

Over 500 startups compete in the Vodacom Digital Accelerator as Smart Lab and Vodacom Tanzania Plc select top 15 startups to enter the 2nd phase.

6th May 2020 - Dar es Salaam: Smart Lab and Vodacom Tanzania Plc have chosen its first batch of technology start-ups for its Vodacom Digital Accelerator program, with specializations ranging from fintech, health, e-commerce, media, education, agriculture, and telecom.
















The selected companies will go through a three-month program that includes mentoring from experienced Vodacom staff, Smart Codes staff, and other professional mentors. Startups will also receive technology and creative support to launch and grow their startups from Smart Lab - which is a top tech and media company in Africa. After 3 months of building during the accelerator, startups will enter a validation phase for another 3 months where they will get marketing strategy and support, business connection, partnership, and funding.

Tanzania's largest telco launched the Vodacom Digital Accelerator last year in partnership with the top startup accelerator and innovation lab, Smart Lab with the mission to support local tech entrepreneurs and create more startup success stories from the Tanzania ecosystem.

Vodacom Tanzania Plc has invested \$150,000 to support startups in the Vodacom Digital Accelerator program in the first year of its operation.

Almost 500 startups from 18 regions in Tanzania applied for the Vodacom Digital Accelerator program which shows the appetite for corporate-startup partnerships of which Smart Lab has been an advocate and pioneer. Of these, the Education sector accounted for 16.3% of applications, E-commerce 15.4%, Agriculture 15.0%, Fintech 10.4%, Health 10.4%, Media 7.9%, Telecom 6.7%, and Others such as Transport, Energy, and Environment totaled 18.4%.

The selected startups:

 <p>SmartClass (Education) An online platform that matches very qualified and certified tutors/experts to learners in remote areas who want to learn basic skills.</p>	 <p>BongoVocha (E-commerce) Coupon/discount platform for retailers and other businesses who want to attract customers through promotions and also get analytics/insights.</p>	 <p>Study Buddy (Education) Convenient e-learning resource platform for working professionals who are pursuing their professional qualifications despite their busy schedules.</p>
 <p>FoodSasa (Education) Online food ordering and delivery platform</p>	 <p>MyHI by Innovasie Ltd (Health) Mobile app that enables seamless access to purchasing and accessing health insurance services for people with smart phones.</p>	 <p>Cargo Fleet by Amora (Transport & logistics) App that connects truck & van owners to people who need their loads delivered.</p>
 <p>Kasome International (Education) Online platform providing a comprehensive video library of tutorials covering the secondary school curriculum, using the best recognized teachers in Tanzania.</p>	 <p>TakaCycle (Environment) Mobile app for smart waste collection that provides rewards-for-recycling to help and incentivize people in low-income communities to capture value from their waste.</p>	 <p>Ninsiima eDispensary (Health) A mobile/web app and telegram bot for patients to book clinical officers for home visits.</p>
 <p>Hashtag Pools (E-commerce) App that allows buyers of the same product or service to purchase in bulk so that they can all mutually enjoy maximum price discounts.</p>	 <p>Ecoshilling by Hype (Environment) Payment collection platform for waste management companies.</p>	 <p>Belltro (Data analytics) Tech company creating data driven products and data strategies to help organizations get better insights of their businesses and provide better customer experience.</p>
 <p>Kisomo by Smartcore (Education) Online platform for creation and distribution of digital learning materials which cover the local curricula and reflect the actual local learning environment.</p>	 <p>Spot (E-commerce) Events discovery platform.</p>	 <p>Wakala Search (Fintech) An app that links mobile money users to reliable mobile money agents.</p>

We wish them all the best as they enter into the 2nd round of selection.

The future is exciting

End

For more information about the Vodacom Digital Accelerator visit vodacomaccelerator.co.tz

About Vodacom:

Vodacom Tanzania PLC is the leading mobile communication service provider with the fastest data network in the country. We provide communication services to over 14 million subscribers. Vodacom Tanzania and its subsidiary companies are part of the Vodacom Group registered in South Africa which is in turn owned by Vodacom Group Plc of the United Kingdom. It has been registered in the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) with registration number ISIN:TZ1886102715 Stock name: VODA.

For further information please visit our website: www.vodacom.co.tz





JAMHURI YA MUUNGANO WA TANZANIA
WIZARA YA VIWANDA NA BIASHARA



Waziri wa Viwanda na Biashara
Mhe. Innocent Bashungwa (Mb)



Naibu Waziri
Mhe. Mhandisi Stella Manyanya



Katibu Mkuu
Prof. Riziki Shemdoe



Naibu Katibu Mkuu
Ludovick Nduhiye

HOTUBA YA WAZIRI WA VIWANDA NA BIASHARA MHE. INNOCENT L. BASHUNGWA (MB.), AKIWASILISHA BUNGENI MAKADIRIO YA MAPATO NA MATUMIZI YA FEDHA KWA MWAKA 2020/2021



Saruji inayotengenezwa na kiwanda cha Saruji cha Mbeya kilichopo Songwe.



Muonekano wa Kiwanda cha kusaga nafaka cha Energy Milling Company Ltd



Majembe ya kulimia aina ya URSUS yanayounganishwa TAMCO - Kibaha



kiwanda cha Took Garments wakiendelea na shughuli ya uzalishaji nguo.

HOTUBA FUPI (TALKING NOTES) YA WAZIRI WA VIWANDA NA BIASHARA MHE. INNOCENT L. BASHUNGWA (MB.), AKIWASILISHA BUNGENI MAKADIRIO YA MAPATO NA MATUMIZI YA FEDHA KWA MWAKA 2020/2021

1. UTANGULIZI

Mheshimiwa Spika; kutokana na taarifa iliyowasilishwa leo hapa Bungeni na Mwenyekiti wa Kamati ya Kudumu ya Bunge ya Viwanda, Biashara na Mazingira, ambayo ilichambua Bajeti ya Wizara ya Viwanda na Biashara Fungu 44 (Viwanda) na Fungu 60 (Biashara) tarehe 24 na 25 Machi, 2020 Jijini Dodoma, naomba kutoa hoja kwamba Bunge lako tukufu sasa likubali kupokea na kujadili taarifa ya utekelezaji wa Mipango na Bajeti kwa Mwaka 2019/2020. Aidha, naliomba Bunge lako tukufu likubali kupitisha Makadirio ya Mapato na Matumizi ya Fedha kwa Wizara ya Viwanda na Biashara kwa Mwaka 2020/2021.

Mheshimiwa Spika; naomba Hotuba yangu yote iliyowasilishwa kwa Waheshimiwa Wabunge iweze kuingia katika kumbukumbu za Bunge (Hansard) kama ilivyo.

Mheshimiwa Spika; awali ya yote naomba nianze kwa kumshukuru Mwenyezi Mungu kwa kunijalia afya na baraka katika majukumu nliyokasimwa. Kwa namna ya pekee namshukuru sana Mheshimiwa Dkt. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli, Rais wa Jamhuri ya Muungano wa Tanzania kwa kunitua kuwa Waziri na kunipa majukumu yanayobeba ajenda kuu ya Serikali ya Awamu ya Tano ya ujenzi wa uchumi wa viwanda. Nampongeza kwa kuchaguliwa kuwa Mwenyekiti wa Jumuiya ya SADC na namna anavyoshughulikia masuala ya biashara katika nchi za SADC na EAC ikiwa ni pamoja na kuomba kufutiwa madeni kwa nchi za Afrika katika kipindi hiki cha mlipuko wa ugonjwa wa COVID -19. Nampongeza pia kwa namna anavyotungoza kwa ujasiri na misingi imara, yenye kusheheni uzalendo na mapenzi kwa nchi yetu. Napenda pia kumpongeza Mheshimiwa Samia Suluhu Hassan, Makamu wa Rais wa Jamhuri ya Muungano wa Tanzania; Mheshimiwa Dkt. Ali Mohamed Shein, Rais wa Serikali ya Mapinduzi Zanzibar na Mwenyekiti wa Baraza la Mapinduzi; na Mheshimiwa Mheshimiwa Kassim Majaliwa Majaliwa (Mb.), Waziri Mkuu wa Jamhuri ya Muungano wa Tanzania; kwa jinsi wanavyomsaidia Mhe. Rais kusimamia ipasavyo misingi ya utafu wa wetu kupunguza pengo la walionacho na wasiokuwa nacho, kujenga Tanzania yenye kutoa fursa za uhakika za kujitetea maendeleo kwa mtu mmoja mmoja na Taifa kwa ujumla.

Mheshimiwa Spika; napenda kuchukua nafasi hii, kukupongeza wewe binafsi na Naibu Spika kwa umakini wenu katika kuliongoza na kulisimamia Bunge letu. Pia, naipongeza na kuishukuru Kamati ya Kudumu ya Bunge ya Viwanda, Biashara na Mazingira, chini ya Mwenyekiti wake Mheshimiwa Suleiman Ahmed Saddiq, Mbunge wa Jimbo la Mvomero, Makamu wake Mheshimiwa Kanali Mstaafu Ali Khamis Masoud, Mbunge wa Jimbo la Mfenesini na Waheshimiwa Wajumbe wote wa Kamati. Ushauri na maelekezo yao yamekuwa chachu muhimu sana, katika mageuzi ya kifika na kiutendaji ya Wizara, na hivyo kuchochea kasi ya maendeleo ya viwanda na biashara nchini.

Mheshimiwa Spika; kwa namna ya pekee, niwashukuru watangulizi wangu Mheshimiwa Charles John Mwijage, Mbunge wa Jimbo la Muleba Kaskazini na Mheshimiwa Joseph George Kakunda, Mbunge wa Jimbo la Sikonge, waliokuwa mawaziri wa Viwanda na Biashara. Nikiri kuwa misingi waliyoweka imeendelea kuwa chachu muhimu katika kuendeleza Sekta ya Viwanda na Biashara nchini. Aidha, nimshukuru Katibu Mkuu mstaafu Prof. Joseph Buchweshaja kwa ushirikiano alionipa kipindi nilichofanya naye kazi na nimkaribishe Prof. Riziki Shemdoe Katibu Mkuu wetu mpya. Nampongeza Prof. Shemdoe kwa nguvu na kasi aliyokuja nayo kwenye Wizara.

Mheshimiwa Spika; niwapongeze pia Mhe. Mussa Zungu, Mbunge wa Ilala, Mhe. Geore Simbachawene, Mbunge wa Kibakwe na Mhe. Dkt. Mwigulu Nchemba, Mbunge wa Iramba Magharibi kwa kuaminiwa na Mhe. Rais na kuteuliwa kuwa Mawaziri. Naahidi kuendelea kuwapa ushirikiano wa kutosha katika kutimiza majukumu yao.

Mheshimiwa Spika; naungana pia na Waheshimiwa Wabunge kutoa pole kwa familia zilizoondokewa na Wabunge wenzetu ambao ni Mheshimiwa Rashid Akbar, aliyekuwa Mbunge wa Jimbo la Newala Vijijini; Mheshimiwa Dkt. Getrude Rwakatare aliyekuwa Mbunge wa Viti Maalum; Mheshimiwa Richard Mganga Ndassa aliyekuwa Mbunge wa Sumve; na Mheshimiwa Balozzi Dkt. Augustino Mahiga aliyekuwa Mbunge wa Kuteuliwa na Waziri wa Katiba na Sheria.

Mheshimiwa Spika; naomba kutumia fursa hii pia kuwashukuru viongozi na watendaji wote wa sekta binafsi, kwa michango yao katika kuendeleza Sekta za Viwanda na Biashara. Nawashukuru TPSF, CTI, TCCIA, TNBC, CEO Roundtable, JWT na wengine wengi. Tunaandelea kuwategemea kama nguzo na mihimili ya kushirikiana katika kuendeleza viwanda na biashara na kuchochea uchumi wetu kwa ujumla.

Mheshimiwa Spika; hotuba hii ya Bajeti ninayowasilisha leo ni matokeo ya uratibu na ushirikiano mzuri wa viongozi wenzangu katika Wizara, akiwemo Naibu Waziri Mheshimiwa Mhandisi

Stella Manyanya, Mbunge wa Jimbo la Nyasa; Katibu Mkuu, Prof. Riziki Shemdoe; Naibu Katibu Mkuu, Ndugu Ludovick Nduhiye; Wakuu wa Idara, Vitengo, Taasisi na Watumishi wote wa Wizara na Taasisi. Napenda kuwashukuru na kuwapongeza kwa kujituma, na kuonesha daima utayari wa kuboresha mbinu na mikakati ya kisekta kwa vitendo.

Mheshimiwa Spika; nawapongeza na kuwashukuru wananchi wa Jimbo langu la Karagwe kwa kuendelea kunipa ushirikiano katika kutekeleza majukumu ya kitaifa na ya Jimbo. Nawapongeza kwa namna wanavyojibidiisha katika kujitetea maendeleo. Aidha, ninawaahidi kwamba nitaendelea kutetea maslahi yenu hapa Bungeni na hata nje ya Bunge ili kuhakikisha Karagwe inaendelea kushamiri na kuleta matokeo ya mtu mmoja mmoja, Wilaya, Mkoa na hatimaye kuongeza mchango wake kwa Taifa letu. Kipekee namshukuru sana mke wangu mpendwa Jennifer Bashungwa, watoto na familia yangu kwa upendo wao, uvumilivu na maombi yao wakati wote ninapotekeleza majukumu yangu ya kitaifa.

Mheshimiwa Spika; naomba niungane na Waheshimiwa Wabunge wenzangu kuomba ushiriki wa dhati wa kila Mtanzania katika kupambana na virusi vya KORONA ili kulinda nguvukazi ya Taifa. Nawaomba sana Watanania wote kuwa kila mmoja, kila familia na jumuiya zote nchini, kutambua kuwa usalama wetu hutegemea jitihada ya kila mmoja kujilinda na kumlinda mwenzake.

Mheshimiwa Spika; katika kukabiliana na janga la ugonjwa wa KORONA, Kampuni ya *Kilombero Sugar* ilichangia jumla ya lita 30,000 za *Ethanol* kwa ajili ya kutengeneza vitakasa mikono ambapo Wizara ya Afya ilipewa lita 20,000 na kiasi kilichobaki cha kita 10,000 zilipewa Taasisi za SIDO na TIRDO.

