



## National Pg 4 Feasibility studies for Dodoma rail services



## National Pg 5 MV Victoria ready to resume services



## National Pg 6 Tablets for Kigamboni students



# CAG: Govt debt disabling social security funds

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

OUTSTANDING government debt owed to social security funds, which stands at 2.42trn/-, hampers the operations of the institutions.

Controller and Auditor General Charles Kichere has issued this warning in the National Audit Office (NAOT) annual report for the year ending June 30, 2019, where he states that ministerial departments and agencies had a tendency of borrowing billions of shillings from pension funds and were not servicing their debts.

Addressing journalists soon after presenting the 2018/2019 annual audit report in the House on Monday, Kichere said that social security funds have large non-performing liabilities with government and its institutions.

About 284.05bn/- (94 percent of total) of government liabilities were due for settlement during the year ending

June 30, 2019. Some of the liabilities matured since 2014, he stated.

Another aspect of the report said the Tanzania Telecommunications Co. Ltd (TTCL) registered losses amounting to 1.11bn/- on a roaming contract with MIC (T) Ltd for national roaming with effect from July 14, 2018.

The intention was to expand network coverage countrywide to maximize revenue, the audit report indicates.

"I noted that TTCL was offering lower package prices to its customers than the package contracted prices it pays. As a result, it made a loss of 1.11bn/- exclusively from the roaming contract," the report indicates.

If TTCL increases prices to cover that loss, there is possibility of being squeezed out of the market and suffer in its revenues due to stiff competition.

On issues of procurement, the CAG noted that Ministry of Works, Transport

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Zanzibar President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa, former Zanzibar President Abeid Amani Karume and Mohammed About Mohammed, Minister of State in the Zanzibar Second Vice President's Office, with various other officials and ordinary citizens in prayers for Zanzibar's first Zanzibar President Sheikh Abeid Amani Karume. The event was held at his graveside at Kisiwandui in Zanzibar yesterday, the 48th anniversary of his death. Photo: State House



## New technology enabling precision in deep-sea fishing

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

SCIENTISTS at the Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute (TAFIRI) are taking up a project for an electronic application that precisely locates zones with fish stocks, cutting many hours spent by artisanal fishermen.

Dr Baraka Kuguru, the Principal Research Officer at TAFIRI told The Guardian in an interview yesterday that the project uses a space technology application for offshore fishing, and it was already changing lives of more than 100 fishermen reached so far.

It is operated on an environmental processing station that collects and processes data which is relayed to fishers equipped with smart phones fitted with global positioning (GPS) equipment.

"This means fishermen no longer have to sail aimlessly looking for fish since the technology directs them right to the schools of fish," he explained.

The project funded by the European Union through the African Union is coordinated by the Deep Sea Fishing Authority. Phase One was implemented in

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## Dr Shein leads restrained Karume graveside prayers

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein yesterday led other government and religious figures during prayers in remembrance of the leader of the 1964 Revolution, Sheikh Abeid Amani Karume.

The prayers were held at Karume's grave at Kisiwandui CCM headquarters Zanzibar, where various religious leaders prayed for the Isles leader, who died 48 years ago.

Zanzibar Mufti Sheikh Saleh Omar Kaabi wished Karume to rest in peace saying during his time as Zanzibar President and Chairman of the Revolutionary Council,

he stressed the need to improve the lives of all Zanzibaris, especially better housing.

He prayed to God to save Zanzibar and the entire world from the Covid-19 pandemic plaguing the world.

The leader of the Anglican Church in Zanzibar, Bishop Michael Henry Hafidh asked God for His forgiveness and wished the late leader a peaceful place in heaven. He also asked God to pave the way on how to rescue the world from the Covid-19 pandemic.

On his part, the leader of Hindu religion Yoges Pirocit used the occasion to pray for the late leader and wished him to rest in

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## SADC eases transit rules for Covid-19 equipment

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Southern African Development Community (SADC) ministerial council has approved recommendations to facilitate the coordination of regional emergency responses to the coronavirus pandemic.

The ministers among other things approved the harmonisation of guidelines to ease transportation of essential goods and services within the bloc in the wake of the pandemic.

Prof Palamagamba Kabudi, the minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, said this yesterday in presenting a report on the ministers' extraordinary meeting he chaired by video from Dar es Salaam.

The ministers deliberated on proposals by the SADC technical committee formed to monitor the implementation of the regional bloc protocol on regional coordination on Covid-19 measures. The committee deliberations, which preceded

the council of ministers, presented two recommendations.

One was harmonisation of regional guidelines on cross border transport operations to be applied during the pandemic.

"The council of ministers directed the secretariat to review national transport related policies, regulations and response measures and identify inconsistencies by the end of this month," said Prof Kabudi.

They directed the SADC secretariat to identify best practices and propose to the council proposals on harmonised policies, regulations and measures to start being implemented within this month.

In addition, the technical committee shall meet regularly to review the guidelines and recommend updates and revisions to the council.

On the Covid-19 situation, the council urged the secretariat to undertake a mapping of regional manufacturers of

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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 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 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.

**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.



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cdc.gov/COVID-19



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As part of routine meant as a precaution against Covid-19 infections, Rukwa regional commissioner Joachim Wangabo undergoes a body temperature test yesterday before entering the Immigration Department office at Kaseya in Kalambo District - at the Tanzania-Zambia border. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Dr Shein leads restrained Karume graveside prayers

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peace. The prayers are held annually on April 7 and were this time around attended by top Union government officials Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa, retired leaders including former Isles leader Dr Amani Abeid

Karume.

Also in attendance were the head of the diplomatic corps in Zanzibar George Augustino, Karume family representative Ambassador Ali Karume, Secretary of the Zanzibar Revolutionary Council Dr Abdulhamid Yahya Mzee, Zanzibar Chief Justice Omar Othman Makungu and the

Deputy Secretary General of CCM for Zanzibar, Abdalla Juma Sadalla 'Mabodi.'

Others were Zanzibar TPDF Commander Brig. Gen. Fadhil Omar Nondo, Zanzibar Commissioner of Police Mohamed Hassan, the chairman of the Zanzibar Revolutionary Government (ZRG)

Special Forces, Zanzibar Urban West Regional Commissioner Hassan Khatibu, along with leaders of defense and security organs from both parts of the union.

This year's prayers for the Isles founder president involved fewer participants, different from the norm, due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

## New technology enabling precision deep-sea fishing

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2016/17 and involved training of more than 100 fishers on how to use the technology. Beneficiaries were fishers in selected areas in Pemba, Unguja, Tanga and Mafia.

"We are now in phase two of the project which involves actual fishing. The catch has increased tremendously as they can fish during the day as well as night. The GPS technology has also eliminated the possibility of fishers getting far into deep sea," he said.

The project has developed a mobile application where fishers post their daily catch as well as sale records. This was necessitated by the fact that paperwork is not easy for people who are in the ocean most of the time, he stated.

"With well-kept records, it will be easier for them to borrow money from financial institutions to buy fishing

equipment like boats," he said.

Fishers have also been trained to control their catch to avoid overfishing, he pointed out.

About four million people living along the Tanzanian coastline, spanning over 1442 kms, depend on fishing for their livelihoods and food security. However, locating and catching fish has always been a challenging task. Often, the search for fish ends up in spending considerable time and resources, thus increasing the cost leading to low profitability.

But this technology—and if scaled up—can change fortunes of fishers not only along the Indian Ocean but lakes such as Victoria, Tanganyika and Nyasa.

"At the end of the project we will consult with the Fisheries Department in the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries for the way forward," he added.

## Ministry collects 80.3bn/- from land rent defaulters

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE Ministry for Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development has collected some 80.3bn/- in one month being land rent from hardcore defaulters and other tenants.

Speaking here to this paper in a special interview on the ongoing exercise by the ministry to collect land rent from hard core defaulters, the head of tax Division in the Ministry Denis Masami said the collected sum represents an increase of 10b/- since March 20 this year.

He said the collection is the continuation of efforts by the Land Ministry to collect government revenue through land rent that aimed to increase government's coffers.

Masami said as of now the Ministry has completed the distribution of demand letters to hardcore defaulters as well as suing them in court and what remains auctioning of their property to

recover the rent.

He said the Ministry's strategy is to make sure all hardcore land rent defaulters are pressed to pay and some of the court cases have been finalized and next week auctions will be conducted to recover the money.

On several occasions, during the Deputy Lands Minister Dr Angeline Mabula's had been directing district and urban councils to give priority the lands sector as well as to increase the pace of land rent collections.

During the recent launching of the special strategy of the Land s Ministry to beef up government coffers through land rent the Commissioner for Lands Nathaniel Ndonge told Council officials that the Ministry would soon start taking to court hardcore land rent defaulters countrywide, the operation of which would be spearheaded by the Ministry.

In the operation Ndonge called for the cooperation of Councils including village executives.



Roads near the CCM offices in Zanzibar, in which compound lies the grave of the first President of Zanzibar, Sheikh Abeid Amani Karume, closed to traffic yesterday as prayers to mark the 48th anniversary of his death. As a precaution against the spread of Covid-19 infections, only a few people were allowed to the scene of the solemn event. Photo: Correspondent Martin Kabemba

GENEVA

WORLD Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has condemned controversial comments made by French doctors about testing a Covid-19 potential treatment first in Africa, calling the remarks a "hangover from a colonial mentality."

"To be honest, I was so appalled. And it was a time when I said when we needed solidarity -- this kind of racist remarks actually would not help, it goes against the solidarity," Tedros said during a WHO media briefing here 'on Monday.

He was referring to remarks made last week by Dr. Jean-Paul Mira, head of ICU services at the Cochin Hospital in Paris, and Camille Loch, research director for France's National Institute of Health and Medical Research (Inserm).

## French doctors' proposal to test Covid-19 cure in Africa slammed as 'colonial mentality' case

The two doctors appeared last Wednesday on French TV network on LCI, where they discussed whether the BCG tuberculosis vaccine could be a potential treatment for Covid-19. The drug is undergoing clinical trials for that purpose in the Netherlands and Australia.

That's when Mira suggested Africa could be the ideal place to conduct a clinical trial.

"If I could be provocative," Mira prefaced the question, before adding, "Should we not do this study in Africa, where there are no (face) masks, no treatments and no ICUs?"

"A bit like it is done for some studies on AIDS, where with prostitutes, we try things because we know that they

## CAG: Govt debt hurts social security funds

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and Communications (Vote 62) paid TTCL for procurement of battery cells, connectors and other accessories for replacement in the National ICT Broadband Backbone (NICTBB) sites worth 1.6bn/- without a Memorandum of Understanding between the ministry and TTCL.

Kichere asked responsible authorities to work on recommendations appended to the audit report to avoid further misuse of public funds.

The CAG's review at the National Identification Authority (NIDA), underlined that NIDA had not recovered advance payment amounting to 28.2bn/- paid to Iris Corporation Berhad of Malaysia as contractor for procurement and supply of goods and equipment for National ID system.

Even though the contract had expired since March 14 2018, exactly two years ago, 33 ICT equipment supporting Biometric Voter Registration (BVR) machines were missing in various districts. The missing equipment are

laptops, cameras, disks, derma log, solar and adapter.

At the National Electoral Commission (NEC), the CAG noted that significant procurement issues, including irregularities in the contract for supply of pole tents for NEC worth 6.3bn/-.

Naghenjwa Kaboyoka (Same East, Chadema) the chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of the National Assembly, asked government authorities to change their behavior to avert irregularities and preventing losses through rogue contracts.

Certain public institutions dismissed or transferred some faithful auditors after they uncovered irregularities in those entities, the MP charged.

"We are quite aware of everything going on in your organizations. There are some faithful and responsible internal auditors who helped to uncover frauds and mismanagement of funds, who have been punished by firing them or transferring them to the interior places. We are going work on this matter intensively," the lawmaker added.

## SADC eases transit rules for Covid-19 equipment

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essential medicines, medical supplies, and medical equipments by the end of the month.

"We have mandated our SADC permanent missions to negotiate with governments hosting manufacturing companies on preferential dispensation for regional essential medicines and equipments required during the Covid-19 period," he specified.

The council also urged member

states and the SADC Pooled Procurement Agency to utilize regional manufacturers as much as possible.

In another development, Prof Kabudi said the regional bloc was also conducting an analysis on the effects of the novel corona virus on the SADC region.

"It is obvious that the pandemic has had an impact on our economies and such analysis is an ongoing process which may take time," he added.



Leopold Runji (L, gesturing), an engineer with the Tanzania Rural and Urban Road Agency, briefs Kinondoni district commissioner Daniel Chongolo (R) in Dar es Salaam yesterday on drainage and other infrastructure at buildings being constructed by the Tanzania Building Agency. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# Rains cause 1.8bn/- destruction to roads in Dodoma Region

By Guardian Correspondent, Mpwapwa

TANZANIA Roads Agency (TANROADS) in Dodoma Region has said the ongoing rains have occasioned 1.8bn/- destruction to the infrastructures in the region.

This was revealed by the regional TANROADS engineer Cyprian Lubida during inspection of the road infrastructures destroyed in Mpwapwa District.

Lubida said the entire region has experienced destruction that has been assessed to cost that much.

"The effects have been referred to various levels for implementation in accordance with procedures that call for reporting such destruction to TANROADS headquarters at the Ministry within 24 hours," he said.

He said in regard to bridges destroyed in the past, due assessment thereof was carried out and the cost thereon has been submitted to the Ministry for provision of funds.

"TANROADS in the region is still looking for alternatives so that the Mpwapwa Road is passable at all times,"

he said.

The Mpwapwa District Commissioner Jabir Shekimweri said the rains that have pounded the district so far is equivalent to the rains for one year.

"The Chipogolo area was extensively damaged and I take this opportunity to thank the President, the Regional Commissioner and James Simbachawene when he was still at the Environmental Ministry... they quickly helped us via TANROADS to repair the Chipogolo Bridge," he said.

He said many roads are still in bad condition but the government through Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) as well as TANROADS some of them have started being repaired even though the rains are still pounding.

He said many bridges have been damaged and Chipogolo Bridge was the first after that it was Wilenzele and Mtamba bridges. Culverts were also washed away while the contractor is currently repairing the Kingiti bridge.

He said the District received 6b/- for repairs and construction of various roads projects.

By Guardian Correspondent, Musoma

# Three residents of Mara Region killed, police blame cases on GBV and assault

THREE people have died in three different incidents in Mara region, two of them apparently murdered allegedly out of jealousy and another after unidentified people believed to be armed attacked him with a sharp implement and ran away with his motorcycle (bodaboda) leaving his body sprawled on the ground near his home.

The incidents were reported at the weekend by the Mara Regional Police Commander Daniel Shillah when he spoke to reporters in his office.

RPC Shillah said in the first incident,

one woman, Elina Felician (30), a resident of Bomani in Mugumu town in Serengeti District died as she was receiving treatment after she was severely beaten by her husband allegedly due to jealousy.

He said the deceased was beaten by her husband, Juma Samuel (32)

after which he chased her from home and travelled to her home district of Karagwe in Kagera Region where she died while receiving treatment.

Following the incident RPC Shillah said they are holding the deceased's husband Juma Samuel who will be taken to court after investigations are

completed.

In the second incident, a woman, Aneth Daud (34), resident of Sozia Island in Bunda District died after she was attacked by her lover Costa Stephano (32), resident of Kibara in the district out of what was also attributed as love jealousy. She died from the

injuries sustained on March 30 at Kibara Hospital as she was receiving treatment.

The deceased was transferred to the hospital from Kisorya Dispensary to where she was initially taken after she was attacked.

RPC Shillah said they are holding

the suspect who will be taken to court after investigations are complete, and the body of the deceased has been handed over to relatives for burial.

The third incident that also happened on March 30 this year involves a motorcycle driver Abdallah Elias Mzembe (30), resident of Isaba village in Butiama District who was attacked and killed by unidentified people near his home and ran away with his motorcycle. His body was left sprawled on the ground.

RPC Shillah said they are still hunting for the suspects and no one is being held in connection of Mzembe's murder.

# Sensitisation on Covid-19 begins in Mbeya

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

A TEAM tasked by the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children to sensitize the public on taking preventive measures against Covid-19 has begun its work in Mbeya Region.

The team was received on Monday by Mbeya Regional Commissioner Albert Chalamila and held talks in his office and said it should feel free to give such education as the region has not recorded a case of the pandemic.

He appealed to the wananchi in various areas to cooperate with the team as the education give was for their own benefit and the nation in

general.

"The government is incurring great cost to fight the pandemic, hence it is now our responsibility to listen to the directives given and abide by them, hence it is essential it is accorder full cooperation," Chalamila said.

The Health ministry's Head of Water and Environmental Cleanliness Department Anyitike Mwakitalima said in addition to educate the public, the team will distribute various items for the wananchi to use to guard them against Covid-19 infection.

He said they are working together with the team of experts conducting the 'Nyumba ni choo' (House is the toilet) campaign that is mobilizing wananchi to build better pit latrines

in giving education on how to protect themselves from the disease.

"We are donating 150 litres of hand sanitizers for use by the wananchi in various areas in the region," he said, adding that the campaign will be conducted nationwide.

Mrisho Mpoti, an artiste said the main way for Tanzanians to safeguard themselves against the pandemic's infection is for them to wash their hands with soap and running water, and cautioned them against making humour out of the pandemic

On his part Mbeya Regional Police Commander ACP Ulrich Matei thanked the Health Ministry for donating the items for the protection against Covid-19 infections.



Rehema Foundation board chairman Musab Demirlenk (L) presents hand sanitisers, soap and various other items in Dar es Salaam yesterday to help some 3,000 members of disadvantaged Tanzanian families in the war on the coronavirus disease. The consignment was donated by Turkish nationals. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

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## PM says NEC working hard to ensure Oct polls smooth

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has said the National Electoral Commission (NEC) has been making a close follow up of its officials to forestall any incidents cause problems during the coming General Election.

He said the National electoral Commission Act, the Civic Elections Act as read with Criminal Procedure and Evidence Acts, and in compliance with the Public Service Act and regulations thereof, if it is found an official has wrecked the election and cause loss to the government, legal action will be taken against the official, including dismissal.

The Prime Minister expressed this on Monday in Parliament in Dodoma when winding up debates for the budget of his office, its institutions and the Parliament Fund for Financial Year 2020/21.

He said the procedure is quite clear in dealing with negligent election officials while performing their duties because NEC implements its activities freely without receiving orders from anyone.

"In accordance with Article 74(7) and (11) of the 1977 Constitution of Tanzania, NEC has been doing its work professionally and by adhering to the dictates of the Constitution, other laws, regulations and the existing guidelines", he added.

He said NEC has been conducting its business by working together with various stakeholders, adding that before the exercise to update the Permanent Voters Register (PVR) it sat together with election stakeholders at national and regional levels.

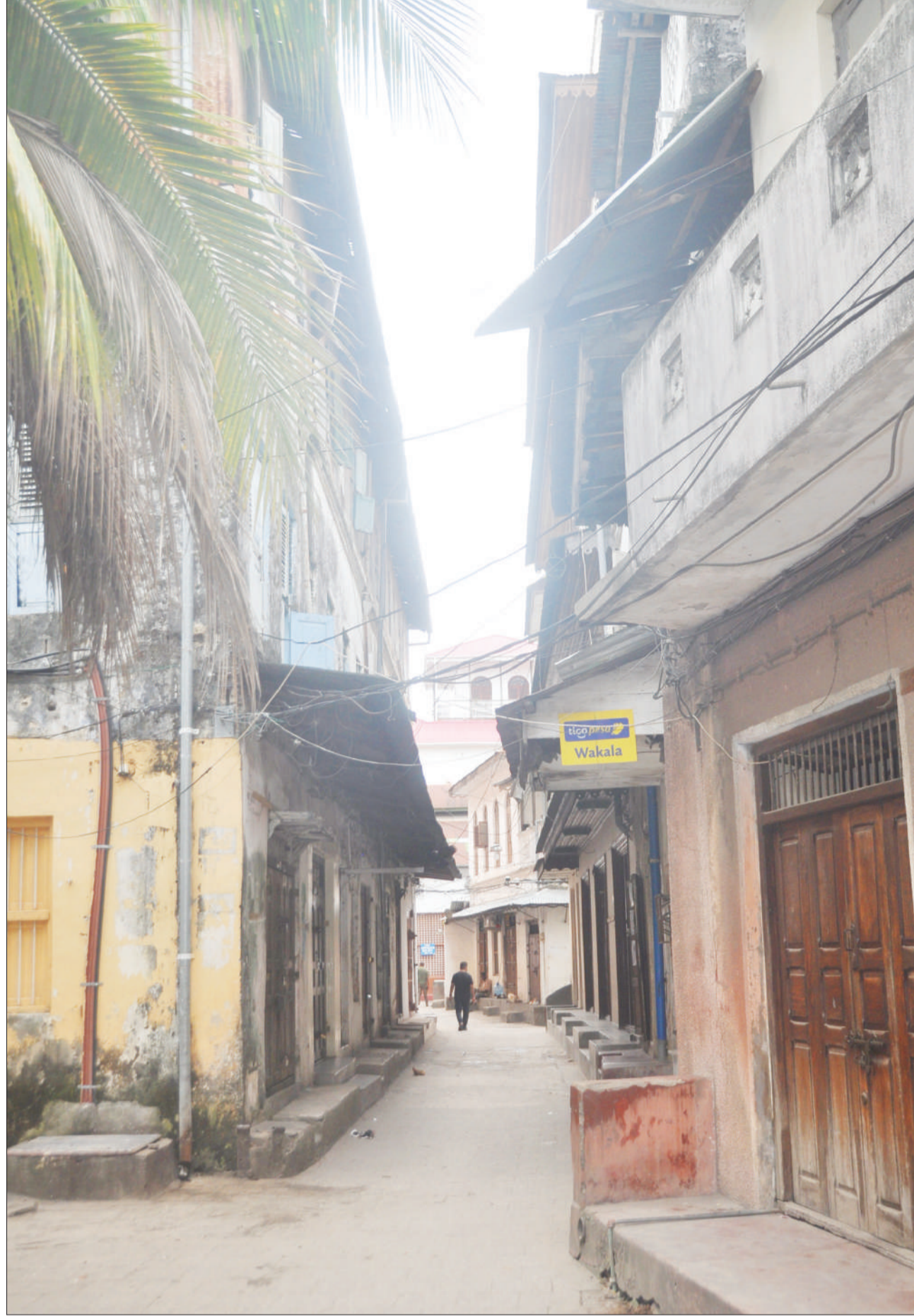
He said the stakeholders include political parties, religious leaders, representatives from the Civil Society, leaders from special groups including those for the people with disabilities, youth, women, editors and journalists in general.

