



National Pg 4
'Pemba salt penetrates world markets'

National Pg 6
Costech announces \$4.75m Covid-19 fund

National Pg 7
Moro police recover churches' stolen properties



Students of Moshi-based Mwenge Catholic University line up at the university's main gate yesterday ready to undergo body temperature screening as a precaution against the spread of Covid-19 infections - and only thereafter resume classes. The government has given universities, colleges and secondary schools (Form VI students only) the green light to resume classes after weeks of closure induced by the pandemic. Another photo on Page 2. Photo: Godfrey Mushi



Covid-19 potency weaker, top Italian doctor now affirms

ROME

THE new coronavirus is losing its potency and has become much less lethal, a senior Italian doctor has said.

"In reality, the virus clinically no longer exists in Italy," said Alberto Zangrillo, the head of the San Raffaele Hospital in Milan in the northern region of Lombardy, which has borne the brunt of Italy's coronavirus contagion.

"The swabs that were performed over the last 10 days showed a viral load in quantitative terms that was absolutely infinitesimal compared to the ones carried out a month or two months ago," he told RAI television.

Italy has the third highest death toll in the world from COVID-19, with 33,415 people dying since the outbreak came to light on Feb. 21. It has the sixth highest global tally of cases at 233,019.

However new infections and fatalities have fallen steadily in May and the country is unwinding some of the most rigid lockdown restrictions introduced anywhere on the continent.

Zangrillo said some experts were too alarmist about the prospect of a second wave of infections and politicians needed to take into account the new reality.

"We've got to get back to being a normal

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Reopening: Varsities halfway with Form VI mostly in place

Number per class is half of original pattern

By Guardian Reporters

UNIVERSITY students in Dodoma and Morogoro regions yesterday started to report to the colleges with key precautions against Covid-19 being intensively observed.

To curb the possibility of spreading the disease, all students were required to wear face masks and undergo body temperature screening.

A random survey by 'The Guardian' in various universities witnessed the majority of the students wearing face masks as well as disinfecting their hands using sanitizers or water and soap before entering college premises.

This reporter visited Dodoma Secondary School, St. John University of Tanzania (SJUT), the University of Dodoma (UDOM), Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), Mzumbe University and the College of Business Education (CBE) Dodoma campus.

Some of the students commended the government for energetically battling the spread

of Covid-19, enabling the colleges to reopen.

"I am satisfied with preparations and preventive measures taken by the university authorities. It is our hope that it will all be well as we continue observing protocols of hygiene," said Juma Abubakari of St. John University.

At Dodoma Secondary School, all 214 form six students had reported and commenced studies as they prepare for the National Examination starting end of this month.

The school second-mistress, Ester Simchimba said they have installed all the necessary equipment to ensure hygiene, to protect both students and teachers from contracting the deadly disease.

"We are also implementing the guidelines issued by the ministry, which instruct that students observe social distancing while in class. We have rearranged the classes where a single room accommodates just 38 students at present," she elaborated.

Previously each class had 71 students, she

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PM urges sisal reviving beyond north-east zone

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa yesterday assured sisal framers of recovery and possession of their properties, saying the government will ensure no one is victimized.

"Repossession of farmers' properties will be done in the same manner we returned properties belonging to the Tanzania Sisal Board. We will not victimize anyone in the process which starts today," he stated, inaugurating a new sisal board building in Tanga.

He told the audience of the government's decision to confirm TSB as a full board, playing a higher role in regulating the sub-sector.

Majaliwa reiterated the government's intention to restore the cash crop, calling upon framers especially those in Tanga Region to mobilize themselves in view of the current revival efforts of sisal farms.

"Sisal is money; local authorities should

prepare seedbeds for germination of seedlings which will be distributed to farmers for free. The government is keen to provide you with the necessary support such as quality seeds and extension services," he directed.

Small and middle scale farmers in every region with areas having fertile soil that suits the crop need to embark on its cultivation, he said.

Majaliwa tasked TSB to identify farms that should be returned to farmers for sisal cultivation as well as idle forest areas in the districts so that the Lands ministry advises the president to distribute those areas to the people.

The government has consulted various stakeholders in financial institutions and put in place procedures that will enable small scale farmers to access agricultural loans, he said.

"Sisal is important in the country as it benefits farmers at all levels. Sisal is the economy of people in Tanga Region. It has so far helped in

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BoT merging struggling TIB with Tanzania Postal Bank Plc

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

FINANCIAL sector consolidation has moved a step further as the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) merges TIB Corporate Ltd with TPB Bank Plc, so as to improve performance of the two financial institutions.

Addressing reporters here yesterday, Treasury Registrar Athumani Mbutuka said that merging of the two banks is a continuation of measures being carried out by BoT to ensure prosperity of TPB Bank Plc.

Mbutuka assured the 142 workers of the former TIB Corporate Ltd that the central bank measures will not affect their jobs.

"The merging of institutions with similar roles including banks is done for purposes of increasing efficiency and reduction of operational costs," he said, elaborating that all the seven branches of TIB Corporate, assets and liabilities have been acquired by TPB Bank Plc.

He said the government's decision is aimed at enhancing performance of public owned banks to ensure they are financially sound, sustainable financial institutions and capable of effectively and efficiently serving a wide range of customers.

Merging of banks also aims at bringing about

major reforms in their operating systems, structures and corporate image, with a view of enhancing their competitive ability amongst commercial banks in the market, he affirmed.

"We will continue ensuring consistent performance of financial institutions especially banks, while protecting the interests of customers and depositors in accordance with applicable laws and regulations," he declared.

Customers of the two banks will continue to be served at their respective branches until further notice, he stated.

Mbutuka assured customers and the general public that banking services will not be affected due to the changes.

TPB Bank Plc Chief Executive Officer, Sabasaba Moshingi said that with the merger TPB assets will reach over Itrn/-.

"Prior to today's official announcement of the merger, TPB recorded an increment in total deposits to reach 743bn/- from 449bn/- earlier," he specified.

Before the merger total assets by TPB Bank Plc amounted to 657bn/-, in which case its total assets are now well over Itrn/-, he said.

The central bank was encouraged by TPB's financial performance and decided to merge it with troubled commercial banks, he

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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.



03/11/2020

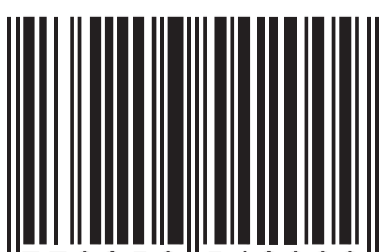
FACT 5 You can help stop COVID-19 by knowing the signs and symptoms:

- Fever
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath
- Seek medical advice if you
- Develop symptoms

AND

- Have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.

cdc.gov/COVID-19



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PM urges sisal reviving beyond north-east zone

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improving the welfare of many people. The cash crop was previously cultivated in 12 regions but it is now cultivated in just four regions," he pointed out.

He said Tanzania was among leading sisal producers in the world in the 1960s with more than 235,000 tonnes annually. During the time sisal demand in world markets stood at 550,000 tonnes, he surprised the gathering.

Authorities in regions previously cultivating the crop need to revive its cultivation, he said, urging regional authorities to use all sorts of media outlets to sensitize farmers to engage in commercial framing of the crop.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture Omar Mgumba used the occasion to thank the premier for his great efforts in the supervision of the agricultural sector including the revival of sisal cultivation.

Ummu Mwalimu, the minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, commended the premier for his management of the development agenda in Tanga Region.

Earlier, Lushoto MP Rashidi Shangazi said the fifth phase government led by President John Magufuli is doing a great job in returning sisal farms to the people.

Regional commissioners of Coast,

Morogoro and Kilimanjaro regions lauded the government for reviving the sisal crop, urging the Ministry of Agriculture to work with stakeholders in assisting farmers to develop the crop.

The sisal industry in Tanzania employed over 100,000 people in the past, then having a total population of around ten million people. Tonnage slipped to 40,000 tonnes annually during the 1970s to the 1980s.

In August 2019, the government annulled the possession of 15,738 hectares of sisal plantations held by a private investor as he had failed to observe conditions that he develops the farms.

In August 2017, President John Magufuli had ordered repossession of all farms that have remained idle for a long time.



The government is keen to provide you with the necessary support such as quality seeds and extension services



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa, who is on an official tour of Tanga Region, inaugurates a repossessed Tanzania Sisal Board building in Tanga city yesterday - witnessed by Agriculture deputy minister Omar Mgumba (R) and Tanga regional commissioner Martine Shigella (2nd-R). Photo: Correspondent Oscar Kasimiri

Reopening: Varsities halfway with Form VI mostly in place

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specified.

UDOM Vice Chancellor, Prof Faustin Bee said that until yesterday morning a total of 12,533 students (42 percent) had reported and registered.

Addressing reporters, the VC said registration will continue until Friday June 5.

Dodoma MP and Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliamentary Affairs,

Labour and Employment) Antony Mavunde donated Covid-19 personal protective equipment (PPE) in all private and public schools in the constituency.

The aim of the tools is to ensure that students study comfortably and stay safe throughout their stay in school, the legislator noted.

SUA Vice Chancellor Prof. Raphael Chibunda said the college has invested in the production of a variety foodstuffs with essential nutrients so as to ensure

that students and the surrounding communities get nutritional food to boost their immunity.

"The nutritional food will be sold to the students at low prices. We do not expect to instruct our students to carry ginger, lemon or oranges in their bags; we produce them ourselves," he asserted.

At Mzumbe University, Rose Mdami, the acting head of the directorate of communication, said the university has taken a number of health

measures to ensure that all students stay safe.

"We have deployed enough health experts at our health centre to educate students and guests on Covid-19 preventive measures. They will also be responsible for monitoring students' health status," the acting director underlined.

Some students at CBE in Dodoma said the area has been well re-designed by putting all necessary equipment including hand washing buckets.

BoT merging struggling TIB with Tanzania Postal Bank

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explained.

In May 2018, the central bank merged TPB Bank Plc with the then Twiga Bancorp Ltd and the former Tanzania Women Bank (TWB) three months later.

Twiga Bancorp Ltd was put under statutory management of BoT on October 28th, 2016 following its being declared as undercapitalized.

Following the merger with TPB there shall remain one bank, pursuant to section 30 (I) of the Banking and Financial Institutions Act, 2006.



Classes for Form VI students resumed across Tanzania yesterday, with the government having declared an end to weeks of closure induced by the spread of Covid-19 infections. Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph caught up with Dodoma Secondary School teacher William Tungaraja in business with his students - all in face masks, as instructed

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country," he said, adding: "Someone has to take responsibility for terrorizing the country."

The government urged caution, saying it was far too soon to claim victory.

Sandra Zampa, an undersecretary at the health ministry, said in a statement that pending scientific evidence to support the thesis that the virus has disappeared, the ministry "would invite those who say they are sure of it

Covid-19 potency weaker, top Italian doctor now affirms

not to confuse Italians."

"We should instead invite Italians to maintain the maximum caution, maintain physical distancing, avoid large groups, frequently wash their hands and wear masks."

A second doctor from northern Italy told the national ANSA news agency that he was also seeing the coronavirus weaken.

"The strength the virus had two months ago is not the same strength

it has today," said Matteo Bassetti, head of the infectious diseases clinic at the San Martino hospital in the city of Genoa.

"It is clear that today the COVID-19 disease is different."

TVLA partners with EA firm in easing disease in Tanzanian cattle

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Tanzania Veterinary Laboratory Agency (TVLA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Breeding East Africa (ABEA) for the supply of Fluorescence Polarization Assay (FPA), a tool used in laboratories to diagnose Bucella abortus, an infection which causes reproductive problems in cattle.

Also known as Brucellosis, the viral disease causes problems such as abortions, stillbirth and infertility in most species of animals. Other signs can include arthritis in cows and pigs, mastitis and lameness in goats, and oozing skin lesions in horses.

Speaking during the signing ceremony on Monday, TVLA Chief Executive Officer Dr Furaha Mramba said the tool which is widely used globally for rapid tests releases results within a short period of time hence will help farmers who have been losing their livestock due to the disease.

"This is a boost to us because the tool helps scientists to easily determine samples of a livestock which has ever been immunized or not within a short period of time," she said.

Dr Mramba said this year alone 11,549 cattle samples were taken for tests and out of the number, 1,141 tested positive for the disease saying this was a clear sign that the disease was a threat to the livestock sector development in the country.

According to her, the tools will be distributed to the country's main veterinary laboratories including the central one which is based in Dar es Salaam.

She said already trials on using the device have been conducted for more than a year before resolving to have it used in the country.

The disease is endemic in many

geographical areas. Despite being controlled in a few developed countries, it is still a problem and a major economic burden globally.

Dr Mramba said the tool will rescue farmers who lose a number of their cattle due to the disease because early diagnosis leads to early actions, the tool will help early diagnosis of the deadly disease.

She added that the agency will now conduct tests for farmers at a cost of 2000/- instead of 5000/- charged before having the tools.

For his part the General Manager for (ABEA) Masele Masunga said the company deals with artificial insemination but Brucellosis disease has been the main setback.

"We decided to come up with FPA because currently it takes three to four days to have results of a single test, but at the same time the current testing system only takes blood samples with FPA we can even test milk samples," he said.



This is a boost to us because the tool helps scientists to easily determine samples of a livestock which has ever been immunized or not within a short period of time



Water ministry permanent secretary Prof Kitila Mkumbo (2nd-L) and Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (Dawasa) CEO Cyprian Luhemeja (2nd-R) display copies of documents on the handing over to Dawasa of the Water Main Store and 341 water projects, all previously under Dar es Salaam's municipal councils. The event was held in the city at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

IGP: We shall have peaceful elections

By Guardian Reporter

THE Inspector General of Police (IGP) Simon Sirro has said he will ensure this year's general elections are conducted in the atmosphere of peace and stability.

Speaking at different times to police personnel in Tabora and Singida regions, Sirro said the police force has a big responsibility in the elections.

The general elections are slated for the end of October this year and already preparations are in full swing by the National Electoral Commission (NEC) to prepare elections ethics endorsed by stakeholders and published in the government gazette.

"We are mobilising ourselves for the elections and every one must perform his duty, we shall ensure the polls are conducted peacefully, and those few intending to cause chaos will be dealt with in accordance with the country's laws," he added.

IGP Sirro called upon the police not to allow anyone to threaten Tanzanians with guns.

He also congratulated the police in Tabora Region for the good work and that God will bless them for making Tabora Region continue being calm due to their good work.

"In Tanzania we want news about

robbery at gun point to become past history, I went to Uganda where there is no news about guns, hence we should also reach a point and say no more," he said.

He added: "I call on you my fellow officers that we should not have mercy on such people and that is the only way for the Police Force that now marks 100 years of its existence to ensure Tabora residents live peacefully."

He also called on them not to bother people who abide by the laws but should be strict to those who do not want to follow the laws.

IGP remarks came only four months after President John Magufuli assured diplomats that the 2020 General Elections will be free, fair and transparent.

After the statement, the United States of America was encouraged by President Magufuli's assurance saying that the US welcomes an election where all the citizens and the candidates from all parties are able to gather peacefully, express their opinions and campaign on an equal basis.

"We are encouraged by President Magufuli's January 21 assurances that the 2020 elections will be free, fair and transparent and by his invitation to international election observers," said part of the statement.

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has classified initial crops that will be sold through the Warehouse Receipt system.

The crops include cashew nuts - that has proved to attain great success in the system, and simsim that will be sold through the system only in some areas of the country.

The Minister for Agriculture, Japhet Hasunga, announced the government's position when speaking in his office in Dodoma early this week and mentioned other crops to be sold via the system as green grams, cotton, grams and coffee that will use the system in some areas.

Hasunga said since its establishment, the warehouse receipt system has been of great success especially in southern regions in respect of the cashew nuts crop, but infused challenges in

Hasunga classifies crops to be sold through warehouse receipt system

areas where the basics for its establishment had not been fulfilled.

He said in order for the system to work successfully there must be Agricultural Marketing Cooperatives (AMCOS) that were established by the people themselves in the areas concerned.

He said the aim for these cooperatives is to collect crops and take them to main warehouses that has been registered and of quality standards.

He said another thing there must be a licensed warehouse operator recognised by the board of warehouses, and adequate education has to

be provided to the people on how to use the system and their participation in crops auctions' follow ups.

Hasunga stressed that in order for the system to work well there must be buyers, the system must be announced in public and

there should be enough consignment as well as quality crop to attract buyers.

He said the aim for the establishment of the warehouse receipt system

was to safeguard farmers' interests as the crops are collected, classified and fixing prices thereof assure of higher prices.

The system also enables a farmer to get loans

anywhere after he possesses a warehouse receipt when waiting for his crops to be sold at good prices.

The Warehouse Receipt system is administered by the Board of warehouses which is under the ministry of Industry and Trade hence in order to solve this challenge the government has shifted the board to the Ministry of Agriculture.

Hasunga has also directed to regional authorities that

in areas where there are no cooperatives established by the people themselves, no licensed warehouses and no recognized licensed warehouse operators, they should allow farmers to sell their crops freely in their areas.

He also called on crop buyers that for any crop consignment of over one tonne, local councils levies have to be paid according to the laws and regulations.

TENDER NOTICE

The Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia Dar es Salaam is inviting sealed Tender quotations from Registered Companies for the following:-

Cleaning garden fumigation and swimming pools.
US \$ 100 to review and read the rules brochure, as well as getting 1% of Bank guarantee from the applying proposals.

To fill and to stamp the papers tender to the Embassy. To go to the site to inspect the Tender. The date to submit the tender is 19th June 2020 from this advert.

For more information please contact the following numbers
+255 22 266 7833 / +255 22 266 8203 Ada estate plot
No. 44 Galu street. Email: tzemb@mofa.gov.sa

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Dar es Salaam announces that it is unable to locate the identification number stamps of the Embassy's Official Stamps with numbers 18051 and 1855.

The Embassy urges anyone who has information about the identification number stamps to contact the Embassy on 2111716.

DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION TO TANZANIA

CALL FOR TENDERS FOR SECURITY SERVICES

Reference number EEAS/DELTZAD/2020/CP N/0031
Contract notice 2020/S 100-238630 of 25/05/2020

The Delegation of the European Union to Tanzania has launched a call for tender for security services.

Please find under the link below all the information you need in order to participate:

<https://etendering.ted.europa.eu/cft/cft-display.html?cftid=6304>

POSTPONEMENT OF TANDAHIMBA COMMUNITY BANK (TACOBA) 6TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 2020

We regret to inform our shareholders that the Annual General Meeting which was scheduled to be held at Majaliwa Stadium in Tandahimba on the 20th June, 2020 has been postponed.

As a responsible institution, we join hands with our Government in fighting the spread of corona virus by ensuring that we comply with the safety measures including avoidance of mass gatherings.

In these challenging times, nothing is more important to us than the safety and wellbeing of our shareholders, customers, staff and society at large.

Further decisions regarding the rescheduled meeting or any other matter once made will be duly communicated to all stakeholders.

Should you have any questions, please contact the Management through +255 23 241 0093 or through email: info@tacobabank.co.tz

John Baptist Rugambo
John Baptist Rugambo
Company Secretary
28/05/2020

We wish to notify our esteemed customers and the general public that our Quality Banking Services are not affected in any way

TACOBA – OUR Bank for OUR Development

UN WOMEN
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

UN Women, grounded in the vision of equality enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, works for the elimination of discrimination against women and girls; the empowerment of women; and the achievement of equality between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of development, human rights, humanitarian action and peace and security.

UN Women Tanzania Country Office in Dar es Salaam is looking for a highly motivated, qualified and experienced Tanzanian male or female candidate to fill the following position:

Human Resources Associate

Application procedures:
Interested and qualified persons should visit the UNDP Job Shop on the following link: https://jobs.undp.org/cj_view_job.cfm?cur_job_id=91784 for detailed vacancy announcement and submission of applications **before 07th June 2020.**

Applications received through other means will not be accepted.

Additional considerations:

1. Acknowledgements will be sent only to shortlisted applicants.
2. UN Women as a matter of practice does not charge any application, processing or training fee at any stage of the recruitment.
3. This vacancy is open to Tanzania nationals only.

"UN Women is an equal opportunity employer which strives to achieve overall balance in its staffing patterns".



Livestock and Fisheries deputy minister Abdallah Ulega (C) pictured at the weekend presenting a dummy cheque for a 200m/- Tanzania Agriculture Development Bank loan to members of Ukerewe District's Bukasiga Fishing Cooperative Society. Photo: Correspondent Neema Emmanuel

Agro-bank gives 200m/- loan to fishing group in Ukerewe District

By Guardian Correspondent, Ukerewe

IN order to enable the country to attain middle economy status by 2025 through the industrial sector the Bukasiga Fisherman Association in Ukerewe District in Mwanza Region has been provided with 200m/- loan from the Tanzania Agricultural Bank (TADB).

The money will be used for the construction of ice making factory and equipment for drying sardines both aimed at adding value to fish products.

Speaking during the event to present the cheque to the Association, the Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Abdallah Ulega said in order to attain that goal, fishermen should work hard as there was no shortcut to development.

He said during its first years, the fifth phase government had placed robust strategies that ensured fishermen are trusted to be given loans from TADB.

"In five years since its establishment, TADB has provided more than 170b/- loans in the agricultural, livestock and fisheries sectors and for the first time since independence fishermen are now being trusted to receive loans and that fish is not a seasonal crop, but perennial," Ulega said.

He thus urged them to be patriotic and trustworthy in managing the funds they have been provided with and advised the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau in the district to advise association members over the need for honesty and not to wait until things start going wrong.

He added: "The government's

strategy is to establish cooperatives for livestock keepers and fishermen and in regard to fishermen the available statistics are fine but when you repay the loans I will be your advocate and persuade the TADB to give you more loans."

TADB Managing Director Japhet Justine said fishing is a very important sector in Lake Victoria as there is an abundance of fish and what is needed is to engage in modern fishing methods, in order to realise President John Magufuli's dreams.

He said the fishermen have succeeded to get the loan after the Livestock and Fisheries Ministry had ensured that the fishing methods would be modern. "We want an ice making factory and equipment for drying the sardines that has the capacity to preserve the fish up to one year... We are doing this to ensure our resources become beneficial as it is the period for competition hence the products' quality is important and TADB will never abandon you," Justine said.

The board chairman of Bukasiga Fisherman Association Erasto Majula said the association has 62 members and own three land plots for their fishing activities.

He said in one plot of one acre they will construct the ice making factory, another one will be for drying sardines, and the third will cater for offices and a shed for 22 houses to be used as fishermen's camp. "Our aim is to increase employment opportunities for our youth and women, add value to fish products and enhance their preservation capacity," Majula added.

'Pemba salt penetrates world markets'

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR Minister for Trade and Industry Amb Amina Salum Ali has said salt produced in Pemba has proved famous and attained great success in the markets of Europe and Canada.

Speaking in the Zanzibar House of Representatives, Amb Amina said that is good news for salt production dealers from Pemba in displaying their creativity at dressing up the product.

She said the salt that contains iodine has penetrated into the world market after it has been dressed up by adding various spices.

"I like to inform members of the House that already salt production in Pemba Island by Swahili Coast Salts has attained great success by penetrating into the European market," she said.

She lauded the creativity by Swahili Coast Salts under its investor Stepheinie

Said for displaying the capability in producing quality salt that has penetrated into the competitive world market.

She said her ministry's strategies are to strengthen the industrial investment sector from entrepreneurial to big industries in order to add to the GDP.

She said there are a total of seven industries established by indigenous entrepreneurs in the period of 2019-20 producing various products that have

entered the market.

"The Zanzibar government congratulates indigenous investors in the small industry sector which have also assisted in job creation," she said.

She said the government has allocated a total of 6.85bn/- through the Zanzibar Small and Medium Industry Development Agency (SMIDA) for industrial and entrepreneurial development.

Invest in industries using Tanzanian raw materials, pleads PS

By Guardian Correspondent, Bariadi

THE Permanent secretary in the Ministry of Industry and Trade Prof Riziki Shemdoe has urged Tanzanians to invest in the industrial sector that use locally sourced raw materials.

Prof Shemdoe was speaking in his one-day visit to factories in Simiyu region during which he and his entourage had an opportunity to inspect the new edible oil factory - Bugari Investment that is 100 percent owned by an indigenous Tanzanian.

Prof Shemdoe said the investor, Nkuba Bugari has displayed the importance of having targets in his undertakings.

"If you have set targets you can succeed to accomplish anything, hence I call upon other Tanzanians who can emulate his example to come here and learn," he said.

Bugari Investment Ltd factory was built at a cost of 2bn/- and will employ 65 Tanzanians including part and full time employees hence contributing to the government income through taxes.

He thanked the government in the region for cooperation to the investor to enable him accomplish his goals.

He also thanked financial institutions for their trust in him and extended loans that had enabled the construction of the factory.

The Bariadi District Commissioner Festo Kiswaga said Simiyu residents and those from neighbouring regions are now assured of the market for their sunflower crops.

He also called on Bariadi residents to continue cultivating sunflower to enable the factory get enough raw materials for edible oil production.

The factory's director Nkuba Bukari said the work on the project began in 2015 and is in the final stages of completion and will soon embark on edible oil production. He said the idea to build the factory was derived from President John Magufuli's call urging Tanzanians to establish factories.

He said the equipment installed in the factory have the capacity to process sunflower, groundnuts and cotton seeds, and added that they can process 48,000 tonnes of sunflower seeds.

He said their aim is to grab the internal market first and later export edible oil.



A traffic police officer at the scene of a collision involving a car and a motorcycle along Dar es Salaam's Lumumba Street, as found yesterday. There were no immediate reports of casualties. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Zanzibar bans fuel-powered chainsaws in tree harvesting

By Guardian Reporter, Unguja

A TOTAL of 77 fuel-powered chainsaws have been impounded in 246 patrols conducted by the Forestry Department in the Isles that were used in illegal tree-cutting.

This was revealed by the Zanzibar Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Natural resources and Fisheries Dr Makame Ussi when responding to various issues raised

by members of the Zanzibar House of Representatives on the effects to the environment from tree-cutting using fuel-powered chainsaws.

He said the chainsaws have been banned due to environmental destruction whereas fruit, coconut and mango are wantonly cut down for timber and charcoal use.

He said in the two year period more than 200 coconut trees were cut for use as timber and other to give room for construction of

human settlements.

"Hon Speaker, I would like to inform all the citizens that powered chainsaws have been banned due to the increase of the effects of environmental destruction including wanton tree cutting," he said.

He said as of now there are people who are invading farms during the night to cut coconut trees for timber.

"We have received complaints, there are people who invade farms during night

time to cut down coconut trees for timber... hence we are banning the use of powered chainsaws," he said.

He said the issue of banning the chainsaws is not debatable because there is a danger for the disappearance of some important trees for future generations.

"Some of such trees have slowly started disappearing due to their wanton cutting - they include tangerine, baobab and others," he added.



If you have set targets you can succeed to accomplish anything, hence I call upon other Tanzanians who can emulate his example to come here and learn

14bn/- worth water project to benefit 4,000 Magu residents

By Guardian Correspondent, Magu

THE French Development Bank in collaboration with the government is implementing clean and safe water project in Magu District, Mwanza Region that will cost 14bn/- upon completion.

This was revealed here yesterday by the chairman of Magu District Council Elisha Hilal when speaking to this paper on the project that is expected to be completed later this year.

"This project has been financed by the French Development bank and the Tanzania government and is expected

to serve 4,000 residents of Magu town and neighbouring wards," said Hilal.

Hilal said work on the project began in 2017 aimed to eliminate long time water woes among Magu residents and stressed that once in operation they should care for and protect its infrastructures.

The water for the project will be pumped from Lake Victoria which will make Magu residents realise their long time dreams in getting piped water.

He said in the event they are returned to their positions after this year's general elections, they will continue

working hard in implementing various development projects in the district. For many years, Magu residents have been struggling without having reliable supply of clean and safe water, the situation that has been forcing them to walk long distances in search of the precious liquid.

During critical time, a bucket of 20 liters is sold at 500/-, an amount which expensive for ordinary person who lives below a dollar per day. The situation that made some of the residents to rely on bore hole in the area, whose water was not safe for human consumption.



Ukerewe district executive director Esther Chaula (R) and district administrative secretary Focus Majumbi (2nd-R) pictured yesterday receiving from Vodacom Tanzania Lake Zone senior sales manager Victoria Chale (L) and Sukos Kova Foundation project manager Rahma Kova (2nd-L) beds, mattresses, fire-fighting equipment and life jackets worth 95m/- in total donated by Vodacom Tanzania Foundation. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Three officials for Sikonge District fired over abuse of power, others suspended

By Guardian Correspondent, Sikonge

THREE officials of the Sikonge District Council in Tabora Region have been fired and others suspended from job over misuse of power, embezzlement of funds and resources thus commissioning loss of the government's revenues.

Speaking at the ward councillors meeting here, Sikonge District Council chairman Peter Nzalalila said the servants have violated public service ethical rules and good governance.

He said that the authority has also issued warnings to several workers while others were demoted.

"We came up with the decision at the meeting of the District's Finance, Planning and Leadership Committee

which sat on May 18, this year. The meeting discussed and reached on the decision after interrogating the suspects to hear their stories," he said.

He named the fired servants as Jacob Chapaulinge (Ward Executive Officer-WEO), Donald Lyoba (Village Executive Officer, VEO) and Elia Kaugila (VEO).

Sabina Mhaya, a WEO at Ngoywa ward who had given warning and put under special supervision for six months with her salary being deducted by 15 percent for three months," he added.

Nzalalila also identified servants who have been suspended from job as Simon Nonga, Rashid Namalemba, Charles Kaswiza, Mipawa Kamuga and Nigangwa Baruga, all of them were drivers.

"The authority has also demoted two headteachers who are Baraka Lyandala and Mandi Ngulingi from Majojoro and Kiloleni Primary Schools respectively. Others include Mapambano Masota who was demoted from his position as acting headmaster of Kilumbi Secondary School," Nzalalila added.

The committee also gave warning to the district's education officer Suzana Makoye while suspending the Kiyombo VEO Wistone Ikanga.

For his part, acting District's Executive Director Tito Luchagula said that the punishments were aimed to change the bad working culture developed among the servants thus affecting development initiatives of the district.

Tanzanian recycling plant makes face shields using plastic bottles

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

A recycling plant in Dar es Salaam has traded paper for plastic bottles and started making anti-coronavirus face shields that are being snatched up by hospitals and health centres nationwide.

Until earlier this year, Zaidi Recyclers had a thriving business in processing waste paper which it exported to customers in China and India, earning it around \$37,000 in revenues monthly, according to its founder Allen Kimambo.

New orders dried up, however, as country after country imposed lockdowns to stop the spread of the

new coronavirus, reducing global trade to a trickle.

Yet Kimambo quickly spotted an opportunity which allowed him to save his business and the jobs of all its 38 workers. Zaidi Recyclers switched to the production of face shields, a vital piece of personal protective equipment for health workers during the coronavirus pandemic.

"I think key is to remain relevant. You should not panic, because these crises have been there, this is not the first time we are facing this kind of crisis," he said.

"If you panic, you will get lost and then you will not be able to come up or

be active as you used to be before."

Orders are flooding from the health sector from across Tanzania, Kimambo said. In recent weeks they had made 6,000 units that go for about \$2 apiece.

Tanzania has so far recorded 509 coronavirus cases and 21 deaths.

Authorities have said the disruptions from the pandemic are expected to slow economic growth in 2020 to 4% from a projection of 6.9% made before the outbreak.

The firm has had to meet extra costs to protect its employees while keeping the business in operation, including for special transportation to and from the workplace.



A Call for Expression of Interest to Develop Councillors Training Module in Tanzania.

Introduction

The Policy Forum (PF) is a network of more than 70 Tanzanian civil society organizations established in 2003 and drawn together by their specific interest in augmenting the voice of ordinary citizens to influence policy processes that help in poverty reduction, equity and democratization with a specific focus on public money accountability to both central and local levels. Its desired change is to improve service delivery through enhanced governance and accountable use of public resources. Long-term organizational impact is to contribute to enhanced governance and accountable use of public resources by improving civil society capabilities and opportunities to influence and monitor policies. This desired organizational impact is what underpins PF's vision and mission of improved quality of life for the Tanzanian people by influencing and monitoring the implementation of policies relating to accountable use of public resources.

Background

In November 2007, Policy Forum (PF) incorporated Social Accountability Monitoring (SAM) to address poverty reduction, bring greater equity and democratization by progressively enhancing the capability of CSOs to influence 'bottom-up' accountability through more effective monitoring of the social accountability systems. SAM was also seen as an approach to enable CSOs to monitor planning and budget execution in a holistic and integrated way.

The PF 2017-2020 Strategic Plan recognize the need to deepen the understanding of the impact of social accountability initiatives being undertaken with an aim of leveraging lessons and expertise that will shape social accountability processes in Tanzania. To achieve this aim, PF has been supporting the work of PF members and partners working who seek to influence decisions on the use of public resources for the progressive realization socio-economic rights of Tanzanians. The approach was to enable CSOs to monitor planning and budget execution in a holistic and integrated way. Moreover, PF included state actors like LGAs staff and councillors in order to enhance their capacity for collective action thinking to what was mainly a principal-agent approach.

Since 2017, PF piloted capacity building of Councillors in four Councils of Kilwa, Mafia, Mafinga and Kiteto. The capacity building included the development of and provision of resource material, the 'Mjue Diwani', (Know your Councillor) booklet. This booklet explains the duty and the role of the councillor in performing his/her functions. Moreover, the councillors were trained on regulatory frameworks that govern the business of councils, policies, laws, regulations and guidelines training focused at enhancing the capacities of councillors to oversee the use of public resources and to improve their knowledge as oversight bodies at the LGAs level.

In January 2019, PF carried out appraisal of the impact of the capacity development initiative. The evaluation indicated that capacity building has contributed to a) the implementation of institutional strengthening programmes, b) improved effectiveness at the LGAs, c) improved harmony and conflict resolution at the LGA, d) improved revenue collection, e) accountability and efficiency and f) improved confidence of councillors in executing their mandate among others. The major recommendation was that, this initiative should be institutionalized and scaled-up to other LGAs. Considering the presence of formal relationship between PF and Government Stakeholders which among other things focuses on improving governance and accountability at sub-national levels, PF wishes strategically developing and implementing a cost-effective sustainable continuous Competence-Based Councillors' Professional Development (CB-CPD) programme

Intended Outcomes

Councillors require specific competencies and skills in order to ensure the effective operation of the Councils. Lessons from the four (4) Councils indicated that a capacity building package for Councillors should focus on management skills particularly in the areas of procurement, budgetary guidelines/ financial regulations, and public services. In addition, the package should also cover salient features of management such as planning, administration, organizing, coordinating, control, financial management and information management. The following, therefore, are the outcomes of the proposed initiative. Ultimately, the impact of this initiative improved governance and accountability at LGAs. The corresponding outcomes and activities are as follows:

Outcome 1. Structure and systems for the implementation of continuous CB-CPD developed.

PF will work with key stakeholders to define a structured approach and mechanisms to reinforce Councils commitment to continuous professional development. In doing this, a series of consultative workshops with PF Local Government Working Group and stakeholders (national and sub-national levels) will be conducted to engage members in defining the training (cascading modality) and mechanisms for integrating capacity enhancement session within the existing operational structures at the Councils.

Also, PF will work with national stakeholders to form a Specialised Task Force that will lead the councillor training. The task force will comprise of members from State and Non-State Actors. In particular the task force shall a) advise on the required mechanisms for operationalisation of the councillor training, b) be primary facilitators who will receive training from PF/PSAM, c) train secondary facilitators at the regional level, and d) monitor the implementation.

Outcome 2. CB-CPD modules delivery mechanism piloted and lessons documented.

Under this outcome, A cascade-based training modules need to be developed and an expert panel led by Policy Forum, PSAM state actors will be constituted to prepare National CB-CPD self-learning modules and training materials, through consultative in nature.

In doing so, improving pedagogy and quality of facilitators is a necessary requirement for the success of this initiative. To achieve this, PF/PSAM and consultant shall lead the training of National Specialised Task Force who will lead the operationalisation of the CB-CPD modules at the sub-national levels. Upon consultation with PO-RALG/LGTI, four Councils will be oriented to implement CB-CPD. PF will commission a consultant to undertake independent outcome and impact planning, monitoring and evaluation to systematically document the process, outcomes and lessons learned.

Service to be Undertaken:

1. Analyze the problem that we intend to solve through Councillors Training Module by using the key information that will be provided by Policy Forum
2. Review of existing councillors training materials that will be provided by Policy Forum
3. Development of Councillors Training Module
4. Facilitate the Validation meetings from Policy Forum stakeholders for inputs and incorporate into final draft
5. Develop detailed testing plan of the module and conduct workshop to test the module before final submission

Deliverable

- Inception report after signing the MoU
- Final draft of the Councillors Training Module
- Final report of the process

Implementation Modality

The project will be implemented by the Policy Forum (the Local Government Working Group) and PSAM in collaboration with PO-RALG, Local Government Training Institute (Hombolo) and consultant. Further, the National Specialised Task Force to be formed to spearhead the implementation in the field. A consultant shall mainly be engaged as an independent outcome monitor and support in documentation of lessons for scaling up.

The associated cost for implementing the process including workshop/validation/training, administrative and operating cost for developing of councillors trainings in 4 councils, training material development and production for national task force/facilitators, consultation with stakeholders and monitoring and evaluation of the process will be facilitated by PF. Requirements

Interested consultant should send a cover letter showing experience/ knowledge of Social Accountability, Sample of the similar exercise, CVs of the consultant(s) who will be contracted by Policy Forum, Detailed Roadmap on how to develop Councillors Training Module showing duration of the task to be undertaken, Budget for all the process to develop the module. All information should be sent to info@policyforum.or.tz by or before 12th June, 2020.

NOTE:- Before submission, please see more related information on Policy Forum website www.policyforum.or.tz on <https://www.policyforum-tz.org/resources/pf-social-accountability-monitoring-page> or call:- **+255 2780200/mob:- +255 782 317 434** for any clarification **before 8th of June, 2020.**

Villagers talk of being sidelined in compensation payment by TPDC

By Guardian Reporter, Lindi

AT LEAST 300 villagers of Likong'o and Mtomkavu in Mbanja ward, Lindi Region have raised concerns after being excluded in recent compensation payment by Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) to allow implementation of the proposed US\$30 billion Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) project.

Last month, TPDC issued compensation to Project Affected People (PAPs) amid the implementation of the proposed LNG project.

The 300 villagers are among those who have waited for over five years expecting to be paid compensation after TPDC conducted land valuation on approximately 2,071,705 hectares (5,119 acres) on the Indian Ocean coast in 2014.

Lindi municipal council director, Jomaary Satura said the villagers were not compensated because the piece of land comprising their properties will no longer be needed for the multi-billion-dollar LNG project which is collaboration between TPDC and the consortium of international oil companies—Shell, ExxonMobil, Equinor and Ophir Energy.

Satura disclosed that TPDC decided to reduce the size of the land (2,071,705 hectares) which it previously intended to acquire for the gas project after realising that previously estimated land was too big for the project and that it would be costly to acquire the whole land.

TPDC has spent 5.2bn/- to 693 PAPs whose land has been acquired for the gas project. Exclusion of villagers has triggered strong criticism and complaints with villagers describing the situation as 'unfair treatment'.

The villagers also claim that they were not consulted when TPDC made the decisions to reduce the size of the project area.

The reduced plot of land located within Likong'o and Mtomkavu villages, about 300 metres from the main road (Nangurukuru-Lindi) comprises of residential facilities and commercial crops plantations including cashew nut trees.

Masoud Masoud (50) a resident of Likong'o village said: "When TPDC first came to conduct land valuation, we were assured that the project will benefit all of us, but it is now a different story after some of us have been left out because the land comprising our properties will no longer be needed for the project."

He added: "Just imagine, we waited for all these years only to have our names excluded from the list. We could not renovate our houses or engage in farming activities over fears that the project would be initiated at any time."

Another villager, Fadina Nalumanga (46) from Mtomkavu village said when officials from TPDC went to value the proposed land area; they were assured of being compensated for the house, properties and plants.

Nalumanga said most of the villagers left their houses unmaintained for all the years as they were preparing to relocate.

Mwanaharusi Rashidi from Mtomkavu village said: "I have been saddened by the TPDC decision to exclude some villagers from the

compensation. This is 'unfair treatment' by the government to its citizens."

Mtomkavu village chairman, Abdulrahman Jadu said he is also under pressure to address the ongoing villagers' complaints. He admits that villagers have been confronting him several times demanding that he acts accordingly.

"These people have waited for over five years without doing any activities on the proposed land area. Problems began when some villagers were excluded in the compensation process despite the fact that their land was earmarked for the mega gas project," said Jadu.

Responding to queries from the villagers, LNG project manager Felister Agrey said TPDC had earlier consulted non-benefited villagers about the changes made in the size of the land.

Agrey acknowledged that the non-benefited villagers were initially supposed to be paid compensation only if TPDC would acquire the whole land which the national oil firm had valued back in 2014.

"It is true, some of the villagers were excluded from the compensation payments made in May this year and they were all informed. During the payment exercise those who were earlier excluded did not show up when their fellows lined up to verify their bank details," said Agrey.

The LNG project manager hinted that the land which has been left out by TPDC will be handled by Lindi municipality for other economic activities.

According to Lindi municipal council director, Satura the municipal is currently searching for interested investors to acquire the abandoned land. He said the municipal requires at least 7bn/- to compensate the villagers in Likong'o and Mtomkavu villages.

Satura said that UTT Asset Management and Investor Services Plc (UTT AMIS) is among the investors who have shown interests to acquire the land for investment.

Referring to the compensation paid to other villagers, the municipal director revealed that some 42 out of 693 verified PAPs who evacuated both houses and farms have been paid compensation and provided with free plots of land to establish new settlements.

He said payments ranged from a minimum of 400,000/- to 70m/- per individual.

TPDC chief executive, Dr James Mataragio said: "I am not aware on reports about the reduction in the size of the proposed project land. The title deed that we got in 2015 is for 2,071,705 hectares and it is the same area which will be used for the project. I am not aware of the other plans."

The LNG project gained momentum in 2018 after more than five years of limited activity. The delay period had been caused by both global and national factors such as contentious land acquisition process for the project, low oil price, leadership transition within the national oil company (TPDC) and limited negotiation capacity.

It was reported in May last year that construction was planned to start in 2022 and conclude in 2028, as announced by the Minister of Energy, Medard Kalemani.



Bishop Mark Malekana (C, in suit) of the Seventh Day Adventists Church presents sets of personal protection equipment worth 8m/- to a representative of Temeke Hospital Doctor In-Charge Grace Ntangu in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. It is a donation extended through the Adventist Development and Relief Agency and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Photo: Correspondent Mary Geoffrey

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) has announced a US\$4.75 million Covid-19 Africa Rapid Grant Fund calling on researchers and science engagement practitioners in the country to apply.

Administered by NRF South Africa, the funds target stakeholders from eighteen countries in Africa including Tanzania.

In a media tele-briefing held yesterday, COSTECH Director General Dr Amos Nungu said the provision of the funds are aimed towards contributing to the African regional and continental response against Covid-19 pandemic.

He said that the funds also aim to support knowledge generation and translation to inform diagnostics, prevention and treatment of Covid-19 on the continent.

According to him, the Rapid Grant

Costech announces \$4.75 mln Covid-19 fund for researchers

Fund supports three strands in respect of research and science engagement.

He named other beneficiary countries as Botswana, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Senegal, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and, in the context of the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA), Nigeria and South Africa.

He highlighted that, in research the fund will support knowledge generation on the increasing range of research questions on the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Rapid Grant Fund will also support communities of science

journalists and communicators on the African continent, including multi-country collaborations, in efforts to produce and disseminate coordinated science communication outputs that will allow readers access to factual information and analysis to inform their actions and challenge misinformation," he said.

Dr Nungu further said, in science engagement the fund will support national African academies of science, African national young academies to provide rapid science advice in support of regional and continental responses to Covid-19.

He said that applications from

women applicants, people living with disabilities and first responders to Covid-19, as principal investigators are highly encouraged.

The DG called upon all qualified stakeholders in the country to apply for the fund saying that the call is open effectively from May 18 to June 17 this year. At the national level Costech is commissioned to coordinate the fund.

The development partners contributed to the fund are the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) and IDRF.



Tanzania Dairy Board registrar Dr Sophia Mlote (2nd-L) in jovial mood with children cared for at Kisedet Centre in Dodoma city when a delegation from the board toured the facility and donates 300 litres of milk as part of the commemoration of this year's Dairy Week. Photo: Correspondent Paul Mabeja

Four die in new Ebola outbreak in DR Congo

KINSHASA

THE Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) yesterday reported a fresh Ebola outbreak in the country's northwest, just weeks before it hoped to declare the end of another epidemic in the east.

The appearance of the deadly disease on the other side of the vast central African country comes as an added blow as it attempts to also battle the coronavirus pandemic.

Health Minister Eteni Longondo said that "four people have already died" from Ebola in a district of the northwestern city of Mbandaka.

"The National Institute of Biomedical Research (INRB) has confirmed to me

that samples from Mbandaka tested positive for Ebola," Longondo told a press conference.

"We will send them the vaccine and medicine very quickly," he said, adding that he planned to visit the site of the outbreak at the end of the week.

The capital of Equateur Province, Mbandaka is a transport hub on the Congo River with a population of more than a million.

Equateur Province was previously hit by an Ebola outbreak between May and July 2018, in which 33 people died and 21 recovered from the disease.

"This is a province that has already experienced the disease. They know

how to respond. They started the response at the local level yesterday (Sunday)," Longondo said.

The Ebola epidemic in the country's volatile east has killed 2,280 people since August 2018, and officials had hoped to be able to proclaimed it over on June 25.

For it to be officially over, there have to be no new cases reported for 42 days - double the incubation period.

In April, the eastern epidemic was just three days away from being declared over when a new case was reported, pushing the date back.

The newest Ebola outbreak is the 11th in the Democratic Republic of Congo since 1976.

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

THE war against Covid-19 in Africa is being derailed by widespread misinformation and stigma targeting victims and their families, Save the Children, an international charity said yesterday.

Assessments carried out by Save the Children in several African countries in April have revealed rampant myths and misinformation regarding the viral respiratory disease, which placed bottlenecks towards its containment in the continent. "Misinformation and myths about Covid-19 could delay the introduction and uptake of measures designed to slow and mitigate the spread of the disease, which could see it spread faster, moving silently and hidden in communities," said Eric

Africa's anti-Covid-19 war hampered by misinformation, stigmatisation

Hazard, Save the Children's Pan-African Campaign and Policy Director.

The assessments that were conducted in Somalia, Zambia and Tanzania indicated widespread prejudice against people infected by coronavirus alongside frontline healthcare workers and diaspora communities.

Nearly 42 percent of 3,000 people surveyed in Somalia said they believed Covid-19 was generated by the government while 27 percent felt it was fuelling hostility against specific minority groups.

An assessment of 121 people in Tanzania revealed that nearly 86 percent of them were of the view that

the disease generated stigma against particular ethnic or racial groups.

The rapid survey on 400 people in Zambia found that while 57 percent had an accurate understanding of how Covid-19 is contracted, 69 percent wrongly believed that brushing teeth prevented the disease while an additional 43 percent were of the view that drinking alcohol could keep the virus at bay. "When communities receive the wrong information about an illness, it creates fear, in this case of others, and fear can lead to stigma, isolation, poorer health outcomes on individual and societal levels, and in some cases, violence," said Hazard.

Police in Morogoro recover churches' stolen properties

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Morogoro

POLICE in Morogoro have recovered part of Catholic and Tanzania Assemblies of God churches' properties, which were stolen early last month.

Regional Police Commander Wilbroad Mutafungwa announced to have recovered some of the stolen items from the two churches.

On May 4 this year, burglars stormed the Catholic Church in Modeko area and went away with assorted items including two ciboria—a covered container used to store the consecrated hosts of the sacrament of Holy Communion.

On May 5, robbers also stole items at the TAG church located in Mwembesongo ward, Morogoro Municipality.

RPC Mutafungwa said that police were still looking for the remaining items including tabernacle—a place of the church that holds the ciborium containing the Eucharist.

When contacted, Catholic Church, Morogoro Diocese's administrator, Msimbe Lazarus praised the Tanzania Police force for recovering some of the stolen items.

He said the church trusts police operation that led to the seizure of two ciboria worth 600,000/-.

"As the church, we condemn crimes because it's against the church sacrilege, that's why we suspended spiritual services at Modeko church," he said.

For his part, TAG's spokesman Pastor Yona David Mganga said they trust the police force due to the cooperative shown to the church since the crime was committed.

"When we informed them, police including RPC Mutafungwa arrived at the scene of the incident and they took finger prints, to me this is commendable," he said, revealing the robbers also went away with 4m/-, which was in the office. "As church, we've taken immediate steps against staff member who left 4m/- in the office instead of depositing it into our bank account. It is mandatory for them to deposit the money into the bank account soon after the mass, to curb such kinds of crimes," Mganga said.