Mheshimiwa Spika; hadi sasa tayari Viwanda na Makampuni 65 yanazalisha vitakasa mikono vyenye ubora unaokubalika na TMDA. Kwa Wastani Viwanda hivyo vinatumia kiasi cha *Ethanol* kwa mwezi kisichopungua lita **2,548,951**. Umoja wa wenye Viwanda Vya Dawa na Vifaa Tiba (TMPA) kwa ujumla wao (viwanda vikubwa 4) vinazalisha vitakasa mikono kwa mwezi lita zipatazo **900,000** na viwanda vya kati na vidogo vipatavyo 61, vinazalisha lita zipatazo **2,745,000** za vitakasa mikono kwa mwezi, na kufanya jumla ya uzalishaji vitakasa mikono kuwa lita **3,645,000** kila mwezi. Kati ya hizo TIRDO huzalisha lita **90,000** kwa mwezi na SIDO huzalisha lita **18,000**.

Mheshimiwa Spika; kwa sasa tuna viwanda viwili vya kutengeneza barakoa aina ya *Surgical Masks* ambavyo ni *Pristine* na *Five Star*. Viwanda hivyo vina uwezo uliosimikwa wa kutengeneza barakoa **150,000** kwa siku na uwezo wa uzalishaji kwa sasa ni barakoa **30,000** kwa kiwanda cha *Pristine* na barakoa **40,000** kwa kiwanda cha *Five Star* kwa siku. Aidha, barakoa za vitambaa (*cloth masks*) kwa ajili ya kujikinga, tayari jumla ya viwanda 123 vimeitikia wito wa kutengeneza barakoa hizo ambapo kati yao viwanda vikubwa ni 13 na vidogo 110. Wizara inaendelea kuhamasisha viwanda vya ndani vya nguo kutengeneza barakoa kwa wingi kuwasaidia watanania na mapambano ya KORONA. Natoa wito kwa Wakuu wa Mikoa na Wilaya zetu kuhamasisha na mafundi vyerehani kwenye kila kijiji kushona barakoa za nguo kuwasaidia wananchi vijijini. TMDA na TBS toeni mafunzo kupitia vyombo vya habari na wapeni ushirikiano Wakuu wa Mikoa na Wilaya katika majukumu haya.

2. MAFANIKIO YA SEKTA YA VIWANDA NA BIASHARA KATIKA AWAMU YA TANO

Mheshimiwa Spika; katika kipindi cha kwanza cha utawala wa Serikali ya Awamu ya Tano, Serikali iliweka nguvu kubwa katika kufanikisha utekelezaji wa Ilani ya Uchaguzi ya Chama Cha Mapinduzi 2015 - 2020. Umakini wa utekelezaji Ilani ya CCM umehamasisha na kuchochea ujenzi wa uchumi wa viwanda ili kufikia malengo ya maendeleo yaliyoainishwa katika Dira ya Taifa 2025.

2.1 Kukidhi Mahitaji ya Ndani ya Bidhaa za Viwandani

Mheshimiwa Spika; Nchi yetu imejitosheleza katika baadhi ya bidhaa muhimu zinazozalishwa nchini. Saruji (uzalishaji halisi ni tani Milioni 7.4 na mahitaji halisi tani Milioni 4.8); marumaru (uzalishaji halisi ni mita za mraba Milioni 32.4 na mahitaji halisi ni wastani wa mita za mraba Milioni 30).

2.2 Ujenzi wa Viwanda Vipya

Mheshimiwa Spika; Serikali inaendelea kuhamasisha uendelezaji na ujenzi wa viwanda nchini. Kutokana na uhamasishaji huo, jumla ya viwanda vipya 8,477 vimeanzishwa kati ya mwaka 2015 hadi 2019. Viwanda hivyo vinajumuisha, viwanda 201 vikubwa, 460 vya kati, 3,406 vidogo; na 4,410 vidogo sana.

Mheshimiwa Spika; Sekta ya Viwanda Vidogo na Biashara

Ndogo imetoka ajira kwa wingi kwa Watanania ambapo kwa sasa inaajiri zaidi ya Watanania 8,000,000. Ajira hizo zimewezesha wananchi kujiongeza vipato na kutatua changamoto zao za kijamii na kiuchumi. Hii imetokea kutokana na Serikali ya Awamu ya Tano kuweka mazingira wezeshi ikiwemo kupunguza mamlaka za udhibiti na kufanya watanania wengi kujijiri na kutekeleza azma ya ujenzi wa viwanda nchini ambapo takribani asilimia 99 ya viwanda vyote nchini vipo chini ya sekta hiyo.

2.3 Uzalishaji wa Dawa na Vifaa Tiba

Mheshimiwa Spika; Sekta ya Viwanda vya Dawa na Vifaa Tiba kwa sasa ina jumla ya viwanda 15 ambapo viwanda 12 vinatengeneza dawa za binadamu, viwanda 2 ni vya dawa za mifugo na kiwanda 1 kinatengeneza vifaa tiba. Kwa sasa viwanda vya dawa vinazalisha chini ya asilimia 12 ya uwezo wake uliosimikwa na Serikali imekuwa ikiwawekeza wawekezaji mazingira wezeshi ili kufikia asilimia 60 ya uwezo uliosimikwa. Hatua zilizochukuliwa ni pamoja na kuweka vivutio vya uwekezaji kwa lengo la kuhamasisha wawekezaji wa ndani na Nje ya Nchi kwa kuondoa VAT kwa vifungashio vya dawa zinazozalishwa nje na ndani ya nchi; kushusha kodi ya mapato kutoka asilimia 30 hadi 20 kwa mwekezaji mpya ndani ya miaka mitatu ya mwanzo; na kuweka upendeleo maalum kwa ununuzi wa dawa zinazozalishwa na viwanda vya ndani kupitia MSD.

2.4 Uzalishaji wa Sukari

Mheshimiwa Spika; makadirio ya uzalishaji wa sukari kwa msimu wa mwaka 2019/2020 yalikuwa tani 345,296 kwa viwanda vya ndani sawa na asilimia 73.46 ya kiasi cha sukari inayokadiriwa kwa matumizi ya kawaida. Aidha, hadi kufikia mwezi Aprili, 2020 uzalishaji wa sukari nchini ulikuwa jumla ya tani 298,949, wakati mahitaji ya sukari kwa mwaka ni wastani wa tani 635,000. Kati ya mahitaji hayo, tani 470,000 ni kwa ajili ya matumizi ya kawaida na tani 165,000 kwa matumizi ya viwandani. Makadirio hayo yametokana na ukweli kwamba mahitaji ya sukari ya matumizi ya kawaida kwa mwezi ni wastani wa tani 38,000. Sababu zilipelekea kushuka kwa bei ni pamoja na mvua nyingi kipindi cha vuli na kupunguza kiwango cha sukari kwenye miwa na taratibu za usafirishaji ambazo zimesababishwa na ugonjwa wa KORONA ulioenea duniani.

Mheshimiwa Spika; kwa sasa Serikali imetoka tamko kuhusu uuzaji wa sukari. Matamko hayo ni pamoja na sukari iuzwe kwa kuzingatia bei elekezi na endapo wafanyabiashara hawatazingatia maelekezo hayo, hatua kali zitachukuliwa dhidi yao. Napenda kuwapongeza Wakuu wa Mikoa na Wilaya ambao tumeshuhudia jitihada zao katika kusimamia tamko la bei elekezi kwa lengo la kuwalinda walaji. Aidha, niwaombe Wakuu wa Mikoa na Wilaya zote nchini kwa kutumia kamati za ulinzi na usalama kuendelea kusimamia bei za ukomo zilizotangazwa na Serikali ili wananchi waweze kupata bidhaa hii muhimu kwa bei nafuu.

2.5 Uendelezaji Maeneo Maalum ya Uwekezaji na Mapato Kutokana na Uwekezaji Chini ya EPZA/SEZ

Mheshimiwa Spika; Wizara kupitia EPZA, imefanya tafti tatu kutathmini tija inayopatikana kutokana na kampuni zilizowekeza chini ya EPZA na tafti hizo zimeonesha uwepo wa tija katika uwekezaji wa maeneo hayo. Hadi kufikia Desemba 2019, chini ya BWM-SEZ, mauzo ya Nje ya Nchi yameingizia nchi Tsh. Bilioni 293.56 (USD 127.64); matumizi mengine ya kuendesha biashara yameingiza Tsh. Bilioni 146.58 (USD 63.73); kodi na tozo mbalimbali zilizolipwa kupitia TRA zimeingiza Tsh. Bilioni 17.24 (USD 7.50); na zimepatikana ajira za moja kwa moja viwandani zipatazo 3,000.

Kutokana na manufaa hayo, Wizara kupitia EPZA, imekuwa ikihamasisha ushiriki wa Serikali za Mikoa katika uendelezaji wa Maeneo ya SEZ ili kuiwezesha Mikoa husika kutumia Maeneo ya SEZ kama chanzo cha mapato na mbinu mojawapo ya kuchochea shughuli za kiuchumi katika mikoa husika. Hadi sasa, mikoa ya Arusha, Geita, Mwanza, Kigoma na Songwe imetenga maeneo yatakayoendelezwa kama Maeneo Maalum ya Kiuchumi. Kupitia uhamasishaji huo, katika kipindi cha mwaka 2019/2020 EPZA imesajili kampuni sita (06) na hivyo kufanya viwanda vilivyo chini ya EPZA kuongezeka kutoka viwanda 163 hadi viwanda 169 vikichangia ongezeko la mtaji unaokadiriwa kutoka Tsh. Tilioni 5.41 (USD Bilioni 2.35) hadi Tsh. Tilioni 5.47 (USD Bilioni 2.38). Mauzo ya nje yanakadiriwa kuongezeka kutoka Tsh. Trilioni 5.17 (USD Bilioni 2.25) hadi takriban Tsh. Trilioni 5.21 (USD Bilioni 2.27) na fursa za ajira za moja kwa moja kutoka 56,442 hadi 57,342.

Mheshimiwa Spika; utekelezaji wa mradi wa Kurasini ni kuliendeleza eneo hilo kama Kituo cha Biashara na Ugavi -"Trade and Logistic Centre". Serikali kupitia Mamlaka ya EPZ imedhamiria kuliendeleza eneo la kituo cha Biashara cha kurasini kama Soko la Mazao Mchanganyiko kwa kuanzia na zao la chai, kahawa na mazao ya bustani.



Umuhimu wa kutekeleza wazo la kujenga kituo cha Biashara na Ugavi -Kurasini kwa ajili ya mazao ya kilimo ni kuwezesha Sekta ya kilimo kuchangia vizuri zaidi katika pato la Taifa kwa kuwezesha uongezaji wa thamani ya mazao na biashara ya mauzo ya nje kufanyika. Baada ya kilimo shughuli zinazofuata ni uchakataji (viwanda) na hatimae mauzo (biashara).

Mheshimiwa Spika; Wizara kupitia NDC imekamiliha upimaji wa eneo la TAMCO ambapo jumla ya ekari 201.63 zimetengwa kwa ajili ya ujenzi wa viwanda na miundombinu. Hadi sasa viwanda viwili (02) vinavyofanya kazi vimeajiri watumishi 200 na ujenzi wa viwanda vipya eneo la TAMCO kibaha vinakadiriwa vitaajiri watumishi 21,220 ajira za kudumu. Madhumuni ya Serikali ni kuwa na Industrial Park nyingi nchini ama kupitia EPZA ama NDC ama Halmashauri zetu ili wafanyabiashara na wawekezaji wenye mtaji na business plan wakute tayari eneo lina maji, umeme na huduma nyingine muhimu.

2.6 Mikopo kwa Wajasiriamali

Mheshimiwa Spika; Wizara kupitia SIDO imefanikiwa kucheza uanzishwaji wa shughuli za kiuchumi kwa kutumia mikopo inayotolewa na Skimu ya Ukopesaji kwa Wajasiriamali (SME Credit Guarantee Scheme-CGS) na Mfuko wa Wafanyabiashara Wananchi (NEDF). Katika kipindi cha kuanzia mwaka 2015 hadi Machi 2020, mtaji wa Mfuko wa NEDF umeongezeka kutoka Shilingi Bilioni 6.429 Machi 2016 hadi Bilioni 8.65 Machi, 2020 ikiwa ni ongezeko la Shilingi Bilioni 2.22. Ongezeko hilo limetokana na riba inayopatikana kutokana na fedha inayojizungusha (Revolving Fund) kupitia mikopo hiyo. Aidha, jumla ya wajasiriamali 17,696 wakiwemo wanawake 8,933 na wanaume 8,721 walipatiwa mikopo iliyowezesha kupatikana jumla ya ajira 47,180. Kupitia mifuko hiyo, jumla ya viwanda vipya 437 vilianzishwa na kutoa ajira 1,481. Jitihada hizo ni kichocheo na chachu kubwa kwa huduma na taasisi za fedha ambazo nazo hutoa huduma ya mikopo.

Mheshimiwa Spika; mwezi Februari 2020, yalisainiwa makubaliano kati ya SIDO, VETA, AZANIA BANK, NSSF na Baraza la Uwezeshaji Wananchi Kiuchumi (NEEC) ya kuanzisha programu ya kutoa mikopo kwa wajasiriamali waliohudumiwa na SIDO na wahitimu wa VETA kupitia Benki ya AZANIA. Makubaliano hayo yalifanyika chini ya uratibu wa NEEC yanatoa nafasi kwa SIDO na VETA kuwapeleka wajasiriamali na wahitimu Benki ya AZANIA kuomba mikopo ya viwanda ya kuanzia Tshs milioni 8 hadi milioni 500. Fedha zitakozokopeshwa kiasi cha TSh. Bilioni tano (5) zimetolewa na NSSF kwa mkopesaji ambaye ni Benki ya AZANIA.

Mwongozo wa utekelezaji wa programu unaandaliwa ndipo utekelezaji wa programu hiyo uanze. Wizara inakusudia kuweka msukumo mkubwa wa program hiyo ili iwafikie wajasiriamali wengi nchini na wapate kunufaika. Tunawashukuru NSSF na AZANIA Bank na natoa wito kwa mabenki yote nchini na mifuko ya jamii kuiga mfano huu ili kuinua wajasiriamali nchini.