He said political parties were informed of their legal rights in putting up agents at centres for updating PVR at all times. Meanwhile the prime Minister said during FY 2019/20 the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties investigated and called on some political parties accused to have contravened the Political Parties Act to submit their written defense to the Parties Registrar.

"Some of these parties did so and were punished accordingly, including warning," he said.



**Some of these parties did so and were punished accordingly, including warning**



This is one of Zanzibar's Unguja Urban streets which are normally congested but which, owing to the global spread of Covid-19 infections, now hardly witness much traffic. This scene was captured yesterday, with local residents saying it has become a common sight. Photo: Correspondent Martin Kabemba

## Catholics modify Easter celebrations to comply with Covid-19 lockdown

KIGALI

Christians on April 5 celebrated Palm Sunday, to officially kick-start the Holy Week leading up to Easter Sunday, when they mark the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

However, with the ongoing lockdown that is aimed to contain the raging coronavirus, it will not be business as usual, because, congregating in churches is suspended, to maintain the recommended social distance.

Some of the events celebrated during the Holy Week by the Catholic Church is the Chrism Mass, which is celebrated on Thursday of the Holy Week commonly known for the foot-washing ritual.

The day is common among the Christians as one where Jesus shared his last supper with his apostles before he was crucified.

According to the Episcopal Conference of Rwanda, the supreme organ of the Catholic Church, this particular service during which also includes washing of the feet will be postponed to a later date, after the virus has been contained.

"Taking into account the prevailing situation, the Diocesan Bishop will postpone the chrism mass to a later date. It would be good to place it at the beginning of July before the presbyteral ordinations begin," stated Philippe Rukamba, the chairperson of the conference.

The episcopate also clarified on how the Paschal Triduum must be held.

Paschal Triduum is a three-day period during which the Catholic Church celebrates the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus.

"Since the government and ecclesiastical members have prohibited gatherings, bishops and parish priests will celebrate the mystery of Pascal Triduum in the cathedral and parish churches without the presence of the faithful," he said.

However, priests will inform Christians of the schedule of celebrations so that they can join them spiritually in family prayer. "Media outlets such as Rwanda Television, Radio Maria Rwanda and other radio and television stations will help us reach the faithful at home," he noted.

To celebrate the Holy Thursday, Rukamba said that in cathedral churches and parish churches, priests can concelebrate the Lord's Supper in the absence of the faithful.

"The foot washing rite will not take place. After the mass, there is no procession. The Blessed Sacrament will remain in the tabernacle. Priests who cannot celebrate the Lord's Supper will pray vespers," he said.

Regarding Good Friday, in the cathedral and parish churches, the bishop or the curate will celebrate the passion of Christ, otherwise known as the way of the cross but there will be no Christians in the church.

"In the universal prayer, the Bishop will pray specifically for the sick, the dead and the distressed," he added.

The Easter Vigil which is observed on the eve of Easter Sunday will be celebrated in the cathedrals and parish churches. "During the Easter Vigil, we will not light the fire; only the paschal candle will be lit. There will be no procession and we will proceed directly to the song announcing the paschal light, followed by the liturgy of the word."

AGENCIES

## Mbeya police hold four for getting goods fraudulently

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

POLICE in Mbeya are holding four people for fraudulently acquiring various goods including TV set valued at 19.68m/- using fake bank cheques.

Speaking to reporters in his office early this week Mbeya Regional Police Commander ACP Ulrich Matei named the suspects as Enock Kyaruzi (41), Satala Makoba (50) and Michael Chuwa (65) all residents of Dar es Salaam and Dickson Warioba (34), resident of Mlowo in Songwe Region.

Matei said the suspects were arrested on April 4 this year at different places in Dar es Salaam with the said goods following a hunt after they received information on their whereabouts.

He said the suspects acquired the goods from a shop selling musical

instruments owned by Michael Mdoe in Sido area in Mbeya City.

RPC Matei mentioned the goods fraudulently acquired by the suspects as 24 TV sets of various sizes and make.

"We found them in a vehicle - Toyota Brevis with Reg. T681DGV which they used to transport the goods from Mbeya to Dar es Salaam," said Matei, and added that investigations were still going on including hunting for other accomplices.

He said when investigations are complete the suspects will be taken to court.

The incident is the second to happen in Mbeya Region during the past few days after another suspect Adelhard Method (37) was arrested on March 24 for acquisition goods in the similar manner.



Residents of Bassotu in Manyara Region look on helplessly yesterday as floodwaters engulf their houses following a downpour. Photo: Correspondent Jaliwason Jasson

## Dodoma city conducting feasibility studies for urban rail services

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

IN efforts to find solution to the vehicles congestion, authorities in Dodoma City have begun making feasibility studies for the construction

of 100km railway to ease transport in the City.

This was revealed here yesterday by Dodoma City Director Godwin Kunambi when he spoke to reporters in his office.

Kunambi said the train will join various areas of the Mtumba capital city. Msalato Airport and act as ring-rail around the city.

"The city of Dodoma is fast growing hence we have to mobilize ourselves

and come up with various strategies to ensure it becomes a modern city by removing various challenges from therein," Kunambi said.

He said the city expects to prohibit freight trucks of 10-tons capacity

upwards from entering the city centre soon after the construction of the main ring road is completed.

Kunambi thanked the government for dishing out 400b/- for the construction of the 112 km ring road for

Dodoma city.

He said when completed all these strategic projects for the city of Dodoma will transform its landscape and become more attractive than other areas in the country.



Residents of Kasumu town in Kyela District, who have been engaged in business on the Malawi side of the Songwe River bridge, pictured earlier this week returning to Tanzania amid fears of Covid-19 across the border. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

# DC Macha bans night food sales due to Covid-19

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

KAHAMA district commissioner Anamringi Macha has banned night food markets including the displaying goods on the ground saying the procedure is dangerous during this time of Covid-19 infections.

Macha said the habit poses hazards to customers as they can easily be infected by the disease as many of them eat the food without washing their hands.

Macha issued the banning order early this week when he spoke to reporters here during which he also banned the playing of the 'bao' and draughts games in market areas in the district.

He said he has issued the banning order after discovering that in the

morning the traders sell normal goods but during the night they also sell food.

"Namanga market for instance, customers have been buying prepared food including meat, bananas, vegetables and people congest the area during the night, that is now prohibited," he said.

He said the markets operated during day time will continue as normal but as of now the District does not allow congestion of people at the market playing 'bao', draughts, or playing cards on pretext that they were waiting for goods.

He said buckets of water have been placed in many areas but not in the suitable manner, including lack of soap in many areas and that there are no taps on them.

# Mv. Victoria now all ready for resuming of services in Lake Victoria

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda, Mwanza

MAJOR rehabilitation on a state-owned ship, Mv. Victoria to ply on Lake Victoria between Mwanza North Port and Bukoba in Kagera Region has been completed and can operate any time from now, it has been established.

Speaking to reporters here yesterday, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Marine Services Company the vessel (MSCL), Eric Hamissi said that what is being awaited until now is handing over of the ship by the contractor and commissioning of it.

Before starting operating in the Africa's largest fresh water lake, the ship has to undergo sea trial from Mwanza to Bukoba and back while being empty and also obtain sea worthiness certificate by Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation (TASAC), Hamissi noted.

He pointed out that inclination test will also be done on the ship by TASAC to see if its floating is in line with the requirement of international standards.

That element is very important for ensuring safety of passengers on board throughout and cargo as the ship has almost been re-built as brand new, he said.

He said that vessel has been fitted with its all two new engines and three generators, modern navigation equipment, propeller shaft, electrical wiring and modern aero plane seats.

The CEO said that even life raft and life jackets supplied with the vessel are new while parts of corroded plate have been cut and removed and put new ones.

He stated that cafeteria, bar as well as kitchen have been modernized and air blow system of the vessel is also new to make passengers on board to feel comfortable all time of the journey.


The current huge passenger vessel on Tanzania's side of Lake Victoria has likewise been fitted with automated stair case, non-skidding floor and on board crane, he said.

He said that with V.I.P, first as well as economy class, it has new mattresses and with four life boats of which one is fixed with a motor engine to help save life at the time of marine accidents.



**That element is very important for ensuring safety of passengers on board throughout and cargo as the ship has almost been re-built as brand new**





CHINA DASHENG BANK  
中華大盛銀行

## AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Issued Pursuant to Section 7 & 8 of the Banking and Financial Institutions (disclosures) Regulations 2014

### EXTRACTS FROM AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ( Regulation 8)

BALANCE SHEET (AMOUNTS IN MILLIONS OF TANZANIAN SHILLINGS)		Current Year 31-December-19	Previous Year 31-December-18
<b>A. ASSETS</b>			
1	Cash	729	219
2	Balances with Bank of Tanzania	869	0
3	Investments in Government securities	55 593	0
4	Balances with other banks and financial institutions	16 655	77 259
5	Cheques and items for clearing	0	0
6	Inter branch float items	0	0
7	Bills negotiated	0	0
8	Customers liabilities for acceptances	0	0
9	Interbank loans receivable	0	0
10	Investments in other Securities	0	0
11	Loans, Advances and Overdrafts (net of allowances for probable losses)	22 990	1 869
12	Other Assets	6 248	4 625
13	Equity Investments	0	0
14	Underwriting Accounts	0	0
15	Property and Equipment	4 090	3 396
16	<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>107 175</b>	<b>87 367</b>
<b>B. LIABILITIES</b>			
17	Deposits from other banks and financial institutions	0	0
18	Customer deposits	1 212	63
19	Cash letters of Credit	0	0
20	Special Deposits	1 069	0
21	Payment orders/transfers payable	0	0
22	Bankers' cheques and drafts issued	0	0
23	Accrued taxes and expenses payable	301	24
24	Acceptances outstanding	0	0
25	Interbranch float items	0	0
26	Unearned income and other deferred charges	4 022	16
27	Other Liabilities	2 830	2 269
28	Borrowings	10 120	0
29	<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>19 555</b>	<b>2 372</b>
30	<b>NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES) (16 minus 29)</b>	<b>87 620</b>	<b>84 995</b>
<b>C. SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS</b>			
31	Paid up Share Capital	89 040	89 040
32	Capital Reserves	0	0
33	Retained Earnings	-4 045	-2 491
34	Profit (Loss) Account	2 625	-1 573
35	Regulatory Reserve	0	19
36	Minority Interest	0	0
37	<b>TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS</b>	<b>87 620</b>	<b>84 995</b>
<b>D. SELECTED FINANCIAL CONDITION INDICATORS</b>			
(i)	Shareholders Funds to Total Assets	82%	97%
(ii)	Non performing Loans to Total Gross Loans	0%	0%
(iii)	Gross Loans and Advances to Total Deposits	190.2%	295.3%
(iv)	Loans and Advances to Total Assets	21%	2%
(v)	Earning Assets to Total Assets	89%	91%
(vi)	Deposits Growth	181.6%	100%
(vii)	Assets Growth	23%	289%

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019		Current Year 31st December 2019	Previous Year 31st December 2018
<b>I. Cash flow from operating activities</b>			
<b>Operating Profit/(Loss) Before Taxation</b>		<b>2 679</b>	<b>-1 573</b>
Adjustments for:			
	-Impairment/Amortization	1 784	344
	-Net change in Loans and Advances	-21 121	-1 869
	-Gain/loss on Sale of Assets	0	0
	-Net change in Deposits	12 473	0
	-Net change in Short Term Negotiable Securities	0	0
	-Net change in Other Liabilities	914	97
	-Net change in Other Assets	-19 145	-240
	- Tax Paid	-46	0
	-Others (specify)	0	0
<b>Net cash provided (Used) by operating activities</b>		<b>-22 462</b>	<b>-3 240</b>
<b>II. Cash flow from investing activities:</b>			
	Dividend Received	0	0
	Purchase of Fixed Assets	-117	-8 103
	Proceeds from Sale of Fixed Assets	0	0
	Others (Investments in Government securities)	-52 852	0
<b>Net cash (Used in) /generated from investing activities</b>		<b>-52 969</b>	<b>-8 103</b>
<b>III. Cash flow from financing activities:</b>			
	Repayment of Long-term Debt	0	0
	Proceeds from Issuance of Long Term Debt	0	0
	Proceeds from Issuance of Share Capital	0	66 390
	Payment of Preference Dividends	0	0
	Net Change in other Borrowings	0	0
	Others (specify) - WHT paid on Bonus Shares	0	0
<b>Net Cash generated from Financing Activities</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>66 390</b>
<b>IV. Cash and Cash Equivalents:</b>			
	Net Increase/ (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	-75 431	55 048
	Cash and Cash Equivalents at the beginning of the Year	77 478	22 430
	<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents at the end of the Year</b>	<b>2 047</b>	<b>77 478</b>

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2019							
	Share capital	Share Premium	Retained Earning	Regulatory reserve	General provision Reserve	Others	Total
<b>Current Year</b>							
Balance as at the beginning of the year	89 040	0	-4 064	0	19	0	84 995
Profit for the year	0	0	2 625	0	0	0	2 625
Other Comprehensive Income	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transaction with owners	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dividends Paid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Regulatory reserve	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
General Provision Reserve	0	0	19	0	-19	0	0
Others	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Balance as at the end of the current period</b>	<b>89 040</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-1 420</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>87 620</b>
<b>Previous Year</b>							
Balance as at the beginning of the year	22 650	0	-2 472	0	0	0	20 177
Profit for the year	0	0	-1 573	0	0	0	-1 573
Other Comprehensive Income	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transaction with owners	66 390	0	0	0	0	0	66 390
Dividends Paid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Regulatory reserve	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
General Provision Reserve	0	0	-19	0	19	0	0
Others	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Balance as at the end of the previous period</b>	<b>89 040</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-4 064</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>84 995</b>

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019		Current year 31st December 2019	Previous year 31st December 2018
<b>(AMOUNTS IN MILLIONS OF TANZANIAN SHILLINGS)</b>			
1	Interest Income	8 090	2 020
2	Interest Expense	-488	0
3	<b>Net Interest Income (1 + 2)</b>	<b>7 602</b>	<b>2 020</b>
4	Bad Debts Written-Off	0	0
5	Impairment Losses on Loans and Advances	-75	0
		<b>7 527</b>	<b>2 020</b>
6	<b>Non Interest Income:</b>		
6.1	Foreign Currency Dealings and translation Gain/(Loss )	1 198	1 702
6.2	Fees and Commissions	171	0
6.3	Dividend Income	0	0
6.4	Other Operating Income	1 174	0
		<b>10 069</b>	<b>3 722</b>
7	<b>Non Interest Expenses:</b>		
7.1	Salaries and Benefits	-2 596	-795
7.2	Fees and Commission	0	0
7.3	Other Operating Expenses	-4 795	-4 500
		<b>-7 391</b>	<b>-5 295</b>
8	<b>Operating Profit/(Loss) Before Taxation</b>	<b>2 679</b>	<b>-1 573</b>
9	Income Tax Provision	-53	0
10	<b>Profit/(Loss) After Income Tax</b>	<b>2 625</b>	<b>-1 573</b>
11	<b>Other Comprehensive Income (itemize)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
12	<b>Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the year</b>	<b>2 625</b>	<b>-1 573</b>
13	Number of Employees	22	23
14	Basic Earnings per Share	66	-39
15	Number of Branches	1	1

SELECTED PERFORMANCE INDICATORS			
(i)	Return on Average Total Assets	2.7%	-1.8%
(ii)	Return on Average Shareholder Funds	3.0%	-1.9%
(iii)	Non Interest Expenses to Gross Income	72.9%	142.3%
(iv)	Net Interest Income to Average Earnings Assets	8.7%	4.0%

Name	Date
1. Albert Mallya (Director)	2nd April 2020
1. Jimmy Mrosso (Director)	2nd April 2020

# Ex-mayor's photo with dead cobra touches off raging exchanges online

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THE recently impeached Mayor of Iringa municipality has caused a string of debates online after posting his photo with a dead python he admittedly killed while grazing livestock on his farm.

Alex Kimbe had posted on his twitter handler at the weekend, a picture of himself holding a dead snake, saying he had killed reptile that was on about to swallow his animal: "Today, as I was grazing cattle, was forced to wrestle with python which was about to attack my goat; but have managed to kill the snake and life goes on outside the mayoral post," are anything to go by.

In a second photo, the former Iringa Mayor, clad in blue T-shirt with inscriptions: 'Weisser & Wolf: Attorneys at Law', a track suit with a Tanzanian flag on left as well as typically farm black gumboots is seen with a herd of cattle, possibly 'going on with life' after winning his war with the goat-hounding serpent.

But in response to former Mayor Kimbe's 'Python Killing' post, the Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism, Dr Khamis Kigwangalla seemed irked with His Lordship's heroic display on Twitter.

The Tourism and Natural Resource Minister replied beneath the original tweet saying: "Mwanaume unajisifia kwa kuua chatu? Hivi unafahamu kuwa umefanya kosa la Ujangili?" (as a man you take pride in killing a python? Has it occurred to you that falls under poaching crime?)

A barrage of tweets and other online posts thus followed throughout the weekend. Some praising and supporting the former mayor for his 'brave act' while attacking the minister, others defending Dr Kigwangalla and accusing Kimbe for ending the life of the python.

As far as the minister is concerned: "A 'cobra' will not follow you, unless you follow it. Naturally it will just shun away," he claimed, adding that, there are game scouts, rangers and wardens all over the country and that should any wildlife related incident occur, they should be informed upon which they would 'act' accordingly.

It is now known why Kigwangalla chose to use the term 'cobra' instead of 'python' as claimed by the former Iringa Mayor.

Posts that were in support of the mayor argued that, when faced with danger, there is no time to contact wardens let alone to wait for rangers to come and intervene. Many, citing from own experiences, pointed out that snakes, scorpions and other dangerous reptiles as well as large mammals, have been invading households in rural areas causing harm to people and livestock.



**Today, as I was grazing cattle, was forced to wrestle with python which was about to attack my goat; but have managed to kill the snake and life goes on outside the mayoral post**



Dodoma district commissioner Patrobas Katambi addresses Dodoma city residents yesterday on the procedure to be used in allocating business stalls at the city's main bus stand at Nzuguni. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

By Guardian Reporter

ALL Form One and Two students of the Ihsan secondary School in Kigamboni District, Dar es Salaam, were yesterday given tablets to help them continue with studies during the current unscheduled one-month leave as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The headmaster of the school, Hashim Saiboko said the advanced cell phones were offered by the Moshi-based Opportunity Education Foundation to help the students in distant learning.

"Tablets will enhance communication

## Kigamboni secondary school students to use tablets during Covid-19 'period'

between students and teachers while children are at home," Saiboko said, adding that students would also use the gadgets to do exercises and consult teachers on any problem.

He said the technology installed in the tablets would not allow users to use the gadgets for purposes other than studies.

He said by using the tablets the students would also enhance their

knowledge in the information and communication technology.

Second master Hashim Msuya, thanked the foundation for the offer, saying the school would use the opportunity to teach students on-line.

"We plan to use this opportunity to get experience in teaching on-line and students must use this opportunity to get experience in learning on-line," he

said.

Sabrina Mboya, a parent who received the tablet on behalf of her child praised the school for the initiative. "It is quite exciting to see the child learning without being in a classroom," she said.

Form two student Adam Athuman Saidi was equally excited when he received the gadget, saying he would put it to gainful use.



Kwamasimba bridge, which lies in Kilindi District's Kiburashi ward, in grave danger of collapse in the wake of weeks of relentless pounding rains. Photo: Correspondent Boniface Gideon

## Floodwaters in Mirerani sweep away residences

By Guardian Correspondent, Simanjoro

HUNDREDS of residents in Mirerani township, Simanjoro district, Manyara Region, had been forced to vacate their homes after their houses were swept away by floodwaters following continued downpour in the region.

At the same time 189 acres of farms had been surrounded by floodwaters after Kidawashi dam burst its banks.

One of the victims Diana John said they had been forced to leave their homes just to save their lives from the floods.

She said most of the houses had collapsed forcing the residents to vacate them to save their lives.

A resident of Songambe ward in the area Christopher Elias said destructive force and heavy rainfall which not only cause untold damage to infrastructure but also result in great loss of farms and properties.

"We constructed our houses some 10 years when there were no such challenges and now the houses had failed to withstand the floodwaters," he said.

Agriculture and livestock officer for Endiamtu ward Nasoro Nasoro said the rains had also destroyed 189 acres of farms. According to him cultivated 162.32 had crops which had also been

destroyed.

However, the District Commissioner for Simanjoro Zephania Chaula said residents in the district are residing in water prone areas, saying they are supposed to move out because they were given plots some years back.

The DC said the government cannot support people who have deliberately decided to live in such areas while they were given all the necessities including plots.

"Some of them sold their plots immediately after they were given and instead decided to stay in area which is prone to floods," he said.



**We constructed our houses some 10 years when there were no such challenges and now the houses had failed to withstand the floodwaters**

ADDIS ABABA

THE number of coronavirus cases in Africa rose above 10,000 as the death toll moved closer to 500 on Tuesday.

