

**FARMERS GEAR UP FOR NEW TECHNOLOGIES PAGE3** 



**EFFECTIVE AND PROMPT JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN PAGE 4** 



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## WHO: Use cheap steroid only with acute coronavirus

#### LONDON/GENEVA

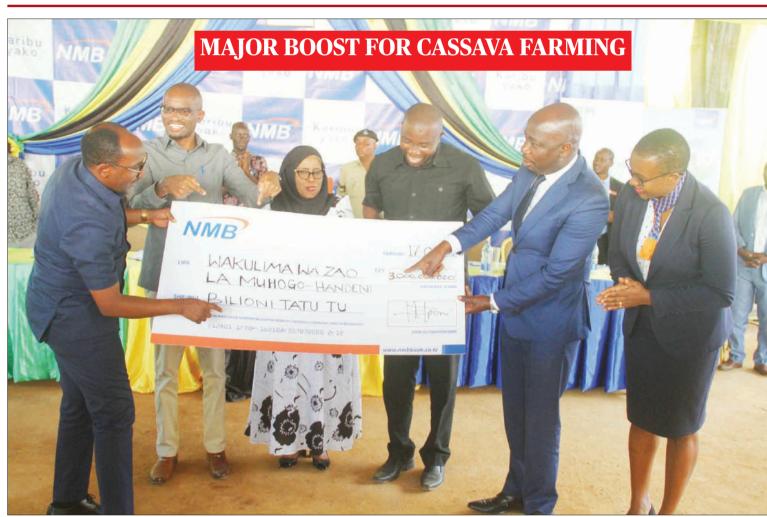
A CHEAP steroid that can help save the lives of patients with severe Covid-19 should be reserved for serious cases in which it has been shown to provide benefits, the World Health Organisation has said.

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said research was at last providing "green shoots of hope" in treating the disease which has killed more than 400,000 people worldwide and infected more than eight million.

results announced on Tuesday Trial by researchers in Britain showed dexamethasone, a generic drug used since the 1960s to reduce inflammation in diseases such as arthritis, cut death rates by around a third among the most severely ill coronavirus patients admitted to hospital.

That makes it the first drug proved to save lives in fighting the disease. Countries are rushing to ensure that they have enough of it on hand, although medical officials say there is no shortage.

# We have 2.8m tonnes of excess grain - ministry



#### By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

DESPITE the continued existence of the Covid-19 pandemic in many countries around the world, food production in Tanzania continues to expand and is 100 percent adequate for domestic needs.

There is an excess of over 2.8 million tons that can be sold to neighbouring countries in particular, Agriculture minister Japhet Hasunga, has said.

He made this observation when launching a commercial agriculture exhibition at Majmbaa Village, Msowero ward, Kilosa District in Morogoro Region.

Farmers in the area were shown study farms for various crops which had increased harvests following the use of modern seeds developed technologically after being researched upon.

The minister said the food surplus is something to be proud of and to thank God because some countries, including Tanzania's neighbours experience food shortages due to the pandemic.

He said apart from these achievements, the agricultural sector still faces various challenges including the lack of using quality seeds, fertilisers, pesticides against the backdrop of climate change, drought and floods. This situation has brought new types of problems to farmers, including the deterioration of soil fertility, he stated. The government has embarked on various initiatives through the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) at Ilongato conduct research on how to solve these challenges, he said. Dr Joel Meliyo, the director of TARI-Ilonga who organized the farm exhibition, said they conducted research on crops grown in the



Some doctors were cautious, citing possible side-effects and asking to see more data.

A patient in Denmark received dexamethasone on Wednesday, local news agency Ritzau reported. The doctor who prescribed the drug said the medical profession was well acquainted with its sideeffects.

The head of the WHO's emergencies programme, Mike Ryan, said the drug should only be used in those serious cases where it has been shown to help.

"It is exceptionally important in this case, that the drug is reserved for use in severely ill and critical patients who can benefit from this drug clearly," he said in a briefing.

Britain has increased the amount of dexamethasone it has in stock and ordered 240,000 doses, Health Minister Matt Hancock said.

Methylprednisolone, a steroid similar to but less potent than dexamethasone, has been used in Sweden since March, a Stockholmbased doctor told the media.

The steroid was introduced to standard practice after it proved effective on a coronavirus patient who wasn't showing signs of recovery with other treatments, Lars Falk of the New Karolinska Hospital told Sweden's Dagens Nyheter.

The dexamethasone study results are preliminary, but the researchers behind





Commercial cassava farming and processing in Tanzania is set to gain momentum as Handeni district commissioner Godwin Gondwe (L) receives from Filbert Mponzi (2nd-R), NMB Bank Plc's Chief of Retail Banking, yesterday a dummy cheque of 3bn/- in loans to 421 cassava famers in the district – with half the amount covered by a Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) guarantee. The thrust of the support is on boosting and improving the cultivation and processing of the drought-resistant food and cash crop, a staple food for millions of Tanzanians and with a fast-growing market in various parts of the world. Others are TADB managing director Japhet Justine (2nd-L), Tanzania Cassava Growers chairperson Mwantumu Mahiza (3rd-L), Handeni district executive director William Makufwe (3rd-R) and NMB Bank Plc northern zone manager Aikansia Muro, Phote

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## **Four more collect forms** in Z'bar nomination race

#### **By Guardian Reporter**

CCM aspirants seeking nomination for the Zanzibar presidency poll rose yesterday as four more cadres collected the party nomination forms.

Those who picked up forms include former Chief Minister Shamsi Vuai Nahodha, Mohammed Jaffer Jumanne, Muhammed Hija and Ambassador Major General (rtd) Issa Suleiman Nassor.

Nahodha arrived early at 8.00 am at the Isles

CCM head offices. Kisiwandui and was handed the forms by Galous Nyimbo, secretary for the party's NEC special committee for Zanzibar. He was given three sets of forms including one requiring obtaining 250 supporting signatures in the Isles' five regions with at least one from Pemba, which have to be lodged by June 30.

Nahodha received the forms after paying the 1m/- fee and refused to answer questions on his presidential bid or the policies he

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## Muhimbili axes surgery for kidney stone cases

#### **By Getrude Mbago**

PATIENTS suffering from kidney and urinary tract stones will no longer have to undergo surgery treatment after the Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) came up with new technology using shock waves to grind the fatty stones into particles that can be absorbed or discharged by usual body mechanisms.

The new service 'Extracorporeal shock wave lithotripsy (ESWL)' will be provided by local specialists at the MNH-Mloganzila facility.

Addressing journalists in Dar es Salaam

vesterday, MNH Director General Prof Lawrence Museru said the ESWL service will provide relief to patients who were often required to travel abroad for the services.

Breaking a kidney stone into particles enables the fatty compounds to easily travel through the urinary tract and pass out from the body, he explained.

He said the treatment was launched as one of the hospital's strategies to enhance medical services provided to patients, in line with overall government plans to improve

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## **SHARE FACTS ABOUT COVID-19**

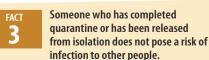
Know the facts about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and help stop the spread of rumors.

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.

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



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



#### There are simple things you can do to help keep yourself and Δ 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

#### You can help stop COVID-19 FACT 5 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

**NEWS** 

## Muhimbili axes surgery for kidney stone cases

#### FROM PAGE 1

the health sector.

Accessing the service locally is ten times cheaper than abroad, he said, noting that at MNH, the cost for kidney stone treatment ranges from 0.5m/- to 1.2m/- compared to 10m/- that patients pay upon completion of treatment elsewhere.

The standard comparison is usually India, where most local 'medical tourism' is conducted.

"We are committed to continue delivering advanced, safe, and rapidly effective medical treatment. This is part of our strategies," he declared.

The hospital has so far treated ten patients with kidney and urinary tract complications involving stones and all the patients are healthy and progressing well, he pointed out, noting that this enabled a saving of 95m/- by offering the service to the ten patients locally.

MNH urologist Dr Isack Maro said the treatment takes less than an hour, enabling the patient to go home on the same day.

"It doesn't require hours to conduct the treatment. The technology involves the use of X-rays or ultrasound tests to precisely locate the stone before it starts breaking the stones using shock waves which travel through skin to the kidney," he said. He said the waves

grind the stones into particles similar to fine sand.

Kidney and urinary tract stones are treated in several ways, including fragmentation and lithotripsy that directs shock waves to the stones area from outside the body through ESWL.

Kidney stones are removed from the body as they may cause microbial infections, bleeding or blockage of the kidney course, or parts of the urinary tract, he elaborated.

People to take plenty of water every day and avoid excessive consumption of red meat to prevent occurrences of kidney stones, he specified.

Another urologist, Dr Hamis Isaka said the new service eclipses surgery as it allows the patient to continue with routine activities soon after treatment.

Patients undergoing surgery may take one to three months to recover due to a range of associated complications, he stated.

Samson Marwa, one of the first patients to obtain the service, said that he suffered from kidney stones for several months without getting relief.

"I even underwent surgery but my condition was not improving. I am now progressing well after this new treatment using shock waves, recovered and no longer feel any pain," he said, expressing gratitude to the doctors and MNH management for introducing the service.



Agriculture minister Japhet Hasunga (3rd-L) inspects farms yesterday when he attended this year's edition of an agribusiness exhibition 2020 held in Kilosa District, Morogoro Region. It is organised by the Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute at Ilonga in collaboration with a seed development company. Photo: Correspond

#### FROM PAGE 1

area by setting up study farms in every ward of Kilosa District. This will enable farmers to transform their farming methods to commercial farming, he elaborated.

"We have been conducting a lot of research on modern technology seeds and now we have started to show farmers through the study farms in their areas so as to enable them

## We have 2.8m tonnes of excess grain - ministry

directed to conduct exhibitions by

They must start study farms so

as to teach modern technology to

produce agricultural raw materials

that will enable the country to attain

an industrial economy, he told the

following farmers in their areas.

abandon traditional farming methods," said all 17 TARI centres have been he specified.

The exhibition will be conducted for one full year in various wards in the district including the Nanenane Grounds in Morogoro municipality, he said, urging farmers to go there to learn.

TARI director Dr Geoffrey Mkamilo gathering FROM PAGE 1 intends to follow if nominated.

This is the second time for Nahodha to vie for the Zanzibar presidency. In 2010, he was the leading aspirant as Chief Minister, competing with Dr Ali Mohamed Shein who was Union Vice President.

At around 11.00am Mohamed Jaffer Jumanne came to collect forms and refused to talk to reporters on claims he was not prepared for that.

At 1.30pm CCM cadre Muhammed Hijja arrived at the Kisiwandui offices and patriotism and expects every

to speak to reporters.

Four more collect forms in Z'bar nomination race

Hijja was once a senior official in Tanzania's mission in India and Director of Intelligence in the Isles from 1990 to 2000.

Ambassador Issa Suleiman Nassor closed the exercise for yesterday and arrived at 1.46pm to collect the forms. Nassor is a diplomat and once headed the country's mission in Egypt.

Speaking to reporters, he said he wants to strengthen unity, solidarity

to collect the forms, but also declined Zanzibari to contribute to the development of the nation.

He said the implementation of the CCM Election Manifesto would be his guideline in leading the nation to attain economic growth.

Maj Gen Nassor is an expert in defence issues, international diplomacy as well as information technology (IT).

In 2017 President John Magufuli sworn in Maj Gen Nassor as Tanzania's Ambassador to Egypt where he was also accredited to Palestine, Syria, Iraq and Jordan.

WHO: Use cheap steroid only with



#### acute coronavirus

#### FROM PAGE 1

the trial said it suggests that the drug should become standard care in severely stricken patients

For patients on ventilators, the treatment was shown to reduce mortality by about a third, and for patients requiring only oxygen. deaths were cut by about one fifth, on the basis of findings shared with the WHO.

"This is the first treatment to be shown to reduce mortality in patients with Covid-19 requiring oxygen or ventilator support," Tedros said in a statement.

"WHO will coordinate a meta-analysis to increase our overall understanding of this intervention. WHO clinical guidance will be updated to reflect how and when the drug should be used in Covid-19," the statement intoned.

South Korea's top health official expressed caution about dexamethasone and the European Union and Switzerland both said they were awaiting more information.

An Italian expert said that dexamethasone was no silver bullet.

"The study showed a marginal reduction in deaths," said Lorenzo Dagna, immunology head at IRCCS San Raffaele Scientific Institute in Milan. "We're light years away from being able to say we've found the cure against COVID."

On the positive side, he stated, the drug is cheap and plentiful.

As the new coronavirus has wreaked havoc on global economies, some countries have moved quickly to authorise emergency use of medicines only to later backtrack.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration, for instance, withdrew emergency authorisation for hydroxychloroquine, a malaria drug touted by U.S. President Donald Trump and others against Covid-19, after studies showed it did not help.

WHO said on Wednesday that testing of hydroxychloroquine in its large multi-country trial of treatments for COVID-19 patients had been halted after research showed no benefit.

"We have been burned before," Dr. Kathryn Hibbert, director of the medical intensive care unit at Harvard's Massachusetts General Hospital underlined, expressing caution about dexamethasone.

Residents of Chalinze town's Mbala suburb in jovial mood yesterday – and very understandably so – after the Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (Dawasa) were done with the implementation of the first ever water project in the area. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

#### **KAMPALA**

A new study by scientists at Makerere University College of Natural Sciences has recommended that the government extend the Covid-19 lockdown up to October.

The scientists said rushing to release more than 75 per cent of the population from lockdown before the said time would cost the country more than 10,000 infections, something that is unmanageable given the fragile health system.

They also say the move could set the second and "more disastrous" wave of the pandemic in the country.

"... with 3,200 hospital beds and not all are ICU-like in capacity, releasing more Ugandans within the 100 days, means the pressure on the health facilities would be overwhelming in case of new infections," wrote the scientists.

"....75 per cent of the population can only be effectively released from lockdown after 210 days (around October 2020) if the possibility of having the second wave of the infection is to be mitigated," they added.

report titled, The study 'Understanding the dynamics of decision making amid political, public, socio-economical, national and regional challenges and interests," was released yesterday Makerere University.

The study is a mathematical modelling of Covid-19 dynamics in the country which drew the conclusion from analysing the characteristics of Covid-19 recruitments, recovery, importation of cases, surveillance and case management.

The scientists analysed the population at high risk and those infected but cannot be detected by the screening and diagnosis system.

According to the experts, a much slower approach to easing the lockdown that includes a strong surveillance would work for the country. The scientists also indicated that Covid-19

infections can be contained if imported cases are restricted.

"The issue of eliminating truck drivers mingling at service and testing centres at border crossings should be re-enforced. Government should set up treatment and isolation facilities as close as possible to the testing border points," they said.

The scientists explained that this would prevent overwhelming cases in regional facilities, optimise deployment of the scarce resources and minimise stigma and anxiety.

Prof Joseph Y.T Mugisha, who led the team of five scientists while releasing the report, said their modelling is feasible in real life.

"To understand whether the model serves the purpose, we fitted the model with reported data from the Ministry of Health," he said.

Prof Mugisha said the current measures put in place such as the wearing of facemasks and partial lifting of the lockdown are insufficient to safeguard the country.

He said a number of new infections are still being imported into the country, and more people are unknowingly contracting the disease from community and health facilities.

"Since hospital-acquired infections have emerged, mitigation should be given priority," he said.

Prof Mugisha said government should provide isolation facilities for health workers, effective personal protection equipment and increase number of health workers.

The study, according to Prof Mugisha, was intended to assist government to study the transmission dynamics of Covid-19 and use it to make more informed decisions.

On the impact of the lockdown, the scientists said: "In the ideal situation of maintaining only 10 per cent of susceptible population available, the hospitalisation requirements would be close to 1,000 beds by 100 days after reporting the first case." AGENCIES

#### NATIONAL.NEWS

# acts.

Sheikh Hassan Kabeke (3rd-R), chairman of the Inter-Religious Council for Peace committee in Mwanza Region, accompanied by members of the committee when addressing journalists in Mwanza city yesterday on the importance of maintaining peace before, during and after later this year's General Election. Photo:

#### **By Henry Mwangonde**

A CAMPAIGN is catching up for Tanzania to adopt a new countryspecific economic model based on a social market economy billed to promote sustainable development.

This follows a study conducted by experts from three universities namely St Augustine University of Tanzania (SAUT), University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) and Mzumbe University that sought to establish the type of economic model that can unlock Tanzania's potential.

Speaking at a media training on the matter yesterday, Tanzania Episcopal Conference (TEC) Secretary General Fr. Dr Charles Kitima said after initiatives to inform various groups including religious leaders on the economic model, the turn is now on senior government officials to understand how the proposed economy works.

The Social Market Economy 'Nation's economic potential must promote sustainable development'

for Tanzania (SMET) is aimed at opportunities for all individuals and promoting and sharing the idea of an alternative economic model to be adopted in order to foster economic transformation and development through industrialization.

Dr Kitima argued that the current economic model-free market-is not friendly to the majority of Tanzanians since it favours only the already established businesspeople and multinational corporations.

SMET is an economic model which ensures that human beings are the focus of all economic activities and that inefficiencies of the state-controlled economy are minimized or completely phased out. The model

emphasizes on their human dignity. "We have a role to play in ensuring

that we create an economy that is inclusive and benefit all Tanzanians," Dr Kitima said.

According to Kitima the book is an attempt to live up to Mwalimu Nyerere's plea for people centered development where it takes into account the different economic reforms which Tanzania has undergone since independence.

Now the team is planning to create a way in which the economic model can be incorporated in political party's manifestoes to be discussed in the coming General Elections.

He said despite the achievements made, many people have remained

poor and lack access to key social services and that the economy does not reflect the national social economic development. An economy which is inclusive and competitive and not destroying each other

We have had various initiatives to improve our economy but we don't success because we have not established our economic model.

One of the presenters during the training, Ponsian Ntui said this is the time the country developed its own economic model that will have meaning to an individual's economy.

He said SMET aims at creating suitable framework for an open market policy and creating a reliable tax system with long term plans.

# Centre helping gender desks at police stations perform better

#### **By Getrude Mbago**

(WLAC) has embarked on a programme to train and equip officers at police gender desks in Dar es Salaam Region with more skills and knowledge so as to improve service provision and delivery of justice to people affected by violence

Speaking during the event in Dar es Salaam yesterday WLAC Theodosia Muhulo said that police gender desks have contributed immensely in the fight against Gender Based Violence (GBV), something which needs more investments to ensure that desks serve more victims of violence.

The training brought together over 50 officers from the Police's Gender Desks in the city.

Muhulo noted the programme also involves training teachers and social welfare on how to deal with child violence cases.

According to her, there was still a large wave of violence acts and thus training the officials was key towards eradicating the actions.

"GBV including violence against children remains one of the most serious human rights violations in the country which calls for determined efforts to curb it. For example, we have witnessed an increase of violence cases during Covid-19 period, particularly home based violence, with this situation we have to collect our efforts and make sure that we fight the challenge," she said.

Head of Gender Desk at Dar es Salaam Special Police Zone Senior Superintendent Leah Mbunda also acknowledged that the number of

violence cases especially child abuse increased during the three months THE Women Legal Aid Centre where schools had closed following threat of Covid-19.

> "Most of the cases were children physical violence such as rape and the implementers of the incidents reported to be family members, neighbors. Parents should strengthen the security of their children while home, this is a very big challenge, we need to be closer with our children to keep them safe," she said.

> She however hailed efforts done by the government and stakeholders to educate the public on the GBV issues as majority of them are now reporting to Police whenever they face the challenge.

> Mbunda further stressed on the need for more education and awareness programmes on GBV and violence against children.

> "We commend WLAC for seeing this challenge and being able to invest its efforts to fight it. Training police officers enables the group to participate fully in the war against violence," she added.

We commend WLAC for seeing this challenge and being able to invest its efforts to fight it. Training police officers enables the group to participate fully in the war against violence

**By Guardian Reporter** 

#### Extension activities sure to expose rural farmers to new technologies, says minister

fosters equal 



He directed stern measures should be 1961, so I will not allow my people to get such groundnuts, that's entrepreneurship," he taken against those who will be found doing punishments," he said.

In the telephone talk, President Magufuli

stressed.

He further wanted the city's director

Guardian

#### By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

FACED shortage of extension information. officers in the country, the government has adopted some crops like cotton have use of technology to reach been seriously affected as the many farmers, minister expectation was to produce for Agriculture, Japheth a total of 600,000 tonnes in Hasunga has said

The system, dubbed been met. 'M-Kilimo' platform is an markets, among others.

while the demand is 12.000 kilogram per hectare. extension officers, adding that the government is that lack right farm inputs

share information. " The deals with welfare of crops. government acknowledges

M-Kilimo also enables access to agricultural extension officers. Through the service, farmers can share information with extension officers on various issues affecting their farming. Farmers can receive alert and information on disease outbreaks, new seeds and weather reports through their phones.

He said more than 90,000 livestock keepers, crop farmers and fishermen are expected to benefit from this service. M-Kilimo was developed after studies

conducted in rural Tanzania indicated the value of mobile

with acute devices in passing agricultural According to the minister to people.

the country but target has not

He appealed to cotton innovative service that farmers to use quality seeds gives farmers access to that can increase production agricultural information and they should also adopt such as farm inputs, modern technology too. He noted that Tanzanians should The minister said there aim to increase production are only 7000 extension from the current 200 officers in the country kilogram per hectare to 2000

Minister Hasunga observed working hard to fill the gap. is another challenge facing Once registered on the farmers but explained that M-Kilimo platform, farmers the problem is likely to end and buyers can meet online soon, He said the government and do business as well as has set up organization that

Working in collaboration that there are few extension with Tropical Pesticide officers in the country Research Institute (TPRI) and is doing everything will put in place measure to possible to help farmers get ensure control of fake inputs extension services" he said. in the market.

#### Jubilee UFE INSURANCE JUBILEE LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF TANZANIA LIMITED HEAD OFFICE: P.O BOX 20524 DAR ES SALAAM LOSS OF LIFE POLICY NO. 00650 FRANCIS A. MOSHY

Application has been made to this company for the issue of duplicate of the above number policies, the originals having been reported as lost o misplaced. Notice is hereby given that unless objection is lodged to the contrary at the office of the company within thirty from the date of this notice, duplicate policies will be issued, which will be sole evidence of the contact. Uar es laam, 04th June 2020

punishments to people ,saying there are cruel and unusual.

PRESIDENT John Magufuli has directed

the National Service Corporation (SUMA

JKT) providing security services in various

parts of the country stop the use of harsh

In a telephone call, President Magufuli told the Dodoma city council director Godwin Kunambi that he didn't like the behaviour of some of the officers whose major role is to provide service and not harsh punishments

He made the directives when he visited the Dodoma Bus Terminal and came across various complaints from traders.

According to him, the officials are required to maintain discipline when executing their duties but not exposing innocent people to unnecessary punishments.

"This is a free country; we got freedom in

also wanted all hawkers to stop conducting to produce more traders Identification their activities at the bus station because most of them turn out to be thieves.

"Hawkers at the bus terminal are not allowed, if you want to do your businesses , go and do it in your homes, this is not a good job. You should engage in a decent employment such as selling berries or

Cards (IDs) so as to enable the groups conduct their activities freely and profitably

"Work closely with youth and women and people with disabilities to ensure that they get soft loans to improve their businesses and lives," President Magufuli added.



#### **PRE-BID MEETING FOR UPCOMING CONSTRUCTION TENDERS**

Enabel, the Belgian Development Agency, through Water Sanitation and Kigoma Region Project (WASKIRP) plans to engage contractors and consultants for construction of water supply networks in Kigoma region. Several tenders are currently being prepared for publishing. Enabel therefore has organized a meeting for interested contractors and consultants for orientation to the bidding documents and processes so as to achieve appropriate responsiveness to the tenders. The meeting will be held as follows:

Date : Saturday, 27 June 2020

Venue : Hotel Slipway, Slipway Road, Msasani Peninsula, Dar es Salaam Time : 10:00 – 14:30 PM

The meeting will allow a maximum of 2 people per company. Interested companies are encouraged to submit their interest and names of their representatives by Thursday, 25th June 2020. No company will be allowed to be represented in the meeting if they fail to register their interest to attend the meeting and if they do not submit their names before this date.

In the wake of the COVID 19 situation, the meeting will adhere to strict preventative measures as guided by the government for such meetings. All participants are required to bring facial masks to wear while the organizers will ensure availability of sanitization fluids and hand washing facilities.

Submit your interest to participate in the meeting and the name(s) of your company representative through email to constantin.hien@enabel.be copying to lilian.ayo@enabel.be



SO.

#### SHAABAN ROBERT SECONDARY SCHOOL

## FORM 1 ADMISSION 2021 **REGISTRATION FOR ENTRANCE EXAMINATION**

Application forms for the Entrance Examination are available at the school office for a fee of TShs. 25,000/=, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. with effect from Friday 19th June 2020.