As the church, we condemn crimes because it's against the church sacrilege, that's why we suspended spiritual services at Modeko church



Residents of a Liwale District village pictured at the weekend participating in road expansion on self-help basis to ease the transportation of building materials for the building of a hospital in their locality. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

AU special envoy urges African youth to unleash innovation amid Covid-19 crisis

By Special Correspondent, Addis Ababa

THE Covid-19 pandemic response and recovery offer Africa's youth opportunities to come up with innovations across different sectors, and create much-needed jobs, according to African Union (AU) Special Envoy Okonjo-Iweala.

"We can choose to look at the crisis differently by asking: What are the opportunities that can come out of the crisis for young people, given that unemployment is a big problem on the continent?" posed Okonjo-Iweala during a continental online discussion recently.

"Some people have invented digital trackers for tracking the pandemic ... and there are all sorts of apps and technologies that are being deployed by, say Nigeria CDC, to monitor Covid-19."

The Virtual Consultation Series on Covid-19: Youth Unemployment and Economic Recovery was hosted on 13 May by the AU's Youth Envoy, Aya Chebbi.

Okonjo-Iweala is one of the African Union (AU) Special Envoys appointed to mobilize international support for Africa's efforts to address the Covid-19 economic fallout.

According to the World Bank, youth account for 60% of Africa's jobless, and according to the AU Envoy, African countries need to engage the youth in all sectors of the economy to enhance efficiency in doing business. Agriculture, she emphasized, remains one of the sectors on the continent with a comparative advantage, "and we need young people to think about how the continent is going to feed itself."

Okonjo-Iweala challenged the youth to come up with innovative technologies for better food storage in the face of major post-harvest losses.

In sub-Saharan Africa, the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) statistics point to 40 per cent of post-harvest losses and food waste to problems ranging from spillage to lack of proper post-harvest storage.

"Here is where young people need to come up with mind-blowing innovations as to how we can store food better," she said. But these technological innovations must be accompanied with proper infrastructure, including laying cables for broadband or accessing satellite links.

Participants in the online discussion expressed the need for governments to be transparent and accountable in how they use both domestic resources and foreign aid provided to fight the pandemic. "We need to be sure that the money given is put to correct use, rather than just incurring debt [and the money] going into people's pockets," said Admire Mutimurefu of Zimbabwe.

Okonjo-Iweala asked the youth to participate in initiatives geared towards tracking Africa's expenditure, such as working with civil society organizations to demand to know what governments are spending. They could also devise means to track and monitor the funds. "The continent is yours, you are 60% of the population. Be active in demanding transparency from your leaders. Innovate, innovate, innovate. This is the moment," she asserted.

Likewise, technology experts like Shikoh Gitau are describing the COVID-19 period as Africa's stunning moment of technological advancement, "especially now with our borders closed."

"We only have ourselves to rely on, and therefore, we as the youth have to come up with solutions to our problems," says Gitau, who is a member of Kenya's COVID-19 Advisory Committee.

Banking sector advised to go digital for sustainable growth post Covid-19

By Special Correspondent, Johannesburg

BANKERS from Sub Saharan Africa and China have agreed that digitisation of the sector will give it resilience against the current coronavirus pandemic and enable sustained growth in the post Covid-19 era.

Bankers who attended the Huawei Sub-Saharan Africa Financial Services Industry Online Summit 2020 said advances in ICT present unique opportunities for the banking sector, especially when almost 70% of the region's population don't have a bank account.

The pan-African conference themed "Accelerating Digital Transformation, Enable Business Growth Again" was attended by 1200 delegates from across banks, telco operators, fintech and ICT services companies.

Opening the event, Liao Yong, vice president of Huawei Southern Africa Region said: "All of these ICT advances will be critical enablers to a thriving banking sector in Sub Saharan Africa. As we can see, the merging of these two curves of ICT and banking services is powerful. But how much we can unleash the power, depends on how much and how soon banking sector goes digital."

There has been a rapid uptake of mobile technologies in the region with strong economic growth in the past 2 decades. According to statistics by GSMA, 4G, mobile broadband technology, adoption will overtake 2G in 2023 and the total of unique subscribers in Sub Saharan Africa will reach 600 million by 2025, representing half the region's population.

Speaking at the online event, Brett King, author of Bank 4.0, a New York-based mobile banking startup, said the behavioural changes that come with coronavirus further underpins the needs for digital transformation in banking sector.

"The declining use of physical branches is likely for many customers to remain a permanent feature of their lives. The reality is this is likely to accelerate a multi-decade trend we've already seen towards digitisation. So when we look at the architecture of banking moving forward and the real elements that have been accelerated during the coronavirus period, you can see that that shift to digital is creating much more aligned, some digital experience. This basically brings us to a new model of banking...we moved to this low friction banking embedded in

the world around us," said King.

In China, bucking the decline in Q1 GDP, the financial sector recorded a 6% year-on-year growth. Analysts attribute this growing to the sector's years of unremitting efforts in digital transformation.

Chen Kunte, former Chief Information Officer of China Merchants Bank and current Chief Digital Transformation Officer of Global Financial Services in Huawei's Enterprise Business Group said digitisation will give the banking sector the resilience it needs in the public health crisis. Banking everywhere can't come true without leveraging cloud, AI and Big Data.

"We need to restructure banks' ICT platforms from legacy architecture to cloud-based, open architecture by building AI-Powered and Data-Driven platforms to expand the way financial institutions engage and interact with their customers, and accommodate more innovative business models and service scenarios," Chen said.

Banks from the region shared some case studies on digitisation in banking services in the region.

Lucille De Kock, Head of Data Analysis and Product Management at FNB, South Africa, introduced FNB's fundamental shifts across all dimensions to transform the bank into a helpful, trusted and people centric money manager leveraging digital and data platforms.

According to Alex Siboe Wekunda, head of DFS, KCB, said 97% of all transactions are done digitally which lead to substantial growth during the pandemic. Luckily enough, we had invested well in our platform, so we're able to handle the traffic that comes through this ecosystem. And Joshua Oigara, CEO and MD, KCB Group PLC, said KCB will continue accelerate that investment beyond just lending platform, which has been very successful.

Huawei works with over 1,000 financial institutions globally, including 6 of the world's top 10 banks in the digital transformation voyage.

Liao concluded, "Our operations of over 20 years in Sub Saharan Africa enables us think global and act local by providing our clients in the region with tailored made solutions to make digitisation process painless and smooth, as if it is a tech company that happens to work in the financial sector rather than as a bank that tries to adapt disruptive technologies."



Halima Abdallah, a small trader at Mirerani township in Simanjiro District, speaks at the weekend on how she plans to spend money issued as loans to her and her colleagues through NMB Bank Plc to help them generate income. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

WASHINGTON

THE British actor and filmmaker, Idris Elba has called for urgent action and creative solutions to prevent a looming hunger crisis in poor countries, where food production and transport have been disrupted by the coronavirus pandemic.

He said the issue is personal to him and his wife, model and activist Sabrina Dhowre Elba, since both of their families come from Africa.

The couple launched a United Nations fund in April to support rural food systems and spoke in an online panel on Friday with experts from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

With 60% of employment in Africa in agriculture, "that's an awful lot of people who are going to suffer and not

Actor sounding alarm as COVID-19 threatens food availability in Africa

eat because of the crisis and ongoing effects," Elba said.

"At the beginning stages of this pandemic ... everyone was looking at themselves. And I think what's happened now is we've realized that we're all connected somewhat," he said.

Coronavirus is set to almost double global hunger by the end of the year, putting an additional 130 million people at risk because of cut-off trade flows and loss of income, according to the World Food Programme. Most will be in Africa.

In many places farmers cannot buy

seeds or fertilizer due to lockdowns or reach markets to sell their crops. In West Africa, traders said they've had to throw out fresh produce because they couldn't get it across borders to sell.

"If we can transport soldiers and ammunition, we can transport food," said Elba, adding that governments should think about using military resources to help.

IFAD has pledged \$40 million to the new U.N. fund and is providing cash transfers to farmers, distributing seeds and fertilizers and in some places negotiating with authorities to get food

to market.

"The combined effects of climate change, exacerbated by the locust outbreak, exacerbated by COVID means there's been a complete disruption in all food supply chains," said Sara Mbago-Bhunu, director of IFAD's East and Southern Africa Division.

"This is an alarm call. The potential devastation is huge."

Elba was born and raised in London but his father came from Sierra Leone and his mother from Ghana. He is known for his roles in the television series "Luther" and "The Wire."

Tanzania far below healthy milk consumption per head

JUNE 1 is World Milk Day, which activists and food or nutrition organisations around the world supposedly spend reflecting on the consumption of milk, as it is quite useful for adults and especially important for the healthy growth of children.

Current data indicates that milk consumption in Africa is the lowest in the world, around 37 litres per person annually, which is 67 litres below the world average of 104 litres per person and accounts for just six per cent of world consumption.

These are shocking statistics, though in the field of poverty one never stops being shocked by how much millions of children are mired in poverty and malnutrition.

The abysmally low level of milk consumption as a broad part of culture may also explain the laxity with which we often do things. For instance, one checks on consumption of milk in Tanzania and all that one comes across is a data update for June 2018.

It says that the country registered an increase of about 400 million litres between 2003 and 2017 but consumption remains low at only 47 litres per capita per year.

"Production of the highly nutritious liquid food is currently estimated at 2.4 billion litres a year from about 2 billion litres in 2003," it was indicated. This shows that the growth in milk consumption isn't even in tandem with population growth but is slower.

It also means that some people or sections of the population who may have been in a position to purchase milk regularly in 2003 were no longer able to do so by 2017, as the rise in population was far more rapid than the 200,000 increase in milk production across 15 years.

As food and especially nutrition is a key indicator of well being, there is

no denying that broad sections of the country's children were living in more precarious conditions than it was earlier, and adult habits of drinking milk as an auxiliary to routine food needs had also diminished.

Purchasing of fortified baby milk imports or routine milk must have climbed down significantly owing to rising price disparity with stable exchange rates with the dollar.

It is around these themes that local activists marking World Milk Day rather silently owing to continuing precautions tied to the Covid-19 pandemic must have been focusing upon, as the world marked this auspicious day especially for nutrition of children.

For adults, the use of milk is often pushed aside by cultural habits where meat, fish or beans are the standard accessories when one takes a stiff porridge lunch or supper, for instance.

For most local families the idea of having a buffet dinner or table with all sorts of foods to pick from is unheard of, not affordable.

In that case, milk comes up rarely if tastes are different, and it is unlikely that one comes across a restaurant which offers milk as accessory to rice or stiff porridge, so one has to make a point of actually purchasing milk to drink it.

Here other impediments crop up, as purchasing a drink is not the same as purchasing food, so milk is either part of food or done for, and that is basically what one gets culturally speaking.

When it comes to taking tea or coffee with fresh milk, the price from simple green tea jumps up surprisingly, and the likely reason is that there are too few consumers and thus the restaurateur must cap the price for the users, as milk is bought in units.

Home use gas connection assurance comes as relief

A clear picture is now emerging as to plans by the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) to connect natural gas to many or most homes in urban areas and well built premises of small towns in later phases.

The crucial feature in this projection is that natural gas home users will be free from paying connection fees, in which case there will be no hurdle to be crossed - the sort that often requires plenty of mobilisation, marketing, advertising, etc. This policy stance will give an excellent dynamic to connect many homes with gas, in a few years.

Energy minister Dr Medard Kalemani noted in a speech recently in Lindi that the decision has a welfare aspect to it, that it is meant to ensure that everyone benefits from the country's discovery and exploitation of the resource.

After the free connection is made, it will be up to the domestic user to purchase gas in a prepaid manner as with electricity, instead of having clerks chasing bills for months on end.

But it will not be as mentally taxing as with LUKU (prepaid) users for electricity, as the minister and top TPDC officials say using natural gas will be far cheaper than using charcoal.

There is no doubt that quick experience will demonstrate to residents where the gas pipeline connection would have been made that using the resource will reduce costs for cooking energy as prices are expected to be cheaper than charcoal or the gas that is sold in tanks.

This will as an auxiliary help to protect the environment from felling trees for charcoal, but this has to be taken up with mitigation, as researchers say it is expanding agriculture rather than charcoal burning which puts

forests under threat. The net benefit is reduced harassment and pain for women at home.

The broad plan is to use natural gas power in industrial operations, fertiliser production, cooking and the running of vehicles.

This shall steeply diminish costs of importing fuel products, which isn't a burning issue at the moment owing to rock-bottom oil prices arising from intense competition between producing countries widening production and importing countries under pressure to adopt greener energy.

It is with some stammer that one contemplates the wider public using natural gas that is 40 per cent cheaper than charcoal, on the basis of estimates cited by the minister.

As charcoal is a product that every household must purchase unless it fully uses liquefied natural gas in tanks or even electricity for cooking, quoting natural gas equivalent user value at 40 per cent less than the charcoal price means the whole country will shift, more or less rapidly. That is as it should be.

It isn't easy to improve on remarks by Lindi regional commissioner Godfrey Zambi to the effect that many people spend a lot of money on charcoal while women and girls spend hours searching for firewood in the bush.

Let us now move to the safer energy source, he aptly declared, underlining that shifting to natural gas is an act of emancipation for those going into the bush to seek firewood.

This ought to be done even before taking note of the lower costs that is a massive relief and a reason to shift to natural gas. It leaves women with more time even to look at children's lessons.

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By Senami Kojah

SINCE the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) a pandemic, more and more journalists around the world have been pulled in to report on the frontlines of the global crisis.

The origins and spread of the virus, the responses by governments and individuals and the rhetoric that has followed each pose a unique set of dilemmas for journalists navigating the unfamiliar.

Understanding how to confront ethical considerations is important to present a balanced, fair and accurate report of what's happening during the pandemic.

Breaking news of death

When breaking news of death from complications from Covid-19 - especially when a prominent personality is involved - journalists should consider abandoning the thrill of breaking the story and instead should take some time to check with the police or local authorities to see if the family of the deceased has been informed.

Behind the data, there are real lives of people who will be affected by the loss of a loved one. Journalists must be careful not to offend the sensibilities of the audiences they serve.

"Casualty figures are facts, and facts remain the cornerstone of journalism. I believe that publishing casualty figures should be done with the right language, which shows sensitivity and respect for human life," says Eniola Akinkotu, a journalist on the frontline of reporting Covid-19 for Nigeria's most widely read newspaper, Punch.

In a story on ethical approaches to reporting about death, Sal Lajli, press and public relations manager at Samaritans, encourages journalists to check with families before using images from social media for a story.

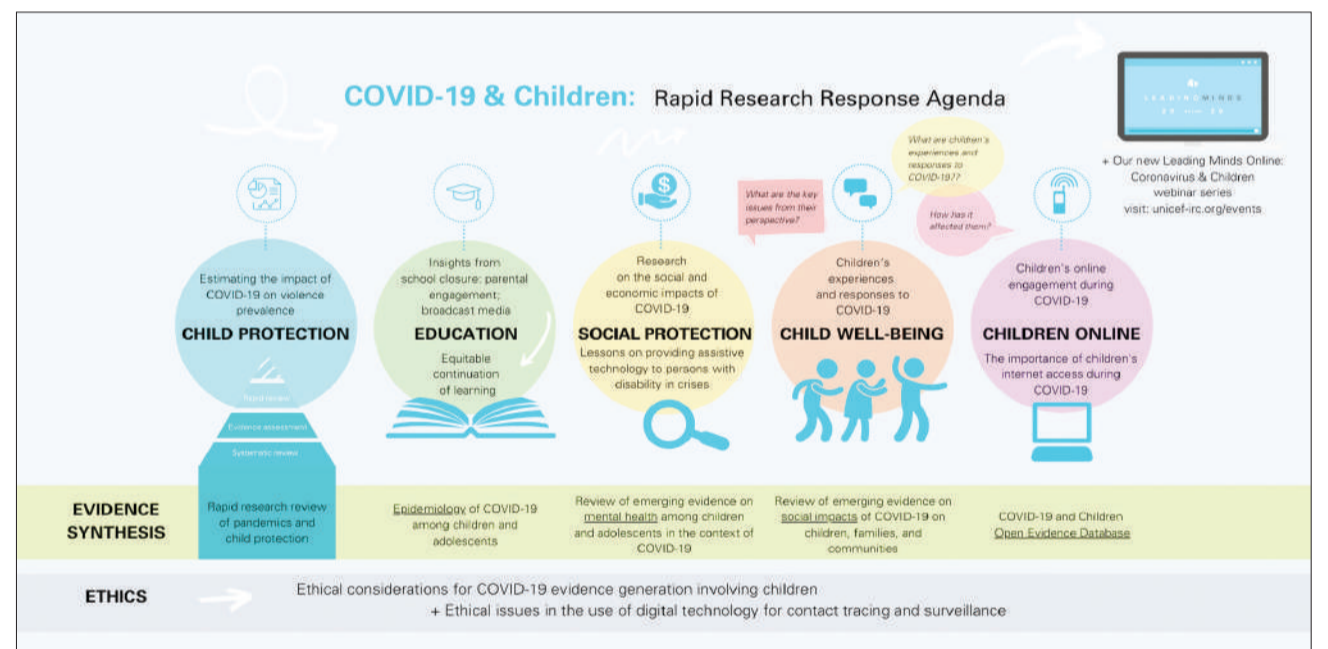
"When a person dies, if he or she is at the centre of a news story, it can actually be quite upsetting to see images from social networking sites that the media have taken, as these are not images that necessarily a bereaved family would like this individual to be remembered by."

Respecting sources' confidentiality

Journalists rely on sources to give leads and inside information, which they would otherwise not be able to access. The unprecedented nature of the Covid-19 coverage means that a lot of information comes from people who are on the frontlines of the pandemic.

All sources should be asked if they can be named in a story, especially sources that could be sensitive to their information being released. This includes nurses, doctors, whistleblowers in hospitals and

Some ethical considerations for reporting on COVID-19 pandemic



government facilities, disgruntled staff, sources who offer information on patient treatment and management, and people with knowledge of cover-ups of casualty figures or infection rates.

Journalists should never assume that their sources want to be named. It is critical to seek their consent and reflect whatever permissions they give in the story.

It is also important to be sure that sources are not identified by context. The News Manual offers an example: "The Prime Minister's secretary may have given you secret information in confidence or off the record. If you write the story attributing the details to 'sources on the Prime Minister's personal staff', you risk exposing your source, especially if there are only one or two people on the Prime Minister's personal staff. It might be better to attribute it to 'sources in the Prime Minister's department' if it is a big department... You need to balance the need to show that your sources are close to the centre of the information (and therefore reliable) against the need to protect the identity of a confidential source."

Maintaining the confidentiality of your source is important if you are to be trusted with more information in the future.

Can your data be verified? This is the most important question for journalists using data during the Covid-19 pandemic. There are a lot of data coming from different countries and organisations during the pandemic showing casualty figures, funding allocated for medical supplies and the impact of the virus on life in general.

But data can be flawed, misrepresented, lack context and even be concocted - and, therefore,

journalists need to embrace thorough verification and interrogation.

In an article on coronavirus data visualisations, Joel Selanikio, a former investigator for the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention shows how maps used by CNN and The New York Times to "track the outbreak" can distort data.

By the very nature of the design of one map, it looked like the whole of China was engulfed by the coronavirus in early February. But there were only about 35 thousand cases in a population of 1.4 billion people - affecting only 0.002 per cent of people in China.

In another example, a CNN map showing the "coronavirus" global spread", North America, Europe, Australia and Russia, along with China, are solidly infected. But at the time of publication, there were only a total of 12 cases, in the US, out of a population of 330 million.

The use of cumulative number of cases when reporting can be useful in comparing Covid-19 to other outbreaks like SARS (Severe acute respiratory syndrome), but cannot be relied on for real-time tracking because it never goes down.

Many people have recovered, some have died and some are still receiving treatment, so it cannot be used to gauge the trend of the outbreak.

Journalists should make this distinction to ensure that the data they put out for their audience is not static and can be used to track real-time progression without underestimating or overestimating the impact of the pandemic.

Reporting racism and hate speech
Since the emergence of the Covid-19 pandemic, journalists have been faced

with the challenge of reporting hate speech and racism by major world leaders and industry players. In the US, for example, President Donald Trump openly and once repeatedly refers to Covid-19 as the "Chinese virus", sparking off fears of racially motivated hate actions.

WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (an Ethiopian national) said he himself had been subjected to racist comments and death threats for months simply because of his job overseeing the global response to the pandemic.

The media are less conscious, or perhaps more confused, about their responsibility covering newsmakers who advocate intolerance. This is partly because the issues are genuinely complex and not amenable to simple ethical formulas.

Best practice entails alerting society to agents of hate, but without giving those elements a free ride that exaggerates their importance and amplifies their views uncritically. It can be hard to strike the right balance, according to the Ethical Journalism Network.

Hate speech should never be celebrated in headlines so that the purveyors are not overly dignified. Reporting reactions to hate speech can be a better way of telling the story, says Akinkotu, the reporter for Nigeria's Punch - and he says this has proved effective in his reporting.

Covid-19 reporting must be done with the utmost respect for human lives and sensibilities, especially at this time of great uncertainty.

A dispatch by International Journalists' Network (IJNet), a project of the Washington-based International Centre for Journalists.

Ramaphosa outlines plans for 'new economy'

By Ferial Haffajee

In the space of a few weeks, 6.5 million South Africans have applied for the Covid-19 special grant and by Sunday, the SA Social Security Agency (Sassa) had managed to pay out 117,000 grants at R350 apiece.

About 1.6-million applicants were found to be double-dippers - people accessing other forms of social security and therefore ineligible for this grant.

This special relief, as well as top-ups to existing grants, is only going to stay in place for six months, said President Cyril Ramaphosa in a virtual briefing to the South African National Editors' Forum (Sanef).

He said the "stops, starts and breakdowns" that had bedevilled the pay-outs of the new grant had been ironed out.

The UIF had paid R15.8-billion to three million employees at 200,000 companies, said Ramaphosa, adding that "the agency has never [been] stretched to this level".

The numbers are an early indicator of the depth of desperation the virus has caused and the fractures in the state that has frustrated relief efforts in the almost three months since Covid-19 made landfall here.

"The state I inherited is a weakened state," Ramaphosa said, adding that government knew that once the six-month relief period was over, "there is a need for us to start looking at assistance over a longer period".

What is Ramaphosa's new economy?

For the first time, Ramaphosa outlined his plans for a "new economy" which he has referenced in the past month, but has not yet put skin on the bones of. In language unusual for him, Ramaphosa told the group of editors that transformation was imperative to deal with the "racist and colonial" legacies of the South African economy.

"We are resolved to forge a new economy in a new global reality," said Ramaphosa, adding that a new social compact is necessary for inclusive growth. He set out early ideas for the components of such a compact: more localisation (or import substitution to "produce our own food", "own healthcare supplies"), economic patriotism, a strengthened informal sector; an infrastructure and maintenance programme and more and bigger public works programmes.

Ramaphosa also name-checked but did not expand on a "care economy" and a "green economy" as ways to bolster the country ravaged by Covid-19 and in which most economists predict widespread job losses and a GDP growth rate that could decline by seven percentage points.

Ramaphosa said that raising a stimulus package of 11% of GDP (about R500-billion plus other tax and monetary policy measures) had been tough but that bigger, better measures were necessary. Small and medium-sized businesses needed a bigger fund than that allocated to relief.

The president said that the economic phase had to move now from relief to recovery. "[We must] transform and restructure. We are operating under an economy both colonial and racist. We need a reset of the economy for inclusive



President Cyril Ramaphosa

growth. [We need] an economy that responds to poverty. We can't countenance 10 million people out of work," said Ramaphosa.

It's clear his usual compass (of a market-based economy, that is export-oriented and which will put structural reform of constraints to growth at its heart) has changed with the economic exposés Covid-19 has trailed in its wake.

Covid-19 is with us for two years

For the first time, Ramaphosa revealed that consultations showed Covid-19 will be part of South Africa's reality for two years, even though the epidemic here is expected to peak by September. It will take months more to work itself out of the system or for a vaccine to be successful and to be distributed globally.

"We have got to live with the virus. We have used the bazooka and the nuclear weapon [the hard lockdown] - we now need to use the toolbox," said Ramaphosa.

The toolbox is a set of standard responses to Covid-19 prevention like wearing masks, intensive sanitisation, workplace prevention, social (or physical) distancing, screening (13 million screenings are estimated to have already been done) and hotspot management.

"In the coming weeks, we should expect an exponential

rise in infections," said Ramaphosa, adding that: "We are entering the most challenging [period of the epidemic of] "massive and uncontrollable spread."

On the other hand, Ramaphosa revealed that the case fatality rate in South Africa is 2.1%, compared with a global average of 6.4% - 643 people have died of Covid-19 in South Africa. The challenge now is to track and trace more widely. South Africa is tracing two people per identified case but wants to target the South Korean moonshot of tracing 20 contacts per case.

At Stages 6, 7 and 8 of the eight-stage pandemic (as identified by the World Health Organisation), South Africa is now planning for hospitalisation. Field hospitals now have capacity for 13,000 beds but ICU beds, necessary for about 5% of cases, are not yet at full supply.

Ramaphosa confirmed a "severe shortage of test kits and supplies" that has delayed testing, but he said that businessman Strive Masiyiwa had engaged with China's Xi Jinping to secure 30 million test kits, 10,000 ventilators and 80 million masks for the continent. These supplies will be procured from a central database.

It is also likely that the government will seek to bring forward the implementation of a national health initiative (NHI) using the cooperation developed across the public and private health systems as well as systems developed at the speed of light to help manage the fast-moving viral spread.

Scientists wanted a move to Level 1. While South Africa moves to Level 3 lockdown on June 1, the ministerial advisory committee (MAC) comprising more than 50 of the country's best scientific brains had said the government

could move straight to Level 1 (as near to "normal" as dammit) but he had resisted this, said Ramaphosa.

The WHO recommends a slower reduction and government had chosen a strategy that is at the midpoint between the UN agency and the local MAC's recommendation.

Asked about the on-again, off-again tobacco ban, the president said he had erred in making an announcement of a lifting on the sale of cigarettes early in May, but then leaving it to Co-operative Governance Minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma to renounce that decision.

"The president having announced it, the president should have been the one to renounce the decision," said Ramaphosa, adding that it "was a collective decision".

Agencies

Misplaced anger on Covid-19: Why you have it, and what to do

By Markham Heid

ANGER is an animal without a cage. Once provoked, it can lash out at anyone within reach of its claws. This was true before Covid-19. The man pissed about his job picks a fight with his spouse, or the woman annoyed by a friend loses her temper with her children.

But if science had an instrument capable of measuring anger, Covid-19 and its many challenges would be pushing its needle into the red. All this accumulated rage is certainly spilling out into real-world interactions.

The evidence for this is all over the news. Outlets across the country have reported cases of "retail rage" during which store employees who try to enforce rules regarding masks or social distancing have been spit on or otherwise assaulted.

And it's a certainty that the current moment's frustrations are causing a surge in angry exchanges among friends, couples and families.

This roaming, unfocused aspect of anger is sometimes referred to as "displaced aggression", which psychologists define as "retaliatory aggression that is misdirected from an initial source of provocation and turned instead upon an innocent other". At a moment when tempers are running hot, it's helpful to recognize the threat of displaced aggression - in society, and in ourselves.

"There are basically two reasons people displace aggression onto others. One is that the target of their anger is not available - like if a person is pissed off at a politician," says Brad Bushman, PhD, a professor of communication at Ohio State University who studies anger and aggression.

"There's no way to calculate just how many spousal quarrels or unfortunate parent-child interac-



tions today's politics have caused, but the number is surely staggering," he notes.

"The other reason is that the target is available, but the angry person fears reprisal or retaliation," Bushman says, adding: "For example, yelling at a boss is likely to have negative professional repercussions. Yelling at a partner is safer."

The professor says that aggression comes naturally to most people: "You don't have to teach children to be aggressive, that

comes very easily... You need to teach them self-control, and not to shout, scream, yell, kick, or hit when they're frustrated."

Anger's strange appeal

Considering anger's promiscuity when choosing targets, one would think that people would try to avoid angering themselves for fear of misdirecting their fury or causing their relationships some avoidable strife. But anger is oddly intoxicating.

"There's an adage in the world of the internet and Google and Big Data - enagement is engagement. Creating outrage is a great way to keep people watching or clicking," says Piers Steel, PhD, a psychologist, behavioural scientist and professor at the University of Calgary.

Steel says that this formula is deployed again and again in cable and online news content and also in the algorithms that govern many popular social media plat-

forms.

He elaborates: "You see everyone being fed back their own viewpoints in a more extreme fashion - your beliefs are confirmed, and you're told that other people are so stupid because they can't understand it - and so there's basically this firehose of anger being sprayed over society. And 100%, this anger will bleed out into our lives."

Another challenging element of anger is its propensity to group people together in ways that may justify acts of displaced aggression: "We tend to blame all members of a group if one member does something bad," says Eduardo Vasquez, PhD, a senior lecturer and displaced-aggression researcher at the University of Kent in the UK.

He says that while people often view members of their own group - for instance, the members of their own political party - as a diverse mix, members of the competing group are often viewed as more or less "interchangeable".

"So if you encounter somebody who is a member of an out-group or somehow related to it, then at some level your system generalises the anger to include that individual," notes Vasquez.

This may help explain why retail workers are bearing the brunt of some people's Covid-19 fury. For the person who disagrees with social-distancing protocols, those charged with enforcing them may seem of a piece with the public officials who put those protocols in place.

Keeping anger in its cage

The big takeaway here is that anger breeds anger and accumulated fury tends to lash out at whatever target is convenient. As the old saying goes, to a person with a hammer, everything is a nail.

How can people put down the hammer of anger - or avoid pick-

ing it up in the first place? Ohio State's Bushman says avoiding things that tend to make you angry is the obvious remedy.

During Covid-19, that may mean limiting the time you spend reading or watching the news, or staying away from online content or platforms that tend to leave you hot and bothered.

"If you think of anger like a fire, there's a lot of fuel for that right now. Social media and the news provide a lot of that fuel," he says.

The sooner you can nip anger in the bud, the better. Rumination - basically, thinking about or replaying in your mind the thing that made you angry - tends to turn anger up to 11. "Rumination is the worst thing you can do," Bushman says.

On the other hand, spending time in nature is an effective way to reduce angry feelings and emotions, he says. Humour - whether it's a funny video on YouTube or texting with friends who make you laugh - also tends to quickly snuff out the flames of anger.

A little empathy doesn't hurt either. A 2017 study in the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology found that people can, with effort, put themselves in someone else's shoes and gain a better understanding of their viewpoints.

Unfortunately, many are unwilling to make this effort even when it would lead them towards more positive emotions, according to research from the American Psychological Association. Again, anger is oddly intoxicating; turning away from it requires strength.

"Anything you can do that's incompatible with anger or aggression is helpful," Bushman says.

• **Health and science writer Markham Heid penned this report for Elemental, a new Medium publication about health and wellness.**

Simplifying Covid-19 into one mechanism: This is the epithelial-endothelial 'crosstalk'

BY SHIN JIE YONG

WE see all imaginable symptoms with Covid-19, which is supposed to be a pneumonia disease. Yet the pandemic can affect the brain, peripheral nerves, olfaction, taste, throat, thyroid, liver, gastrointestinal tract, kidneys, spleen, semen, skin, blood vessels, toes and probably more to come.

It's intriguing how one virus, SARS-CoV-2, could cause so many symptoms. Is there actually a unifying mechanism of disease progression that could explain most of these symptoms?

In a May research letter to Intensive Care Medicine, Amit Jain and D. John Doyle, professors of anaesthesiology at Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi, proposed the "epithelial-endothelial crosstalk" hypothesis. And thorough autopsy findings later confirm it.

Epithelial cells refer to the lining or membrane that covers a specific tissue, such as alveoli (that is, air sacs). In contrast, endothelial cells are a specialized type of epithelial cell that covers blood vessels.

In this crosstalk, the spike protein of SARS-CoV-2 first binds to the ACE2 receptor present on alveolar epithelial cells. Following virus replication inside alveolar sacs, the membrane breaks to release

new virions that infect the pulmonary capillaries (that is, small blood vessels surrounding the air sacs) via the ACE2 receptor.

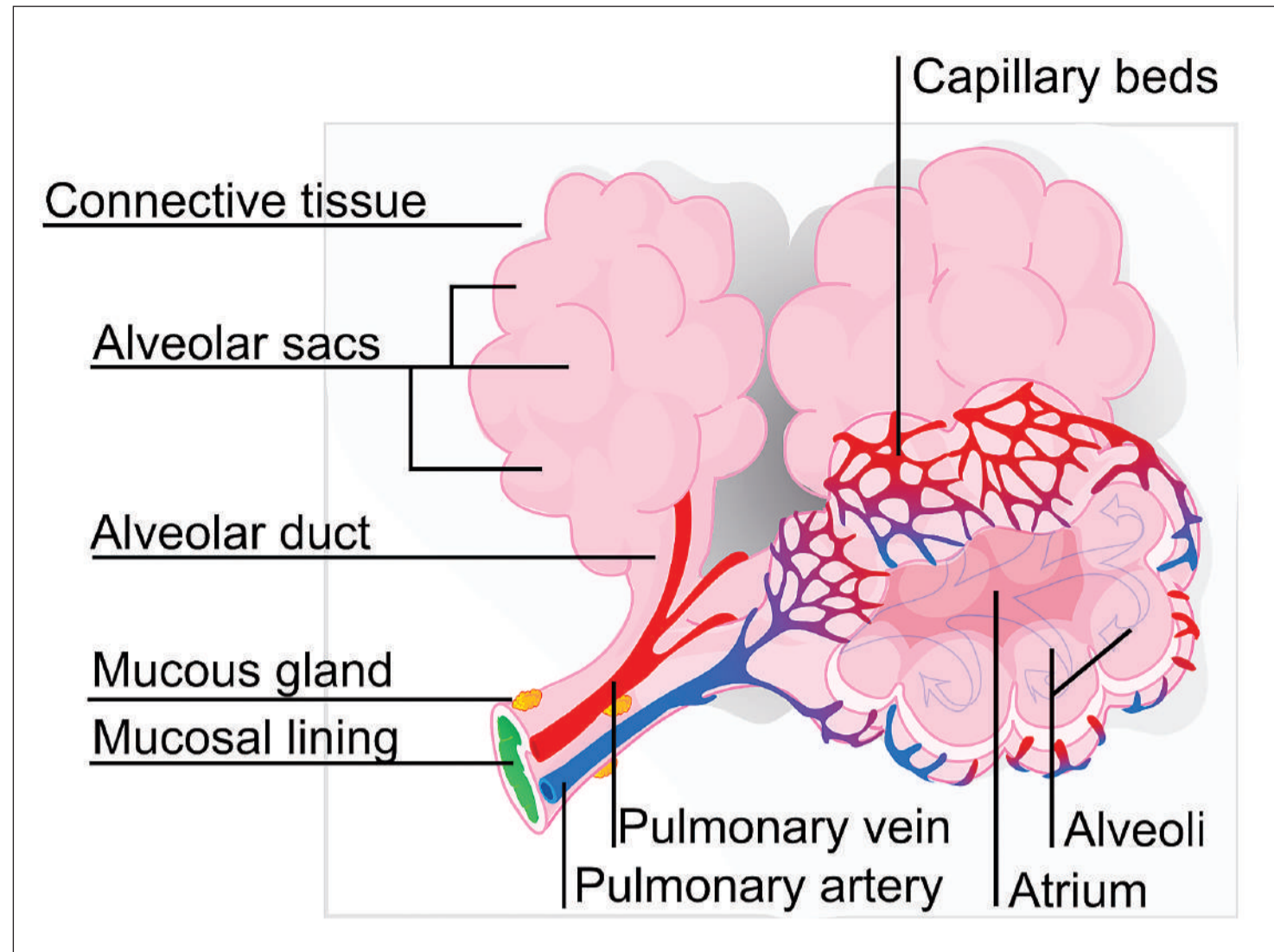
As virus replication continues, SARS-CoV-2 then latches onto the ACE2 receptor on the pulmonary endothelium (that is, cells lining the pulmonary veins or arteries, which are large blood vessels).

In sum, SARS-CoV-2 infects the air sacs (or alveoli). Then it goes to the small blood vessels (capillaries or capillary beds) surrounding the air sacs and subsequently to large blood vessels (pulmonary arteries or veins).

"File: An alveolus is an anatomical structure that has the form of a hollow cavity. Mainly found in the lung, the pulmonary alveoli are spherical outcroppings of the respiratory bronchioles.

"Following alveolar-capillary membrane disruption, SARS-CoV-2 enters the pulmonary capillaries and directly infects the pulmonary endothelial cells via ACE-2 protein on the luminal surfaces," the professors explained.

"As a result, endothelial cells assume a 'pro-inflammatory'/'procoagulant' phenotype," professors Jain and Doyle said, adding: "This accelerates Fas-induced apoptosis of alveolar epithelial and endothelial cells and orchestrates the cytokine storm and the progression of Covid-19 to ARDS."



id-19 to ARDS."

From here onwards, since blood vessels connect all organs, SARS-CoV-2 has the potential to damage multiple organs, as autopsies have shown.

As published in Lancet in

April, researchers in Switzerland analysed the bodies of three Covid-19 patients who had since died. Endotheliitis - inflamed blood vessels - were present in the lungs, heart, small intestines, kidney and liver.

The authors wrote: "Although the virus uses an ACE2 receptor expressed by pneumocytes in the epithelial alveolar lining to infect the host, thereby causing lung injury, the ACE2 receptor is also widely expressed on en-

dothelial cells, which traverse multiple organs."

Later, on May 21, the New England Journal of Medicine published an autopsy report on seven Covid-19 victims. They noted that alongside extensive alveoli

damage, the lungs also had "distinctive vascular features... consisting of severe endothelial injury associated with the presence of intracellular virus and disrupted cell membranes."

Clotting of alveolar capillaries was also nine times more common in Covid-19 cases than influenza pneumonia controls.

The following day, another autopsy study from Brazil was published. They showed that all ten Covid-19 cases had ruptured alveoli. But eight (80 per cent) had it with coagulated alveoli arteries (or pulmonary endothelium).

Blood vessels and tissues of the heart, liver, kidneys, spleen, lymph nodes, skin, skeletal muscle, testes and brain were also damaged.

As per the study conclusion: "Our findings show that Covid-19 is a systemic disease with major events in the lungs and the involvement of various organs and tissues."

All these autopsy reports had this in common: the "epithelial-endothelial crosstalk". Alveoli epithelial cells and pulmonary endothelial cells were both inflamed and ruptured. From the lung vessels, SARS-CoV-2 may then transverse to other organs as the vascular system connects all organs.

• **Shin Jie Yong published this piece as a young postgraduate student in dementia research in Malaysia.**

Outrage over racism combined with COVID-19 woes lead to riots in US

WASHINGTON

THE United States is in pain, anger and the "widest unrest for decades" over racial injustice after George Floyd, an unarmed black man, pleaded "I can't breathe" before dying in Minneapolis police custody a week ago.

The chronic racial wound in the United States is now smarting again. African Americans have suffered disproportionately high death rates from the COVID-19 outbreak, which has claimed over 100,000 lives and more than 40 million jobs in the nation so far.

In six consecutive days and nights till Sunday, riots flared up and quickly spread across the country as tens of thousands of people took to the streets over Floyd's death. Protesters threw projectiles at police and buildings, cars were set ablaze and numerous businesses looted.

Late on Sunday night, multiple fires were set near the White House as protesters were facing off with police firing tear gas and pepper spray. A symbolic landmark, the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C., was spray-painted with the words "Y'all not tired yet?" a night earlier amid protests.

About 40 U.S. cities including the U.S. capital imposed curfews on Sunday night as more than a dozen states have activated National Guards or declared a state of emergency in response to the growing unrest. More than 4,000 arrests have been made and more are expected since violent protests and tensions are continuing.

"It was more than just his (Floyd's) death. It was the way he died, in front of our eyes, on video everywhere, pleading for his life, that had angry people spilling into the streets of cities across this country," said Mitch Albom with Detroit Free Press on Sunday.

Floyd, aged 46, died on May 25 after a white police officer held him down with a knee on his neck for at least eight minutes though he repeatedly pleaded, "I can't breathe," and "please, I can't breathe." A video recording of the moment went viral on social

media the next day, sparking a national outcry for justice.

"The issue for blacks is a well-grounded personal sense that their lives are at immediate risk in any interaction with police," Clay Ramsay, a senior research associate at the Center for International and Security Studies at the University of Maryland, told Xinhua in an interview on Sunday.

"If you are not white, you are five times more likely to be killed by police than if you are white," said Ramsay, adding that U.S. police are heavily armed and have a well-known tendency to use excessive force.

Floyd's death showed the "open wound" of the nation's systemic racism, presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden said, urging the "nation furious at injustice" to refrain from violence amid protests.

The COVID-19 pandemic, together with its economic shock, added new fuel to the systemic inequality and racism in the country, making racial conflicts much more likely, observers said.

Data compiled by the non-partisan APM Research Lab in late May revealed that the COVID-19 outbreak has aggravated racial inequality in the United States as African Americans are suffering a disproportionate share of poor health and economic blows from the pandemic.

With a death toll of more than 20,000 or about one in every 2,000 of the entire U.S. African American population, African Americans are dying at a rate of 50.3 per 100,000 people, compared with 20.7 for whites, 22.9 for Latinos and 22.7 for Asian Americans, the data showed.

"COVID-19 has hit non-whites far out of proportion to their part of the U.S. population; the economic shock that came out of COVID-19 has hit non-whites the same way," said Ramsay.

One in four U.S. workers has applied for unemployment benefits since the pandemic took hold in March and that pain was highly concentrated among low earners. A full 39 percent of former workers living in a household earning 40,000 U.S. dollars or less lost work, compared with 13 percent of those making more



Riot police officers arrest a small group of protesters at a memorial to George Floyd in Minneapolis, the United States, on Saturday. (Xinhua)

than 100,000 dollars, a Fed official said earlier last month.

In Floyd's case, the fatal arrest began as a police response to a 911 call claiming the black man, who had lost his job as a security guard due to layoffs in the outbreak, possibly used a fake 20-dollar bill at a local food store in the biggest city of the U.S. Midwest state Minnesota.

"Where people are broke, and there doesn't appear to be any assistance, there's no

leadership, there's no clarity about what is going to happen, this creates the conditions for anger, rage, desperation and hopelessness, which can be a very volatile combination," said Keeanga-Yamahatta Taylor, an assistant professor of African American studies at Princeton University.

Moreover, as the pandemic unfolded, intensified partisan fights together with political polarization with an eye to general elections in Novem-

ber have also played an active role in brewing rage and tearing the country apart.

Amid the national outrage, U.S. President Donald Trump has pledged a crackdown on the violent protests, tweeting "when the looting starts, the shooting starts" while calling Minneapolis protesters "thugs" on social media. Twitter added a warning label to the tweet for "glorifying violence."

Some Democrats and Republicans are concerned that the president's remarks might deepen the divide in a country already unnerved by a pandemic, distressed economy and racial unrest, according to a CNN report.

"There's been an uptick in tension and ha-

tred and division since (Trump) came along," New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio said in a news conference on Saturday. "It's just a fact."

"It's never just about a precipitating incident that resulted in the unrest," Darnell Hunt, dean of Social Sciences at the University of California, Los Angeles, told New York Times columnist Michelle Goldberg. "It's always a collection of factors that make the situation ripe for collective behavior, unrest and mobilization."

"Now, though, we might be at the start of a long, hot summer of civil unrest," said Goldberg, calling the United States "a tinderbox" since the economic ruin from the pandemic is just beginning.

Xinhua

FAO urges African leaders on AfCFTA execution to tackle post-Covid-19 food crisis

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

THE Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has urged African leaders on implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), to tackle post Covid-19 food crisis.

The advice was given by a Senior Economist, Regional Office for Africa, FAO, Jean Senahou, in a paper titled, 'Rising from a crisis - A more self-reliant Africa after coronavirus?'

Expressing concern, Senahou said with the persistence of the COVID-19 crisis which has strongly indicated a threat to the entire food system, especially in Africa, as the crisis persists, pointed out that the pandemic has created shocks globally with negative impacts on intra-African trade, with Gross Domestic Product, GDP, expected to drop precipitously.

According to him when the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement was

launched on 21 March 2018, African leaders did not imagine that the tenets of the agreement could possibly save the continent from a pandemic-fueled food and economic crisis.

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) was the multilateral agreement initiated by the African Union, AU, and as of July 2019, 54 of the 55 AU states had signed the agreement, with exception of Eritrea not signing the agreement, and for now, 27 states have deposited their instrument of ratification was signed on by 44 of its 55 member states in Kigali, Rwanda on March 21.

The intent of AfCFTA wants member states to remove tariffs from 90 per cent on goods, allowing free access to commodities, goods, and services across the continent.

He said: "The pandemic has created shocks globally with negative impacts on intra-African trade, with GDP expected to drop precipitously from 2.4

per cent in 2019 to -2.1 to -5.1 per cent in 2020 according to the World Bank, marking the first recession in the region in 25 years. Most African economies, especially those of commodity-exporting countries, will be the hardest hit."

However, there is a lifeline for Africa. One of the principal objectives of the AfCFTA is to expand intra-African trade, improving the flow of goods and services across countries and boosting economic growth through increased agro-processing and a strategy of diversification and industrialisation.

Since its signing by 54 states, few tangible results of AfCFTA can be identified and most states are still in the ratification process. The process has been slow, with the bureaucracies of countries and existing economic blocs churning to make it a reality.

"Africa is a net importer of food, with staple foods such as wheat, rice and maize be-

ing some of the largest imports. With current lockdowns leading to delays imports and critical connection points for trade, Africa faces the risk of disruption to its critical supply chains.

If this happens, the most vulnerable 200 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa, identified by FAO as already food insecure, will be the ones to bear the brunt of this shortage. There is also the potential disruption in the supply of crucial agricultural inputs (fertilizers, pesticides, and livestock feed), crippling local production.

"Covid-19 presents an opportunity for African countries to accelerate the shift towards a single market and for the continent to make a paradigm shift to be able to fend for itself and reduce its dependence on food imports.

This will open up continental trade routes and economic opportunities in the long-term, but presents an even greater

short-term advantage: it allows African countries to keep their food systems alive to avert what could be one for the worst food crises in its history."

However, he posited, "The question is, how can countries do this? Lowering intra-regional import tariffs facilitates the movement of agricultural products that will help address the immediate concern around the possibility of low food supplies and general food insecurity while laying the foundation for long-term policies.

"Africa's agricultural exports comprise mostly cash crops like cocoa, coffee, and spices, which have relatively limited markets in Africa, while basic food products are imported, indicating the need to prioritise a more diverse trade basket of goods."

He also urged the government in the continent to initiate and support facilities that would help farmers to salvage the impending food crisis that would be occasioned by the

pandemic. "Governments must also build buyer-supplier networks, connecting small and medium scale producers, including smallholder farmers, to buyers locally and regionally.

A large part of this step is the removal of discretionary constraints such as import and export restrictions that distort trade, to connect these producers to their markets.

It is essential to remove non-tariff barriers like transport and logistics bottlenecks, which have long been a deterrent for the efficient movement of goods and services between African countries.

"Finally, governments must implement policies to support local production.

These policies must seek to develop regional value chains, strengthening national food production capacities and linkages to regional markets, which in turn provide a strong basis for countries to export and

boost inter- and intra-regional trade in the long-term.

"AfCFTA provides a viable platform for import substitution, promotion of regional agricultural value chains and more diversified supply chains, and local production and consumption of goods and services. "This is a golden opportunity to expedite the launch of the AfCFTA in phases to mitigate the food-system and economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Regulatory bodies must ensure that governments do not use trade-related measures such as import and export restrictions irresponsibly, keeping the spirit of the agreement at the forefront of its implementation. He added with optimism that,

"The circumstances are unfortunate and the stakes are high, but if handled properly, Africa could emerge from the shadow of COVID-19 a stronger, more self-reliant continent."

Africa's female journalists use radio broadcasts in dispelling coronavirus fake news, sexism

JOHANNESBURG

FROM rural villages in Malawi to the war-torn streets of north-west Cameroon, rising numbers of female radio hosts are taking to the air to dispel fake news and myths about the novel coronavirus whilst also tackling sexism.

Radio is the only source of information in many parts of rural Africa and viewed as an important medium to stem the spread of the coronavirus across the continent which has so far been less severely hit by COVID-19 than other regions.

Africa has recorded about 100,000 cases of coronavirus, according to the African Centre for Disease Control, but the World Health Organization has warned the continent, home to 1.3 billion people, could become the next epicentre of the pandemic.

"Radio has the power to change the attitude and behaviour of communities," said Maikem Emmanuela Kimah, 32, a Cameroonian radio host and station manager for Ndefcam Radio in Bamenda in the north-west region in Cameroon.

"People come up with new corona myths every day, like spicy food or garlic can kill the virus, or that the virus isn't even real," said Kimah, who has worked with Ndefcam Radio for seven years.

Kimah added that in rural areas,

where there are regular electricity blackouts, most people depended on battery-powered radio for information.

Across the continent, 54% of African youth use radio as their main news source, and most - 81% - find local media more trustworthy than international, according to a pan-African survey by the South African-based Ichikowitz Family Foundation.

"We are without a doubt seeing a power dynamic shifting with more and more female radio journalists in Africa," said Lerato Makate, an executive producer at Wits Radio Academy, a community radio training platform in Johannesburg.

"There are still struggles with intimidation, but the numbers of female reporters are growing," said Makate.

Getting stories on air for Kimah and other female journalists is not without its challenges.

"As female reporters we are exposed to sexual harassment a lot," said Kimah, adding she refused to let this divert her from her main priority of reporting on the pandemic.

According to a global survey by the International Women's Media Foundation, 58% of nearly 600 female journalists interviewed had been threatened or harassed in person, and one in 10 had received death threats.

Coupled with this, Cameroon has



Meclina Chirwa is doing the same from the capital city Lilongwe.

This is not the first time that Chirwa, 30, has used radio to dispel myths around health issues, having bought tuberculosis (TB) experts on to her show in the past to challenge misconceptions.

Her new show, called "Let's talk about Corona", continues to use expert interviews to challenge coronavirus fake news on Timveni Radio Station that has a wide reach into rural areas.

"As journalists, we need to tell the truth, and we can do this using radio to reach the rural masses," said Chirwa.

Amid the urgency to get accurate coronavirus information out to listeners, these female radio hosts said they also share another experience - regular sexual advances from male sources. "It is not even surprising any more when this happens," said Shapwanale. "We are made to feel objectified, and have to work extra hard to prove we can pull off a good story as well as our male colleagues."

Pushing back against fear to go out and report is a common experience for Kimah, especially as coronavirus cases continue to rise. Cameroon has about 5,400 confirmed coronavirus cases, and 175 deaths, according to Johns Hopkins University.

"We are scared of the unforeseen, but we cannot miss out because we are scared. Inform somebody about where you are going, put on your press jacket and go," she said.

Not doing so means male counterparts get all the good stories, leaving female reporters struggling to build their careers, said Kimah.

She said she was on her way to the radio studio in Bamenda early one morning when she was stopped by the police.

"They accused me of promoting violence through my work," she said. "I told him: I do not promote violence. My job is to give hope to people again."

During the Ebola crisis, Liberian radio journalists tried to tackle stigma and share information, said Lesedi Mogoathe, a COVID-19 content developer for Children's Radio Foundation, a charity that trains African youth to be radio reporters.

"People were burying their dead in their backyards because of discrimination. People go into corners when there is stigma, but the anonymity of radio means we can share stories," said Mogoathe in a phone interview from Johannesburg, South Africa.

seen an increase in fighting in the past four years between the army and Anglophone rebels calling for a split from the French-speaking majority country.

"Just going out to get information is risky as women are more vulnerable to rape or abuse," said Kimah.

"My advice for female journalists: wear shoes and jeans that make it easy to run if you have to."

Further south on the continent in Namibia, the southern African country of 2.5 million people, radio host Ndapewo-

shali Shapwanale said she had to quickly pivot her reporting to spotlight the dangers of COVID-19.

"When the pandemic was first announced, we focused on how to keep our listeners safe. We explained what coronavirus is and what actions our government is taking," said Shapwanale, 30, a radio host with Eagle FM radio in the capital Windhoek.

"People initially believed that 5G had caused coronavirus, or that it was man-made or that Chinese people were intentionally bringing the vi-

rus into our country," she said. "We immediately educated people on the facts."

Namibia has about 20 confirmed cases of the virus and no deaths, according to a global tally from Johns Hopkins University of Medicine.

"Because our numbers are low, people are not social distancing. We are trying to explain the importance of wearing masks and staying home," said Shapwanale in a phone interview.

Further east in Malawi, a southern African country of about 17.5 million, radio host

African universities look to partnerships to boost ICT capacity

By Sharon Dell

AFRICAN universities had been 'caught unawares' by the shutdowns and the subsequent shift to online learning necessitated by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Against this backdrop, international, regional and national partnerships are perceived as one of the ways in which these institutions can fast-track their ICT infrastructure and capacity in an altered higher education landscape.

During the second of a six-part dialogue series hosted recently by the Alliance for African Partnership (AAP), a consortium of 11 universities in Africa and Michigan State University in the United States, Professor George Kanyama-Phiri, vice-chancellor of the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR) in Malawi, said he believed partnerships and collaborations could help his university to improve its ICT capacity, particularly the development of regulatory frameworks to ensure quality online teaching and learning.

He told participants in the webinar on "Global and Continental Partnerships and Collaboration in Higher Education Post COVID-19" that while the AAP had indicated that it would assist in building capacity among faculty to deliver online teaching and assessment, he hoped there would also be an opportunity to work with the AAP towards the development of common online modules.

Moderated by Professor Paul Zeleza, vice-chancellor of the US International University-Africa based in Kenya, the we-

binar set out to explore the kind of partnerships that are emerging as a result of COVID-19, and how the pandemic might affect what Zeleza described as the "perennial struggle to balance the demands of internationalisation and indigenisation".

Kanyama-Phiri said the pandemic had exposed need to deepen triangular cooperation in terms of South to South and North-South partnerships as well as public-private partnerships.

The small public university, like many others in Africa, is challenged by a number of issues militating against its ability to switch to online learning easily: its students lack universal access to laptops and internet data; furthermore, the campus itself suffers from frequent disruptions to its electricity supply; and students, most of whom have been sent home to rural areas, have limited access to the internet and do not enjoy environments conducive to learning.

"We have been affected by the pandemic in the sense that we were caught unawares without functional ICT infrastructure; our students ... not all of them have laptops," he said.

Policy and regulatory frameworks

He said that besides infrastructural challenges, university policy and regulations were not geared for fulltime online teaching and learning. And the university faces tough financial conditions.

"Let me hasten to add, by virtue of the fact that students have gone home, it means our source of revenues which



comes from fees has also been drastically affected and we are really operating from a very limited budget," he said.

"In terms of opportunities for collaboration, we would like to improve our ICT, as is the case with other African countries, specifically to build capacity and develop regulatory frameworks to ensure quality of online learning."

He said he believed that the inclusion of post-COVID-19 online instruction for generic programmes would improve access to higher education in Malawi in general. "The AAP universities could offer common online modules and other modules could be offered on campus," he said.

While the need for collaboration had become more pressing in the context of the pandemic, in some cases joint academic programmes were heavily dependent on travel, which is now impossible.

He said five students from Malawi who were supposed to enrol at MSU and three postdoctoral students who were due to visit Stellenbosch University were now unable to do so. He said this has precipitated an urgent need to devise a "means of communicating virtually - with which our colleagues at MSU are capable of assisting. Most training needs to take place in Africa with improvement in communication."

"International cooperation is likely to be online in the next year or two; but there is a need for deeper and more equitable partnerships that benefit African institutional interests," he said. "Intra-regional collaboration will be more important - in the short term we envisage a move towards co-creation of curricula among southern and northern institutions in response to COVID, and in longer term, more collaborative models that use northern expertise while situating edu-

cation in the African context."

He said a focus in joint research would be the search for cures for COVID-19 and the efficiency of food systems in the context of the pandemic.

Because the impact of COVID-19 transcended the health sector, all university faculties had a role to play.

No 'business as usual'

"The effects and implications of COVID-19 are evolving fast in the country as is the case on the continent and the world, and universities cannot afford to do business as usual, at a pre-COVID-19 pace. We have to face reality. There is a need to fast-track processes, capturing data and providing feedback. I must emphasise that we need research that can produce results and outputs," he said.

He said the university envisaged partnering with development partners and government in capturing data for informed decision-making. It was also reaching out to government to assist by participating in COVID-19 response teams and had offered its Bunda College of Agriculture as a facility for COVID-19 PCR testing.

Like LUANAR, with the onset of the shutdown of campuses in Mali, the University Arts and Human Sciences of Bamako found itself limited in its response by long-standing infrastructural challenges such as poor connectivity, high internet costs, lack of ICT materials and frequent power disruptions. The university also suffered a lack of human and

financial resources, according to its vice-chancellor, Professor Idrissa Traore.

In its bid to "leave no student behind" in terms of access to electronic communication, the university has been trying to establish digital platforms, negotiate the cost of internet and IT materials. It has also imposed social distancing measures and the mandatory use of masks, said Traore.

Like his Malawian counterpart, Traore indicated that among other areas of focus, future local and international partnerships would be geared towards enhancing institutional ICT capacity. Other priorities included English language training for the university community, diversification of funding sources, construction of news infrastructure and value-added research.

Common challenges

Professor Charles Igwe, vice-chancellor of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, told the webinar that COVID-19 poses "some common challenges" to African universities, especially with regard to managing populations and improving technology.

"[The challenges] require funding and strategic thinking. Some universities may be better equipped to deal with these challenges within the continent. However, the challenges of availability and affordability of requisite technology, for example, data access and affordability are common to all African universities," he said.



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CRDB announces big interest rate cut for salaried workers

By Smart Money Reporter

SALARIED workers seeking to acquire loans from CRDB Bank Plc can heave a sigh of relief as interest rates have been slashed from a market average of 16 percent to 14 percent.

Unveiling a new campaign christened, 'Jiachie utakavyo' in Dar es Salaam this week, the bank's Director of Retail Banking, Boma Raballa said salaried workers from both the public and private sectors are welcome to apply for the loans.

"Jiachie utakavyo means that employees have wider access to loans as the cost of borrowing has been reduced while repayment period extended with freedom to choose loan amounts," Raballa said adding that the move is strategic by management to allow salaried workers achieve their goals amidst coronavirus outbreak challenge.

He further noted that apart from lowering of interest rate, the bank has also given salaried workers freedom to



CRDB Bank Plc's Director of Retail Banking, Boma Raballa (L), speaks in Dar es Salaam yesterday at the launch of a campaign targeting salaried workers. Others are Head of Consumer Banking, Stephen Adili (R) and Senior Manager for Personal Banking Farida Hamza. Photo courtesy of CRDB Bank.

choose the period of time to settle the loan which also relates to interest rate charged. "Under Jiachie utakavyo, customers are free to choose their repayment period ranging between a year to seven years and also choose on interest rate between 14 and 16 percent," Raballa added noting that employees may borrow up to 100m/-.

Explaining reasons behind the bank's move in favouring employees, Head of Consumer Banking, Stephen Adili said the Dar es Salaam based lender appreciates the role which salaried workers from both public and private sectors, play in the economy.

"We all know how employees have continued to serve us during this pandemic period, they have been in the forefront in serving us in every sector, this campaign is part of showing our

appreciation but also allow them meet their goals," Adili said.

Senior Manager Personal Banking, Farida Hamza seconded Raballa and Adili's appreciation of the important role employees play in the community while inviting them to seize and utilise the rare opportunity.

"This loan package is available to all salaried workers country-wide even those who don't hold an account with CRDB but also those with existing loans with other banks," Hamza said adding CRDB has a policy of buying outstanding loans from other banks.

Among the conditions which prospective borrowers need to fulfil include have an official national identity document such as driving license, passport and national ID; three months salary slip, employment contract or confirmation letter.

Global wind energy sector sets highest supply record

BRUSSELS

THE global wind energy industry set a new supply record in 2019, with 22 893 wind turbines installed produced from 33 suppliers and accounting for over 63GW of capacity.

This is according to the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC), which published the second edition of its annual Supply Side Analysis 2019 this week. The report says Danish manufacturer Vestas continued to hold on to its place as top supplier in 2019, accounting for 18% of all wind turbines installed in 2019, thanks to its global diversification strategy, with installations in more than 40 countries. GWEC notes Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy moved up one position to second place, with the supplier doubling its offshore wind installations in 2019 and expanding its geographic coverage.

Goldwind fell one position to third place despite the company increasing its annual installations by 19% in 2019 due to an installation rush in its home market, China, GWEC says. Of the top 15 wind turbine suppliers in 2019, 10 installed off-

shore wind turbines last year, accounting for 99.9% of the record 6.1GW of offshore wind capacity installed in 2019.

"Last year was also the first time we saw a purely offshore wind supplier, MHI Vestas, break the global top 15, demonstrating the increasingly important role the offshore industry is playing to drive wind power growth," says the council.

Ben Backwell, CEO of GWEC, says: "We are continuing to see market consolidation for turbine suppliers globally, with the number of suppliers declining from 37 in 2018 to 33 in 2019. "At the same time, the top six turbine vendors collectively increased their market share from 70% in 2018 to 72% in 2019. Within this competitive landscape, current trends favour companies that shift from being solely manufacturers to evolving into holistic systems and solution providers to allow for greater market diversification.

Backwell points out that the wind sector is a leader in innovation and technology, which can clearly be seen in the impressive increases in turbine sizes. He says in 2019, the average turbine size surpassed 2 750kW and in some markets



Ben Backwell, CEO of GWEC.

like Denmark and the UK, turbines passed the 5 000kW milestone thanks to offshore wind development. "This is a 72% increase for average turbine size in the past decade alone, and is a testament to the industry's leadership in technology innovation and maturity of the global sector," says Back-

well. Feng Zhao, strategy director of GWEC, says: "More than 63GW wind power capacity was delivered and installed based on supply side data in 2019, a new record for the industry.

He adds that 2020 was forecast to be another record-breaking year; however, disruption of

the global supply chain and delays in wind project execution forced major stakeholders in the wind industry to withdraw their 2020 financial and production guidance as well as adjust their market outlook for the year.

"In 2019, eight Chinese turbine vendors were included in the top 15 supplier ranking, but the top two spots were held by European suppliers Vestas and Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy," Zhao says.

"With the COVID-19 crisis now disrupting supply chains, manufacturing and project execution globally, it is likely these rankings will shift in 2020 depending on how quickly countries and businesses can recover from the pandemic," he says.

According to the report, GE Renewable Energy and Envision remain in the fourth and fifth position, respectively, for global market share, both showing increases thanks to installation rushes in their home markets of US and China.

It notes Mingyang and Nordex Acciona also benefited from these installation rushes, both moving up one position to sixth and seventh place, respectively. GWEC says Enercon dropped by two positions to eighth place in 2019, primarily due to a significant decline in installations in its home market, Germany.

Lack of differentiation among SA telcos hurts Cell C

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa's third biggest mobile operator, Cell C, is the biggest casualty as local cellular networks have increasingly become undifferentiated when it comes to customer satisfaction.

This is according to the South African Customer Satisfaction Index for Mobile Telecommunications Services, conducted by Consulta. The 2019 index surveyed over 2 500 customers across prepaid, top-up and postpaid (contract) customers who make use of the collective product offering of voice and data solutions. The survey was conducted during the second half of 2019.

Consulta found the South African cellular network industry has improved in the customer satisfaction stakes. It notes SA's three largest cellular networks - Vodacom, MTN and Cell C - have all recorded improvements in satisfaction since the 2018 index; however, long-term trends indicate a degree of inconsistency when it comes to keeping their customers happy.

According to the study, one pertinent finding is that customer expectations have consistently declined over a four-year period. Consulta says this is cause for concern as de-

clines in customer expectations have been proven to foreshadow inevitable drops in perceived quality, value and ultimately overall satisfaction.

"Results indicate the networks included in the measure are struggling to differentiate themselves on unique, customer-centric needs and offerings, instead preferring to compete directly with each other by seemingly targeting identical markets and segments," says Ineke Prinsloo, head of customer insights at Consulta.

No escape

Prinsloo notes this battle is especially damaging to Cell C, which continues to trail behind Vodacom and MTN on customer satisfaction. "It is difficult to see how Cell C will escape its current troubles without clearly understanding and appealing to a more niche portion of the market."

The report comes as Cell C is facing difficulties on a number of fronts. Besides failing to give Vodacom and MTN a run for their money, SA's third biggest operator is saddled with a huge debt of about R9 billion.

Vodacom and MTN both enjoy superior network infrastructure and deeper pockets for sizeable capex investments in compari-



Cell C's CEO, Douglas Craigie Stevenson.

son with Cell C. Although the embattled Cell C lost 2.9 million subscribers for the year ended December, it says the margin of its existing customers is better as a result of acquiring profitable customers. Lack of capital is also another issue Cell C is facing, with CEO Douglas Craigie Stevenson recently saying "...a successful recapitalisation will secure the long-term sustainability of Cell C."

Last week, Cell C announced it will split off some of its assets as part of an attempt to restructure its debt. This after the Competition Commission recommended conditional approval of the proposed acquisition of certain Cell C assets by special purpose vehicle

Gatsby.

It also emerged this month that some senior managers and executives at Cell C may lose their jobs, as the company has initiated a consultation process with the possibility of redundancy of certain positions and re-appointments.

Regarding lack of differentiation, Consulta says Cell C can take a leaf from the book of the financial services sector, which provides "an excellent case study in how successful a narrow, focused approach can be if one looks at how successful brands such as Capitec (in banking) and Virseker (in insurance) have been," says Prinsloo.

Data debate

Consulta notes mobile data continues to remain a contentious issue, with customers frequently complaining about their respective network's data network quality and giving particularly low perceived value ratings (less than 70 for each network).

It believes that this, coupled with a lack of differentiation, gives new players an opportunity to make inroads and attract customers who are looking for a more customer-centric offering that is better suited to their unique needs.

While Vodacom and MTN remain at the forefront in the premium segment for now, the latest index shows increasing erosion of this position as customers become less concerned with the quality of voice networks, placing more emphasis on mobile data offerings and services.

"The index surveyed both prepaid and contract (postpaid) customers, and it is concerning to note that across the board, contract customers are the most dissatisfied and have the most complaints," Prinsloo says.

"This suggests these customers are given the least attention in terms of value, quality of products and relationship with their provider. This should be a red flag given that contract clients are what we view as 'bankable' business for network operators. Once tied into a contract, it seems there is a distinct level of neglect that creeps into the customer experience and service for these customers.

"It is a dangerous position to be in as these customers feel like hostages as they are unable to move their business, or get their complaints resolved, so they will be the first to move their business when they can, and in their wake will do immeasurable damage to the brand reputation in terms of negative word of mouth," explains Prinsloo.

HaloPesa customers to share 1 billion/- in maiden 'dividend'

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

IN a major milestone, Halo Pesa subscribers will share 1bn/- in profit money being the first ever since the company started offering the money transfer services in 2016.

Halotel Tanzania Limited's Head of Business, Magesa Wandwi said in Dar es Salaam this week that the cash will be shared among 1.9 million HaloPesa customers countrywide who include individuals and agents. Wandwi said the maiden 'dividend' payment will be paid this month.

"This is the first time for Halotel Tanzania to pay 'dividend' to its HaloPesa customers and its profit generated between October 2016 and December 2018," Wandwi stated noting that the mobile payment platform has been growing annually at an impressive rate.

"As HaloPesa we are very glad and eager to fulfill our obligation of sharing profits as per National Payments System (NPS) regulations and guidance from Bank of Tanzania," he added saying that Halotel is committed to give back to customers who play a key role in ensuring profit making.

The Halotel Head of Business further explained that the payments will be made directly into HaloPesa subscribers' e-wallets of the handsets. "We are happy to assure esteemed customers that Halotel will continue to provide quality HaloPesa services that will generate profits that we will share across the country," Wandwi stated.

He urged the company's customers to continue supporting its businesses so that they can also reap the benefits of profits being accrued stressing that HaloPesa is determined to continue growing by allowing customers to settle bills, withdraw cash and make other payments to individuals and companies via mobile phones.

"Apart from supporting our HaloPesa services, we also urge the public to exploit our



Halotel Tanzania Limited's Head of Business, Magesa Wandwi.

other services including voice and data," he advised while pledging cheap bundles for voice and data that's available everywhere in the country.

Halotel which is a subsidiary of Vietman's Viettel International has been contracted by

the government to extend communication infrastructure to rural parts of the country where other mobile phone service companies have failed to invest because of poor market. The company has already connected more than 78,000 villages since 2015 countrywide.

Bumbuli paralegals assist communities repossess 'privatised' water borehole

By Smart Money Reporter

A BOREHOLE which supplies clean water to four wards in Bumbuli District of Tanga Region was repossessed by the community from a private investor thanks to support from Bumbuli Paralegal Organisation (BPO).

The BPO which by tradition assists communities to address legal challenges, intervened to have a borehole which was being mismanaged by a private investor, reposed by the communities which have since had access to clean water. The borehole, which is located at Dule B village, serves Wena, Kaivei, Kambini and Mavengero wards.

One of the BPO's paralegals, David Yohana said last week that after learning about the crisis, the not-for-profit organization moved into action to enable communities take back their borehole and end mismanagement but also allow the people access clean tap water.

"It came as a surprise that despite having the source of water, villagers were experiencing difficulties in accessing clean water due to poor supervision by leaders at Bumbuli District Council," said Yohana.

Yohana said the water committee which was supposed to oversee the daily running of the borehole abdicated its role but instead passed it over to a private investor. In addition, the committee had had been in its leadership position for more than seven years, contrary to the district council's by-laws.

"We, therefore, came to realize that the private investor had taken advantage of the villagers' ignorance relating to existing council by-laws on tenure of office by the committee and allowed them to use the borehole to benefit themselves," he revealed.

The BPO's sensitization of the communities on existence of the by-laws paved the way to oust the committee and its investor before repossessing the borehole. "The legal education that we gave them paid up as it changed the management of the borehole and threw out the overstayed leadership. In addition, we supported the villagers to have a written regulation on the daily running of the borehole to avoid future mismanagement," Yohana noted.

Speaking on behalf the communities, Kambini Ward resident, Margret John paid tribute to BPO officials led by



BPO' paralegal David Yohana.

Yohana for equipping them with legal knowledge that eventually enabled them to wrestle back their borehole.

"I attended a public meeting where the BPO paralegals gave us legal education on human rights and local government by-laws of Bumbuli District Council which made us realise that the committee was cheating us. These paralegals played an important role in ensuring that justice prevails for the communities which have since got access to clean and safe water," John said noting that having the borehole project back in their hands was also an important milestone because it has completely changed the situation.

She further noted that Bumbuli residents now have an understanding of the importance of paralegals within the society because they have brought positive impacts to remote populations with no access to legal services.

"The possibility of Dule B and surrounding villages continuing to endure water scarcity would have remained unchanged had it not been for the intervention of Bumbuli Paralegal Organization," she added while stressing that the most important thing now is for the communities to make sure that the borehole remains properly managed and protected from any future attempts to privatize it and deny ordinary people access to clean water.

The BPO is one of the hundreds of paralegal organizations in the country being financed by Legal Services Facility (LSF), to promote access to justice for all especially vulnerable groups such as women, children, and other needy in the community.

The LSF also issues grants to legal aid providers including paralegals who are based in all districts of Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar. On average, the LSF through paralegals attend over 70,000 cases in which 60 percent of them have so far been resolved, 22 percent are ongoing, 16 percent have been referred to higher authorities and two percent are unresolved as of last year.

Mobile money services in Rwanda record huge increase in Q1 of 2020

KIGALI

THE value of funds sent out via Mobile Money in Rwanda has increased by 450% in the first quarter of 2020.

Records from the Rwanda Utilities Regulation Authority show a \$42 million (Rwf 40 billion) transaction volume. This was occasioned by a sharp decline in the use of cash when paying for their goods and services.

The developments were inspired by the Central Bank and other local telecommunication companies eager to promote the shift to paperless money by temporarily waiving charges on transfers between mobile wallets and bank accounts. The new measures are also recommended by health experts as a smart way of reducing the spread of COVID-19.

In March, the Central Bank zero-rated money transfer charges for a 3 month period. While the move is a temporary and welcome gesture in the promotion of a cashless COVID-19 economy, data from insight2impact reveals that those charges are a stumbling block in the adoption of digital payments in the country.

Unique mobile money subscribers who have shifted to mobile money transfers have risen from 600,000 to 1.2 million during the lockdown period even reaching 1.8 million in the last week of April. The value of money spent digitally from mid-Feb to mid-April rose by 700 percent in merchant outlets raising the uptick of cashless payments.

A new perspective?

The new debate has arisen over how one can maintain the momentum when the pandemic blows out and the temporary measures surrounding transaction fees are lifted. Cashless payments are more expensive to handle than cash-based, prompting reluctance among entrepreneurs to adopt them.

Hence, despite the explosive growth in mobile money penetration across the continent, most of the money is cashed out for everyday use instead. Data reveals that cash is costly for the banks to handle but cheaper from a consumer's point of view. For instance, the cost of cash production in the Rwandese economy is \$1.5 million annually, while the banks incur anywhere between Rwf18 billion and Rwf20 billion handling it.

Perspective

Withdrawal fees that are locally referred to as "ayo kubikuzza" remain the biggest challenge to sound banking. Vendors often require this fee to be charged onto the actual price of a product or service, discouraging many low-income earners or people who carry out multiple transactions in a day. If they can be done away with, the market forces will naturally push the economy toward a cashless trajectory.



A mobile money agent attends to a client in Kigali.

Vending machines filled with face masks, gloves, sanitiser in Dubai

DUBAI

IF you're planning to fly out of Dubai International Airport any time soon, you can get set for a decidedly sanitised getaway.

That's because the airport has installed new vending machines filled with personal protection equipment for travellers to buy on demand. "Dubai airports made it easy for travellers to purchase PPE while travelling with the installation of two devices," said the Dubai Media Office on Twitter.

There are two vending machines available to passengers travelling through Dubai International Airport. They are located in the departure areas of Terminal 3 and Terminal 2. Travellers can purchase medical protection kits from these machines before flying.

The kits include a disposable face mask, a pair of gloves and two types of sanitiser. There are also plans to add more products to the kits, including reusable face masks. All passengers travelling in and out of Dubai International Airport must wear face masks and gloves at all times due to measures in place to help prevent the spread of Covid-19.

Most passenger flights in and out of Dubai airport are suspended at the moment, but cargo, repatriation and some scheduled Emirates flights are operating. Similar machines were installed at McCarran Airport in Las Vegas last month. The airport said in May that it was the first in the world to deploy the PPE machines for passenger use.



We, therefore, came to realize that the private investor had taken advantage of the villagers' ignorance relating to existing council by-laws on tenure of office by the committee and allowed them to use the borehole to benefit themselves,

Post COVID-19: What does future promise corporations in Tanzania?

By Isaya Tumaini

ON 11 March 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the Covid-19 outbreak as a pandemic in recognition of its rapid spread across the globe. There were over 215 countries affected with more than four million confirmed cases across the world as at 21 May 2020.

Tanzania is no exception, the virus knocked our door on 16 March 2020 and we have witnessed the government issuing various directives to ensure we minimize the impacts it may bring to citizens and the economy.

The unprecedented circumstances of the pandemic have served as a wakeup call in some aspects of how we do business. Here are some of take away points I think corporates will have in their bucket in the post pandemic period:

Working remotely is possible and has almost the same efficiency level as working from office. Most of the corporates have initiated the 'work from home' as a new norm amidst the pandemic period. This has proved to be possible thanks to the use of various means of communication which include but not limited to Zoom, Microsoft Teams and Skype as primary means of getting in touch with colleagues.

In the post pandemic period it will not be a surprise for corporates in the country to allow their staff work from home and go to office when need arises. This will be a blessing for those who used to spend hours in traffic jams to go to work or attend a short meeting. It will also translate into the need to rethink the need for rented office spaces and see if the company needs such a big working space with majority of staff working remotely. Overall working from home modality may prove to be cost effective to both an employer and employee, and in some circumstances more efficient than delivering from the office.

Integrity and commitment is central to effectiveness and efficiency of work delivery. The new way of delivery tells us that, staff are orderly enough to deliver without being monitored physically. The pandemic sends a silent message that, employees are central to the business and they can effectively deliver while working from home. This has been demonstrated by the continuity of businesses during the pandemic as work is delivered from various small work stations.

The pandemic has also triggered a need to relook into the record keeping aspects of businesses. The initiative to 'go green' is being vividly propagated by the prevailing circumstances.



Corporates need to look into how transactions can be conducted with minimal involvement of paper work. For instance, process which required a manual review and sign off of physical papers, companies can consider acquisition of a system which has embedded approval functionalities.

Among the features of a system which will be in favour of the post pandemic way of doing business is to ensure it has a feature of allowing approval of transactions only when all relevant supporting documents have been uploaded to the system. This will make internal and external reviews as well as compliance with regulatory requirements easier than ever before.

The post Covid-19 era will also force corporates to make realistic business continuity plans. The worst case scenarios will inform the business on a need to have contingency plans in case anything rarely expected comes up. The COVID-19 pandemic is unprecedented and it affects businesses in

different ways, however, the impact can be severe to businesses with no proper business continuity plans.

Most employees have also had to invest in good tables and chairs to aid their remote working in addition to relooking at the interior design of their houses to accommodate 'home work stations.' This is a step in the right direction just in case the situation persists and calls for extension of remote working by employers. In conclusion, we all need to focus on the positive lessons out of the Covid-19 pandemic and apply them to give us positive energy to move on and deliver our best in everything we do.

NB:

Isaya Tumaini (pictured) is a Senior Auditor, KPMG East Africa (itumaini@kpmg.co.tz). The views and opinions are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views and opinions of KPMG.

DHL Express buys stake in e-commerce company

LONDON

LOGISTICS company DHL Express has acquired a minority stake in UK-based Link Commerce, DHL's partner in launching the Africa eShop.

An e-commerce turnkey solutions firm, Link Commerce provides access to some of the largest online malls in the UK and US - MallforAfrica.com and MallfortheWorld.com, among others. The company's services enable global customers to shop across 250 online retailers and offers access to over 8.5 billion items.

Last year, in partnership with Link Commerce, DHL launched its DHL Africa eShop e-commerce platform, which provides African consumers with over 200 US and UK shopping sites and also offers express delivery of items.

According to DHL Express, the acquisition demonstrates its commitment to support the growing e-commerce sector in Sub-Saharan Africa and other emerging e-commerce markets globally. While e-commerce currently accounts for a small percentage share of total retail sales in Africa, it is touted as one of the fastest-growing market sectors in the region.

A report published by Rapid B2C forecasts that Africa's online retail market will reach an 11-digit dollar value in 2020, while a report by the McKinsey Global Institute estimates this value could potentially reach \$75 billion by 2025.

Hennie Heymans, CEO of DHL Express Sub-Saharan Africa, notes the demand for the DHL Africa eShop confirms this strategic acquisition is the right move to ensure DHL Express is geared for continued growth.

"Acquiring a stake in Link Commerce shows our tremendous support of e-commerce in Africa. It also positions us to realise our ambitions of grow-

ing the eShop offering globally and to work on the scalability of the platform when the opportunity arises."

DHL bills itself as the largest global brand in the logistics industry. Its divisions offer logistics services ranging from national and international parcel delivery, e-commerce shipping and fulfilment solutions, international express, road, air and ocean transport, and industrial supply chain management.

The company operates in more than 220 countries worldwide, with about 380 000 employees. Just over one year from its launch, the DHL Africa eShop has seen massive growth across Sub-Saharan Africa, notes Heymans.

"The platform initially launched in 11 African countries in April 2019. It was an immediate success, gaining around 5 000 subscribers within the first six weeks. Today, DHL Africa eShop is live in 34 countries across Sub-Saharan Africa with tens of thousands of users across the continent." The shopping site is available to customers in Nigeria, Ghana, Rwanda, Angola, Uganda, Kenya and SA, among other countries.

According to Heymans, consumer interests have shifted more towards goods that are harder to source locally. With brick-and-mortar retailers in many regions operating at reduced capacity during the global lockdown period, consumers have turned to online shopping to acquire the goods they need, highlighting the importance of an efficient delivery service.

"At Link Commerce, our strategy is to help businesses grow and provide shoppers globally with access to US and UK online retailers like never before. DHL's investment in the company gives us the edge we need to expand rapidly around the globe and gives us access to products like never before," says Chris Folayan, founder and CEO of Link Commerce.

VIEW FROM THE TOP



Hennie Heymans, CEO of DHL Express Sub-Saharan Africa.

'We are all trained in hygiene': Hairdressers strike back at lockdown rules

JOHANNESBURG

HAIR salon owners are struggling to understand why they are not allowed to operate under lockdown, saying they are arguably among the most hygienic industries, sticking to strict health and safety protocols already. If they can't start operating soon, they're worried about having to close their doors permanently and let staff go, some of which support extended family members.

Since lockdown started on 26 March to slow the spread of Covid-19, hairdressers were among the industries not classified as essential services. From Monday, when Level 3 of lockdown kicks in, more sectors will be able to start fully operating such as mining, manufacturing and retail. About eight million people will be able to return to work. But hairdressers, beauty services and tattoo and piercing parlours will have to wait a bit longer before they can start trading again.

A group of hairdressers even lodged an urgent court bid to be able to operate during lockdown, but this week the Western Cape High Court dismissed the application, News24 reported.

'High levels of hygiene'

At a briefing on Thursday, Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, said that government was in discussions with salons to determine how to incorporate social-distancing measures in their spaces. Once this has been resolved, government will put in place new regulations allowing them to operate under Level 3, the minister explained.

"People don't realise, part of our industry training is hygiene. We are all trained in high levels of hygiene," said Lorinda Janse van Vuuren, who owns a salon which operates from Sierra Square Hotel in the north of Johannesburg.

"There's talk we might only be able to open next

year. That scares me. A lot of salons are closing at a phenomenal rate," she said. These salons employ a range of people including hair stylists and nail technicians. Janse van Vuuren said that the UIF benefits helped with staff salaries. She is also a beneficiary of a loan from the South African Future Trust, which has helped. The Trust, established by Nicky and Jonathan Oppenheimer, is meant to benefit small and medium enterprises impacted by the pandemic. Her landlord, who owns the hotel where she operates, has also been understanding and has not pressured her to pay full rent. She pays what she can.

But some salon owners have not been as lucky, she said. Her salon has opted to sell beauty products to raise secure some cash flow. "Our skincare and retail sales have gone through the roof, to the point where we have got nothing to sell anymore," Janse van Vuuren said.

The salon has also introduced a voucher system to get some income. Clients can buy a voucher to be used once salons can start operating again. While they might have cash inflow now, the danger is that they won't get cashflows when they start operating because clients will be using the vouchers.

'Ripple effect'

Janse van Vuuren is worried about the ripple effect of not being able to operate on staff, and their families. The basic salary is already low and they rely a lot on commission. This is particularly hard for single mums who work in the industry, she lamented. Hairdressers have started collecting food parcels to support each other. Dean Karageorgiades, who runs a distributing business, said that his sales had declined significantly. He now only distributes shampoos and conditioners. Normally his big sales come from colours. Karageorgiades has been in the business for 25 years and imports products which can only be sold in salons.

"We are making a little turnover, but nowhere



Nigerian Finance Minister.

near than what we normally do," he said. He is also worried about his staff, some of whom rely heavily on commission. "The entire industry supply chain is being affected by this (lockdown)."

Karageorgiades said it is "short-sighted" of government to allow certain industries with high risk potential for infection to open ahead of hairdressers which operate in a hygienic environment. "Most salon chairs from centre point to centre point are almost two metres, or more, apart," he said. Those in the beauty industry also often have to wear face masks, he added. "Part of the training is to learn sterilisation, sanitation and disinfection," he said.

"At end of day it has a serious impact on people's livelihood. Most hairdressers live hand to mouth," Karageorgiades said. Salon owners are not sure if they will be able to open doors again, they will have to do with fewer clients because of social

distancing measures. There's also a possibility of losing out on clients who may be fearful of their safety and might not opt to go to salons because of Covid-19.

Lynne Corby, the owner of Sculptures Hairdressing in East London, recently celebrated 26 years in the business, but she's worried she'll have to close if the hairdressers are unable to trade. "If it carries on much longer, I will have to close my business," she said. Corby opened Sculptures in 1994, and officially celebrated 26 years in the business on 5 May. "I've had the privilege of training many girls," she recalled.

"I started with just three staff members; it gradually grew," said Corby, who had employed as many as 22 people at one stage. Some of her former staff have even gone on to open their own salons. The lockdown has been difficult for her staff, who

Corby says are like her family. She's already had to let go a staff member from a recently opened barber because of the lockdown.

When lockdown started, Corby said her staff took a collective decision not to operate at all - this while some hairdressers have undertaken "underground work". "We know that we are being watched very carefully. We want to be an example," said Corby. While they can't do any styling, Corby started selling tailor-made colour kits to clients in an effort to raise income to repay her suppliers. She's had to rely on the Unemployment Insurance Fund's (UIF) Covid-19 benefit to pay 12 of her staff. She had to pay her remaining six staff who do not qualify for UIF benefits out of her own pocket.

Corby said that she is lucky to have bought her own property, and her bank has given her a payment holiday on her bond. "If I were with a landlord I would be closing my doors right now, and have to put my staff on the street," she said.

Her salon has also relied on the generosity of some of her clients, who have decided to pay for the hair appointments they had already budgeted for. "I have been overwhelmed by the love and support ... they know there is a chance we can go down. It's been humbling," she said.

Not just about hair

Corby said that hairdressers contribute to the well-being of their clients. "People call me the psychologist. We are there for them [clients] in more ways than one. Hair is just a little part. It's the talking, and the touch. That's the thing people are missing," she said.

There have been positives - in that the hairdressing fraternity, which is normally competitive, has instead decided to pull together during this time. It's also been good for them to rest. "But we've rested enough now, we want to go back!" she said.

WORLD

Curfews imposed in about 40 US cities as protests spread

WASHINGTON

ABOUT 40 US cities including Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Chicago and Washington DC have imposed curfews as protests against police brutality kept spreading for the sixth day.

The protests began in response to the death of 46-year-old African American male George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in police custody yesterday.

The unarmed man died after Derek Chauvin, a white police officer, held him down with a knee on his neck though he repeatedly pleaded "I can't breathe."

Chauvin was arrested and charged with three-degree murder and manslaughter earlier on Friday.

However, unrest has swept the United States as protesters say they want to see charges for all four police officers involved in the death of Floyd.

In Minneapolis, thousands of people swarmed the city on another day of protests on Sunday.

A tanker truck driver was in custody after speeding through marchers protesting Floyd's death on the Interstate 35W Bridge in Minneapolis late in the day, according to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety.

The freeway was among many shut down in the Minneapolis area for the second night in a row as an 8 pm curfew was imposed at the nation's center of protests for days.

Looting also broke out amidst the

protests in Southern California's Santa Monica. Upscale stores were looted along the city's popular Third Street Promenade before police moved in to make arrests.

The vandalism followed a largely peaceful march earlier in the beachside city. Further south, in the Los Angeles suburb of Long Beach, a group of young men and women smashed windows of a shopping mall and looted stores before they were dispersed ahead of a 6 pm curfew.

Sporadic violence broke out in Boston following peaceful protests as activists threw bottles at police officers and lit a cruiser on fire. Philadelphia announced a 6 pm to 6 am curfew after a day of protests and looting.

Washington DC Mayor Muriel Bowser said on Sunday night she was imposing a citywide curfew amid rising tensions between protesters and police outside the White House. Protesters set fires near the White House, the smoke mixing with billowing clouds of tear gas as police sought to clear them from the area.

The curfew would last from 11:00 pm on Sunday (0300 GMT Monday) until 6:00 am (1000 GMT) on Monday. Bowser also activated the DC National Guard to support the local police.

Sunday marked the third day in a row of protests in the US capital over the death of Floyd. On Friday night, US President Donald Trump was briefly taken to the underground bunker used



A police officer points a hand cannon at protesters who have been detained pending arrest on South Washington Street on Sunday in Minneapolis. (AP)

in the past during terrorist attacks, according to local media report.

The administration of Trump, who has called protesters "thugs," will not federalize and take control of the National Guard for now, national security adviser Robert O'Brien said on Sunday.

By Sunday night, thousands of demonstrators were fanning across New York City in different groups, walking into streets which were crowded with traffic.

Some of the groups paused every few blocks to take a knee, while others gathered in Times Square in Manhattan and outside the Barclays Center arena in Brooklyn.

In New York City, police arrested about 350 people and 30 officers suffered minor injuries during clashes. Mayor Bill de Blasio said police conduct was being investigated, including widely shared videos showing a police vehicle lurching into a crowd of protesters who were pelting it with debris in Brooklyn.

Los Angeles declared another curfew effective from local time 8:00 pm Sunday (0300 GMT Monday) to 5:30 am (1230 GMT) Monday as the country's second largest city witnessed a night of looting and vandalism in the city's downtown and shopping streets.

Other cities in Southern California, including Santa Ana, Culver City and West Hollywood, which joined Los Angeles in proclaiming an overnight curfew on Saturday, also extended the curfew to local time 5:30 am Monday.

California governor Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency in Los Angeles County on

Saturday night to cope with the unrest. With a population of more than 10 million, the county is the most populous county in the United States.

Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot on Sunday once again set strict parameters for the city effort to contain another night of protesting.

Bridges on the Chicago river dividing the residential areas north of the city's downtown Loop area remained up on Sunday, closing off any movement between the two sides. The city's public transit system suspended all bus and rail services starting at 6:30 pm.

Illinois Governor JB Pritzker would activate 375 Illinois National Guard soldiers to help manage street closures at the request of Lightfoot. The Guard will not interfere with peaceful protesters, Pritzker said.

Chicago's precautions followed a chaotic and violent Saturday evening, when many businesses along the streets were looted, police cars overturned and some properties damaged. There were six shootings with one death, and police made 240 arrests.

Texas Governor Greg Abbott on Sunday declared a state of disaster following violent protests in cities throughout the state. The move allowed Abbott to designate federal law enforcement officers to respond to the ongoing threats.

Abbott also has ordered thousands of more troopers to these cities and more than 1,000 National Guard soldiers to assist the Department of Public Safety and local law enforcement in their efforts.

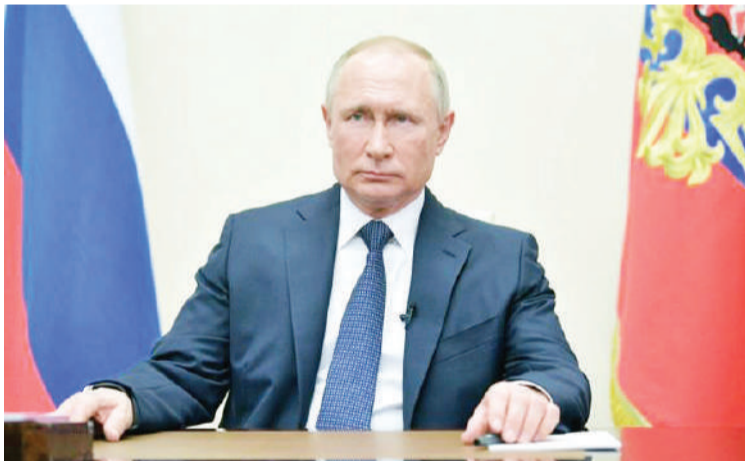
Xinhua

Putin confirms intent to cooperate with Armenia within EAEU, CIS, OSCE

YEREVAN

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin expressed Russia's readiness to continue to closely cooperate with Armenia on development of bilateral strategic relations, as well as relations within the European Economic Union, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

He said this in a letter he sent to Armenian Prime Minister Nikol



Pashinyan, congratulating him with his 45th anniversary, the Armenian Cabinet's press service said yesterday.

"Dear Nikol Vovayevich, please accept my heartfelt congratulations with you 45th anniversary. I hold the constructive dialogue we have established in a very high esteem.

I would like to confirm the intent to continue cooperation on strengthening of Russian-Armenian cooperation, as well as [cooperation] within the EAEU, OSCE

and CIS.

I wish you strong health, happiness, prosperity, and success in business of state," the letter reads.

Yesterday, the Prime Minister announced that on his birthday, he and his family was diagnosed with a confirmed coronavirus infection.

According to himself, no one in his family display the disease symptoms. Pashinyan and his family have self-isolated and the Prime Minister will work from home, he said.

Agencies

Note of protest referred to US Department of State after incident with Russian reporter

WASHINGTON

RUSSIA'S embassy in the United States has referred a note of protest to the US Department of State following the incident with Russian journalist Mikhail Turgiev when the Minneapolis police sprayed pepper aerosol in his face, Russian Ambassador Anatoly Antonov said on Sunday.

"Mikhail Turgiev and American journalists who were next to him were treated by the local police in an inadmissible way. As can be seen on video shot at the scene, the journalists identified themselves clearly and loudly.

They had special marks on their clothes, showed their IDs and offered no resistance," the embassy's press service quoted him as saying.

"A note of protest was referred to the Department of State following this flagrant incident. We demanded a thorough investigation and information about its results," he said.

He noted with regret that "the US press is showing no signs of public empathy" following the incident. "Can we expect any objectivity when double standards are used even in respect of Russian journalists working in the United

States?," he said.

"We will spare no effort to have this incident recorded by human rights organizations that monitor violations of journalists' rights in the United States," he stressed.

The Russian foreign ministry said earlier it considers "the targeted spraying of pepper aerosol by Minneapolis police officers in the face of RIA Novosti correspondent Mikhail Turgiev as a manifestation of unreasonable brutality, despite identifying him as a journalist." The ministry pointed out to the US authorities' international liabilities to ensure security and unimpeded work

of journalists, the freedom of expression and equal access to information for all.

Mass protests and unrests broke out in Minnesota and several other US states after a video of George Floyd's May 25 detention was posted online. Floyd, an African-American man, suspected of paying with fake money at a local shop, was handcuffed by a white police officer, who put him to the ground and pressed his knee firmly against the man's neck. Floyd pleaded that he cannot breathe, but police paid no attention to that.

Shortly after, Floyd died in hos-

pital. The four police officers who arrested him were sacked on May 26. One of them - Derek Chauvin, the officer who had his knee on Floyd - was arrested on Friday afternoon and charged with third-degree murder and manslaughter.

Protests to demand justice for Floyd, which began in Minneapolis on May 26, grew into clashes with police, shop looting and arson.

A state of emergency has been declared in the city. Minnesota's National Guard was called to step in to "help provide security and restore safety."

Agencies

More countries to ease COVID-19 restrictions as global cases rise with Latin America as new epicenter

BEIJING

More countries in Europe and Asia began to ease restrictions and resume operations, but more than 1 million cases of COVID-19 have been recorded in Latin America and the Caribbean, now the new epicenter of the coronavirus pandemic.

Globally, confirmed COVID-19 cases have surpassed 6.16 million, according to data compiled by the Center for Systems Science and Engineering at Johns Hopkins University.

NEW EPICENTER

Brazil on Sunday said its nationwide tally of confirmed COVID-19 cases reached 514,849 after 16,409 people tested positive in the past 24 hours, while the death toll neared 30,000.

Its death toll rose to 29,314, the fourth highest in the global pandemic after the United States, Britain and Italy, after 480 deaths had been reported since Saturday, while another 4,208 deaths are still being investigated for any linkage with COVID-19, the Ministry of Health said.

Also on Sunday, Mexico's Deputy Health Minister Hugo Lopez-Gatell said that the country reported 3,152 new coronavirus cases in the past 24 hours, bringing the total number of confirmed cases in the country to 90,664. There were 151 new coronavirus deaths in Mexico, taking total fatalities to 9,930, Lopez-Gatell added.

Meanwhile, Chile's COVID-19 cases increased by 4,830 to reach 99,688 on Sunday. In the past 24 hours, 57 more patients died, the highest number of fatalities in a single day so far, taking the death toll from the disease to 1,054.

A lockdown is in effect in the capital Santiago and the metropolitan area through June 5, as the region is the epicenter of the country's outbreak. In recent weeks, Chile has seen an exponential rise in the number of cases and deaths, leading the government to set up field hospitals to deal with the growing number of patients.

EASING RESTRICTIONS

Italy has now recorded fewer than 600 new cases per day for eight consecutive days, a dramatic drop from peaks of more than 6,000 new infections a day, when Italy was the epicenter of the pandemic in late March.

Recent trends show that the spread of the virus has slowed dramatically despite a gradual easing of Italy's national lockdown at a two-week interval, first on May 4 and again on May 18.

The next step toward easing will come on June 3, when Italians will be allowed to move freely between regions even if for non-essential reasons.

It will be the first time such travels will be allowed since March 9, the day before the national lockdown entered into force. Many businesses across Turkey on Sunday also prepared to resume operation for the first time after over two months of closure amid a slowdown in the spread of COVID-19.

Restaurants, cafes, parks, beaches, daycare centers, kindergartens, libraries, sports facilities, swimming pools, and museums will be operational as of June 1 as part of the new normalization process announced on May 28.

Following the announcement, the Health Ministry prepared a guide in particular for the eating and drinking industry, explaining the new rules in a detailed way.

Likewise, the Egyptian government on Sunday announced a decision to reduce its curfew from 10 hours to nine, following a meeting led by Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly.

The government has already started gradual reopening of services and offices suspended since mid-March amid a "coexistence plan" to maintain anti-coronavirus precautionary measures while resuming services, businesses and economic activities. Chairing Saturday's Downing Street daily briefing, British Culture Secretary Oliver Dowden said Britons will be able to exercise outside with up to five others from different households from Monday, provided that strict social distancing guidelines are followed.

He also announced that from yesterday, competitive sport will be allowed behind closed doors in England, paving the way for the return of live sports on TV screens in almost three months.

The move came as some experts warned that lifting restrictions before cases come down is too "risky." Professor Jonathan Van-Tam, England's deputy chief medical officer, said that Britons need to "actually follow the guidance."

Xinhua



Recent trends show that the spread of the virus has slowed dramatically despite a gradual easing of Italy's national lockdown at

China to hedge against COVID-19 impacts with stronger policies

THE COVID-19 pandemic is currently exerting impacts all over the world, obstructing global production and demand.

Faced with the unprecedented challenge, the Chinese economy has withstood the test in the early phase, showing robust growth in the work resumption rate of major projects, as well as the purchasing managers' index in the manufacturing sector.

The country must give more sufficient consideration of the difficulties and secure its achievements, hedge against the impacts with stronger policies, and stabilize the economy with more forceful counter-cyclical adjustment, to realize the normal operation and high-quality

development of the national economy.

Macro control calls for discretion, and shall be carried out in a forceful, well-controlled and effective manner. The regulations, which are expected to be forward-looking, well-targeted, and effective, must come from science-based analysis.

On the one hand, given the sustained sluggish international economic and trade activities, to offset the negative impacts from decreasing external demand, China should activate the potential of its domestic market, smoothen internal cycle and boost consumption.

On the other hand, its industrial and supply chains shall be fixed and stabilized as soon as possible, to cope with

the operational difficulties of enterprises impacted by the disease, and the employment pressure of key groups.

Therefore, macro regulations shall be further enhanced to take forward employment, people's livelihood, the development of market entities, food and energy security, stable operation of the industrial and supply chains, and smooth functioning at the community level, and to keep employment, the financial sector, foreign trade, foreign and domestic investments, and expectations stable.

Besides, the country should also accelerate the restoration of economic and social orders to prevent the short-term impacts from developing into a

lasting trend and safeguard the minimum requirement for economic development.

To enhance policy support, the regulation packages shall be rolled out in a more targeted way and fully implemented by regions and departments.

For instance, fiscal departments should make early allocation of special-purpose bond (SPB) quotas to local governments, and monetary policies should be rolled out to expand the re-loans and re-discounts, as well as targeted reserve requirement ratio (RRR) cuts for small and medium-sized banks, to cope with the sudden decrease of internal and external demand, the tough coordination between upper and lower

streams of industries, impeded micro-circulation and rising losses of enterprises.

Local governments shall be proactive to enhance investment to bolster areas of weakness and support the upgrading of the manufacturing industry. In addition, they shall also ensure people-to-people and point-to-point employment service and expand input on human resource to increase the income and consumption capability of employees.

To enhance policy support, China should foster new growth points and growth poles, and turn crisis into opportunities with a well-planned strategy. For instance, the suburban areas of metropolises, the construction of digital

cities and the expansion of internet-type urban agglomeration, as well as the renovation of shanty towns and old residential communities all offer supports for expanding domestic demand and have huge demand and space for development.

Furthermore, the principal role of government shall be brought into full swing in reshaping industrial chains, enhancing scientific innovation and import substitution, straightening the innovation and value chains of industry-university-research cooperation, and strengthening public health system.

People's Daily

Wuhan reports no new asymptomatic cases for 1st time

BEIJING/WUHAN/CHANGCHUN/HARBIN

WUHAN, the city in central China's Hubei province previously hit hard by the novel coronavirus, reported no new asymptomatic cases Sunday, the first time since the provincial capital released figures on the virus carriers showing no symptoms.

The city conducted more than 60,000 nucleic acid tests on Sunday, finding no new asymptomatic cases, according to a statement issued Monday by the municipal health commission.

Wuhan started a campaign on May 14 to expand nucleic acid testing in order to better know the number of asymptomatic cases or people who show no clear symptoms despite carrying the virus.

No new asymptomatic cases reported for the first time indicates the campaign has seen apparent effects, according to the statement.

The Chinese mainland reported 16 new COVID-19 cases Sunday, all of which were imported, bringing the total

number of imported cases to 1,756, the National Health Commission said yesterday.

Among the cases, 11 were reported in Sichuan province, three in the Inner Mongolia autonomous region, and two in Guangdong province, the commission said.

No deaths related to the disease or new suspected cases were reported, according to the commission.

On Sunday, three people were discharged from hospitals after recovery. The number of severe cases remains at three.

As of Sunday, the overall confirmed cases on the mainland had reached 83,017, including 76 patients who were still being treated, and 78,307 people who had been discharged after recovery.

Altogether, 4,634 people had died of the disease, the commission said.

By Sunday, the mainland had reported a total of 1,756 imported cases. Out of those cases, 1,694 had been discharged from hospitals after recovery while 62



Children play at Chaoyang Park in Beijing, capital of China, May 31, 2020. (XINHUA)

remained hospitalized, none in severe conditions. No deaths from imported cases had been reported.

The commission said three people were suspected of being infected with the virus, all were imported from overseas.

According to the commission, 4,723

cases were released from medical observation.

The commission said 397 asymptomatic cases, including 34 from overseas, were still under medical observation.

Hubei reported zero newly confirmed cases and asymptomatic cases on Sunday, the provincial health commission said yesterday.

By Sunday, Hubei had three confirmed cases, including one in severe condition.

Two asymptomatic cases were released from quarantine, reducing the total number of such cases under medical observation to 320 by Sunday.

One patient in Wuhan was discharged from hospital on Sunday, bringing the total number of recoveries in the province to 63,620.

Hubei has so far reported 68,135 confirmed cases, including 50,340 in Wuhan. A total of 4,512 people had died of COVID-19 in the province by Sunday, including 3,869 in Wuhan. *Xinhua*

close contacts were still under medical observation after 914 people were released from medical observation Sunday.

Also on Sunday, 16 new asymptomatic cases were reported on the mainland. No cases were re-categorized as confirmed cases, and eight asymptomatic

EU should assume more responsibility in global fight against pandemic, says Merkel

BERLIN

THE European Union (EU) should assume more global responsibility in the coronavirus crisis, German Chancellor Angela Merkel has said.

In a speech outlining Germany's policy during its rotating EU presidency starting in July, Merkel said the pandemic has posed enormous challenges and changed a lot from the ground up, including the plans for the EU Council Presidency, said Merkel.

On Wednesday she told the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, a think tank, that Europe has to "move closer together in the crisis" and prove itself to be a force for solidarity, which is the only way to emerge stronger from the pandemic.

Merkel said the Franco-German initiative for Europe recovery fund, which amounted to 500 billion euros (545 billion U.S. dollars), and Europe's common investment in a vaccine, are all meant to intensify Europe's solidarity.

Noting that the pandemic will lead to "an aggravation of many global troubles" and pose "a stress test for European foreign and security policy,"

Merkel said the EU should act as an anchor of stability, assume its global responsibility and proactively support rule-based, multilateral cooperation.

Merkel said relations with China will be a focus of EU's foreign policy during the German presidency, with a number of subjects on the agenda, including agreements on investment, climate change, global health and the improvement of information transparency during global pandemics.

Xinhua

Iran says it is ready to continue fuel shipments to Venezuela

CARACAS / DUBAI

IRAN will continue fuel shipments to Venezuela if Caracas requests more supplies, the Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman said yesterday, despite Washington's criticism of the trade between the two nations, which are both under US sanctions.

"Iran practises its free trade rights with Venezuela and we are ready to send more ships if Caracas demands more

supplies from Iran," Abbas Mousavi told a weekly news conference broadcast live on state TV.

Two Iranian tankers that delivered fuel to Venezuela as part of a five-vessel flotilla have begun to sail back, according to Refinitiv Eikon, as the government of the South American nation prepares stations to begin charging for the gasoline.

The supply is meant to ease fuel shortages that have

plagued the country. After three months of fuel rationing, Venezuelans began lining up on Saturday to wait for the Iranian gasoline to be sold at stations from Monday under a new system combining subsidies and internationally-indexed prices.

The model will put an end to over two decades of Venezuelans filling up their tanks for next to nothing.

The two first Iranian tankers that discharged fuel last

week departed over the weekend from state-run PDVSA's ports.

The Fortune on Sunday set sail to its origin port, Iran's Bandar Abbas, with estimated arrival in July, while the Forest on Saturday departed from the Cardon refinery before switching off its satellite signal, according to the Eikon data.

As both nations are under US sanctions, Washington is monitoring the supply while

warning governments, seaports, shippers and insurers that they could face measures if they aid the tankers.

In most of the country's 1,800 gasoline stations, motorists will be able to buy 60 to 120 liters per month at a subsidized price of about US\$2.5 cents per liter. After surpassing quotas, tanks will be filled at higher prices. Details of the new model, including some final prices, have not yet been revealed.

Venezuela's oil minister Tareck El Aissami said on Sunday that licenses were approved for 200 stations to sell gasoline at internationally-indexed prices without quotas. The initial price at those sites is US\$0.50 per liter.

"To the people: thank you for your comprehension, for your heroic resistance and for trusting President (Nicolas) Maduro's government," he said in a televised speech.

Agencies

Yunnan's NPC delegate takes concrete action to solve people's problems

SUGARCANES are either eaten or trampled upon. This is a glimpse at a sugarcane field destroyed by Asian elephants that covers around 5 mu (0.33 hectare) in Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture of southwest China's Yunnan province.

Zi Yanping, a member of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), as well as the vice president of a health center in Jino township, Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture, arrived at the sugarcane field for investigation after driving two hours in scorching heat.

Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture is a major habitat for Asian elephants, a species under first-class national protection in China, and the prefecture has established a national nature reserve to protect the tropical forests where Asian elephants live. However, the gradually rising number of Asian elephants in the region is also resulting in increasing "conflicts" between local residents and the animal.

Zi learned that the farmer would lose at least 10,000 yuan from the destroyed sugarcane field as every mu of sugarcane generates an income of around 2,000 yuan, and this does not include the farmer's prior input. The Asian elephants' activi-



Villagers try to scare off elephants in the rice field of Menggang village, Mengla county, Yunnan province, Aug. 6, 2008. Photo by Li Yunsheng/People's Daily Online

ties are causing severe impacts on local farmers' production and life, Zi said.

As one that has lived in Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture for years, Zi knows the prefecture has a special compensation program for damage caused by wildlife. According to the program, local farmers can receive 600 yuan for every mu of rice destroyed, 400 yuan for every mu of corns destroyed and 800 yuan for every mu of sugarcane destroyed.

"Farmers earn 2,000 yuan from every mu of sugarcane, and 800 yuan from corns, so the current compensation program is only able to cover around half

of the farmers' losses." That is a conclusion reached by Zi after investigating in three villages.

After learning all the 6,133 cases of damages caused by wildlife in the prefecture since 2011, Zi found that 322 had casualties and 66,963 households were affected. Asian elephants were the major "perpetrators."

"We must try our best to reduce the damages on lives and property of the people while ensuring protection over the Asian elephants, and to raise the compensation standard remains an urgent task," Zi said, deciding to make a relevant proposal to this year's National People's Congress (NPC).

The preparation of the proposal started last June and lasted till this April. To better it, Zi consulted experts with forestry departments and verified the latest statistics with the local government. In her proposal, it is suggested that the compensation standard be raised for damages caused by wildlife, including the Asian elephants.

Zi became a delegate of the 12th National People's Congress since 2013, and a member of the CPPCC in 2018. As one that works at the primary-level health system, she had proposed to raise the income for rural doctors. As one from the Jino ethnic minority, she had proposed to protect the traditional culture of the Jino and enhance the input of educational resources in areas inhabited by ethnic minority groups.

The proposals raised by Zi were in different areas, but every one of them was raised by her after field trips and investigations. In recent years, Zi's has left her footsteps on almost every corner of Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture.

"Only by studying the primary level can we have a thorough understanding of the difficulties encountered by the people and present their concerns to the country," she said.

People's Daily

How would U.S. exit from WHO harm global fight against COVID-19?

WASHINGTON

THE U.S. exit from the World Health Organization (WHO) would undermine international efforts to fight against the COVID-19 pandemic that guarantee public health and save lives, officials and experts across the world have warned.

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Friday that his country is "terminating" its relationship with the WHO.

The announcement came days after the White House, in a letter to WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, threatened to make the temporary freeze of U.S. funding "permanent" and reconsider its membership in the organization.

Experts have voiced concerns over the decision made by the U.S. government, saying the move is undermining the irreplaceable role of the WHO in coordinating global efforts in combating COVID-19 and delivering necessary aid to developing and particularly under-developed countries whose public health systems are very vulnerable.

For those countries which are still struggling with the rising COVID-19 cases and are highly dependent on the guidance, equipment and concrete life-saving services provided by the WHO, the U.S. funding freeze is no doubt a fatal shock, they said.

Dad Mohammad Annabi, an



Afghan researcher and editor-in-chief of the *Islah Daily*, said: "Cutting more than 400 million U.S. dollars to the WHO definitely would undermine the global health agency's performances including the war on COVID-19 and research on how to make a vaccine to cure the killing disease in the world."

"Afghanistan is part of the international community and like other nations has been fighting COVID-19, and certainly a financial cut to the WHO would undermine the entity's support to Afghanistan," Annabi said.

Trump's plan has also triggered widespread criticism from the international community, even from the traditional allies of the United States. The U.S. exit from the WHO is contrary to multilateralism and would disrupt global efforts to fight against the virus, especially those in vaccine development. Ursula von der Leyen, president of the European Commission, and Josep Borrell, the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, said in a statement that "the WHO needs

to continue being able to lead the international response to pandemics, current and future."

"For this, the participation and support of all is required and very much needed. In the face of this global threat, now is the time for enhanced cooperation and common solutions.

Actions that weaken international results must be avoided," they said in the statement. "In this context, we urge the U.S. to reconsider its announced decision," they said in the statement.

Irish Minister for Health Simon Harris described Trump's plan to cut ties with the WHO as an "awful decision" on Twitter: "Awful decision. Now more than ever the world needs multilateralism.

A global pandemic requires the world to work together," Harris tweeted. Apart from criticism from the international community, Trump's announcement also triggered disagreement across the United States.

The country alone has reported more than 1.7 million COVID-19 cases with over 104,000 deaths, according to Johns Hopkins University. Both figures are far higher than those in any other country or region. Lawrence Gostin, a professor of global health law and director of the O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law at Georgetown University, described the move as "foolish and arrogant" on Twitter.

Xinhua

China's civil code people-centric, improves legal system

THE draft sections of China's civil code, drawing from past legislative experiences, have made multiple breakthroughs with many highlights, said Wang Junfeng, head of the All China Lawyers Association.

The draft sections practically protect people's civil rights and safeguards the harmony of social relations, making targeted improvements to emergency requisition of property, contractual rights and obligations, responsibility of property management enterprises and property owners' obligations, as well as liability for tort, Wang introduced, adding that they also legalize civil rights and concrete legal obligations.

For instance, the draft section on torts sets a clear legal respon-

sibility differentiation in cases of "high-rise littering" that draws wide social attention.

According to the section, the users of buildings who could possibly be the injuring party are requested to compensate the victims if individual infringers are not found after investigations.

Besides, it also stipulates that the managing party of properties shall fulfill its obligation of offering safety guarantee, and undertake liability for not fulfilling the obligation.

"This helps guarantee the legal rights and interests of the infringed, helps guide citizens to improve their morality and legal awareness, and helps mobilize each party concerned to participate in social governance," Wang



A couple showcase their marriage certificates at a marriage registration center in Shapingba district, southwest China's Chongqing municipality, August 7, 2019. (File photo)

explained.

The civil code contains a section on personality rights that stresses the protection over people's rights to health, reputation and privacy. Wang believes the section is a major break-

through made by the civil code, which reflects the importance laid by China on the protection over personality rights and demonstrates the people-centric value.

The third draft section on personality rights defines "privacy" as "the private space, activity or information that a person does not want others to know," which expanded the scope of privacy protection.

Email addresses and information about a person's whereabouts are also considered personal information under this draft section.

As social development changes people's attitudes toward marriage, there is a gradual increase of marriage and family disputes.

Speaking of the "cooling-off period before divorce" proposed in the draft section on marriage and family, Wang said it helps save the marriages of many, avoids divorces driven by impulsive decisions, enhances the sense of family responsibility, and safeguards and promotes the stability of marriage and family relations.

Wang remarked that the civil code, which carries the expectation of the people and a dream of generations of law practitioners, will be submitted to the 3rd Session of the 13th National People's Congress for deliberation, and will surely offer a firm legal base when the country strives to satisfy people's ever-growing needs for a better life.

People's daily

SPORT



Kylie Jenner

Kylie Jenner, Forbes spar over story on billionaire status

LOS ANGELES

FORBES magazine, which once declared Kylie Jenner a billionaire on its cover, says she no longer deserves the title, but Jenner is pushing back.

Forbes said in a story posted Friday that an examination of financial filings after the reality star and beauty mogul sold a majority share in her cosmetics company revealed that Jenner's worth was inflated. Jenner sold 51% of her Kylie Cosmetics company to Coty in a deal valued at \$1.2 billion early this year.

"Kylie's business is significantly smaller, and less profitable, than the family has spent years leading the cosmetics industry and media outlets, including Forbes, to believe," the magazine said in the story. "Forbes now thinks that Kylie Jenner, even after pocketing an estimated \$340 million after taxes from the sale, is not a billionaire."

Jenner responded in a series of tweets, saying "what am i even waking up to. i thought this was a reputable site. all i see are a number of inaccurate statements and unproven assumptions lol. i've never asked for any title or tried to lie my way there EVER. period."

She later tweeted, "but okay, i am blessed beyond my years, i have a beautiful daughter, and a successful business and i'm doing perfectly fine. i can name a list of 100 things more important right now than fixating on how much money i have."

Jenner's business and social media prominence have made her stand out even in the exceedingly famous family behind "Keeping Up With the Kardashians." She is the younger daughter of Kris and Caitlyn Jenner, sister to Kendall Jenner and half-sister to Kim, Khloe and Kourtney Kardashian.

In March 2019, Forbes featured Jenner along with the headline, "At 21, Kylie Jenner Becomes The Youngest Self-Made Billionaire Ever."

AP

On Friday, Forbes offered a starkly different headline: "Inside Kylie Jenner's Web of Lies – And Why She's No Longer a Billionaire."

The story acknowledges that the coronavirus crisis and its effect on the cosmetics industry has hurt her net worth.

But it says it is "likely" that the "business was never that big to begin with, and the Jenners have lied about it every year since 2016 – including having their accountant draft tax returns with false numbers – to help juice Forbes' estimates of Kylie's earnings and net worth."

The magazine said it cannot prove the documents were forged.

Jenner's attorney says the story is "filled with outright lies."

"Forbes' accusation that Kylie and her accountants 'forged tax returns' is unequivocally false and we are demanding that Forbes immediately and publicly retract that and other statements," attorney Michael Kump said in an emailed statement. "We would not expect that from a supermarket tabloid, much less from Forbes."

Forbes spokesman Matthew Hutchison said in a statement the magazine's "extensively-reported investigation was triggered by newly-filed documents that revealed glaring discrepancies between information privately supplied to journalists and information publicly supplied to shareholders. Our reporters spotted the inaccuracies and spent months uncovering the facts. We encourage her attorney to re-read the article."

The spat between Jenner and Forbes spilled over to Wall Street, where shares of New York-based Coty Inc. fell more than 13% on Friday.

Investment in sports – a sine qua non

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipokee

IT has long been an accepted truism that three sports in particular hold sway over all others in the popularity stakes on the domestic sports patch.

To all avid, long-time followers of national sports, it will come as no surprise to reveal that those three sports are: football, athletics and boxing.

Indeed, apart from football, which in recent years has afforded us the sheer joy of watching the undisputed darling of Tanzanian football, Mbwana Samatta, go from strength to strength on the sink-or-swim, hyper-competitive European football landscape, it would be fair to say that in recent decades, athletics and boxing have given us arguably little cause for celebration, the exceptional and sublime exploits of our premier athlete Alphonse Simbu notwithstanding.

It, of course, goes without saying, that all local sports connoisseurs would be positively delighted if our sportsmen were able to win more medals and titles at enormously esteemed international sports championships.

Dismayingly though, that envisioned goal has yet to be realized. Which segues tidily and neatly into the following query: what can we do to change the mostly negative tide of shabby results in major sports events against us?

Well, in a bid to find the fitting riposte to this million dollar question, this writer is of the conviction that from this point onwards, massive investment in sports on the home front has simply got to be infinitely more of a broad-based affair in contrast to the past when domestic football perennially received the largest and chunkiest slice of the sponsorship pie.

One sport, especially, which this writer believes is ripe for investment is Judo.



JKT women netball team's players attend training at National Indoor Stadium in Dar es Salaam earlier this year to shape up for this year's edition of the East Africa Championship, held in Uganda. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Indeed, for quite some time now, there has been a thriving Judo scene here on the mainland and also on the Isles in spite of the fact that Judo is NOT one of the pre-eminent sports in the Union.

To this writer, that fact in itself makes Judo's dogged, relative success over the years all the more remarkable.

For instance, during the last ten to thirteen years, Judokas from both the Mainland and the Isles have emerged triumphantly as the champions of the East African Judo Championships at different times.

This, then, compels this writer to ask: why, for goodness sakes, haven't much more funds been ploughed into Tanzanian Judo?

In fact, come to think of it, the sports which as well double up as the martial arts such as Wushu, Taekwondo, and Karate have arguably really never received the ideal amount of financial investment, investment which would have most likely have seen all of such sports soar far higher than they actually did.

In addition, another sport with rich promise on the home patch that has long been neglected is netball

but having since opined about that disappointing fact many a time on these entertaining sports pages, just a brief mention of netball's travails will suffice for the purposes of this commentary.

At the end of the day, though, the real meat of this sporting narrative was trying hard to drive home one simple message.

That message, of course, is that if we are really serious about putting Tanzania on the world sporting map, there will be no escaping this common sense fact: that deeper investment in a broader array of sports than

'Plain angry' Jordan joins sports world call for change after Floyd death



Michael Jordan

LOS ANGELES

NBA icon Michael Jordan decried "ingrained racism" in America Sunday as the sports world's reaction to the death of unarmed black man George Floyd leapt leagues and continents.

"I am deeply saddened, truly pained and plain angry," Jordan said in a statement Sunday, as protests over Floyd's death on May 25 spawned violence and looting. "I stand with those who are calling out the ingrained racism and violence toward people of color in our country."

"We have had enough," said Jordan, who was famously reluctant to comment on social issues during his playing career.

Floyd died on May 25 after a white policeman in Minneapolis had held his knee on the handcuffed man's neck for several minutes.

"We need to continue peaceful expressions against injustice and

demand accountability," Jordan said. Jordan joined a chorus of voices from the NBA, NFL and other US sports demanding change for black Americans, but the demands weren't limited to the United States.

French footballer Marcus Thuram and England international Jadon Sancho called for justice for Floyd after scoring in Germany's Bundesliga.

Thuram took a knee after scoring for Borussia Moenchengladbach in a match against Union Berlin, while Sancho marked one of his three goals for Borussia Dortmund against Paderborn by lifting his jersey to reveal a T-shirt bearing the words "Justice for George Floyd."

Thuram's gesture echoed the protest of US racism spearheaded by former NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick, whose decision to kneel during the national anthem at games in 2016 sparked outrage.

The gesture has now been heartbreakingly compared to the

injustice remain part of everyday life in America and cannot be ignored."

With US pro sports on hold amid the coronavirus pandemic, American athletes had no chance to demonstrate on the field of play.

Boston Celtics forward Jaylen Brown and Philadelphia 76ers forward Tobias Harris were among a number of NBA players who took part in demonstrations over the weekend.

Brown drove 15 hours to lead a peaceful protest march in Atlanta, Georgia.

"First and foremost, I'm a black man and I'm a member of this community," the Georgia native said.

- 'Too many tragedies' -

Los Angeles Clippers coach Doc Rivers, himself the son of a policeman, said that as violence escalated it was imperative to keep Floyd's death at the forefront.