According to the Africa Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (Africa CDC), a total of 10,075 COVID-19 cases have now been reported in 52 of the continent's 54 countries.

The figure marked a rise of 618 cases since Monday, while 45 more deaths brought Africa's death toll to 487.

## Covid-19 cases in Africa top 10,000, death toll nears 500

The number of recoveries rose to 913 after 65 more patients were discharged from hospitals in different countries.

As per the Africa CDC data, the worst-hit countries on the continent are South Africa with 1,686 cases and 12 deaths, Algeria with 1,423 cases and 173 deaths, Egypt with 1,322 cases and 85 fatalities, and Morocco with 1,120 cases

and 80 deaths.

All other countries have less than 1,000 cases so far; Cameroon has 650 cases and 9 fatalities, Tunisia 596 cases and 22 deaths, Burkina Faso 364 cases and 18 deaths, Ivory Coast 323 cases and three fatalities, Nigeria 238 cases and five deaths, Senegal 226 cases and two deaths, and Kenya 156 cases and

six fatalities.

Last Friday, the African Union Bureau of Heads of State and Government on COVID-19 reiterated the need for rapid support for African countries, as pledged by G20 members and other international partners, including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

The bureau, led by South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, called for a "stimulus package including deferred payments and suspension of interest payments" to help African countries focus on COVID-19 response measures.

Since appearing in China last December, the novel coronavirus has

spread to at least 184 countries and regions, with Europe being the worst-hit continent, according to figures compiled by the U.S.-based Johns Hopkins University.

Over 1.35 million cases have been reported worldwide, with the global death toll nearing 75,000, and more than 285,000 recoveries.



# NIC BANK TANZANIA LTD

## AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Issued Pursuant to Section 7 & 8 of the Banking and Financial Institutions (disclosures) Regulations 2014

### EXTRACTS FROM AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ( Regulation 8)

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2019			
(AMOUNTS IN MILLIONS OF TANZANIAN SHILLINGS)			
	Current Year 31-December-19	Previous Year 31-December-18	
<b>A. ASSETS</b>			
1 Cash	10,419	4,355	
2 Balances with Bank of Tanzania	17,010	9,094	
3 Investments in Government securities	34,198	48,597	
4 Balances with other banks and financial institutions	8,907	7,493	
5 Cheques and items for clearing	-	-	
6 Inter branch float items	-	-	
7 Bills negotiated	-	-	
8 Customers liabilities for acceptances	-	-	
9 Interbank loans receivable	-	-	
10 Investments in other Securities	-	-	
11 Loans, Advances and Overdrafts (net of allowances for probable losses)	77,137	77,804	
12 Other Assets	5,885	3,955	
13 Equity Investments	811	811	
14 Underwriting Accounts	-	-	
15 Property and Equipment	5,508	1,879	
<b>16 TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>159,874</b>	<b>153,988</b>	
<b>B. LIABILITIES</b>			
17 Deposits from other banks and financial institutions	41,448	17,955	
18 Customer deposits	88,085	97,229	
19 Cash letters of Credit	-	-	
20 Special Deposits	182	191	
21 Payment orders/transfers payable	-	-	
22 Bankers' cheques and drafts issued	-	-	
23 Accrued taxes and expenses payable	1,690	1,768	
24 Acceptances outstanding	-	-	
25 Interbranch float items	-	-	
26 Unearned income and other deferred charges	-	-	
27 Other Liabilities	5,667	1,890	
28 Borrowings	3,460	6,919	
<b>29 TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>140,532</b>	<b>125,952</b>	
<b>30 NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES) (16 minus 29)</b>	<b>19,342</b>	<b>28,036</b>	
<b>C.SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS</b>			
31 Paid up Share Capital	37,072	37,072	
32 Capital Reserves (Fair value)	218	218	
33 Retained Earnings	(10,544)	(2,801)	
34 Profit (Loss) Account	(8,694)	(7,752)	
35 Regulatory Reserve	1,290	1,300	
36 Minority Interest	-	-	
<b>37 TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS</b>	<b>19,342</b>	<b>28,036</b>	
38 Contingent Liabilities	7,643	4,562	
39 Non performing Loans & Advances	20,879	15,677	
40 Allowances for Probable Losses	12,528	6,953	
41 Other non Performing Assets	-	-	
<b>D.SELECTED FINANCIAL CONDITION INDICATORS</b>			
(i) Shareholders Funds to Total Assets	12.1%	18.2%	
(ii) Non performing Loans to Total Gross Loans	22.7%	18.5%	
(iii) Gross Loans and Advances to Total Deposits	69.2%	73.6%	
(iv) Loans and Advances to Total Assets	48.2%	50.5%	
(v) Earning Assets to Total Assets	75.2%	87.0%	
(vi) Deposits Growth	-9.4%	-12.2%	
(vii) Assets Growth	3.8%	-12.7%	

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2019							
(AMOUNTS IN MILLIONS OF TANZANIAN SHILLINGS)							
	Share capital	Share Premium	Retained Earning	Regulatory reserve	General provision Reserve	Others	Total
<b>Current Year</b>							
Balance as at the beginning of the year	28,159	8,913	(10,554)	688	612	218	28,036
Profit for the year	-	-	(8,694)	-	-	-	(8,694)
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transaction with owners	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dividends Paid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Regulatory reserve	-	-	(602)	602	-	-	-
General Provision Reserve	-	-	612	-	(612)	-	-
<b>Balance as at the end of the current period</b>	<b>28,159</b>	<b>8,913</b>	<b>(19,238)</b>	<b>1,290</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>19,342</b>
<b>Previous Year</b>							
Balance as at the beginning of the year	22,627	7,076	(2,261)	1,388	793	-	29,623
Profit for the year	-	-	(7,752)	-	-	-	(7,752)
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-	-	-	-	218	218
Transaction with owners	5,532	1,837	-	-	-	-	7,369
Dividends Paid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Regulatory reserve	-	-	700	(700)	-	-	-
General Provision Reserve	-	-	180	-	(180)	-	-
Others (IFRS 9 initial adoption)	-	-	(1,421)	-	-	-	(1,421)
<b>Balance as at the end of the current period</b>	<b>28,159</b>	<b>8,913</b>	<b>(10,554)</b>	<b>688</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>28,036</b>

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019			
(AMOUNTS IN MILLIONS OF TANZANIAN SHILLINGS)			
	Current year 31st December 2019	Previous year 31st December 2018	
1 Interest Income	13,477	15,239	
2 Interest Expense	(6,033)	(6,060)	
<b>3 Net Interest Income (1 + 2)</b>	<b>7,444</b>	<b>9,179</b>	
4 Bad Debts Written-Off	-	-	
5 Impairment Losses on Loans and Advances	(5,652)	(4,740)	
<b>6 Non Interest Income:</b>	<b>3,913</b>	<b>3,714</b>	
6.1 Foreign Currency Dealings and translation Gain/(Loss)	1,520	1,059	
6.2 Fees and Commissions	2,393	2,655	
6.3 Dividend Income	-	-	
6.4 Other Operating Income	-	-	
<b>7 Non Interest Expenses:</b>	<b>(14,399)</b>	<b>(12,538)</b>	
7.1 Salaries and Benefits	(7,050)	(5,878)	
7.2 Fees and Commission	(1,124)	(110)	
7.3 Other Operating Expenses	(7,225)	(6,550)	
<b>8 Operating Profit/(Loss) Before Taxation</b>	<b>(8,694)</b>	<b>(4,385)</b>	
9 Income Tax Provision	-	(3,368)	
<b>10 Profit/(Loss) After Income Tax</b>	<b>(8,694)</b>	<b>(7,752)</b>	
<b>11 Other Comprehensive Income (itemize)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>218</b>	
<b>12 Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the year</b>	<b>(8,694)</b>	<b>(7,535)</b>	
13 Number of Employees	117	108	
14 Basic Earnings per Share	(309)	(275)	
15 Number of Branches	6	5	
<b>SELECTED PERFORMANCE INDICATORS</b>			
(i) Return on Average Total Assets	-2.8%	-2.5%	
(ii) Return on Average Shareholder Funds	-18.4%	-13.8%	
(iii) Non Interest Expenses to Gross Income	126.8%	97.2%	
(iv) Net Interest Income to Average Earnings Assets	2.9%	3.4%	

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019			
(AMOUNTS IN MILLIONS OF TANZANIAN SHILLINGS)			
	Current Year 31st December 2019	Previous Year 31st December 2018	
<b>I. Cash flow from operating activities</b>			
<b>Operating Profit/(Loss) Before Taxation</b>	<b>(8,694)</b>	<b>(4,385)</b>	
Adjustments for:			
-Impairment/Amortization	2,054	713	
-Net change in Loans and Advances	983	17,066	
-Gain/loss on Sale of Assets	-	-	
-Net change Deposits from other banks and financial institutions	22,591	(4,947)	
-Net change in Deposits	(9,153)	(13,549)	
-Net change in Short Term Negotiable Securities	14,399	2,736	
-Net change in Other Liabilities	189	918	
-Net change in Other Assets	(1,973)	(1,037)	
- Tax Paid	-	-	
-Others (specify) SMR- Movement	839	1,093	
<b>Net cash provided (Used) by operating activities</b>	<b>21,235</b>	<b>(1,394)</b>	
<b>II. Cash flow from investing activities:</b>			
Dividend Received	-	-	
Purchase of Fixed Assets	(747)	(1,120)	
Proceeds from Sale of Fixed Assets	-	-	
Others (specify) - Investment in Shares	-	-	
<b>Net cash (Used in) /generated from investing activities</b>	<b>(747)</b>	<b>(1,120)</b>	
<b>III. Cash flow from financing activities:</b>			
Repayment of Long-term Debt	(3,727)	(3,875)	
Proceeds from Issuance of Long Term Debt	-	-	
Proceeds from Issuance of Share Capital	-	7,368	
Payment of Preference Dividends	-	-	
Net Change in other Borrowings	(1,494)	-	
Others (specify) - WHT paid on Bonus Shares	-	-	
<b>Net Cash generated from Financing Activities</b>	<b>(5,221)</b>	<b>3,493</b>	
<b>IV. Cash and Cash Equivalents:</b>			
Net Increase/ (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	15,268	980	
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the beginning of the Year	13,414	12,434	
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents at the end of the Year</b>	<b>28,681</b>	<b>13,414</b>	

The above extracts are from the financial statements of the Bank for the year ended 31st December 2019 which have been prepared in accordance with international financial reporting standard (IFRS). The financial statements were audited by Ernst & Young (EY); Certified Public Accountants and received a clean/unqualified audit report.

The financial statements were approved by the board of directors and signed on their behalf by:

Name	Date
1. Sharmapal Aggarwal (Chairman)	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2020
2. Margaret Karume (Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer)	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2020

# The Guardian

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**Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995**

## Why the black rhino needs more protection

**T**HE black rhino is an endangered species and the government is working tirelessly to save it from being totally extinct. According to wild life statistics, the number of these animals dropped tremendously in the recent past.

In a report, the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI), says the country had 10,000 rhinos in early 1970s conserved in different national parks, but the number diminished to only 32 in 1995. This is the reason for the heavyweight mammal to be classified as an endangered species. African rhinos are of two types, white and black rhinos.

The black rhinoceros or hook-lipped rhinoceros is a species of rhinoceros, native to eastern and southern Africa including Angola, Botswana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Eswatini, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Although the rhinoceros is referred to as black, its colours vary from brown to grey.

The species overall is classified as critically endangered. Three subspecies have been declared extinct, including the western black rhinoceros, which was declared extinct by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in 2011.

Officially International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources is an international organisation working in the field of nature conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. It is involved in data gathering and analysis, research, field projects, advocacy, and education. IUCN's mission is to "influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable."

Over the past decades, IUCN has widened its focus beyond conservation ecology and now incorporates issues related to sustainable development in

its projects. IUCN does not itself aim to mobilise the public in support of nature conservation. It tries to influence the actions of governments, business and other stakeholders by providing information and advice, and through building partnerships. The organisation is best known to the wider public for compiling and publishing the IUCN red list of threatened species, which assesses the conservation status of species worldwide.

IUCN has a membership of over 1400 governmental and non-governmental organizations. Some 16,000 scientists and experts participate in the work of IUCN commissions on a voluntary basis. It employs approximately 1000 full-time staff in more than 50 countries. Its headquarters are in Gland, Switzerland. [2]

IUCN has observer and consultative status at the United Nations and plays a role in the implementation of several international conventions on nature conservation and biodiversity. It was involved in establishing the World Wide Fund for Nature and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre. In the past, IUCN has been criticized for placing the interests of nature over those of indigenous peoples. In recent years, its closer relations with the business sector have caused controversy.[3][4]

IUCN was established in 1948. It was previously called the International Union for the Protection of Nature (1948-1956) and the World Conservation Union (1990-2008)

In the same vein, Mkomazi National Park is set to become the first wildlife park in Africa specialised for black rhino tourism.

When planning their African safari, tourists from Europe, America, and Asia would add to their visiting itineraries, a few days' tour of Mkomazi National Park to see the rare African black rhino, now on the verge of disappearing.

## Electronic ticketing: Key element for integration of public transport

**I**T systems, implemented ever more widely in all branches of the economy, also increasingly become tools for integration of various stages of transport process, transport modes, and transport offer of different entities functioning on the market. E-ticketing technologies are increasingly used as tools for integrating public transport worldwide.

Tanzania's development vision 2025 has identified that kind of enabling environment that is essential for the nation to flourish economically, socially, politically and culturally. It has taken into account expected changes and trends in the world of tomorrow. The implementation of the Vision will have to include developing Tanzania's position vis a vis those changes, and the need to deal with them through hard work, initiative, skills, as well as to make use of the many opportunities that will appear and the resources available in our country.

Therefore it is not a surprise that TRC has launched a new simplified electronic ticketing system that will see the firm enhancing revenue collections as well as efficiency. An electronic ticket, often called e-ticket, is the digital ticket equivalent of a paper ticket. The term is most commonly associated with airline issued tickets. Electronic ticketing for urban or rail public transport is usually referred to as travel card or transit pass. It is also used in ticketing in the entertainment industry.

An electronic ticket system is a more efficient method of ticket entry, processing and marketing for companies in the airline, railways and other transport and entertainment industries.

The Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC) is a state-owned enterprise that runs one of Tanzania's two main railway networks.

When the East African Railways and Harbours Corporation was dissolved

in 1977 and its assets divided between Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, TRC was formed to take over its operations in Tanzania. In 1997 the inland shipping division became a separate company.

The e-ticketing system was launched over recently by Minister for Works, Transport and Communications, Eng Isaac Kamwele during an event that was attended by TRC board chairman, Prof John Kondoro and several government officials.

Eng Kamwele was optimistic that TRC will improve efficiency and control expenditures. He said the government had recognised the importance of using technology in service delivery, including ticketing.

We applaud the corporation for coming up with the electronic ticketing and e-cargo systems which had been designed in collaboration with e-government agency.

The corporation will be doing business without the manual tickets. According to the minister in 2018/2019 TRC collected 39.7bn/- but collections had now increased to 44.7bn/-. This is indeed good news and there is every reason to commend TRC operations for the country is now aiming to become a middle income country by 2025.

TRC board chairman, Prof John Kondoro said the government had directed the firm to establish an e-ticketing system in December last year. He said they had completed installation of the system, and they are working on other directives which he said are meant to improve efficiency in service delivery.

He said the system was designed by local experts from TRC and e-government agency thus enabling the firm to save monies which were to be paid to hired experts from abroad. It is everyone's hope that the new e-ticketing system will enhance revenue collections as the corporation was collecting a small sum with hand written passenger tickets.

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By Karen Frances Eng

**A**S humanity steps into the reality of life with Covid-19, we're all searching for calm, expert voices to guide us in making sensible decisions for ourselves, our families and our society. Global health expert Alanna Shaikh - who studies what happens to health systems when diseases move at scale - is one such voice.

This March 6, Shaikh flew from her home in Sri Lanka to Dallas to speak at TEDxSMU about Covid-19. She offered a realistic yet somehow reassuring big-picture perspective that has already garnered more than 5 million views. I'm well acquainted with Shaikh's comforting pragmatism and thoughtful intelligence because she also happens to be a colleague, friend and fellow mother.

On March 11, the day her talk posted, my 14-year-old daughter came down with symptoms here in the UK, a couple of hours ahead of the World Health Organisation (WHO) announcement of the Covid pandemic. I cancelled everything, packed up my office in Cambridge, isolated ourselves in our home, and wondered what to do next.

I'd stocked up on staples in case of some theoretical future lockdown, but I was not equipped to immediately go into quarantine, much less isolate my daughter from me while nursing her illness at home.

Could I go out and get supplies? Should I stay in and protect my neighbours? How could I keep from getting sick myself? I reached out to Shaikh for her take on the situation, hoping for global context as well as personal guidance.

**Question: As a mother who happens to have knowledge of how diseases spread and their impact on global health systems, what are you doing to prepare for Covid-19?**

Alanna Shaikh: I'm worried as a mother, but I'm actually more worried as a daughter. We're a multigenerational household. My mom, who will be 77 in July, is smack in many risk groups for Covid-19. It will be very dangerous for her if she's infected. It seems to be less dangerous for children. I am worried about them, too - they're my kids! But I'm less worried.

How are you handling this personally, for yourself and your family? For example, you were just on the plane to Dallas and back to give the TEDxSMU talk.

Going to give that talk was probably a mistake. I looked at the numbers and data, and I made the decision that it seemed like an acceptable risk. By the time I was on the plane, though, I'd realised that the situation was changing so fast that I probably shouldn't be on it. It was too late at that point. So, you know, that's how it goes. I hope that

## Could we be living under coronavirus forever?

the talk is worth whatever mistake was made.

I have stayed in my house for eleven days now and I'll stay in for 14 to make sure that I am not spreading anything. I'm constantly washing up because if I am viral shedding I don't want to shed it onto my family.

**Should we be social distancing even if nobody in our family is sick or showing any symptoms?**

I'm going to go out on a limb here and say yes, even if you're healthy and no one in your family is first showing symptoms, we should keep a distance. The reasoning behind this is that there is a long asymptomatic period where you could be sick and shedding the virus and not knowing. And if we do it by choice now, maybe we won't be forced to do it later. Quarantines and lockdowns do have a useful function. But for them to work, we have to get them in place fast.

**Can you compare the situation we're now in with what you learned from the Ebola epidemic?**

During the Ebola epidemic, I led an evaluation of Ebola treatment centres in Sierra Leone and their impact on the disease, and how they provided care. There was an overwhelming sense that they knew that it was bad and that they were in trouble, but they just didn't have enough money or doctors to respond.

The problem is that we didn't learn anything from that. We acted like the outbreak was an earthquake - a freakish sudden shock we couldn't predict - when, in fact, it was a situation that's likely to keep recurring.

**What can the world do to prepare better for a pandemic outbreak in the future, once this crisis is past?**

On a functional level, each community needs a facility or health care provider people can go to when they're sick. At that facility there has to be a doctor or some sort of medical personnel capable of diagnosing their illness, reporting that information upwards to a national laboratory - the equivalent of a CDC (centre for disease control). They'd also need to be able to treat the person - ideally cure them, but at the very least treat them. This is because if you can't treat people, they have no incentive to come in. We need to be able to do that everywhere in the world. We are very far from that goal right now.

**It feels like we're having a sea**

**change in mindset now that is unprecedented. Yet, besides Ebola, we've had SARS and swine flu before this. How is this more of a wake-up call than those were?**

With SARS, we got lucky because they stopped it fast enough. SARS was actually more fatal. And because it was more fatal, it didn't have as much time to spread. Ebola, too, killed people so fast that it didn't spread as quickly as it could have. Swine flu turned out to be really mild. It spread like crazy, but it wasn't a serious illness. The theoretical "big one" - the virus infectious disease experts really worry about - is the one that spreads fast, takes a while to kill you, and is highly infectious.

**So is Covid-19 the big one?**

We don't know what the fatality rates will be from this yet, so we don't know yet, but it sure looks a lot like the big one. If it's not, it's the canary in the coal mine. This is our signal to fix our systems and be ready for next time, if we do it right. Or it could just weaken our systems a little more.

Covid-19 will teach us a lot about how to take care of ourselves in a situation like this. Right now, in my house, my daughter and I are following isolation protocols we could have never imagined a week ago, for example. Life already feels drastically different. But I imagine that it will all become standard practice for many households around the world as the disease continues to spread.

This situation could help build logistical and social resilience against pandemics. If you look at the way California responds to earthquakes, they have been through it so many times that it's a given of life and they're pretty good at it at this point.

It's possible that as communities and societies, we're going to learn good pro-social habits from this and be more ready to take care of each other next time, like starting to isolate faster. The best thing we can do is for communities to try to look after each other. And in a weird way, in this case, having communities looking after each other involves communities avoiding each other.

Another human behaviour we could change is to leave our remaining wild spaces alone. We could put much stricter restrictions around rainforests, and crack down on the wildlife trade.

Slowing climate change would help protect us, too. As the climate changes, there are pathogens (diseases) that like this new climate better. Those are the big, high-impact changes we can make

to stop new diseases at their source.

**If, as we have been hearing, Covid-19 outbreaks could occur again and again and new pandemics are inevitable in our future, how might this outbreak represent a paradigm shift in how the whole world socialises, works and so on - on a day-to-day basis?**

Covid-19 outbreaks won't occur again and again. We'll find a vaccine eventually. We might spend the next two years social distancing, but there will eventually be a vaccine.

That being said, the world is going to change. If we're going to accept a world where these outbreaks just happen, then you start thinking about outbreak responses and minimising impact. Maybe more people work from home, and we get better at holding digital conferences. Maybe we go back to individual offices with doors instead of cube farms.

