



### INFRASTRUCTURE



**AFDB INKS LOAN PACT ON DODOMA AIRPORT PAGE 3**

### LAW



**TCRA FIGHTING AGAINST CYBER CRIME PAGE 4**

### LANGUAGE



**21 LECTURERS TRAINED IN TEACHING KISWAHILI PAGE 5**

### EDUCATION



**FOUR SMALL-SCALE FACTORIES PUT UP IN IRINGA PAGE 7**



# Covid-19: JPM blocks travel as Kenya, Ethiopia confirm cases

By Aisia Rweyemamu

**P**RESIDENT John Magufuli yesterday announced additional restrictions of travel among civil servants, this time including local trips, over coronavirus spread concerns.

Speaking during the launch of a Tanzania Peoples' Defence Forces (TPDF) workshop in Dar es Salaam, the president said the deadly novel coronavirus was a real threat and called upon Tanzanians to take precautionary measures to keep it at bay.

"I have already instructed Chief Secretary John Kijazi to ensure that no permit is issued to civil servants to travel outside the country unless it is really necessary," he said.

The president affirmed that trips within the country are also restricted, urging the general public not to indulge in travels for the sake of it as these are different times.

"If it is not a must, do not travel within the country until the danger dissipates," he emphasized.

He said although there is no confirmed case in Tanzania yet, it was prudent to take precautionary measures because Tanzania is not an island and many African countries are already battling the disease.

President Magufuli's order limiting foreign travel by government officials was



President John Magufuli with Defence and National Service minister Dr Hussein Mwinyi (L), Chief of Defence Forces General Venance Mabeyo (2nd-L) and Germany's Ambassador to Tanzania, Regine Hess (C), shortly after the opening of a Tanzania People's Defence Forces workshop in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: State House



## 'Ratify African charter on democracy before polls'

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

AS the nation moves towards the next general election, stakeholders want the government to ratify the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, saying there are issues to be ironed out before the October polls.

Speaking here yesterday at a seminar to discuss the ratification and domestication of the charter by Tanzanian authorities, stakeholders wondered why Tanzania is lagging behind despite that it has met most of the document's stipulated

TURN TO PAGE 2

**"I have already instructed Chief Secretary John Kijazi to ensure that no permit is issued to civil servants to travel outside the country unless it is really necessary"**

meant to rein in wasteful spending. It was issued a few days after he assumed office on November 6, 2015.

This new measure comes as neighbouring Kenya yesterday confirmed its first case of coronavirus. Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe said the patient is a 27 year-old Kenyan who travelled from the US via London.

He said that although the patient was stable and eating, she will not be released from hospital until she is confirmed to be completely free of the disease.

The woman is isolated at the Kenyatta National Hospital's Infectious Diseases Unit. Next-door neighbour, Ethiopia also confirmed its first case in Addis Ababa yesterday. Other sub-Saharan African countries that have confirmed cases are Ghana and Gabon.

On Wednesday, Air Tanzania Co. Ltd (ATCL) announced the suspension of its Mumbai route as well as postponement of scheduled maiden flights to China over

TURN TO PAGE 2

## ...as ministry directs councils to designate isolation rooms

By Guardian Correspondent George Sembony, Tanga

HEALTH, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children minister Ummy Mwalimu has directed district councils countrywide to designate isolation rooms as a precaution in view of the global incidence of the coronavirus outbreak.

Speaking here at the official launch of a five-year project aimed at scaling up family planning services, Mwalimu said district authorities need

**"Health Deputy Minister Dr Faustine Ndagulile responded that this is not the right way of testing the disease. But I want to assure you that Tanzania has a laboratory with the capacity to carry out the tests for COVID-19 stated**

to set up such spaces in health facilities and adopt other effective preventive measures.

She expressed apprehension that the disease was no longer a distant scare as two cases were at midweek confirmed in Kenya and Ethiopia.

"With this situation in neighbouring countries, it is important to take appropriate measures to avert the looming crisis," she said.

The country has now reached at a stage where it is even more prepared to deal

TURN TO PAGE 2

## Police teargas crowd in chaotic Mbowe release

By Guardian Reporter

**While Chadema claimed to have cleared the entire bill, State House reportedly topped up 2m/- raised by the lawmaker's family with 38m/- from President John Magufuli, a family relation**

POLICE yesterday used teargas to disperse crowds of supporters of Chadema who went to the Segerea remand prison to receive party chairman Freeman Mbowe upon his release.

Kawe MP Halima Mdee who secured her freedom on Wednesday from the same facility was reportedly arrested

yesterday at the mayhem that ensued, alongside the party secretary for Dar es Salaam Region Kilewo Mwanga, as police and wardens tried to push the crowds away.

People started arriving at the prison's gate in the early afternoon as news spread that Mbowe was

TURN TO PAGE 2

**TCRA ICT AWARDS**

**TUZO ZA TEHAMA ZA TCRA ZA MWAKA 2020**

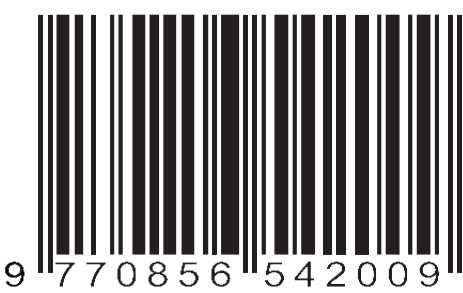
**Zimebaki siku 2 tu kuwasilisha fomu za ushiriki mtandaoni**

**Mwisho wa uwasilishaji fomu ni Machi 15, 2020**

**Kila mwenye leseni ya TCRA analazimika kushiriki Tuma fomu yako ya ushiriki mtandaoni sasa**

**Mawasiliano Zaidi: Piga simu ya bila malipo namba 0800 008272 au tuma barua pepe kupitia [ictawards@tcra.go.tz](mailto:ictawards@tcra.go.tz) tovuti ya [www.ictawards.tcra.go.tz](http://www.ictawards.tcra.go.tz)**

**"Boresha Maisha Kupitia Tehama kwa Uchumi wa Viwanda Kidijitali"**



## Police teargas crowd in chaotic Mbowe release

FROM PAGE 1

being freed upon payment of the 70m/- fine slapped on him on Tuesday. He was convicted along with others of unlawful assembly and seditious statements.

Mdee led the first group to the prison gate and asked for Mbowe's whereabouts. Some irritated members of the crowd were heard complaining that their leader was not yet free while the fine had been paid and documents to that effect certified by the Kisumu Resident Magistrate's court.

The party later tweeted that other cadres who were arrested at the scene are Bunda MP Esther Bulaya and Ubungo Mayor Boniface Jacob, plus some other members. Mbowe was finally set free and was heading to party headquarters, the tweet indicated.

After the conviction of Mbowe and six other Chadema top cadres on Tuesday, they were slapped with 320m/- in fines or spend five months in prison each. They were taken to prison as their party embarked on a fundraising campaign that saw all of them released yesterday.

However, there were twists and turns and apparent political games in

the process. On Thursday, both Chadema and the State House claimed to have made payments for Iringa Urban MP Peter Msigwa who was slapped with a 40m/- fine.

While Chadema claimed to have cleared the entire bill, State House reportedly topped up 2m/- raised by the lawmaker's family with 38m/- from President John Magufuli, a family relation.

Other Chadema cadres who were earlier remanded alongside Mbowe are MPs Mdee, Esther Matiko (Tarime Urban), Bulaya, secretary general John Mnyika, deputy secretary general (Zanzibar) Salum Mwalimu and Tarime Rural MP John Heche.

They were found guilty alongside the party's immediate former secretary general Dr Vincent Mashinji who has lately decamped to the ruling party. Dr Mashinji was released a day later after CCM paid his 30m/- fine.

They were found guilty in the sedition and incitement charges, with the prosecution saying they arranged and took part in an illegal rally, occasioning the killing of a National Institute of Transport student, Akwilina Akwilini in February 2018.

## 'Ratify African charter on democracy before polls'

FROM PAGE 1

requirements. They stated that the charter is imperative for Tanzania in that once ratified and domesticated, it compels member states to promote democracy, adhere to constitutionalism and the rule of law, promote holding free and fair elections, prohibit unconstitutional change of government, promote human rights and citizens' enjoyment of political, economic, social and all other rights.

They argued that Tanzania is being perceived as setting the pace for good governance, transparency and free and fair elections in the continent, wondering why it has failed to ratify and domesticate the charter.

When it was first adopted in 2007, the African Charter raised the hopes of democracy activists, who believed it would strengthen good governance. More than ten years since, Tanzania and other eight countries are yet to ratify it.

The meeting organized by the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) brought together participants from different civil society organizations (CSOs), government officials and other stakeholders.

Sophia Komba, the managing director for the Centre Against Gender Based Violence (CAGBV), observed that it was prudent that the government ratify the charter, as there are some issues raised by politicians that need to be resolved before the polls.

She said the meeting

had come at the right time as the aim is to remind the public that there are some things that policy makers need to do to conduct a free and fair election accepted by all.

"The Charter, among other things is focused on free and fair elections, and as a peaceful country all we need to do is to discuss and ratify it for more stability and togetherness," she said.

Article 16 of the Charter states that state parties shall cooperate at regional and continental levels in building and consolidating democracy through exchange of experiences.

Article 17 calls for state parties to re-affirm their commitment to regularly holding transparent, free and fair elections in accordance with the African Union's Declaration on the Principles Governing Democratic Elections in Africa.

William Mkwazi, coordinator for the LHRC Dodoma office, said the declaration still faces some challenges in the country as some players complain on the election process, including the appointment of the electoral commission chairman.

"There are still some contentious issues in relation to a free electoral commission in Tanzania," he said, elaborating that by ratifying and domesticating the Charter, the issues will be resolved.

Edward Mbogo, coordinator of the NGO Network for Dodoma (NGONEDO), echoed the same view, that the government should see it fit to ratify the charter.



Opposition Chadema Secretary General John Mnyika (2nd-L), Tarime Rural legislator John Heche (L) and Deputy Secretary General (Zanzibar) Salum Mwalimu (3rd-R) arrive at the party's headquarters in Dar es Salaam yesterday following their release from prison earlier in the day. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala.

## ...as ministry directs councils to designate isolation rooms

FROM PAGE 1

with the disease by taking various measures to protect the people from the highly infectious disease.

She promised to speak today to announce measures including unnecessary gatherings that could spread the disease.

She appealed to government hospitals and health centres to set aside wards or special areas to accommodate suspected corona patients. "We are committed to continuing to

collaborate with the World Health Organisation and other partners to ensure a safer world," the minister declared.

One concerned contributor in a social media comment said that the government ought to set up tents outdoor in key parts of the country for testing where anyone with symptoms would be directed and admitted.

Health Deputy Minister Dr Faustine Ndugulile responded that this is not the right way of

testing the disease. "But I want to assure you that Tanzania has a laboratory with the capacity to carry out the tests for COVID-19," he stated.

In Tanga for instance, the city council has earmarked Pongwe Health Center as a specialized unit for handling or admitting corona virus suspected cases, calling on city residents to report to health centres upon noticing conditions that respond to coronavirus symptoms.

The five-year project the minister launched started last year, being implemented by EngenderHealth with Pathfinder and CCBRT, apart from the Ministry of Health and the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments). The project is financially supported by UK-Aid.

Speaking on the project, Mwalimu she said that the launching has come at the right time when the government is in

the process of improving health services.

This includes reproductive health to meet national goals and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and efforts to reduce maternal and child mortality rates.

EngenderHealth country representative Prudence Masako said that project that is expected to reach 2.3m people in eight Mainland regions and five Zanzibar regions.



Zanzibar Port health official Ally Ahmad Ally (R) conducts a coronavirus test yesterday on a person who had just landed there by boat from the mainland. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

## Covid-19: JPM blocks travel as Kenya, Ethiopia confirm cases

FROM PAGE 1

coronavirus fears.

Elsewhere, South Korea, once the largest coronavirus outbreak outside China, has seen its newly recovered patients exceed fresh infections for the first time yesterday, as it reported its lowest number of new cases for three weeks.

However, the death toll from an outbreak of coronavirus in Italy has jumped in the last 24 hours by 189 to 1,016, a rise of 23

percent, the country's Civil Protection Agency said on Thursday.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) declared the outbreak a pandemic on Thursday as Italy tightened its strict quarantine and the United States imposed a ban on flights to Europe.

More than 4,900 people have died and over 132,000 infected globally, as by available WHO data. About 68,000 victims have recovered, on the basis of affirmations of the Johns Hopkins University, which is tracking the virus.

The escalating coronavirus emergency has sent Wall Street stocks crashing to their worst losses in 30 years. Asia's stock markets were hammered yesterday as panic gripping world financial markets deepened and even safe-haven assets such as gold and bonds were ditched to cover losses in the wipeout triggered by fears of economic losses caused by the spreading coronavirus pandemic.

Japan's Nikkei plunged 10 percent while Australia's benchmark fell as much as 7 percent and is on track for its

worst week on record.

New Zealand's index was last down more than 8 percent, its biggest-ever intraday drop.

In Korea, the Kosdaq fell 8 percent, triggering a 20-minute trading halt.

Currency trading was erratic amid poor liquidity and a rush to secure financing in United States dollars, the world's top funding currency.

After its worst crash since Black Monday in 1987 overnight, Dow futures fell about 1 percent in Asia, while S&P 500 futures were off 0.7 percent.

## Kenya to probe illegal sales of blood to Somalia

MOGADISHU

The Directorate of Criminal Investigations is investigating officers of the Kenya National Blood Transfusion Service (KNBTS) believed to be part of a cartel that has allegedly been siphoning blood donated by Kenyans and selling it in Somalia.

The case opened on Wednesday last week is seeking to find out roles played out by KNBTS officers in creating an artificial blood shortage in the country by illegally selling what is meant to be supplied to Kenyan hospitals.

Speaking to Citizen TV on Wednesday, Health CS Mutahi Kagwe acknowledged receiving reports on the illegal sale of blood in the country, terming it as unfortunate.

Kagwe could, however, not divulge much details on the illegal blood sale, but pointed out that the matter was under probe by the DCI.

Earlier in a statement dated March 6, 2020 and copied to the Director of Criminal Investigations George Kinoti the Health CS blamed the blood shortage on the cartel, which he said is operating within and outside the country.

"The Ministry is aware that there are criminal elements both within and outside the country who are colluding with outsiders to escalate the problems pertaining to blood countrywide," said Kagwe.

"These cartels have been engaged in blood trade within as well as outside the country for selfish gain without any regard to women and children who are dying in hospitals as a result of this shortage."

The Health CS has urged the DCI to expedite investigations into the illegal blood sale before the situation gets out of hand.

## Govt, AfDB ink loan pact on Msalato airport, roads

By Henry Mwangonde

THE government and the African Development Bank (AfDB) yesterday signed a USD 495.59m (1.14 trn/-) loan agreement for financing three projects including Msalato International Airport in the capital, Dodoma.

The concessional loan will also finance the construction of the Bagamoyo-Horohoro/Lungalunga-Malindi road project as well as support the good governance and private sector development programme.

The funding package for the airport project comprises a \$198.6m loan from AfDB, \$23.52 million from the African Development Fund (ADF) and \$50 million in co-financing with the Africa Growing Together Fund (AGTF), a facility of the People's Republic of China managed by the bank.

Speaking at the signing ceremony in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance and Planning, Dotto James said the construction of the airport and upgrading of the roads will help the government to bridge the infrastructure gap for accelerating socio-economic development, poverty reduction and boost tourism.

He said the project involves the construction of high-capacity airport infrastructure to meet expected growth in air transport from the city's new role as the administrative capital of the country.

In his remarks, AfDB country manager

Alex Mubiru said all the three signed agreements are in line with Tanzania's Vision 2025.

The signing of the loan agreements will increase the total ongoing AfDB portfolio in Tanzania to \$2.38bn where investments in transport sector account for 62 per cent, he stated.

Other sectors include energy (16 per cent), water and sanitation (12 per cent), finance (6 per cent), agriculture (6 per cent), multisector interventions (5 per cent) and social projects (4 per cent).

"Work will be carried out over four years and will include a passenger terminal, a runway and air navigation equipment. The project includes operational services like a fuel distribution unit, water supply systems, power distribution substations and a fire-fighting service," the manager specified.

As of late November 2019, the African Development Bank portfolio in Tanzania comprised of 21 public and two private sector operations, with a total commitment of around \$2.1 billion.

It is expected that upon completion the airport will provide efficient road transport access to Dodoma city and facilitate national and international trade flows.

In August last year the bank signed a \$180m (414.07bn/-) loan agreement with the government for financing the construction of 110.2 kilometer of the Dodoma City Outer Ring road to bitumen standard.



Finance and Planning ministry Permanent Secretary Doto James (L) and African Development Bank resident manager Alex Mubiru exchange documents in Dar es Salaam yesterday relating to 1.14 trillion/- soft loan Budget support agreements on the construction of Msalato International Airport in Dodoma and Bagamoyo-Horohoro/Lungalunga/Malindi road to tarmac level as well as good governance and the implementation of private sector programmes. Photo: Finance ministry

## '35.8 million SIM cards registered biometrically'

By Getrude Mbago

A TOTAL of 35.8 million SIM cards (83 per cent) have been registered biometrically of the active 43.07 million SIM cards, according to the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA).

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday, TCRA director general, Eng James Kilaba said the majority people in the country have recognised the importance

of the biometric registration due to the ongoing campaign to educate mobile phone users to register their SIM cards.

He was speaking as part of the commemoration of the World Consumer Rights Day which is commemorated annually on March 15th.

"In celebrating this special day, we remind mobile phone users to ensure their SIM cards are registered biometrically to enjoy smooth communication

services.

Statistics show that by March 10, this year a total of 35,813,455 SIM cards were registered biometrically using the National Identification Numbers (NIN) issued by the National Identification Authority (NIDA).

Eng Kilaba further said the authority will continue locking out all unregistered phone users' SIM cards. He said registration of SIM cards is mandatory under the Electronics and

Postal Communications Act of 2010, and under this law it is an offense to sell or distribute an unregistered SIM card, to fail to record sale of an SIM card and to provide false information or statement during registration.

Eng Kilaba noted that the move was meant to get rid of dishonest SIM card users and registration agents who conduct malicious intentions, including committing crimes.

Speaking on the World Consumer Rights Day, Eng Kilaba urged service providers in the communications services to improve their customer service for sustainable consumer.

He said that celebrating the day is a chance to remind that the rights of all consumers are respected and protected, and to protest against market abuses and social injustices which undermine those rights.

According to him, the author-

ity will continue to accelerate effective use of information, education; communications and technology amongst stakeholders thus promote innovation and ensure universal access, secured, quality and affordable communication service.

"Tanzania is doing well in the communication sector; financial services are one of the factors contributing to swift growth of the sector, a total of 5.8 trillion has been passing through com-

munications infrastructures in the country thus accelerating economic growth. And this is effectively supporting the government visions of attaining a middle income status by 2025," Eng Kilaba highlighted.

TCRA's Director of Licensing and Enforcement, John Daffa stressed on the note calling on communications service providers to increase efficiency and make sure that they protect and promote consumer rights.

## Committee directs energy ministry to improve minerals trading centre

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE Parliamentary Committee on Mineral and Energy has directed the Energy Ministry to look for a more protected and better building to be used as a minerals buying and trading centre in Dodoma.

The legislators arrived to the decision after visiting various projects implemented by the ministry in the city where most of them were concerned with security issues and condition of the building which is currently used as a minerals exchange centre.

Committee chairman, Dustan Kitandula also directed the ministry to submit to his office strategies on how it will work to end complaints from investors in the sector. He said investors have been complaining of uncoordinated procedures and complexity in exportation of mineral's product.

"Dodoma is the country's political capital, the minerals trading centre must be well established and placed at a more secured building that reflects city status", said the chairman insisting although the government did not allocate a budget for establishment of the centres, the ministry in collaboration with regional authorities should have joined efforts to come up with the best centre.

Earlier, Bukoba Urban legislator, Wilfred Lwakatare said the condition of the building was not impressive and security issues had not been considered.

Geita Rural MP, Joseph Msukuma said despite Dodoma having a few number of mineral sites, it deserves a better minerals trading centre.

He said: "We cannot keep precious minerals in a dirty place taking into consideration that buyers are coming from around the world. We must establish a centre that will attract buyers as well as investors", said Msukuma.

Minerals minister, Doto Biteko assured the committee to work on all the directives. He said authorities established the minerals trading centre in Dodoma following reports of increased illegal export of gold.

"There were rampant smuggling of the minerals, at a time, authorities here seized about 300 kilos of gold, this pushed us to establish the exchange centre", he told Members of Parliament.

Biteko said the government will continue improving established minerals trading centres countrywide, adding the government has improved the Arusha centre which is now attracting investors.

He promised to consult Dodoma regional administrative secretary to see how the building can be renovated similar to other mineral exchange centres in the country.

Acting dodoma minerals officer, Laurent Bujashi said the establishment of the centre had resulted into increased revenues whereby they had collected 486.8m/- in six months equivalent to 54.1m/- per month.

Bujashi said they were previously collecting 118.4m/- in six months (23.6m/- per month).

Last year, Prime Minister Kassim Mjiliwa ordered all mineral-producing regions in the country to set up government-controlled trading centres by the end of June 2019.



Jenista Mhagama (L), Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament, Labour, Employment, Youth and Persons with Disabilities), has a quick word with Deputy Minister of State Anthony Mavunde in Dodoma city yesterday on the sidelines of the ongoing sessions of parliamentary standing committees. Photo: Ibrahim Joseph

## Govt revokes procurement contract on drones

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE government has revoked the Itrn/- contract which the Home Affairs Ministry signed for the procurement of drones and other firefighting equipment with a company in Romania-Rom Solutions Co. Ltd.

Announcing the move, Home Affairs Minister George Simbachawene said the government conducted a thoroughly review on the matter before it arrived at the decision to revoke the contract.

The agreement saw the then Commissioner General of the Fire and Rescue Force, Thobias Andengeny, former Home Affairs Minister, Kangi Lugola and 15 other

erstwhile employees of the ministry under investigation by the Preventing and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB).

According to Simbachawene, the commissioner had no mandate to sign the agreement.

"We made thoroughly review and found that the contract does not have any significance to the country. We came to realize that

dengey signed agreement worth Euro 408.4 million with a Romanian firm 'Rom Solutions Co. LTD' without involving the finance ministry or securing parliamentary approval.

According to Simbachawene, the commissioner had no mandate to sign the agreement.

"We made thoroughly review and found that the contract does not have any significance to the country. We came to realize that

if implemented the agreement would have resulted into huge losses to the nation. We have both agreed to revoke the contract", he said.

Simbachawene highlighted that terms and conditions provided in the contract were difficult to implement and that it was one of the worst agreements as explained by President John Magufuli.

He said President Magufuli has always been warning public insti-

tutions to avoid entering into worst contracts which eventually bring nothing than losses and regrets.

The minister also explained that the government was working tirelessly to ensure that department is well equipped so as to increase efficiency. He said the government is also planning to use the Tanzania Automotive Technology Centre (TACT-Nyumbu) located in Kibaha, in Coast region to produce vehicles for the Fire and Rescue Force.

## RC commends TCRA on fight against cybercrime

By Guardian Correspondent, Bukoba

KAGERA regional administrative secretary Prof Faustine Kamuzora has commended the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) for scaling up awareness campaigns against cyber-related frauds.

Prof Kamuzora made the remarks here yesterday when speaking at a seminar that involved religious leaders under their regional peace committees as part of the communication watchdog's campaign dubbed 'Sirubuniki Mjanja Haingizwi Chaka', which is meant to empower people with better skills on wise-use of social media and other communication platforms.

Through a series of countrywide training, religious leaders are empowered with skills on how they can be free from cyber-related crimes when using communication gadgets in order to inform their followers in their respective areas.

"I commend TCRA for coming up with this initiative, which has come at the right time when the government is working hard on how to effectively counter threats posed by cybercriminals," he said, adding that in a technological era, public awareness is vital in addressing cybercrime due to the speedy growth of the sector.

RAS Kamuzora appealed to religious

leaders to support the TCRA's move to scale-up education on the proper use of communication services taking into account that technology changes on daily basis.

According to Prof Kamuzora, clerics are powerful people in the area of public education and that's why the authority saw it better to use them to disseminate the message.

TCRA head of Lake Zone Francis Mihayo described religious leaders as a bridge that makes information on cybercrime reach the majority of Tanzanians.

Mabel Masasi, TCRA's senior communications officer, said that the seminar is part of the ongoing countrywide awareness campaign to ensure that ordinary Tanzanians are well informed on cyber-related crimes.

She also said that apart from religious leaders, the special campaign also aims to reach all other key groups to disseminate the message in the society.



**I commend TCRA for coming up with this initiative, which has come at the right time**



Omary Kumbilamoto (L), mayor of Dar es Salaam's Ilala Municipality and a China Railways Seventh Group official display a copy of a document on Thursday shortly after signing an agreement relating to the construction of a road to link the city's Ulongoni-Banguro and Kinyerezi suburbs. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwenda-pole

## Kibaha plant plans to adopt other biological pesticide control agents

By Correspondent James Kandoya, Kibaha

THE Kibaha based Tanzania Biotech Products Ltd plans to shift to manufacturing of bio-pesticides as it has been operating on losses for years.

The factory, a subsidiary of the National Development Corporation (NDC) incurs a loss of 6.2bn/-monthly.

The plant is located at TAMCO industrial park in Kibaha district,

Coast region. Other companies at the industrial park include GF Trucks and Equipment Co. Ltd, Heister Bio Science Africa Ltd and Global Packaging.

Briefing the Parliamentary Committee Industry, Trade and Environment, the company's Quality Assurance Manager, Samuel Mziray said the move to shift to manufacturing of bio-pesticides is aimed at saving at factory from the huge losses.

He explained that initially all

district councils were supposed to buy 472,500 liters of malaria insecticide at a cost of US\$ 8 per liter. He said the company later reduced the price to US\$ 6 per liter.

According to Mziray the company only sold 99,000 liters of the malaria insecticides to all the districts countrywide. He said the amount sold was too small compared to the factory capacity to produce 677,200 liters.