"The response we are seeing across the nation, to the murder of George Floyd, is decades in the making," Rivers said in a statement. "Too often, people rush to judge the response, instead of the actions that prompted it."

"We have allowed too many tragedies to pass in vain. This isn't an African-American issue. This is a human issue," Rivers said.

US tennis great Serena Williams posted a moving video on Instagram that featured a young African-American girl overcome by emotion as she addressed a public meeting, finally able to force out the words: "We are black people, and we shouldn't have to feel like this."

Teenage tennis phenom Coco Gauff, who is black, had a simple question on her Instagram post: "Am I next?"

And two-time Grand Slam winner Naomi Osaka, whose mother is Japanese and father Haitian, reminded her social media followers: "Just because it isn't happening to you doesn't mean it isn't happening at all."

NFL commissioner Roger Goodell said the violent protests "reflect the pain, anger and frustration that so many of us feel."

With Kaepernick still unable to find a job in the NFL, not everyone was convinced by Goodell or by San Francisco 49ers chief executive Jed York, who pledged \$1 million to combat systemic racial discrimination.

Former 49er Eric Reid, who knelt alongside Kaepernick tweeted: "Nobody wants your money Jed. We want justice."

AFP

What now for tennis in 2020?

PARIS

PROFESSIONAL tennis has been in cold storage since March due to the coronavirus pandemic with tournaments unlikely to resume before August.

AFP Sport looks at three talking points as the sport heads into June:

Fans in or out at US Open and Roland Garros? – In 2019, the US Open attracted a record crowd of almost 740,000 to its sprawling Billie Jean King Tennis Centre in New York.

The French Open last year at Roland Garros brought in 520,000 paying customers.

However, the 2020 editions of the two remaining Grand Slam events on the calendar will look very different with the chance of them being played behind closed doors a real possibility to avoid the spread of the coronavirus.

Roger Federer, whose 20-Grand Slam title haul includes five titles at the US Open and one in Paris, is not keen on seeing rows and rows of empty seats.

"I can't bear to see an empty stadium. I hope that won't happen," the Swiss star was quoted as saying by Brazilian media recently.

Two-time Wimbledon winner Petra Kvitová said she too has no desire to play a Slam without spectators.

"I would like to play another Grand Slam, but if it's like this, I'd rather cancel them," Kvitová said. "Playing without fans who are our engine doesn't look nice to me and the Grand Slam doesn't deserve it."

As far as the rescheduled Roland Garros in September and October is concerned, Jean-Francois Vilotte, the director-general of the French Tennis Federation (FFT), told AFP: "The

aim is that there will be spectators."

"But we will have the capacity to organise Roland Garros whatever the option decided, including behind closed doors."

Money matters?

– There has been no prize money to play for over the best part of three months but that hasn't stopped it being discussed.

The ATP and WTA tours, the International Tennis Federation and the four Grand Slam tournaments – the Australian Open, Roland Garros, Wimbledon and the US Open backed a fund worth more than \$6 million to support low-ranked players hardest hit by the coronavirus pandemic.

World number one Novak Djokovic had already said that he, Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal – the sport's biggest earners with over \$100 million each banked in prize money alone – were also willing to help.

However, world number three Dominic Thiem was not keen on giving money to lower-ranked players.

"Quite honestly I have to say that no tennis player will be fighting to survive, even those who are much lower-ranked," said the Austrian.

Marion Bartoli, the 2013 Wimbledon champion, chimed in last week by suggesting a reduction in doubles events with prize money diverted to struggling players.

"You just don't make the same effort (in doubles) as a singles player. You don't practise so much, your routine is different."

"I don't know if we have to stop doubles completely, but to get less money and give that money to qualification and others, that could be the solution."

AP

Messi: Football, life will never be same after virus

BARCELONA

BARCELONA forward Lionel Messi said life and football will never be the same again once it returns following the coronavirus pandemic which has taken almost 400,000 lives across the world.

The Bundesliga in Germany became the first of Europe's big five leagues to return earlier in May and Spain's La Liga, England's Premier League and Italy's Serie A are all set to restart in June.

Games across all the leagues will be played behind closed doors as one of a number of the consequences caused by the coronavirus crisis, with clubs, competitions and related businesses also facing uncertain futures financially.

"I don't think football will ever be the same," Messi said in an interview with El Pais on Sunday. "But beyond football, I don't think life, in general, will ever be the same, either."

"All of us that have experienced this situation will remember what happened in one way or another. In my case, it's with a feeling of sorrow and frustration for those that have suffered the most due to the loss of loved ones."

"I am sure that football and sport, in general, will be affected. Financially, because there are companies linked with the world of sport that will maybe experience some difficulties because of the coronavirus."

"But also professionally, because with the return to training and competing, what was normal before now is going to be different. It will be a strange situation for us as athletes but also for anyone that has to change their usual work dynamic."

Messi donated more than €1 million to hospitals and charities fighting the coronavirus, both in Catalonia, where he has lived since joining Barca as a teenager, and in his native Argentina.

"I am grateful to all of the people that are fighting to beat this virus in hospitals, health centres and care homes," he added. "Nearly all of us have doubts about how the world will be after everything that's happened."

"Beyond the lockdown measures and the whole situation, which caught us by surprise, many people have had a really tough time because they've been directly affected."

(Agencies)

Liverpool's training return a 'massive lift' for Klopp

LONDON

JURGEN Klopp admitted on Sunday that it has been a "massive lift" to see his Liverpool squad back training together as they prepare for the return of the Premier League.

The English top flight is set to restart on June 17 and teams have been able to resume group training after weeks of isolation due to the coronavirus lockdown.

It has been an especially frustrating time for Liverpool boss Klopp, whose side were two wins away from clinching the Premier League title when the season was halted because of the pandemic in March.

"We never had nine weeks without football training in our lives since we played football, pretty much. That's all different but interesting as well," Klopp told Liverpool's website.

"We enjoy the situation, that's really all good. And it makes all the difference for us, to be honest, to come together and have this hour or two here together."

"You get this contact, feedback as well on the pitch directly, not via a computer or a screen. It's a massive, massive lift."

Liverpool have a 25-point lead over

second placed Manchester City, putting their first English title for 30 years within touching distance if the season does restart.

The Reds' first game back is scheduled to be the Merseyside derby against Everton and Klopp is building his players' fitness towards that date.

"We don't have to be match-fit now. We try it with increasing intensity, day by day, but we have to be fit on the 19th or 20th, whichever day they will give us against Everton, I think," Klopp said.

"That's the moment when we want to be at 100 percent. It's round about three weeks until then, that's good. We want to use that and we will."

"It's our pre-season; how I said, we don't expect a long break in between the seasons, so this is a very important period for us."

Liverpool are now awaiting confirmation on schedules and venues after senior police chiefs raised concerns about the club playing any possible title-clinching match at Anfield or another team's stadium.

All matches will be played behind closed doors and it was suggested Liverpool may have to move to a neutral venue in a bid to stop fans gathering outside.

AFP

Liga to resume with Real Madrid playing at training center

MADRID

THE Spanish league is resuming in less than two weeks with Real Madrid playing its games at the club's training center.

Madrid will host Eibar on June 14 at the 6,000-capacity Alfredo Di Stefano Stadium, a venue used mostly by the club's "B" team at the Ciudad Real Madrid center on the city's outskirts.

Madrid is not stopping renovation work at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium as all remaining league games are likely to be played without fans because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The league on Sunday confirmed the dates and times of the first two rounds of matches to be played after the competition was stopped mid-March because of the pandemic. The first game will be the Seville derby between Sevilla and Real Betis on June 11 at 10 p.m. local time (2000 GMT).

Defending champion Barcelona, which has a two-point lead over Real Madrid after 27 rounds, will resume at Mallorca on June 13, while Athletic Madrid visits Athletic Bilbao the following day.

The league has announced that every game will include an "applause to infinity" tribute to the "heroes who are fighting to over-

come" the pandemic. Pre-recorded applause uploaded in videos by fans will be played in the 20th minute of matches.

"We have created this initiative to help fans be a part of La Liga's return and also as an opportunity for them to show their support for the heroes of the COVID-19 pandemic," said league president Javier Tebas, who gave his weekly interview to league broadcaster Movistar on Sunday. "We want them to feel close to their team, even if they cannot be in the stadiums cheering them on, and for players to feel the support of their fans."

Most games will be played late in the day to take into account high temperatures in Spain, but some will be brought forward based on favorable weather forecasts. There will be a couple of matches at 1 p.m. local time in the first weekend.

The second division will resume June 11 with the second half of the game between Rayo Vallecano and Albacete, which was suspended at halftime in December after Ukrainian Roman Zozulia of Albacete was subjected to Nazi taunts by opposing fans. The match was tied 0-0.

Clubs in the first and second divisions are scheduled to begin full squad training on Monday.

AP

Postcards from the edge: Snapshots of European football's return

PARIS

IN the shadows of Germany's Bundesliga, football is gradually restarting in countries across Europe, in almost all cases behind closed doors, with the exception of Hungary where supporters have been allowed to return.

From plastic fans in Poland, to virtual fans in Denmark, drive-in spectators in the Czech Republic and a title coronation in Serbia, AFP takes a look at a weekend of football in times of the coronavirus.

Fans return in Hungary
Forgotten sounds resonated in grounds across Hungary this weekend as songs, the beating of drums and the sense of excitement which spreads throughout the crowd when the ball nears the goal all returned for the first time since March.

After two months without spectators, sports venues reopened their doors to the public this weekend in Hungary, the first country to welcome supporters back to the stands, on the condition that every other row is left empty and only one in four seats is occupied.

"We will respect the rules because there could be games behind closed doors again if we mess up," said Richard Kovacs, 36, one of the 2,255 fans at Diosgyor's match against Mezokovesd.

"All that worries us is knowing if we're going to win or lose, not the epidemic," said Gabor Lengyel, 41, suggesting that football, and by extension life for some, is approaching a return to normal.

Poland home to plastic supporters
Poland will follow Hungary's lead with fans able to attend matches from June 19, although stadiums will be limited to a quarter of capacity.

In the meantime, the league restarted on Friday behind closed doors with noisy, hardcore Polish fans forced to adapt. Supporters of Pogon Szczecin arranged a guard of honour, holding aloft flares every 10 metres on the road leading to the stadium.

Lechia Gdansk relied on some private support on Sunday against Arka Gdynia, with photos of some 200 fans printed onto plastic backgrounds and placed in the stands.

The photos cost 75 zlotys (17 euros, \$19) and will eventually be returned to fans taking part in the initiative once signed by their favourite player.

Czech drive-in cinemas
The second weekend of the Czech league since the season's resumption saw defending champions and leaders Slavia Prague thrash Jablonec 5-0 at an empty Eden Arena on Saturday.

However, it wasn't totally deserted as the club placed 1,000 plastic photos of players in the stands



A man in a protective suit keeps watch before the game between Lech Poznan and Legia Warsaw (AFP Photo)

while giving fans the chance to do likewise for roughly 500 koruna (19 euros, \$20), half of which will go to Slavia's youth teams. Around 500 'fans' made it for kick-off.

To liven up the eerie atmosphere, Sparta Prague and Viktoria Plzen are pumping out team songs during their games. For Wednesday's meeting between the two they set up drive-in cinemas in both Prague and Plzen.

"We weren't able to go to the stadium because of the situation. I saw about this opportunity on social media so my friend and I bought tickets and came. It's very different, we're not really screaming and we miss the stadium, it's impossible to replace," Sparta fan Petr Svoboda, who watched the 2-1 loss to Plzen, told AFP.

Stankovic's Red Star champions in Serbia Despite their reputation and the clinching of a title -- the first in Europe since football's return -- typically boisterous

Serbian supporters remained calm as the league resumed Friday behind closed doors.

Rad Belgrade hosted city rivals Red Star in the biggest match, where a 5-0 victory for the visitors secured them a 31st league title.

Anyone expecting a sea of supporters flocking to the streets to celebrate was disappointed. Only a hundred or so hardcore fans gathered outside Red Star's ground to toast the newly-crowned champions while mobbing the club's coach, former Inter Milan midfielder Dejan Stankovic, outside the Marakana.

Virtual supporters in Denmark
After a near three-month hiatus, the Danish league returned Thursday as AGF took on Randers in Aarhus in a 1-1 draw behind closed doors.

On the eve of the match the Aarhus club had invited eager fans to stick banners, flags

and other cardboard cut-outs in the stands, far from the usual ambiance expected for a clash between two Jutland rivals.

Aarhus supporter Liva Hansen, 28, followed the match on TV and via popular videoconferencing platform Zoom along with a group of friends.

All five were part of a virtual audience of 30,000 people, whose images were beamed onto giant screens around the pitch.

"No doubt, that helped," Aarhus coach David Nielsen told Danish tabloid Ekstra Bladet. "It created a little alternative atmosphere, specific to 2020."

"It's a good solution but obviously I would have preferred to be in the stands," said Hansen. "It was nice to be able to see the other fans and their reactions, during the good moments but also during the less good!"

AFP

Soccer out of touch suppressing on-field activism

By ROB HARRIS

TO most watching Borussia Dortmund star Jadon Sancho remove his jersey to reveal a handwritten "Justice for George Floyd" message on his undershirt, it was a powerful expression of activism on a soccer field.

To the Bundesliga referee overseeing that game, it was an action requiring punishment.

Rarely has a rule looked so out of touch. At one of the world's few globally televised sports on Sunday, Sancho showed the soccer world Floyd's death resonated far beyond the United States.

Floyd, a black man, was filmed gasping for breath on Monday in Minneapolis while being pressed under the knee of a white police officer for several minutes. Floyd's death has sparked days of protests across the U.S.

And four players this weekend in German soccer took a stand in support of the protesters, making their point in the first major soccer league to resume during the coronavirus pandemic.

The referee who penalized Sancho, Daniel Siebert, was following global soccer rules when he showed Sancho a yellow card. FIFA rules state players should be cautioned for removing their jersey while celebrating. Any messages on undershirts -- from the political and religious to the personal -- have been prohibited since 2014, although the penalty is left to each league to decide.

But in removing his jersey to reveal the slogan, Sancho highlighted a cause far bigger than sports.

"The booking of Jordan Sancho, or any other player, for making a statement in support of a man who has been unjustly killed is the wrong decision," Piara Powar, executive director of the soccer's anti-discrimination Fare Network, told The Associated Press. "This is not a party-political cause, or an issue that poses a threat to football but an expression of concern and solidarity from minority players."

Dortmund teammate Achraf Hakimi revealed his own yellow "Justice for George Floyd" T-shirt when he netted Dortmund's fourth goal against Paderborn. The Moroccan was not booked -- the rule wasn't even applied equally.

Representatives for the Bundesliga did not respond to requests for comment.

"We have to come together as one & fight for justice," the 20-year-old Sancho tweeted. "We are stronger together!"

"Denying high-profile athletes an opportunity to express concern on big issues," Piara said, "is neither correct nor can it be controlled in the post-Kaepernick era."

San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick took a knee during the national anthem in 2016 in si-



Jadon Sancho of Borussia Dortmund celebrates scoring his team's second goal of the game with a 'Justice for George Floyd' shirt during the German Bundesliga soccer match between SC Paderborn 07 and Borussia Dortmund at Benteler Arena in Paderborn, Germany, Sunday, May 31, 2020. Because of the coronavirus outbreak all soccer matches of the German Bundesliga take place without spectators. (AP)

lent protest of police brutality and racism that kicked off a period of pregame activism in the NFL.

Bundesliga player Marcus Thuram invoked Kaepernick on Sunday after he scored for Borussia against Union Berlin, dropping to his left knee, and resting his right arm on his right thigh and bowing his head.

A day earlier, American midfielder Weston McKennie of Schalke, wore an

armband with the handwritten message "Justice for George" around his left arm.

"Rather than commenting on what a player should or shouldn't be doing," said Mary Harvey, chief executive of the Centre for Sports and Human Rights, "shouldn't our focus be on why players felt the need to do this in the first place?"

European soccer has been plagued by racial incidents at games, with few people facing consequences. As a young

black player, Sancho spoke out against the scant punishment for offenders in the stands and on the field.

"It puts the confidence down in players," he said last year, "and the love of the sport will go very soon if it doesn't stop."

From Kaepernick to the NBA's LeBron James to Sancho, athlete activism is not going away.

Had Sancho, a 20-year-old England international, received a second yellow card in Sunday's match for Dortmund, he would have been ejected.

"It is a disciplinary reaction to a fundamental assertion of human rights and that is precisely what we don't need right now," Brendan Schwab, executive director of World Players Association, told the AP.

Three years ago, FIFA made a commitment to respect human rights in places the governing body hosts events. Denying players the right of freedom of expression inside stadiums is in direct conflict with that commitment.

The rule (Law 4.5) prohibiting slogans and statements on equipment needs revisiting.

"How can it be that certain rights are not available on a sports field?" Schwab said. "Sport needs to embrace the positive consequences that will come from it being a social leader, particularly at a difficult time."

AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Postcards from the edge: Snapshots
of European football's return

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Morogoro's dread hair stylist, Hassan Shabani (front), attends to a customer at his shop in the region recently. He has called on the region's residents and the rest in Tanzania to heed to health precautions put in place with a view to containing the Coronavirus disease. Standing (L) is his assistant, Christian Baria. PHOTO: MICHAEL SIKAPUNDWA

Kikwete salutes Yanga for embracing transformation

By Correspondent Adam Fungamwango

TANZANIA'S retired president, Jaka-ya Kikwete, has stated he is optimistic transformation that the country's soccer giants, Yanga, are undertaking will turn out to be a success.

The club had on two occasions several years back opted for transformation but the attempts ended in vain.

Kikwete graced a function, organized by Yanga, to sign an agreement between the club and Spain's La Liga, which was held in Dar es Salaam on Sunday.

Yanga's main sponsors, GSM Group, are supervising and funding the initiative.

Kikwete pointed out he believes Yanga will this time round live up to expectations thanks to preparations the club has put in place to educate its members on the transformation.

"Yanga's willingness to embrace transformation had been there for a long time, it is hardly something which has merely sprung up," he stated.

"Yanga's then Secretary General, George Mpondela 'Castro', came up with the plan to transform the club into a company, it was a truly bold move, then there was a plan aiming at putting the side under ownership of one person for the agreed number of years, others were simply club's constitutional amendments," Kikwete, an avid soccer fan, stated.

"This is a major third attempt. The other two major attempts hit snag, they contributed to conflicts at the club. Castro's initiative brought about two groups, 'Yanga Kampuni' and 'Yanga Asili', it was genuine intention but the club's members did not understand it. A section of members were then inclined on having the club run under the ownership of an individual but other members strongly opposed the move."

Mshindo Msolla, Yanga Chairman, stated the Sunday occasion is the first move towards embracing transformation, a dream the side had nurtured for a long time.

"La liga will help us in areas we want them to render help, not telling us what to do. We have got the earlier recommendations from our club's committee, which is under Alex Mgongolwa," he stated.

"The most important thing is they will help us identify the means through which we are to run our club, but the ultimate decision will be reached by the club's leadership and members."

He noted the club's members will be involved in every step of the transformation.

"There is no any investor who will spend his fortune on a club that is either not run efficiently or has plenty of debts, therefore, the first phase will focus on assessing the way the club is to be run, and boosting the club's membership base, I thank GSM Group, they want to see Yanga turn into a self sufficient club," he disclosed.

The GSM Group's representative, Hersi Said, disclosed all the company needs is to leave a lasting legacy at the club, which the oldest sports side in Tanzania, and ultimately have the club's followers and the rest of soccer fans in the country value the firm's efforts.

Smith to play IPL if T20 WC postponed

SYDNEY

STEVEN Smith suggested that he would be willing to miss the early part of the Australian domestic season to take part in the IPL should this year's T20 World Cup be postponed because of the Covid-19 pandemic and leave room for a delayed edition of the world's most lucrative domestic T20 event.

Contracted to Rajasthan Royals, where he was named captain for the 2020 tournament, Smith said that while international cricket took priority for him, he could see the sense in travelling to play in the IPL in October and November, should the event be postponed due to the complexities of hosting a global event this year. In a letter to the ICC revealed last week, Cricket Australia chairman Earl Eddings requested this year's event be moved to 2021, with that year's event, scheduled to be hosted by India, moved to 2022.

Returning to training with his New South Wales squad members in Sydney on Monday, Smith said the Australian team would be led by expert and government advice about their own resumption of play, with CA currently mulling over a request from the ECB to tour England in September for a limited-overs series originally slated for July.

"I think when you're playing for your country at a World Cup, that's the pinnacle for one-day or T20 cricket, so of course I'd prefer to play in that," Smith said. "But if that doesn't happen and the IPLs there, and they postpone it, then so be it. IPLs also a terrific tournament as a domestic tournament. So that's out of everyone's control at the moment, players are just doing what we're told and going where we need to go and playing whatever's on at that stage."

"I guess there'll be some more news about it soon, probably some decisions to be made soon, so I'm sure we'll all find out and know where we're going to be. I personally haven't really thought about it, I think it'd just be going off the advice of the professionals and the governments and essentially doing what we're told. If that happens then great, if not then there's just so much going on in the world right now that cricket kind of seems a little bit irrelevant. So we'll get back when we're told to and until then it is sit tight, get fit and strong and freshen up mentally."

In terms of the shape of cricket when it does resume in a fundamentally changed universe, Smith said that he agreed new regulations restricting the use of saliva to polish the ball would affect the contest between batsmen and bowlers, noting too that his own habit of spitting on his hands for a bit of extra grip in the field virtually every ball would have to change.

"I've always been one to want a fair contest between bat and ball, so if that's taken away, even as a batter I don't think that's great," Smith said. "Whether they can find other ways with certain things, it'll be hard. I actually spit on my hands most balls and that's how I get grip and stuff. So that might take some adjusting to certain things like that, but that's something for the ICC to figure out what they want to do going forward and different regulations. We'll see how it all lands, everything is up in the air at the moment, but we'll see where everything goes."

AGENCIES



Shinyanga's Mwadui FC players pray prior to a kick off of the side's Mainland Premier League clash, which took place at their venue, Mwadui Complex.

VPL to resume with rearranged games

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

THE countdown is on for the resumption of Vodacom Premier League as the schedule of remainings rounds of fixtures was revealed.

Two rearranged games of Mwadui FC versus Yanga and Coastal Union versus Namungo FC are to take place on June 13 as the Vodacom Premier League restart three months after it was suspended due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Tanzania Premier League Board CEO, Almasi Kasongo, announced yesterday.

Simba SC v Ruwu Shooting and Azam FC v Mbao FC – both rearranged games as well – will

take place on the following day.

Three days later, Yanga will play their final game in hand by facing JKT Tanzania.

"We have put emphasis on completing the rearranged games before the rest of the top flight will be in action on June 20 to ensure a level playing field," Kasongo noted.

After those matches, all 20 clubs would have played 29 matches heading into the weekend of June 19-21, when the rest of the top flight is scheduled to be in action.

The last Vodacom Premier League match before the shutdown was a goalless draw between hosts Prisons and Mbao

FC on March 17, with all sports activities suspended on the same day.

Kasongo also announced that, if everything goes well, the top flight will draw to a close on the weekend of July 18.

Four teams are to be directly relegated while two will go into the playoffs stage with two teams from the First Division League.

Premier League back-to-back winners, Simba, appear certain to be crowned champions but issues of relegation and playoffs qualification still need to be resolved.

The First Division League will start on June 19 and end on July 12 whereby the group leaders

will be directly promoted to the top flight.

The first and second runners up from each group qualify for the playoffs to determine two winners who will face teams from the top flight.

Promotion-relegation playoff matches will be played on July 27 and August 1, marking it the end of the 2019/20 campaign.

There is only one round to play in the Second Division League which will see only two days of actions from June 27.

The SDL will then go into the playoff stage involving six teams to determine the teams that will be promoted to the First Division League.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

GUYS, LET'S TAKE A SHORT COMMERCIAL BREAK!



There is no any investor who will spend his fortune on a club that is either not run efficiently or has plenty of debts, therefore, the first phase will focus on assessing the way the club is to be run, and boosting the club's membership base, I thank GSM Group, they want to see Yanga turn into a self sufficient club

EATV TUESDAY
11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 MPYA
12:30 Msosi Kitaani (r)
13:00 Wanawake Live (r)
13:30 Kali Za Wana
14:00 DK 10 za Maangamizi
14:30 BBall Kings Highlights (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 5SPORTS (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 5SELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)

TONIGHT @ 9:00

NIRVANA

Nirvana explores the hottest trends in fashion, beauty, art and lifestyle as well as interviews with notable people from the entertainment, art and fashion industries.

east africa 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