We are all going to be far more deliberate about our interactions with other people. I think we'll value them more: if there is one thing we've learned from quarantine it's that people hate being alone.

At the same time, we will be much more careful. None of us is ever going to venture into a dense crowd ever again without thinking very seriously about that choice. Maybe we also live in a more precarious world now, and we'll be less sanguine about thinking the future will look like the past.

**Can you give us some authentic and reliable resources to turn to where citizens can stay informed and make the best decisions for their families?**

I'm pretty much always going to suggest the World Health Organisation. When you're thinking about health information, actual research beats anecdotes or case studies - and a team of experts beats just one individual. The WHO is very good at convening teams of experts to review data and provide advice people can act on.

**If there's one thing you want to say to the public right now, what would it be?**

We ignored our public health systems for a long time because it takes a black swan event to show us the problem. Well, the black swan is coming in for a landing. This is a crisis, but it's also an enormous chance to learn and build better for next time. It could be the emergency that makes us understand the importance of good health systems.



# How industrialisation can support Tanzania's Covid-19 response

By Devang Vussonji and Steve Kisakye

THE coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic continues to grow globally, creating enormous demand for and scarcity of essential medical supplies such as personal protective equipment (PPE), which have featured prominently in government announcements, as well as dramatic and concerning media coverage.

But what exactly is PPE? Why is it suddenly so important, and why isn't there enough to go around? What does the shortage mean for Tanzania and how should Tanzania respond? Common PPE products include gloves, surgical masks, N95 masks, eye protection gear, body protection suits used by healthcare workers to protect themselves while caring for patients. Other key PPE and related critical equipment in times of epidemics or pandemics include infectious disease testing kits, hand sanitisers, body bags, and chlorine tabs. These are essential for healthcare workers confronting highly infectious diseases such as Ebola or SARS-CoV-2.

In Italy for instance, more than 20 per cent of healthcare workers in Lombardy, the worst-affected region in the country, and more than 3,000 healthcare workers in China, have contracted the coronavirus. In previous epidemics such as the 2014 Ebola outbreaks, healthcare workers have accounted for up to 25 per cent of infected persons.

With an adequate supply of PPE, the number of infections can be more readily controlled within the essential group of healthcare professionals who are society's frontline crisis response. Beyond these kind of core PPEs, other items such as masks and hand sanitisers help with controlling the infection in the broader population.

Given the importance of PPE, it is perhaps not surprising that the World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that the global COVID-19 response requires 89 million medical masks each month, as well as an additional 76 million examination gloves and 1.6 million goggles. All of this, in turn, implies a 40% increase in global production.

Other observers point to even higher needs, describing a 300-600 per cent increase in demand for different types of PPE in some countries and hospital systems. While the PPE shortage so prominently discussed in the

media has to a certain degree been rational given the rising demand triggered by the pandemic, panic buying, hoarding and misuse of the PPE have also played a major role.

Moreover and regrettably, in recent weeks the most important PPE supplier countries have imposed export bans. China, the largest global producer of PPE and of key inputs such as three-ply linen, has placed export restrictions on PPE to address its own domestic needs. Taiwan, Thailand, India, South Korea, Germany, France, Poland, Bulgaria, and the Czech Republic have adopted similar export restrictions on gloves, face shields and protective garments in response to the shortage.

As these restrictions have been made, PPE prices have surged, increasing six-fold for surgical masks, three-fold for N95 respirators, and two-fold for medical gowns. At the same time, some hospitals with high numbers of COVID-19 patients state they will run out of PPE within two weeks' time.

## Turning challenge into opportunity

These COVID-19 disruptions highlight the importance of East African nations diversifying – and in some cases re-shoring our local supply chains to cope with the current crisis and, just as importantly, the next one. The emergence of SARS, the swine flu, Ebola, MERS and now COVID-19 point to a new 21st century reality: namely, that our globalised world could face two to three pandemics every decade.

As the experience of countries such as South Korea, Taiwan, and Singapore, suggest, moreover, advanced preparation can play a critical role in demonstrating national resilience during such crises. Learning from the SARS and MERS epidemics, these countries systematically planned for future epidemics by stockpiling PPE and building domestic PPE production capabilities. In addition, they have enhanced their hospitals with dedicated infection control units and streamlined their regulatory systems to enable rapid approval of testing kits. Avoiding any shortage of these kits, significantly, has been a pillar of South Korea's impressive approach to COVID-19.

Tanzania has a similar opportunity to industrialise its PPE sector. Currently the country imports more than 90% of its

medical products, including PPE, from Asia – and as much as \$160 million from India alone. A further 5-6 per cent come from the European Union (EU). Tanzania manufacturers produce only the remaining 4-5 per cent of medical products, including some hand sanitisers, some surgical masks, and some chlorine tablets. With PPE export restrictions mounting, it's easy to see trouble on the horizon.

While this situation may seem bleak, the actions of individuals and communities around the world suggest that Tanzania can adapt and overcome its PPE challenge through alternative, creative responses. More specifically, Tanzania private and public-sector institutions should approach near and long-term PPE needs in three broad categories.

First, some kinds of "quick win" PPE can be produced readily and in short order based on raw materials, inputs, and capabilities that Tanzania currently has, can develop or re-purpose, and/or can attain quickly.

These quick wins require minor capital investments and limited additional regulatory requirements. Beyond them, Tanzania can also pursue "highly valuable but harder PPE" with additional effort, expense, and potential government support. Finally, some forms of PPE may be difficult to pursue in the near-term, although it is possible that medium and long-term solutions may emerge (e.g. N95 masks and surgical gloves).

Tanzania can readily produce quick win PPE such as aprons, gowns, and scrub suits and related equipment. These represent, on a unit volume basis, 50% all COVID-19 PPE needs. The primary input materials for these, non-woven cotton and plastic-based melt-blown and spun-bond fabrics – are available or can be potentially manufactured in Tanzania. The specialised machinery to make such plastic fabrics can be sourced from a range of markets, including China, the EU, and Turkey.

By carefully planning sourcing of other inputs, Tanzanian companies – who already have necessary managerial and workforce talent – could re-purpose factories for manufacture within a month of machine delivery. Tanzania can work on positioning its non-wovens business as a growth sector, making efforts to supply high-quality nonwovens as industrial materials for a va-



riety of application including use in car seats, masks and agricultural sheets.

The testing kits which are so indispensable to an effective COVID-19 response are a second PPE quick win. Tanzania has the scientific talent to perform such testing at scale, and the Tanzanian government has recently approved the production of Class III COVID-19 testing kits locally for a few companies and labs. These labs could be ready for large-scale operations in 2-5 months. This testing capability, moreover, can also be used to test for various strains of flu, tuberculosis, hepatitis B and C, malaria, dengue virus, Nile virus, HIV, and other diseases.

## Beyond quick wins

With an estimated Tanzania on-going market volume of over 30 million tests per year, this provides a long-term sustainable business case for local companies. Barriers to this critical opportunity – such as the negative impact of value added tax (VAT) on imported testing packaging materials – can potentially be managed by government tax waivers or tax credits.

Hand sanitisers are a third potential PPE quick win. The main ingredients for these – ethanol, hydrogen peroxide, glycerol, and sterile or boiled cold water – are all available in Tanzania. We have seen potential models for local companies to emulate across the globe, as perfume and alcohol companies have moved to help patch the shortage of hand sanitizer by re-tooling their production lines.

In Uganda, Waragi gin manufacturers agreed to use the industry's nearly two million gallons of ethanol and alcohol to make affordable sanitisers, with the Ugandan government agreeing to waive VAT and excise duty. Beyond these quick wins, Tanzania should consider a second category of "highly valuable but harder PPE." Heavy-duty N95 masks – the global

standard preferred by healthcare workers and perhaps the most well-known single piece of PPE kit in the current crisis – are clearly the most important opportunity in this category.

The critical barrier to manufacturing these is obtaining specialised machinery required to make the key raw material input – melt-blown plastic fabric of a higher, finer grade than that used in other gowns and aprons. This plastic includes fibres with diameters of less than 1 micron – fine enough to act as the critical inner filtration layer of a mask, allowing the wearer to breathe while reducing the inflow of possible infectious particles.

Unfortunately, equipment for manufacturing this specialised fabric has increased ten-fold in price during 2020, from \$6,000 to \$60,000 per ton, with 3-6 month waiting times for delivery. While these barriers are real, they can be managed – especially with careful advanced planning and with government support in the form of financing, VAT waivers, and tax credits. Once this equipment has been obtained by Tanzanian manufacturers such as Dream Medical and other companies, other elements of re-purposing factories can be completed within 3-5 weeks and production can begin.

A final category of PPE may be difficult to pursue in the near-term, but Tanzanian should begin considering medium and long-term solutions now. Surgical masks require three-ply cotton – typically sourced from China, now subject to export bans – in order to be manufactured. The necessary equipment is difficult to obtain currently from the main manufacturers in China and India, in part owing to high global demand. If a way to obtaining such equipment – from China, India, or elsewhere – can even-

tually be found, this equipment will provide the basis for an invaluable capability for the country. Frontline healthcare workers and their patients will clearly benefit, but so will Tanzanian cotton farmers who now have a new, local market supplying local three-ply production for use in apparel, sanitary products, cosmetic, construction, and agriculture industry.

Surgical and examination gloves are additional difficult-to-pursue, potential medium or long-term PPE opportunities for Tanzania. Such gloves are commodity products sourced from Malaysia and Indonesia, with their rich local rubber supply. Importing natural latex is a costly affair and producing PPE gloves for the Tanzanian market does not provide the necessary economies of scale to be cost-competitive. The pending implementation of the \$3.3 trillion African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) in July, however, may create opportunities for attaining additional Tanzanian scale through exports to other African nations.

Communities across the world have developed ingenious, innovative responses to their PPE shortage. Researchers from a prominent US hospital, for example, have developed new elastomeric masks to serve as a backup for N95 respirators and have even published a YouTube video explaining how to assemble, wear, clean, and store these new masks. Other institutions have used local 3D printing capabilities to produce face shields and masks. We believe that Tanzania should set its own innovative path on a national and society-wide scale by bootstrapping domestic manufacturing of PPE, using an approach like that described above.

The country can accomplish this through a combination of industry action and government support – including fiscal incentives such as tax breaks for companies willing to help the country upgrade its PPE manufacturing supply chains, potential subsidies, leasing models for plants on government-owned land, and government-sponsored incubator-type industrial facilities.

Beyond such specialised support, government can play a vital catalyst and coordination role through the formation of a private-public sector PPE Task Force. Thus, while Tanzania's COVID-19 PPE challenge is very real, the country also has genuine opportunities and to carefully plan and act now.

**With contribution from Edgar Buberwa, Joy Wangu and Paul MacKinnon. The authors of this article work for Dalberg Tanzania Ltd, which is part of the Dalberg Group, a collection of impact driven businesses that seek to champion inclusive and sustainable growth around the world**

# South Korea took rapid, intrusive measures against Covid-19 - and they worked

By Alexis Dudden and Andrew Marks

SOUTH Koreans are famously nonchalant about North Korean nuclear weapons. Bewilderingly to the rest of us, they "keep calm and carry on" whenever Pyongyang threatens to turn Seoul into a "sea of fire". The South Korean approach to Covid-19 could not have been more different.

On 16 January, the South Korean biotech executive Chun Jong-yoon grasped the reality unfolding in China and directed his lab to work to stem the virus's inevitable spread: within days, his team developed detection kits now in high demand around the world.

Meanwhile, the South Korean government assumed the virus would hit. Experience with the 2003 Sars epidemic proved useful: existing governmental units in the ministries of health, welfare and foreign affairs, regional municipalities and the president's office were mobilised.

As a result, South Korea has been effective in controlling the nation's mortality rate not through travel bans but instead through widespread rigorous quarantine measures and testing, now even exporting domestically produced test kits - such as the 51,000 diagnostic products sent this week to the United Arab Emirates.

Most importantly, South Korea immediately began testing hundreds of thousands of asymptomatic people, including at drive-through centres.

South Korea employed a central tracking app, Corona 100m, that publicly informs citizens of known cases within 100 metres of where they are.

Surprisingly, a culture that has often rebelliously rejected authoritarianism has embraced intrusive measures.

On 17 March, a temporary provision entailed a small subsidy of 454,900 South Korean won (£13) a month to cover basic living expenses. The same funding is available to those who are self-isolating, regardless of whether they test positive for the virus.

It's not hugely generous, but provides subsistence for those whose lives are upended by necessary measures such as the ministry of education's closure of schools.

Other nations would be wise to copy the South Korean model: on 29 February, 700 people tested positive in the primary South Korean outbreak city of Daegu. By 15 March, 41 new cases were reported there.

There is, however, no time for complacency. As expected, based on the continued lack of immunity in the population, on 18 March, the number of cases began rising again, with Seoul now bracing for the worst.

From 16 March, South Korea started to screen all people arriving at airports,



Koreans included. South Koreans have universal health care, double the number of hospital beds compared to Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) norms (and triple that of the UK), and are accustomed to paying half what Americans pay for similar medical procedures. At this historic juncture, there has been a general consensus to trust in and re-

spect the advice coming from doctors and scientists.

But it hasn't all been smooth sailing: church officials south of Seoul were revealed to have sprayed salt water into parishioners' mouths on the false premise it would stave off the infection. Worse, no one disinfecting the bottle's nozzle, and 46 people from the congregation have

already tested positive.

Also, despite South Korea's laudable healthcare apparatus, foreigners living in the country underscore disparities. With "no Chinese allowed" signs on numerous businesses and restaurants, some fear seeking medical advice.

The South Korean model is not without costs. In pre-pandemic days, the nation's Oscar-winning

film Parasite presciently showed the world how the rich can survive by working from home while their children enjoy the comfort of remote learning without worrying about food.

These cultural imbalances are not unique to South Korea. Wealthy, independent schools are sending children home equipped with computers, books and musical instruments for remote learning, a situation being partially offered by state-run institutions, if at all.

In cities such as New York where there is now widespread community transmission of Covid-19 it is likely too late to follow the South Korean model.

Efforts need to be focused elsewhere, including a wartime-like mobilisation to vastly increase the production of personal protective equipment for healthcare workers and the ventilator machines needed to treat the critically ill.

Oscars in hand, Bong Joon-ho, the director of Parasite, charmed the world on 10 February: "I will drink until next morning, thank you." A week later, back in Seoul and well before most governments had woken up to the serious challenge they faced, he had already changed his tone, promising to "wash [his] hands from now on, and participate in this movement to defeat coronavirus".

# Compassion, connection and creativity in a time of Covid-19

By Ufrieda Ho

**I**N our muted lockdown world, people's spirit of compassion, connection and creativity is speaking volumes.

The pause of lockdown took away sounds first. The quiet swallowed up cars, buses, the clackety-clack of trains in the distance and synchronised dog barks matching the pace of passing joggers.

The suburbs turned to near mute by the small hours of 27 March. People have gone indoors but they haven't gone away. Over the past week of lockdown, compassion, creativity, collaboration and connection have shown that the human spirit makes itself heard and seen even in a time of crisis. It's a reminder that in small ways and big ways we can add to positive action, that we can be the better angels of our nature.

There are the hundreds of volunteers and volunteer organisations that have stepped up their efforts to cook for the homeless who are being housed in temporary shelters across South Africa. The likes of Food Not Bombs Jozie, continue to cook and deliver fresh vegetarian meals to those in need at various locations across Johannesburg. Check out their Facebook page to help or to join.

In Newtown and Brixton the community under the efforts of the African Reclaimers Organisation Solidarity has started a Back-A-Buddy campaign for the waste reclaimers in the Bekezela inner-city informal settlement. Buy-back facilities have closed for the lockdown, which means the reclaimers who are an essential but almost invisible workforce in the city are now left without an income and are in dire need. The power of networks and community have allowed volunteers to piggy-back off special permits to move food and sanitary supplies to the informal settlement that has swelled in size since lockdown began. Among this community is Tamzyn Botha, "just another human", she says, but she's making homemade soaps and using her bakkie for transporting food and



essentials.

"We live in parallel worlds that sometimes never connect but the waste reclaimers are among the hardest workers in our city and now they need our help. We can all do small acts of kindness and that can be contagious," says Botha.

There's also the store owner of the Aasia Halaal Meat and Fish Wholesaler in Chinatown Cyrildene who leaves dozens of parcels of provisions of long-life milk, sugar, beans and oil in neatly spaced piles on the pavement outside her Derrick Avenue shop for those who are unable to get provisions at this time.

Small businesses that are being hit hard themselves are also giving back. Fashion label Klipa Denim (IG: @klipadenim) has turned its small factory output into making face masks instead of its signature African contemporary clothes for the time being. They posted on Instagram this week:

"First 1,500 masks have left our factory for sterilisation".

There have also been patrons and customers who have bought packages and vouchers from small businesses, including Joburg's independent cinema, The Bioscope and from the Thunder Walker dinner and storytelling venue on Gandhi Square. It's a leap of faith paying now to only receive something back in the uncertain future, but it's a purchase of support and solidarity for small businesses to pay staff and to stay afloat so that rebuilding will be able to take place when the coronavirus is finally tamed.

WhatsApp and Facebook community groups have placed notices and posts from people offering to pick up groceries and medicines for the elderly, the sick or those who don't have

transport to get to the shops easily.

On a lighter note - and there should be lighter notes - Su-Yen Thornhill, the brainchild and chef behind the monthly home kitchen dining experience Chez Fong in Joburg, has since the lockdown created her alter ego "Mrs Fong" to demo fun science experiments via her Facebook posts.

Thornhill studied medical microbiology at Edinburgh University and before settling in South Africa was at one time a TV science communicator. Her combination of skills and sense of humour makes her short videos perfect for parents needing a laugh as well as those needing help with the home-schooling programme. Her unique explainer of the science behind Covid-19 testing can be seen here: <https://www.facebook.com/suyent/vidoes/10157768374975733/>.

There have also been the videos and memes that have kept us laughing at ourselves till we see our stupidity in hoard buying, in reposting fake news and even our delusion that a walk around the block is not doing anyone harm.

The Ndlovu Youth Choir made an upbeat video about general hygiene and tips for staying safe in a time of Covid-19 and a group of South African artists including Lira, Majozzi, Karen Zoid, Arno Carstens and Jack Parow made a conference-call video for their song that has the message of "Now's the time to keep from falling apart. We gotta keep love in our hearts."

And then there are the people in the homes who have heeded the 7pm call to stand at their

doorways, on their stoeps, balconies and gardens to clap, to clang pots and blow on their vuvuzelas.

It's a salute to all the frontline essential services staff, from doctors, nurses and scientists fighting the virus and preparing contingencies, to the dustmen emptying bins, the grocery shelf packers who make up the food supply chain and the taxi drivers still transporting commuters.

Every howl to the moon, every vuvuzela blown and every clap made is also about humans being heard, signalling that we all here still, we are not alone. It's summed up in the post from a mom on a WhatsApp group: "You should have seen the look on my daughters' faces when they heard other people clapping in the valley! Thank you, thank you!"

## Facts speak loud for China's openness, transparency in Covid-19 fight

BEIJING

**A** DETAILED timeline published Monday has shown the fact that China has released information on COVID-19 and advanced international cooperation on epidemic response in an open, transparent and responsible manner.

This global public health emergency came all of a sudden. As the novel coronavirus was unseen in the past, its detection, research, testing and confirmation needed time. China has performed its duty and taken strong and effective measures at the earliest time possible.

As the timeline shows, the National Health Commission (NHC) sent an expert group to Wuhan, the capital city of central China's Hubei Province, for on-the-spot investigation on December 31, shortly after cases of pneumonia of unknown cause were detected by the Wuhan Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

Starting from January 3, China has been regularly informing the World Health Organization (WHO), relevant countries and regions about the pneumonia outbreak. On January 12, the NHC shared with the WHO about information on the genome sequence of the novel coronavirus, which laid a solid foundation for global efforts of scientific research and vaccine development.

Facts speak louder than words. China has been open, transparent and responsible in all its efforts. News about the leadership's meetings on epidemic control and prevention were released in a timely manner. Chinese leaders frequently spoke over phone with heads of other countries, promoting cooperation on the epidemic prevention and control.

The Chinese government has paid high attention to releasing accurate



Chinese medical and technical experts share their experience with their Venezuelan counterparts in Caracas, Venezuela, April 1, 2020. Chinese and Venezuelan experts gathered in Caracas on Wednesday to assess diagnostic procedures to bolster Venezuela's capacity to tackle the COVID-19 epidemic. (Xinhua)

and timely information on the epidemic. Press conferences are held every day to answer questions of concern to the public and the international community.

Chinese scientists have been cooperating with experts from other countries and sharing research results on international platforms including the journals of Nature, Science and the Lancet.

China has also been sharing its prevention, control and treatment experience with the rest of the world without reservation.

China's efforts have ensured the life, safety and health of the Chinese people and earned valuable time for other countries to combat COVID-19. As the WHO puts it, China's measures have altered the dangerous course of the virus' quick

spread and prevented hundreds of thousands of infections.

Now COVID-19 is haunting more than 200 countries and regions. At this critical juncture, only by uniting as one can the world prevail over the pandemic.

Facing censure over their response to the outbreak, however, some U.S. politicians are playing blame games. It is immoral to politi-

cize public health emergency at the moment when hundreds of thousands of people are suffering and even facing death threats. Lies and smears only waste time and endanger more lives.

China has made all-out efforts. Knowing how difficult it is to combat COVID-19, China goes through thick and thin together with the people around the world suffering

from the ravage of the virus. In front of the epidemic, a common enemy of mankind, no one can stand alone.

Facing "the most challenging crisis we have faced since the Second World War," as United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres put it, we have no other choice but to join hands to get through this together.