A student who has completed or is completing standard VII and is born on or after January 1st 2007 is eligible to write the Entrance Examination.

> **The Headmaster P O Box 736** DAR ES SALAAM Tel.No.2114903 / 2114935 Mobile: 0693 081 688 E-mail: info@shaabanrobert.sc.tz

#### By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

MINISTER for Works, Transport and Communications Isack Kamwelwe says so far 147 tonnes of fish fillets have been exported through Mwanza International Airport.

In the circumstances he said, a committee has been formed whose task is to find markets for various products including fish fillets from Lake Victoria.

Kamwelwe was speaking here to reporters mid this week soon after a meeting that brought together

# 147 tonnes of fish fillet exported through Mwanza airport since May - Kamwelwe

NEWS

ninisters in charge of agriculture, year through the airport hence the livestock and fisheries, foreign affairs, finance and planning as well as regional commissioners from Mwanza, Kagera and Mara regions.

exporting fish fillets on May 20 this various cargos," he said.

meeting discussed how to expand these exports.

"As of now the airport has become an international one as planes land and fly Kamwelwe said Tanzania started directly to foreign countries carrying

find other airlines that will directly land at Mwanza Airport and airlift fish fillets.

"Apart from fish fillets, we have also discussed other products including meat, avocados, and vegetables demanded by foreign countries for

He said the meeting also aimed to our farmers to get better prices," Kamwelwe said.

> He further said already they have already had talks with RwandAir whose planes will start landing at Mwanza Airport and airlift goods to various foreign countries.

"In this airport various challenges including the perimeter fence have started to be worked upon, and equipment for loading fish fillets onto the plane have already been installed," he said.

He said they are also looking for the routes to be used by refrigerated trucks to transport fish fillets to Dar es Salaam and Tanga ports. "Some fish fillet cargo will be transported by ships, as our customers are many and our products are in high demand in the international market," he added.

> Students of the Monduli

Community Development

Training Institute in Arusha Region

prepare the ground-work for the

tion of the foundation of

a building at Mti Mmoja vil-lage's Sepeko health centre

yesterday.

noto: Cor espondent

Noinde Shizza

construc-

# 'War against illegal fishing increased sales of exports'

#### **By Guardian Reporter**

PRESIDENT John Magufuli has highlighted several achievements recorded in the livestock and fisheries sector in the last five years whereby fish availability has increased significantly with export sales raising to 692bn/-.

In his speech when dissolving the 11th Parliament in Dodoma on Tuesday President Magufuli said the achievements were a result of intensified war against illegal fishing.

The Head of State said this has been visible in the number of cargo flights arriving into the country to collect fish for exports.

"I remember the Minister for fisheries and livestock Luhanga Mpina moving with a ruler but I know this was part of the efforts to control illegal fishing activities and implantation of laws," he said.

He gave an example of the increase of Nile Perch fish as a result of the government efforts to control illegal fishing.

According to him, Nile Perch in Lake Victoria increased from 417, 936 tonnes in 2016 to 816,964 in 2020 as well as its length has increased from 16 centimetres to an average of 25.2percent in 2020.

At the same time the president said fish exports sales had increased from an average 379bn/- in 2015 to 692bn/in 2019.

President Magufuli also said that the government's improvements and measures have led to the increase of fish keepers from 18.843 in 2015 to 26,474 farmers in 2020. The number of fish keeping dams has increased significantly from 22,545 in 2015 to 25,445 dams this year.

"Fish cages have also been increased from 109 in 2015 to 431 in 2020.

In addition, President Magufuli said that in 2017, the government launched the Second Phase of the Agriculture Sector Development Programme (ASDP) which is aimed to transform the country's agriculture sector while capacitating the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) with more funds.

provided TADB 57.8bn/- so as to enable it to improve the smallholder Credit Guarantee Scheme (SCGS) which is facilitating other banks to provide loans

"This means that, over the last five years, the government has given TADB 324.8bn/- to enable the Bank to provide soft loans to farmers, livestock keepers and fishermen worth 166.9bn/- ," he said

President Magufuli said as a result of the measures, significant achievements have been recorded especially in the agriculture sector whereby production of food crops increased from 15,528,820 tonnes in 2015/2016 to 16,891,974 tonnes in 2018/2019. The country's annual demand for food is less than 14 million tons.

He added that production of commercial crops also increased from 796,502 tonnes to 1, 144, 1631 tonnes in 2015 and 2019 respectively.

"This has accelerated formalization of land plots and issuance of title deeds. A total of 764,158 plots were formalized, we also issued a total of 515,474 customary title deeds patents. The government also formalized 920 villages out of 975 which are in conservation areas," he added.



He said that the government has also

to small scale farmers and enterprises.



#### **By Guardian Reporter** THE Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG) has called upon organs and pregnancies.

that dispense justice to victims of violence, including children to mete out that justice in time in consideration of wider children interest.

The Commission made the call on Wednesday this week during celebrations to mark the Day of the African Child that reminds the world of the massacre of over 2,000 of Soweto near Johannesburg 44 years ago by the former apartheid regime.

Hamad appealed to justice stakeholders to continue educating the society about human rights in order to change misleading customs and traditions as well as admonishing acts of cruelty, abuse and humiliation on children. "Parents and guardians must be accountable for their families' upbringing. They should also ensure both girls and boys are accorded equal rights so that they attain their dreams of life," said Hamad in his statement.

头

ΜΛΚΛΜΒΛΚΟ

WIND FARM

He recommended the importance for children to rights of children," he said. be accorded with education on maternal health so as to be knowledgeable on the effects of child marriages

He noted: "Various stakeholders on children's rights should ensure that security, safety and the rights of a child are strengthened as well as to ensure that all kinds of abuse and child discrimination are eradicated." "As we mark this day it is important for us, the stakeholders to assess ourselves on how we have prepared and implement friendly structures reached to all children in the protection of children's rights in CHRAGG's Deputy Chairman Mohamed Khamis recognition of this year's slogan: "Friendly structures in ensuring the rights of children is a foundation to

He said in regard to laws, Tanzania has enacted various laws including the Child's Act (No, 21 of 2009 and No. 6 of 2011, the Penal Code, the Criminal Procedure Act for both the mainland and Zanzibar.

He said CHRAGG recognizes that through these protocols, policies, laws guidelines and friendly structures in the attainment of justice have been established and strengthened.

These include juvenile courts, gender desks at police stations, juvenile prisons and correctional schools. He said despite these efforts, there are still challenges that hinder the attainment of children's rights including miuxing children with adult inmates in adult prisons that is against the law, children not being accorded with legal representation whenever they are in legal wrangle, circumcision and other acts of child abuse. The day of the African Child was officially launched in 1991 by the former Organization of African Unity (OAU) as remembrance to the massacred Soweto children.

Commission: Dispense justice for children promptly

Production of ...have also increased to 14.53 million in 2020 from 8.09 million."

He also said that the government has increased pastoral areas from 1.4 million hectares in 2015 to 5 million hectares in 2020, something which has helped to reduce conflicts between farms and pastoralists.

been increased from 109 in 2015 to 431 in 2020. Production of ... have also increased to 14.53 million in 2020 from 8.09 million

protect their rights.'

"CHRAGG likes to congratulate both Tanzania and Zanzibar governments for the various steps in the protection of children's rights and interests. The steps include the ratification of various international and regional protocols, formulation of policies, laws, regulations and other guidelines as well as planning for various strategies that protect, and strengthen the

Norsk Vind

BBC MEDIA ACTION TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH MEDIA AROUND THE WORLD

#### **RECRUITMENT NOTICE**

BBC Media Action is the BBC's international charity. We believe in the power of media and communication to help reduce poverty and support people in understanding their rights. Our aim is to inform, connect and empower people around the world. With an expanding portfolio, we are now advertising for the following position in Tanzania:

Videographer/Graphic Designer: will be responsible for filming, editing and creating innovative visual content, ensuring that our online output is of the highest creative and editorial standards and serves the needs of our diverse young audiences. S/he will be directly responsible for managing all the project's visual productions including regularly filming and editing videos, designing and producing infographics and taking/editing photographs to a high standard for use on our digital platforms.

Please only apply if you meet the basic criteria under the person specification which can be downloaded at:

#### https://www.bbc.co.uk/mediaaction/jobs/videographer-niambie-june2020

Candidates should send their CV and a cover letter (PDF or Microsoft Word format) which outlines their experience and suitability for the role in English by email to: recruitment@tz.bbcmediaaction.org with the title of the position applied for in the subject line by 5pm on Sunday 28th June 2020.

Please do not send certificates or other attachments. Applicants with no separate cover letter will not be considered. These are local posts applicable to people who have the legal right to live and work in Tanzania and national terms and conditions will apply. Only shortlisted candidates will be notified.

"The role may involve working with groups of vulnerable children and adults. For the successful candidate, mandatory training will be provided on BBC Media Action's safeguarding policy and staff code of conduct. A police background check may form part of the recruitment process. BBC Media Action operates a zero-tolerance policy concerning all forms of abuse and exploitation of vulnerable people.

**INVITATION TO TENDER** Framework Agreement legal services

#### **Makambako Wind Power Project**

Norsk Vind AS, a Norwegian wind project developer, on behalf of Sino-Tan Renewable Energy Ltd is inviting qualified companies to submit a tender for providing legal services for the 100 MW Makambako Wind Power Project in Tanzania.

#### **Terms and conditions:**

- 1. The tenderer shall document presence in Tanzania.
- 2. The tenderer shall document being part of, or document formalized collaboration with, an internationally recognized legal company.

The full 'Invitation to tender' document and annexes can be requested through the email address: makambako@vind.no

The deadline for submission of proposals is 10th July 2020 at 12:00 (noon) CET

#### Focus in economic diplomacy to respond to global economic challenges - Dr Ponera of CFR **By Guardian Reporter**

THE Dar es Salaam-based Tanzania-Mozambique Centre for Foreign Relations (CFR) is training university graduates and other people in economic diplomacy to enable them to handle complex emerging issues related to international relations and diplomacy, international business, business negotiations, trade and investment promotion.

CFR Acting Director Jeremia Ponera told reporters here that the one-year post-graduate diploma would strengthen skills of foreign service corps and members of the business community to be able handle competitively and skillfully international economic, business, trade and investment transactions.

"Over the past two decades the world has increasingly become a global village of nations; but a village with constantly emerging complex issues related to international relations and diplomacy, international business, business negotiations, trade and investment promotion. The postgraduate training we are offering seeks to equip trainees with knowledge and skills to quickly respond to global economic challenges," Dr Ponera explained.

The acting director explained that training Tanzanians in economic diplomacy had been necessitated by tremendous economic changes and challenges facing the world. The course as part of the centre's contribution to government's efforts to build a strong industrial self-reliant nation, he said. He also explained that Tanzania was fighting to become a middle-income industrial nation in the next half decade. But, he said, Tanzania was in a globalised world and globalization and economic competitiveness had become part of the new world order. Therefore, he said, it was of strategic value for Tanzania to develop capacity in training Tanzanians in theory and practice of economic diplomacy.

Dr Ponera said trainees were expected to apply at their workplaces the knowledge and skills in economic diplomacy acquired at the centre. Students were learning in languages of their choice which include Arabic, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese, Korean and Russian.

NATIONAL.NEWS

Guardian

## Mt Meru Hospital faces acute shortage of blood

#### By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

MT Meru Hospital in Arusha Region is facing by an acute shortage of blood in its blood bank.

The Hospital's Health Secretary, Angela Kimathi has said the blood's availability at the hospital is at 50 to 60

She revealed this yesterday when workers of the NMB Bank went to the help everyone in need, even the donor hospital to donate blood. Due to the shortage, Kimathi said tomorrow."

percent only.

more education is needed for people to have the habit of donating blood whose see the importance of donating blood demand at the hospital is 630 pints per voluntarily; we should not wait until

She added: "The community must

such time our close relatives are in equipment She said the "donated blood will need." After the exercise, NMB Bank as nobody knows what will happen

Manager for the Northern Zone Aikansia Muro said workers at the bank have responded to the call to donate blood to save patients who are in need. "NMB has provided medical

from workers' contributions and we shall continue without any prior warning. to work together with the hospital in alleviating challenges faced by the hospital," Aikansia said.

One blood donor, Patrick Swai said if the people are fully mobilised, many would be ready to donate blood

MAMLAKA YA USIMAMIZI WA BANDARI TANZANIA

because diseases and accident happen

He said being among NMB bank customers he joined the bank's staff to donate blood, and added that he did not know the hospital's procedure over blood donation but he donated after seeing bank's staff doing so.



Eliudi Akyoo (standing-R), facilitator of the National Network of Farmers' Groups in Tanzania in Kilimanjaro Region, pictured in Moshi yesterday responding to a question by one of the farmers (standing-L) on at a two-day seminar on poultry farming organised by the agency for Hai and Moshi districts and funded by Sweden's We Effect organisation.

#### 

#### By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

THIRTY leaders of smallholder farmers in Hai and Moshi districts have benefited from a two-day training on modern poultry farming provided by the National Network of Farmers' Groups in Tanzania (MVIWATA).

MVIWATA coordinator in Kilimanjaro Region, Alex Urio said that through the project entitled; 'Strengthen farmer's network for improved farm income' farmers will benefit with modern skills for poultry farming.

"Through the training sponsored by the Swedish organisation called WE EFFECT, the small scale farmer's leaders will be trained on modern poultry farming, poultry diseases

## Small-scale farmers benefiting from modern poultry training

For his part, the field officer from growing and poultry farming," he MVIWATA Kilimanjaro, Stephano further explained. Msuya explained, in the special modern poultry farming, the network's farmer's leaders will also learn the diversity, even if the attention for the importance of using officers based in vulnerable position of youths has livestock keeping within their areas for increased. Enterprising youths can sustainable improved farm income.

is a farmer's network association which access to credits and other services. has 4,307 members from the northern These efforts should systematically be region Kilimanjaro. It mainly concerns interwoven in the activities of members family farmers, including semi- in years ahead. nomadic cattle breeders of the Masai. "MVIWATA Kilimanjaro made the MVIWATA Kilimanjaro most significant progress in terms of Cornel Joseph from Shiri Mgungani integrated services. The organisation area in Hai district and Theresia Mushi ensures that its members get easier from Kindi-Kibosho in Moshi rural added, will spread the knowledge to access to the irrigation infrastructure district explained that the training has other small farmers within their areas and training. During the training played a significant role in sustainable members get to know improved strengthened farmer's network for techniques in honey production, onion improved farm income.

According to him, MVIWATA Kilimanjaro scores less in terms of enter contests with their business plan. Headded that, MVIWATA Kilimanjaro If they can charm the jury they get

Some of the beneficiaries of the

TAARIFA KWA UMMA



MWENYE PICHA HAPO JUU NI BWANA MADARAKA ROBERT MADARAKA ALIYEKUWA MWAJIRIWA WA MAMLAKA YA USIMAMIZI WA BANDARI TANZANIA (TPA) KATIKA BANDARI YA KIGOMA AMEFUKUZWA KAZI KWA KOSA LA UTORO NA BILA YA KUKABIDHI OFISI UNAOHUSISHWA NA MAKOSA MENGINE ALIYOYATENDA KWA KUSHIRIKIANA NA WAFANYAKAZI WENZAKE NA HATUA ZA KINIDHAMU NA KISHERIA ZINACHUKULIWA.

KWA YEYOTE ATAKAYESAIDIA KUTOA TAARIFA ZA KUPATIKANA KWAKE ZAWADI NONO ITATOLEWA. TAARIFA **HIYO ITOLEWE KWA MKURUGENZI MKUU TPA SIMU NAMBA +255** 22 2116250 AU KATIKA KITUO CHOCHOTE CHA POLISI KILICHO KARIBU YAKO.

and pests control, agri-business, and marketing, among many others," he explained.

The small scale farmer's leaders he for sustainable strengthened farmer's network for improved farm income.

trainings

**IMETOLEWA NA MKURUGENZI MKUU TPA** 

## African scientists help develop banana streak virus-resistant varieties

#### By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

A team of African scientists has made progress in the development of banana and plantain varieties via genetic editing techniques that are resistant to the banana streak virus (BSV), one of the pathologies that hinder the production of these fruits in Africa.

The banana streak virus works by integrating its DNA into the banana genome. When plants are stressed, for example, by drought or heat, viral DNA produces functional viral particles, which eventually cause symptoms of the disease. Therefore, the main epidemics caused by BSV are not due to natural transmission through vector insects, as in the case of HLB citrus disease, or to the use of infected planting materials, but to the activation of the integrated virus in stressful or unfavourable conditions.

The research team led by Leena Tripathi, senior scientist at the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in Kenya, used the CRISPR / Cas9 system to inactivate the viral DNA of the Gonja Manjaya genome, a banana variety that is commonly cultivated in eastern and central Africa.

The edited plants were generated and tested by Jaindra Tripathi, a banana transformation specialist, and Valentine Ntui, a plant biotechnologist at IITA-Nairobi in collaboration with the University of California at Davis, USA.

The team found that when exposed to drought stress, 75% of the edited plants showed no symptoms of banana streak virus compared to unedited plants, confirming that the viral DNA was inactivated.

"This strategy can be applied to improve breeding lines, which can then be used to develop plantain hybrids that don't allow the virus to activate. The strategy may also allow for global dissemination of the resulting genome-enhanced hybrids," stated Leena Tripathi.

According to the researchers, this strategy could be used to strengthen banana and plantain crops and to develop new hybrids with the improved genome.



We need TWO ART TEACHERS starting August 2020: One Art teacher for the Lower Secondary and one to teach **IGCSE and A-LEVEL.** 

#### ALL TEACHERS APPLYING FOR POSITIONS AT DIS should have:

- At least five years teaching experience.
- Experience of Cambridge Curriculum.
- Evidence of students' achievement
- Computer skills

#### A degree in Art is necessary.

Please deliver your applications to the school office in Mikocheni. The applications should be addressed to Mrs Catherine Shindika, The School Principal.

**CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS 17th JULY 2020** 

E mail: dis@dis.ac.tz Tel: 022 2781515 MOBILE 0772 111228



#### ESTHER LUYANGI

It has been 10 years since you sadly left us to be with the Lord. Though physically gone, in our thoughts and memories you are still alive. We miss your smile, laughter, your love, care and generosity is still fresh in our hearts. We know that you are in a better place, peace, joy, and love where we will meet again some day. You are forever missed by your loving husband, children, and grandchildren.

There will be a memorial service on Saturday the **20th June, 2020 at** St Peter's church early morning.

#### NATIONAL.NEWS



Ilala district commissioner Sophia Mjema (R) has a word with one of several people who donated blood in Dar es Salaam on Monday, only a day after the climax of World Blood Donor Day (June 14). This particular event was jointly organised by the Doris Mollel Foundation and the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency.

## Minister wants NGOs expenditure assessed

#### By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children Minister, Ummy Mwalimu, wants Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to be questioned over the expenditure of funds they receive from donors.

The minister expressed this here yesterday when unveiling the guidelines for monitoring the NGOs.

She said after going through regulations governing the NGOs in December 2018, 115 NGOs were scrutinized and up to May this year some 3.9tr/- entered their coffers.

spent, hence I am happy officials from the Finance ministry are with us here but we should continue pressurizing donors, we don't say they should stop giving them the funds but we only want to know where the money goes," she said.

"Even if they pay each other huge salaries, that is not the problem, but I insist we need to have a provision, as we do in education, we want to see touchable results there," she added.

"The present guidelines will assist in strengthening transparency and accountability in the management of NGOs, as we are learning that huge funds were being used without benefiting the people," she said. She added: "An NGO may receive,

say 1bn/- but at the end of the day we must pressurize it to know what the money will be spent for, you cannot have 1bn/- while what you do is only to issue adverts while it has never helped in building even a dispensary or purchasing drugs."

"I am pleased that as of now every ministry will come here, I don't suggest they shouldn't advertise but we must mount pressure on them - how can people benefit by using 1bn/- for an advertisement coming out after every ten minutes - has the money helped a pregnant woman or alleviate classrooms shortage?" she asked.

She said statistics on NGOs "We must know how the money was registration show that by June 2015 there were 7,477 NGOs which have increased to 10,446 in June 2020, among them international, national and regional NGOs.

> Permanent Secretary in the Ministry's **Community Development Department** Dr john Jingu said the guidelines has improved the working environment of the NGOs so as they contribute to the national development.

> > *"Even if they pay each other"* huge salaries, that is not the problem, but I insist we need to have a provision, as we do in education, we want to see touchable results there"

## 'Allocate centre for trade in cereals at Horohoro border'

#### By Guardian Correspondent, Mkinga

TANGA regional commissioner Martine Shigella has instructed for the allocation of a special area at the Horohoro border area in Mkinga District to be used as a trading centre for cereals.

buyers from neighbouring Kenya without the need for crossing the border.

allocate the area when the former at the moment we have the ability Shigella has called on Tanzanian transporters of various goods without giving such benefits to our

traders to use the centre to meet with especially cereals at the Horohoro border area.

"The government has allocated huge sums of money to improve our ports, He directed Mkinga District nearly 176bn/- has been set aside to Commissioner Yona Maki to deepen the water at Tanga Port. Hence went to speak to drivers and some to use our ports to export our goods

neighbours.

"I know we are transporting cereals into the neighbouring country, hence I have visited the area near to the trucks' parking area, which I want you to allocate to be used by traders from Kenya to purchase the cereals from our traders," Shigella said.

spent a lot of money to invest in the the intention to interfere with other country's ports hence trucks that countries' independence. carry cargo from Mombasa Port can also be used to carry cargo from Tanga port.

On the issue of truck drivers who He said the government has deride Tanzania's heath experts have asked.

"Ours is an independent country and president Magufuli has good intentions as you can see even schools are soon to be opened, and since Form VI students continue to oppose the procedures of restarted their lessons, have you heard Covid-19 testing, the RC said those who anyone infected with Covid-19?" he





#### SUPPLY OF INTERNET SERVICES **OPEN DATE 19/06/2020 REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST: No. SOS/PREQ/20/002** CLOSED DATE 23/06/2020

#### WITH HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

Heifer International is a global non-profit, humanitarian development organization founded by Dan West in 1944 dedicated to ending hunger and poverty and caring for the Earth by empowering smallholder farm families around the globe become self-reliant and attain sustainable livelihood through economically viable animal agricultural enterprise. The global headquarters is located at 1 World Avenue, Little Rock Arkansas, USA.

Country Program is seeking to recruit competent candidate for the following position

Job Title: **Cluster Coordinator - EAYIP** Location: Njombe - Tanzania

EMPLOYEMENT OPPOR

Heifer International is an equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, status as a protected veteran, among other things, or status as a qualified individual with disability.

#### **FUNCTION**

The East Africa Youth Inclusion Program (EAYIP) Cluster Coordinator, under the guidance of the EAYIP Social Capital and Cluster Manager, will provide leadership on hub business and will be responsible for managing and providing technical guidance to the business operations of the agricultural value chain enterprises in the Cluster for the EAYIP. S/he will ensure increased production and productivity in the agribusinesses which are the key outcome of the project. Leading and working through a team of Cluster personnel and other consortium staff, he/she will provide technical guidance and support to producer organization boards, staff, and farmers on dairy production and productivity issues.

#### **ESSENTIAL CHARACTER TRAITS:**

Energetic, Positive, Collaborative

#### MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

Bachelor's degree in Agriculture, Animal Science, or other related fields, with five (5) years' managerial experience in dairy production, dairy value chain management, agriculture development with at least three (3) years experience of how cooperatives work.

#### PREFERRED REQUIREMENTS

- Master's degree in Agriculture, Animal Science or a related field, plus at least five (5) years' experience in crop and or dairy production management with a background in dairy enterprise management.
- Experience in developing private-public partnerships especially at country level working in a matrix reporting environment
- Possess the experience and ability to inoculate dairy as a financially viable business proposition at both the farm and producer organization.

For a full Job description and application details please visit this Link. https://jobs.jobvite.com/heifer/ Only Shortlisted Candidates will be contacted

Deadline for this application is Friday June 26, 2019.

SOS Children's Villages Zanzibar is Local Non- Government Organization (NGO) affiliated to SOS Children's Villages International, a worldwide child care organization that work to protect and care for children who have lost parental care, or who stand at risk of losing it. Established 64 years ago, SOS Children's Villages International currently has Children's Villages and other projects in 135 countries around the world. Globally, it runs two major programmes i.e. Family Based Care based at SOS Children's Villages and Family Strengthening Programmes supporting families in local communities. SOS has been working in the United Republic of Tanzania since 1991, and runs Children's Villages and other projects in Tanzania, the organisation runs four Children's Villages in Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Mwanza and Zanzibar and other programmes in Pemba, Iringa and Mufindi.

