to the Tanzania HIV Impact Survey (THIS) 2016-2017", asserted Dr Kibao.

According to findings in the THIS 2016-2017, prevalence of HIV infection among youth aged 15 years and older in the country was 4.9 percent, among them, 6.3 percent are females and 3.4 percent males.

He commended Jhpiego Tanzania for the support to renovate the centers as well as training to healthcare providers to ensure they offer quality and professional services to patients.

Jhpiego Tanzania Country Director, Alice Christensen said the organ-



Dar es Salaam acting regional medical officer Dr Ayoub Kibao (C) cuts ribbon in the city's Mbagala suburb at the weekend. Second left is Jhpiego Tanzania country director Alice Christensen. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

ization has renovated the Magomeni center at a cost of 48,361,407/- and Roundtable center at 96,722,814.

"We have also provided material supplies and equipment worth

46,156,000/- for Roundtable-Mbagala and 92,312,000/- for Magomeni", said Christensen adding the organization, through various projects has employed different approaches

to improve uptake of HIV care and treatment services to vulnerable population.

She noted that as partners they care about people's health particu-

larly the fight against HIV/Aids. He said the disease has continued to be a burden to the vulnerable groups in countries of all income.

"Immediate linkage to care after an HIV positive diagnosis allows those tested positive to receive appropriate counseling and treatment to protect the health and reduce onward transmission", she said.

Medical Officer at the Roundtable health center in Mbagala, Dr Philipo Shineneko commended Jhpiego Tanzania's efforts in supporting provision of health services at the center.

He said: "We started to offer the services in 2018 whereas it was only for expectant mothers; with your support we have expanded our services by providing counseling, HIV testing and mental health treatment. We have so far reached 3,392 people".

Representing Kinondoni District Medical Officer, Dr Omary Mwangaza said the Magomeni center of excellence attends to 1723 patients per month. He said from 2018 to date, more than 500,000 patients including key vulnerable people have received various treatments at the center.

Dr Mwangaza said out of the 3,081 people who checked their health status at the center, 283 (124 percent) were tested HIV-positive, and that 277 (97.9 percent) were enrolled for antiretroviral therapy.

Earlier in their speech, the key vulnerable people appealed to the government to ensure availability of professional healthcare workers at all the health centers.

They appreciated the friendly services offered by healthcare workers at the Roundtable-Mbagala and Magomeni centers in Dar es Salaam.

# EAC contemplates adopting French among official languages

By Guardian Reporter

FRENCH could in the near future become an official language of the East African Community (EAC) in addition to English.

This became apparent after the French government agreed to assist the EAC in conducting a study on the modalities to include French as an official lan-

guage of the community.

The support from the French government comes after the EAC requested the French government to support a study on the modalities to include French as a language of the community in addition to English.

The request from the EAC Secretariat came as part of implementing the directive of the Res-

olution no. 25 of the 15th Summit of Heads of State of the EAC held on November 30th, 2013.

Speaking at the signing ceremony of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with EAC, French Ambassador to Tanzania, Frederic Clavier, said his country was more than willing to assist the EAC in conducting a study on the modalities to include French

as one of the official languages of the EAC.

"We are dedicated to support the execution of the study in order to contribute to social and economic development of the integration agenda," said Ambassador Clavier.

The French envoy said the operational implementation of the study and related funding costs

estimated to be Euros 42,511, would be covered by the Embassy of France in Burundi, adding that the embassy would regularly update the EAC on the progress of the study.

EAC Secretary General, Ambassador Liberat Mfumukeko expressed his appreciation to the French government for the support given to the EAC for the

study.

The Secretary-General thanked France for her continued support to EAC programmes and projects.

"This support comes at the right time when the Community is continued to deepen its ties with the other French speaking blocs," said Ambassador Mfumukeko.

Article 137 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC provides that English shall be the official language of the community while Kiswahili will be developed as a lingua franca of the community.

The East African Legislative Assembly passed a resolution to adopt Kiswahili as an official language of the community.

# 15,000 people to benefit from water project in Muheza

By Correspondent George Sombony, Tanga

ACUTE water shortages facing residents in various parts of Muheza district, Tanga region, will soon become a history as construction of a mega water project aimed to serve the population is on final stages.

Over 15,000 residents are estimated to benefit from the project once completed and thus forget all the hurdles they have encountered for years due to water blues.

The Managing Director of the Tanga Urban Water and Sanitation Authority (UWASA), Geoffrey Hilly said in Tanga that construction of the project has reached 90 percent.

According to him, the 2.6bn/- water project draws water from the main Tanga water supply network starting from Pongwe in the Tanga city to Kitisa in Muheza.

"The project whose construction started in December 2016 being undertaken through supervision of Tanga UWASA, would benefit a total of 15,500 people, out of which 8,900 would be from Muheza town and the rest (6,600) would be villagers where the water pipeline would pass through," he said.

Hilly noted that the project would increase the percentage of Muheza Town residents with access to clean

and safe water from 35 percent to 65 percent.

Briefing members of the Parliament Committee for Investment, Hilly said that the only work that had remained is the installation of pumps.

He said that they have agreed with the contractor and supplier to start trial supply of the water.

"The only challenge we were facing here was payment for the pumps but we have already secured funds for that work. We expect that by April, this year, water supply service will reach Muheza," he added.

For her part, chairman of the Parliamentary Committee, Zainabu Vullu expressed satisfaction on the progress of the project.

She said that the completion of the project would help to ease Muheza's water problems.

The National Water Policy objective is to provide guidance on implementation of water and sanitation programme with the major objective of providing water to every household.

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



Kibidula Farm Ltd director and manager Jason Fournier explains at the weekend how Hass avocado seedlings are grafted and budded in a greenhouse in Mufindi District, Iringa Region. Mufindi's Hass avocados are reported to fetch mouth-watering prices in Europe. Photo: Correspondent Friday Simbaya

# Sensitisation campaign attracts over 8,000 in southern highlands

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

OFFICIALS of the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) have completed a campaign to sensitise citizens and entrepreneurs in southern highland

regions on various issues regarding standards and its requirements.

The campaign on importance of certified products, premises, cosmetics and drugs registration, involved people and students residing in

Mpanda district, Katavi region, Rungwe district in Mbeya and Ludewa district in Iringa region.

Speaking during the event, TBS inspector Ernest Simon, said the campaign was conducted in market areas, bus stands and other open areas where

many people attended.

"This campaign has reached more than 8,000 including 64 entrepreneurs, 4,381 students in primary and secondary schools and 3,658 ordinary citizens", he said.

He urged citizens to create a

culture of buying certified products in order to avoid loss and health risks.

He reminded them that the war against substandard products is not for TBS only, but the whole nation

Simon insisted traders on

importance of registering their premises online and citizen continue to report in case they encounter substandard goods.

During the campaign, officials of from the organization sensitized SMEs in production of cereal, soap, bread, cooking oil

, honey, diary and groundnuts on the procedure of getting TBS mark of quality free of charge.

According to Simon, the sensitization campaign is sustainable and would be conducted later on in Rombo, Lushoto and Hanang districts.



# How can you get screened for coronavirus? Here's what you should know about testing and diagnosis

By Tara C. Smith

**W**ITH all the talk of the new coronavirus disease spreading in the U.S., you probably have a pretty urgent question: What does new coronavirus testing actually entail? How will you know whether you have it, and not another type of cold or flu?

Though I hate to admit it, U.S. testing for the new coronavirus (also known as COVID-19) has been a mess. Between uncertainty about who exactly should be tested, reports of contaminated test kits delaying the roll-out of more extensive testing, and issues associated with the cost of diagnosis, the U.S. isn't doing as well with tracking the extent of new coronavirus infections as we should be.

At press time, there have been 233 confirmed new coronavirus cases in the U.S. and 14 deaths. These numbers will only grow as we increase testing and find new cases in new areas. If you're looking to catch up on what is going on with detecting the virus in the U.S., here are the answers to seven common new coronavirus testing questions.

**1. How will I know if I should get tested for the new coronavirus?**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends calling your doctor if you have symptoms of new coronavirus infection (a fever, cough, or difficulty breathing) and have potentially been exposed to the virus. That means having been in close contact (six or fewer feet) with someone who was diagnosed with the new coronavirus, living in an area with confirmed cases of the illness, or having recently traveled to a place with confirmed cases.

You can also check with your state health department to see whether there's a new coronavirus hotline available to answer your questions and advise people on testing. Some states that are seeing more and more cases, like Washington, are setting up this kind of resource.

According to the CDC, the medical professional you consult will weigh factors like your symptoms and the local spread of the new coronavirus to decide if you should receive testing. That might sound simple enough, but figuring out who needs testing has turned out to be complicated. That brings me to the next question I know a lot of people have.

**2. Can I get turned away from testing even if I have symptoms?**

Yes, but this isn't necessarily as alarming as it sounds. Let me explain.

The guidelines for who exactly should receive testing are a quickly moving target. Originally, the guidelines for who to test were "quite restrictive," essentially requiring recent



travel to China or recent contact with people confirmed to have the new coronavirus, Michael Mina, M.D., Ph.D., an assistant professor of epidemiology at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and associate medical director of clinical microbiology at Brigham and Women's Hospital, tells SELF. On February 28, the guidelines expanded to include symptomatic people who had traveled to other countries with ongoing transmission, including Japan, South Korea, Iran, and Italy.

Then, on March 3, Vice President Pence, the lead administration official for the U.S. new coronavirus outbreak, told reporters, "We will issue new guidance from the CDC that will make it clear that any Americans can be tested, no restrictions, subject to doctor's orders."

That updated guidance, published by the CDC on March 4, essentially leaves the decision of who to test up to doctors. "Clinicians should use their judgment to determine if a patient has signs and symptoms compatible with COVID-19 and whether the patient should be tested," the CDC says. This could theoretically help address the situation of symptomatic people who have been denied testing, which you may have heard about. But there are a few looming issues with this guidance that I find concerning. Other infectious disease experts I spoke with agree.

**Most Popular**

Infectious disease physician Krutika Kuppalli, M.D., is concerned about the implementation of this most recent change, partly because different doctors may have different ideas

about who to test. Also, "worried well" (people who don't have the illness or even symptoms but are scared that they might) may also show up at clinics looking for testing, potentially exposing themselves to infection within health care facilities. "I think we need to focus on testing our most vulnerable populations," Dr. Kuppalli tells SELF. That includes people with new coronavirus symptoms who belong to immunocompromised groups such as the elderly, those with serious health conditions including cardiovascular and lung diseases, and people with respiratory illnesses like the flu (whose symptoms could be due to coinfection with the new coronavirus).

Dr. Mina is also concerned about this new change. "Testing, at this point, should still be based on symptoms," he says, suggesting that people with mild symptoms (such as a cough) should self-quarantine in their homes and call their doctors to ask for advice on testing and care. That's a big part of why it actually makes sense, in certain cases, that doctors wouldn't test someone who has symptoms and appears to otherwise be healthy: There's no COVID-19 treatment (like antiviral drugs) that you can only receive once you've been diagnosed. The guidance for otherwise healthy people who have mild symptoms of the new coronavirus is the same as what to do if you are confirmed to have a mild case of the disease: Stay home,

isolate yourself from humans and animals as much as possible, and do whatever your doctor has recommended to relieve symptoms. The benefit of testing people who are mildly ill is to better understand where we have transmission of the virus occurring, but until tests are more widely available, serious cases take testing priority.

If you have any severe respiratory symptoms, like a noticeably hard time breathing, that's when Dr. Mina recommends physically going somewhere like a hospital to get tested. If someone (who doesn't also have symptoms) drives you, Dr. Mina suggests having them go into the hospital first, trying to find a mask, then bringing it back out to you. If you are diagnosed with the new coronavirus, this can help prevent spreading the virus to other people as you enter the hospital, he explains.