Xinhua

# Indigenous knowledge could reveal ways to weather climate change on islands

By A'ndrea Elyse Messer

SOME islands have such low elevation, that mere inches of sea-level rise will flood them, but higher, larger islands will also be affected by changes in climate and an understanding of ancient practices in times of climate change might help populations survive, according to researchers.

"I'm working in a place (Madagascar) where communities around me are sensing, in the span of a few years, that they are seeing climate change," said Kristina Douglass, assistant professor of

anthropology, Penn State. "They have seen climate events take out entire reefs."

Douglass is interested in how the archaeological record can weigh in on climate change. She wants to understand how communities adapted in the past and how historical events have increased vulnerability. She and Jago Cooper, curator of the Americas, British Museum, investigated the Caribbean Islands and the islands in the Southwestern Indian Ocean off the east coast of Africa from Kenya to Mozambique.

"If we look back we see that all

the communities have been displaced into marginal land," said Douglass, who is also an associate of Penn State Institutes of Energy and the Environment. "If they don't see this, they won't be able to find a solution. They have to consider that around the Caribbean and off of Africa there are historical factors that contribute to the problem."

Both sets of islands have different histories. Indigenous Native American groups originally settled the Caribbean islands around 6,000 years ago, while continental Africans settled most of

the Southwestern Indian Ocean islands (SWIO) only 2,000 years ago. Both groups of islands became the target of colonization in the last 1,000 years and both originating populations suffered marginalization. In the Caribbean, introduced diseases decimated the native population which was replaced by colonists and African slaves. Slavery played an important role in both locations.

One of the many problems of colonization was the push in both locations to move from nomadic to stationary lives. The ideal living situation was considered a per-

manent location with set fields, pastures or fishing areas. Neither group of islanders were stationary before colonization.

According to the researchers, in the Caribbean, in the past, when sea level was rising, the population would notice their coastal sources of fresh water becoming salty and they would then leave coastal areas and move to more inland, higher ground. This prevented storm surge from sweeping away anyone because the people were no longer living in the flood zone.

"For some islands, archaeologi-

cal and paleoecological research offer an important record of pre-colonial climate change and its interplay with human lives and landscapes," the researchers report today (Apr. 6) in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. "The archaeological record suggests strategies and mechanisms that can inform discussions of resilience in the face of climate change."

The SWIO islands are in the tropics and rainfall varies depending on ocean warming and the El Niño/Southern Oscillation. Coupled with the legacies of co-

lonialism, varying precipitation regimes can bring on food insecurity in southern Madagascar. As recently as 2016, insufficient rainfall caused a catastrophic famine due to crop failures.

"Being nomadic is a way to deal with highly unreliable climate," said Douglass. "But encouraging sedentary lifestyles made it easier to manage local people."

In the past, the prickly pear cactus, introduced from the Americas, served as cattle fodder; a source of water for cattle, people and other plants; and as a defensive barrier for intruders.

# Ban wildlife markets to avert pandemics, says UN biodiversity chief

MONTREAL

THE United Nations' biodiversity chief has called for a global ban on wildlife markets.

Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, the acting executive secretary of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, said countries should move to prevent future pandemics by banning "wet markets" that sell live and dead animals for human consumption, but cautioned against unintended consequences.

China has issued a temporary ban on wildlife markets where animals such as civets, live wolf pups and pangolins are kept alive in small cages while on sale, often in filthy conditions where they incubate diseases that can then spill into human populations. Many scientists have urged Beijing to make the ban permanent.

Using the examples of Ebola in west-central Africa and the Nipah virus in east Asia, Mrema said there were clear links between the destruction of nature and new human illnesses, but cautioned against a reactionary approach to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

"The message we are getting is if we don't take care of nature, it will take care of us," she told the Guardian.

"It would be good to ban the live animal markets as China has done and some countries. But we should also remember you have communities, particularly from low-income rural areas, particularly in Africa, which are dependent on wild animals to sustain the livelihoods of millions of people."

"So unless we get alternatives for these communities, there might be a danger of opening up illegal trade in wild animals which currently is already leading us to the brink of extinction for some species."

"We need to look at how we balance that and really close the hole of illegal trade in the future."

As the coronavirus has spread around the world, there has been increased focus on how humanity's destruction of nature creates conditions for new zoonotic illness to spread.

Jinfeng Zhou, secretary general of the China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development



Crocodiles on display for buyers at Huangsha seafood market in Guangzhou, Guangdong province, China

Foundation, called on authorities to make the ban on wildlife markets permanent, warning diseases such as Covid-19 would appear again.

"I agree there should be a global ban on wet markets, which will help a lot on wildlife conservation and protection of ourselves from improper contacts with wildlife," Zhou said. "More than 70% of human diseases are from wildlife and many species are endangered by eating them."

Mrema said she was optimistic that the world would take the consequences of the destruction of the natural world more seriously in the wake of the Covid-19 outbreak when countries returned to negotiate the post-2020 framework for biodiversity, billed as the Paris agreement for nature.

"Preserving intact ecosystems and biodiversity will help us reduce the prevalence of some of these diseases. So the way we farm, the way we use the soils, the way we protect

coastal ecosystems and the way we treat our forests will either wreck the future or help us live longer," she said.

"We know in the late 1990s in Malaysia with the outbreak of Nipah virus, it is believed that the virus was a result of forest fires, deforestation and drought which had caused fruit bats, the natural carriers of the virus, to move from the forests into the peat farms. It infected the farmers, which infected other humans and that led to the spread of disease."

"Biodiversity loss is becoming a big driver in the emergence of some of these viruses. Large-scale deforestation, habitat degradation and fragmentation, agriculture intensification, our food system, trade in species and plants, anthropogenic climate change - all these are drivers of biodiversity loss and also drivers of new diseases. Two thirds of emerging infections and diseases now come from wildlife."

In February, delegates from more than 140 countries met in Rome to respond for the first time to a draft 20-point agreement to halt and reverse biodiversity loss, including proposals to protect almost a third of the world's oceans and land and reduce pollution from plastic waste and excess nutrients by 50%.

A major summit to sign the agreement in October was scheduled in the Chinese city of Kunming but has been postponed because of the coronavirus outbreak.



Emotec Limited CEO Moses Hella addresses journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday at the launch of camera-aided technology for use in detecting abnormalities in a person's body temperature from a distance, which should help in the fight against Covid-19. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# Dar IT firm in temperature detecting gadgets to curtail spread of Covid-19

By Guardian Reporter

A Dar es Salaam-based IT Firm—Emotec has introduced innovative products and solutions, including camera technology that detects people's temperature from a distance, a move aimed at fighting Covid-19—a pandemic that has affected 177 countries.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday, firm's Chief Executive Officer, Mo-

ses Hella said the new technology provides thermal cameras that can detect people's temperature from a distance, something which has described as imperative particularly during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Apart from detecting people's temperature, the technology also helps solve theft incidents from home, offices to businesses.

"All the cameras can be viewed live from someone's smartphone anywhere

and anytime," he said, revealing the firm's plan is to complement government's efforts to scale up healthcare services particularly at the time when the country and the world is battling with unseen killer disease—Coronavirus, with 1,359,398 cases, killing 75,944 and 265,577 recoveries across the world.

"We believe by inserting these cameras to various populated areas like airports, supermarkets and other will help detect those people with Corona

virus and take action," Hella said.

He further said that Emotec leverages the state-of-the-art satellite technologies to reduce the digital divide by instantly connecting remote and rural areas as well as providing quality and affordable broadband services for consumers, businesses, and schools.

"As experienced IT firm, we're determined to ensure reliable broadband access all across Africa and independently of the end-users location."

# Coronavirus disease: Food insecurity, malnutrition, poverty could escalate across developing world, says IFPRI

NEW DELHI

FOOD insecurity, malnutrition and poverty may escalate, particularly among marginalised people in the developing world due to the rapid spread of coronavirus, a latest report by International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) said recently.

IFPRI in the 2020 Global Food System report said policymakers must focus on building a more resilient, climate-smart, inclusive and healthy food systems that can help people withstand these types of shocks.

Worldwide, more than 13 hundred thousand people have been infected by coronavirus since its outbreak in China in December last year, while more than 70,000 have died including over 50,000 in Europe and more than 10,000 in the US.

In India, there are 4,421 confirmed cases with 114 deaths so far.

"The spread of COVID-19 has highlighted how vulnerable we all can be to global shocks," IFPRI Director General Johan Swinnen said.

He said food systems provide opportunities to improve food and nutrition security, generate income, and drive inclusive economic growth, but even in prosperous times many people are deprived of these benefits.

"Greater inclusivity in food systems is not a panacea for this or any other crisis, but it is a critical part of strengthening our resilience. "Times of crises also offer opportunities for change and it is essential that we act now so that everyone, especially the most vulnerable, can recover from the COVID-19 shock and be prepared to with-

stand future shocks," he said.

The report highlighted the central role that inclusive food systems play in meeting global goals to end poverty, hunger, malnutrition and offered recommendations for making food systems more inclusive for four marginalized groups - smallholders, women, youth, and conflict-affected people.

The report observed that national food systems across the developing world are already transforming rapidly, creating challenges and opportunities to make them more inclusive to all these groups.

Case studies of these transformations in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Nigeria, and Vietnam provide useful examples of the drivers and components of change, as well as the promising entry points for actions that can increase inclusion, it said.

"Approaches to food system transformation must be country specific, as each country's food system is unique," said John McDermott, director of the CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health.

Governments can foster these inclusive food systems by enacting laws, policies, and regulations that provide basic infrastructure, create the right market incentives, promote inclusive agribusiness models and leverage the potential of digital technology, the report said.

Additionally, investments in human capital in areas such as secure land tenure rights, improved access to information, and stronger social protections can lower the barriers to participation that many marginalized groups face, it added.

# Schooling during Covid-19: It's time to strip the curriculum

By Maryke Bailey

FOR the next year or two, we need to consider stripping our school curriculum down to the bare essentials. We need to separate the ideal from the crucial and make it official policy. I'm on maternity leave and I've been watching from the sidelines the havoc that Covid-19 is creating in our school year. I applaud all those who have stepped up, shown initiative, and given of their time and skills during this crisis. Different stakeholders have come together to get resources out there to our kids - on TV, the internet and radio. I salute you all! Yet, from the sidelines, it seems like we are scrambling to cater to the demands of the existing school assessment system and curriculum. This might be possible in resourced schools (although still very difficult), but we have to accept that for too many of our schools it's not going to work out this year or next.



We can't assume that after the initial three-week lockdown period is over that we will start returning to normality. We need to prepare for months of disruption of the current school year and probably next year as well.

This is a period of heightened stress and anxiety for everyone, and for too many of our children, it will be a period of increased danger from domestic violence, a period of hunger, and a period of mourning as the virus spreads and takes the lives of caregivers and family.

So let's start mapping out some practical plans that could take some stress off our teachers and kids, and allow us to use the time we do have more productively so that we can bring some certainty and stability into our school situation, and avoid having to cancel the school year altogether.

For the next year or two, we need to consider stripping our school curriculum down to the bare essentials. We need to separate the ideal from the crucial and make it official policy. We'll need to prioritise certain subjects as well as specific topics within the identified subjects.

We'll need to rework what and how we assess, and how often we assess. Many teachers and schools will already be doing this, but there are many more that will need blunt directives and guidance from the government before any initiative is taken.

The practical obstacles speak for themselves. Even if we were able to get all our kids online, even if we assume that they are

all independent workers with good listening comprehension skills who could read for meaning, and even if we assume we have enough teachers who can successfully navigate new ways of teaching and assessing remotely, we still don't have enough time to finish the current curriculum.

One of my colleagues informed us that current research shows that distance learning takes twice as long as face-to-face learning, and this seems to be tallying with many teachers' experience.

This can and will change as more teachers work out ways in which to teach remotely, but this won't change overnight, especially in a system like ours that is so steeped in traditional teaching practices.

So, even if we are able to get the entire nation online and learning, we still won't be able to complete the entire year's curriculum with the time available in the average school day under current conditions.

And we know we won't get the whole nation online soon, so how do we cater to the kids whose only learning will be when they do eventually go back to school?

Either we have to increase learning time, and stress, or we halve the curriculum and what we expect kids to cover in the next two years. We can play catch up later with the non-essentials.

Here are some suggestions for the Department of Basic Education to get the ball rolling on how to keep our system going from Grade 4 onwards in a time of global crisis. Please note that these do not need to be implemented universally. Obviously the more a school is able to cover the better, but these could provide some lifelines for our weakest schools.

### Grades 4-8

Prioritise certain subjects officially. This is already being done with many lessons and online resources focusing on maths and the languages. But let's bring some certainty to the situation.

This means that only these subjects will be required to be assessed formally (whether through exams or other modes of assessment), at the end of the year and only these subjects need to be reflected on the end-of-year report.

Thus, some subjects will need to be suspended, or they are taught, but are not examinable. This will take away

any pressure of formal assessments or the need to finish the curriculum in non-core subjects.

### Grade 9

Either we take the same approach as suggested for Grades 4-8, or students only write exams in the subjects they will take into the Further Education and Training (FET) phase (Grades 10-12). Perhaps Grade 9s should only focus on those subjects for the rest of the year.

### FET Phase: Grades 10-12

Much of the pressure in this phase, particularly in Grades 11 and 12, is that certain topics have to be covered because they are in the matric exam. I would suggest that we consider taking out some sections from the matric exams in 2021 and 2022 to create breathing space for the current Grade 10s and 11s.

If these topics are absolutely necessary for university, but unlikely to be used elsewhere after school, we can look at having the minority of students who do get into university cover the topic in the early weeks of January before universities open for teaching.

### Grades 4-12

Give schools the option to cancel June 2020 exams and rather use the time for teaching. I know that the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement (CAPS) is very spe-

cific in what it accepts as report marks for the different terms and exams are important in CAPS.

But for once, let's focus on learning rather than testing. We might even need to cancel matric preliminary exams and use the time to teach and be more prepared for the end of the year, rather than assess superficial learning.

We also don't need to have four reporting cycles that correspond to the different terms.

We can be much more flexible about how and when we issue reports under these circumstances. Of course, special attention will need to be given to Grade 7 and Grade 11 reporting, as these reports are used for entrance to high school and university, but I'm sure if we put our heads together and work with the universities, we can figure something out.

We are in desperate times. As teachers, we are going to have to step outside of our subject bubbles and reflect how necessary our subject or a topic really is in a learner's life during these times.

# Weathering the coronavirus storm: Government must put the people first

By Sikho Luthango

MILLIONS of South Africans are in danger of slipping further into poverty and hunger unless the government does a creative reworking of the lockdown regulations.

The government has taken an exclusionary approach to millions of impoverished South Africans in its preparation to fight the economic impact of Covid-19. These economic measures are necessary, but adjustments are needed to ensure the economic and food security of households to encourage physical distancing.

Covid-19 will further expose low-income households to vulnerabilities by race, gender, and immigration status. As a post-Covid-19 global recession looms, in a context of high unemployment, inequality and precarious health care institutions, African economies face a greater economic threat and South Africa is no exception.

Economies across the world are currently experiencing increased state intervention to fight the economic impact of Covid-19 in what can be described as "economic stimulus packages". These are designed to prevent and mitigate excessive economic disruption, to guarantee the functioning of essential sectors, and

to provide enough resources for vulnerable people who will lose their jobs and for those who will be directly and indirectly affected. The latter, being the most neglected element in the South African context, potentially leaves millions of South Africans questioning how they will survive this period and this certainly presents itself as a disincentive to follow the 21-day lockdown and its guidelines.

The economic stimulus package is a commendable initiative by the government to mitigate the economic risks of the coronavirus and it can be placed within a broader global context where other governments, including the US, the UK, Denmark, Germany and Kenya, have taken similar initiatives. Many countries are revisiting their national budgets and have dedicated an estimate of about 1-5% of their GDPs to stabilise the economy in the next three months.

South Africa's current economic stimulus package is aimed at wage protection and at avoiding potential job losses as a consequence of large-scale retrenchments, as potential tax revenue, which also funds unemployment benefits, is threatened.

It is imperative to ensure that workers retain their income and that they do not lose a connection with their employers in an effort to delay the impact of the coronavirus on the economy. Although varying in degree and resources, Covid-19 economic interventions must be centred around protecting people and especially womxn. To echo the New Zealand Finance Minister Grant Robertson's words, the economic stimulus package should be about "putting people first".

In this context, putting people first means that above and beyond wage-subsidies, funded sick leave which is also known as "self-isolation leave," should form part of the current government economic initiatives and be targeted at all employed people. Ireland and Denmark recently announced that they would give workers paid sick leave to ensure that people can self-isolate without losing income. Paid sick leave is important to ensure that people comply with the 21-day lockdown because for many people, earning money to provide food and to pay for household essentials is a priority.

Furthermore, in prioritising wage subsidies, the current economic interventions exclude informal sector workers such as street vendors, domestic workers, sex workers, the childcare sector, caregivers, gig-economy employees, construction

workers and contract employees. These are jobs that cannot be performed remotely and following health advice to self-isolate may be difficult.

It is thus no surprise that the government opted to revisit physical distancing regulations on 2 April 2020 - about a week into the lockdown - by inter alia allowing street vendors to trade once again. Making such an allowance not only puts the vendors at an increased health risk but it also does not inspire confidence about the messaging around Covid-19 and physical distancing. This is why the government should consider a stimulus package that is targeted for the informal sector to incentivise informal sector workers to self-isolate by qualifying them for unemployment benefits.

With an unemployment rate reaching 29% in the first quarter of 2020 and a youth unemployment rate of above 50%, creating jobs for and stimulating the development of the youth should be considered an important task for the government too. The pandemic may present opportunities for, "shovel-ready projects", which will allow people to work immediately. As the health and administrative system expands to meet the demands of the pandemic, the government should tap into its reservoirs of young, educated and unemployed people, beyond existing community healthcare workers, and train them to respond effectively and efficiently to the crisis.

Additionally, a reduction in VAT should also be tabled for consideration to increase household liquidity. Taken together, these measures are important especially since the government, disappointingly, did not announce an increase in social grants. With schools closed and the National Schools Nutrition Programme suspended, children will look to their immediate families for nutritional needs and the government should consider an urgent increase in the child-support grant.

Moreover, beyond a "people first" stimulus package, a gender-sensitive economic stimulus package is also necessary to protect marginalised people such as sex workers. The government should urgently heed the call by the Sex Workers Education and Advocacy Taskforce (SWEAT) and Sisonke, the national movement of sex workers, to be included in the government's temporary relief scheme. This will require decriminalisation and destigmatisation of sex work if the government is to achieve an effective shutdown.

## THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 83 00--

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

- 3 LETTERS: ICE, LAY, BOY
- 4 LETTERS: FINE, EASE, NEST, ABEL, TACO, AGED
- 5 LETTERS: MEANT, EASEL, EMBED, DIENE
- 6 LETTERS: ADRIFT, YEMENI, EUNUCH, MEAGRE, MEKONG, MILAN,
- 7 LETTERS: PENGUIN
- 8 LETTERS: LIBERALS
- 10 LETTERS: FREE LOADER

- CLUES: Across
- 1 profession of being a journalist
  - 5 Chief city of Togo
  - 7 present food to someone
  - 8 make suitable for a new use
  - 10 place in a particular position
  - 11 Paris is her Capital city
  - 13 be absolutely sure about something
  - 15 milk and milk products collectively
  - 17 physically dependent on a particular substance
  - 19 a chair
  - 20 work requiring little skill and lacking prestige
- Down:
- 1 named after Julius Caesar
  - 2 the whole community of Muslims
  - 3 a yearly court of record held by the lords of certain manors
  - 4 appreciate to the full
  - 6 Garden of Adam and Eve
  - 7 distribute over a wide area
  - 9 small bomb thrown by hand
  - 12 a traditional Japanese inn
  - 14 the color of milk
  - 16 a sphere of activity
  - 17 say something in order to obtain an answer
  - 18 a barrier constructed to hold back water

WORD-FIT SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

By Masezi 0755429240 felixmasezi@gmail.com

## DEMAND

# Face masks raw material shortage in India and China affecting local firm

By Francis Kajubi

A local manufacturer of face masks to contain the coronavirus outbreak with capacity of making 45,000 pieces a day is only doing 25,000 thanks to restrictions on raw materials importation in China and India.

Briefing Industry and Trade Minister, Innocent Bashungwa who visited Pristine Manufacturing Company Limited in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the company's director, Alnoor Lakaa said because of scarcity, their masks are mainly supplied to health facilities both public and private owned to benefit professional medical practitioners who are at the battle front to confront the pandemic.

Lakaa said, "Our priority for now is producing face masks for health professionals serving Tanzanians

in both private and public facilities. We will be able to produce for the rest of the community if raw materials are found to meet demand for maximum production daily," he said noting that the price of a box containing 50 pieces is 15,000/-.

According to him, professionals such as medical doctors, nurses and midwives are at a high risk of being infected by the pandemic as they are most exposed.

"Another challenge that we are facing is power outages although it has improved in recent days" the PMCL director added.

In response, acting Director of Medical Products Control at Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority, said PMCL is the only factory licensed to produce the masks by the authority so far.

"The factory sells to Medical Stores Department that supplies



Industry and Trade minister Innocent Bashungwa speaks after visiting Pristine Manufacturing Company Limited in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo courtesy of MoIT.

public hospitals across the country. The factory also delivers the product directly to private facilities," Khea said.

Responding to the issues raised,

Bashungwa promised to immediately meet with both the Indian and Chinese ambassadors to seek a mutual solution on the challenge.

"In case of power outages, I have al-

ready spoken to Minister of Energy and progress has already started to appear," Bashungwa said.

The shortage of COVID-19 prevention gear such as masks, gloves and

ventilators used to treat the virus as India, the US and China accused of imposing restrictions on such materials needed globally to stop the pandemic.