#### 1) Requirement:

This is an invitation for suppliers to express interest in supplying the above mentioned services using both of the connectivity technology as shown below:

- i. Fiber connection.
- ii. Microwave radio

#### 2) Service plan for each location

Sites	Service plan	Category
SOS Children's Villages Zanzibar Amani Road Mombasa area-Unguja	Up 15 dwn 15 Mb	Dedicated / unlimited
SOS Children's Villages Zanzibar Gombani - Pemba	Up 5 dwn 5 Mb	Dedicated / unlimited

#### 3) Qualification process:

Interested suppliers should send the below listed qualification documents and information as indicated in section 4:

- i. Company profile
- ii. Detailed information of service required
- iii. Major clients and experience
- iv. Business license
- v. TIN certificate

215781001

- vi. VAT registration certificate
- vii. Certificate of Incorporation

NB: Prices are not required at this stage.

The cost of responding to this EOI is to be entirely born by the suppliers, whether they will be prequalified or not and whether they will be invited or not to participate in further bidding procedures.

4) Expression of interest submission:

Interested suppliers should hand deliver their required qualification documents addressed to:

#### The Procurement Committee, SOS Children's Villages Zanzibar, P.O.Box 1923, Amani Road, Mombasa area- Unguja Zanzibar.

NEWS

Arusha District secondary education officer Menard Lupenza said they

expect the dormitory will bring about

positive results for girl students as they

The said amount of money has built

one dormitory with 22 offices, the

matron's office, toilets, bathrooms and

80 students and construction work will

be completed in September this year.

students, 276 boys and 485 girls and

He added that it can accommodate

Einoti Secondary School has 763

will live and study while at school.

a place for laundry.

## Guardian

# Govt pays up 75m/- for building of dormitory

#### By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE government, through Tanzania Education Authority (TEA) has provided 75m/- for the construction of girls' dormitory for Einoti Secondary School in Kisongo ward in Arumeru District.

The school's headmistress, Justine Swai yesterday said the construction of the dormitory will alleviate problems facing girl students who walk long distances to the school as well as reducing instances of child pregnancies.

She added that the dormitory will also see increase of passes at the school in examinations as well as

minimizing some of pastoral customs to the school. and traditions at the school.

"In the pastoral communities, education for girls is not a priority, they are normally prepared to be married off and sometimes lack time for homework while at home," she said. She said due to pregnancies and child

marriages, the school decided to make two classrooms as hostels for girls from the pastoral communities, and the arrangement was quite successful by increasing the level of passes for girls.

She thanked the government for seeing the importance of building a girls' dormitory at the school as the girls in 2018 it grabbed second position were facing hazardous environment in National Form IV examinations in when they had to walk long distances Arusha District.



Participants of a seminar on ways to prevent and combat corruption in Tanzania's legal system follow remarks by Chief Justice Prof Ibrahim Juma, as he opened it in Dar es Salaam yesterday. They include High Court judges and representatives of the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau, Police and Tanganyika Law Society. Photo:

## Germany commits to providing ARC with 19m Euros in drought insurance

#### **By Luke Gallin**

Purchasing an ARC insurance policy subsidies to countries in the south and

## MARYLAND GLOBAL Initiatives Tanzania Limited

#### SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR QUOTATION (RFQ) FOR PRINTING TOOLS (BOOKS/FORMS) RFQ No: MGIT/01/06/200

#### **ISSUED DATE: JUNE 19, 2020**

#### INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

Maryland Global Initiatives Tanzania (MGIT) is an International Non -Government organization an affiliate of the University of Maryland Baltimore currently implementing Projects funded by President's Emergency Program For AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through Center for Diseases Control (CDC),

MGIT is requesting for competitive quotes from reputable companies to print and deliver printed tools (books/forms) for National AIDS Control Program (NACP). The tools are for Care & Treatment, HIV Testing Services and Prevention of Mother To Children Transmission (PMTCT) as per technical description and schedule of Requirement described in the RFQ document

Potential bidders are requested to include the following details in the Response for Quotation

- · Submission of Company and business registration documents such as Relevant and Valid Business license, Tax Identification Number (TIN), Value Added Tax (VAT-if applicable), and other related document.
- Price schedule (Price quoted should be inclusive of all taxes and other charges together with all delivery logistics to MGIT office. Price quoted should be in TZS)

#### Other Requirements:

- There are sixteen (16) lots. Bidders can submit quotes for all lots, but it is not necessary that all lots will be awarded to one bidder. Award for each lot will depend on the price quoted and delivery
- Validity period of the quote should not be less than 60 days · Payment term: 100% payment after delivery, payment will be
- affected not more than 30 days after delivering all printed tools.

#### Evaluation criteria

- Bidders will be evaluated by the following evaluation criteria
- Total price quoted for each lot
- Delivery time for each lot

#### **Quotation Submission Instructions**

- Sealed Envelope should be addressed to Procurement Lead, Maryland Global Initiatives Tanzania, P. O. Box 75568, Dar es Salaam. The top of the envelop should be written the subject and RFQ No. of this quote. MGIT will not accept or consider quotations that are not in a sealed envelope, submitted via e mail or submitted beyond the deadline
- Office Location: Plot 6, Kenyatta Drive, Oysterbay, Dar es Salaam.
- Deadline for submission: Monday 29th June, 2020 at 12:00 noon.

#### **Technical Specifications and Schedule of Requirement**

LOT 1	COHORT Tally sheet book (for PMTCT)     A4 size	6,827 Books
	<ul> <li>Inside paper: 80gsm, two color</li> <li>Cover: Full color, Art paper 250gsm</li> </ul>	
	Each book with 31 sheets printed on one side	
	Finishing: Cloth binding	
LOT 2	COHORT Reporting form book (for PMTCT)	6,827
LOTZ	A3 size	Books
	<ul> <li>Inside paper: 80gsm, two color</li> <li>Cover: Full color, Art paper 250gsm</li> </ul>	
	• Each book with 52 sheets (i. e: 2 front sheets printed on both sides, followed with	
	<ul> <li>25 sheets each sheet with a copy-ncr (self-carbonated paper)</li> <li>Finishing: Cloth binding</li> </ul>	
LOT 3	COHORT Register book (for PMTCT)	6,827
	<ul> <li>A3 size</li> <li>Inside paper: 80gsm, two color</li> </ul>	Books
	Cover: Full color, Hard board	
	<ul> <li>Each book with 90 sheets (i. e: 2 front sheets printed on both sides, followed by 44 sets-each set with 2 sheets printed on both sides</li> </ul>	
	Finishing: Cloth binding	1 500 000
LOT 4	CTC 1 (forms) (for NACP) • A5 size	1,500,000 forms
	<ul> <li>Full color, printed on both sides</li> <li>Printed on green matt paper of 250gsm</li> </ul>	
LOT 5	CTC 2 (forms) (for NACP)	1,500,000
	<ul> <li>Size: Length: 630cm, Width: 297cm</li> <li>Full color, printed on both sides</li> </ul>	forms
	Printed on green matt paper of 250gsm	
LOT 6	Folded PRE-Art Register (books) (for NACP)	1,000 boo
0	A3 size full scape (29cm x 49cm)	.,000 000
	<ul> <li>Inside: MF papers OF 80gsm, black &amp;white, 1 by 30 sheets</li> <li>Cover: Hard case, full color</li> </ul>	
	Binding: Side binding	L
LOT 7	<ul> <li>Art Register (books) (for NACP)</li> <li>A3 size full scape (29cm x 49cm)</li> </ul>	1,000 boo
	Inside: MF papers OF 80gsm, black & white, 1 by 30 sheets	
	<ul> <li>Cover: Hard case, full color</li> <li>Binding: Side binding</li> </ul>	
LOT 8 C	COHORT Register (books) (for NACP)	1,000 boo
	<ul> <li>A3 size full scape (29cm x 49cm)</li> <li>Inside: MF papers OF 80gsm, black &amp;white, 1 by 30 sheets</li> </ul>	
	Cover: Hard case, full color	
LOT 9	Binding: Side binding     COHORT Reporting book (for NACP)	7,000
	<ul> <li>A3 size</li> <li>Inside: MF papers of 80gsm, black &amp;white, (1 by 30 by 50 sheets) which are</li> </ul>	books
	white, yellow and Pink. Should be carbonated (ncr)	
	<ul> <li>Cover: 300gsm glossy/art paper, full color</li> <li>Binding: Side binding</li> </ul>	
LOT 10	Quarterly Reporting form book (for NACP)	7,000 boo
	<ul> <li>A3 size</li> <li>Inside: MF papers of 80gsm, black &amp;white, (1 by 30 by 50 sheets) which are white,</li> </ul>	
	yellow and Pink. Should be carbonated (ncr)	
	Cover: 300gsm glossy/art paper, full color     Binding: Side binding	
LOT 11	Patient/Transfer form (for NACP)	15,000 Books
	<ul> <li>A4 Size, Black &amp; White printing,</li> <li>Pages: 1x2x50 NCR.</li> </ul>	BOOKS
	<ul> <li>Cover: 240gsm manila, full color</li> <li>Binding: Side binding</li> </ul>	
LOT 12	Kitabu cha huduma za uchunguzi VVU (HIVST), Fomu ya ubainishaji makundi ya	29,460
	<ul> <li>wateja (HIVSS Screening) (for NACP)</li> <li>A4 size</li> </ul>	books
	Cover: Full color, Top cover be art paper 160gsm glossy and back cover should be	
•	<ul> <li>250gsm. Both covers should be in brown color</li> <li>Inside paper: 80gsm, black &amp; white color, 50 top papers + 50 bottom papers</li> </ul>	
	(NCR). Top paper should have black text and bottom paper should have blue text	
	<ul> <li>100pages for each book (50 originals + 50 copies)</li> <li>Finishing: Cloth binding/Side binding</li> </ul>	
LOT 13	Kitabu cha fomu ya kubaini kundi la wateja (Fomu ya Rufaa ya Mteja) (Reff) (for NACP)	25,688 books
	A4 size	JUOKS
	<ul> <li>Cover: Full color, Top cover be art paper 160gsm glossy and back cover should be 250gsm. Both covers should be in brown color</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Inside paper: 80gsm, black &amp; white color, 50 top papers + 50 bottom papers</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>(NCR). Top paper should have black text and bottom paper should have blue text</li> <li>100pages for each book (50 originals + 50 copies)</li> </ul>	
	Finishing: Cloth binding/Side binding	
LOT 14	Kitabu cha fomu ya huduma za uchunguzi wa VVU, Upimaji wa VVU, Uhakiki ubora na matumizi ya vitenganishi-Kitabu cha muhitasari wa Taarifa ya mwezi (M. SUM) (for	24,857 books
	NACP)	
	• A2 size	
	<ul> <li>Cover: Full color, Top cover be art paper 160gsm glossy and back cover should be 250gsm. Both covers should be in brown color</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Inside paper: 80gsm, Full color, 50 top papers + 50 bottom papers (NCR). Top</li> </ul>	
	paper and bottom paper all are full color	
	• At the end of the book should have A4 6pages printed on one side and one color	
	• 100pages for each book (50 originals + 50 copies) PLUS 6 pages of A4 size at the	
	end	
15	Finishing: Cloth binding/Side binding     Kitabu cha Rejesta ya buduma za uchunguzi na unimaji wa VVII. Ubakiki ubora na	100.045
15	Kitabu cha Rejesta ya huduma za uchunguzi na upimaji wa VVU, Uhakiki ubora na matumizi ya vitenganishi (Register)	129,045 books
	(for NACP) • A2 size	
	Cover: Full color, Top cover be art paper 160gsm glossy and back cover should be 250gsm. Both covers should be in brown color	
	<ul> <li>Inside paper: 80gsm, full color, 50 top papers + 50 bottom papers (NCR). Top</li> </ul>	
	paper and bottom paper all are full color	
	At the end of the book should have A4 10pages printed on one side and one color	
	• 100pages for each book (50 originals + 50 copies) <b>PLUS</b> 10 pages of A4 size at	
	the end	
	Finishing: Cloth binding/Side binding	3 539 00
16	Kadi ya mwaliko wa huduma za Afya (Invitation conde/healta) (far NAOD)	3,538 Car
16	<ul> <li>Kadi ya mwaliko wa huduma za Afya (Invitation cards/books) (for NACP)</li> <li>Size; D6</li> </ul>	
16		

Dar es Salaam

IN the light of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the German government has committed to assume premium payments of approximately €19 million for the drought insurance offered by the African Risk Capacity (ARC).

Farming in AfricaIn a recent video message, Maria Flachsbarth, Parliamentary State Secretary at the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BNZ) and Co-Chair of the InsuResilience Global Partnership, stressed that Germany will provide its partners in Africa with assistance in light of the broad social, economic, and financial challenges from COVID-19.

The African Risk Capacity (ARC) has been providing drought insurance protection, structured as a parametric contract, to African states since its launch.

provides member states with valuable protection against the negative effects of a drought. However, and as noted by ARC, it can be a challenge for member states to finance annual insurance premiums, an issue that has become more acute during the current crisis.

In response, the German government has responded with its emergency COVID-19 support programme. Under the arrangement, Zimbabwe and five West African countries, which are due to renew their cover in June, will be provided with €8.5 million for premium payments under ARC Replica.

Programme and the START Network that Germany's assistance will "help will be able to take out ARC parametric insurance policies for Burkina Faso, The Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Senegal, and Zimbabwe.

a further €10.5 million for premium socioeconomic problems."

east of Africa, where the insurance protection will not be taken out until H2 2020 owing to the later planting season.

"Firstly, we are deliberately creating liquidity for our partners' particularly urgent COVID-19 measures. Secondly, we are ensuring that the drought insurance, which is of vital importance to so many people, is not lost in the already difficult situation. And thirdly, we are contributing towards stability for ARC member countries," said Flachsbarth.

Ngozi Okonio-Iweala. Chairperson As a result, the World Food of the ARC Governing Board, has said avert a situation of compounded effect of the Coronavirus pandemic and drought in any of the beneficiary countries thereby saving the continent In addition, the BMZ is to provide from extended negative health and

## New contract with nature needed to keep drought and deserts at bay

#### **NEW YORK**

THE UN Secretary-General has called for "a new contract for nature" to address ongoing global challenges connected to land degradation, such as forced migration, hunger and climate change.

António Guterres made the appeal on Wednesday in a message to mark the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought. "Through international action and solidarity, we can scale up land restoration and nature-based solutions for climate action and the benefit of future generations. By doing so, we can deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals and leave no one behind", he said.

land in arid areas, is caused primarily

variations, with more than three billion have freedom of choice. people routinely affected.

Drylands cover more than a They are extremely vulnerable to overexploitation and inappropriate land use, such as through overgrazing or bad irrigation practices.

spotlight on sustainable production and consumption.

With 'Food. Feed. Fibre' as the slogan, the aim is to get people everywhere to reduce food waste, shop at local markets, and swap clothes instead of always buying new items.

The head of the UN office which oversees a global treaty on preventing land degradation said that although Desertification, or the degradation of the COVID-19 pandemic may have by human activities and climatic such as travelling at will, people still

"In our globalized world, the food

we eat, the feed for our livestock and third of the planet's land surface. the fibre for clothes, impact land thousands of miles away," said Ibrahim Thiaw, Executive Secretary at the UN Convention to Combat Desertification.

"Each of us holds the power to This year's observation puts the protect the land for each choice we make in our daily lives. And we can still choose to protect nature. By doing so, we in fact protect our future."

The Secretary-General pointed to efforts to reverse land degradation, such as the Great Green Wall in Africa's Sahel region, launched by the African Union in 2007.

Through the initiative, trees are being planted from Senegal to Djibouti, to restore land and boost food security, temporarily curtailed some freedoms, transforming lives and livelihoods along the way.

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#### Surely, Tanzania can be Africa's leading beach tourist destination

or business; also the theory and practice of touring, the business of attracting, accommodating, and entertaining tourists, and the business of operating tours. Tourism may be international or within the traveler's country.

According to Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism plans are in the pipeline to massively promote beach tourism to increase tourists' arrival in the country as the country has great potential in beach tourism.

The plan to promote beach tourism is in line with the strategic plan to encourage tourists to increase the number of days they spend in the country.

Therefore TTB ought to increasingly promote tourism attractions available in the country to the targeted countries, especially Australia, Russia, China, India and gulf countries.

Some of the gulf countries have historical ties with our country. TTB can make use of the advantage to attract more visitors from these countries. Some of them share same cultures with us.

Air Tanzania Company Limited (ATCL) can as well introduce direct flights from Australia to Tanzania to increase the number of tourists from the Far East country. Most visitors come to Tanzania for prime game-viewing in reserves like the Serengeti and the Ngorongoro Conservation Area; but when you've had your fill of the Big Five, the country's picturesque coastline awaits. Whether you prefer backpacker waterfronts with vibrant party scenes or private islands with abandoned stretches of untouched sand, there are beaches to suit all tastes in Tanzania.

The most famous are located on Zanzibar Island, but for those in the know, there are plenty of magical beaches on the mainland and smaller Tanzanian islands as well. The African Tourism Board is looking to cooperate with African countries to develop beach tourism, marine tourist resources and sports tourism which are best tourist products in

OURISM is travel for pleasure marketing and promotional strategies. Beach and marine resources tourism along the Eastern Coast of the Indian Ocean are potential tourist products in Africa in need for development and exposure to international tourists.

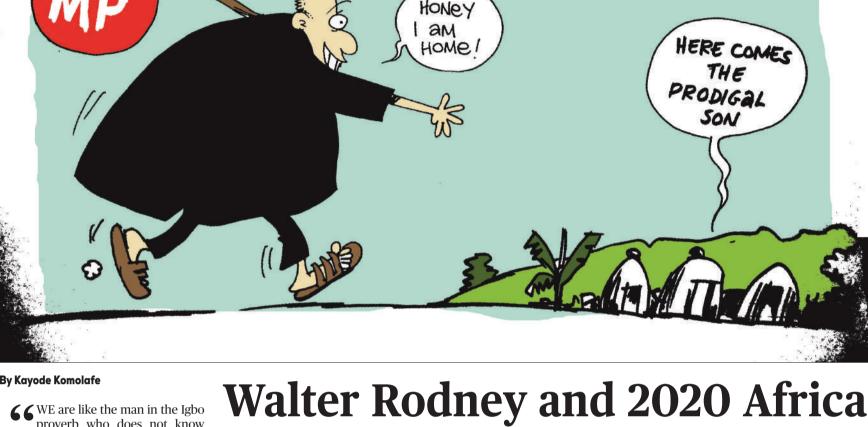
Sinda Marine Island off-the Indian Ocean coast in Dar es Salaam, could attract big numbers of international-class tourists. Indeed Africa needs to diversify its tourist attractions available in the continent other than wildlife resources - the leading tourist attraction in the continent.

Let us expose our islands in this continent to local, regional and international tourists. Tanzania has seven protected marine parks, best for beach tourism, mostly swimming, scuba diving, underwater sports and marine life excursions. Our marine parks in Tanzania were not well marketed to attract big numbers of tourists.

Thegovernmentandotherstakeholders ought to take quick initiatives that would help to develop, then market and promote marine tourism through joint partnership. Africa needs diversified tourism with a focus to marine or beach resources, sports and cultural tourism, all of which are intact and untouched.

Southern beaches on the Indian Ocean coast in our country are rated as the "New Tourist Corridor". Kigamboni suburb in the area is now an upcoming tourist and luxury satellite city in Dar es Salaam. Known as the "South Beach Zone," Kigamboni city hosts a number of high-class tourist accommodation and recreational facilities in its long beach stretch south of Dar es Salaam Central Business District (CBD).

South Beach Zone in Tanzania is counted to be attractive destination for beach holidaymakers from all corners of the world. We should now work hard to identify, develop and then expose the African tourist products at the international travel markets as to attract more visitors to visit this continent. Africa needs to build a strong tourism base in areas of culture, wildlife and other



#### By Kayode Komolafe

**WE** are like the man in the Igbo proverb who does not know where the rain began to beat him and so cannot say where he

dried his body." Chinua Achebe. It was exactly 40 years last Saturday that the radical historian and practitioner of revolutionary politics,

Walter Rodney, was assassinated on a street in Georgetown, Guyana. He was 38.

A bomb was planted in walkietalkie given to him by an agent on that tragic evening. In terms of impact, Rodney represented the remarkable ideological influence felt in Africa in the 1970s from South America and the Caribbean Islands.

Rodney was to radical scholarship and revolutionary politics what Bob Marley, a Jamaican, who died a year after him at 36, was to music and

slavery and colonialism.

In the book, Rodney puts the matter like this: "To know the present we must look into the past and to know the future we must look into the past and the present."

To be sure, Rodney never indulged in wringing hands and blaming only the past for Africa's underdevelopment because as he emphasises in the classic: "None of these remarks are intended to remove the ultimate responsibility for development from the shoulders of Africans."

He also apportioned blame to the African collaborators with external powers to exploit the continent.

explored by Rodney remain relevant

Here, we are talking of the history of Fund. Fitch Rating is important to concept of development. government than that the opinion of any erudite economist or economic institute in Nigeria.

In the economic catechism of African governments, "foreign investment" is the solution to economic underdevelopment. What is the result after decades of "foreign investments"? Africa is even becoming de-industrialised.

Africa is steadily walking into another debt trap. Nigeria, which exited the debtors' club over a decade ago, is today faced with a new asphyxiating debt burden. Nigeria is taking the lead in this perilous path of development.

As reported by Rodney, Africa was Those issues of development "drained" of its socio-economic blood etc.? How can a strategy that wipes out centuries ago by slavery. Millions of the middle class be a guide on the path productive Africans were shipped to the West. The labour of the slaves was invested in building western capitalism. The "vicious cycle poverty" persists. In a supreme irony, hapless young Africans are desperate to go to the West in the 21st to sell their labour. Fela Anikulapo-Kuti sang about the second slavery decades ago. Just like the slaves of the old died in the Atlantic, young Africans now die in the Mediterranean sea in a desperate bid to escape to the West in search of a good life. The migrant crisis is a poignant throw-back to slavery which Rodney and other scholars have richly documented to intellectually arm the struggle for human freedom. Rodney established clearly the link between Africa's underdevelopment and the exploitative nature of capitalism in the metropolis. The fruits of globalisation are there on display as worsening global inequality and poverty. As every nation will have to plot its ways out of mass poverty, African nations have to consciously choose a progressive path to development. China was a victim of years of national humiliation and external aggression. It has asserted itself in the market place of development ideas. It is developing on its own terms and not on the basis of imposed prescriptions. China has proved that each nation has to work methodically to reduce inequality and not expect that the more developed countries would do the job for them out of mercy.

African countries abandoned the Lagos Plan of Action which they put together themselves as a continental formula. They embraced instead the packages of structural adjustment programmes actually designed by the creditors. I

ncidentally, the Lagos Plan of Action was signed in 1980, the year Rodnev was assassinated. Since then hardly has any African country taken a developmental leap based on the imported paradigms. How can they take a leap with an adjustment programme that emphasises reduction in the budget for the social sectors education healthcare, social security

#### International community engagement a necessity in fighting sexual violence

year's International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict observed on June 19 yearly, the member entities of United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict express their grave concern at the continued use of sexual violence as a tactic of war, terrorism and political repression, and call on all parties to conflicts to commit to ceasing such acts as part of the Secretary-General's call for a global ceasefire made in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sexual violence is any sexual act or attempt to obtain a sexual act by violence or coercion, acts to traffic a person or acts directed against a person's sexuality, regardless of the relationship to the victim. It occurs in times of peace and armed conflict situations, is widespread and is considered to be one of the most traumatic, pervasive, and most common human rights violations.

Sexual violence is a serious public health problem and has a profound short or long-term impact on physical and mental health, such as an increased risk of sexual and reproductive health problems, an increased risk of suicide or HIV infection. Murder occurring either during a sexual assault or as a result of an honour killing in response to a sexual assault is also a factor of sexual violence.

Though women and girls suffer disproportionately from these aspects, sexual violence can occur to anybody at any age; it is an act of violence that can be perpetrated by parents, caregivers, acquaintances and strangers, as well as intimate partners. It is rarely a crime of passion, and is rather an aggressive act that frequently aims to express power and dominance over the victim

Women and girls are disproportionately impacted by conflict-related sexual violence. Its perpetration severely affects survivors, their families and their

the occasion of this communities causing lasting harm, and undermining efforts to achieve peace as well as just and inclusive societies. The UN member states should stress the importance of addressing conflict-related sexual violence throughout all conflict prevention, humanitarian response, peacemaking and peace building efforts.

Ensuring a survivor-centered approach is crucial to these efforts. Recognising that durable peace is not possible without women's expertise and contributions, All parties and stakeholders ought to ensure the meaningful participation of women at all levels of decision making whilst immediately putting an end to violence.

