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National Pg 2
PCCB reads riot act to all contestants

National Pg 6
Tobacco production in Shinyanga drops

National Pg 7
Construction of cement factory in Tanga

National Pg 11
EAC for pandemic preparedness training



Government names 73,101 for Form V, all to report July 18

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

A TOTAL of 73,101 students have been selected to join advanced level secondary education this year, the government announced yesterday.

Addressing journalists, the Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), Selemani Jafo (pictured) said all selected Form Five students should report to school on July 18 as studies are expected to commence effectively July 20.

Minister Jafo said the number is among 121,251 students selected to join technical and teachers' colleges supervised by the National Council for Technical Education (NACTE).

The selected students consist of 35,005 girls (47.9 per cent) and 38,096 boys (52.1 per cent), he said.

"The students have been selected to join 434 public schools including 32 new schools enrolling students for the first time," he affirmed.

A total of 1,572 girls who performed well in their national exams have been selected to join special schools, he said.

"At least 183 students with special needs



The selected students consist of 35,005 girls (47.9 per cent) and 38,096 boys (52.1 per cent)

have also been selected, of whom 101 are boys and 82 girls," he specified.

A total of 9,264 students have been selected to join technical, health and teachers' colleges at diploma level.

Other 38,886 students were selected to join vocational education colleges supervised by NACTE in fields like land studies, commerce, community development, fishery, livestock, agriculture, environment and rural development programs.

The minister warned those failing to report within two weeks after schools are opened as their chances will be taken up by other needy students.

The government requires that students who have been selected to join technical/vocational colleges must certify that they agree to join the courses supervised by NACTE before August 15.

"Students should conduct their verification through a special link titled 'Uthibitisho TAMISEMI' on the NACTE website. Failure to do so, their vacancies will be given to others missing the first selection," he further stated.

Those planning to change their courses in

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Ministry gives two course hours per day to cover Covid-19 break

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

PRIMARY and secondary school students will now attend classes for an additional two hours to compensate for postponed learning sessions after the coronavirus outbreak.

The Minister for Education, Science, Technology, Prof Joyce Ndalichako announced this when setting out teaching and examinations schedules for Standard IV, Standard VII and Form Four.

On Tuesday, President John Magufuli ordered the reopening of schools across the country by end of the month. On June 1, the government allowed universities, colleges and Form Six classes to restart, followed by sports activities two weeks later.

Prof Ndalichako said the first term will now end on August 28 while the second term ends December 18.

"To complete syllabuses, schools will have to adjust their timetables by teaching students for an extra two hours. These changes will not be applicable for pupils in preparatory classes, Standard One and Standard Two," he elaborated.

Form Five students will complete their first term on July 24 and Form Six classes begin July 27.

Standard VII students will sit for national examinations for two days on October 7 and 8 while Form Two national assessment examinations will be conducted from November 25 to 26.

Form Four students will sit for national examinations from November 23 to December 11, with Standard IV examinations scheduled for November 25

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CCM Secretary General Dr Bashiru Ally Kakurwa (L) pictured at the ruling party's headquarters in Dodoma yesterday handing over to the party's national Chairman, President John Magufuli, forms for nomination as the party's candidate for the Tanzanian Presidency in later this year's General Election. If re-elected, Dr Magufuli will serve in the position for the last of two successive five-year terms. Photo: State House

CCM hands Magufuli reelection bid papers

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT John Magufuli yesterday collected CCM nomination forms, seeking the party's endorsement for re-election.

The Director of Presidential Communications, Gerson Msigwa said in a statement yesterday that Dr Magufuli was given the forms at party headquarters in Dodoma by Secretary General Dr Bashiru Ally Kakurwa.

The event was witnessed by Deputy Secretary

General (Mainland) Rodrick Mpogolo and NEC secretary for Economy and Finance, Dr Frank Haule.

Speaking after he was handed the forms and paying the 1m/- fee, President Magufuli thanked CCM for giving him the forms and appealed to CCM members and all Tanzanians in general to pray for him in his journey to fly the party's flag for the presidential contest.

He also appealed to CCM members to

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Zanzibar presidential primaries: Minister Mwinyi picks up forms

By Guardian Reporter

DEFENCE and National Service minister Dr Hussein Mwinyi yesterday joined four other cadres of the ruling party in the Zanzibar presidential race.

Dr Mwinyi, who is the son of former President Ali Hassan Mwinyi, collected the nomination forms at the party's Isles head office at Kisiwandui at around 1pm.

"I did not plan to address the media. I have just collected the forms, which I should read carefully," he said, commending the party's democratic procedure in searching for Zanzibar President Ali Mohamed Shein's

successor.

He entered politics in 2000 when he contested for Mkuranga parliamentary seat and later appointed Deputy Minister for Health, serving in the third phase government of President Benjamin Mkapa.

Addressing journalists after collecting the nomination forms, former Chumbuni representative Omar Sheha Mussa said if elected to lead Zanzibar he will ensure economic growth through broadening of the tax base.

Mussa said his government would use revenues collected from tourism to improve

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SHARE FACTS ABOUT COVID-19

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



031948A 03/2020

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

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

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

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

cdc.gov/COVID-19



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Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa signs a condolence book at the Burundi Embassy in Dar es Salaam yesterday in mourning Burundi President Pierre Nkurunziza, who died last week. Witnessing the event is the country's Ambassador to Tanzania, Gervais Abayeho. Photo: PMO

Zanzibar presidential primaries: Minister Mwinyi picks up forms

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infrastructure to facilitate capital formation. He promised to refurbish the new sea port at Mpingaduri and others in Pemba.

Priorities will also be set on expansion of airports and job creation, he stated.

"I would construct a special port for raw and refined oil. The ports can be built in areas already earmarked by the government such as Mangapwani, a move likely to boost state coffers," he asserted.

Another aspirant, Mbwana Yahya Mwinyi said: "I have resolved to vie for

the top position in the state because I am capable of leading Zanzibaris."

Mwinyi noted that he would work to protect and maintain the union as well as making sure that the CCM Zanzibar election manifesto is fully implemented.

Other cadres of the ruling party who have picked nomination forms to contest for the Isles presidential seat in the October general elections include Ambassador Ali Karume and Mbwana Juma Bakari (45).

CCM opened doors on June 15 for aspirants to the presidency, parliamentary and representative seats and ward elections to pick nomination

forms.

Union and Zanzibar presidential candidates on the CCM ticket will be announced on July 12 after the conclusion of its national congress, the NEC secretary for Ideology and Publicity, Humphrey Polepole said early this week.

The party congress will vote to choose one out of three names submitted by the National Executive Committee to represent the party in the Union presidential race.

The party congress set for July 11 and 12 will also endorse one name for the Zanzibar presidential election submitted by NEC at its July 10 meeting,

he affirmed.

The CCM Secretariat will meet on July 1 and July 2 to deliberate on the Zanzibar presidential candidate, and on July 6 and July 7 to review the search process for the Union presidential candidate.

The meetings will be followed by the party's Defence and Security Committee on July 3 to scrutinize forms of aspirants to the Zanzibar presidency, and July 8 for the Union presidency.

Candidates interested in vying for Parliament, the House of Representatives and ward councilor were asked to collect nomination forms from July 14 to 17.

Ministry gives two course hours per day to cover Covid-19 break

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The minister urged school boards and managements to convene with parents to discuss better modalities for paying school fees as most people have been financially affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

"No one was prepared for the outbreak. The deadly disease has disrupted life systems as some parents have lost jobs and schools stayed without students for three months. Schools must make wise decisions and reach a consensus with parents," she appealed.

She however called upon parents to complete school fees payment for the first term, warning schools to avoid refusing to accept students whose parents have not paid school fees for the second term.

"School fees payments for the term should be completed on time to allow schools to operate," she stated, insisting further that the outbreak of Covid-19 should not be a source of conflict between schools and parents.

To curb the spreading of Covid-19, schools must ensure availability of WASH facilities at entrance gates, classes, offices, libraries, dormitories, dining halls and actual washrooms. These refer to provision of water, sanitation, waste management, hygiene and environmental cleaning.

Last month, the Ministry of Health,

Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children issued guidelines to protect students from contracting the new virus upon reopening.

It directed colleges to decontaminate buildings and school buses, re-arrange classes and dormitories, students wear face masks, wash hands with soap and running water or use alcohol-based hand rubs.

The ministry also ordered testing of any students with Covid-19 symptoms and provision of special face masks to students with hearing impairment to enable them to interact with teachers and fellow students.

Students with heart complications, asthma or other respiratory diseases be spared from wearing face coverings, the minister had affirmed, underscoring the need for observing protocols of hygiene as instructed by health experts.

"There has been no coronavirus cases reported since the reopening of Form Six, colleges and universities," she declared, adding that boarding students will start reporting on June 26.



School fees payments for the term should be completed on time to allow schools to operate

CCM hands Magufuli reelection bid papers

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endorse him and participate in the electoral process peacefully and in solidarity.

After receiving the forms the president started his quest for signatories by going to the party's Dodoma regional Office and handed the form for 25 signatories to Regional Secretary Jamila Yusuph.

He also met CCM members in the national and regional party offices where he wished them well in the ongoing nomination process and urged them to strengthen the party.

This event comes just a day after he dissolved the 11th Parliament constitutionally on Tuesday June 16 to pave the way for the 2020 General Elections.

Last week, Humphrey Polepole,

the party's secretary of Ideology and Publicity launched the intra-party nomination processes, with Union and Zanzibar presidential aspirants given 15 days from June 15 to June 30 to collect nomination forms and find 250 sponsors from the Mainland and Zanzibar.

Members seeking nomination for the Union presidency would be required to get 250 sponsors in 12 regions two of which should be Zanzibar regions.

Zanzibar presidential aspirants will seek signatures of the same number from three regions, with one in Unguja and another in Pemba.

The party's vetting process will commence on July 1 with candidates for the Union and Zanzibar presidency polls picked on July 12, at the end of a two-day party congress.

Campaigns: PCCB reads riot act to all contestants

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) has called on the public to refrain from any act of corruption in the coming elections, saying any person who violates the rule will face the full force of the law.

Addressing a press conference here yesterday, PCCB Director General Brig. Gen John Mbugo, said the bureau is out to arrest and publicly expose anybody involved in election corruption.

He said unlike in previous elections where corruption was widely practiced, this time PCCB is ready to ensure the general elections are not marred by such acts. Members of the public should not just complain but report corruption incidents to the relevant authorities, he stated.

Already there are signs that a cross-section of politicians may seek to bribe their way to elected posts, he said, warning that whoever tries shall face the music. "Let me make it clear that whoever engages in corruption during campaigns or election shall not escape the long hands of PCCB and we shall expose them in addition to taking legal steps," he declared.

The top PCCB commander explained that corruption is dangerous to any nation, as leaders who win positions through corruption cannot fight graft and do not have the nation at heart.

"Any election marred by corruption cannot bring national development in line with President John Magufuli's drive," he pointed out.

He said election provides an opportunity for electorates to think about development in their area and

earmark challenges facing them like the need for improved road infrastructure, water, dispensaries as well as increasing classrooms in schools.

Elections also provide electorates with an opportunity to evaluate performance of those elected in the previous election and if they deserve another term in office. It is on the other hand an opportunity to face challenges in their areas and think of how to solve them, he elaborated.

He warned the media not to be swayed into corrupt acts in forthcoming campaigns and polling or being used by contestants. He also urged election administrators in all polling areas to perform their tasks as stipulated in the law.

He appealed to the public to remember all that PCCB has been preaching about corruption as well as teachings during seminars on the same. People should adhere to election laws, policies and guidelines, he reiterated.

The retired senior military officer called on people to refrain from bribes in the coming elections and collaborate with PCCB by revealing any suspected criminal actions in that regard.

"Let me state it clearly that anybody involved in the election process should not think of engaging in bribes for we shall deal with them thoroughly," he thundered.

As the legislature had been dissolved there are no longer any MPs, thus no one should dish out cash or materials on the pretext of following up on election promises in the last election.

Election promises are delivered upon before the legislature is dissolved, and doing so after dissolution is tantamount to election bribery, he added.



Inspector General of Police Simon Sirro (front desk) and other high-ranking Tanzanian police officers participate in a Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Co-operation Organisation (SARPCCO) video conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Police Hqs

Government names 73,101 for Form V, to report July 18

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their respective colleges must do so from August 1 to 30 through the NACTE

website, he directed.

District Executive Directors (DEDs) of Kyerwa, Momba, Mtwara, Ubungo and Nanyamba town

council must finish constructing high schools to accommodate Form Five students.

They need to make sure the buildings

are completed by next January 30 as the districts do not have schools that offer advanced level secondary education, the minister added.



Tanga regional commissioner Martine Shigella (C) pictured at the Tanzania-Kenya Horohoro border post yesterday addressing Tanzanian drivers and traders on efforts being made to ensure normalcy resumes in the area. This followed complaints that, even when with Covid-19 clearance certificates issued by Tanzania's health authorities in hand, the Tanzanians are not allowed into Kenya. Photo: Correspondent Boniface Gideon

COVID-19: EU extends 60m Euros in regional response to the pandemic in Africa

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

THE EU yesterday announced a €60 million package to help tackle the health and socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, in support of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), a regional organisation with eight member states, in its mandate to coordinate national responses to the COVID-19 pandemic in the Horn of Africa. The programme will focus on vulnerable groups, including migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons and cross-border communities and deliver medical equipment, including more than 8.5 million items of personal protective equipment. It will also help ensure borders and critical supply chains are safe for trade and promote digital solutions to monitor the crisis.

Commissioner for International Partnerships, Jutta Urpilainen, said: "The programme will help mitigate the impact of the pandemic by providing coordinated, coherent, and comprehensive actions across the region. It will be implemented in collaboration not only with partner countries but also with UN agencies, illustrating the benefits of a joint multilateral response. We want to ensure that no one is left behind. This is why we will make sure it reaches the most vulnerable communities and includes measures to fight gender-based violence. Nearly 430,000 people, predominantly women and children, will receive necessary basic care including vaccinations whilst almost 570,000 people will receive critical water, sanitation and hygiene supplies and services, in addition to reaching more than 1.6 million people through awareness campaigns to help prevent the spread of the virus."

On this occasion, Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Authority on

Development (IGAD), Dr Workeneh Gebeyehu, stressed: "This project will make a significant contribution to saving lives, protecting and motivating frontline health workers, as well as preventing community transmission through rapid and coordinated contact tracing and isolation. It will boost the remarkable efforts of national response committees in IGAD Member States to contain and control the pandemic, promote trade and protect livelihoods. This project therefore will be key to support the IGAD Regional Response Strategy to COVID-19. This is a concerted multi-sectoral response in partnership with our Member States to address the impact of COVID-19 on Health, Food Security as well as Peace and Security".

This programme will establish the IGAD Emergency Coordination Unit as well as the Rapid Regional Response Team (RRRT) to be deployed in the region.

It will also support measures for the safe circulation of goods and commodities through Safe Trade Zones, thereby preserving critical supply chains, such as food, fuel and medicines.

The programme will also provide a wide range of medical and personal protective equipment, including 3.5 million surgical masks, 70,000 test kits and 24 ambulances. It will also increase access to health and socio-economic support for vulnerable groups, including migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons and cross-border communities. Prevention and response interventions to address gender-based violence, in the framework of the programme, aim to reach more than 89,000 people. Furthermore, it will promote digital solutions relevant to the health COVID-19 response, such as regional surveillance and monitoring systems.

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

'Corruption was bound to rise, flourish in public institutions'

TANZANI Chief Justice Prof. Ibrahim Juma has said corrupt practices flourish more in public institutions, hence delaying justice dispensation.

In the circumstances, he called upon the judicial organs to fight the practices so as to speed up the dispensation of justice.

Prof. Juma was speaking here when opening stakeholders' forum to discuss corruption in the country's justice system.

He said among the causes of corruption are institutions charged in meeting out justice that delay their decisions making the people believe that they have to pay something for the decisions to be made.

"The fight against corruption should not be done simply because the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) exists, but it should be part of our every daily lives in our institutions to be able to defeat corruption," he said.

He further said in order for judicial institution to succeed against corruption, they must work together.

"Experience shows that corruption cannot be eradicated by the courts alone, but by all judicial institutions to work together to at least reduce

instances of the vice in them or eradicate them altogether," said Prof. Juma.

He also called on the stakeholders to stop scorning the collective views and citizens' perception in the issue of corruption in the country's judicial institutions.

He said the country's Judiciary is supposed to be at the front line in the fight against corruption and not to depend on external stakeholders.

"Efforts in self cleansing in the war against corruption must start inside the

Judiciary so that we place ourselves at the front line in the war, and we should not depend upon any other people," he said.

The Registrar of the Tanzania High Court Wilbert Chuma said the aim of the forum is to discuss the situation of corruption within the country's judicial organs.

He however said corruption is the enemy of justice which has also been cited at in the holy books hence judicial organs must fight it tooth and nail to eradicate.



INVITATION FOR BIDS

TENDER FOR PROVISION OF OFFICE PRINTING SERVICES

MBEYA CEMENT COMPANY LIMITED (MBEYA CEMENT) is a subsidiary of the LafargeHolcim Group with its industrial operations based in Songwe, Plot No. 1 Industrial Area, Mbeya. MBEYA CEMENT now invites sealed bids from eligible tenderers to provide Printing services to the company. Bidders are required to submit their sealed bid document (1 copy), properly enclosed in an envelope marked **TENDER FOR PROVISION OF OFFICE PRINTING SERVICES 2020, and physically delivered to:**

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P.O. BOX 529, MBEYA,
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At MBEYA CEMENT CO LTD's RECEPTION located at Administrative Building, Songwe Mbeya.

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Account no.

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2. Account no. 0150065139500 – CRDB Bank
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Payment Slip has to be sent to: mcc.tender@lafargeholcim.com. In case of delay of getting the tender document, please call direct line +255 29 50000/6/8/13

DEADLINE FOR TENDER SUBMISSION: 3rd July 2020, 4h30 PM, and SITE VISIT: 26th JUNE 2020, 14h30

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REQUEST FOR QUOTE RFQ 2020 – 06/01

Closing Date: Wednesday July 1, 2020, 2pm (Dar es Salaam, Tanzania)

Pact Inc. is an international non-profit organization with its headquarters in Washington, DC. Pact serves communities challenged by poverty and marginalization because we envision a world where everyone owns their future. To do this, we build systemic solutions in partnership with local organizations, businesses and government. Our goal is thriving, resilient communities where those we serve are heard, capable, and vibrant.

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- Please note, each lot that the dealer/vendor is interested in must be a separate submission

Interested dealers must submit the following information to Pact Tanzania:

- Price list, valid for one year
- Current company profile
- Copies of registration certificate and address of their registered office, valid business licence, VAT and TIN certificates
- Descriptions of similar assignments, and at least two (2) names and addresses of client served

Interested, eligible vendor/dealer should deliver their quotation to:

**The Tender Committee
Pact Tanzania
74 Uporoto Street, Victoria
P. O. Box 6348, Dar es salaam, Tanzania**

All quotes must be in Tanzanian Shillings. The deadline is 2pm EAT **Wednesday July 1, 2020.**

Please note:

1. Late or incomplete bids will not be accepted.
2. The quote that complies with all the specifications/requirements and offers value for money, as well as all other evaluation criteria indicated here, shall be selected.
3. Pact may cancel solicitation and not award.
4. Pact may reject any or all responses received.
5. Issuance of request for quotes does not constitute a contract commitment by Pact.
6. Pact reserves the right to disqualify any offer based on offeror failure to follow the solicitation instructions.
7. Pact reserves the right to waive minor proposal deficiencies that can be corrected prior to award determination to promote competition.
8. Pact will be contacting all offerors to confirm contact person, address and that the proposal was submitted for this solicitation.

'Plans are underway to establish country's national oil reserve'

By Henry Mwangonde

THE government is working on plans to establish a national oil reserve which will save the country's oil needs for a certain period of time.

Industries and Trade minister Innocent Bashungwa revealed this yesterday when addressing the media after a meeting with officials from Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA), Fair Competition Commission (FCC) and the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA).

Bashungwa said the plan is part of recommendations from the meeting which among other things proposes improvements into the oil Bulk Procurement System (BPS) so that it adjusts in favour of consumers come changes of prices at global market.

The meeting came after reports that some oil marketing companies were hoarding the commodity to sell it at higher prices.

"Oil prices have declined, but we have noticed that in some regions the prices are still high because of some unfaithful dealers who are hoarding the commodity to create an artificial shortage," he said.

The minister said oil prices at international markets have gone down

hence oil dealers were supposed to sell the commodity at government's indicative price.

The move by minister Bashungwa comes barely a day after energy minister Dr Medard Kalemani gave seven days to Ewura to conduct a crackdown on big fuel dealers who hoard fuel to sell at higher prices.

In his remarks, Ewura acting director general Godfrey Chibulunjje said laws are clear on how oil business should be conducted in the country.

Earlier this month, Ewura announced a record fall of oil prices in the country thanks to the world market prices.

Ewura attributed the fall in prices due to the global trends that has largely affected oil prices at the world market.

The regulator advised oil marketing companies to feel free to sell their products at a price that gives them a competitive advantage provided that such price does not exceed the price cap.

"Oil prices have declined, but we have noticed that in some regions the prices are still high because of some unfaithful dealers who are hoarding the commodity to create an artificial shortage"



Residents of Mwanjanje Street at Uyole in Mbeya Region in pensive mood yesterday as they witnessed as the debris of a house gutted by fire, with eight families rendered homeless. Photo: Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga

Eight families rendered homeless after fire guts houses

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

EIGHT families in Mwanjanje area in Uyole Ward, Mbeya City have no shelter after the house they were living in was gutted by fire.

The fire started on Tuesday noon while some family members were inside the house, they however managed to escape.

Speaking to this paper, one eye witness, Kennedy Edison said he saw

big smoke spewing from the windows of one of the houses before huge flames erupted.

Tenants of the house that had three shops said apart from lacking places to live, they lost all their properties in the

blaze.

Edmund Dinya, a tenant of the house said he was not present when the house was burning, hence he lost everything.

Mwanjanje Street chairman Joseph Ndambo said after he was informed

and rang the Fire and Rescue Services Brigade who arrived after some time but found almost the entire house was gutted down.

"The fire Brigade offices are 12 kms away from Uyole but when the firemen

arrived they were not able to save anything," he added.

The owner of the house Bosco Ngogo said no one was hurt from the inferno even though all his tenants' belongings were destroyed.



Dodoma regional social community officer Onorath Maiko addresses persons with disabilities at a workshop on the countdown to later this year's General Election. It was held in Dodoma city. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

100,000 people set to benefit from modern hospital in Ileje

By Guardian Correspondent, Ileje

MORE than 100,000 citizens stand to benefit from health services following the government's provision of 1.8bn/- for the construction of a modern hospital in Ileje district, Songwe region.

The construction of the hospital will go in tandem with the construction of two health centres at Lubanda and Ibaba worth 900m/- as well as the construction of Ngulilo dispensary to cost 154m/-.

Goodluck Charles a resident of Ileje said the step will provide relief to the district residents who for many years have been facing hardships in accessing health services.

Gabriel Mwalwiji the project's coordinator said after receiving the funds they have constructed three buildings costing 1.5bn/- and that recently they received another 300m/- for the completion of one storey building for the OPD wing and the work is expected to be finalised in three months time.

Ileje district medical officer Janneth Makoye said the construction of the hospital and the health centres will provide relief to the residents of the district as they had to travel 57kms for health services in Vwawa in Mbozi district while others even crossed the border into Malawi.

She said as of now the people should expect to get quality health services at their hospital that are expected to be offered within a short time.

Ileje district executive director Haji Mnasi said the hospital's

construction is 95 per cent complete, and added:

"We thank the government for the decision to build a modern hospital in the district together with the health centres. This will greatly assist in the improvement of health services in the district."

Ileje District Commissioner Joseph Mkude said the fifth phase government has been people-friendly as it had provided billions for development projects that have been well managed by the district's leaders.

Charity volunteers knit and sew for Tanzanian villagers

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

ARMED to the hilt with knitting and sewing needles, the Bailiwick's Tumaini Fund volunteers have been keeping busy during lockdown to provide jumpers, sanitary pads, and blankets to Tanzanian children, widows and widowers in village communities in Kagera.