## MISINFORMATION

# Debunking the conspiracy 5G-coronavirus link theories

CAPE TOWN

GOVERNMENTS and media globally are stepping up to debunk the conspiracy linking 5G mobile technology to coronavirus, which led to some 5G masts being set on fire in Britain last week.

When asked by a reporter about the so called "theory" that 5G telecommunications towers could play a role in the spread of the disease, British Cabinet Officer Minister Michael Gove said: "That is just nonsense, dan-

gerous nonsense as well."

NHS England's national medical director, Stephen Powis said the 5G conspiracy idea was fake news with no scientific backing that risked damaging the emergency response to the outbreak.

"The 5G story is complete and utter rubbish, it's nonsense, it's the worst kind of fake news," Powis said. "The reality is that the mobile phone networks are absolutely critical to all of us."

Dangerous fake news Last week South African health minister Dr Zweli Mkhize

also spoke out against the ongoing rumours, calling it "fake news" that did not stand up to scrutiny. "The reality is that 5G is a technology, and coronavirus is an organic infection that is based on a living viral agent," Mkhize explained.

During a 5G webinar last week, organised by the National Electronics Media Institute of South Africa, Prof Antoine Bagula, from the University of the Western Cape said, "Radio frequency spectrum falls under non-ionizing radiation with low

energy/band, this is low risk to human health. Today if you go for an X-ray, which is a form of ionizing radiation, you are covered by lead. You know why? It is because they are following guidelines to ensure that you are not over exposed to radiation."

During the same webinar, Dick Sono, Chief Director of Radio Frequency Spectrum at the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies also addressed the issue saying, "There are guidelines to ensure

that we do not over expose humans to radiation. 2G, 3G and 4G have been also deployed under the stringent regulations and mobile network operators have followed the same in deploying their networks. The same will be applied to 5G networks."

The fake theories doing the rounds on social media platforms including Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and TikTok, come at a critical time in the pandemic and plays on people's emotions. Global communications industry body,

the GSMA said: "The telecoms industry is working around the clock to keep vital health, education and emergency services online, businesses running, and friends and families connected. It is deplorable that critical communications infrastructure is being attacked based on outright mistruths. We urge everyone to trust health authorities and rest assured communications technology is safe. There is no link between 5G and Covid-19."

Fortunately, some of the social

media platforms have started to take responsible response. YouTube has reduced the amount of content spreading conspiracy theories that it recommends to users and removed some of the conspiratorial content, since that could "that could misinform users in harmful ways."

"We also have clear policies that prohibit videos promoting medically unsubstantiated methods to prevent the coronavirus in place of seeking medical treatment," a YouTube spokesperson said.

## FEARS

# Vodacom sues Absa for losses of at least R1.2bn

JOHANNESBURG

Vodacom Group is suing Absa for losses of at least US\$64.1 million (R1.2 billion) it claims it incurred due to an alleged unauthorised payment by Absa's Tanzanian subsidiary from Vodacom's accounts to that country's tax agency last year.

TechCentral can reveal that the JSE-listed telecommunications group is also demanding that Absa pay it \$221.9 million (R4.3 billion) in terms of a multibillion-rand guarantee signed between the parties last year. Vodacom alleges Absa defaulted on that guarantee.

In total, Vodacom is suing Absa for as much as \$286-million (R5.5 billion) as the telecommunications group wants the bank to indemnify it against the loss of \$64.1 million or more and pay it out the guaranteed \$221.9 million.

On 9 January 2020, Vodacom applied to the high court in Johannesburg for Absa to pay interest and costs of the legal action. Phumza Macanda, Absa head of media relations, said the bank is defending the claim. In its plea, Absa has asked the court to dismiss Vodacom's claims with costs. The bank plans to file a "heads of argument" where its full case will be made clear, a source with knowledge of the matter said.

Legal ructions

TechCentral has a copy of the guarantee that has led to the legal ructions. Vodacom Group CEO Shameel Joosub signed the document on 7 August 2019; Absa treasurer Deon Raju and financial director Jason Quinn countersigned the guarantee five days later.

This guarantee was called on as part of a multibillion-rand acquisition by Vodacom Group of investment company Mirambo's remaining stake in Vodacom Tanzania last year - but Absa didn't pay out the money covered by the guarantee.

It's not clear from the court documents why Vodacom needed to take out a multibillion-rand guarantee backed by Absa. The guarantee governed the funds that Vodacom placed in the accounts of Tanzania's National Bank of Commerce (NBC), in which Absa has a controlling 55% stake.

The conditions of the guarantee include that Absa pays back monies in the NBC accounts in US dollars within four days of receiving a written demand and that Absa indemnifies Vodacom against any losses.

Vodacom said in court papers that Absa's NBC failed to comply with Vodacom's notice, dated 26 September 2019, for payment of \$221.9 million under the guarantee. Instead, it transferred \$63.5 million to the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) on that date and paid a further amount of \$629



Vodacom Group CEO Shameel Joosub.

006 to the tax agency on 7 October 2019.

Vodacom said that on 25 September 2019, the TRA served NBC with notice that it pay funds from Vodacom's Tanzanian accounts. It is not clear why the TRA sought to get take this money from Vodacom's accounts when it was tax due from Mirambo. "This amount purportedly represented capital gains tax and stamp duty due to TRA by Mirambo," Vodacom said.

In response, Absa, in a plea filed on 9 March, said that NBC was bound under Tanzanian law to make the pay-

ments to the TRA. Vodacom suffered a loss of at least \$64.1-million because of the money transferred from its NBC accounts to the TRA instead of transferring that money to Vodacom's Standard Bank account in South Africa, the telecoms group alleged in its court papers. However, Absa has denied this.

### Held in escrow

A Vodacom spokeswoman said Absa's failure to make the \$221.9 million payment under the guarantee meant it had fewer funds, held in escrow,

for the purchase of Mirambo's shares than the agreed purchase price of \$224 million.

"This required Vodacom and Mirambo to renegotiate aspects of the transaction, in order to complete it," the spokeswoman said. She said the matter is still before the court and remains unresolved. "We have not yet reached the point in the court process where we have been allocated a hearing date."

The background to the deal is that on 15 February 2018, Vodacom entered into a written share purchase

agreement with Mirambo as well as GRST Holdings, Cavalry Holdings and East Africa Investments. Cavalry Holdings is an entity controlled by Tanzanian tycoon Rostam Aziz.

Subsequently, shareholders of Vodacom Tanzania approved the sale of Mirambo's stake in the business to Vodacom Group in November 2018. Vodacom Tanzania has 14 million customers and is the East African nation's largest telecoms company. Tanzania is Vodacom's most important operation outside South Africa. Mirambo is the investment vehicle of Aziz, who is one of Tanzania's wealthiest people and a former local politician.

In an offer document dated 6 August 2019, Vodacom's Joosub wrote that the group was excited at the prospect of acquiring a further stake in the business. The offer was open from 9 August to 2 September 2019, with the transaction completed on 1 November, increasing Vodacom Group's stake in Vodacom Tanzania from 61.6% to 75%. Mirambo placed the order with local brokerage firm Orbit Securities Company to sell its stake in Vodacom Tanzania to Vodacom Group on 3 July 2019. Vodacom Tanzania is listed on the stock exchange in Dar es Salaam.

On 26 September 2019, and again on 19 November 2019, Vodacom demanded payment of \$221.9-million from Absa in terms of the guarantee.

Demanded transfer TechCentral has a copy of the 26 September letter, which is marked as strictly private and confidential, and is a "formal notice instruction to immediately return completion payment to Vodacom."

## EQUALITY

## LSF's paralegals win praise for defending economic rights of women

By Guardian Reporter

WIDOWS and divorced women almost lost their economic rights from their spouses have commended the role being played by paralegals who are supported by Legal Services Facility.

In random interviews, the women urged their peers facing similar challenges to be

courageous in demanding and defending their marital rights from their husbands or relatives to help improve their living standards.

Mbinga based Orestre Komba said with support from NATAJA Paralegals, she successfully fought and won her economic rights from her ex-husband, Kelvin Milinga who sold their family house after separation.

"I advise all women in the country who are experiencing challenges of being deprived of their legal rights from spouses to seek advice and assistance from paralegals," said Komba. The mother of two said many women are languishing in abject poverty because they allowed their spouses to confiscate all properties and finances generated together as couples.

Currently, Komba is engaging in running a fast food restaurant at Mbinga Secondary School in Ruvuma region an investment which she made after getting her share from the broken marriage. "This business is generating me sufficient income to keep and provide for to my children," she noted.

NAJATA's paralegal, Samuel Kayuni who worked with

Komba by legally advising her which enabled the couple to amicably settle their case, said many women are facing similar challenges countrywide with those based in remote areas being the worst affected.

"NAJATA is supported by Legal Services Facility and works in all districts of Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar to promote access to justice

for all especially vulnerable groups such as women, children, and other needy community members," said Kayuni.

He said on average, paralegals annually attend to over 70,000 cases of which 60 percent are resolved, 22 percent are ongoing cases, 16 percent are referred to higher authorities while only 2

percent remain unresolved.

Kayuni said Komba's case also involved her ex-husband's family and was resolved through a civil case filed in court and took one year before a ruling was given in favour of the lady. The court ordered Komba's ex-husband to pay her 15m/- being half the amount of money for the sold family house.



Legal Services Facility CEO Lulu Ng'wanakilala speaks at a past event

## RESPONSIBILITY

## Woolworths announces executive pay cuts of up to 30% in bid to support staff

JOHANNESBURG

WOOLWORTHS [JSE:WHL] has followed in the footsteps of international companies like Disney and British Airways to announce that its directors, Group CEO and senior executive managers will forego up to 30% of their fees and salaries over the next three months as foot traffic and general sales volumes plunge due to the coronavirus (Covid-19) lockdowns.

This comes as South Africa enters the 11th day of a 21-day nationwide lockdown to stem the spread of the virus. Only essential retailers, which includes the food division of Woolworths, can trade during the shutdown. The retail group, in a trading update on Monday, said savings from cuts will be used to provide financial support to staff who find themselves in "extreme hardship."

Woolworths, which has operations in 11 other countries on the continent as well as in Australia and New Zealand, said that in SA the majority of its food stores remain open. In the period immediately prior to the lockdown, it saw "unprecedented demand on specific products that consumers considered essential". This demand has begun to moderate, however, as "shopping patterns are re-set and as confidence in the food supply chain grows".

Food sales in the four weeks to the end of March increased by 27.6% on the prior comparable period, it said. The temporary closure of the Fashion, Beauty and Home stores, which don't fall under essential services, saw local sales in the four weeks to the end of March declined by 27.8% compared to March last year. Decline in demand in other African markets caused by store

and border closures also contributed.

The company said it has also decided to cut back on capital expenditure - money that would have been spent on expanding stores and warehouses or upgrading existing one or on buying new equipment and assets. Only critical projects will be carried through in the company's current financial year, which ends in June.

It is also negotiating with different stakeholders, including suppliers and landlords to reduce costs.

"We have engaged with our suppliers to reduce apparel product intake and to extend payment terms. We are also meeting with landlords to explore alternative arrangements to current lease commitments, through the relevant period," said the company in a statement published on the Stock Exchange News Service on Monday morning.

## DIGITISATION

## Mastercard championing efforts to boost contactless payment limits

By Guardian Reporter

AS the world grapples with effects of coronavirus, Mastercard has announced plans to champion efforts to boost contactless payments limits in Middle East and Africa region.

In a statement yesterday, the global technology company in the payments industry, said the initiative is in line with recommendations from global and regional health authorities and governments to practice social distancing that has led a growing number of merchants to encourage consumers to pay with contactless over cash.

"Mastercard remains committed to offering safe, secure, and simple payment solutions across the region. In the current environment, we are grateful that contactless payments are available so consumers can follow social distancing recommendations, and that people are embracing these safe and hygienic solutions as their preferred form of payment every day," said Mastercard's Executive Vice President of Services, Middle East and Africa, Mete Guney.

Guney said the announcement reflects the pace of chang-



Mastercard's Executive Vice President of Services, Middle East and Africa, Mete Guney.

ing behaviours, offering consumers ease, speed and peace of mind in a rapidly changing world. "We will continue to work with our industry partners to guide and support them through this effort," he added.

Globally, Mastercard has been spearheading the transition to contactless payments for over 15 years and in MEA region, it has worked with various industry partners and sectors in multiple markets to increase the use of digital and contactless payment technology in an effort to enhance safety, security, speed and convenience in the payment experience for cardholders.

In 2019, the MEA region saw more than 200 percent growth in contactless transactions and cur-

rently almost 1 in 9 Mastercard transactions at point-of-sale (POS) terminals in MEA are contactless.

While following best practices from around the world, Mastercard is working closely with its partners to enable businesses and retailers implement contactless limit increases quickly and efficiently.

Cardholder verification method (CVM) limits are being increased in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Mauritius.

This will ultimately improve purchase experiences for people across the region making them safer and more convenient for consumers and businesses alike, the company stated in the statement.

**Mastercard remains committed to offering safe, secure, and simple payment solutions across the region. In the current environment, we are grateful that contactless payments are available so consumers can follow social distancing recommendations, and that people are embracing these safe and hygienic solutions**

## FLEXIBILITY

## Denel is making ventilators, and may turn its casspirs into ambulances

CAPE TOWN

STATE-OWNED South African arms firm Denel says it is switching from making weapons to manufacturing medical ventilators that can save lives.

In a nationwide response to the novel coronavirus outbreak, Danie du Toit, Group Chief Executive of Denel, said engineers from Denel Dynamics and Denel Aeronautics are already working round the clock on Project Sabela.

The priority project brings in a team of experts from Denel, Armscor, Eskom, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and other entities to investigate designs and produce a prototype of a local ventilator as part of a request from the Department of Public Enterprises, reported Reuters.

"We are still in the early stages of the project, but we are optimistic that this local initiative will help to alleviate the



Danie du Toit, Group Chief Executive of Denel.

dire need for medical ventilators that are required in great numbers at both public and private hospitals," said Du Toit in a press statement.

Denel said it was considering the conversion of Casspir mine-protected vehicles into field ambulances. As well as shifting the manufacturer of small- and medium-calibre ammunition operations to the production of sanitisers, as many of the chemicals used in the

manufacturing of explosives can also be utilised to make sanitisers, it said. As of Sunday 5 April, the total number of confirmed Covid-19 cases was 1 655 - an increase of 70 from previously reported

Government wants to curb the virus in densely populated areas, like townships. This includes ramping up testing, bringing field hospitals online and providing more medical staff and

equipment South Africa needs to test 12 times more people per day for the new coronavirus than it currently does, reports the Bhekisisa Centre for Health Journalism.

"We are confident that we will soon make huge strides in the development of locally-designed ventilators at a time when global shortages are experienced," said Du Toit.

## RELAXATION

## Zimbabwe eases Covid-19 lockdown to allow Diaspora remittances flow

HARARE

ZIMBABWE will allow citizens to access remittances from the diaspora and permit farmers to take their produce to the market, easing a three-week coronavirus lockdown that analysts fear could push the struggling economy to the brink of collapse.

Many citizens in the southern African nation, which has recorded one death from nine cases, rely on money from relatives in the diaspora but the lockdown had closed a major source of income. Zimbabwe, which faces its worst economic crisis in a decade, marked by soaring inflation, shortages of foreign currency, food and electricity, earned \$635 million from diaspora remittances last year.

Central bank governor John Mangudya said in a statement on Monday money transfer agencies would be allowed to open three times a week from Tuesday but banks remained closed for any other transactions.

He said the decision was meant "to allow for the receipt of foreign currency remittances which cannot be transacted on any digital platform." President Emmerson Mnangagwa, who ordered the lockdown that started on March 30, said separately that farmers would be allowed to sell their produce at the markets starting Tuesday.

Farmers had complained that their produce was rotting on the farms, leaving them without a source of income while shops were running out of fresh vegetables. The easing of the lockdown shows the limitations that most African governments face as they seek to balance the need to stop the spread of the new coronavirus and keeping the wheels of the economy turning.

RECOVERY

Some Asian markets surge to bull territory on easing death toll

SINGAPORE

SOUTH Korean, Philippine and Indonesian stocks are the first in Asia Pacific to enter technical bull markets...

Asia's regional benchmark climbed 2.5%, the most in about two weeks. New York State fatalities fell for the first time...

In South Korea, the Kospi index gained 3.9% to close 23% above its March 19 low. Samsung Electronics Co. was the biggest boost to the measure...

While South Korea remains susceptible to implications of external weakness, the region had been seen as one 'flattening the curve' without taking more stringent and disruptive containment measures...

The Philippine Stock Exchange Index rose 4.2% on Monday, 20.5% above an eight-year low set on March 19. The gains were helped by anticipation that a lockdown to contain the pandemic will be extended by two weeks...

Improved global sentiment is the main catalyst and that's driven by optimism Russia and OPEC will reach a deal cutting back production. "The Philippines and Indonesia are leading the climb to bull territory for these were the hardest hit markets amid the virus sell-off."

In Indonesia, the Jakarta Composite Index jumped 4.1%...

pushing its gain from March 24 to 22%, meeting the technical definition of a bull market. Some investors might be taking the depressed valuations and share prices as an opportunity to buy into the long-term prospects for the Southeast Asia's biggest economy...

"This roller-coaster ride of the Indonesian market has been amazing, although fundamentally this upswing cannot be explained with the companies facing downward earnings revisions this year," Crisnanda said.

Indonesia has reported more than 2 000 confirmed cases of the coronavirus with a death toll of nearly 200, making it the country with highest fatalities in Asia after China. President Joko Widodo declared a national health emergency last week and ordered large scale social



Electronic boards displaying share prices at Philippines' stock market in Manila.

distancing to contain the spread of the virus that has killed more than 69 000 people worldwide and infected nearly 1.3 million. His administration has also introduced several measures to bolster the economy.

While strong, the gains could still prove to be merely relief rallies. The PSEi is still 33% below its July 15 high. The JCI is 27% off from its February 2019 peak, and the Kospi is still about 21% down from its January 22 high.

"With a very light calendar globally today, there is enough momentum to keep the equity rally running through the course of the day and also into European time," Jeffrey Halley, senior market analyst at Oanda Asia Pacific Pte., wrote in a note.

BACKLASH

United Sates Education department barring Zoom over privacy concerns

NEW YORK

THE New York City Department of Education is banning Zoom just weeks after students and teachers shifted to the video-conferencing platform.

Department of Education Chancellor Richard Carranza announced on April 4 that security and privacy issues were behind the department's decision to ban the platform "as soon as possible," according to a memo reported by Chalkbeat.

Schools are instead being directed to use Microsoft Teams, which the department has already started training teachers and staff to use, according to Chalkbeat. The platform is compliant with student privacy laws, including FERPA, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

As schools have moved to remote classrooms in response to the novel coronavirus outbreaks in recent weeks, scores of concerns have been raised about privacy and security issues users found with the platform, prompting warnings from the FBI and demands for increased user privacy from the New York Attorney General.

The easy-access virtual meetings are joined via a unique link, which has made the platform attractive for large groups like classes but leaves attendees vulnerable to random - and sometimes offensive - intrusions.

"Zoombombing" incidents have sparked concerns as hackers or trolls appear in random Zoom calls,

sometimes sharing spam or obscene material. Business Insider's Paayal Zaveri previously reported that Zoombombing has affected online classes, corporate gatherings, and even virtual Alcoholics Anonymous meetings.

The company responded to concerns by rolling out extra measures to secure the meeting links. Starting April 5, Zoom will require a password to join a meeting with the meeting ID instead of through the invite link. Virtual waiting rooms will also appear by default, allowing the meeting host to manually add attendees to the meeting.

One Brooklyn principal told Chalkbeat that the Microsoft app was too inefficient for teachers to embrace the way they did Zoom. "If the DOE follows through with this decision, I believe that the impact will be no more live teaching for many teachers," the principal told the outlet.

Considering the critics condemning the ban and Zoom's targeted improvements aimed to protect users, the ban could perhaps be reconsidered in the coming weeks of remote schooling. "The DOE also continues to review and monitor developments with Zoom," the department wrote in a memo reported by Chalkbeat, "which may be approved for use at a later date."



A student in Ms. Newman's third grade class works on a problem during summer school at Brentano Academy in Chicago.

ISIDINGO MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM. Includes a grid of TV schedules for various days and times, listing programs like 'The Base', 'Uwanja wa Mazoezi', and 'Habari'.

## WORLD

## Boris Johnson still in intensive care, needed oxygen

LONDON

BRITISH Prime Minister Boris Johnson was in intensive care yesterday after receiving oxygen support when his coronavirus symptoms worsened, leaving his foreign minister to lead the government's response to the accelerating outbreak.

"As we speak, the prime minister is in intensive care, being looked after by his medical team, receiving the very, very best care from the team at St Thomas' and our hopes and prayers are with him and with his family," Cabinet Office Minister Michael Gove told BBC television.

"We all hope, we all hope that he can be restored to health as quickly as possible and that's all we're thinking about at the moment," he said.

The prime minister is not on a ventilator but has had some oxygen support and if his condition changes the

government will make an official statement, Gove said.

Johnson's personal battle with the virus has shaken the British government just as the United Kingdom enters what scientists say is likely to be one of the most deadly weeks of the outbreak, which has already killed 70,000 people worldwide.

Johnson, 55, was admitted to St Thomas' Hospital across the River Thames from the Houses of Commons late on Sunday after suffering persistent coronavirus symptoms, including a high temperature and a cough, for more than 10 days.

His condition rapidly deteriorated over the next 24 hours, and he was moved to an intensive care unit, where the most serious cases are treated. Although he had received oxygen, his office said on Monday he was still conscious and was moved to intensive care in case he needed to be put on a



Britain's Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab

ventilator.

Johnson is the most prominent global political leader to be hospitalized for the new coronavirus. Britain's Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab will run the country while Johnson is in intensive care and any decision on lifting coronavirus lockdown restrictions won't be delayed, Gove said.