UN Action entities stand ready to support comprehensive peace initiatives that ensure women's equal and meaningful participation, and that fully address the needs and experiences of survivors of conflict-related sexual violence.

As the UN marks the 20th anniversary of the Women, Peace and Security agenda, UN Action reiterates its commitment to finally putting an end to the scourge of conflict-related sexual violence and to achieving sustainable peace.

United Nations Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict (UN Action) a cross-UN initiative that unites the work of 14 United Nations entities with the goal of ending sexual violence in conflict. The inter-agency network is composed of 14 UN entities from a spectrum sectors including peacekeeping, political affairs, justice, human rights, humanitarian, health, gender equality and women's empowerment.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General Pramila Patten chairs the network which represents a concerted effort by the United Nations to improve coordination and accountability, amplify programming and advocacy, and support national efforts to prevent sexual violence and respond effectively to the needs of survivors.

indeed culture in general.

Rodney taught in the University of Dar es Salaam and the University of Jamaica. He later returned home to Guyana where he was politically immersed in organising a people's party, the Working People's Alliance.

By his praxis, Rodney became such an ideological and political force that the establishment could not tolerate him until he was killed.

The political personality of Rodney, a Guyanese scholar of African origin, was encapsulated in a tribute paid him on June 27, 1980 at a memorial rally in his honour at the Obafemi Awolowo University (known then as the University of Ife, Ile-Ife).

In the tribute, Wole Soyinka said: 'Walter Rodney was no armchairrevolutionary, he was no captive intellectual playing to the gallery of local or international radicalism. He was clearly one of the most solidly ideologically situated intellectuals ever to look colonialism and its contemporary heir--black exploitation--in the eye, and where necessary, spit in it."

With his magnus opus, How Europe Underdeveloped Africa, published in 1972, Rodney told the development story of Africa in a way that bears resonance to the African condition today.

That's why forces of human progress must continue pay attention to the ideological legacy of Rodney.

Rodney and other radical scholars had begun to approach the problems of development in Africa with a scientific method before the African intellectual landscape became suffused with neoliberal ideas.

For Rodney, the central questions of the "many-sided process" of development should be approached in a systemic way. He pointedly drew attention to the roots of the underdevelopment of Africa.

He demonstrated with copious and meticulous research that these roots could be found in the history of Africa's relationship with capitalist west.

in today's Africa. The crucial questions posed by Rodney remain unanswered. The problems have only assumed new dimensions.

A few elements of the relevance of Rodney's ideas to the contemporary would suffice for Africa this remembrance.

instance, Rodnev traced For the roots of racism to the western capitalist system. The white racist needed to employ racial superiority to make people of colour serve the socio-economic interests of the white. Incidentally, 40 years after Rodney, the slogan of the current protests against injustice triggered by the murder of George Flody in America is this: put an end to systemic racism.

From the perspective of Rodney, it would be illusionary to expect that an end would be put to racism without tackling its systemic basis. Yes, advances were made by the civil rights movement led by Martin Luther King Jr. and others in the 1960s. Barrack Obama, a black man, emerged as president of the United States.

Yet, racism still manifests in murderous dimensions in America.

It's a proof of Rodney's proposition that the problem is not just attitudinal. You need the ideology of racism to exclude the blacks in the access to education and healthcare. Racism is needed to rationalise the injustice of the victims of social inequality, which is a feature of the system.

Rodney exposed the crippling role of external factors in Africa's development. The 21st Century Africa still has an exogenous view of development. For instance, the Nigerian government does not harvest ideas for economic management and planning from the economics departments in Nigerian universities.

Policies are not influenced by indigenous think tanks including the officially established bodies for economic research. The government and its experts are more concerned about the approval of the World Bank and the International Monetary Africa must come up with its own

Osagyefo Kwame Nkrumah was poised to set Ghana on the path of endogenous development with a rich social content. Nkrumah saw an Africa that could make giant strides in the global arena. But that African dream was aborted by an imperialistinspired coup in 1966. Since then, Ghana has been experimenting with various imported socio-economic prescriptions.

Another element of the relevance of Rodney is coming to terms with the lack of self-definition of development.

to a progressive development?

Eminent political economist, Claude Ake summed up the conundrum in his Democracy and Development in Africa this way: "... the problem in Africa is not so much that development failed as that it never really began." Celebrated novelist Chinua Achebe makes this point eloquently about the African condition in the above epigram.

Take the example of Nigeria. This is a country that many optimists had proposed to be the fulcrum of African development in a triangular alliance with South Africa and Egypt. That dream is vet to be fulfilled. Meanwhile, Nigeria abandoned development planning that was the governance culture in the immediate post-colonial vears.

Nigeria has instead crafted many adjustment programmes, visions, development strategies, recovery packages (small, medium and big sizes!). Every administration dumps the package of its predecessor and assembles its own experts and technocrats to script new ones fundamentally based on the same paradigm. No critical question is asked about why the previous vision was not realised.

The cumulative result of these sundry socio-economic experiments is that human development has worsened in the last 40 years.

The social sector has collapsed.

Infrastructure is in decay. Social life is increasingly becoming

miserable with menacing insecurity. Underdevelopment remains a

feature of Africa in 2020 because African governments and their experts fail to learn one thing from Rodney: there should be a political economy approach to development as a process deeply rooted in history.

To borrow from another eminent historian, Professor Jacob Ade-Ajayi, embarking on a development journey without a sense of history is like driving a car without a rear-view mirror.

In such a situation the path of development becomes hazardous.

**FEATURES** 

## Mutharika's last stab at the judiciary before elections

**BY PETER FABRICIUS** 

EXT Tuesday's re-run presidential election in Malawi, like that of last May, is turning out to be more of a contest between the judiciary and President Peter Mutharika's government than between the president and the political opposition.

It was the Constitutional Court, supported by the Supreme Court of Appeal, that was responsible in the first place for the holding of the 23 June presidential election at all. These courts ruled earlier this year that incumbent Mutharika's election victory last May, though endorsed by the Malawi Electoral Commission, was illegal and unconstitutional.

This was based on credible charges of extensive rigging. The charges were laid by the second- and third-place candidates Lazarus Chakwera and Saulos Chilima respectively, and included blatant alteration of ballots through whiting out results and replacing them with others. The courts ruled that the election should be held again.

This is only the second time in African history, it seems, that a court overruled the election of an incumbent. It also ordered that the victor in the new elections must secure a majority, because it said Mutharika's election by a mere plurality - of 38.5% - had been unconstitutional. And so if no candidate wins 50% plus one vote in Tuesday's elections, a second election between the top two candidates will have to be held.

Even with the rigging in the last elections, Mutharika's main rivals together got more votes than he did

But as it turned out, that was not to be the judiciary's last word on the subject of the elections. Because in the meantime Mutharika's administration has tried to remove from the bench two senior judges who participated in the annulment of last year's election.

Last week it tried to place Chief Justice Andrew Nyirenda on immediate leave pending his compulsory retirement at the age of 65 in December 2021. The government said he had over 572 days of leave owed to him. Significantly, it was Nyirenda who led the court that annulled Mutharika's election win. Mutharika's chief secretary tried a similar tactic with Supreme Court Justice Edward Twea who was due to reach retirement age at the end of April next year.

These decisions provoked a storm of criticism. The judiciary flatly rejected them, saying this was a judicial not a government matter, and that 'the Judiciary asserts that the Chief Justice and Justice of Appeal shall continue to discharge their functions as per their constitutional mandate.'

The Malawi Law Society similarly condemned Muthari-



Attempts by Malawi's president to put two independent judges on early leave encounters firm resistance. File photo

elections.' A group of local and international jurists proclaimed that, 'These actions constitute an unprecedented assault on judicial independence in Malawi.'

Politically motivated violence against the opposition, human rights activists and journalists has spiked

In South Africa Nicole Fritz, Chief Executive of the legal watchdog body Freedom Under Law, applauded the Malawian judiciary, the legal professions and civil society for resisting these attacks on judicial independence. Then the judiciary intervened again, as the High Court suspended the forced retirement of the judges, pending a full hearing on the decision.

Mutharika has made no secret of his animus against the judiciary. As the same group of jurists said, his government had made 'coordinated attempts to undermine the judiciary, including statements by President Peter Mutharika falsely accusing the judiciary of having staged a coup against his government and claiming that Parliament is supreme in Malawi and an attempt by the government to repeal the two judgements in Parliament.'

The government and ruling Democratic Progressive Party have apparently also resorted to brute force to retain power. There's been ka's government for 'purporting to send the Chief Justice a spike in politically motivated violence against opposition politi-

on leave hot on the heels of the Supreme Court's decision on the cians, human rights activists and journalists since May, with no arrests of those allegedly responsible, the Malawi Human Rights Defenders Coalition reports.

> It's hard to avoid concluding from Mutharika's industrious attempts to neutralise the independence of Malawi's judiciary just before elections, that he expects the judges to be called on once again to resolve the outcome of the poll.

> Malawi's judiciary is displaying courageous independence in the face of enormous political pressure

> Because on the face of it, he does not look like he's winning the elections, fair and square. In the last elections, even with all the rigging, Mutharika's two main rivals together registered more votes than he did. Chakwera of the Malawi Congress Party won over 35% of the vote and Chilima - Malawi's vice president - secured just over 20%

> These two have now joined forces to form the Tonse Alliance. And according to an opinion poll just concluded by the Institute for Public Opinion and Research, that alliance is 'likely to be a clear winner' by a margin of about 51% to 33% - i.e. in the first round.

> This is not surprising, since the survey also found that 'All told, three quarters of Malawians (75%) had a negative view of government performance in handling what they said was the most impor-

tant problem, against 22% who had a positive assessment.'

It is heartening to see a judiciary displaying such courageous independence in the face of enormous government pressure to kowtow. It is only in Kenya where African judges have shown the same courage, in annulling incumbent President Uhuru Kenyatta's election victory in 2017, despite similarly strong political pressure and even intimidation.

Ideally though, politics should be decided at the hustings and not in the courts. When the political process is subverted, it is of course just as well if the courts are ready to be a safety net to catch falling democracy. Yet one can't help suspecting that Malawi's democracy will only be truly secure when it does not have to lean so heavily on the judiciary for its survival.

Agencies

## Meritocracy legitimises, deepens inequality



OW often have you heard 'equality of outcome' is to be es- also increasingly inhibited, not prosomeone lamenting or even chewed at all cost.

invoking 'equality of opportunity', 'human capital'. While meritocracy but are usually careful to stress that transformed elites over time, it has moted social mobility.



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Guardian

condemning inequality in society, concluding with an appeal to meritocracy? We like to think that if only the deserving, the smart ones, those we deem competent or capable, often meaning the ones who are more like us, were in charge, things would be better, or just fine.

#### Meritocracy's appeal

Since the 1960s, many institutions, the world over, have embraced the notion of meritocracy. With post-Cold War neoliberal ideologies enabling growing wealth concentration, the rich, the privileged and their apologists invoke variants of 'meritocracy' to legitimize economic inequality.

Instead, corporations and other social institutions, which used to be run by hereditary elites, increasingly recruit and promote on the bases of qualifications, ability, competence and performance. Meritocracy is thus supposed to democratize and level society.

Ironically, British sociologist Michael Young pejoratively coined the term meritocracy in his 1958 dystopian satire, The Rise of the Meritocracy. With his intended criticism rejected as no longer relevant, the term is now used in the English language without the negative connotations Young intended.

It has been uncritically embraced by supporters of a social philosophy of meritocracy in which influence is supposedly distributed according to the intellectual ability and achievement of individuals.

Many appreciate meritocracy's two core virtues. First, the meritocratic elite is presumed to be more capable and effective as their status, income and wealth are due to their ability, rather than their family connections.

Second, 'opening up' the elite supposedly on the bases of individual capacities and capabilities is believed to be consistent with and complementary to 'fair competition'. They may claim the moral high ground by

As Yale Law School Professor Daniel Markovits argues in The Meritocracy Trap, unlike the hereditary elites preceding them, meritocratic elites must often work long and hard, e.g., in medicine, finance or consulting, to enhance their own privileges, and to pass them on to their children, siblings and other close relatives, friends and allies.

#### Gaming meritocracy

Meritocracy is supposed to function best when an insecure 'middle class' constantly strives to secure, preserve and augment their income, status and other privileges by maximizing returns to their exclusive education. But access to elite education - that enables a few of modest circumstances to climb the social ladder waxes and wanes.

Most middle class families cannot afford the privileged education that wealth can buy, while most ordinary, government financed and run schools have fallen further behind exclusive elite schools, including some funded with public money. In recent decades, the resources gap between better and poorer public schools has also been growing.

Elite universities and private schools still provide training and socialization, mainly to children of the wealthy, privileged and connected. Huge endowments, obscure admissions policies and tax exemption allow elite US private universities to spend much more than publicly funded institutions.

Meanwhile, technological and social changes have transformed the labour force and economies greatly increasing economic returns to the cognitive, ascriptive and other attributes as well as credentials of 'the best' institutions, especially universities and professional guilds, which effectively remain exclusive and elitist.

As 'meritocrats' captured growing shares of the education pies, the purported value of 'schooling' increased, legitimized by the bogus notion of

#### A different elite

Thus, although meritocrats like to see themselves as the antithesis of the old 'aristocratic' elite, rather than 'democratize' society through greater inclusion, meritocracy may even increase inequality and further polarize society, albeit differently.

While the old 'aristocratic' elite was often unable to ensure their own children were well educated, competent and excellent, meritocrats - who have often achieved their status and privileges with education and related credentials - have often increased their significance.

Hence, a meritocratic system - seemingly open to inclusion, ostensibly based on ability - has become the new means for exclusion, which Chicago University Professor Raghuram Rajan attributes to the digital revolution.

Meritocrats have increased the significance of schooling, with credential attainment legitimizing growing pay inequality, as they secure even better education for thus own children, thus recreating and perpetuating inequalities.

Recent public doubts about, and opposition to rising executive remuneration, MBA education, professional guild cartels and labour remuneration disparities reflect the growing delegitimization of ostensibly meritocratic hierarchies and inequalities.

High moral ground

To add insult to injury, meritocratic ideology suggests that those excluded are undeserving, if not contemptible. With progressive options lacking middle class and elite support, those marginalized have increasingly turned to 'ethno-populism' and other 'communal' appeals in this age of identity politics.

Unsurprisingly, their opposition to educational and economic inequalities and marginalization is typically pitted against the ethnic 'Other' - real, imagined or 'constructed' - typically seen as 'foreign', even if domestic, as the 'alien within'.

## **PUBLIC NOTICE:**

GOVERNMENT NOTICE NO.386 PUBLISHED ON 22/5/2020: THE TANZANIA SHIPPING AGENCIES (SHIPPING BUSINESS) **REGULATIONS, 2020** 

The Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation (TASAC) is pleased to inform its shipping business customers and the general public on the publication of the Government Notice No. 386 on the Tanzania Shipping Agencies (Shipping Business) Regulations, 2020. These Regulations were published in the Gazette of the United Republic of Tanzania No.21. Vol.101 dated **22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2020** and therefore became effective from the date of publication.

The purpose of this Public Notice is to inform our esteem customers and the general public on the effectiveness of the Government Notice No. 386 from 22nd May, 2020.

The Tanzania Shipping Agencies (Shipping Business) Regulations, 2020 (GN. No. 386) is available online and can be accessed through TASAC website www.tasac.go.tz

Should you need further clarifications, please do not hesitate to visit our offices or contact us using the address provided below.

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#### **FEATURES**

## Guardian

## The media must choose their battles well and fight to win

#### **By Brian Veseling**

N a wide-ranging conversation touching on many major newsroom topics, Financial Times editor Roula Khalaf (mugshot) told Jane Barrett of Reuters and the just-ended global online audience for WAN-IFRA's World Media Leaders eSummit how the FT has been navigating the pandemic, how it continues to innovate, and the story it needs to own.

The Q&A session covered everything from gender diversity to new products to innovation - but, naturally, the pandemic framed everything.

A 25-year veteran of the FT, and Deputy Editor from 2016, Khalaf took over as the first female editor in the 131-year history of the paper in mid-January. Less than two months later, the newsroom of some 600 journalists that she leads suddenly found itself dispersed and working remotely.

Roula Khalaf: We have discovered how flexible and how nimble our newsroom is. To be able to, from one day to the next, produce the website and the print newspaper from home is something that if you'd asked me two weeks before if this was possible, I would have said 'No way.' And it's been largely seamless, much smoother than I would have expected.

"For us it's been both a huge challenge, but also just an amazing opportunity because it's been the story of our lifetime," Khalaf said, adding: "Part of it is our sort of sweet spot, which is the business and the economic side, but it has also opened our eyes to the science reporting that we have which has really blossomed during this period.'

Another high point for the FT has been its data journalism, especially its data tracker. "Our coronavirus tracker is our single most viewed piece of journalism ever," she said.

As for the benefits and downsides of working remotely, Khalaf said "a lot of

#### from home."

"I think overall you can do this for quite a while," she added, "but for me it's not what I would like to do in the long term. I do think this will allow us to create more flexibility for journalists in general, and I think that is something that will endure. But not to be a completely remote working organisation".

#### Internal communication is key

Good communication throughout an organisation is always an important factor for success, but it becomes especially crucial during a crisis.

Roula Khalaf: I think as a leader what you also have to do is to communicate more. You have to be more transparent with the staff about what is going on. So I have found myself writing more to the staff than I might have otherwise or that they are used to from the editor.

"At every level, we have had constant communication channels that we manage," she added. "I won't pretend that this is easy to maintain because you can't just do it once, vou can't just do it twice, you they will be reversed," she said. have to do it constantly."

Furthermore, she said she is trying "to make sure that everybody feels involved, so everything from hangouts with groups of reporters to making sure that every team leader is in touch - not just individually with their team members, but also as a group, so that reporters and editors feel that they are part of a small group."

#### Budget cuts, but not job cuts

While there have been some cuts in compensation and bonuses at the FT, these have been largely confined to the upper levels of management, Khalaf said. "I was quite determined that

we could not cut the pay of staff in the newsroom because people were working even harder than normal. But we have had to take other measures in the newsroom," she said.



the one we have today. And I think we made decisions early on that have allowed us to not be firefighting every single week, but to refocus on our core strategy.

Instead, she said, the FT went through its newsroom budget and tried to reduce expenses as much as possible. "All of the measures that we have taken are temporary. They are for six months, and

#### Subscription strategy paying off

Khalaf also noted that on the business side, the FT's decision a decade ago to focus on a subscription strategy has proven to be the right one.

She said: "Our conviction that that is the way to go has been reinforced by this crisis. We have seen extraordinary levels of traffic to FT.com and our previous high was around Brexit and the year after Brexit. What we have seen now doesn't compare -it's twice as much. We have also attracted tens of thousands of new read-

ers who have stayed and who have subscribed to the FT after getting a taste of the FT. It's been a very good crisis from a subscription business point of view."

Likewise, Khalaf is very

... I think of our US operation as an insurgency: you have to pick your battles and you have to make sure that you can succeed in certain areas."

For the FT, two of these areas are technology, which they have expanded coverage of during the past couple of years, and also energy. "If you look at what our US readers want, energy stories are just off the charts," she said.

In addition, she noted that the FT does "very well on our coverage of the Fed (the Federal Reserve - the central bank of the US), economics and trade. For example, last year, we started a vertical called Trade Secrets, and we have a daily newsletter that just reports on trade and that has been very successful. So I think it's very important to pick your battles, to be very focused and to zero in on where you can have competitive advantage rather than just try to compete across the field".

#### Making progress on gender diversitv

A few years ago, Khalaf said the FT began looking at what they could do to attract more female readers. The newsroom's audience engagement team came up with a tool they called JanetBot to alert news editors from now, they are aiming for when the number of published that 50-50. pictures of women went below **straightforward in what it** a certain minimum level. It was one of several related initiatives the FT started, she said, adding: "We wanted to project the image of a news organisation that can can be leaders of the future. appeal not only to men but also to women and also to different age groups." Another bot tracks the number of women who are quoted in FT stories.

here is really raising awaremen, what you have in higher ness within the newsroom. Once you raise awareness it levels and middle levels, you still becomes part of what editors and reporters write. And of course there are still stories that don't mention women because we are also writing about a world where men still dominate, but I have to sav that I have been really, really done much better with trainpleased with the change that I ees and interns, but now the have seen.

Today, she said, there are a lot more women quoted in the FT. "And now because we are part of what's called the 50:50 Project, we actually do it manually as well - we count. It's totally voluntary ... all of these measures have to be voluntary as you are raising awareness, but little by little they get used to it. So all we do is track: The data are there, it's transparent, everybody can see it, and different desks can see what other desks are doing. It creates a certain dynamism where every desk wants to improve."

Furthermore, she said the company has set targets for its leadership groups and is on target to meet the ones for this year. "I have found that targets help," she said. A couple of years

In addition, in recent years,

to do that? What is our strategy for that? And there are always changes that we are making in the newsroom that allow us to stop doing something because the story has moved on."

Looking ahead to the next year or so, Khalaf said that the story that the FT needs to own is the economic and business story.

Roula Khalaf: This is a recovery that's going to take us to a point where there's still a lot of scarring. There are companies that will go bankrupt, there will be massive levels of unemployment - these are the stories the FT has to own. There is a lot that will be going on in the next year or two, but this is a story that we absolutely have to own, and I have every confidence that we will own.

#### Digital transformation an ongoing journey

On the topic of digital transformation, Khalaf offered this advice to an audience member's question: "It takes many years of a transition; it doesn't happen suddenly. I think it takes a change of mindset, so you have to start making structural changes within your newsroom and make sure that you can carry people along - through ongoing training, for example. I'm not going to pretend that this is something you do overnight or that it's seamless or that it's easy: It's a journey. It's really a journey."

"You don't suddenly build up

skills," she said, elaborating: "We have the whole data journalism team now that ten years ago we didn't have. Today, everything we think about is purely digital. I talked about the Climate Hub, and that Climate Hub has nothing to do with print, and will probably have hardly any interaction with the print editors. But it's building blocks, steps that you have to take on this journey, and it never ends in a way. You have to keep innovating. It's really important that you keep innovating. It's not 'I have a plan, I put it in place, and then that's it. I have a digital organisation, and I don't move.' You have to constantly innovate.' Brian Veseling is Senior Editor with WAN-IFRA (World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers), and filed this dispatch from Frankfurt.

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reporters can work from home without any problem, without any issue. I have learned that I would prefer for news editors to be in the newsroom. I have also learned that there is an element of serendipity that we miss, that there is an element of creativity that may not be as sharp when you are working

Roula Khalaf: The key for scribers: "Whether it's in the us from the start was also US (where the FT is working job protection, so we made to expand) or elsewhere, a promise of job protection: nobody will lose their jobs. We could not send people nance reporting. This is what out to a job market such as we provide that others don't.

will take to keep these readers and convert them to subwe have to remain focused on our core business and fi-

Khalaf said the FT has been making a concentrated effort to track the career progression of women and try to identify who

"I suspect that for many of us there is still work to do in the middle level," she said, elaborating: "We tend to hire more women than men now, but because of

into the old normal," she said. We need to constantly think about where the story is moving and how to redeploy resources. There are, for example, several new jobs that I think we should have in a world that is post-Covid. One is employment. We need to be writing a lot more about employment. But who's going to do that? How are we going

in the past we hired a lot more

have far more men in the organ-

isation, leading news desks, for

Roula Khalaf: On racial and

ethnic diversity, we still have

a lot of work to do. We have

push is going to be on attract-

ing talents at different levels

of the organisation because

I don't think we can wait for

trainees - it will take ten to 20

years before they reach lead-

ership positions. So I think

you have to work at every lev-

New products and areas of

Looking ahead, Khalaf said a

major focus will be on climate

change. "One of my main pro-

jects for 2020 was the Climate

Change hub, which we were go-

ing to launch a couple of months

ago, and that has now been de-

layed and will launch in Septem-

ber. I think with Covid-19, it's

even more important for us to

focus on climate change because

we believe that the recovery

should be a greener recovery

and despite all the pronounce-

ments that we don't slip back

el of the organisation.

coverage

example, or leading teams."

#### KATHMANDU

#### AST week, Kathmandu erupted with protests organised collectively through the social web by Nepal's urban young fed up with the shenanigans of the country's septuagenarian rulers.

Most demonstrators outside the prime minister's resident in Baluwatar or at Mandala were millennials – born after the democratic changes of 1990. They were outraged by one scam after another and the government's mishandling of the COVID-19 crisis.

Pragati Parajuli joined the protests on 9 June after finding out about it through social media. She had been increasingly furious about the state of the quarantine facilities, neglect of returning migrant workers and felt she needed her voice to be heard.