**3. How does the test work?**

Many state health departments are using kits developed by the CDC, Nancy Messonnier, M.D., the director of the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases within the CDC, noted in a March 3 press briefing. Beyond that, clinicians in places like primary care offices and hospitals are generally using commercial testing kits approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), she explained, adding that the FDA is working with commercial manufacturers to supply additional tests. (Based on FDA rules, some labs cannot make final diagnoses until the CDC confirms the test results, Dr. Messonnier added, but in those cases, labs and health departments can still consider those to be "presumptive positive" results.)

In any case, U.S. testing for new coronavirus is similar no matter where the kit is coming from. It uses one or more of various types of samples, such as a nasopharyngeal swab (inserted far into the back of your nostril), an oropharyngeal (throat) swab, or a sample of sputum (a mix of mucus and saliva). These samples are then tested for viral ribonucleic acid that signals the new coronavirus.

Depending on the volume of tests in any lab, the turn-around time for results should be between 24 to 72 hours, Dr. Kuppalli says.

**4. How accurate is the test?**

According to the package insert for the test the CDC is using, new coronavirus testing seems to work well but isn't perfect. The insert estimates that at least 90% of the test results are accurate.

As the insert explains, by January 27, the CDC had tested 253 respiratory specimens from 102 people with possible new coronavirus infections, and there were some discrepancies in the results depending on the timing

and type of sample. For example, one person's buccal (inside of the cheek) swab sample and sputum sample tested positive, while a nasopharyngeal swab from the same day tested negative. Another person's sputum sample taken 10 days after the onset of symptoms tested positive, but their oral and nasopharyngeal swabs from the same day were negative.

Some of the disparities here may come down to the method of collection. Sputum samples might lead to the most accurate results because sputum contains secretions from the lower respiratory tract, where there's usually a higher amount of the virus, Kelly Wroblewski, M.P.H., medical technologist certified by the American Society for Clinical Pathology Board of Registry and director of infectious diseases with the Association Public Health Laboratories, tells SELF.

The level of precision when testing can also affect how well the test works. "This can be impacted by things like specimen collection," Wroblewski says. "If you're not collecting good-quality specimens, you can get poor-quality test results." For example, if the health care worker doesn't take a swab that goes far enough into the nostril, or they don't make good contact with the throat to get a good sample, the results could come back as negative because the sample didn't have enough viral particles—even if the person getting tested did have the new coronavirus.

Beyond that, as the CDC notes, in the early stages of infection, it's possible for the test not to detect the virus in a sample. So, no, new coronavirus testing isn't infallible—but it is a key tool in helping us to better understand and track the disease.

**5. Why have I been hearing about testing delays and contamination?**

Many infectious disease experts have expressed frustration with how new coronavirus testing has been rolled out, partly because of delays in making the tests widely accessible.

"It is unclear what the delay was, and there are numerous reports about whether the delay was a result of contamination of the test kits or problems with the design of the test. Or just delays in manufacturing," Dr. Mina says.

About that possible contamination: On March 1, Axios reported that some of the CDC test kits may have become contaminated during the manufacturing process. According to the New York Times, this contamination led to inconclusive results. Trying to address that problem might have caused testing delays and definitely caused some confusion.

"[Communication] with the country's laboratories [was] woefully inadequate in keeping us informed and up to date about what was happening," Dr. Mina says. "This left many labs, like ours at Brigham and Women's Hospital, wondering how to proceed."

Reportedly, the issues have been resolved. On March 1, FDA commissioner Stephen Hahn, M.D., said in a statement: "Upon learning about the test issue from CDC, FDA worked with CDC to determine that problems with certain test components were due to a manufacturing issue. We worked hand in hand with CDC to resolve the issues with manufacturing."

FDA has confidence in the design and current manufacturing of the test that already have and are continuing to be distributed. These tests have passed extensive quality control procedures and will provide the high-level of diagnostic accuracy we need during this coronavirus outbreak.

Tens of thousands of test kits will reportedly be distributed to state laboratories, though the success of this process still remains to be seen, and, unfortunately, some damage has already been done.

Community spread occurring from person to person in states across the country may have been at least somewhat prevent-

ed with more widespread testing, diagnosis, and preventive measures.

**6. How much will getting tested for the new coronavirus cost?**

It depends on the specifics of your situation. If you're receiving a test that will be processed by the CDC or a public health lab, the test itself should be free. But you might be charged for new coronavirus tests that are getting processed by commercial labs. There are also other factors to consider.

"If a patient shows up at the hospital [for any reason], regardless of the bill, just seeing a physician and taking up a bed can run into the thousands of dollars," Dr. Mina says. "This is largely because of agreements and contracts made between insurance companies or centers for Medicare and Medicaid services and hospitals, which have driven price tags to unbelievably high numbers."

Dr. Kuppalli agrees. "There are a range of other costs that can be incurred depending on the clinical signs and symptoms a patient has on presentation, where they present—[such as the] E.R., primary care clinic, or urgent care—and their insurance."

Also, the CDC recommends that people who present for new coronavirus testing should also be tested for other respiratory infections, and Dr. Kuppalli notes that insurance might not cover some of these additional tests. "The costs of these tests would be variable depending on how much the hospital costs, what your insurance covers, your deductible, and co-pay," she says. (Additionally, insurance wouldn't necessarily cover treatment necessary for people who are seriously ill with the new coronavirus, including but not limited to admission to the intensive care unit, intubation with mechanical ventilation, and medication to increase blood pressure.)

Identifying cases of the new coronavirus is an essential way to know where the virus is spreading in order to protect everyone's health, so it's a shame that fears of high costs may be a deterrent to testing. In New York, Governor Andrew Cuomo has issued a directive for insurers to waive some charges associated with new coronavirus testing, which will hopefully lead other areas to consider similar initiatives.

If you're experiencing signs of the new coronavirus and are worried about the potential cost of testing, when you call your doctor or a hotline to discuss your symptoms, you can also ask them what you might expect to pay if testing is warranted.

**7. How might new coronavirus testing change moving forward?**

The CDC is working on a blood test that would look for antibodies the body produces in response to SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes the new coronavirus infection), and Dr. Mina suggests that rapid tests, similar to those used in clinics to quickly test for the flu and strep throat, "will likely become available in some form before the end of this epidemic."

These tests could potentially use the same types of swab samples as the current new coronavirus tests but deliver results within minutes instead of days. It's possible that these tests might even be available to use at home, similar to using a drugstore pregnancy test.

Either way, don't expect to see these rapid tests very soon. "If I were to guess," Dr. Mina says, "I'd say to expect that you will see them being evaluated in clinical studies within months."

The situation with coronavirus is evolving rapidly. The advice and information in this story is accurate as of press time, but it's possible that some data points and recommendations have changed since publication.

We encourage readers to stay up to date on news and recommendations for their community by checking with their local public health department.

**THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD =068=**

**WORD FIT**

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

**7 letters:** PUBLISH, SHACKER, SETTLED, MIGRATE  
**5 letters:** SEEDY, NEIGH, BRIDE, DIODE  
**4 letters:** PASS, BOAT, HIRE, SHIT, HOPE, DEBT  
 BRAT, BEAR, BIDE AMOS, PAIL, TEND  
**3 letters:** INK, SOT, BAY, PAT, GET

**CROSSWORD**

**CLUES: ACROSS**

1 Occupant (11)  
 6 Mishap (12)  
 9 Person employed to rescue bathers (9)  
 11 Area of shifting sand dunes in Sahara (3)  
 12 Predictor (4)  
 13 Plural form of genus (6)  
 16 Crux (4)  
 18 Activity (8)  
 20 Calm (6)  
 22 Weapon firing barbs (5)  
 24 Built up area with a name (4)  
 26 Muslim rulers (5)  
 27 Things done (3,6)

**CLUES: DOWN**

1 Diffidence (8)  
 2 Dangerous (6)  
 3 Act, run (7)  
 4 Antiquated (5)  
 5 Release again (9)  
 7 Person that digs earth (6)  
 8 Restricted in range (8)  
 10 An apparatus which measures energy (9)  
 14 Retribution (7)  
 15 Invert (7)  
 17 Annoy (5)  
 19 Piece of sacred choral music (5)  
 21 Entitle (4)  
 23 Unit of work (3)  
 25 Little (3)

Comments: 0789 43 73 09



## BUSINESS

STRATEGIC

## Govt plans to build regional industrial parks for attracting private investments

By Guardian Reporter

THE government is planning to build industrial parks in each region across the country to lure private capital into establishment of industries.

Briefing the parliamentary committee for Industry, Trade and Environment that visited the 61.87 acres of land earmarked for the construction of Kurasini Trade and Logistic Centre in Dar es Salaam over the weekend, Industry and Trade Minister, Innocent Bashungwa said industrial parks will give each region an opportunity to attract private capital that will in turn create jobs.

"The government through Export Processing Zones Authority is determined to develop Kurasini Trade and Logistic Centre, as one of the industrial parks where linkages between agriculture and industries can easily be realised," Bashungwa said.

He assured the lawmakers that the state is committed to ensure that Tanzania becomes a semi industrialised middle income economy by 2025.

In response to Bashungwa's assurances, Parliamentary Committee Chairman Suleiman Sadiq said there is need to fast-track the Kurasini Trade and Logistic Centre's construction because it will contribute to commercialisation of agriculture sector.

"It is high time the project kicked off because it will guarantee increased

farmers' earnings as well as contribute to rapid economic growth," said Sadiq who noted that because agriculture employs about 70 percent of the country's rural people and contributes around 26 per cent of gross domestic product, the Kurasini Centre is an important investment.

Briefing the legislators, EPZA Director General, Colonel (rtd) Joseph Simbakalia said there is need to invest in more industrial parks in the country where the private sector will invest in industries to exploit the huge domestic and regional markets.

Simbakalia said at Kurasini Trade and Logistic Centre, four crop boards comprising, namely: Tanzania Tea Board, Coffee Board of Tanzania, Cereal and other crops Board as well as Tanzania Horticulture Board have expressed interest to set up their operations.

"Arrangements with Tanzania Tea Board have started aimed at establishing Tea and Trade Logistic Centre that will comprise of a tea collection centre, warehouses and tea processing facilities," he said.

Trading through the Mombasa Tea Auction with high transport and warehouse logistic costs means that Tanzania's tea farmers and Indian ports have been on the receiving end in terms of revenues generated in the process, the EPZA chief added.

PROMOTION

## NMB expert touts bancassurance as panacea for risks facing businesses

By Guardian Reporter

PRIVATE business need to seek insurance coverage against risks through bancassurance so that they can guarantee growth and sustainability.

NMB Bank Plc's Chief of Retail Banking, Filbert Mponzi, said in Dar es Salaam over the weekend while addressing entrepreneurs that businesses are exposed to different kinds of risks and possible losses, which can only be rescued by insurance coverage.

"Accessing finance from the bank is one and important aspect for business growth but insuring against risks is of paramount importance and guarantees sustainability," Mponzi said while naming some of the risks as fire, theft and floods, among others.

With the widest physical network of over 225 branches spread across all districts in the country, Mponzi said NMB is positioned to provide bancassurance services to reach more people in the country both in rural and urban areas.

He told the over 300 entrepreneurs who form NMB Dar es Salaam Business Club that bancassurance services allow customers to buy insurance cover and process claims through the bank's branches.

The NMB Business club is a platform for all micro, small and medium enterprise customers where they have an opportunity to meet and share business ideas and best business practices while getting expert advice from bankers.

NMB Bancassurance's Senior Manager, Martin Massawe told entrepreneurs that apart from offering efficient and reliable insurance services, the bank's widest network guarantees customers services close to their business premises.



NMB Bank Plc's Chief of Retail Banking, Filbert Mponzi, has a word with some of Dar es Salaam Business Club members at a meeting on Saturday. Photo courtesy of NMB.

"I appeal to the general public to buy right insurance covers from NMB Bank and avoid being taken by surprise with unexpected disasters," Massawe said.

One of the entrepreneurs who attended the meeting and was victim of a recent fire that gutted Tegeta Nyuki market in the city, Godwin Rwechungura testified before his peers how NMB Bank through bancassurance services compensated him after the losses.

"I have been working and grow-

ing with NMB bank for over 10 years through various loan products which are insured which helped me to get back to business after losses caused by the fire," Rwechungura noted.

Through NMB Bank, customers and non-customers will now be able to get insurance covers from six insurance companies which have entered into agreement with the bank and they are: Reliance, Sanlam Life, Jubilee, National Insurance Company, Zanzibar Insurance Company and UAP Insurance.

Among other insurance covers, customers can get motor, health, property, life, bonds and agriculture insurance.

On his part, the NMB Senior Manager Digital Banking, Tito Mangesho said apart from providing insurance services to secure businesses from risks and losses, the bank also provides digital services namely NMB Mkononi, Mastercard QR Code and variety of other electronic cards which can play key role in enhancing efficiency of their businesses.

ON-RECORD

## Banking veteran unveils his book in Dar, dedicating proceeds to charity

By Guardian Reporter

RETIRED CRDB Bank Plc Managing Director Dr Charles Kimei, who also once served as Bank of Tanzania Director, has unveiled his book which focuses on his 40-plus of dedicated service in banking.

Dr Kimei said in Dar es Salaam on Friday when he unveiled his book titled, 'Career, Finance and Leadership' that he was compelled to write the book because many of CRDB's shareholders wanted him to do so.

"I decided to write the book so that it can serve as guidance to young and upcoming bankers in the industry. I expect that 50 percent of the proceeds from the book will go to finance JKCI children's treatment," Dr Kimei who left CRDB in September 2018 after managing the bank since its privatization in

1996, said.

He said as Chairman of a fund set up by Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner Paul Makonda to raise funds for the treatment of children suffering from heart diseases at Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute in Dar es Salaam he felt obliged to make such a contribution.

"Part of the proceeds will also likely go to Deputy House Speaker Tulia's trust which is also assisting many vulnerable groups in the Southern Highlands," he added while stressing that his banking career which started at BoT and ended at CRDB, is a story that needed to be told.

"I didn't write about my personal life because I felt, that may come in future, my dedication first is to the career," he said adding that when he left CRDB, the bank was a market leader and expressed hope that

it will continue to be such for many years.

In her remarks before launching the book, Deputy Speaker Tulia Ackson Mwansasu said Dr Kimei decision to write the book is commendable saying many other retirees need to follow suit. "You built the CRDB brand for many years but to me Kimei is also a brand name," she said noting that the former BoT Director played a key role in the establishment of Tulia Trust which focuses of promoting culture as a business.

Dr Ackson urged young people to write about their career and life experiences while still active instead of waiting till retirement because they may not be very lucky to retire. "I am going to start writing my book immediately," she said stressing that a culture of book writing and reading books.



Dr Kimei's hardcover book.



Industry and Trade Minister, Innocent Bashungwa.

DEFAULTERS

## Kibaki ministers fight auctioneers over bank loans

NAIROBI

Several prominent personalities who served in the Cabinet of former President Mwai Kibaki or their families have fallen into hard times as they battle auctioneers over unpaid bank loans.

Topping the list of the high-profile debtors are Raphael Tuju, who also served Kibaki as Foreign Affairs minister, the family of Njenga Karume, the late business tycoon and former Defence minister, and Gideon Ndambuki, an assistant Agriculture in the

Kibaki administration.

Mr Ndambuki also served as a Cabinet minister in the Daniel arap Moi administration between 1998 and 2001. They are struggling to hold onto their prime assets over mounting bank loans as Kenya's economy slows and repossession pick up.

Former Cabinet minister Suleiman Rashid Shakombo lost his house in Kilimani over a bank debt while assistant minister Stephen Tarus is fighting to stop the auction of his Karen home. Keysian Auctioneers has also received bank notice over the

auction of properties linked to two former ministers from the Coast, whom the Business Daily cannot name because the notices have not been made public.

Unpredictable weather over the past two years, a bank lending slowdown and reduced economic activity following two presidential elections are creating a growing pool of distressed borrowers whose assets are being seized by newly aggressive lenders. "Things are tight, and a number of senior politicians who served the Kibaki administration are fighting auctioneers," said an official of

Keysian Auctioneers.

Mr Karume died barely seven years ago, leaving behind multi-billion shilling properties. The shrewd businessman had, however, also accumulated a debt load that his family and a board of trustees he appointed to oversee his estate have struggled to clear.

In the prime of his business life, Karume was the biggest distributor of beer maker East African Breweries Limited's products, a lucrative, long-term contract that earned him billions of shillings over the years.

Mr Tuju, currently the Jubilee

secretary-general, is also fighting to stop the bank from auctioning his multi-billion shilling property in Karen to recover a debt of Sh1.6 billion. He unsuccessfully fought to block the judgement, which was obtained in UK, from being adopted by the High Court.

The loans were meant for the construction of Sh100 million two storey, flat-roofed bungalows sitting on a 20-acre forested land dubbed Entim Sidai and the purchase of a 94-year-old bungalow built by a Scottish missionary, Albert Patterson, which currently operates as a

high-end restaurant. Mr Tarus served as an assistant minister during the Kibaki administration.

He also served as Kenya's High Commissioner to Australia between 2009 and 2012 after losing his bid to be re-elected as MP for Emgwen Constituency in 2007. He had served as the Member of Parliament for Emgwen between 2003 and 2007. His double-storey home sits on a 0.4708-hectare parcel in the upmarket Karen suburb and has more than five bedrooms.

The dispute involved NIC Bank's bid to sell the home over

non-payment of Sh75 million loan owed by Prayosha Ventures Limited, which is linked to the former assistant minister. Mr Shakombo, the National Heritage minister, was not lucky in his fight with KCB Group.

Mr Shakombo lost his house on Argwings Kodhek Grove, auctioned for Sh17 million after the lender accused the former Likoni MP of reneging on repaying a loan. It also took a court order for Mr Shakombo to be evicted from the house in 2016.



## DIVERSIFICATION

# First agri-business private company to float IPO by May

By Francis Kajubi

In a bid to ensure that more Tanzanians get a slice of their economy through share ownership, the first agri-business private company is planning to issue an initial public offer by May this year.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam on Saturday during a gala dinner for prospective investors, Jatu Company Limited's General Manager, Mohamed Simbano said the company which seeks to float three million shares has already received good feedback from Capital Markets and Securities Authority.

Simbano told the prospective investors who included Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade, Engineers Stella Manyanya that the company will offer its shares at 2,500/- each.

"The company is already in business at medium scale status since 2016 but the IPO seeks to raise money for expansion of the existing business by implementing a new Kitemo irrigation project and farming machinery purchase," he said. Through the IPO, the GM said, the company targets to raise 7.5bn/-.

Simbano asserted that the

Kitemo Irrigation Project is owned by 122 farmers who are Jatu members with a farm size of 500 acres. The project started earlier last year.

The IPO money will also finance construction of Kitemo maize milling factory, Jatu vision city at Matui and a fresh banana packaging unit in Tarime district of Mara region and will benefit more than 500 farmers.

"To date, Jatu has invested in 2,000 acres of paddy rice farms in Kilombero district, Morogoro, a beans farm covering 1,500 acres in Kilindi district of Tanga region and sunflower and maize farms of 5,000 acres in Kitemo district of Manyara region," he noted.

On his part, Peter Isare who is CEO of the company said Jatu had since 2016 invested in agro-processing centers in every district where it operates. Isare named Kibaigwa maize flour manufacturing plant, Kilindi where beans are processed, Kilombero rice milling and Kibaigwa sunflower oil processing.

In a bid to make the farming system sustainable, he said Jatu established its own Succos in 2018 involving farmers who are members of the company.



Industry and Trade deputy minister Stella Manyanya (R) has a word with Jatu Company Limited chairperson, Dr Zaipuna Yonah at an investors' gala dinner held in Dar es Salaam on Saturday. Photo courtesy of JCL.

Through the Saccos, farmers access credit free of interest charges and so far 700 farmers have benefited.

"The farmers pay back the money after they sell their produce through Jatu that sells the same to big companies through its online platform. About 20,000 of our customers purchase our products

through our online platform," said Isare.

Addressing the prospective investors, Eng Manyanya commended Jatu's management for its vision aimed at becoming the leading and preferred agribusiness company focused on enhancing nutrition, food security and poverty eradication in Tanzania and the

entire continent.

"With your objectives of bringing together peasants and building their capacity to engage in large scale commercial farming which also involves establishing agro-processing facilities, the government will work and support you," Eng Manyanya said.

## PARTNERSHIP

By Guardian Reporter

MOBILE phone services company, Tigo Tanzania Limited has teamed up with South Korean electronics manufacturer, Samsung to bring the latest smartphone, Samsung S20 series into the local market.

Tigo said the deal will involve three models include, namely: Galaxy S20, Galaxy S20+, Galaxy S20 Ultra. The partnership is part of the telco's strategy to drive usage of 4G technology in the country.

The telco's Device Manager, Mkumbo Myonga said in Dar es Salaam on Friday during the launch of the Samsung S20 series that the Korean company has selected Tigo to be the first to stock and sale the Samsung S20 series phones in the Tanzania market.

"This is an illustration of the confidence that our partners have in our extensive distribution channels and

## Tigo team up with Korean conglomerate to bring Samsung S20 series into Tanzania



Samsung Galaxy S20 series handsets.

our customer care team that offers top notch customer service at all times," Myonga said adding that the telco's goal is to promote digital lifestyle in the domestic market.

"That is why we have partnered with Samsung in order to boost the number of smartphone and internet users in the country. We are set to provide Tanzanian population with the access to the latest technology," Myonga added.

He further noted that the telco will continue accelerating smartphone penetration in the country while ensuring that all its customers enjoy the best digital experience via ultra-fast 4G network which is widespread in the country.

"That is why we are giving away free 78 gigabytes internet data for the whole year to all customers who purchase any of the Samsung

S20 series smartphones," he promised.

Speaking at the same event, Samsung's Country Manager for Tanzania, Suleiman Mohamed said the Korean electronics giant has unveiled Samsung Galaxy S20 series of flagship devices that fundamentally change the way consumers experience the world.

"The Galaxy S20 series introduces a brand-new camera architecture that combines AI with Samsung's largest image sensor yet for stunning image quality," Mohamed said.

"As we enter this new decade, how we communicate and how we experience the world around us has evolved. Samsung is therefore providing a next-generation device for transforming people's lives," he added.

## REGULATION

## Sierra Leone executing controversial new floor modality for phone calls

FREE TOWN

The government of Sierra Leone, via the country's telecommunications industry regulator, the National Telecommunications Commission (NATCOM), has introduced a new floor price for telecommunications services - a move that has not gone down well with subscribers.

According to NATCOM, the floor price for all voice calls (including promotions, bonuses and bundles) will be Le590 per minute for all on-net and off-net voice calls. The directive is understood to have been communicated to the executive leadership of several mobile telecommunications operators including Orange, Africell, QCell and Sierratel.

NATCOM's Director General, Maxwell Masquoui said the organisation considered operators' "disparate responses in the discussions held" by NATCOM and operators. The DG added that the new pricing structure, effective from 6 March 2020, is in line with the provisions of Sierra Leone's Finance Act of 2020.

The new floor price represents an approximate 9% reduction (of Le60) compared to the previous plan Le650. This will mean an end to offers that subscribers were leveraging to make phone calls at low prices.

Orange ended its Kola offer that allows sub-

scribers to make unlimited calls to friends and family members for Le5,000 within 24 hours. Africell also ended its Wuteh-The offer that provided 24-hour on-net calls for its subscribers. Disgruntled subscribers accused the regulator of disrupting their means of communication.

Civil society group, the Native Consortium and Research Centre, said the new "toxic, exploitative and unpatriotic" directive compelled QCell to increase its voice tariff from Le200 to Le590 per minute. However, telcos have also voiced their support of the decision of the regulator.

Africell's head of media relations, John Konteh said the regulator only intervened to stabilise the sector's tariffs, adding that the operators had to abide by the regulator's directive. Mabel Mason, Orange's spokesperson added that as the industry's official regulatory body, the operator had to comply with the directive.



**The directive is understood to have been communicated to the executive leadership of several mobile telecommunications operators including Orange, Africell, QCell and Sierratel**

## Insurers make about-turn on how to cover holders coronavirus

NAIROBI

Medical insurers have made an about-turn on footing bills for policy holders who contract the deadly coronavirus, hours after the first case was reported in Kenya.

The industry regulator, Insurance Regulatory Authority (IRA), says it has agreed with the insurers' lobby to cover people who get infected with the Covid-19 that was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organisation (WHO) on Wednesday.

IRA said in a statement that it had held engagement with Association of Kenya Insurers (AKI) chief executive Tom Gichuhi and agreed that insured victims will be covered. "The public is hereby assured that the insurance companies will continue to provide their services to policy holders affected or infected with the virus," said IRA.



**The public is hereby assured that the insurance companies will continue to provide their services to policy holders affected or infected with the virus**

This comes a day after AKI said the classification of the disease as a pandemic meant that it was excluded from coverage. This would have seen insured patients pay for treatment using their own money or depend on government.

But the U-turn now means insurers have now offered window to cover a pandemic, which by standard insurance practice, is typically excluded from covers. "This consid-

eration has been arrived at in support of the government's mitigation measures aimed at minimising exposure to policy holders and beneficiaries," explained IRA.

Kenya is on a high alert after a woman who travelled back to the country from US via London tested positive for the virus, forcing government to ban all public gatherings, unnecessary travels to affected countries and prison visits. Globally, more than 130,000 people have been infected causing close to 5,000 deaths, according to WHO data.

Insurers usually put exclusion clause on pandemics and epidemics to shield themselves from very high premiums. Mr Gichuhi had on Thursday warned that a fast spread of the disease in the country could pose premium nightmares to insurers, with risk of driving them out of business.

## CRISIS

## Flat batteries: Eskom risks another default on World Bank loan

JOHANNESBURG

Another of Eskom's emissions reductions projects is up in the air. A commitment by the public power utility to build battery storage technology in South Africa has yet to get off the ground, once again raising the possibility of it breaching its loan agreements with the World Bank.

One of these projects, the Sere Wind Farm, is complete and is operating successfully. Another project, the Majuba Railway Line is also years overdue, but some progress has been made to complete it.

As News24 reported last week, another project, the installation of flue gas desulphurisation technology, to reduce the sulphur dioxide emissions at Medupi, is also years overdue and is only expected to be implemented in 2030.

The World Bank loans were part of an effort to assist Eskom in funding the construction of the mammoth Medupi power station. As part of the agreement, Eskom was to invest in renewable and emissions-reduction technology, in theory, to offset the impact of building another enormous coal power station. The loan agreement was finalised in April 2010.

Initially, Eskom was supposed to invest in a project called the Kiwano Concentrated Solar Power project, but little progress was made. Around October 2017, with little progress to show for the Kiwano funding, Eskom proposed to convert the project to a battery storage one. The World Bank agreement was amended accordingly in November 2018, according to World Bank documentation.

According to the documents, \$245 million was committed to the Battery Storage Project (BSP). Technical, social and environmental assessments for the selected sites have been made and Eskom has "substantially advanced" discussions with the market. This included a webinar held in September 2019.

But procurement processes for the project were due to legal and technical considerations. News24 understands that this was due to a clash between the World Bank's contracting procedures, which as the creditor it sought to enforce, and the Public Finance Management Act, by which the South African government had to abide.

Eskom needed approval from the minister of finance to deviate from the PFMA strictures, which it received in August 2019. In November, it received sign-off from the Department of Public Enterprises to start work on phase one of the project, which will cost about R7.5 billion, or \$485 million. Other financing institutions are expected to make up the shortfall for the costs of the project. The deadline for phase one of the project has been shifted to June 2021.

The BSP project will see the installation of batteries at some of Eskom's substations located where wind and solar energy from Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers feed into the grid. The project, when completed, will be one of the largest of its kind in the world, News24 understands. It was supposed to go out to tender in the first quarter of this year, but as of last month, it had not done so, Eskom confirmed to News24.

SA 13th largest emitter While Eskom is legally bound to take on these projects because of its contract with the World Bank, the question many experts are asking is: Can the embattled power producer take on another mega-project like the BSP while overseeing its massive restructuring programme, finding a way to reduce its R450-billion debt, completing the mammoth and over budget Medupi and Kusile projects, upping the maintenance on its ageing fleet, and keeping the lights on.







## Work resumption in China raises hope for virus-hit European economies

BERLIN

AS the new virus continues with its rampage worldwide, the European continent has started to feel the toll the novel coronavirus has taken on its economy.

In major economies such as Germany, France, Britain and Italy, economic outlook seems to have become grim as people fear for disruptions in supply chains and volatility in markets.

Nonetheless, many businesses sound a positive note as more and more Chinese workers have been back to factories, and enterprises, including foreign-funded ones, have resumed operation.

As of Saturday, there have been more than 40,000 confirmed cases in 42 European countries, among which Germany has reported 3,795.

The German industry, which has already shown first signs of weakness amid the spreading coronavirus, is now "threatened by the longest recession since reunification," the Federation of German Industries warned, pointing out a direct connection between the economy's downward trend and the spread of the virus.

"The coronavirus and its worldwide distribution currently have the greatest negative impact on the economic development in Germany," showing how "vulnerable" the export-oriented German economy is, it said.

In Italy, Europe's worst-hit country which has confirmed 17,750 cases by Saturday, economists believed the disease will blow the economy hard this year, with the 0.6-percent growth target out of reach.

"Given the context, the full-year data for 2019 are a positive development. But it won't be enough for the economy to survive the blows from coronavirus," Massimo Baldini, professor of economic science at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, told Xinhua.

"We don't know yet how big the economic problems will be, but it will be significant," said Baldini.

As of Saturday, the number of infections in France has reached 4,500. The Bank of France has reduced the country's expected economic growth rate in the first quarter from 0.3 percent to 0.1 percent due to the spread of the virus.

The epidemic has a "serious impact" on the French economy, the country's Economy and Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire said earlier this week, adding the growth rate may fall below 1 percent this year from a previous prediction of 1.3 percent.

The turnover of hotels and catering industries has fallen sharply, and the automotive and aviation industries have also been structurally affected, he said.

On Wednesday, the Bank of England cut its main interest rate from 0.75 percent to 0.25 percent as part of a package of measures to cushion the impact of COVID-19.

Although the magnitude of the economic shock from COVID-19 is highly uncertain, activity is likely to weaken materially in Britain over the coming months, the bank said.

Temporary but significant disruptions to supply chains and weaker activity could challenge cash flows and increase demand for short-term credit from households and for working capital from companies, it said, adding such issues are likely to be most acute for smaller businesses.

While Europe is experiencing a spike in caseload, the outbreak has been basically curbed in China, and more and more companies, including European ones operating in China, are resuming their industrial production in an orderly fashion.

To further support the work resumption of foreign-funded enterprises and projects and stabilize foreign investment, China's National Development and Reform Commission has issued a circular urging economic regulators at all levels to offer accurate assistance and actively respond to the call for coordinated work resumption of industrial chains.



People recovered from coronavirus preparing to leave the rehabilitation center after a 14-day quarantine for medical observation in Wuhan in central China's Hubei province. The province at the centre of China's virus outbreak is allowing factories and some other businesses to reopen in a new sign Beijing believes the outbreak that devastated its economy is being brought under control. Photo: Xinhua

To Jochen Goller, president and CEO of BMW Group Region China, it is good news that the German carmaker's offices in China have reopened on Feb. 3 and its plant in China has resumed production since Feb. 17.

"We believe that the crisis will be overcome. We see already some positive trends: around 85 percent of our dealers are open and there is some more traffic.

"We also see a certain recovery in the market," Goller said. "We are very sure over the next quarters this recovery will accelerate. And hopefully in the second half of the year, we are coming back to more regular businesses.

Now in the mid- and long-term we will remain very positive," he said. "We will continuously invest and our outlook in terms of opportunities and chances for China has not changed," he added.

Fabrice Megarbane, president and CEO of L'Oréal China, told Xinhua that since Feb. 10, the French cosmetic giant has gradually reopened its operation sites in China with strict precautions in place.

Around 80 percent of all retail locations are reopened, and the traffic will hopefully start coming back progressively in March, Megarbane said.

"Our factory in Yichang in Hubei Province is so far not fully operational, but we have worked with the authorities to be able to prepare for the restart ... we hope to see the possibility by mid-March of reoperation as it used to be," he said.

Megarbane said the company's research and innovation center in Shanghai is now closely linked to its other centers worldwide, adding "China can innovate for China and for the world."

To many European businesses and experts, the gradual resumption of production in China has been a silver lining against the backdrop of an ongoing global pandemic.

In a recent interview with Xinhua, Achim Haug, a China expert at economic development agency Germany Trade & Invest, said restart of the Chinese economy is "very good news" for German companies.

China is the most important market in Asia for

German companies, Haug said, adding the country is the third largest export market for Germany. "Around 5,000 German companies have been established in China and many have manufacturing there," Haug said.

With close trade links with China, the British economy, especially its manufacturing industry, is expected to benefit from the recovering Chinese economy, Mao Xuxin, principal economist at London-based economic think-tank the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, told Xinhua.

Leading British car manufacturers, notably Jaguar and Land Rover, can continue their production without worrying about supply of car parts, most of which come from China, Mao said. Cambridge-headquartered biopharmaceutical firm AstraZeneca is also expected to have a better financial picture than it predicted one month ago, as China is the fastest growing market of British-made drugs, he said.

Luxury brand Burberry Group is expected to reopen its stores in China and recover in sales. And with most of its profits generated in Asia, HSBC will face less disruption and reduce additional costs caused by the virus, he added. Gradual resumption of production in China is a good sign, not only important for China's economic growth, but also vital for the stability of the value chain and market both in Europe and the world, said Fu Xiaolan, founding director of the Technology and Management Center for Development at Oxford University.

The work resumption in China will speed up the economic exchanges and material flows between China and Europe, said Wang Dezhao, president of China Railway Container Transport Europe Logistics Co., Ltd, citing China Railway Express trains as an example.

In the face of COVID-19, trains will play an even bigger role, as they operate without the risk of possible spread of the disease among people, Wang told Xinhua.

"It is very suitable for the transportation of some urgently-needed materials during the epidemic," he said.

Xinhua

## COVID-19 to cost Africa billions of dollars

ADDIS ABABA



THE United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) has warned that the unfolding coronavirus crisis could seriously dent Africa's already stagnant growth and result in billions of dollars' worth of losses in export revenues.

UNECA Executive Secretary Vera Songwe told a news conference in Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa that COVID-19 was inevitably impacting Africa's trade, according to an UNECA statement on Saturday.

She said that although a few COVID-19 cases have been reported in some 15 countries so far, the crisis is set to deal African economies a severe blow.

"Africa may lose half of its GDP (gross domestic product), with growth falling from 3.2 percent to about 2 percent due to a number of reasons, which include the disruption of global supply chains," said Songwe (pictured), adding the continent's interconnectedness to affected economies of the European Union, China and the United States was causing ripple effects.

The continent would need up to 10.6 billion dollars in unanticipated increases in health spending to curtail the virus from spreading, though revenue losses could lead to unsustainable debt, she said.

The UNECA estimates COVID-19 could lead to Africa's export revenues from fuels falling by around 101 billion dollars in 2020.

Songwe pointed out that COVID-19 could also reduce Nigeria's total exports of crude oil in 2020 by between 14 billion dollars and 19 billion dollars.

Remittances and tourism are also being affected, as the virus continues to spread worldwide, resulting in a decline in foreign direct investment flows, as well as capital flight, domestic financial market tightening, and a slowdown in investments - leading to job losses, she said.

Pharmaceuticals, imported largely from Europe and other COVID-19-affected partners outside the continent, could see their prices increasing and availability reduced for Africans, she said.

With nearly two-thirds of African countries being net importers of basic food, shortages are feared to severely impact food availability and food security, she added.

A decline in commodity prices could lead to fiscal pressures for Africa's economic power houses such as South Africa, Nigeria, Algeria, Egypt and Angola, according to the UNECA, while negative consequences are expected to worsen if COVID-19 develops into an epidemic in Africa.

However, speaking at the press conference, Stephen Karingi, director of the UNECA's Regional Integration and Trade Division, said there was an opportunity the continent could take advantage of, as trading within the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is set to commence this July.

"The intra-African market could help mitigate some of the negative effects of COVID-19 through limiting dependence on external partners, especially in pharmaceuticals and basic food," said Karingi, adding that diversifying economies away from being fuel-driven was vital.

He emphasized the need for the continent to urgently implement the AfCFTA as he urged African countries which export drugs to prioritize selling on the African market.

The UNECA, in a presentation on the economic effects of COVID-19 on Africa, suggested that African governments could review and revise their budgets to re-prioritize spending towards mitigating expected negative impacts from COVID-19 on their economies.

Xinhua

## Russia suspends trains to and from Ukraine, Moldova over coronavirus

MOSCOW

RUSSIA will suspend trains to and from Ukraine and Moldova starting from tomorrow due to the coronavirus outbreak, the Federal Passenger Company - a Russian Railways subsidiary - said in a statement yesterday.

"As Ukraine and Moldova have announced decisions to suspend train traffic on March 17 in order to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus infection, passenger trains and through coaches will be suspended until further notice," the statement reads.

Russia earlier suspended trains to and from the French city of Nice and Germany's capital of Berlin, as well as through coaches to and from the Czech capital of Prague.

Agencies

## Rwanda suspends schools, universities, places of worship over coronavirus concerns

KIGALI

RWANDA announced Saturday the suspension of schools, universities and places of worship across the country for two weeks amid concerns over the spread of COVID-19, the Health Ministry said in a statement.

The suspension of places of worship will start from Sunday, with prayers to be conducted from home, while schools and higher education institutions will close on Monday, said the statement.

Following the ministry's assessment, the new measures will be implemented to further strengthen the country's ability to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 transmission, it said.

Employees should be allowed to work from home in consultation with their employers, while large gatherings such as weddings and sports events will be postponed, said the statement.

Businesses and restaurants will continue to operate, but adequate distance between customers must be maintained at least one meter, said the statement, adding unnecessary movements should be avoided and public transport must not be overcrowded.

According to the statement, any person with typical symptoms of COVID-19 should stay at home and call the toll free number 114 or consult community workers for further guidance.

The ministry highly emphasized



Bus passengers sanitize their hands in Kigali, capital city of Rwanda, on Saturday. Rwanda on Saturday registered its first case of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), the ministry of health said here. (Xinhua)

maintenance of maximum personal hygiene by frequent hand washing with soap, water and alcohol-based sanitizer, and avoid-

ing unnecessary physical contact with others.

Earlier in the day, Rwanda confirmed an imported case, an Indian national who arrived in the country on Sunday without symptoms before testing positive on Friday.

The Education Ministry on Friday ordered all educational institutions in the country to suspend student assemblies, asking schools to ensure that there are hand-washing facilities across campuses and dormitories.

On Monday, Rwanda announced an indefinite ban on large gatherings during sports activities, while the capital city of Kigali had previously canceled all music concerts.

Xinhua

## Senior WHO official praises China's phenomenal collective action in combating coronavirus

THE team lead for the WHO-China joint mission on novel coronavirus Bruce Aylward recently praised China's agile disease containment effort at a press conference in Geneva, Switzerland, saying this has not only largely reduced the new infections in the country, but also earned valuable time and offered experiences for other countries to get prepared.

Aylward (pictured) introduced the mission's trip to China, shared China's experiences in combating the virus, and made suggestions on global epidemic control.

The WHO-China joint mission on novel coronavirus consists of 25 Chinese and foreign experts who went for field investigations to Beijing, Guangdong, Sichuan and Hubei during their 9-day stay in China.

They conducted comprehensive

and in-depth investigation into the epidemic situations, control measures, treatment, community-level prevention and scientific research in the country and relevant provinces, and submitted a report to the Chinese government and WHO.

Aylward said China has made remarkable achievements in combating the virus, with a sharp drop in the number of new cases of infection and patients in severe and critical conditions, which may have saved hundreds of thousands of people from infection.

According to the general law of epidemiology, said the WHO official, pointing to graphics of the epidemic statistics in China, there is always a rapid growth of cases after the outbreak of epidemics such as the novel coronavirus pneumonia. However, experts believe that China's intervention



has obviously changed the curves on the graphics.

Every difference and every line represents a powerful decision by policymakers and tremendous efforts benefiting a large number of Chinese people, he said.

At the press conference, Aylward shared China's effective approaches to contain the epidemic, in particular its mobilization and science-based meas-

ures.

He believes that China's strong mobilization and execution, as well as its people's devotion and optimism have strongly facilitated the implementation of control measures.

"They are using big data, artificial intelligence (AI) in places," Aylward said, adding that the country has also established fever clinics and online diagnosis systems. Besides, QR code has also been used as passes that indicate citizens' health conditions.

Sharing what he saw in China, Aylward introduced that some Chinese medical staff working on the frontline even dropped off in the meetings with the joint mission because of the exhausting work.

He was also impressed by the medical teams across the country that entered Hubei for assistance taking

personal protective equipment and medical devices, with some hospitals even being taken over, which is unimaginable in other countries.

He used "ghost town" to describe Wuhan as citizens stayed at home to contain the spread of the virus. "But behind every window in every skyscraper there are people co-operating with this response," Aylward said, adding that China has demonstrated phenomenal collective action and co-operation spirit.

Every person has a sense that they're mobilized like in a war against the virus and they are organized, he said.

According to a data model offered by WHO's partner experts, the measures taken by China to contain the flow of the people have slowed the spread of the virus by 2 to 3 days in China, and 2 to 3

weeks in other parts of the world.

The novel coronavirus pneumonia is affecting many places around the world, and rapid response is called for to prevent the disease from becoming a pandemic, Aylward said, adding that China's prevention and control proved that the epidemic is controllable with strict measures.

Aylward suggested that countries evaluate potential risks based on scientific approaches, prepare hospital beds, quarantine facilities, ICUs and test labs in advance, and conduct training for personnel for quick response. Besides, he also urged countries to pay attention to the spread of information and enhance communication with China for experiences, and called for cooperation from the public.

People's Daily





Pope Francis celebrates Mass at his Santa Marta residence, at the Vatican, yesterday. PHOTO: AP

## Vatican cancels public attendance at pope's Easter events

VATICAN CITY

POPE Francis' Holy Week and Easter services, which normally draw tens of thousands of people, will be held without the public attending because of the coronavirus outbreak, a step believed to be unprecedented in modern times.

It was not clear how the massive events will be scaled down but sources said officials were studying ways to hold them in indoor locations, including St. Peter's Basilica and the Sistine Chapel, with small representative groups attending.

A note on the website of the Vatican department that organizes papal events also said that until Easter Sunday on April 12, his general audiences and Sunday blessings would continue to be seen over the internet and television without public participation.

The exclusion of the public from the pope's general audiences and Sunday blessings previously had been expected to continue only until March 18.

The Holy Week services, which begin on Palm Sunday, lead up to Easter, the most important day of the Roman Catholic liturgical calendar for the world's 1.3 billion members.

Palm Sunday, which commemorates Jesus' entry to Jerusalem, usually takes place in St. Peter's Square, which traditionally is decorated with olive trees while those in the crowd hold up palm branches.

Another main Holy Week event, the Way of the Cross procession on Good

Friday, takes place around Rome's ancient Colosseum.

The main event is the Easter Sunday Mass and the pope's twice yearly "Urbi et Orbi" blessing and message from the central balcony of St. Peter's Square.

The Netherlands usually fly in tens of thousands of flowers to decorate the papal altar and the entire square but the Dutch ambassador to the Vatican, Caroline Weijers, said last week that there would be no flowers this year.

Italy, which has been in a national lockdown for a week, has been hit harder than any other European nation. The country's death toll rose to 1,441 on Saturday and the total number of cases rose to 21,157 from 17,660.

The pope, the Vatican - a tiny city-state surrounded by Rome - and the church in predominantly Catholic Italy have all been forced to modify centuries of tradition because of the coronavirus outbreak.

Catholic bishops around the world were deciding how to deal with the pandemic in their own dioceses and what guidance they should give to the faithful.

In Italy, as elsewhere, Masses have been canceled to avoid people gathering. Bishops have told the faithful they are not obliged to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days. Bishops have urged the faithful to participate via television and the internet.

Agencies

## Russia, Turkey to start joint patrolling in Idlib

MOSCOW

RUSSIA and Turkey will start joint patrolling in Syria's Idlib on the basis of a document signed by Russian and Turkish military specialists in conclusion of talks in Ankara.

Negotiations were meaningful and their outcomes will make possible to implement all the agreements on the de-escalation zone in Idlib reached by Presidents of Turkey and Russia Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Vladimir Putin, the Russian Defense Ministry says.

The first joint Russian-Turkish patrolling of the M-4 highway connecting Al-Hasakah and Aleppo Governorates in Northern Syria will take place on Sunday.

A Russian-Turkish coordinating center has begun operating in Syria to control the ceasefire and conduct joint patrols, Oleg Zhuravlev, the chief of the Russian Center for Reconciliation of Opposing Parties in Syria, said this Saturday.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan approved a ceasefire in Syria's Idlib province and other measures aimed to regulate the situation in the region during the talks in Moscow on March 5.

All hostilities in Idlib must be stopped on the entire line of contact starting March 6, the declaration signed on the outcomes of the meeting informs.

Moscow and Ankara have confirmed their commitment to maintaining Syria's sovereignty, agreeing to continue the decisive fight against terrorism.

Agencies



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

## Israel to use anti-terror tech to counter coronavirus 'invisible enemy'

JERUSALEM

ISRAEL plans to use anti-terrorism tracking technology and a partial shutdown of its economy to minimize the risk of coronavirus transmission, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Saturday.

Cyber tech monitoring would be deployed to locate people who have been in contact with those carrying the virus, subject to cabinet approval, Netanyahu told a news conference in Jerusalem.

"We will very soon begin using technology ... digital means that we have been using in order to fight terrorism," Netanyahu said. He said he had requested Justice Ministry approval because such measures could infringe patients' privacy.

In an escalation of precautionary measures, Netanyahu's government announced that malls, hotels, restaurants and theaters will shut down from Sunday, and said employees should not go to their workplaces unless it was necessary.

However vital services, pharmacies, supermarkets and banks would continue to operate.

Health officials urged people to maintain social distancing, and not to gather more than 10 people in a room.

The Shin Bet, Israel's domestic security service, confirmed that it was examining the use of its technological capabilities to fight coronavirus, at the request of Netanyahu and the Health Ministry.

Avner Pinchuk, a privacy expert with the Association for Civil Rights in Israel, said such capabilities could include real-time tracking of infected persons' mobile phones to spot quarantine breaches and backtracking through meta-data to figure out where they had been and who they had contacted.

"I am troubled by this announcement. I understand that we are in unique circumstances, but this seems potentially like over-reach. Much will depend on how intrusive the new measures are," said Pinchuk.

The Shin Bet, however, said in its statement that quarantine enforcement was not on the table. "There is no intention of using said technologies for enforcement or tracking in the context of isolation guidelines," it said.

Netanyahu said it was not an easy choice to make and described the virus as an "invisible enemy that must be located."

He said Israel would follow similar methods used by Taiwan.

"In all my years as prime minister I have avoided using these means among the civilian public but there is no choice," Netanyahu said.

Agencies

## Democrat Biden tacks left, backs Warren bankruptcy plan with student loan relief

WASHINGTON

DEMOCRATIC presidential hopeful Joe Biden has endorsed former rival Elizabeth Warren's plan to reform consumer bankruptcy laws including allowing relief of student loan debt, incorporating proposals by the party's progressive wing into the moderate frontrunner's campaign.

"I've endorsed Elizabeth Warren's bankruptcy proposal, which ... allows for student debt to be relieved in bankruptcy and provides for a whole range of other issues," Biden said in a digital town hall in Illinois on Friday.

Warren, a U.S. Senator from Massachusetts, suspended her campaign March 5 after a poor showing in primaries that week. That left the more centrist Biden and Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, a democratic socialist, in the contest for the Democratic nomination to run against Republican President Donald Trump in November.

Biden's decision to endorse Warren's bankruptcy plan is significant, showing she and Sanders have moved the party's policy discussions to the left. It also would reverse portions of a strict bankruptcy law that Biden himself championed when he was a senator.

Warren, who drew passionate supporters, has so far declined to give her highly valuable endorsement to either Biden or Sanders. She and Sanders have been allies on the party's left wing, and many of his supporters called on her to back Sanders as he fights to revive his campaign



Democratic presidential hopeful Joe Biden

after moderates coalesced around Biden.

Her bankruptcy proposal would also do away with restrictive rules that forced people earning more than the median in their state to file for a more onerous form of bankruptcy protection. It would waive fees for low-income people filing for bankruptcy and hasten the process for seeking protection from credit card debt.

Many provisions her plan would eliminate were enacted in a 2005 bill that Biden backed which tightened bankruptcy rules for consumers and made it much harder to discharge student debt.

The former vice president was then a Senator from Delaware, where several financial services and credit card companies are located.

Allies of Sanders and Warren have been pressuring Biden's team to adopt progressive proposals like a wealth tax, a stepped up estate tax and an equal pay plan, according to several individuals familiar with talks between the campaigns.

Biden and Sanders are set to participate in a televised debate on Sunday, and a key question will be whether Sanders comes out swinging or focuses on pressing Biden to adopt policies he champions, such as a government-paid health care plan. Agencies

## NDRC introduces risk categories to encourage resuming production

CHINA will classify regions outside Hubei Province and Beijing into low, medium, and high-risk areas based on the extent and severity of the local COVID-19 epidemic situation, The National Development and Reform Commission announced.

County-level administration regions outside Beijing and Hubei Province will be categorized into three classes, namely low, medium, and high-risk regions. Ou Xiaoli, an official with the commission said during a Tuesday press conference.

Regions with a low-risk classification will resume overall normal life production, and lift transport restrictions. Governments of these regions should help companies address challenges and problems including the lack of employment and raw materials, the commission noted.

In low-risk regions, no conditions or excuses such as paperwork review procedures should be set or used to bar companies from resuming production or delay the recovery of these companies' normal operations, it regulated.

Shu Zhaohui, an official with the Ministry and Information Technology also at the press conference, stated currently the rate of work and production resumption for small to medium-sized enterprises across China is only around 30 percent, which is worrisome.

And the smaller the company is, the lower their production resumption rates are.

Global Times

## Govt offers financial help to those stranded in Wuhan

By Cui Jia and Li Hongyang

PEOPLE who are stranded in Wuhan, Hubei province, after the city was put under lockdown to contain the novel coronavirus have been offered accommodations and government allowances, a civil affairs official said on Saturday.

Wuhan has been under lockdown since Jan 23. Transportation out of the city was suspended. Before that, many people from outside the city had come to Wuhan for family visit, tourism and work.

They have been stranded in the city after a series of traffic control measures were imposed to prevent the virus

from spreading elsewhere.

Some of them had no money to pay for accommodations and food while some were struggling with their lives because they had no income, according to Liu Xitang, director of the department of social relief of the Ministry of Civil Affairs.

"We have provided accommodations for those who had nowhere to stay. Those unable to work and no support from their families will receive government allowances to help them get through the tough times," Liu said at a daily news conference in Beijing.

On Feb 22, the city's civil affairs bureau decided to offer people who were

stranded in Wuhan and facing severe difficulties 3,000 yuan (US\$427.8) in cash as emergency allowances. The bureau also introduced a plan on Feb 27 to help non-Wuhan residents to ensure they could be taken care of, Liu said.

By the end of Friday, 69 settlements have been set up around the city and 4,843 people who were stranded have moved in. Also, more than 16 million yuan allowances have been sent to 5,839 people, he added.

Meanwhile, civil affairs authorities have been required to search for, and better care for, people unable to take care of themselves amid the novel coronavirus outbreak, Liu said.

Dependents in need of special care include those elderly and orphans living alone, the disabled from low-income families, and left-behind children, he said.

Local medical institutions have been required to inform local civil affair branches if quarantine measures would result in such people living alone at home.

Agencies

# A close look at US hegemonic practices disguised in human rights protection

A RECORD of human rights violations in the U.S. was issued on Friday by the State Council Information Office of China. The 20,000-character report titled "The Record of Human Rights Violations in the United States in 2019" cites abundant facts and data, proving that the human rights situation in the U.S. has been poor and deteriorating in recent years.

Following a framework of its own narrow understanding of human rights and using its core interests of pursuing global hegemony as a yardstick, the U.S. released annual reports on other countries' human rights every year by piecing together innuendoes and hearsay.

These reports wantonly distorted and belittled human rights situation in countries and regions that did not conform to U.S. strategic interests, but

turned a deaf ear and a blind eye to the persistent, systematic and large-scale human rights violations in the U.S.

All of this did nothing but exposing the hypocrisy of the U.S. who touts itself as a world human rights defender and the country's real intention to seek hegemony under the disguise of human rights.

It's a common practice for the U.S. to attack other countries' human rights, as it flaunts itself as "the land of freedom" and "a beacon of democracy," which, however, is just something imaginary that fools the people and the world. As a matter of fact, the human rights condition in the U.S. is riddled with shocking problems.

The U.S. is a country with the worst gun violence in the world. The lack of restraint in the right to hold guns has led to rampant

gun violence, posing a serious threat to citizens' life and property safety. The democratic rights stipulated in the constitution are only enjoyed by the rich, as the worsening money politics distorts public opinion and makes the so-called democratic election a game for the rich.

Besides, the U.S. is also facing a string of other human rights issues, such as the absence of basic guarantee of social and economic rights, ethnic minorities suffering from bullying and exclusion, severe discrimination and violence against women, vulnerable groups living in difficulties, and migrants suffering inhumane treatment.

However, Washington turns a blind eye to these problems and has repeatedly chosen to avoid them.

The number of unanswered requests in the U.S. from the

UN's so-called "special rapporteurs" had risen to 22 by March 2019, according to The Guardian and other news agency, but the U.S. just acted ignorant and made no reply.

The U.S. keeps saying to promote human rights development in each country, but is actually taking the "America first" approach.

In order to maintain its hegemony over the world, the U.S. wantonly trampled on human rights in other countries, as well as the international order and international system with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter as its core.

As a country that was so good at withdrawing from cooperation, breaching commitments, shirking international responsibilities and shaking the foundation for global cooperation, that was always imposing sanctions

and resorting to forces, the U.S. was the culprit plunging many places around the world into disturbances and chaos, and was responsible for humanitarian disasters that followed. The country has long lost its international morality and credit.

During a general debate over the report of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights at the 42nd session of the UN Human Rights Council on Sept. 10 and 11 last year, the U.S. was criticized by the World Peace Council who said Washington's intervention in Latin American countries violated the UN Charter and infringed upon their right to self-determination and state sovereignty.

The rapid spread of the COVID-19 epidemic presents a clearer image - at this critical moment, to value human rights is to put people's lives and health

in the first place, and to protect human rights is to well control the epidemic and improve capability through multilateral cooperation.

The U.S., doing nothing to combat the virus or protect lives amid the epidemic, is draining its brain to attack human rights of other countries, which is totally incomprehensible.

What's more, some U.S. politicians even pointed fingers at other countries' human rights in disguise of the epidemic, slandering other countries and shifting contradictions. Such practices are exactly what goes counter to human rights.

The U.S., a country preoccupied with human rights problems at home, unscrupulously tramples on the human rights of people in other countries, resulting in untold sufferings.

It has always adopted double

standard on human right issues, interfered with other countries' domestic affairs in the name of human rights, and sought hegemony in disguise of human rights. Such hurtful acts are a grave violation of international morality and human conscience and are despised by all people who hold on to kindness and justice.

The U.S., attacking human rights in other countries by cooking up stories, calling white black and slandering, will only leads to disrepute, as it must pay for such immoral practices.

We advise the U.S. to carry out self-examination, recognize its problems and manage its own affairs, and stop being a disturber that defames other countries and a troublemaker that runs counter to the global development of human rights.

People's Daily



## Japan still preparing for Olympics, prime minister says as virus concerns rise

TOKYO

JAPAN is still preparing to host the Olympics, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Saturday, despite rising global concern about the viability of the summer Games due to the coronavirus outbreak.

Abe and his government have been adamant the Olympics will go ahead, even as other global sporting events have been put on hold. Speculation about a delay from the July start date has grown since U.S. President Donald Trump said organisers should consider a one-year postponement.

Abe and Trump held a call after those comments, prompting the U.S. president to say on Twitter that the Olympic venue was magnificent. But this may not be enough to assuage sponsors of the Games, who are increasingly nervous about how the impact of the outbreak on the competition.

The Olympic Torch relay, in which the Olympic flame typically starts a tour around the host nation, is due to start in the Japanese prefecture of Fukushima in less than two weeks. The tour of the torch through Greece has already been cut short.

"We will overcome the spread of the infection and host the Olympics without problem, as planned," Abe told a news conference in Tokyo, adding that delaying or cancelling the Olympics was "not a subject at all" in his call with Trump.

He said Japan working closely with the International Olympic Committee, which will have the final decision whether the Games

go ahead, and the U.N. World Health Organization, suggesting he accepted that Tokyo would not ultimately decide on the event.

He said Japan had a relatively low infection rate and had not seen an explosion in cases as seen in South Korea, China, Italy, Iran and elsewhere. He said delaying the peak of infections was vital to ensure treatment of those in critical condition.

### TORCH RELAY

Abe said Japan did not need to declare a national emergency, although parliament on Friday approved a bill to give him emergency powers and allow him to close schools, halt large gatherings and requisition medical supplies.

Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike promised thorough measures against the coronavirus outbreak and said preparations for a "safe and secure" Games were progressing, TV Asahi reported.

Greece's Olympic Committee cancelled on Friday the remainder of the Olympic Torch relay through Greece to avoid attracting crowds, while the relay through Japan is scheduled to start on March 26.

Japan had 21 new coronavirus cases as of Saturday evening, bringing the total 1,443, public broadcaster NHK reported, while the total infections included 697 from the Diamond Princess cruise ship and 14 returnees on chartered flights from China, according to NHK. Japan's fatalities included those from the ship.

REUTERS



Shinzo Abe

## 'Supernatural' Semenya confident of 200m success

CAPETOWN

CASTER Semenya is confident she will book her Tokyo Olympics ticket by qualifying for the 200 metres after switching to the sprint distance in a bid to avoid World Athletics regulations aimed at lowering her testosterone.

Semenya is a double Olympic gold medalist in the 800 metres but, as an athlete with differences in sexual development (DSD), must now limit her naturally high levels of testosterone when racing in events ranging from 400m to a mile.

She has consistently refused, citing the negative effects of the medication on her body, and will avoid the need to do so if she runs over the shorter sprint.

The South African is confident she can make the switch after clocking a personal best of 23.49 in Pretoria on Friday to move closer to the 22.80 time needed to qualify for Tokyo.

"It's possible. I call myself supernatural so I can do anything I want. It's all about putting in the hard work," Semenya told reporters.

"I'm a power athlete. I can do anything from 100 to the marathon. I do have power and speed which has helped me to run the 800, but obviously from (a) young (age) I've also done 200m."

Semenya says she has a long history in

the 200m and had it not been for a lack of coaching in South Africa's rural Limpopo province, she might have made a career out of the distance.

"It has always been easy for me to do that strength, I was born with strength. But with conditions that I had in Limpopo, I didn't have a coach so I had to choose to move to middle distances.

"I wish I had been doing 200m from age 12. I don't know where I would have been now."

The 29-year-old says failure to qualify for this year's Olympics would not be the end of her career, and re-iterated she had no intention of leaving the track.

"Even if we don't qualify for the Olympics, it does not matter. What matters is we're on the track. We are there so that's the goal. You'll see a lot of me. That's a promise," she said.

Semenya is appealing to the Swiss Federal Tribunal against a Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) ruling that supported the regulations introduced by the sport's governing body, World Athletics.

CAS is based in Lausanne and comes under the jurisdiction of Switzerland's highest court. A ruling is expected in the first half of this year, taking her close to the July 24 start of the Olympics and providing little time for qualification and preparation.

REUTERS

## Reports of shortchanging Yanga players an eye opener on Bongo soccer

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

REPORTS in social media outlets checked by regular news media have it that players of Dar Young Africans (Yanga) were substantially shortchanged in what they expected as a bonus for their victory over arch-rivals Simba SC in a Premier League return encounter a week or so ago. As the reports only sought to highlight the total amounts to be divided to players and not really replete with all the details, only that aspect can be discussed, as to whether this is a positive way to exercise control over the players. How far is a bonus agreement a contract or is it just a suggestion?

Checking on those reports shows that they were being circulated by persons near to this or that player and they tended to agree on the substance of the matter, but the club leadership had not reacted on the reports. Nothing had been put to responsible club officials as it overly appeared to be a 'domestic' issue where the media were sort of incapable of demanding for details from relevant sources. Still it created an uproar among Yanga fans, but they were undecided as to how to look at the matter.

The issue is that the bonus at hand related to the city rivals encounter, but then the club leadership circumvented that condition and added a peculiar appendage, that of not letting down the club in the following league encounter. The players put the leadership to shame by conceding the next match to Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC and thus giving Simba a sort of last laugh on their encounter. That wasn't



Yanga winger, Bernard Morrison (R), shoots past Lipuli FC defender when the teams clashed in a Vodacom Premier League match, which took place Dar es Salaam recently.

what the leadership expected, and thus penalized the players by slashing bonuses.

Since it ought to be assumed that the leadership wants the players to play well, what comes up is whether this decision was simply out of abrupt anger or it was well considered in that regard. A pundit can argue the position that it was well considered if it can be demonstrated that it can help to uplift the performance of players, but if that can't be demonstrated, it would follow that they were shooting from the hip. It would thus be a rash decision conducted under influence of anger.

Still, whether the decision was well considered in terms of possible psychological outcome or not, it remains that it was a breach of contract, and it isn't possible that a breach of contract is also well considered in regard to results, as it is indefensible.

When a decision involved a breach of contract, no number of reasons can be brought up as to its rationale, in which case the result is that it brings down the morale of players and consequently affect capacity for obtaining results in future. It is also possible that the bonus

was a verbal understanding where a club supporter raises an impromptu sum of money to share out among players were they to obtain the feat of victory in the arch-rivals' encounter where Yanga were 'rank underdogs' on the basis of their overall performance this season. They haven't been continuous title contestants with Simba and repeatedly threw themselves out of the contention.

Yanga weren't clear underdogs in their encounter with Simba as that sort of match has its peculiar psychological parameters, especially in terms of motivation levels, where Yanga had that uncanny advantage of fighting to the last. This would have helped and in that case the contract ought to have been observed in relation to the stated payments, without regard to what happened in the subsequent league match. In arithmetic terms the contract was about 'match X' which they duly performed the necessary to be paid out the bonus in total, but the leadership shifted the terms of contract belatedly to 'match X + 1' which was not on the table, has no contract.

Whatever results were obtained in the later match, its

proceeds are part of the salary a player gets and not related to a contract relating to the match between the city arch-rivals, in which case there is an issue of unfairness and breach of contract. The whole idea of a carrots and sticks approach that the club leadership would explain that they were using, to cut the bonus so that the players work harder next time and up to the end of the season is inadmissible. The club didn't have that avenue and instead they may just have snatched players' cash for their other uses.

That is why this incident is a revelation on Bongo soccer because the leadership is locked in a contest for resources with the players, in like manner as the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) leadership is constantly locked in a contest of resources with national team coaches. When one is contracted from outside and is paid say by the State House they have no way but delivering the sums involved, but if he is their employee the coach is likely to face the music. They will pay when they feel like doing it - and will gladly use Yanga-like excuses to deduct cash from coaches.

## SportPesa now hands over sports equipment to outfits in Ruangwa

By Guardian Reporter

BETTING firm, SportPesa Tanzania, has backed efforts by Prime Minister, Kassim Majaliwa, to develop sports in Ruangwa District, Lindi, as the firm handed over sports equipment to eight squads in the district yesterday.

European clubs, which are sponsored by SportPesa, presented the equipment for the gaming firm's campaign known as 'Kits For Afrika', which targets to supports sports promotion in Africa.

SportPesa, sponsors of Ruangwa-based Namungo FC which participates in the Vodacom Premier League, visited the district and met a section of officials of the district's soccer outfits in an effort to back Majaliwa's efforts to see to it that football enjoys progress in the area.

Majaliwa is also Ruangwa Constituency's Member of Parliament.

SportPesa's Director of Administration Compliance, Tarimba Abbas, noted the firm felt it wise to hand over the equipment, which include footballs, in an effort to value sports.

Abbas pointed out the firm gears towards seeing to it domestic youths, who are eager to scale great heights in soccer, ply their trade in Europe, as it is the case for Tanzania's Mbwana Samatta, who currently plays for English Premier League side, Aston Villa.



SportPesa's Director of Administration and Compliance, Tarimba Abbas, presents a football to Lindi's Mkangano FC officials at a function, which took place in the region yesterday. SportPesa presented sports equipment to eight clubs in the region, with a view to supporting efforts by Prime Minister, Kassim Majaliwa, to develop sports in the region. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

He noted SportPesa have been impressed by Namungo FC's progress in the Vodacom Premier League and the firm was prompted to present the sports equipment.

Namungo FC are lately positioned fourth in the league's table.

The SportPesa official pointed out the firm's plans to hand over sports equipment to several more teams in the district.

"SportPesa felt it wise to support efforts by Majaliwa to develop sports in his district," he noted.

"We have, for a start, presented sports equipment to eight clubs in Ruangwa and we will later hand over equipment, including new jerseys, as we did to Namungo FC which is performing well in Vodacom Premier League," he disclosed.

"SportPesa have been part of efforts to support sports development in the country, it should be noted the firm brought soccer giants like English Premier League's Everton FC and La Liga club, Sevilla."



## Wuhan soccer team leaving Spain to escape virus

MADRID

THE Chinese soccer team that was originally stuck in Spain because of the coronavirus outbreak is going back home to try to avoid its rapid spread in Europe.

Wuhan Zall was expected to return to China on Saturday, nearly 1 1/2 months after it arrived in Spain for pre-season training. The team had not been able to leave because of the restrictions in China, but expedited its departure because of the worsening situation in Spain.

The team initially planned to leave Spain mid-February but had extended its stay in the southern region of the country until at least the end of March. That plan changed this week because of the sharp spike in the number of cases in Spain and Europe generally.

"Things are well over there (in China) now," José González, the team's Spanish coach, told The Associated Press on Saturday. "The Chinese league will likely start at the beginning of May. We will have to enter quarantine when we arrive, so the sooner we leave, the better."

The team will first go to the city of Shenzhen, where it is expected to finish its pre-season training for the Chinese Super League, the country's main first-division soccer competition. The league was supposed to start on Feb. 22 but was suspended because of the virus.

The city of Wuhan was the epicenter of the outbreak that rapidly spread to other countries and infected more than 145,000 people worldwide, with 5,400 deaths.

Spain was set to follow Italy on Saturday in declaring a nationwide

lockdown as European countries took ever more sweeping measures to reduce contact among people and slow the accelerating spread of the coronavirus. Health authorities in Spain said more than 5,700 people were infected and the number of cases could reach 10,000 in the coming days.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia. The vast majority of people recover.

The number of new cases have dwindled in China, where more than 65,000 people recovered from the virus. The nation has been easing up on lockdown measures in its hardest-hit region that included the city of Wuhan.

None of the Wuhan Zall players were infected when the team arrived in Spain, but the grandmother of one player was among the coronavirus-linked deaths back home.

Players have been away from home for several months because the team began its pre-season in the Chinese city of Guangzhou, nearly 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) away from Wuhan.

Although the team was far away from the initial outbreak, Spanish health authorities had to come out publicly to say there was no reason for local citizens to be concerned about the squad's arrival in January. Three players arrived from China later and had to stay in quarantine and be tested for the virus before joining the rest of the group.

AP

## Serie A doctors warn against return to training as 11 players catch coronavirus

ROME

SERIE A doctors have issued a joint warning advising against a return to club training after four more players on Saturday tested positive for coronavirus, bringing the tally in the Italian top flight to 11.

Fiorentina's Patrick Cutrone and German Pezzella contracted the virus, the Tuscan club said, with Sampdoria's Fabio Depaoli and Bartosz Bereszynski later confirming they had also been diagnosed.

Serie A doctors said they had "strong concerns" and "unanimously advise not to resume training until a clear improvement" in the situation.

Four Fiorentina team members were diagnosed with Serbia forward Dusan Vlahovic also testing positive on Friday, along with a club physiotherapist.

Seven Sampdoria players have tested positive, including Italian midfielder Depaoli and Polish defender Bereszynski on Saturday, along with Juventus defender Daniele Rugani this week.

Vlahovic, 20, revealed that he had not realised anything was wrong until he became feverish and his temperature rose to 39 degrees, and he went to hospital.

"Anyway, I'm fine now," he said on Instagram.

"What to do now? Nothing, just rest. I just have to stay away from people."

Serie A as well as all sport in Italy has been suspended until April 3.

But the Italian Players' Associa-

tion (AIC) on Saturday slammed a "paradoxical situation" whereby pressure was being put on players by some clubs to return to training.

"Today in Italy there are still football clubs which are either shamefully irresponsible, or live on Mars, or lack a minimum of dignity," the AIC wrote.

On Saturday evening Italian authorities said 3,497 cases had been recorded in the past 24 hours, bringing the total to 21,157.

The death toll now stands at 1,441, up from 1,266 on Friday.

Italy international Cutrone, 22, who joined Fiorentina on loan from Wolverhampton Wanderers last January, took to Instagram to reassure fans on his condition.

"Thanks to all of you for the support and your messages of affection," the former AC Milan player said.

"I'm fine, and at this moment I stay at home following the protocol I received. I recommend you strictly observe the indications provided every day by the Institutions. #StrongerTogether #StayatHome Thank you, Patrick."

Argentine Pezzella said earlier on Instagram: "The symptoms disappeared and I am at home following the procedures indicated by my club's medical staff."

"This will certainly soon be just another story. Look after your health and that of those around you. Hugs."

AFP

## French clubs torn between staying in shape and avoiding virus risk

PARIS

WITH the league shut down "until further notice" by coronavirus, football in France is agonising over whether keeping players in training will preserve their fitness or endanger their health.

"For us footballers, it's a new situation," said Dijon defender Fouad Chafik. "We're going to training, not knowing when we're going to play again. That's what's a bit destabilising."

Still free to organise training, some clubs have opted for continu-

ity, with a few modifications, while others are scrapping their usual training routine.

Nice have chosen to continue training, though reduced to three sessions a week and with some adjustments.

The idea will be "to try to avoid contact on the pitch" and do "maybe a little more running", said coach Patrick Vieira.

Christian Gourcuff has no plans to change his system at Nantes, saying the coming weeks will serve as a "mini pre-season".

AFP

# UEFA response to coronavirus: Assessing the possible impact on Champions League, Euro 2020

BY GABRIELE MARCOTTI, SENIOR WRITER, ESPN FC

REACTIONS to the coronavirus pandemic have thrown world football into uncertainty. In the past 72 hours, a host of leagues joined Switzerland and Italy in suspending operations, including Spain, Portugal, Norway, Belgium, Denmark, Scotland and Holland, along with Major League Soccer in the USA. The Premier League soldiered on until Friday, when it announced that it, too, was shutting down. The same call was made by officials in France and Germany to shut down their domestic competitions.

Other leagues are opting to play behind closed doors. UEFA did that with some games this week, but have postponed all of next week's Champions League and Europa League games, with the fates of both competitions hanging in the balance.

Among the players and officials affected, Arsenal announced late on Thursday that manager Mikel Arteta tested positive for coronavirus. So did Juventus defender Daniele Rugani, on Wednesday, and Chelsea winger Callum Hudson-Odoi on Thursday. A host of clubs around Europe are adopting self-isolation protocols following presumed positive tests at Bournemouth, Leicester City and more.

There is a very real possibility that Euro 2020, the second-biggest football tournament in the world after the World Cup, could be canceled or postponed. Already, a number of friendlies scheduled for the international break later this month have been called off, while some of the qualifying playoffs for Euro 2020 are also at risk. (It's worth noting the other competitions still hanging in the balance across the globe, like the CONCACAF Nations League, Olympics and South America's signature Copa America, too.)

As the pandemic spreads, governments react and policies change, and the simple truth is that we can only speculate as to what might happen next. But football authorities are working on scenarios and contingencies.

Here is an attempt to answer some questions you might have concerning the rest of the European season and beyond.

**Q: UEFA say they are holding a video conference with stakeholders on Tuesday to discuss their reaction to the outbreak. What are they going to do with the European season and the Euros?**

**A:** Well, that's why they're speaking to their stakeholders: the 55 member nations, representatives of the major European leagues, representatives from the European Club Association (ECA, the body representing the interests of clubs on the continent) and FIFPro, the umbrella organisation of players' unions.

UEFA are responsible for the Champions League and Europa League, but the situation varies around Europe in terms of local regulations on containment and travel restrictions. They want to speak to them first before making any comprehensive decision. Until that point, they have gone with local decisions: so, for example, Paris Saint-Germain played behind closed doors against Borussia Dortmund on Wednesday, but Sevilla vs. Roma the next day was not played at all because of travel restrictions between Italy and Spain.

**Q: Are UEFA passing the buck?**

**A:** They would say that making decisions like this is well above their pay grade. It is the job of governments to decide what to do, based on advice from the medical community. If enough countries make it impossible to continue or if enough of their stakeholders tell them to stop, UEFA will stop, which is what they've done in postponing next week's Champions League and Europa League games.

When it comes to figuring out what to do with the rest of the season, the decision is too important to be made top-down. Equally, the advice UEFA has been given -- they've consulted with government/medical authorities in a host of countries including



Eintracht fans have taped letters at a wall of the stadium during a Europa League round of 16, 1st leg soccer match between Eintracht Frankfurt and FC Basel in Frankfurt, Germany, Thursday, March 12, 2020. The match was played in an empty stadium because of the coronavirus outbreak. For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia. (AP Photo)

Switzerland, Italy, Spain and Germany, as well as the European Union and World Health Organization, the latter of which is based on Switzerland -- is that we'll have a clearer picture of the situation in the next three or four weeks, and governments will, hopefully, have a better sense of when things might begin to return to normal. That is why most of the suspended national leagues have only been called off until early to mid-April.

**Q: OK, but if you're suspending next week's games and the quarterfinals were originally scheduled for April 7-8 and April 14-15, you cannot play them until you sort out the round of 16, so how are they going to cram everything in?**

**A:** That's what they will try to figure out, but there is very little room to maneuver, not least because even if we somehow get the "all-clear" to resume play, domestic leagues will want to start up again and try to make up games, which means even more fixtures. One solution might be for the Champions League and Europa League to have single-legged quarterfinals and semifinals, either in a neutral venue or, perhaps, with the highest-seeded team playing at home.

**Q: What if they don't get everything done in time for the Champions League final on May 30?**

**A:** Then I guess we won't have a Champions League winner. They cannot postpone the final because Euro 2020 starts on June 12 -- unless, of course, they postpone Euro 2020, which you can bet will be on the meeting agenda next Tuesday.

**Q: That would make sense, and if you are going to do that, it means you can also complete the domestic league seasons, right?**

**A:** Yes, though that creates another problem. Namely: When do you play Euro 2020?

The obvious thing to do would be moving the competition to the summer of 2021, after next season, but that's not entirely straightforward. You'd have to scrap or reschedule the UEFA Nations League finals, as well as reschedule some World Cup qualifiers for Qatar 2022.

The women's European Championship is also scheduled for the summer of 2021, with England the hosts. As it stands, and assuming they keep the same dates (June 12-July 12) for the men's Euros, those competitions would overlap for a week or so, which is far from ideal. It would also impact the women's Euros in terms of logistics and marketing.

Then there's the inaugural expanded FIFA Club World Cup in China, which is scheduled to begin on June 17, 2021. At present, eight European teams will be involved in that. The rocky relationship

between UEFA and FIFA could be a further obstacle if the calendar needed to be reset.

**Q: OK, so what happens to the domestic leagues if they cannot complete the fixtures? Either because the situation does not improve or because it improves just enough for UEFA to finish its competitions, but the Euros still go ahead, which means the season cannot be extended?**

**A:** It is another thing to be discussed on Tuesday.

Serie A, which has had to deal with this before everybody else due to the extent of coronavirus' spread in Italy, laid out three scenarios, all of them under the assumption that the Euros aren't moved.

The first is simply declaring the 2019-20 season vacant. There would be no winner in the record books, no relegation and spots in next year's UEFA competitions would be based on the league table as it is now. (Incidentally, if the Premier League went with this idea then Liverpool, who are 25 points clear, would miss out on their first title in 30 years.)

Another option is to simply declare the season over based on the league table. Those would be the final standings.

The third option is to have some kind of mini-league or playoff to determine the champions and European places at one end of the table, and relegation at the other, using some sort of formula to carry over points from the table. But

that is contingent upon the situation improving to the extent that you have time to play games before the Euros, and we won't know that for a while.

**Q: What about the economic costs? Clubs, UEFA, sponsors, broadcasters -- everyone is taking a hit?**

**A:** Everyone is in agreement that public health comes first. In any event, most contracts are governed by "force majeure" clauses that take into account extreme emergency situations. Clubs will obviously suffer in terms of gate receipts, but there are ways to mitigate that, especially when it comes to cash flow. That's another issue on the table for the game's governing bodies.

**Q: So ... it sounds like there's no good way to do this?**

**A:** Exactly. And that's a pretty clear indication of the absolute mess we're in, not to mention the uncertainty UEFA and the leagues face right now. There's no obvious way out and so much uncertainty. The one thing everyone can agree on is that public health has to come first and the pandemic must be fought, although they don't necessarily agree on the best way to do so. Football obviously has to take a back seat, but as Carlo Ancelotti likes to say, "For many of us, it's by far the most important of the unimportant things in life."

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

**UEFA response to coronavirus:  
Assessing the possible impact on  
Champions League, Euro 2020**

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

## Moro soccer centers to feature in bonanza next month

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Morogoro

Morogoro soccer centers are set to feature in a bonanza, which will take place at Saba Saba venue in region next month.

The bonanza, as disclosed by organizers, will be an opportunity for identifying players for the centers' U-12, U-15 and U-20 sides.

Tanzanite and Fountain Gate, some of centers which will take part in the bonanza, have been taking part in a series of friendly matches as part of their preparations for the coming bonanza.

In a friendly match pitting Tanzanite against Fountain Gate, which was held at Saba Saba venue last weekend, the latter cruised to 3-2 win over the former.

Forward Hezron Phillip drilled in a hat trick for Fountain Gate, Harun Said netted a brace for Tanzanite.

Tanzanite's coach, Hussein Maulid, told The Guardian shortly after the final whistle the clash targeted to improve his squad's tactics and techniques.

"Today's match has revealed my team does have weakness I goalkeeping, we had an upper hand in the first period, we though lost concentration in the second period and we in the end suffered the loss," he noted.

Maulid disclosed players that wish to take part in the bonanza are required to get registration forms, which are available at Morogoro Tanzanite Sports Center.

The forms, he pointed out, are sold at 10,000/- each. He disclosed once the participating teams have downloaded the forms from the center's site, the center's management will issue more details on the competition.

Academy, charged only 10,000/- after downloading form, management will provide details about competition.

Fountain Gate's coach, Herman Simbalyana pointed out apart from learning soccer, youngsters who will be selected for training at the center will have opportunity to attend studies at the center's primary and secondary schools.

"The center insists sports should operate concurrently with studies, given players need to be well educated if they are to comfortably sort out such issues like sealing contracts," he disclosed.

"A well educated player can hardly be deceived when it comes to signing contracts."

Fountain Gate's Phillip and Tanzanite's Said called on youngsters across Tanzania to seek enrollment in sports centers in the country with a view to fulfilling their ambitions.

## Mecky Mexime slams pitch despite Kagera Sugar win over Lipuli



Kagera Sugar head coach, Mecky Mexime.

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

**K**AGERA Sugar head coach, Mecky Mexime, has said he was unhappy with the state of the pitch at Samora Stadium in Iringa

following a Vodacom Premier League (VPL) match between his squad and Lipuli FC, which took place on Saturday.

Mexime, on the one hand, slammed the poor state of the pitch despite the fact that his players were able to pull off a 1-0 away win to end a six-match run without a win.

Second half substitute Abulswamad Kassim scored the all-important goal for Kagera Sugar with 12 minutes to the final whistle.

"It was a tough game, there was no tactical finesse. I must congratulate my players for putting up a fight in such a pitch. You can see for yourself the state of the pitch mate it extremely difficult to play," he disclosed.

Mexime was delighted by the determination shown by his players coming from a tough run of away matches that left them almost stumbling out of the top half of the log.

Kagera are now positioned eighth in the VPL standing with 41 points having played

29 games and they are in this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup quarterfinals.

They will face Namungo FC in a league clash, slated for Wednesday at the Majaliwa Stadium in Lindi.

Lipuli FC head coach Nzeyimana Mailo, on the other hand, had no complaints but termed his side were unlucky.

Lipuli FC were guilty of missing many clear-cut chances.

"We created many scoring opportunities but did not take our chances. We were particularly unlucky in the first half when we squandered five chances," he disclosed.

Lipuli FC are set to face a high flying Polisi Tanzania on Wednesday in a game the former need to avoid defeat that could send them into the relegation zone with eight matches to the end of the campaign.



Dodoma's St. Peter Clever Secondary School's Form Six students dance during their graduation ceremony which took place at the school's premises last weekend. ; RENATHA MSUNGU

## Students urged to uphold sports, arts

By Correspondent Renatha Msungu, Dodoma

DODOMA'S St. Peter Clever Secondary School students have been advised to seek to develop their talents whenever they go, given sports offer employment.

Julius Nyahongo, a professor at one of the region's universities, issued the advice when he presided over the school's Form Six students' graduation ceremony, which took place last weekend.

Nyahongo noted St. Peter Clever Secondary School has gifted students, who excel in several sports disciplines, insisting the latter should for that matter keep on making full use of their talents after they have graduated.

He disclosed the students showcased plays, sang several songs and danced, pointing out the talents should be nurtured.

He maintained developing the talents will prove to be crucial to

the youngsters' success in future.

Nyahongo noted there is need for higher learning institutions to value developing students' talents, given the approach helps to mould the latter into better persons.

"I have learnt a good thing here. It is for that matter important for colleges to emulate these efforts," he disclosed.

He noted schools should embrace promotion of sports as it is

the case for studies.

St. Peter Clever Secondary School's Principal, Karongo Buberwa, noted the school's students get more time to engage in sports after class hours.

Buberwa noted he approach has helped the students showcase their talents in variety of disciplines.

"We have a lot of talented students here. We therefore need to nurture them," he noted.

He pointed out students have a lot to put to show, if they will get proper supervision.

He disclosed St. Peter Clever Secondary School for that matter helps students put their skills in sports to show.

He pointed out many of the school's students are competent in various sports and, for that matter, the institution gives them platform for showcasing their skills.



Youngsters who play for Morogoro soccer centers, Fountain Gate and Tanzanite, in a group picture before their friendly duel, which took place at Saba Saba venue in region last weekend. The match, which ended with Fountain Gate cruising to 3-2 victory over Tanzanite, was part of the centers' preparations for a bonanza, slated for next month at the venue. PHOTO: MICHAEL SIKAPUNDWA

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