Raab entered Downing Street on Tuesday to chair the government's COVID-19 emergency response meeting.

While Britain has no formal succession plan should a prime minister become incapacitated, Downing Street said Monday that Johnson had asked Raab to deputise for him "where necessary". Just hours earlier, Johnson had said that he was in good spirits and Raab had said at a news conference that the prime minister was

still running the government, though Raab also said he hadn't spoken to the prime minister in person since Saturday.

The pound edged lower against the dollar and the euro in Asia on Tuesday, trading at US\$1.2234 following a 0.3 percent decline on Monday.

## Business will continue

Johnson's move to intensive care added to the sense of upheaval that the coronavirus crisis has wrought after its spread panicked populations, sowed chaos through financial markets and prompted the virtual shutdown of the global economy.

"The government's business will continue," a somber Raab, 46, told reporters, saying Johnson was in the safe hands of a brilliant medical team.

"The focus of the government will continue to be on making sure that the prime minister's direction, all the plans for making sure that we can defeat coronavirus and can pull the country through this challenge, will be taken forward."

Raab takes the helm at a pivotal time. The official death toll in the United Kingdom currently stands at 5,373, and last week the health minister said the deadliest peak for deaths was projected to be Easter Sunday, April 12.

The United Kingdom is in a state of virtual lockdown, a situation due to be reviewed early next week, and some ministers have suggested it might need to be extended because some people were flouting the strict rules.

There have also been calls for ministers to detail what the exit plans were from the shutdown, which has hammered the world's fifth-biggest economy after the government ordered restaurants, bars, and nearly all shops to close and told people to stay at home to curb the spread of the virus.

Johnson tested positive for the virus on March 26, the first leader of a major power to announce that he had tested positive for COVID-19.

After 10 days of isolation in an apartment at Downing Street, he was admitted to hospital. He was last seen in a video message posted on Twitter on Friday when he looked weary. **Agencies**

## Japan declares emergency, approves near US\$1-t stimulus

TOKYO

JAPANESE Prime Minister Shinzo Abe yesterday declared a state of emergency to fight new coronavirus infections in major population centres and unveiled a stimulus package he described as among the world's biggest to soften the economic blow.

Abe announced the state of emergency targeting the capital Tokyo and six other prefectures - accounting for about 44% of Japan's population - for a period of about one month.

The government approved an emergency economic stimulus package worth 108.2 trillion yen (US\$993 billion), with fiscal spending of 39.5 trillion yen, aimed at battling the deepening fallout from the coronavirus, government officials said yesterday.

Abe said direct fiscal spending would amount to 39 trillion yen, or 7% of the economy, more than double the amount Japan spent following the 2008 collapse of Lehman Brothers.

Coronavirus infections in Tokyo more than doubled to about 1,200 in the past week, with more than 80 new ones reported on Tuesday, accounting for the highest number in the country. Nationwide, cases have climbed past 4,000 with 93 deaths as of Monday.

## Indonesia

Indonesia confirmed yesterday 247 new coronavirus infections, taking the total to 2,738, said a health ministry official.

Achmad Yurianto, the official, reported 12 more deaths, taking the total to 221, while 204 people had recovered. Meanwhile, 24 doctors had now died after contracting the virus. "The trend of (doctors dying) is heading for the sky," said Halik Malik, a spokesman for the Indonesian Doctors Association which confirmed the doctors' deaths from COVID-19, the respiratory disease caused by the new coronavirus.

The Indonesian government is in talks with development banks for loans totalling US\$7 billion to finance its COVID-19 relief efforts. Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati told a call with investors.

The Indonesian capital of Jakarta, the epicenter of the COVID-19 in the country, will impose a large-scale social restriction to contain the further spread of the virus.

## Afghanistan

A total of 56 new cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed in Afghanistan over the past 24 hours, bringing the number of the patients carrying the virus to 423, Public Health Ministry spokesman Wahidullah Mayar said yesterday.

India's 21-day lockdown is set to end next week but several state leaders have called for an extension or only a partial lifting of restrictions, saying it is the only way to avoid a coronavirus epidemic that will be difficult to tackle.

India has so far escaped a big surge in cases after Prime Minister Narendra Modi asked its 1.3 billion people to stay indoors in the world's biggest lockdown last month that authorities have enforced tightly.

India's federal health ministry Tuesday morning said the death toll due to COVID-19 in India rose to 114 and the total number of confirmed cases in the country reached 4,421.

## Iran

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei approved a government request for tapping into the sovereign wealth fund to finance the nationwide fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, Press TV reported.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said in a letter to the Plan and Budget Organization of Iran that the 1-billion-euro (US\$1.08 billion) fund should be used to supply drugs and vital medical equipment needed by the Iranian health ministry, adding domestic suppliers should be given priority.

Rouhani on Monday called for friendly countries to pressure the United States to lift its "cruel and one-sided" sanctions against Iran as the country struggles to curb the coronavirus outbreak.

Rouhani made the remarks in a telephone conversation with his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron, state TV reported.

Iran's coronavirus death toll rose to 3,872 with 133 deaths in the past 24 hours, Health Ministry spokesman Kianush Jahanpur told state TV yesterday.

The total number of cases climbed to 62,589, with 2,089 new infections, while 3,987 infected people were in a critical condition, he said. **Agencies**



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

## Mainland reports zero domestic COVID-19 cases, deaths

BEIJING/WUHAN

NO new domestically transmitted cases of COVID-19 were reported on the Chinese mainland on Monday, the National Health Commission said yesterday.

All of 32 new confirmed COVID-19 cases reported on Monday were from overseas, bringing the total number of imported cases to 983, the commission said in its daily report.

No death was reported Monday, and 12 new suspected cases, all imported ones, were reported on the mainland, according to the commission.

Monday also saw 89 people being discharged from hospitals after recovery, and the number of severe cases decreased by 54 to 211.

The overall confirmed cases on the mainland had reached 81,740 by Monday, including 1,242 patients who were still being treated, 77,167 patients who had been discharged after recovery, and 3,331 people who died of the disease.

The commission said that 89 people were still suspected of being

infected with the virus, and 14,499 close contacts were still under medical observation. On Monday, 2,365 people were discharged from medical observation.

A total of 30 new asymptomatic COVID-19 cases were reported on the mainland on Monday, including nine imported ones. Two asymptomatic cases, all imported ones, were re-categorized as confirmed infections, and 42 were discharged from medical observation, according to the commission.

The commission said 1,033 asymptomatic cases were still under medical observation, including 275 from abroad.

In Hubei province, the provincial health commission said that no new confirmed cases and zero deaths were reported Monday in Hubei province.

The commission said 690 asymptomatic patients were under medical observation in the province, after 33 cases were ruled out and 18 new patients were reported on Monday.

Fifty-nine COVID-19 patients were discharged from hospital af-



Members of the national medical team pose for a photo after arriving at Beijing Capital International Airport in Beijing, China, on Monday. (XINHUA)

ter recovery Monday. Among the 518 patients being treated in hospital, 111 were still in severe condition and 73 others in critical condition.

Hubei has so far reported 67,803 confirmed COVID-19 cases in total,

including 50,008 in Wuhan.

By Monday, 914 confirmed cases including four deaths had been reported in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR), 44 confirmed cases in the Macao SAR,

and 376 in Taiwan including five deaths.

A total of 216 patients in Hong Kong, 10 in Macao and 61 in Taiwan had been discharged from hospitals after recovery. **Xinhua**

## Any attempts to 'privatize' outer space unacceptable – Kremlin

MOSCOW

ANY attempts to 'privatizing' outer space are unacceptable, Russian president's press secretary, Dmitry Peskov said yesterday, commenting on US President Donald Trump's executive order supporting commercial activities on the Moon.

However Peskov (pictured) found it difficult to say whether this order could be seen as such

a 'privatization' attempt. "Such decisions need a legal expertise. First, it is necessary to study it relying on legal approaches," he said.

"I would refrain from doing it [giving a legal assessment of Trump's order – TASS] right now. But any attempts at 'privatizing' outer space in these or those formats – right now I cannot say whether it can be viewed as an outer space 'privatization' at-



tempt – would be unacceptable," Peskov commented.

On April 6, US President Don-

ald Trump signed an executive order in support of the exploitation of off-Earth resources. Under the order, the United States doesn't consider outer space as a "global commons" and thus does not recognize the Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, known as the Moon Treaty, that was adopted by a United Nations General Assembly resolution in December

1979.

Under the agreement, the Moon and its natural resources are the common heritage of mankind and exploitation of such resources should be done exclusively for peaceful purposes and in the interests of all nations, regardless of the level of their economic or scientific development. **Agencies**

## Let cooperation dispel dark clouds of coronavirus

CHINA is ready to work with France for greater coordination and cooperation in the UN, the G20 and other frameworks to promote joint prevention and control and improve global health governance, Chinese President Xi Jinping said during a phone conversation with French President Emmanuel Macron recently.

Xi also stressed the necessity to help developing countries and other countries in need to build capacity and to counteract the impact on the global economy. Cooperation, the Chinese President noted, is like sunshine that can drive away the dark clouds of the epidemic.

Standing at the height of global health governance to underline the importance of solidarity and collaboration, the Chinese President has demonstrated the country's strong determination and faith to work with other

countries to fight the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) epidemic and safeguard global development.

To promote solidarity and cooperation is a vital responsibility of the international society in combating COVID-19. Solidarity, as WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has repeated called for, shall be the common choice of all countries.

Josep Borrell Fontelles, the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy noted that countries must strengthen cooperation because it's the crucial moment for upholding multilateralism and jointly fighting COVID-19, and concerted efforts are needed to overcome the common threat of mankind.

In the era of globalization, countries share challenges and responsibilities. They should realize that to protect the health and security of their own people is a contribution to safeguarding global health security, and helping each other with the COVID-19 control efforts is to relieve their own burden.

Countries should complement each other in the battle against COVID-19, cooperate vigorously in scientific research, share research data and information, and jointly study and propose coping strategies. Cooperation is an inescapable duty of all countries, and the epidemic tests the sense of responsibility.

To strengthen communication and coordination is essential. The mount-

ing epidemic prevention pressure makes communication and coordination a pressing task of all countries.

In recent days, through video conferences, Chinese medical experts have introduced China's experience on COVID-19 fight, and shared the latest research outcomes, information and relevant measures on epidemic prevention and control with their foreign peers from Pacific island countries, Africa, Europe, Eurasia, South Asia, Latin America and Caribbean countries on curbing the COVID-19 pneumonia.

At China's initiative, foreign ministers of China, Japan and South Korea held a special video conference on COVID-19, discussing the joint prevention and control mechanism among the three

countries to effectively curb the spread of the epidemic.

The G20 finance ministers and central bank governors discussed with each other on global economy during a televised meeting and agreed to develop a joint G20 Action Plan in response to the pandemic.

Global countries are enhancing communication and collaboration as COVID-19 is spreading fast and has exerted extensive impacts. It conforms to their common interests to propel global cooperation on COVID-19 control and reduce the impact of the pandemic on global economy to the largest extent.

Improving global health governance is an initiative that benefits the future generations. Over the past decades,

the world has made notable progress in this respect, but also faced complicated and arduous challenges posed by frequent occurring of infectious diseases.

In addition, mass population movement in the era of globalization has made health threats more globalized. Also, the weakness of the global health governance system mirrored by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pneumonia has heightened the urgency of improving global public health governance.

Isolation won't stop the spread of the virus, and no single country is able to meet all challenges on its own. To protect people's health, countries need to adhere to multilateralism, uphold the principle of wide consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, and jointly build a community of common health for mankind. **People's Daily**





The  
Guardian

# SPORT



Augusta National Golf Club, seen down Magnolia Lane, is well manicured on what would have been the first practice round for the Masters golf tournament, Monday, April 6, 2020, in Augusta, Ga. The 2020 Masters, postponed because of the coronavirus pandemic, is slated to take place on Nov. 12-15. (AP)

## British canceled, Masters to November in major rescheduling

By DOUG FERGUSON

THE Masters goes from that annual rite of spring to two weeks before Thanksgiving. The U.S. Open now is scheduled in September for the first time since amateur Francis Ouimet took down Britain's best at Brookline in 1913 to put golf on the map in America.

And the oldest championship of them all won't even be played.

Golf organizations tried to salvage a season unlike any other Monday with a series of changes, starting with the British Open being canceled for the first time since 1945. The PGA Championship, which last year moved to May, would go back to August. That would be followed by the PGA Tour's postseason, the U.S. Open and Ryder Cup in consecutive weeks, and then the Masters on Nov. 12-15.

"Any Masters is better than no Masters," Augusta native Charles Howell III said.

Still to be determined was when – or even if – golf could resume because of the COVID-19 pandemic that has shut down sports worldwide.

Augusta National Chairman Fred Ridley said the Masters identified November as "intended dates." CEO Seth Waugh said the PGA of America was "holding" Aug. 6-9 as dates for the PGA Championship at Harding Park in San Francisco. USGA chief Mike Davis said moving from June to September was the best chance to mitigate health and safety concerns – Winged Foot is 5 miles from New Rochelle, New York, a virus hot spot – to have "the best opportunity" of staging the U.S. Open.

The British Open effectively is pushing its schedule back one year, saying the 149th Open still is set for Royal St. George's on July 15-18, leaving the 150th Open for St. Andrews the following year.

"I can assure everyone that we have explored every option for playing The Open this year, but it is not going to be possible," R&A chief Martin Slumbers said.

Golf's major organizations, starting with the PGA Tour and its calendar filled with tournaments, have been trying to piece together a puzzle for the last three weeks. Each agreed to announce their plans together in a show of collaboration.

Still missing is the starting line, along with some details on what could be the most hectic pace golf has ever known.

"We hope the anticipation of staging the Masters Tournament in the fall brings a moment of joy to the Augusta community and all those who love the sport," Ridley said. "We want to emphasize that our future plans are incumbent upon favorable counsel and direction from health officials."

Augusta National closed early this year because of the coronavirus and does not open until October. The bloom of dogwoods and azaleas will give way to fall foliage. Instead of being the second full week in April, it will compete against football.

"It feels like in these extraordinary times, we need to do extraordinary things," said Kevin Kisner, who grew up 20 miles away in Aiken, South Carolina. "We can sacrifice a little bit of our life being perfect."

The PGA Tour has tentatively planned to complete its FedEx Cup season close to schedule, with the Tour Championship finishing on Labor Day. It is contemplating putting tournaments in dates that previously belonged to the U.S. Open,

British Open and Olympics.

"It's a complex situation, and we want to balance the commitments to our various partners with playing opportunities for our members – while providing compelling competition to our fans," PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan said. "But all of that must be done while navigating the unprecedented global crisis that is impacting every single one of us."

The new schedule:

– Aug. 6-9: PGA Championship.  
– Aug. 13-16: End of PGA Tour regular season at Wyndham Championship.

– Aug. 20-23: Start of FedEx Cup playoffs at The Northern Trust.

– Aug. 27-30: BMW Championship, second playoff event.

– Sept. 4-7: Tour Championship for the FedEx Cup.

– Sept. 17-20: U.S. Open at Winged Foot.

– Sept. 25-27: Ryder Cup at Whistling Straits.

It was not immediately clear how the teams from Europe and the United States would be determined for the Ryder Cup, although European captain Pádraig Harrington has said he would not be opposed to picking all 12 players.

For the 24 players, that means going from what long has been regarded as the toughest test in golf to what has become the most tiresome three days in golf.

"It's definitely better than leaving the Tour Championship and going to France, or leaving the Bahamas to go to Australia," said Patrick Cantlay, referring to the Americans' most recent Ryder and Presidents cup itineraries.

Like everything else, so much remains up in the air until golf gets the signal to resume.

Gian Paolo Montali, the general director for the 2022 Ryder Cup, said on Italian radio Monday that officials faced a May deadline to postpone the Ryder Cup to odd-numbered years (as it was before the matches were postponed by the Sept. 11 attacks). He described the chances as 50-50. Montali also said players already have vetoed a Ryder Cup without its raucous fans.

Other details must be sorted out, such as U.S. Open qualifying. The next tournament on the PGA Tour schedule is Colonial on May 21-24, though that appears unlikely.

Ridley said every player who has received invitations to play the Masters in April will stay on the list. He said the Augusta National Women's Amateur was canceled, and every player can keep their spots for next year provided they don't turn pro.

The U.S. Senior Open at Newport Country Club in Rhode Island and the U.S. Senior Women's Open at Brooklawn Country Club in Connecticut have been canceled.

As for the British Open, Shane Lowry gets to keep the claret jug longer than anyone since Dick Burton, who won in 1939 at St. Andrews in the last Open before World War II. Burton went from "champion golfer of the year" to member of the Royal Air Force.

Lowry said in a video tweet he understood and supported the R&A's decision.

"You can trust me when I say the claret jug is going to be in safe hands for another year," Lowry said.

AP

## Swimming coaches affected by sporting events suspension

Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

SWIMMING coaches in Tanzania have confessed to being hit hard by sporting events' suspension because of the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic which has affected various countries around the world.

Tanzania Swimming Coaches Association (TSCA) chairperson Noel Kiushi yesterday said the pandemic has stopped them from training swimmers at various places and as a result many coaches are suffering.

He said TSCA has more than 100 registered members and almost half of them depend on the sport for their daily lives as they are paid after training sessions.

"This pandemic has presented a huge challenge to many people in the society, especially the swimming coaches who depend on training swimmers to bring food on their tables," he noted.

"Many coaches are paid after training swimmers, very few of them are employed by clubs or schools which offer swimming lessons," he said.

Coronavirus pandemic, which had claimed nearly 70 000 lives and registered more than 1.2 million cases globally, has halted sport activities worldwide.

During this time, many local sports associations have announced that they are closely following their athletes by among other things giving the latter exercises to do at their respective places.

However, Kiushi said TSCA does not have enough capacity to follow



Dares Salaam's Taliss-IST swimmer, Roos Nevelsteen, competes during a past event which took place in the city.

swimmers and the association has instead asked the swimmers to take safety measures while maintaining physical exercises.

"To be honest, this is a difficult period not only to coaches but also to swimmers themselves, I believe that, to keep themselves in shape the swimmers are doing some physical exercises at their respective homes," he disclosed.

"TSCA does not have capacity to follow them (swimmers) I'm sure those who belong to clubs are being followed by their clubs. I'm advising those who have the privilege of hiring a coach to do

so," he said.

Meanwhile, Ramadhan Namkoveka, who was training the Paralympic swimmers who were preparing to compete at various Paralympic swimming series, yesterday said the World Paralympic Swimming Association has postponed the Berlin series which was scheduled for June 18-21.

He said two Paralympic swimmers Amos Boniface and Ahmed Khamis were earmarked to represent the country at the Berlin series.

The World Para Swimming

Association has communicated to us, Tanzania Paralympic Committee (TPC), that all world swimming series which were to be held this year as qualifiers for Tokyo Paralympics have been postponed to a date to be announced," he said.

Other series which were postponed as precautions measure to ensure stakeholders are not at risk are Sao Paulo Series, which had been for March 24-26, Sheffield Swimming Series which was slated for this week and the Indianapolis which was scheduled for April 16-18.

## Celebrities reveal new sides during virus, but face backlash

By MARK KENNEDY

PORTIA de Rossi has been teaching herself how to cook during the coronavirus lockdown. It's been an eye-opening experience for the actress – and for her fans.

She's cut herself and been burned, yes. She's also discovered she doesn't like some Indian flavors and that her longtime wife, talk show host Ellen Degeneres, isn't a fan of curry and garbanzo beans.

"We're learning a lot about each other in quarantine!" she admits on Instagram.

We are indeed learning a lot about each other these days, and that's especially true with our celebrities. Social distancing has meant they have no army of publicists or glam squad. They're bored and unfiltered – and often incredibly relatable.

Cardi B recently inexplicably ran headfirst into a massive Jenga tower and a daffy Madonna sang her hit "Vogue" into a hairbrush but changed the lyrics to include fried fish. Hillary Swank learned to crochet – and now has a new knit hat to prove it. Ariana Grande showed off her natural hair and Marlee Matlin put on her old wedding dress. "I'm losing my mind but what else is there to do?" she wrote.

Stuck inside, Justin Bieber reverted to a childhood objective. Clad in a onesie and a winter hat, the singer attempted a round of "The Floor Is Lava" in his massive living room, leaping onto cushions, chairs, foot stools, two skateboard and a roller. The video has been seen over 9 million times.

"I think now people need the human touch even more, and I think celebrities really understand that," says Neal Schaffer, a social media strategy consultant whose new book is "The Age of Influence." "People want to relate to real things, real people."

While some influencers and stars continue to post a flood of flattering, carefully stage-managed images with every hair in place, others are indeed mirroring us – unshaven, unwashed and not ashamed.

"When I drink, I get really, really brilliant ideas," the singer Pink confessed recently. "And last night, I got an idea – I can cut hair." She then reveals some choppy, shaved spots on her head.

Celebrities, it turns out, really are just like us: They get drunk and do stupid stuff, too. And they're like us in another way, too: Pink later announced that she also had contracted the virus.

The coronavirus has also unlocked places we never expected to go, like



In this Jan. 28, 2018, file photo, Pink performs "Wild Hearts Can't Be Broken" at the 60th annual Grammy Awards at Madison Square Garden in New York. (AP File)

Selena Gomez's bathroom and inside Broadway star Adrienne Warren's bathtub. We've gotten to inspect Rosie O'Donnell's messy garage/art studio.

Theater icon Patti LuPone was taking part in a livestreamed benefit led by O'Donnell when theater fans grew enchanted by something they'd never seen before: LuPone's cool basement. They could see a colorful, light-up vintage jukebox and a wall rack stacked with cassette tapes.