He said despite buying the larvacide, most of the councils have

not settled their debts since 2017, making the company operating in a loss.

"Our contract with the government signed five years ago (11/3/2015-11/3/2020) ended Wednesday last week. This means we don't have a guaranteed market at the districts", said Mziray adding the company's management has sought to start producing bio pesticides as the demand is high.

He noted that the company plans to consult the Ministry for Agriculture to explore possible ways of getting guaranteed customers.

"Manufacturing of bio-pesticides will enable the company to continue operating and pay salaries to the staffs", he noted.

Meanwhile, the Committee Chairman, Colonel (rtd) Masoud Ally called on the government through its two ministries (President Office-Regional Administration and Local Government Authority (PO-RALG) and Ministry of Trade and Industry to come

up with solutions to the emerged challenges.

He said the two ministries are responsible of ensuring continued operation of the factory.

Minister for Industry and Trade, Innocent Bashungwa vowed to work out on the emerging challenges insisting the government will continue to create conducive business and investment environment.

Bashungwa said the government will open other new industrial parks in Kigoma, Dodoma and Musoma in Mara region

"Our target is to help investors in the country to work and operate their business smoothly," he said.

The minister reminded Tanzanians to love and use locally manufactured products to improve the country's economy.

National Development Cooperation (NDC) Managing Director, Prof Damian Gabagambi promised to work on the directives made by the committee and government.



Mwanza regional commissioner John Mongella (L) and entrepreneurs from East African Community partner states who were in Mwanza city for a just-ended three-day seminar have a feel of value-added Lake Victoria sardines awaiting sale. Photo: Correspondent Neema Emmanuel

## Shinyanga Region lines itself up to prevent coronavirus infections

By Guardian Correspondent, Shinyanga

AUTHORITIES in Shinyanga region have formed a special team of medical experts to set up quarantine facilities in case of case of Coronavirus outbreak.

Regional acting chief medical officer, Dr Nuru Mpuya said the move comes amid rapid spread of the disease in various countries and that the region has a lot of people working in mines and other factories.

Speaking during the elders council meeting here, Dr Mpuya said that quarantine facilities have been set up at health centres at Kambarage in Shinyanga municipal council, Ushetu in Bulungwa, Msalala in Bugharama, Tinde in Shinyanga rural, Mwendakulima in Kahama and Kishapu health centre in Kishapu district.

"Our experts have also been trained and equipped with essential facilities for attending to patients of that nature...We have visited all the factories and screened workers especially Chinese people as part of the preventive measures," he said.

For his part, health officer, Mussa Makungu noted that COVID-19 is characterized by mild symptoms including

a runny nose, sore throat, cough, and fever. Illness can be more severe for some people and can lead to pneumonia or breathing difficulties.

He urged everyone to take precautions to avoid the virus "The biggest part of the precautions involves personal hygiene, washing hands with soap, avoiding physical contact with others and covering the mouth when coughing."

Anderson Lymo, secretary of elders' council in Shinyanga called on the government to strengthen public awareness on the disease especially in churches, mosques, colleges, schools and in rural areas.

Kenya yesterday confirmed its first case of coronavirus. The country's health cabinet secretary Mutahi Kagwe said the patient is a 27 year-old Kenyan who travelled from the US via London, United Kingdom.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) declared the outbreak a pandemic on Thursday as Italy tightened its strict quarantine and the United States imposed a ban on flights to Europe.

More than 4,900 people have died and over 132,000 have been infected globally, according to the WHO.

About 68,000 victims have recovered, according to Johns Hopkins University, which is tracking the virus.

## Processors, exporters of sardines and fish call for simple export procedures

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

PROCESSORS and exporters of sardines and fish products from East African region have called upon governments to simplify export permit procedures as well as construction of factories that will locally manufacture packaging materials.

They were concerned that availability of the packaging materials will facilitate exportation of the both, fresh and dried smoked sardines as well as reduce prices.

Speaking during the three days training on processing of fresh fish from Lake Victoria and value addition, leaders of

the sardine processors network called for removal of red tape and export complexities.

One of the leaders from Tanzania, Beatrice Mbaga said all the processors in the East African Community (EAC) face similar challenges.

She said processors need quality packaging materials that

meet the standards of all the East African nations.

Mbaga complained of a lot of taxes and absence of a one stop centre for issuance of permits. She said the two are major challenges that at times contribute to traders incurring losses as fresh sardines become rotten if not properly stored or exported

on time.

Gabriel Butonyi from Burundi proposed for establishment of a one stop centre for issuance of permits. He said the move will save time and promote competition in the market.

Executive secretary at Lake Victoria fisheries organisation, Dr Shigela Mahongo, urged sar-

dine processors to add value to their products to capture the market within and outside the country. Sardines account for 60 per cent of Lake Victoria fish products.

Executive secretary of Lake Victoria basin commission, Dr Said Matano said all the lakes in the world face pollution chal-

lenges insisting on conducive environment for breeding fish and sardines within the Lake Victoria.

Mwanza regional commissioner, John Mongella urged processors to make good use of the acquired skills to add value to their products to win international markets.



Tigo device manager Mkumbo Muyonga (L) briefs journalists at the launch of Samsung S20-model cellular phones in Dar es Salaam yesterday. He is with Samsung Tanzania manager Suleiman Mohamed. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Govt satisfied with UCSAF job on building of telecom towers

By Guardian Reporter, Songwe

THE government has said it is satisfied by the management of the Universal Communications Service Access Fund (UCSAF) in building communication towers in rural areas including places with no business attractions.

Construction of the telecom towers in rural areas enables Tanzanians to get mobile phone services, said Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications, Eng Atashasta Nditije.

He was speaking during his visit to inaugurate telecom towers by Tanzania Telecommunications Company Ltd (TTCL) at Maleza village, Mbangala ward in Songwe region. The towers have been constructed by TTCL with financial support (subsidy) from central government channeled through UCSAF.

Nditije said it is a constitutional right for every Tanzanian to communicate with each other and UCSAF has recognised that by providing mobile phone operators with funds to erect towers in areas that lack business attractions as companies prefer areas with big business activities to generate profit.

Speaking to Maleza villagers, UCSAF Chief Executive Officer, Justina Mashiba said they

will make sure no mwananchi will be left out without communication service.

"Up to now we have advertised bids for the construction of telecom towers in 956 wards in various areas countrywide, so far the job has been completed in 652 wards and the towers already inaugurated. By the end of this year, 94 percent of the wananchi will get communication service compared to only 46 percent who enjoyed the service in 2009," she said.

Songwe Member of Parliament, Phillip Mulugo thanked UCSAF and TTCL for construction of the towers disregarding the remoteness of the areas and promised to buy 100 TTCL mobile phones for village leaders on conditions they buy TTCL SIM cards.

Earlier, Songwe Region TTCL Manager, Martha Joachim said they will continue to erect towers countrywide through UCSAF so that many Tanzanians get mobile communication.

At Udinge village, the Deputy Minister was informed that the telecom tower erected has not been working as vital components are stuck at Dar es Salaam port, whereupon he gave 36 days to ensure the components arrive at the village.



**Up to now we have advertised bids for the construction of telecom towers in 956 wards in various areas countrywide, so far the job has been completed**

## IITA appeals to young women to work hard in chasing their dreams

By Getrude Mbago

THE International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) has urged young women and girls in the country to work hard, embrace self-confidence and determination when chasing their dreams.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam on Thursday when the organisation's staff and other stakeholders gathered to commemorate

the World Women's Day, Dr Victor Manyong, IITA Eastern Africa Hub Director said that majority of women have been failing or giving up to achieve their dreams due to lack of confidence.

"Let me encourage young girls and women all over the country that everything is possible as long you have determination, you should not fear anything when it comes to chasing for

your dreams," he said.

He said that various strides made by the government and stakeholders to address gender gap have started to pay off as the number of women in different economic sectors is increasing.

Hadija Jabir, one of the young promising entrepreneurs encouraged young women and girls to venture into agribusiness which according to her, is among the most paying sector.

Jabir is a founder and director of GBRI Business Solutions Limited, a horticultural export company branding European shelves with fresh produce from Tanzania.

"I can say that women are key drivers for change in sustainable agriculture and food security. Their participation has an important role in shaping the future of the agriculture sector, we authorities have to ensure that

this group is not left behind," she noted. For her part, Victoria Heilman, an architect, called on well successful women to encourage and support young girls to achieve their goals.

"Girls can be motivated through educative, motivational programmes and role models. I encourage young girls to believe in themselves, utilise the available potentials and never allow challenges to hold them back,"

she added.

Steve Cole, IITA gender expert said that more efforts are needed in addressing gender gap which includes curbing all the barriers affecting girls' development.

"Reports show that, it will take over 100 years to achieve gender equality, this reminds all of us that we still have a big role to play to ensure that we promote gender equality in our areas," he

said. IITA is one of the world's leading research partners in finding solutions for hunger, malnutrition, and poverty. Its an award-winning research for development (R4D) approach addresses the development needs of tropical countries. It works with partners to enhance crop quality and productivity, reduce producer and consumer risks, and generate wealth from agriculture.

## Organisation in drive to gives desks to Dar primary schools

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Rotary Club of Dar es Salaam has kicked off a fund raising campaign to improve classroom-studying conditions for school pupils in Dar es Salaam by providing desks.

The city faces deficit of desks in primary schools rendering some pupils to sit on improvised objects when attending classes.

At the inception of the campaign, the Rotary Club of Dar es Salaam has targeted to provide one thousand desks among schools starting with those most in need in the Ilala District.

Speaking yesterday in Dar es Salaam, the Rotary Club of Dar es Salaam President, Abdulqadir Abdulhameed, said that the club is on course to raise funds from well-wishers and other Rotary Clubs in and outside the country for a thousand desks.

"After a successful pilot phase we'll then go for a full swing campaign that will include all the needy primary schools across the region," he said.

As a start, he explained, Rotary Club of Dar es Salaam has organized a series of fund raising activities including a talent show dubbed 'Rotary Got Talents' that was recently held in the city.

"It was a very successful event. The turnout was great too. We had fun but at the same time joined our hands for this noble cause," he said adding: "We thank all the other Rotary Clubs in and outside the country for supporting us together with all the sponsors who made the event the success it was."

The event gave a platform to Rotarians and their families together with some budding artists from across the city to display their various talents from dancing, fashion show to voice imitation of popular political figures in the country, among others.

According to President Abdulqadir, the Rotary Club of Dar es Salaam will implement a project with a neutral environmental impact by planting corresponding number of tree seedlings that match the timber used to make each desk. "For the pilot alone over two thousand trees will be planted by fellow Rotarians, school kids who will be benefiting from the desks and communities around the schools," he pointed out.

The Rotary Club of Dar es Salaam was chartered on 25th January 1949 as the first Rotary Club in Tanzania and in East Africa. It is part of the Rotary International - a global network of over a million volunteers from different backgrounds and professions working towards creating lasting positive change across the globe.

It works to promote peace, fight diseases, provide clean water, sanitation and hygiene, save mothers and children, support education and supporting local economies.



**It was a very successful event. The turnout was great too. We had fun but at the same time joined our hands**



Simanjiro district commissioner Zephania Chaula (L) addresses women at Irkujit in Edonyongijape ward, Manyara Region, on Thursday shortly after gracing a fundraiser in support of the construction of a dispensary at the village, with a total of 2.4m/- realised. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

## 21 lecturers trained in teaching of Kiswahili to foreigners

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

MINISTER for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports Dr Harrison Mwakymbe has stressed on need to register and submit names of Kiswahili experts to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation for the list to be distributed to the country's embassies

abroad.

Speaking here on Thursday when opening training seminar for Kiswahili teaching skills to foreigners to 21 lecturers from the University of Dodoma (UDOM) Dr Mwakymbe said opportunities in teaching Kiswahili in the world are immense, hence Tanzanians should come out in big numbers to

grab the opportunities for income generation and spread of the language.

"The government realised the need for Kiswahili teachers outside the country hence it established a database of experts who now number 1,224 and various countries have started submitting applications for them," said Dr Mwakymbe.

He said the list of experts to teach the language will be submitted to the Minister for Foreign Affairs for distribution to Tanzania's embassies abroad.

Acting Head of National Kiswahili Council (BAKITA) Consolatha Mushi, said the trainings are given to university graduates in Kiswahili language from Bachelor to Masters

Degree levels. Dr Samuel Mgaya, Lecturer from UDOM Kiswahili Department, said the training will also help the experts to spread the language in the way it is required for the language's proper usage.

The training seminar began on March 9 as the second phase in Dodoma after the first phase that was conducted in October 2018.



Hai district executive director Yohana Sintoo (L) symbolically hands over 100 tree seedlings on Thursday to the representative of head teachers of primary schools in the district in support of the implementation of a project meant to turn Hai Township 'green'. Photo: Godfrey Mushi

## Revival of Dar-Moshi train will attract more investors in northern zone - TIC

By Guardian Correspondent, Moshi

Government's decision to revive the Dar es Salaam-Moshi railway route as well as expansion of Tanga port will attract more foreign and local investors thus contribute into country's economic growth.

Train services from Dar es Salaam to northern zone regions will ease transportation of goods from Arusha, Tanga and Kilimanjaro regions to the port of Dar es Salaam and neighbouring countries.

Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) Northern Zone Manager, Daudi Riganda said since the regions are endowed with rich soil for cultivation of food and cash crops, farmers will easily transport their agricultural produce to markets within and outside the country.

"Eased transport will facilitate timely transportation of goods and assures farmers of generating income due to availability of reliable markets. We also have a number of industries manufacturing variety of goods that can be sold to markets in Dar es Salaam and surrounding regions", he noted.

Riganda added: "With improved transport services, we are optimistic that

business and investment activities in the northern zone will increase. We also anticipate receiving more investors".

He said since Arusha city leads with a good number of investments in the tourism sector, Tanzanians should grab the opportunities and establish businesses as improved transport services will contribute into increased number of visitors.

"The government has opened up business opportunities in the northern zone via expansion of Tanga port where transporters will no longer use the Mombasa port in Kenya," said Riganda adding that traders involved in exportation of fresh-farm-produce such as avocado and vegetables have warmly welcomed the move.

Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) Tanga Port Manager, Ajuaye Msesse said traders who were using the Mombasa port in Kenya will now shift to Tanga port due to its efficiency but also affordable charges. He said the on-going expansion work will see cargo ships docking at the port following improvement of its berths.

Msesse said in 2019, more than 600,000 container ships docked at Tanga port. He said more cargo ships are expected to dock at the port this year.

## TARI urged to focus on production of quality sunflower seeds

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) has been urged to invest much in the production of quality sunflower seeds so as to boost cultivation and yields of the crop in the country.

Mbeya District Commissioner (DC) William Ntinika made the appeal here during the launch of the Sunflower

Stakeholders Forum which is aimed at addressing various challenges facing farmers.

"It is high time now for the researchers to invest their efforts in producing more quality sunflower seeds as well as enlightening farmers on the good virtues of growing the crop," he said.

Ntinika said that despite adhering to all needed farming methods, majority of the sun-

flower growers are not earning profit from the crop due to various reasons particularly poor seeds.

He cited sunflower as among the crops which the country needs to invest more saying that many farmers were still locked away from the potentials that comes from the crop because they lack quality seeds.

"Sunflowers are grown all

over the region and the country, mostly by majority of small and middle-scale farmers. Therefore the development of the sunflower oil sector has a great potential for improving livelihoods and the welfare of relatively poorer households... what is needed the most is determination and commitment to transform the crop."

Earlier, Salehe Mwasole, a sunflower grower in Mbeya

said that they have been earning little produce despite investing much of funds during cultivation.

"Most of the farmers have lost their hopes on the crop, and they have decided to venture into other crops like maize and potato to at least earn some profit," he added.

James Mwilonga, owner a sunflower processing machine in the city said that most of

the factories are not working due to lack of raw materials (sunflower) and most of them work during harvest season.

Mwilonga said that if the country could wake up and decide to invest in research, quality seeds and technology, millions of Tanzanians could enjoy better life and forget about all hurdles of poverty.

According to a survey conducted by the Tanzania Pri-

vate Sector (TPSF) in 2017, sunflower crop has the potential to reduce the current edible oil import of up to 80 percent and lift 13 million people out of poverty if required resources are availed for investment.

The report stated that the nation has huge potentials to produce litres of oil from sunflower, cotton seeds and many other plants so what is mostly

## Zambians bracing for water shortage despite recent rains

By John Gibbons

ZAMBIA is facing severe water and electricity shortages after a lengthy drought, with reservoir levels remaining worryingly low despite recent rains.

Water levels in Lake Kariba, the world's largest artificial lake at more than 5,500 sq km, have dropped by six metres in the past three years.

In early March, available water for hydroelectric production at the Kariba dam, which spans the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe, was about 11.5%, a slight recovery on the record low in January.

A year earlier, hydro levels at the lake exceeded 42%. When running at capacity, the hydroelectric plant produces more than 2.1GW of electricity.

"People see the recent rainfall and the flooding and wonder why the lake isn't filling up, but what you have to understand is just how huge it is, and how much water has been lost", said Patrick Siptela, a design engineer with the Zambezi River Authority.

It is now restricted to about a quarter of capacity, leading to frequent power outages across both countries, with many businesses relying on diesel generators for eight hours a day.

About half of Zambia's total electrical power comes from the Kariba dam, Siptela said. However, this key source of low-carbon power is susceptible to climate-driven impacts in the region. Records dating to 1960 show a warming trend of 0.34C per decade. This suggests the country has warmed by at least 1.7C in 60 years.

In tandem with this strong warming trend, average rainfall in Zambia has fallen by 2.3% per decade in the same period.

The nature and timing of rainfall is also changing. After months of severe drought, recent torrential downpours have destroyed crops and infrastructure.

"Some of our roads that have stood the test of time for years are now succumbing. We know the conditions are really extreme", said Carol Mwape Zulu, the chief climate change officer at Zambia's Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources.

She said climate change could "draw development backwards. It's not just immediate infrastructure damage - you realise it has an impact on education, on children who can't access schools. It also impacts health issues, nutrition, food security - and malnutrition is holding back children's development." Zambia was also experiencing rapid deforestation of 276,000 hectares a year, Mwape Zulu said. Many traders sell baskets of charcoal on the roadside, much of it sourced from larger hardwood trees. In urban areas, charcoal is used for cooking because it is cheaper and more reliable than grid electricity.

Some farmers whose crops and livestock have been hard hit by droughts are turning to charcoal production. "We don't like to cut the trees but we have no choice," said Diana Moono, a charcoal seller who has five children. "The drought has taken most of our crops, so we have to find some money somehow."

Alexander Kasenzi, the director of the NGO Harvest Help Zambia said the death of wild animals in Gwembe valley during the recent droughts was unprecedented. "Local people cannot recall a period when even the wildlife was affected," he said. Cattle herders abandoned their livestock in the bush and many cows and goats have died from the water shortage. Local women have to queue from 1am each day to access what limited water is available from boreholes.

"I have a strong feeling that what we're experiencing now has come to stay, and we have to completely change our thinking if we're to survive. It's getting tougher and tougher," Kasenzi said.



Tanzania Gender Networking Programme CEO Lilian Liundi speaks at an International Women's Day event held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. It was organised by the Youth Activist Forum for university students, with part of thrust on the judicious use of social networks. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

## Stakeholders partner to help college, university students on self-employment

By Guardian Reporter

A Dar es Salaam based 'Malembo Farms Organisation' in collaboration with other stakeholders has embarked on a new project dubbed 'Ndoto Yangu' which is aimed at capacitating higher learning students on self-employment, particularly in agri-business.

Addressing journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the organisation's director Lucas Malembo said that the project will cover six regions, where over 70 universities will be reached in a new push

to curb unemployment crisis in the country.

According to him, Ndoto Yangu project is aimed at among other things, to change mindsets of youths in the area of self-employment.

He noted that with over 800,000 youths who enter the labour market each year, only 12 percent manage to secure job opportunities.

"This is a sustainable project. We expect that from March 21, this year we will start in Mbeya and then in Morogoro region in April. We will train university students

on how to utilise the available agricultural opportunities," he said.

According to him, the project will later move to other regions of Dodoma, Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, and South Unguja in Zanzibar.

Malembo added that they decided to focus on university students (University tour) as a large group of young people who will complete their studies and expect to be employed by the government or any other private institution or companies.

Noelah Boman, the Executive Director of Learn East Africa

Company said that through Ndoto Yangu project, students will learn how to become good leaders who will inspire other youths in self-employment.

Reuben Ndimbo, chairman of Nafanikiwa Inspiration said that the country needs to undergo youth mindset transformation to change negative perceptions towards agriculture in a bid to attract more youths in agribusiness undertakings, a move that will curb the current unemployment challenge.

According to him, this can be done through provision of edu-

cation to youth on entrepreneurship initiatives through training, practical field work and making an easy access to capital through provision of loans with lower interest rates and grants to attract their effective involvement in the agribusiness.

"Our organisation is doing its best to change youth mindset, we have trained a number of young people in the country who managed to transform their lives, so I hope if these efforts will be accelerated, the country could witness rapid change of the sector," he said.

# Irrigation projects transform farmers' livelihoods in Bahi

By Guardian Correspondent, Bahi

IRRIGATION projects have transformed the livelihoods of thousands of farmers in Bahi District, Dodoma Region, who have since shifted from rain-fed agriculture to the new type of farming.

District Council Executive Director, Dr Fatuma Mganga said this when speaking to officials from the National Irrigation Commission (NIRC) who visited the district recently.

She said that irrigation remains important when it comes to farmers' income and government revenues, noting that before the operationalisation of the irrigation projects—Mtazamo and Bahi-Sokoni irrigation schemes, farmers failed in every bid of planting due to low rains.

"To us, we see irrigation as a game-changer to Bahi residents," she says, adding: "It is the main source of income for the district council as in every season we get 60,000/- in every acre and 63m/-, which is being collected as levy from different crops."

Bahi District has 15,000ha of land

which are fit for irrigation though only 4,981ha of farms have developed for rice and horticulture farming. She encouraged investors in irrigation to chip in and invest in irrigation on the undeveloped area.

Dr Mganga called on residents to embrace the project and engage more on their farms so as to eradicate poverty which is still high in some of the households.

"We don't want to see people idling in market places when they can be busy on their farms. This project is for all and we hope more households will engage in irrigation," she said.

Apart from growing rice, farmers are engaging in horticulture farming, which has proved to be an effective tool in transforming people's lives.

According to Dr Mganga, the District Council is set to build a rice processing plant in order to add value of the crop and have its own brand—Bahi rice brand.

She also unveiled that the district council has been allocating 40 percent of its budget to improve irrigation infrastructure to increase rice and horti-

culture production in the district.

NIRC senior official, Remigius Rushomesha said that since 2015, the commission has trained more than 3,000 farmers in 100 councils through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) under capacity development for the promotion of irrigation schemes under the district agricultural development plans Phase II (TANCAID-II).

He said that farmers in Mtazamo and Bahi-Sokoni irrigation schemes through TANCAID have been also empowered with skills on how to initiate, run and maintain irrigation projects.



**We don't want to see people idling in market places when they can be busy on their farms. This project is for all and we hope more households will engage in irrigation."**



Help comes the way of a driver whose vehicle is stuck in a muddy Jangwani Valley section of Dar es Salaam's Morogoro Road, as captured yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## Use effective communications to achieve targets, community radio practitioners told

By Guardian Correspondent in Bagamoyo

COMMUNITY radio practitioners in the country have been told to use effective communications to achieve their goals.

Amani Shayo, a Project Manager from Empower Limited made the call in Bagamoyo on Wednesday during his presentation on the importance of communication strategy to board members and secretariat staff from the Network of Community Media in Tanzania (TADIO).

Shayo called upon the need for TADIO to improve its communication within staff, board and members stressing that the only way to make the communication strategy useful is to utilise it.

Commenting on the training, Prosper Kwigize, TADIO Board

Chairperson said the training is important, as it will help each stakeholder to recognise themselves and their roles.

"The session on communication and visibility will help us to come up with strategies to reach our goals. The session will also enhance working ties among staff and board as well as members," said Kwigize.

Irene Makene, TADIO coordinator said the training has been

a revelation as they now understand that they are very important and failure to do things right will affect many people.

"The training is very important for us to understand our duties and we just realised that we are so important and we should be very keen in making sure that our communication is very clear. We expect a lot of changes in our working style, as we know what we do and what to achieve,

and we expect to come with big results to change TADIO to ensure whatever we do reach the last person at the grassroots level, who are local radio practitioners," stressed Makene.

UNESCO has organised a five days training in communication and visibility in a bid to support individual members of TADIO leadership to become the best version of themselves whilst also advancing aligning the cul-

ture and strategic focus of the organisation. Funded by the Swiss Development Corporation (SDC), the training is conducted with technical support from Empower Limited.

In Tanzania, UNESCO through funding from the Swiss Development Corporation (SDC) supports 25 community radios and the Community Media Network-TADIO. The support is meant to ensure that people in Tanzania,

especially the poor, women and girls, have the capacity to make informed decisions on issues that affect their daily lives based on access to relevant, culturally appropriate, gender responsive accurate information and knowledge.

Community radios under the project are scattered in 23 out of the 31 regions of Tanzania and serve approximately 33 million people in Tanzania.



Tanzania Association of Accountants vice chairman Odemari Rushita (2nd-R) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday presenting foodstuffs and various other items to Musa Ngenzi, coordinator of the city's Watoto Wetu Tanzania Orphanage, in celebrating Tanzania Accountants Week. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## UTSS reiterates need for parents to love children with albinism

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

UNDER The Same Sun (UTSS) has urged women with children with albinism to take care of them instead of abandoning and exposing them to risks.

UTSS lawyer William Maduhu said there is a tendency among women where some abandon their born babies because of albinism.

"All children deserve equal rights of playing, education, better health services and care in order to give them equal opportunity to live like others," he said.

He called upon the parents to stop hiding their children inside for fear of being harmed and instead let them be free to interact with their friends and society.

"We decided to convene the training for women as part of the commemoration for International Women's Day, using this opportunity to help strengthen proper child care and change the mindset of women on children with albinism," he said.

Maduhu added that through the training, the organization has managed to counsel and give new hope to parents who had been disappointed because of getting a child with albinism. Among others, we taught them that, being albino doesn't mean he or she will be unable to perform any activity, a child with albinism is able to read and to perform every activity like others.

Themed 'Each for Equal' the celebration for International Women's Day is particularly important, as we celebrate also the 25-year anniversary since the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action, and the 20th anniversary of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, on women, peace, and security.

Representing the women in the event, Betrana Mbazi, chairperson for 'Upendo wa Mama' group formed to support women, said that women are supposed to work hard in order to be able to take care of children and the family in general.

She encouraged parents that they need to invest in entrepreneurship activities that will enable them to take care of their children.

## CAMFED sets up four factories to support former beneficiaries

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

A TOTAL of four small-scale factories have been set up in Iringa District, to support former bursary students of the Campaign for Female Education add value to their crops including rice, maize and sunflowers so as to win market and improve income.

National Vice-chairperson of CAMFED Association (CAMA) Latifa Kiyao, said this during the commemorations of the World Women's Day held at Kising'a Village in Iringa District.

According to her, the four factories will help over 2000 girls overcome dependency and strengthen the economy.

"Our major aim is to enable these young girls to be able to raise the economy and overcome dependency through sewing machine projects, rice milling, poultry farming, maize and modern sunflower processing," Kiyao said.

She said that CAMA is an association of educated young women,

brought together by a common background of acute poverty and a belief in the power of education, now making enormous strides in local communities - and on the international stage.

Kiyao said the establishment of a 16m/- sunflower factory in Kising'a village in Iringa district has brought relief to the local residents who have been traveling to Iringa town for sunflower processing.

For his part, CAMFED secretary in Iringa Stephan Kigae said they conducted an intensive market re-

search to enable the beneficiaries sell their produce easily.

Some of the project's beneficiaries, including Stumai Mahenge and Agnes Kilangi, commended CAMFED saying that the project is going to transform their income and life in general.

"For us today is a happy day, we have been living in a very difficult situation and today we have been entrusted with a modern sunflower machinery that will lift us economically while we also support others who are vulnerable," Mahenge said.

CAMFED Tanzania, launched in 2005, works with the government to boost secondary school enrollment. It started its operation in Iringa town to support vulnerable girls who couldn't afford secondary school education expenses.

Girls' education has been described as the "silver bullet" in terms of what it can achieve to address child and maternal mortality, raise families out of poverty, accelerate economic development, and help communities deal with climate change.



**We decided to convene the training for women as part of the commemoration for International Women's Day, using this opportunity to help strengthen proper child care and change the mindset of women on children with albinism**

SATURDAY 14 MARCH 2020

Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

## Indeed, SADC member-states must place a premium on climate change

**C**LIMATE change or global warming a long-term rises in the average temperature of the Earth's climate system.

In the modern context the terms global warming and climate change are commonly used interchangeably, but climate change includes both global warming and its effects, such as changes to precipitation and impacts that differ by region.

Many of the observed changes in climate since the 1950s are unprecedented in the instrumental temperature record, and in historical and paleoclimate proxy records of climate change over thousands to millions of years.

Climate change impacts humans by, amongst other things, threatening food security from decreasing crop yields, and the abandonment of populated areas and damage to infrastructure due to rising sea levels.

Environmental impacts include the extinction or relocation of ecosystems as they adapt to climate change, with coral reefs, mountain ecosystems, and Arctic ecosystems most immediately threatened.

In the same vein, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) regional vulnerability assessment and analysis (RVAA) programme's annual dissemination meeting has called for stakeholders to strengthen and prioritize the mainstreaming of climate change into vulnerability assessments and analysis.

The meeting which took place in Windhoek, Namibia from July 1 to 5 2019 has brought together over 60 representatives of national vulnerability assessment committees (NVACs) of SADC member states, the SADC secretariat and development partners.

Speaking during the opening session, Anastasia Amunyele, Deputy Director for Policy, Disaster Risk Management Directorate of the Government of Namibia said the SADC region is experiencing frequent climate-related disasters, including drought and flooding.

She said to address the impact of climate change; SADC member states have put together various initiatives both at national and regional level.

"Currently, the government of Namibia is responding to drought by distributing food relief and agricultural inputs, as well as the provision of water to the affected population.

The response followed the President of Namibia's declaration of drought emergency on 06 May 2019", she said.

Dr Sithabiso Gandure, a climate change researcher and consultant, said the historical and current data generated by NVACs can be integrated into climate change impact and vulnerability assessments - a key component of the national climate change communications.

"Climate vulnerability assessments inform the development of climate change policies and strategies as well their monitoring and evaluation", she said. Dr Gandure also called upon the NVACs to participate and become part of the climate change coordination mechanisms, such as inter-ministerial steering committees or task forces.

The meeting noted that although NVACs are already contributing to the national global reporting system and processes within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) there are important that the RVAA programme promotes a systematic approach in addressing the vulnerability issues in the region.

## African countries need to stand firmer in efforts to fight toxic waste dumping

**A**FRICA needs to do more to address the dumping of hazardous wastes, especially from the developed world, into the continent. African nations have long been at the centre of incidents involving hazardous waste dumping. The continent continues to be disproportionately affected by the dumping of harmful chemical materials.

In an effort to prevent incidents Africa needs to reinforce existing international treaties surrounding the shipment and disposal of hazardous waste - as established in the Basel Convention and Bamako Convention whereby African states came together in 2018 to discuss ways and means of ensuring that the continent rid itself of hazardous wastes and contribute to the achievement of a pollution-free planet.

Africans have a collective responsibility to safeguard communities from the environmental and health consequences of hazardous waste dumping. Indeed the creation of regional Public-Private Partnerships could lead to the creation of adequate facilities to manage hazardous waste internally generated in Africa. Previous experiences have led Africa to establish these international treaties around chemical waste, and Africa together must ensure they continue to be adhered to.

The Basel Convention, established in 1989, prevents the shipment and disposal of hazardous waste from industrial to developing countries. This international treaty establishes a procedure of strict requirements and consents of any transboundary movement of hazardous waste.

To complement the Basel Convention, African Nations established the Bamako Convention in 1991. The Convention, which came into force in 1998, is aimed at protecting the health of populations and the environment of

African countries through a ban on the import of all hazardous and radioactive wastes. It also prohibits the dumping or incineration of hazardous wastes in oceans and inland waters, and promotes the minimization and control of trans-boundary movements of hazardous wastes within the African continent. The Convention also aims to improve and ensure ecologically rational management and handling of hazardous waste within Africa, as well as the cooperation between African nations.

The first Conference of the Parties made a declaration by African ministers of environment in which they stated their determination to prevent Africa from becoming a dumping ground for toxic wastes through an effective implementation of the Bamako Convention. The declaration further states that the import of hazardous waste into Africa is a crime against humanity and commit to prompt action to overcome barriers to effective management and minimization of waste in Africa through increased knowledge on waste scenarios in order to prevent harm to health and environment.

The convention has been ratified by 25 African countries including Tanzania. Every year almost 50 million tonnes of electronic goods are illegally dumped globally according to a report. Whether the mountains of second-hand electronic goods that end up in African schools as donations are good intentions or just being dumped, without proper dismantling and disposal, the outcome is the same: polluting soil, water, food and air." African nations have an opportunity to turn the threat into a source of sustainable jobs and economic growth through recycling of goods and creation of jobs. Africa must take a collective responsibility to safeguard communities from the environmental and health consequences of hazardous wastes dumping.

### The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

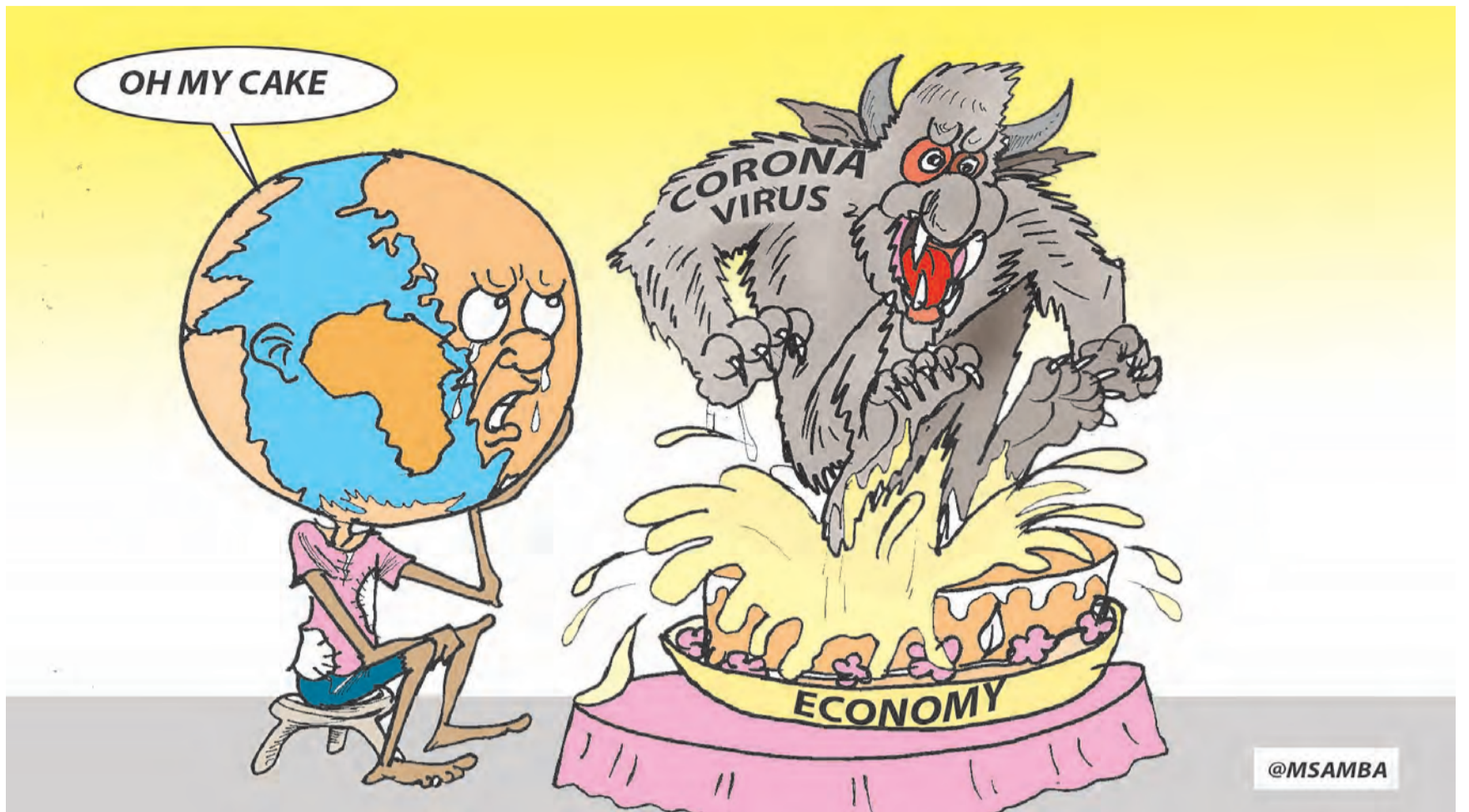
MANAGING EDITOR: WALLACE MAUGGO  
CIRCULATION MANAGER : EMMANUEL LYMO

### 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.lppmedia.com



## Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, (1920-2020)

**T**HE world on Wednesday, March 4, 2020 lost a peace maker, Peruvian-

born Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, who served as two term Secretary-General of the United Nations from 1982 to 1991. Born on January 19, 1920 in Lima, Peru, Pérez de Cuéllar after studying Law at the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru, joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1940 and entered the diplomatic service in 1944. He later became a part of Peru's permanent delegation to the United Nations in 1971 and served as president of the United Nations Security Council in 1974. His deep association with the United Nations began in 1946 when he was a member of Peru's delegation at the first session of the General Assembly. After a series of high-profile diplomatic appointments, he was elected the fifth U.N. secretary-general, the first and only secretary-general from Latin America.

Pérez de Cuéllar brokered peace agreements in Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Latin America, just as the Cold War



softened under his tenure in the late 1980s and early '90s. Though a reluctant compromise choice that no one expected much from, especially as he admitted that he was not considered the most exciting candidate, he was remarkably successful.

His appointment was seen as a disappointment for Africa as he emerged at the expense of Tanzanian-born Salim Ahmed Salim after much diplomatic bargaining.

In the two terms from 1982 through 1991, he brokered the end of the 10-year war between Iran and Iraq, convinced Soviet forces to withdraw from Afghanistan, helped to reduce the scale of conflicts in Nicaragua, El Salvador and Cambodia, and saw to the independence of Namibia.

Also, under his tenure, United Nations peacekeepers won the 1988 Nobel Peace Prize for work in Mozambique and Angola.

He was however unable to persuade former Iraqi president, Saddam Hussein, to withdraw his forces from Kuwait, and also failed to prevent the Gulf War in 1990. He nonetheless was able to bring the United States and the Soviet Union to dialogue on their conflicts at the United Nations, as the Cold War tensions eased. He will also be remembered for mediating in the Falklands War between the United Kingdom and Argentina. At the end of his tenure in 1991, Queen Elizabeth II awarded him an honorary knighthood, while former French President François Mitterrand awarded him France's Legion of Honor.

Former United States President George H.W. Bush also gave him America's highest civilian honour, the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Pérez de Cuéllar was described as a skillful mediator, just as diplomats also saluted him for restoring prestige to the office of secretary general of the United Nations.

The current Secretary General of the United Nations, António Guterres, called him "an accomplished statesman, a committed diplomat and a personal inspiration who left a profound impact on the United Nations and our world."

"Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar's life spanned not only a century but also the entire history of the United Nations, dating back to his participation in the first meeting of the General Assembly in 1946," Mr. Guterres said. "His tenure as Secretary-General coincided with two distinct eras in international affairs," Mr. Guterres continued.

"First, some of the iciest years of the Cold War, and then, with the ideological confrontation at an end, a time when the United Nations began to play more fully the role envisaged by the founders." Mitch Fifield, Australian Ambassador to the U.N, also said Javier Pérez de Cuéllar deeply committed to peace and ending hunger, and would be missed by the UN and wider diplomatic community.

## Covid-19 'hysteria' highlights lack of quality science journalism

By Lali van Zuydam

FAKE news and overwhelming amounts of information available on the internet make it difficult for South African audiences to distinguish fact from fiction and real science from pseudoscience and downright quackery.

We all know that science news reporting in the South African media does not enjoy the same status as other beats such as politics, crime, sport and business. It is hardly surprising that politicians like Julius Malema, businessmen like Markus Jooste, and convicted criminals like Nicolas Ninow, grace our lead pages more often than any scientist or researcher in South Africa.

Until now. Covid-19, or the coronavirus, has hit South African shores, along with mass public hysteria from all corners of the country. Retailers and pharmacies are battling to keep up with demand for hand sanitisers and surgical masks, as stock flies off the shelves amid increasing panic over the spread of the virus.

People are sharing fake news, unverified information and even memes about the virus on social media and confusion has become the order of the day. Calls for calm from government, international organisations and local medical professionals have fallen on deaf ears as we continue to raid pharmacies for supplies.

The coronavirus has presented the ideal opportunity to have a frank discussion about the current state of science journalism in South Africa. In an age where knowledge journalism and quality content has been replaced with celebrity news, horoscopes, astrology columns and the sex lives of prominent people in our society, we know more about the Kardashians than we do about our chances of contract-

ing Covid-19 in South Africa.

A 2004 study by a student at Stellenbosch University, found that only 2% of editorial content in the country's top publications is dedicated to science news.

Considering the power of the media to influence public perceptions and to assist the government, business and consumers in making informed choices, specialist science journalists are vital to assist in and improve the public's understanding of science.

According to the World Economic Forum Global Competitiveness Report in 2012, the quality of South Africa's science and maths education has been rated second to last globally.

This has a great impact on science literacy in a country where about 20% of adults are illiterate, more than a quarter of the adult population unemployed and very few teenagers graduate from high school with university-level science or maths passes, according to the same report.

This paints a grim picture as most people in South Africa do not understand the impact of science on their daily lives, rendering them unable to react to Covid-19 reasonably. Fake news and overwhelming amounts of information available on the internet make it difficult for South African audiences to distinguish fact from fiction and real science from pseudoscience and downright quackery.

It would be interesting to see how many people still believe in former health minister Manto Tshabalala-Msimang's claims that beetroot and garlic work better against HIV/Aids than anti-retroviral treatment. It would be even more interesting to see which "remedies" emerge for Covid-19.

To make matters worse, there are those who spend their time purposefully creating confusing

content, rather than adding value to the news industry in the country.

Many have lamented the insufficiency of science journalists due to budget constraints, human resources challenges and the "juniorisation" of newsrooms. Science is also not considered sexy enough to make it into the news and most people consider science too difficult for "normal people" to understand.

Thus, the importance of good science journalism cannot be overstated.

Science can save lives, but the incorrect reporting of science can also lead to the loss of life. Thus it is of the utmost importance that journalists, and not only specialist science journalists, equip themselves with critical thinking skills to ensure audiences receive high quality, reliable news.

Science communicators and researchers, who can quell the confusion, should open the doors to their institutions and help journalists fall in love with telling well-researched and accurate stories - about Covid-19 as well as other significant events.

Scientific research often remains locked away in ivory towers or hidden away in complex, dense and difficult-to-understand academic studies, where the public has no access. In the public interest, journalists must bring this research to everyone in South Africa - to avoid the mass hysteria we've been seeing this past week.

**Lali van Zuydam is a science journalist, science journalism researcher and advocate for knowledge journalism. She completed her MA Journalism thesis at Stellenbosch University on the state of science journalism in South Africa.**



# Improved health centres steer drop in maternal deaths in Morogoro

By Guardian Reporter, Morogoro

**F**IVE health centres in Morogoro Region have managed to reduce maternal and infant deaths to zero since the inception of Accessing Safe Deliveries in Tanzania (ASDIT) project in 2015.

The five-year project through innovating for maternal and child health in Africa is implemented by Tanzania Training for International Health (Ifakara) and Dalhousie University, Canada in collaboration with local government authorities in the region.

Health facilities that have been improved so far and which have started providing surgical and emergency services to maternal and children include Melela, Kibati in Mvomero District, St Joseph (Kilosa), Ngerengere (Morogoro) and Gairo Health Centre (Gairo).

The project introduced maternal and newborn emergency care services including surgeries and anaesthesia in health centres in Morogoro Region by training available health care providers.

Rose Mwijembe is one of the women who have enjoyed better healthcare services in the selected health facilities in Morogoro Region.

"When we heard of good quality of care at Gairo Health centre, we decided to come here for delivery. I can admit that services at this facility are good, says Rose, a resident of Magubike village in Gairo District.

Asha Rajab of Ngolongo village describes healthcare services at the facility as extraordinary, saying: "We brought here a woman in labour at around 10 am this morning and she gave birth at 2 pm. She delivered safely a baby boy, two hours after delivery, she started complaining of abdominal pain, and doctors immediately managed the problem, something which wasn't the case in the past."

"On average we've five to seven deliveries per day, the 12 midwives are working under high workload pressure says Justina Shirima, nursing Officer at Gairo Health Centre.

"With this limited number of staff, this month alone we had 77 caesarean sections. The workload is huge because there is only one health centre in the whole district. No hospital. Gairo Health Centre functions as a referral facility for 28 dispensaries," she says.

"This is the only facility that provides surgical services in the district. Although this facility receives an allocation of drugs and supplies like other health centres, it functions as a hospital," Shirima says.

Commenting on the new development, Gairo District Medical Officer (DMO), Dr Dustan Mshana says the ASDIT project has transformed healthcare services delivery in the district.

Through the project, a number of healthcare providers at Gairo Health Centre have been trained in maternal and newborn care.

"Our healthcare providers have been also benefited from the on-job training on how to conduct supportive supervision for other facilities. So, in nutshell the project gives us a new direction on how to improve services in our health facilities," Dr Mshana says.

Gairo District Commissioner, Siriel Mchembe also says that the project has enabled readily availability of data in the district health facilities.

For instance, she says: "In 2015, there were 12 maternal deaths in the district, but in 2019 there were four. These



**A team of healthcare providers in one of the health centres in Morogoro Region attend one of the patients after being trained on how to provide anaesthesia and handle anaesthetic complications. Photo: Guardian Correspondent**

are substantial positive changes. As district authorities, we see the ASDIT project as a yardstick for improving health service deliveries."

In the past, referring women with pregnancy and childbirth complications to distant hospitals led to delay of appropriate interventions and also increased the cost of the family and the health sector, but now this remains a story of the past as healthcare providers say that the project has reduced referral rates in the catchment areas of renovated health facilities.

For instance, Dr Jumbe Mwakilambe, medical officer-in-charge at Ngerengere Health Center says following the introduction of surgical services at the facility; the referral rate has substantially declined to between 90 and 95 per cent.

"We refer only those requiring more advanced care, the rest are managed here at the centre," Dr Mwakilambe affirms.

Medical officer-in-charge at St Joseph Health Centre, Dr Manyere Kaponjo describes the project as an eye-opener to many healthcare providers at the facility, saying: "Before the training programme we never provided surgical services, but now we provide obstetric surgical services."

"I thank the project for empowering us with this knowledge and skills," confirms Sr Reena, a matron at St Joseph Health Centre.

"After the training, we've never encountered any death on the ta-

ble or major anaesthetic complications. Just minor complications and in case of such complications, we consult the anaesthetist from Ifakara on what to do and when they come for quarterly supportive supervision they provide us with the updates and how to improve services," says Pulkeria Paul, Assistant Nursing Officer, Ngerengere Health Centre.

Assistant Nursing Officer at Kibati Health centre, Othinel Yotham attended the first training programme which was provided by ASDIT Project in 2016, which was held in Ifakara Township, Kilombero District, "where we're trained on how to provide anaesthesia and handle anaesthetic complications. This training is what brought me into a new page."

"When we performed the first c-section anaesthetic complications was one of the challenges was feared, however, we're adequately trained, so we administered anaesthesia and surgery went well," he says.

Clinical officer-in-charge at Madege Dispensary, Joseph Kephass views the project as crucial in transforming health service delivery in the region and the country at large, noting: "After training in leadership and management, I came back and gave feedback to my colleagues. This has improved accountability and the performance of our staff at the dispensary."

"We also get technical support from doctors who are in the ASDIT project Ifakara. In case of complications, we also use teleconsultation for techni-

cal support. We have an e-learning platform on standalone computers which are meant to strengthen our knowledge and skills," says, Dr Jumanne Mgoa, Medical-in-charge at Melela Health Centre.

ASDIT project Co-principal Investigator Dr Godfrey Mtey also says during the four years of the project implementation, the monthly health facility deliveries increased by 157 per cent from the baseline in the intervention health facilities as compared to 42 per cent in the control 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 AS-

DIT 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, suboptimal 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 Kusirye, 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."

## Could Pierre Nkurunziza's departure save Burundi?

BY PETER FABRICIUS

**D**OES the decision by Burundi's ruling CNDD-FDD party to replace President Pierre Nkurunziza as its candidate for the elections due on 20 May offer hope for this desperate country?

Nkurunziza overstayed his welcome for at least five years by extending his tenure for an unconstitutional third term in 2015. A 2018 referendum approved him amending the constitution to allow him to remain in office until 2034. That prompted suspicions that he would run for office again this year, but the CNDD-FDD surprisingly nominated Secretary-General Evariste Ndayishimiye. There is still suspicion that Nkurunziza might dig in his heels.

However the general view is that he's on his way out. Ndayishimiye is an army general and Stephanie Wolters, Senior Research Fellow on the Great Lakes at the South African Institute of International Affairs, and other analysts, believe he wasn't Nkurunziza's preferred successor. She says the CNDD-FDD's powerful military elements - unhappy with the poor result of the referendum that demonstrated Nkurunziza's unpopularity - decided his staying on was untenable.

But would Ndayishimiye effect any real changes? Burundi remains one of the poorest countries in Africa. Malaria has reached epidemic levels and drought has brought famine. This week the official Geneva-based Commission of Inquiry on Burundi urged Bujumbura to reopen the 'democratic, civil and political space' - not only because these are basic human rights, but because they are 'an absolute requirement for the holding of free, transparent and



credible elections ..."

Would Ndayishimiye re-engage with the world on reform - or merely tinker to get sanctions lifted?

The commission expressed particular concern about the Imbonerakure - the CNDD-FDD's youth militia that were carrying out 'killings, disappearances, arbitrary arrests and detentions, acts of torture and ill treatment and rape against actual or alleged political opposition members.' The political violence has propelled some 336 000 Burundians across the border. And fears persist that the conflict could reignite old Hutu-Tutsi tensions.

It remains to be seen whether Ndayishimiye wants to fundamentally tackle these problems. Wolters and other analysts note that he is like Nkurunziza, a product of the CNDD-FDD, and a civil war veteran. The key question is how he will engage with the country's political opposition and civil society, much

**Ndayishimiye could be the change Burundi needs, but the political environment he might inherit presents major challenges. File photo**

of it forced into exile.

Constitutional changes after the country's stage-managed national dialogue in 2018 consolidate the presidency's power and backtrack on fundamental power-sharing aspects of the Arusha Accords. That process was supported not just by Nkurunziza, but also by the CNDD-FDD, which never felt committed to the Arusha Accords in the first place.

Welile Nhlapo, veteran South African diplomat and Senior Political Consultant with the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes, is however encouraged by Ndayishimiye's performance as the CNDD-FDD's lead negotiator on political affairs during ceasefire talks with armed rebels after the Arusha negotiations.

But even if Ndayishimiye is forward-looking, Nhlapo says, he

might be constrained by the political environment he inherits. Apart from liberating the domestic political space, one of his major challenges will be repairing Burundi's fraught relations with almost everyone.

One of Ndayishimiye's major challenges will be repairing Burundi's fraught relations with almost everyone

Nkurunziza has alienated the African Union and the United Nations (UN), rejecting special envoys and forbidding UN human rights investigators from working freely in the country. So Burundi is isolated.