Dozens of volunteers, many in their 70s and 80s, have been knitting and sewing through the coronavirus pandemic and have said it has been great to have something to show for lockdown.

Many of the older volunteers have been in isolation since early March and they have felt it has given them a real sense of purpose and a great sense of achievement when another jumper, dress or blanket is ready.

Blankets have been crocheted, all manner of jumpers have been knitted, and cuddly toys have been created.

In addition, spare fabric donated before lockdown has been upcycled into multi-coloured dresses for three- to 14-year-old orphan girls, as well as donated towelling and fabrics turned into hundreds of reusable sanitary pads and bags for hygiene kits for those girls to continue to go to school all month.

Volunteer Yvonne Elliot said: 'During lockdown I've done more sewing than I normally have time for.

'So far, I've made 10 jumpers, a blanket, 12 dresses and over 300 washable pads for the girls.'

Former nurse and carer Madeleine Dawson has so far knitted 13 rainbow coloured jumpers and said how grateful she was for all the donated wool.

'At night time I can't sit doing nothing, just watching TV, so I've been knitting for Tumaini,' she said.

Volunteers are based in Guernsey, Alderney and Sark with handmade items on the go in every parish in Guernsey.

Some friends even get together and share their creations online on Zoom and via Facetime.

Others knit and crochet at the same time as doing other things, including Angela de Garis, who has been

crocheting blankets for the charity.

'I absolutely love doing it,' she said. 'Last night I sat for 20 minutes just watching TV and I said to my husband, this is driving me crazy just sitting here, I can listen to the TV but have to be crocheting too.'

Once knitted, sewed and crocheted, the items are then packed in aid containers with donated medical equipment, IT, vocational and educational supplied before being shipped to Tanzania.

Tumaini Fund hygiene kit project co-ordinator, Sarah-Jane Allen said she wanted to extend a huge thank you to all those who have been busily sewing and knitting away through the coronavirus pandemic.

'It's wonderful to say thank you on behalf of all the children, widows and widowers in so many village communities in Kagera,' she said.

'The orphans and workers in Tanzania are so grateful for the love, skills and time volunteers put into everything they make.

'It's an inspiring community response and a colourful sign of hope, unity and compassion especially in these difficult times - power of positivity.'

Tumaini Fund chairwoman, Dr Susan Wilson, said she also wanted to thank the churches and many people in Guernsey who gave funds during lockdown.

Tumaini Fund is a Guernsey-based Christian charity that supports Aids orphans and widows in Kagera, northwest Tanzania with all levels of education, clean water wells, safe housing, sustainable employment and access to medical care.



At night time I can't sit doing nothing, just watching TV, so I've been knitting for Tumaini



Tanga city's main commuter bus stand as it lay yesterday - all but lifeless - after drivers downed tools, complaining that traffic police officers were routinely treating them unfairly. Photo: Correspondent Oscar Kasimiri

Assess yourselves before vying for councillorship posts - Dodoma's mayor

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

DODOPMA City Mayor Prof Davis Mwamfupe has told prospective aspirants to the councillorship posts in the city wards to evaluate themselves before taking the decision.

Prof Mwamfupe was speaking to Dodoma City Councillors at their final meeting before it was dissolved.

He said the aim of the government that is in power is to ensure the people get development and not anything else they might be thinking, hence those who will enter the races should place the interests of the people foremost.

"People like to see development, they will want to see the results of their promises during campaigns so when we dissolve this council, my conviction is that you will go to seek votes in order to serve the people," he said.

The Dodoma City Director Godwin Kunambi, reading report on the achievements in Dodoma City said they have been able to bring about huge development in various infrastructures including roads, health, education, land survey and resolution to land conflicts.

He said from these achievements, economic activities have increased

as compared to the past due to increase in revenue collection that is incomparable to any other local council in the country.

He said due to these development achievements in Dodoma city, it is in his conviction that the outgoing councillors will ask to be returned to their positions due to the cooperation they had with the city residents that saw the completion of huge development projects.



People like to see development, they will want to see the results of their promises during campaigns so when we dissolve this council, my conviction is that you will go to seek votes in order to serve the people

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

7,500 farmers to benefit from horticulture programme in southern highlands regions

A TOTAL of 7,500 farmers from local councils of three regions - Mbeya, Songwe and Katavi are set to gain from a horticulture programme aimed to enhance food production, its availability and security thereof, as well as improving nutritional value.

This was disclosed here yesterday by the Director of the Horticultural Programme from Helvetas Tanzania that engages in farming in the Southern Highlands Zone, Daniel Kalimbiya at a seminar that brought together agricultural officers, community

development department and other stakeholders to understand the programme.

Kalimbiya said the four-year programme will begin this year and will benefit about 500 farmers groups and cooperative societies engaged in horticulture.

"Upon its conclusion the programme is expected to reach 7,500 horticultural

farmers from 1,500 households in order to add value to the crops as well as establishing processing factories as many crops get lost despite storage efforts," he said.

Mbeya Regional Administrative Secretary in the Economic and Investment Department Said Madito congratulated the organisation for supporting the government in

mobilising horticulture by targeting the youth and women.

He said the organisation should strive to add value to the entire crops chain to ensure horticulture succeeds.

He also advised the organisation that after the conclusion of the programme, it should make an assessment to see whether its targets had been attained. The Director of Tanzania

Agricultural Institute Uyolet Centre (TARI-Uyolet) Dr Tulole Bucheyeki said Helvetas, in collaboration with the Centre will ensure the farmers benefit through training, finding markets and the establishing of processing plants.

He said the programme can benefit over one million residents though not directly, through the distribution of

farm inputs, dealers and consumers of the products to be produced.

"In the programme TARI-Uyolet concentrates in advising on the types of seeds to use, nutrition and better use of farm inputs," said Dr Bucheyeki.

A senior official from the Ministry of Agriculture Merius Nzalawahe dealing in horticultural crops said the crops are more profitable as they require small areas, but with huge harvests compared to other crops, hence urged farmers to adopt it.

He said farmers are required to follow the advice given by the agriculture experts for gainful crops production.



JOB VACANCY

Letshego Tanzania Limited is looking for a suitable candidate for the position of

Title : HEAD OF HUMAN CAPITAL
Reports to : CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Purpose: The Head of Human Capital originates and leads Human Resources practices and objectives that will provide an employee-oriented, high-performance culture that emphasizes empowerment, productivity and goal attainment.

Responsibilities:

- Develops organization strategies by identifying and researching human resources issues; contributing information, analysis, and recommendations to organization strategic thinking and direction; establishing human resources objectives in line with organizational objectives.
- Implements human resources strategies by establishing department accountabilities, including talent acquisition, staffing, employment processing, compensation, health and welfare benefits, training and development, records management, safety and health, succession planning, employee relations and retention, and labor relations.
- Manages human resources operations by recruiting, selecting, orienting, training, coaching, counseling, and disciplining staff; planning, monitoring, appraising, and reviewing staff job contributions; maintaining compensation; determining production, productivity, quality, and customer-service strategies; designing systems; accumulating resources; resolving problems; implementing change.
- Develops human resources operations financial strategies by estimating, forecasting, and anticipating requirements, trends, and variances; aligning monetary resources; developing action plans; measuring and analyzing results; initiating corrective actions; minimizing the impact of variances.

Knowledge and Skills:

- Broad knowledge and experience in Human Resources including employment law, compensation, organizational planning, organization development, performance management, employee relations, safety, and training and development.
- Above average oral and written communication skills.
- Excellent interpersonal and coaching skills.
- Demonstrated ability to lead and develop Human Resources staff members.
- Demonstrated ability to serve and contribute to the executive management team that provides company leadership and direction.
- Demonstrated ability to interact effectively with the company Board of Directors.

Education:

- Minimum of a Bachelor's degree or equivalent in Human Resources, Psychology, Business, Organization Development or equivalent
- Five plus years of progressive leadership experience in a senior Human Resources positions.
- Specialized training in employment law, compensation, organizational planning, organization development, employee relations, safety, training, and preventive labor relations, preferred.

FOR SUBMISSION OF YOUR APPLICATION

Interested and qualified applicant are requested to submit their application explaining why they are the best fit for the position by 30th June 2020 through the email address TZ.Human.Resources@letshego.com

Disclaimers: This job description is not an in-depth list of the duties and responsibilities associated with the position. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.



JOB VACANCY

Letshego Tanzania Limited is looking for a suitable candidate for the position of:

Job Title : Head of Consumer Solutions
Reports To : Chief Executive Officer

Purpose of the Job:

- To manage sales growth of the company's products and services in Tanzania .
- Ensures consistent, profitable growth in sales revenues through positive planning, deployment, and management of sales personnel.
- Identifies objectives, strategies and action plans to improve short- and long-term sales and earnings.

Key Accountabilities:

- Collaborates with CEO in establishing and recommending the most realistic sales goals for the company.
- Ensure Sales targets for the country are achieved
- Accurately forecasts annual, quarterly and monthly revenue streams.
- Develops specific plans to ensure revenue growth in all products.
- Review and assessment of sales results of the company and sales staff's productivity.
- Coordinates proper company resources to ensure efficient and stable sales results.
- Formulates all sales policies, practices and procedures.
- Collaborates with CEO to develop sales strategies to improve market share in all product lines.
- Interprets short- and long-term effects on sales strategies in operating profit.

Thinking Requirements and Working Complexity:

- Problem-solving and analytical skills to interpret sales performance and market trend information.
- Ability to identify risks and proactively work on mitigating the risks
- Ability to plan 3 -5 years planning in terms of vision, mission and mandate
- Ability to plan work flow to maximize efficiency
- Ability to work as a team player

Knowledge and Experience Required of Job Holder:

- University Graduate from a recognized and well established University with a degree in Marketing, Sales, Commerce or equivalent
- A minimum of 5 to 10 years in management experienced in sales, marketing and business development

FOR SUBMISSION OF YOUR APPLICATION

Interested and qualified applicants are requested to submit their application explaining why they are the best fit for the position by 30th June 2020 through the email TZ.Human.Resources@letshego.com

Disclaimers: This job description is not an in-deth list of duties and responsibilities associated with the position only short-listed candidates will be contacted

Education stakeholders see need for strong systems to ensure sustainable studies for children during disasters

By Getrude Mbago

EDUCATION stakeholders in the country have underscored the need for the government to come up with a strong system which would facilitate sustainable learning of school children especially during eruption of disasters.

Speaking during a virtual dialogue to mark the International Day of the African Child, the stakeholders hinted on the immediate measures to ensure that children remain safe from the pandemic and fulfill their educational dreams.

Dubbed "Reflecting on the 'Child-Friendly Justice System in Africa: how does the schooling systems accommodates the negative impacts of the Covid-19 to learning?", the dialogue was organised by HakiElimu, a non-profit based organisation dedicated for promoting education and attracted various stakeholders in the country.

In his opening remarks, HakiElimu executive director John Kallage said the provision of education especially during disasters should be looked with a bigger eye to ensure that all children learn well.

Kallage noted: "just like many other social sectors, education is going through what we may term as 'tough times in history' due to the spread of the global Covid-19 pandemic. Globally, according to UNESCO approximately 1.54 billion students including 743 million girls remain out of classrooms due to closing of school for more than three months now, with millions living in remote areas with difficulties on accessing alternative learning."

"Majority of them failed to continue learning due to various reasons including poverty and geographical positions, this situation sends a huge alert to authorities and stakeholders on the importance of having strong national alternative learning systems," he said.

According to him, the majority of the children in African countries especially in rural areas lacked access to internet or television to catch up lessons provided through the platforms, something which denied their right to education.

"We as stakeholders in cooperation with the government have to ensure that we come up with strong recommendations on essential components which should be incorporated in the current education system towards ensuring that our children are always kept in schools and that no disaster could keep them out of class," Kallage stressed.

Preparations for cement factory construction ongoing - Shigella

By Guardian Reporter

PREPARATIONS for the construction of a large cement factory in Tanga Region are ongoing with the Chinese company undertaking the project, Hengya, finalising procedures to compensate 94 residents of Mtimbani, Mkinga District in the region who gave land to pave way for the project four years ago.

Tanga regional commissioner, Martine Shigella, said that after the Hengya expressed interest to invest in the region, they held various meeting with residents to assist in making the investment possible whereas Amboni residents have agreed to give 280 acres of land and Mtimbani residents have agreed to provide 1,000 acres of land.

He said these are huge swathes of land and that local residents deserve to be compensated, and also thanked Tanzania Investment Center (TIC) for working closely with his office whereas of June 10 the remaining residents began to be assessed for compensation.

Among other things, TIC and Tanga regional authorities have also been working together to counsel other government authorities to help in overseeing that construction of the cement factory and power generating plant using coal in the area is expedited. "We as a region want to see this project being implemented and ultimately grow so that our residents benefit economically, fortunately we have negotiated with both parties including investors and the public, and now they will be compensated, we thank TIC for their efforts to date," said Shigella.

Hengya expects to build a cement

The director further said that Covid-19 should be an opportunity to invest more in education technology. Deliberate changes must be made about how schools can rely more on the use of technology in the process of teaching and learning.

"There is a need to look into how we budget for schools' infrastructure and human resources to include the aspect of Information Technology which may easily facilitate and support learning inside and outside classrooms. While strengthening the use of technology, authorities should also consider reviewing some laws and policies so as to reduce expenses of internet and enable more families afford to pay them during home schooling," he added.

He further added that despite its grave consequences, HakiElimu believes that the Covid-19 pandemic may be used as a rare opportunity for improving learning approaches and the entire education system. Covid-19 should be a trigger for more constructive discussions and campaigns for the change we wish to effect in the education sector.

For his part, Maregesi Machumu, a lecturer from Dar es Salaam College of Education (DUCE) said that stakeholders should supervise to ensure that protection, safety and rights of children are strengthened while working to totally eradicate all forms of violence against children.

He also said that the government has also taken various strides and initiatives to protect children's rights as well as improving their welfare by adopting and approving various international and regional agreements, enacting policies, laws, regulations, guidelines, and developing various programmes and strategies that aims to protect, defend and promote the rights of the child.

"However, there is a lot to do especially in having a strong system to enable children to continue with studies and remain safe even during disaster periods, we should work collaboratively to keep our children in school for their bright future," Machumu added.

Another participant, Ignasia Mligo urged the government to think on how it is going to help minimise fear and worries of children in school.

"We are aware that the disease has raised fear among people, and maybe the children felt safer staying home during the outbreak of Covid-19, but we should ask how are we going to help the children remain safe with no worries about the disease," she said.

factory that would have the capacity to produce seven million metric tonnes annually while at the same time generate electricity using coal.

The power project will generate 5,000 megawatts for a short-term plan and 1,000 megawatt over the medium term.

TIC Executive Director, Geoffrey Mwambe recently visited Tanga Region to inspect the progress of investment activities and help address the challenges they face where he also made a tour of the project being implemented by the Chinese company.

Besides investing in the constructing of a cement factory and power generating plant, the company also plans to construct an Industrial Park which would attract other investors to the area.

Another Chinese company, car manufacturer Jangsu Automobile Company (JAC), has also expressed interest to set up an automotive assembly plant in the area after learning of plans to construct an industrial park.

"Hengya enjoys a great working relationship with JAC with whom we have had talks about setting up a car assembly plant in the country. So on top of producing cement and generating electricity, Hengya will also construct an industrial park which will be used by JAC to set up their assembly plant," Mwambe said.

"I visited and talked with them and fortunately the chairmen of Hengya and JAC companies came to Tanzania to see the opportunities available, they also met with ruling party CCM Secretary General, Dr Bashiru Alli, who hailed the project. We want Tanga to have this investment," added Mwambe.



Sugarcane vendors hunt for customers along Dar es Salaam's Morogoro Road yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Coalition gets 277m/- for 'equipping' human rights defenders in Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) has received a grant amounting to 277m/- which is equivalent to US\$120,000 for the period of one year (2020/2021) from one of its founding donors and partner Open society Initiative for Eastern Africa (OSIEA).

According to a statement issued yesterday by THRDC national coordinator Onesmo Olungurumwa, OSIEA has been a long time partner and main supporter of the coalition

since 2012 when THRDC was officially registered as the network of human rights defenders in Tanzania.

"The main purpose of the grant is to contribute towards improving HRDs working environment for protection and promotion of human rights in Tanzania," Olungurumwa said in a statement.

He said that the grant is meant for capacity building and compliance trainings to human rights defenders, protection support, and provision of security gears to HRDs and journalists during election as well as engagement

activities with the government or judiciary.

He commended OSIEA for extending the support to human rights defenders in Tanzania, saying: "This foundation has been helping different human rights organisations across the globe, they are our stakeholders since we started, they are the ones who gave us seed money to start this institution in 2012. We've been together since we started and they have been trustworthy to us and we also have been trustful to them."

"This support is a continuation

of many supports they have been supporting us. They have been with us for years," he said, adding that OSIEA has been working towards protection of human rights, the rule of law and equal access to justice, protection of the rights of the marginalised communities.

THRDC envisages a free and secured working environment for human rights defenders in Tanzania, with the aim to maximise the protection, respect and recognition of HRDs in Tanzania through protection, capacity building and advocacy.



Dar es Salaam resident Farida Mohamed shows journalists a land certificate of occupancy in the city yesterday, while complaining that her plot - at Mbagala Rangitatu - has been "invaded". Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Covid-19 affects frontline health workers - TAMA

By Guardian Correspondent, Simiyu

THE Tanzania Midwives Association (TAMA) has said that some of health workers including midwives who were at the frontline treating Covid-19 patients have been affected psychologically.

The association said the problem was caused by great panic over the pandemic brought about by too many reports, true or false from the public and in the social media.

This was revealed yesterday by TAMA's Coordinator Martha Limoi when speaking to reporters soon after a two-day training seminar to health

workers in Simiyu Region aimed to dispel such fears over the disease.

Limoi said many health workers were gripped with panic after reading media reports including the social media that showed great number of people dying in the European countries.

She said TAMA has discovered the existence of some health workers who panicked on how they can treat the Covid-19 patients while they had their own families that depended on them.

He said even in situations where health workers fled their patients it was emanating from such fears as they did not know the destiny in regard of their own lives.

"There were some who started regarding the health profession as a bad one, and regretted pursuing it, they saw the profession as mere anguish and certain death, some of them wanted to quit employment, and many of them were isolated from their families and the society," she said.

She said as much as they adhered to all guidelines for the protection against the disease, these health workers still feared for their lives and that of their families.

"The situation made some of them experiencing psychological effects through depression, they were immersed in deep thoughts, but still

they were required to go to work to attend to the patients," said Limoi.

She however said speeches from President Magufuli at the height of the pandemic changed the situation as many health workers dispelled the fear they had.

One of the nurses from Maswa district, Sigira Mkwende confessed of having undergone the condition and even reached a point wanting to terminate employment.

Mkwende said the great challenge was when her family started isolating her, even though she did not contract Covid-19 infection despite having treated a Covid-19 patient.



Shinyanga regional commissioner Zainab Tellack (R. foreground) has an audience with Ushetu and Bukombe tobacco farmers at an Alliance One warehouse in Kahama District yesterday. To her right is Kahama district commissioner Anamringi Macha. Photo: Correspondent Shaban Njia

Heavy seasonal rains see steep drop in production of tobacco in Shinyanga

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

Tobacco production level in Ushetu District in Shinyanga Region has plummeted from 9.6 million kgs expected to be harvested in 2019/20 season to 8.9 kgs, a drop of seven percent of the target, due to heavy seasonal rains.

This was revealed yesterday by the Tanzania Tobacco Board (TTB) for Tabora Zone Albert Chale when presenting short report on the crop's development in Shinyanga Region for 2018/20 season to the regional defense and security committee that visited one of the crop's markets at a warehouse belonging to Alliance One.

Chale said the rains also caused drop in tobacco quality compared to the previous season and called upon buyers to exercise less meticulousness when buying for the farmers to benefit so as to be

able to repay their financial obligations.

Chale said a total of six firms entered into contract with 48 Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Societies (AMCOS) - Aotl, Jtills, Grand Tobacco, Jespan, Petrobena and Magefa.

He said Aotl will buy 4.3 million kgs of tobacco, Jtills (1.9m kg), Grand Tobacco (1.4m kg), Jespan (1m kg) Petrobena (250,000kgs) Magefa (650,000kgs) at an average of USD 1.40 per kg.

The Shinyanga Regional Commissioner Zainab Tellack said no one is to blame over excessive rains and called upon AMCOS officials to ensure they apply for loans according to what they are going to do in the agricultural activities.

He also called upon tobacco farmers to adopt the habit of saving money after selling the crop to enable them prepare for the next growing season to extricate themselves from debts in every farming season.

Dar college aims to produce more clinical officers to boost health services delivery across the country

By Guardian Reporter

A DAR ES SALAAM-based Vignan Institute of Science and Technology (VIST) is set to produce more competent clinical officers to supplement government's efforts in improving health sector in the country.

Naidu Katuri, director of the institute said: "Since there is a great shortage of healthcare professionals, especially clinical officers his newly established institute VIST will do better to fill the gap."

According to him, the institute will produce a large number of clinical officers who primarily serve in the rural areas of Tanzania where majority people live.

"We'll do the best in order to achieve the Tanzania Vision 2025, National Strategy for Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction."

VIST will use its experienced teachers and state-of-the-art teaching facilities appropriately to prepare competent clinical officers who will be deployed all over Tanzania for achieving equity-oriented national health goals, he said.

"We have accreditation from the National Council for Technical Education (NACTE) so we welcome applications from eligible candidates who wish to pursue courses in Ordinary Diploma in Clinical Medicine (NTA Level 4-6) and Certificate in Clinical medicine (NTA Level 4-5) for

the academic year 2020-21," he said.

"Applicants should have a minimum of four passes at "D" level in Chemistry, Biology, Physics and one other non-religious subject at Certificate of Secondary Education Examination (CSEE) level," he said.

He said the institute plans to expand the offer of other programmes by next academic year in the fields of health sciences and technology including pharmacy, nursing, lab technology, and information systems.

"We plan to admit 150 Diploma in Clinical Medicine students this year and expect to have about 1000 students by the next academic year in all the programmes it expects to be offered," he said.

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

Councils urged to use regional land offices to resolve conflicts

THE Assistant Commissioner for Lands in Mbeya Region Jeremiah Minja has instructed all local councils in the region to ensure they prepare a list of land conflicts that can be resolved by his office in time so as to avoid the prolonging of unnecessary land conflicts in the region.

Speaking to this paper early this week, Minja said there are land conflicts at local council level that can be resolved by his office instead of leaving the people in suspense.

He said the government's decision to establish regional land offices aimed to speed up conflict resolution at councils' level and his office is well mobilised for the task.

He said since its establishment,

his office has dealt with various land conflicts within its capability.

"We are tired with unplanned settlements in Mbeya Region and from now on we have embarked on surveying of land plots in urban areas to ensure the citizens own surveyed plots," he said.

Citing an example, he said Mbeya City Council received 639m/- loan from the Land Survey Fund in the Ministry of Lands for Iziwa area, the plan which was completed with great success.

He said as of now they have plans to direct survey work in Iduda area in the city as well as having the city have

better planning for human settlements.

He said his office has issued 10,837 customary title deeds to the people to enable them own their lands legally, that can be used by them to access loans from banks and other financial institutions for their various economic activities.

He said in Mbeya rural district alone a total of 9,879 customary title deeds were given to the citizens, 732 customary title deeds issued to Mbarali district and 129 to Rungwe district.

He added that Busokero District received 57 title deeds, Kyela district (38) and Chunya District two only.

Govt stresses need for joint efforts in war on violence against children

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

HEALTH, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children minister Umyi Mwalimu has called on the public to join forces in the fight against violence against children.

Mwalimu was speaking here on Tuesday at the climax of the International African Child Day, themed: 'Access to a Child-Friendly Justice System in Africa' that is translated to enabling good systems in protection of children's rights that guarantees their rights protection.

She said that government alone cannot win the war against child abuse, hence there is a meet for more stakeholders to chip in and address the vice, noting: "Children are still victims of rape, infidelity and early pregnancies."

"Regardless of these initiatives children are vulnerable to infidelity, rape and early pregnancies. Violence related to children piled up from 14,401 cases in 2018 to 15,680 last year led by rape cases, impregnated students and infidelity," he said.

Tanga is leading in the list with 1,039 cases, Mbeya 1,001, Mwanza 809, Arusha 792, Tanga 1,159 cases, Temeke 844, Mbeya 791 and Mwanza 758 cases," the minister said.

She said there is improvements as

the number of children victims of such cases who have been ready to report the cases to the police force has increased from 493 children in 2016, 1,072 in 2017, 1,854 in 2018, 2,133 in 2019 and for the period between January and March this year 813 children reported to be victims of the mentioned discrimination acts.

African Child Day commemoration initiated by the Africa Union rooted with the massacre of more than 2,000 children in Soweto South Africa on June 16, 1976 who demonstrated to oppose the then education system based on racism. The AU imposed a commemoration of the day for the first time in 1991.

"As the rest of the continent we are very concerned at tracking down systems used in honoring children when they are found guilty of different crimes. In the case of social welfare services the government has been providing the same services in five different children's institutions across the country in the regions of Mbeya, Kilimanjaro, Tanga, Arusha and Dar es Salaam," she said.

According to her, in the year 2019/20, 138 children were exposed to social welfare, a service which includes food and health care services compared to 354 children in 2018/19.

The ministry has also been working

on follow ups of legal proceedings against children criminal cases in the court of law whereby special courts for such purpose have been established that have increased from three courts in 2015/16 to 141 courts in March this year.

The ministries in collaboration with development partners have been implementing a special programme on children found guilty of different offenses behaviour scrutiny and the programme has so far reached 91 of the same period to 501 children.

On the other move the ministry has been working on improving ways to keep children rights in collaboration with the police force by establishing 427 gender desks across the country to fight gender violence. About 490 police officers have been subjected to training on this matter.

From June 2017 to March 2020 about 167 children received welfare services from nine safe homes in the regions of Arusha, Iringa, Kigoma, Mara, Manyara, Morogoro and Mwanza. The aim is ensure that children stay at safe homes especially the victims of rape and infidelity.

The ministry has been adopting children and orphans from high-risk areas. In the period of 2015 about 16 28 children were adopted and later linked to their relatives.



INTERNAL VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Ariel Glaser Pediatric AIDS Healthcare Initiative (AGPAHI) is a non-governmental organisation that plays a pivotal role in complementing the Government of Tanzania's efforts towards the attainment of its development goals. AGPAHI strives to provide quality and integrated HIV/AIDS health services to children and families. AGPAHI supports the provision of high-quality HIV and other health services and ensures that efforts are well-integrated into existing regional and district health systems.

AGPAHI is looking for a motivated, result driven, qualified and competent staff to fill the position of Senior Compliance Officer.

Job Title : Senior Compliance Officer
Location : Dar es salaam
Reporting to : Finance, Audit and Risk Committee of the Board

Purpose of the post

Provide the organization with guidance on financial accuracy, internal controls and regulatory compliance. To examine and improve operating practices, financial and risk management processes of the organization.

Senior Compliance Officer is expected to (but not limited to as well):

1. Check the compliance to US Government regulations, organization policies & Procedures
2. Examine and consider the adequacy of Internal controls throughout the accounting cycle
3. Evaluate and check the reliability and integrity of financial and operational information;
4. Evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of AGPAHI's operations at all levels
5. Review the information systems environment and government statutes;
6. Review, appraise and report on:
 - Adequacy and proper application of controls while considering exposure to fraud or /and irregularities
 - The extent of compliance, relevance and financial effect of policies, plans and procedures.
 - Economy, efficiency and effective use of resources
 - The safeguarding of assets;
 - Report on any serious weakness, significant fraud or major accounting breakdown.
7. Evaluate the achievement of established operational goals and objectives;
8. Check on reliability, usefulness and integrity of performance information.
9. Follow up on implementation of External Audit recommendations and the Internal Auditors' recommendations.
10. Recommend improvements to systems and procedures;
11. Ensure organization compliance to Donor reporting as stipulated in the Award and rules and regulations
12. In collaboration with PMU unit assess the organization Performance to Donor's targets and overall organization KPIs
13. Follow up on implementation of Risk Register and report any new identified risks and identify potential risks of non-compliance by AGPAHI
14. On regular basis recommend improvements in AGPAHI operations based on identified risks
15. Develop a training plan to educate employees on compliance issues to improve their understanding of the terms and conditions of the Award by providing donor compliance advice and training so that programs are delivered responsibly with minimized compliance risk.
16. Conduct investigations and make recommendations in non-compliance cases.
17. Maintain legal, financial and regulatory knowledge and update compliance register of AGPAHI.
18. Review and follow up on updating of internal policies on compliance matters.
19. Prepare and file required official documents in compliance matters.

Qualifications:

- A university degree finance, accounting, Business Administration or a related field
- ACCA/CPA
- Certified Compliance & Ethics Professional (CCEP) is an added advantage
- 3 - 5 years' proven experience in compliance/internal or external audit officer role.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills.
- Highly-analytical with strong attention to detail.
- Experience in risk management
- Previous experience providing compliance training.
- Demonstrated knowledge and prior experience working with a variety of USG agencies such as USAID, CDC, etc;
- Project Management experience

HOW TO APPLY

Interested candidates should submit internal recruitment form and CV (not exceeding four pages) before close of the business on Tuesday 30th June, 2020 to the Human Resources and Administration Manager, Ariel Glaser Pediatric AIDS Healthcare Initiative, by e-mail to recruitment@agpahi.org.tz. Please mention the title of the position in your email and do not attach any document other than the CV and cover letter.

AGPAHI is an equal opportunity employer.

Progress seen in Africa to have more women in science careers

SCIENCE from the Latin word *scientia*, meaning knowledge is a systematic enterprise that builds and organises knowledge in the form of testable explanations and predictions about the universe. Modern science is typically divided into three major branches that consist of the natural sciences (e.g., biology, chemistry, and physics), which study nature in the broadest sense; the social sciences (e.g., economics, psychology, and sociology), which study individuals and societies; and the formal sciences (e.g., logic, mathematics, and theoretical computer science), which study abstract concepts. Disciplines that use existing scientific knowledge for practical purposes, such as engineering and medicine, are described as applied sciences.

Science is based on research, which is commonly conducted in academic and research institutions as well as in government agencies and companies. The practical impact of scientific research has led to the emergence of science policies that seek to influence the scientific enterprise by prioritizing the development of commercial products, armaments, health care, and environmental protection.

Women scientists have a vital part to play in scientific leadership and in contributing to Africa's development and transformation. But they remain substantially under-represented in higher education and in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). This is because women are generally seen and treated by society as being inferior and less capable than men. This then spills over into their educational and professional lives.

This is a global issue. Women account for 53 per cent of the world's bachelor's and master's degree graduates and 43 per cent of PhD graduates. But they make up only 28 per cent of researchers in all fields. And, only 30 per cent of women in higher education move into STEM-

related fields. The situation is no different in sub-Saharan Africa; in fact, in some countries in the region it's worse. Only 30 per cent of sub-Saharan researchers in all subject areas are women.

Happily, there have been some improvements in recent years. Between 2011 and 2013, for instance, there was an increase in the percentage of women researchers in South Africa, Egypt, Morocco, Senegal, Nigeria, Rwanda, Cameroon and Ethiopia.

But it isn't all good news. Many women leave scientific research careers at a fairly junior level. Gender disparities persist in the scientific workforce, largely leaving women scientists in junior positions with little responsibility and power to make decisions, as well as limited leadership opportunities. The result is that scientific work is missing women's perspectives and contributions. This weakens the science agenda. But examples are emerging of how to close the gender gap in African STEM.

The recognition of achievements is crucial to driving gender equity. The African Union Kwame Nkrumah Awards for Scientific Excellence Programme honours two outstanding African women scientists from each of Africa's five geographical regions. This programme promotes scientific development, encourages perseverance in research or academic careers, nurtures ambition, and raises the profile of science and technology innovation so that it contributes to Africa's development.

As part of building skills and mentoring the next generation of African scientists, the African Union declared 2015 as the Year of Women's Empowerment and Development Towards Africa Agenda 2063. It also adopted the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2024, which examines among other things the role women can play in accelerating Africa's transition to an innovation-led, knowledge-based economy which meets society's needs.

Towards sustainable development: Hard road to travel, prospects high

WE live in an increasingly fragile world. Many previously stable countries and cities have experienced sudden disruption and breakdown, undoing years of hard-won development gains. Fragility, conflict and violence can affect any country or society, and not just those affected by, or emerging from, protracted warfare.

In response to this steady rise in fragility, two recent reports examining the peace operations and peace architecture of the United Nations have called for a stronger focus on prevention, and for more comprehensive investments towards 'sustaining peace' in all development contexts, not only in the aftermath of conflict. Similarly,

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has woven democratic governance and peace-building targets into a single goal, recognizing here again the indivisible links between 'peaceful societies' and 'effective, accountable and inclusive institutions'.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) acknowledges that there is no single pathway to engineering resilience in the face of fragility, conflict and violence. Responding to today's challenges, the UNDP Strategic Plan (2014-2017) calls for the seamless integration of democratic governance, conflict prevention and peacebuilding interventions.

This integrated approach is applied across all settings: investments in human rights, the rule of law and accountable institutions are geared towards building social cohesion and preventing conflict, and vice versa, investments in social cohesion, national dialogue and mediation capacities lay the foundations for sustaining peace, even in seemingly peaceful settings.

United Nations system must pull together in a more integrated manner

in the service of conflict prevention and peace. Conflict prevention and mediation must be brought back to the fore. The United Nations has not invested enough on addressing root causes of conflict. It must do that in partnership with others, while strengthening its own capacities to undertake prevention work, including through inclusive and equitable development and agree on innovative approaches that integrate conflict prevention, governance, development and human rights.

Sustaining peace should be understood as encompassing not only efforts to prevent relapse into conflict but also to prevent lapse into conflict in the first place. When considering the peace and security activities of the United Nations, therefore, a strong emphasis must be placed on conflict prevention.

Sustaining peace should be broadly understood as a goal and a process to build a common vision of a society, ensuring that the needs of all segments of the population are taken into account, which encompasses activities aimed at preventing the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict, addressing root causes, assisting parties to conflict to end hostilities, ensuring national reconciliation and moving towards recovery, reconstruction and development.

The world is rapidly changing and the development sector must adapt along with it. Alongside extraordinary progress in poverty reduction and economic growth, new transnational threats and national vulnerabilities arise. Climate change and pandemic diseases like Ebola and COVID-19, growing disparities in wealth and political representation, urbanization, social unrest, and violent extremism are all generating new challenges and stresses for governments, communities, civil society and other non-state actors.

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By Joachim Buwembo

PRESIDENT Yoweri Museveni is an angry man. He is not worried; he is angry, and in fighting mood. Last week he delivered the annual State of the Nation Address and as expected, dwelt heavily on the impact of and preparedness for the Covid-19 effects -- now called the new normal.

When the coronavirus broke out, rich societies started hoarding some essential supplies for fighting the outbreak. Some poor societies started developing their own fighting capabilities and a few months down the road, Uganda has 100 plus companies manufacturing sanitisers, whose quality gets better by the day.

Many are making face masks and the Uganda National Bureau of Standards is very strict over which of the scores of manufacturers should be certified to get onto the market.

And guess what, Makerere University with the government's Kiira Motors Corporation have produced a medical ventilator called Bulamu (life) for enabling patients in Intensive Care Units to breathe.

The Ugandan ventilator costs a tenth of the world market price for medical ventilators. Shortage of these machines has caused thousands of deaths in developed countries since the outbreak of covid-19.

RECENTLY, precisely on June 12, we celebrated National Democracy Day. This is quite significant from many

perspectives. First, it signals the official recognition of June 12 as a milestone in our political landscape. Second, considering that we have had 21 years of unbroken democratic experience since 1999, it could be safely affirmed that democracy is steadily becoming an entrenched political culture here. Third, the supreme price paid by many Nigerians over the annulled June 12 election is not in vain. Fourth, our country could be a better place, if we all chose to play our role rightly.

Certainly, we have not really had it so smooth since independence in 1960. But then, no nation ever really has it smooth. The most developed nations of the world today equally had their evolving phases, but they were resolute and focused on their preferred destination.

Thus, every Nigerian has a role to play in moving the nation forward. There is no point in passing the buck. We should stop the blame game. We must all have a rethink about the future of our nation. If some are building and others are pulling down, the building will definitely collapse. No matter what happens, this is the only country that we can call our own.

Politics, religion and ethnicity should not be used as platforms to divide us.

Constructive anger! Yes, that is what Africa needs to beat COVID

"They thought we would die," Museveni said in a voice dripping with vengeance. "But we are not maggots!"

The angry Museveni went ahead to swear that not only will the African survive but will also use this Covid epoch to thrive.

"We are not maggots!" the president repeated.

Indeed, as the president spoke early June, half a year since Covid-19 started in China, a country with which Uganda has very intense -- interaction -- not a single person had died of the disease!

"We are not maggots!" he said a third time.

Anybody who had lived in a village with no flush toilets knows where the place of maggots is. Not only do the maggots stay down there, they also accept whatever is dumped on them. When a man repeatedly mentions maggots in a national address that is attentively being listened to by all diplomats accredited to the country, you have an idea how he feels about those he accuses of treating his people like maggots.

Museveni went ahead to swear that as long as he is in charge of Uganda,

not a speck of uranium will ever be exported from the country "for others to make cheap electricity" with it, insisting that it is better to let it stay in the ground. This brings to mind Mwalimu Julius Nyerere's resolve not to export raw gold from Tanzania, until such a time as when the Tanzanians would make the final products that come from gold.

And on the maggots continues in different African countries.

President Museveni's anger is constructive anger, unlike bad anger from desperation which is destructive. Desperate anger is the type that makes a school kid spill ink of the nice dress of a smarter classmate. But a kid with constructive anger makes efforts to become smarter than the smart kid.

That is the type of anger Africans need right now. It is the anger that Covid-19 has given Africa. If you remember, some clever epidemiologists from the rich countries projected confidently early March that Africa would have 500,000 cases of Covid-19 by May.

But African leaders moved quickly to

take measures to cut the transmission of the virus. May came and Africans were this time proud for delivering below expectation, far below. We gave the world only a tenth (50,000) of what they expected from us -- 500,000.

The realisation that this Covid-19 thing is beatable spurred us into believing in ourselves, our ability to check the virus even better than the richer, technologically advanced societies.

It is this realisation and proof that makes a man like Museveni angry at those who regard his society as lowly. It makes you even look more closely at the death rate of diagnosed patients which is about six per cent worldwide and a scary 16 per cent for Belgium, and zero in Uganda.

And the objectivity of the rich nations becomes questionable as Belgians accuse others of under-reporting their Covid deaths.

Belgium says while it counts all coronavirus deaths, other developed countries do not count those who die of Covid-19 outside hospitals in nursing homes; homes for the elderly.

We need constructive anger.

Towards a better Nigeria

It doesn't matter where we are, we can get to where we ought to be if we are determined to build a stronger and better nation. We can do it. We have the potential. We have the resources. All we need is a strong resolve to start afresh. Let nothing diverts or deters us from this noble course.

That we have remained as one indivisible entity for almost 60 years in spite of all odds is quite impressive. With steady economic growth, a stable democratic government and broad support from development partners, the Nigeria of our collective dream and aspiration could be attained.

To consolidate democracy, restore a functioning economy, and promote sustainable economic growth, we need to strengthen the various organs of government and other institutions of governance. We must keep focusing; keep doing the right things for our country. We must do all we can to escape the condemnation and damnation of history and posterity.

We cannot be the people and the generation that gave up even as others fought to save their own countries. Nigeria is our country, it is the one we truly own. Let us be united in saving our nation. Our outward expression of unity will reflect our inward unity of

purpose.

All levels of government must become more committed to the welfare of the people, especially through the provision of basic infrastructure and amenities that would make life better for the citizenry. Perhaps, this may reduce the pressure on the people for daily survival.

For the progress of our nation, it is imperative to raise a critical mass dedicated to restoring the destiny of Nigeria by living above corruption, fighting corruption and conquering corruption. When every Nigerian is ready for positive change and truly live for such, our collective aspiration for a better country would not be disillusioned.

Against the backdrop of a growing population of idle youths, especially in the northern part of the country, we need to come up with a clear-cut youth policy that will channel the youthful vigour of our youth into proper use. If not, the army of the unemployed youths in the country could constitute a time bomb, waiting to explode anytime.

The renaissance of June 12 must be a lesson for us on the need for national cohesion. We should not allow needless tribal and ethnic sentiments

to keep dividing us. If we do, we would only be making a mockery of our 60 years of nationhood. Individuals and organisations with influence and means should educate the masses on the imperative for national unity, harmony and cohesion.

Lee Kuan Yew, architect of modern Singapore, visited Nigeria a few days before the military struck on Saturday, January 15, 1966. His visit was in connection with the Commonwealth Conference held in Lagos on Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe. His conclusion about Nigeria in 1966 is contained in a book he wrote in 2000 titled: 'From Third World to First'. In the book, he concluded thus: "I think their tribal loyalties were stronger than their sense of common nationhood". Years after the iconic leader made that remark, can we in all honesty say we have overcome tribal prejudices?

One would like to close with the enduring words of Gerald R. Ford, the 38th president of the United States of America: "Even though this is late in an election year, there is no way we can go forward except together and no way anybody can win except by serving the people's urgent needs. We cannot stand still or slip backwards. We must go forward now together".

Project to facilitate reliable transport across East African Central Corridor

By Correspondent James Kandoya

TANZANIA is now finalising renovation of its Meter Gauge Rail (central line), formerly known as the Tanganyika Railway which was in poor standards leading to poor carriage capacity.

The project - Tanzania - Intermodal & Rail Development Project (TIRP) worth U.S. \$ 300 million approved by the World Bank (WB), is implemented by the government, through Tanzania Railway Corporation (TRC).

Its main objective is to create a reliable open access railway infrastructure on the Dar es Salaam-Isaka section of the East African Central Corridor as well as strengthen the country's rail agencies ability to manage the infrastructure, the traffic operations, and the network regulation.

Currently, Tanzania has two railway systems: a central line extends towards Kigoma and Mwanza on Lakes Tanganyika and Victoria respectively, run by TRC and a southern route extends from Dar es Salaam into Zambia, operated by the Tanzania Zambia Railway Authority TAZARA.

Both TRC and TAZARA are in dire need of investments to improve their infrastructure. The northern and central railway was built at the turn of the century, and is of 1,000 mm gauge, and is of roughly 2,700 km in length.

It suffers from repeated washouts and, just like TAZARA's rail line, is short of serviceable locomotives.

TRC Managing Director Masanja Kadogosa (pictured), says that the TIRP project was a necessary first step to the eventual upgrade and expansion of the broader central corridor transport network.

The project aimed at improving a critical link in the regional rail network for both competitiveness and improved regional and global economic integration.

Among others, it further aimed at improving the carriage capacity from 13.5 to 18.5 million tonnes and speed from 35 to 70 km per hour in order to increase its efficiency and assurance.

He said that it also involves the laying of 312 kilometres of rails at 80 pounds standards, renovation of rail 658 rail tracks, culverts and bridges and purchases of rolling stocks.

Kadogosa who was the former boss of the Reli Assets Holding Company RAHACO before merged to TRC, said up to date, the project has benefited directly more than 1600 employed as workers, suppliers and also build capacities of those participating in the project.

"The project is part of our government's effort to create a reliable open access railway infrastructure on the Dar es Salaam-Isaka section of the East African Central Corridor and to strengthen the countries rail agencies' ability to manage the infrastructure, the traffic operations, and the network regulation," he says.

"This project is a necessary first step to the eventual upgrade and expansion of the broader Central Corridor transport network," he adds.

He describes that upon completion, it will reduce loading and unloading time from the port of Dar es Salaam



and Isaka port to 24 hours.

He elaborated more that Tanzania needs 20,000 kilometres from the current 4,700 kilometres of rail to link with the regional rail network that is necessary for competitiveness and global region integration.

Once the construction of the Standard Gauge Rail (SGR) from Dar es Salaam to Mwanza section is over, it will have a new rail network of 1,219 kilometres apart from other rail networks still in the plan of being reconstructed.

TIRP, is also designed to increase the reliability of the rail infrastructure and the train operations; strengthen logistics in the port of Dar es Salaam and the rail terminals; and strengthen rail operations.

Others were relaying rail tracks, building new intermodal terminals, repairing or reconstructing bridges and supporting the institutional transformation of the sector.

The railway links the port of Dar es Salaam to Mwanza on Lake Victoria, providing part of a multi-modal link over the lake to Uganda.

"Besides constraining economic activity in Tanzania and reducing the competitiveness of the country's tradable sectors, poor infrastructure on the East African Central Corridor creates delays and high costs for transport of goods between Tanzania and its landlocked neighbours (Rwanda, Burundi, and Uganda), as well as the Democratic Republic of Congo.

"The project will help to increase transport capacity in Tanzania which will build competitive alternatives to road transport, and lead to greater traffic volumes that will facilitate the development of economic activities and job creation along the corridor areas," according to Yonas Mchomvu the World Bank Co-Task Team Leader for the project.

For his part, the TIRP Coordinator Engineer Mlemba Singo says

the project is on the final stages as it has reached over 85 percent of its construction.

It moves concurrently with relaying 312 kilometre of railway line, refurbishing another 638 kilometres, repairing 44 bridges and culverts, renovation of the communication system and upgrading of goods sheds at the port of Dar es Salaam and Ilala and the Isaka dry ports.

It also included the purchase of rail repairing equipment, three new locomotives and repairing two others as well as purchasing of 44 goods wagons.

He explained that what remains is the Dar es Salaam-Kilosa section which will see the replacement of the old rails and sleepers and the reinforcing of the railway ridge.

He said only 50 kilometres remains for upgrading on the Dar-Kilosa section out of the 289 kilometres and added that in other areas the work remaining includes wayside trenching for drainage and the erection of railway signs.

"In general the work is expected to be completed in October this year," he said and added that already 44 goods wagons have been bought, the locomotives are being repaired and the installation of the communication system is being finalized at each station to enable trains to run by computer. In view of the fact, the central railway line is an important link to connect all regions in Tanzania with Dar es Salaam harbor.

It is also potential to support cargo transport for six neighbouring landlocked countries of Zambia, Malawi, Burundi, Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda.

Despite significant challenges that affect the central railway line, the central railway plays a big role in improving cargo transportation in the country based on the TRC performance.

TRC should make a plan to purchase new engines and provide regular training to engineers on new technology in order to meet new standards and move parallel to the technology changes.

'It would be extremely bizarre if people did not develop immunity to Covid-19'

By Allie Volpe

AMONG the many lingering questions surrounding the coronavirus and its long-term impact on the body is the likelihood of developing immunity after recovering from the virus. And if people do develop immunity, how long does it last?

An important step towards reopening a country, determining who has immunity against reinfection, and what level of protection immunity confers can help establish the risk of sending large groups of people back to work.

Back in March, Anthony Fauci, MD - the director of the US National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases and the country's leading infectious disease expert - said in an appearance on The Daily Show with Trevor Noah that he would be "willing to bet anything that people who recover are really protected against reinfection".

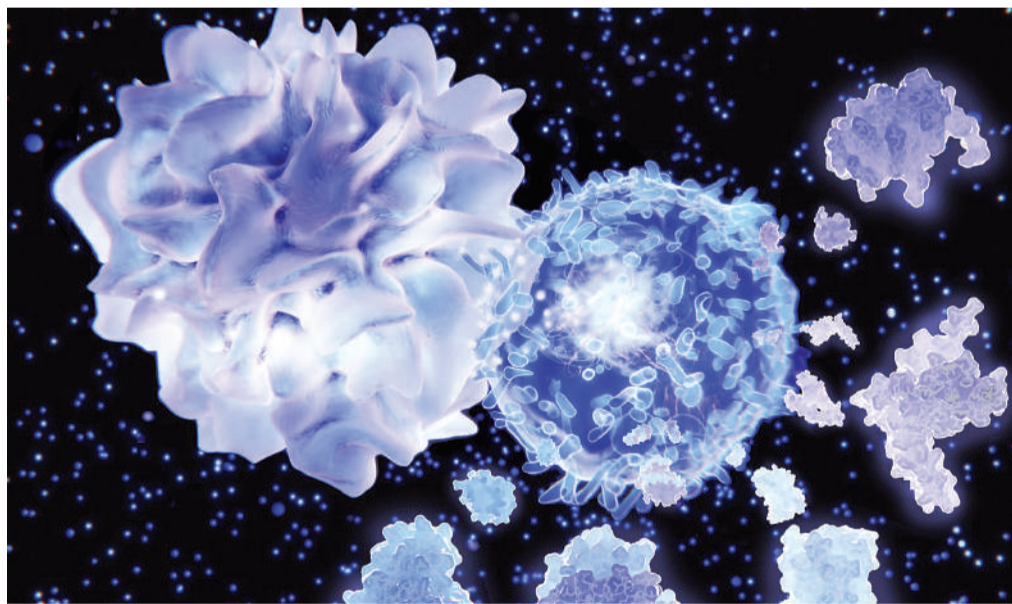
A few weeks later, the World Health Organisation released a statement explaining that there existed "no evidence that people who have recovered from Covid-19 and have antibodies are protected from a second infection".

Still, dozens of new serological tests designed to detect the presence of antibodies - that is, to figure out if you were exposed to the virus and your immune system produced antibodies, or proteins that ward off future infection - were rolled out, with varying degrees of accuracy.

Studies of people recovered from Covid-19 showing low or no levels of antibodies continue to highlight how little scientists actually know about how long antibodies last and why we don't all make the same amount.

Despite all the swirling uncertainties and inconsistencies surrounding immunity, scientists do agree that humans develop immunity to Covid-19. However, long-term research is necessary to paint a clearer picture of the level of antibodies necessary to confer immunity and the duration of protection.

"I feel like this isn't going to be the virus that



breaks the immunology textbook," says Michael Mina, MD, PhD, an assistant professor of epidemiology at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

He added: "How durable that immunity ends up being and how protective it ends up being, that's what we need to figure out. But we absolutely know that this virus leads to immunity in most people."

When our body's immune system is attacked by a virus, white blood cells create antibodies to fight off the invading infection. If we're exposed to this same virus again, usually our immune system remembers the threat and creates new antibodies, eliminating the infection before we start to feel sick.

In terms of the body's antibody response to Covid-19, a new study has showed that all 285 people who tested positive for Covid-19 developed antibodies within 19 days of symptom onset.

While little is known regarding the immune response to Covid-19, scientists are able to look at how the body wards off other coronaviruses, of which there are seven - with four causing the common cold.

The other three others are MERS-CoV, which causes Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS), SARS-CoV, which causes severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), and SARS-CoV-2, which causes Covid-19.

Among people who recovered from SARS, antibodies were present for about two years post-illness, according to a 2007 study - suggesting that reinfection may be possible three years after initially contracting the virus.

In a 2016 study of three SARS-recovered patients, SARS-specific T-cells, which fight the virus, were found up to 11 years after infection. Antibodies were found in people who recovered from MERS almost three years after getting sick, according to a 2016 study.

A new preprint study examining the coronaviruses which cause the cold meanwhile found that people were frequently reinfected by the same virus more than once over the span of a year, indicating that immunity is rather short-lived.

"We don't know if this virus is actually that different from those seasonal coronaviruses in many ways," Mina says.

Would any novel coronavirus have a similar

devastating effect as this one? "It could be that by the time you become old in our population, you've already seen these seasonal coronaviruses many times and you've developed immunity," he says.

Since all Covid-19-specific studies are extremely short-term - as the virus has only been present for a few months - it will be years until scientists can say definitively if the immune response for Covid-19 is similar to that of other coronaviruses.

"You can produce antibodies that protect against MERS for up to three years," says Nicolas Vabret, PhD, an assistant professor of medicine, haematology, and medical oncology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

He adds: "This provides some kind of basis for scientists to look for in the case of Covid-19. We need to look at patients in two years to know, for example, if they would have the same length of antibody protection."

As for short-term Covid-19 immunity research so far, antibodies were found two weeks post-recovery in a recent study, suggesting that protective immunity lasts for at least up to two weeks.

In another study, researchers found that people with Covid-19 contained two types of T-cells that suggest immunity - helper T-cells and virus-specific killer T-cells - though the results do not ensure protection from reinfection.

According to a preprint study, scientists studying the Covid-19 immune response in monkeys found that the primates did not get reinfected after being exposed to a virus a second time after recovering from the initial illness.

The presence of antibodies doesn't outright ensure immunity. Out of the five types of antibodies, neutralising antibodies block infection. A new preprint study, however, discovered neutralising antibodies in all surveyed patients six days after a positive Covid-19 test result.

"It has been shown that at least some people that have had Covid-19 do develop neutralising antibodies," says David Corry, MD, a professor

of immunology, allergy, and rheumatology at Baylor College of Medicine.

"Does a neutralising antibody response in a test tube in a laboratory translate into real-world protection after viral exposure? We don't know the answer to that either," he notes.

To know who has actually been exposed, antibody tests will need to be more accurate than they currently are, Corry says, adding that even if a person who tested positive for Covid-19 received a test result that's negative for antibodies, it could be the fault of an unsound test.

"Their sensitivity is lacking," Corry says of some antibody tests being used, elaborating: "Their test comes back, you do not have antibodies to this test - when in fact you do. If you used a more sensitive test you would've found the antibodies. You are probably protected."

Because immunity duration is still unknown, it's still possible that people who have recently recovered from Covid-19 could get reinfected, though it's not considered very likely.

While early reports have surfaced of people who were believed to be reinfected, new data from Korea show that the people who have tested "re-positive" were not actually infectious.

Ultimately, while there are many unknowns still surrounding immunity, one aspect remains constant: experts believe that immunity to Covid-19 exists - and it would be weird for someone who's recovered from the virus to not have some layer of immunity.

"That would be extremely bizarre and no one is thinking that is true. Certainly, people are developing immunity and the only question is how effective that immunity is after infection," says Corry.

A piece published in Elemental, a new Medium publication about health and wellness. Allie Volpe writes about culture and lifestyles for various publications, including The Atlantic, New York Times, Rolling Stone, Playboy, and Washington Post.

How illegal mining is driving local conflicts in Nigeria

BY MAURICE OGBON-NAYA

AFRICA'S artisanal and small-scale gold mining sector has development potential. At their peak in 2017 these mines in Niger employed as many as 600 000 people and created opportunities for local infrastructural development. But these prospects are undermined by criminals who profiteer from the sector at the expense of vulnerable populations.

Collaboration between politically connected Nigerians and Chinese corporations in illegal gold mining drives rural banditry and violent local conflicts in some parts of Nigeria. This includes the North West, North Central and to some extent South West regions.

An estimated 80% of mining in the North West region is carried out illegally and on an artisanal basis by local populations. The mining of large untapped mineral deposits in the area, especially gold which has strategic importance and economic value, is at the root of community violence.

The government's ban of artisanal gold mining in Zamfara State and across the region, and the deployment of soldiers to enforce the ban since April 2019, have yielded few results. Illegal mining and its associated conflicts continue regardless.

The conflict has been on the increase since 2014, spreading across Kaduna, Katsina, Kebbi,

Plateau and Zamfara states. Over 5 000 people have been killed in Zamfara State in the past five years. In February 2020, soldiers killed 13 bandits during clashes in Zamfara and Kebbi states. In April, four soldiers were killed by robbers in Zamfara State, and police arrested two Chinese nationals for illegal mining.

Illegal mining leads to violent local conflicts in two ways in the North West. First, those funding the mining fight over control of the mine fields. These 'sponsors' are protected by some state governments, and act as if they're above the law. Dr Chris Kwaja, a Senior Researcher at Modibbo Adama University of Technology in Yola, Nigeria told the ENACT organised crime project.

Even when the governors of Katsina, Niger and Zamfara states led negotiations with the sponsors of illegal mining, this was under conditions determined by the sponsors - showing the level of political connectedness and state protection they enjoy.

Around 80% of mining in North West is carried out illegally and on an artisanal basis.

Second, those who sponsor illegal mining also fund banditry and cattle rustling in mining communities in order to incite violence among cattle breeders and rearers. Locals from Zamfara State told ENACT, on condition of anonymity, that such conflicts displace people and create opportunities for illegal miners to operate. Many media reports blame the conflicts in the region on rural



banditry, without addressing its links to illegal mining.

The rise in illegal mining highlights fundamental social, institutional and structural problems in Nigeria's governance system. It reveals the prevailing socio-economic problems in the region, especially the inadequate responses to

poverty and poor service delivery by the state. The youth in particular have limited income-generating opportunities, and this is where the sponsors of illegal mining recruit their labour force.

The involvement of foreign corporations in illegal mining is

another sign of poor governance. Yunusa Ya'u, Executive Director of the Centre for Information Technology and Development in Kano told ENACT that it shows the 'failure of regulatory oversight and gross inadequacies in the enforcement of regulatory compliance by respective gov-

ernmental agencies.'

Illegal miners often front for politically connected individuals who collaborate with foreign nationals and corporations to sell gold. The mineral is routinely smuggled to Dubai through neighbouring Niger and Togo.

Those who sponsor illegal

mining also fund banditry and cattle rustling in these communities

Some political 'godfathers' put pressure on the government to free Chinese nationals arrested for illegal mining in Zamfara State. This lends credence to the existence of a powerful network of organised criminals involving local populations and foreign nationals in Nigeria's mining and extractive sector.

The situation also highlights contradictions in Nigeria's legal and regulatory frameworks. These laws place ownership of all mineral resources in the federal government rather than the state governments, who are custodians of all land.

Section 1(i) of the Nigerian Minerals and Mining Act, 2007 gives the federal government ownership and absolute control over all mineral resources in the country, including the mining process. In North West and other regions, including the Niger Delta, state governments refuse to police and regulate mineral resources because they consider them federal property.

The situation shows the deep-rooted structural problem facing Nigeria's fiscal federal system which favours the central government. To address the challenge, the mining act should be amended to place ownership and control of mineral resources on state governments rather than the federal government. Nigeria also needs to deal, through diplomatic channels, with the involvement of foreign nationals and corporations in organised

Growth, not survival, is the priority for media entrepreneurs

By Esther Kezia Thorpe

A SURVEY from media consulting firm Collingwood Advisory of media owners has suggested that for many, growth - rather than just survival - remains a priority during the crisis.

The 'Growth Amid Uncertainty' report is based on a survey of CEOs and founders of UK-based media firms conducted last month to understand their priorities and responses in the early weeks of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Here, we explore some of the key responses, and what they show about media businesses as they navigate the crisis.

One of the primary priorities that emerged was the focus on audiences. When asked about priorities for 2020, a number of the top responses involved developing audiences - with 57 per cent saying that increasing audience engagement was a key priority.

Building valuable audiences was seen as a priority this year for 50 per cent of respondents, with 47 per cent saying that they would actively be undertaking customer insight surveys and developing products as a way of weathering the COVID storm.

"The unifying theme for me is customer focus: delivering value to audiences and clients, providing thought leadership, and listening," said Piers Bearne, Founder and CEO of Collingwood Advisory.

"Clearly, entrepreneurs are having to think hard about resourcing, balance sheet and cash flow, but there's a community-wide desire to develop audience-led products that's very encouraging," he added.

The report advised that media businesses should continue to invest time, and perhaps money if possible, in gathering structured insights about audiences - with market sizing and audience profiling forming an essential part of this. It also recommended putting these audiences at the heart of product development.

Despite the ongoing business challenges presented by Covid-19, product development and launches have remained a priority. A whole 82 per cent of the surveyed companies have

revised their budgets, with three-quarters having made cuts in some areas, but only 8 per cent of CEOs and founders have put product development on hold.

In fact, when asked what success would look like in 2020, 'Launching new products' was the second most common response next to 'Maintaining revenues and not losing money', with 42 per cent of media businesses intending to continue bringing products to market despite the Covid-19 crisis.

When it comes to actual product development activity, 84 per cent of companies are investing some or significant amounts of energy in pivoting, developing new products and entering new markets.

This is very encouraging for helping these media businesses weather the storm, and will likely set them up to be in a stronger position as things start to return to normal.

Apart from product launches, a key marker of success in 2020 for media owners and founders will be maintaining revenues and not losing money, with 48 per cent of respondents saying this would be their top priority.

This aligns with the biggest challenges that CEOs and founders said they were facing right now, as retaining revenue - and in the case of events and publishing companies, developing new revenue streams - is their biggest challenge.

As part of this, managing cash flow, dealing with uncertainty, and staffing issues were also high on the list. But it is encouraging that, despite issues many companies are facing with staffing and revenue, less than a third so far have had to cut hours or make staff redundant.

Finally, when it comes to success this year, it is also worth noting that 1 in 3 respondents said that 'Growing reputation and brand value' was a top priority - which shows that a focus on growth is still very much front-of-mind.

The report sets out a number of recommendations for media owners and founders. The coronavirus crisis has demanded rapid, agile decision-making from most entrepreneurs, but now the time is for structured decision-making. The products devel-



oped and investments made now are ones which will have an impact in the medium and long term.

Bearne recommends that independent publishers and media companies prioritise development of key skills like structured decision-making and cross-functional product development. "They are often implicit needs when we work with new clients, so it's very interesting to see that those are two of the top three issues for CEOs," he ex-

plained.

In conclusion, the report advises businesses to use structured, qualified advice to benchmark "what good looks like with your industry and the wider media sector".

It says this will be vital in the months to come as businesses of all shapes and sizes navigate their way out of the crisis and build resilience for the future.

• **Esther Kezia Thorpe is a media analyst, marketer, designer and co-host of the Media Voices Podcast, a weekly round-up of all the key media news, as well as interviews with guests from top organisations. She writes frequently for What's New in Publishing, as well as editing their popular weekly newsletter and their growing library of reports.**

Dar microfinance firm in new loan programme to empower employees

By Guardian Reporter

THE Dar es Salaam-based Faidika Microfinance institution has allocated over 40bn/- for lending to Tanzanian employees under a scheme that operates with a slogan 'Mshahara Wako, Mkopo Wako.' Literary meaning Your Salary; Your Loan.

Details of the scheme were revealed by the institution's chief executive officer Baraka Munisi, at a brief launch ceremony held in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

Munisi said that, in accordance with the institution's customer care program and, taking advantage of the current availability of state-of-the-art technologies in this day and age - Faidika is in a position to be able to grant loans within 24 hours to borrowers who comply with the set terms and con-

ditions in full and in good time.

Noting that Faidika decided to allocate that relatively huge sum of money to lend to people who qualify, Mr Munisi said the aim of doing this is to improve the living conditions of Tanzanians in line with the institution's motto: 'Let's Improve Life!'

Under the new lending scheme, Munisi said, Faidika is able, willing and ready to issue loans ranging from 200,000/- to 70m/-, on condition that

repayment in full is made from within 6 to 84 months, depending on the size of the loan.

He also said that Faidika has reduced interest rate while increasing repayment period to provide relief to their customers and improve their lives. All 16 branches and 88 satellite offices across the country are there to offer Faidika products and services.

"Faidika Microfinance believes that everyone deserves access to fi-

ancial products and services, therefore by using some of the available sophisticated technology systems, we are committed to reaching all Tanzanians with a view to improving their lives," Munisi said.

Explaining that the government employees and accredited private institutions are eligible for the loans, the CEO said: "All you have to do to get a loan is to produce your employer's Identification, one passport-size

photograph, your latest one month salary slip, and your bank account statement at least for the past two months."

Stressing: "Faidika has unique, convenient, reliable and affordable products and services that meet your needs," he said that the institution "plans to continue improving lives through special loans given to those who meet the criteria." Munisi also said that

repayment of loans is cancelled if and when a debtor dies. In addition to this, Faidika Microfinance will provide 200, 000/- to the late borrower's family by way of condolence.

"Our institution aims to continue with improving the lives of Tanzanians. We, therefore, urge all eligible citizens to undertake this great opportunity of Mshahara Wako, Mkopo Wako" stressed Munisi.

New report proposes measures for swiftly addressing Covid-19 crisis across Africa

By Guardian Reporter

THE Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and its partners teamed-up to produce a new report which proposes several interventions to promptly and effectively address Covid-19 challenges on the continent at the urban level.

The report titled; Covid-19 in African Cities: Impacts, Responses and Policies, analyses the current situation within the African continent and efforts channelled at mitigating the global pandemic within the context of cities in the region.

Produced by the ECA, UN Habitat, UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG), African Development Bank (AfDB), and Shelter Afrique, the report, which was virtually launched Tuesday, proposes responses for short, medium and long-term interventions to be led by national and local governments with the support of international and regional development Institutions.

To adequately address the challenges of COVID-19, five key recommendations have been identified in the report, which include applying local communication and community engagement strategies, supporting SMEs and the informal economy, deepening decentralized responses to COVID-19 through strengthened local government capacities, targeting informal settlements through tailored measures. Other proposed measures include establishing mechanisms to promote rapid access to housing and prevent forced evictions, and integrating urban planning and management as key priorities for recovery and rebuilding strategies towards long-term resilience.

Officials from the partner organizations agreed Covid-19



has revealed the high vulnerability of African cities to the effects of shocks, and their limited capacity to mitigate and recover from the associated impacts. All this as Africa's cities continue to grow rapidly under conditions of severe infrastructure and service deficits, absence of adequate productive jobs, weak planning and management capacities and institutions, among others.

Informality, poverty and inequality persist as a manifestation of the underlying structural constraints of Africa's urbanization. Under these conditions, and without deliberate policy responses and adequate investments,

cities may well become liabilities for inclusive and resilient future growth and transformation, the report notes.

It also notes that considering the economic and fiscal impacts of COVID-19 on national economies and the need to ensure that people have access to adequate food, housing, safe water and sanitation and reliable information, it was fast becoming clear that there is a need to increase and specify the role of local governments.

"These authorities are important in advancing community engagement, supporting risk communication and awareness building

and facilitating adaptation measures," reads the report.

Covid-19 has shown that it is important to rehabilitate the function of stabilization and redistribution of financial transfers from national to local and regional governments.

Strengthening local economies is one of the most effective responses to reducing the sensitivity of national economies to pandemics like Covid-19 and to the cycles of the global economy, notes the report.

"The degree of economic and financial impact of Covid-19 in Africa has been se-

vere at all scales from national to local," said Edlam Abera Yemeru, Chief of the Urbanization and Development Section at the ECA in remarks during the launch.

"The economic effects of Covid-19 have been particularly severe due to underlying vulnerabilities in African economies. The pandemic has exposed pre-existing underlying vulnerabilities in the economy of African cities that have made the urban impact of the crisis severe."

She said in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, for example, the impact of Covid-19 on hotels has been severe with 88 percent of hotels with membership in the AA hotel association being partially or fully closed due to low occupancy. Monthly losses are estimated at US\$35 million and 15,000 workers have so far been laid off.

Yemeru said the local economic and financial effects of Covid-19 have a direct impact on economic development broadly and industrialization specifically.

"Going forward, local economic recovery and rebuilding should be at the core of economic recovery and rebuilding strategies of the continent and countries, and related stimulus packages," she said.

"Continental and national Covid-19 discussions and efforts do recognize the vulnerability of cities and local governments, and acute impact, but insufficiently consider the role of productive, job rich and competitive cities in economic recovery, rebuilding and resilience in the medium and long term."

Priorities should be on creating economically resilient cities, said Yemeru.

EAC, Germany launch support to pandemic preparedness training in economic block

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Community (EAC) Secretariat with support from German government has launched a two-day training to capacitate staff at the Abeid Amani Karume International Airport in Zanzibar with essential skills and knowledge on prevention and detection of Covid-19.

The pandemic preparedness training is part of an emergency Covid-19 intervention programme implemented by EAC

Secretariat and the Civil Aviation Safety and Security Oversight Agency (CASSOA) to staff in nine international airports in the six EAC partner states.

"Human mobility across the globe has played a major role in the rapid spread of COVID-19. Airports are one of the high-risk areas for the spread of infectious diseases. The EAC Secretariat and the German Government have been working together within their joint programme "Support to pandemic preparedness in the

EAC region" since March 2017. In the face of the corona pandemic, the German government committed an additional EUR 1 million (approximately 2.5bn/-) to the EUR 6 million programme," noted part of the EAC Secretariat statement.

It noted that the capacity building measures are facilitated by the German government through the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, coordinated by CASSOA and provided

by AMREF Flying Doctors.

The two-day-training will consider social distancing requirements and it will involve a wide range of staff with close contact to passengers and/or their luggage, such as airport medical service providers, aircraft and airline operators, selected crew members, staff at immigration and customs, cargo and baggage handlers and more.

The aim of the training is to build the knowledge of staff on safety measures, surveillance,

prevention and control strategies and relevant regional guidelines. Through the training of trainers the airports will be enabled to develop their own staff training and surveillance regimes. As a result, surveillance capacities will be strengthened, early-warning systems improved and public health responses at the airports better coordinated."

For his part, German ambassador in the country Regine Hess said: "These trainings are implemented at a critical point in time,

before international travel picks up again."

Hess said that his government is proud to support these measures so that Zanzibar International Airport is in a better position to detect and respond to COVID-19 and prevent further spread of the disease.

A total of 270 key airport personnel will become trained trainers across the region and will subsequently develop and conduct their own classes to roll-out the training sessions. The course

design and curriculum development is based on the international health regulations, best practices of the World Health Organisation and the US centres for disease control as well as the standards and recommended practices of the International Civil Aviation Organization.

The training will also be conducted at Julius Nyerere International Airport in Dar es Salaam from July 13 to 16, and Kilimanjaro International Airport from 20th to 23rd of July.

African experts call for a special focus on agriculture in post-Covid recovery

By Verenardo Meeme

AFRICAN experts are urging governments across the continent to give a "special focus" to agriculture in the post-COVID-19 recovery era.

The agriculture sector needs to make more investments in irrigation, dam construction and equipment acquisition, as well as embrace superior seeds, if food and health security risks are to be reduced, experts say. This support is even more urgent in the wake of the pandemic, which has had a devastating impact on African agriculture - a sector that provides up to 65 percent of the employment on the continent.

Their call, made in a webinar organized by African Risk Capacity to discuss how African economies can better address health and food insecurity risks exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, comes as the continent faces the possibility of unmet Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) exacerbated by staggering financing costs.

"Africa is now faced with a systemic challenge because the pandemic is not about health only, it is also about food security, inequality and social disorders," said Dr. Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO of Africa Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD). "For instance, when Ebola struck, consumers were more affected, but we saw not so much disruptions in the movement of goods and services."

With some African countries closing borders, yet remaining inter-dependent on trade, farming activities have been further disrupted. "There's a need to bring up radical and dynamic policies that make possible a safe movement of goods to neighboring countries as this has affected smallholder farmers accessing the markets," Mayaki observed.

While the total value of agricultural output has grown



markedly over the past decade, sub-Saharan Africa remains the most food-insecure region in the world, with uneven progress towards eradicating hunger over the past decade,

according to Africa Risk Capacity.

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UN-ECA) is looking at farmer support programs, as well more

investment in agriculture, to prepare and plan for impacts of this nature, said William Lugemwa, director of the commission's private sector, development and finance division.

"We are also working with partners to see how we can tackle the problem of food security and ensure that we don't find ourselves with nothing to eat in the coming six or 12 months," Lugemwa said. "We want to have a coordinated approach as to how best we look at the issues of agriculture and food security."

"In addition to the COVID-19 pandemic, we've had ongoing challenges, including food insecurity due to successive previous droughts and other climate-related disasters," said Judith Rusike, director of financial and capital markets and a representative of Zimbabwe's minister of finance and economic development. In response, the Zimbabwe government has adopted various measures, including distribution of food aid to the vulnerable.

Meanwhile, the pandemic is reversing the global trend toward poverty reduction. The global extreme global poverty rate is projected to be 8.4 to 8.8 percent in 2020, which is similar to 2017 figures, according to the latest estimates in a new report from the United Nations Secretary General. This means that an estimated 40-60 million people will be pushed back into extreme poverty, representing the first increase in global poverty in more than 20 years.

The economic slowdowns and disruptions in the food value chains caused by the pandemic are exacerbating hunger and food insecurity, the report noted.

In addition, the desert locust upsurge remains alarming in East Africa and Yemen, where 35 million people already experience acute food insecurity, the report stated.

Due to the pandemic, some 370 million schoolchildren are missing the free school meals they rely on. Measures to strengthen food production and distribution systems must be taken immediately to mitigate and minimize the impacts of the pandemic, the Secretary-General warned in the report.

Farm Kilimanjaro: Why drinking fresh milk matters

By Renatha Msungu, Dodoma

AS the government places emphasis on Tanzanians taking up habits of drinking fresh milk for health, Farm Kilimanjaro, the producers of fresh milk by that brand have decided to provide assistance to orphanages. They will offer several liters of milk helped to raise the toddlers as many of them are vulnerable.

The dairy distribution exercise started under the supervision of the Dodoma District Commissioner Patrobras Katambi. The village which has more than 150 children received enough liters as a nutritional supplement. Vitamin from drinking milk is a vital way of enhancing children's health.

Government officials have continually been shouting at cattle keepers everywhere not just sell milk but drink it with family members. The milk producers decided that it is good for them to start a campaign by assisting the breeders to distribute milk as well as providing education on the importance of drinking fresh milk for children and other groups. As is well known, milk boosts nutrition even for older children, which pushed the Kilimanjaro Lakes Company to offer aid in various parts of the city, including health centers and orphanages.

They conduct the exercise in other regions aiming to get people to drink milk in abundance to improve their health.

They decided to support the government in the exercise, to look after vul-

nerable children, knowing that they need to help other children.

The exercise took place during the Dairy Week that ended on June 2 worldwide, marked by having various people drink milk provided by the Kilimanjaro Co.

In an interview, Kilimanjaro Fresh Director Irfan Virjee said they have developed a mechanism for producing milk in areas where they operate to help encourage the consumption of milk. Tanzania is well known for the wealth of cattle so it is good for everyone to get organized and drink milk to protect their health by increase their vitamin intake.

Virjee said their goal is to see everyone drink fresh milk from the factory but if they breed that is also good, instead of baby formula for milk.

"You know milk is very important for babies and their parents should be given milk education to help children increase their vitamin intake, and in protecting their health generally," said Virjee. He says that's a critical issue and education should be provided to the community so that everyone knows the importance of drinking milk as it will help them grow in good health.

The director further explains that the milk allocation exercise is not held during

Milk Week only but it will be sustainable. As long as they get the chance to do so then they will do it until everybody gets used to it that drinking milk is nor-



mal for anyone.

He further explains that their goal is to see each other set their own standards of the process of drinking milk in order to influence all Tanzanians develop the habit. They do not have to wait until this is prescribed by a doctor.

Regional Marketing Manager Eulalia Marandu says that since he started persuading people to drink milk he has seen

the response.

It is very encouraging for residents of different places to show that people have begun to understand the importance of drinking fresh milk.

He says the city of Dodoma is very large but even in other regions when they go to campaign for drinking milk people come in large numbers as they have heard

media advertisements.

He says he believes this year the number of people who drink milk will increase, and people start to see it is vital to drink milk as one way to increase your nutrition.

Dodoma resident Susan John says milk is nutritious for children so society should set up a habit of drinking milk and not waiting for the doctor to tell you.

He says residents have already received some milk drinking education in Kilimanjaro. They have to travel to other regions for such education to persuade people to drink milk.

Liliana Maseko, another resident says he is happy to find dairy products because they add vitamins in particular for young children.

"I am really pleased to see that we have been introduced to a milk routine by the government. Tell them and other companies to come out to help so that milk can reach people," he says.

Many children are malnourished due to parents not knowing the importance of eating or drinking things containing vitamins.

People with dairy facilities need to provide education including milk distribution so that people will drink milk in large quantities, know the importance of fresh cow milk, she added.

Nine questions about Beijing's latest COVID-19 outbreak

BEIJING has reported 137 confirmed cases of COVID-19 as of yesterday since the city reported the first case in the latest outbreak on June 11, 2020. Why did the outbreak happen in Beijing and what has the city done after the outbreak began?

Question 1: Who is patient zero?

After 56 days, Beijing reported a new locally transmitted case - a 52-year-old man surnamed Tang in Xicheng district on Thursday.

Tang visited a local hospital on Wednesday for recurring fever and said he had not traveled outside Beijing in the past two weeks.

On Friday, six more confirmed cases were reported. Among them, two in Fengtai district were coworkers at a meat products research institute, and one surnamed Liu said he had traveled to Qingdao in East China's Shandong province in the past two weeks.

Epidemiological investigation found both Liu and Tang had been to Xinfadi, a major farm products wholesale market in Fengtai district. Tang went there on June 3 and Liu went there on June 5.

The Qingdao health commission said disease control experts in Qingdao had ruled out the possibility that Liu, who was on a business trip to Qingdao from May 29 to June 2, picked up the infection there.

Wu Zunyou, the chief epidemiologist at the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, said on Monday that Tang started having symptoms on June 6, and another patient reported on Saturday starting symptoms on June 5.

It was still unknown if other people had symptoms earlier than this, Wu said.

Question 2: Is salmon the novel coronavirus carrier?

The novel coronavirus was found on cutting boards for imported salmon at Beijing's Xinfadi wholesale market, and since then many markets have stopped selling the animal products.

Wu Zunyou said that it cannot be concluded that salmon is the source of infection just because novel coronavirus was detected on cutting boards.

He said fish in their natural habitat cannot catch coronavirus; however, they can be contaminated by workers during

capture or transportation.

Wu said the new outbreak could have two possible explanations. The first may be the influx of meat and seafood to the market from all over the country and around the world. Some of it may have been contaminated by workers during processing and transportation, and then the virus jumped from product to people.

The second possibility is person-to-person transmission. "The infected person who brought the virus into the market might be asymptomatic or have very mild symptoms, and the hustle and bustle of the market led to the cluster of new infections," he said.

"Our seafood products are typically stored and transported in cold containers, thus it is possible for the virus to be preserved for a long time and increase the likelihood of infecting people," he said.

According to the findings of a University College London research team, the novel coronavirus only infects mammals, and evidence showed that it can infect cats and dogs, but not fish, birds or reptiles.

Question 3: Is the virus from Europe?

Zeng Guang, a senior researcher at the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, said on Sunday that the coronavirus strain in the latest outbreak is different from the ones found in China, and early data suggest it is a mutated variety from Europe.

Zeng stressed that people should take this finding with a grain of salt, as more testing is being conducted to confirm the origin of virus.

Preliminary analysis based on genome sequencing showed that the virus is imported, said Yang Peng, an expert from Beijing Center for Disease Prevention and Control.

The source of the virus is still under investigation and it is unknown how the virus came to Beijing, Yang said.

Wu said whole genome sequencing will help researchers to learn about the virus' mutations in different places and thus identify spread routes. For example, British Columbia, a Canadian province, announced recently that the virus spreading in the province is local, from the US and Europe, he said.

The virus in Beijing is a mutated variety from Europe, which



Medics wave goodbye to the cured COVID-19 patients at the Xiaotangshan Hospital in Beijing, on April 28, 2020. (File photo)

does not prove it comes from European countries directly, but more information is needed, as so far there is no RNA sequence that's the same in the database, Wu said.

Question 4: Why did it happen to Xinfadi?

Covering a total area of 112 hectares, the Xinfadi market provides 80 percent of Beijing's vegetables and fruits. Every day, about 10,000 people and 3,000 trucks arrive at the market.

In 2019, the market's trade volume reached 131.9 billion yuan (\$18.65 billion), and 17.49 million tons of produce were traded there. Among more than 4,600 wholesale markets of farm produce across the country, Xinfadi has been the biggest for 17 years.

Wu said that before the new outbreak, Beijing had no local cases for more than 50 days, which means that there should be no virus locally. It needs to investigate all products and visitors to the situation clear.

Since the Wuhan outbreak, researchers have focused on animals and products to find the origin of the virus.

It was very important to find the animal source, which is crucial to controlling the spread of the virus, said Chen Jinping of the Guangdong Institute of Applied Biological Resources.

Many experts believe the new outbreak in Beijing will provide an opportunity to find the intermediate host of the virus.

Wang Liming, a professor from the College of Life Science of Zhejiang University, said few samples were collected from animals and products at Huanan Market in Wuhan before it was closed and disinfected, but Xinfadi provided the opportunity.

Question 5: How many people should be tested?

More than 8,000 workers and tenants at the Xinfadi market have all received nucleic acid tests as of the early hours on Sunday, and they have been sent to centralized isolation points for medical observation, Beijing government official Xu Ying said.

The city has surveyed about 200,000 people who visited the market from May 30, and asked them to stay at home for observation, Xu said.

According to experts, anyone who visited the market or had close contacts with personnel at the market should receive tests, said Pang Xinghuo, deputy director of the Beijing Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

These people should report to their workplaces or communities if their situation changes and stay home, said Pang. People who have no contact with personnel at the market and no symptoms do not need to have tests, but if they want to be tested, they can contact medical laboratories listed by the Beijing health authority.

Question 6: Does the city need to be locked down?

Confirmed cases have been reported in many districts in Beijing and also in neighboring Hebei province.

All confirmed cases in the new outbreak were connected to Xinfadi, which shows that the outbreak was at an early stage, Zhang Wenhong, director of the Infectious Disease Department of Huashan Hospital in Shanghai, said on Sunday. "As long as there is timely discovery, fast response and accurate control, sporadic outbreaks of the epidemic can be brought under control," he said.

Zeng said that the number of confirmed cases will increase in the coming days, but will be controlled soon, and Beijing will not be like Wuhan.

Beijing has carried out nucleic acid tests for a large population to find possibly infected people. On Sunday, Beijing tested 76,499 people and found only 59 positive results. Wu said that this number shows that the spread has been on a small scale, and it is still at an early stage since Beijing has taken timely measures.

The next three days are very important for the city, because if the number does not increase a lot, the outbreak would be put under control, Wu said.

Wu said for Beijing, there is no need to level up the emergency response level as a whole, but some districts need to level up their response.

Question 7: Does Xiaotangshan Hospital need to reopen?

Beijing Xiaotangshan Hospital was

built in 2003 to treat SARS-infected patients and started to receive COVID-19 patients on Jan 23. It discharged the last COVID-19 patient on April 28.

Wu said that there should be preparations that don't involve waiting to see if the outbreak expands.

"Our optimism is based on full preparations and full implementation of epidemic prevention measures, rather than blind optimism," he said.

Lei Haichao, Party chief of the Beijing Municipal Health Commission, said on May 17 that Beijing would keep the "3+2" medical treatment service system, involving Ditan Hospital, You'an Hospital, 302 Military Hospital, Xiaotangshan Hospital and China-Japan Friendship Hospital, during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Question 8: Can deliverymen enter neighborhoods?

Xu said that because of the new outbreak, neighborhoods and villages have implemented emergency response measures. Personnel guard the entrances around the clock to check people's temperature and disinfect public places.

People living in the neighborhoods and villages show their pass cards, people returning to Beijing should fill in forms with their information, and outsiders should provide their health codes, with no abnormality, before entering.

Deliverymen and other service people have to provide their health codes to prove their health conditions, Xu said. Beijing is large and some places are still safe, so there is no need to limit people visiting Beijing, Wu said. But visitors should pay attention to the places they will visit and not visit places with high risks, he said.

Wu said there is no need to panic as Beijing has moved swiftly to contain the outbreak.

"The know-how accumulated over the last few months, and with the use of advanced technologies like big data, have served us well in our contact tracing and diagnosis initiatives," he said.

"The valuable information we are collecting will be instrumental in Beijing's prevention efforts, and may even reveal new insights into the mysteries of the virus' mode of transmission," he added.

Question 9: How will farm produce supplies to Beijing be maintained?

The overall supply of farm produce in Beijing was increased after the suspension of the Xinfadi market, said Wang Hongcun, an official with the Beijing Municipal Commerce Bureau on Monday.

"Though the control measures in the Xinfadi Agricultural Products Wholesale Market have temporarily affected distribution channels, commerce authorities are stepping up efforts to coordinate market resources, and the supply in Beijing can be guaranteed," he said.

An additional temporary food trade market covering an area of 3.33 hectares was set up, and six temporary trade markets have been set up for traders at the Xinfadi market, Wang said.

On Monday morning, a total of 1,800 tons of vegetables were traded in those six markets, nearly double the amount on Sunday, Wang said.

Moreover, he said, six other large wholesale markets across the city moved fast to increase their vegetable supplies.

Supermarket chains also responded quickly, Wang said, citing Jingkelong, which tripled its direct purchases from vegetable bases in Hebei and Shandong provinces, contributing to a stable and well-ordered food supply in the city.

The bureau also sent an information list of 494 major vegetable sellers in the city's seven big wholesale markets to secondary wholesale and retail markets for direct trade, Wang said. Also, he said a quick response mechanism has been established to monitor the supply and demand of food.

Xinhua



Thursday 18 June 2020

All eyes on NMB CEO's appointment after Dr Mhede becomes board chair

By The Banker Reporter

SOME minority shareholders of NMB Bank Plc have said after the coming onboard of Dr Edwin Mhede as Board Chairman, Treasury and Rabobank should now consider filling the position of Managing Director.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam over a week ago after the bank's online annual general meeting which picked Dr Mdehe as new Board Chairman to replace Professor Joseph Semboja who retired earlier this year, the shareholders said its time for the country's largest bank to have its CEO.

"Let's complete the line up by sealing this position which has been vacant for a long period of time," said Dr Meshack John from Arusha who is a private consultant. He said normally the CEO's position of a massive Tier 1 bank like NMB should have the top boss in six months.

"Six months are enough for someone to be in an acting position," argued Dr John who is also a veteran banker who worked with the defunct National Bank of Commerce before its break up during privatization in 1999.

Another minority shareholder, Mary Costei of Convent Sister in Kilimanjaro also backed the idea of Treasury and Rabobank filling the CEO position saying although the bank has performed well without the top boss for the past two years, its time for a Tanzanian to fill the position.



NMB Bank Plc's new board chairman, Dr Edwin Mhede. File photo.

"Since its privatization, NMB has always had a foreign CEO but I think now the time has come to have a

Tanzanian occupy the position," she said adding that locals have already shown ability to deliver during the

two years period.

NMB has had no confirmed Managing Director since Ineke Bussemak-

er left the bank in 2018 after a four year period. Since 2018, Albert Jonkgouw and Ruth Zaipuna has served at acting CEO of the bank.

Speaking to reporters after the virtual AGM in Dar es Salaam, NMB's acting Vice Chairperson, Margaret Ikongo said the process of recruiting the CEO is on schedule and that soon the position will be filled.

"The process is ongoing to pick the bank's CEO but it's not a simple exercise hence takes more time," said Ikongo who commended the current management of the bank for maintaining profitability and strong financial position.

"The current management is doing a good job as can be seen by the results which are impressive," she said stressing that the process of picking the top boss is rigorous and involving. During the AGM, shareholders endorsed payment of 48bn/- as dividend being an increase of 45 percent compared to 33bn/- paid last year.

The dividend payment translates into 96/- per share against 66/- paid last year when the bank made net profit of 98bn/- in 2018 compared to 142bn/- net profits made last year.

NMB Bank Plc is listed at Dare s Salaam Stock Exchange with Treasury and Netherlands based Rabobank as majority shareholders with 31 and 34 percent respectively. The remaining shares are owned by minority shareholders and the public.

Absa restructures 26pc of net loans

NAIROBI

ABSA Kenya #ticker:ABSA has restructured Sh54 billion loans, equivalent to about 26.7 percent of its net loans at the end of March, as it seeks to cushion customers hit by the coronavirus crisis.

The lender says 90 percent of the reviewed loans are from workers hit by job cuts and unpaid leave and small businesses that need urgent help to survive the economic slowdown caused by the disease.

Bank loans in excess of Sh360 billion have been restructured, following a loosening of the rules by the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) in March. World Bank expects Kenya's economic growth will slow down to 1.5 percent this year, and contract one percent in the worst-case scenario as the virus saps demand from trading partners like Europe, as well as disrupt supply chains and domestic production.

This has led to layoffs, reduced cash flow for businesses and forced unpaid leaves, which have set the stage for loan defaults.

"We are working together with them (customers) through this loan relief programme to reduce the burden on their monthly financial obligations," said Jeremy Awori, CEO of Absa Kenya. The relief, which is being determined on a case-by-case basis, applies to personal loans, mortgages, asset finance, credit cards and business loans with the repayment holiday of up to three months.

Borrowers do not incur additional restructuring costs, but will pay loan interest accrued during the repayment holiday period, the bank said. Absa did not comment on the potential impact of the loan restructuring on its earnings this year.

Its net profit for the three months to March rose 2.8 percent to Sh1.95 billion. Kenya has 3,727 confirmed cases of Covid-19. Its economy, which relies on farming, tourism and cash sent home from its citizens abroad, is suffering from job losses caused by the crisis.

Citing a study in April, the CBK said 75 percent of



Jeremy Awori, CEO of Absa Kenya

small businesses surveyed had said without help they would close by the end of June because they lacked credit buffers and other resources to survive the slowdown.

Apart from allowing lenders to offer relief to distressed borrowers, the central bank has also cut lending rates and lowered the

ratio of cash that commercial banks are required to hold.

Authorities have also reduced value added tax by two percentage points to 14 percent as well as cut income and corporate taxes to ease the economic shocks from the disease.

Growth of global Islamic finance industry set to slow in 2020/21

RIYADH

THE global Islamic finance industry will grow at a slower pace as sukuk volumes shrink and core markets grapple with economic slowdowns caused by Covid-19 pandemic, S&P Global Ratings said.

The \$2.4 trillion Sharia-compliant finance industry is expected to register "low to mid-single-digit growth" this year and in 2021, the credit rating agency said in a report yesterday. The industry registered strong growth of 11.4 per cent last year on the back of sukuk issuance that was higher than expected.

"The significant slowdown of core Islamic finance economies in 2020, because of measures implemented by various governments to contain the Covid-19 pandemic, and the expected mild recovery in 2021, explain our expectations," Mohamed Damak, senior director and global head of Islamic Finance at S&P, said.

S&P said the volume of Islamic bond issuance will drop to \$100 billion this year, from \$162bn reported last year when Turkey, GCC issuers, Malaysia and Indonesia supported the market. The agency did not specify its issuance expectations for next year but said that the pandemic and lower oil prices clouded the outlook for the global sukuk market, which will continue to remain on a downward trajectory in 2020 and 2021.

"Amid tougher conditions, we also don't see core Islamic finance countries using sukuk as a primary source of funding, despite their higher financing needs," Mr Damak said. "However, we think that Turkey might try to tap the market aggressively in 2020 to use all of its available funding options."

The Covid-19 outbreak has killed more than 433,000 people and infected about 8 million people around the world, according to Johns Hopkins University, which is tracking its spread. It has also forced governments to close borders and shut all but essential businesses, bringing economic activity to a halt.

Most of the major economies are now reopening gradually, four months after the World Health Organisation declared Covid-19 a pandemic. However, the rate of infection is still rising in some emerging and developing economies, which, in turn, is derailing efforts to fully reopen borders.

The short-term outlook for economic recovery remains bleak as the world economy faces its worst recession this year since the Second World War. Earlier this month, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development projected that global output would contract 7.6 per cent this year in the absence of a vaccine.

The World Bank forecast that global output would shrink by 5.2 per cent, while the International Monetary Fund on Monday said it expects to lower its April forecast of a 3 per cent contraction in global economic activity on June 24, when it releases its latest projections.



Mohamed Damak, senior director and global head of Islamic Finance at S&P.

TymeBank signing up 100,000 new customers every month

JOHANNESBURG

FOLLOWING Its official launch on 26 February 2019, TymeBank succeeded in acquiring one million customers by November 2019 and is now expects to onboard 2 million customers before August this year.

In an African Rainbow Capital (ARC) investment update, the group said that the bank continues to onboard on average 100,000 customers per month, or between 20,000 and 30,000 customers

each week.

However, it noted that the country's coronavirus lockdown has had an impact on sign-ups. "In March, when government announced and implemented level 5 lockdown, the bank experienced some lower footfall to its kiosks located in Pick n Pay and Boxer stores," it said.

"Coupled with ambassadors having worked less hours as a precautionary measure, and therefore translating to less assistance to onboard customers and deal with customer queries, it resulted in the

bank onboarding approximately 20% fewer customers in April."

In February, the bank announced its partnership with the Zion Christian Church (ZCC), which would see it offer banking services to some six million adult church members. Following the announcement of the partnership, early success was achieved.

However, the onset of Covid-19 and the resultant national lockdown has made it impossible to assist churchgoers at Moria, the ZCC's central place of worship, and

elsewhere in the country where church gatherings are held to onboard as TymeBank customers. The roll-out to ZCC members will proceed as soon as it is reasonably safe to do so, the group said.

New features

TymeBank said that of the current 1.8 million customers who have opened bank accounts, approximately 900,000 are active accounts. The average number of transactions per active customer is consistently increasing.

Bank of Africa introduces 'Oxygen for Covid-19' loans relief scheme

By The Banker Reporter

IN a bid to bailout businesses that have been negatively affected by the coronavirus pandemic, Bank of Africa has introduced a new loan relief scheme dubbed 'Oxygen for Covid-19.'

BoA's acting Managing Director, Wosia Mushi said in Dar es Salaam this week that the new product also gives clients who borrowed from the pan African bank recovery and repaying schedules for outstanding loans.

"This new product will among other things, be focused on giving more time to customers to repay their loans but also includes

lowering of interest rates where applicable," Mushi said adding that the move is aimed at ensuring that businesses are resuscitated to continue performing normally.

"This pandemic has affected the global economy which forced Bank of Tanzania to issue directives to bank on how to assist affected businesses come back to life," he noted saying Bank of Africa decided to come up with the new product.

He further stated that the COVID-19 pandemic has also affected the country's economy which has impacted on businesses and individuals as the government

announced partial lockdown to prevent spreading of the deadly virus.

"As a bank operating in Tanzania we will continue working with the government in its efforts to contain the virus but also revamp the economy which needs the financial sector to do so easily," the BoA's chief executive noted.

Mushi also commended Minister for Finance, Dr Philip Mpango for coming up with a business friendly budget aimed at providing stimulus to businesses while boosting growth. He commended Treasury for digitizing its tax collection and payment

system through Government Electronic Payment Gateway System to which BoA is a subscriber.

"Business people and financial institutions should continue to support the government in its efforts to improve revenue collection to finance social and economic development," the BoA boss pointed out. The pan African bank has been operating in the country for the past 13 years and has 11 branches most in urban areas with an investment of almost US\$100 million most in digital banking technology.



Bank of Africa's acting managing director, Wosia Mushi, addresses journalists in Dar es Salaam earlier this week. Photo courtesy of BoA.

Villagers in Manyara Region hail SBL after getting portable water

By The Banker Reporter

THOUSANDS of residents in Galangal and Gidagamowd villages in Manyara region are all smiles after getting a reliable clean water supply borehole with capacity of 156,000 litres a day.

The villagers paid tribute to Serengeti Breweries Limited's management and shareholders for financing the water borehole project which has practically ended shortage of the commodity in the two villages.

Gidagamowd's Village Executive Officer, Jeremiah Mathiya said the water project means that lives of the villagers will now be better as they will no longer struggle to get clean water. "The lives of residents of the two

villages have now changed for good, our people will definitely be healthier now because they are assured of clean and safe water," Mathiya said.

He added that many residents who spent most of their time searching for water, will now engage in economically productive activities that will also uplift their standard of living. He said most of the water fetching job was done by women who also doubled as breadwinners for their families.

One of the female villagers, Mariam Desiri backed Mathiya's arguments saying most women and girls had to contend with serious water shortage in their villages by walking long distances to fetch clean tap water.

Desiri said the only

source of water at Gidagamowd village were ponds and rivers are dirty as they are often shared with domestic animals hence exposing them and their children to waterborne diseases.

"Before this project I and my peers had to walk for more than 15 kilometres to Vindadi Ward to collect clean water for drinking because water from our seasonal ponds and rivers is unfit to drink," she said while thanking SBL for the life saving investment.

SBL Corporate Relations Director, John Wanyancha said under the brewer's Water of Life programme, over one million people have benefited country-wide in the past 10 years. Wanyancha noted that similar projects have also been

implemented in Iringa, Kilimanjaro, Mwanza, Tanga, Ruvuma, Dar es Salaam, Coast and Dodoma regions.