So LuPone leaned into the interest, later making little video tours on Twitter that include her subterranean one-armed bandit, a massage table, mementos, her desk and a pinball machine. "I have so much to show you," she says.

Yuval Ben-Itzhak, the CEO of Socialbakers, a social media marketing company, has noticed the trend and encourages it. He suspects fans will reward the more honest of celebrities at the other end of this crisis.

"By giving their audience a glimpse into their lives – from showing their homes, their families or themselves looking casual, like people typically do at home – celebrities are likely to actually increase their engagement," Ben-Itzhak says. "Users seem to really engage with natural, authentic-looking content, especially right now. It gives a feeling of 'We're all in this together.'"

We may be all in this together, but

we're not equal. After all, celebs may be just like us, except they're usually much richer. The new intimate view we have of the famous reveals a chasm: Bieber's living room is large enough to fit several regular living rooms. Not everyone can self-isolate on a yacht.

A few weeks into the virus' onslaught in America, some commentators had soured on the shenanigans of celebrities. "I don't care what celebs are doing in their mansions," one wrote on Instagram. Another posted a warning: "Funny how irrelevant they become when real problems curse us."

The first real sign that celebrity exposure was curdling was when "Wonder Woman" star Gal Gadot led a sing-along of "Imagine" with such stars as James Marsden, Zoe Kravitz, Amy Adams and Mark Ruffalo. Pushback came quickly, with some commentators calling it "cringeworthy" and "out of touch." They asked for donations, not songs.

Akshaya Sreenivasan, a social media marketing expert at Texas A&M University's Mays Business School, says as the COVID-19 crisis drags on, celebrities are bound to face more online hate.

"Even Oprah is not going to be immune," she says. "The big guys in Hollywood are going to be shredded to pieces, especially if they continue to post on Instagram, 'Oh my God, I'm so bored. I'm drinking martinis

in my private pool."

Sreenivasan anticipates some celebs will lose followers if they continue posting without sensitivity to the losses outside their mansions. And she thinks many will open their wallets to compensate for all the years of Instagram glam. "They need to do something to protect that brand," she says.

There's also danger if celebrities unthinkingly choose to profit off the virus. Social media experts warn that this may not be the time to be pushing products for gain.

Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson walks toward that line when he relentlessly floods his Instagram account to highlight and hype the brand of tequila he owns.

"You really need to be sensitive to your audience, and you need to be very careful if you want to walk that line," says Schaffer. "It is a dangerous subject. A celebrity is only as good as their community. It can work against them as quickly as it works for them."

Despite this new and unvarnished look at celebs and the pushback it has triggered, Sreenivasan is skeptical that anything will really change once normal life resumes.

"We've had this conversation forever," she says. "We're going to move on until the next problem comes, and we'll have this inequality conversation again."

AP

## Chinese football agonises over wage cuts in face of coronavirus

SHANGHAI

CHINESE Super League (CSL) players were under growing pressure Tuesday to take a pay cut in line with the likes of Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo, as coronavirus hits football hard.

The CSL has some of the best-paid coaches and players in the world with Shanghai SIPG's Brazilian attacking midfielder Oscar reportedly earning nearly \$30 million a year.

However, while many CSL players have donated masks and other equipment in the fight against the pandemic, which has caused all football to stop, there is no unified response.

The CSL season was supposed to begin on February 22 but was indefinitely postponed because of the outbreak, which began in China in December before spreading worldwide.

The campaign is unlikely to begin before late May at the earliest even though China says that the number of locally transmitted infections and deaths has dwindled.

State-run Xinhua news agency published a lengthy article debating whether CSL clubs should follow Messi's Barcelona and Ronaldo's Juventus in temporarily cutting salaries by as much as 70 percent.

Bayern Munich's players have also agreed to take a pay cut, as have those at other clubs in the Bundesliga, while a similar argument is raging in the English Premier League.

A video conference involving CSL clubs on Thursday will likely see salary cuts discussed, the Beijing News said.

Other media went further, saying

that a salary reduction will definitely be broached in Chinese Football Association (CFA) talks this week.

Xinhua cited online polls of fans showing that the overwhelming majority – in one instance 90 percent of respondents – were in favour of a pay cut.

But it noted that some fans are against reducing salaries because, unlike in suspended European leagues, CSL teams are already in training for the new season even though it has no start date.

Xinhua quoted one CSL club as being "inclined to cut pay" but is awaiting guidance from the CFA and FIFA.

"All clubs are watching, the problem is that no one wants to be the first," the news agency cited another as saying.

An opinion piece in the Oriental Sports Daily argued that with almost all industries badly affected by coronavirus, it was unfair to single out footballers.

"Many people (in China) are very resentful of Chinese football, saying that these people have taken so much money... and should use their salaries to pay more to scientists and doctors, but this is a misunderstanding," wrote Ge Aiping.

"I haven't seen any news of a Chinese Super League player who proposed a voluntary pay cut.

"(But) money is not easy to earn and if you want to give it out, you really need to struggle with yourself."

Chinese football sprang to prominence in recent years by dishing out world-leading wages to foreign players and coaches, but the CFA has since reined in spending.

AFP

## FIFA bribe allegations raise more questions over Qatar World Cup

By Simon Evans

THE 2022 World Cup in Qatar, the only major scheduled football event left unchanged after this year's calendar was wrecked by the coronavirus, has become the focus of fresh FIFA corruption allegations after the release of a new U.S. Department of Justice indictment.

Suspicion and rumours have long surrounded the 2010 vote by FIFA's executive to hand the 2018 World Cup to Russia and the 2022 tournament to Qatar. But on Monday, for the first time, prosecutors set direct, formal allegations down in print.

According to the prosecutors, representatives working for Russia and Qatar bribed FIFA executive committee officials to swing votes in the crucial decision of world football's governing body.

FIFA did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Although FIFA have responded to previous media allegations about the Qatar bid process by insisting the tournament will be unaffected, the U.S. allegations will lead to further questions over the hosting of the competition, which is scheduled for November and December of 2022.

The allegations made by the Department of Justice are that then FIFA vice-president Jack Warner was paid \$5 million through various shell companies to vote for Russia to host the 2018 World Cup.

Warner has been accused of a number of crimes in the long-running U.S. probe, and he is fighting extradition from his homeland of Trinidad and Tobago. Warner, who was not immediately reachable for comment, has always denied any wrongdoing.

The indictment also states that the three South American members of FIFA's 2010 executive

Brazil's Ricardo Teixeira, the late Nicolás Leoz of Paraguay and an unnamed co-conspirator - took bribes to vote for Qatar to host the 2022 tournament.

"Ricardo Teixeira, Nicolás Leoz and co-conspirator #1 were offered and received bribe payments in exchange for their votes in favour of Qatar to host the 2022 World Cup."

Qatar and Russia's World Cup bids have always denied paying bribes. Qatari organisers did not provide immediate comment when contacted by Reuters.

Alexei Sorokin, CEO of the local organizing committee for Russia's 2018 World Cup, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Asked if the Kremlin was aware of the U.S. indictment, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said: "We read the media reports. We don't understand what they refer to. Russia received the right to host the World Cup completely legally. It is in no way linked to any bribes. We reject this. And Russia hosted the best soccer World Cup in history, which we are proud of."

Teixeira was also not immediately reachable for comment.

The Qatar World Cup organizers have been fending off allegations of corruption ever since the tiny Gulf state was awarded the 2022 tournament.

In 2014, FIFA, then under the control of former President Sepp Blatter, cleared Russia and Qatar of wrongdoing in their bids to host the World Cup after an investigation.

Blatter was banned from football by FIFA along with scores of other officials following internal ethics investigations, promoted by the arrests of seven FIFA officials on U.S. corruption charges in Zurich in May 2015.

REUTERS

## US prosecutors allege bribes in 2018, 2022 World Cup votes

NEW YORK

PROSECUTORS revealed new details of alleged bribes paid to FIFA executive committee members to gain their votes for Qatar to host the 2022 World Cup and charged a pair of former 21st Century Fox executives with making illegal payments to win broadcast rights for the 2018 and 2022 tournaments.

An indictment unsealed Monday in U.S. District Court in Brooklyn says Nicolás Leoz, then president of the South American governing body CONMEBOL, and former Brazil federation president Ricardo Teixeira received bribes to vote for Qatar at the 2010 FIFA executive committee meeting.

Jack Warner of Trinidad and Tobago, president of the North and Central American and Caribbean governing body CONCACAF, received \$5 million in bribes to vote for Russia to host in 2018 from 10 different shell companies that included entities in Anguilla, Cyprus and the British Virgin Islands, the indictment alleged. Guatemala federation president Rafael Salguero was promised a \$1 million bribe to vote for Russia, according to the indictment.

Leoz, who died last August, avoided extradition, as have Warner and Teixeira. Salguero pleaded guilty in 2018 to two counts of wire fraud conspiracy and one count each of racketeering conspiracy and money laundering conspiracy.

Alejandro Burzaco, former head of the marketing company Torneos y Competencias, testified in 2017 that all three South Americans on the FIFA executive committee took million-dollar bribes to support Qatar, which prevailed over the U.S. 14-8.

Former 21st Century Fox Inc. executives Hernan Lopez and Carlos Martinez were charged Monday with making payments to CONMEBOL officials to obtain broadcast rights bidding information from a co-conspirator whose identity was not identified in the indictment.

ESPN had U.S. English-language television rights to the World Cup from 1994-2014, but Fox in 2011 gained the rights for the 2018 and 2022 tournaments. After the 2022 tournament in Qatar was shifted from summer to late autumn, a time when it is likely to get less attention in the U.S., FIFA awarded Fox rights for 2026 without competitive bidding.

Also charged in the indictment, handed up by a grand jury on March 18, are former Imagina Media Audiovisual CEO Gerard Romy; and the Uruguayan sports marketing company Full Play Group SA.

The indictment includes charges of wire fraud and



An indictment unsealed in New York on Monday detailed corruption allegations around the 2010 vote for 2018 and 2022 World Cups (AFP Photo)

money laundering. The charges against Romy and Full Play also allege racketeering conspiracy.

"The profiteering and bribery in international soccer have been deep-seated and commonly known practices for decades," William F. Sweeney Jr., assistant director in charge of the FBI's New York field office, said in a statement.

"Over a period of many years, the defendants and their co-conspirators corrupted the governance and business of international soccer with bribes and kickbacks, and engaged in criminal fraudulent schemes that caused significant harm to the sport of soccer. Their schemes included the use of shell companies, sham consulting contracts and other concealment methods to disguise the bribes and kickback payments and make them appear legitimate."

Since the first indictments were announced in May 2015, there have been 26 publicly announced guilty pleas, many from former soccer officials, including CONCACAF general secretary Chuck Blazer.

CONMEBOL president Juan Ángel Napout and Brazil federation president José Maria Marin were convicted following trials. Napout is in prison in Florida and Marin was released from a prison last week. Some individuals await sentencing.

Lopez was CEO of Fox International Channels, a 21st Century Fox subsidiary, and Martinez was president of Fox International Channels and an executive of Fox Latin American Channel Inc. They are accused of joining with Full Play to pay million of dollars in bribes to CONMEBOL executives in exchange for rights to the Copa Libertadores, South America's annual club

championship.

"It's shocking that the government would bring such a thin case," Lopez's lawyer, Matthew D. Umhofer, said in an email. "The indictment contains nothing more than single paragraph about Mr. Lopez that alleges nothing remotely improper. Mr. Lopez can't wait to defend himself at trial."

Steven J. McCool, Martinez's attorney, said in an email: "We are certain a jury will swiftly exonerate Carlos, as the charges against him are nothing more than stale fiction."

Carlos Ortiz said Full Play intends to plead not guilty at Thursday's arraignment and his client "looks forward to vigorously defending itself against all of the charges at trial."

Romy's lawyer, Robert J. Giuffra Jr., declined comment. Fox Corp. also declined comment.

AP

## As Bundesliga clubs resume training, a debate over fairness and fitness

BERLIN

WITH the top clubs in the Bundesliga already back in training, envious rivals across Europe are watching to see whether the Germans gain an edge or pay a price when play resumes.

Europe's top leagues are desperate to return to competition to avert financial disaster due to the coronavirus pandemic, but if they move too fast they could risk injuring their players. Moving too slow also comes at a cost.

In addition to the injury worry, when to resume training presents a problem of fairness, if some clubs can resume sooner than others it could distort competition and produce "crazy" results.

The issue has come up in Germany where, in line with an earlier recommendation by the German football league, Bundesliga leaders Bayern Munich and second-place Borussia Dortmund and a raft of other clubs resumed training in small groups on Monday. The Bundesliga hopes to return in early May, having ground to a halt in mid-March.

"We have to combine two central goals, namely to keep the players in a very good condition and at the same time avoid possible infections", Martin Przdonziono, the Paderborn sports director, told SID, AFP's German subsidiary.

RB Leipzig had continued with non-contact training throughout and Augsburg resumed on March 23. By Monday, only Freiburg and Werder Bremen of the Bundesliga clubs had not resumed.

Werder Bremen coach Florian Kohfeldt, unable to train his squad because of local regulations, told SID he was worried about "distortion of competition".

In an interview published on Friday, Carlo Ancelotti, the veteran Italian manager, now in charge at Everton, emphasised that point.

"One of the important things is that all the clubs resume training at the same time, that there are no disparities, that no one has an advantage over the others," the 60-year-old Italian told L'Equipe.

Coach Julian Nagelsmann of Dortmund is already putting his players through their paces.

"My players haven't lost too much fitness," Nagelsmann said. "They'll be back in shape in a week and a half or two."

The question of how long players need to safely regain match fitness will face all of Europe's top clubs after the unprecedented mid-season interruption.

"It depends on how long they are confined," Spanish coach Juanjo Del Ojo, a fitness trainer at Monaco in French Ligue 1, told AFP.

"If it lasts five or six weeks, we would need a minimum of three weeks before we can return to the competition with certainty and reduce the risk of injury."

- 'Really weird' -

Xavier Frezza, an independent coach who works with French professional footballers, told AFP "players have never experienced this in their entire lives."

"A pro player only has a three- to four-week break in the summer, and many of them still do a few things," he added.



Bayern Munich's players resumed training with restrictions (AFP Photo)

"Two months is going to be really weird for them."

"Some studies have shown a correlation between the number of full training sessions before resuming competition and a reduction in injuries," he said.

For the players, self-discipline during the lockdown will play a big role.

Those who have kept in shape and avoided weight gain will come back much better than those who have not.

That explains why Bayern Munich introduced compulsory group training by video conference from the first day of confinement, maintaining a rhythm and team peer pressure.

The risks are all the greater as any resumption will bear no resemblance to the pre-season, when the pace picks up gradually. The clubs will have to complete the high-pressure part of the season playing twice a week at home and in Europe.

- 'A big difference' -

This raises the question of whether clubs that start training first will have an advantage over those that have been confined for longer.

"A week's difference, when you don't

even have three weeks of preparation, physically and technically it can make a big difference," said Frezza.

Former Borussia Dortmund captain Sebastian Kehl suspects some "crazy" results if and when the league resumes after the forced hiatus.

"My guess is that the results will be more unpredictable, there will be movement in the table with the odd surprise or two," the 40-year-old, part of Dortmund's management team, told Monday's edition of German magazine Kicker.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



# SPORT

**US prosecutors allege bribes  
in 2018, 2022 World Cup votes**

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Juma Mgunda

## Kigamboni to host life saving and diving course for girls

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

DAR ES SALAAM-based Kimimba Swimming Promotions (KSP) has said plans are underway to host life saving and diving course for the city's secondary school girls set to take place in Kigamboni.

Geoffrey Kimimba, KSP founder, said the course is targeting 600 Form Three girls who are based in Dar es Salaam and depending on the status of Coronavirus pandemic in the country, the firm has planned to host it in June.

The course's instructor is former swimmer Agnes Kimimba, one of officials at KSP which offers basic and intermediate courses in life saving skills, swimming and diving skills.

Kimimba said if by June the government will not lift ban on gatherings, KSP has options which include postponing the course to another time, or depending on recommendations and advice from the government to train the 600 girls in three groups of 200 each for two weekends.

He said the aim of the course is to train secondary school girls on life saving and diving lessons.

He added they believe by training women at the tender age the country can benefit a lot from the project.

Other KSP aims are educating the community and bring awareness in life saving skills, promoting, and being an agency and participators of swimming.

The firm is also responsible for planning and marketing regular swimming events for different groups' categories and acting as legal representatives (hence agent) for professional sports figures such as athletes and coaches.

KSP aims also include procuring and negotiating employments and endorsement contracts for the athletes and coaches or any other professional figures in water sports industry activities, and providing the opportunity for the young boys and girls to be inventive and creative in water sports activities.

The firm further aims at participating in designing water sports or activities including publicizing, promoting and organizing events, providing an outlet for advanced participation and competition in water sports.

Dealing with all aspects of swimming industry clients' finances from investments to all aspects of financial management and identifying barriers and challenges facing water sports promotion in various communities are also in the list of the firm's targets.

Kimimba said the KSP also helps in securing funds, facilities and equipment necessary to main activities of water sports, developing water sports and promoting individual/ team/ group sport skills local and international by developing the interest in all competitive levels and adhering to all national and international cross cutting issues such as HIV/AIDS and others.

He disclosed that they are looking for 10m/- to successfully host the event, the money will be used to purchase training equipment, allowances for instructors and other expenses.



Luc Eymael

## Yanga deny reports of coach Luc Eymael being stranded

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YOUNG Africans SC (Yanga) have moved to scuttle reports that their head coach Luc Eymael is stranded in Belgium due to the club failure to issue him with a flight ticket back to Dar es Salaam.

On Saturday, Eymael tweeted that he was still waiting for return ticket back to Tanzania.

The tweet was widely shared in social media with many soccer supporters claiming the club had failed to organize the coach's return back to the country and he might not return to continue with his work.

"Still waiting for return tickets," Eymael tweeted in a reply to a tweet by the club's assistant and fitness coach, Riedoh Berhadien.

The Belgian coach, who replaced Charles Boniface Mkwana in early January, further explained that he is waiting for his flight ticket in Belgium due to restricted flights in and out of the country due to a lockdown related to Coronavirus outbreak.

"Waiting for our return ticket because of the virus and dates change... so waiting for a good solution to come back. Now it is clear," he added a second tweet.

With the Mainland Premier League on a break due to the outbreak of Coronavirus disease, Eymael was granted leave to sort out family related issues in Belgium.

The club's information officer, Hassan Bumbuli, clarified that the coach is not stranded for lack of flight tickets but rather like many people in his situation, he has to wait till the Coronavirus pandemic situation has been sorted.

He added the club can only arrange for

the coach's logistics after the government has issued a final directive on coronavirus pandemic that necessitated the suspension of all sports activities in the country for one month.

"Itineraries to get the players and coaches to report to camp will be done when the Coronavirus issue has eased," the official disclosed.

"The coach is not in a unique situation, we have many similar cases of foreigners not being able to travel back to Tanzania. (Foreign players) Meddie Kagere, Francis Kahata, Eldin Shiboub are facing the same logistical challenges," said Bumbuli when quizzed.

Bumbuli added that Yanga's technical team gave players a program to adhere to and which is under the club's fitness coach.

"There is a program the club gave each and every player, they are following it right under the guidance of the fitness coach."

## Mgunda calm about Coastal Union contract

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

COASTAL Union head coach Juma Mgunda has dismissed as rumours words doing rounds that he is headed for the exit from the Mainland Premier League outfit.

Mgunda said he is comfortable at the 1988 Mainland Premier League champions and does not have plans to leave as it is being reported by a section of the media.

He insisted he is not concerned about his contract situation which is now inside the final 12 months of his current deal and has led the club into the top six of the league table.

While talking about his future, Mgunda kept his cards on the chest, saying he is happy at the moment and it would be inappropriate to discuss his future while he is still under contract.

"I am at Coastal Union and my contract indicates that I am a Coastal Union coach and so, I am happy at the club," he noted.

"I'm more than happy with our situation at the moment. If the day comes when a contract is discussed, I'll think about it then," he said.

"There's no rush, as the important thing is to continue with the good work, then we can talk it over during an appropriate time," he added.

He hailed the club leadership for setting up a good working relationship that has helped the team post good results since they got promoted back to the topflight in 2018/19 season.

"I'm very happy with the support I get from Coastal Union leaders, I am happy to work with the available players. I love my players and I enjoy working with them. I do appreciate the fans' support. I'm happy with everything at the moment," he said.

Coastal Union are one of the traditional clubs in Tanzania that enjoyed success in the 1980s and early 1990s.

The club had excelled with renowned players such as Idrissa Ngu-lungu, Kassa Musa, Hussein Mwakuruzo, Said Kolongo, Razack Yussuf 'Careca', Yassin Abuu Napili, Ally Mumba and Mgunda leading them to win the top honour in the domestic top flight, which was then termed as First Division League, in 1988.

Following the departure of the class of 1988, however, Coastal Union struggled financially, and endured relegation to the present First Division League (FDL) on several occasions.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko



"I'm very happy with the support I get from Coastal Union leaders, I am happy to work with the available players. I love my players and I enjoy working with them. I do appreciate the fans' support. I'm happy with everything at the moment"

**TONIGHT @ 7:00**

**EATV WEDNESDAY**

11:00 DADAZ LIVE  
12:00 Weekend Movie (r)  
13:30 Kali Za Wana  
14:00 Planet Bongo (r)  
14:30 Bongo Hits  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Nirvana (r)  
16:00 Skonga (r)  
16:30 #HASHTAG  
17:00 SSELEKT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 eNewz  
18:30 Music/Saap  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
19:45 MJADALA  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 Kiblashara Zaidi

**EATV SAA 1**  
Coverage of the days current events accompanied by interviews with prominent people on diverse topics ranging from national to social interests.

**eastafrika RADIO**

06:00 Supa Breakfast  
10:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
20:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

**88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM**