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## African states start making headway over tax evasion, money laundering

ABIDJAN

AFRICAN countries made great strides in strengthening commitments and capacity to achieve tax transparency and exchange information on illicit fund flows in 2019, according to the latest Tax Transparency in Africa report, launched on Thursday.

Tax Transparency in Africa 2020 is a joint production of the Global Forum for Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes, the African Union (AU) and African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF), in close partnership with the African Development Bank (AfDB).

It underlines the need for African countries to engage further in revenue mobilisation, a concern sharpened by the backdrop of the ongoing global Covid-19 pandemic.

The report, published during a virtual launch, provides comparable tax transparency statistics to help decision-makers in addressing illicit fund flows. It covers 32 Global Forum member countries and three non-members: Angola, Guinea Bissau and Malawi.

"This annual publication of the Tax Transparency in Africa is one of the various efforts of the continent to advance global tax transparency and exchange of information



**The bank promotes African tax transparency through support to institutions and non-state actors in its regional member-countries**

agenda in Africa in order to combat corruption, tax evasion money laundering, fraud, base erosion, and profit shifting and illicit enrichment," Victor Harrison, AU Commission Commissioner for Economic Affairs, says in the report's preface.

Illicit financial flows in Africa are estimated at between \$50 billion and \$80 billion annually, with 44 per cent of the continent's financial wealth thought to be held offshore - which corresponds to tax revenue losses of Euros 17 billion.

Participating countries show significant advances on the AI's (African Initiative) two core pillars: raising political awareness and commitment and developing capacities in tax transparency and exchange of information.

Global Forum chair Marie Jose Garde chaired the live event. Other participants included: Head of the Global Forum Secretariat Zayda Manatta; ATAF Executive Secretary Logan Wort; Marcello Estevo, Global Director, Macroeconomics, Trade & Investment of the World Bank, and AfDB's Director, Governance and Public Financial

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# Govt: Admit students paying first term fees



Some form of 'balancing act' surely comes in handy as these residents of Kiembeni in Mapinga ward, Bagamoro District, make do with a log-lined makeshift bridge yesterday. It is clearly a case of danger lurking everywhere. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

By Guardian Reporter

THE government yesterday directed private school owners to receive all registered students regardless of their parents' failure to complete school fees payment for the coming terms.

The move is aimed to enable students to catch up with studies after a long break due to the threat of disease.

Schools reopen on Monday after the government closed them at mid-March at the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic.

A statement issued by Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Vocational Training warned schools to avoid refusing to accept students whose parents have not paid school fees for the second term.

The government however called upon parents to also ensure they complete school fees payment for the first term to facilitate schools' operations like payment of salaries, electricity bills, food and water services.

The ministry directed school boards and managements to discuss with parents on better school fees payment modalities as most people have been financially affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Parents should not be forced to pay school expenses of the three months when children were out of school, it is better now for school boards and committees to sit down and analyze the actual amount which should be paid by parents. This should be a small amount considering that the students were not in school," the statement underlined.

"School committees and boards should

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## TEITI: Extractive industries revenue stable despite the recent law reforms

By Henry Mwangonde

THE contribution of the extractive industry sector into state coffers has remained stable to some law reforms, according to a new report by the Tanzania Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (TEITI).

Tanzania reviewed its mining laws including the Mining Act, 2010 and its revised edition of 2017 which banned transportation of mineral extracts.

Under the reforms, the government established the Wealth and Natural Resources (Permanent Sovereignty Act) and Natural Wealth and Resources Contracts (Review and Renegotiation

of Unconscionable Terms) Act, 2017.

The TEITI report covering a longer life span than is usually the case, indicates that the extractive industry paid the government 508.6bn/- in royalties and corporate levies in the particular period.

The amount has largely been contributed by 41 companies in gas, oil and mining, out of the registered 6,570 such firms around the country.

In the 2016/17 financial year, the mining sector contributed 79.69 percent of the amount paid to the government in royalties

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## 'Invest in ICT for continuous learning even with disasters'

By Getrude Mbago

EDUCATION stakeholders have underlined the need for the government to deliberately invest in Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) to facilitate e-learning during disasters.

They said that there should be a system to enable students to continue learning outside classrooms during emergencies such as the still menacing Covid-19 pandemic.

Primary and secondary school students in the country remained at home without learning for over three months from mid-March, when the first national coronavirus case was reported.

The Tanzania Education Network (TENMET) national coordinator, Ochola Wayoga told journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the country needs sustainable teaching and learning approaches to deliver home schooling.

Investment in e-learning facilitates will enable teachers to stay in contact with students through the internet, instead of relying on traditional methods, he said.

Wayoga said: "It is high time we make deliberate changes on how schools can exercise greater reliance on the use of technology in the

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## SHARE FACTS ABOUT COVID-19

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

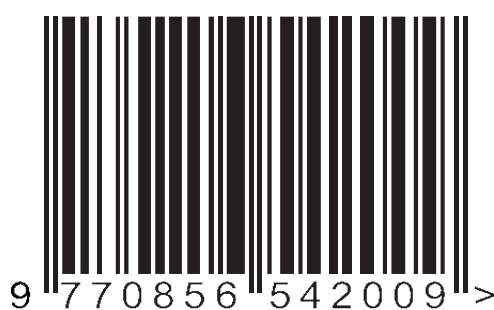
- Stay home when you are sick.

- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

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

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

cdc.gov/COVID-19







Zanzibar President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein cuts a ribbon yesterday to inaugurate a Zanzibar Lands, Housing, Water and Energy ministry building. Photo: Zanzibar State House

## 'Invest in ICT for continuous learning even with disasters'

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process of teaching and learning."

The outbreak of Covid-19 has sent a massive alert to the government and education stakeholders to think on how to come up with alternative national teaching methods to enable students to learn outside classrooms, he said.

The learning circle should be prepared to be effective even in situations where students may be unable to attend classrooms, he emphasised.

"During the long holiday, the majority of the children especially those living in vulnerable rural families lacked access to studies. This is due to lack of

a uniform national system of delivering home schooling, something which has affected their learning development," said Wayoga.

He however called upon teachers and parents to see how they can provide psychological assistance to some of the students who were exposed to different forms of violence during holiday. He said there are children faced various violence challenges such as rape and brutal beating.

Wayoga urged school managements to ensure that they prepare conducive learning environments to prevent students from contracting the novel coronavirus as schools reopen on Monday.

He further urged the government

to think out how it is going to help minimize fears and worries of children in school as the majority of them are still perplexed about the presence of the Covid-19 pandemic.

"The government had already issued guidelines on how learning institutions can keep students safe from Covid-19. Schools managements are only required to implement them," he stated.

Joseph Michael, a parent based in Dar es Salaam told this newspaper that he has already talked to his children on how to behave when they are in school.

"My children are all aware of the effects of Covid-19 pandemic, and they know how to prevent themselves from contracting the disease by maintaining

social distance, wearing face masks and washing their hands with soap and running water," he said.

At mid-March, the government ordered the closure of learning centres from elementary to university level following the outbreak of Covid-19, a highly infectious respiratory disease caused by the novel coronavirus.

The highly contagious, pneumonia-causing illness first reported in Wuhan, central China and has infected over three million people across the world.

Covid-19 is characterized by mild symptoms including a runny nose, sore throat, cough and fever. Illness can be more severe for some people and can lead to pneumonia or breathing difficulties.

## Govt: Admit students paying first term fees

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specifically conduct a review of food and transport payments by complying with the new timetable issued by the ministry," it elaborated.

The country's Education Act, Chapter 353 and its 2002 amendments states that operations of schools should be supervised by committees or school boards, the bodies being formed in accordance with the law.

"School owners should abide by the law and enable the boards to fulfill their obligations as required by law," the ministry intoned.

There should be no increment in school fees and other payments following adjustments in the school's timetable, it stated.

A week ago the minister, Prof Joyce Ndalichako urged school boards and managements to convene with parents to discuss better school fees payment modalities as most people have been financially affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

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

Prof Ndalichako stated that to curb spreading of Covid-19, schools must ensure availability of WASH facilities at entrance gates, classes, offices,

libraries dormitories, dining hall and washrooms. The WASH facilities refer to the provision of water, sanitation, waste management, hygiene and environmental cleaning.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children has issued the second edition of guidelines to protect students from contracting the new virus.

The reviewed guidelines emphasise that schools must decontaminate buildings and school buses, re-arrange classes and dormitories and ensure students wear face masks.

Students are also required to ensure frequent hand washing with soap and running water.

In the guidelines, minister Ummu Mwalimu directed that students and pupils wear cloth face masks so as to prevent infections, except those under the age of eight.

Students with heart complications, asthma, sickle cell and other respiratory diseases are spared from face covering requirements, she specified.

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

She underscored the need for Tanzanians to continue observing protocols of hygiene as instructed by health experts.

## Rwanda reintroduces lockdown with increase in COVID-19 cases

KIGALI

A fresh surge in coronavirus cases prompted Rwanda's government to place six areas of the capital, Kigali, back under a total lockdown.

Kigali registered 21 new cases this month, the Ministry of Local Government said in a statement.

The decision to reintroduce the lockdown to the areas was taken after consulting the health ministry, it said. Rwanda has reported a total of 850

cases and two deaths since the first person tested positive in March.

Most of the recent cases were recorded in an eastern town bordering Tanzania, and in another western town bordering the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Rwanda last month eased one of Africa's most stringent lockdowns, maintaining a night-time curfew as a precaution.

AGENCIES

## TEITI: Extractive industries revenue stable despite recent law reforms

FROM PAGE 1

and corporate levies while the gas sub-sector contributed 20.31 percent.

In the 2017/18 financial year, the mining sector contributed about 75.83 percent while oil and natural gas sector contributed 24.17 of the entire sector's contribution to national income, it said.

TEITI is a global standard for improving transparency and accountability in the oil, gas and mining sectors.

It is an initiative that encourages citizens of resource rich countries to monitor how benefits from the sector are generated, distributed and utilized.

The report indicated that the value of minerals extracted during the years was 3.77 trillion/- and was a decrease of 1.01 trillion/- compared to the value of minerals extracted in a similar period earlier. Gold has remained the country's major export compared to other minerals, it stated.

Mineral exports declined by 13.3 percent from \$2,145.17 million in 2016 to \$1,860.52 million in 2017, with the decrease attributed to a tax dispute leading to changes in mining laws.

"The value of mineral exports declined by 10.8 percent in 2018 compared to the year 2017. This was due to the drop in mineral needs

globally," said Dr Gabriel Komba a lead researcher and lecturer at Mzumbe University who presented the report.

On gas, Dr Komba said there were no exports because Tanzania has not started selling natural gas beyond its borders. Extracted gas is only used domestically.

Geita Gold Mine (GGM) was the leading company in payment of royalties to the government in 2016/2017, where the amount it paid was equivalent to 36.27 percent of the sector's total contribution.

North Mara Gold Mine's contribution was equivalent to 18.11 percent and Pan African Energy 10.69 percent.

GGM was also top of the list in 2017/18 as it paid 29.33 percent, North Mara 24.66 percent and the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) 10.73 percent.

TEITI suggested establishing a mining, gas and oil operations register for the ministry to keep proper records of revenues and royalties by referring to licenses that a company is bestowed.

Dotto Biteko, the minister for Energy, commended TEITI for the job well done saying the government was committed to transparency in the minerals sector.

## African states start making headway over tax evasion, money laundering

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Management, Abdoulaye Coulibaly.

Manatta praised African countries' growing proactive role in tax transparency and noted the benefits of existing exchange-sharing tools, saying: "Requests for information directly translate into additional tax revenue and that's what counts. We have five African countries identifying nearly \$12 million in additional revenue, and eight African countries secured \$189 million of additional revenue between 2014 and 2019."

Coulibaly meanwhile said: "The African Development Bank firmly believes that collaborations with both regional and international partners are key to moving forward the agenda on tax transparency which has significant impact on domestic resource mobilisation, the achievement of the 17 global SDGs and other regional aspirations including the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the Bank's own High Fives."

He said the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic "recalls the critical importance of domestic resource mobilisation in Africa, in particular in relation to tax transparency and the fight against illicit flows, in order to further protect populations against threats to their livelihoods".

The Africa Initiative, which launched in 2014, is a partnership of the Global Forum, its African members and regional and international organisations including the AfDB, ATAF, and the World Bank. The Global Forum has a self-standing dedicated secretariat based in the OECD's Centre for Tax Policy and Administration.

AfDB, an observer to the Global Forum since 2014, also participates in AI. The bank promotes African tax transparency through support to institutions and non-state actors in its regional member-countries and by strengthening international co-operation to eliminate illicit financial flows (IFFs).

• AfDB



Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan, who is a member of the CCM Central Committee, exchanges greetings with members of the party's Kinondoni District secretariat and political committee shortly before addressing them at Magomeni yesterday while on official party tour in Dar es Salaam Region. Photo: VPO

## Commonwealth states form partnership for older people

By Guardian Reporter

HELPSAGE International and the Commonwealth Association for the Ageing, CommonAge have teamed up to strategically support older people in the Commonwealth.

In Africa, members of the Commonwealth include Nigeria, Namibia, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Botswana, Cameroon, The Gambia, Ghana, Kingdom of Swaziland, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, and Zambia.

The partnership, which formally enters into force from 1 July 2020, will enable the two organizations to integrate their work for older people across the Commonwealth.

The aim and purpose of CommonAge is to

ensure that older people in all Commonwealth countries are supported to enable them to achieve the highest possible quality of life in their senior years.

CommonAge works for an age friendly Commonwealth in which all generations live and work together in an atmosphere of mutual support and respect.

Speaking of the partnership Andrew Larpent OBE, Chairman of CommonAge said: "We are delighted that, seven years after the formation of CommonAge in Australia, we have been able to secure the future of our volunteer run organization within HelpAge International."

This announcement was made as the two organisations are collaborating to organize

a Commonwealth Elders' Forum at the next Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM). This meeting, due to take place in Kigali, Rwanda, has now been postponed, probably until 2021.

Welcoming the partnership, Arun Maira, the chair of HelpAge International said: "We are delighted to be able to host the work of CommonAge within our broader programme."

Both organizations have seen alarming evidence of the consequences, for older people across the world, of decades of institutional and socialized ageism that has resulted in the marginalization and neglect of the interests of older people in health, housing and social care systems.





Dar es Salaam Special Zone Police Commander Lazaro Mambosasa shows journalists yesterday two pistols he said police seized following an exchange of fire with suspected bandits. Photo: Correspondent Jumaine Juma

By Guardian Reporter, Katavi

## Govt calls for prompt completion of Koga River bridge construction

WORKS, Transport and Communications, deputy minister Elias Kwandikwa yesterday directed the Chinese contractor, Wu Yi to complete the construction of a 120 meters bridge over Koga river by end of October, this year.

Kwandikwa also underscored the need for timely completion of the 3427 kilometers Tabora-Koga-Mpanda road which is being constructed at tarmac level. He said completion of the road will boost economic growth as it will facilitate transport of goods and other essential products.

The deputy minister gave the order while in Katavi region to inspect progress implementation of the Tabora-Koga-Mpanda road project which involves construction of a bridge over Koga river.

The bridge connects Mlele district

in Katavi region to Sikonge district in Tabora region.

"This bridge should be completed by the end of October this year to allow movement of people and goods during the rain season," he said.

According to him, authorities in the two regions were forced to close the Tabora-Koga-Mpanda every rain season due to bad infrastructure.

"There will be no more floods at the area as we are replacing the narrow bridge with a wider one which has been extended by 1.5 meters," he added.

He however expressed satisfaction with the implementation pace of the

road project on the Katavi side whereas the contractor had already completed the Kasinde-Mpanda section.

He said the contractor has in total completed construction of 40 kilometers at tarmac level.

Mlele District Commissioner, Rachel Kassanda commended the government for improving road networks in the district, insisting construction of a bridge at Koga river will make the road passable throughout the year.

"We have been closing the specific road each year due floods, the bridge was too narrow," he stated.

Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS) acting manager

in Katavi region, Eng Martin Mwakabende said implementation of the Kasinde-Mpanda section had reached 48 per cent while the Komanga-Kasinde section had reached 58 per cent.

He promised to ensure timely completion of the project in both sides of the two regions.

Meanwhile, the Deputy minister inspected construction progress of the Uesula-Komanga road project in Tabora region calling upon the contractor, Jiangxi Geo-Engineering to make sure the roads are completed within the planned period.

The Tabora-Koga-Mpanda road project will upon completion cost the government 481bn/-.

## Mpina suspends milk destruction operation

By Guardian Correspondent

THE government has suspended an operation which was being conducted in Dar es Salaam by the Tanzania Dairy Board (TDB) after traders complained of their milk being mixed with colours and kerosene over allegations of failure to meet the required standards.

Livestock and Fisheries Minister, Luhaga Mpina announced the decision after he toured a number of milk selling points in the city where traders claimed to have their milk destroyed by inspectors.

Mpina acknowledged receiving complaints from milk traders in the city alleging that TDB officers have been mixing their milk with colours and kerosene over failures to meet required standards and not following proper business procedures.

Mpina said the inspecting officers should instead help traders and educate them on how to properly conduct their businesses and where they can purchase the required equipment.

"I received a number of complaints from milk traders saying TDB officials are destroying their products. I am directing you to suspend the operation and come up with a strategy to help them improve their businesses and operate in accordance with the law," said Minister Mpina.

Earlier, before the minister's announcement to suspend the operation, the milk traders said they were aware of the requirements as outlined by the board, but most of them do not have enough capital to

purchase the needed equipment.

One of the milk traders, Esther Elias said: "I have been affected by the operation because all my milk has been destroyed by inspecting officers."

However, officials from the board claimed to conduct the operation to ensure traders abide by the laws. According to them, destruction of the milk was meant to protect consumers from drinking poor quality milk.

Early this month, the government announced a one month crackdown on illegal importers of livestock and dairy products to control rampant smuggling and protect local manufacturers.

The move aimed to boost the market for local products.

The minister tasked authorities TDB, Tanzania Meat Board (TMB), Director of veterinary services (DVS) and the Director for production and market to further intensify the control through 'operation Nzagamba'.

According to UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Tanzania has a low level consumption of milk and dairy products which is 45 liters per capita per year, against the World Health Organization (WHO) recommendations of 200 liters annually.

The yearly amount of milk produced in Tanzania is 2.4 billion liters but less than 10 per cent of the milk produced is processed.

Tanzania has a total of 32.2 million cattle, according to Livestock and Fisheries Ministry. Among them, there are 20 million goats, 5.5 million sheep, 2 million pigs and 636,997 donkeys.

## PCCB holding Kipumbwi port manager for allegedly soliciting bribe from trader

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

THE Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) in Tanga region is holding the manager of the Kipumbwi port, Stephen Mbakweni, for allegedly soliciting a bribe amounting to 900,000/- from a businessman.

Located in Pangani district, the Kipumbwi port is among the ports which were formalised by the government in 2018 to curb smuggling and loss of public revenues.

Addressing journalists here yesterday, acting head of PCCB in the region, Anthony Gango said that Mbakweni forced one of the traders to pay the amount of money to allow his cargo to pass through the port via Zanzibar.

"On June 21, this year, we received information from Good Samaritans on the uncouth behaviour of the official, PCCB immediately launched an investigation and found that the suspect committed the crime despite the trader having submitted all the required documents which authorise the cargo to be transported," he said.

He said that the trader had from his hand, all legal documents provided by the Pangani port to allow him pass his cargo through Kipumbwi without any further payments.

But the documents were denied by the Kipumbwi port acting head claiming that he doesn't recognise them in order to solicit a bribe so as to allow the passage of the cargo," he added.

"We deployed several traps to ensure that we catch the suspect. We used the same trader to try to give the official 270,000/- so as to allow him to transport the cargo.

He added: "After a short time of pleading, Mbakweni received the amount of money out of the 900,000/- demanded earlier, this how we netted him."

He urged servants and the public in general to avoid corrupt activities as the war on corruption was an endless mission under the government.

"We are well prepared to fight all kinds of corruption and we will not hesitate to take stern measures against those who will be found engaging in the dirty games especially during the election period," he added.



Tanzania Horticultural Association managing director Jacqueline Mkindi (C), Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology vice chancellor Prof Emmanuel Luoga (L) and World Vegetable Centre director Dr Raph Roothaer show the documents in Arusha city yesterday after signing a partnership memorandum of understanding on the implementation of a horticultural practical training programme. Photo: Cynthia Mwilolezi

## BRAC Tanzania donates protective facilities to Dar schools

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

A Bangladesh based development organisation- BRAC Tanzania has donated modern hand-washing facilities to various Temeke primary schools in Dar es Salaam, a move aimed to prevent children from being infected with coronavirus.

Speaking to reporters yesterday during the handover event which took place at the offices of the Temeke District Council, BRAC Tanzania country director for Fordson Kafweku said their major goal of donating the modern buckets is to promote hygiene in schools and enable students learn at conducive environment to fulfill their education dreams.

"We are supporting the ongoing government efforts in ensuring that all schools, which are scheduled to re-open on June 29, are equipped with essential protective gear against the global crisis

of coronavirus. Our goal is to stand with our communities and provide assistance whenever we can," he said.

He said "Today we are handing over 14 out of 50 hand washing facilities (leg-controlled buckets) for this district, the remaining 36 facilities will be distributed in schools located in Tanga and Mbeya regions." "We are also supporting the government initiatives to promote and encourage hygiene to the community in order to strengthen protection not only on Covid-19 but also other communicable diseases," the director added

Kafweku added that BRAC organisation is also planning to present more soaps and 24 hand washing facilities to Tanga region including Tanga city council, Korogwe district and 12 stations in Mbeya region. Total donations were worth 14.1m/.

He further said that BRAC has also supported the efforts of the Ministry

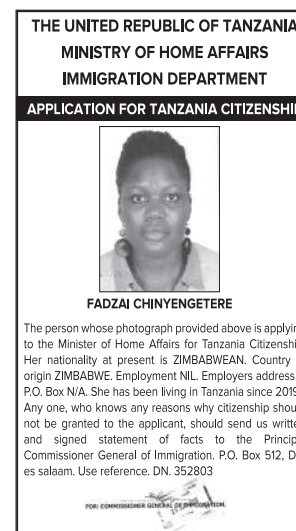
of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children in providing awareness to more than 2 million people to adopt effective prevention measures against the spread of Covid-19.

For his part, Temeke District Executive Director Lusubilo Mwakabibi commended BRAC Tanzania and all stakeholders for supporting the government's efforts to combat the coronavirus disease.

"We appreciate all contributions given by stakeholders and companies, the donations are highly needed this time when the country is struggling to eradicate the spread of the infections, we hope the facilities will provide assistance to students to maintain hygiene during the school time," he said.

Mwakabibi said that, so far the district is having more than 120 primary schools and that the committee under the District Medical Officer (DMO) in

collaboration with the education office had already visited all the schools and provided essential protective facilities.



**LJ INTERNATIONAL LTD**

**DEBT COLLECTORS/AUCTIONEERS**

**PUBLIC AUCTION**

LJ International Ltd, have been appointed by Azania Bank Limited to sell by public auction the property with **CT No. 186234/12 Plot No. 895, Msasani Peninsula Dar es Salaam City**, belonging to Balbeek Limited and mortgaged to the bank. The auction shall be held at the location of the mortgaged property on **11th July, 2020 at 10.00 a.m.**

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS:**

- (a) Prospective buyer will be required to deposit 25% of the auction price on the date of auction and the remaining balance of 75% is payable within 14 days from the auction date, failing which, the deposited amount will be forfeited and the property shall be re-auctioned.
- (b) The interested parties will be allowed to inspect the collateral by prior appointment.
- (c) The property will be sold on as-is-where-is basis.
- (d) All costs, including taxes payable, if any, associated with transfer of ownership, are to be borne by the successful bidder.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:**

<p><b>LJ International Ltd</b> Head Quarter, P. O Box 9611 Dar es Salaam</p>	<p><b>Azania Bank Limited</b> Mawasiliano Towers P. O Box 32089 Dar es Salaam</p>
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# Water project out to benefit thousands of residents of Kagera Region, says Ruwasa

By Guardian Reporter, Bukoba

MORE than 18,103 households accommodating nearly 90,517 people in Bukoba municipality, Kagera Region will soon start benefiting from 2.4bn/- water project.

The project which is implemented by the Bukoba Urban Water and Sewerage Authority (BUWASA) includes expansion of water distribution networks and construction of water kiosks.

BUWASA executive director, John Sirati made the remarks on Wednesday when speaking at a function to launch water services at Kisindi and Kashai wards in Bukoba district. The event was attended by Bukoba District Commissioner, Deodatus Kinawiro.

Sirati said the project has been implemented since November 2017 and was expected to be completed in April 30th, 2018 but it was delayed due to various reasons. He said the contractor was given until December 30th 2019 to complete the project.

"The project has been completed by 95 per cent, the contractor will officially handover the project to us by end of this month," said Sirati adding beneficiaries of the project will include residents of Kibeta, Kahororo, Ijuganyondo, Kagondo, Nshamba, Hamugembe and Kashai wards.

He however informed that 96 per cent of the residents in respective wards have already started to benefit from reliable water services. He said the district's water distribution network has been extended from the previous 88 per cent to 95 per cent.

The water authority plans to increase customers to 14,784 from the current 12,284, he said.

Bukoba District Commissioner, Deodatus Kinawiro said the government had provided 32bn/- for improvement

of water services in Bukoba municipal. He thanked BUWASA for constructing water kiosks for Kisindi ward residents as they have been experiencing water problems for years.

"We promised to improve water services, and today we are here celebrating the completion of the major project that will ensure us with reliable water services," he said.

The DC said the water authority will continue constructing water kiosks at different wards across the municipal.

BUWASA public relations manager, Julieth Shangali said that residents will pay 50/- for a 20 litre jerry can, while a unit price will be 1,500/-.

The project has been implemented by MBESSO Construction Co. Ltd and COSMOS Engineering Co. Ltd.

The government increased water budget by over 99bn/- in the 2020/2021 budget aiming to achieve 85 per cent supply of the precious liquid in both rural and urban areas.

The 2017 National Environmental Status Report indicates that by 2016 only 6 between 10 people (59.7 per cent) had access to clean and safe water in rural areas while 9 out of 10 people access clean and safe water in urban areas.



**The project has been completed by 95 per cent, the contractor will officially handover the project to us by end of this month**



Arusha regional commissioner Idd Kimanta (R), who was until his recent appointment Monduli district commissioner, receives a gift from Makuyuni division officer Paul Kiteleki shortly after handing over his former office to his successor in Monduli on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

THE government has been advised to set special budgets for implementation of projects made by leaders during election campaigns.

The advice was given by Muheza District Commissioner, Mwanaasha Tumbo when speaking during a road board meeting in Tanga region early this week.

Tumbo said that having specific budgets for implementation of projects which the leaders promised during election campaigns will save the districts from diverting funds allocated for execution of election pledges.

She said that the government has frequently been forced to divert funds set for other development projects

## Have budget for implementation of election campaign projects - DC

to implement presidential aspirant pledges.

"These pledges are important in fostering development, but there should be special budget for its execution," she said.

Meanwhile, hopes for commencement of the much awaited 50 kilometers Tanga-Pangani section of the Tanga-Pangani-Saadani-Bagamoyo highway will soon start after the contractor-China Henna Construction Company (CHICO) have

camped at Geza, some 8 kilometers from city centre.

CHICO signed a contract for implementation of the project with the Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS) in July this year.

The project will be implemented at a cost of 66.8bn/- the funds will be provided by the central government.

TANROADS manager in Tanga region, Alfred Ndumbalo said the government has set aside 1bn/- for preparations of the implementation of the project.

Ndumbalo said that the African Development Bank (AfDB) has showed interest in financing construction of some 120.5 kilometers of the road from Pangani to Mkanga which includes construction of a 525 meter bridge across the Pangani river.

The project is part of an international project under the East African Community (EAC) that spans from Malindi-Mombasa -Lungalunga/Horohoro on the Kenyan side to Bagamoyo through Saadani.



Elias Kwandikwa (R), Deputy Minister for Works, Transport and Communications (Works), has a word with Mlele district commissioner Rachel Kassanda (2nd-R) on Thursday when assessing progress in the construction of the 112.18-km Komanga-Kasinde tarmac road in Katavi Region. Photo courtesy of Works ministry

## 'Promoting technology use in the small-scale palm oil fruit processing sub-sector vital'

By Guardian Reporter, Kigoma

Institutions on innovation under the Ministry of Industry and Trade have been challenged to invent modern machines for harvesting of palm fruits and oil processing.

The Ministry's Permanent Secretary, Prof Riziki Shemdoe said the improvement will add value to the crops as well as final products. The PS was in the region for an official visit to inspect cultivation of palm oil, one of the country's strategic crops.

Prof Shemdoe also visited the palm oil tree nurseries under the Kihinga Agricultural Institute and the Kwitanga prison. The two institutions were tasked by the government to ensure production of improved seeds of oil palm of Tenera variety which will later be distributed to framers.

He directed the Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO), Centre for Agricultural Mechanisation and Rural Technology (CAMARTEC) and the Tanzania Industrial Research and Development Organization (TIRDO) to come with technologies that will boost productivity and quality of the produced oil palm.

According to the PS palm oil was the leading manufacturer of edible oil in the world followed by other crops. He said with the good harvesting technology and processing, the country is likely to produce enough edible oil for domestic consumption and exportation.

He said the government is now investing to improve production of quality seedlings to replace old ones.

Kigoma municipal council executive director, Upendo Mangali said the district has a total of 27,945 farmers cultivating the crop in more than 9177 hectares. She said 70 per cent of the farmers planted palm oil seedlings are traditional while the remaining 30 per cent includes quality improved palm oil seeds.

She said the quality improved seeds can produce between 4,000 and 4,500 kilos of oil per acre in every year.

"Farmers have been using poorly made machines for palm oil processing. With modern machines, the production of oil is likely to increase," she said.

Director of the Kihinga Agricultural Institute, Dr Filson Kagimbo said until June 2020, the institute had produced 1,805,868 seedlings of improved oil palm trees which can be planted in 36,117 acres.

He said the institute continues producing the seedlings that are distributed to framers.

Dr Kagimbo said the current machines used by framers to process palm oil are not efficient enough as they can produce oil by between 30 and 70 per cent only. He said in other countries processors use machines that produce oil by 90 percent.

In May this year, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa launched a planting exercise of improved seeds of oil palm of tenera variety for the farmers in Tanzania.

The premier said the government is determined to completely end the problem of importing edible oil which he said costs the nation between 445bn/- and 470bn/-annually.

Majaliwa directed researchers from Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute (TARI), military institutions and district councils to effectively and efficiently play their key role of speeding up production and dissemination of the improved seeds to reach all farmers in the country.

So far a total of 1.8 million seedlings have been produced and they will be distributed free of charge to the registered farmers who have farm.

He also urged the farmers and other stakeholders to approach the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank Limited (TADB) to get capital and buy oil palm processing plants and machines to increase profit.

## UN Security Council appoints Serge Brammertz prosecutor of International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals

By Guardian Reporter

THE United Nations Security Council has reappointed Prosecutor Serge Brammertz to a new term as Prosecutor of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (Mechanism) with effect from July 1st 2020.

Prosecutor Brammertz will serve the post until 30 June 2022, according to a statement issued by the United Nation's International Residual Mechanism for

Criminal Tribunals on Friday.

He served as Prosecutor of the Mechanism since March 1st 2016.

Previously, he served as Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) from January 1st 2008 until its closure at the end of 2017.

The Security Council further completed its review of the progress of the work of the Mechanism since the last review in June 2018, welcoming the report of the Mechanism in this regard.

In its resolution, the Security Council also welcomed the arrest in France on May 16th 2020 of Félicien Kabuga, indicted for genocide and crimes against humanity allegedly committed in Rwanda in 1994.

It commended the Mechanism office of the Prosecutor for its cooperation with law enforcement and judicial authorities in France, as well as Rwanda, Belgium, the United Kingdom, Germany, Austria, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, the United States,

Switzerland and others, together with EUROPOL and INTERPOL, which contributed to locating and to the arrest of the fugitive.

The Security Council urged all States to cooperate fully with the Mechanism, in particular to achieve the arrest and surrender of all remaining fugitives indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) and to assist in the relocation of acquitted and released persons currently located in the Republic of Tanzania.



## PLWHA in Tabora Region for more care, treatment centres

By Guardian Correspondent, Urambo

SOME of the people living with HIV/Aids in Urambo District, Tabora Region have appealed to the government to establish care and treatment centres (CTC) at every health facility to save them from walking for long distances in search of the service.

They raised their concerns on Wednesday during a meeting which was attended by Tabora Regional Commissioner, Aggrey Mwanri. According to them, Urambo was among the districts with limited HIV/Aids care and treatment centres despite the area having over 30,000 people living with the disease.

They said some infected individuals have been failing to timely collect the antiretroviral drugs due to various challenges including geographical positions of the health facilities that offer the services.

Urambo District HIV/Aids Coordinator, Dr Joyce Ongati said there are only ten care and treatment centres located at 31 different health centres. He said that knowing the challenges; they have come with a new system where infected individuals are reached through mobile clinics.

She said plans are to increase the number of CTC from the current 10 to 20, insisting to also continue using the mobile clinics to reach those in rural interior places.

Tabora Regional Commissioner, Aggrey Mwanri said the government continues to improve health services whereas it has constructed dispensaries, health centres and a district hospital. He said the government has also distributed drugs to all the health facilities.

He however called upon the residents to build a culture of checking their health status frequently as well as doing physical exercises to prevent their bodies against non-communicable diseases.

In April this year, Special Seats legislator, Lucy Owenya (Chadema) tabled in the national Assembly

a private motion requiring the government to offer free medical services to people living with HIV/Aids.

Owenya claimed that the disease has so far killed a good number of people thus reducing the country's workforce. She said providing free medical care to people living with HIV/Aids will save lives as well as enable thousands to achieve their life dreams.

The MP noted that despite the fact that the government is offering the life prolonging drugs (ARVs) for free; people who are infected with the disease are also exposed to a number of several other diseases due to poor immune system.

She said in 2018, there were 1.6 people living with HIV/Aids while the infection rate was 4.6 percent to those aged between 15 and 49 years. In the year, the number of new infections reached 72,000 while deaths were 24,000.

In the same period, the number of people who were using the life prolonging drugs (ARVs) accounted for 72 percent of all the infected individuals.

Under the 90-90-90 campaign which aims at ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030, the government wants 90 percent of all the people living with HIV to know their status, 90 percent of all people diagnosed with HIV infections to receive sustained antiretroviral therapy and 90 percent of all people receiving ARVs to have viral suppression.

Tanzania has 1.4 million people affected by HIV and the government wants 90-percent of the country's population to know their status, whereas currently it is only 62 percent who know their status.

It is estimated that over 3000 patients died in sub Saharan Africa on a daily basis due to HIV in 2015. Ten countries in Africa carry 80 per cent of the total HIV burden, namely South Africa, Kenya, Malawi, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Tanzania, Nigeria, Uganda, Zimbabwe and Zambia.



Zanzibar Female Lawyers Association director Jamila Mahmoud (R) has an audience in Zanzibar yesterday with female students from universities in the Isles on gender-based violence. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

THE government in collaboration with development stakeholders continues to improve health services in the country whereby 780m/- has been provided for the construction of a clinic for methadone services in Tanga to cater for drug addicts.

This was revealed by the Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children Minister, Ummu Mwalimu, at the inauguration of a temporary centre to provide methadone services to drug addicts at Tanga Referral Hospital - Bombo.

"In collaboration with our development partners - the Global Fund and the National Drugs Control and Enforcement Authority, we have received more than 780m/- for the construction of the complex," she said.

She hailed Tanga Region's leadership for the creativity in collaboration with

## 780m/- ready for building a drug addict rehab centre

the development partners including PEPFAR and AMREF-Tanzania for the construction of the temporary centre that has cost 20m/-.

"We have seen that we can offer these services at lower cost, I am pleased to see only 20m/- has been spent for the temporary centre in Tanga Region," she added.

The minister said there was the need for a methadone clinic in Tanga Region due to many drug addicts in the region that takes second position in the country in the number of addicts, adding that 2016 statistics show that it had 5,190 addicts.

She said so far there are 8 clinics that offer methadone treatment in various areas in the country whereas for Dar es Salaam Region the clinics start from the regional level downwards to council hospitals and said the areas to follow include Bagamoyo, Kigamboni, Mbagala, Tegeta and Segerea Prison.

She said Ministry of Health statistics show Tanzania has 8,071 drug addicts receiving methadone treatment for the reduction of drug effects, out of whom 480 are women and 7,591 men.

The Commissioner General of the Drugs Control and Enforcement Authority James Kaji said this week

Tanzania will join other nations to mark World Anti-Drugs Day which for this year the slogan is "We Should Build the Correct Understanding on the Drug Addiction Problem."

Tanga Regional commissioner Martine Shigella said his region is among the regions with large number of drug traffickers hence making it home of a large number of addicts.

"For those who have been addicted we should count them as our brothers, we should not stigmatise them, we should assist them to get treatment and we believe they will recover and return to their normal lives," said Shigella.



Maweni Limestone Ltd factory spokesman Simon Kikota (R) briefs Minerals deputy minister Stanslaus Nyongo (2nd-R), who visited the company's factory in Tanga Region on Thursday. With them are Tanga regional commissioner Martine Shigella (2nd-L) and the factory's owner, Changxi Jing. Photo: Correspondent Hamida Kamchalla

By Guardian Correspondent, Iringa

## Kairuki happy with investment pace of firm manufacturing power poles

MINISTER of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Investments) Angellah Kairuki has expressed her pleasure on the pace of investment by Qwihaya General Enterprises Company Ltd that makes power poles in the country's various regions including Kigoma Region.

She also appealed to other stakeholders to concentrate their efforts in Kigoma Region instead of investing in Dar es Salaam and other regions that are easily accessible.

She said Kigoma Region is situated in the country's periphery thereby spurring many would be investors to establish factories therein due to the distance, but Qwihaya General Enterprises Company Ltd established

factories in Kigoma, Njombe and Iringa regions, the move that should be hailed.

She added that the plan by the company to establish a factory for making chemicals for treating power poles will be the first of its kind in the country, as currently there is no such factory in the country.

Speaking of challenges of road infrastructures of Mgololo-Mufindi Road, she said already Tanzania Roads Agency (TANROADS) in Iringa Region have conducted feasibility studies of the road and work will be done any time from now.

Qwihaya Managing Director Leonard maheda said the factory was established in 2007 as a saw milling factory and started making power poles in 2015 following President Magufuli's call for industrial development and even went as far as abolishing the importation of power poles.

He said the factory has a capacity to make 800,000 power poles per year and they own three such factories in the country.

Earlier, presenting the company's performance report to Minister Kairuki, the manager of Qwihaya

General Enterprises Company Ltd, Ntibwa Mjema said the total investment cost of the factory is about 15bn/-.

He said for a long time the company has been buying raw materials for power poles from Sao Hill Forest under Tanzania Forest Services Agency (TFS).

As for the markets of their products, they have been depending on the internal market and their big customer is Tanzania Electric Supply Company (Tanesco) and from the advent of Rural Energy (REA) III the demand for the power poles has greatly increased.

## Support youth, female and PWD aspirants in October elections, government urged

By Guardian Reporter

AS the country prepares for the General Elections this October, the government and political parties have been challenged to extend support to youth, female and people with disabilities (PWDs) aspirants to ensure a level playing field with their counterparts.

Basing on an inclusive analysis report on post civic polls conducted in 2019; there is still poor inclusion and participation of youth, women and PWDs in elections.

The report released early this month was conducted by Tanzania Youth Coalition (TYC) under the auspices of the USHIRIKI Coalition in Ubungo and Kigamboni districts in Dar es Salaam.

It recommends that political parties, civil society organisations (CSOs), election management bodies (EMBs) work together to remove the bottlenecks facing the special groups.

The report highlights the need to review the Political Parties Act and ensure the internal democracy is inclusive.

Parties are still giving limited chances to women to participate in elections whereas in the past General Elections women contestants from the ruling CCM accounted for 9 percent, Chadema 6 percent, ACT-Wazalendo 15 percent and the Civic United Front (CUF) 11 percent.

The number of women elected into parliamentary posts is small whereas in the 2005/2010 elections, 18 women (8 percent) were elected as MPs, the number increased slightly to 21 in 2010/2015 (9 percent). The number of elected women legislators increased to 25 (9 percent).

In regard to last year's civic elections, women, PWDs and youth in the two districts felt that they have been disenfranchised due to the withdrawal of opposition parties.

The report faults the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government over failure to maintain the gains made in the participation of women, youth and PWDs in the 2014/15 local government elections by allowing the decline of youth participation.

However, the analysis established that CSOs did not advocate for the policy

inclusion for PWDs and that no special capacity building was done to political parties on the subject of PWDs political participation.

It was established that there were no interpreters especially during campaigns, registration process and in medias to aid in conveying correct information to people with difficulties in hearing and the deaf.

There were no efforts taken to change negative community perception towards person with disabilities. The process of selecting candidates within the parties was not gender considerate therefore many women were left out on the party candidature.

On youth, the report revealed that young people felt that political parties do not value the contribution of youth but just take advantage of their number and ability to mobilise.

Their poor participation in civic polls was also attributed to lack of money to run campaigns.

Most youth could not be nominated for contesting in the civic polls because of the perceived bad social and moral standing," read the document.

TYC suggests the need for deliberate efforts by the political parties and election bodies to ensure that concerns of PWDs which were raised by the Tanzania Federation of Disabled People's Organisations (SHIYVYAWATA) after the 2015 General Elections are collectively resolved.

The government should strengthen efforts to implement the national gender policy which provides for a minimum of 50 percent representation of women at all levels of political participation and ensure that women are well represented among election officials at all levels throughout the country.

The youth coalition suggest for civil society actors who work on issues of gender and social inclusion to work with all political parties so as to educate party leaders and cadres about the subject on gender and political participation of women, youth and PWDs.

It urges for special outreach to youth from the opposition to educate them about the importance of youth political participation. Political parties should be oriented to the notion of social inclusion of minority groups by exposing them to the rights of minority groups.



# DC for Tarime leads crackdown against mineral smugglers

By Guardian Correspondent, Tarime

TARIME District Commissioner Eng Mtemi Msafiri says he is leading an operation against smuggling of minerals outside the country through the Sirari border, and added that apart from establishment of minerals markets in the country, there are traders who still smuggle out minerals.

He said among means the smugglers use include foreigners from Asia whom he said when at the border apply for tourist visas but instead come to engage in minerals smuggling.

He said due to rampant purchase of gold from smaller private mines scattered in Mara region, some small traders have been disregarding government directives to sell them to the official local markets.

DC Mtemi said the Sirari border area in Tarime District is over 40 kms long hence it is easy for smugglers to smuggle out minerals and other contrabands.

"This operation is sustainable and the government will take stern steps against all those who will involve themselves in the economic sabotage acts," he warned.

Last week defense and security

organs intercepted 27 kgs of gold whose valued was estimated at over 3bn/- while being smuggled outside the country without valid permits by a trader of Asian origin - Bhawesh Gandecha, a Mwanza resident who was also arrested.

The trader is alleged to have given a false declaration at the customs border post saying he was trying to take his car to the other side for sale, but after officials became suspicious inspected the car and found the gold.

The trader was taken to court and convicted - he was sentenced to 7 years in jail or pay 315m/- fine, which he paid.

The court also ordered the seized gold and the vehicle with Reg T 366 DKY confiscated.



**This operation is sustainable and the government will take stern steps against all those who will involve themselves in the economic sabotage acts**



Cashewnut farmers in Nanyumbu District, Mtwara Region, pictured yesterday with some leaders of the Masasi and Mtwara Cooperative Union (MAMCU) who were assessing progress in the construction of what is meant to serve as a warehouse for storing at least 10,000 tonnes of grains at Ndwicka village. Photo: Correspondent Hamis Nasiri

By Guardian Correspondent, Hai

PANGANI Basin Water Office (PBWO) has discovered huge theft of water by some of the farmers via 20 canals in Hai District in Kilimanjaro Region without permission from the basin management.

Following the discovery, PBWO management has given seven days to

## PBWO discovers huge water theft in Hai District

the farmers to pay levy for the water before the government suspends the service.

In his meeting with the canals' officials yesterday, PBWO officer charged with issuance of permits

Nalfred Kiondo said more than 20 canals in plains use water for irrigation without permits.

"These canals are those used in the production of food crops such as rice, maize and vegetables without the

required permits and levy payment, which is against the laws," he said.

He said for those who have not applied for permits for utilising water but continue to harvest the water should stop doing so forthwith and

start applying for the permits.

Pangani River Basin has unique characteristics as it incorporates valleys that stream water from Kilimanjaro, Meru, Usambara and Pare mountains.

The basin also include water from

lakes - Chala, Jipe, Duluti and Karamba as well from Nyumba ya Mungu, Mabayani and Kilimawe dams.

The basin also cuts across 17 districts in Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Manyara and Tanga regions, and has five smaller valleys - in which flow big rivers including Pangani, Zigi, Umba, Mkulumuzi and Msangazi all of which flow into the Indian Ocean.



Outdoor billboards are pulled down - pending relocation - to pave the way for the rehabilitation and expansion of the Sinza stretch of Dar es Salaam's Shekilongo Road, as found yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## UN rolls out covid-19 information platform with main telcos in Africa

By Ajifowoke Gbenga

THE United Nations is working with leading telecommunications players in Africa to fight misinformation on the coronavirus outbreak, executive secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Africa Vera Songwe has said.

Mobile network operators MTN, Airtel, Orange SA, and Vodacom, in partnership with the foremost international organization, plan to build a mobile platform that delivers Covid-19 information to about half of the continent's population - around 600 million people - free of charge.

The Africa Communications International Platform went live on Tuesday in some countries, with initial posts on tips about Covid-19 hot zones,

daily updates from government and healthcare groups, as well as symptom checker features, reports show. It will be available in about 23 African countries with plans to roll out in Latin America, Songwe said.

The goal is to tackle the incessant problem of Covid-19 misinformation. Since the first case of the novel coronavirus was first confirmed in the region late February, African governments have been faced with the twin task of curbing further spread of the deadly disease and tackling misinformation surrounding the pandemic which is spread mostly through social media platforms.

The misleading information overtime range from those about cures and remedies for the coronavirus disease making rounds on the dominant local

chat platform WhatsApp to suggestions of weather and demographic factors hindering the spread of Covid-19 in Africa on blogs despite leading health experts and scientists debunking such claims.

"Greater reliance on social media and other platforms give people access to a wider range of sources and "alternative facts", some of which are at odds with official advice, misleading, or simply false," a report jointly released by Reuters Institute and the University of Oxford said.

Africa has recorded more than 336,000 cases of the virus infections so far, with nearly 9,000 deaths and over 160,000 recoveries, according to data available on the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website. The acceleration

of the pandemic across the continent further highlights the need to combat misinformation.

The mobile communications platform offers services using a combination of text and voice interactions, MTN Chief Executive Rob Shutter said, adding that issues of low smartphone and internet penetration in African markets were considered while building the platform.

Allaying fears of possible breach of privacy, ECA lead advisor on digital matters Tunde Fafunwa noted that personally identifiable information such as mobile numbers will not be passed on from the operators to the government. "However, we will still be able to identify hot zones through information gathered from features such as the symptom checker," he said.

## UNICEF, WFP partner to help fight malnutrition in Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA

THE United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and World Food Programme (WFP) have launched a three-year partnership in Ethiopia to support the government in preventing acute malnutrition in children and mothers and provide school-based nutrition and health services.

The first-of-its-kind partnership underlines the urgency of preventing acute malnutrition in Ethiopia, which has seen insufficient progress over the past two decades, and where malnutrition levels are likely to be exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic, the ongoing desert locust infestation, and persistent climate-related crises such as floods and droughts.

This year, 4.4 million people in the country will require treatment for severe and acute malnutrition - 2.7 million children and 1.7 million pregnant and breastfeeding women.

Both agencies believe that sustained and intensive action is required, combining school and community-based prevention activities with expanded access to treatment for children and mothers with acute malnutrition in selected hotspot districts.

This approach would help Ethiopia move towards the goal of decreasing acute malnutrition in children from nearly 10 percent to less than 3 percent by 2030.

The UNICEF-WFP initiative targets 100 of the most vulnerable districts in Afar, Amhara, Oromia, Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples, Somali and Tigray regions. The two agencies aim to:

"We are concerned that millions of children remain susceptible to malnutrition, and we are already seeing worrying signs of increased malnutrition due to COVID-19 and the desert locust infestation," said UNICEF Representative Adele Khodr.

Khodr added: "We are, however, convinced that in working together smartly and differently, we can support the Government of Ethiopia to drastically prevent the root causes of malnutrition and reach every child and mother who requires treatment for malnutrition."

Steven Were Omamo, WFP Representative and Country Director

said the government is investing heavily in the nutrition, health and education of current and future generations of Ethiopians.

"We are confident that this new partnership will add importantly to those efforts and thereby contribute to the Government's vision of social and economic transformation in Ethiopia," said the WFP Representative.

For Ethiopia to meet the Sustainable Development Goal of eradicating hunger and malnutrition, the annual rate of reduction in acute malnutrition needs to increase tenfold.

Stepping up investments in preventing hunger and malnutrition is seen as a key part of this effort and it will greatly reduce current costs related to treating malnutrition.

With this partnership, it is envisaged that UNICEF and WFP will support the Government of Ethiopia to significantly reduce malnutrition by leveraging Ethiopian food systems to increase consumption of diets rich in nutrients among children and mothers, reducing inequities in access to food, improving targeting of vulnerable households, enhancing awareness and adoption of optimal feeding practices and innovating with local solutions.



**We are, however, convinced that in working together smartly and differently, we can support the Government of Ethiopia to drastically prevent the root causes of malnutrition and reach every child and mother who requires treatment for malnutrition**



# Post-harvest losses becomes a snag in farming for youth

By Alexander Makotta

AS she says goodbye to a group of her friends, Esther Ishabakaki asks whether any of them knows a good tailor who might be interested in joining her newly-opened clothing business. It's a venture she started three months ago after quitting her farming venture.

Setting up a greenhouse in Tanzania's commercial city, Dar es Salaam, Ishabakaki started by attempting to grow tomatoes. But a series of challenges chipped away at her passion and dreams for a horticulture business.

"I had invested a lot in that business: money, time, even emotion. But when you fall at every hurdle, it reaches a point where you just give up. I concluded I better quit and trial a different business," 35-year-old Ishabakaki tells IPS.

Inexperience in greenhouse farming was a challenge when Ishabakaki started farming tomatoes. But while her skills improved as time went by, it was the post-harvest losses that she says she was unable to control.

After harvesting perfectly fine produce, Ishabakaki, like many millions of farmers, faced the gauntlet of preserving the quality and quantity of her crops before they reached the consumer.

Increasing domestic food demand and a rising unemployment rate are just some of the factors pushing governments across the continent to try and strengthen the agriculture sector, and Tanzania is no exception.

The International Labour Organisation (ILO), for instance, says youth unemployment in Tanzania currently stands at 11 percent.

Unfortunately, Ishabakaki's experience with post-harvest losses is not unique. Experts say it resonates with many youth and farmers at large in the country, and could be driving new entrants to quit the market.

"The problem of post-harvest losses in the agriculture sector is huge," Adella Ng'atigwa, a researcher and agricultural economist at the Ministry

of Agriculture, tells IPS. As a research fellow of the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Ng'atigwa is currently working on a policy brief that documents post-harvest losses the reasons for this, as well as outlining the obstacles that prevent the youth from participating in Tanzania's agricultural sector.

She notes that some crops are more affected than others - cabbage farmers often report losses of up to 60 percent of their produce.

"Farmers in Njombe, in the southern highlands of Tanzania, told me that poor demand is a major cause of produce loss in the area. But I also noticed that poor handling of crops and lack of agronomic practices also contributes to this problem," says Ng'atigwa.

She also pointed out that poor transportation and storage facilities and low quality packaging contributes to the problem.

But Ng'atigwa is hopeful that cooperation between the government and private sector could help resolve the problem.

"Public Private Partnership could invest in infrastructure development, like construction of pack houses and investment in agro-processing.

"This approach could be used to increase the frequency of youth training and awareness and the creation of horticultural Post-harvest Management innovations through extension officers," she says.

In addition, Ng'atigwa says the government could lower taxes on post-harvest management initiatives, making their services more affordable and accessible to farmers.

The IITA, a non-profit that works with partners in Africa to enhance crop quality and productivity, is working to fill some of the gaps with regards to the challenges still facing the agriculture sector.

Through its youth programme, IITA says it helps young people turn their challenges into opportunities to create jobs for themselves and others.



Many coconut farmers on Mafia Island, Tanzania, rely on donkeys as the mode of transporting their products from farms to markets.

By Peter Kenny

COVID-19 is having a profound impact on global trade and the businesses that drive it, says a new report by the International Trade Center (ITC). The report highlights the devastating effect the pandemic is having on the small and medium enterprises so important to Africa's economies.

The small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) Competitiveness Outlook predict that African exporters are set to lose more than \$2.4 billion in global industrial supply-chain exports. The expected losses are a result of factory shutdowns in China, the European Union and the United States.

The 2020 edition of the ITC's 2020 Outlook reveals just how profoundly SMEs and global supply chains have been tested by the COVID-19 pandemic,

## Covid-19 to cost billions in African exports

leaving international trade in turmoil.

The report also highlights the importance of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) in any recovery.

ITC acting Executive Director Dorothy Tembo of Zambia said: "The COVID-19 pandemic has been both a health and an economic crisis and has presented a number of challenges for SMEs and global supply chains."

The bulk of the African export losses - more than 70 percent - is caused by the temporary disruption of supply-chain linkages with the EU, the report released on June 22 showed.

While most countries experienced some form of shutdown, the findings in the SME Competitiveness Outlook

highlight that it was lockdowns in China, the European Union and the United States that have had the most significant impact on trade.

Together these three economies account for 63 percent of world supply-chain imports and 64 percent of supply-chain exports. The report estimates that the global disruption of these manufacturing hubs will amount to \$126 billion in 2020.

With countries in various stages of lockdown or loosening confinement periods, it is becoming clear that the virus has particularly impacted SMEs.

Although the pandemic has affected every corner of the world, the economic earthquake unleashed by COVID-19 does not affect everyone in

the same way.

With fewer resources to ride out the storm, micro, small and medium enterprise (MSMEs) have been particularly vulnerable to the repercussions of the crisis. These firms in developing countries will be disproportionately affected, especially in Africa, least developed countries and small island developing states.

Small businesses active in trade tend to be more competitive and resilient. Yet many of them have been shaken by severe disruptions in international supply chains. Tembo added: "The COVID-19 pandemic has been both a health and an economic crisis and has presented several challenges for SMEs and global supply chains.



REYKJAVÍK, Iceland

## World leader in clean energy helps Africa's push for geothermal power

AT the beginning of the 20th century, Iceland was one of Europe's poorest countries, its people relying on a precarious and polluting mix of imported coal and local peat for electricity.

But over the next century, the island nation would pull off one of the great energy makeovers in history, casting off fossil fuels and embracing geothermal power. Today, nearly 100 percent of Iceland's electricity comes from renewable sources, a transformation that has helped make its 366,000 people some of the wealthiest in Europe.

For the last decade, Iceland has been working with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to spark a similar energy revolution in Eastern Africa. Iceland has done everything from financing exploration projects to training future geothermal engineers.

"We are a small country, but we try

to focus our efforts in certain areas and this is one of them," said Guðmundur Ingi Guðbrandsson, Iceland's Minister of the Environment and Natural Resources. He called the country's partnership with UNEP "fruitful".

Harnessing geothermal energy means harnessing the heat from within the Earth, which is carried by water or steam onto the surface. There are many ways in which the hot water can be released - through geysers, hot springs, steam vents, underwater hydrothermal vents - and they are all potential sources of geothermal energy.

Iceland, a pioneer in the use of geothermal energy, is home to more than 200 volcanoes and a large number of hot springs, and therefore has an abundant source of hot, easily accessible underground water. This is

converted to energy both for power generation and direct use applications.

Half a world away, East African countries are sitting atop a similar bounty. They line the Great East African Rift System, a 6,500-kilometre depression that stretches from northern Syria to central Mozambique. The rift is a hub of tectonic activity. Along much of its length, heat from the interior of the earth bursts to the surface. It's estimated that if Eastern Africa could harness that energy, it could generate 20 gigawatts of electricity. That is significant in a region plagued by energy shortages, where - depending on the country - 25 to 89 percent of the population did not have access to energy in 2018.

Iceland is an important partner and co-financier of the UNEP African Rift

Geothermal Development Facility Project. The effort, launched in 2010, is designed to spur geothermal investments in Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. Between 2012 and 2019, Iceland also helped seven countries in East Africa develop their expertise in geothermal energy through the Geothermal Exploration Project.

"Geothermal is hundred percent indigenous, environmentally friendly and a technology that has been underutilized for too long in the continent," said Meseret Teklemariam Zemedkun, Energy Programme Manager at UNEP. "It is time to take this technology off the back burner in order to power livelihoods, fuel development and reduce dependence on polluting and unpredictable fossil fuels."

## Helping to protect most illegally trafficked mammals in the world

PORTSMOUTH

AS China upgrades pangolins to the highest protected status level, an alternative approach to using long standing forensic methods is helping wildlife crime investigators disrupt poachers and animal traffickers in an effort to bring them to justice.

A team of scientists and experienced investigators from the University of Portsmouth have joined the battle to stop the pangolin becoming extinct, by adapting forensic fingerprinting techniques that lift finger-marks from the scales of these endangered animals.

Up to 2.7 million pangolins are poached every year (African Wildlife Foundation, 2019) making these unusual animals the most illegally trafficked mammals in the world. Also known as a 'scaly anteater', it has recently been linked to the spread of Covid-19 due to being on sale in wildlife markets in China. Pangolin meat is considered a delicacy in China and Vietnam, while its scales are used in traditional Asian medicine and traditional African bush medicine.

The University has created an International Wildlife Crime cross-discipline working group with the Zoological Society London and the Wildlife Conservation Society and through international collaboration with wildlife crime officers, they have produced a solution that works.

A study, published in the Forensic Science International Journal, sets out the success of a two-year project, led by the University in collaboration with crime officers in Benign, Kenya, Cameroon and India.

The new method uses gelatine lifters with a low-adhesive gelatine layer on one side, which are used universally by forensic practitioners for lifting footwear marks, finger-marks and trace materials off various objects in criminal investigations. Until now, it is believed they have never been used in

wildlife crime.

The initial study proved the suitability of gelatine lifting for visualising finger-marks on pangolin scales. The gelatine lifter is easily applied to the scale, removed and scanned using a specialist scanning system. The finger-marks were then graded for the presence of ridge detail and 74 per cent of the gelatine lifts examined produced clear finger-mark detail.

Since this first trial (in 2018), the fingerprinting technique has been developed further. Training workshops and events in Africa and Asia have enabled wildlife officers to share experiences and develop the practice in their own environment, working together with researchers to hone the methods most suitable to their practice. This has resulted in law enforcement agencies being better placed to identify poachers and traffickers and then bring them to justice.

Dr Brian Chappell, Senior lecturer in Criminal Investigation at the University of Portsmouth, said: "We found that wildlife crime officers across Africa and Asia have extensive expertise and knowledge in relation to the wildlife, the crimes committed and the behaviour of the traffickers, but they had little experience of forensic methods and practice. There was a lack of suitable resources and forensic evidence was not used to its full potential. Complex technologies and intricate scientific methods were not suitable to the working environment of the wildlife enforcement officers, therefore easy to use, inexpensive methods were required."

The research team of forensic experts, with assistance from DEFRA and the UK Border Force, worked with the wildlife crime enforcement officers to get a detailed understanding of their challenging working conditions and the harsh environments. To develop concepts that worked for them.



## Need to help small businesses through the coronavirus crisis

THE UN General Assembly in April, 2017 declared 27th June as Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day, recognising the importance of Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises in achieving sustainable development goals and in promoting innovation, creativity and sustainable work for all.

Small businesses, including those run by women and young entrepreneurs, are being hit hardest by the economic fall-out of the pandemic. Unprecedented lockdown measures enacted to contain the spread of the coronavirus have resulted in supply chain disruptions and a massive drop in demand in most sectors.

To continue playing their crucial role in creating decent jobs and improving livelihoods, small businesses depend more than ever on an enabling business environment, including support for access to finance, information, and markets.

Let's not forget that these enterprises, which generally employ fewer than 250 persons, are the backbone of most economies worldwide and play a key role in developing countries.

According to the data provided by the International Council for Small Business (ICSB), formal and informal Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) make up over 90 per cent of all firms and account on average for 70 per cent of total employment and 50 per cent of GDP.

That is the reason why the General Assembly decided to declare 27 June the Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day to raise public awareness of their contribution to sustainable development and global economy.

These types of enterprises are responsible for significant employment and income generation opportunities across the world and have been identified as a major driver of poverty alleviation and development.

MSMEs tend to employ a larger share of the vulnerable sectors of the workforce, such as women, youth, and people from poorer households - populations with high vulnerability in times of COVID-19. MSMEs can sometimes be the only source of employment in rural areas. As such, MSMEs as a group are the main income provider for income distribution at the "base of the pyramid".

Smaller businesses can be agile in response to a changing world. We have seen multiple examples during the pandemic, but their size also makes them vulnerable. Access to finance is a primary obstacle. Identifying international market opportunities and navigating trade-related procedures can be harder for small businesses than for their larger competitors.

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) or small and medium-sized businesses (SMBs) are businesses whose personnel numbers fall below certain limits. The abbreviation SME is used by international organisations such as the World Bank, the European Union, the United Nations and the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

In developing countries, smaller (micro) and informal firms, have a larger share than in developed countries. SMEs are also said to be responsible for driving innovation and competition in many economic sectors. Although they create more new jobs than large firms, they also suffer the majority of job destruction/contraction.

## We are obliged to ensure conducive conditions for private sector growth

DURING the last decade, food insecurity and malnutrition appear to have contributed to an increasing frequency of crisis events as well as to the vulnerability of countries to shocks. Most of today's armed conflicts and natural disasters are concentrated in regions heavily dependent on agriculture and in countries with a high proportion of food-insecure households and classified by FAO as "low-income food deficit".

As well as being a consequence of a conflict, food insecurity can be the cause and lead to conflict. Very few new conflicts start in a food secure environment. Hunger may induce conflict when people feel they have nothing to lose and military service offers a free meal and the power that goes with touting a gun.

Poverty in its various forms has increasingly occupied the attention of the international community during the last decade. Successive summits have made commitments to drastically reduce the misery from which so many humans suffer throughout their lives. Such attention is in itself an encouraging step forward, but actual progress is still painfully slow, even though measures to improve the livelihoods of the poor are affordable. Hunger and food insecurity - the most serious forms of extreme poverty - have now become international priorities, and participants in the 1996 World Food Summit made a solemn commitment to halve hunger in the world by 2015.

The Millennium Declaration of 2000 consolidates and restates the commitments agreed during the preceding decade, and can be seen as the final stage of the Summit process. For the first time in a document of its kind, it stresses that, without policies and mechanisms to mobilise private and public resources on a much larger scale, the internationally

agreed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for reducing poverty and hunger and for social and sustainable development cannot be achieved. The Declaration is thus a starting point for renewed action in the twenty-first century. The International Conference on Financing for Development can redress the failures and biases of the past by making its prime objective that of ensuring adequate funding for the achievement of the SDGs.

The International Conference on Financing for Development offers the opportunity to put an end to a paradox that characterized the 1990s: that while global commitment to progress in the fight against poverty seemed to be gaining strength and the means to tackle the problem were increasing, the volume of resources actually mobilized fell year after year. The gap between commitment and action has widened, which inevitably raises questions about the genuineness of the commitment.

The African Union Commission, together with the African Union's Development Agency, AUDA-NEPAD, and OCP Group, a leading global producer of fertilizers have strengthened their partnership to support the development of the African Agricultural Sector through the signature of a comprehensive Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

This partnership is intended to facilitate effective coordination of the implementation and delivery of a set of goals as outlined in the African Union Malabo Business Plan on Agriculture Transformation which aims to increase productivity and catalyse private sector investment.

As such, the parties aim to promote the use of agricultural inputs, including access to customized fertilizer to the soil and crops of each region, and to develop the efficiency of the fertilizer whole value chain by working on corridors approach.

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### HOW PREPARED ARE WE TO PROTECT STUDENTS RESUMING CLASSES AGAINST COVID-19?



BY BUKOLA ADEOLA ONYISHI

IN Nigeria, we have been in lockdown the past few months but our country has been plagued by another pandemic for years that targets women: rape. In the last five months, over 700 cases of rape were reported across the country. The rise in sexual violence prompted the government to declare a state of emergency.

South of me in Abuja and Lagos, my fellow women have taken to the streets to protest this pandemic and the gender-based violence women endure. But alongside news of their campaigns to end sexual violence, I see other horrifying articles that remind me how much further we have to go. Women and girls of all ages - some as young as two years old - are not safe. Even family members cannot be trusted.

The protestors' rallying cries to raise the voice of women everywhere to break the shield of silence that protects rapists and prevents progress.

#### A Culture of silence

The problem is that in Nigeria, the wrong people carry the shame of rape. Even though they are the victims, women end up stigmatized, ridiculed, and blamed for rape, sometimes by their own families. And if families support the victim, they only go so far for fear of being stigmatized themselves.

There is no justice for women. Rather than put themselves out there, victims' families agree to settle cases out of court. Why bother when so many law enforcement officers take rape accusations lightly and blame survivors?

Community leaders encourage victims and their families to compromise with rapists to keep the peace. Survivors and their families feel pressure to settle the case at home or at the community level rather than through the legal system. Perpetrators get away with a slap on the wrist and maybe a small fine.

But for women, there is no peace. What I've seen in my many years of working with women is that instead, they live with the pain. Some end up forced to marry their rapists to maintain "peace." The psychological and emotional pain becomes a lifelong journey where the status quo promises no support and no justice.

#### Knowing how women suffer, how can we stay silent? from social media to the streets

Because of social media, the public can no longer ignore these rape cases.

## Time to break the silence and stop sexual violence in Nigeria



Access to social media has amplified the voices of victims as advocates show that rape goes beyond the individual impact, as people speak up on behalf of loved ones. When sexual violence goes unaddressed, entire communities suffer.

In many of the cases we are seeing in our news, perpetrators aren't single offenders but sometimes serial rapists. As they become emboldened, some rapists decide to secure victims' silence by murdering them after, as in the case for Vera Uwaila Omosuwa - the 22 year-old student of the #JusticeForUwa hashtag that helped ignite the latest outcry.

When assailants aren't held accountable, all women in a community are unsafe. While movements like #MeToo did not catch on here, hashtags like #EnoughisEnough and #WeAreTired have helped women express their exhaustion with carrying the burden of sexual violence and connect with more women and women's organizations to support and stand up for each other.

#### Turning words into action

In many of these situations, women are silenced because no one will listen to them. But in my time at Women for

Women International, I have seen that change and justice can happen when women support one another.

In our community, we had a mother urging her daughter to let go of her rape case, because the rapist's family wanted to keep it quiet. They wanted to settle out of court. Why disturb the peace?

But other women in our program heard about this case and said that it was not just a single individual's issue but a women's issue. Because they were shown a different perspective on rape and gender-based violence, they had the confidence to stand by this survivor. They broke the culture of silence, took her case to the police, and demanded justice. The man was caught and punished.

This is what happens when we change mindsets to make sexual violence a community issue. Everyone - not just women - must understand that when we allow victims to be punished and not rapists, entire communities suffer.

Women's rights organizations are also taking the lead in conversations about our outdated laws on sexual violence.

One place we can start is by making rape a criminal offense and

teaching people about it. Some states have adopted the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) bill and the Administration of Criminal Justice Act, but we must make it the law of the land. These laws expand the definitions of rape to include sexual advances and molestation without women's consent and promise more severe sentences - including life imprisonment - for some of these crimes.

Because change doesn't always happen as fast as it should, we must also ensure that survivors of sexual violence have support. We must invest in shelters, so that when a woman is raped and faces stigma, she has somewhere to go where she will be safe and has her needs met - in terms of health, emotionally, and psychologically. This is part of creating a larger culture that values women's well-being.

And we must continue discussions to change the narrative on who deserves a voice and who deserves peace. If we are going to make lasting, meaningful change, we will need more support and more advocacy. I call on each of us and the international community to lend your voice to the women of Nigeria and break the silence.



# If black lives matter, then why are African leaders with a different take on Covid-19 being taunted?

By Neil Clark

**T**HE criticism of Tanzanian President Dr John Magufuli and his Madagascar counterpart, Andry Rajoelina, for challenging the Covid 'consensus' shows that, for some people, 'Black Lives Matter' counts only if black voices are saying the 'right' things.

YouTube has 'Black Lives Matter' as its Twitter bio. Pretty worthy, eh? But that didn't stop the internet platform from removing a video made by a Canadian activist who calls herself 'Amazing Polly' that featured claims made about Covid-19 and its treatment by the leaders of Tanzania and Madagascar.

The platform has subsequently restored the video, but the fact it took it down in the first place, alongside the sneering, hostile reaction from others to what the African leaders said, speaks volumes about the double standards currently on display.

Magufuli's great crime was that he decided to test the testers. He instructed his country's security services to send to Covid-19 testing labs samples taken from a paw-paw, a goat, some engine oil and a type of bird called a quail, among other non-human sources, but to assign them human names and ages. The paw-paw sample was given the name 'Elizabeth Ane, 26 years, female.' And guess what? The sample came back positive for Covid-19 - as did those from the quail and the goat.

The testing kits were imports - from abroad. Clearly, as Magufuli - a PhD in chemistry - stated, something wasn't quite right. "When you notice something like this, you must know that there's a dirty game played in those tests," he said.

The president then advised his people, in relation to his government's Covid-19 strategy, "Let us put God first. We must not be afraid of each other" - in stark contrast to the 'Social distancing is here to stay' Project Fear approach adopted elsewhere.

Magufuli also assured his people that he would be sending a plane to collect a herbal cure for Covid-19 that was being promoted by President Rajoelina.

In her video, Amazing Polly not only includes extracts of speeches by Magufuli and Rajoelina but also focuses on the criticism they received from the global health establishment.

The subtext: How dare these uppity Africans challenge what we say! How dare they promote their own traditional medicines (instead of Big Pharma's) or claim that coronavirus tests are returning false positives!

"Caution must be taken about misinformation, especially on social media, about the effectiveness of certain remedies," declared the World Health Organisation (WHO). But should we really be so quick to dismiss Magufuli and Rajoelina, and what they have to say?



President Dr John Magufuli

The point is not whether we agree or disagree with the Tanzanian and Madagascan approaches, but rather that, at the very least, there should be some proper, grown-up debate.

At the time of writing, Madagascar had reported 15 deaths due to Covid-19, while Magufuli declared Tanzania coronavirus-free in early June, after a total of 21 deaths. Now, you might want to challenge those figures, which is your prerogative, but you can't automatically presume that they are not accurate.

"I'm certain that many Tanzanians believe that the corona disease has been eliminated by God," Magufuli said. Now there is nothing more likely to trigger a virtue-signalling 'anti-racist' Western global public health 'consensus' fol-

lower than a black African leader defying the 'party line' on Covid and citing the Lord.

Just look at Western press coverage of Magufuli's stance: "Africa's 'bulldozer' runs into Covid and claims God is on his side" was the headline of one very hostile piece on Bloomberg.com. Another journalist used even stronger and more insulting language against the Tanzanian leader.

The oft-repeated claim in reports on Tanzania is that there's been a cover-up. Right on cue, the US Embassy to Tanzania weighed in on May 13, claiming that the risk of contracting Covid-19 in Dar es-Salaam was "extremely high".

The intimation was that the Tanzanian leader couldn't possibly be telling the truth about Cov-

id. But wasn't that assumption just a tiny bit, er, racist?

Another African leader who challenged the 'consensus' on Covid-19 was then Burundi President, Pierre Nkurunziza, who has since died. Burundi, which didn't impose a lockdown, actually expelled the WHO's team from the country sometime last month, accusing it of "unacceptable interference".

On June 8, Nkurunziza died suddenly, aged 55. Yet again, this didn't get too much coverage, save for some articles in the West claiming he had died of Covid-19, even though the official cause was given as a heart attack.

African leaders can be lauded but, or so it seems, only if they toe the politically correct line set by self-proclaimed 'anti-racist' men in suits in the West.

And this colonial mindset permeates even the 'anti-imperialist' movement. A friend told me that he once went on a demonstration against the NATO's attack on Libya in 2011. Some Libyans present had banners of their country's president, Muammar Gaddafi, but the (non-Libyan) organizers told to pull the banners down.

That's right: Africans weren't allowed to display banners of their country's leader at a march opposing the bombing of their own country.

Rajoelina hit the nail on the head when he said the only reason the rest of the world has refused to treat what he believed was his country's cure for Covid-19 with the urgency and respect it deserved was that the remedy came from Africa.

Isn't it ironic that, at a time when Western establishment figures are trying to show us every day how wonderfully 'anti-racist' they are, black voices outside the US and Britain are being ignored, even laughed at?

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson recently expressed his disapproval that Britain gave ten times as much aid to Tanzania as "we do to the six countries of the Western Balkans, who are acutely vulnerable to Rus-

sian meddling". How interesting that aid money sent to Tanzania gets questioned only now, after the country didn't follow the script on Covid-19.

One wonders how many of the celebrities, politicians and pundits publicly expressing support for Black Lives Matters today have actually read the work of inspirational black African leaders such as Ghana's Kwame Nkrumah and Tanzania's Mwalimu Julius Nyerere or, in fact, have even heard of them? I imagine the answer would be "very few, if any".

The arrogant dismissal of voices from Africa that dare to defy Western-elite orthodoxy, and the failure to even consider the possibility that African leaders have got it right and their Western counterparts might have got it wrong, is in itself a form of neo-colonialism. And, lest we forget, Nkrumah described that as "the worst form of imperialism".

If black lives really matter, then "politically incorrect" black opinions ought to be listened to with respect, and not with a smug, superior facial expression before being loftily dismissed in the way a teacher might deal with a naughty child.

But in this dumbed-down era in which many unthinkingly follow the dominant globalist narrative, it's simpler for some to 'take a knee' and post a photo of themselves on social media doing so than it is to take a moment to see the bigger picture.

**Piece published courtesy of the Dar es Salaam-based Russian-Tanzanian Cultural Centre. Neil Clark is a journalist, writer, broadcaster and blogger. His award-winning blog can be found at [www.neilclark66.blogspot.com](http://www.neilclark66.blogspot.com). He tweets on politics and world affairs. The statements, views and opinions expressed in this column are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of RT.**

## Managing risks critical for agriculture, stable growth of food production

By Correspondent Daniel Semberya

**I**N recent years, Tanzania has witnessed a number of climate related disasters namely, flooding, droughts, pests, widespread crop failures, livestock deaths and intensification of climate sensitive diseases among others.

The effects of climate change in the country are widespread and significantly interfere with agriculture, while at the same time, reducing the ability of the society to deliver services. Generally current climate variability in the nation is an issue of concern for all future plans and must be addressed.

Officiating the virtual online National Policy Dialogue Workshop on agriculture and food systems resilience on behalf of the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, early this week, Director of National Food Security Unit, Dr Honest Kessy said that the aim of that online meeting was to update the stakeholders of the Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF), AFRICAP project, midway implementation progress.

And provide them with opportunity of further engagement and deliberations to ensure that the project continued to make relevant and constructive contributions resilience and sustainability of the Tanzanian food system.

The virtual online National Policy Dialogue Workshop on agriculture and food systems resilience was organised by ESRF and partners.

Dr Kessy said that in the Tanzanian context, climate change was a reality in a way that climate sensitive sectors such as agriculture have been severely affected in most cases.

According to Dr Kessy, "Climate change imposes production risks in major food crops such as maize, rice, cassava, and beans. Adding:

And this makes food and economic features less optimistic in this industry," he explained.

He further noted that, moreover, the budgetary state to address the situation and build resilience in five



National facilitators, government representatives and local farmers from Lushoto and Muheza districts in a group photo at Yamba village in Lushoto during GCRF-AFRICAP/CCAFA Programme. Photo: Daniel Semberya

key fostering areas of irrigation, soil, water conservation, research, extension and rural infrastructure was high.

Dr Kessy said that managing the related risks in agriculture, food production was critical to ensure increased and stable growth of the agriculture sector.

"This has raised concerns among scholars, policy, makers, development partners and lead researchers leading to consensus that climate change needed to be addressed using various measures."

He said that in the rising of agriculture food security in transforming economy, the government through its agriculture lead sectoral ministries in collaboration with other stakeholders has been implementing the agriculture sector development programme phase two (ASDPHII).

According to Dr Kessy, the ten year programme that started in 2017/18 to 2027/28, is aiming at transforming agriculture sectors including crops, livestock and fisheries towards high production, commercialisation, improving small scale farmers' income, livelihood, food and nutrition security.

He said that in response to this, the Tanzanian government in partnership with different stakeholders have been implementing a range of adaptation interventions guided by the na-

tional environmental policy, national agricultural policy, national climate change strategy, agricultural climate resilience plan, among others.

Dr. Kessy further noted that the government has remained optimistic that successful implementation of the GCRF-AFRICAP project in the country would yield into facilitating a productive development of sustainable climate smart agriculture systems in a bid to meet food and nutritional demands as well as traits of the food crops.

Giving an overview of the project to the stakeholders through that online meeting from the UK, Associate Professor of Environment & Development Sustainability Research Institute School of Earth and Environment University of Leeds, Dr Susannah M. Sallu said that the project aimed at building capacities to the identification and implementation of evidence based policy pathways towards sustainable development goals compliance in climate smart agri-food systems.

"The project is very much in conducting research and capacity building activities to support climate smart agri-food systems so that will increase agriculture production and also nutrition and health provision."

Dr Sallu said that their project is being im-

plemented in four countries namely Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia and South Africa.

She mentioned some of the objectives of the project are to undertake research to characterize the context in which they are working and build evidence based and build capacities on agri-food systems.

To use that scenario as a tool into interdisciplinary learning about agri-food systems and resilience. To explore the long term sustainable development goals compliance of proposed pathways of change and build policy and practice capacity to translate evidence into needed change. To also build capacities and knowledge to communities on how to use infrastructures required for addressing interdisciplinary knowledge gaps and managing research in respect for potential benefits.

She further said; "Tanzania is a country that faces significant agri-climatic risks. And a large portion of the population rely and is dependent on rain-fed agriculture being a common thing."

Dr Sallu noted that there was always high risk of malnutrition and that viability was exacerbated by climate change...

According to her, the Tanzanian national policy was very progressive in that place in terms of building climate change into planning and

programmes on the ground.

And the climate resilient plan in particular has been very much aligned to African related objectives. And the climate resilient plan has been very much mainstreamed into ASDPHII as it has been introduced by Dr Kessy earlier.

She said; "The Africa project is not only in position to support the implementation of this active programme but also to feed information and research findings into the development towards in terms of policy.

The ultimate aim of the project was to reduce the impacts of climate change to the most vulnerable part of the society.

Giving the giving her insights from capacity building activities on food system resilience in both Muheza and Lushoto in Tanga Region, Shakwaanande Natai from the Tanzania Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance (TCSAA) said that despite significant investments in the two Districts, yet knowledge and application of national policies, strategies and plans on Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) at local level by extension officers was still limited (except Lushoto district).

"Many farmers have low knowledge and skills required for sustainable agribusiness development. Most farmers also have limited knowledge of monitoring and evaluation, areas that are critical to developing resilient food systems," she noted.

She therefore proposed for a need to consider how to scale up information sharing to other districts across the country where there are no CSA activities.

She further suggested for an opportunity of using the lessons obtained by the Agricultural and Food Systems' Resilience: Increasing Capacity and Advising Policy (AFRICAP) initiative to support the dissemination, capacity building and awareness creation of the national CSA policies, strategies, plans and guidelines and inform future policy conversations in Tanzania.

The GCRF-AFRICAP is a 4-year (2018-2021) regional project implemented in Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia and South Africa.

In Tanzania, this project is coordinated by the Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF) as a node hosting institution of the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) and implemented in collaboration with researchers from University of Leeds, University of Aberdeen, the UK Met Office, and Chatham House.

The project builds on existing partnerships with National Meteorological Services, Agricultural Research Centres and Universities in Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia and South Africa.



# African governments failing survivors of child sexual exploitation

LONDON

**I**N Malawi, Mary\* was only 14 years old when she was recruited and trafficked to the city of Blantyre and sold for sex in a bar. A man had arrived in her village looking for girls to work as domestic helpers for families.

He appeared genuine and for Mary - and many girls who are out of school and living in poverty - this seemed a way out and a chance to earn money to support her family. She was living with her grandmother, who had hardly enough to buy food.

When Mary arrived in Blantyre, the promised work never materialized. Instead, the man sold her to a bar owner who in turn sold her for sex to his customers. Isolated and traumatized, Mary was trapped for over three months, and only escaped when the bar owner went away one night.

Although it has now been over two years since his arrest, the case is still pending in court. With no fixed time limit, the legal process has dragged on, leaving Mary waiting indefinitely and stuck in limbo. Meanwhile, the man who recruited her from the village has never been arrested.

Mary would have abandoned her fight for justice long ago had it not been for the support of Equality Now and our partner People Serving Girls at Risk, who have been providing psychosocial assistance to help Mary rebuild her life and navigate the difficult legal process.

This includes covering her transport costs and accompanying her to numerous court hearings that to date have resulted in only postponements, disappointment, and upset.

Worryingly, the many legal obstacles faced by Mary are neither uncommon in sex trafficking cases, nor are they unique to Malawi. Across Africa, traffickers who recruit, abuse, and sexually exploit vulnerable and impoverished women and children are going unpunished because governments and criminal justice

systems are failing in their duty to hold perpetrators to account.

Take for instance, the horrific case of German national Bernhard Glaser, who was arrested in Uganda in February 2019 and charged with multiple counts of sex trafficking and abusing girls aged 10 to 16 who were living at an unlicensed shelter Glaser had established ostensibly to "help" vulnerable children.

The story made international headlines and caused huge public uproar amongst Ugandans who were appalled at how this predator had betrayed the community's trust and abused his position of power to sexually exploit many girls over a long period of time.

Despite widespread public outrage, more than a year after Glaser's arrest, the case was still pending, delayed by multiple adjournments, with Glaser yet to even enter his plea. He died from cancer in April 2020, a day after being granted bail.

The girls never got their day in court. Nor has the Ugandan state addressed the issues making them vulnerable to exploitation or provided assistance to help them overcome their ordeal, instead leaving them at risk of further abuse.

Meanwhile, 61-year-old American Christian missionary Gregory Dow has pleaded guilty in a US court to sexually abusing girls in Kenya. Back in 1996, he was convicted in America for assault with intent to commit sexual abuse against a teenager and was sentenced to two years' probation and ordered to register as a sex offender.

He later travelled to Kenya and in 2008 established a home for orphaned children where he violated girls in his care.

In 2017, Dow fled back to the United States after Kenyan authorities attempted to arrest him. He was eventually taken into custody after being located by FBI agents and US police.

A statement by the US Department of Justice said: "The defendant purported to be a Christian missionary who cared for these



A mother and daughter in Kenya. The daughter was a victim of sexual violence. File photo

children and asked them to call him "Dad." But instead of being a father figure, he preyed on their youth and vulnerability."

Sexual exploitation is both a cause and a consequence of discrimination and the unequal status of women and girls. Adolescent girls are in an especially disadvantaged position, which is underpinned by multiple layers of discrimination directed at them for being young, female, and sexualized by society.

These structural inequalities exist across Africa, as they do in all the regions of the world. High levels of poverty alongside harmful cultural practices make girls particularly susceptible to sexual predators and traffickers, who take advantage of shortcomings in social safety nets, local child protection systems, law

enforcement, and judicial processes.

The current pandemic exposes and exacerbates deep-rooted structural inequalities that run along the cultural fault lines of gender, sexuality, race, disability, and class. In the wake of COVID-19, an economic crisis is placing further burdens on underprivileged communities, with many suffering severe financial hardship. The United Nations has warned human traffickers are becoming increasingly active, targeting impoverished women and children who have lost their income as a consequence of lockdown and social distancing measures introduced to limit the spread of coronavirus.

Meanwhile, school closures have interrupted the education of over 1.5 billion students worldwide, and protection systems have been severely disrupted. Predators are seeking to take advantage of youngsters spending more time unsupervised on the internet.

Across Africa, the expansion of inexpensive, high-speed internet and the growth in smartphone, tablet, and laptop ownership is swelling the number of children who can be targeted in the digital realm. Girls are particularly vulnerable to online grooming, sexual coercion, and sextortion, accounting for 90% of those

featured in online child abuse materials.

Coupled with this is a disturbing global surge in demand for child abuse content. The worldwide impact of COVID-19 means people have been spending more time online, fuelling what was already a vast and rapidly expanding form of cybercrime intersecting national boundaries.

Exponential growth in the volume of digital content is making the cybersphere harder to police, and emboldened distributors of child sexual exploitation material are targeting mainstream platforms to reach wider audiences.

It is commendable that numerous African governments, including those in Kenya, Malawi, and Uganda, have enacted anti-trafficking and child protection laws that can be used to safeguard children and punish offenders. It is an important step. However, implementation is often very weak. Sex trafficking and sexual exploitation cases are not prioritized.

In many African countries, courts have closed, reduced, or adjusted their operations, making the situation even worse for girls seeking justice. Mounting backlogs of legal cases will further prolong judicial and administrative proceedings.

Without functioning judicial oversight, girls' access to justice and protection from sexual exploitation will be undermined to an even greater extent.

It is more urgent than ever that the justice system responds to the realities of children whose rights have been violated. States must put in place measures to ensure that girls have access to protection and justice in meaningful ways during and after the pandemic.

Governments need to do more to ensure survivors of sexual exploitation are protected and supported in their recovery. When victims and their families cannot trust the courts to deliver justice, it undermines the power of the law and emboldens offenders to continue exploiting and abusing with impunity.

Agencies

UNITED NATIONS

**S**OME 40,000 Chinese "blue helmets" have already been dispatched to conflict-affected countries and areas in 25 UN peace operations over the past 30 years, making China one of the most important countries firmly and unhesitatingly upholding world peace and security.

Dating back to April 1990, it was the first time that China had ever joined a UN peace operation by dispatching five observers to the UN Truce Supervision Organization in the Middle East. As three decades have passed, the number of "five" has become a history.

A "small step" 30 years ago taken by China, one of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, has evolved into a "giant leap," given not only the big number of Chinese peacekeepers serving under the UN flag, but also the country's generous and selfless financial support to UN peace operations.

What Chinese peacekeepers have contributed to peace and security of this planet has won acclamation from the global community.

TOPNOTCH REPORT CARD

Thirty years of dedication and sacrifice by the Chinese peacekeepers has added one after another significant scores to the "report card."

They have newly built and repaired nearly 15,000 km of roads and more than 300 bridges, and cleared more than 10,000 landmines and unexploded ordnance. More than 1.3 million tons of various materials and equipment have been transported by them, covering a total distance of more than 13 million km.

They have also treated more than 200,000 patients and completed numerous long and short distance patrols and armed escorts.

Heroes who sacrificed their young lives have made the "report card" even more special. So far, 15 Chinese peacekeepers have laid down their lives for the cause of world peace.

## From small step to giant leap, China makes tangible contributions to UN peace operations

On June 2, 2016, the UN told a story on its website about Shen Liangliang, a 29-year-old First Sergeant, who was killed in a terrorist attack on May 31, 2016, in Mali's northern town of Gao, when a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated at a UN camp.

During an unexpected attack, Shen saved a fellow soldier at the cost of his own life. Shen was later honored as a martyr and awarded the first-class merit citation.

Facing the massive challenge posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, Chinese peacekeepers, while ensuring "zero infection" of themselves, have been actively introducing China's successful experience in epidemic prevention to peacekeeping forces from other countries, the Peacekeeping Affairs Center of China's Ministry of National Defense has said.

"They have honored their promise of 'bearing moral obligation with an iron shoulder and upholding peace with arms in hands' and demonstrated China's responsibility as a major power in safeguarding world peace," it said.

SHOWERED WITH PRAISE

Thanks to their strict self-discipline, high-quality and hard work, and the record of "zero violation of discipline and zero repatriation," all Chinese peacekeepers have been awarded UN peacekeeping medals.

The Dag Hammarskjöld Medal, the highest-ranking medal for UN peacekeepers, has been awarded posthumously to all Chinese peacekeepers whose life was cut short in dangerous operations. Additionally, some peacekeeping missions have awarded the Chinese peacekeepers with other awards for quality engineering and other outstanding performances.

When the Ebola virus swept across Africa in 2014-2015, soldiers of the engineering detachment of Chinese



A formation of Chinese peacekeepers take part in a grand military parade celebrating the 70th founding anniversary of the People's Republic of China in Beijing Oct. 1, 2019. (Xinhua)

peacekeeping troops to Liberia carried out continuous construction for 28 days despite the risk of infection and built the Ebola diagnosis and treatment center, an aid program by China to Liberia, more than 30 days ahead of schedule.

In March 2017, intense armed conflicts broke out in Yei, a border town in South Sudan, and seven UN civilian staff were trapped in the dangerous conflict area. Knowing about this, the Chinese peacekeeping infantry battalion assigned 12 soldiers to rescue them.

When she first participated in a peacekeeping operation in the Demo-

cratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Hou Dan, head nurse of the Chinese medical detachment, was shocked by the situation in the war-devastated state. Hou recalled that medics from the Chinese peacekeeping force in the DRC once treated a 19-year-old girl bitten by a hippo, with her legs festering when she sought their medical assistance. They tried their best to save the girl who has fortunately pulled through.

Seeing the poverty, hunger, disease and turmoil of war with her own eyes, Hou said she wants to "bring hope of peace to people there with her love."

From Mali, South Sudan, to the DRC

and Liberia, stories like these have happened now and again wherever Chinese peacekeepers are stationed.

UN Under-Secretary-General for Field Support Atul Khare said that China is not only a permanent member of the Security Council, but also a major troop contributing country and the second largest financial contributor to peacekeeping budget, adding that only China has these three glorious responsibilities at the same time.

In December 2018, China's share of the UN peacekeeping budget for 2019-2021 was raised from 10.24 percent to 15.22 percent, making it the second largest contributor only after the Unit-

ed States.

MARCH FURTHER FORWARD

Over the past 30 years, the Chinese peacekeepers have left a string of solid footprints on their journey of safeguarding world peace and security.

In September 2015, Chinese President Xi Jinping pledged at the UN Peacekeeping Summit that China would take the lead in setting up a permanent peacekeeping police squad, build a peacekeeping standby force of 8,000 troops, and provide free military aid of 100 million U.S. dollars to the African Union, as Africa has the biggest peacekeeping needs.

"Chinese peacekeepers -- civilian, military and police -- have played a valuable role in several UN operations over the past 30 years and I commend them for their service under the blue flag," UN Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Jean-Pierre Lacroix told Xinhua, one day prior to the International Day of UN Peacekeepers that falls on May 29.

"I extend my gratitude to all the Chinese peacekeepers past and present," said Lacroix.

UN peacekeeping operations are important measures to safeguard international peace and security. They arise from and adapt to the evolving times, said Zhang Jun, China's permanent representative to the United Nations. As this year marks the 75th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, the "Action for Peacekeeping" initiative put forward by Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has entered a crucial stage of implementation, and peacekeeping operations are at a new starting point, he said.

At present, more than 2,500 Chinese peacekeepers are carrying out peacekeeping missions in nine mission areas, with more Chinese young men and women expected to join them.

Xinhua



# New report recommends transforming food systems under climate change

By Jim Cornell

WITH the Covid-19 crisis intensifying hunger even in wealthy countries, food, agriculture and environment experts from six continents have responded with a roadmap for resetting food systems already hit hard by climate change.

The 70-page report, "Actions to Transform Food Systems Under Climate Change," was developed under the guidance of the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS). It comes on the heels of a new assessment

from the United Nations warning the pandemic could precipitate a "global food emergency."

In the document, dairy is mentioned, as there is a recommendation to incentivize reductions in dairy consumption in 15 high- and middle-income countries and all C40 cities by 2030.

While overall, the document gives a "report card" ranking for the global food system as "grave concern," it offers a global plan to rebuild all types of food production around the world—from smallholder farming to large-scale production—that have been rocked by the pandemic but will

face even greater challenges from climate change.

"It's time for all of us to get talking about food and most importantly about food systems," said David Nabarro, a World Health Organization Special Envoy for COVID-19 and Curator of the Food Systems Dialogue, who is kicking off a round-the-world "relay" briefing on the action plan.

"That's all the different elements—from food production to processing to marketing and consumption, and all the steps along the way."

The report lays out an 11-part plan—and points to a wide num-

ber of readily available innovations—that can make food systems far more resilient to both climate and non-climate shocks.

The 11 actions include efforts to sustainably increase food production in developing countries in ways that increase incomes and food security in poor, agriculture-dependent rural communities. Doing so, the report states, could dramatically reduce the need for humanitarian assistance in the coming years, freeing up billions of dollars for investing in social safety nets.

The report also offers strategies to avoid expanding food produc-

tion into carbon-rich tropical forests and explores options that can support healthy, climate-friendly diets.

In addition, the report lays out a policy framework for directing US\$320bn in public and private finance to food systems transformation. And it seeks more support for "youth-centered social movements" committed to building sustainable food systems, noting they can be especially effective agents of change.

"Our work over the past 10 years to address the impacts of climate change on food production, and vice versa, has produced

a series of transformative interventions that can energize efforts to 'build back better' in the aftermath of COVID-19," said CCAFS Director Bruce Campbell.

"This endeavor is especially important for several hundred million smallholder farmers in the developing world. They were already struggling against climate change before this pandemic hit and will face even greater climate threats long after it has ended."

He added, "The disruptions caused by this terrible pandemic have at least awakened the world to the fact that our food systems are far more vulnerable than

many realized.

"Climate change is already compounding these problems, but the solutions we present—which seek bold transformations in everything from farming to trade, diets and government policies—offer an opportunity to pursue a much brighter future for people and our planet."

While there are concerns the pandemic could significantly increase hunger and malnutrition in the short-term, the report points to even greater dangers looming in the coming decade as temperatures rise, weather extremes become more common

## Africa needs to build back strong from COVID-19 via renewable energy route

By Special Correspondent, Addis Ababa

IT is essential for African governments to build back strong from the coronavirus crisis by placing investments in sustainable energy among the central recovery goals and linking recovery investment to strengthening the foundation of future sustainable development.

This was said by Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) Executive Secretary, Vera Songwe, and Renewable Energy Solutions for Africa (Res4Africa) Secretary-General, Roberto Vigotti, in a joint statement following the publication of a study by their institutions exploring the impact of COVID-19 on African economies and their energy sectors.

The study, which was done in partnership with SDA Bocconi and with the support of Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) and Ethiopian Women in Energy (EWiEn), analyses the role of renewable energy in the post-COVID-19 phase, providing policy recommendations to sustain growth in a new sustainable equilibrium.

Africa, like the rest of the world, has been severely affected by the spread of Covid-19 in the recent months with an estimated 5 to 29 million people being reduced back to live below the poverty line.

"In this peculiar socio-economic context, the strategic relevance of the energy sector in guaranteeing the well-being of our cities and populations becomes even clearer," Ms Songwe and Mr Vigotti say in the statement.

In particular, they agree on the need to urgently equip Africa with a network of hospital facilities and health centres



with secure and reliable access to electricity along with stimulating the continent's socio-economic development.

"Access to electricity for the 600 million people in Africa who still do not have it needs to be guaranteed. In this time of uncertainty, investment in building back better is im-

portant, including in the vital area of the energy transition towards renewable energies," adds Songwe.

"Such investment in sustainable energy will help mitigate the impact of climate change while widening access to energy. It will be essential, thanks to the economic and financial

stimulus that will follow this crisis, to build and strengthen the energy system in a clean and sustainable way, pursuing a deep de-carbonisation and to prepare a more resilient socio-economic system to external shocks such as COVID-19."

Meanwhile during a Res4Africa and ECA webinar

held Wednesday on "The impact of COVID-19 on Africa's energy sector", panellists agreed that building back better will require placing sustainable energy investments at the heart of the continent's recovery strategy.

The renewable energy sector, they agreed, can play a fundamental role in the fight against the disastrous effects of COVID-19 with stimulus measures to induce economic recovery expected to strengthen the foundation of sustainable development through strategic investments in sustainable energy.

Access to reliable and sustainable energy is a crucial need and is even more important today for supporting essential services during the global crisis.

The panellists agreed that renewable energy investments at scale will contribute to supporting sustained economic growth, including by strengthening local value chains and supporting local jobs.

They advocated for policy changes to support investments in sustainable and renewable energy sources to enable structural shifts towards low-carbon and more resilient power systems.

William Lugemwa, Director of the Private Sector Development and Finance Division at the ECA, said post-COVID-19, Africa's private sector would

be crucial in leading the much-needed ambitious energy transition. Renewable energy, he said, is crucial for Africa's recovery from the pandemic.

"We at ECA are committed as ever before to pursue all forms of development cooperation to advance the urgent need of the continent to recover from the rampage of COVID-19 and in providing the necessary policy and technical support to African policymakers in building back and building back better," said Mr Lugemwa.

For his part, Mr Mateo Di Castelnuovo, Director of the Africa Lab at SDA Bocconi, said: "Evidence shows that renewables are the best for energy supply in health centres, agriculture and education in Africa. A resilient energy system and clean energy transition are fundamental for each country and their recovery path."

ECA Economic Affairs Officer, Mr Yohannes Hailu, said the United Nations is recommending a series of measures for nations to recover from this crisis and build back better towards sustainable development.

"Health and energy are the first priority and tied together. No development can be sustainable if it leaves several hundreds of million people in the darkness," he said.

## Artemisia shows 'promise' against Covid-19 in lab tests - researchers

By Daniel Finnan

SCIENTISTS in Germany released data on Wednesday from laboratory tests showing that extracts of the artemisia plant are active against the virus causing Covid-19.

The research is separate from claims by Madagascar's President Andry Rajoelina about the Covid-Organics herbal tea, but perhaps provides more of a scientific basis for clinical trials and research.

"The results are very promising," said Peter Seeberger, managing director of the Max Planck Institute of Colloids and Interfaces, adding that future clinical trials are what really counts.

Madagascar's President Rajoelina has repeatedly praised a herbal concoction of the Artemisia annua plant, promoting it to other leaders as a Malagasy "cure" for Covid-19, despite reservations by the World Health Organisation about the effectiveness of the Covid-Organics drink and lack of data.

Scientists from the Max Planck Institute in Potsdam worked with the department of virology at the Free University of Berlin to further investigate artemisia.

Extracts were used from specially bred Artemisia annua plants developed and grown by ArtemiLife Inc, a company based in Kentucky, US. The business is already selling ArtemiTea and ArtemiCoffee online, which contains the plant.

Two extracts of artemisia were developed by the researchers, one using distilled water and another ethanol. These were compared against a third, the ethanol extract mixed with coffee, and artemisinin, a derivative compound of the artemisia plant already used as part of combined treatments for malaria.

The study, which is yet to be peer-reviewed, carried out in vitro tests using monkey lung cells. It treated the cells with the different formulations and then infected them with the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes Covid-19 to determine the anti-viral activity.

The two extracts resulted in less of the virus forming, with the ethanol and coffee found to be the most active. Pure artemisinin on its own did not provide much antiviral activity.

"There is an effect, it is repeatable between laboratories," said Klaus Osterrieder, who conducted the viral tests at the Free University of Berlin. The research was verified by a second laboratory in Denmark who carried out their own tests to ensure consistency of the results.

Research on the artemisia extracts is expected to feed into an ongoing clinical trial at the University of Kentucky. It is hoped ArtemiTea, ArtemiCoffee and a tablet form will be incorporated into ongoing trials with patients suffering from Covid-19 by the summer of 2020.

The first phase of the trial will last a month, involving six patients being treated for 14 days, according to Jill Kolesar, an expert in pharmacy at the University of Kentucky. The US university has an existing relationship with ArtemiLife Inc.

Kerry Gilmore, an organic chemist at the Max Planck Institute, said there are at least 10 active compounds within the artemisia extracts. Further research will help determine whether individual compounds or a combination of them are responsible for the activity against Covid-19.

# World-famous game reserve gets no COVID-19 poaching casualties

EMPANGENI, SA

ONE of the world's most famous game reserves, Thula Thula in South Africa, has survived the Covid-19 pandemic without any loss of wild animal to poaching.

Francoise Malby-Anthony, who runs the game reserve said that she kept on all her anti-poaching staff throughout covid which prevented any animals being killed by poachers.

"There has been an increase in poaching as the game reserve was quiet during the lockdown. Without guests meant no safaris keeping movement inside the game reserve, so poachers could intrude more easily.

"Chasing poachers, who are the biggest threat to our game reserve, was the biggest task we faced during covid. No animal was killed or taken by poachers, but one poacher was shot dead.

"We used to lose about 40 animals a year. It has gone down to less than 10 a year thanks to our top security and anti-poaching team who patrol 24/7, plus our special rhino monitoring 24/7. We also have 64 cameras all around the buildings and inside the game reserve, plus access to helicopter in case of a poaching alert.

"We have 20 security staff who rotate day and night security. The cameras inside the game reserve are being moved every two weeks. We put them in trees. Some get destroyed by our darling elephants who do not like to see foreign objects in their trees.

"We had a solution which was to put some chilli paste around the cameras, as elephants do not like spices, which saved a few of our cameras.

"Our reserve includes 29 elephants and four rhinos. All are special and protected. When you see the list of endangered species growing all the time, giraffes, hippos and many others are not on this list yet.

"Three months without guests to our park has meant no income, so when you have a team of 60 employees and an anti-poaching team to take



care of financially, it is challenging. "I made a point of keeping all staff on full salary for the three months of lockdown. But for July and August I have just asked staff to reduce their salaries by 30 percent. A return to business has just started very slowly.

"It is going to take a long time to recover financially. We are lucky to have a lot of clients locally in South Africa, but we all rely on foreign visitors. They are booking again, but for next year.

"We all hope international flights will be allowed by early September. Virgin has planned

to start flights to Johannesburg from September 15 and we are hoping that Emirates will be allowed in earlier.

"I had a New Zealand photographic student who was a guest once and I invited him to stay for two weeks to take photos. We also have a lot of fans in New Zealand and they are so kind and caring and donate to our work via the South African conservation fund which is the non-profit organisation of Thula Thula.

"I actually have a fundraising campaign with adoption of our animals such as elephants, rhinos and hippos but also our

very popular game rangers."

More than 350 species of birdlife has been identified, including a breeding population of white-backed vulture.

A new baby covid lockdown rhino Sissi was born at the end of March to add new life to the reserve.

Thula Thula was the home of late bestselling author, conservationist and Francoise's husband Lawrence Anthony, who died in 2012. His book The Elephant Whisperer relates the story of the rescue of the Thula Thula elephant and the special relationship he created with the herd.

Francoise has carried on the legacy of her late husband with the conservation projects and running two lodges.

In 2018 she wrote the sequel to the Elephant Whisperer, An Elephant in My Kitchen, the true story and numerous adventures of the reality of running Thula Thula, after Lawrence passed away.

Thula Thula's 4500ha reserve is situated in the heart of Zululand, home to a wide variety of animals including African elephant, buffalo, white rhino, leopard, giraffe, zebra, nyala, hyena, crocodile, kudu and wildebeest as well as other indigenous species. More than 350 species of birdlife have been identified, including a breeding population of white-backed vulture.



# Most journalists see AI robots as a threat to their industry - and they are wrong...

By Freddy Mayhew

FOR many of us the term “artificial intelligence” still belongs in the realms of science-fiction and brings to mind the domineering Skynet in the Terminator films or the malevolent Hal in 2001: A Space Odyssey.

A recent poll by Press Gazette asking readers if they thought AI robots were a threat to journalism or an opportunity found the majority (69 per cent) of more than 1,200 voters saw AI as a threat.

But while what’s known as “artificial general intelligence” - machines akin or superior to human intelligence - does not yet exist and may never be fully realised, AI tools are already in use in the news industry today.

These tools help in the gathering, production and distribution of information. They fall broadly under the definition of “machine learning”, a subset of AI where computers handle specific tasks and are able to learn and improve as they go - independent of human help.

Both Facebook and Google depend on AI to enhance user experience, showing readers more of what they like or predicting search questions for example. Even spell-checkers are a type of AI.

Within the news industry AI tools are already used to personalise newsfeeds, scan social media for stories, moderate reader comments or process huge volumes of data to aid investigations.

Natural language processors can produce written transcripts from audio or video recordings and natural language generators can write simple stories based on datasets, both of which are types of AI tools.

A survey of journalists working with AI at 71 news organisations from 32 countries, carried out by LSE and think-tank Polis, found that just under half of respondents said they used AI for newsgathering, two-thirds said they used it for production and just over half for distribution.

Just over one-third of respondents to the survey, published in November last year, claimed to have an active AI strategy, while 44 per cent said AI was already having an impact on their news organisations.

A majority of respondents (68 per cent) said they had started adopting AI technology in their newsrooms to make journalists’ work more efficient.

## AI journalism tools in use at newsrooms

The Times cut digital subscriber churn down by half last year using AI software dubbed JAMES (Journey Automated Messaging for Higher Engagement) that created news-



letters tailored to readers’ interests.

Bloomberg’s Cyborg AI tool helps reporters to be first with the headlines on financial market movements in a competitive environment.

UK news agency PA’s Radar (Reporters and Data and Robots) service, which launched in 2017, uses software to produce localised data stories at scale and speed: up to 30,000 a month for its local news clients.

Radar editor Joseph Hook told Press Gazette that the process remains “in the hands of a journalist” who finds the data, chooses the angle and writes the template that will be the foundation for all other iterations of a story.

“I think it doesn’t quite fit into how people assume AI is going to work in journalism,” said Hook, adding: “It doesn’t do all the legwork for you... it’s using software and AI to scale up what we are putting out.”

Hook said the service “fills the skill gap that a lot of journalists have where they aren’t comfortable with numbers and data” and reporters “can be confident that we have got those numbers right”.

He added: “It also allows journalists to play to their strengths more. It might be that they take our stories in full, but a lot of the time we see journalists use it as a base and go out and find local case studies.”

Looking ahead, Hook said: “My instinct is that, over time, this will start to take on more of the less enjoyable repetitive work... and allow journalists to go out and do the human element of the work.”

But he added that journalists “have to continue to be integral to journalism, because

there is a certain amount of context and understanding and engagement with the readership that only humans can have”.

“I think that will always be key,” he noted, adding: “There will always be a level of risk in leaving AI or a computer completely free to choose stories and data because often data can contain anomalies.”

Microsoft made headlines recently after it turned over curation of news stories on its website and app to AI software, resulting in mass redundancies - including 27 jobs at PA. One affected journalist told Press Gazette: “My job’s been replaced by a robot. It doesn’t feel good.”

The AI quickly made an error, however, when it accompanied a story about a Little Mix star’s experience of racism with an image of her bandmate.

Microsoft later said the error had been the result of a new feature where its AI software would select an alternative image for its homepage snippets. The tech company declined to speak with Press Gazette for this piece.

Although it could be read as a cautionary tale against handing full control over news decisions to an algorithm, in this instance the AI is only repeating a mistake made many times before by human journalists.

## AI use in journalism is ‘important and growing’

At Reuters, AI technology is seen as “already important and growing”, but humans still have the final say - for now, according to global editor for media news strategy Jane Barrett. “We don’t let the machine talk di-

rectly to our clients yet,” she said.

Barrett said AI helps journalists by “taking away the drudgery” of tasks such as stock market reports and inputting sport match results. The machine does it faster and in multiple languages, saving time and resources.

“I’m delighted to give the boring jobs to the robots,” she said, adding: “It will free journalists up from the rote stuff to do the value-added stuff which is much more fun frankly.”

Reuters newsrooms use an AI tool called News Tracer to spot breaking news on Twitter and rank them by newsworthiness. Lynx Insight is used to identify trends in the publisher’s vast financial datasets and suggest stories to journalists. It can even be used to write sentences.

Opta provides Reuters journalists with sports data feeds, which can then be matched with metadata from images taken by the agency’s own photographers to stitch together video match summaries.

Reuters has even experimented with so-called “deep-fakes”, or synthetic media as it is known when positively applied, to create a virtual presenter based on one of their own journalists.

Understanding how such technology works will allow journalists to spot fakes, and AI is expected to play as much of a role in fighting disinformation as it does in proliferating it.

“I think AI is seen as the monster under the bed, but actually it’s already one of the tools that we are happy to use. It’s just working out how to redeploy those tools to better serve the problems that we have,” Barrett said.

She said AI tools such as facial recognition could soon be used to search through news archives and pull out material and images relevant to a news story being written by a reporter today.

“I think we will get to the stage where we don’t need a human journalist, but it will be up to each publication as to what they are happy to put through, and

there will be regular testing,” said Barrett.

This could see the return of now redundant print journalism roles, such as a copy desk manned by a human editor who could look through stories written by robots for readability and relevance.

## AI is ‘making the journalism better’

Media professor and Polis director Charlie Beckett, who heads up LSE’s Journalism AI project, echoes the view that AI is not there to replace journalists, but to help them, in what’s known as “augmented journalism”.

“It’s there to help journalists connect with customers, discover stories, write articles,” he said, adding: “These tools are seen as supplementing the journalists’ work and journalistic values.”

Beckett dismissed fears of a robot takeover, saying they “don’t exist anyway” and adding that “if your job can be replaced by an algorithm you have got to ask yourself why you were doing the job in the first place”.

“The 2001 Space Odyssey robot taking over - I don’t think we need to worry about it. I would be more worried about Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg taking over,” he noted.

Beckett elaborated: “The work being done with the technology is really pushing the boundaries. It’s making the journalism better, not just cheaper or more efficient. It’s about saying: ‘Look, we have got this great product, how can we make sure that people connect to it?’”

## Coronavirus trackers

The large amount of data generated about the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic has meant that newsrooms have been able to use AI to keep track of it in a way that a team of human journalists would have struggled to achieve.

Beckett said AI tools have given journalists “the time to do the human stories” on Covid-19, away from the number crunching, and that those stories are “better when done by humans rather than machines”.

Hook meanwhile said

that his Radar team had ramped up their content on Covid-19 figures, doubling its output to local newsrooms in recent weeks. The average number of views on articles has nearly doubled in the past month.

“The opportunity is there because of the amount of data being published,” said Hook, adding: “There has never been a data story that everyone has engaged with to this extent. We are interested to see whether this helps to drive interest in other data stories.”

## Fears that newsrooms will fall behind on AI

In AI, as in other parts of the news media, the role of the technology companies is hugely influential. Advanced AI software is not realistically going to be developed by a news-brand, but by a technology firm.

Both Beckett and Barrett said they feared journalism falling behind on this new trend and failing to shape its development.

“It’s clear that the world is going to be increasingly dependent on technology companies. That’s in every field, including news media,” said Beckett.

He said he hoped the news media “gets its act together so that it retains some control over the technology” and understands how it works.

“I think AI is going to affect pretty much every industry and it will take away jobs in every industry and I don’t think journalism will be immune from that. My hope is actually that journalism doesn’t fall behind,” noted Barrett.

She added: “We are short of cash as an industry. AI engineers are very sought after - most of them are being snapped up by Google or Facebook and the like.”

It’s not a robot takeover that journalists should fear, but failing to spot the direction of travel and being left behind.

Andrew Carter chips in, saying that humans still have the final say, for now - adding that he thinks the last two words here should be stressed emphatically and with great dismay.

He says: “As for AI use in search engines, it’s just opening the door for untrue propagated information to be fed to the opening mouths of wannabe hacks without any of them realising the manipulated adulterated fodder they are asked to consume and digest.”

“I say this because everyone knows that if you pay enough money your bait floats to the top of any search engine - and nobody can be bothered to look past the first few pages of a search which produces millions or billions of results,” he adds.

• **Article published courtesy of WAN-IFRA Executive News Service.**

## THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 99 00--

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

3 letters	RAT, EAT, BYE
4 letters	MERE, MENU, OSLO, OMAN, REIN HATE, MEED, ORES, BULL,
5 letters	AMPERE, RACHIS, DINER, NOBLE
6 letters	BUCKET, PLENARY, SOMALIA, TEASED
7 letters	BROWSER, BULGARIA, OMADHAUN
8 letters	EMINENCE, DYNAMITE
9 letters	CALAMITY,

**WORD-FIT**

**CROSSWORD**

**SOLUTIONS**

1	to reprimand	1	Italy’s Capital
5	sex that fertilizes the ovum	2	bed cover
6	unkind, cruel	3	infidel
9	Overpopulated country in Africa	4	human beings
13	Animal of Australia	7	Niger’s capital
14	to stay	8	chain around a prisoner’s ankle as a restraint
16	coloured tropical freshwater fish	10	insect which sucks
17	barrier constructed to hold back water	11	an Indian actor
19	stopped, ceased	12	barbaric sheep
20	small flat cake	15	friendly and sociable with fellow members not outsiders
22	highest point	17	dues
23	largest horned African antelopes	18	a walking stick
		19	used as an expression of pain
		21	large tailless primate

By Maggie 0755429240 telxmagz@gmail.com



## OUTSTANDING

## African produced TV series nominated at International Animation Film Festival

JOHANNESBURG

AFRICAN produced TV series, My Better World was selected for competition at the 2020 Anney International Animation Film Festival. It is the only fully African-produced project in its category, produced by Fundi Films in collaboration with Johannesburg-based MAAN Creative for Impact (Ed), formerly Discovery Learning Alliance.

My Better World draws upwards of 2 million viewers every week on Kenya's Citizen TV (with more countries to follow soon), and is part of an education programme in more than 1 500 schools across sub-Saharan Africa. The series has also recently won a Gold Telly Award, for craft in animation, and a Silver Telly Award for social impact in television.

The series producer, Chris Morgan of Fundi Films, says, "We were honoured to produce this landmark series. We spent three years working with a pan-African team of over 100

artists to bring it to life, and to see the team rewarded with an Anney nomination is amazing."

The series of 55 seven-minute episodes is one of the largest animated series created entirely in Africa. Each episode also includes a two-minute documentary showcasing inspiring role models from across Africa. "We had writers in Tanzania and Kenya, documentary crews in Nigeria, Ghana, Rwanda and others, and of course the incredible animators from MAAN Creative in Johannesburg." The series was produced in four languages, English, Swahili, Somali and Hausa, and is the subject of a World Bank study into the impact of the series on learners in Nigeria.

"We're thrilled that My Better World is an Official Selection for Anney - the world's highest-profile animation event," says MAAN Creative Co-Director, Michael Clark, who co-directed the animated segments of the series.

More than 30 South African anima-



My Better World characters on display

tors and artists worked on My Better World, and there are over 30 characters and voice artists in the show. "The Anney nomination is not only a highlight for us as a company, I think it is a very positive story for African story-telling and our local animation industry. It is quite a landmark project in many ways," says Clark.

He says the challenge was finding a way to translate a written life skills

curriculum into something compelling, within a tight budget. "We made use of 2D cut-out character animation in ToonBoom Harmony (a leading 2D animation software) as well as live-action background plates. This approach enabled a cost-effective solution that simultaneously gave a lot of depth to the show as well as grounding it in a believable world," adds Clark.

Aimed at teenagers, My Better World

tackles challenging subject matter, including issues like child marriage, so it was important to get the tone right. It had to be entertaining, educational, meet all the curriculum requirements and be sensitive to different cultural norms.

"It's been an incredible project to be part of," says Clark. "MAAN Creative is currently midway through creating our first totally original story, Sam the

Hedgehog, which is aimed at raising autism awareness, and we are hoping to find enough funding to finish the short film by the end of the year, to enter into next year's Anney International Animation Film Festival. Fundi Films is now working on a series focused on the impact of urbanisation in East Africa for the World Bank, and in response to Covid-19, is adapting My Better World for radio.

## GENEROUS

## Cape Town domestic worker runs food aid programme for neighbours

CAPE TOWN

WORRIED about her hungry neighbours suffering during the Covid-19 lockdown and job wipe-outs, Cape Town domestic worker Lauren Juries has started a soup kitchen in her flat in Ottery.

Roping in her mother, Estelle Stefanus, and her aunts, enormous pots of lentil stew and rice are cooked on their stove in their tiny kitchen in Regents Court under the banner of "Ottery Community Action Now" (Ottery Can).

By sunset, a long queue has formed outside the blocks of flats, which include children, and bowls and plates are filled, so that they don't have to go to bed hungry. "I'm on the ground and I see what they need," said Juries.

On Youth Day, a public holiday, the cooks were a bit ambitious and tried to cook more than usual, to cater for the extra numbers. However, the rings on the modest stove bent from the heaviness of the pots and so they had to straighten them out and lighten the load in the pots.

Juries is a domestic worker in Green Point, which is very far afield, and in Pinelands. The cleaning of houses and washing and ironing does make her tired, but she cannot bear the thought of neighbours going hungry. On her Backabuddy page to raise funds, she notes that Covid-19 has made life very hard for the residents of the blocks of flats.

"Isolation here is near-impossible, what with 4-12 people sharing a flat. The impact of lockdown on the people who live here is crippling. They have a roof over their heads, but no money to buy food and amenities. This is a community struggling for survival."

Even the gangsters of Lavender Hill are on lockdown. They also feel forgotten and desolate, with the GPS not even showing the location of their flats, making them feel even more invisible. It is for this reason that Juries loudly lobbies for more money, electricity units and food parcels for her community.

She also helps to connect the needy with people who are better off and have something to spare in a buddy programme,

called Amakhaya, that one of her employers told her about. In this programme, 44 needy families are matched with 44 families who are better off, and they look out for each other and check in on each other by phone, in line with physical distancing.

The people, who have something to spare, will send to those who are struggling with electricity units, or a retail shop voucher for groceries, or cash for other essentials. She also checks in on old people who struggle to use their phones, to make sure they are not isolated.

Juries is hoping her Backabuddy fund-raising page will hit R100 000, and she can make that money stretch very far. If you want to help, the link will take you to where you can sponsor a food parcel, or sponsor a pot of food for R250, or you can send a food voucher, or send electricity units.

For example, R500 can make a good hot meal for at least 300 people a day, and it can be used to buy electricity for those who need. They have discovered that the community prefers a hot



meal like a stew or soup as winter sets in, and not sandwiches, so her mom's stove is working overtime at the moment. "We are just helping hands - that's

what God wants from us, to be his hands and feet, to feed the community. I really enjoy it," she said.

Juries said that, when she

started Ottery Can, she went around the neighbourhood and prioritised homes where there were elderly people, sick people, and single parents as

beneficiaries, but the numbers have grown due to the current economic environment. "I am just doing my best to help," said Juries humbly.

## BACKLASH

## Indian actors supporting BLM movement are slammed online for 'selective outrage'

NEW DELHI

LAST week, actress Priyanka Chopra, like many celebrities, shared a lengthy Instagram post on the Black Lives Matter movement.

"There is so much work to be done and it needs to start at an individual level on a global scale. We all have a responsibility to educate ourselves and end this hate," she wrote alongside a picture featuring the words, "I can't breathe".

"End this race war here in the US, and around the world. Wherever you live, whatever your circumstances, no one deserves to die, especially at the hands of another because of their skin colour." There's just one problem, as critics were quick to point out - in the past, Chopra has endorsed skin-lightening creams. The Quantic actress was previously the face for a Garnier cream that promotes "fairness plus dark spots reduction."

The BLM movement has opened the door on conversations about race, skin colour and privilege, and not only in America. People around the world are seeing this as an opportunity to talk about problems within their

home countries.

In India, the movement has opened up a conversation about discrimination on the basis of skin colour, with many calling for its citizens to confront biases. And that includes calling out celebrities who have supported the BLM movement while simultaneously profiting off and endorsing skin-lightening products.

In 2017, Chopra stated that she regretted endorsing skin-lightening treatments. However, it didn't spare her from a wave of criticism following her BLM post. "Weren't you the face of Garnier's fairness cream advert? Bet you made a good sum by feeding into anti-blackness," read one such comment.

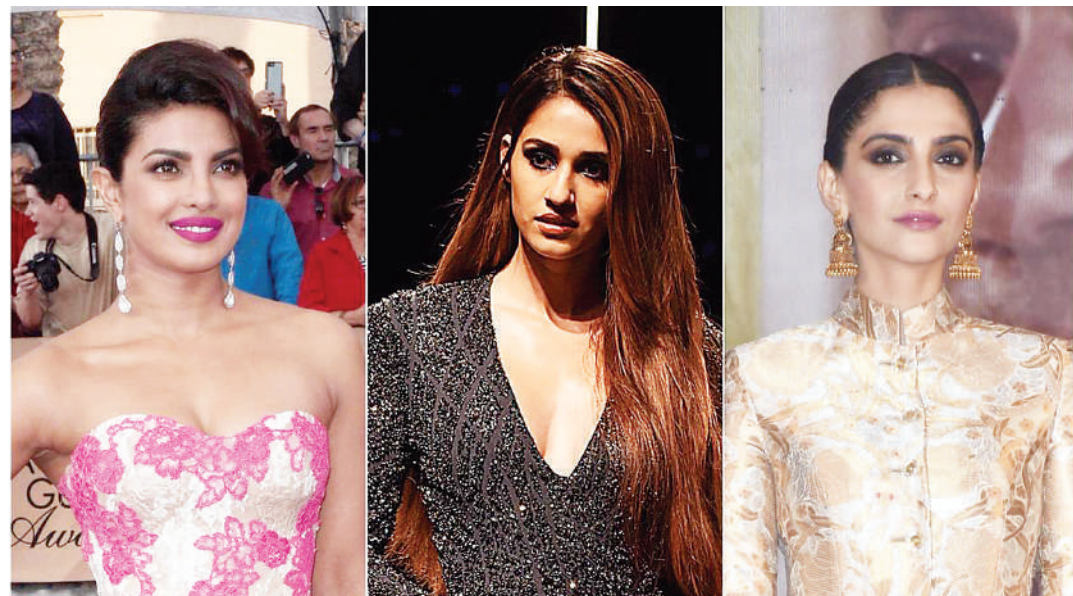
"Thanks for speaking out for black lives. But, maybe also stop supporting a skin bleaching cream which promotes anti-blackness," read another. The star has, at the time of publishing, not made any further comment on the issue. However, Chopra is not the only Indian celebrity to have been called out for showing their support for the BLM movement. Actress Disha Patani, who put up a post saying "all colours are beautiful", was reminded of her endorsement of a Ponds BB

cream that delivers "instant coverage plus spot-less fairness."

Sonam Kapoor Ahuja, who shared a quote by Desmond Tutu that states: "If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor," has been the face of L'Oreal's White Perfect Re-Lightening cream. Its tagline? "Flawless. Spotless. Pearl perfect fairness."

Stars such as Shah Rukh Khan, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Vidya Balan, John Abraham, Preity Zinta, Shahid Kapoor and Genelia D'Souza have all endorsed fairness products in the past. Other Bollywood stars who have voiced opinions on BLM have been accused of also benefiting from an industry that typically favours lighter skin tones. In Bollywood, "brownfacing" - the act of darkening a star's skin tone when playing characters from disadvantaged backgrounds - is common, while lighter skin tones are preferred for lead roles. Over the years, several dark-skinned actors have spoken out about getting sidelined for big roles because of the colour of their skin.

In light of the brewing controversy, it was Abhay Deol's posts that resonated with online audiences. The Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara



Priyanka Chopra, Disha Patani and Sonam Kapoor Ahuja are some of the Bollywood stars who have received backlash after speaking out about the BLM movement.

star called out cosmetics companies promoting skin-lightening products while adding the pertinent question: "Do you think Indian celebrities will stop endorsing fairness creams now?" He also shared tactics used by these cosmetics companies in the past.

"Fairness creams in India have evolved over the years, from being fairness creams to now using euphemisms like 'skin brightening / whitening', or 'lightening creams'. Most brands no longer want to be associated directly with be-

ing termed as 'fairness creams'. So now we have brands selling 'HD glow', 'white beauty', 'white glow', 'fine fairness', and so on," he pointed out.

The move has been hailed by celebrities and fans alike. Kubbra Sait, of Sacred Games fame, commented with her experience of refusing to associate with products that had anything to do with lightening the skin. Most recently, Kangana Ranaut backed up Deol's sentiments about the hypocrisy of celebrities supporting BLM while having promoted such products themselves.



## ENTREPRENEURSHIP

# Babalwa sold her car to start a sanitary pads brand that's now building a R67 million factory

CAPE TOWN

IN South Africa, many girls miss some days of school each month because they can't afford sanitary pads. Being unable to meet this basic need can significantly alter the lives of those who are affected as they are forced to find alternative means, which may often pose health risks.

Having seen the need for sanitary products, particularly for young girls, Babalwa Mbuku (40) from Mthatha started her own sanitary pads company, Ntombam, in 2017. She was inspired by a young girl who once said she preferred to get free sanitary pads from government instead of a free education.

Babalwa then decided to do her research in the Eastern Cape to assess how many schools and children have the same problem. "I discovered that around the Eastern Cape some children use pieces of cloth, aloes and others would use cow dung as sanitary pads to absorb the flow of their monthly menstruation due to high sanitary costs. None of those methods are good for sensitive areas," she says.

Babalwa started the brand from her pocket, making whatever sacrifice was necessary to get started. "I went as far as selling my car. We do not need funding from major corporations to start investing in our companies," she says. Ntombam imports the pads from South Korea and they are sold in 37 retail stores in the Eastern Cape and Western Cape. The company hopes to expand to other parts of the country. Ntombam also



Babalwa is congratulated by Miss Universe, Zozibini Tunzi (R) for her work at Ntombam.

has sanitizers, wet wipes and a fashion label.

During her research, the 40-year-old business woman also noticed that many girls do not have proper panties to wear while others do not have them at all. She plans to address this issue soon. "We are planning to add one-size-fits all panties to our range of products," she says.

Babalwa has received some support for her business, having partnered with Vodacom in a CSI project in the Eastern Cape and being part of an incubator programme by the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities. Ntombam is in the process of building a hi-tech sanitary towel manufacturing plant in East London through an Eastern Cape Development Corporation (ECDC) facilitated deal in partnership with South Korean investor, Mview Global.

The R67m facility should be operational in June next year. Babalwa's journey has not been

easy but she is proud of what she has achieved so far. "I have failed here and there, but I am a very patient person. I want to create jobs and empower youth even if it takes me 20 years to get there," says Babalwa. Babalwa is also a menstruation coach to teenagers, and says many girls are not educated about menstruation and their bodies while others develop insecurities and start having low self-esteem.

"They do not understand the change in their bodies, and they need guidance. We teach them to take pride in their girlhood. I have a personal relationship with my clients. In the morning, others wake me up with video calls to talk about what they are going through, and I have had parents say they can see improvements in their children's lives," says Babalwa. Babalwa was in the top 25 of the 100 Most Influential Young South Africans of 2019 for social enterprise and philanthropy.

## SURVIVOR

# Gym owner on surviving Covid crisis

NAIROBI

ON the day I'm visiting Saints Health Club in Nairobi to interview its CEO Patrick Namwambah, his phone barely stops beeping. Tens of clients are calling to enquire about equipment, both for hire and sale. At one point, Patrick excuses himself to demonstrate to a customer how to install an indoor cycling bike at home.

"I'm decommissioning 50 percent of the equipment," he says as we settle down on planks in an empty room that normally serves as the fitness studio. "I'll replace it when business is fully back," he says.

Free weights, cross trainers, stability balls, and exercise bikes are on high demand at the moment, he tells me. It may seem drastic, but Patrick who also runs Fulana Sports, which operates gyms at All Saints Cathedral and the Treasury, says he has studied the feasibility of this strategy for months.

"It's pointless to hold on to equipment I won't need for an unknown period of time. Many people are training at home. Why not lease it out or even sell to them?" It's not difficult to understand his logic: he has utility bills and salaries of his few remaining assistants – to pay, and a family to fend for.

When the government ordered all public places and non-essential businesses shut as a containment measure of coronavirus, Patrick asked himself a flurry of questions. What would happen to his crew? Where would he take the equipment? Would his clients ever come back? Coming hard on the heels of a new investment worth more than Sh3 million, he had no money to keep his employees on the payroll.

"We had to declare redundancy and to renegotiate payment plans for our bank loans. Operating in a church environment has been our saving grace. The landlord was kind enough to suspend rent." The bee in his bonnet though has been the fluidity of the crisis. Patrick had foresight. Long before the virus arrived in Kenya, Saints Health Club had developed a 20-point safety framework – by drawing lessons from gyms in countries that were al-



Patrick Namwambah the owner of Saints Health Club and Bima Health Club in Nairobi.

ready battling the virus. "Our members were jittery. We had to guarantee their safety at the gym," he recounts. Within weeks, the virus arrived and the business landscape was turned on its head.

"We froze all subscriptions. It was only fair to our members, even though it hit us hard," he adds, tugging at a hair from his obviously overgrown beard. If anything captures his hard luck for the past three months, his beard does the job. I'm curious to know: has he been coming to work? "I've reported for six days every week since we closed down. We have a strong internet connection here. I come to study what other fitness centres around the world are doing to cope," he says.

The world over, fitness coaches have been offering virtual training to consumers. Patrick though says that after analysing its suitability, he ruled out this option. "Essentially, we'd be offering free content to web users." Instead, he and his team of instructors have been generating instructional material in video and PDF every week to share exclusively with members.

"We also gave them the option to rent out some equipment for use at home," he says. Three months later, things are starting to look up. Many gyms are resuming operations, albeit with a litany of safety measures to observe. But as I gather from him, the storm is far from over.

With slightly over 200 members, the gym ordinarily accommodates 50 people at any given time. With

social distancing to observe, only 15 people will train at the facility for every 90 minutes. "Operations will be schedule-based," he explains.

"Unlike before where members simply came and signed in, they'll now have to book a slot to exercise." To avoid straining equipment, locker rooms, and showers, male and female members will be admitted on a 5:4 ratio.

Operating time has also been contracted drastically. Instead of the usual 5.30 am to 9.30 pm running time, the gym will close at 3.30 pm. "This is to allow us to clean and disinfect the facility for use the following day. Our crew will also have enough time to get home before the curfew starts."

Will members still share equipment? And how will they ensure that hygiene protocols are adhered to? "Screening will be mandatory. We're using hospital-grade disinfectants and sanitisers. We'll also provide our members with wipes to clean the equipment. Our staff will be monitoring everything at the gym."

All subscriptions have now been reactivated. "If all goes according to plan, we hope to have 90 percent of our members back between 60 and 90 days," Patrick says. He admits, however, that this will be a gradual process, and in phases. "Our performance in phase one will help us to develop guidelines for phase two."

People have lost jobs, others have been forced to take pay cuts. Some employers have withdrawn benefits such as gym membership for their employees.

Pushed to the brink, the middle class has expunged their expenditure on comforts.

I wonder if Patrick is worried that some of his clients may discontinue their subscription. "Losing members hasn't crossed my mind. We have loyal clients," he says, and adds with brisk confidence: "We hope that they'll all return."

How will he recoup his lost revenue? Might he consider reviewing the rates?

"Lowering the rates doesn't guarantee an increase in subscription," he says. While it is fair for the gym to hike the rate, Patrick notes that the move "would be suicidal given the tough economic times." In the future, the gym hopes to go virtual.

"We're building an elaborate video library. Soon, we'll start giving virtual offerings so that our members can exercise on the go. They don't need to come to the facility." What's the longest he has gone without training? It turns out Patrick has not exercised all year. I tell him it is hard to believe if his muscly frame is anything to go by. He laughs almost reflexively, lifting the gloom that has been sitting among us as the third person.

"I injured my Achilles tendon in January when preparing for Mt Kilimanjaro marathon," he recalls. "It took me 12 weeks of healing without training to avoid tearing the tendon." Just when the enthusiastic marathoner had recovered, he developed blood clots in his lungs and had to be hospitalised for two weeks.

## COMPETITIVENESS

## Should 'Black Lives Matter', 'I Can't Breathe' be allowed as trademarks?

LONDON

MANCHESTER-BASED businessman Georgios Demetriou of Licence to Thrill Ltd (the Applicant) recently applied to register the phrase 'Black Lives Matter' under trade mark application no. 3497647 and 'I Can't Breathe' under trade mark application no. 3497640 at the United Kingdom Intellectual Property Office (UKIPO). These phrases are associated with the current worldwide protests following the death of George Floyd in the USA.

The mark 'Black Lives Matter' was filed for in black and white relation to various clothing goods. The mark 'I Can't Breathe' was filed for in black and white for a wider range of goods and classes, including fundraising for charity, charity wristbands and articles of clothing.

Same was filed with the disclaimer "This trademark is to be used for charitable work and not for personal gain on the back on recent unfortunate events." These trade mark applications were filed on 6 June 2020.

The Applicant indicated that his intention is to secure the trademarks, and to launch a non-profit organisation to help disadvantaged children. If the trade marks proceed to grant, he wishes to seek a royalty fee from other entities that wish to use the phrases in the United Kingdom.

The World Trade Mark Review reported that a number of trade mark applications have recently been filed in the European Union, United Kingdom and United States for the term 'George Floyd' and phrase 'I Can't Breathe'.

These UK trade mark applications have been criticised by the IP fraternity, for various reasons including that the filings are exploiting a current politically charged situation in the USA.

With regard to the 'Black Lives Matter' and 'I Can't Breathe' marks it is argued that the applications are one that have arguably been made in bad faith and is contrary to public morality.

Even if allowed to proceed to registration, which is highly doubtful, some argue that the enforcement and commercialisation of same would be extremely insensitive and likely to cause considerable public alarm and offence.

Others have argued that the applications cannot act as trademarks and on this basis cannot serve as a badge of origin or be monopolised by any one entity.

Others believe that upon examination of the trade mark, the UKIPO will view the mark 'Black Lives Matter' as a "non-distinctive term which describes a social movement which should be free for all to use."

It is doubtful whether anyone can monopolise the use of such a term as a registered trade mark.

In this regard, the common understanding is that a trade mark is defined as distinguishing one entity's business from another. Same must serve as a badge of origin.

## UNsung HEROES

# Role of breadwinning women still largely underplayed in the home

WASHINGTON

LONG gone are the days when it was the norm for women to stay at home doing household chores while their husbands went to work.

Since the rise of the feminist movement in the 1960s, gender roles have slowly been challenged. Data from the American Community Survey suggests that among married heterosexual couples in the US, a quarter of wives are the primary breadwinners in their family. In 1960, the share was only 6%.

An increasing number of women no longer adhere to the idea of the feminine ideal of the stay-at-home mother

and have entered the workforce or own businesses. Many of those who choose not to go into work or businesses do so by choice, rather than by imposition through societal norms.

This trend is paralleled in many parts of the world, where women in heterosexual marriages are increasingly earning more than their husbands, or in some cases, becoming the sole providers for their families.

Unfortunately, as one study found, "when the wife is the primary breadwinner, a plurality of women (41%) still take a lead role in housework. However, when the husband is the primary breadwinner, only 14% do more house-

work than their wives."

This leaves women with more unpaid work on their plate, which may explain why, when it comes to family-life satisfaction, women who earn more than their husbands report lower satisfaction than their peers who have a lower income than their spouses.

As gender stereotypes and norms have shifted in the home and workplace, couples have had to navigate new power dynamics - with women taking a happiness penalty.

While some men are not opposed to their wives or partners being the breadwinners, many are not fully supportive of the shift or reversal of tradi-

tional roles.

In fact, according to The Atlantic, couples are reluctant to acknowledge the woman as the breadwinner when she outearns her husband, while the term is used to refer to a man without reluctance.

Why is this so? One reason is that couples "continue to idealize and privilege a family structure with a male breadwinner and a female homemaker. Recognizing women as breadwinners threatens the idea that a family fits into that mold. When wives earn more than husbands, couples often reframe the value of each spouse's work to elevate the husband's work as being

more prestigious and downplaying the importance of the woman's job," reads the report in The Atlantic.

The complexity of this power dynamic can present several challenges for the relationship. Once this "provider" role has been stripped away or diminished substantially, some men feel shame instead of being empowered by knowing that two working adults doubly cushion the family.

There might also be an unhealthy and heightened feeling of competitiveness in the relationship. These issues are often compounded by external pressures and expectations of society, friends, and family.



CENSURE

Fashion production is but modern slavery: 5 things you can do to help

PARIS

make fashion clothing.

WITH April's respective Earth Day and Fashion Revolution week both behind us, fashion lovers need to reflect on how their consumption has an undeniably negative impact on both planet and people.

Fashion is rife with gender inequality, environmental degradation and human rights abuses – all of which are intrinsically interconnected. The Fashion Revolution campaign began because of the unresponsiveness of the fashion sector to the continuous tragedies that occur in the making of clothing, such as the death of 1138 garment workers when the Rana Plaza factory collapsed in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on April 24, 2013.

Frida, Anniken and Ludwig live, breathe and dream fashion. But now, they're trading their comfortable lives for those of Cambodian garment workers. As well as working in the factories, they have to survive on \$3 a day. Fashion Revolution aims to bring awareness to these injustices by highlighting the hands and faces of those behind the things we wear. Handicraft artisan production is the second largest employer across the Global South.

India counts some 34 million handicraft artisans. Women represent the overwhelming majority of these artisans and today's garment workers. The Global Slavery index estimates 40 million people are living in modern slavery today, many of whom are in the Global South working in the supply chains of western clothing brands.

Modern slavery, though not defined in law, "covers a set of specific legal concepts including forced labour, debt bondage, forced marriage, slavery and slavery-like practices and human trafficking." It refers to situations like forced to work overtime without being paid, children being forced to pick cotton by the Uzbekistan government when they should be in school, women being threatened with violence if they don't complete an order in time and workers having their passports taken away until they work off what it cost for their transportation to bring them to the factory, their living quarters and food.

Fashion is one of five key industries implicated in modern slavery by advocacy organisations. G20 countries imported \$US127.7 billion fashion garments identified as at-risk products of modern slavery. Canada has been identified as one of 12 G20 countries not taking action against modern slavery.

Colonialism and environmental racism must be addressed if we are to tackle climate change, gender inequality, environmental degradation and human rights abuses.

The poorest people on the planet and their cheap labour are exploited to

Transparency and traceability is key

Transparency and traceability by companies is key. Transparency involves openness, communication and accountability. As citizens of this planet, we need to demand transparency and accountability. More than half of "fast" fashion produced is disposed of in less than one year. A truckload of clothing is wasted every second across the world.

The average number of times a garment is worn before it ceases to be used has decreased by 36 per cent in 15 years. Polyester is the most common fibre used today, as a result, half a million tonnes of plastic microfibres are released per year from washed clothes – 16 times more than plastic microbeads from cosmetics – contributing to ocean pollution.

Five things you can do now

Ask questions: #whomademyclothes?

Ask questions, educate yourself and act consciously. Who made your clothes? How will this product end its life? How long am I going to use this product for? Do I really need it? What is it made from? Does the price reflect the effort and resources that went into this?

Wear what you have

Don't throw away your clothes, shoes and accessories. There are ways to keep them out of landfills (reuse, resell, swap, repair, tailor, donation, hand me downs). Can it be repaired? Tailored? Learn to care for your clothes, the longer we keep wearing items, the more we reduce the emissions footprint of our closet.

Find alternative ways to be fashionable

Buy vintage, reduce, rent, resell, reuse, swap, repair, tailor or share. Think about the impact you want to make and whether you can sustain that? E.g. reducing plastic use, using less animal products or supporting local businesses.

Build a personal style Knowing what works for you, your body and your lifestyle will have you feeling fabulous all the time (regardless of what the latest "trends" are).

Support ethical producers – but only if you need something

You can't buy your way into sustainability. Overconsumption has led us to an unsustainable ecosystem. We need to reconsider what are "our needs" are vs. "our wants." The abundance offered to consumers is far greater than any need. Consider Livia Firth's #30wears campaign which encourages consumers to ask: Will I wear this item a minimum of 30 times? "If the answer is yes, then buy it. But you'd be surprised how many times you say no."

GREEN-ECONOMY

L'Oreal out to use recycled plastics and renewable energy only by 2030

PARIS

COSMETICS giant L'Oreal has outlined its environmental ambitions for the next 10 years. The company plans to use 100 per cent renewable energy by 2025 and aims to use entirely recycled or bio-based plastic for packaging by 2030.

And, by 2030 the company said the greenhouse gas emissions of each finished product will be reduced by 50 per cent (when compared to 2016 rates). L'Oreal owns hundreds of brands such as Lancome, Kiehl's, Garnier, Essie, Shu Uemura, YSL beauty, Giorgio Armani beauty, NYX and Maybelline.

L'Oreal heiress Françoise Bettencourt Meyers is the richest woman in the world. She has a reported net worth of \$58.6 billion. "L'Oreal's sustainable revolution is entering a new era. The challenges the planet is facing are unprecedented, and it is essential to accelerate our efforts to preserve a safe operating space for humanity," said L'Oreal chief executive, Jean-Paul Agon in a statement.



L'Oreal heiress Françoise Bettencourt Meyers speaking to journalists.

"We know that the biggest challenges remain to come, and L'Oreal will stay faithful to its ambition: operate within the limits of the planet."

The label that will indicate environmental impact of a product

The company plans to use 100 per cent recycled or bio-based plastic in its packaging by 2030, as well as introducing a label that indicates the environmental impact of a product.

The company's Product Environ-

mental and Social Impact Labelling system will be available to see on a product's web page rather than its physical packaging. It will be a score on a scale from A to E, with an A being considered the best in terms of environmental impact. The first brand to implement this in 2020 will be Garnier: it will then be rolled out across different brands and territories.

In another bid to "respect planetary boundaries", by 2025, all the company's manufacturing, administrative and research sites aim to reach carbon neutrality by improving energy efficiency and using 100 per cent renewable energy.

In a statement, L'Oreal group said: "Planetary boundaries" are limits, which, if crossed, will compromise the Earth's capacity as a habitat for human development. Respecting

a safe operating space for humanity must be a priority in the decades to come, as scientists unanimously agree, which is why L'Oreal aims to transition to a way of operating its entire business within the limits of the planet."

Where the €150 million fund will go...

These new sustainability goals are separate to the €150 million that the company allocated to address urgent social and environmental issues in May 2020. Of this, a total of €100m is being used to act upon key environmental challenges. Split into two funds, €50 million will be used to finance damaged natural marine and forest ecosystems restoration projects through a fund called the L'Oreal Fund for Nature Regeneration. The second €50 million will be directed to financing projects.



ISIDINGO MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

ITV PGM SCHEDULE	19:00	19:30	20:00	21:15	21:45	22:15	23:00	23:30	00:30	02:00	13:45	16:00	16:20	17:00	18:00	18:15	19:00	19:30	21:00	21:15	22:15	00:00																	
<b>SATURDAY 20 June</b>	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: Mizengwe	16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe	16:20 Shamsam za Pwani	18:00 Jiji Letu	18:15 Korean drama: Hwarang	19:00 Jungu Kuu	19:30 Shika Bamba	21:00 Art and lifestyle	21:30 ITV TOP 10	22:10 Hawavumi lakini wamo	22:45 Isidingo rpt	01:30 DWTV															
<b>SUNDAY 21 June</b>	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: Apolo	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 Zaidi	22:05 Bongo Movie: Kiboko Kabisa	00:05 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost																
<b>MONDAY 22 June</b>	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: Apolo	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 Zaidi	22:05 Bongo Movie: Kiboko Kabisa	00:05 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost																
<b>TUESDAY 23 June</b>	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 Kumekucha	7:30 HABARI	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	8:55 Habari za saa	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	9:30 Isidingo	09:55 Habari za saa	10:00 Watoto wetu	10:30 Jungu Kuu rpt	10:55 Habari za saa	11:00 The Base rpt	11:55 Habari za saa	12:00 Al Jazeera	12:30 Afa ya jamii rpt	12:55 Habari za saa	13:00 Kipindi maalum: TMDA na Jamii	13:30 Shika Bamba rpt	13:55 Habari za saa	14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	14:55 Habari za saa	15:00 Meza Huru	16:30 Watoto wetu	17:00 The Base	18:00 Jiji Letu	18:10 Yu wapi	18:15 Mapishi rpt	18:30 Uchumi na biashara	19:00 Jarida la wanawake	19:30 Isidingo	20:00 Haban	21:00 Kipindi maalum: Equip Tanzania	21:15 Tanzania Yetu	21:45 Ripoti Maalum	22:30 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost	23:00 Habari	23:30 The Base	00:30 DWTV
<b>WEDNESDAY 24 June</b>	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 Kumekucha	7:30 HABARI	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	8:55 Habari za saa	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	9:30 Isidingo	09:55 Habari za saa	10:00 Watoto wetu	10:30 Uchumi na biashara	10:55 Habari za saa	11:00 The Base rpt	11:55 Habari za saa	12:00 Al Jazeera	12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt	12:55 Habari za saa	13:00 Dakika 45	13:45 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Utawala bora na utumishi	13:55 Habari za saa	14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	14:55 Habari za saa	15:00 Meza huru	16:30 Watoto Wetu	17:00 The Base	18:00 Jiji Letu	18:15 Korean drama rpt: The great queen Seonduk	19:00 Ijue Sheria	19:30 Isidingo	20:00 Habari	21:00 Kipima Joto	23:00 Habari	23:30 The Base	00:30 DWTV					
<b>THURSDAY 25 June</b>	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 Kumekucha	7:30 HABARI	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	8:55 Habari za saa	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	9:30 Isidingo	9:55 Habari za saa	10:00 Watoto	10:30 Shamba lulu rpt	10:55 Habari za saa	11:00 The Base rpt	11:55 Habari za saa	12:00 Al Jazeera	12:30 Afa ya jamii rpt	12:55 Habari za saa	13:00 Kipindi maalum: Equip Tanzania rpt	13:30 Tanzania yetu rpt	13:55 Habari za saa	14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	15:00 Meza huru	16:00 Watoto Wetu	17:00 The Base	18:00 Jiji Letu	18:15 Mapishi	18:30 Jagina	19:00 Usafiri wako	19:30 Isidingo	20:00 Habari	21:00 Malumbano ya hoja	23:00 Habari	23:30 The Base	00:30 DWTV					
<b>FRIDAY 26 June</b>	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 Kumekucha	7:30 HABARI	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	8:55 Habari za saa	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	9:30 Isidingo	10:00 Watoto wetu	10:30 Usafiri wako rpt	11:00 The Base	12:00 Al Jazeera	12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco	13:00 Jagina rpt	13:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt	14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	15:00 Meza huru	16:30 Watoto Wetu	17:00 The Base	17:30 Ibada ya kiislamu	18:00 Jiji Letu	18:15 Mizengwe rpt	18:30 Shamba lulu	19:00 Kipindi Maalum: TMDA na jamii	19:30 Isidingo	20:00 Habari	21:05 Kipima Joto	23:00 Habari	23:30 The Base	00:30 DWTV									
<b>SATURDAY 27 June</b>	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 Chetu ni chetu rpt	12:15 The Great Queen Seonduk	13:00 Korean drama rpt: Hwarang	13:45 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe	16:20 Igizo: Mtego	17:00 Shamsam za Pwani	18:00 Jiji Letu	18:15 Korean drama: Hwarang	19:00 Jungu Kuu	19:30 Shika Bamba	21:00 Art and lifestyle	21:30 ITV TOP 10	22:10 Hawavumi lakini wamo	22:45 Isidingo rpt	01:30 DWTV															
<b>SUNDAY 28 June</b>	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: Apple	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 Zaidi	22:05 Bongo Movie: Kiboko Kabisa	00:05 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost																



Some leading fashion brands on display at a boutique.



## WORLD

## Increasing gatherings, lack of social distancing lead to US COVID-19 cases surge

WASHINGTON

NEW COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations are rising at alarming rates in the United States recently, and several states have reported record daily spikes in confirmed cases.

Increasing gatherings and lack of social distancing amid reopenings nationwide have led to the deterioration of the pandemic in the United States, a leading epidemiologist told Xinhua on Thursday.

All 50 states have begun to reopen after the coronavirus thrust the country into lockdown starting in March. Mass gatherings are now on a rise, and increasing numbers of people, especially the young population, tend not to keep social distances, said Zhang Zuofeng, a professor of epidemiology and associate dean for research with the school of public health at University of California, Los Angeles.

"Meanwhile, some Americans remain highly resistant to wearing masks in public areas, thus they cannot well protect themselves and people around them. This is another important factor leading to the record-high daily increases," Zhang told Xinhua.

Nationwide, more than 2.4 million people have been infected with the novel coronavirus, and over 122,000 have died as of Thursday afternoon, according to data from Johns Hopkins University. The United States reported on Wednesday its largest one-day total since the start of the pandemic: 36,880 new cases, more than two months after the previous high, according to The New York Times.

The tally of new cases, based on the newspaper's database, showed that the outbreak was stronger than ever. The elevated numbers are a result of worsening conditions across much of the country, as well as increased testing.



People enjoy the beach in San Francisco, the United States, May 26, 2020. (Xinhua)

The recent resurgence is concentrated largely in the South and West of the country. States including Florida, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Texas reported their highest single-day totals on Wednesday.

California, the country's most populous state and the first to implement a state-wide lockdown to combat the coronavirus outbreak, is setting daily records for new cases this week.

Texas, one of the fastest states to ease its shutdown, halted steps to reopen its economy on Thursday after a sharp rise in recent cases.

As the disruptive coronavirus hits the country, there is a silver lining: the growth rate of COVID-19 cases in over a dozen states, including some previous hotspots, is declining, such as New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Michigan, according to Zhang.

"This shows that as the infection rate of the population increased, certain protection or immunity has established,

which will help slow down the incidence of COVID-19," Zhang noted.

"The next couple of weeks are going to be critical in our ability to address those surges that we're seeing in Florida, in Texas, in Arizona and in other states – they're not the only ones having difficulty," said Anthony Fauci, the U.S. government's top infectious disease expert, on Tuesday.

If the United States does not get control of the coronavirus pandemic by fall, "you're essentially chasing after a forest fire," Fauci told the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

Xinhua

## Trump administration asks Supreme Court to axe Obamacare

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Donald Trump's administration has asked the U.S. Supreme Court to invalidate the Obamacare law introduced by his predecessor that added millions to the healthcare safety net but has been a major political controversy.

Government advocate Noel Francisco argued in a filing late on Thursday that the Affordable Care Act (ACA) - one of former President Barack Obama's signature achievements - became invalid after the previous, Republican-led Congress axed parts of it.

"Nothing the 2017 Congress did demonstrates it would have intended the rest of the ACA to continue to operate in the absence of these three integral provisions," said Francisco, who leads the Justice Department's Office of the Solicitor General.

Solicitor General.

"No further analysis is necessary; once the individual mandate and the guaranteed-issue and community-rating provisions are invalidated, the remainder of the ACA cannot survive."

The legal push is sure to be an important political battleground in the presidential election, where Trump is seeking re-election against the challenge of Democratic candidate Joe Biden in a November vote.

"President Trump and the Republicans' campaign to rip away the protections and benefits of the Affordable Care Act in the middle of the coronavirus crisis is an act of unfathomable cruelty," said Democratic House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

"If President Trump gets his way, 130 million Americans with pre-



existing conditions will lose the ACA's lifesaving protections and 23 million Americans will lose their health coverage entirely. There is no legal justification and no moral

excuse for the Trump Administration's disastrous efforts to take away Americans' health care."

**BIDEN CALLS MOVE "CALLOUS"**

The United States is the nation worst-hit by COVID-19, with more than 124,000 deaths and 2.4 million infections.

It was the ACA that has prohibited health insurers from denying coverage to Americans with pre-existing health conditions.

"It's cruel, it's heartless, it's callous," Biden said in a campaign speech on Thursday of the move to gut Obamacare.

Trump has criticized healthcare costs and coverage under Obamacare and has been promising since his 2016 campaign to replace it with a different plan.

Republicans view the law as ex-

cessive government intrusion into the healthcare market. They argue that the system is broken anyway and that they will help more people gain coverage by repealing the law while working to minimize disruptions to those who depend on it.

"Obamacare has been an unlawful failure and further illustrates the need to focus on patient care," White House spokesman Judd Deere was quoted as saying by the Washington Post after Thursday's filing.

"The American people deserve for Congress to work on a bipartisan basis with the president to provide quality, affordable care."

The Trump administration's filing was made in support of a challenge to the ACA by a coalition of Republican governors.

Agencies

## UN envoy optimistic about peace prospects in Afghanistan

UNITED NATIONS

THE top UN envoy for Afghanistan on Thursday expressed optimism about the peace prospects in Afghanistan, saying talks between the government and the Taliban could begin in July.

"I am cautiously optimistic that the talks between the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Taliban negotiation teams will indeed start in the next few weeks in Doha, during the month of July," Deborah Lyons, the UN secretary-general's special representative for Afghanistan, told the Security Council.

"As the two sides embark on what will likely be a long and complex series of talks, I have encouraged them to show the necessary flexibility and foresight, the commitment to peace and most importantly, compassion for their people, that will be needed to bring these negotiations to a successful conclusion," she said.

The announcement of a three-day Eid al-Fitr cease-fire by the Taliban and the Afghan government

led to a welcome and much-needed reduction in violence, which is essential to an environment conducive for peace talks and will pave the way for an eventual permanent cease-fire.

But the recent spiraling levels of violence threaten this process, she noted. Lyons saw encouraging commitment by the two sides on the issue of prisoner releases, which is an important confidence-building measure that has created momentum toward the negotiations.

"As I am speaking to you now, we are in the final stages, and it is noteworthy that both sides have agreed that the (peace) talks could start within a week of the completion of the prisoner releases. But again, this must be commensurate with a reduction in violence," she said.

Lyons recognized the efforts of the United States, Qatar, and a number of other regional countries in bringing the Afghan government and the Taliban to this point. "We all look forward to the formal commencement of the negotiations.

The United Nations stands ready



to support these direct talks, as required, and I have been in discussion with both sides to identify and address their needs going forward. We are working now very closely with a number of countries to build a network of support for the talks and for the parties, as needed."

The best chance for a durable settlement rests on a broad consensus, reflecting the aspiration and concerns of all citizens, she said.

Both sides have reached out to various constituencies to seek their views on peace. It is indeed crucial to develop inclusive structures for peace talks that allow the meaningful participation of women, youth, minorities and victims of war.

It is important that the rights of victims are addressed during the negotiations and approaches for reconciliation are considered, said Lyons. She was encouraged by a strong resolve from the regional countries to support Afghanistan in its quest for a peaceful settlement.

"The region's active engagement and support to the peace process will be essential, as they, in addition to the Afghans, have much to gain from peace and stability," she said. "I have already held a series of engagements with partners from the region and beyond, and am confident that together we will foster a constructive atmosphere for the peace process."

Support from the region is also available to advance strong economic and trade cooperation and connectivity as Afghanistan moves into a new period of stabilization and toward greater self-reliance, she said.

Lyons voiced concern over the impact of COVID-19 on the livelihood of Afghans. "At the same time as peace rises out there on the horizon, COVID-19 is casting a huge shadow over Afghan daily life," she said. The socio-economic impact of weeks of lockdown, reduced economic activity and loss of remittances will be deep and long-lasting. Afghanistan faces the daunting challenge of seeking continued international financial support at a time of unprecedented financial uncertainty, including in many of the traditional donor capitals, she noted.

The global pandemic also poses unique challenges for the operational posture of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, which Lyons leads, and has limited its ability to fully deliver on its mandate, she said.

In light of the scale of the crisis and the crippling economic consequences, the UN humanitarian response plan for Afghanistan has been updated to incorporate the COVID-19 requirements for 2020. In total, 1.1 billion U.S. dollars is now required, she said.

MOSCOW

## US was aware its INF-related demands addressed to Russia were unrealistic – Bolton

THE United States was aware from the outset that Russia would reject the demands Washington put forward as a precondition for preserving the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, as follows from a book of reminiscences by the former presidential national security adviser John Bolton entitled *The Room Where It Happened: A White House Memoir*, to be released on Tuesday.

Bolton says gaining NATO allies' support was an important stage of pulling out from the INF Treaty. The issue was discussed with NATO's Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg ahead of talks in

Moscow in October 2018. Stoltenberg expressed concern the US pullout might split the European countries, but, as Bolton says, he promised that Washington's decision would not entail threats to Europe.

In the same conversation with Stoltenberg Bolton acknowledged that there were no chances whatsoever Russia might give in to US demands and agree to eliminate the missiles that Washington pointed at as a violation of the treaty.

"As for Russia, did anyone seriously believe they would junk existing assets that violated the treaty, especially



since China's growing missile threat

along its Asian borders was likely driving Moscow as much or more than what it was seeking to achieve in Europe?" he writes.

Also, Bolton recalls he recommended to Trump to try to agree with Russia on a simultaneous pullout from the INF Treaty. "I suggested, why didn't I ask ... that the two countries withdraw mutually; this approach could ... allow us to announce an agreement with Russia on something of importance," Bolton says.

Trump, however, said, he did not want to do that and insisted on the United States' prompt withdrawal.

Also, Bolton remarks it was totally unclear to him if Trump fully realized the gist of the INF and the fact that it concerned not nuclear potentials, but only delivery vehicles.

Bolton claims he was the one who played the decisive role in the pullout from the INF Treaty.

According to his recollections, he had already discussed this decision with the then Secretary of Defense James Mattis and Secretary of State Michael Pompeo before he briefed the president on Russia's "violations" of the treaty. Trump demanded quitting

## South Africa faces daunting task in curbing COVID-19

CAPE TOWN

THE rapid spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in South Africa has raised questions over whether the virus is spiralling out of control.

Health Minister Zweli Mkhize said on Wednesday that there have been 5,688 confirmed COVID-19 cases reported in the past 24 hours, the highest single-day surge since the outbreak in early March.

With the new infections, the cumulative number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in South Africa has reached 111,796, and the total related deaths are now at 2,205, the minister said.

Of these, 103 deaths have been recorded since Tuesday, one day after the country reached a grim milestone when COVID-19 infections breached the 100,000 mark this week. Experts with the coronavirus team which is tasked to advise the government have raised a heightened alarm, suggesting that as many as one million South Africans might be infected in the weeks to come.

"When we say we have reached 100,000 cases, that is a complete underestimate. In my estimate, it is close to 10 times more, probably around a million people," said Shabir Madhi, professor of vaccinology at Wits University in Johannesburg.

Evidence indicated that many of those understood to be infected "are asymptomatic but are still spreaders," Madhi, also director of the Vaccines and Infectious Diseases Analytics Research Unit at the South Africa Medical Research Council, said at a COVID-19 webinar on Wednesday. Madhi's remarks followed some equally grim pronouncements from Mkhize, who said on Tuesday that "we are moving into a decimating and devastating storm."

During an inspection of a field hospital for COVID-19 patients in Port Elizabeth, Eastern Cape Province, the minister said the death toll from the disease is going to increase. The country's health system could be overwhelmed by the pandemic, Mkhize said. "We have had to implement drastic measures to slow the spread of the virus, and we have had to regulate and at times enforce the regulations. But now the numbers are rising, and we have to adapt the World Health Organization's guidelines to our reality," Mkhize said.

"At this point we should say we are actually starting riding into the storm," the health minister added.

The minister also reflected on the complexity of governance in the almost siege-like coronavirus environment, in which the government had to weigh not only the health risks brought about by the pandemic, but also the economic devastation that it wrought.

"We are faced with little choice but to open the economy despite the rising numbers. It will not help us to save people from COVID-19, only for them to succumb to hunger," Mkhize said.

The Western Cape Province remains the epicenter of the pandemic. As of Wednesday, the province recorded 55,162 confirmed cases and 1,599 deaths. Western Cape Premier Alan Winde said the province was edging "closer to the peak." The peak addressed by Winde is expected to inflict deep and lasting psychological damage as the province prepares for unsettling grim days ahead, when deaths from the pandemic could put pressure on burial spaces. The Western Cape authorities were reportedly preparing several burial sites for almost 9,000 people who are expected to succumb to the disease.

Marius Fransman, former deputy minister of international relations and cooperation, is among South Africa's first infected patients.

He warned against being cavalier regarding either the disease or what it is capable of. "As a survivor of COVID-19, from the time I got ill and specifically from the period that I was admitted into the intensive care unit, I can personally attest that this pandemic breaks you down, physically, psychologically and spiritually," Fransman told Xinhua.

"COVID-19 is as real as it gets, and for those who still are skeptical all we have to do is to look at what has resulted in every sphere of life, where its ravages are clear globally in both the first world and the developed world," he said.

Xinhua



South Africa's health minister Zweli Mkhize

the treaty as soon as possible.

The INF Treaty was terminated on August 2, 2019 at the initiative of the United States. Washington said the reason was Russia's refusal to comply with its ultimatum-like demand for scrapping all new cruise missiles 9M729, which, according to the United States and its NATO allies, were a violation of the agreement.

Moscow dismissed these charges, saying that the technical parameters of the 9M729 missile matched those permitted under the INF Treaty and put forward its own counterarguments over Washington's non-compliance.

Agencies





A man charges an electric vehicle at a charging station in Yueliangwan new district, Huichang county, Ganzhou of Jiangxi province in east China, March 27. (People's Daily Online)

## New infrastructure makes production and life smarter

"I found range anxiety was not a thing after I discovered so many charging stations on an e-charging application before we started our trip," said Zhang Huimin, an electronic car owner who recently had a 300-kilometer road trip from Zhejiang province's Lishui to Jiaxing.

According to her, the experience of vehicle charging along the route was quite satisfying.

The construction of charging poles is an important part of China's new infrastructure, as it offers convenience for the country's expanding group of new energy vehicle (NEV) owners and injects green power to the building of a smart transport network.

In Jiaxing, smart transportation and energy, as well as other new infrastructure projects, are turning technologies into momentum for industrial development, offering firm support for innovative development and transformation of the region.

China led the world in NEV sales and production last year, with both figures exceeding 1.2 million. The scale effect is gradually emerging in the Chinese NEV industry, leading to increasingly better environment for development.

According to a plan released by State Grid Zhejiang Electric Power Co., Ltd. on April 16, a total of 250 million yuan is expected to be invested to develop charging facilities in Zhejiang.

The province aims to build 82 charging stations for buses, taxis, and on-line-hailed cabs, as well as pilot charging programs for privately-owned NEVs in residential communities.

The plan is believed to accelerate the coordinated operation of charging poles and the power grid, and bring healthy and rapid development to the electric vehicle industry.

Interconnectivity, an internet-based development philosophy, has been incorporated into the construction of NEV charging facilities in Wuzhen, Jiaxing.

The town became the first in the world to build a "charge-and-go" senseless payment charging station for 5G-powered autopilot buses prior to the sixth World Internet Conference (Wuzhen Summit) held last year.

The innovative application that introduces 5G to the new infrastructure includes two charging poles each with

a power of 60 kilowatts, and is able to charge four buses simultaneously. The charging poles recognize the buses by the latter's IDs, making the charging process simple and easy.

At present, NEV charging facilities are seen everywhere in Jiaxing. A total of 180 charging stations and 1,326 charging poles are established in the city under the coordination of the State Grid Jiaxing Electric Power Supply Company. As a result, it is easier to charge NEVs in the city, and a clean, efficient and green urban transport network is taking shape.

Apart from the construction of charging facilities, the company has, by making use of big data, the Internet of Things and cloud computing, promoted the building of a smart storage system under the modern smart supply chain. It has completely reformed the way of inventory handling and improved the effective utilization of inventory.

For instance, a mobile application developed by the company is able to precisely distribute cables and other materials actually needed in power repair projects to electricians, and sort out the materials automatically by cable cutters, thus largely reducing the preparation time in power line repairs.

The materials are applied by electricians on their phones after on-site investigation, and claimed after QR code scanning. This method saves about 70 percent of time needed in preparation work, and makes the repairing 40 percent faster.

Smart storage and high-efficient logistics are not only accelerating the sorting, but also improving the efficiency of human resource.

Take the automated guided vehicles (AGVs) applied in a power park Jiaxing's Tongxiang as an example.

According to Xiang Jinyao, an executive with the smart storage department of the power park, the AGVs can easily sort and transport a transformer from the warehouse to the stock-out area with only one backstage operator, while the task needed four to five workers previously.

The rapid development of new infrastructure is making a new blueprint for smart production and life.

People's Daily



**The materials are applied by electricians on their phones after on-site investigation, and claimed after QR code scanning. This method saves about 70 percent of time needed in preparation work, and makes the repairing 40 percent faster**

## UN drug report says COVID-19 worsens drug dangers

VIENNA

THE COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in more people using drugs all over the world, a UN report said Thursday.

"The COVID-19 crisis and economic downturn threaten to compound drug dangers further still, when our health and social systems have been brought to the brink and our societies are struggling to cope," said UNODC Executive Director Ghada Waly.

According to the latest World Drug Report released by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), around 269 million people used drugs worldwide in 2018, up 30 percent from

2009, and over 35 million people suffered from drug use disorders.

The report said cannabis was the most used substance in 2018, with an estimated 192 million users worldwide. Opioids, however, remained the most harmful, as the number of deaths due to related disorders went up 71 percent over the past decade.

Border controls and other restrictions linked to the pandemic have already caused shortages of drugs on the street, leading to increased prices and reduced purity, said the report.

The pandemic has also caused opioid shortages, which in turn may result in people seeking out more readily available

substances such as alcohol, benzodiazepines or mixing with synthetic drugs, it said. The report emphasized that rising unemployment and reduced opportunities caused by the pandemic are likely to have a greater impact on the poorest, making them more vulnerable to drug use, drug trafficking and cultivation in order to earn money.

Looking at further effects of the current pandemic, the report said if governments react the same way as they did to the economic crisis in 2008, when they reduced drug-related budgets, then interventions such as prevention of drug use, related risk behaviours and drug treatment services could be hard hit.



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

## Israel, UAE to cooperate in fight against coronavirus

JERUSALEM / DUBAI

ISRAEL and the United Arab Emirates will cooperate in the fight against the coronavirus, the two countries said on Thursday, a possible boost to Israeli efforts to normalise relations with Gulf Arab countries.

Two private companies from the United Arab Emirates and two Israeli companies will work together on medical projects, including those to combat the new coronavirus, the UAE's state-run news agency WAM said.

The cooperation comes at a time of strong Arab opposition to Israel's plans to annex parts of the occupied West Bank - territory Palestinians seek for a state - under a US peace plan.

Israel has no diplomatic relations with Arab countries in the Gulf, but common concerns about Iran's regional influence have led to a limited thaw in relations.

"This scientific and medical partnership overcomes historical and political challenges in the region," an Arabic statement from WAM said, adding that the priority was humanitarian action and constructive cooperation to safeguard people's health.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had said earlier on Thursday that a formal announcement about the partnership was imminent.

Last week, the UAE's minister for foreign affairs, Anwar Gargash, said it could work with Israel on some areas, including the battle against the coronavirus and on technology, despite political differences.

Netanyahu said at a military ceremony that Israel and the UAE would collaborate in research and development and technology "to improve the well-being of the entire region".

He said the agreement stemmed from intensive contacts with the UAE over recent months.

In May, Abu Dhabi-based Etihad made the first known flight by a UAE carrier to Israel, carrying coronavirus-related aid for Palestinians.

Speaking to a conference of the American Jewish Committee advocacy group on June 16, Gargash said Israel cannot expect to normalise relations with the Arab world if it annexes West Bank land. He also said cooperation with Israel on the pandemic would not affect the UAE's opposition to annexation.

Israel is due on July 1 to begin a cabinet debate on extending Israeli sovereignty to Jewish settlements in the West Bank.

Agencies

WASHINGTON

QUINTEZ Brown took to the streets in Kentucky to join many Americans in protesting against racial injustice after the death of George Floyd, a Black man in police custody last month.

The 19-year-old student at the University of Louisville, who is Black, also texted voters in support of Charles Booker, a Black Democratic state lawmaker running for the U.S. Senate.

"The protests showed the importance of having someone in a political office who can actually advocate for us and make a change," Brown said, adding it was his first time working on a political campaign.

The uprising after Floyd's death under the knee of a white police officer on May 25 has helped fuel a groundswell of political energy, spurring new voter registrations, record turnout in Georgia and Kentucky primaries and a string of victories for a younger generation of candidates of color in Tuesday's elections.

Democrats hope the enthusiasm can be sustained until the Nov. 3 general election, when former Vice President Joe Biden will challenge Republican President Donald Trump in a race that could hinge on the turnout of voters of color and young people.

Biden, whose fundering campaign was rescued by mostly older Black voters in South Carolina's primary in February, wants their strong support against Trump. It will be crucial in battleground states such as Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, particularly after the first dip in Black voter turnout in 20 years contributed to Democrat Hillary Clinton's loss to Trump in 2016.

Biden also hopes to boost turnout among young voters, who often participate at lower rates than other ages. In 2016, voters between 18 and 29 had a turnout of just 46%, compared to 71% for those 65 years and older. Census figures show that figure dropped from 2008's historic election, when younger voters had a 51% turnout.

"There is not a part of the Democratic electorate that is not activated right now. And that energy is going to spill over into the general election," said Matt Erwin, a Kentucky-based Democratic strategist.

Some groups that work to register voters have seen signs of that energy. Voto Latino, which looks to boost turnout for young Hispanics, said it has registered 94,513 voters so far in June, compared to 10,548 voters in May. About 78% of new registrants were between the ages of 18 and 34, the group said.

Rock the Vote, which works to boost the political power of young people, said it had more than 183,000 new registrations so far in June. Four years ago this month, it had fewer than 35,000.

Jesse Moore, a Rock the Vote board member, said a new generation of voters is asking about their district attorneys and police chiefs.



Kentucky State Representative and Democratic candidate for U.S. Senate Charles Booker arrives at a campaign stop on the day of the primary election in Louisville, Kentucky, U.S. on Wednesday.

"People are jaded about the presidency, but the changes they are demanding are almost completely driven by local officials," Moore said.

Whether that energy will transform into Biden support remains to be seen. He is considering a Black running mate and has backed police reforms, including a ban on chokeholds.

Biden was also criticized during the Democratic primary campaign for his role as a U.S. senator in writing the 1994 crime bill, which critics say led to high incarceration rates that unfairly hit minorities, and some activists have pushed him to offer a broader criminal justice plan in the wake of the protests.

"Up-ballot candidates can benefit from this energy and movement, but only if they align themselves with what the movement has demanded - bold change," said Victoria Burton-Harris, a Black Democrat who is running for prosecutor in Wayne County, Michigan, an important battleground state.

Still, Democrats are hopeful that rising political activism from young and minority voters will help Biden. According to a June 10-16 Reuters/Ipsos poll, Biden led Trump by 58 percentage points among African Americans, 23 points among Hispanics, and 20 points among people between 18-34 years of age. Nationally, he had a 13-point lead over Trump, the poll showed.

"I think they are looking for someone who is going to hear them, but also who is going to exhibit the leadership they want at this moment. We would argue that's Joe Biden," said Simone Sanders, a senior Biden campaign adviser.

Courtney Parella, a Trump campaign spokeswoman, said Biden was "trying to avoid an examination of his nearly five-decade long political career, a record that undoubtedly failed to support mi-

nority communities and is now failing to defend our men and women in blue."

### RECORD TURNOUT

Democrats have been heartened by strong turnout in Georgia's June 9 elections, where the party broke the primary record set in 2008 despite a host of problems with voting machines, fewer polling places and long lines.

Kentucky's elections on Tuesday also set a primary turnout record, helped by a competitive race between Booker and well-funded establishment favorite Amy McGrath for the right to challenge Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell in November. The race is too close to call with absentee ballots pending.

A wave of other young candidates of color have scored primary victories this year. In New York, Jamaal Bowman, a Black school principal running in his first political campaign, beat 31-year veteran Democratic Representative Eliot Engel on Tuesday.

"People finally understand that if we want to change the laws, we have to change the lawmakers," said Quentin James, founder of the Collective PAC, a group working for the election of progressive Black officials.

Jecorey Arthur, 28, a Black musician and educator running for the Louisville Metro Council, said when he announced his campaign late last year he was told "don't talk about race so much, people aren't ready to have that conversation."

A few months later, once the street protests for racial justice began, he heard a different tune.

"It was like the alarm was going off and you couldn't press snooze no matter what," Arthur said. "I went from beating that racial justice drum by myself to being in a marching band."

Agencies

## Traditional costume of China's Buyi ethnic group embraces revival through innovation

SPEAKING of the Buyi ethnic group in southwest China's Guizhou province, the first thing that comes into people's mind is its traditional and unique ethnic costumes.

Ceheng, a county lying on the southwestern corner of Guizhou province, is the largest area inhabited by the Buyi ethnic group in China. It is also the place where Nanpanjiang River and Beipanjiang River meet. Living in such a hot and humid climate, the local people regard homespun clothing as the first choice as it is comfortable to wear.

40-year-old Huang Lian has been helping her mother make

clothes since childhood. As an experienced clothes maker, she has won multiple awards in costume contests.

"We use a wooden spinning wheel to make yarn, a loom to weave cloth and indigo to dye the cloth," Huang introduced. "The most complicated part is dyeing with indigo, which takes a number of procedures and about 20 days to finish," she added.

The Buyi costumes, in different shades of blue, are a representative project of national intangible cultural heritage, and the blue clothes have become a symbol of the Buyi ethnic group.

However, clothes dyed by the

natural and traditional technique lose color. Though the dyestuff indigo doesn't harm human skin, it affects the marketing of the clothes, as few customers are willing to buy clothes that fade.

A great opportunity happened in 2017, when a man named Long Zhiyu came to Ceheng from Yunnan province. Long was very interested in Buyi dyeing and established a company that manufactures Buyi clothes.

Long invited experts from the school of textile science and engineering in Tiangong University in north China's Tianjin municipality, and after field investigations and repeated experiments by the

experts, the color-losing was no more a problem. "Before dyeing, villagers always put something in the dye vat for a certain period of time," Long disclosed, explaining that this is similar to fermentation, during which the bacteria grow to strengthen the dyeing effects.

After rounds of screening and experimenting, the experts discovered a bacterial strain with strong reducing capacity. "The bacterial strain could help reduce the dyeing process from more than 20 days to just 3 hours, and the color fastness is better," Long said.

The new technology has revitalized the ancient dyeing technique. But Long and his team decided to

go further. They divided the color of the cloth into 12 levels, from light blue to dark blue, further refining the dyeing technique.

"Recently, we received orders placed from Japan and South Korea worth more than one million yuan, and we'll deliver the goods soon," said Long. After breaking through the technological bottleneck, Long became more confident in the dyeing and processing of the clothing.

"The ethnic costumes, made from natural materials and environmental-friendly, are very competitive in the international market," Long introduced.

Supported by the new technol-

ogy, Long's company established a relatively complete industrial chain. "Under an agreement we signed with indigo growers, our company provides indigo saplings for the farmers to grow and purchase indigo leaves from them at a price no lower than the market price," said Long, adding that this business model has helped impoverished farmers increase income.

"Indigo is a treasure plant. Its leaves could be used as a dye and its root is a constituent of Radix Isatidis. T

his is why it's not a low-price product," said Luo Chengsong, an impoverished farmer whose net profit of every 667 square kilome-

ters of indigo field stood at 2,800 yuan.

The man, who had planned to work outside town in the past, finally decided to make a living in his hometown. Now he is planning to increase the planting area of indigo trees by 0.2 hectares.

"At least 667 hectares of indigo trees are needed each year by us for production, and the figure keeps increasing," said Long, expressing the hope that while facilitating the development of the indigo industry, his company could lift more impoverished households out of poverty and help them become well-off.

People's Daily



The  
**Guardian**

# SPORT



Atlanta Hawks guard Vince Carter, right, hugs former Hawk Dominique Wilkins as he leaves the court following an NBA basketball game against the New York Knicks Wednesday, March 11, 2020, in Atlanta. (AP Photo)

## Vince Carter, 43, retires after record 22 NBA seasons

By TIM REYNOLDS

VINCE Carter made his retirement official on Thursday, announcing on his podcast that his 22-year NBA career, the longest in league history, has come to an end.

The announcement was largely a formality because the 43-year-old Carter had said many times over the course of this season that this would be his last in the NBA. He became the first NBA player to appear in four different decades.

"Vince Carter has made an indelible impact on the NBA with his remarkable skill and enduring commitment," said NBA Commissioner Adam Silver, who lauded Carter as "a true ambassador of the game."

Carter appeared in 1,541 NBA games, behind only Robert Parish (1,611) and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (1,560) on the league's all-time list. He started his career with Toronto, then played for New Jersey, Orlando, Phoenix, Dallas, Memphis, Sacramento and spent his final two seasons with Atlanta.

Carter's first season was the 1998-99 campaign, which was shortened to 50 games because of labor strife. His final season was shortened by the coronavirus pandemic, and the Hawks will not be part of the 22 teams headed to the Disney complex near Orlando, Florida, next month for the planned resumption of NBA play.

"It's kind of a cool situation for me because I came into the league on a shortened season and I walk away from the league on a shortened season," Carter said on the "Winging It" podcast. "So for me, it's just kind of a unique situation."

Carter scored 25,728 points in his career, 19th-most in NBA history.

The Hawks quickly lauded Carter for what he's done, not just in two years with Atlanta but over the totality of his career.

"Throughout his historic 22-year journey covering an unprecedented four different decades, his evolving career arc was perhaps like none other in league history – from Top 5 Draft Pick to Rookie of the Year to Slam Dunk Champion to superstar and eight-time All-Star to Twyman-Stokes Teammate of the Year and valuable role player," the Hawks said in a statement.

Carter's last game was March 11, a contest the

Hawks lost at home in overtime to New York. By the time that game was winding down, the NBA already had announced that it was suspending the season at the conclusion of that night's play after Utah center Rudy Gobert became the first player in the league known to test positive for the coronavirus.

The moment was not lost on Atlanta fans, who chanted "We want Vince!" repeatedly with 19.5 seconds left in overtime and with the Knicks' victory clearly decided. Carter checked back into the game at that point, inbounded the ball to Trae Young, then trailed the play as the Hawks headed downcourt.

Young flipped the ball back to Carter, who took an uncontested 3-pointer. The shot went in. Carter threw his arms skyward, and the clock ran out on the game a few seconds later.

What many suspected would be the case that night became reality: The clock had run out on Carter's career, too.

"There were times, probably in April, I was like, 'Man, I wish this didn't happen like that,'" Carter said. "And then, after a while, I was kind of like, 'It is what it is.' Once I was able to kind of put that aside and say: 'Retire, Vince. You can go and golf now,' it's been easier."

Carter was an eight-time All-Star selection, was rookie of the year in 1999, won the slam dunk contest in 2000 and helped USA Basketball win gold medals at the 2000 Sydney Olympics – highlighted by his dunk over 7-foot-2 French center Frederic Weis – and the 2003 FIBA Americas tournament. He played college basketball for three years at North Carolina, starting his career there under Dean Smith, and Carter's retirement means there are no more Smith-coached players left in the NBA.

"Half Man, Half Amazing, ALL class!" Hawks coach Lloyd Pierce wrote on Twitter in a message to Carter. "It's been an honor and a privilege for me to work with you."

Carter said he will still play the game of basketball – for fun. It has long been expected that television networks will pursue him as an analyst, something he's dabbled in at NBA Summer League in recent years.

"I'm officially done playing basketball professionally," Carter said. "I'll play at home."

AP

## Lesson for growth of sports as sanitisers dispute exposes capacity gaps in schools

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

IT isn't often that there is discussion these days on the promotion of sports in schools, as games and sports are taken as hobbies and schools are somewhat sidelined, with annual schools' games at the national level something of a non-event nationally, even when such events are organised. The reason is that sport has always been the victim of constantly diminishing capacities of schools to do anything more than conduct lessons, some laboratory work where possible, and supervise exams. Sports is extra-curriculum and pointedly not really school business, followed with paltry resources or own equipment.

Just how famished most schools are likely to be was more or less evident during the reopening of schools as the coronavirus threat recedes – at least in our part of the world. It occasioned a debate about whose duty it is to provide sanitisers – hand wash special soaps, buckets – for placing in front of facilities used by considerable numbers of pupils or students. Only at the level of colleges and universities was this discussion not audible, and truly these are also institutions with a visible sports life, unlike the lower levels of education starved of funds to purchase sports equipment, refurbish or build facilities, etc.

The dispute about sanitizers was somewhat cosmetic, while a bigger problem was paying salaries during the lockdown for the entire education sector up to phased reopening of learning institutions. There was some confusion as the public authorities were eating their cake and having it, that teachers be paid their salaries for that period but parents were being encouraged to expect that fees for the lockdown period ought to be deducted from annual fees. That would create a no man's land as with regard to schools and sports – where the government



Arusha's Orkeeswa Secondary School's volleyball side's captain, Amani Isaya, shows off the U-19 volleyball tournament trophy he lifted in the international schools' sports weekend, which took place in Moshi, Kilimanjaro recently. Orkeeswa Secondary School became the shining stars taking home 15 trophies in different games that they participated in. PHOTO: GUARDIAN CORRESPONDENT

conveniently leaves schools to organize this vital need, and schools are famished.

The core of that problem is inability of schools to afford marginal surpluses for the supply of such needs without harming their operational balances. They did not object too intensely about teachers' salaries for the period that schools were closed, but they appeared reluctant to add systematic supply of sanitisers to communal facilities in school premises, preferring to add this bill to what students pay in contributions tied with the statutory fees. Some school heads issued notices to parents to ensure that these supplies are packed with the return of their family member to school, but the minister shouted them down on the issue.

Students are usually required to report to school with specific durables like clothing or equipment which is deemed relevant or necessary to routine work, in which case non-perishable items

of relevance to the fight against the coronavirus were plausible additions in the circumstances. But aware this would pose problems to parents, the ministry stepped in to insist that this is the responsibility of schools – implying that they have greater capacity to ensure the supply of sanitisers than each returning pupil being already equipped. In that case one can imagine what the schools can do for sports equipment, without such order.

This crying incapacity for raising funds for emergencies like sanitisers is part of explanation for the loss of ability for schools to nurture sporting talent, as it requires expenditure on sports activity for schools that would be comparable to the supply of sanitisers in a regular manner for the breadth of their premises. This by implication means that they have very little money for emergencies and couldn't think of having a fund for systematic supply of sanitisers for a

considerable period of time, for instance up to the end of the specific year until regular school closures. They would map out strategy just for the next school year.

The difference between sanitisers and sports durables is that the latter can be pushed aside from school expenditures and similarly not be demanded of parents to equip students at high school, with just a few specialized schools like Makongo or Jitegemee having a credible sports branch and orientation. As a matter of fact those schools at first instance even looked like they were meant to be sports academies but far from it, as they teach like any other. In that case it is leadership by default in example, in the sense that the two schools make sports a programme and not just have some equipment where the boys can do sport.

Despite the sort of energy the ministry used to drill it down to school heads (they prefer the term managements) that they ought to provide those requirements much of it will be in the breach but is unlikely to be followed up. Only if the now dreaded second wave infections of the virus start in earnest shall the matter come up, so as to avoid another round of closure. Still when it comes to sports the matter is in a live and let live situation, with sports a distant option or afterthought in school curricula, and it is unlikely the ministry needs any whistleblowers that there is something amiss here as to sports promotion.

## Country music reckons with racial stereotypes and its future



This combination of photos shows country singer Rissi Palmer, from left, Chuck Harmony, left, and Claude Kelly of Louis York and country rapper Breland. Black artists say the country music industry still needs to do the hard work of addressing the systematic racial barriers that have been entrenched in country music for decades. The genre has historically been marketed to white audiences and reinforced white male artist stereotypes. (AP)

NASHVILLE, Tenn.

WHEN country singer Rissi Palmer was working on her debut album, she wanted a song like Gretchen Wilson's "Redneck Woman," a song that would introduce her and tell her story to fans. On her 2007 debut single, "Country Girl," she celebrated her country roots while explaining that she didn't have to look or talk a certain way to call herself a country girl.

"I said that I am not white in the first verse, and the label was like, 'No, no, no,'" said Palmer, who then rewrote the lyrics to make it feel more universal. "It was very intentional when I wrote that song to talk about all the women, or all the people, that might not necessarily fit in the box, but are still of the same mindset."

The country music industry has long been hesitant to address its long and complicated history with race, but the death of George Floyd in police custody and the protests it sparked in the U.S. and around the world became a sound too loud for the genre to ignore.

Over the past weeks, country artists, labels and country music organizations posted about Black Lives Matter on social media, participated in the industry wide Blackout Tuesday or denounced racism outright. On Thursday, Grammy-winning country group, The Dixie Chicks announced it would drop "dixie" from its name. The group said in a statement that it wanted to meet "this moment."

But Black artists say the industry still

needs to address the systematic racial barriers that have been entrenched in country music for decades. Stereotypes that country music is just for white audiences, written by white songwriters, and sung by mostly white males are reinforced daily on country radio, playlists, label rosters and tour lineups. In recent years, however, the conversations about country music have shifted to a broader acknowledgement that non-white artists have always been in the genre, even if they aren't always recognized.

Artist/scholar Rhiannon Giddens received a MacArthur Foundation grant for her work to reclaim Black contributions to country and folk music. And artists like Darius Rucker, Kane Brown and Jimmie Allen have all had No. 1 country hits in recent years, while Mickey Guyton just released an unflinching song called "Black Like Me." But that ingrained culture of exclusivity remains a struggle to change.

"You can look at the reviews of my first album. I was called colored, like, 'I didn't know colored people like country music,'" said Palmer, who had three singles reach the Hot Country Songs Chart. "I used to get messages all the time on MySpace, saying, 'I am so sick of you. Why are you trying to be white?' or 'Why are you trying to take over country music?'"

Change hasn't been easy. After Grammy-winning country group Lady Antebellum announced they were changing their name to Lady A, they later had to apologize to a Black singer who

had been using that stage name for years.

Atlanta-based country rapper Breland also wanted to address, with a wink and a smile, country music's racial blinders with his TikTok-fueled song "My Truck." The music video starts with a white guy in a black cowboy hat singing as smoke billows across a dusty landscape, then Breland abruptly shoves him out of the frame to announce, "Don't touch my truck."

"I just felt like it was time for people to change their perspective on what country music is and what country music can be, because there is an audience of country music listeners under 30 who believe Black Lives Matter," said Breland, whose song reached No. 26 on Billboard's Hot Country Songs chart and has been remixed with Sam Hunt.

Like Lil Nas X's genre bending "Old Town Road," Breland playfully fuses trap rhythms with country tropes about horses, do-si-dos and beer on his self-titled EP and sings with country artists Chase Rice and Lauren Alaina. Breland said country music labels can't just continue to focus on one type of audience.

"There's a group of country listeners who love country music because of the way it sounds, but don't love some of the politics that they know are going on behind the scenes," he said.

Historically country music was created by and played in both white and Black communities in the South, but the music became marketed along racial lines in the Jim Crow era, said Amanda Marie Martinez, a historian and writer who

is studying country music and race. White country music was stigmatized early on as "hillbilly music" so the industry started pushing it toward the rising white middle class as a way to make the genre more respected and hugely profitable.

"In the process, they've also prioritized the white, middle income, relatively conservative listener as their demographic, kind of the opposite of youth culture," Martinez said.

But there were periods of diversity, such as the post-Civil Rights era, when Black artists like Charley Pride, Linda Martell, O.B. McClinton and Stoney Edwards were having success, alongside Johnny Rodriguez and Freddy Fender, who were singing in English and Spanish.

Black artists today are also reclaiming spaces that have been overwhelmingly white domains.

Claude Kelly and Chuck Harmony, who work as a duo called Louis York, were already hit-making songwriters and producers behind pop songs like "Party in the USA" by Miley Cyrus and "Grenade" by Bruno Mars when they moved to Franklin, Tennessee, a Nashville suburb that is home to historical sites of a major Civil War battle and plantations where slaves were once held. There they set up their WeirDo Workshop artist collective and have worked with Jimmie Allen and noted author/poet Caroline Randall Williams.

"We knew that if we were to make our mark in this town as musicians and as Black musicians that playing the Grand Ole Opry would be the pinnacle for that," Harmony said.

"They got a standing ovation at the Opry, but more importantly for Harmony, he wanted the audience to learn about country music's roots."

"I just wanted their unbiased, undivided attention, so that they can make the correlation between the music that they came to see and the music that we make as Black people," Harmony said.

Both the Academy of Country Music and the Country Music Association started diversity task forces more than a year ago when country music was being criticized for a lack of female voices and women were being left out of major categories like entertainer of the year.

Becky GARDENHIRE, a top executive at talent agency WME in Nashville who leads ACM's diversity task force, said they are looking at ways to recruit and retain diverse voices, both in the boardroom and on the stage, with efforts like mentorships, networking and outreach to build up a pipeline of future leaders and artists.

AP



## FIFA agree massive \$1.5 billion COVID-19 relief plan

LAUSANNE

FIFA announced on Thursday that it had agreed a \$1.5 billion relief plan to help deal with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the global game.

FIFA's plan means world soccer's governing body will dip into its reserves to provide national federations with a number of grants and interest-free loans to cope with budget hits.

FIFA had already provided the immediate release of all funds from its 'Forward' projects and given the green light for such grants to be used for COVID-19 relief plans - with a minimum of 50% of released funds to be allocated to women's football.

The third stage of the plans, unanimously backed by the FIFA Council on Thursday, allows for a 'universal solidarity grant' of \$1 million dollars to all national associations with an additional \$500,000 specifically for women's football.

Each regional confederation will receive a grant of \$2 million.

FAs will be able to apply for loans, amounting to up to 35% of their audited, annual revenues up to a maximum of \$5 million with confederations able to request up to \$4 million.

"Both grants and loans can be directed by member associations to the wider football community in their respective territories, including clubs, players, leagues, or others that have

been affected by COVID," said FIFA president Gianni Infantino.

Infantino added that there would be strict controls on the use of funds, audit requirements, as well as clear loan repayment conditions.

Olli Rehn, the deputy chairman of the FIFA Governance Committee, who is Governor of the Bank of Finland and a member of the Governing Council of the European Central Bank, will head a committee set up to administer the funds.

The council also backed changes to the calendar to support confederations' desires to extend international breaks to allow for fixture congestion and rearranged matches.

Infantino said no decision has yet to be taken on the rescheduling of the new Club World Cup tournament which has been postponed from July 2021 due to the postponement of Euro 2020 and the Copa America.

The council also gave the green light to a new pan-Arab tournament to be played in 2021 in Qatar as a 'test event' for the 2022 World Cup.

The invitational competition will be contested by Arab nations from Africa and Asia and feature home-based players only.

The tournament will be held in from 1-8 December 2021 and be run by Qatar's World Cup organising committee.

REUTERS

## Guardiola congratulates Liverpool after Manchester City's reign ends

LONDON

IT was a day Pep Guardiola saw coming a long time ago, as early as the first weeks of the longest season in the history of English football.

"Maybe we didn't arrive with the same passion," the Manchester City manager said Thursday after seeing his team's two-season hold on the Premier League title ended by Liverpool.

"Liverpool played every single game like it was the last chance they have. And maybe we didn't get that moment, especially the key moments in the first part of the season."

So when the moment finally came, at the final whistle of City's 2-1 loss to Chelsea at an empty Stamford Bridge, Guardiola was emotionally prepared for it.

"I've never thought, 'Always we can win,'" he said.

Yet Guardiola could never have envisaged City losing its grip on the trophy with seven rounds of games left, his team 23 points behind Liverpool.

It was only two years ago that Liverpool finished 25 points behind City.

Guardiola sent a "big congratulations" to Jurgen Klopp and his players after a game when City's big flaw this season - defensive shakiness - was exposed once again.

Christian Pulisic scored a superb individual goal to put Chelsea ahead in the 36th minute - the American winger started his run from inside his own half - but it stemmed from a loose pass by Benjamin Mendy after he gathered a clearance by Chelsea from a corner.

Pulisic skipped past the weak challenges of Ilkay Gundogan and Mendy before curling home a finish from the edge of the area.

After Kevin De Bruyne equalized for City with a long-range free kick into the top corner, the visitors need-

ed another goal for a victory that would have prolonged the title race for another week.

However, Ferdinandinho was sent off for punching the ball away on the goal line after Pulisic, then substitute Tammy Abraham attempted to bundle the ball in from close range.

Willian sent goalkeeper Ederson Moraes the wrong way from the penalty spot and the party could get started in earnest for Liverpool, more than 11,000 days after the Reds won their last English league title 30 years ago.

"What we have done in the last three seasons is incredible," Guardiola said, reflecting on winning eight of the previous 10 domestic trophies on offer. "And it's so difficult to maintain this."

So, four years later, Chelsea has again helped clinch the Premier League title for another team.

In 2016, it was a late goal by Eden Hazard that gave Chelsea a draw against Tottenham that secured Leicester the most improbable title triumph in English soccer history.

Now, it is Liverpool which is the beneficiary.

It was an important win Thursday for Chelsea, which consolidated fourth place and moved just a point behind third-place Leicester. Manchester United is five points back in fifth place, which will secure Champions League qualification for next season if second-place City fails to win its appeal against a two-year European ban.

City still has two trophies to play for this season - the FA Cup, which resumes at the weekend at the quarter-final stage, and the Champions League, with Guardiola's team leading 2-1 after the first leg of its last-16 match with Real Madrid.

AP

## Sneijder: Vodka was my best friend at Real Madrid

AMSTERDAM

FORMER Netherlands international Wesley Sneijder revealed the "rock-and-roll" lifestyle he led during his time at Real Madrid in his new autobiography, at a pre-publishing reading.

The 36-year-old, whose book is set to be published by Kees Jansma on Friday, joined the Spanish side from Ajax in 2007 for €27 million for a two-year spell before he was sold to Inter Milan for €15m.

He said: "I was young and enjoyed the success and attention.

"It must have gone wrong there - later. No drugs, but alcohol and 'rock-and-roll'. I got used to that, as one of the stars... You are worshipped as a Real player.

"All your mis-steps are instantly for-

given because of your status and popularity. Even if I rolled over the street and spent thousands of euros, or gave rounds to the whole bar. I cannot say that I resisted enough."

In the book, Sneijder reveals the reasons for his first divorce: "I was left alone and didn't see the little one, Jesse, much, that was s---. And I'm bad at being alone. Why would you even be alone when you have enough friends to spend your time with. I just didn't realise that the bottle of vodka became my best friend."

The club and his fellow teammates Arjen Robben and Ruud van Nistelrooy, encouraged Sneijder to change his lifestyle: "I played pretty well, but they said I could do even better," but to no avail. (Agencies)

# Jubilation as Liverpool win Premier League to end 30-year drought

LIVERPOOL

LIVERPOOL ended a 30-year wait for the English title as they were crowned Premier League champions on Thursday, triggering jubilant scenes as fans ignored social-distancing to celebrate uproariously.

Jurgen Klopp's men sealed a 19th league title with a record seven games remaining after Chelsea's 2-1 defeat of second-placed Manchester City left the 2018 and 2019 champions an unbridgeable 23 points adrift.

Liverpool's first English title since 1990 - further delayed by the coronavirus shutdown - earns them their maiden trophy in the Premier League, which was introduced in 1992 and has been won 13 times by their arch-rivals Manchester United.

Klopp was in tears after Liverpool's long-awaited win, which follows their Champions League and Club World Cup victories last year, when they finished just a point behind City in the Premier League.

"It's such a big moment, I am completely overwhelmed," an emotional Klopp told Sky Sports. "Tonight it is for you out there.

"It's incredible. I hope you stay at home, or go in front of your house if you want, but not more. We do it together in this moment and it is a joy to do it for you."

However, thousands of fans, many in face masks, converged on Anfield, lighting flares, chanting and celebrating with a replica trophy, while motorists drove up and beeped their horns.

Congratulations poured in from around the world with basketball star LeBron James, actor Samuel L. Jackson and former world number one tennis player Caroline Wozniacki among those paying tribute.

"I'm hoping there is more" - Liverpool, who were tantalisingly close to glory when the coronavirus forced the suspension of English football in March, demolished Crystal Palace 4-0 at their home ground of Anfield on Wednesday to stand on the brink of the title.

City needed to win at Stamford Bridge to keep the Premier League alive but slipped to a 2-1 defeat.

LIVERPOOL

JURGEN Klopp's legendary status at Anfield was secured on Thursday as he became the first Liverpool manager to win a league title in 30 years.

On Klopp's first day in charge at Anfield five years ago he addressed players, staff and supporters, telling them: "If somebody wants to help LFC, you have to change from doubter to believer."

Confidence was not high on Merseyside at the time. Klopp arrived with Liverpool 10th in the Premier League table after finishing a lowly sixth the season before.

The German's force of personality, charisma and coaching nous soon began a transformation that had been seen at Liverpool many years ago under Bill Shankly.

Trent Alexander-Arnold, who has developed into one of the world's finest full-backs under Klopp's watch, summarised his manager's impact at Anfield.

"To change the whole club, to change everyone from doubters to believers, to get everybody thinking the same way, believing the same way and having the same dreams," he said.

"He just embodies the whole club. Even without being from the city, the country and being local, he just clicks with the club. He does it with every person - the fans, the staff and the players."

Shankly took the reigns at Anfield in 1959, with Liverpool mired in trouble.

The Reds had been in the second division for five years prior to his arrival. By the time the Scot stood aside in 1974, he had won three First Division titles and built the platform for his successor Bob Paisley to win three European Cups.

"Jurgen is more like Bill Shankly," said former Liverpool captain Graeme Souness, who was part of Paisley's side. "A great communicator, a showman and the leader of the pack."

"He is a great fit for Liverpool because he feels the emotion of the place.

"Liverpool is an extremely emotional football club, with its history, its tragedies. You get that emotion when you go to Anfield and hear 'You'll Never Walk Alone.'"

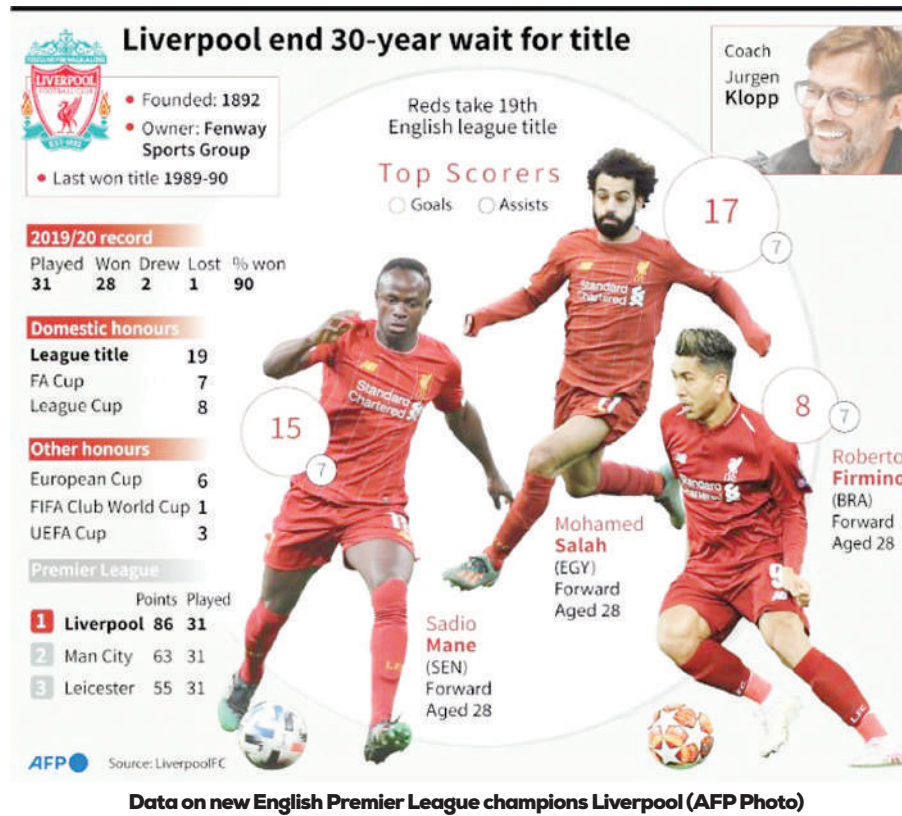
Klopp's ability to communicate and lead by example has been even more valuable in the difficult circumstances surrounding the Reds' long wait to get over the line.

Liverpool were champions-elect long before the season was shut down in March for three months due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Klopp admitted last week he had been concerned by threats to "null and void" the campaign, but always struck a measured tone, saying that if stopping the season "helps one individual stay healthy, we do it no questions asked".

"Throughout the pandemic, he didn't ever say anything that crossed the line," said another former Liverpool captain, Jamie Carragher. "He always nails what needs to be said and how people are feeling."

- Heartbreak on the journey - The construction of a title-winning side has been five years in the making.



Liverpool's 19th English title, which puts them one behind United's record haul of 20, owes much to the transformational impact of Klopp.

"We followed him and believed him," said captain Jordan Henderson. "It's been an amazing journey. I'm hoping there is more. We just keep hungry, keep wanting more and following him."

Liverpool have clinched the title earlier than any other Premier League champions, breaking the previous record of five games left shared by City and Manchester United.

But it has been an agonising wait for Liverpool fans across the world, with the coronavirus lockdown forcing them to

put the champagne on ice.

Videos on social media showed many of Liverpool's players watching the Chelsea match together at a hotel.

"We won't tell you the exact location but we are all in a hotel together as a team," Liverpool star Andrew Robertson told the BBC.

"We thought something hopefully special was going to happen and that's how it turned out."

- Ferguson era -

Liverpool spent years in the shadow of arch-rivals Manchester United during the Alex Ferguson era before being left behind by the massive spending of Manchester City and Chelsea.

They infamously squandered a golden

opportunity to win the title in 2014 under manager Brendan Rodgers, when Reds captain Steven Gerrard made a costly slip in a late-season defeat against Chelsea.

But Klopp's team are deserved champions after an incredible campaign that could end in record-breaking style.

Liverpool are on course to beat Manchester City's record points total of 100 set in 2017/18.

Klopp, the first German manager to win the Premier League, has been the architect of Liverpool's renaissance since the former Borussia Dortmund boss arrived in 2015.

Infusing his players with a belief in his "heavy metal" football and high-tempo "gegen-pressing" game-plan, the charismatic Klopp has earned his place alongside Liverpool's iconic former managers Bill Shankly, Bob Paisley and Kenny Dalglish.

"He epitomises everything that Liverpool Football Club stands for. He appreciates it, he respects everyone who works at the club," Dalglish, architect of Liverpool's 1990 title, said of the German.

Klopp led the club to the Champions League last season, but Liverpool were pipped to the Premier League title by City despite finishing with a record 97 points for top-flight runners-up.

But with Mohamed Salah, Sadio Mane and Roberto Firmino forming a formidable front three, Henderson a tireless presence in midfield and Virgil van Dijk imperious at the back, Liverpool have left City trailing in their wake this term.

"That is the reality, that we are so far behind," said City boss Pep Guardiola. "Liverpool were fantastic in consistency throughout the whole season."

AFP

## Klopp follows Shankly's lead to make Liverpool dreams come true



Klopp's ways took time to be accepted. After a 2-2 draw at home to West Brom in December 2015, many questioned the wisdom of leading his players to join arm-in-arm in front of the Kop to celebrate a late equaliser.

There was plenty of heartbreak along the way too. Finals in the League Cup, Europa League and Champions League were lost.

Last season was one of a number of near misses over the past three decades as a club-record 97 points was still not enough to wrest the title from Manchester City.

Yet, in contrast to other fine managers who came close to the title at Anfield such as Rafael Benitez and Brendan Rodgers, Klopp has turned that pain into glory.

Klopp delivered on his word to win a major trophy within his first four years in charge by winning Liverpool's sixth European Cup last season - a feat even Shankly

never managed.

"I will never compare with this fella," insisted Klopp after breaking another of Shankly's records with a 22nd consecutive home league win just before lockdown.

Yet, even for a great orator, Klopp's actions speak louder than words.

By finally bringing the Premier League title to Anfield, Klopp has followed in Shankly's footsteps into Liverpool folklore.

Meanwhile, Liverpool fans ignored social distancing rules to gather outside Anfield in celebration of their team's first English title in 30 years on Thursday.

Liverpool were crowned Premier League champions when second-placed Manchester City were beaten 2-1 at Chelsea.

Hundreds of Liverpool supporters put coronavirus fears to one side, ignoring advice from the club's manager Jurgen Klopp, as they converged on Anfield to start the title party.

Setting off red flares and fireworks, waving flags, hugging and drinking in the street, the fans were determined to make the most of the long-awaited first title since 1990.

Cars also gathered outside the ground, with some beeping horns as they passed scarf-wearing fans carrying crates of beer.

Fan Marilyn Nesbitt and her family, carrying a cardboard cutout of Liverpool winger Sadio Mane, had been in nearby Stanley Park as the match was played.

"This is amazing, especially for them. We've been waiting 30 years for it," she said.

Videos on social media showed many of Liverpool's players watching the Chelsea match together at a hotel.

When Reds defender Virgil van Dijk was being interviewed on BT Sport after the final whistle at Chelsea, he was briefly hugged by a group of Liverpool players wearing the team's red shirts and singing "champions!".

Alisson Becker, Roberto Firmino and Andrew Robertson were among the celebrating Liverpool stars.

"We won't tell you the exact location but we are all in a hotel together as a team," Robertson told the BBC.

"We thought something hopefully special was going to happen and that's how it turned out."

"We went a bit crazy but the place went a bit silent when (Manchester City's) Kevin De Bruyne bagged a worldie free-kick," he said in reference to City's equaliser at Stamford Bridge.

"Luckily Chelsea reacted off that. The place went wild and we could sit back and enjoy the last five minutes."

In Liverpool city centre, the town hall and St George's Hall were lit in red in tribute to the champions.

AFP





# SPORT

Jubilation as Liverpool win Premier League to end 30-year drought

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Aaron Finch

## Aaron Finch thinking ahead to Australia's 2023 World Cup plans

SYDNEY

DESPITE the sport largely being shut-down since March, cricket has not been far from the mind of Australia's limited-overs captain Aaron Finch as he thinks ahead to the 2023 one-day World Cup campaign in India as well as the two T20 World Cups that are scheduled to be played before then.

It appears highly unlikely that the T20 World Cup set for this October and November in Australia will take place due to the Covid-19 pandemic with a range of options on the table as to when it could be moved to, from early next year to a 12-month delay to pushing it as far as 2022. Under the current schedule, India are due to host the 2021 T20 World Cup in the October-November of that year.

As things stand the next 50-over men's World Cup will take place in February and March of 2023 in India. Following Australia's semi-final exit in last year's tournament, when they turned their one-day form around significantly leading into the competition, there is already considerable thought going into how to prepare.

"I'm a cricket nuffly so you are always thinking about it, especially being captain and with what's coming up with the T20 World Cup, whenever that might be, and there's a couple of them and looking forward to the 2023 50-over World Cup in India," Finch told SEN Radio. "We are just in the processing of nutting out how we go about winning that, what we'll need to do down the track to be successful in those three tournaments."

"In the 50-over space it's about working back from that 2023 World Cup and really getting a detailed plan of how we think we'll have to win it, what's the structure of the side we'll need in India. Is it going to be two spinners, is it going to be an extra allrounder, and kind of work back from there."

Aaron Finch drives one through cover Associated Press

Finch, who has made clear his ambitions of still being part of Australia's one-day squad for the next one-day World Cup, said it was important to start identifying new players who could be part of the side now so that they can be given enough game time ahead of the tournament. He suggested the selectors will be looking at around 25 names over the next couple of years being whittling it down to the final squad as the tournament approaches.

"[We need to] nut out what resources we'll need in terms of players. If there's someone new we identify who could perhaps have a big impact, how many games can we get into them over the next two and a half years to make sure they have enough experience so in a high-pressure semi-final you aren't going in hoping they'll do well, you know they have the form and enough experience behind them to make sure they are comfortable with international level."

"It's either working out what the 15, or say 25 players now, what that looks like, does it match our game plan going forward, or do we pick the side the other way round with a game plan in mind and adapt it that way. It's not rocket science, it's going through data, a bit of gut instinct of what you feel will be the trends of one-day cricket. Will it be 400, or will it be that 320-mark with some wearing pitches in India and a couple of spinners in your side?"

Since their World Cup exit against England, Australia have played seven ODIs with six of those away from home which included being beaten 3-0 in South Africa. They beat New Zealand behind closed doors at the SCG in mid-March before Covid-19 brought sport to a sudden halt.

They could return to limited-overs action in September with talks continuing about heading to England for the ODI and T20I matches that were originally scheduled for July. In the 2020-21 home season they are currently scheduled to play two three-match ODI series against India and New Zealand in January.

AGENCIES

## Don't need Super Over in ODIs - Taylor

CHRISTCHURCH

ROSS Taylor does not believe there would be anything wrong in having joint winners in the one-day World Cup rather than using Super Overs to split the teams.

It is almost a year since England and New Zealand could not be separated across 100 overs and the Super Over in the World Cup final at Lord's with England taking the title on boundary countback.

The ICC has since amended the playing conditions and if the situation played out again there would be additional Super Overs to decide the winner, but Taylor does not see a problem with having joint champions.

"I'm still undecided in a Super Over in a one-day game, I think one-day cricket is played over such a long time that I have no problems in a tie being a tie," he told Cricingif. "In T20, to continually go on is the right way to go. A bit like football or some other games, trying to get that win in, but I don't think the Super Over is necessarily needed in a one-day game. I think you can have a joint winner."

"During the World Cup I actually went up to the umpires to say 'good game', I didn't even know there was a Super Over. A tie is a tie, I suppose you could have this argument either way, but in a one-day game I think if you can go 100 overs and still have someone equal at the end I don't think a tie is a bad thing."

Since the World Cup final, New Zealand have been involved in another three Super Overs in T20Is and lost of all of them against England and India. Overall they have won just one of eight they have been involved in.

"One over across 50 overs or 20 overs is tough to swallow, but if we are in that same situation we still back ourselves," Taylor said. "First and foremost you have to try and win the game in the allocated time. We haven't been able to be ruthless enough there, and if we can do that and not even let it get into a Super Over then hopefully the right results comes."

Taylor, who won the Sir Richard Hadlee Medal as New Zealand's player of the year for 2019-2020, has previously spoken of his motivation to extend his career to the 2023 one-day World Cup in India.

He is New Zealand's leading ODI run-scorer with 8574 runs at 48.44, the fifth-highest average for a batsman with over 200 innings. AGENCIES



Ross Taylor



Senior national women soccer team, Twiga Stars.

## Twiga Stars still lowly ranked in FIFA Women's World Ranking

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA's senior national women soccer team, Twiga Stars, have maintained their place in the FIFA/Coca-Cola Women's World Ranking, as per the latest ranking released by the world soccer governing body on Thursday.

Twiga Stars are currently positioned 139th in the ranking, with members of the East and Central Africa region, namely Ethiopia and Kenya, having been placed above the former.

The Tanzanian girls recorded 978 points to land the place in the ranking, two places below Kenya that have recorded 986 points to stay 137th.

Twiga Stars have not enjoyed much success in recent competitions which are recognized by FIFA.

They succumbed to an early exit in the 2018 Women's African Cup of Nations' qualifiers, held between February 26-March 6, 2018.

Twiga Stars conceded defeat to Zambia in the first round of the qualifiers via an away goals' rule.

The two teams settled for 3-3 draw in the first leg of the qualifiers, which took place in Dar es Salaam.

The second leg, which took place in Lusaka, ended with Twiga Stars holding Zambia to 1-1 draw.

The Zambian girls, for that matter, made it to the second round thanks to the away goals' rule.

Twiga Stars so far managed to make their presence felt in the Council of East and Central Africa Football Associations (CECAFA) Senior Women Challenge Cup, which was played in Dar es Salaam in November last year.

Twiga Stars settled for the second spot in the tournament after suffering loss to Kenya 'Harambee Starlets' in the final.

Twiga Stars were thereafter runners-up in the Union of North Africa Football Associations (UNAF)'s women's tournament which was played in Tunisia from February 13-23.

The competition, which had Twiga Stars competing in as guest team, had Morocco lifting the silverware. Algeria, Mauritania and Tunisia also took part in

the showpiece.

Ethiopia are holding the 111th spot in the FIFA Women's World Ranking as they have collected 1151 points.

Rwanda and Uganda that are also CECAFA members have been positioned below Twiga Stars in the latest FIFA Women's World Ranking.

Rwanda has been placed 144th after collecting 899 points, Uganda holds the 146th spot, having recorded 868 points.

Nigeria (38th) is the topmost ranked African team in the FIFA Women's World Ranking, whereas Cameroon holds the 51st spot, South Africa (53rd) and Ghana (60th).

Movement among the top three, notable surges and tumbles, as well as a new addition, the last edition of the FIFA/Coca-Cola Women's World Ranking, published on 27 March, reflected the results of numerous international matches and tournaments that had taken place in the preceding weeks. Three months later, and the exact opposite is true.

Following the COVID-19 pandemic, which has temporar-

ily paralysed the world of football, no international women's matches have been played in recent months.

And just as in the FIFA/Coca-Cola Men's World Ranking, there are no changes in June's edition of the FIFA/Coca-Cola Women's World Ranking.

Consequently, USA continue to lead the way, with Germany and France in second and third respectively.

Just beneath this triumvirate are, in descending order, the Netherlands, Sweden, England and Australia. Brazil, Canada and Korea DPR complete the top 10.

The best placed Oceanic and African nations are New Zealand and Nigeria, occupying 23rd and 38th place respectively.

Obviously, we can expect the classification to change accordingly once international matches resume.

And the encouraging news is that qualifying matches for various continental competitions are once again on the horizon.

The next FIFA/Coca-Cola Women's World Ranking will be published on 14 August 2020.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