Reconciling with the European Union (EU) could deliver financial support and perhaps investment to unlock the country's untapped mineral and agro-processing potential. Nhlapo says Ndayishimiye

also needs to patch up Burundi's quarrels with its neighbours, especially Rwanda, but also Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

There are some signs that the outside world is making tentative gestures towards reconnecting with Burundi under new leadership. Several other analysts wonder, though, if Ndayishimiye would re-engage with the world to discuss real reform - or merely tinker with reform to get sanctions lifted.

"Some suspect Ndayishimiye will just release a few political prisoners here and there, perhaps ease some restrictions on opposition political parties, but not much more," says one analyst, requesting anonymity.

That's unlikely to persuade the EU, for instance, to lift sanctions, diplomats have indicated. They would want to see real reforms, including opening space for political opposition, civil society and the media. Whether the CNDD-FDD would go that far is uncertain, since real political freedom could challenge its hold on power. All this assumes that the opposition can't actually win the elections, and that's probably the reality.

The AU has left Burundi to the East African Community, which has been unable to solve the problem

Many observers believe the perennial oppositionist Agathon Rwaswa and his National Freedom Council (CNL) would probably win a free, fair and open election. Rwaswa is much better known to the electorate than Ndayishimiye and the CNL has a comprehensive national network of offices. But,

Wolters says, it's highly unlikely that the CNDD-FDD would allow Rwaswa to win.

He has told analysts he believes he will and if the election is stolen from him, a campaign of civil disobedience would follow. This could lead to political violence, especially because the CNL has a youth wing which has reportedly already clashed with the CNDD-FDD's Imbonerakure. If such violence is the likely post-election scenario, this would further discourage the EU and others from lifting sanctions and normalising relations.

Lurking below the surface of all this ferment is the latest Hutu-Tutsi question. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), which has a wide mandate to probe violence between 1885 and 2006 (thus stopping just short of the Nkurunziza era), has begun its work on the 1972-73 period during which many Hutu, including Nkurunziza's father, were massacred by Tutsis.

Analysts think it's possible that the CNDD-FDD could exploit the commission's findings to mobilise Hutu support before the elections. The TRC is 'opening old wounds,' says Nhlapo. The fallout from that is going to be another big challenge for Ndayishimiye to manage.

Can Africa not brighten this rather gloomy scenario? The AU Peace and Security Council's bold proposal for an AU-led intervention force in Burundi was shot down by African heads of state in January 2016. Since then, the AU has left Burundi to the East African Community, which has been unable to solve the problem.

Agencies

# Africa strives to stay ahead of curve in COVID-19 battle

ABUJA

**A**FTER learning from the media how to stay free of COVID-19, Nigerian taxi driver Ebenezer Akintunde has been carrying around a bottle of hand sanitizer as he shuttles between the airport and the city center in Nigeria's capital of Abuja.

"In my car's pigeonhole, I have up to two dozen masks which I offer to any passengers who might need them during the trip," he said. Nigeria confirmed its first novel coronavirus case on Feb. 28.

There are now more than 100 cases recorded in 15 countries in Africa, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

As the WHO characterized the outbreak as a "pandemic" on Wednesday, more African countries are stepping up measures to prevent further spread of the deadly virus across the continent, with lessons learned from Ebola and support from the international community.

## ALL-OUT EFFORTS

Amid a hike in the global caseload, African countries are waging all-out efforts against COVID-19 with lessons learned from the Ebola crisis.

The fight against COVID-19 could benefit from the experience learned during the Ebola epidemic, said Jean-Jacques Muyembe, coordinator in charge of the fight against the Ebola virus in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The current panic caused by COVID-19, which is very similar to that by the Ebola virus, is due to a lack of preparation to these new diseases, said Muyembe. During the Ebola outbreak in Nigeria between July and September 2014, the country traced and monitored 899 contacts and secondary cases out of which only seven were confirmed killed by the virus. Nigeria is now using the same pattern of contact tracing to cope with COVID-19 and so are other African countries.

South African Health Minister Zweli Mkhize said his country was ready to deal with the virus with screening intensified at all ports of entry. Outbreak response teams have been activated across the country. The government has also designated hospitals as emergency centers.

Egyptian Health Minister Hala Zayed said Egypt has imported 250,000 test kits which can shorten detection and generate results in 30 minutes, and will distribute them to all ports and airports across the country.

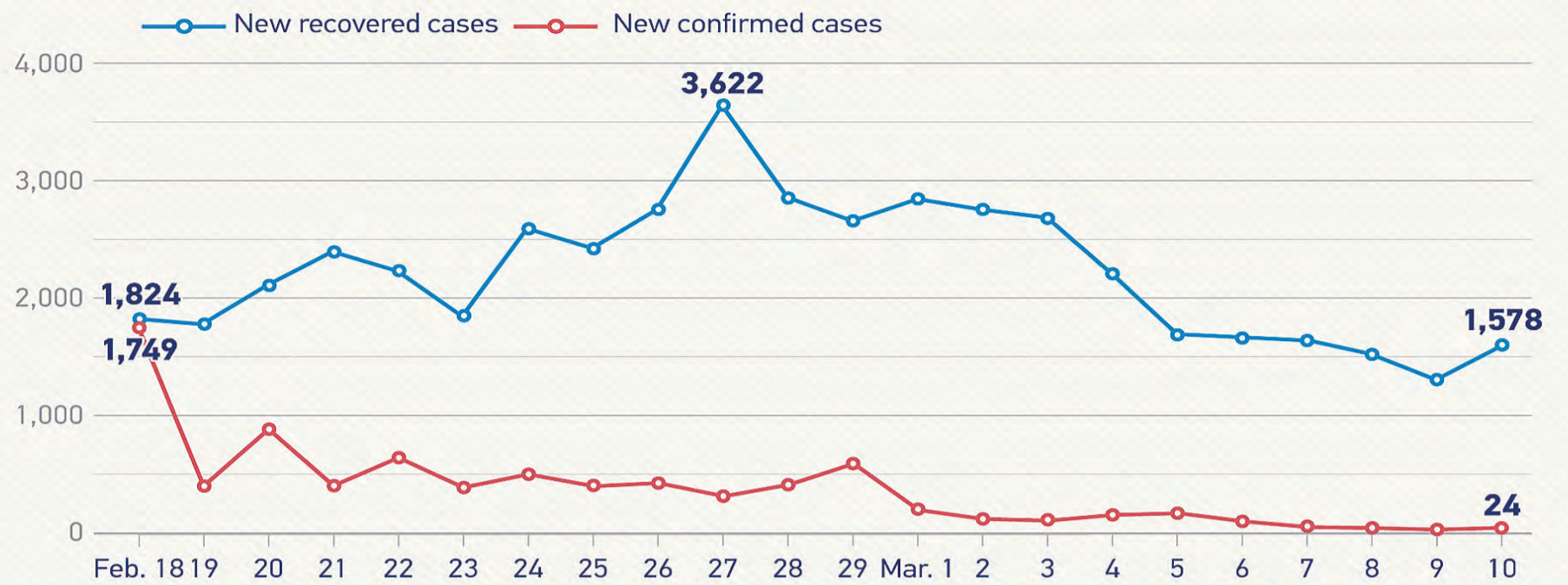
Kenya, which confirmed its first coronavirus case on Friday, announced a raft of measures, including screening passengers at all entry points, cancelling all international conferences, setting up special units to deal with suspected cases, and establishing isolation centers across the country.

"There is no reason to panic as that would be counterproductive. Everything is under control," Cameroon's Minister of Communication Rene Emmanuel Sadi said on Saturday after the country reported its first two cases.

"So far, our life is as usual. I have not noticed a decline of customers," said textile store owner Gbatoagbesse Kossivi from Togo, where the first coronavirus case was reported last week. "My three kids still go to school every day. We do have concerns, but our confidence to overcome the epidemic is strong."

The economic prospect for Africa remains challenging as China and Europe, the continent's two major trading

## More people recover from COVID-19 in China



Source: National Health Commission

CGTN

partners, were both hit hard by the outbreak.

"Firms faced a shortage of raw materials owing to reduced imports from China due to the coronavirus outbreak over the past month. This has increased output prices as alternative import markets aren't as cheap as China," said Jibril Qureshi, Stanbic Bank's regional economist for East Africa.

Should the disease continue, drug shortages are likely in Nigeria, Africa's most populous country, said Mojisola Adeyeye, head of the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control.

As Africa's largest economy and a major oil producer, Nigeria is reviewing its 2020 national budget because of the recent market rout partially attributed to fear over the COVID-19, Nigerian Finance Minister Zainab Ahmed said.

South Africa's tourism sector, especially its core industries such as accommodation, food and beverage services, recreation and entertainment, transportation and travel services, has been hit hard by the virus and new measures are expected

to minimize the impact, the country's Tourism Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane said.

China and Europe have cancelled groups tours to the country over the past month, said Tshifhiwa Tshihengwa, CEO of Tourism Business Council of South Africa. "We are still tallying up the numbers. There's a negative impact. Cancellations have now gotten worse, some are reporting between 30 and 50 percent," he told Xinhua, adding that job losses were inevitable.

Amid the economic pain, businesses in Africa are relieved after hearing the virus has been basically contained in China and enterprises have resumed operation.

"The resumption of industrial activity by over 90 percent of China's large industrial enterprises in industrial powerhouse regions is certainly good news to the global economy," said Kenyan international relations researcher Adhere Cavince.

Supply of essential products, including those used to make critical pharmaceutical products, can then begin to flow to service people around the world, said Cavince.

## GLOBAL SOLIDARITY

"For a global epidemic like this, we call for global solidarity," Mary Stephen, technical officer in health emergency preparedness from the WHO Regional Office for Africa, told Xinhua, adding that the WHO has been working with countries in Africa to enhance their capacity to detect early cases.

With the help of the WHO, countries on the continent now have the ability to detect coronavirus cases and carry out surveillance, said Steven V. Shongwe, acting director of the non-communicable diseases cluster at the WHO Regional Office for Africa.

The Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has distributed testing kits capable of making over 10,000 tests, and it is purchasing and stockpiling critical medical supplies to meet requests from African Union member states, said the organization's director John Nkengasong.

"Forty-three African countries now have the capacity to test for the virus, and we have supplied them with test kits together with the WHO," he

said. Apart from global and regional organizations, countries like China are also offering assistance to Africa.

China CDC has been working closely with Africa CDC, providing support to the recently established Africa Taskforce on Coronavirus, said Tajudeen Raji, head of Public Health Institutes and Research of Africa CDC. "We have a senior technical advisor from China CDC who is working closely with us. He has been participating actively as far as the Africa Taskforce on Coronavirus is concerned, providing the necessary advice," he said.

"In terms of ... responding to this outbreak, China has enormous experience," Raji said, adding that Africans are relying on the Asian country to prevent the spread of and control the outbreak.

The close cooperation in public health between Africa and China has proven beneficial, he said. Daouda Ndiaye, head of the Parasitology Department of Senegal's Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar, told Xinhua that Africa should bolster its science and technology ties with China. "They are there to help," he said.

Xinhua

# US society knows how to help China amid epidemic better than American politicians

By Wu Chuping

**G**LOBAL countries are lending a helping hand to China amid the novel coronavirus epidemic.

Under the coordination of the U.S. Department of State, 16 tons of medical and protective materials have been donated to epicenter Hubei by American charity organizations, including 380,000 pieces of N95 masks, 29,000 pairs of medical gloves and 6,000 protective suits.

However, the up to \$100 million of assistance for China and other affected countries promised by the department is still not in position.

Compared with the U.S. government, the U.S. businesses, friendly organizations and civil society organizations are acting way more actively. Over 100 member enterprises of the American Chamber of Commerce in the People's Republic of China (AmCham China) have donated cash and supplies totaling 500 million yuan (\$71 million) for China.

According to statistics from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, the U.S. companies have offered the most assistance to China among their global peers, and their donation is much higher than that made by companies from other countries.

The U.S. non-governmental humanitarian aid organization MedShare, the Coca-Cola Foundation and United Parcel Service (UPS) jointly donated 1.8 million pieces of masks and 80,000 protective suits to China, which marks the largest-ever single donation of medical supplies made by the U.S. society.

The 200,000 pieces of masks, 27,500 pairs of medical gloves, and 4,000 protective suits from the first batch of donation by DirectRelief, one of the "10 Best Charities Everyone's Heard Of" in the U.S., have also arrived at Wuhan Un-

ion Hospital recently.

Besides, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation founded by Bill Gates announced that it would immediately commit up to \$100 million for the global response to the 2019 novel coronavirus, and \$5 million of the fund has been delivered to relevant Chinese organizations.

The National Committee on United States-China Relations, U.S.-China Business Council and George H. W. Bush Foundation for U.S.-China Relations have collected medical supplies, including masks for China, and these supplies were sent to China by the charter flight of FedEx free of charge. In addition, the NBA has also donated 5 million yuan to China.

Walter Ian Lipkin, professor of epidemiology at Columbia University, known as "virus hunter", came to China at the first opportunity and worked with Chinese academicians including Zhong Nanshan to study the virus, saying he's willing to offer new diagnostic reagents free of charge.

Many people and experts in the U.S. also offered new vaccines and drugs that might help, and a significant number of U.S. citizens expressed their sympathy and support for China through the Chinese embassy and consulates in the U.S.

The overseas Chinese and Chinese students in the U.S. played their parts, too. According to Chinese Consulate General in New York, organizations, overseas Chinese and Chinese students in its consulate region have donated nearly \$40 million in cash and materials to China, including 7 million pieces of masks and 217,000 protective suits.

The epidemic is like a mirror that reflects the friendship between the Chinese and Americans. However, it has also presented the nature of some U.S. politicians who smell blood and favor a



Medical staff treating a critical patient infected by the COVID-19 coronavirus with extracorporeal membrane oxygenation at the Red Cross hospital in Wuhan in China's central Hubei province recently. AFP

chaotic world.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, rather than offering constructive ideas for China to better cope with the epidemic, has been slandering China and trying to alienating the Chinese people from the Communist Party of China.

Wilbur Ross, the U.S. Secretary of Commerce even remarked that the epidemic in China would "help to accelerate" the return of jobs to the U.S., which is totally inhumane. Senator Tom Cotton, who has

always been an anti-China enthusiast, said blatantly that the coronavirus might have been created in a Chinese laboratory for biological warfare.

The Wall Street Journal, titled the headline of one of its articles "China Is the Real Sick Man of Asia". Such act is nothing but indulgence of racism.

Even when China has achieved initial progress of epidemic control, Senator Marco Rubio was still turning a blind eye to the facts,

making nonsense that the data released by China were not real and the epidemic was not contained.

Fortunately, the Chinese people are from a nation that values friendship and has a clear-cut stand on what to love and what to hate.

From the bottom of our heart, we appreciate and will always remember our sincere friendship with the American people. The epidemic knows no border, and the cooperation between China and

the U.S. amid the epidemic should be something that highlights their bilateral relationship, rather than breaking it.

When the two peoples are joining hands to combat the novel coronavirus, they should also eliminate the "virus" that hinders the development of China-U.S. ties, fans up hatred between the two countries, and instigates confrontation between the two peoples.

People's Daily

# Target men to reach HIV prevention goals

By Webster Mavhu

WOMEN are the face of HIV in Africa, yet four of every 10 persons living with HIV in East and Southern Africa are men.

Despite higher rates of HIV infection among women, more men living with HIV are dying.

Men are often left behind by programmes that aim to reduce HIV rates as well as those providing HIV treatment.

Global HIV targets are that by December 2020, 90 pc of all people living with HIV will know their status, 90 pc of those HIV positive are on treatment and, 90 pc of those on treatment have reduced replication of the virus in their body.

Some African countries are on track to achieve these targets because programmes for women are doing so well. Unfortunately, men in many settings are far from achieving these targets.

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS) report shows that globally, less than half of men living with HIV are on treatment, compared to 60 pc of women. Data from 30 African countries also show that, across all age groups except 45-49 years, men are much less likely than women to have ever taken an HIV test.

In response to HIV testing and treatment gaps between men and women, the U.S. President's Emer-

gency Plan for AIDS Relief emphasizes the need for an acceleration of strategies to reach men under 35 years.

For more than a decade, I have been researching why men in sub-Saharan Africa do not take up HIV services even though they are aware that they need to take the necessary steps to either prevent HIV or ensure it does not eventually kill them. I recently visited four African countries - Lesotho, Malawi, Tanzania, Zimbabwe - to explore why men act against their own best interests.

One issue that came out in all countries is that men believe that the body and mind ought to be resilient. They consider 'submission' to the healthcare system as necessary only when the body can no longer hold out, or when men are certain they are no longer in control of their health and fate. A fisherman in Tanzania summed it up as: "A man is like a car which only goes to the garage when it has broken down."

Men want to be seen as being in control, but HIV - considered a serious, life-long condition - undermines this image, with the result that men want to avoid knowing they have it.

HIV programmes therefore need to change the narrative around HIV for example by repositioning HIV testing and treatment as acts that allow men to regain control of their health and fate more broadly.

Another concern voiced by men is



that programmes are largely based at clinics, but men rarely visit clinics. Programmes need to take services to where men are.

We implemented HIV self-testing in three African countries and found that it increased HIV testing among men. Men liked that they were in

'control' of the testing process and that they were the first to know the result, which is different from when a health worker does the testing.

Global HIV targets are that by December 2020, 90 pc of all people living with HIV will know their status, 90 pc of those HIV positive are

on treatment and, 90 pc of those on treatment have reduced replication of the virus in their body

But self-testing requires a second test to confirm a possible positive result, so programs need to consider how to make confirmatory testing easily accessible for men who self-

test positive.

It is also important to ensure that men who test HIV-positive access treatment. Large numbers of HIV-positive men choose not to seek treatment nor stick to treatment plans once started. An innovative way to address barriers to treatment access has been the use of community medication refill groups, where groups of individuals who are doing well on HIV treatment take turns to collect medication for each other, reducing the need to go to the clinic regularly.

Another barrier for some men is fear that others may learn their HIV status, which can mean they prefer to collect medication from male community health workers, and in secret.

While some argue that too many resources have been channeled to HIV and it is now time to focus on other conditions, HIV has provided huge learning which can be adapted by other programmes. Better still, health systems (including community-based approaches) developed for HIV prevention and care can be combined with those for non-communicable diseases (e.g. diabetes, hypertension) and implemented alongside each other.

I am not arguing for less focus on women. But all that focus and hard work will be undone if we do not also focus on men. To do that, we need to use targeted approaches that take into account men's particular concerns about privacy, self-determination (control) and need for flexibility.

At stake is more than simply reaching global goals. At stake is the health and well-being of millions of African men.

# Govt to improve infrastructure in southern tourism circuit to attract more visitors

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE government has begun improving airports, roads and bridges in game reserves in the Southern Tourism Circuit through Resilient Natural Resources Management for Tourism and Growth (REGROW)

project to boost the sector in the zone that is home to Ruaha National Park.

Ruaha National Park is one of the biggest national parks in Tanzania and the whole of East Africa.

REGROW is being implemented by the government through the Ministry of Natural Resources

and Tourism within Nyerere Game Reserve and Ruaha National Park and will be sustainable for other reserves including Kitulo and Katavi Game Reserves.

Speaking at a special interview with this paper, Senior Commissioner of Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) Southern Tourism Circuit, Dr Christopher Timbukua said

REGROW is being implemented with the support from the World Bank and the government.

Dr Timbukua said in the Ruaha National Park alone there are seven airports that are lined up for improvement to enable tourists to land in any one of them.

He said there are deliberate efforts by the government to im-

prove the tourism sector in the southern circuit.

He said the joining up of road networks some at tarmac level in the southern zone will spur tourism growth as many areas with tourist attractions will be reached by visiting tourists, and mentioned the roads from Rukwa to Katavi Region, Katavi to Kigoma and

Katavi to Tabora which he said will open doors to many tourists.

He also mentioned the improvement of the roads from Iringa to Ruaha National Park.

He said apart from these strategies there are also efforts to build a hotel of international standard in Katavi National park to spur tourists to visit the area with immense

wildlife attractions.

He said TANAPA office in Southern Tourism Circuit has prepared itself to ensure the tourism sector in the area becomes more beneficial for the country's economic growth in the coming few years and will be an example to be emulated in the country as well as neighbouring countries.

# Africa's devastating locust outbreak shows the importance of crop science on all fronts

By Dr Nteranya Sanginga

BEHIND every farmer dealing with a crop pest is a scientist who has supported them by developing better seeds, crop protection methods and apps to identify weeds

A perfect storm of conditions led to the locust attack currently tearing through East Africa and Pakistan, where countries are deploying pesticides, military personnel and even ducks.

The UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has given the ultimatum of March to bring Africa's desert locust outbreak under control, calling for US\$76 million to fund insecticide spraying.

But the ongoing outbreak is only the latest example of the devastation that crop pests can cause - there are tens of thousands more that farmers have to contend with, from diseases and fungi to weeds and insects.

And with such a variety of threats to harvests and yields, there is no silver bullet to protect against losses and damage. Rather, an integrated approach is needed that incorporates all available tools in the toolbox, from better forecasting and monitoring technologies to the controlled spraying of crops with biocontrol products, all supported by stronger partnerships.

Smallholder farmers are on the frontline when a pest outbreak takes hold. A small swarm of desert locusts can eat the equivalent food of 35,000 people per day, for example, while crop losses resulting from the spread of fall armyworm across sub-Saharan Africa are estimated to cost up to \$6.1 billion a year.

Yet while their livelihoods are most at risk,

smallholders can also play a significant part in tackling crop pests like the desert locust.

By giving farmers access to better surveillance technology that enables them to monitor pests and forecast potential outbreaks, infestations can be tracked and managed effectively.

A project in Bangladesh that helps farmers to deal with fall armyworm is one example of how this can be done effectively. Led by the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), the initiative has trained hundreds of farmers and extension agents in identifying, monitoring and tackling infestations using combined approaches.

Yet effective pest management is not the responsibility of farmers alone - nor does it begin in the field. Behind every farmer dealing with a crop pest is a scientist who has supported them by developing better seeds, crop protection methods and scouting apps to identify weeds.

Using either conventional breeding or genetic modification, scientists can develop seeds that produce pest-resistant crops, for example.

CGIAR researchers from the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) developed and released a modified cassava variety in Colombia, bred to be resistant against high whitefly, which outperformed regional varieties without the need for pesticides.

The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) has also developed maize varieties resistant to the stem borer insect for use in West and Central Africa.

And last year, the Nigerian Biosafety Management Agency approved the commercial release of genetically modified cowpea to farmers - a va-



riety resistant to the maruca pod borer, a type of insect.

Better seeds and crop protection products are vital - but we need to do still more.

Some biocontrol pesticides such as Green Muscle and Novacrid have been highly effective in the past if used against locust hopper bands before they congregate into swarms. But they have limited impact once the swarms start to move as well as limited availability and regulatory approval, and a relatively short shelf-life.

Further research into crop protection methods will pave the way for new chemical and biological solutions, which can keep pest outbreaks under control - or prevent them altogether.

But we also need closer collaboration with governments, research institutions, universities, donors and investors, and - crucially - farmers to address the challenges of pest infestations, and lessen their impact on food systems.

Collaboration is central to IITA's Biorisk Management Facility (BIMAF), a partnership established around the need for better coordination between researchers, civil society, farming communities, and non-governmental, public and private organisations.

There is no single, superior way to fight and control agricultural pests like the desert locust - battling them on all fronts is our best hope. Of course, prevention is the ultimate goal, and it is

achievable. But stopping an outbreak in its tracks requires a huge amount of coordination and sustained financial support.

We must work together to develop new crop protection methods and get them into the hands of those who need them the most. The current locust outbreak - and future pest infestations - will only be defeated with a united front.

**Dr. Nteranya Sanginga is Director General of the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), a CGIAR Research Center**

# Fossil fuel air pollution costs \$8 billion every day - study

By Special Correspondent

EXPOSURE to fossil fuel-generated air pollutants is blamed for some 1.8 billion days of work absences every year, worldwide, resulting in losses of about \$101 billion, the study said.

Global air pollution from burning fossil fuels costs \$8 billion each day, more than 3% of the value of goods and services produced daily, as people fall

sick, miss work and need medical care, according to a report published on Wednesday.

Burning fossil fuels, primarily coal, oil and gas, causes about 4.5 million deaths every year worldwide, more than three times the number of lives lost to road accidents, said the research by Greenpeace Southeast Asia, the Jakarta-based regional arm of the global environmental group.

Calls for reducing the use of fossil fuels have grown around the world since nearly all nations agreed in 2015 to address global warming by trying to limit rising temperatures, and growing devastation caused by extreme weather, storms and wildfires has been widely attributed to climate change.

The economic cost of burning fossil fuels, and the resulting polluted air, is about \$2.9

trillion per year or 3.3% of global gross domestic product, Greenpeace said in its research.

"A phase-out of existing coal, oil and gas infrastructure is not only essential to avoid the worst impacts of global climate change, but it brings major health benefits due to the associated reduction in air pollution," the report said.

Air pollution increases the

risk of stroke, lung cancer and asthma, it said.

Exposure to fossil fuel-generated air pollutants is blamed for some 1.8 billion days of work absences every year around the world, resulting in economic losses of about \$101 billion, it said.

"What we're showing here is that the current situation costs a huge amount of money," Aidan Farrow, an air quality

scientist at Greenpeace International and lead author of the report, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

"Relatively speaking, switching to renewable energy is cheaper than what we're doing at the moment."

Getting hit the hardest with high costs of fossil fuel air pollution are the United States, China and India, at an estimated \$900 billion, \$600 billion

and \$150 billion per year, respectively, the study estimated.

A report last year by the United Nations' International Labour Organization found a projected temperature rise of 1.5C by the end of the century could lead to a 2.2 pc drop in working hours in 2030 - equal to 80 million full-time jobs - due to heat stress. That would cost the global economy \$2.4 trillion, it said.

# Stakeholders' participation in climate change adaptation, quest for sustainable energy vital

By Gerald Kitabu

ENVIRONMENT and energy stakeholders have called on the government to give priority all issues of climate change adaptation, mitigation, sustainable energy and ensure concrete actions and desired fruits happen at local level.

The stakeholders also said that policy and decision makers should prepare good policies and provide good budget to address the existing barriers and gaps to create enabling and conducive environment for sustainable energy investments.

The call was made at a meeting on sustainable energy and international climate related processes and agreement organized by Tanzania Traditional Energy Development Organisation (TaTEDO) in Dar es Salaam recently.

Executive Director for TaTEDO Estomiah Sawe advised that the government should be more committed and take leadership to ensure that issues related to sustainable energy, climate action, are mainstreamed, harmonized in the policies and implemented fruitfully especially at local level.

"I acknowledge government efforts and resources being put on these issues but we need to see more efforts by decision and policy makers and other practitioners. They should understand that issues of climate change, sustainable energy are key therefore, they should translate them into actual actions on the ground so that ordinary people can benefit from all these sustainable energy and climate action issues," he said.

Executive Director for Catalyst for Social Action and Development Organization (CSADO) Msololo Onditi explained that for all the plans and strategies to work better the government should involve the people at the



grassroots level.

He said that the local communities are key stakeholders to issues related to sustainable energy, climate change and other agreement. Therefore, their participation right from the planning stage is crucial.

"We need to recognize all the local and international processes and agreements. We also need to raise awareness among the local communities so that they can understand what is going on at national and international level and play active role in the implementation stage, he said.

Jensen Shuma from TaTEDO said that energy efficiency requires policy, strategy and on the ground actions.

"Renewable energy in the country

**Executive Director for TaTEDO Estomiah Sawe making a point during a meeting on sustainable energy and international climate related processes and agreement in Dar es Salaam. Photo by Gerald Kitabu**

energy mix is still low although there is development on biomass and solar energy systems but there is underdevelopment in geothermal, wind energy, tidal and waves," he said.

Commenting on future energy requirement, he said the CSOs wish to see that the government is taking the lead and involving all stakeholders in the process of developing and implementation of the sustainable energy for all (SE4All) in order to bring universal access to modern energy services for all people in Tanzania.

He said all citizens of Tanzania both in rural and urban areas have rights to get access

to sustainable modern energy services for their modern social services, such as telecommunication, lighting, TV, radio, faith, education and health. They also need energy for their business and productive activities such as production, processing and selling. The energy is also needed for security such as lights and alarms.

There is a need to support energy technological development, transfer and dissemination including developing decentralized systems for rural energy. Development Partners should commit more financial resources to scale up access to

modern energy services for both grid and off-grid areas. Need for renewed political will and commitment for funding agencies including that of the rest of the international aid agencies, if the energy access poverty is to be addressed.

Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) is an international initiative for governments, the private sector and civil societies to drive further, faster action towards achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG7). The SE4ALL will help mobilize achievement by 2030, the following outcomes namely universal energy access, doubling energy efficiency, and doubling the use of renewable energy in the global energy mix. It was formally launched as an initiative in September 2011 and is headquartered in Vienna, Austria. The initiative is both an opportunity and a challenge for Tanzania and Africa.

However, Mary Swai from TaTEDO said since Tanzania joined the SE4ALL initiative in 2012 it is now about eight years ago, yet minimal progress has been recorded on actual implementation of its action agenda and investment prospectus of 2015.

Currently, the population of Tanzania with access to or using modern cooking solutions is about 2 percent which is still very low. We are very unlikely to achieve the SE4ALL targets of more than 75 percent of population with access to clean cooking solutions by 2030 if no concerted efforts will be undertaken.

"Implementation of sustainable energy for all (SE4ALL) in Tanzania is hindered by a number of barriers and gaps most of them related to policy and regulatory frameworks, institutional matters, technical and business capacity, investment and financing, socio-economic

issues, information and knowledge gap," she said.

To accelerate implementation of SE4ALL in Tanzania, we call upon the policy and decision makers to address the existing barriers and gaps to ensure an enabling and conducive environment for sustainable energy investments.

Explaining about global warming of 1.5, IPCC Special Report 2018 and the current situation, Executive Director for ForumCC, Rebecca Muna explained that since pre-industrial times, human activities have caused approximately 1.0°C of global warming. Already the consequences for people, nature and livelihoods are conspicuously 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

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.

# An ambitious year for climate action is a big year for women's empowerment

SEOUL, South Korea

THIS year, the Paris Agreement's effectiveness as a global response to the climate crisis is being tested as governments are preparing to submit more ambitious national targets for mitigation and adaptation.

The combined ambitions of these targets should match the urgency to strengthening resilience and limiting the disastrous climate change impacts around the world.

The Paris Agreement aims to keep global warming well below 2°C and closer to 1.5°C compared with pre-industrial levels. This means reaching a peak in global emissions shortly and achieving climate neutrality by 2050, in other words target Net Zero Emissions by 2050.

Achieving this requires stepping up immediate actions that follow new models of

economic growth and development that shift policies and investments towards low-carbon, green growth solutions.

Promotion of poverty alleviation, gender equality and social inclusion is embedded in GGGI's support to our member countries in this transition. This is in recognition that achievement of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for the Paris Agreement must align with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) priorities.

Mounting evidence shows that gender equality is an accelerator of development and of climate action, and GGGI suggests two key priorities for International Women's Day 2020.

First, increased investments in climate change adaptation are essential for livelihoods, food security and disaster risk reduction, particularly to benefit women and

girls, who are disproportionately impacted by climate change.

Second, "A Just Transition" is needed, particularly in renewable energy, to ensure enhanced opportunities world over for women to participate in decision-making and the economy.

## Women and girls are more vulnerable to the Climate Crisis

The climate crisis impacts men and women differently and given their different roles in society. In the most climate vulnerable communities, women's work and activities tend to be dependent on natural resources, and climate change results in more effort and time required to collect water, firewood, and secure food for the household.

Lack of access to sustainable energy services and productive assets and financial



Brazilian women have been making headway in traditionally male-dominated areas. Construction workers in Rio de Janeiro. File photo

resources are key barriers to the ability of communities to adapt to a changing climate. With limited roles in community and household decision-making, and with lesser access to services and resources globally, women are further disadvantaged.

A study by McKinsey estimates that although women constitute 50% of the global population, they contribute only 37% to the global (formal) economy. Only 24.5% of the world's parliamentarians are women.

And, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), only 15% of the world's landowners are female. Therefore, GGGI is working to make climate action work to accelerate gender equality by promoting gender-responsive plans, policies, technologies and investments.

In Myanmar's Ayeyarwady Delta, mangrove forests are essential to people's lives and livelihoods. The Cyclone Nargis that hit the Delta in 2008 claimed more than 130,000 lives.

Consistent with a tragic global disaster pattern, 61% of those dead were female with the number much higher in some villages according to a 2014 post-disaster assessment undertaken by the Government of Myanmar and partners. This illustrates the gendered nature of climate disasters.

A UNWOMEN and UNDP review of evidence highlights how integrated approaches to political and economic empowerment are needed to support women participation and leadership in climate action, which in turns enhances their resilience. In the context of the Myanmar Delta, mangrove conservation is an essential response to the climate crisis.

GGGI is incorporating these gender perspectives into its work with the government on developing the case for community-led forest management, to

safeguard men and women's equal leadership and sustainable access to forest resources. In parallel, investments in fishery value chains could have significant positive impacts on rural women's livelihoods through access to finance, technology and markets.

## Women have untapped potential in the transition to renewable energy

A transition to renewable energy is essential to fight the climate crisis. About three-quarters of the first generation of NDCs made reference to renewable energy, and this focus is likely to increase as governments submit more ambitious targets and as the price of renewable energy has come down significantly in the last 5 years since the first generation of NDCs was prepared.

This shift requires a "just transition", i.e. support for those who lose their jobs in the brown economy in the shift towards a green economy, to ensure a broad-based political will and public support for driving decarbonization of the economy. GGGI has assessed the potential for green job creation in Mexico, Indonesia and Rwanda as a result of the switch to renewable energy in the NDCs of these countries, and found that considerable employment and economic opportunities can be created.

For example, achieving Mexico's renewable energy targets under the NDCs would create 370,000 additional jobs compared to the business-as-usual scenario. While the number of green jobs gained will likely outpace the numbers of brown jobs lost, those losing their brown jobs are not the same people as those gaining new green jobs, and therefore a just transition is key.

Agencies

## THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD =067=

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

9 letters: CHALLENGE, AUSTRALIA, CHEAPJACK  
COWARDICE

7 letters: RAPTURE

6 letters: CHANCE, ANSWER

5 letters: HALOS

4 letters: LOAD, KALE

3 letters: EAR, ERA, ETA, LUO, ODD, BED

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

CROSSWORD

CLUES: ACROSS

- Anarchy (8)
- Santiago is her main city (5)
- Largest country in Africa (7)
- Crime (3)
- Give money (6)
- Jewish State (6)
- Unassisted vision (5,4)
- Canard, cheat (4)
- People living near to another (10)
- Achiever (4)
- (5)
- Firm, fixed (6)
- Covered with long soft hairs (6)
- Originally called (3)
- Old fashioned word for galaxy (6)
- Agree (3)
- stiff hair-like structure (4)

CLUES: DOWN

- Islamic canonical law (7)
- Native of Algeria (8)
- Heavy load (6)
- Exclamation expressing surprise (4)
- Catalogue (4)
- Commit to paper (3)
- Mammal of the dog family (5)
- Feudal lord (5)
- Big, bulky (5)
- Residence of an ambassador (7)
- Avoid (5)
- African clawed toad (7)
- Soft flexible leather for bookbinding (4)
- Jewish ritual service (5)
- Insufficient (5)
- Cereal (3)
- Longest river in Africa (4)
- Pour down (4) 30 Money of Latvia (3)

Comments: 0789 43 73 09

## BUSINESS

## CONCERN

## Liquor traders warn new taxes will cut revenues

## NAIROBI

Beer and spirits manufacturers have raised the alarm over possible increased in taxes saying it will hit sales and State revenues while hurting the fight against illicit brews.

The manufacturers through their lobby, the Alcohol Beverages Association of Kenya (ABAK), say persistent tax hikes leave legitimate players in the industry facing uncertainty in their investments and business planning. The ABAK alert comes as Kenya enters the final stretch of budget making amid fears the government will target alcohol and cigarettes, the main sources of 'sin' taxes, to drive excise tax revenue.

"Our industry is facing tough times on the back of persistent increase in excise tax. The government will have to think very hard about broadening the tax band, rather than ruining gains made in our industry over the years," said Gordon Mutugi, ABAK Chairman. ABAK noted that a study it commissioned last year showed that increasing the price of legitimate alcohol has been shown to push drinkers to illicit brews,

and deny state taxes.

"Volumes for a number of excisable goods have been on the decline resulting in lower excise collections," said the lobby. The government raised excise duty on alcohol by 5.17 percent from last July raised the tax charged on wines and whisky by up 25 percent.

In 2018, the excise duty was raised by 5.2 percent, underlining Kenya's position of having one of the highest rates of tax on beer on the continent. Close to half of Tusker's recommended retail price goes to the taxman. "There's sufficient evidence to demonstrate that optimum benefits can only be derived when our products are taxed only to some point," EABL Loading... group CEO Andrew Cowan said earlier.

EABL reported a 1 percent decline in sales of bottled beer such as Tusker in a soft economy that has delivered job cuts and stagnant wages, hurting consumers' purchasing power. ABAK is now encouraging bar owners to sell drinks at lower recommended prices to protect sales and stop the flow of drinkers to illicit drinks.



Gordon Mutugi, ABAK Chairman

## INSPIRATIONAL

## From failing matriculation exam to becoming famous commercial agricultural businesswoman at 25

## CAPE TOWN

For 25-year-old commercial agricultural businesswoman Siphesihle Kwetana, entering the agriculture industry seemed both far-fetched and unattainable when she didn't pass her matric exams.

Born in Cofimvaba, Eastern Cape, Siphesihle didn't have any intention of starting her own business in agriculture, but a chance encounter and hard work put the wheels of destiny in motion. Speaking to DRUM, Siphesihle tells her story of success.

"After I failed matric, I told myself I couldn't just sit at home doing nothing. I opened a small restaurant where I also cooked, and that is when I noticed a lack of vegetables at our local supermarkets. I always bought my vegetables from there and if they didn't have stock, this meant I wasn't able to cook."

When she spoke to the owners of these supermarkets, she was told that it wasn't easy for them to always have stock. What stuck with her was the fact that they had to get the vegetables from other provinces, which cost more and took longer.

"That was the first time the idea of being involved in agriculture came to mind," Kwetana explains. Little did she know, that would be the beginning of her struggles as a young woman in an industry that is dominated by old - and usually white - men.

"You need to understand that I was about to enter a space that didn't welcome people like myself. I was undermined by big corporate companies because I was young, and I didn't have a registered company yet. I was 19 years old at the time," she says.

"These corporate companies weren't looking for local farmers and all of them told me I would not be able to meet their demands. I knew that if I was given the opportunity, I would be able to meet those demands but at the time, I wasn't."

"After my unsuccessful attempts, I decided to send my husband and only then did some places accept what I had to offer," she explains. The following year, in 2014, Siphesihle started the Siphesihle Development and Capacitation



South African agri-businesswoman Siphesihle Kwetana.

Agency, which she co-owns with her husband. This would later help her with supplying local supermarkets with vegetables and help with receiving recognition.

"The work I do with my company has led me to receiving many awards. Although I haven't received my prize money from a lot of these departments, I have managed to build my foundation with the money that I have made."

"I fixed the broken pumps that were going to be a factor in hindering the growth of the company. I extended my

workers' houses and built spaces for those who lived far, closer to the farm. Before I was able to build my offices on my farm, I was renting an office space in town."

Even though she now has 20 employees, owns two farms in Mthatha and grows crops for the likes of Pick n Pay and Food Lover's Market in four towns, Siphesihle still has bigger plans. "I would like to start my own nursery. I have already made a start, with having three tunnels. I just need funding to finish it off. We, agriculturalists, work

with time. It is easier to have everything of yours in one place in order to make the distribution process faster," the business owner says.

Having achieved so much at such a young age, Siphesihle wants people to know that it isn't easy, especially for young women like her, to take up space historically not meant for them. "You need to trust yourself if you want to make it in this field of work. You need to tell yourself that everything is going to work out no matter how many times you're told it's not going to."

## LAGOS

Much can be said about the budding tech scene in Africa, with many startups founded within the last decade making big wins in the industry. However, in the midst of the hype, there is a distinct lack of local talent that is being nurtured and brought into the businesses, with many founders opting to import expensive expatriates.

This strategy is not just inefficient for startups in the longer term, but also for African economies. One serial entrepreneur who has established a number of successful businesses (including Africa's biggest hotel booking platform Hotels.ng) whilst training up the next generation of African tech leaders is Mark Essien.

## Early beginnings

Essien was born in Nigeria to business-minded parents who owned a number of schools and was a high school student during the tumultuous military coup in the late nineties. He went on to graduate and accepted an offer at a German university. Unsurprisingly, with Germany being one of the world's most innovative countries, he quickly recognised the rise in demand for digital products during the 'dot com' era. He became fascinated and, although he did not own a computer at the time, his older sister, who was also based in Germany, allowed him to use her own, along with her dial-up internet.

Essien was soon hooked on everything internet-related and invested all of his spare time into trying to understand it. After mastering the basics, he purchased some visual basic software and learned how to develop software. His first idea was a file sharing service (similar to Napster) called Gnumm, a platform that would go a step beyond peer-to-peer sharing by allowing individuals to share data via multiple net-

## ENTERPRISING

## Meet Mark Essien: Entrepreneur from Nigeria transforming the travel industry across Africa

works.

The app soon had many downloads. The app garnered attention and eventually an acquisition proposal from Snoopstar, an augmented reality platform which was part of the Bertelmann group. After the acquisition, he postponed his studies and started working for Bertelmann as part of the software development team.

After a few years at Bertelmann and having experienced a taste of entrepreneurship with Gnumm, Essien now focused on computer programming. He tried his hand at a number of different projects, writing the code himself from his university dorm. At this time, he had returned to Beuth University of Applied Science to complete his degree.

He created a platform named Standard MPEG, which was one of the first MPEG encoder software available for the DirectShow platform. Essien sold his software to a number of notable clients, including Disney and the US military. The income from his endeavours meant he was able to support him-

self financially through his studies, whilst also developing his entrepreneurial flair.

Although Essien has become an expert in building software for PCs, the age of the smartphone had begun and the popularity of the devices had skyrocketed. Smartphones transformed the way we use technology and so, Essien adapted accordingly. Over the next few years, he developed apps for the Apple's App Store with mixed success. The market for apps in Western countries became saturated and so Essien saw an opportunity to take the technology to Africa.

He had researched the start-up climate in the continent and saw that things in South Africa had started to take off. However, the industry in wider Africa was nascent, so he shifted his focus to consumer facing startups. The travel industry in Africa was active but many providers lacked an effective consumer experience, particularly the travel booking process. Essien identified an opportunity to develop an efficient technology solution.

## Establishing Hotels.NG

Essien moved back to Nigeria to build his hotel booking platform. Although Lagos is the commercial capital of Nigeria, he set his sights on the city of Calabar, a popular holiday destination for natives and other Africans. The dense population of hotels in the city provided a large number of potential clients.

He divided his time between developing the website and visiting hotels in order to share his platform with their management. The sign-up responses were positive as the platform was mutually beneficial, given that each hotel could advertise its products and gain new customers. Ultimately, "no hotel wants fewer guests," Essien states.

After signing up the majority of the hotels in the Calabar market, it was time to expand. However, larger cities do not benefit from the same density of hotels and the higher levels of traffic make transportation challenging. Seeking investment, Essien met with a well-known African entrepreneur, Jason Njoku, founder of iROKO



Mark Essien, Founder and CEO of Hotels.NG.

Partners Limited, who, at the time, had started his own investment fund.

Njoku offered him USD 75,000 in seed funding. Given the lean business model and Essien's ability to develop the website himself, the funding was mainly used for recruiting sales agents, who would sign hotels up to the platform. As the business grew, the number of agents increased to 300, many of whom were contacted and hired via Facebook.

Today, Hotels.NG has a team of 150 people, serving hotels and customers across Nigeria, with plans to expand across Africa and to eventually offer the full end-to-end travel experience. The journey has been tough but rewarding for Essien. When asked about the biggest challenges that he has faced so far, he mentions recruitment, as the tech industry in Africa is still in its early stages therefore finding trained talent proved to be difficult.

The problem is compounded by international companies and startups who outsource or hire expatriates to fill their technical roles. Essien was reluctant to adopt this strategy as he is passionate about seeing the African technology ecosystem and economy grow and thrive. With this in mind, he established an initiative to train local developers, some of whom have become some of Hotels.NG strongest employees.

## EXCELLENCE

# LVMH Prize 2020: French-Moroccan label Casablanca shortlisted for fashion award

PARIS

The LVMH prize was launched in 2013 to support young, emerging fashion designers across the globe, and one design talent hailing from the region is in with a shot of winning the award this year.

Charaf Tajer is among eight finalists vying for the big prize, after previously making the cut for the 20-label-strong shortlist last month. The French-Moroccan designer debuted his menswear label, Casablanca, in 2018, with collections rich in bold prints, relaxed lines, fluid silks and sporty silhouettes.

The label, which Tajer described to Vogue in 2018 as "a French brand with a souvenir of Morocco", is produced in both France and Morocco. "Casablanca to me is always a word that sounds like vacation," the 33-year-old added, revealing the brand's name is a nod to the city in which his parents met.

More on the award  
The eminent award, founded by the luxury goods conglomerate that boasts the likes of Louis Vuitton, Dior and Givenchy among its portfolio, offers the winning applicant €300,000 and

a year of mentoring from some of the group's biggest names.

The eight finalists were revealed on Tuesday, March 10, following presentations to the LVMH design jury during Paris Fashion Week, which closed on Tuesday, March 3. Tajer is up against the likes of British menswear designers Priya Ahluwalia and Nicholas Daley, American womenswear designer Peter Do, and eponymous South African womenswear label Sindiso Khumalo. British-Indian designer Supriya Lele, Japanese designer Tomo Koizumi and Emma Chopova and Laura Lowena of London label Chopova Lowena also made the cut.

The final winner of the Fashion Designers prize will be announced on Friday, June 5 in a ceremony held at the Fondation Louis Vuitton headquarters in Paris. A second designer will be awarded the Karl Lagerfeld Prize, named after the late creative director of Chanel, which offers €150,000 as well as a year of mentoring. A graduate prize will also be handed to three fashion school students who completed a degree last year, with each winner handed a €10,000 grant and a year-long internship at a LVMH brand.



Charaf Tajer (L), is behind the label Casablanca, (R), which is known for its bold prints.

The young designers' competition is open to labels from any country who have produced at least two collections and who are aged under 40. While they didn't make the finalists selection, Tehran's Shiva and Shirin Vaqar, the self-taught designers behind the namesake label, were shortlisted last month.

The womenswear brand, which was also shortlisted for the LVMH Prize in 2016, is known for its exaggerated pro-

portions, structured approach and muted colour palette. Previous LVMH Prize winners include 2019's Thebe Magugu, from South Africa, 2015's Simon Porte Jacquemus, from France, the UK's Grace Wales Bonner in 2016, and Japan's Masayuki Ino, who won in 2018.

This year's jury is made up of the likes of Palestinian-Dutch model Gigi Hadid, American model Karlie Kloss, Irish diversity activist Sinead Burke and British

make-up artist Pat McGrath, and is led by LVMH Prize founder Delphine Arnault.

"This year, once more, the semi-finalists impressed us with their creativity and their commitment to creating clothes that are respectful of the environment," Arnault told Vogue on announcing the nominees. "The eight finalists all have in common to be very talented in their respective fields and to aspire to enhance know-how."

## ADJUSTMENTS

## Mitchelle Adagala-the fitness junkie



Mitchelle Adagala.

A while back, a curious teenager was impressed by her mother's fitness lifestyle and decided to follow suit. Today, Mitchelle Adagala is a certified personal trainer and fitness content creator with almost 80,000 followers. The 23-year-old talks all things fitness to BDLife.

### How long have you been working out?

Nine years. I decided to turn it into a career a year ago. I started with home workouts, but I always craved extra challenges. My mum used to go to the gym and she would ask me to join her. That's when my passion and obsession for weightlifting started.

### What was your motivation at the beginning?

My mother and curiosity to see what my body is capable of doing.

### What inspired you to start Thrive Fitness?

It wanted to help people become the best possible versions of themselves both physically and mentally. There's demand for personal training.

### How do you ensure each training is personalised?

I first do assessments, in the form of questions, as well as movement to gauge someone's body.

### What's the one thing you never skip in your workout?

Warm-ups. I do 10-minute cardio exercises to loosen up joints and increase core temperature. That readies me for weightlifting and minimises chances of

injuries.

### What weight exercises do you do and how heavy do you lift in each?

My personal record at the squat rack is 140 kilogrammes (kgs), dead lift is at 130 kgs, leg press at 240 kgs and hip thrust with 110 kgs. I'm working towards hip thrust with 200 kgs.

### What fitness goals do most of your clients seek to achieve?

Improve cardiovascular endurance, agility and speed, weight loss, strength training, weight gain, recovery and rehabilitative training.

### The list is long. What essentials does someone need at home to get the same fitness results as she would at the gym?

Home and gym workouts are not the same due to intensity in training. For a home mini-gym, I'd suggest dumbbells, resistance bands, a pull up rack, skipping rope, mat and a bench. You can cook up a great sweat session with those, and lose weight.

### Who are your fitness idols?

I don't quite have any idols, but I do draw inspiration from Massy Arias (from Dominican Republic) and Simeon Panda

(one of the most influential fitness professionals). I compete against myself and strive to be better than I was yesterday.

### What do you think is the top reason people fail to meet their fitness/weight loss goals?

Relying on motivation to exercise rather than discipline. You won't feel like working out every day but if you're disciplined, you will do it.

### What are the little fitness luxuries you can't live without?

A foam roller for sure! The muscle soreness can get really intense, foam rolling eases it

up immensely. I love it.

### What's one piece of advice most people ask you?

How to stay consistent with training. You don't necessarily have to achieve fitness at the gym. You can take up swimming, cycling, hiking, yoga, karate, whatever interests you, just pursue it with vigour.

### What do you consider a workout heaven?

A fully equipped, clean, hygienic traditional gym. I love training at a traditional gym, functional bodybuilding is my go to!

### A number of people toil in gyms and never lose weight. Is there a secret to losing weight and never regaining it?

Weight loss has everything to do with what you eat. Your top priority should be nutrition. When that's paired with a solid exercise regime, it works. In regards to nutrition, you are required to be at a calorie deficit, which means consuming fewer calories than you require. Find out how much you need from a certified dietitian or nutritionist.

### Do you watch what you eat?

Yes, I do. I practice mindful

eating. That's not to be confused with restrictive eating. I am always aware of how many calories I have consumed by the end of the day, if I have met my macronutrient goals or not and if I'm going to have a treat. I always factor it into my daily calories, so that I don't end up over consuming (calorie surplus) more than my body needs.

### What's your work out regime like?

I train for six days a week. Three days for the upper body and three for the lower body. I use a hypertrophy (increase muscle-size) programme I drafted for myself. A typical training session lasts 60 to 70 minutes. I'm always on the move from 5am to 7pm training clients at the gym.

Monday is leg day with a focus on the quads. Tuesday is upper body with a focus on chest and triceps. Wednesday is leg day again, with a focus on hamstrings. Thursday is upper body again, with a focus on back and biceps. Friday is leg day three, with a focus on glutei. Saturday is my final training day—usually a mixture of core work and high intensity interval training cardio, plyometric and mobility work.

### How important is weightlifting to women?

I've changed my body composition thanks to weightlifting. I started out very petite, but I've stacked up on some mass through lifting weights. My fat to muscle ratio keeps on getting better. I have more muscle mass and less body fat. My metabolism is also at its healthiest. I'm stronger and more confident.

### Current height and weight?

I am 5'7 and 78 kgs.

## COINCIDENCE

## Dettol doesn't yet know if its products are effective against the much-feared coronavirus

JOHANNESBURG

Dettol, a major supplier of soaps, disinfect and cleaning products in South Africa, is unsure whether its products are effective against novel coronavirus. Dettol said as the virus is a new strain of the novel coronavirus never before seen in humans, it has not yet been available for testing with its products.

"We continue to work with our partners to ensure that we have the latest understanding of the virus and will testing our product range once health authorities make the strain available," Dettol said in a statement.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) advises people to wash hands often with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser in a bid to combat the virus. Seven people in South Africa have tested positive for the virus since it was detected locally a week ago. Globally, over 100,000 people have been infected.

It was declared a public health emergency of international concern by the WHO in January, a month after it was detected in Wuhan, China. Since then a number of companies cancelled corporate travel, while global events such as Barcelona's mobile world congress, and creative conference SXSW in Texas, United States, have been cancelled.

Symptoms of the virus include a fever, cough, and shortness of breath and might appear within two to 14 days after exposure. It spreads most commonly through the air by coughing and sneezing, through close personal contact such as touching or shaking hands, and touching an object or surface with the virus on it and then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes before washing your hands.



**"We continue to work with our partners to ensure that we have the latest understanding of the virus and will testing our product range once health authorities make the strain available"**

## INNOVATIVE

## Entrepreneur eyes opportunities in cultural and avian tourism

KIGALI

Christian Ishimwe, a 28-year-old born and bred in Burera decided to pursue his studies in ICT. Upon completing his Bachelor's degree, he did not know that his future lay in a sector that he had never thought about in his entire life: tourism.

"Computer sciences and related electronics were my only interests, I had never learnt that I might venture in the tourism business, but when I came back things changed", Ishimwe told The New Times.

The Youth Connekt Provincial

winner said that after majoring in computer science at Periya University in India, he realized that in his district there were a lot of tourism opportunities like lakes, cultural sites and others, hence deciding to make a business out of them.

"I and other friends who we shared interests then decided to come up with a business idea in September 2017. We came up with Burera Youth community, a team based on promoting cultural tourism and conserving the environment in Burera district. Our region had lakes, forest and other adven-

turous places that are not being exploited," adds the brain behind the initiative.

Ishimwe and his counterparts then presented the project to the district. The project was hailed and he was invited to present it to the Rwanda Development Board in Kigali. From here, he thought that funds are going to be available and will help him in his business. That was not, however, the case. This led them to seek ways to start with their little income with the hope that it would yield something better in the future. They selected

historic sites whereby they tailor packages for local and international tourists. "The roots of Nyabingi heritage center is a historical site that acted as a home of the warrior Rukara rwa Bishingwe, and Itatiro region where we find the footstep of king Ruganzu Ndoli. Additionally, we allow them to travel through Rugezi swamp where there are plenty of types of birds. This is part of a pilgrimage tourism, where you are welcomed into a museum and a special tree of luck called "Igiti cy'ishaba," that girls used to hug at midnight and get husbands in the

next few days," he said.

The initiative looks to have solved a problem of unemployment in the region, which is greatly rampant in the youth. "We help young people who provide freelance services. For instance, whenever a person brings a tourist, he gets the share on each activity paid for", Ishimwe comments. "After that we take tourists in a program of home stay, the citizens benefit from this because the tourists who have stayed in their homes leave them gifts which can even be in form of money."



Christian Ishimwe.

CRISIS

# As China's biggest client, fashion industry in panic as coronavirus threatens

BEIJING

From politics to social justice movements such as #MeToo, #BlackLivesMatter and the pro-choice marches, fashion has often used the runway to make a statement, while politicians take to podiums to address a mudslide of world issues.

In 2019, Prabal Gurung gave us a show titled Who Gets to Be an American? at New York Fashion Week, addressing U.S. immigration laws head-on; while the Gucci Cruise 2020 show observed 22 May 1978 - the date on which abortion became legalised in Italy - in a bid to offer solidarity amid abortion bans.

According to WWD, Alessandro Michele expressed how "women should really be respected and considered as much as men, they should have freedom of choice, even to interrupt a pregnancy, which is the most difficult one." Here is a look at the total confirmed cases of Covid-19 across the world. And at the tail-end of the month that created the #AmINext conversation in South Africa, a Free State designer, Hestie Jacobs gave a nod to #AmINext and #EnoughIsEnough when she had models walk down the runway at Free State Fashion Week with placards in their hands.

The point is, fashion has always reacted and



Young fashion models in Beijing.

made an effort to respond appropriately to some of the social ills of the world. However, the spread of a virus is one literal ill that seems to be out of fashion's delicate hands.

As an industry so dependent on China for production and clients, it's a no-brainer that the outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19) that spread from Wuhan, China in November 2019, would have an impact on fashion.

New York Fashion Week as well as the London FW events, managed to commence successfully uninterrupted despite the fear of coronavirus. This can be attributed to the fact that, as it currently stands, New York State still has no confirmed cases of the virus, but the governor, Governor Cuomo, has reportedly warned that "no one should be surprised when we have positive cases." New York Times reports that the state

has also set aside \$40 million to fight the coronavirus.

With regards to London Fashion Week, South China Morning Post revealed that "involvement of Chinese retailers and media was sharply down at LFW due to travel restrictions imposed because of the COVID-19 virus outbreak," adding the largely known fact that "it was a heavy blow for the industry as China is the world's biggest consumer of luxury fashion goods."

The article also added that "the British Fashion Council deep-cleaned the main London venue, with disinfectant on hand. However, only a few catwalk models wore face masks." During the latter part of this Fall/Winter fashion season, the remaining fashion capitals' fear of catching this deadly virus has intensified.

As confirmed cases of the coronavirus neared 1 000 in Seoul, South Korea, it was announced that Seoul

Fashion Week - scheduled for 17 to 21 March - is cancelled. This is usually a fashion week with street style characterised by trendy masks, which serve the dual function of being style statements as well as protection from dust pollution in the city.

But had Seoul's fashion week resumed this season, these masks would have been an indication of a more grave phenomenon - a pandemic, to be precise - which according to Business of Fashion, reports "the largest number of confirmed cases after mainland China." "Thirty-six labels were slated to showcase their new collections on the runway next month, according to the Seoul Metropolitan Government."

Additionally, "coronavirus fears have already disrupted fashion week events in Milan, where Giorgio Armani cancelled his show and streamed it digitally. In

Bologna, beauty trade show Cosmoprof Worldwide has been postponed until June. A lockdown was imposed on ten North Italian towns on February 23 and over 229 infections and 7 deaths have been reported in the country as of February 25," BoF reported.

Another article published in British Vogue notes that at the time when the mayor of Milan announced that offices and schools would close in response to two deaths from the virus in northern Italy, rumours began to circulate that Linate airport would be shuttered later that evening, heightening the anxieties of the fashion community present in Milan.

The article also anecdotally shares how U.S. fashion editors had opted to hire cars to drive from Milan to Paris rather than risking flights, where the writer also details the visible "signs of unease" at the airport.

This British Vogue article

also detailed various reactions to the coronavirus at Paris and Milan Fashion Week as follows: "At the Lanvin show, held on Wednesday morning, the brand had face masks and hand sanitiser available for guests, as well as backstage for the models and hair and make-up teams," they said.

"It was a similar story later that day, at Dries Van Noten, where suited and booted assistants offered face masks to guests upon arrival, and at Lemaire. "Marine Serre went so far as to put them on her runway, and by Wednesday evening, people had started to post selfies of masks and glamorous rhinestone earring combinations, while the LVMH Prize had decided to cancel its cocktail event, on Thursday 27 February, and Net-A-Porter had cancelled its karaoke event on Friday 28 February. Meanwhile, Milan has postponed its design fair, Salone del Mobile - due

to take place in April - until June."

In the BoF article mentioned earlier, it's also highlighted that "both Shanghai Fashion Week and Beijing's China Fashion Week, originally scheduled for March 26 and 25 respectively, have been postponed," while Rakuten Fashion Week Tokyo also scheduled for next month is yet to make an official announcement.

With South Africa's AFI Fashion Week coming up on 12 to 14 March, we're optimistic it will be business as usual as no coronavirus cases have been reported locally, although Nigeria announced the first confirmed case in sub-Saharan Africa on Friday. Perhaps COVID-19 is the unlikely, yet unfortunate 4IR nudge fashion needs to start reconsidering its ailing fashion week model. Armani has already proven that streaming works.



**ISIDINGO** MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

ITV

<p><b>ITV</b></p> <p><b>MONDAY 09 March</b></p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 Habari 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Soap: Isidingo the need 09:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Jagina rpt 11:30 Igizo rpt: Mtego 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Jungu kuu rpt 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Mjue Zaidi 13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Art and Lifestyle rpt 14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:10 Albu yako rpt 18:15 Mapishi 18:45 Kesho leo 19:00 Afya ya Jamii 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:05 Dakika 45 22:00 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 02:00 DWTV</p> <p><b>TUESDAY 10 March</b></p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 Habari 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 09:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:30 Shamsam za pwani 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Shamsam za pwani 11:20 Kesho leo rpt 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Afya ya jamii rpt 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Kipindi maalum: KTMDA 13:30 Shamba lulu rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza Huru 16:30 Watoto wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:10 Yu wapi 18:15 Mapishi rpt 18:30 Uchumi na biashara 19:00 Jarida la wanawake 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:05 Tanzania yetu 21:35 Chetu ni chetu 22:15 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost</p>	<p>23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 DWTV</p> <p><b>WEDNESDAY 11 March</b></p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:30 Korean drama: The great Queen Seondok 11:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Korean drama: The great Queen Seondok 11:20 Uchumi na biashara rpt 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Dakika 45 14:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt 18:30 Igizo rpt: Dhoruba 19:00 Ijue Sheria 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:00 Albu Yako! Hata wewe? 21:10 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco 21:40 Kipindi Maalum: Watumishi housing 22:15 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 2:00 DWTV</p> <p><b>THURSDAY 12 March</b></p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto Wetu 10:30 Igizo: Mkaguzi 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Igizo: Mkaguzi 11:15 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Watumishi housing rpt 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Ijue Sheria 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Arts &amp; lifestyle rpt 13:30 Tanzania yetu 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Jagina 19:00 Usafiri wako 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari</p>	<p>21:00 Malumbano ya hoja 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 DWTV</p> <p><b>FRIDAY 13 March</b></p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:30 Hawavumi lakini wamo 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo 11:30 Usafiri wako 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Jagina rpt 13:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt 14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 17:30 Ibadu ya kislamu 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mizengwe rpt 18:30 Shamba lulu 19:00 Kipindi Maalum: TMDA 19:30 Isidingo 19:30 Shamsam za pwani 20:00 Habari 21:05 Kipima Joto 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 DWTV</p> <p><b>SATURDAY 14 March</b></p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera 9:00 Watoto wetu 10:00 Mjue Zaidi rpt 10:45 Usafiri wako rpt 11:15 Shamba lulu rpt 11:45 Mapishi rpt 12:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt 12:40 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 14:40 Igizo rpt: Dhoruba 15:15 Igizo: Kibafuta 16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe 16:20 Igizo: Mtego 17:00 Shamsam za Pwani 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Igizo: Dhoruba 19:00 Art and lifestyle 19:25 Jungu Kuu 20:00 Habari 21:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo 22:00 Kipindi maalum: Insta Moja 22:10 Kesho leo rpt 22:40 Isidingo rpt 01:30 DWTV</p> <p><b>SUNDAY 15 March</b></p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera</p>	<p>09:00 Watoto Wetu 10:00 Isidingo 11:40 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt 12:00 Bongo Movie rpt 14:00 Tamasha la Michezo 15:00 Mwangaza 16:00 The Great queen Seondok 16:45 ITV Top 10 17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Matukio ya wiki 19:30 Igizo: Mtego 20:00 Habari 21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Biko 21:10 Mizengwe 21:30 Mjue Zaidi 22:15 Bongo Movie: 23:45 ITV Top 10 00:30 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost</p> <p><b>CAPITAL</b></p> <p><b>Tues 10 March</b></p> <p>06:00 Al Jazeera 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) 09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) 13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa? 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) 16:00 Series rpt: The Secret 16:30 Capchat rpt 17:30 Meza huru 17:30 Innovation rpt 19:00 Innovation 19:30 Jagina rpt 20:00 Series: The Secret 20:45 Telenovela: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa? 21:30 Capital Prime 22:00 Turning the spotlight rpt 22:30 EcoAfrica 23:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p><b>Wed 11 March</b></p> <p>06:00 Al Jazeera 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) 09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) 13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa? 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) 16:00 Series rpt: The Secret 16:30 Culinary delight rpt 17:00 Innovation rpt 17:30 Meza Huru 19:00 Sports Gazette 19:30 Chetu ni chetu 20:00 Series: The Secret 20:45 Telenovela: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa? 21:30 Capital Prime News 22:00 Turning the spotlight rpt 22:30 EcoAfrica 23:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p><b>Thurs 12 March</b></p> <p>06:00 Al Jazeera 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) 09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) 13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa? 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) 16:00 Series rpt: The Secret 16:30 Innovation rpt 17:00 Meza Huru 17:00 The Decor rpt 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 Turning the Spotlight rpt 19:30 Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights 20:00 Korean Drama: Ilijmae 21:00 Shift 21:15 Capchat live 22:15 Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa? 00:00 Al Jazeera</p>	<p>19:00 Turning the spotlight 19:30 Tanzania yetu 20:00 Series: The Secret 20:45 Telenovela: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa? 21:30 Capital Prime News 22:00 Capchat rpt 23:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p><b>Frid 13 March</b></p> <p>06:00 Al Jazeera 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) 09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) 13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa? 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) 16:00 Series rpt: The Secret 16:30 The Monday Agenda 17:30 Meza Huru 19:00 Drive it 19:30 EcoAfrica 20:00 Albu Yako 20:15 Local Pgm: Business Edition 20:45 Telenovela: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa? 21:30 Capital Prime News 22:00 Malumbano ya hoja rpt 00:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p><b>Sat 14 March</b></p> <p>08:00 CNN International 09:00 Drive It rpt 09:30 Turning the Spotlight rpt 10:00 Culinary delight rpt 10:30 Innovation rpt 11:00 Out'n'about rpt 11:30 Sports Gazette rpt 12:00 Usafiri wako rpt 12:30 EcoAfrica rpt 13:00 Business edition rpt 13:30 Korean Drama rpt: Ilijmae 14:00 Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa? 17:15 Tanzania Yetu rpt 17:45 Bundesliga kick off 18:15 Capchat rpt 19:15 Mizengwe 19:30 The Decor 20:00 Korean Drama: Ilijmae 21:00 Out'n'About 21:30 Movie: Fangs 23:00 Series rpt: The Secret 01:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p><b>Sun 15 Mar</b></p> <p>08:00 CNN International 09:00 In good shape 10:00 Capchat rpt 11:00 Sports Gazette rpt 11:30 Korean Drama rpt: Ilijmae 12:00 Jagina rpt 12:30 Bundesliga Kick Off rpt 13:00 In good shape rpt 13:30 Series rpt: The Secret 15:15 Albu yako 15:30 Drive It rpt 16:00 Dakika 45 rpt 16:45 Mizengwe rpt 17:00 The Decor rpt 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 Turning the Spotlight rpt 19:30 Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights 20:00 Korean Drama: Ilijmae 21:00 Shift 21:15 Capchat live 22:15 Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa? 00:00 Al Jazeera</p>
---	---	---	--	--

ALERT

## 'Fruit-flavoured shisha is more dangerous to smokers than unflavoured pipe tobacco'

ABU DHABI

Fruit-flavoured shisha could be more damaging to smokers' health than unflavoured pipe tobacco, new research suggests.

Scientists at UAE University found that mice exposed to apple or strawberry-flavoured shisha underwent harmful biochemical changes not seen in those that breathed unflavoured shisha smoke. Shisha cafes have been shut-down this week across much of the UAE due to fears over coronavirus, with sharing pipes more likely to pass on the virus.

The research findings are the latest piece of evidence revealing the more general health risks associated with smoking shisha, a common pastime in the UAE. Thousands of people across the country indulge in the habit on a daily basis, often opting for popular flavours including mint, orange, cherry or grape.

"Overall, the toxicity of flavoured tobacco WPS (waterpipe) smoking, in particular strawberry-flavoured WPS, was found to be greater than that of unflavoured WPS," the researchers wrote in their paper in Oxidative Medicine and Cellular Longevity.

"The current experimental findings pro-

vide biological plausibility for the harmfulness of flavoured tobacco used in WPS and support calls for interventions to counteract the increase of attractiveness and use of WPS, particularly among young people."

Mice used in the new study were exposed to shisha smoke for 30 minutes per day, five days a week for one month. Tissue samples were analysed biochemically to look for inflammation and "oxidative stress" - the presence of certain highly reactive chemical substances. Oxidative stress and inflammation can result in DNA damage and are associated with an increased cancer risk in smokers.

The researchers found that mice exposed to apple and strawberry-flavoured shisha had higher levels of certain chemicals linked to inflammation than mice exposed to unflavoured shisha. Similarly, flavoured shishas were associated with higher levels of some chemicals linked to oxidative stress.

The same team of scientists, led by Professor Abderrahim Nemmar at UAE University, also recently published a study using mice in the International Journal of Molecular Sciences indicating that apple-flavoured shisha produced greater harmful effects on the heart than unflavoured shisha.



A man smokes a shisha in an Abu Dhabi cafe.

## WORLD

## Xi talks with UN chief, calling for urgent international action against COVID-19

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping on Thursday spoke with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres over phone, urging the international community to take urgent action in the fight against the COVID-19 epidemic.

Xi recalled that since the outbreak of the novel coronavirus disease, Guterres has written to him to extend sympathies and express appreciation of China's prevention and control measures, and has publicly voiced support for China's anti-epidemic efforts on multiple occasions.

The Chinese president conveyed his gratitude to the UN chief, pointing out that as Chinese people often say, a friend in need is a friend indeed.

Thanks to arduous endeavors, China has been witnessing a domestic trend in which the situation of epidemic prevention and control is making sustained progress and the order of life and production is being restored at an increasing pace, Xi said.

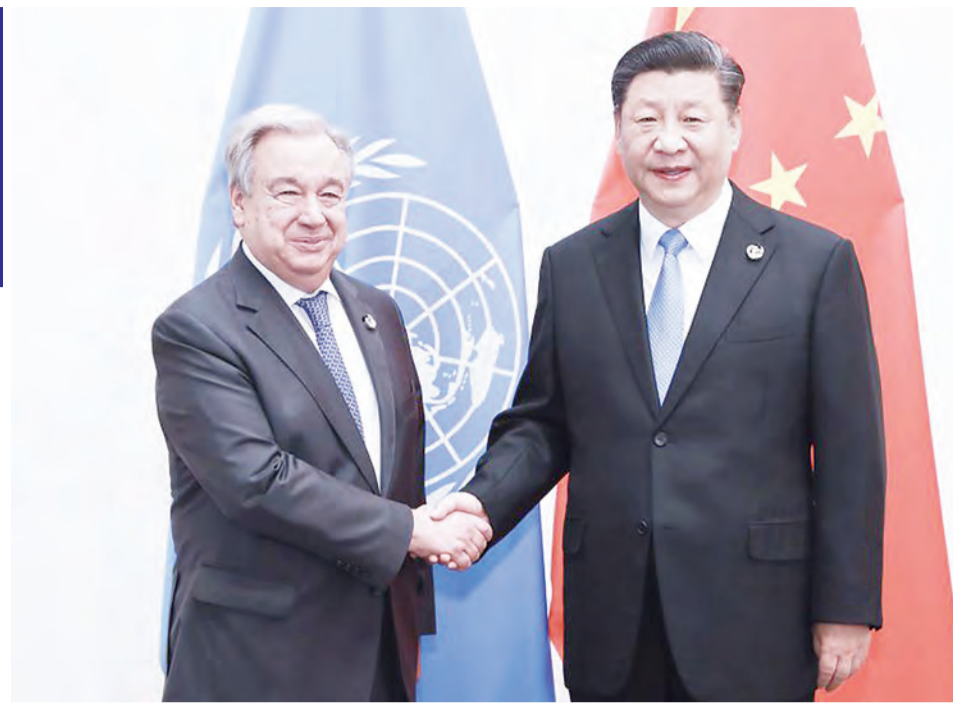
For the next step, he added, China will act as prudently at the end as at the beginning, and carry on its preven-

tion and control efforts in an unremitting, solid and meticulous fashion, and meanwhile earnestly advance all aspects of work in economic and social development. The Chinese people will definitely prevail over the COVID-19 epidemic and will also definitely realize its intended targets for economic and social development, Xi said. "I am fully confident in that."

Xi stressed that the Chinese people's hard work has won precious time for and made important contributions to other countries' epidemic prevention and control.

Noting that with COVID-19 having recently occurred and spread in a number of countries, the situation is worrying, he urged the international community to take urgent action and carry out effective international cooperation in joint prevention and control, so as to form a strong concerted force to beat the disease.

China stands ready to share its experience with other countries, carry out joint research and development on drugs and vaccines, and offer as much assistance as it can to countries where the disease is spreading, Xi said.



Chinese President Xi Jinping (R) meets with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in Osaka, Japan, June 28, 2019. (File photo)

He added that China supports the United Nations and the World Health Organization (WHO) in mobilizing the international community to enhance policy coordination, expand resources input, and particularly help developing countries with poor public health systems prepare themselves for prevention and response.

China, he said, has announced a 20-million-US-dollar donation to the WHO in support of its efforts to organize international actions against the epidemic.

The epidemic has once again demonstrated that mankind is a community with a shared future that shares weal and woe, Xi stressed, adding that in the era of economic globalization, COVID-19 will not be the world's last major emergency, and various traditional and non-traditional security issues will constantly bring about new tests.

The international community has to see humanity as one community with a shared future, look out for one another, and join hands to tackle risks and challenges and build a beautiful planet, said the Chinese president.

Noting that this year marks the 75th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, Xi said China supports the international community in taking that as an opportunity to reaffirm its commitment to multilateralism, and reinforce and

improve the global governance system with the United Nations at the core.

The Chinese side, he added, will continue supporting the work of the world body.

For his part, Guterres said he is very pleased with and congratulates China on the significant decrease of COVID-19 cases in China.

The UN chief said he believes that with firm determination and strong resilience, China will both overcome the epidemic and restore economic order in a rapid manner, which not only serves the interests of the Chinese people, but also represents an important contribution to the world.

The United Nations thanks China for helping countries currently in difficulties to fight against COVID-19, said Guterres, adding that the world body appreciates China's sharing of experience in epidemic prevention and control with developing countries and provision of such valuable assistance as medical supplies, vaccines and medicines.

He said that China's support is crucial to multilateralism, and that the United Nations hopes to further deepen its cooperation with China in climate change, sustainable development and various other fields, and looks forward to China playing an important leading role in international affairs.

Xinhua

## China issues report on human rights violations in US

BEIJING

CHINA yesterday issued a report on the human rights violations in the United States.

According to the report titled The Record of Human Rights Violations in the United States in 2019, the facts detailed in the document show that "in recent years, especially since 2019, the human rights situation in the United States has been poor and deteriorating".

The report was issued by the State Council Information Office based on published data, media reports and research findings.

Consisting of foreword and seven chapters, it detailed facts on human rights violations in the United States relevant to civil and political rights, social and economic rights, discrimination suffered by ethnic minorities, discrimination and violence against women, living conditions of vulnerable groups, and abuses suffered by migrants, as well as US violations of human rights in other countries.

"Deteriorating" situation The human rights situation in the United States has been deteriorating in recent years, according to the report.

It began by citing a quote by US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in a speech on April 15, 2019: "We lied, we cheated, we stole ... It reminds you of the glory of the American experiment."

"The remarks of U.S. politicians have completely exposed their hypocrisy of adopting double standards on human rights issues and us-

ing them to maintain hegemony," reads the report.

The United States has released annual reports to "distort and belittle" human rights situation in countries and regions that did not conform to US strategic interests, but turned a blind eye to the "persistent, systematic and large-scale" human rights violations in its own country, according to the report.

Facts detailed in the report covered a range of topics, including rampant gun violence, money politics, polarization between rich and poor, racial hate crimes, shootings and abuse of African Americans, racial gap in employment and wealth, religious intolerance, discrimination and violence against women, child poverty, poverty among the elderly, and US treatment of immigrants.

## Gun violence

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 in the United States, according to the report. "The United States is a country with the worst gun violence in the world," reads the report. In total, 39,052 people died from gun-related violence in the United States in 2019 and a person is killed with a gun in the United States every 15 minutes, it said. "Politics has led to a proliferation of guns," reads the report.

## Wealth polarization

The gap between the rich and the poor in the United States hit a



A college student takes part in a rally for gun control and anti-racism, in El Paso, Texas, the United States, Aug. 7, 2019. (Xinhua)

50-year high in 2018 as the Gini Index of the country grew to 0.485, according to the report.

The basic trend of widening income gap in the United States is casting negative influences on the enjoyment and realization of human rights, according to the report.

In the United States, "the persistence of extreme poverty is a political choice made by those in power," reads the report, citing Philip G. Alston, United Nations special rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights.

While some 39.7 million people lived in poverty in 2018, the US Congress has refused to raise the federal minimum wage of US\$7.25 per hour for a decade.

Meanwhile, the health gap between the United States and countries with the same level of development continues to widen, as 13.7 percent of US adults were uninsured at the end of 2018, up from 10.9 percent at the end of 2016, according to

report.

## Discrimination

Women in the United States still face systematic, broad and institutional discrimination, with shocking overt and covert gender discrimination in various forms, according to the report.

Women in the United States were 21 times more likely to die by firearm homicide than women in peer nations, it noted, adding that sexual assault cases against women kept increasing.

Separately, the political structure and ideology of white supremacy in the United States have caused ethnic minorities to suffer all-round discrimination in various fields such as politics, economy, culture and social life, according to the report.

As a vestige of slavery and racial segregation, African American adults are 5.9 times more likely to be incarcerated than white adults, according to the report, adding that racial in-

equality in the workplace and people's livelihood have not improved.

Meanwhile, race-related and anti-religious hate crime rates have climbed to a higher level in the United States in recent years, according to the report.

## Vulnerable groups

Tens of millions of US children, elder people, and disabled people live without enough food or clothing, and face threats of violence, bullying, abusing and drugs, according to the report.

The US government not only has insufficient political will to improve the conditions for vulnerable groups, it also keeps cutting relevant funding projects.

While levels of extreme poverty worldwide had dropped dramatically, the poverty ratio of US children was about the same rate as 30 years ago, according to the report.

It also noted that one in four Americans with disabilities faced unique challenges in securing employment and establishing financial security.

## Treatment toward immigrants

Decades of US intervention in its "backyard" Latin America directly led to the worsening of the immigration problems in the Americas, according to the report.

In recent years, the US government had adopted increasingly strict and inhumane measures against immigrants, in particular the "zero-tolerance" policy which caused the separations of many immigrant families, according to the report.

Xinhua

## Ivory Coast leader backs PM Gon Coulibaly in presidential race

ABIDJAN

OUTGOING Ivory Coast President Alassane Ouattara on Thursday named his Prime Minister Amadou Gon Coulibaly as the ruling RHDP party's candidate for the October presidential election.



The nomination of Ouattara's close ally had been widely expected following the president's announcement last week that he would not run in the Oct 31 vote, which is seen as a crucial test of the West African country's stability.

Addressing a large gathering of the RHDP (Rassemblement des Houphouëtistes pour la Démocratie et la Paix), Ouattara said the vast majority of the party supported Gon Coulibaly's candidacy.

"You will be in good hands," he said.

It is not clear whom Gon Coulibaly will run against. Ouattara's two main rivals, Laurent Gbagbo and another former president, Henri Konan Bedie, have not yet said whether they will be candidates.

Ouattara was first elected president of Ivory Coast, the world's leading cocoa producer, in a 2010 election that sparked a brief civil war when his predecessor, Gbagbo, refused to concede defeat. Around 3,000 people died in the violence.

Political tensions have been on the rise again in recent months after the government issued an arrest warrant for Guillaume Soro, a presidential candidate and former rebel leader. His forces swept Ouattara to power in 2011 but he has since fallen out with the president.

Gon Coulibaly has served as prime minister since 2017, before which he was the head Ouattara's presidential administration.

## 'Russia's top brass to test-launch Tsirkon hypersonic missile from submarine'

MOSCOW

RUSSIA plans to test-launch the Tsirkon hypersonic missile from the Project 885 Yasen-class lead submarine Severodvinsk as part of its trials after several launches from the frigate Admiral Gorshkov, a source in the domestic defense industry told TASS on Wednesday.

"As part of the continued state trials of the Tsirkon shipborne missile system, the hypersonic missile's firings are planned from the submerged position from the submarine Severodvinsk," the source said.

The Tsirkon hypersonic missile was initially planned to be test-launched from the improved Project 885M Yasen-M lead submarine Kazan but these plans were revised due to the sub's longer-than-expected trials.

The source did not specify the date of the hypersonic missile's test-launch from the Severodvinsk, noting, however, that "before that, 3-4 firings from the frigate Admiral Gorshkov will be conducted."

## TASS has no official confirmation of this information.

The Tsirkon hypersonic missile was for the first time test-fired from a ship in early January this year. The frigate Admiral Gorshkov test-launched the missile from the Barents Sea to a range of over 500 km against a coastal target.

## Tsirkon hypersonic missile

In early 2011, then-Deputy Defense Minister Vladimir Popovkin announced plans to develop the Tsirkon shipborne system with the hypersonic missile.

According to media reports, the missile's flight tests began in 2015. By late 2018, more than ten test-launches had been conducted, according to the data of a TASS source.

In his State-of-the-Nation Address to the Federal Assembly in February 2019, Russian President Vladimir Putin said that the work on the Tsirkon hypersonic missile was proceeding as scheduled.

As the Russian leader said, the Tsirkon is capable of developing a speed of Mach 9 and its striking range capability can exceed 1,000 km.

The Russian leader also said that the Tsirkon could strike both naval and ground targets. Putin specified at the time that there were plans to deploy Tsirkon on serial-produced surface ships and submarines, including the warships built or under construction for Kalibr cruise missiles.

Russian Deputy Defense Minister Alexei Krivoruchko said in November 2019 that there were plans to deploy Tsirkon missiles on the frigate Marshal Shaposhnikov currently undergoing modernization and on the Project 949A multi-purpose nuclear-powered submarine Irkutsk. In December 2019,

Head of Russia's United Shipbuilding Corporation Alexei Rakhmanov said that it would be possible to deploy Tsirkon hypersonic missiles on all Russian ships of new Projects.

The ZS-14 universal shipborne launching system is used for Tsirkon missile launches.

These launchers are installed, in particular, on Project 22350 frigates, Project 20380 corvettes and on Yasen-class multipurpose submarines.

Agencies

## HIV cure of 'London Patient' offers hope to millions

LONDON

DOCTORS in the United Kingdom say a man from London has become the second person in the world to be cured of the HIV virus.

The man, Adam Castillejo, who is being called the "London Patient", has made his identity known because he wants other people to be inspired by what happened to him.

His case was described in the medical journal Lancet HIV on Tuesday.

Researchers said that, 30 months after stopping antiretroviral drugs that suppress HIV and 46 months after cru-

cial stem cell treatment, he remains in remission.

Castillejo (pictured) told The New York Times he is in a "unique position ... a unique and very humbling position".

"I want to be an ambassador of hope," he said. "I don't want people to think, 'Oh, you've been chosen' ... I was in the right place, probably at the right time, when it happened."

Doctors explained that Castillejo was not cured by HIV medicine but because of stemcell treatment he was given to treat lymphoma cancer.



The donors of the stem cells he was given had a rare gene that protects them from HIV and Castillejo subsequently developed that protection, which led to a reduction in his HIV levels until none could be detected.

Professor Ravindra Kumar Gupta, from the University of Cambridge, the project's lead researcher, told BBC News: "This represents HIV cure with almost certainty. We have now had two and a half years with anti-retroviral-free remission."

Gupta said Castillejo's case was similar to that of Timothy Ray Brown, who

became known as the "Berlin Patient" in 2011 when doctors revealed that, after undergoing similar treatment three and a half years earlier, he was HIV free.

He said their findings show that the success of stemcell transplantation as a cure for HIV can be replicated. But he added that the treatment is too invasive and expensive to be offered as a cure to the 37.9 million people worldwide reported by UNAids as living with HIV.

"It is important to note that this curative treatment is highrisk and only

used as a last resort for patients with HIV who also have lifethreatening hematological malignancies," Gupta said.

However, doctors hope the breakthrough will help in the development of gene therapy that could cure HIV.

Rowena Johnston, vicepresident and director of research at the Foundation for AIDS Research, said: "I'm not saying that's happening tomorrow. But it gives you the sense that it might be worth putting in the effort to see if we can develop the technologies to make that happen."

Agencies





Workers check machines at a workshop of Ningbo Jieli Cosmetical Package company in Yuyao, east China's Zhejiang Province, Feb. 25, 2020. Enterprises in the city have smoothly restarted production, making the most of intelligent equipment such as automated production lines and intelligent robots. Photo People's Daily Online

## China confident to achieve successful resumption of production amid epidemic

CHINA is implementing targeted policies and taking solid actions to minimize the economic impact from the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) epidemic, with a dual approach of ensuring both epidemic prevention and work resumption.

China and the world are closely related, so the country will fulfill its responsibility of safeguarding global public health security, and stick to its original intention of contributing to global economic growth through its own development.

"At such a time it is even more important to view China's development in a comprehensive, dialectical and long-term perspective, and to strengthen and firm up confidence." The important speech delivered by Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee at a meeting to advance the work on coordinating the prevention and control of the COVID-19 and economic and social development in Beijing has demonstrated China's confidence to meet its goals for social and economic development.

Economy is a dynamic and circulating system that can't withstand long-term stoppage. The Chinese people are fighting day and night to mitigate the losses caused by the epidemic.

The governments have mobilized regions at different levels of risks to take differentiated prevention and control measures, smoothed the flow of labor and logistics, and lifted restriction on transportation of cargos.

The enterprises have taken innovative measures to resume production and work, such as chartering airplanes and high-speed trains to take employees back to work. In the meantime, farmers across the country are also busy ploughing and preparing for farm works.

The epidemic won't destroy the Chinese economy. International observers believe that as labor, raw materials, and export of products are guaranteed, China's economy will certainly go back to normal at an early date. International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said that she expects China's economy to "return to normal in the second quarter" of 2020.

Stephen Roach, a senior fellow at Yale University's Jackson Institute of Global Affairs, said as the epidemic is gradually controlled, China's economy may bounce back in the future, adding that "I'm still very optimistic

on the prospects for the Chinese economy."

In the era of economic globalization, countries are linked with and dependent on one another, and have emerged as a community with a shared future and common interests. Numerous facts have proved that the world will do well only when China does well.

According to a Morgan Stanley analyst, in recent days, investors have been seeking to track China's resumption of production, which indicates keen attention paid by the international market.

China is striving to deepen opening up and international cooperation, and strengthen communication and coordination with its economic and trade partners.

The country gives priority to guaranteeing production and supply resumption of leading companies and key links in an effort to maintain stability of the global supply chain, demonstrating a sense of responsibility of a major country for global development.

The impact of the epidemic on China's economy is short-lived, if observed in a comprehensive, dialectical and long-term perspective. China's economy is resilient; the domestic demand is large; and the industrial foundation is solid, which indicates that the fundamentals sustaining sound economic growth have not changed.

China is the world's second largest economy, largest manufacturing country, and an important hub of the global supply chain. It is also the world's largest trader of goods, second largest destination of foreign capital inflow and second-largest recipient of foreign direct investment.

China's per capita GDP has reached \$10,000, and the number of middle-income earners in the country has exceeded 400 million. It is the world's fastest-growing consumer market.

Recently, multiple foreign manufacturing companies have restarted production and work in China, including Tesla, BMW, Toyota, Samsung, Airbus, and Honeywell, and some foreign-funded companies have signed contracts to enter the Chinese market on the internet.

This fully shows that China's comprehensive competitive advantage in attracting foreign investment has not changed, and foreign investors' confidence in China and their investment strategies have not changed.

People's Daily

## All regions support constitutional amendments bill

MOSCOW

PARLIAMENTS of all the 85 regions of Russia support the constitutional amendments bill, parliamentary voting results indicate. The required minimum of 57 subjects, which allows sending the bill to the Constitutional Court for review, was reached yesterday.

By now, the bill has been endorsed by all the entities. On Fri-

day, Kamchatka, Yamalo-Nenets and Tuva regions reviewed the proposed amendments. Agygea region was the last one to approve the bill with 45 votes in its favor and two abstentions.

"The fact that [Russian] top officials would be appointed not only by the President but also by lawmakers, [...] would better balance the legislative and the executive powers, and increase effectiveness of their inter-

action," says Asker Savv, Adygea Parliament deputy speaker.

On March 11, the Federation Council (upper house) passed the constitutional amendments bill. It extends powers of the Parliament, imposes limitations for top candidates, and stipulates a limit of two presidential terms. However, the incumbent president will be allowed to run again after the amendment comes into force.

Agencies



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

## Abe tells Trump Japan prepping for Tokyo Olympics as planned

By Bloomberg

JAPAN'S government brushed off US President Donald Trump's suggestion to delay the Tokyo Olympics by one year due to the deadly coronavirus, saying it's pressing ahead to start the Games as planned this summer.

Olympics Minister Seiko Hashimoto and Japan's top government spokesman Yoshihide Suga both said yesterday, hours after Trump made the recommendation, there were no changes to the plan to stage the event starting July 24, even as the coronavirus death toll rises worldwide and major sporting events are shutting down or putting play on hold.

"I would say maybe they postpone it for a year," Trump told reporters when asked his opinion on the arrangements for the event. "I like that better than having empty stadiums all over the place."

Trump spoke for 50 minutes with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe about the Olympics, the virus and the economy on Friday Tokyo time, Suga told reporters. During the call, Trump didn't bring up his suggestion to delay the Games. Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Naoki Okada told reporters.

Abe told Trump that Japan intended to continue with its plans to host the Games, scheduled from July 24 to Aug 9, with the Paralympic Games scheduled from Aug 25 to Sept 6, Xinhua News Agency reported.

Trump had said earlier he did not plan to make a direct proposal that the Games be delayed when he spoke with Abe.

Nevertheless, there's growing concern that the pandemic sweeping the globe might force the first cancellation of an Olympic Games since World War Two. Major sports including NBA basketball, European soccer and even Japan's sumo have either called off competition or barred spectators from venues to stem the spread of the virus.

The International Olympic Committee and host nation Japan are holding the line that the Tokyo Games will begin as planned.

Hashimoto, told reporters she was aware of Trump's comments but the plan remained to hold the Games from July. "The government will step up its efforts, in close cooperation with the IOC and the Organizing Committee, to enable the preparations to go ahead to stage the games as planned."

She said the idea of reducing the number of spectators at the event was not under consideration.

Xinhua

## Debate offers Biden, Sanders a chance to bridge Democratic Party's divide

WASHINGTON

AFTER all the rancor of the Democratic presidential race, front-runner Joe Biden has a chance in Sunday's debate to extend an olive branch to rival Bernie Sanders and his fervent liberal supporters in a bid for party unity before the general election fight.

Biden and Sanders will square off in what may be the final debate of the Democratic nominating contest. Biden leads Sanders in delegates after a string of primary victories, and next week's nominating contests could put the former vice president on a nearly unstoppable path to the nomination.

The centrist Biden may now be in a position to try to find common ground with Sanders, a democratic socialist, a move that could help mend the fissure in the party between moderates and progressives, Democratic Party veterans say.

"Sunday's debate could be an important step to heal and strengthen the party," said Hari Sevugan, recently a top aide to former presidential candidate Pete Buttigieg. "A measured, respectful conversation could go a long way."

The winner of the Democratic primary contest will face Republican President Donald Trump in the Nov. 3 election.

Biden is not prone to conflict with fellow Democrats. The question remains whether the pugnacious Sanders, a U.S. senator from Vermont, would follow suit or keep trying to draw a clear contrast between the two candidates.

Some Democrats say lingering tensions between Sanders and rival Hillary Clinton in 2016 played a role in her upset loss to Trump.

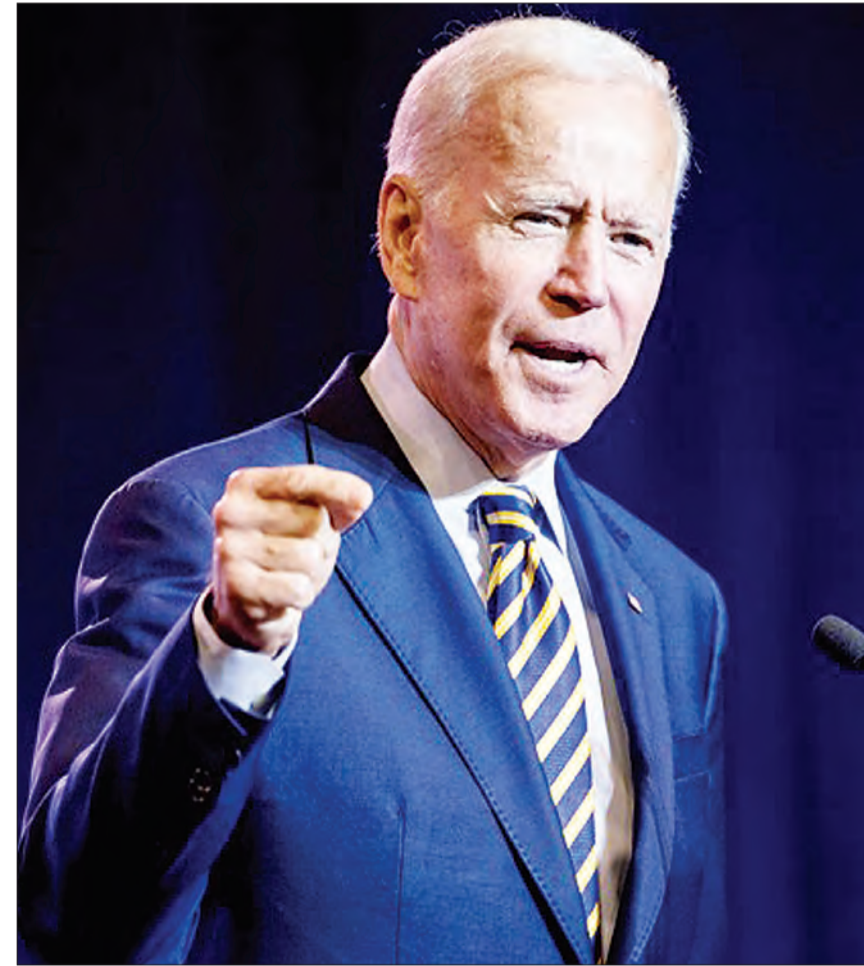
After being routed by Biden in Michigan and other primaries on Tuesday, Sanders seemed to signal he was less interested in attacking Biden personally and more intent on pushing him to address issues such as universal healthcare coverage, college affordability, climate change and poverty.

The coronavirus pandemic will likely add a level of solemnity to the debate, which may also minimize conflict between the two, strategists said. The debate was moved to Washington from Arizona and will have no live audience due to concerns about the outbreak.

For Biden, the challenge may be figuring out how to thread the needle of expressing support for Sanders' efforts without aligning himself with his policies.

Biden can say that "while they share the same goals, they differ on the prescription," Sevugan said.

'AN OPEN HAND'



Joe Biden

Biden's team is under pressure from allies of Sanders and Senator Elizabeth Warren, another former presidential candidate, to adopt policies popular with progressives such as a wealth tax, a stepped-up estate tax and an equal-pay plan, according to several strategists familiar with the conversations.

A wealth tax "one, is supported by both Senators Sanders and Warren and two, speaks to the fundamentals of who the Democratic Party should be making clear they fight for," said a Democratic strategist who was close to Warren's campaign.

A similar dynamic played out between Sanders and Clinton in the 2016 primary, when Sanders said he would not drop out even after it became clear she would be the nominee.

The progressive wing of the party then successfully pushed for the addition of policies, including a \$15-an-hour minimum wage, to the party's convention platform. Sanders ultimately endorsed her.

Brian Fallon, Clinton's spokesman in 2016, said that while Sanders' supporters were unlikely to be "fully transferrable" to Biden, Biden's team must work to earn the support of as many as possible to avoid the narrow loss Clinton suffered.

"It begins with rhetorically stretching out an open hand," Fallon said.

Biden has been resistant to Sanders' Medicare for All plan, which

would replace private health insurance, arguing it is too costly and that many Americans prefer to keep their current insurance.

Wendell Potter, a former healthcare executive who now works as an advocate for a government-run plan, said Biden must at least concede "the problems of our healthcare system are more severe than he's acknowledging."

Exit polls of Democratic voters from recent primaries showed strong support for Medicare for All.

Earlier this week, Biden praised the passion of Sanders and his supporters and promised to deliver a "bold, progressive vision to the American people."

But his campaign has yet to indicate it would be inclined to embrace any of Sanders' signature proposals. Biden's agenda in its current form would already make him the most progressive Democrat in history if elected, a campaign aide said.

Matt Bennett, a vice president for Third Way, a Democratic think tank that advocates for centrist policies, said Biden could not afford to break leftward after moderates in the party coalesced around him.

"The guy who comes in second doesn't get concessions," Bennett said. "The problem with Bernie is that his ideas are so huge, they are sinking his campaign. Biden can't take those on."

Agencies

# Chinese overseas projects keep forging ahead amid epidemic

CHINESE enterprises are now making all-out efforts to maintain production and construction overseas, so as to ensure the stability and unobstructed operation of global industrial and supply chains, and guarantee the smooth continuation of their overseas projects amid the outbreak of the novel coronavirus.

As a vital link on the global supply and production chains, Chinese enterprises have contracted a significant number of overseas projects - 506 contracts with a value of over \$100 million each were inked in 2019 alone.

A comprehensive plan of epidemic prevention was formulated by the project team of a China-constructed wind-power

station in Zhanatas, Kazakhstan immediately after the onset of the epidemic.

The project established an epidemic prevention group, and maintained close communication with the Chinese Embassy. The project team has never delayed its construction while strictly implementing prevention and control measures.

Some 130 employees work for this project constructed by Power Construction Corporation of China, and over half of them are Kazakhs. During the construction, local customs have been strictly followed.

To keep to the construction schedule, the project worked non-stop during the Chinese Spring Festival in late January, and each task has been carried

out in an orderly manner. All staff of the project are forging ahead in freezing weathers for an early operation of the plant.

In Pakistan, 896 constructors from China and 4,370 from local communities have also been keeping machines running at the construction site of the Karot Hydropower Plant during the Chinese New Year holiday, so as to ensure flood control in the high-water season and early impoundment.

As a priority project of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the Karot Hydropower Plant, upon completion, is expected to become a reliable source of energy for Pakistan's economic and social development and generate around 3.2 billion kilowatt-hours of clean

electricity on an annual basis.

Peng Huangang, secretary-general of the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council, noted that China's centrally-administered state-owned enterprises (SOEs) have a huge workforce of local and international employees for the overseas projects they contracted.

By leveraging local and third-party manpower, they have ensured reasonable allocation of resources and orderly implementation of projects in different countries, Peng added.

In the face of the current health crisis, overseas projects of Chinese enterprises have all taken actions to make sure that every employee is protected by their efforts of epidemic control

and prevention.

Meanwhile, they have also urged their employees to go through strict screenings and exams before heading to overseas project sites.

As early as Jan. 20, the coal-fired power plant project in Java, Indonesia operated by Guohua Power under China Energy Investment Corporation convened an emergency meeting on epidemic prevention and control.

It requested thorough disinfection and regular ventilation at offices, control rooms, staff quarter, cafeteria and the activity center, and adjusted the timetable of meal-serving to avoid cross-infection.

Besides, it introduced strict regulation to reduce in-person

meetings, recommending employees to conduct meetings online or over the phone as much as possible.

In order to ensure zero infection, the project has implemented strict regulation on the travel of staff. Those still in China are required to postpone their trips back to Indonesia, while no application for vacation or business trip to China will be approved until the official announcement of the end of the epidemic.

In addition, the plant is currently on closed-off management, under which all personnel must have their information and health conditions checked before entering and leaving the plant.

Facing suspended return trips

of their Chinese colleagues, all of the Chinese employees of China Communications Construction Company Ltd. in Angola are playing multiple roles for the company's port project in Caio.

Relying on telecommuting, they have also resorted to emergent recruitment and conducted training for Angolan colleagues, so as to get prepared for the upcoming full-speed construction.

Three companies under the China National Building Material Group Co., Ltd., namely Sinoma International Engineering Co., Ltd., China Triumph International Engineering Co., Ltd. and Sinoma Energy Conservation Limited have sealed 5 overseas contracts, including 3 of engineering and 2 of equipment supply.

People's Daily

## SPORT

## NBA says virus hiatus will likely last 'at least' a month

MIAMI

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said Thursday night that the league's hiatus because of the coronavirus pandemic will likely last at least a month, or roughly what would have been the remainder of an uninterrupted regular season.

"What we determined today is that this hiatus will be, most likely, at least 30 days," Silver said on TNT's "Inside The NBA" while making his first public comments since the league suspended play Wednesday night after Utah Jazz center Rudy Gobert tested positive for the coronavirus, or COVID-19. A second Jazz player, Donovan Mitchell, said Thursday that he has also tested positive.

Later, in an open letter to NBA fans, Silver said "we intend to resume the season, if and when it becomes safe for all concerned."

Silver did not say if the league intends for the regular season to resume or if the NBA, should it return to action, would immediately go into postseason play. It's also unclear if play will be able to resume with fans in the stands, something the league's owners were willing to go without prior to Gobert's diagnosis and the escalation of the situation. The 30-day minimum hiatus would mean no games until at least April 10.

Silver said the league and the players association will have to continue determining "what makes sense here without compromising anyone's safety and I think it's frankly too early to tell," Silver said.

The regular season was to go until April 15, with the playoffs scheduled to start on April 18 and the NBA Finals to begin June 4. The NBA's 30-day plan was decided on the same day that Major League Soccer announced a 30-day shutdown in response to the virus, that Major League Baseball said

opening day would be delayed at least two weeks and the NHL began what it called a "pause" in its season.

"This literally changes hour-by-hour in terms of what we know," Silver said.

Silver was also asked on TNT if the season may be over. "Of course it's possible," Silver said. "I just don't know more at this point."

Meanwhile, NBA great and longtime commentator Charles Barkley was not on the "Inside The NBA" broadcast Thursday night and revealed that he is self-quarantining for 48 hours because he has not felt well since a recent trip to New York.

Barkley said he has been tested for COVID-19 and has not yet received the results. "This thing is so scary," Barkley said.

For now, NBA players have been told to remain in their home market through at least Monday – some teams such as the Toronto Raptors that are self-quarantining would, in theory, need to remain place for longer – and speak to a team physician or team athletic trainer once daily. Group workouts and practices are not being permitted yet.

In most cases 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 from the new virus; in mild cases it can take about two weeks, in more severe cases it can take 3-6 weeks.

"This remains part of a complicated and rapidly evolving situation that reminds us that we are all part of a broader society with a responsibility to look out for one another," Silver wrote. "That is what the NBA will continue to do, and we are grateful for your understanding and for being the best fans in sports." AP



LeBron James, right, and Stephen Curry both tweeted that 2020 has so far been a year that needs to be shut down in the wake of bad news, the latest of which was the decision Wednesday to shut down the season over the coronavirus outbreak (AFP Photo)

## LeBron, Curry say NBA now needs to cancel 'rough' 2020

LOS ANGELES

NBA superstars LeBron James and Stephen Curry say the league needs to cancel 2020 after the year of Kobe Bryant's tragic death also saw the season shut down.

In the wake of the worldwide COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak, the NBA shut down its season Wednesday with five weeks remaining in the campaign after a player contracted the virus.

The shutdown follows the deaths of former NBA commissioner David Stern on January 1, 2020 and five-time NBA champion Bryant, the retired Los Angeles Lakers legend who was killed January 26 at age 41 in a helicopter crash along with his daughter Gianna and seven others.

"Man we cancelling sporting events, school, office work, etc etc. What we really need to cancel is 2020! . Damn it's been a rough 3 months. God bless and stay safe," Lakers star James tweeted in reaction to the news of the NBA shutdown.

As Slovenian guard Luka Doncic of Dallas tweeted: "2020 is being very bad year!! stay safe folks."

Golden State Warriors star Curry, who has played in the past five NBA Finals, last week had returned from a broken left hand that had sidelined him more than four months.

"2020 aint it," Curry tweeted. "Don't know what to compare this situation to... just gotta buckle up and take care of yourself and those around you. Basketball will be back at some point but right now, protect yourself and stay safe out there!"

Safety issues had taken priority as area officials try to avoid mass gatherings and potential mass infections that could overwhelm hospitals, hoping to spread the outbreak over a more easily managed time frame.

"These are scary times," Charlotte Hornets coach James Borrego said.

Milwaukee owned the NBA's best record at the shutdown at 53-12 while the Lakers led the Western Conference at 49-14 with 19 regular-season games remaining and Golden State had the NBA's worst record at 15-50.



Ally Msengi

## Msengi makes South Africa Premier League debut

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

champions a proper encounter.

TANZANIAN midfielder Ally Msengi played his first senior game for South African Premier Soccer League side Stellenbosch on Wednesday as they lost 1-0 to Mamelodi Sundowns.

The 18-year old, who was handed a three-year contract by the Cape Town City based club, started the match and played for ninety minutes.

Deployed as a central defensive midfielder, Msengi showed glimpses of the quality that forced coach Steve Barker to hand him his debut in a big game against the defending champions.

Mamelodi Sundowns went in front in just the ninth minute, as Stellenbosch conceded possession inside their own half, and a slick move ended with Sibusiso Vilakazi teeing up Themba Zwane, who made no mistake from close range.

Stellenbosch though gave as good as they got and certainly gave the defending league

champions a proper encounter. Msengi, in particular had a very good second half with neat, direct passes while throwing himself into challenges with the more experienced Sundowns captain, Hlompho Kekana.

The results leaves Stellenbosch still needing at least three more points to secure their top flight.

However with four home out of the six remaining fixtures, Msengi can hope they will confirm their league status.

Their next assignment is on March 22 when they play host to Golden Arrows now face a hectic schedule of three games in the space of five days with their first assignment a home league

Following that will be another home league assignment against Cape Town City on April 4th.

The youngster can hope he will get more minutes under his belt before the end of the season.

## No fans, now no players: PGA Tour shuts down for a month

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla.

THE Players Championship went from having no fans to having no players.

In a surprise announcement Thursday night, the PGA Tour canceled the rest of The Players Championship and decided to shut down its other tournaments for the next three weeks.

Only 10 hours earlier, as the opening round was underway and fans continued to stream into the TPC Sawgrass, Commissioner Jay Monahan announced no fans would be allowed at tour events for the next month because of the fears over the new coronavirus outbreak.

It was a bold decision in light of other leagues either suspending play or canceling entire tournaments.

And then the tour changed course.

"We did everything possible to create a safe environment for our players in order to continue the event throughout the weekend," the tour said in a statement. "But at this point – and as the situation continues to rapidly change – the right thing to do for our players and our fans is to pause."

Monahan scheduled a new conference for Friday morning for additional details.

The Players Championship is the flagship event of the PGA Tour that offers a \$15 million purse, the richest in golf. There was no immediate word whether it would be rescheduled.

Also shut down were the Valspar Championship next week in the Tampa Bay area, the Dell Match Play in Austin, Texas, and the Valero Texas Open in San Antonio. The Match Play is for the top 64 players available in the world ranking, and there was some concern not all could travel to Texas for the World Golf Championships event.

The next scheduled event would be the Masters, set for April 9-12.

Augusta National's only comment regarding the coronavirus was on March 4, when the club said it was in contact with government and health officials and at that point



Cameron Champ, Nate Lashley, Kevin Tway and their caddies, walk the 17th green, during the first round of The Players Championship golf tournament Thursday, March 12, 2020 in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla. (AP Photo)

all its events remained on the calendar.

Monahan initially decided to continue with PGA Tour events even as most sports were either suspending play or canceling entire tournaments, including the lucrative NCAA basketball tournaments for men and women. Major league baseball postponed the start of its season. In golf, the LPGA Tour postponed its next three tournaments – two with title sponsors based in South Korea, another in Japan – with plans to reschedule later in the year. The final event was the LPGA's first major of the year.

LPGA Commissioner Mike Whan said on the Golf Channel telecast Thursday he was "fairly confident" the LPGA could play next week in Phoenix, and maybe even San Diego the following week without fans.

"But can I live with it if I'm wrong? If I'm wrong, I'll regret that the rest of my life," Whan said. "This is a decision I may not like, but I don't think I'll ever regret. I just wasn't willing to live with being wrong."

Monahan leaned on golf being a non-contact sport played outdoors over sprawling acreage, a set of circumstances that don't apply to leagues that chose to

stop playing.

"And that's something that we thought about and talked about," Monahan said. "But ultimately, when you break it down and you think about what's going to happen here over the course of the next three days and then going forward, we're comfortable having our players continue to play at this time."

Not everyone was.

C.T. Pan of Taiwan withdrew. He posted a tweet – which he then deleted – saying he was the only one not playing, "same number as the hand sanitizers in the clubhouse, locker and dining."

Pan later tweeted that he withdrew to reduce the risk of getting the virus: "Our lifestyle is like a circus, traveling from one place to another. We believe this is a time to exercise caution by not playing this week."

Rory McIlroy said it was a "scary time" and that the tour made a step in the right direction by eliminating fans. But he said it would only take one player or caddie to test positive for the virus.

"We need to shut it down then," he said without hesitation. "I think for us to keep playing on tour, we all – the tour players and people that are involved – need to get tested."

He said he would get tested next week.

So the last golf with fans turned out to be a calm Thursday on a dynamic Stadium Course on the TPC Sawgrass, where Hideki Matsuyama tied the course record with a 63. McIlroy and Brooks Koepka each had three birdies in the final hour to salvage their rough starts with 70s.

"At least they got to enjoy themselves for one day," McIlroy said. "Now it's going to look a little different."

The cancellation brings an abrupt end to the most ambitious project ever by the PGA Tour. For the first time, every shot by every player in every round was available through streaming.

And now there's no golf at all, at least until the Masters.

If the Masters is held, defending champion Tiger Woods will not have played for seven weeks ahead of his title defense. Woods chose not to be at The Players Championship, saying his back was not ready.

Augusta National has a history of not rushing decisions. Even so, McIlroy found himself looking ahead at the Masters.

"I don't see how they can let spectators in if they do play it, at this point," he said.

AP

## Ronaldinho defense now appeals pre-trial detention in fake passport case

ASUNCION, PARAGUAY

LAWYERS for Brazilian football great Ronaldinho have appealed his pre-trial detention and he will return to court next Tuesday, Paraguayan judicial sources said on Thursday.

The 39-year-old World Cup winner and his brother, Roberto de Assis Moreira, have been held in a police cell since last Friday accused of entering Paraguay using fake passports.

Ronaldinho's lawyers insist that the magistrates who ordered the brothers' detention "exceeded their functions," making his jailing illegal.

Sixteen people have so far been implicated in the fake passport scandal, public prosecutor Federico Delfino said.

On Tuesday, a court rejected a request from Ronaldinho's lawyers for conditional release on bail or house arrest.

The brothers arrived in Asuncion from Brazil last week and showed their passports to immigration police, who did not immediately notice any problem.

Hours later, when the passports were determined to be fake, investigators raided the football star's hotel room and seized the brothers' identity cards and travel

documents.

Ronaldinho said the passports had been given to him by people who had invited him to attend conferences sponsored by charities working with disadvantaged children.

A Brazilian businessman has also been arrested in connection with the fake travel documents, while two Paraguayan women have been placed under house arrest.

The country's migration director has resigned.

Judge Gustavo Amarilla has said the investigation is looking into possible criminal association and money laundering.

Ronaldinho, considered one of the greatest footballers of all time, was a star of Brazil's 2002 World Cup win and played for European giants Barcelona, Paris Saint-Germain and AC Milan, among others.

He is being held in police cells alongside 25 police officers accused of various crimes and four politicians, including the former president of the Paraguayan Football Association and an ex-president of the House of Deputies.

Ronaldinho has taken part in a football match involving inmates and riot police, a police source told AFP.

AFP

## Premier League, Champions League call off matches

DÜSSELDORF, GERMANY

THE Premier League and the Champions League were both suspended Friday as the chaos stemming from the coronavirus outbreak continues to impact soccer.

Matches in England will be stopped until at least April 3 after five Premier League clubs said some players or staff were in self-isolation. Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta has tested positive for the virus, as has Chelsea winger Callum Hudson-Odoi.

"I had the virus for the last couple of days, which I've recovered from," Hudson-Odoi said in a video posted on social media. "I'm following the health guidelines and self-isolating myself from everybody for the week. I hope to see everybody soon and hopefully be back on the pitch very soon. Take care."

UEFA said it was stopping next week's games in all competitions, including the two remaining Champions League matches which had not been already called off – Bayern Munich vs. Chelsea and Barcelona vs. Napoli, both scheduled for Wednesday.

There have been more than 128,000 cases and 4,700 deaths globally since the virus outbreak started late last year. Most people quickly recover from the virus after experi-



Mikel Arteta

Callum Hudson-Odoi

encing 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.

According to the World Health Organization, people with mild illness recover in about two weeks.

The decision from UEFA comes four days ahead of a meeting to decide the European soccer calendar,

including the possible one-year postponement of the 2020 European Championship.

Eight Europa League games scheduled for next Thursday were also postponed. The quarterfinal draws in both the Champions League and Europa League, scheduled for next Friday, were postponed as well.

Earlier Friday, Everton said one of its players had reported symptoms con-

sistent with coronavirus. Bournemouth later said reserve goalkeeper Artur Boruc and four members of staff also had symptoms. Leicester said Thursday that three players had "extremely mild illness."

The suspension also covers England's Championship, League One, League Two and the top two women's divisions.

The French league also suspended games Friday. Following earlier suspen-

sions in Italy and Spain, that leaves the German Bundesliga as the only one of Europe's top-five ranked leagues still playing this weekend.

The German league said Friday it will play upcoming games in empty stadiums and then vote on a suspension from Tuesday until April 2. That would only include one round of games before a scheduled break for international matches.

Two players from German second-division club Hannover 96 have tested positive for the virus.

Four places in the 24-nation line-up for Euro 2020 still have to be decided in playoffs scheduled for March 26 and 31. Those playoffs seem unlikely to be played on time.

The Euro 2020 tournament was expected to be played in 12 host nations. The plan requires teams, fans and officials to travel across the continent – an added risk to spread the virus.

AP

## US Soccer president quits after gender discrimination suit

NEW YORK

CARLOS Cordeiro resigned as U.S. Soccer Federation president on Thursday night, three days after the organization sparked a backlash when its legal papers in a gender discrimination lawsuit claimed the women's national team players had less physical ability and responsibility than their male counterparts.

His decision elevated former American midfielder Cindy Parlow Cone to become the first woman president in the history of the 107-year-old federation.

Cordeiro announced his resignation on Twitter without even telling the federation's communications staff. He stepped down on a day several USSF board members issued extraordinary rebukes that criticized the governing body's legal filings. Among them were Major League Soccer Commissioner Don Garber and Parlow Cone, the federation's vice president.

A night earlier, U.S. women wore their warmup jerseys inside-out to hide the federation crest before a game against Japan. Several of the federation's sponsors issued statements this week backing the players and condemning the USSF, including The Coca-Cola Co., Anheuser Busch Cos. Inc., The Procter & Gamble Co. and Volkswagen Group.

Cordeiro said he decided to quit after discussions with the USSF board.

"It has become clear to me that what is best right now is a new direction," Cordeiro wrote. "The arguments and language contained in this week's legal filing caused great offense and pain, especially to our extraordinary women's national team players who deserve better. It was unacceptable and inexcusable."

"I did not have the opportunity to fully review the filing in its entirety before it was submitted, and I take responsibility for not doing so. Had I done so, I would have objected to the language," he wrote.

The legal papers were submitted to federal court in Los Angeles as part of the USSF's defense of the gender discrimination lawsuit filed by women's national team players last year. They claim they have not been paid equally to the men's national team and asked for more than \$66 million in damages under the Equal Pay Act and the Civil Rights Act of 1964. A trial is scheduled for May 5.

"While it is gratifying that there has been such a deafening outcry against USSF's blatant misogyny, the sexist culture and policies over-

seen by Carlos Cordeiro have been approved for years by the board of directors of USSF," said Molly Levinson, the players' spokeswoman. "This institution must change and support and pay women players equally."

Cordeiro had issued an apology for the arguments late Wednesday night while the women's team was still on the field against Japan. He added the federation had retained new legal counsel, a move the men's national team on Thursday called "window dressing" and "a sleight of hand."

Parlow Cone, now 41, scored 75 goals in 158 appearances for the U.S. from 1995 to 2006, winning the 1999 World Cup and two Olympic gold medals. She retired because of post-concussion syndrome.

She was elected to the U.S. National Hall of Fame in 2018, and was voted in as USSF vice president in 2019.

Parlow Cone will serve as president until the federation's annual general meeting in next February 2021. An election will be held then to complete Cordeiro's term, which runs until the regular election for a four-year term in 2022.

She praised Cordeiro, calling him "a good man with a good heart."

"The passion that has come to the surface in the past two days is what inspires me to look forward, to work hard towards mending relationships and moving the game forward for all," she said in a statement issued by the federation.

Earlier in the day Parlow Cone posted to Twitter that she was "hurt and saddened" by the brief that USSF's attorneys filed.

One of Cone's former teammates, Julie Foudy, suggested "there was no other way out after those 2,600 pages" of legal documents.

"I played with Cindy for many years. I know Cindy. She understands ALL the players are going through having lived it. And she is one hell of a human. Give her a chance to succeed. Please," Foudy posted.

Garber's statement was especially telling. He is a member of the USSF board and CEO of Soccer United Marketing, the marketing arm of both MLS and the USSF.

"I expressed to the president of the federation in no uncertain terms how unacceptable and offensive I found the statements in that filing to be," Garber said. "Those statements do not reflect my personal view, nor do they reflect the views of the Major League Soccer and Soccer United Marketing families. I intend to immediately address this issue with the U.S. Soccer board of directors." AP

## Bundesliga games under threat as coronavirus spreads

BERLIN

CALLS to scrap the rest of the Bundesliga season are growing as Europe struggles to contain the coronavirus outbreak.

This weekend's games in Germany are all to be played without fans, while it's likely that all games in the second division will be in empty stadiums, too.

"Soccer without people is not soccer for us," said Union Berlin president Dirk Zingler, whose next two games – against Bayern Munich on Saturday and at city rival Hertha Berlin a week later – will be without fans.

There will be eight rounds of games remaining in both divisions after this weekend.

However, second-division team Hannover said Thursday that all of its players were to self-quarantine for 14 days as a precaution after two team members tested positive for the virus.

Hannover defender Timo Hübers became the first player in Germany to test positive on Wednesday, leading to tests for the rest of the team. Jannes Horn was also found to have the virus.

"The situation is not easy for anyone involved, but for everyone it goes without saying that health is the priority," Hannover sporting director Gerhard Zuber said.

Hannover was to ask the league to postpone its next two games against Dynamo Dresden and Osnabrück.

Also, Erzgebirge Aue's game against visiting SV Sandhausen on Saturday was likely to be called off after the home team said two of its fans attending the Saxony derby at Dynamo Dresden the previous weekend tested positive for the virus.

"I'm assuming that it won't be possible to play to the end of the season," Aue president Helge Leonhardt told news agency dpa on Wednesday.

Also Wednesday, the German soccer federation postponed the next two rounds in the third division.

"We find ourselves in exceptional circumstances with new developments almost every hour," federation general secretary Friedrich Curtius said. "One thing is clear – health stands above everything else."

There were almost 2,100 cases of COVID-19 confirmed in Germany on Thursday, with three deaths from the disease. Italy reported 827 deaths, Spain 55 and France 48.

Wednesday's Rhine derby between Borussia Mönchengladbach and Cologne became the first Bundesliga game held without fans amid the outbreak.

"It's no fun. It's not nice, either," said Gladbach coach Marco Rose after the 2-1 win. "Soccer without fans is not the soccer we want."

Referee Deniz Aytekin was also critical.

"There's something missing and massively so. I can only hope that this isn't something for the long term,"



Players run for the ball in an empty stadium during the German Bundesliga soccer match between Borussia Mönchengladbach and 1FC Cologne in Mönchengladbach, Germany, Wednesday, March 11, 2020. It is the first Bundesliga match played behind closed doors without spectators due to 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)

Aytekin said. "Without fans it's not worth half as much."

Hundreds of Gladbach supporters gathered outside the stadium to cheer their team from afar and then celebrate afterward, somewhat defeating the purpose of not letting them in.

"The measures are absurd if fans gather in front of stadiums, like in Valencia this week before the game against Atalanta or in Paris for the game against Borussia Dortmund," Bayern ultras Club No. 12 said Thursday in a statement.

The Bayern fans urged the federation to cancel

all games "immediately" and criticized the current measures as insufficient.

Dortmund fan club Südtribüne agreed with its Bavarian rivals, saying its members will not gather outside the stadium for Saturday's Ruhr derby against Schalke.

"That games in the top two divisions are not yet suspended does not testify to foresight or responsibility, especially toward vulnerable parts of society and employees in hospitals and other facilities," the Dortmund fans said in a statement.

They added that trying to conclude the season in

current circumstances is "completely pointless and without any value."

The federation has already said Germany's friendly against Italy in Nuremberg on March 31 will go ahead without fans in attendance.

Cologne sporting director Horst Heldt questioned why the game was being played at all – a decision he said was "madness" – and he criticized soccer's governing bodies for not being more proactive in dealing with the threat of the virus.

"FIFA and UEFA should come out of the woodwork and not hide," said Heldt, who proposed putting the

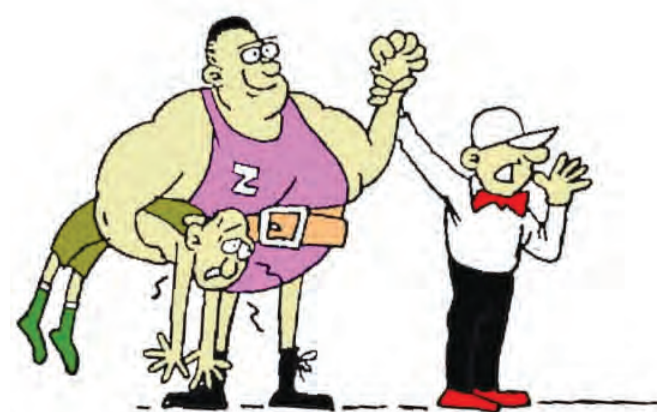
European Championship back by a year. "That would give us all a bit of breathing space."

The Bundesliga's clubs are to meet for an extraordinary general meeting with the country's soccer authorities to discuss ongoing measures on Monday.

"We're not at the end of developments," Hertha general manager Michael Preetz said. "There will be more news, reports and decisions made in the coming days. We shouldn't succumb to hysteria. Everyone's health comes first."

AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



# SPORT

Premier League, Champions League call off matches

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

**5 EATV MONDAY**

**TONIGHT @ 9:00**

**UJENZI**

11:00 DADAZ LIVE  
14:00 Wanawake Live (r)  
14:30 Bongo Hits  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Copa Coca-Cola (r)  
16:00 Akili & Me (r)  
16:30 #HASHTAG  
17:00 SILEKT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 eNewz  
18:30 Music/Soap  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
19:45 MJADALA  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 UJENZI  
21:30 SPORTS LIVE  
22:30 Bongo Hits

**TONIGHT on EATV**  
Find out how using glass blocks from Canghui Traders Limited can improve your home decor.

And Tanfix Quality Choice has an innovative solution for wall fungus.

**It's all on Ujenzi at 9PM**

**eastafrica RADIO**

06:00 Supa Breakfast  
10:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
20:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

**88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM**

## John Stephen Akhwari International Marathon slated for June

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadonda

THIS year's edition of John Stephen Akhwari International Marathon will be held at Sheikh Amri Abeid Memorial Stadium in Arusha on June 7, the race's organizers disclosed yesterday.

Sylvester Orao, the race director, said preparations for the marathon are going on smoothly and asked all interested runners both local and international to register for the event.

Orao pointed out that Minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports Harrison Mwakymembe is expected to be the guest of honour.

He said the main purpose of the race is to honour Mzee John Stephen Akhwari who contributed immensely in the history of athletics in Tanzania.

Orao disclosed the athletics legend is one of the very first young Tanzanian athletes to represent the country in international athletics competitions.

"The John Stephen Akhwari International Marathon is duly registered with National Sports Council (NSC) and is also recognized by the Athletics Tanzania (AT)," he disclosed.

"This year the event has been slated for June 7 in Arusha, the main purpose of the race is to honour Mzee Akhwari who contributed immensely in the history of athletics in the country."

"He is one of the very first young Tanzanian runners to represent the country in international athletics competitions, he (Akhwari) is most famous in Mexico City Olympics in 1968 where he left a mark, bringing a new meaning to the word, never give up," he said.

Orao said hosting the moreover gears towards working hand in hand with the government in its drive to identify and nurture young athletics talents to pick up from the initiative of the nation's athletic legends.

He said this year's event will include three races, 21km, 10km for both men and women, and 2km for kids.

Orao said kids are greatly encouraged to compete at the event since one of the purpose of the race is to identify young talents for proper training to enable them represent the nation in major races in future.

He said the event's organizing committee is preparing 7,360,000m/- prize budget for the winners.

According to him, the top 10 winners in 21km and 10km races will be given cash prize while kids will be presented with medals.

This is the second year in a row that the John Stephen Akhwari Marathon is taking place.

In the previous race, 800 athletes from within the country and beyond competed and this year more than 1,200 athletes are expected to compete.

## Luc Eymael blames Yanga's mindset in defeat to KMC FC



Yanga midfielder, Haruna Niyonzima (L), dribbles past KMC FC forward, Hassan Kabunda, when the two teams clashed in a Vodacom Premier League duel, which took place at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Thursday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YOUNG Africans SC (Yanga) head coach Luc Eymael has said his team had the wrong mindset when they came up against relegation threatened KMC FC in a Vodacom Premier League match, which took place at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Thursday.

Yanga succumbed to a shock 1-0 defeat to KMC FC in the match.

The Belgian tactician

alluded to his players not adjusting to the comedown from last weekend's win over their rivals, Simba, in the league's match, nicknamed 'Dar Derby'.

The 1-0 defeat to KMC FC left Yanga unmoved in third place with 50 points from 26 games, trailing second-placed Azam

FC by four points but with two games in hand.

Eymael blamed the defeat and a poor performance against KMC FC on the comedown.

"The only change I did was the Morrison injury. The only change I put was Adeyem Ahmed, for the rest is exactly the

same thing and the same system against Simba. Unfortunately here in Tanzania, when you win the derby you think you have won the World Cup," he said.

He added: "And I saw it come, I told that to my players after the first training session. I told them, guys, pay attention, don't be like

Real Madrid who beat Barca and then lost to Betis."

"They did exactly the same thing. From the first training session I was telling them what is the need to beat Simba and lose after? What is Simba? Three points, finish. All that Simba win is for the websites, newspapers and for the fans."

"It is very bad what happened today, but I saw it coming since the first training session. And again today, I told them you watched Liverpool yesterday? You see Liverpool with many points in advance now they are dropping, please focus on this game, it would not be an easy one."

"We created I don't know how many chances, we missed and we comportedly passed and passed. I went into the changing room and said what did I say to you since the first training session?"

"You were in the sky, you were dreaming, you were flying because you beat Simba. And it is nothing, Simba is three points, finish. Simba are 21 points ahead of us."

Yanga will have no time to dwell on that defeat as they try to regroup for another crucial league assignment against fourth-placed Namungo FC which will take place at Majaliwa Stadium in Lindi tomorrow.



Senior national women hockey team takes part in training session in Dar es Salaam recently to prepare for continental assignments.

## Juhudi ladies face TPDF in Mapinduzi hockey tourney

By Guardian Reporter

DAR ES SALAAM's Juhudi women hockey team have a chance to make their presence in the 2020 Mapinduzi Cup's women category felt given they are expected to take on Tanzania People's Defense Forces (TPDF) team in the opener at Lugalo venue in the city this morning.

The competition, organized by Tanzania Hockey Association (THA), has brought together teams from Kilimanjaro and hosts Dar es Salaam, targeting to raise the standard of the sport in the country.

The competition, as noted by THA secretary general Kaushik Doshi, is sponsored by Dar es Salaam-based Reliance Insurance Company LTD and

TATA Africa Holdings LTD.

In the women category's other match, slated to take place in the morning, TPDF ladies will have a date against JMK Queens.

A total of 10 teams are competing in the competition, with the men's category bringing together six teams, whereas the women's category is made up of four squads.

Moshi Khalsa, the competition's men's category defending champions, will lock horns with JMK Combine in the day's first game, a Men's Pool A fixture.

In the category's other clash, slated for morning, Juhudi will take on TPDF in the Men's Pool B fixture.

Several more games are set to take place later in the day. JMK Combine will confront

Black Mamba in Men's Pool A duel. Juhudi will face Kibasila in Men's Pool game.

Two more clashes in the women's category will be played later on, with Twende seeking to mount their quest for the top honour in grand fashion when they face JMK Queens.

Twende ladies will be back on the pitch few hours later as they take on Juhudi.

The tournament's opener, which saw TPDF face Kibasila in Men's Pool B, took place on Friday.

Doshi further said that the national hockey governing body greatly appreciates the tournament sponsors for putting their weight behind this year's competition.

"We also acknowledge the kind gesture by Tanzania People's Defense Forces

(TPDF) management for providing the Lugalo hockey field for this prestigious tournament," he disclosed.

The THA official pointed out the tournament had earlier been expected to be held in January this year but, due to some technical reasons which also included rains, the event could not take place.

Doshi said the THA therefore decided to host the tournament this month with a view to giving all teams ample time for preparation.

In the previous season's competition, which was held in 2018, Dar Khalsa clinched the top honour, beating rivals, Magereza, on penalties in an exciting final.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