"Over the years, we have seen lives of families and communities turn around both socially and economically from these water projects especially girls and women who no longer spend several hours looking for clean water," he said adding that the project is part of SBL's corporate social responsibility plans to give back to communities.

"Most of their time now is spent attending school for girls while mothers engage in other income generating activities unlike in the past when most of their time was eaten up by long journeys to fetch water," the SBL Corporate Director added.



People at an SBL's sponsored Water of Life project. File photo.



CBK Governor Patrick Njoroge.

CBK boss spared over Imperial Bank hearing

NAIROBI

CENTRAL Bank of Kenya (CBK) Governor Patrick Njoroge has been spared the agony of appearing before the East African Court of Justice to shed light on fraudulent activities at Imperial Bank Limited (IBL), which led to the collapse of the lender in 2015.

The Bench of three judges of Principal Judge Monica Mugenyi, Audace Ngiye and Charles Nyachae ruled that it saw no reason to compel Dr Njoroge to appear as a witness at the Arusha-based court because he was not the custodian of the documents sought to be produced.

In the case, Pontrilas Investment Limited, a depositor at IBL, has accused CBK of laxity or possible involvement of its officials in the Imperial Bank fraud. The depositor wanted Dr Njoroge called to produce documents and shed light on the regulatory role played by CBK and why the banking regulator failed to discharge its role as required.

The CBK placed the bank under receivership in October 2015 after the board of the mid-sized lender alerted it about alleged malpractices. Former executives of the collapsed bank have been charged with involvement in a

conspiracy to defraud the institution and depositors of Sh29 billion.

The judges said some of the documents sought from the Governor by Pontrilas Investment Limited were in the custody of CBK's supervisory department, which has competent officers to bring them to court.

The judges also faulted the company for failing to state with specificity, the documents they wanted Dr Njoroge to produce. "In our view, such a broad categorisation of the documents depicts non-knowledge of the specific documents required, lending credence to the possibility of a fishing expedition," the court said.

Pontrilas said the CBK had failed to meet its promise of recovering lost deposits, arguing it was doubtful about its savings. The firm argued that Dr Njoroge's presence would enable the judges understand the issues before court in relation to its regulatory functions and failures.

In June 2016, Imperial Bank directors sensationally claimed that senior CBK officials, who were complicit in fraudulent transactions, had become an obstacle to the bank's restructuring and revival as part of a cover-up.

'Credit rating actions on banks slowed last month'

DUBAI

S&P Global Ratings said it has taken fewer rating actions on banks globally in May due to measures taken by lenders to protect their balance sheets from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The agency took 212 credit rating actions on banks from the time the pandemic began up to June 10, Alexandre Birry, S&P Global Ratings' credit analyst, said. About three quarters of those actions were outlook revisions, with 30 per cent of banks around the world now carrying a negative outlook.

"We expect that second-quarter results will shed more light on the relative impact of the pandemic on banks across the globe, but the full effect on asset quality will likely only become clear much later in the year," Mr Birry said on Thursday.

Governments around the world have leapt into action to protect their economies from the effects of pandemic-related movement restrictions that have devastated air travel, hurt international trade and triggered the deepest recession since the Great Depression.

Governments and central banks have introduced economic stimulus packages to shore up the private sector. They have also cut interest rates and injected more liquidity to support citizens and businesses hit by the fallout from the coronavirus.

"We continue to expect that bank rating downgrades this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic will be limited by banks' strengthened balance sheets over the past 10 years, the support from public authorities to household and corporate markets and our base case of a sustained economic recovery next year," S&P Global Ratings said in its report.

However, the ratings agency said its outlook bias is still markedly "negative" due to the potential long-term impact on banks' profitability. Governments and central banks have poured in about \$9 trillion in economic stimulus packages this year to ease the pressure on businesses and stem job losses.

The UAE was the first country in the Middle East and North Africa to unveil fiscal and monetary support packages worth more than Dh282bn. The packages include zero-interest funding from the UAE Central Bank to encourage banks to lend, and measures such as discounted utility bills and waivers of government fees for business and residents. The International Monetary Fund said the global economy is recovering more slowly than expected from the coronavirus pandemic and will bear lasting scars from the experience.

The IMF is set to release economic growth projections on June 24 that "will be, very likely, worse than what we had" in April, even as "profound uncertainty" remains concerning the forecasts. Gita Gopinath, the IMF's chief economist, said in a video recorded on June 4 and released on Friday as part of the seventh annual Asian Monetary Policy Forum, Bloomberg reported.

Treaty shopping – why does it matter?

By Mwaliki Sabato

INFORMALLY, 'treaty shopping' is defined as arrangements intended for an investor from a third state to indirectly obtain tax reliefs provided for in a convention between two states by way of incorporating a holding company in one of the two contracting states.

The term 'treaty shopping' also features in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (2017) Model Tax Convention on Income and on Capital, in which contracting states are urged to include a limitation on benefits clauses in their treaties to avoid treaty shopping. This is also addressed in action 6 of the OECD (2013), action plan on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting.

In line with the OECD Commentary, Tanzania's tax legislation contains measures against treaty shopping. Specifically, section 128 (5) of the Income Tax Act 2004 provides

for limitation on tax benefits resulting from a tax treaty between two contracting states where 50 percent or more of the underlying ownership of the entity is held by residents of a third state. This provision seeks to dis-apply the treaty in cases of abuses by way of treaty shopping.

A simple Google search indicate that both OECD and non-OECD countries are trying to tackle treaty shopping. But wait, why does it matter? Why all the hassle? If the intention of double tax treaties is to eliminate double taxation, why be concerned about the ultimate beneficiaries of the tax relief? In this article, I have attempted to respond to these questions.

Generally, there is often a conflict between the interest of multinational taxpayers (who are mostly concerned about minimizing their global tax cost by way of reducing exposure to double taxation) and the interest of tax authorities



(which are more concerned about eliminating double non-taxation, tax evasion or aggressive tax avoidance). Seemingly, treaty shopping is widely perceived as illegitimate tax

planning, which makes it improper and contrary to the purposes of tax treaties. There is room for aggressive tax avoidance if a third state investor is left to benefit from tax treaties to which their own states are not privy. Therefore, rules against treaty shopping eliminate opportunities for unintended non-taxation or reduced taxation.

It is also important to note that states conclude tax treaties on a 'balance of concessions' basis, including but not limited to promoting cross-border investment through minimisation of tax obstacles among the treaty partner countries and prevention of cross-border tax avoidance through exchange of tax information.

For example, where a Kenyan resident 'shops' into the double tax treaty between Tanzania and Zambia, then the reciprocity attained therein is altered. Essentially, without strict rules against treaty shopping, Kenya would have less

incentive to enter into a tax treaty with Tanzania because its residents could indirectly receive treaty benefits from Tanzania through Zambia without any reciprocal benefits between the two countries.

In other words, treaty shopping would have enabled Kenyan residents who invest through Zambia to receive treaty benefits that would not have otherwise been available had they invested directly in Tanzania.

Whereas the above reasons are not exhaustive, the key justifications of why rigorous oversight of treaty shopping is important have been covered. This is an area of paramount importance for taxpayers who operate multinationals.

NB: Mwaliki Sabato (pictured) (msabato@kpmg.co.tz) is a Tax Manager at KPMG. The views expressed here do not necessarily represent those of KPMG.

Bank of Japan boosts lending package for struggling companies to \$1 trillion

TOKYO

THE Bank of Japan kept monetary settings steady on Tuesday and stuck to its view that the economy will gradually recover from the coronavirus pandemic, signalling that it has taken enough steps to support growth for now.

However, it increased the nominal size of its lending packages for cash-strapped firms to \$1 trillion from about \$700 billion announced last month. While the BOJ remains focused on steps to ease corporate funding strains, governor Haruhiko Kuroda may offer hints on how it will deal with longer-term issues such as how to fire up growth and inflation when the pandemic begins to subside.

"Given markets have calmed down and the economy appears to be bottoming out, there's no reason for the BOJ to take action anytime soon," said Hiroshi Shiraishi, an economist at BNP Paribas Securities.

"Fiscal policy will play a main role in responding to the virus fallout, so the central bank will continue to indirectly help the government by keeping borrowing costs low," he said. In a widely expected move, the BOJ maintained its yield curve control targets at -0.1 per cent for short-term interest rates and zero per cent for long-term rates.

The central bank also made no major changes to its programmes to ease corporate funding strains, including a lending facility aimed at channeling funds to firms. Due to the way it is designed, the amount of money to be pumped out via the programmes will reach ¥110tn (\$1tn) if more loans are taken out via government schemes, the central bank said.

That was larger than an estimate of ¥75tn made in May, as the government expanded the range of eligible loans under a second stimulus package. The BOJ is among a host of major central banks that have pumped trillions



Bank of Japan's governor, Haruhiko Kuroda.

of dollars into financial systems to support businesses hit by the coronavirus pandemic.

Japanese finance minister Taro Aso praised the BOJ's money printing, telling reporters on Tuesday the central bank's lending facilities "undoubtedly led to an increase in money supply." Markets have widely expected the BOJ to stand pat after it expanded stimulus in March and April, mainly by boosting asset purchases and creating lending facilities to channel money to companies hit by slumping sales from the pandemic.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe declared a state of emergency in April, requesting businesses to close and citizens to stay home, a move that dealt a severe blow to consumption. The

emergency was lifted in late May, but analysts expect the economy to have contracted more than an annualised 20 per cent in the current quarter, after having slipped into recession. The BOJ maintained its guarded optimism on the outlook and stressed its readiness to ease policy again if needed.

"Although economic activity will gradually resume, Japan's economy will remain in a severe state for the time being," the central bank said in a statement.

"Once the impact of the pandemic subsides, the economy is likely to improve" due to an expected rebound in consumption and output, as well as the boost from government stimulus, it said.

The IMF forecast in April a contraction of 3% for the global economy in 2020

WASHINGTON

THE global economy is on track for a more significant contraction than the International Monetary Fund estimated back in April, the institution's chief economist said on Tuesday.

When European countries were in their first weeks of lockdown, the IMF said the global economy would suffer the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression of the 1930s. At the time, it forecast a contraction by 3% in 2020. Now, despite some economies beginning to reopen, the Fund has warned that the decline could be even worse.

"For the first time since the Great Depression, both advanced and emerging market economies will be in recession in 2020. The forthcoming June World Economic Outlook Update is likely to show negative growth rates even worse than previously estimated," Gita Gopinath, the IMF's chief economist, said in a blog post.

The Fund also said the current crisis, which it dubbed the Great Lockdown, is "unlike anything the world has seen before." The pandemic started as a health emergency but soon sparked an economic crisis, due to the required social-distancing measures and travel-restriction measures. Many countries have begun to lift lockdowns, but this has proven challenging and in some cases, the process has been slow. It comes as some nations continue to grapple with rising cases of Covid-19.

There have been over 8 million confirmed infections of the virus worldwide. The United States, Brazil, Russia, India and the U.K. are currently the five nations with the highest number of cases, according to data from Johns Hopkins University.

A quicker rebound?

The IMF noted that the services industry has been more severely impacted than manufacturing – which represents a change from previous crises, where a lack of investment hit manufacturing activity hardest.

As a result, Gopinath said: "It is possible that with pent-up consumer demand there will be a quicker rebound, unlike after previous crises." However, she also cautioned that this isn't a given because the health crisis might alter consumer spending, with people potentially saving more.

Equity markets have reached new highs at a time when economies, governments, health services and citizens are still struggling with the pandemic. In fact, the S&P 500 has regained most of its losses since the crisis began. At the same time, amid hefty central bank intervention, bond markets have been calmed somewhat.

"With few exceptions, the rise in sovereign spreads and the depreciation of emerging market currencies are smaller than what we saw during the global financial crisis. This is notable considering the larger scale of the shock to emerging markets during the Great Lockdown," Gopinath said on Tuesday.

BANKING & FINANCE

Top 10 best-selling smartphone brands in the world right now

LONDON

THE coronavirus pandemic has had a significant impact on the sale of smartphone across the world, new data from research firm Counterpoint shows.

The group said that the global smartphone market declined at its fastest rate ever in Q1 2020 (down 13% YoY), and it is the first time since Q1 2014 that the smartphone market has fallen below 300 million units in a quarter.

"The first quarter decline was mainly driven by a 27% YoY shipment decline in China, the initial epicentre of the pandemic," Counterpoint said. "Some of the decline was offset by sales shifting to online channels. Overall, the market share of China in

the global smartphone market, in Q1 2020 reduced to 22% from 26% a year ago."

While the entire smartphone industry has felt the impact of the pandemic, Counterpoint's research shows that more established brands were able to consolidate their positions over the last year. Counterpoint's data shows that the combined market share of the top 10 brands has increased to 83%, from 80% in Q1 2019.

"The consolidation trend is likely to continue, as smaller brands, with a higher offline distribution, are likely to be affected more by the pandemic. "As expected, due to the pandemic, all the major Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) declined during the quarter, except Xiaomi (7%

YoY) and realme (157% YoY)."

This is partly because, India, which is the largest market for both these brands, implemented a severe lockdown in the last week of March, Counterpoint said. Below it outlined the top 10 best-selling smartphone brands in the world right now.

The ongoing effect of the pandemic on the smartphone market is likely to be worse in the second quarter, said Counterpoint. The impact on the OEMs will depend on the markets, channels, and price bands they operate in with some OEMs affected more than others.

Some of the other key takeaways from the report include: Samsung led the smartphone market during the quarter capturing one-fifth of the global smartphone shipments.

The OEM declined 18% YoY during the quarter and is expected to see a steeper decline in Q2 2020; Huawei continued its push in China and surpassed Apple again during the quarter.

The OEM declined 17% YoY during the quarter. Over half of the smartphone shipments for Huawei are now in China; Apple remained resilient even during the Covid-19 as iPhone shipments declined only 5% YoY during the quarter.

The iPhone revenues were down 7% YoY for the same period. The impact on some European and Asian countries was mild; Xiaomi grew 7% YoY during the quarter.

The OEM continued to lead the India smartphone market reaching its highest ever market share (30%)

since Q1 2018; Compared to other major OEMs, Vivo declined less (10% YoY) during the quarter. A strong performance in the Indian Smartphone Market partially offset declines in other markets.



This is partly because, India, which is the largest market for both these brands, implemented a severe lockdown in the last week of March, Counterpoint said. Below it outlined the top 10 best-selling smartphone brands in the world right now.

WORLD

Pandemic fight to solidify China-Africa brotherhood

BEIJING

AFTER weeks of attentive care by Chinese and Sierra Leonean doctors and nurses, three orphans, including a nine-month-old infant, have recently fully recovered from COVID-19 in a hospital built with the help of China in the West African country.

The story is just one small part of the time-tested China-Africa relationship, which features equality, mutual trust and mutual support. That bond now stands even stronger, as the two sides have fought side by side against the ravaging coronavirus pandemic ever since the outset.

Yesterday Chinese President Xi Jinping chaired the Extraordinary China-Africa Summit on Solidarity against COVID-19 in Beijing. The summit, held via video link, was jointly proposed by China, South Africa, the rotating chair of the African Union (AU), and Senegal, the co-chair of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC).

The virtual summit comes as the latest testimony to the two sides' steady commitment to weathering the coronavirus challenge with cooperation and solidarity, which is exactly what they have been doing over recent

months. When China was deep in the depths of its own fight against the virus, many African countries rushed to the aid of the Chinese people, delivering urgently needed medical supplies and sending warm-hearted messages.

The Morocco-based Bank of Africa, for instance, donated 150,000 surgical masks and 900,000 medical gloves to China's Hubei Province in early February, while the African Union (AU) became the first major regional organization to express solidarity with China.

China has also extended a helping hand to the continent. So far, China has sent much-needed supplies to over 50 African countries and the AU, dispatched medical experts, and shared its anti-epidemic experience via video conferences.

Since the outbreak, Chinese medical teams have conducted some 400 coronavirus-related training sessions in Africa and have trained 20,000 local medical workers.

According to a communique issued on June 13 by the AU, China has ensured the supply of 30 million testing kits, 10,000 ventilators and 80 million masks each month for Africa, a "significant contribution."



A medical worker (right) takes a swab sample of a resident at a testing site in Fengtai district in Beijing on Monday. (XINHUA)

Additionally, Xi has repeatedly conveyed his sympathy and support via phone conversations with South African, Egyptian, Namibian and many other African leaders.

And more support is on the way. Speaking at the 73rd session of the World Health Assembly, Xi said China will establish a cooperation mechanism for its hospitals to pair up with 30 African hospitals, accelerate the building of the Africa Center for Disease Control and Prevention headquarters to help the continent ramp up its disease preparedness and control capacity, and make COVID-19 vaccines, when available, a global public good.

Moreover, China has also been backing Africa's economic reopening. Apart from actively participating in an initiative endorsed by the Group of 20 to suspend debt service payments for the world's poorest countries, it has also helped boost the trading of Africa's major economic commodities on the global market.

The Asian country became Namibia's largest export destination in March. And livestreaming

promotions amid the pandemic via China's Alibaba Group's Electronic World Trade Platform allowed Rwandan coffee growers to earn 4 more U.S. dollars for each kilo of coffee beans they sold. At a time when China and Africa are sharing weal and woe, some U.S. politicians, instead of helping Africa with its pandemic fight, have been peddling "China-threat" fallacies, seeking to drive a wedge between China and Africa. Yet their malicious plots will never work.

Moussa Faki Mahamat, chairperson of the AU Commission, said in April that China and Africa will never let those forces who are trying to exploit the current situation to sow discord between them have their way.

Meanwhile, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa called China a true friend of his country, with other African leaders considering China a partner that can be relied on in the face of difficulties and challenges. Right now, the end of the coronavirus crisis is still not in sight, and the situation for Africa seems to be getting worse.

Xinhua

Facebook removes hundreds more accounts amid right-wing violence

SAN FRANCISCO

FACEBOOK on Tuesday removed almost 900 accounts associated with the far-right Proud Boys and American Guard, including those belonging to Proud Boys supporters who marched into a protest zone in Seattle Monday and confronted anti-racist demonstrators.

Facebook told Reuters the take-downs of more than 500 Facebook accounts and more than 300 Instagram accounts followed a smaller

round of suspensions two weeks ago.

"We initially removed a set of accounts for both organizations on May 30 when we saw that both organizations started posting content tied to the ongoing protests," said a Facebook spokeswoman who asked not to be identified. "We were continuing the work to map out the full network."

Facebook had previously banned the groups for promoting hate, but

individual members continued to post images with weapons and urge others to attend protests that followed the Minneapolis killing of George Floyd in police custody.

Facebook is under heightened scrutiny as provocateurs use it to coordinate and recruit. It has also acted to make it harder to find groups in the so-called Boogaloo movement.

Boogaloo adherents believe a new civil war is looming and are

often heavily armed. Some ally with right-wing militias and have sought to capitalize on the protests by instigating violence they hope will escalate into a broader conflict.

On Tuesday, two adherents were charged in connection with the murder of a security guard on duty at a federal building during a protest in Oakland.

According to an affidavit supporting the criminal complaint, suspects Steven Carrillo and Robert

Alvin Justus Jr belonged to the same unidentified Facebook group and discussed attacking federal authorities on May 28.

"It's a great opportunity to target the specialty soup boys," Carrillo posted, in a reference the FBI said was shorthand for three-letter agencies.

The guard was killed the following night. After a later carjacking, the FBI said, Carrillo wrote "Boog" in his own blood on the vehicle.

US criticised for sanctions set to block Syria military victory

NEW YORK / UNITED NATIONS / BEIRUT

THE United States on Wednesday imposed its toughest sanctions ever targeting Syrian President Bashar al-Assad to choke off revenue for his government in a bid to force it back to United Nations-led negotiations and broker an end to the country's nearly decade-long war.

The fresh round of penalties on Syria, which designate Assad and his wife Asma personally, come at a time when Assad is grappling with a deepening economic crisis after a decade of war and amid a rare outbreak of protests in government-held areas.

In a statement announcing the designations imposed under the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act - signed by President Donald Trump in December - US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said "many more" sanctions should be expected in the coming weeks and months.

"We will not stop until Assad and his regime stop their needless, brutal war against the Syrian people and the Syrian government agrees to a political solution to the conflict," Pompeo said.

He said the 39 designated individuals and companies have played a key role in obstructing a peaceful political solution to the conflict, and singled out Asma al-Assad.

"I will make special note of the designation for the first time of Asma al-Assad, the wife of Bashar al-Assad, who with the support of her husband and members of her Akhras family has become one of Syria's most notorious war profiteers," he said.

Syrian authorities blame Western sanctions for widespread hardship among ordinary residents, where the currency collapse has led to soaring prices and people struggling to afford food and basic supplies.

Russia and China criticized the latest US sanctions. Russia's



Combo photo shows police officer Derek Chauvin (L) and George Floyd. Chauvin knelt on Floyd's neck for almost nine minutes on May 25, 2020, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, while the latter one kept saying "I can't breathe." Floyd later died in police custody. (Xinhua)

UN Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia said the United States had confirmed "that the purpose of these measures is to overthrow the legitimate authorities of Syria."

China's UN Ambassador Zhang Jun said that "as vulnerable countries like Syria are strug-

gling with the (coronavirus) pandemic, imposing more sanctions is simply inhumane and may cause additional catastrophes."

Addressing a separate meeting of the Geneva-based UN Human Rights Council on Tuesday, Syria's UN Ambassador Bashar Ja'afari, accused Washington of

trying to impose US law on the world and flouting calls for it to end unilateral sanctions.

A crackdown by Assad on pro-democracy protesters in 2011 led to civil war, with Moscow backing Assad and Washington supporting the opposition. Millions of people have fled Syria and millions are internally displaced.

Hezbollah Leader Hassan Nasrallah assured on Tuesday that Syria's allies will not allow the economic fall of the country as a result of the new US sanctions, Al Manar local TV channel reported.

"Syria's allies will continue to support Syria facing its economic war with the United States. The Syrians have to be patient and cooperative during the tough time," Nasrallah said in a televised speech.

UN Syria mediator Geir Pedersen on Tuesday sounded the alarm over the dramatic collapse in economic conditions throughout the country.

Agencies

Police to probe hangings of two black men

LOS ANGELES

OFFICIALS in Los Angeles County said on Monday that an investigation is pending into the cause of death of a young black man who was found hanging from a tree last week near City Hall in Palmdale, California.

"The initial report appeared to be consistent with a suicide. We feel it prudent to roll that back and continue to look deeper, which is why currently, officially, the case is still deferred and under investigation," said Jonathan Lucas, the Los Angeles County medical examiner-coroner, in a news conference.

Attention has also turned to the case of another African American whose body was also found hanging from a tree in California.

Following the death of George Floyd and Rayshard Brooks, a 27-year-old black man who was shot by a police officer during an arrest early this month, the sustained focus on violence against black people in the United States has set off protests around the world, prompting African countries to lobby for a United Nations inquiry to be set up into systemic racism and police brutality in the US and elsewhere, Reuters reported.

In the Palmdale case, paramedics in the small city an hour's drive north of Hollywood were called out at 3:36 am on Wednesday. Responding to a possible emergency, they found Robert Fuller, 24, hanging from the tree in a city park.

Lucas said a full autopsy on Fuller was performed on Friday. However, an independent assessment on the manner and cause of the death couldn't be made until toxicology results came in and after officials examined Fuller's medical history.

Fuller's case brought renewed attention to the death of Malcolm Harsch, a 38-year-old black man who was found hanging from a tree near a homeless encampment on May 31 in Victorville, about 80 kilometers east of Palmdale. Authorities said a thorough investigation conducted at the scene found no evidence to suggest foul play.

Suspecting a possible connection to the Fuller case, officials requested an autopsy of Harsch's body that was conducted on Friday. "Although there remains no sign of foul play, the forensic pathologist is waiting for toxicology results before assigning the cause and manner of death," local law enforcement said in a statement.

Captain Kent Wegener of the county sheriff's department homicide division said officers will try to identify surveillance and home videos that could have captured the hanging of Fuller, in addition to interviewing family members and any witnesses.

Authorities will also contact Fuller's case worker from the social services department, though they didn't give a reason why Fuller had a case worker.

Fuller's death sparked protests from family and community members who said authorities had failed to conduct thorough investigations before rushing to label both deaths as suicides.

On Saturday, thousands of protesters gathered outside Palmdale City Hall and the park where Fuller was found hanging to mourn him and call for a thorough investigation into his death.

Protests continuing

"Everything that they've been telling us has not been right," said his sister, Diamond Alexander, in a video shown on Saturday at the Palmdale rally.

A GoFundMe campaign set up by Fuller's family to raise funds for his funeral has collected more than \$210,000 in three days.

Protesters continued to gather in Palmdale on Monday to demand justice for Fuller.

Residents brought up questions about racism and Fuller's death during a virtual town hall meeting organized by law enforcement agents on Monday afternoon for area residents. A community member who identified herself as Amanda Sullivan said during a call-in that she was concerned that there have been two hangings of black men, 80 km apart, in two weeks.

"As a white woman, I'm ashamed of the police here, too," she said, adding that she wants to know what is being done to quell the fear that has struck at the heart of minority communities in the area.

Officials in Palmdale issued a statement on Saturday supporting the call for an independent investigation and independent autopsy on Fuller's body.

Regarding the push by African countries for an inquiry into systemic racism, the text of a draft resolution voices alarm at "recent incidents of police brutality against peaceful demonstrators defending the rights of Africans and of people of African descent". The draft resolution has been circulating among diplomats in Geneva.

The 47-member UN Human Rights Council agreed on Tuesday to convene at the request of Burkina Faso on behalf of African countries after the death of George Floyd. His death has ignited the protests worldwide.

CHINESE restaurants are now welcoming customers back as COVID-19 subsides.

By upgrading business models and improving service quality, they have strengthened epidemic prevention and control measures, advocated serving chopsticks and individual serving, launched promotions and enhanced online services.

A hotpot restaurant in Zhengzhou, Central China's Henan Province has changed the layout of the dining room, increased the distance between tables, and launched contactless food ordering, to make customers feel safe eating there.

"I've been craving for the food here for months. It's really deli-

China works to revitalize catering industry with safety, supportive measures

icious," said a citizen surnamed Li when dining at the restaurant with his family on May 24. The tables were all occupied on that Sunday noon.

"Customers pay the most attention to prevention measures we take. In this regard, we've been constantly optimizing our services," said Liu Yongtao, an executive of the restaurant. To create a safe dining environment, the restaurant now offers serving chopsticks and the dishes are covered when served.

Between January and April, the sales revenue of China's catering industry decreased by 41.2 percent from a year ago to 833.3 bil-

lion yuan (\$117 billion), the National Bureau of Statistics said on May 15. However, the catering industry is gradually picking up.

In May, the non-manufacturing business activity index moved up 0.4 percentage points over the previous month to 53.6 percent, and the business activity index of the catering industry exceeded 55 percent.

As of May 31, more than 90 percent of the restaurants in Zhengzhou had reopened, with an occupancy rate of nearly 80 percent.

Local authorities across China have also unveiled measures to revitalize the catering industry to reduce and exempt taxes and fees,

boost consumption and reinforce consumer confidence.

The sales of a music-themed restaurant in Shibei district of Qingdao, East China's Shandong Province finally bounced back recently. During the epidemic, the restaurant suffered a loss of nearly 200,000 yuan each month and struggled to maintain its cash flow, according to Yuan Ning, manager of the restaurant.

When it was stuck in difficulty, a working group was established by local authority to help entities resume work and production. After visiting restaurants door-to-door, the team tailored different strategies.

"The local authority has not only given advice on our operation, but also helped us expand market," said Yuan, referring to the food delivery service his restaurant now offers to nearby companies. Nearly 1,000 meals are sold each month, he added.

"We investigated and helped every restaurant that reopened. In doing so, we hope to get more restaurants out of difficulty," said Shao Junfeng with the market supervision bureau of Shibei district.

The provincial commerce department of Henan Province released a package of financial products in collaboration with catering industry associations and

financial institutions in the province. Besides, by working with malls, wholesale agricultural markets and e-commerce platforms, it also offers fair-price foodstuffs, reduces or exempts rentals, and cuts commission fees for catering enterprises.

To help catering companies tide over the difficulties and help them lower operational cost, the catering industry and restaurant association of Zhengzhou called on relevant parties to reduce commission and fees for restaurants.

In Qingdao, companies that reduce or exempt rents during the epidemic will be listed as "good landlords" who can enjoy prefer-

ential policies in financial assistance and branding at the end of the year, introduced Lin Jun with the work office of private sector affairs in Shibei district.

According to him, the general office of Qingdao municipal government has issued a number of assistance policies, helping over 110 restaurants save 3.2 million yuan in rent cost.

To revitalize consumption in the catering sector, Qingdao has launched a large-scale campaign that encourages restaurants to carry out promotional activities. Relevant departments in Zhengzhou also issued 400 million yuan worth of coupons to stimulate consumption, especially in the catering sector. *People's Daily*

Trump signs executive order on policing as legislative efforts face partisan divide

WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump on Tuesday signed an executive order on policing amid calls for action against police brutality and racism.

It comes three weeks after the death of George Floyd, a 46-year-old African American man, in police custody in Minneapolis, Minnesota, which has triggered nationwide demonstrations.

The executive order focuses on three areas: credentialing and certifying police officers; boosting information sharing to track officers accused of excessive use of force; and creating co-responder programs on mental health, drug addiction, and homelessness.

It also said police departments must "prohibit the use of chokeholds – a physical maneuver that restricts an individual's ability to breathe for the purposes of incapacitation – except in those situations where the use of deadly force is allowed by law."

Trump, speaking at the White House before signing the executive order, stressed that he "strongly" opposes efforts to defund or dismantle police departments, calling the ideas "radical."

"Without police, there is chaos. Without law, there is anarchy and without safety, there is catastrophe," he said.

The move from the White House comes alongside separate efforts on Capitol Hill focused on police reforms.

The Democrat-led House introduced a bill last week that aims to ensure officers can be held accountable for misconduct and increase transparency. The GOP-led Senate is also creating its own legislative package that will focus on police reporting, accountability, training and relations.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi called Trump's executive order "weak."

"The president's weak executive order falls sadly and seriously short of what is required to combat the epidemic of racial injustice and police brutality that is mur-



A protester confronts police near the White House during a protest over the death of George Floyd in Washington, D.C., the United States, on May 30, 2020. (Xinhua)

dering hundreds of Black Americans," the California Democrat said in a statement on Tuesday. "The executive order lacks meaningful, mandatory accountability measures to end misconduct.

During this moment of national anguish, we must insist on bold change, not meekly surrender to the bare minimum."

Chuck Schumer, the Senate minority leader, said on Tuesday that Trump's ex-

ecutive order is not enough.

"While the president has finally acknowledged the need for policing reform, one modest executive order will not make up for his years of inflammatory rhetoric and policies designed to roll back the progress made in previous years," Schumer said in a statement.

"Unfortunately, this executive order will not deliver the comprehensive meaningful change and accountability in our nation's police departments that Americans are demanding," the New York Democrat added. "Congress needs to quickly pass strong and bold legislation with provisions that makes it easier to hold police officers accountable for abuses, and President Trump must commit to signing it into law."

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell told reporters on Tuesday that he would wait until Wednesday morning to announce whether he would bring the GOP bill to the floor ahead of the two-week July 4 recess. **Xinhua**

Russia might register coronavirus vaccine by end of summer - expert

MOSCOW

THE coronavirus vaccine might be registered in Russia in August, Director of the National Research Center for Epidemiology and Microbiology Alexander Gunzburg said in an interview with Rossiya 1 channel.

"I believe by the end of the summer [a vaccine will be registered], I would say so. In August, I hope that everything will go as planned and there will be no surprises," he said.

Now the development of the vaccine is at the stage of preclinical trials, they might last another month. At this stage, toxicity, reactogenicity, and other criteria are determined, based on which it will be possible to begin testing the vaccine in humans.

The vaccine, according to Gunzburg, will be administered in the right shoulder, but all Russians will not be able to receive it at the same time. "The Ministry of Health is thinking about how to do this, what capacities can be used to maximize production of vaccines," he added.

Agencies

Landmines prevent displaced Libyans from returning home

TRIPOLI

Because of landmines, Ibrahim Al-Mattani couldn't return to his home in south of the Libyan capital Tripoli after he fled more than a year ago away from the war between the UN-backed government and the eastern-based army.

"My home was among a few houses that haven't been damaged by the clashes and bombing that had been taking place for more than a year in the area," Al-Mattani told Xinhua.

He found unknown objects in and around his house. It turned out that they are landmines planted near the main door, in the corridor leading to the garden, and even between the corridors leading to nearby houses. He immediately marked each landmine by placing stones around them.

"Thank God I came here alone without my family. These landmines could've exploded and hurt someone. I won't be returning home soon until the competent authorities have removed the landmines safely," Al-Mat-

tani said.

The UN-backed government and the eastern-based army were engaged in a deadly armed conflict for more than a year, before the UN-backed government's forces took control of all western Libya after withdrawal of the rival eastern-based army.

The UN-backed government accuses the eastern-based army of planting landmines in conflict areas in southern Tripoli before withdrawing.

The UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) condemned use of improvised explosive devices against civilians in southern Tripoli, calling on people to stay away from unsafe locations.

Mohamed Turjuman, director of the Libyan Demining Center, stressed that the map of the proliferation of landmines is large and scattered, and therefore difficult to dispose of in a short period of time.

"Landmines south of Tripoli are planted widely in many areas. Due to their huge number, we lost the lives of a number of mili-



Displaced Libyan families return home after the withdrawal of the eastern-based army in Ain Zara area in southern Tripoli, Libya, on June 10, 2020. (Xinhua)

tary engineering personnel involved in demining. This made our work more difficult, given the limited number of trained teams available now," Turjuman told Xinhua.

"A Turkish team special-

ized in landmine handling has arrived. The team's work will certainly be useful for us in securing sites of landmines, which will facilitate the return of displaced people back to their homes as soon as our operations are completed," Tur-

juman said.

"The consequences of the dangers of landmines for civilians cannot be counted. We hope everyone will cooperate with us and wait until they are allowed (to return) according to our instructions. (People

can return) when their homes and neighborhoods are clean of any threats to their lives," Turjuman added.

According to official statistics of the UN-backed government, landmines killed more than 30 people and injured more than 60, mostly civilians, in southern Tripoli over the past two weeks.

Ahmed Al-Hasnawi, a Libyan military expert, believes that planting landmines is a "war crime no matter who is behind it."

"Whether it is the forces of Haftar (commander of the eastern-based army) or the (UN-backed) government of national accord who planted the landmines, especially in the absence of strong evidence to confirm who did it, international human rights and humanitarian organizations and the international community should move quickly and send investigation teams to verify the facts and evidence," Al-Hasnawi told Xinhua.

Libya has been suffering escalating violence and political instability ever since the fall of the late leader Gaddafi's regime in 2011. **Xinhua**

Pyongyang rejects Seoul's request to send special envoys to ease tensions

PYONGYANG

THE Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) yesterday flatly rejected a plea from South Korea to send special envoys to Pyongyang for talks to ease the current tensions on the peninsula, the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported.

The South Korean authorities "staged the petty farce of asking us to accept special envoys on June 15," but the "tactless and sinister proposal" was flatly rejected by Kim Yo Jong, first vice department director of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, said the KCNA.

"We take seriously the south side's disrespectful attitude of wishing to send special envoys out of a lingering attachment even though they are well aware of the fact that unprecedented state emergency anti-epidemic measures are in force and no entry or exit are allowed from and to the territory of the DPRK," it said.

"We can guess how much the south side reacts to the present situation and what its anticipation of the consequences could be, but we are extremely displeased to get such an absurd judgment and reckless proposal," it added. **Xinhua**

Agencies

Caring Chinese teacher cheers up Ukrainians amid COVID-19

"I can finally go for a walk in the park and do some exercises," said Cheng Huanhuan who teaches Chinese in Ukraine, referring to the end of the two-month COVID-19 restrictions in the European country.

Cheng came to teach at the Music Confucius Classroom jointly established by the Ukrainian National Tchaikovsky Academy of Music and China's Central Conservatory of Music last September, together with other three teachers from China.

"I majored in Russian in university, so apart from teaching Chinese, I also translate for the music teachers," Cheng said.

Cheng would be giving lectures to the students were it not for the sudden outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, as classes of educational institutions were suspended as a result of the quarantine measures introduced by the Ukrainian government since March 12. "Now I teach Chinese to students online, so I have more spare time," she



The humanitarian aid sent by the Chinese government to Ukraine arrives in Kiev on April 1. Fan Xianrong, Chinese Ambassador to Ukraine, delivers the medical supplies to Andrii Semyvolos, Deputy Minister of Health of Ukraine.

Staying at home during the quarantine, Cheng was eager to contribute her part as she saw in the news that the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases kept increasing in Ukraine.

"When China was at the hardest time battling the virus, many Ukrainians donated masks to China, and some of them sent us their wishes through videos. That was really heart-touching," she said, adding that it inspired her to lend a helping hand to the local people to tide over the difficulties together.

To donate masks was the first thing that popped up in her mind. "Many people, such as sanitation workers and salesclerks in the supermarkets, were still sticking to their jobs during the quarantine period. I felt sorry to see them working without masks, so I shared some of mine with them," Cheng noted.

She spoke of a sexagenarian employee of a supermarket that she frequently visits, saying the employee was very happy when receiving the masks from her. "He was very hospitable the next time he saw me in the supermarket, and helped me pick the freshest fruits," Cheng said.

As masks became an increasingly scarce commodity and her stock was running out, Cheng didn't have many to donate. Therefore, she bought 100 pieces of chocolate, and attached a card on each one of them on which she wrote "Hang in there," "Everything is going to be fine" and "Take care" in Russian. Every time she went shopping, she would send the chocolate to the people she met.

"They were surprised when receiving the chocolate," she said, adding that she hoped the sweet chocolate would encourage the locals.

Besides, every time she went grocery shopping, she would buy extra vegetables and eggs and secretly leave them with her elderly neighbors and the security guards. "One good turn deserves another. By doing these trivial things, I just want to express the friendliness and kindness of a Chinese. I hope we can all join hands to prevail over the difficulties," she said. **People's Daily**

Digitisation's efficiency not to be bought at cost of 'digital totalitarianism' – Medvedev

MOSCOW

ECONOMIC efficiency provided by the digitization cannot be bought at the expense of "digital totalitarianism," Deputy Chairman of Russia's Security Council Dmitry Medvedev wrote in an article, published in the Russia in Global Affairs journal yesterday.

"Digital technologies will undoubtedly become the most important driver behind the socioeconomic and political development in the post-pandemic world.

It is critically important to draw a line between the benefits provided by digital technology and the threat of a digital Big Brother and restrictions of fundamental human rights and freedoms.

The economic efficiency that comes with digital technologies cannot be bought at the cost of digital totalitarianism,"



he wrote.

Medvedev pointed out that new institutes and mechanisms of public and economic life are being formed, which are based on the newest technological solutions.

According to the official, "a detailed analysis of the solutions related to creating new anti-crisis institutions should already be under way.

It is imperative to understand which institutions are short-lived and need to be eliminated eventually, and which ones represent a breakthrough into the future."

Special attention, Medvedev

noted, must be paid to organization of production amid new circumstances.

"Many business standards will need to be revised with account taken of the epidemiological risks, which will likely increase the economic costs," he wrote.

"At the same time, digital technologies have the potential to offset these costs, but this will give rise to the need to develop new structural and institutional solutions.

The regulatory guillotine in these circumstances does not recede into the background. On the contrary, its relevance increases sharply, because digital technologies not only make it possible, but, in fact, require that we firmly reject obsolete forms of oversight and supervision that impede socioeconomic growth," Medvedev pointed out.

Agencies

Eco-friendly peach orchards E China's Jiangsu province become money-spinner

"OUR net income reached 300,000 yuan (about \$42,394) last year. These honey peach trees and autumn peach trees are 'money trees' to us," said orchardist Xue Jiacong while bagging fruit on peach trees in early summer.

Xue, who lives in Siyang county of east China's Jiangsu province, is one of the farmers in Siyang county who have become rich by running eco-friendly peach orchards.

In recent years, Siyang county has made great efforts to tap into its well-established reputation as the "hometown of peaches" and blazed a trail of green development for peach industry.

With a total of 60,000 mu (4,000 hectares) of famous, special, and high-quality varieties of peach trees, Siyang county saw its overall production value of peach industry reached one billion yuan last year.

The industry has provided jobs for more than 12,000 local people, increasing income of local farmers by nearly 100 million yuan.

The eco-friendly planting methods adopted by local orchardists are the key to Siyang's success in making peach trees money-spinners of the local people.

"Our peaches have never been

sold at less than 20 yuan per kilogram," said Hua Songqing, head of a peach production cooperative in Nanliuji town, Siyang county.

"Check this drip irrigation system. It delivers diluted biogas slurry directly from pig farm to the roots of peach trees drop by drop. We use organic fertilizer and biopesticide. All the weeds are cut into small pieces with grass chopper, and then ploughed into the fields to be used as green manure," Hua explained.

Peach association of Siyang county has promoted new peach tree planting techniques including wide-row planting and prun-

ing the longer branches off the trees, according to Geng Xiaoyun, deputy secretary of Communist Party of China (CPC) Siyang county committee.

With the help of the fruit tree research center of Jiangsu Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Siyang county has built 20 standard peach orchards and five standard peach tree planting bases, with more than 90 percent of these orchards and bases adopting eco-friendly planting methods, Geng disclosed.

In an effort to win favor with consumers, all of the peach production cooperatives in Siyang

county have joined Jiangsu province's traceability platform for safety and quality of agricultural products. When peaches come on the market, consumers can get information about the whole growing process of the peaches by simply scanning the QR code on the fruit with a mobile phone, said Wei Guo, deputy head of Siyang county.

"The QR code on each peach brings higher selling prices to the fruit, which has motivated more orchardists to adopt eco-friendly planting methods," Wei added.

Eco-friendly peach tree planting methods have yielded fruitful

results in Siyang county, where 33 peach production bases have obtained the accreditation for healthy food.

Peaches produced in Siyang county have been identified as agricultural products with geographical indications by China's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, and have won 15 gold awards and 28 silver awards at national and provincial peach contests.

Besides selling peach, Siyang county has also made its peach orchards become tourist attractions.

During this year's International

Children's Day, many tourists brought their children to Siyang county's Chengzi Lake resort, enjoying the view of peaches on the trees and taking pictures in the peach park of the resort.

Based on its blooming peach industry, Siyang county integrated tourism into agriculture, and established agricultural tourism bases such as the peach park in Luji town, Tao Hua Yuan Ji peach production cooperative in Nanliuji town, and the peach orchard in Aiyuan town, where the ancient pear trees were reportedly planted in the Qing Dynasty (1636-1912).

People's Daily

The
Guardian

SPORT



The US Open will take place as scheduled from August 31 but without spectators, officials confirmed on Tuesday (AFP Photo)

Player unease as US Open to go ahead without fans

NEW YORK

THE US Open tennis championships will go ahead as scheduled in August but without spectators, officials confirmed on Tuesday.

After weeks of uncertainty surrounding the tournament – which is being staged in the epicentre of the US coronavirus crisis – New York Governor Andrew Cuomo formally gave the event the green light.

“The @usopen will be held in Queens, NY, without fans from August 31 to September 13,” Cuomo announced on Twitter.

The New York leader said the US Tennis Association would take “extraordinary precautions” to protect players and staff during the event.

“It will be held without fans, but we can watch it on TV, and I’ll take that,” Cuomo later said during a briefing.

Safety protocols in force at the tournament include testing, additional cleaning, extra locker room space, and dedicated housing and transportation.

The decision had been anticipated after reports on Monday said the USTA’s plans for the tournament had received support from the ATP and WTA Tours.

The ATP/WTA Cincinnati hardcourt event – the Western & Southern Open – will also be staged at the USTA’s Billie Jean King National Tennis Center as a lead-in tournament.

The USTA opted to move the tournament to New York in order to minimise travel for players taking part in both tournaments.

USTA Mike Dowse said the US Open would be held in the “safest manner possible, mitigating all potential risks”.

Several leading players have expressed reservations about the prospect of playing a tournament in New York, and it remains to be seen how many of the games elite will commit to playing the event.

World number one Novak Djokovic has been one of the most vocal critics, saying that safety measures and restrictions on the numbers of support staff allowed for each player were problematical.

– ‘Selfish’ decision –



New York Governor Andrew Cuomo

“We would not have access to Manhattan, we would have to sleep in hotels at the airport, to be tested twice or three times per week,” Djokovic said.

“Also, we could bring one person to the club, which is really impossible.

“I mean, you need your coach, then a fitness trainer, then a physiotherapist.”

Djokovic’s misgivings have been shared by defending men’s singles champion Rafael Nadal, who would be chasing a 20th Grand Slam title at Flushing.

Nadal, the world number two, said earlier this month he would not play in New York if the tournament was taking place now, adding that tennis should not resume until it is “completely safe” for competitors.

Australia’s Nick Kyrgios meanwhile reacted with disgust about reports indicating the tournament was set to go ahead.

“People that live in the US of course are pushing the Open to go ahead ‘Selfish’ I’ll get my hazmat suit ready for when I travel from Australia and then have to quarantine for 2 weeks on my return,” Kyrgios posted on Twitter.

Two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitová expressed reservations but said she expected financial imperatives would persuade many players to travel.

“To be honest, I don’t feel like going ... we can’t do anything, we can’t even really enjoy the tournament. And, above all, we’ll play without fans which is the worst thing there is for me,” Kvitová said.

“But it will be a tournament where you can make money after a terribly long time and I think many girls will go.”

However Karolina Plisková, the world number three and 2016 US Open finalist, said she was “definitely flying” for the tournament.

“I’ve been at home for six months now. It’s important to start. The sooner we start, the sooner we will play before an audience,” Plisková said.

“If we stay home waiting for the ideal situation, we may wait forever. The tournament is better with fans but if the players like tennis, they should go.”

AFP

UEFA post-lockdown crowd moods to change in ‘Black Lives Matter’

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

BLACK players in premier leagues in the UEFA zone are likely to emerge as big winners in the later reopening of stadiums in the gradual easing of lockdowns continuing all over Europe, in the aftermath of the Black Lives Matter movement in the United States and elsewhere around the world. The movement has been there for a decade or so, as police brutality arising from Ku Klux Klan attitudes that have never really disappeared in the southern belt ‘Confederation States’ in the US and in various groups, especially the police force. It has been host to far right attitudes where racism is expressed in black youths profiling.

By the time stadiums were being put out of use in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak, black players were having a problem balancing club loyalties and hostility of sections of the fans, with occasional gestures of racial stereotyping. Players have had bananas thrown at them by fans wishing to disturb them mentally so as to destroy their composure and ability to play for the rival side, with key players at times bearing the brunt of such gestures. In certain instances players feel compelled to walk out in protest, and clubs have had occasion of playing in an empty stadium as UEFA censured clubs after rowdy fan insults.

The ‘Black Lives Matter’ movement brought out huge crowds and a series of violent showdowns with police patrols in many US cities, after a black youth in handcuffs was nailed down by a police officer, placing his knee on his neck and suffocating him. The youth’s last words ‘I Can’t Breathe’ became a rallying cry for an outbreak of unparalleled anger in US cities and a movement to change rules of the use of force in arresting suspects. Many US states are outlawing hand lock



Simba SC players take a knee after the squad’s recent training, which took place at Burju in Dar es Salaam, in support of protests against social injustice which are taking place in various parts of the world. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

on the neck as police often kill black youths in an apparent premeditated manner by applying that kind of lock, to say they resisted arrest.

In what is beginning to be seen as an ‘American Spring’ in the way in which the Black Lives Matter movement is ruffling feathers in police regulations in US cities, some lasting effects are expected to emerge even in other countries.

Many demonstrations were held in France where a youth named Adama Traore was killed by the police in similar circumstances as in the Minneapolis case with George Floyd, and a recent concluding report on investigation into what happened cleared the policeman, sparking riots. Interesting, a skilled player by that name is featuring for English Premier League’s Wolverhampton Wanderers, of Malian origins.

What the current movement shows is that racism is likely to pass from a snobbish attitude on the part of some far right circles and youth groups to a more shameful consideration, just as anti-Semitism passed from an ordinary Christian prejudice to an obnoxious misdemeanor after WW2.

The reason is that when left as it is, it can lead to destructive moods in politics that lead to disaster, and this is what is experienced from time to time with police brutality. Censuring racist attitudes is likely to rise in Europe, in which case youths attending soccer matches will not find it that easy to form noisy groups of racist chants, taunts, etc.

Comparing racist attitudes in the US and in Europe, there are differences where black people have deep social entrenchment in the US, such that racism is expressed more in police violence and earlier, white supremacist thugs of the Ku Klux Klan, who would hang a black person in public.

It is a relic of the days of slavery where an escaping slave could be hanged if caught. In Europe black people are not deeply entrenched in society, in which case racism often takes a collective outlook as in soccer stadiums, which is unheard of in America. That is why this upheaval in the US and elsewhere is likely to cushion players.

That awaits to be seen and perhaps over a certain period of time, as to

whether attitudes would have visibly changed and how clubs deal with pockets of resistance, of diehard racist youths, the National Front far right supporters in various countries. But for most black players, the movement will have come as a relief and a capping stone for their own efforts, like walking out of the pitch in protest, or responding in contempt of racism and eating the banana instead of seemingly being ashamed of the very idea of a banana, etc. It was a free for all experimental model of what sort of attitude to take in a racist stadium.

Soccer clubs have no role in the racism that comes from the stands, and usually club/player differences are professional, even with coaches, though some are rumoured to be somewhat uneasy with black players. Still that isn’t quite so as a paragon of that attitude is supposed to be Manchester City tactics mogul Josep ‘Pep’ Guardiola, or that is how they saw him in Spain. His current lineup is a happy rainbow side as with several other major sides, and thus no accusations can be leveled with him either.

As Florida test numbers rise, the NBA prepares for Disney

By TIM REYNOLDS

THE rate of positive coronavirus tests in the Orlando, Florida, area has been soaring in recent days.

The NBA hopes that doesn’t matter.

After spending weeks on putting together an incredibly elaborate series of health and safety protocols – the word “testing” appears 282 times in the document – the NBA and the National Basketball Players Association believe they have done what is necessary to keep the 22 teams and others who will be part of the season restart at the Disney campus near Orlando next month safe and healthy.

Ready or not, basketball is almost back.

“No one is suggesting that this is going to be an infection-free, guaranteed environment,” NBA executive director Michele Roberts told The Associated Press. “I guess, unless we go to ... well, where would we go? What state has the lowest rate? There’s just no way of finding a sterile environment probably on this planet, but certainly, not in this country.”

Among the details that were included in the protocols released to teams Tuesday night: players will be invited to wear what the league calls a “proximity alarm” that will set off an audio alert when the person is within six feet of another person for more than five seconds and therefore not following social distancing guidelines, plus they can choose to wear a ring that will generate “a wellness assessment derived from metrics such as body temperature and respiratory and heart rate.”

Players and staff will also be given thermometers and a pulse oximeter so they can track their data and record it on the league’s daily health platform.

“I am optimistic about the NBA’s return to play policies and procedures,” Denver coach Michael Malone, who found out last month that he had already beaten COVID-19 after an antibody test showed he had the virus. “They are going to do whatever it takes to make this the safest environment as possible. There are no guarantees and there will be a risk, but I feel confident in the measures to be taken pre-Orlando and once in Orlando.” True, there will be a risk.



In this May 7, 2010, file photo, Boston Celtics fans try to distract Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James (23) while he shoots foul shots during the first quarter of Game 3 in the second round of an NBA basketball playoff series in Boston. When the virus wanes enough to allow the games to begin again, the very essence of these events will likely be missing. Playing in empty buildings would require a significant recalibration. (AP Photo)

And the league acknowledges that no plan can be perfect.

“These Protocols are designed to promote prevention and mitigation strategies to reduce exposure to, and transmission of, the coronavirus,” the league said. “However, it is possible that staff, players, or other participants in the resumption of the 2019-20 season nonetheless may test positive or contract the coronavirus.”

But by following strict rules – including regular testing, no leaving the Disney campus without returning to quarantine, no unauthorized guests, no family members even being permitted to arrive until late August and, though this didn’t likely have to be said, no spitting on the court – the NBA and the NBPA hope the risk is minimal as teams prepare for a Disney stay that could exceed three months for the teams that make the NBA Finals.

“It’ll still probably bother everybody that we’re not home,” Miami center Bam Adebayo said. “But at the end

of the day, we’ll be happy to play basketball.”

The NBA’s arrival at Disney is looming as the rate of positive tests around the state are rising, and officials such as Gov. Ron DeSantis are facing criticism for re-opening many parts of the state’s economy. But if NBA players aren’t venturing out among the public, the hope is that no matter what’s going on beyond Disney’s fences that the quasi-bubble for basketball won’t be affected.

The rate of positive tests in the Orlando area in the seven-day period ending Monday was nearly 6%. For the seven days immediately preceding that, it was 2.4% – meaning the rate has more than doubled in a one-week span.

“It’s concerning but not surprising,” Roberts said. “I’ve watched this governor behave as if the virus is an inconvenience as opposed to a virus. So, I guess watching the way the state is adhering or not adhering to CDC

guidelines, it’s not surprising that these numbers would go up.”

DeSantis has said Florida’s rising numbers reflects more testing and other factors, though the percentage of positive tests is also significantly higher than was the case just a couple weeks ago across the state and in the Orlando area.

The state’s agriculture commissioner, Nikki Fried, tweeted Tuesday that DeSantis “has lost control” of Florida’s response to the pandemic and recklessly re-opened the state “despite the data screaming for caution.”

DeSantis is a Republican; Fried is the only elected Democrat to currently hold a statewide office.

“My solace is that our guys are not going to be out and about in the city of Orlando,” Roberts said. “The players will be flown in non-commercial, and they will essentially be on campus for the entirety of their stay until such time as their season ends.”

AP

Barca cruise past Leganes to turn up heat on Real Madrid

BARCELONA

LIONEL Messi was rugby tackled and then scored a penalty as Barcelona put the pressure back on Real Madrid by easing to a 2-0 victory over Leganes at an empty Camp Nou on Tuesday.

Messi was hauled to the ground in the first half by a diving Unai Bustinza wrapping two arms around his waist and he was knocked over again in the second, this time earning a penalty, which he converted.

After 33 appearances, Messi now has 26 goals this season. In his last eight games, he has seven goals and eight assists.

The 17-year-old Ansu Fati had earlier given Barcelona the lead, continuing his breakthrough season with a fifth goal in eight league starts.

Leganes could have made the reigning champions feel uncomfortable if Miguel-Angel Guerrero had taken either of two golden early opportunities but the first was cleared off the line and the second denied by the post.

"We had a bit of luck at the beginning," admitted Barca coach Quique Setien.

But his team's reward for a rather underwhelming performance is a five-point advantage over Madrid, who can reduce that back to two by winning at home to Valencia on Thursday.

Valencia will be a more thorough examination of Madrid's sharpness after the three-month break and Barca can expect tougher tests to come than Leganes too, starting with a trip to third-placed Sevilla on Friday.

Setien will hope Gerard Pique recovers from a nasty challenge that means he will need stitches in his shin. "It split his shinpad," said Setien. "We hope it's not serious."

Leganes have dropped to the bottom of the table and look doomed to relegation, their chances of survival damaged by Barcelona snatching away their top scorer Martin Braithwaite as an emergency signing in February.

Leganes were not alone in feeling the rule had hurt them disproportionately and their sense of injustice might have been deepened by the fact Braithwaite was left on the bench for the entire 90 minutes.

- Wasteful Guerrero -

Barcelona controlled possession in the first half but created little and would have been behind early on if Guerrero had been more precise.

AFP

Three key players behind Bayern Munich's eighth straight title

BERLIN

BAYERN Munich were crowned German champions for the 30th time in the club's history on Tuesday as the Bavarian giants secured an eighth straight Bundesliga title.

Here, AFP Sport looks at three key players from Bayern's league-winning campaign:

Alphonso Davies

Davies has undoubtedly been Bayern's find of the season.

The 19-year-old, who was born in a Ghanaian refugee camp before his parents emigrated to Canada, joined Bayern in 2018 from Vancouver Whitecaps for an MLS record fee of \$13 million (11.5 million euros).

He only made his first Bundesliga start last October, converting from a left winger to a left-back, after Lucas Hernandez suffered an ankle injury.

Davies has made the position his own, with his lightning pace either covering holes in defence or launching counter-attacks.

"We can no longer imagine the team without him," admitted Bayern sporting director Hasan Salihamidzic.

He is exceptionally fast, prompting Thomas Mueller to nickname him "Bayern's Road Runner".

The Canadian clocked 36.51 km/h in the victory over Werder Bremen which secured the title.

With Davies at left-back, David Alaba has moved across to forge a solid centre-back partnership with Jerome Boateng.

It left Hernandez, who cost a

AFP

First, Javier Eraso sprinted clear and despite taking too long to shoot, the ball spilled out for Guerrero, whose drive hit the foot of Clement Lenglet on the line.

Guerrero had another go moments later, this time from an acute angle, but his rasping half-volley flew across the area and shaved the far post.

Barca were laboured, even as they dominated the ball, but Leganes might have been tiring by the 42nd minute when Junior Firpo's bustling run allowed Fati to take an instinctive shot, which he fired through the legs of Rodri Tarin and into the bottom corner.

In the 69th minute, Messi gave his team the cushion they wanted, earning a dubious penalty with a storming run. He won the ball on the half-way line, nutmegged one defender and held off two more.

After an exchange with Luis Suarez, he was finally knocked over, even if it appeared less of a foul than the previous attempts to stop him. Messi curled into the bottom corner.

Suarez had come on for Fati and Sergio Busquets, Gerard Pique, Arthur Melo all departed too as Setien turned his attention to Sevilla. Leganes coach Javier Aguirre was sent off for whistling on the sidelines in injury-time.

- Champions League-chasing Getafe slip up -

Earlier, Getafe dropped more points in the race for Champions League qualification as they failed to break down Espanyol despite their opponents playing most of the match with 10 men.

A goalless draw represents a missed opportunity for Jose Bordalas' side and they could even have lost to Espanyol, who had Bernardo Espinosa sent off in the 16th minute but are building momentum.

Getafe stay fifth, level on points with fourth-placed Real Sociedad, who will play their game in hand at Alaves on Thursday. Getafe could also be overtaken if Atletico Madrid win on Wednesday against Osasuna.

Espanyol move to within two points of safety after resuming with a 2-0 victory over Alaves on Saturday.

Villarreal stayed in the hunt for the European places by beating Real Mallorca 1-0. Carlos Bacca's early finish leaves Villarreal seventh, three points from fourth. Mallorca remain 18th.

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'Best in Germany': Bayern clinch eighth straight Bundesliga title

BERLIN

ROBERT Lewandowski said Bayern Munich had proved they are the best club in Germany after securing their eighth straight Bundesliga title on Tuesday as the Poland striker's first-half volley saw them claim a 1-0 win at Werder Bremen.

Bayern were confirmed German champions for the 30th time in the club's proud history to maintain their iron-grip on the Bundesliga shield in recent years.

"We have showed that we are the best team in Germany," said Lewandowski.

Lewandowski struck two minutes before the break with a brilliant chest and low strike, but Bayern had to endure a nervy final 11 minutes after teenage left-back Alphonso Davies was sent off for a second yellow card.

At the end of a first 45 minutes dominated by Bremen's dogged defending and pouring rain, Bayern broke through when centre-back Jerome Boateng chipped over the top for Lewandowski to score.

It was the Poland striker's 31st league goal of the season, a career best, keeping him on course to be named the league's top scorer for the fifth time.

Head coach Hansi Flick landed the Bundesliga title in his first season in charge having stepped in when Niko Kovac was sacked last November.

Even the coronavirus lockdown could not stop Bayern's momentum, with the champions winning eight consecutive games in all competitions since the resumption of German football last month.

Flick, assistant coach when Germany won the 2014 World Cup, could land the treble as Bayern face Bayer Leverkusen in the German Cup final on July 4 and hold a 3-0 first-leg lead over Chelsea in the Champions League last 16.

"This is Bayern Munich, the goals are always high," said Flick after club president Hainer Herbert had said the treble is the goal this season.

"We have now reached our first big goal, the cup is now the next goal, then the Champions League, but you can't plan for that."



Lewandowski has scored 31 league goals this season (AFP Photo)

The home defeat means Bremen, who are three points from guaranteed safety with two games left, badly need a result at fellow strugglers Mainz this Saturday or against Cologne at home on the final day of the season.

This was Bayern's 13th straight win in Bremen, but Florian Kohfeldt's hosts worked tirelessly.

Having given Bayern the lead, Lewandowski went chasing a second and had the ball in the net in the 54th minute but was flagged offside.

Canada left-back Davies showed a lightning pair of heels by clocking 36.51km/h, which will be a Bundesliga record if the speed is confirmed, before his late dismissal.

Having been shown a first-half yellow card for a foul on Leonardo Bittencourt, Davies was booked again for blocking the run of Milos Veljkovic.

Bremen piled on the pressure in the final 10 minutes, with Boateng doing excellently to prevent a late cross from reaching Josh Sargent.

Kohfeldt threw on strikers Niclas Füllkrug and 41-year-old Claudio Pizarro, against his former club.

Germany goalkeeper Manuel Neuer pulled off a stunning finger-tip save in the 90th minute to deny Japan forward Yuya Osako, with Pizarro sliding in searching for a tap-in, as Bayern held on.

The result means club stalwart Thomas Mueller now equals the league record of former Bayern great Franck Ribery with his ninth Bundesliga title.

AFP

Attempt to shame Premier League players backfired

MANCHESTER, England

A PREMIER League shutdown that began with the British government trying to shame stars over their wealth ended with admiration for a player's determination to ensure children won't starve.

Manchester United forward Marcus Rashford received an unprecedented outpouring of congratulatory messages ahead of Wednesday's resumption of the world's most followed soccer league.

"Amazing to see your efforts rewarded and to know so many will benefit," the England national team account tweeted. "We're so proud of you, Marcus."

It's not often anyone - let alone a footballer - secures a government U-turn, especially so swiftly.

Rashford implored Boris Johnson's administration on Monday to extend a scheme providing meal vouchers for impoverished schoolchildren into the summer holidays.

"Make protecting the lives of some of our most vulnerable a top priority," Rashford wrote to politicians. Only after a public furor escalated Tuesday did Johnson back track.

"I thank him for what he's done," Johnson said in Downing Street.

It was at the same podium three months ago, early in the coronavirus pandemic, that the government tried to shame stars of the world's richest league. The deaths of National Health Service workers were invoked by Health Secretary Matt Hancock as he singled out footballers to "take a pay cut" - he did not mention any other high earners.

"I think that everybody needs to play their part in this national effort," Hancock said, "and that means Premier League footballers, too."

Rashford had more than played his part, using the weeks without games and his profile to raise 20 million pounds (\$25 million) for the Fareshare UK charity supplying meals to families in need.

Football facilities were used to assist the national effort to eradicate COVID-19. There was the testing in the grounds of Manchester City, which will host Arsenal on restart night on Wednesday. Tottenham, which angered politicians by initially seeking to use a state-funded furloughing scheme, repurposed its north London stadium for maternity services to free up capacity at a local hospital.

"I think we'll look back on the last three months with some pride at the way football as an industry has responded to some of the challenge," Premier League chief executive Richard Masters said.

Politicizing footballers has backfired on the government.

"I think some of the criticism has been unfair," Masters said Tuesday, while crediting the government for backing the league's return. "The players themselves have stepped up, made their opinions and voices heard on some of the issues society is facing."

A new generation of activist athletes has emerged in the absence of sport, led by Rashford.

"His perseverance and the way he's gone about it have obviously moved the government," Masters



Manchester United forward Marcus Rashford

said. "I wouldn't see what is going in terms of the messages being overtly political, I see them as ethics based, values statements."

Raheem Sterling of rival Manchester City made a rare appearance for a player on a flagship political TV show to decry racial injustice in society and discrimination in his own sport.

And alongside fellow players, Sterling

launched a #TimeForChange campaign video that ended with him saying: "I will never tire of being black."

The league is more reticent to say how it can create a more inclusive environment.

"I don't want to set targets on the hoof," Masters said. "All I can say is that we are totally committed to that dialogue and will be following that up with our clubs."

He is sure to be hearing from players

demanding substantive changes, too. The activism of Rashford and Sterling has shown their influence extends far beyond the field.

Stadiums went silent during the lockdown, the players didn't.

Eventually, the government heard them.

AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



Yanga will not discipline Morrison, says official

SPORT

'Best in Germany': Bayern clinch eighth straight Bundesliga title

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Yanga winger, Bernard Morrison (R), attempts to negotiate his way past a Transit Camp FC defender when the two teams locked horns in a recent friendly game, which took place in Dar es Salaam. Yanga won 3-1. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

YOUNG Africans SC (Yanga) have said the outfit's utility player, Bernard Morrison, who did not travel with the team to Shinyanga for a Vodacom

Premier League game against Mwadui FC, will neither face any disciplinary action nor apologize to his teammates.

Yanga's Acting Secretary General, Simon Patrick, said he met the player at the club's headquarters in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday, where they discussed a lot of things concerning his failure to make the trip to Shinyanga and Dodoma where the

team has Premier League assignments.

He said the player explained his side of the story and he understood the latter.

"I invited Morrison to our club, the aim was that I wanted to know what led him to miss the team trip to Shinyanga and Dodoma for Premier League games, he told me everything which included an injury he is nursing," Patrick stated.

"I understood him and there is no need for him to apologize to his teammates, there will be no disciplinary action against him," he said.

Patrick said as a lawyer and the club's Acting Secretary General, he would not rush to take action against the player without giving him a chance to be heard.

"Natural justice requires that before taking any action you must hear from both sides and I did exactly that, during our discussions I discovered that Morrison did not deliberately abscond from honoring Yanga duties, he is injured," he said in the interview.

He assured the club's members and supporters that the player will join camp today at Tanganyika Law School venue in Dar es Salaam to prepare for this weekend's Premier

League game against Azam FC, to be played at National Stadium in the city on Sunday.

On Tuesday there were media reports quoting Yanga head coach, Luc Eymael, as saying Morrison will have to apologize to his teammates for not travelling with the team to Shinyanga and Dodoma for Premier League games.

Morrison's arrival at Yanga headquarters on Tuesday eased fears which many supporters of the club had over his future at the club as there are reports linking him with rivals Simba SC.

However, sources from Yanga say there is more under the carpet in the case of Morrison but the management of the club cannot take any action due to player-power which is common at the club and many domestic Premier League sides.

Waluguru Original Band set to record tracks in Dar

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

MOROGORO's music band, dubbed 'Waluguru Original', is set to travel to Dar es Salaam later this month to record songs composed by the band's members early this year.

The band's director, Deogratius David, nicknamed 'Killer', stated the group's musicians are soon expected to make their way to Dar es Salaam for the task, given they have already completed the songs.

"We lately have six songs, namely 'Morogoro Yetu', 'Mwanzo wa Mapenzi', 'Cha Kupewa', 'Ngaliwe Mwanangu

Ndole', 'Supu' and 'Nataka Nilewe', they are the ones we want to record," he disclosed.

David said the band had already completed the tracks several months back but it failed to record them following the coronavirus disease spread. The government had given green light to the restart of sporting events and social gatherings because of the decrease of coronavirus cases in the country.

"As the government has said there is decrease in coronavirus cases we have started staging shows and we are on our way to travel to Dar es Sa-

laam to record our tracks," he stated.

David moreover noted he is looking forward to boosting his band with addition of musicians.

The presence of new musicians according to him will see Waluguru Original Band turn into a prominent entertainment outfit in Morogoro.

"Waluguru Original is in good shape and we are keeping on rehearsing, but the coronavirus disease had attempted to frustrate our plans," the band leader said.

"We will, nevertheless, give our fans the best entertainment they have missed for a long time."



Waluguru Original Band's drummer, Kelvin Sayona, in action during his band's recent performance which took place in Morogoro. PHOTO: SABATO KASIKA

India envoy impressed by increase in yoga members in Tanzania

By Beatrice Philemon

AS people all over the world celebrate the International Day of Yoga 2020, India's High Commissioner to Tanzania, Sanjiv Kohli, has called on people in Tanzania and other parts of the world to perform yoga exercises to increase body immunity and deal with stress.

Kohli made the remarks while briefing journalists from different media organizations in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday on the International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2020 that will be celebrated all over the World on June 21.

He said people can practice yoga either at home or anywhere and get health benefits that include flexibility, relaxation, fitness and mindfulness.

"We are encouraging people to practice yoga because it helps people stay healthier and have happier life," he noted.

He said yoga and Ayurveda, a traditional Hindu system of medicine, are becoming more and more relevant as they are the best ways to increase body immunity.

The observation of the IDY had in the past been marked by thousands of harmonious mass demonstrations of yoga in public places. "Because of global spread of COVID-19 pandemic, India has decided to encourage virtual sessions of yoga and we are following the same practice here," Kohli disclosed.

"We are celebrating the sixth IDY in a virtual way under the theme 'Ghar Ghar se Yoga-Yoga from Home' on June 21 at 8:00am. We will upload the common Yoga Protocol of the Yoga Day in our social media platforms," he stated.

He said people will upload the common Yoga Protocol of the Yoga Day at the Facebook page of the India High Commission to Tanzania, <https://www.facebook.com/IndiaInTanzania/>, and Facebook page of Swami Vivekananda Culture Centre, <http://www.facebook.com/SwamiVivekananda-Cultural-Centre-Dar-es-Salaam-582559985117910/>.

All yoga enthusiasts, he added, are requested to follow streaming video and do yoga exercises at their homes.

He stated the can do 'Yoga Yoga' with family members at one's convenience from June 21-28 this year.

He disclosed it is advised that everyone should like the office's Facebook page and send such details like name, place and number of persons participated via either a text message or WhatsApp message to +255682319013.

Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre Director, Santhosh Raja, added that the India's High Commission to Tanzania, in collaboration with the center, has organized a yoga contest, known as 'My Life My Yoga Video Blogging' to allow people to participate and win cash prizes as well as enter into global competition.

He called on Tanzanians, Indians and other people from different countries across the world, who live in Tanzania, to participate in the contest because it is open to all and the best video will be considered for global contest.

He stated that people that want to participate in the competition will be required to shoot a three-minute video of their yoga practice and a voice message on how yoga practices influence their lives.

"Shoot your video in horizontal (landscape) orientation, upload the video in your Facebook/Twitter or Instagram account, like/follow Ministry of Ayush Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/moayush/> and tag the page in your video," he disclosed.

Namungo FC duo goes AWOL

By Correspondent Adam Fungamwango

LINDI's Namungo FC players, midfielder Mohamed Ibrahim and center back Paul Bukaba, have gone absent without leave at the squad from the day the outfit travelled to Tanga to confront Coastal Union in a Vodacom Premier League clash.

The clash, which took place last weekend, ended with the two teams locked to a 2-2 draw.

Namungo FC chairman, Hassan Zidadu, stated he does not know where the two players are because they have not joined the side.

He disclosed the two players will no longer be part of the club in the remaining top flight matches because they have yet to join the rest of the players.

There are though rumours the two players, who had been loaned to Namungo FC by Simba SC, have parted ways with their parent club, with Zidadu as well admitting to have been informed of the development.

"It is true Simba sent us letter on January 13 telling us they have terminated their contracts with the duo, it is true they were loaned to us, we were paying half of their salaries, with Simba paying the rest," he disclosed.

"They were, nevertheless, supposed to be sincere with us, meet us to discuss their fate, we would have paid them salaries for the remaining months so they can play for the rest of the season."

"We would thereafter have find whether coach wants them or not, but they have opted to stay away."

He said soccer is the two players' profession, for that matter, it is not good for them to merely stay at home whereas Namungo FC was ready to hand them short term contracts.

Bukaba, who can play as either fullback or center back, had been recruited by Simba in 2017 and he was one of the players who donned the club's jerseys in the previous season's CAF Champions League.

He was instrumental in the outfit's qualification for the quarterfinals before being loaned to Namungo FC this season.

Ibrahim was roped in by Simba in 2016 from top flight squad, Mtibwa Sugar, and turned out for Simba for three seasons before heading to Namungo FC on loan basis.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

I THINK I AM THINKING...



...RIGHT?