2.7 Majengo na Maeneo kwa Shughuli za Wajasiriamali

Mheshimiwa Spika; Serikali imefanikiwa kutenga maeneo maalum kwa ajili ya wajasiriamali kufanya shughuli mbalimbali za kiuchumi. Jitihada hizo zimewezesha ujenzi wa majengo viwanda (*Industrial Shades*) 12 katika mitaa ya viwanda ya SIDO iliyopo mikoa ya Dodoma (3), Manyara (3), Kagera (1), Mtwara (1) na Geita (4). Jumla ya viwanda 29 vimeweza kusimikwa katika majengo hayo na hivyo kuzalisha ajira 648. Kutokana na umuhimu huo, Wizara inaendelea na ujenzi wa majengo ya viwanda katika mikoa mingine kwa kuanzia mikoa ya Kigoma, Mtwara na Ruvuma ambapo SIDO imekamiliha upembuzi yakinifu wa majengo matatu pamoja na michoro ya usanifu (architectural drawings) katika mikoa ya Mtwara (2) na Kigoma (1) na ujenzi umeanza.

Mheshimiwa Spika; ukamilishaji wa majengo viwanda (*industrial sheds*) unategemewa kuwezesha uanzishwaji wa viwanda vipya saba vitakavyotengeneza ajira 76. Vilevile, Serikali imefanikisha kusogeza karibu huduma za kusaidia na kuhamasisha wananchi kushiriki katika ujenzi wa uchumi wa viwanda kwa kujenga ofisi nne (4) za SIDO katika mikoa mipya ya Simiyu, Katavi na Geita.

2.8 Fursa za Biashara na Masoko ya Kikanda

Mheshimiwa Spika; katika kutumia fursa za masoko ya kikanda, Wizara imefanikisha kuongezeka kwa mauzo ya bidhaa na huduma kwenye masoko hayo yanayotoa fursa za upendeleo maalum (preferential market access). Tanzania imekuwa na urari chanya wa mauzo ya bidhaa kwenda kwenye masoko ya nchi za Jumuiya ya Afrika Mashariki (EAC) na Nchi za Jumuiya ya Maendeleo ya Kusini mwa Afrika (SADC). Mfano, kwa upande wa Jumuiya ya Afrika Mashariki kutoka mwaka 2015 hadi mwaka 2018 Tanzania imekuwa na urari chanya wa mauzo ya bidhaa kwa wastani wa USD Milioni 288.04.

2.9 Uboreshaji Mazingira ya Biashara Nchini

Mheshimiwa Spika; katika kuboresha mazingira ya biashara nchini, Wizara imefanikiwa kuandaa na kutekeleza Mpango wa Kuboresha Mfumo wa Udhidihi wa Biashara Nchini - BLUEPRINT. Mpango huo umewezesha maboresho ya tozo 173 ambapo tozo 163 zimefutwa na tozo kero 10 zimepunguzwa kiwango. Kati ya tozo zilizofutwa, 114 ni za Sekta ya Kilimo na Mifugo, 5 za OSHA, 44 za TBS, Mamlaka za Mkemia Mkuu wa Serikali

(GCLA), Utalii, Maji, Uvuvi na iliyokuwa Mamlaka ya Chakula na Dawa - TFDA. Aidha, tozo zilizopunguzwa ni za GCLA. Mpango huo umewezesha kuhamisha jukumu la usimamizi wa masuala ya chakula kutoka iliyokuwa TFDA kwenda TBS, ili kuondoa muingiliano wa majukumu. Maboresho hayo yamesaidia kuondoa urasimu na kupunguza gharama za kufanya biashara.

2.10 Utoaji Huduma za Kieletroniki kwa Wafanyabiashara na Wajasiriamali Nchini

Mheshimiwa Spika; kutokana na kufutwa kwa tozo hizo, usajili wa usalama mahali pa kazi (workplace) umeongezeka kutoka 16,457 mwaka 2019 ikilinganishwa na mahala pa kazi 11,963 mwaka 2018. Aidha, BLUEPRINT imeandaliwa Mpango Kazi (Blueprint Action Plan-BAP) ili kuongoza utekelezaji wake. Sambamba na hilo, Serikali inaendelea na maandalizi ya kutunga Sheria ya Uwezeshaji Biashara ya mwaka 2020 (Business Facilitation Act, 2020), ili kuipa nguvu ya kisheria misingi ya maboresho iliyobainishwa katika *Blueprint*. Rasimu ya Waraka wa Sheria hiyo imekwishawasilishwa kwenye ngazi za maamuzi Serikalini.

Mheshimiwa Spika; Wizara inafanya kila linalowezekana kuboresha utendaji wa BRELA na mifumo yake ya Usajili wa Majina ya Biashara, Makampuni, Alama za Biashara na Huduma, Hataza, Leseni za Viwanda na Leseni za Biashara kwa njia ya Mtandao. Hadi kufikia Machi, 2020, Wakala imesajili Makampuni 7,549, Majina ya Biashara 12,627, Alama za Biashara na Huduma 1,970, Hataza 55, Leseni za Viwanda 200 na Leseni za Biashara 9,927.

Mheshimiwa Spika; Wizara kupitia BRELA imekusanya taarifa za bidhaa mbalimbali kutoka Taasisi za Serikali zaidi ya ishirini (20) za kutoka Tanzania Bara na Serikali ya Mapinduzi za Zanzibar. Tayari taarifa za bidhaa zaidi ya 18 zinazosafirishwa nje ya nchi (Export) na zaidi ya bidhaa 8 zinazoingizwa nchini (Import) zimekwishakusanywa na kuingizwa kwenye Mfumo.

2.11 Kuunganisha Wazalishaji, Wasindikaji na Wafanyabiashara na Masoko ya Ndani na Nje ya Nchi

Mheshimiwa Spika; Wizara kwa kushirikiana na Wizara ya Kilimo, Taasisi za Soko la Bidhaa Tanzania (TMX), Mamlaka ya Maendeleo ya Biashara (TanTrade) na AGRA inaandaa mkakati wa namna bora ya kufungamanisha Sekta za Kilimo na masoko kwa mazao ya kimkakati yatakayozalishwa nchini. Mkakati huo unalenga: Kuunganisha wazalishaji ikiwemo wakulima na wasindikaji wa ndani na nje ya nchi; Kujenga na kuhamasisha uelewa wa pamoja kuhusu dhana ya uwezeshaji badala ya kudhibiti biashara kwa Taasisi na Mamlaka za Serikali zinazohusika na utoaji wa vibali na leseni za biashara; na Kuweka vivutio kwa sekta binafsi kuwekeza katika uzalishaji wa mazao ya kilimo.

Mheshimiwa Spika; Wizara kupitia TanTrade imeratibu tafti za kutambua fursa za masoko ili kuongeza mauzo ya bidhaa za Tanzania katika masoko ya nje. Kipaumbele ni katika masoko ya: China (Madini, Vito, Nyama, Tumbaku, Korosho na Muhogo); India (Mikunde, Korosho, Ngozi na Nafaka); Ulaya (Matunda, Mbogamboga, Asali, Kahawa na Korosho); na Nchi za EAC (nafaka, bidhaa za ujenzi, bidhaa za ngozi, bidhaa za viwandani na vyakula vya mifugo); na Nchi za SADC (Madini, nafaka, bidhaa za viwandani, bidhaa za ujenzi). Aidha, mikutano na misafara ya kibiashara iliyoratibiwa ilizingatia na kutumia matokeo ya tafti hizo na hivyo kufanikisha kutumia fursa hizo za biashara.

2.12 Kuimarika kwa Biashara za Mipakani

Mheshimiwa Spika; Serikali imewezesha kuanzishwa kwa Vituo kumi vya Mipakani. Aidha, kati ya hivyo Vituo sita vinafanya kazi kwa mujibu wa utaratibu wa OSBPs, Vituo viwili (Hororo/Lungalunga; na Sirari/Isebania) ujenzi wake umeshakamilika vinasubiri kuzinduliwa rasmi. Vituo viwili vilivyobaki (Kasumulio/Songwe; na Mugina/Manyovu) viko kwenye hatua za awali za ujenzi. Vilevile, Serikali inatambua umuhimu wa kuwa na masoko ya kimkakati kwa ajili ya kukuza biashara na mauzo nje ya nchi kwa maendeleo ya wananchi wake na Taifa kwa ujumla. Kutokana na umuhimu huo, Serikali imekuwa ikichukua hatua za kuanzisha, kuboresha na kuendelea masoko ya kimkakati ya mipakani ya Nkwenda na Murongo (Kyerwa), Kabanga (Ngara), Kahama (Kahama), Remagwa (Tarime) na Bweranyange (Karagwe) ili kurasimisha ufanyaji biashara. Kwa sasa Wizara inaratibu Mradi wa Ujenzi na Uboreshaji wa Masoko ya Mipakani ili kuhakikisha wananchi waishio mipakani wananufaika ipasavyo. Jitihada hizo zimekwenda sambamba na mpango wa Wizara wa ujenzi wa masoko ya kimkakati mipakani.

2.13 Kuhuisha Soko la Biashara ya Zao la Tumbaku

Mheshimiwa Spika; kipekee naomba nimpogezze Mhe Rais wa Jamhuri ya Muungano wa Tanzania na Serikali anayoingoa kwa namna alivyosimama imara na kuweka msimamo thabiti dhidi ya mifumo ya kumyonya mkulima katika mazao mbalimbali na hususan korosho, pamba, kahawa na mazao mengine. Wizara itahakikisha kupitia taasisi zake ikiwemo FCC inasimamia na maeneo mengine kuharibu mifumo ya aina hiyo iliyowekwa na wafanyabiashara wasio waaminifu kwa lengo la kumyonya mkulima. Mheshimiwa Rais ni mfano wa kuigwa katika utendaji wetu hasa katika kuhakikisha haki za wakulima na wananchi wanyonge zinalindwa. Na hii inadhahirisha utayari wake katika

kuhamasisha wananchi kufanya kazi kwa kujituma na hivyo kuakisi kauli yake ya "HAPA KAZI TU".

Mheshimiwa Spika; Wizara imefanikiwa kuhuisha soko la zao la Sekta ya Tumbaku baada ya Serikali kufikia muafaka na wanunuzi wakuu wa zao hilo kuhusiana na madai ya ukiukwaji wa taratibu za ushindani. Mahauri dhidi ya allince one, Alliance one international na ATTT yameshamalizika kwa suluhu na kufungwa ili wadau hao waendeleo na shughuli zao katika kuendelea sekta ya tumbaku. Aidha, mashuri yaliyokuwa yanaikabili TLTC, TTPL, ULT na ATTT nayo pia yamemalizwa kwa suluhu.

Hadi sasa mchakato wa kumaliza kwa suluhu mashauri yanayowakabili kampuni ya *JTI Leaf Services Limited* na JT International uko hatua za mwisho. Kutokana na mwenendo huu wa suluhu kampuni ya *JTI Leaf Services Limited* katika mpango wake wa ununuzi imethibitisha kununua tumbaku yenye thamani ya USD Milioni 12.6 kwa mwaka 2019/2020, USD Milioni 14.1 kwa mwaka 2020/2021, USD Milioni 15 kwa mwaka 2021/2022 na USD Milioni 15.5 kwa mwaka 2022/2023.

2.14 Miradi ya NDC

Mheshimiwa Spika; Serikali kupitia Shirika la Taifa la Maendeleo (NDC) inatekeleza miradi mikubwa mitatu ambayo ni; mradi wa kuunganisha na kuuza matrekta aina ya URSUS (Ubua wa NDC na kampuni ya URSUS ya Poland); mradi wa ujenzi na uendeshaji wa kiwanda cha viadudu (Ubua wa NDC na kampuni ya LABIOFAM ya Cuba); na mradi wa makaa ya mawe (Ubua wa NDC na kampuni ya *Intra Energy Tanzania Ltd* na kuendesha kampuni ya *TANCOAL Energy Ltd*).

Mheshimiwa Spika; utekelezaji wa miradi hiyo umekabiliwa na changamoto mbalimbali kiasi cha kuathiri matokeo chanya yaliyotarajiwa na Serikali. Aidha, jitihada mbalimbali zimekuwa zikifanywa na Serikali ili kupata ufumbuzi wa changamoto hizo. Mwezi Machi, 2019 Wizara kwa kushirikiana na Taasisi mbalimbali za Serikali tumeanza kufanya mapitio, tathmini na uchunguzi wa miradi hiyo, ikiwemo kuunda timu za Serikali zijadiliane na timu ya Serikali ya Poland kwa mradi wa matrekta ya URSUS; Serikali ya Cuba kwa mradi wa viadudu uliopo Kibaha; na timu ya kampuni ya *Intraenergy Tanzania* kwa ajili ya mradi wa makaa ya mawe ya ngaka (TANCOAL).

Mheshimiwa Spika; timu hizo zimeshaundwa na zinatarajia kuanza vikao vyake hivi karibuni. Kutokana na changamoto za CORONA tunatarajia vikao hivyo vitafanyika kwa njia ya *Video Conference*. Wizara inaamini kuwa makubaliano katika majadilino hayo yataleta matokeo chanya katika utekelezaji wa miradi hiyo na inakuwa na manufaa zaidi kiuchumi na kijamii kwa Taifa, hususani katika ujenzi na uendelezaji wa sekta ya viwanda nchini.

2.15 Mikataba na Itifaki na Marekebisho ya Sheria

Mheshimiwa Spika; Wizara iliandaa na kuwasilisha Waraka wa Itifaki ya Marekebisho ya Mikataba wa *Marrakesh* ulionzisha Shirika la Biashara la Dunia ili kufanya Mikataba wa Uwezeshaji Biashara (Trade Facilitation Agreement) kuwa sehemu rasmi ya mikataba ya WTO. Tayari waraka huo umekwisharidhiwa na Bunge la Jamhuri ya Muungano wa Tanzania na Hati ya Kuridhia (Instrument of Ratification) ya Itifaki hiyo imekwishasainiwa na kuwasilishwa WTO. Vilevile, Itifaki ya *Marrakesh* inayolenga kuwezesha upatikanaji wa kazi zilizochapishwa kwa watu wasioona, wenye uoni hafifu, ulemavu unaofanya mtu kushindwa kusoma wa mwaka 2013 iliridhiwa na Bunge la Jamhuri ya Muungano wa Tanzania. Tayari, Hati ya Itifaki hiyo imesainiwa na kuwasilishwa WIPO. Tunashukuru Waheshimiwa Wabunge na Mheshimiwa Rais kwa kuridhia na kufanikisha Mikataba na Itifaki hizo.

3. MWELEKEO NA VIPAUMBELE VYA SEKTA YA VIWANDA NA BIASHARA

3.1 Mwelekeo wa Sekta ya Viwanda na Biashara

Mheshimiwa Spika; mtazamo na mwelekeo wa Serikali ya Awamu ya Tano inayoongozwa na Chama cha Mapinduzi kuhusu maendeleo ya viwanda na biashara nchini, unalenga kujenga uchumi wa viwanda utakaowawezesha Watanzania kufikia na kunufaika na uchumi wa kati ifikapo 2025. Hatua hiyo itawezesha Watanzania kutumia fursa za kiuchumi na kijamii katika mifumo iliyoboreshwa na inayozingatia haki na utawala bora. Ni dhamira ya nchi yetu kumfanya kila Mtanzania kuwa na maisha bora na kunufaika na rasilimali na fursa zilizo na zinazojitokeza.

i. Kuhamasisha Uendelezaji na Matumizi ya Bidhaa za Ndani

Mheshimiwa Spika; kuthamini rasilimali na bidhaa za ndani ni ukombozi muhimu wa kiuchumi kwa Taifa lolote. Mifano hai ni nchi ya Japan na China ambazo wananchi wake wamejijengea utamaduni wa kuthamini bidhaa zinazozalishwa katika uchumi wao. Hivyo, Wizara itaendelea kuhamasisha uimarishaji wa ubora na matumizi ya bidhaa za ndani, nguvukazi na malighafi za ndani ili kuleta ufungamanisho wa sekta katika kujenga uchumi na kuleta maendeleo kwa wananchi wake. Aidha, Wizara kwa kushirikiana na TanTrade inaendelea kuhamasisha wananchi kutumia bidhaa zinazozalishwa na viwanda vya ndani kupitia kauli mbiu ya Nunua Bidhaa za Tanzania, Jenga Tanzania (Buy Tanzania, Build Tanzania). Mbinu hiyo ni muhimu sana katika

kipindi hiki cha ujenzi wa uchumi wa viwanda ili kuimarisha viwanda vya ndani na kutumia Kiswahili katika bidhaa.

ii. Kuimarisha SIDO

Mheshimiwa Spika; kwa kutambua umuhimu na mchango wa Sekta ya Viwanda Vidogo na Biashara Ndogo katika uchumi na hususan ujenzi wa viwanda, Serikali itachukua hatua za makusudi kuimarisha ujasiriamali nchini. Kipaumbele kitakuwa katika kuimarisha taasisi ya SIDO kwa kupitia upya muundo wake na kuijengea uwezo ili iweze kubeba ipasavyo dhamana ya uendelezaji wa viwanda vidogo na biashara ndogo inayowabeba Watanzania walio wengi. Jitihada hizo zitaenda sambamba na kuendelea ujenzi wa *shades* katika mikoa yote nchini ili manufaa yalioyoonekana ya ajira na uongezaji thamani wa mazao, na kuongeza ushindani katika soko yasambae nchi nzima.

Mheshimiwa Spika; Wizara pia itaweka mkazo na umuhimu katika upatikanaji wa teknolojia, kuongeza miundombinu ya uzalishaji (Industrial shades) ili kuwawezesha wajasiriamali kupata mahali pa kufanyia uzalishaji, na kuweza kuhudumiwa kirahisi na taasisi mbalimbali zikiwemo za udhibiti wa ubora wa bidhaa, taasisi za fedha na mafunzo muafaka. Juhudi za kuimarisha jasiriamali nchini zitaenda sambamba na kuimarisha SIDO ili imudu kutoa huduma bora na zenye kuleta tija katika uzalishaji wa bidhaa, huduma na ufanyaji biashara.

iii. Kuvilinda Viwanda na Biashara za Nchini

Mheshimiwa Spika; uchumi himilivu unaotabirika na shindani unatokana na jitihada za kuujenga, kuendeleza na kuulinda. Kujilinda isitafsiriwe kuwa ndiyo kujitenga kiuchumi na nchi nyingine, na wala siyo dhambi, kwani hata nchi zilizoendelea kiuchumi duniani mbinu mbalimbali zinaendelea kutumika kwa njia tofauti. Hivyo, sera, sheria na mikakati ya kisekta itaendelea kuhakikisha kuwa kunakuwepo ushindani wa haki ili kuulinda viwanda na biashara nchini. Aidha, tutaendelea kuulinda haki za msingi za walaji kwa kuweka utaratibu wa kisheria utakaotaka wawekezaji, wenyewe viwanda na wafanyabiashara katika mazao, bidhaa na huduma kutotumia nguvu ya soko isivyotakiwa na kusababisha kuwakandamiza wanyonge.

Mheshimiwa Spika; ili kuongeza nguvu za utafutaji wa fursa za masoko ya nje, Wizara inafanya uchambuzi wa kina wa kuona umuhimu wa kuhisha na kurejesha Waambata wa Biashara (Trade Attachee) katika ofisi za Balozi zetu zilizo nje ya nchi, ili kuweka mfumo wa kufanya tathmini na utafiti wa mahitaji ya soko la bidhaa zinazozalishwa nchini. Tathmini na tafiti hizo zitatoa picha ya mahitaji ya soko la nje na kuwezesha wazalishaji wa bidhaa za ndani kuzalisha kwa kuzingatia mahitaji ya soko la nje.

Mheshimiwa Spika; utoaji huduma bora kwa wananchi kwa kiwango kinachoridhisha ni lengo kuu la mabadiliko ya kiutendaji ambayo Serikali ya Awamu ya Tano inapata kipaumbele. Hivyo, mwelekeo wetu ni kuhakikisha kuwa taasisi za kisekta zinajielekeza katika kutoa huduma kwa kiwango kinachokidhi matarajio ya wananchi. Wizara yangu na taasisi zake zitaongeza ubunifu katika utendaji kazi kwa tija na kutoa huduma kwa weledi ili kuchochea ufanisi katika Sekta ya Viwanda na Biashara na hatimaye kuongeza Pato la Taifa.

iv. Uimarishaji wa Taasisi za Udhibiti na Maendeleo ya Teknolojia na Uwekezaji Nchini

Mheshimiwa Spika; katika kuendelea uchumi wa viwanda, Serikali inaimarisha taasisi zake ili ziweze kukidhi na kuhimili mahitaji ya maendeleo na ujenzi wa viwanda nchini. Wizara inajizatiti kuimarisha Taasisi za Utafiti na Maendeleo ya Teknolojia yaani TIRDO, TEMDO na CAMARTEC kwa kufanya tathmini ya kitaalam, kupitia upya na kwa kina majukumu na miundo ya kisheria ya taasisi hizo. Lengo ni kuzifanya maboresho mahsusni yatakayozingatia ushauri wa kitaalam na itakapoonekana inafaa, zitafanywa maamuzi ya kimuundo ikiwemo kuziunganisha ili ziweze kuwa na tija na ufanisi katika kuleta mwendelezo wa mafanikio ya taasisi hizo na pia kuongeza nguvu katika kuendelea viwanda nchini.

Mheshimiwa Spika; Serikali pia kwa kuzingatia tathmini ya kitaalam, itajielekeza katika kuimarisha taasisi za uwekezaji nchini hususan EPZA na NDC ili ziwe mihimili na nguzo za uwekezaji katika viwanda ambavyo ni muhimu katika kujenga uchumi wa Taifa lakini wakati mwingine sekta binafsi haiko tayari kuwekeza. Msukumo ukiwa ni kuunda taasisi / mamlaka mpya itakayobeba jukumu la kujenga viwanda mama, viwanda vya kimbakati.

v. Kutunga Sheria (Business Facilitation Act) kutekeleza Mpango Kazi - BLUEPRINT

Mheshimiwa Spika; ujenzi wa mazingira bora na endelevu ya biashara ni kichocheo kikubwa na muhimu katika kuvutia uwekezaji wa ndani na nje. Hivyo, Serikali kupitia Wizara yangu imejipanga kuhakikisha kuwa inaendelea kuboresha mazingira ya biashara nchini. Maboresho hayo yatakutia wawekezaji wa ndani na nje katika viwanda na biashara na hivyo kuwezesha kutumia fursa mbalimbali za ndani na nje ya nchi kadiri zinavyojitokeza. Misingi ya maboresho ya mazingira ya kibiashara yanategemewa kuwekewa nguvu ya kisheria na utaratibu wenye ushirikishaji mpana zaidi wa wadau.

vi. Muunganisho wa Kiutendaji Kati ya Wizara na Mamlaka za Serikali za Mitaa

Mheshimiwa Spika, kwa kuzingatia umuhimu wa utendaji kazi wenye tija katika ngazi za Makatibu Tawala Mkoa (RAS) na Mamlaka za Serikali za Mitaa (LGAs), Kada za Maafisa Biashara zitapewa msukumo wa kipekee, ili kuhakikisha inahuishwa na kufanya kazi zake kitaaluma. Aidha, Wizara imeanza mazungumzo na Ofisi ya Rais TAMISEMI ili kuandaa Mkataba wa Makubaliano (Memorandum of Understanding) wa kuweka mifumo na mazingira bora ya kufanya kazi pamoja na kwa kushirikiana.

vii. Utungaji wa Sheria ya Kujilinda Dhidi ya Athari za Biashara (Trade Remedies Act, 2020)

Mheshimiwa Spika; Wizara inaendelea na taratibu za kutunga Sheria ya Kujilinda Dhidi ya Athari za Kibiashara ya mwaka 2020 (Trade Remedies Act, 2020) ambayo inalenga kuulinda biashara na viwanda vya ndani. Ulinzi huo unalenga kuzuia uingizwaji wa bidhaa kwa wingi (import surge); bidhaa kuuzwa kwa bei ya chini ikilinganishwa na bei ya bidhaa kama hizo kwenye nchi zinakotoka (dumping); na bidhaa nyingine kupewa ruzuku (subsidies) na nchi zao au taasisi nyingine na hivyo kuathiri bidhaa ambazo zinazalishwa ndani ya nchi bila kupata ruzuku. Mapendekezo ya kutunga Sheria hiyo yamekwishawasilishwa Serikalini kwa ajili ya maamuzi.

viii.

ix. Utekelezaji wa Mikakati Mbalimbali ya Uendelezaji Viwanda Nchini

Mheshimiwa Spika; Mikakati wa Kuendelea Sekta ya Ngozi wa mwaka 2016-2020 umejikita katika kuendelea mnyororo wa thamani wa Zao la Ngozi. Katika kutekeleza mikakati huo, Serikali imetoa msamaha wa ushuru wa forodha kwenye malighafi na vifaa vinavyotumika kutengeneza viatu na bidhaa za ngozi vinavyoingizwa kutoka nje ya nchi. Lengo likiwa ni kupunguza gharama za uzalishaji kwa viwanda vya ngozi na kuvutia uwekezaji. Fursa hiyo imetumiwa na Kiwanda cha *Karanga Leather Industries* ambacho hivi karibuni kimeingiza mashine na vifuasi (accessories). Vilevile, Kiwanda cha *ACE leather* Morogoro kimetumia fursa hiyo kuingiza mashine na vifuasi ili kusindika ngozi hadi hatua ya mwisho. Mikakati huo pia umehamasisha taasisi za umma na shule kununua bidhaa za ngozi hususan viatu kutoka viwanda vya ndani kulingana na upatikanaji. Kwa sasa maandalizi ya kuhisha Mikakati huo yanaendelea.

x. Kuimarisha Sekta Binafsi

Mheshimiwa Spika; mtazamo wa Sera za Taifa zinatambua nafasi ya sekta binafsi kama injini ya maendeleo ya kiuchumi. Kujenga sekta binafsi hasa wajasiriamali wadogo kwa kuwawezesha mazingira wezeshi na rafiki kupitia upatikanaji wa mitaji, teknolojia rahisi na rafiki, masoko ya uhakika na huduma muhimu zinazolenga kuongeza tija na ufanisi katika uzalishaji ni suala lisilohitaji mjadala. Hivyo, katika kuendelea Sekta ya Viwanda na Biashara, mtazamo wa kiseria utalenga kukuza na kutengeneza uwekezaji kuanzia ngazi ya ujasiriamali mdogo hadi kuwa matajiri wazalendo wa baadaye. Msukumo utawekwa katika kuweka sera zinazotabirika, kujenga mazingira yanayotabirika na kutoa fursa za masoko.

xi. Nguvukazi Kukidhi Mahitaji ya Viwanda

Mheshimiwa Spika; suala la kuwa na rasilimali watu ya kutosha yenye sifa, uwezo na inayotumika vizuri ni muhimu katika kujenga uchumi endelevu wa viwanda. Wizara imejipanga kuendelea kimbakati rasilimaliwatu iliyonayo kwa kuwa na mpango mpana wa kuwaendeleza na kuwajengea uwezo watumishi wa Wizara ili kuongeza ujuzi na weledi katika kutekeleza majukumu yao. Hii itawezesha kuboresha huduma zitolewazo na kukidhi matarajio ya wadau na umma wa ujumla. Tutajielekeza zaidi katika maeneo ya kuboresha huduma (service delivery) kwa njia mbalimbali, kuimarisha usimamizi na uratibu wa shughuli za kisekta (Regulatory role) na kuishirikisha sekta binafsi na wadau wengine kuchangia kikamilifu katika kukuza uchumi. Ili kuwa na rasilimaliwatu yenye afya, Wizara itahakikisha kuwa watumishi wanapata elimu ya afya na huduma za kinga dhidi ya magonjwa yanayoambukiza na yasiyoambukiza.

xii. Kuendelea Maeneo Maalum ya Uwekezaji

Mheshimiwa Spika; kuwekeza katika ujenzi wa miundombinu ya msingi na wezeshi kwa ajili ya ujenzi wa viwanda na ufanyaji biashara ni suala la msingi. Uendelezaji wa miundombinu hiyo kwa kushirikiana na sekta binafsi utapewa msukumo zaidi ili kuleta tija na mvuto kwa wawekezaji wa ndani na nje ya nchi. Wizara itashirikiana na Balozi za Tanzania pamoja na Ofisi ya Waziri Mkuu-Uwekezaji kuja na mikakati wa kuvutia wawekezaji kutumia sehemu ambazo zimefidiwa chini ya EPZA. Pia, imezindua miradi ya ujenzi wa miundombinu hiyo katika mikoa yote nchini ambapo kwa Mkoa wa Dodoma tumeanza na ujenzi wa Kongano la Viwanda Kizota (Kizota Industrial Cluster).

xiii. Uendelezaji wa Miradi ya Kimkakati na ya Kielelezo

Mheshimiwa Spika; katika kuendelea Miradi ya Kimkakati, Wizara, TIRDO, Wakala wa Jiojio Tanzania (GST), na *African*

Minerals and Geosciences Centre (AMGC) ilifanya uhakiki wa awali wa wingi na aina za madini yaliyopo kwenye miamba ya Liganga. Matokeo ya awali yalibainisha kuwa kuna tofauti ya wingi na aina za madini ikilinganishwa na ilivyobainishwa katika taarifa ya mwekezaji. Utafiti wa kina unaendelea kufanyika kwa nia ya kubainisha hali halisi ya rasilimali zilizopo. Aidha, NDC kwa kushirikisha na uongozi wa Wilaya ya Ludewa na Wizara ya Ardhi, Nyumba na Maendeleo ya Makazi imekamilisha kazi ya uthaminishaji mali ndani ya eneo la mradi ili kufidia wananchi watakaopisha Mradi unganishi wa Mchuchuma na Liganga.

Mheshimiwa Spika; TIRDO inaendelea kufanya “*Techno Economic Study*” katika Mradi wa Magadi Soda Engaruka. Lengo la utafiti huo ni kubainisha kiasi cha mahitaji ya magadi nchini, thamani ya uwekezaji utakaofanyika na faida za mradi huo kwa ujumla. Makadirio ya awali ya rasilimali magadi (brine) yameonesha uwepo wa kiasi cha mita za ujazo Bilioni 4.68. Aidha, ilibanika kuwa rasilimali hiyo inajiongeza kwa kiasi cha mita za ujazo wa Milioni 1.9 kwa mwaka. Uhakiki wa rasilimali hiyo unaendelea sambamba na ukamilishaji wa upembuzi yakinifu wa mradi na athari ya mradi katika mazingira na jamii. Utafiti huo unategemewa kukamilika mwisho mwa mwezi Aprili, 2020.

3.2 Vipaumbele kwa Bajeti ya Mwaka 2020/2021

Mheshimiwa Spika; vipaumbele vya bajeti na malengo ya sekta ya viwanda na biashara ya mwaka 2020/2021 vimeelezewa kwa kina ukurasa 138 hadi 181 ya hotuba ya bajeti.

4. MAKADIRIO YA MAKUSANYO NA MAOMBI YA FEDHA KWA MWAKA 2020/2021

4.1 Makusanyo ya Serikali

Mheshimiwa Spika; Katika mwaka 2020/2021, Wizara inatarajia kukusanya maduhuli ya jumla ya Shilingi 15,000,000 kutokana na uuzaji wa nyaraka za zabuni na makusanyo mengine. Kati ya fedha hizo, Shilingi 9,000,000 zitakusanywa katika Fungu 44 na Shilingi 6,000,000 zitakusanywa katika Fungu 60.

4.2 Maombi ya Fedha

Mheshimiwa Spika; Kwa mwaka 2020/2021, Wizara ya Viwanda na Biashara inaomba kutengewa jumla ya Shilingi 81,366,902,000. Kati ya fedha hizo, Shilingi 51,679,016,000 ni za Matumizi ya Kawaida na Shilingi 29,687,886,000 ni za Matumizi ya Maendeleo. Aidha, katika Bajeti hiyo, Shilingi 57,414,395,000 ni za Fungu 44 na Shilingi 23,952,507,000 ni za Fungu 60.

5. SHUKRANI

Mheshimiwa Spika; ujenzi wa uchumi wa viwanda ni shirikishi na jumuishi, hivyo huhitaji ushiriki wa wadau mbalimbali. Kwa kutambua umuhimu huo, napenda kutumia fursa hii kuwashukuru kwa dhiti washirika wetu wamaendeleo, zikiwemo nchi rafiki. Vilevile, nashukuru taasisi zote, sekta binafsi, taasisi zisizo za kiserikali (CBOs & FBOs) kwa kuwa sehemu muhimu ya ujenzi wa uchumi wetu. Kama nchi, tunaendelea kutegemea ushirikiano wenye tija katika kufikia malengo endelevu ya jamii nzima ya Watanzania.

Mheshimiwa Spika; Naomba nihitamishe kwa kuwashukuru tena Watanzania kwa kuendelea kuunga mkono jitihada za Serikali katika ujenzi wa uchumi wa viwanda na hivyo kuwa kichocheo cha kukua kwa sekta nyingine za uchumi. Ni dhahiri kuwa Taifa kwa kipindi hiki kinahitaji kuendelea ari hiyo katika kupambana na majanga mbalimbali ikiwemo ugonjwa wa mafua makali wa KORONA. Kwa pamoja tuungane kujikinga na kulindana ili Taifa libaki salama na likiwa na nguvukazi ya kutegemewa.

6. HITIMISHO

Mheshimiwa Spika; Wizara ninayoismamia imeazimia kuendelea maamuzi makini na yenye mashiko ya Serikali ya Awamu ya Tano ya kujenga uchumi wa viwanda wenye mafanikio ambayo yanajitafiri katika ubora wa maisha ya kila mwananchi na Taifa kwa ujumla. Hivyo, Sera, Sheria na Mikakati iliyopo itaendelea kuboreshwa ili kuendelea mafanikio yaliyopatikana na kuchochea mbinu za utekelezaji ili kufikiwa kwa malengo ya Serikali ya Awamu ya Tano inayoongozwa na Chama cha Mapinduzi. Ni dhahiri kuwa jitihada hizo pamoja na utekelezaji wa *Blueprint* utatutoa hapa tulipo na kutupaisha katika maendeleo na kufikia lengo la uchumi wa kati ifikapo 2025 kama ilivyoazimiwa na Dira ya Taifa ya 2025. Inawezekana, endapo kila mmoja wetu atachukua nafasi yake na kujituma ipasavyo.

7. MAOMBI RASMI YA FEDHA

Mheshimiwa Spika; Naomba Bunge lako Tukufu liidhinishe makadirio ya Wizara ya Viwanda na Biashara ya kukusanya mapato ya jumla ya Shilingi 15,000,000 na matumizi ya jumla ya Shilingi 81,366,902,000 kwa mwaka 2020/2021.

8. MWISHO

Mheshimiwa Spika; Hotuba hii pia inapatikana katika Tovuti ya Wizara yenye anuani ifuatayo: www.mit.go.tz.

Mheshimiwa Spika; Naomba kutoa hoja.

TECH SAVVY

NMB, Mastercard team up with EYWA to digitise commuters' fare payment

By Guardian Reporter

IN the first of its kind initiative to further spur cashless payment solutions in the market, NMB Bank Plc has teamed up with Mastercard and transportation solutions provider, EYWA to enable commuters pay their fares digitally.

Consisting of a mobile application and a transit card, the mass transportation solution will leverage cashless payments and digital technologies to efficiently transform how millions of commuters are moved daily within and across major cities in Tanzania.

As the banking partner in the consortium, NMB Bank will be enabling commercial transport operators join the formal economy using digital payment technology tools, said acting Managing Director, Ruth Zaipuna.

Zaipuna said in Dar es Salaam

during the launch of the partnership that last year, the bank teamed up with Mastercard to offer another digital payment tool dubbed Mastercard QR to motorcycle taxi riders also known as 'boda-boda' to receive fares from customers directly through their NMB accounts.

"We are committed to growing Tanzania's transportation sector and working with partners such as EYWA and Mastercard to introduce a digital solution that will not only promote a cashless society but will also benefit commuters and passengers plus the economy in general," Zaipuna said.

"Formalization of these payments is a key component of NMB's drive to enhance financial inclusion among the commuters and the transport sector as a whole. With Mastercard QR, we are providing an efficient means for commuters to receive payments from all MNOS



NMB Bank Plc's acting managing director, Ruth Zaipuna.

and commercial bank customers that are Mastercard QR enabled," she added.

This service will be available at all bus stations na-

tionwide in Tanzania, starting with Dar es Salaam. Mastercard and EYWA plan to expand to other markets across East Africa, enabling more people to enjoy

smooth and seamless digital transit services in the coming months.

"We are committed to making decent mass-transit services accessible for all with a goal of moving millions of Africans daily and safely, at the cost they can afford.

As the world grapples with the COVID-19 pandemic, we are humbled to be able to launch a solution that will enable commuters in Tanzania transit while being able to stay safe by limiting human-to-human contact," said EYWA's CEO, Toffene Kama.

Adam Jones, Mastercard's Area Business Head for East Africa, Adam Jones backed Zaipuna and Kama observations saying with more people travelling around urban areas for work or leisure, cities are looking to better address the demand across public transit networks.

"As such, we are proud to have partnered with EYWA and NMB Bank to launch Mastercard QR in the transport sector, an integral part of Tanzania's economy.

With thousands of people using public transport on a daily basis, our digital payment technology integrated into this solution will have a substantial and positive impact on driving inclusive growth, as well as building the digital economy," Jones noted.

To enjoy this service, all passengers need to do is get their free EYWA Transit Card from agents located at bus stops and top-up through any of their preferred platforms.

Commuters will receive information on the next arriving bus on their mobile phones. Smartphone users can also download the EYWA application for an even better user experience.

GENEROSITY

Azania Bank donates 100 bags of cement to Ilemela public schools

By Guardian Reporter

AZANIA Bank Limited handed over a donation to 100 cement bags to back construction of classrooms in Ilemela district of Mwanza region.

Speaking after receiving the consignment yesterday in Mwanza, an assistant to Ilemela lawmaker who is also Deputy Minister for Land, Housing and Human Settlements Development, Angelina Mabula, Kazungu Safari paid tribute to Azania

management and staff for the support saying the municipality is facing shortage of classrooms.

"On behalf of the people of Ilemela and their MP, I would like to express our deep appreciation to Azania Bank for their endless support to our municipal. I recall Azania Bank just recently launched 'Jikwamue' loans which target business women, small scale entrepreneurs and people with disabilities, here in Ilemela," Safari said.

While calling on other cor-

porations to join ABL's good corporate citizenry, Safari said Ilemela's education system has many challenges apart from classrooms hence need concerted efforts by both the public and private sectors.

"Statistics show that there is shortage of almost 103 classrooms for the enrolled 8,668 students enrolled this year 2020 so far but currently only have 90 classrooms," he noted.

Speaking during the event on behalf of Ilemela MP, the MP's

Secretary (Katibu wa Mbunge) Mr. Kazungu Safari expressed his appreciation to this support and asked for other financial institutions to do the same as a part of their CSR.

In remarks after handing over the cement bags, Azania Bank's Mwaloni Branch Manager, Sasa Miligwa stated that the donation is part of the bank's corporate social responsibility contribution to the community.

"As a financial institution operating in this area, we felt that

it is crucial to support such an initiative so that we can give back part of the profit we make to the community. Latest financial statements indicate that Azania Bank made a profit of 15bn/- in 2019 part of which is what we are donating here," Miligwa said.

He said in addition, the Dar es Salaam based Tier 1 lender has also supported government's anti-coronavirus measures apart from taking cautions and investing in personal protective

gear for employees and customers.

"Our branches countrywide have taken all measures to ensure that customers and staff are safe by keeping distance and also supplying sanitizers and other preventive gear," he added while observing that the bank is also encouraging clients and the general public to use digital transacting products such as Azania Plus. Azania Plus comprises of mobile banking, mobile application, Internet

banking, Azania Wakala, Visa Card services and ATM outlets.

Cap: Azania Bank Limited's Mwaloni Branch Manager, Sasa Miligwa (L) handing over part of the 100 cement bags to an assistant to Ilemela Constituency lawmaker who is also Deputy Minister for Land, Housing and Human Settlements Development, Angelina Mabula, Kazungu Safari during a brief ceremony held in Ilemela Municipality of Mwanza region yesterday. Photo courtesy of Azania Bank.

INNOVATION

TTB to live-stream migration of wildebeest beginning this month

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

AS the coronavirus pandemic restricts tourists to witness the annual wildebeests migration which is due to take place at Serengeti National Park later this month, Tanzania Tourist Board will live-stream the event.

TTB Managing Director Devota Mdachi said in Dar es Salaam yesterday that they have come up with the innovative solution to allow fans of the annual migration

witness the event that will be aired from this month.

Mdachi said TTB in collaboration with the Serengeti Show Live team, will air the event using all digital media outlets globally. "Our mission is to entertain and thrill all wildlife and safari fans during Covid-19 travel restrictions," she said.

Serengeti Show Live is a creation of wildlife guide, Carel Verhoef aimed at allowing tourists and local wildlife fans access to their favourite conservation places during Covid-19 lockdowns.

Verhoef's program helps bring tourists back to Serengeti National Park whilst conserving the habitat and biodiversity of the area. Tracking animals in their natural environments, he leads the videography team through game drives which take Africa to the world.

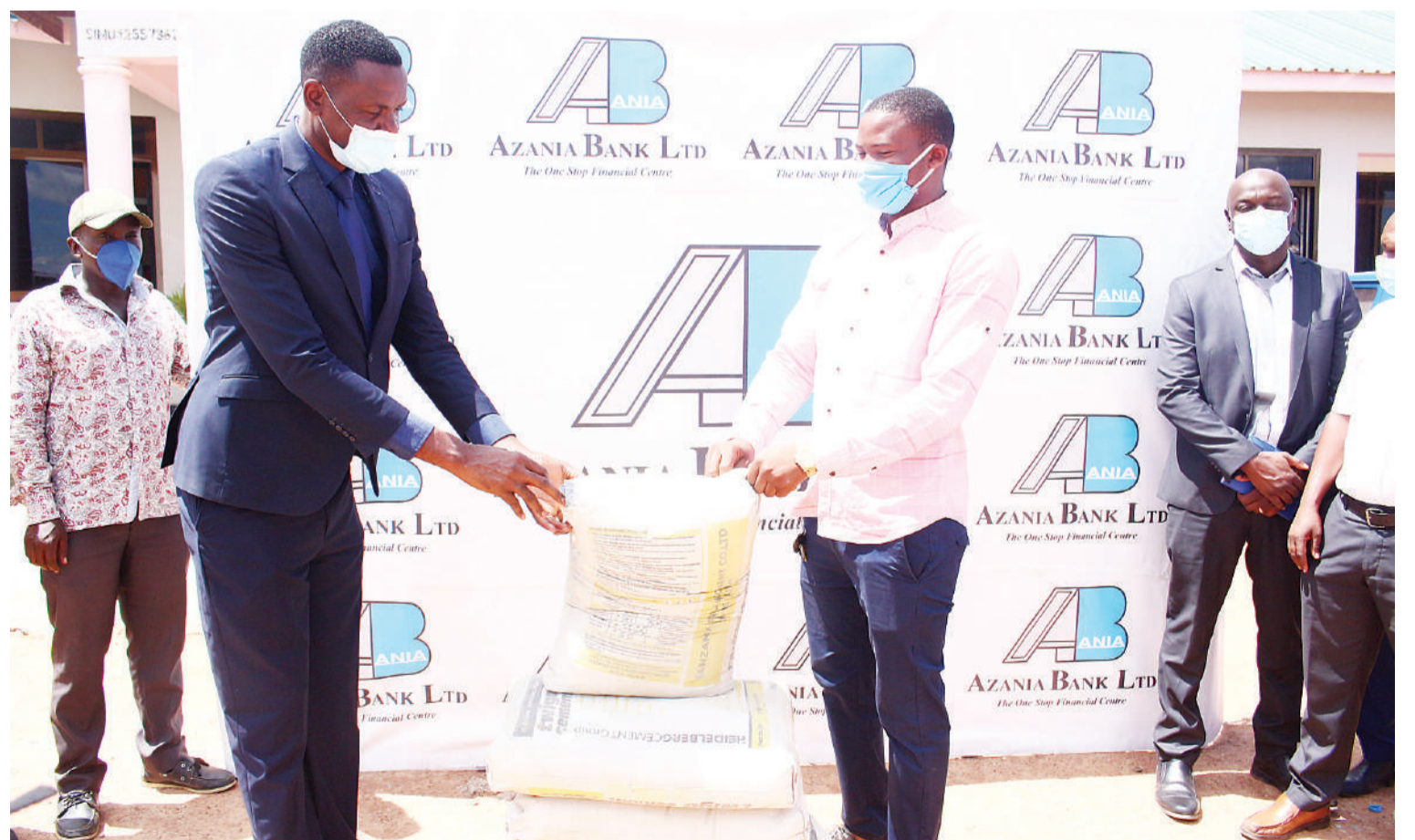
"As we wait for a time when the world will open up again for travel, we are putting in place recovery strategies to ensure destination Tanzania remains a preferred choice in the minds of prospective tourists," the TTB chief added.

TTB is also collaborating with Tanzania National Parks and Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority who also have partnered with the Serengeti Show Live team to bring the highly visual wildlife show to the world to entertain and educate the viewers.

Commenting on the program, Verhoef said the great migration of wildebeest and iconic African animals like lions and elephants are a draw card for tourists visiting Serengeti National Park at this point in time annually.

"We're concerned about the devastating impact the reduction of travel and tourism is having on the revenue generated for conservation agencies. This is also resulting in job losses and more broadly affecting the livelihoods of people working in and living around protected areas. It also impacts the operations in the wilderness areas," noted Verhoef.

Approximately 172 percent of the country's gross domestic product is generated by tourism with over one million foreign arrivals



Azania Bank Limited's Mwaloni Branch Manager, Sasa Miligwa (L) present part of the 100 cement bags to an assistant to Ilemela Constituency lawmaker who is also Deputy Minister for Land, Housing and Human Settlements Development, Angelina Mabula, Kazungu Safari during a brief ceremony held in Ilemela Municipality of Mwanza region yesterday. Photo courtesy of Azania Bank.

CALL

African nations urged on free-trade deal to fight pandemic

ADDIS ABABA

THE delayed implementation of an African free-trade agreement is a missed opportunity as the pact offers "probably the best form of stimulus" for the continent to overcome the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, according to an enterprise that liaises between business and the African Union.

"We unfortunately don't have the ability to play with quantitative easing and the exercise of printing money," Paulo Gomes, the vice

president of the AfroChampions Initiative, said in an interview. "Our stimulus is really to enhance trade among the countries and create the conditions to create jobs, develop small and medium enterprises and make sure that we create liquidity in the market."

Gomes, a former executive director of the World Bank, is one of 25 African business leaders, including Gervais Djondo, the co-founder of Ecobank Transnational, and Ichor Coal chief executive officer Nonkululeko Nyembezi-Heita, who wrote

an open letter to the continent's political leaders. In it, they warn that the postponement of trade under the African Continental Free Area would be a mistake.

First trade under the agreement, which was due to take place on July 1, has been delayed due to the coronavirus pandemic. While the agreement entered into force legally last year, protocols for trade in goods and services need to be agreed to make the July deadline.

Instead of a full-blown postponement, countries should work to fa-

cilitate the transport of medical and personal protective equipment as an immediate response to the virus, while concluding outstanding negotiations via virtual meetings, Gomes said.

The health and economic consequences of the virus will result in sub-Saharan Africa's first recession in 25 years, according to World Bank estimates. African finance ministers have called for emergency economic stimulus of \$100 billion, including debt-service waivers to combat the effects of the pandemic.



TTB's managing director, Devota Mdachi speaks at a past event.

ALERT

WHO backs use of scientifically proven medicinal plants in COVID-19 treatment

By Guardian Reporter

MEDICINAL plants such as *Artemisia annua* which are being considered as possible treatments for COVID-19 are welcome provided that they get tested for efficacy and adverse side effects.

World Health Organization's Africa regional office in Congo Brazzaville said in a statement on Monday that Africans deserve to use medicines tested to the same standards as people in the rest of the world.

"Even if therapies are derived from traditional practice and

natural, establishing their efficacy and safety through rigorous clinical trials is critical," said the statement while stressing that WHO welcomes innovations around the world including repurposing drugs, traditional medicines and developing new therapies in the search for potential treatments for COVID-19.

WHO recognizes that traditional, complementary and alternative medicine has many benefits and Africa has a long history of traditional medicine and practitioners that play an important role in providing care to populations, the statement



Dr Matshidiso Moeti, WHO's Regional Director for Africa.

noted. The statement further noted that African governments through their Ministers of

Health adopted a resolution urging member states to produce evidence on the safety, efficacy and quality of traditional medicine at the Fiftieth Session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa in 2000.

"Countries also agreed to undertake relevant research and require national medicines regulatory agencies to approve medicines in line with international standards, which include the product following a strict research protocol and undergoing tests and clinical trials," the statement added stressing that such studies

normally involve hundreds of people under the monitoring of the national regulatory authorities and may take quite a few months in an expedited process.

"WHO is working with research institutions to select traditional medicine products which can be investigated for clinical efficacy and safety for COVID-19 treatment," the release added noting that in addition, UN specialised body will continue to support countries as they explore the role of traditional health practitioners in prevention, control, and

early detection of the virus as well as case referral to health facilities.

WHO statement comes after Madagascar announced a possible COVID-19 cure in a herbal tea made with *Artemisia annua* plant called Covid Organics.

The herbal tea has gained rapid popularity with several African leaders including President John Magufuli placing orders to treat Tanzanians as the world races against time to find a cure for the pandemic that has infected close to three million people and killed over 250,000 globally.

PLEA

Locked out of foreign aid, Zimbabwe begs IMF and World Bank for assistance

HARARE

ZIMBABWE, locked out of coronavirus-related aid programs because of debt arrears, has thrown itself at the mercy of organizations including the International Monetary Fund. It has received no response.

In an April 2 letter to the heads of the IMF, World Bank, African Development Bank, Paris Club and European Investment Bank, Zimbabwe's Finance Minister Mthuli Ncube sought debt relief and an arrears clearance program, according to a copy of the letter seen by Bloomberg. The government hasn't received any replies, said two people with knowledge of the matter, who asked not to be identified as the request hasn't been made public.

"The global Covid-19 pandemic is expected to have a devastating health, humanitarian and economic impact on Zimbabwe," Ncube said in the letter. "Domestic resources to allow the

authorities to mitigate the impact of the pandemic are insufficient and access to external financing is severely constrained due to external debt arrears."

The outbreak and economic impact have hit Zimbabwe as it struggles to recover from the worst drought in 40 years, a cyclone and two decades of economic mismanagement that left the country short of fuel and wheat and with an annual inflation rate of 676%. Relations with multilateral organisations have been soured by Zimbabwe's inability to keep up with payments on \$8 billion of external debt. Zimbabwe, along with Sudan and Eritrea, is ineligible for recently announced aid from the IMF because of those arrears.

Economic outlook

Ncube said the economy is set to contract by between 15% and 20% over 2019 and 2020, and cited a World Bank assessment that the nation's

funding gap will be \$1 billion this year. In the letter, Ncube said the government accepts "responsibility for the recent policy missteps" and laid out a series of measures the administration is prepared to take if the organisations agree to "high-level" talks.

Those include adopting a market-related exchange rate, ensuring that the central bank no longer lends money to the government, cracking down on corruption, aligning laws to a constitution that was adopted in 2013 but never fully implemented, and electoral reforms.

Ncube also offered to conclude an agreement by June that would lead to the compensation of white commercial farmers who were forced off their land in the past two decades in a violent and botched land-reform program, the decimated export earnings.

In return, the government is seeking the rescheduling or cancellation of bilateral debt arrears, Ncube said, adding that Zimbabwe proposes re-



Permanent secretary in Zimbabwe's Finance ministry, George Guvamatanga

scheduling the arrears over 15 years with a five-year grace period. It also wants a bridge loan to allow it to clear arrears to the World Bank, African Development Bank and European In-

vestment Bank.

"It is very unfair for Zimbabwe to be locked out of support to deal with a global humanitarian crisis, which it did not create," said George

Guvamatanga, the permanent secretary in Zimbabwe's finance ministry. "Especially considering that we were already on our own dealing with drought and cyclone induced crisis."

SIDE-EFFECTS

South Africa lockdown causes new vehicle sales to plummet by a whole 98.4 pct last month

JOHANNESBURG

NEW vehicle sales plummeted by a whopping 98.2% in April, during a nationwide lockdown to slow the spread of Covid-19.

According to statistics on new vehicle sales released by the National Association of Automobile Manufacturers of South Africa, only 574 vehicles were sold. Of these, 105 vehicles were passenger cars and 318 were light commercial vehicles. Industry wide, the volume of sales is down 32.1% for the year to date.

By comparison, total sales in March was 33 545. Naamsa reported that new vehicle sales for March declined nearly 30%, year-on-year. The association attributed the decline to challenging economic conditions in SAA as well as developments related to Covid-19.

Naamsa's members include auto-manufacturers such as Toyota, Isuzu, Volkswagen, BMW, Ford, Nissan and Mercedes-Benz. "In this unprecedented time, the motor industry is experiencing uncharted conditions and grappling with the solutions to address it," said Lebogang Gaoakete, head of marketing and communication at vehicle and asset financier WesBank.

The automotive industry contributes 6.9% to GDP - 4.4% of is this attributed to manufacturing and 2.5% is attributed to retail.

The industry accounts for 30.1% of the country's manufacturing output and vehicle components are exported to 155 international markets, according to Naamsa. The manufacturing side of the industry employs more than 110 000 people and the sector as a whole supports 457 000 jobs, both directly and indirectly.

"The industry's significant 6.9% contribution to GDP means that many jobs are potentially impacted, across manufacturing and retail, as is foreign currency revenue from exports. "Mobility plays a vital role in providing the necessary stimulus to all sectors of the economy to literally get moving," Gaoakete commented. "We should expect consumers to be slow in their return to the car market as they adapt to social distancing measures and remain cautious about their own budgets given the uncertainty."

Treasury has projected that the economy could contract as much as 16.1% due to the impact of Covid-19. Job losses could be between three million and seven million, with the manufacturing industry among those which are worse affected, Fin24 previously reported.



Stanbic Bank Tanzania's Mbeya branch manager, Hemedi Sabuni (5th L) presents water storage tanks and sanitisers to Mbeya Municipal Council economist Saad Mtambule in Mbeya city yesterday being the bank's donation in support of the government's efforts in the war on Covid-19. Others in the photo are the bank's employees and municipal officials. Photo courtesy of Stanbic.

PROGRESS

Madagascar starts COVID-Organics clinical trials, factory to be built

ANTANANARIVO

MADAGASCAN president Andry Rajoelina has announced that clinical trials will start today (May 4) with COVID-Organics. A factory will also be built within a month to boost its production.

The president disclosed the developments during a national address on Sunday during which he extended the state of health emer-

gency in the southern African island nation by 15 days.

According to him, the trials were in partnership with foreign researchers. "A pharmaceutical factory will be set up within a month to increase the production capacity of Covid Organics. It will be administered in other forms such as injections," Rajoelina posted on Twitter.

The antiviral properties of Artemisia - the anti-malarial plant at the base of COVID-Organics and its role in building immune capacity have been proven, he added without giving details. "Thanks to this discovery, international researchers and doctors have proposed the construction of the largest cancer center in Africa in Madagascar," the president disclosed.

The herbal tea / concoction continues to sharply divide opinion among those that say it needs more attention and others who are dismissing as an unproven 'solution' to a malady the world is still grappling to get a grip on.

The profile of the drug has been boosted after about half dozen African leaders publicly endorsed it and requested for consignments.

The Malagasy government has so far been distributing it for free in the country and all shipped consignments are for free.

Presidents of Tanzania, Guinea-Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, Comoros, DR Congo, Senegal and the Republic of Congo have congratulated Madagascar for their bold step in combating the rampaging global virus.

DECELERATION

Hong Kong's economy shrinks by 8.9% in first quarter due to coronavirus

HONG KONG

HONG KONG'S downturn is now the worst on record, extending the first recession witnessed in a decade as the coronavirus outbreak further hit an economy already weakened by political unrest.

The city's economy contracted 8.9 per cent year on year in the first quarter, according to advance government data. The decline surpasses the previous record of -8.3 per cent in the third quarter of 1998 and a 7.8 per cent contraction in the first quarter of 2009, the two worst quarterly readings in data dating back to 1974, according to the Census and Statistics Department Hong Kong.

The latest decline also marks the third straight quarterly contraction for Hong Kong, the longest such stretch since the aftermath of the global financial crisis in 2009. Economists had forecast a drop in output of 6.5 per cent in the three months to March from the same period a year earlier.

Hong Kong's economy shrank 1.2 per cent last year, the first time that had happened since 2009. On Sunday, Financial Secretary Paul Chan pointed to the worst full-year performance on record, with a contraction of as much as 7 per cent. Mr Chan will speak to the media at 5pm local time on Monday about the gross domestic product data.

Even as the city prepares to ease some social distancing measures amid a steady improvement in the local outbreak situation, the hit to global commerce and the threat of renewed anti-government unrest means activity will probably remain depressed. Unemployment is increasing amid the devastation in tourism, retail, transport and other industries.

"Faced with a collapse in global demand, Hong Kong's small,

open economy is taking a severe hit," said Qian Wan, economist with Bloomberg Intelligence, in an April 28 note before of the results. "The trade- and service-oriented economy will suffer a major drag from the global downturn."

Mr Chan, the city's top economic policy official, had signalled that the reading for the first quarter this year could be even worse than past lows. The city's economy already contracted in the second half of last year amid street protests and a government crackdown.

The effects of the extended downturn can be especially seen across the city's struggling small and medium-sized businesses, which have borne the brunt of the impact from protests since last year and now the coronavirus.

"Hong Kong has been a risk-taking society relative to starting a business, but the situation going on the last year will create long memories in people's minds," said Todd Handcock, chairman of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. "It has been a very challenging year for SMEs in Hong



Hong Kong's Financial Secretary, Paul Chan.

Kong. The unfortunate reality is some of these will not survive and others will struggle for a very long time."

As of December, 340,000 SMEs accounted for more than 98 per cent of all business units and employed some 1.3 million people or about 45 per cent of the total excluding civil service, according to government data. Sentiment among small businesses is sitting near a record low while those reporting a need for credit have jumped to an almost four-year high of 8.8 per cent, March government data shows.

"If we all fold, the unemployment levels are going to skyrocket in this city," said Bella Dobbie, co-founder and managing director of Hong Kong branding and marketing company Orijen. The company has six full-time employees including Ms Dobbie and has been in business since 2000. "The economy of Hong Kong has been struggling since the start of the protests and Covid-19 is just a double whammy."

FRUSTRATION

Italian wedding dress designer burned entire collection in protesting against coronavirus ban

ROME

A wedding dress designer in Italy says he set his entire 2020-2021 collection on fire to protest the country's ban on wedding ceremonies during the coronavirus pandemic.

"I set my creations alight, the fruits of my talent and my artistry, to send a strong message," Pietro Demita, the owner of Diamond Couture in Lecce, Italy, told The Observer. "Because, even if I hadn't, the economic and political decisions imposed during the coronavirus crisis would have sent them up in smoke anyway."

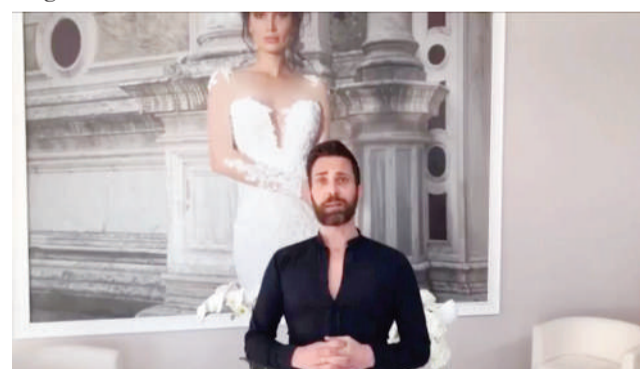
There don't appear to be any photos of the burned dresses, but he also told his story to La Gazzetta Del Mezzogiorno, a local paper in Italy. Italy has been under lockdown for nearly two months to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus. The country was hit hard by the virus, and so far more than 211,000 people have tested positive for Covid-19, and 29,079 people have died.

Italy, which has had the longest coronavirus lockdown

in Europe, plans to reopen further in coming weeks and months. Lockdown measures were eased on Monday, and Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte told Italians last week that they could visit their families and close friends, according to NPR.

About 4 million people were expected to return to work on Monday, and public transportation services were restored around the country. Some also businesses reopened and small funerals were given the go-ahead to carry on. Weddings and other large gatherings, however, still appear out of the question - the Italian government wants the virus reproduction rate to slow further before ceremonies can be held again, CNN reported.

Demita told La Gazzetta Del Mezzogiorno that many wedding-related businesses are at risk of failing because of the economic effect of the coronavirus and said he and others are asking for help. He said he set fire to his dresses because the government's economic and political decisions "set fire to our future and our dreams."



Italian Diamond Couture's owner, Pietro Demita

TRADE WAR

US warns of consequences if China abandons deal on trade

NEW YORK

US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said Monday he expects China to uphold a trade deal reached with Washington this year, and warned of "consequences" if the country did not.

The comments come amid a sharp drop in global trade caused by the coronavirus pandemic as well as a dispute between the two powers over fault for the spread of the virus, which first broke out in Wuhan, China.

The US and China in January signed an agreement to end a nearly two year-long trade war, that included a commitment by Beijing to buy an additional \$200 billion in American goods over the next two years. "I'm expecting them to meet their obligations," Mnuchin said on Fox Business Network.

"I have every reason to expect that they honor this agreement and if they don't, there would be very significant consequences in the relationship and in the global economy as to how people would do business with them."

However, relations between Washington and Beijing have soured in recent weeks, with US President Donald Trump blaming China for the pandemic, and threatening tariffs.

ISIDINGO

MONDAY - FRIDAY
STARTING 7:30 PM

<p>ITV PGM SCHEDULE</p> <p>SATURDAY 02 May</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera 9:00 Watoto wetu 10:00 Shika Bamba 5 10:30 Mjue Zaidi rpt 11:15 The Base rpt 11:45 The Great Queen Seonduk 12:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt 13:15 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 15:30 Igizo rpt: Mapito 16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe 16:20 Igizo: Mtego 17:00 Shamsam za Pwani 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Igizo: Mapito 19:00 Jungu Kuu 19:30 Shika Bamba 20:00 Habari 21:00 Art and lifestyle 21:30 Hawavumi lakini wamo 22:15 Kesho leo rpt 22:45 Isidingo rpt 01:30 DWTV</p> <p>SUNDAY 03 May</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera 9:00 Watoto Wetu 10:00 Isidingo 11:40 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt 12:00 Bongo Movie rpt: 14:00 Tamasha la Michezo 15:00 Mwangaza 16:00 The Great queen Seonduk 16:45 ITV Top 10 17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Matukio ya wiki 19:30 Igizo: Mtego 20:00 Habari 21:05 Mizengwe 21:20 Mjue 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WORLD

China to expand special fund for COVID-19 cooperation - envoy

BRUSSELS

CHINA will take further steps, including expanding the special fund for COVID-19 cooperation as necessary and considering donating to the United Nations Global Humanitarian Response Plan, to strengthen global cooperation and defeat the pandemic at an early date, a Chinese envoy said at the Coronavirus Global Response pledging event on Monday.

On behalf of the Chinese government, Zhang Ming, head of the Chinese Mission to the EU, said China will take an active part in the COVID-19 ACT Accelerator programme launched by the World Health Organization (WHO) and other international agencies in terms of pharmaceuticals, vaccine and testing, with a view to jointly building ironclad defense against the virus.

Despite the daunting task of outbreak response at home, China is doing its best to help those countries in need, said Zhang.

The Chinese government has set up a special fund for COVID-19 coopera-

tion worth 2 billion yuan (US\$283 million), and has provided much-needed supplies to over 150 countries and international organizations.

Chinese local governments, charity organizations, NGOs and business communities have given aid overseas worth more than 2.5 billion yuan, he said.

According to Zhang, the Chinese government has invested over 1 billion yuan to scientific research on COVID-19, and Chinese research institutes and companies have invested even more.

China also supports other countries in getting commercial access to medical supplies in China. In the past two months, Chinese companies have supplied 24 billion face masks, 120 million protective suits, and 44,000 ventilators overseas.

Zhang noted that the WHO has played a central role in coordinating the global response to COVID-19, and China will always support the organization. China has donated US\$20 million to the WHO to support response to COVID-19 and recently announced another donation of US\$30 million.

The envoy said that China, as the first country to have reported the out-



Zhang Ming, head of the Chinese Mission to the EU, attends the Coronavirus Global Response pledging event via videoconference in Brussels, on Monday. (XINHUA)

break to the international community and to have made major progress in prevention and control, is sharing experience and protocol guidance and diagnostics and treatment with the rest of the world without any reservation and has set up its online COVID-19 knowledge center that is open to all countries.

China has held over 120 video conferences with health experts from over 160 countries and international organizations, and has sent 19 medical teams to 17 countries, he said.

Zhang said developing countries should not become the weak link in the outbreak response. China has, in light of the evolving situation and the needs and requests of some countries, helped them shore up the public health system and strengthen their response capacity.

Going forward, China will suspend debt payment due by 77 developing countries from May 1 to the end of this year, to help them ease economic pressure.

China calls on the international community to jointly support developing countries, and stands ready to step up trilateral and multi-party cooperation in this regard, he added.

The Coronavirus Global Response pledging event, host-

ed by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, registered 7.4 billion euros (US\$8.07 billion) in pledges from donors worldwide, including a pledge of 1.4 billion euros by the EU's executive arm.

The pledging event was co-convened by the EU, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (also holding the G20 presidency), Norway, Spain, and the United Kingdom. Among the major countries, no representative from the US spoke at the event.

It is a response to the call from the WHO and a group of health actors for global collaboration for the accelerated development, production, and equitable global access to essential health technologies dealing with the new coronavirus.

Xinhua

Russia to keep some restrictive measures until COVID-19 vaccine is found - minister

MOSCOW



RUSSIA will partly maintain some of the restrictive measures taken to slow down the spread of the novel coronavirus until a vaccine for the new disease is found, Russian Health Minister Mikhail Murashko said in an interview with the Rossiya-24 TV channel.

"The restrictive measures must be lifted stage by stage as well, however, some of them will be maintained until medical prophylactic means are found," he said.

Murashko (pictured) stressed that there is a risk of a second wave of infection if there is no herd immunity to the virus.

In late December 2019, Chinese officials notified the World Health Organization (WHO) about the outbreak of a previously unknown pneumonia in the city of Wuhan, in central China. Since then, cases of the novel coronavirus - named COVID-19 by the WHO - have been reported in every corner of the globe, including Russia.

According to the latest statistics, over 3,400,000 people have been infected worldwide and more than 240,000 deaths have been reported.

Agencies

UK's COVID-19 toll rises above 32,000, highest in Europe

LONDON

BRITAIN has overtaken Italy to report the highest official death toll from coronavirus in Europe with more than 32,000 deaths, figures released yesterday showed.

Weekly figures from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) added more than 7,000 deaths in England and Wales, raising the total for the United Kingdom to 32,313.

The true figure for deaths from coronavirus may be even higher. The ONS said 33,593 more people had died than average up to April 24 in England and Wales, compared to 27,365 cases in which coronavirus was mentioned on the death certificates.

Health Secretary Matt Hancock on Monday said that another 288 COVID-19 patients have died in Britain, bringing the total coronavirus-related death toll in the country to 28,734.

The figures include deaths in all settings, including hospitals, care homes and the wider community.

Hancock said the number marked the smallest daily rise since the end of March, although the daily reported rise in deaths after a weekend tends to be lower than later in the week.

Britain will start testing its own COVID-19 tracing app on the Isle of Wight from Tuesday, hoping that the technology in combination with more testing and tracking will help limit transmission of the coronavirus.

World leaders pledge US\$8b to fight virus
World leaders and organizations pledged US\$8 billion to research, manufacture and distribute a possible vaccine and treatments for COVID-19 on Monday, but the United States refused to contribute to the global effort.

Organisers included the European Union (EU) and non-EU countries Britain, Norway and Saudi Arabia. Leaders from Japan, Canada, South Africa and dozens of other countries joined the virtual event. China was represented by its ambassador to the EU.

"In the space of just few hours we have collectively pledged 7.4 billion euros (US\$8.1 billion) for vaccine, diagnostics and treatment" against COVID-19, the head of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, said after chairing the online event.

Donors included pop singer Madonna, who pledged 1 million euros, von der Leyen said.

EU diplomats said the United States, which has the world's most confirmed COVID-19 cases, was not taking part. A senior US administration official declined to say specifically why the United States was not participating.

Many leaders stressed that any vaccine must be available to everyone. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said the search for a vaccine was "the most urgent shared endeavour of our lifetime", calling for "an impregnable shield around all our people".

The Global Preparedness Monitoring Board, a UN-backed body focusing on health crises, estimates that of the US\$8 billion immediately needed, US\$3 billion will have to be spent to develop, manufacture and distribute a possible vaccine against COVID-19, the EU Commission said.

Agencies

Chinese anti-epidemic experts fight COVID-19 head-on in Africa

ADDIS ABABA

CHINESE teams of medical experts have arrived in Djibouti and Cote d'Ivoire to help the countries fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

The teams are organized by the National Health Commission and selected by health commissions of Sichuan Province and Tianjin Municipality, respectively.

The latest two teams came after two teams of Chinese medical experts arrived in Ethiopia and Burkina Faso earlier in April. China has also activated its medical teams stationed there to help fight COVID-19.

There are nearly 1,000 Chinese medical personnel working in Africa long-term, according to China's National Health Commission. China has sent about 22,000 medical workers accumulatively to Africa during the past decades,

and benefited about 220,000,000 local patients in total, according to Chinese Ambassador to Togo Chao Weidong.

As COVID-19 cases continue to surge across the African continent, the Chinese anti-pandemic medical experts dispatched by the Chinese government have greatly helped Africa in confronting the pandemic.

The Chinese anti-pandemic medical expert team to Ethiopia, which comprises 12 medical experts specializing in various public health sectors, arrived in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa on April 16 as part of China's continuing solidarity in assisting the East African country on the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

They have emphasized the ongoing "excellent and fruitful" collaboration with their Ethiopian counterparts as well as experts

from the Africa Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) in their joint fight against COVID-19 over the past two weeks period.

Li Nian, a medical doctor specialized in preventive medicine from West China Sichuan University, who is also the head of medical administration at the university, is one of the 12 highly-trained medical experts with first-hand experience in the fight against COVID-19 at home since the virus spread in part of China.

"We have visited the Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI), quarantine centers, isolation centers, Fangcang Hospital transformed by Millennium Hall, and COVID-19-designated hospitals; and we had detailed discussion with hospital administrators and frontline healthcare workers to share our experience for fighting

against COVID-19 in China and to provide our supports and suggestions," Li told Xinhua on Saturday, as his team presently joined their Ethiopian counterparts in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic in the East African country.

"The collaboration is excellent and fruitful," Li said, adding that "we highly respect expertise of experts from the Ethiopian government and the Africa CDC, and we have been impressed by their open attitude."

The 12-member Chinese anti-pandemic medical expert team includes medical experts specializing in various public health sectors including general surgery, epidemiology, respiratory, infectious diseases, critical care, clinical laboratory and integration of traditional Chinese and Western medicine.

"We had meetings with offic-

ers and experts from the Ministry of Health of Ethiopia, the Africa Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) Ethiopia Office to exchange experiences, academic opinions, comments and suggestions in detail," he added.

Li, along with the rest of the 12-member Chinese anti-pandemic experts' team, has been also providing onsite and telecommunication-based trainings including lectures and practical exercises.

"We have also donated some personal protective equipment for several hospitals," Li said, as he emphasized the constructive joint efforts and collaboration with the Ethiopian experts as health as from the Africa CDC - specialized healthcare agency of the 55-member pan African bloc African Union (AU).

Xinhua

South Africa reports surge of COVID-19 cases after ease of restrictions

CAPETOWN

SOUTH Africa reported on Sunday a sharp surge in the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases, two days after the easing of restrictions following a five-week lockdown.

The total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in South Africa stood at 6,783, an increase of 447 from Saturday, the country's health minister Zweli Mkhize said in a statement.

This was the highest surge in the 24-hour cycle since March 5, when the country recorded its first case.

"Regrettably, we report a further eight COVID-19 related deaths: two from the Western Cape, four from the Eastern Cape and two from Gauteng," Mkhize said.

This brought the total deaths to 131, he said.

Western Cape remains the epicenter of the pandemic in the country with 3,044 cases, followed by



President Cyril Ramaphosa

Gauteng with 1,624 and KwaZulu-Natal with 1,076. As massive community testing continued, 245,747 tests have been conducted to date, of which 15,061 were done in the past 24 hours, according to Mkhize.

Meanwhile, a Community Screening Program was gaining momentum. Under the program, more than 72 million citizens have been screened, among whom 72,087 were referred to testing, Mkhize said.

Also on Sunday, the government announced strict measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 at workplaces amid the partial resumption of business.

Minister of Employment and

Labor Thulas Nxesi has announced that employers must take measures to protect the health and safety of everyone in their workplaces.

These measures include setting up physical barriers at workplaces to ensure social distancing, free provision of appropriate personal protective equipment, screening of workers for COVID-19 symptoms, and isolation and quarantine of workers with related symptoms.

Xinhua

A SHANGHAI doctor assisting Wuhan to fight the COVID-19 epidemic cried his heart out after failing to rescue a severe patient who had a sudden cytokine storm when receiving intubation. The scene was filmed by one of the doctor's colleagues and soon went viral online, touching the hearts of all the Chinese.

Efforts must be made 100 percent to save lives even though there's only 1 percent of a chance. That is what the doctor above has practiced, and moral principle infused in the blood of the Chinese nation, as well as the priority of medical treatment in China.

Life is invaluable and saving the people comes before everything. However, some U.S. politicians just can't see this. Instead, they ignored it and stubbornly made provocations.

Lately, a joint letter framing up China was sent to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres by seven Republican senators, saying the country has committed the most severe crime on human rights in pandemic response. However, such

Human rights come after saving lives in fierce pandemic

practice only became a butt of a joke after being reported by global media. Just like former director John Ross of Economic and Business Policy for the Mayor of London said, China has defended "the key human right" in the lethal epidemic - helping people stay alive.

The right to life is the most fundamental human rights, which is confirmed and guaranteed by the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Bill of Human Rights. The sudden outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic is like a mirror that reflects the importance laid by countries on human right protection, as well as their capability to protect the people.

Those who hype the so-called human rights to make troubles for China are desecrating Chinese people's efforts to fight the pandemic. The Chinese government has always taken people's lives and health as its first priority, and is treating the patients and saving the peo-

ple at all cost. The country is going all-out to save every COVID-19 patient, and has launched "blanket search" to ensure that no one is left behind. Besides, it also launched differentiated treatment plans and cares for individual patients in critical and severe conditions.

China's anti-pandemic efforts fully demonstrated the country's moral principle of placing people and lives in the first place, as well as the power of the Chinese ethic.

Besides, China also participated in global anti-pandemic cooperation with concrete actions and offered assistance as much as possible for countries and regions in need, making important contribution to the global cause of human right protection.

Eduardo Klinger, academician of the Dominican Republic Academy of Sciences noted that the Chinese government has adopted measures that are decisive and responsible for the people

around the world to curb the spread of the virus, and the theory of the so-called human right violation is total nonsense.

Those who hype the so-called human rights to make troubles for China are trying to cover their own incapability in pandemic response, as the so-called human rights are always a club they hold. Even at the critical moment when the COVID-19 is taking the lives of many, they are still rubbing salt into the wound.

China has informed the WHO, the U.S. and other relevant countries about the epidemic on a regular basis since Jan. 3, and the heads of the two countries' disease control centers exchanged information on the following day. However, it was half a month later that the chief of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reported the situation to senior American officials, and the latter turned a deaf ear and wasted two months regarding epidemic response.

Why did that happen?

When millions of Chinese people were demonstrating their strength to the virus and quarantining themselves at home in a way to contribute to the world, some U.S. politicians just sat back and watch, badmouthing that China violated human rights.

When cases are surging drastically in the U.S. and leading to spiking deaths, U.S. politicians, health organs and budget department are making a mess asking for more anti-pandemic allocation. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention declared to suspend the tally of COVID-19 testing on March 3 for system upgrading, and the Food and Drug Administration stopped its approval for COVID-19 testing reagents, which allowed more than 90 such products to enter the market without any regulation. What the results would be? No wonder American media described the response of the U.S. government as

disastrous.

Those who hype the so-called human rights to make troubles for China are disturbing international cooperation. Touting itself as a guardian of global human rights, the U.S. has an ugly record of human right protection. It has long withdrawn from the UN Human Rights Council, but is arbitrarily interfering in the making of the organization's election rules, and pointing fingers at the organization's affairs and the human right conditions in other countries.

When the international society was facing severe challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic, White House decided to stop funding the WHO, and even threatened to withdraw from the UN health body. Is that some sort of human right protection? Besides, the U.S. sanction for Iran, Cuba and Venezuela seriously damaged these countries' efforts to fight the pandemic. Is the U.S. still calling itself the guardian of global human rights?

People's Daily

SPORT

Barcelona in crisis: VP on coronavirus, wage cuts, infighting, transfers

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Ndanda FC players in a group picture to participating in a recent Mainland Premier League clash which was played in Mtwara

McCullum suggests greater New Zealand involvement in BBL

SYDNEY

BRENDON McCullum has called for greater New Zealand involvement in the Big Bash League later this year if the availability of overseas players - and international cricket overall - remains restricted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

There are positive signs that the Australian season could take shape somewhat as scheduled - there even remains hope that the men's T20 World Cup could be played in October - with every effort being made to enable to the lucrative series against India to survive.

Cricket Australia has started conversations with the federal government about what protocols would need to be in place to allow international teams to visit later in the year.

While there remain plenty of hurdles to cross before full-fledged international sport can take place, there has already been progress in links between Australia and New Zealand resuming with the Warriors rugby team arriving in Tamworth, New South Wales at the weekend to prepare for the resumption of the NRL later this month and there are talks at the government level about a travel "bubble" between the two countries.

"A little bit of creative thinking. It may be just for one season but we have to prepare for the long-term if you are going to grow the game there may be some value."

However, if New Zealand's international players are not playing in December and January - they are due to have a visit by Pakistan - NZC would likely see it as a chance to have them available for the T20 Super Smash, which usually runs concurrently with the first part of the Big Bash from mid-December.

One of the contingency plans in place should next season be disrupted is the potential for Australia and New Zealand to play each other if movement between those two countries is more feasible than broader international travel.

There are two ODIs left to play from the curtailed series in March plus three T20Is that were due to be hosted in New Zealand.

The Big Bash will mark its tenth anniversary in the 2020-21 season and, before the pandemic, had commissioned a review by David Barham, the television executive who was central to the BBL's rise while at Channel 10, into what could be done to revitalise the competition. The most intriguing suggestion out of the review was the prospect of four-innings T20 matches in an attempt to ensure contests are alive for longer.

AGENCIES

Ndanda FC seeks financial support

By Correspondent Adam Fungamwango

MAINLAND Premier League side, Ndanda FC, has called on Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) to financially back the squad and other clubs which are struggling financially, if the federation can do so.

A good number of soccer outfits in the country are presently finding it difficult to stay afloat because of the suspension of sporting activities, put into effect by the government, in an effort to contain the coronavirus pandemic.

Ndanda FC disclosed the financial support will facilitate the squads' trips to various regions to feature in the remaining assignments after the league's restart.

The Mtwara-based squad's secretary general, Selemani Kachele, pointed out his club has requested TFF to consider backing the sides that lack sponsorship, given the teams are experiencing financial crisis due to the top flight break.

The official issued the statement after the Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB) had recently disclosed the Mainland Premier League and the rest of the soccer tournaments will resume pending the government permission.

"The top flight's regulation clearly demands sides should foot their transportation costs, outfits which will not manage to meet transportation costs should be relegated," he disclosed.

"This, though, is an emergency. We can meet TFF and request them to support the squads in an effort to see to it they honour the rest of their game."

He disclosed his club mostly banks on the backing of the game's stakeholders, that include TFF.

Kachele added TFF obviously has limited budget but the latter should put its weight behind the clubs should it be able to do so.

"I won't lie we are financially stable. Although we have been able to deal with several challenges since the league's start we are not self-sufficient."

He disclosed the side has somehow catered for vital needs which are, among, players' salaries.

Kachele moreover expressed fear his club's players might not be fully fit because of the current break.

"We will not be at our best given players are training individually. I don't think they will be fully fit...we knew the league will resume but we are not sure of our players' fitness."

The side had, as of the competition's break, held the 16th spot in the league after registering 31 points in 29 assignments.



Fabien Mutombora

Burundi goalkeeper close to Azam FC deal

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

BURUNDIAN goalkeeper, Fabien Mutombora, is said to be close to securing a move to Mainland Premier League club, Azam FC, according to media reports coming out of Uganda.

The 22-year-old who plays for Uganda Premier League club, Vipers SC, is regarded as the best goalkeeper in the Uganda Premier League.

According to multiple reports, Mutombora has now attracted interest from Azam FC and the latter are already understood to have held talks with him.

Mutombora joined Vipers SC

in August, 2018 and has previously featured for Burundi giants Lydia Ludic Academic FC.

His current deal expires at the end of the 2019/20 season.

Currently, Azam FC have three goalkeepers, Razack Abalora, Mwadini Ally and Benedict Haule.

They have been faced with a conundrum in their goalkeeping department this campaign, while heavily relying on Abalora, they had to field third choice shot stopper Haule in some matches.

Abalora's contract is ending at the end of the current season and the club is reportedly

hesitant to extend his stay after three seasons.

He can sign a pre contract with any team of his choice now if there are offers for his service.

The 2013/14 Mainland Premier League champions want someone who can challenge the ageing Mwadini and the relatively unused Haule. More recently, Zambia's Power Dynamos goalkeeper Arthur Arakaza has also been linked with a move to the club.

If the deal goes through, Mutombora would become the second player to join Azam FC from Vipers SC after the capture of fullback Nicholas Wadada in

2018. Domestic and international football competitions around the world have been suspended because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The Tanzanian Premier League is hoping to resume in June though concrete start dates have yet to be fixed.

That leaves the issue of expiring contracts, which are usually timed to finish at the end of a given season, as a potential headache.

However FIFA proposed that current contracts for players and coaches should be extended until the end of the delayed domestic football seasons.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



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his, though, is an emergency. We can meet TFF and request them to support the squads in an effort to see to it they honour the rest of their game

EATV **TONIGHT @ 7:00**

EATV SAA 1

WEDNESDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
 12:00 Weekend Movie (r)
 13:30 Kali Za Wana
 14:00 Planet Bongo (r)
 14:30 Bongo Hits
 15:00 Funguka
 15:30 Nirvana (r)
 16:00 Skonga (r)
 16:30 #HASHTAG
 17:00 SSELECT
 17:55 Kurasa
 18:00 eNewz
 18:30 Music/Soap
 19:00 EATV SAA 1
 19:45 MJADALA
 20:00 DADAZ (r)
 21:00 Kibishara Zaidi

EATV SAA 1
 Coverage of the days current events accompanied by interviews with prominent people on diverse topics ranging from national to social interests.

eastafrika RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
 10:00 MAMAMIA
 12:00 Kipenga Xtra
 13:00 Planet Bongo
 16:00 EA Drive
 20:00 Kipenga
 21:00 The Cruise

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