"People are dying due to lack of food, they are deep in debt, and during such a scary time, when people have nowhere else to look at other than the government, the government has not been with the people," said Parajuli.

The slogans during the demos zeroed in six main demands: PCR testing for everyone at risk, a 4-tier triage approach for the vulnerable population, proper protection for frontline health workers, and legal action against those stigmatising people at risk, relief for people most affected by the lockdown, and transparency and accountability in the Rs10 billion COVID-19 relief budget allocation.

The 9 June protest was largely peaceful, participants wore masks and maintained physical separation. It had been

Social movement through social media going on for more than an hour before police first miked asking protesters to leave the area. Then they advanced with water cannon, detaining 10 people.

"The crowd was triggered when police arrived to negotiate a timeframe for the protest, and started chanting murdabad," explains Aayush Basyal who was also on the street that day.

Photographs of youngsters braving water cannons spread through social media platforms, and followers of the account COVID-19 Nepal: Enough is Enough snowballed. It even got the United Nations Human Rights to tweet calling on the government to 'respect the right to hold peaceful assemblies and protests safely'.

The police attempt to quell a peaceful protest drawing attention to mishandling of the COVID-19 crisis, then took on a more aggressive anti-government tone. The government's line has been that its COVID-19 lockdown procedures do not allow assembly of 25 or more people.

"I never expected the government to stoop so low and use force on teenagers who were sitting peacefully," said Parajuli. "Why the concern about virus transmission at the end of the protest when it had gone on for more than an hour? Besides the police were themselves not maintaining social distancing."

Shashank Shrestha does not recall any provocation from the protesters before the armoured vehicle with water cannon appeared. "If they allowed it go



The June 9 peaceful physically distance protests before the police used water cannon to disperse the participants. File photo

on for 20 more minutes, the crowd probably would have dispersed peacefully," he added. "It was this show of force that fueled more protests the next day."

Indeed, as the images and videos spread on the Internet, more young people responded to the call to come out on the street again not just in Kathmandu but in cities across Nepal. Robic Upadhayay was among a dozen online organisers who was maintaining the Facebook site. He said: "Our view was that we should not have to protest. Let the government listen to the voices of the youth. My friends and I tried to share our views through social media, but the government did not listen. That is why we hit the streets," explained Upadhyay.

The organisers then started getting requests to help mobilise protests in various other neighbourhoods, and the Facebook group became a platform that grew in a chain reaction to nearly 200,000 young people.

"We told them to protest, but to make sure that it was peaceful, non-violent, without political agenda and abiding by safety measures to reduce the risk of infection," Upadhyay added.

During the 80-days extended lockdown, the government had failed to bring back the migrant workers-many stuck in countries without jobs. Nepal bring the first of the migrant workers back home but they did not meet the government's own minimum standards and themselves became virus incu-

bators. The young protesters were following this news on the digital media, and were aware of the hardships and suffering caused by government inaction.

As the protests escalated, #EnoughIsEnough started trending on Twitter, and other hashtags such as #SanitizetheGovernement and #DownwiththeIncompetency became online emblems of the protests.

Compared to protests in other parts of the world against the economic impact of the lockdown, the demonstrators in Kathmandu raised slogans and carried placards with messages on the coronavirus that were precise and looked like they were written by epidemiologists.

For example, they carried banners asking for more PCR tests and to stop using the unreliable RDT. Indeed, the World Health Organization (WHO) does not recommend the use of Rapid Diagnostic test (RDT) which detects antibodies, and encourages the use of Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) which tests for the actual virus because the false positives in RDTs.

There are also media reports of irregularities in the continuing imports of RDT kits. The government has allocated 6.8 billion to its COVID-19 response, of which 2.3 billion is for quarantine management. People went to the streets demanding to know where all the money has gone. In repsonse, the prime minister's press adviser Surya Thapa shared an expenditure report after the protesters' demand for transparency grew.

## Tamwa pushes for behavioural change to curb child abuse in Zanzibar

#### By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Tanzania Media Women's Association (Tamwa, Zanzibar) has called on the public to change their mindsets and respect women and children by discouraging such uncouth behaviors in Isles.

Dr Mzuri Issa, Tamwa Zanzibar director made the call here when speaking on the just-concluded International African Child Day, themed: "Access to a Child-Friendly Justice System in Africa".

According to Dr Mzuri (pictured), the issue of gender based violence is a behavioral and societal issue; hence there is a need to change that for betterment of women and children in the country.

Over the course of society's

formulation, a narrative became embedded which provided people with justifications for gender

based violence. She said: "It's high time this unwelcoming behavior to change so that women and children enjoy their rights as enshrined in the mother law.'

There are people in the society who have been taking genderbased violence (GBV) incidents as normal issues, something which needs more efforts to pin down perpetrators, she said. "Time has come for the com-

munity to change behaviors in regard to child rising as well as recognizing their importance." Tamwa Zanzibar project manager, Asha Abdi also viewed change of behavior among the perpetrators as solution to end GBV incidents, which have refused to go in Zanzibar.

Reports have it that increasing incidences of violence and humiliation against children in Zanzibar has been associated with poor parenting from parents and guardians, whereby some parents are also not aware of the humiliation acts hence not taking efforts to protect

their children. Dr Sikujua Omar Hamdan, a lecturer from Zanzibar University, once quoted as saying Zanzibar has recorded 1,049 incidences of violence from 2017 to date in both Unguja and Pemba. Only 404 cases were ruled at courts between 2017 and 2020 while 704 cases are yet to be ruled pending investigations. She said that suspects who were involved in 266 cases were set free after the court found them not-guilty, linking the increased incidences of violence and hu-



miliation against children with poor parenting from parents and guardians. She said some parents are also not aware of the humiliation acts hence not taking efforts to protect their children.

She claimed that some parents have been allowing the children to go for learning sessions during night, the thing that should be limited to day time.

"Allowing children to go for tuition or other learning sessions with their friends during night poses risk to them since it

is difficult for parents to closely monitor them during night," she said.

According to Omar Makungu, state attorney from the office of Director of Public Prosecutions, more than 100 people have submitted letters to the office of DPP with the intent of withdrawing cases related to violence against women and children in Zanzibar.

It is astonishing to see all the ongoing efforts to address GBV issues evaporates in thin air, leaving perpetrators roaming around in streets without being tried in courts. This demoralizes all people who are behind GBV fight, he said.

Makungu said that some of the cases have all the evidences, but suddenly, people who filed the cases come up and withdraw the cases in court.

if left unattended incidents of child abuse will continue to affect the innocent children in the society," he said, calling for collective efforts to address the vice.

> Bringing all the needed evidences is an important aspect when it comes to proceeding child abuse related cases, said Khamis Juma, an official from DPP office.

"This is a challenge, which

Juma cited witnesses as another challenge hindering the fight against child abuse as there is a growing tendency whereby witnesses not appear in court and "if they appear they don't talk anything and sometimes they provide information in favour of the accused.'

"Several times I met with such cases, whereby the victim defend the man who abused her

and some say that she was her partner and she wasn't ready to put him in trouble," the official said.

But, the Zanzibar law is very clear that a witness who fails to appear in court or deny providing evidence is to be remanded for eight days, he said.

Deputy Registrar of the Zanzibar High Court Salum Hassan suggested the need for the community to change their mindsets on GBV related issues as some families weren't involved in those cases.

"In some cases you find the case is taken to court without taking information from the victim, something which is not right," he noted, adding: "Some victims are not well prepared to speak before the court, the situation that end up losing their cases."

#### The unwavering stance of scientists and experts

#### **By Marie Camara**

THE seventh annual Global Forum on Nicotine - GFN took place on June 11th & 12 th and was organised by "Knowledge Action Change Limited (KAC)", headed by Professor Gerry Stimson, Public Health social scientist from the United Kingdom.

Usually held in Warsaw, Poland, this year's event took place virtually due to Covid-19. Under the theme "Science, ethics and human rights", more than thirty experts/scientists from the public health sector, tobacco industry, tobacco control sector, and consumers, discussed various topics including the relevance of science versus ideology, the importance of a patient centered approach, the potential of vaping in low-income countries, and prohibited scientific alternatives to conventional tobacco

For years now, numerous scientific studies have revealed that alternatives to traditional tobacco do less harm than conventional cigarettes. Despite those studies, a number of policy makers at national and international level, notably World Health Organization, promote very strict regulatory measures that don't take evidence of risk reduction potential in non-combustible products. Clive Bates is Director of The Counterfactual, a consulting and advocacy practice focused on a pragmatic approach to sustainability and public health in the United Kingdom. For him, these regulations are "punitive measures, coercion, restrictions, stigma, denormalization. There has been a failure in doing what good policy makers should do which is to do proper impacts assessments, and scrutinize. There is a massive failure of policy making, at all levels, governments, legislature,



For the experts who participated in the conference, safer nicotine products have definitely a role to play in reducing smoking related diseases. They blame the institutional obstacles that have been set up for years which, according to them, benefit the status quo and do more harm than good:

"Everybody who looks at the history of innovation and industry of science and technology sees that.

There are a lot of people interested in the status quo. Cigarette companies make a tremendous amount of money out of the status quo. And there is also a tremendous amount of funding of this status quo. Sweden, Iceland, Norway have the lowest smoking rates in the world. And now Japan, where a third of the cigarette market disapmove to alternatives when they get an option" said David Sweanor, Chair of the Advisory Board of the Centre for Health Law in Canada.

Mark Tyndall, professor and infectious disease specialist from Canada, is, as well, very firm on the topic of scientifically proven alternatives to traditional tobacco: "I've always considered that smoking cigarettes was a form of harm reduction for people who use drugs. However, in the same time, it was painfully obvious that cigarettes were killing people more than HIV, more than hepatitis C, and even more than the catastrophic overdose epidemic that has been devastating North America. Death from cigarettes is slow and insidious. Until vaping appeared in 2012, there were not so much

fered people nicotine patch or some gum, and told them it may help them to stop. Eight years later, who would have thought that throwing a lifeline to cigarettes smokers would be so contentious. It should have been a slam dunk. By now, leading public health authorities around the world should have launched global campaigns to rid the world of cigarettes through vaping."

Moreover, many experts underscored that consumers and patients are at the core of health systems and that, they should know about alternatives and feel free to choose which one is better for them. Clarisse Virgino, a vape consumer from the Philippines, is pushing for the fair regulation of electronic cigarettes in her country: "It is the consumer, in the end, that will suffer if prohibitionist policies are put in place as these will deprive people who smoke to do the switch. It is basic human rights. Prohibition will also affect those who have already made the switch. It will force them to return to smoke regular combustible cigarette. Which is, quite frankly, very counterproductive. The alternative products are able to curb, if not eradicate smoking. These are less harmful products which can help people quit a bad habit that do not only affects smokers but also people around them. It is unfair and wrong at so many levels. As one says, there is nothing about us without us."

The tobacco industry was also invited to the conference. Moira Gilchrist Vicepresident for strategic and scientific communications at Philip Morris International,

open, evidence based conversation to figure out how to replicate these results - alluding to cases of countries such as Japan - as quickly as possible in as many countries as possible. Astonishingly, back in the real world, we are far from this. Many public health advocates and public health organizations seem unwilling to objectively assess the opportunity that smoke-free products present. Why? Because these solutions come from the industry.

Policy makers argue that there is irreconcilable conflict between the tobacco industry and public health. For Moira Gilchrist, it is "pure and simple scientific censorship". For her, science and evidence are the most relevant:

"I cannot talk for the whole industry, but at Philip Morris International we are committed to replacing cigarettes with better alternatives as rapidly as possible. I cannot really understand why this change is met with skepticism. Today our Research and Development expenditures are mostly dedicated to a smoke-free portfolio. Our goal is a smoke-free future. The impact of these products is already being seen. A study made by researchers working for the American Cancer Society concluded that the rapid decline of cigarettes seen recently in Japan is most likely due to the introduction of Igos, the elec-

and international organizations like the World Health Organization".

peared in a short period of time because to offer. Most professionals encouraged spoke at the conference. According to her, tronic nicotine device designed by they got access to alternatives. Consumers people to stop smoking. At the best, we of- "In an ideal world, we would be having an Philip Morris International."

#### **By Guardian Correspondent**

EVERY June 13th the world celebrates an international albinism awareness day aiming to raise awareness and educating the public on issues concerning persons with albinism.

This is a fifth year since the General Assembly of the United Nation adopted the resolution proclaiming that with effect from 2015, June 13th will be recognized as an International Albinism Awareness Day.

Albinism is an inherited genetic condition that reduces the amount of melanin pigment formed in the skin, hair and or eyes. Albinism occurs in all racial and ethnic groups throughout the world.

Both the father and mother have to carry the gene for it to be passed on even if they do not have albinism themselves.

Recent studies show that some types of albinism can be inherited from only mothers and phenotypically are observable. The condition results in little production of pigmentation in the hair, skin and or eyes.

This causes vulnerability to sun exposure and bright light hence risks to skin cancer and photophobia respectively. All people with albinism are visually impaired, with the majority being classified as 'legally blind'.

Albinism prevalence, in North America and Europe it is estimated that 1 in every 20,000 people have some form of albinism.

In Tanzania, and throughout East Africa, albinism is much more prevalent, with estimates of 1 in 1,400 people being affected. The term "person with albinism" (PWA) is preferred to the term "albino" as it puts the person before the condition.

People with albinism face multiple forms of discrimination worldwide. Albinism is still intensely misunderstood socially and medically.

## Albinism: A mystery of colour and humanity



with albinism is often the object of erroneous beliefs and myths influenced by superstition, which foster their marginalization and social exclusion.

This leads to various forms of stigma and discrimination. This is a mystery between color and humanity.

A prominent disability advocate and Kenyan politician, Dr Mwaura Isaack once said "We continue to suffer from 'in betweenness' - white but not white enough, black but not black enough, disabled but not disabled enough."

In some commuAnities, wrong be-

superstition, put the security and lives of persons with albinism at constant risk. These beliefs and myths are centuries old and are present in cultural attitudes and practices around the world. This year's theme for the International Albinism Awareness Day-'made to shine' is part of the awareness strategy to sensitize the community on the value of giving equal chances for persons with albinism to thrive in society. Protecting persons with albinism starts at the family level, parents who accepted and took care of their kids

status, resulted to kids with more confidence and self-esteem compared to those whose families gave little support.

Persons with albinism need support to overcome stigma and discrimination barriers from early stages of their lives.

Parent can help their kids with albinism to build self-esteem by enabling them to learn things that will make them focus on their talents and strength, banning all negative criticism such as bullying and name calling together will make your kids feel accept-

discrimination they face in the society. Across the continent persons with albinism face constant fear for being attacked due to erroneous beliefs and use of their body parts.

According to Under The Same Sun a non-profit organization, there are more than 600 incidents of reported attacks targeting persons with albinism in over 30 countries in Africa.

Such incidents include killings, survivors of mutilations, violence, rape, attempted abductions, missing, grave violations, asylum & other refuge cases.

Tanzania has demonstrated a remarkable improvement on reduced incidents of attacks over the past five years under the President John Magufuli. There has been no reported case. Nevertheless, despite this progress, a great need for remaining vigilant is paramount.

Social services remain a great challenge to persons with albinism, particularly those services that directly affect their health conditions.

Access to skin cancer screening and check-up is still a big challenge in Tanzania where there only two major medical specialized facilities which are Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre (KCMC) and Ocean Road Cancer Institute are specialized on cancer treatment and majority of persons with albinism are unable to access these facilities, due several reasons including but not limited to distance and related expenses.

There has been a great initiative to establish skin cancer clinics at regional levels currently in Lindi, Singida, Mara, Iringa, Dar-es-salaam, Tanga, and Morogoro in Tanzania Mainland, and in Mnazi Mmoja, Unguja, in Zanzibar, aiming at skin checks and pre cancer treatment (cryotherapy).

Despite great initiative of availability of skin cancer clinics in almost eight regions there is a great shortage of skin cancer experts and majority of persons with disability, fail to afford treatment costs. Sunburn is a daily challenge to persons with albinism and frequent exposure to sunlight, results in vulnerability to skin cancer. Persons with albinism live in our own societies and interact with other people without albinism in the community.

Other essential needs remain paramount to facilitate inclusion in the society. As we commemorate this important date, I call upon the government and stakeholders to safeguard rights of persons with albinism and to set a conducive environment for them to shine and reach their full potentials.

#### **FEATURES**

## Joint statement of Extraordinary China-Africa Summit on Solidarity Against COVID-19

HE COVID-19 pandemic is a major challenge to humankind, and is the most serious global public health emergency since the end of World War II.

Guardian

To defeat COVID-19 through greater solidarity and cooperation, and to highlight an even stronger China-Africa community with a shared future, we, Chinese and African leaders, convened an Extraordinary China-Africa Summit on Solidarity Against COV-ID-19 via video link on 17 June 2020. The Extraordinary China-Africa Summit on Solidarity Against COVID-19 is a joint initiative between the People's Republic of China, the Republic of South Africa in its capacity as the Chair of the African Union (AU), and the Republic of Senegal in its capacity as the Co-Chair of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC).

The Summit was attended by H.E. President Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China, H.E. President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa of the Republic of South Africa, H.E. President Macky SALL of the Republic of Senegal, H.E. President Abdel Fattah Al-SISI of the Arab Republic of Egypt, H.E. President Felix-Antoine Tshisekedi TSHILOMBO of the Democratic Republic of Congo, H.E. President Abdelmadjid TEBBOUNE of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, H.E. President Ali Bongo ONDIMBA of the Republic of Gabon, H.E. President Uhuru KENYATTA of the Republic of Kenya, H.E. President Ibrahim Boubacar KEITA of the Republic of Mali, H.E. President Issoufou Mahamadou of the Republic of Niger, H.E. President Muhammadu BUHARI of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, H.E. President Paul KAGAME of the Republic of Rwanda, H.E. President Emmerson Mnangagwa of the Republic of Zimbabwe, H.E. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and H.E. Moussa Faki MAHAMAT, Chairperson of the AU Commission.

Secretary-General Antonio GU-TERRES of the United Nations (UN) and Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom GHEBREYESUS of the World Health Organization (WHO) were invited as Special Guests to the Summit.

After cordial and in-depth discussions, leaders attending the Summit reached the following consensus:

solidarity and support, including resources from various parties to bolster its response to the pandemic and to support its economic and social development.

We commend and support the UN Secretary-General's call for a united response to COVID-19, and commit to jointly safeguard global public health security, protect the legitimate rights and interests of developing countries, make greater contribution to world peace and development, and build a community of health for all.

We underscore the close relationship between peace, security and development, call on the international community to support Africa in implementing its "Silencing the Guns" campaign and urge for an early lifting of economic sanctions on the Republics of Zimbabwe and Sudan.

In accordance with the FOCAC spirit and long-term values cherished by both sides, we remain committed to extending mutual support on issues regarding each other's core interests and major concerns. China supports African countries in exploring development paths suited to their national conditions and opposes interference in Africa's internal affairs by external forces. The African side supports China's position on Taiwan and Hong Kong, and supports China's efforts to safeguard national security in Hong Kong in accordance with law.

2. We highly commend and actively support WHO's role, under the stewardship of Director-General Dr. Tedros, in leading and coordinating the global response to COVID-19, and call on the international community to scale up political and financial support for the WHO.

We welcome the 73rd World Health Assembly (WHA) resolution on COV-ID-19 response, which expresses deep concerns about the negative impacts and consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, emphasizes the importance of global collaboration, and calls for intensified international cooperation, unity, solidarity and joint efforts to contain and mitigate the pandemic, and to pay particular attention to the needs of people in vulnerable situations. We reiterate opposition to the politicization and stigmatization of the virus, and call on the international community to jointly prevent discrimination and stigma, reject misinformaunprecedented, immediate and conse- en cooperation on the research and identification of the zoonotic source of the virus. in consultation with WHO Member States, of a stepwise process of impartial, independent and comprehensive evaluation, including using existing



experience gained and lessons learned from the WHO-coordinated international health response to COVID-19 after the virus is brought under control worldwide, in an objective, impartial science-based and professional manner.

We further commend the UN Secretary-General for his leadership and support for the WHO and related health initiatives during this pandemic, which aims at making vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics for COVID-19 accessible worldwide.

**3.** Africa commends the decisive measures taken by the Chinese government to contain the spread of the virus and its timely sharing of information with WHO and relevant countries in an open, transparent and responsible manner, which bought precious time for the rest of the world. China commends the solidarity and support extended by African countries, the AU and other regional organizations for China's COVID-19 response and appreciates the establishment of the AU COVID-19 Strategy and the appointment of Special Envoys to mobilize international support for Africa's efforts to address the economic challenges faced as a consequence of the pandemic, and further commends the resilience African countries have demonstrated and the positive results thus achieved in curbing the spread of the virus by adopting preventive measures.

African countries express appreciation for China's substantial assistance for Africa's fight against COVID-19 and 1. We express deep concern over the tion and disinformation, and strength- commitment to China-Africa solidarity against COVID-19, and highly commend the new measures China announced

protect the health and security of each other's nationals and uphold their legitimate rights and interests, and promote the use of Chinese and African traditional medicine.

African countries express profound gratitude and appreciation to the Chinese institutions and companies that have provided medical supplies and material assistance in the effort to combat the COVID pandemic.

4. We fully recognize the positive role of China-Africa investment and financing cooperation in promoting development and improving people's lives in Africa, and call on the international community to work in solidarity and collaboration, share best practices, and provide more material, technical, financial and humanitarian support to help African countries overcome the impact of COVID-19 and achieve independent and sustainable development.

China takes seriously the debt concerns of African countries and will earnestly act on the G20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative, through friendly consultation as equals, and expedite support for the African countries worst hit by COVID-19.

The African side expresses appreciation for China's actions, and calls on the international community, especially developed countries and international financial institutions, to take concrete measures to ease the debt burden of African countries.

5. We reaffirm the commitment to supporting multi- China, South Africa and Senegal to lateralism, opposing unilateralism, safeguarding the UNcentered international system, and defending international equity and justice. We call on the international community to build an open world economy, enhance macroeconomic coordination, and jointly keep global industrial and supply chains stable and unclogged. We express strong support to the development of the African Continental Free Trade Area.

munication technologies, especially tele-medicine, tele-education, 5G and big data.

We support efforts to explore with global partners trilateral or multilateral cooperation in Africa in a way that is active, open and inclusive and based on respect for African countries' wishes, with a view to facilitating an early victory against COVID-19 and faster development in Africa.

6. We extend congratulations on the 20th anniversary of FOCAC, recognizing the important progress in delivering the follow-ups to the FOCAC Beijing Summit, and support a greater focus on public health under the Eight Major Initiatives on China-Africa Cooperation.

We undertake to chart the course for China-Africa cooperation in a post-COVID-19 era, and work together to ensure the success of events on the 2021 FOCAC calendar.

7. We applaud the joint initiative of convene this Summit at a critical juncture in Africa's battle against COVID-19. We pay high tribute to all African leaders who did and did not attend the Summit for their great efforts to contain COVID-19. Leaders attending the Summit expressed deep condolences over the passing of H.E. President Pierre Nkurunziza of the Republic of Burundi, and extended sincere sympathy to the people of Burundi.

people around the world, especially its major impact on the lives and health of the African people.

We recognize the importance of public health issues to global peace and security and the well-being of people around the world, particularly the fact that Africa is extremely vulnerable to the ravages of this virus and needs mechanisms as appropriate, to review

quent challenges posed by the global development of diagnostics, therapeu- at the 73rd WHA to support developing countries' COVspread of the COVID-19 pandemic to tics, medicines and vaccines and the ID-19 response. China reaffirms its commitment to actively delivering relevant initiatives and measures to help Africa build capacity for disease prevention and control and for We support the initiation, at the sustainable development, and expedite the construction earliest appropriate moment and of the Africa CDC headquarters. China undertakes to make its COVID-19 vaccine development and deployment, when available, a global public good as part of China's contribution to vaccine accessibility and affordability in developing countries, in particular African countries.

We reaffirm the commitment to take active measures to

We recognize the importance of digitalization in the post-COVID-19 era and support efforts to speed up the development of Africa's digital economy and expand exchanges and cooperation on digitalization, information and com-

## **Researchers release preliminary report on a drug they say reduces Covid-19 deaths**

#### By Nancy R. Gough

**RECOVERY trial researchers have** released preliminary findings from the arm of the trial evaluating an inexpensive corticosteroid treatment for Covid-19.

The steroid is called dexamethasone. It is an anti-inflammatory prescription medication that is widely used and was approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in 1958.

The trial included 2,104 patients who received dexamethasone (6 mg once per day by mouth or by intravenous injection) and compared these patients with 4,321 patients receiving "usual care alone". Importantly, the patients were randomly assigned into the treatment or usual care groups.

The results appear to support the use of dexamethasone in patients hospitalised for Covid-19 and needing ventilation or oxygen support. The full data have not yet been made available, but key points from the news release are that dexamethasone reduced the 28-day mortality rate by 17 per cent with patients requiring ventilation benefiting the most, that it reduced deaths by onethird in ventilated patients, that it reduced deaths by one-fifth in other patients receiving oxygen only, and



Image shows the structure of this synthetic corticosteroid on a medicine bottle surrounded by SARS-CoV-2 virus particles. Photo: Nancy R. Gough, BioSerendipity, LLC

that patients who did not require respiratory support did not benefit.

The data suggest that one death of among eight ventilated patients without artificial ventilation. So, not would be prevented by treatment or 25 patients requiring oxygen every death can be prevented, but

this is encouraging news that the clinical trials are leading to strategies that will help some of the most seriously ill.

Compared with all other possible treatments, this is the only one that has shown a strong survival effect. Remdesivir has only been shown to reduce the duration of hospitalisation - not to reduce death from Covid-19.

The data for the dexamethasone trial have yet to be published, but the news release states that the results are statistically significant - suggesting that the study has sufficient participants to provide useful guidance for clinical application. Additionally, dexamethasone is readily available and inexpensive.

The researchers running the trial are understandably excited. Peter Horby, Professor of Emerging Infectious Diseases in the Nuffield Department of Medicine, University of Oxford, and one of the Chief Investigators for the trial, said: "Dexamethasone is the first drug to be shown to improve survival in COVID-19. This is an extremely welcome result. The survival benefit is clear and large in those patients who are sick enough to require oxygen treatment, so dexamethasone should now become

standard of care in these patients.

Dexamethasone is inexpensive, on

the shelf, and can be used immediately to save lives worldwide."

Another of the chief investigators for the trial is Martin Landray, Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology at the University of Oxford's Nuffield Department of Population Health. He said: "It is fantastic that the first treatment demonstrated to reduce mortality is one that is instantly available and affordable worldwide."

Unlike other drugs that have potentially beneficial effects, dexamethasone works for patients with severe Covid-19 and is by prescription only.

Hopefully, this means that there will not be a shortage of the medication: there is no benefit to stocking up or obtaining a prescription for people who do not have severe symptoms that require hospitalisation and oxygen support.

It also very important to remember that the data are not available vet. So, what caveats exist in the findings remain to be revealed. However, the news sparks cautious optimism.

#### Nancy R.

Gough is a PhD scientist with a passion for scientific communication and 20-plus years' editorial experience.



## **TANROADS WARNS CRJE ON DELAAYS IN CONSTRUCTION NYERERE BRIDGE ROAD**

#### **By Property Watch Reporter**

RKED by slow pace of construction of a 1.2 kilometres road connecting the landmark Nyerere Bridge and Kigambon Ferry Road in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania National Roads Agency CEO, Patrick Mfugale has threatened to dismiss the contractor, China Railway Construction Engineering Group.

Eng Mfugale said as the project's main supervisors, Tanroads is not happy with the pace of implementation and several new demands on monetary payment being made by CRIE. "When the president ordered the stalled project to continue, he also dismissed its astronomical costs and ordered that they be reviewed," Eng Mfugale said.

He dismissed CRJE's complaints that the project is being delayed by Tanroads and NSSF Fund's failure to address hurdles facing its implementation which the Chinese contractor refused to give details. "We are still in talks with NSSF and Tanroads details of which you can get from them," said Henry Kasapila who is CRJE's Public Affairs Manager.

But the Tanroads CEO noted that CRJE are seeking more advance payment from the project's owners, NSSF but that such cannot be given because such payment was already done. "They thought that this project will be business as usual which unfortunately is not the case, things have changed," Eng Mfugale added while advising the Chinese contractor to seek a bank loan to bridge the financing gap and complete the project to get the remaining payment. Efforts to get clarification



from NSSF Fund's Director General, William Erio failed until we went to press but officials at Nyerere Bridge said the Chinese contractor will only be paid the balance upon completion of the road stretch which has been delayed since 2018.

Speaking at a function to inaugurate Kigamboni district offices earlier this year. President Magufuli expressed discontent with the delay of the project and ordered a review of its abnormal costs directing that construction work should resume immediately.

In a press statement issued immediately after Dr Magufuli's order, CRJE expressed commitment to finish the project with first class quality and at reasonable cost without delay.

The contractor stated that the project was delayed partly because of late possession of the site due to pending compensation for the existing houses, graveyard and structures that were located within the right of way. The compensation was completed towards the end of May 2018. Delay by the employer, NSSF, to re-appoint a new project manager has been given as another reason for the delay in resumption of the construction work. Whereas the previous project managers suspended their supervision services on 1 May 2019, the new manager was appointed only last week.

"It's only on 14 February 2020 that the employer informed the contractor of the decision to appoint Tanroads as the new project manager and will commence work on 17 February 2020," said the Chinese contractor's statement.

## **Ministry calls on IMTU investors to** prepare payments for NDC premises

#### By Finnigan wa Simbeye

THE Indian investors at International Medical and technological University in Dar es Salaam have been advised to get ready and pay National Development Corporation is rent backlog once the High Court rules in favour of the parastatal.

Deputy Minister for Lands Housing and Human Settlements Development, Dr Angelina premise by IMTU since 2012.

"It's frustrating but we have nothing to do other than wait for the court's final verdict," said Ngapembwa who acknowledged that IMTU's prolonged court case is a deliberate action to delay payment.

In February 2018, High Court's Land Division Judge, Moses Mzuna ordered IMTU and Registered Trustees of Vignan Educational Founda-



Mabula said the court case which the Indian investors filed against NDC challenging payment of rent arrears will soon come to an end.

"Let them imagine that they are staying free because the matter is in court but they should be prepared to pay the backlog plus other charges as the court will determine," said Dr Mabula who has successfully championed a campaign to collect land rent from defaulters dating back several decades.

She said the government respect and understands separation of state powers hence willing to remain calm for as long as the judiciary has not yet given its final verdict. "How long it will take, nobody knows but we cannot intervene with the judiciary," Dr Mabula added.

According to NDC's Corporate Affairs Manager, Abel Ngapembwa the rent backlog had reached over 3bn/- by end last year after following almost a decade of free occupation of the Mbezi Beach

tion Bangalore to pay over 2.6bn/- as rental fees of the NDC premises from where they are currently operating.

Justice Mzuna said in his ruling, "We appreciate, much as IMTU had conferred degrees to many Tanzania's doctors who graduated from the university.

However, upon being fully fledged, the plaintiff must pay rent so that even the government can benefit from collected tuition fees," Justice Mzuna ruled in his judgment dated February 27, 2018

IMTU argued that they did not recognise NDC as their landlord after Saruji's collapse although the then Parastatal Sector Reforms Commission transferred Saruji's property to NDC. Vignan also argued that it signed a memorandum of understanding with the government to be given free premises to operate from during the initial stage of the investment in late 1990s.

IMTU premises at Mbezi Beach in Dar es Salaam.

## **Covid-19 threatening hotel development growth in Africa**

#### CAIRO

AS an important industry in Africa, tourism has created both direct and indirect jobs - sustaining foreign currency earnings.

According to the 12th annual survey by W Hospitality Group, African hotel development had returned to growth at the start of 2020, with more than 78,000 rooms in 408 hotels in the pipeline; however, with the rise of the Covid-19 outbreak, Africa's hotel industry has been hard hit.

W Hospitality Group's managing director, Trevor Ward, said: "The growth of the chains' presence in Africa has been a very positive story since we started this analysis in 2009. It is quite clear from the numbers that the chains, the developers, the investors - and all of us at W Hospitality Group - continue to believe in the opportunities that Africa presents in the hotel and tourism industry.

"However, our industry has been devastated by the impact of Covid-19, possibly more so than most other economic sectors, mainly because of the almost total shutdown of borders and of the aviation sector - no flights means no guests."

"With that background, we see a slowdown in pipeline growth in 2020, as we all get to grips with the new reality. With so many of the players locked down,

some of the planned openings in 2020 will be delayed, due to closed or slower-paced construction sites, restrictions on funding and a lack of market demand.

fewer deals will be signed, and it is inevitable that

"According to our latest data, there are 90 hotels with 17,000 rooms scheduled to open in 2020, but we estimate that at least half of these will be delayed, bringing the actualisation rate down to no more than 40%.

Development performance

This year's African Hotel Chain Development Pipeline survey covers 35 international and regional hotel contributors across the 54 countries in North and sub-Saharan Africa and in the Indian Ocean islands. It reveals a 3.6% increase in the 2019 pipeline.

Most encouraging was a record 68 chain hotels opening last year, fully 75% of those which were scheduled to open, with 11,000 rooms. That performance was substantially up from the 39% of those scheduled to open in 2018 actually doing so. Accor performed particularly well; it opened 18 hotels last year with almost 3,500 rooms in its various brands, ranging from Ibis to Fairmont.

The findings of the 2020 Pipeline report, together with a mid-year update, will be discussed in depth at Bench Events' new



A new hotel under construction in Lagos, Nigeria.

virtual conference, Africa Tomorrow, to be held on 21 July. This event is complementary to the Africa Hotel Investment Forum (AHIF), which has in previous years connected business leaders to serious investors, driving funds into tourism projects, infrastructure and hotel development across the continent.

Marriott, the world's largest hotel chain, has the largest pipeline in Africa, 22% more hotels and 6% more rooms than second-placed Accor, but Accor has been catching up fast, signing 25 new deals last year, compared to Marriott's 17 new projects. If Accor can open its hotels in 2020 at the same rate that it did in 2019, it is likely the company will overtake Marriott and position itself as the largest operator in Africa.

Trevor Ward said: "We have to wait and see what will happen in the second half of 2020, and in 2021, as we emerge from lockdown and other restrictions. Tourism is such an important industry in Africa, because of the direct and indirect jobs that it creates and sustains, as well as its strong foreign currency

earnings. We are anxious to see hotels reopen and get back to contributing to the African growth story."

Matthew Weihs, managing director of Bench Events, which is staging Africa Tomorrow, said: "Right now, we are facing the biggest recession in history. For those seeking to operate hotels, it is a dreadful time.

"However, for the savvy investors, this is actually a moment of opportunity because hotels are a longterm investment and one of the secrets of success is to spend money during the bottom of the economic cycle in order to capitalise on the upturn as soon as it comes. That's one reason why I expect the networking sessions at Africa Tomorrow will be very busy and fruitful."

**TECHNOLOGY** 



## THOUSANDS OF LOW-INCOME EARNERS BENEFIT FROM PROGRAMMES FINANCED BY EMIRATES

#### **By Property Watch Reporter**

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HOUSANDS of people from low income families have benefited from Emirates Airline Foundation's financed projects in education, health and water supply.

The Emirates Foundation has positively impacted the lives of more than 2,670 children and 160 teachers in its educational missions. The foundation which works in partnership with Warwick in Africa, has funded the secondary school students teach children Mathematics and English while teachers have been trained on how to have an impact on the children's learning in the long-run.

"Emirates always looks for meaningful ways in which we can contribute to the local and global communities we serve, whether by sponsoring world-class sports and cultural events, supporting trade and tourism, or community causes," said Sir Tim Clark, President of Emirates Airline and Chairman of the Emirates Airline Foundation.

Clark noted that the Emirates Airline Foundation is passion project, and works with like-minded partners and NGOs globally aimed at reaching out to the neglected, ignored, and the poorest communities on the planet.

Globally, Emirates Airline Foundation's education mission has benefitted 10,705 people. It has also supported the entire travel, logistics and free baggage allowance of three medical missions that brought in 25 medical practitioners to conduct free life-saving surgeries, consultations and screenings in Tanzania and globally.

During their mission, the practitioners conducted 54 surgeries and trained 28 medical professionals in the country and globally benefitting over 76,931 people. "Globally, the foundation used a staggering 132 million Skywards Miles to positively impact the lives and livelihoods of more than 90,000 people, mainly children, living in some of the most impoverished communities worldwide," the Dubai based airline said in a statement.

During the period of between April 2019 to March 2020, the Emirates Foundation also donated more than AED 6.5 million to 22 projects in 12 countries. "The foundation, a vital heartbeat of the airline established in 2003, routinely supports 32 projects and



An Emirates passenger jet parked at Julius Nyerere International Airport in Dar es Salaam.

non-government organisations in 18 countries worldwide through customer donations, corporate sponsorships and Emirates funds," the statement added.

Support ranges from absorbing all annual running expenses and building infrastructure to running feeding and medical programmes, paying salaries and covering other ad hoc expenses. "Rather than just donating food to feed the hungry, the foundation provides children with holistic care - including food, clothing, shelter, medical support and an education - that transforms lives, creates livelihoods, helps sustain communities, and

leads to a fairer, more just world," he added noting that the airline also enables customers connect to the communities through donation of funds or their Skywards Miles. In 2018, the foundation used 132 million donated Skywards Miles to support travel for 35 NGOs on more than 50 medical missions; four NGOs on five engineering missions; and one NGO on two educational missions. The top five countries with the largest beneficiaries were: Bangladesh – more than 66,000 people; South Africa – around 7,900; Uganda – around 5,500; and Ghana – 2,000.

## Nile dam talks: Egypt charges Ethiopia with trying to impose terms



#### Kepsa seeks to halt land system rollout NAIROBI

THE business community wants the State to suspend the rollout of the Land Information Management System (LIMS) until a legal framework is prepared to back it up. The Kenya Private Sector Alliance (Kepsa) has petitioned the Senate to stop the Land Ministry from implementing the system pending the formulation of guidelines and regulations. Kepsa chief executive Carole Karuga has warned that arbitrary closures at the ministry would hurt Kenya's overall ease of doing business ranking on access to credit. "Kepsa recognises that clearly defined legislation, high-quality land administration system and equal access to property rights is essential for enabling businesses to expand their operations and that, the absence of land ownership protections in a country, leaves investors open to land disputes or property seizures, outcomes which likely to hinder direct investment relating to land and property development projects." she said in a petition tabled in the Senate last evening. Kepsa said the ministry was conducting audits without involving stakeholders with expertise on LIMS matters. The ministry started dry runs on the system, which was expected to go live from April 1, cutting land registration time to 12 days down from 73. But the registries, which were closed for 28 days due to Covid-19 have since been partially reopened. It currently takes developers and landowners nine processes to register property, which forces them to move from office to office.

#### CAIRO

ETHIOPIA does not have the "political will" to reach a deal on the operation of a massive Nile dam it is building and wants to act without heeding the interests of Egypt and fellow downstream nation Sudan, according to the Egyptian Irrigation Ministry.

A draft deal presented by Ethiopia during ongoing negotiations between the three countries is not legally or technically sound and does not ensure Egypt and Sudan's share of water during drought. It also grants Addis Ababa the right to change the rules governing the operation of the dam and the filling of its reservoir without prior consultations with Cairo and Khartoum, the ministry said.

"It is a clear attempt to impose a de facto situation on the two downstream nations because the Ethiopian position is founded on forcing Egypt and Sudan to either sign off on a document that takes them hostage to Ethiopia's will or accept that Ethiopia takes unilateral actions like filling the reservoir without prior agreement from the downstream countries," the ministry's spokesman told reporters in Cairo on Saturday.

The latest talks on the long-running dispute began on June 9 and are being held just weeks before Ethiopia plans to start filling the dam's reservoir.

Sudan's Irrigation Ministry said it was drafting a paper based on Egyptian and Ethiopian notes that would be presented when the negotiations resume on Monday.

Ethiopia's Water and Energy ministry said the talks had achieved progress and would result in "finalising the process with a win-win outcome". It provided no details.

Failure to reach an agreement is particularly worrisome as Addis Ababa has insisted it will start filling the dam next month regardless of the outcome, which would affect the amount of water reaching Sudan and Egypt.



Ethiopia's Grand Renaissance Dam under construction on September 26, 2019.

The Egyptian Irrigation Ministry spokesman said Egypt had accepted a compromise "paper" submitted by Sudan as the basis for negotiations between the three nations. Ethiopia, however, countered with a proposal of its own on Thursday. The proposal was "worrisome" and "not legally or technically sound," he said.

"The Ethiopian proposal was rejected by Egypt and Sudan. It reinforces the notion that Ethiopia lacks the political will to reach a fair deal on the dam and lays bare its intention to freely exploit transnational waters without regulations or care for the rights and interests of the downstream countries."

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El Sisi has said his country will never accept a de facto situation when it comes to its share of the Nile waters, describing it as an existential is-

sue. A former general, he has not publicly spoken of military action to protect Egypt's water, saying only that he prefers a negotiated solution. But Egypt will be pushed into a corner if Ethiopia starts filling the reservoir as planned.

Fuelling tensions, a top Ethiopian military commander was quoted by official media over the weekend as saying Egypt should be aware of his country's military capabilities. "Egyptians and the rest of the world know too well how we conduct war whenever it comes," said deputy army chief Gen Birhanu Jula.

Any military action by Egypt would face a set of challenges like that the two countries do not share a border and that it would likely prove difficult to justify it as a legitimate act of self defence under international law. However, Sudan, which neighbours Ethiopia, has dramatically shifted its stand on the dam issue, from years of support for Addis Ababa to embracing Egypt's concerns.

Moreover, Egypt's military has in recent years acquired cutting-edge hardware that allows it to conduct operations well beyond its borders, such as German submarines, French jet fighters and high seas troop carriers equipped with Russian-made assault helicopters.

The most populous Arab nation with 100 million people, Egypt depends on the Nile for more than 90 per cent of its water needs. It has been trying to persuade Ethiopia to agree to a gradual filling of the dam's 74 billion cubic metre reservoir to reduce the impact on its water share.

#### JOHANNESBURG

ITALTILE Limited, the JSE-listed ceramic tile and sanitaryware retailer and manufacturer, warned of "substantially lower" sales within its upmarket Italtile retail chain in a trading update on Wednesday. The group's financial year is to the end of June and the trading update highlights the impact of Covid-19. However, buried down in the second page of the update is the worrying warning.

"Italtile Retail's sales were sub-

stantially lower than the prior comparable period. This is due to a combination of factors including the continued deterioration of the commercial projects market in the premium-end segment and the general decline in size of the topend residential market in the wake of private investor capital exiting

SA," it said. Interestingly the group, which also owns mid-market and discount sanitaryware chains CTM and TopT, did not highlight the impact of Covid-19 first in relation

#### The second secon

to lower sales within its premium Italtile chain. "The inability of contractors to operate during the lockdown further restricted sales in the high-end home renovations segment," it said. Moneyweb reported in July last

year of Sapoa's concerns around capital flight due to SA's economic woes and policy uncertainty. JSElisted private education groups, such as AdvTech, also warned last year of student "withdrawals"

from its premium schools due to emigration.

The Covid-19 pandemic is expected to further restrict private sector investment and spending by South Africa's rich, as they opt to conserve cash. Retrenchments are also likely to impact higher level jobs, with the economic fallout from the pandemic pushing the country deeper into recession. Meanwhile, Italtile also warned in its trading update that headline

earnings per share (Heps) for its year-end to June, will be between 18% and 28% lower. The forecast includes a once-off cost of R39 million related to its black empowerment deal with Yard Investment Holdings.

#### Impacted sales

The overall decline in group earnings is largely related to the Covid-19 lockdown and restrictions to trade. However, it noted that with the easing of the lock-

down, sales were picking particularly within its CTM and TopT divisions.

"The group's results for the second six months of the current financial year, being January 1 to June 30 2020, are best analysed in the context of the progression of the pandemic in our trading markets. In the pre-Covid-19 era, up to March 27 2020 when the national lockdown was implemented, sales were on track with management's

stated target to deliver growth in line with the first six months of the current financial year, being July 1 2019 to December 31 2019," it said.

"However, subsequent to the commencement of the lockdown, sales across the manufacturing, supply chain and retail operations were severely impacted," it added. Italtile said that total retail store sales for the 48 weeks ended May 31 2020 decreased by 5%, while like-for-like retail store turnover declined by 10%, compared with the prior corresponding period.

#### **TECHNOLOGY**

## INDIAN MARKETS BECOME GHOST TOWNS AFTER VIRUS RAGES ACROSS MAJOR CITIES

#### **NEW DELHI**

WEEK after India lifted its crippling nationwide lockdown for businesses and places of worship, many big cities still appear like ghost towns as panic grips millions of residents over soaring coronavirus cases. Last Monday, the Indian government allowed markets, shopping malls and restaurants across the country to open after 75 days of lockdown that hammered the country's business community and flagged the economy alike.

But the relief has done little for tens of thousands of businesses across major cities, which are bearing the brunt of the pandemic. Total cases have risen to nearly 350,000 and deaths have passed 10,000 in the world's second most populous country.

Almost half of the country's Covid-19 cases were concentrated in major cities, where millions live in packed neighbourhoods amid fears that the country could be further battered by the outbreak in coming weeks.

However, the rising cases and mass psychosis is playing havoc with the business community that was seeking reprieve from the harsh lockdown. Connaught Place, the British-era main commercial hub in New Delhi wore a deserted look as shops and businesses remained closed even after a week of relaxation, with only a few citizens braving to venture out.

Delhi has more than 41,000 cases and authorities have warned half-amillion residents will get infected by the end of July, overwhelming the city's healthcare system that has already witnessed patients being fatally turned away for want of space.

Most establishments, restaurants and coffee shops remained closed across many commercial districts, locations that are usually crowded by shoppers and visitors. Delhi metro system that carries 1.5 million passengers every day remains suspended, making commuting difficult for a vast population.

"Number of cases are multiplying everyday...there is no way I will go to a shopping mall or markets. There is always a fear of contracting infection, who knows who is infected," Nikita



A street vendor waits for customers at a deserted market in Siliguri, India, on June 15, 2020, after the government relaxed a lockdown that was in force to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

currently feeling anxious about going out.

Sujata Bhatt, 32, a makeup consultant at a famous cosmetic store at a major market in Noida near Delhi, was thrilled to be back to work after three months on June 8. But she has been dejected by the footfall. "It has been a week since we opened the store but we get only two to three customers from an average of 30 customers before the pandemic," Ms Bhatt said.

Trade unions describe the situation as "scary" for their businesses as commercial activity has failed to kick-start in the wake of the panic that has gripped the people. "There is only a 5-7 per cent footfall," said Praveen Khandelwal, secretary general of the Confederation of All India Traders.

"Traders are highly shaken...they are not able to revive their activities for want of finances. There are hardly any customers but we have to still pay taxes and employees' salaries," added Mr Khandelwal. The story was no different in other big cities, where life and business remained disrupted over fears of flare-up.

Authorities in southern Tamil Nadu said they will reimpose "maximised restricted lockdown" for the rest of the month in four cities of the state, including capital Chennai after infection cases crossed 45,000.

Even Mumbai, India's financial capital has struggled with the rising caseload that has surpassed China's Wuhan city where the virus was first reported in December 2019. The city had more than 60,000 cases and over 2,000 deaths, making it the worst region for the pandemic in India as to learn to live with the virus. Social distancing and masks have been made mandatory in public places and people are encouraged to wash their hands or use sanitisers regularly.

The government has allowed religious congregations, mainly to boost public confidence but not many were ready to take refuge in faith. Since Monday, Delhi's Sikh temple Bangla Sahib had a footfall of a few hundred pilgrims compared to more than 75,000 a day.

Last week, Delhi Jama Masjid closed down for the rest of the month over fears that gatherings could worsen the situation. Two major temples in southern Kerala - Sabarimala and Tirumala - have either cancelled gatherings or scaled down the number of devotees as fear takes over faith.

"I don't want to risk my life by going out to a mall or a temple and getting infected when there is no guarantee of treatment," Teesha Rathi, a make-up artist said. Health experts say the public anxiety was not unfounded as Covid-19 cases were going up manifold amid regular stories of emotional trauma and loss caused by the pandemic, a global event full of uncertainty and no cure.

"Fear psychosis is there but it is realistic and not imaginary," Dr Pulkit Sharma, psychologist at Vimhans, a Delhi-based neurosciences hospital, said. "If you get sick what treatment will be avail-



Gűardian PROPERTYWATCH

DISCOVER INFORM INSPIRE

A night view of the Saudi capital's central business district.

## Real estate prices in Saudi Arabia continue recovery

#### RIYADH

REAL estate prices in Saudi Arabia rose 1.2 per cent year-on-year during the first quarter, largely driven by residential property prices as government initiatives to promote home ownership among its citizens underpin activity.

Residential property prices, which had been falling due to a decline in the number of expats, rose 2.1 per cent in the first quarter. This was the second quarterly price increase in succession, according to a new report by Cavendish Maxwell. Commercial real estate prices declined marginally by 0.5 per cent.

In Jeddah, one-bedroom apartment prices averaged 875,000 riyals (Dh857,000) and two-bedroom units cost 1.28 million riyals. In the capital city, Riyadh, A one-bedroom apartment averaged 360,000 riyals and the two-bedroom price was 537,500 riyals. The average price for a 3 bed-room villa in Jeddah was 2.57m riyals and in Riyadh the price of the same unit was 2.8m riyals in the first quarter, data from the report shows.

The Saudi government is aiming to increase the home ownership rate among its citizens to 60 per cent by the end of 2020 and 70 per cent by 2030 from 50 per cent in 2016. It has rolled out a number of initiatives to reach the target including incentivising developers to increase affordable housing offering and making private sector financing more accessible.

It has already lowered mortgage down payments to 5 per cent from 10 per cent and increased banks' loan-tovalue ratio for mortgages of first-time homebuyers to 90 per cent from 85 per cent. "Whilst the residential sector had started to show signs of recovery, the restrictions imposed towards the end of first quarter 2020 to counter the spread of Covid-19 have impacted economic activity, extending to real estate, hospitality and retail, among others," the report said.

"The recovery is likely to face nearterm headwinds until clarity emerges on the trajectory of the pandemic and economic activity resumes." Saudi banks issued 170,275 new mortgage contracts in 2019, compared to 46,885 contracts issued in 2018. By the end of 2020, the kingdom aims to increase total outstanding mortgages to 502 billion riyals from 300bn riyals in 2018.

The commercial sector, on the other hand, recorded declines, falling 0.5 per cent from the same quarter a year ago as "many local and international companies are now reviewing their real estate requirements and expansion plans in the region in light of the impact of the pandemic, especially on the office sector and working preferences."

Chaudhary, a regular shopper, said. A survey by LocalCircles, an online community-based social media network, found that 56 per cent of Indians are

Chaudhary, a regular shopper, said. A authorities maintain that the country has managed the outsurvey by LocalCircles, an online com-

munity-based social media network, found that 56 per cent of Indians are public cooperation in dealing with the crises, asking people

able? People who can manage to stay home, think everything can wait, hotels, malls can wait, and are staying in."

# Spain's property market heading for the second crash in one decade

#### BARCELONA

SPAIN'S \$6 trillion home market looks headed towards another crash, according to economists who are studying the impact on property demand stemming from Europe's strictest pandemic lockdown.

While it's too early to estimate the full dimensions of the blow to demand caused by the health emergency that flared up in March, experts who study the Spanish market say the hit to housing prices in 2020 could range from 6.5 per cent to 15 per cent.

"We're in the prologue of a decline that will only become apparent in September," said Gonzalo Bernardos, an economics professor who directs the real estate master's programme at Barcelona University. "By year-end, prices will have dropped by 12 per cent, because this is maybe the sharpest economic crisis we've had."

The looming crash comes after the Spanish market rose 32 per cent since the trough of the previous collapse was reached at the start of 2014. House-price declines are felt sharply in a country where home ownership approaches 80 per cent and savers tend to use property as their primary nest-egg.

Other observers who predict declines of more than 10 per cent this year include Raymond Torres, at the Funcas think tank in Madrid, and Alejandro Inurrieta, a property consultant and former economist at Spain's Economy Ministry. Fernando Rodriguez de Acuna, director of Madrid-based real-estate consultancy R.R. de Acuna & Asociados, predicts a 6.5 per cent drop.



A woman walks past a real estate agency office in El Masnou, north of Barcelona, Spain, last month. House-price declines are felt sharply in a country where home ownership approaches 80%.

sales website.

The consultants say no factor is as important to house prices as job growth and the economic outlook. According to the Bank of Spain, GDP could shrink by as much as 15 per cent this year in a worst-case scenario while the jobless rate - already at 14 per cent before the pandemic - could jump to between 18.1 per cent to 23.6 per cent.

The data does point to a correlation between levels of Covid-19 infection and declines in asking prices for homes. Navarra and Castilla y Leon, two of the regions with the highest infection rates, showed some of the biggest declines in asking prices in May, versus a year earlier, according to data compiled by Bloomberg from the Health Ministry, the INE statistics agency and Idealista.com, the largest property By contrast the regions with the fewest cases per 100,000 population - Andalusia, the Balearic Islands and Murcia saw home prices climb 3.8 per cent to 6 per cent. Still, there are some indications that a housing market collapse won't be as severe as in the previous crisis. Prices for second-hand homes in Spain will fall 6 per cent to 7 per cent this year but bounce back much faster, said Miriam Goicoechea, head of residential and alternative research at CBRE in Spain.

"We don't have an excess of supply that needs selling and neither do we have the levels of indebtedness that we saw in the 2008 crisis," Ms Goicoechea said. "Those two factors will mean we'll have a much faster recovery."

## Pro-tenant stance may likely make German property a more difficult sell

#### BERLIN

GERMANY'S construction minister, Horst Seehofer, wants to help protect tenants by making it more difficult to sell converted apartments, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung reported.

Seehofer(pictured) is proposing to introduce a threshold of at least twothirds of the flats in an apartment building having to be sold to tenants or their family members for any conversion plan to gain government approval, the newspaper said. Tenants in Germany have a right of first refusal if an apartment building is divided into flats for sale.

In Berlin, legislators have imposed a rent freeze for five years after a property boom caused rents to double over the past decade, but property owners have asked Germany's highest court to overturn the move. Researchers at the Ifo Institute in February warned that such restrictions would encourage landlords to withdraw properties from the rental market when they become vacant and sell them.

As many people do not have the money to buy the apartments they live in, tenants are protected against eviction for at least three years after a conversion. The bill, proposed by Chancellor Angela Merkel's ally from Bavaria's Christian Social Union, also obliges owners of undeveloped land to build residential properties. In the future, cities and municipalities would be able to insist that one or more residential buildings are part of a development, if the plan allows for it and the area in question has a tight housing market.

Within Germany's governing coalition Mr Seehofer's plans are controversial. Lawmaker Jan-Marco Luczak from Merkel's Christian Democrats said property formation must remain a central element of government policy. Real estate lobby group GdW said the planned changes wouldn't help to accelerate the planning process.



## Guardian www.ippredictor

WORLD

#### Xi chairs China-Africa summit, calls for solidarity to defeat COVID-19

#### BEIJING

16

CHINESE President Xi Jinping on Wednesday called on China and Africa to defeat the novel coronavirus with solidarity and cooperation.

The two sides should work together to build a China-Africa community of health for all and take their comprehensive strategic and cooperative partnership to a greater height.

Xi made the remarks in Beijing when chairing the Extraordinary China-Africa Summit on Solidarity against COVID-19, held via video link.

The summit was jointly initiated by China, South Africa, the rotating chair of the African Union (AU), and Senegal, the co-chair of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC).

Noting that China and Africa have withstood the test of a severe challenge and enhanced solidarity, friendship and mutual trust in the face of COVID-19, Xi said the two sides must mobilize necessary resources, stick together in collaboration to protect people's lives and health, and minimize the fallout of COVID-19.

He called on both sides to stay committed to fighting COVID-19 together, saying that China will continue to do whatever it can to support Africa's response.

"China will lose no time in following through on the measures I announced at the opening of the World Health Assembly, and continue to help African further extending the period of debt sus-

countries by providing supplies, sending expert teams, and facilitating Africa's procurement of medical supplies in China," Xi said.

He said China will start ahead of schedule the construction of the Africa CDC headquarters this year, work with Africa to fully deliver the health care initiative adopted at the FOCAC Beijing Summit, and speed up the construction of China-Africa Friendship Hospitals and the cooperation between paired-up Chinese and African hospitals.

"We pledge that once the development and deployment of COVID-19 vaccine is completed in China, African countries will be among the first to benefit," said Xi.

He encouraged China and African countries to strengthen Belt and Road cooperation and accelerate the followups to the FOCAC Beijing Summit.

"Greater priority needs to be given to cooperation on public health, economic reopening, and people's livelihood," said Xi.

He said China will cancel the debt of relevant African countries in the form of interest-free government loans that are due to mature by the end of 2020 within the FOCAC framework.

For those African countries that are hardest hit by the coronavirus and are under heavy financial stress, China will work with the global community to give them greater support, by such means as



President Uhuru Kenyatta was among African leaders who participated in an extra-ordinary China-Africa Summit on solidarity against COVID-19 pandemic. The virtual summit convened by China, South Africa and Senegal was held on Wednesday.

pension, to help them tide over the current difficulty, Xi said. China will work with other members of the G20 to implement the G2O's Debt Service Suspension Initiative and urge the G20 to extend debt service suspension still further for countries concerned, including those in Africa, Xi added.

He said China supports Africa in its effort to develop the African Continental Free Trade Area and to enhance connectivity and strengthen industrial and supply chains.

China will explore broader cooperation with Africa in such new business forms as digital economy, smart city, clean energy, and 5G to boost Africa's development and revitalization, said Xi.

Stressing that solidarity and cooperation is "the most powerful weapon" in the face of COVID-19, Xi called on China and Africa to stay committed to upholding multilateralism. "We oppose politicization and stigmatization of COV-ID-19, and we oppose racial discrimination and ideological bias. We stand firm for equity and justice in the world," he said.

Noting that the world is undergoing profound changes unseen in a century, Xi said closer cooperation between China and Africa "is needed more than ever."

He called on both sides to support each other on issues involving respective core interests and advance the fundamental interests of China and Africa as well as all developing countries.

"This way, we will be able to take the China-Africa com-

prehensive strategic and cooperative partnership to a greater height," he said.

African leaders that attended the summit include South African President Cvril Ramaphosa, Senegalese President Macky Sall, Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi, President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo Felix Tshisekedi, Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, Gabonese President Ali Bongo Ondimba, Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta, Malian President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, Niger's President Mahamadou Issoufou, Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari, Rwandan President Paul Kagame, Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, and Chairperson of the African Union Commission Moussa Faki Mahamat.

Secretary-General of the United Nations Antonio Guterres and Director-General of the World Health Organization Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus also attended the meeting as special guests.

Xinhua

#### Rwanda reopens tourism, with great promotion in tracking mountain gorillas

#### KIGALI

RWANDA has announced the reopening of tourism activities, with a sharp cut in the price of permits for tracking endangered mountain gorillas. The reopening of tourism



of international travel for charter flights are effective from June 17, 2020, Rwanda Development Board (RDB) said in a statement issued on Wednesday, exempting international tourists traveling with charter flights from anti-coronavirus measures that prohibit travellers from entry to Rwanda and suspend commercial flights."

Rwanda's tourism industry is adapting to create a safe environment for travelers and operators, in order to thrive in these unprecedented times," RDB's Chief Tourism Officer Belise Kariza said in the statement.

The board, which promotes tourism and investment for Rwanda, said the permits for tracking endangered mountain gorillas are, from Wednesday until Dec. 31, 2020, available for 200 U.S. dollars to Rwandan nationals and East African Community nationals residing in Rwanda, 500 dollars to foreign residents, a sharp slump from 1,500 dollars for all visitors.

It also said special packages are available for groups, families and corporations on other products in Volcanoes National Park, home to mountain gorillas, and Nyungwe National Park that hosts one of the oldest rainforests in Africa.

Following months of tourism activities' suspension due to COVID-19, Rwanda's tourism sector has been negatively affected and efforts are underway to revive through various special tourism packages for tourists, RDB's deputy CEO Zephanie Niyonkuru told Rwanda Television in a news program on Wednesday.

He said the landlocked country generated 498 million dollars in tourism revenues in 2019.

According to the statement, domestic tourists visiting Volcanoes National Park in northern Rwanda and Nyungwe National Park in southwestern Rwanda are required to test negative for COVID-19 within 48 hours prior to visiting them.

A private test center has been set up at Petit Stade, Amahoro National Stadium in the capital city of Kigali, by appointment only, and other test centers outside Kigali will be considered as demand grows, it said.

The RDB also required all visitors travelling by charter flights to test negative for COVID-19 within 72 hours prior to arrival, and a second test prior to visiting any tourist attraction.

Rwanda's three primate-dominated national parks. namely, Volcanoes, Mukura-Gishwati and Nyungwe had been closed since March due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Xinhua

Kremlin slams as absurd EU accusations of coronavirus disinformation campaigns

## WHO says China-Africa summit key platform to virus fight

#### **GENEVA**

PLATFORMS like the Extraordinary China-Africa Summit are important in strengthening global solidarity in the fight against the novel coronavirus, World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said Wednesday.

"Unity and solidarity are very When unity and solidarity is lack- moving really fast." ing, when there is a crack between

national unity and global solidarity is important, and platforms like this will be important in strengthening solidarity across the globe."

The world has now recorded more than 8 million cases of COV-ID-19. Noting that 85,000 cases were reported in the first two months of the outbreak but 6 million have been reported in the past two months, Tedros underlined important to defeat this virus. that "the virus is accelerating and

"It's only by moving faster that



He recalled that "since the pan- in addition to that, in providing

es in Africa is the lowest compared to other regions, it is at the same time accelerating." The continent has reported more than 180,000 confirmed cases to WHO.

The Extraordinary China-Africa Summit, held via video link on Wednesday, was jointly proposed by China, South Africa, the rotating chair of the African Union (AU), and Senegal, the co-chair of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC).

Tedros and Antonio Guterres,

MOSCOW

us, the virus exploits that crack between us," said Tedros at a press conference in Geneva. "That's why

we can defeat it, and to move fast, the most important element is unity and solidarity," he added.

demic started, China has been supporting Africa... especially in sending experts, sharing information,

support with supplies, test kits." Tedros expressed his concern that "although the number of cas-

Secretary-General of the United Nations, attended the meeting as special guests. Xinhua

the OECD or not, France would ap-

ply its digital services tax this year.

Washington has threatened to re-

taliate with tariffs. The United States

opened investigations this month

into digital taxes in Britain, Italy and

Spain over concerns that they un-

A spokesman for Britain's Treas-

fairly target US companies.

KREMLIN Spokesman Dmitry Peskov has blasted as absurd accusations that Russia along with China and Iran are advancing disinformation campaigns against European Union member states since the coronavirus pandemic began.

"As for disinformation, we believe that these accusations are absurd," Peskov told reporters.

The spokesman underlined that the Kremlin "categorically disagrees with these claims." "On the contrary, both Russia and China constantly support international cooperation to fight coronavirus, to develop vaccines and to create medicine to counter this infection." he noted.

The European Commission recently issued a statement, alleging, "Foreign actors and certain third countries, in particular Russia and China, have engaged in targeted influence operations and disinformation campaigns around COVID-19 in the EU, its neighbourhood and globally, seeking to undermine democratic debate and exacerbate social polarisation, and improve their own image in the COVID-19 context."

It is not the first time the European Commission has accused Russia and China of disinformation campaigns. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in late April said that such statements issued by the EU are not proven by any facts.

The minister then noted that Russia got used to "western colleagues increasingly trying to find unifying motives, inventing Russian or any other threat." Agencies

## **France to apply digital tax this year after US quits talks**

#### PARIS

FRANCE will apply taxes on digital services this year whether the United States returns to negotiations on the issue or not, Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire said yesterday, calling a decision by Washington to pull out of talks a "provocation".

The United States announced on Wednesday it was withdrawing from negotiations with European countries over new global tax rules on digital companies, saying the talks had failed to make any progress.

France, one of several European countries which has enacted new taxes to collect more revenue from digital companies, had agreed to

suspend collection of its levy while negotiations were under way at the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development on a global approach.

Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire (pictured) said France, Britain, Italy and Spain had jointly responded on Thursday to a letter from US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin announcing the pullout. They said they wanted a deal at the OECD as soon as possible.

"This letter is a provocation. It's a provocation towards all the partners at the OECD when we were centimetres away from a deal on the taxation of digital giants," Le Maire said on France Inter radio of Mnuchin's



letter.

The European countries argue that tech firms pay too little tax in the countries where they do business, because they are able to shift their profits around the globe with little physical infrastructure. The

United States has resisted any new unilateral taxes on its Silicon Valley companies in the absence of an

Le Maire said that whether the United States returned to the negotiating table to reach a deal at

ury said London remained committed to finding a global solution. Nearly 140 countries have been negotiating the first rewrite of international tax rules in a generation in order to bring them up to date for the digital age. The aim is to reach

an agreement before the end of the year, although the coronavirus outbreak has slowed progress.

## Arduous anti-epidemic efforts manifest great strength of China

THE State Council Information Office of China on June 7 published a white paper titled "Fighting COVID-19: China in Action". The 37,000-word document records the Chinese people's battle against the virus, shares with the international community China's experience in curbing the virus and clarifies China's stance in fighting the virus.

At the critical moment when the world is fighting against the COVID-19 pandemic, the document conveved confidence and strength in combating the disease through solidarity and cooperation.

International observers said the white paper brings great enlightenment and inspiration to the international community in the global anti-epidemic battle, and is of global scientific value.

A timeline for China's epidemic-fight-

ing efforts since the detection of cases of pneumonia of unknown cause was systematically laid out in the paper.

The document, which faithfully records five stages and 126 important moments of China's fight against the epidemic, demonstrates key policies, measures and achievements of China in coping with the epidemic.

The timeline clearly records the arduous efforts of China in fighting the epidemic and carries the unforgettable memory shared by 1.4 billion Chinese people.

It took China over a month to achieve initial success in curbing the spread of the virus, about two months to bring the daily figure of new domestic cases on the mainland down to single digits, and three months to win a decisive victory in defending Wuhan City and Hubei Province.

With these strategic achievements, China has protected its people's lives, safety and health, and made a significant contribution to safeguarding regional and global public health.

Future historians may well look upon China's fight against the coronavirus as a global role model in containing the spread of new diseases, said Robert Lawrence Kuhn, chairman of the Kuhn Foundation.

China's anti-epidemic timeline clearly shows the strong leadership and scientific guidance of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at the core.

General Secretary Xi Jinping has taken personal command, planned the response, overseen the general situation and acted decisively, pointing the

way forward in the fight against the epidemic. This has bolstered the Chinese people's confidence and rallied their strength.

Under the leadership of the CPC, the whole nation has followed the general principle of "remaining confident, coming together in solidarity, adopting a science-based approach, and taking targeted measures", and waged an all-out people's war on the virus.

The central authorities made major decisions, employed extraordinary measures to deal with an extraordinary emergency, and quickly turned the situation around.

When analyzing the epidemiological curve of the virus after a field visit to China, Bruce Aylward, former assistant director general of the WHO, said every curve represents the extraordinary pol-

icy decision made by Chinese leaders. The anti-epidemic timeline reflects the people-centered governance philosophy of the CPC and the Chinese

government of serving the people and relying on the people. General Secretary Xi emphasized

that people's lives and health must come first. He pointed out that saving as many lives as possible, by every possible means, was the number one priority.

He said China must rely on the people to win the battle against the novel coronavirus epidemic. He hailed the Chinese people as the source of strength and confidence for winning this battle.

China has put the people's interests first - nothing is more precious than people's lives, done everything possible to protect the lives and health of its people, and demonstrated firm de-

termination to fight and win the battle against the epidemic by mobilizing all resources and blocking the spread of the virus. This has been witnessed by the whole world.

The Chinese people have a high degree of trust for their leaders, the Party and government, and consciously shoulder their responsibilities.

Edelman Trust Barometer 2020 reveals that China has once again topped the trust index among major economies in the world.

This reflects that the Chinese people, while going through the epidemic, show more support for and trust in the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at the core, as well as more confidence in the Chinese system.

**People's Daily** 

# OECD deal.

#### WORLD NEWS



A team of general practitioners from a medical and health center of Guiyang community offer free treatment for residents of Shilu village, Dianjiang county, Chongqing municipality in Southwest China, May 31. The villagers have just been lifted out of poverty. (Photo by People's Daily Online)

#### China's doctor makes unremitting efforts to fulfill health-related poverty alleviation tasks

CHINA aims to win the fight against poverty this year, and the remaining tasks of the anti-poverty fight are arduous. Rural areas, where a large proportion of people fell into poverty because of illnesses and disabilities, are one of the hardest nuts to crack in the country's poverty relief drive.

The task will only become more difficult, as it not only requires eradicating the existing poverty, but is also about preventing reoccurrence of poverty induced by diseases.

In recent years, local governments in China have put their utmost effort to implement health-related povertyalleviation programs.

Deng Guanghong, a doctor from Chengdu First People's Hospital in capital of Southwest China's Sichuan Province, is one of the medical workers taking part in a health-related poverty alleviation program in a Tibetaninhabited area in the province.

In June 2018, Deng volunteered when an opportunity to help poverty eradication in Dege County of Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of Garze in the province arose in his hospital. And by the end of the month, he set off for Ranka village, Keluodong township, to serve as a poverty-alleviation official for two years.

Lying at an average altitude of 4,200 meters above sea level, the county has a harsh plateau climate, and therefore suffers backward economic conditions, with animal husbandry as the mainstay. Many people there suffer lifelong endemic diseases.

Located in a pasturing area, the village has 28 poverty-stricken households among a total of 133.

Deng and another three officials

30 lectures concern prevention and treatment of diseases. Thanks to his efforts, the concept of health has taken roots in the hearts of local people. The poor families in the village are

always on Deng's mind, and Thutop's family has drawn more attention from him.

Little Thutop struggled with active epileptic seizures, and every year his mother would take him to big cities to seek treatment. The huge medical expenses overwhelmed the poor family.

After learning the condition, Deng contacted Chengdu First People's Hospital, and consulted the director of department of neurology about the treatment many times. He also paid special attention to the little boy's daily life and diet.

One night in July 2019, seizure happened again. Thutop fell flat on his face, with his head and eyes severely injured. Thutop's mother called Deng for help, and the latter rushed to his home, checked his conditions and sent the boy to a hospital in the coun-

Later Deng sent the boy to the hospital he works for, for a permanent cure for epileptic seizures. "Thank you, Uncle Deng, I don't know how I can repay you," the boy told him.

In addition, with the help of Deng, two severely disabled villagers applied for disability evaluation, got disabled certificate, and were therefore entitled to social assistance, welfare and insurance benefits of the country.

One of the villagers, A Ge, was included in the system of minimum living allowances by local department of

## **Defeating COVID-19 with Solidarity and Cooperation**

KEYNOTE Speech by H.E. Xi Jinping President of the People's Reoublic of China At the Extraordinary China-Africa Summit On Solidarity Against COVID-19

Beijing, 17 June 2020

**Your Excellency President Cyril** Ramaphosa,

**Excellency** President Your Macky Sall,

**Your Excellencies Heads of State** and Government, Your Excellency Moussa Faki

Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission,

Your Excellency António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations,

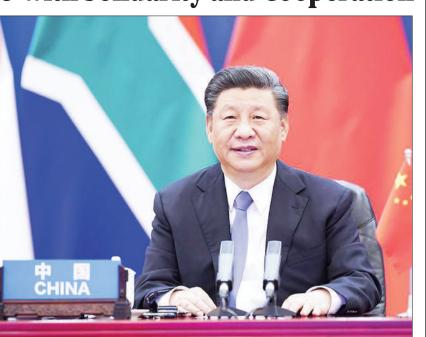
Your Excellency Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization,

At such a critical moment in the global fight against COVID-19, we are gathered together in this Extraordinary China-Africa Summit. Friends old and new are connected via video link to discuss our joint response to COVID-19 and to renew the fraternity between China and Africa. I thank President Ramaphosa and President Sall for joining me in initiating the Summit, and I appreciate the participation of all colleagues present. I also want to send my regards to other African leaders who are not able to be with us today.

The sudden onslaught of COVID-19 has taken a heavy toll on countries around the world, with the loss of several hundred thousand precious lives. Here, I suggest that we observe a moment of silence for those who have tragically passed away due to COVID-19 and express our condolences to their families.

- In the face of COVID-19, China and Africa have withstood the test of a severe challenge. The Chinese people have put up a fierce fight and made enormous sacrifice to bring the situation in China under control. Still, we remain mindful of the risk of a resurgence. In the same spirit, governments and peoples in Africa have put up a united front and, under the effective coordination by the African Union, have taken strong measures to effectively slow the spread of the virus. These are indeed hard-won results.

- In the face of COVID-19, China and Africa have offered mutual support and fought shoulder to shoulder civil affairs last November, and could with each other. China shall always enjoy reduction and fee cuts of exami- remember the invaluable support



**President Xi Jinping** 

Africa

tion

institutions, will act more forcefully

on debt relief and suspension for

Africa. China will work with the UN

WHO and other partners to assist Af-

rica's response to COVID-19, and do

it in a way that respects the will of

To help Africa achieve sustainable

development is what matters in the long run. China supports Africa in

its effort to develop the African Con-

tinental Free Trade Area and to en-

hance connectivity and strengthen

China will explore broader coop-

eration with Africa in such new business forms as digital economy, smart

city, clean energy, and 5G to boost

Africa's development and revitaliza-

Third, we must stay committed

to upholding multilateralism. In

the face of COVID-19, solidarity and

cooperation is our most powerful

weapon. China will work with Africa

to uphold the UN-centered global

governance system and support

WHO in making greater contribution

to the global COVID-19 response. We

oppose politicization and stigmati-

zation of COVID-19, and we oppose

racial discrimination and ideological

bias. We stand firm for equity and

Fourth, we must stay committed to

taking China-Africa friendship for-

ward. The world is undergoing pro-

found changes unseen in a century.

Given the new opportunities and

challenges we face, closer coopera-

tion between China and Africa is

justice in the world.

industrial and supply chains.

ple's lives and health and minimize the fallout of COVID-19.

First, we must stay committed to fighting COVID-19 together. China will continue to do whatever it can to support Africa's response to COV-ID-19. China will lose no time in following through on the measures I announced at the opening of the World Health Assembly, and continue to help African countries by providing supplies, sending expert teams, and facilitating Africa's procurement of medical supplies in China.

China will start ahead of schedule the construction of the Africa CDC headquarters this year. China will work with Africa to fully deliver the health care initiative adopted at the FOCAC Beijing Summit, and speed up the construction of China-Africa Friendship Hospitals and the cooperation between paired-up Chinese and African hospitals.

Together, we will build a China-Africa community of health for all. We pledge that once the development and deployment of COVID-19 vaccine is completed in China, African countries will be among the first to benefit.

Second, we must stay committed to enhancing China-Africa cooperation. To cushion the impact of COV-ID-19, it is important to strengthen Belt and Road cooperation and accelerate the follow-ups to the FOCAC Beijing Summit. Greater priority needs to be given to cooperation on public health, economic reopening, and people's livelihood.

Within the FOCAC framework, Chi- needed, more than ever. On my part, na will cancel the debt of relevant Af- I will stay in close touch with all of

**Guardian** 

Prospects of lifting EU anti-Russian sanctions 'more than vague' – ministry

#### MOSCOW

RUSSIA does not expect that the European Union sanctions could be lifted any time soon, Director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's European Cooperation Department Nikolai Kobrinets said yesterday, commenting on the report that the EU intends to extend economic restrictions placed on Russia by six months.

"They [sanctions] are extended once in six months. There's nothing new about it. The prospects of rolling the sanctions back are more than vague,' he said. "We most likely should not expect that the sanctions will be lifted any time soon."

The diplomat noted that the EU "has not matured" to change its stance on Russia.

Meanwhile, according to the diplomat, Russia and the European Union can cooperate even amid the sanctions. "Cooperation beyond the sanctions is absolutely possible not only on the security track," Kobrinets said. "Although the European Union officially froze sectoral dialogues in 2014, expert work continues on the issues of interest to the parties."

Moscow is not discussing the lifting of sanctions with Brussels, since it was not Russia that initiated them, the diplomat reiterated. "We will live in the conditions in which we live. Sanctions make our country increasingly self-sufficient. As the current pandemic has demonstrated, it is not bad to be insured against all risks," he noted.

The diplomat also stressed that Russia was interested in seeing the European Union as a strong, stable and independent participant in the global political life.

"No matter what predictions are made, the EU will survive the current crisis. It has a solid margin of financial and institutional safety. They are planning to attract huge funds to get out of the crisis," he added.

Earlier, a source in the European Council told TASS that the heads of EU state and government will adopt a political decision at a video conference meeting on June 19 to extend the economic sanctions slapped on Russia by another six months. As the things stand, the sanctions are in place until July 31. **Agencies** 

One in every 97 people affected

share a dormitory less than 20 square meters, and can only go to the town to take a shower once a week. In winter, even the water in the dormitory freezes.

However, the severe conditions did not bother him, "It didn't take long before I adapted to the new life here," said Deng optimistically.

Deng began to investigate the poor households upon arrival. He sorted the personal, housing and sheepfold information, and obtained the satellite positioning information of each household, which offered accurate information for the implementation of the programs. Soon he got a full grasp of the conditions of the households, especially poverty-stricken ones.

Deng imparted various kinds of knowledge in the evening schools for the villagers, and focused on the prevention of diseases, such as echinococcosis, tuberculosis and Kaschin-Beck disease. It was not only because these subjects are his forte, but more importantly, illness is one of the major reasons for poverty.

Over the two years, Deng has held more than 50 lectures, among which nation, treatment and hospitalization. Once pessimistic about life, A Ge has regained confidence and enthusiasm

for his life, and cannot stop thanking Deng every time he meets Deng.

Deng's task is about to end in this June, but according to the arrangements of the hospital he works for and his own will, he is going to stay in the village for another year, as consolidating the fruits of poverty alleviation is still a difficult task. And the doctor is determined to carry on with healthrelated poverty alleviation programs. **People's Daily** 

#### In addition, with the help of Deng, two severely disabled villagers applied for disability evaluation, got disabled certificate, and were therefore entitled to social

Africa gave us at the height of our battle with the coronavirus. In return, when Africa was struck by the virus, China was the first to rush in with assistance and has since stood firm with the African people.

- In the face of COVID-19, China and Africa have enhanced solidarity and strengthened friendship and mutual trust. Let me reaffirm China's commitment to its longstanding friendship with Africa. No matter how the international landscape may evolve, China shall never waver in its determination to pursue greater solidarity and cooperation with Africa.

#### Colleagues.

COVID-19 is still affecting many parts of the world. Both China and Africa face the formidable task of combating the virus while stabilizing the economy and protecting people's livelihoods.

We must always put our people and their lives front and center. We must mobilize necessary resources, stick together in collaboration, and do whatever it takes to protect peorican countries in the form of interest-free government loans that are due to mature by the end of 2020.

For those African countries that are hardest hit by the coronavirus and are under heavy financial stress, China will work with the global community to give them greater support, by such means as further extending the period of debt suspension, to help them tide over the current difficulty.

We encourage Chinese financial institutions to respond to the G20's Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) and to hold friendly consultations with African countries according to market principles to work out arrangements for commercial loans with sovereign guarantees.

China will work with other members of the G20 to implement the DSSI and, on that basis, urge the G20 to extend debt service suspension still further for countries concerned, including those in Africa.

China hopes that the international community, especially developed countries and multilateral financial

you, my colleagues, to consolidate our friendship and mutual trust, support each other on issues involving our respective core interests, and advance the fundamental interests of China and Africa and, for that matter, of all developing countries. This way, we will be able to take the China-Africa comprehensive strategic and cooperative partnership to a greater height.

#### Colleagues,

At the FOCAC Beijing Summit, we agreed to work together to build an even stronger China-Africa community with a shared future.

Today's Extraordinary China-Africa Summit on Solidarity against COVID-19 is our concrete step to deliver the commitment we made at the Beijing Summit and to do our part in the international cooperation against COVID-19. I am convinced that humanity will ultimately defeat the virus, and that the Chinese and African people are poised to embrace better days ahead.

Thank you.

by forced displacement: UNHCR

#### **GENEVA**

FORCED displacement is now affecting more than one percent of humanity, or 1 in every 97 people, according to a latest report from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

UNHCR's annual Global Trends report, published Thursday ahead of June 20's World Refugee Day, showed that an unprecedented 79.5 million people were displaced as of the end of 2019, with 45.7 million among them people who had fled to other areas of their own countries.

The rest were people displaced elsewhere, 4.2 million of whom being people awaiting the outcome of asylum requests, while 29.6 million were refugees and others forcibly displaced outside their country.

Last year, the UN agency reported a total of 70.8 million displaced people at the end of 2018.

Xinhua

## African cities epidemiological focus for COVID-19 spread - UN

#### **ADDIS ABABA**

CITIES in Africa are epidemiological focus for COVID-19 spread, making containment and response measures considerably more difficult, a new United Nations report said.

The report, entitled "CO-VID-19 in African Cities: Impacts, Responses and Policies," was jointly published by the UN Economic Commission for Africa, the UN Habitat, the UN Capital Development Fund, the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa, as well as the African Development Bank, on Wednesday.

It analyzed the COVID-19 situation on the African conti-

mitigating the pandemic within the context of cities in the region."African cities are epidemiological foci for COVID-19. The quality and nature of Africa's urbanization exacerbates transmission rates of infectious diseases like COVID-19 and makes containment and response measures considerably more difficult," the report said. It said COVID-19 risk factors are acute in African cities in part due to the largely unplanned and poorly managed urbanization process that resulted in widespread informal settle-

ture and service deficits.

ments and severe infrastruc-

Africa is now experiencing

the world, and the continent's urban population increased more than 10 times in six decades, from 53 million in 1960 to 588 million in 2020. In 2019, about 257 million

people, or 47 percent of Africa's urban population, lived in slums or informal settlements. Only 55 percent and 47 percent of Africa's urban residents have access to basic sanitation services and hand-washing facilities respectively, according to the report. I

t said most urban residents rely on the informal sector, which employs 71 percent of Africans, making them highly vulnerable to loss of income and

and lockdown measures.

High population densities, coupled with overcrowded public transport and marketplaces, make social distancing almost impossible, the report said.

These factors combined make Africa's cities hotbeds for COVID-19, it said. COVID-19 has adversely impacted African cities in many ways, with low ratios of health professionals and hospital beds and most of its stock of pharmaceuticals being imported, making health systems highly constrained to respond to the pandemic, the report said.

To adequately address the

report proposed five recommendations, including applying local communication and community engagement strategies, and supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and the informal economy.It also called for deepening decentralized responses to CO-VID-19 through strengthened local government capacities, targeting informal settlements through tailored measures, as

well as establishing mecha-

nisms to promote rapid access

to housing and prevent forced

The report also listed inte-

grating urban planning and

management as key priorities

evictions.

nent and efforts channeled at the most rapid urban growth in unable to abide by restrictions challenges of COVID-19, the for recovery and rebuilding role of productive, job-rich and strategies toward long-term resilience.

Edlam Abera Yemeru, chief of the Urbanization and Development Section at the ECA, said the economic and financial impact of COVID-19 in Africa "has been severe at all scales, from national to local."

"The economic effects of CO-VID-19 have been particularly severe due to underlying vulnerabilities in African economies," Yemeru said.

"Continental and national COVID-19 discussions and efforts do recognize the vulnerability of cities and local governments, and acute impact, but insufficiently consider the

competitive cities in economic recovery, rebuilding and resil-

ience in the medium and long term," she said.

According to the latest figures from the Africa Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases across the continent stood at 251,866 as of Tuesday afternoon.

Death toll from the pandemic rose from 6,464 on Monday to 6,769 as of Tuesday, and 114,308 people who were infected with COVID-19 have recovered across the continent, the Africa CDC said.

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Last year's women's singles finalists Serena Williams and Bianca Andreescu have both said they will play the US Open (AFP Photo

## Andreescu joins Serena Williams in committing to US Open

#### PARIS

CANADIAN Bianca Andreescu has announced that she will defend her US Open title, hours after six-time winner Serena Williams confirmed she would also play.

Leading European players have expressed concern about US Tennis Association (USTA) plans to play the tournament in a bubble to

They will be able to stay in a hotel where two double rooms will be reserved for them, or rent a house, outside Manhattan.

The number of members of their entourage who can accompany them remains to be determined.

Djokovic has said most players he had spoken to had "a rather negative view" about playing in New York, and predicted some would instead

## **Paris trial of Diacks exposes** dark backdrop of golden era

#### PARIS

AS Usain Bolt set the world ablaze, making athletics the hottest ticket at the Olympic Games, the sport was also being eaten from within.

That grim picture has emerged from a corruption trial in Paris that has shown how the thrilling era for track fans was poisoned behind the scenes by a father-son partnership at the top of the IAAF, the international governing body that organizes Olympic races and world championships.

Nine months before Bolt set the first of his sprint world records, then-IAAF President Lamine Diack signed an agreement in September 2007 to pay his own son \$900 per day – later increased to \$1,200 – for consultancy work. Armed with his father's name and influence as a titan of Olympic sports, Papa Massata Diack set to work negotiating lucrative sponsorship deals for the IAAF.

In the process, prosecutors allege, the Diacks got filthy rich, siphoning off revenue for themselves and lining bank accounts with hush-money allegedly extorted from athletes who coughed up six-figure sums to avoid being sanctioned for doping.

The Diacks contest the corruption, money laundering and breach of trust charges examined in six days of hearings. The trial highlighted governance problems that have plagued sports in their growth from what were once amateur pursuits into a global mega-industry short on effective oversight.

The Diacks' alleged malfeasance didn't merely bite giant chunks out of IAAF revenues and trash its reputation as a leader in fighting doping, causing losses the governing body now values at 41 million euros (\$46 million). The court heard that athletes also were handicapped and hurt financially by having to compete against runners who should have been suspended for doping but instead benefitted from a crooked system dubbed "full protection," paying hush-money to keep competing.

Two French former runners, Christelle Daunay and Hind Dehiba, are seeking damages.

Dehiba's attorney, Florent Hauchecorne, described the trial as a large group of athletes together a milestone in ending the seeming could hurt negotiations with a impunity that long shielded sports Russian sponsor, the court heard.

from

criminal



Former president of the IAAF (International Association of Athletics Federations) Lamine Diack, center, arrives at the Paris courthouse, Monday, June 8, 2020. (AP Photo)

"The problem is that sport has become an industry," he said. "And in the background, there are the geopolitical interests of nations which, in the end, lead to the conclusion that the doping of athletes and helping athletes dope to win medals is no worse than employing secret services to intervene here and there."

The trial showed how the Diacks lived large while athletes sweated for success. Lamine Diack jetted the world and rubbed shoulders with VIPs.

Prosecutor Arnaud de Laguiche said sports leaders like Diack "live like little emperors, they have their little courts and people court them."

In 2011, then-President Dmitry Medvedev of Russia presented Diack with a friendship medal. Known to few at the time, Diack that year was starting to deal behind the scenes with the crisis that would irredeemably tarnish his nearly 16year IAAF presidency: Rife doping in Russia

With the Olympic Games of 2012 looming. Diack feared that punishing

each of the past two years.

not allowed to enter doubles.

Among the other changes: Men's

and women's doubles will be reduced

from 64 teams each to 32, with players

who are entered in the singles fields

With qualifying cut, each of the

128-player fields for men's and women's

to quietly slow down the sanctioning part."

process, but denied knowledge of payoffs. Prosecutors allege the Diacks squeezed athletes for 3.45 million euros

The World Anti-Doping Agency argued in court that the alleged coverup caused lasting damage, by ruining athletes' trust in the anti-doping system.

WADA lawyer Emmanuel Daoud likened Diack to Sepp Blatter, the former FIFA president whose long tenure was also tarnished by widespread corruption among the sport's administrators.

"It's like one of those American films, where the old Mafiosi sit at the back of a restaurant eating spaghetti, making or breaking lives," Daoud said. "Mr. Diack acted like an omnipotent patriarch.'

In court, the 87-year-old Diack often provided inaudible and confusing testimony. He recalled details from his youth with clarity but repeatedly blanked when pressed on details of the case.

"I am starting to become an old nail." he said.

One of his lawyers, Simon Ndiaye, said Diack feels it is "globally unfair" that he is answering for "a whole

The most conspicuous absentee was his son, Papa Massata Diack, who lives in Senegal and didn't travel to Paris for the trial.

Prosecutors put Papa Massata Diack at the heart of the alleged racketeering of athletes and the creaming off of IAAF revenues. The son had expensive tastes: Investigators found he bought watches and other luxury goods worth 1.7 million euros from a store off the Champs-Elysees.

"He conducted himself like a thug," Lamine Diack said in court.

Now rebranded as World Athletics, the IAAF has turned over a new leaf under Sebastian Coe, the former middle-distance runner who has overseen reforms since he succeeded Diack as president in 2015.

Buttherisk of further damage looms: Diack is also under investigation in another French probe of bidding contests for the 2020 Olympics and other major competitions.

Prosecutors asked the court for a 4-year prison term and a fine of 500,000 euros (\$562,000 ) for Lamine Diack.

The verdict is expected in coming months.

minimise coronavirus risks.

"I have no doubt that the USTA has come up with the best plan to ensure our safety as we look to the return of tennis in 2020," world number six Andreescu wrote on Twitter following Wednesday's USTA announcement of details of the conditions under which the first post-COVID-19 Grand Slam tournament would be held

Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal and Simona Halep have all said they are unlikely to play in the US Open.

The tournament will be played behind closed doors from August 31 to September 13.

Under the health protocols, players will be tested for COVID-19 before leaving for New York, upon arrival and once or twice a week during their stay.

switch to the delayed clay court season instead. Andreescu said she understood.

"The decision, I know was not made lightly and I completely support and understand every players personal opinions on the matter and their comfort level traveling near and far to compete on the world's biggest stage.

"Returning to life as we once knew it is no longer an option," she wrote. "But, I plan to make the most of the opportunity to get back on the court, re-connect with players and friends and hopefully bring tennis back to the millions of fans across the globe safely."

Andreescu, who turned 20 in Tuesday, won her first Grand Slam title last year at Flushing Meadows by beating Serena Williams in the final.

"Look, personally, if I were in their shoes and I

was asked to come over to the States and shelter

AFP

## **2020 US Open plan: Fewer line judges, ball people, events**

Diack acknowledged he intervened system, in which lots of people took

#### **By HOWARD FENDRICH**

administrators

punishment.

ELECTRONIC line-calling will be used instead of line judges for U.S. Open matches at all courts except the two largest arenas, while singles qualifying and mixed doubles, junior and wheelchair competition are being eliminated entirely.

There also will be three ball people instead of six at courts other than Arthur Ashe Stadium and Louis Armstrong Stadium.

Those are among the changes announced Wednesday by the U.S. Tennis Association as it outlined plans for running a scaled-down, nospectators version of its Grand Slam tournament in New York City amid the coronavirus pandemic.

"Without question, this is a journey. Things are evolving," new tournament director Stacey Allaster said during a video conference. "We have the plan today. We're in daily contact with both tours.'

At a minimum, there will be testing for COVID-19 via nasal swabs upon arrival at what Allaster termed "U.S. Open world," and then once weekly thereafter. If there is the possibility that the tournament "bubble" has been breached by the virus, there could be testing every other day.

It is unlikely players would be asked to sign waivers absolving the USTA of responsibility should they get sick.

The tournament received the go-ahead from the New York state government Tuesday to be held in its usual location in Flushing Meadows, Queens, from Aug. 31 to Sept. 13. In an unusual arrangement, the hardcourt tuneup tournament normally held in Cincinnati will be held right before the U.S. Open - and at the Open's site.

still lingering There are

will participate, but one made her intentions clear Wednesday: 23-time major champion Serena Williams said she is planning to play at the U.S. Open. Williams said in a video message

that she "cannot wait to return" to the major championship she has won six times. She was the runner-up there

outbreak.

singles will include 120 players who get in via their ranking and eight who be the Palermo Ladies Open in Italy

The ATP said its players would return to action at the Citi Open in Washington beginning Aug. 14. That is normally a combined tournament for men and women, but WTA CEO Steve Simon said discussions about his tour's participation was ongoing.

And after that, the ATP-WTA tournament usually held in Cincinnati will be played in Flushing Meadows.

Two tournaments now dropped from the August schedule: the Rogers Cup in Canada and the Winston-Salem Open.

After the hard-court "doubleheader" in New York, the tours will shift to European red clay for tournaments in Madrid and Rome, before the French Open's main draw new start date of Sept. 27. AP

In this Aug. 27, 2018, file photo, fans walk outside of Arthur Ashe Stadium during the first round of the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York. Governor Andrew Cuomo announced, Tuesday, June 16, 2020, that the U.S. Open will be played in Queens from Aug. 31 to Sept. 13, but without fans in attendance. (AP Photo) questions about which top players receive wild-card invitations. the week of Aug. 3.

Players will be allowed up to three guests and up to two rooms - one paid for by the player, one by the USTA - at a pair of designated hotels. There also will be the option for players to rent a house outside of Manhattan.

The USTA has not decided exactly how many entourage members will be allowed on-site.

Also Wednesday, the women's and men's professional tours issued what they called "provisional" calendars to resume sanctioned competition in August after being suspended since early March because of the COVID-19

The WTA said its first event would

## **McIlroy dismisses European** players' ranking complaints the top 10 to No. 11.

#### WASHINGTON

RORY McIlroy says European players who decided not to travel to the United States for the US PGA Tour's restart shouldn't complain about missing out on world rankings points.

The Official World Golf Rankings decided to unfreeze the ranking system when the PGA Tour resumed at Colonial Country Club in Fort Worth, Texas, last week after a hiatus caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

That didn't sit well with some European players, including former world number one Lee Westwood of England, who felt the burden of self-isolating for two weeks upon arrival in the States and for two weeks when travelling back to Europe, was too much.

"I mean if you really care about your career and care about moving forward you should be here," world number one McIlroy said Wednesday as he prepared to tee it up for the second straight week in the RBC Heritage at Harbour Town Golf Links in Hilton Head, South Carolina.

The European Tour won't resume until the British Masters on July 22, and players who don't travel Stateside before then can see their rankings suffer.

But McIlroy, who maintains a home in Florida, voiced little sympathy for players such as England's Tommy Fleetwood, who slipped out of

in place or quarantine for two weeks before these tournaments, I would have done that," the 31-vear-old said.

"I get there's different variables and families and stuff involved, but we all have the means to rent a very nice house in a gated community in

Florida ... it's not a hardship to come over and quarantine." McIlroy also said he thought the PGA Tour was

doing a good job in implementing protocols to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Told that the tour had reported a second straight week of zero positive coronavirus tests -- after conducting 954 tests of players, caddies and family members -- McIlroy said he wasn't surprised.

"I feel like the plan that has been put in place here has been very good," McIlroy said. "It's great to hear that two weeks in a row there's no positive tests. That's what we just have to keep doing.'

McIlroy was three shots off the lead heading into the final round at Colonial on Sunday, but fired a four-over par 74 to finished tied for 32nd. That ended the Northern Ireland star's streak

of US PGA Tour top-five finishes that stretched back to August 2019.





**SPORTS NEWS** 

## **Guardiola: We should** apologise to black people

#### LONDON

MANCHESTER City manager Pep Guardiola said Wednesday that white people should be "embarrassed and ashamed" for their treatment of black people after watching players from his team and Arsenal recognise the Black Lives Matter movement by taking a knee prior to the Premier League game at the Etihad.

City's 3-0 win, which followed Aston Villa's 0-0 draw against Sheffield United earlier in the day, marked the return of Premier League football, 100 days after it had been suspended because of the coronavirus pandem-

The two games saw players take a knee prior to kick-off and also wear "Black Lives Matter" on the back of their shirts after the #PlayersTogether group of captains successfully lobbied the Premier League for permission to make the two statements. And speaking after the game, Guardiola spoke strongly about his belief that much more must be done to ensure equality and inclusion.

"White people should apologise for the way we treated black people in the last 400 years," he said.

"I feel ashamed for what we have done for black people around the world, not just America -- the problem is everywhere."

Teams will wear a Black Lives Matter patch for the remainder of the

2019-20 season in a show of support for racial justice following the May 25 killing of George Floyd, a black man, who died after Derek Chauvin, a white police officer, kneeled on his neck for more than eight minutes in Minneapolis. Floyd's death has spurred demonstrations against racial injustice around the world.

"We should send a thousand million messages for the black people," Guardiola said. "I'm embarrassed and ashamed of what the white people have done for the black people.

"How people can think they are different? All the gestures are good and positive. Everything we can do to make it conscious. It is not acceptable. We have to do a lot of things for the black people which we have not done so far."

Raheem Sterling, the City and England winger, has repeatedly called for greater equality in recent months, and the former Liverpool player said that taking a knee and wearing the BLM slogan was a huge message from the Premier League and its players.

"I see it as a massive step for the Premier League to allow something like that to happen, and it shows we're going in the right direction," he said. "Little by little, we're seeing change. It was natural; it was organic. "We saw the teams do it in the earlier kick-off and thought it was some-

thing we had to do, as well." (Agencies)

## Arsenal's David Luiz sorry for red card, unsure of future

#### LONDON

ARSENAL's Brazilian defender David Luiz blamed himself for his team's 3-0 defeat at Manchester City on Wednesday in which he was sent-off in the 49th minute.

Luiz, whose contract with the club runs out at the end of the month, came on as a 24th minute substitute for the injured Pablo Mari but endured a dreadful night.

The central defender was at fault for Raheem Sterling's opener just before the interval and then gave away the penalty for the second



#### By Mark Ogden, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

EVEN when everything looks and feels different, some things never change. One hundred days after the Premier League was forced to shut down because of the coronavirus pandemic, English football returned with an easy Manchester City win against Arsenal and another showcase of David Luiz's ability to mess things up.

Nobody was there to see it, though. Just like in Germany, Italy and Spain, the Premier League is back -- but behind closed doors. City's win, which means Liverpool cannot win the title at Everton on Sunday, was played out in front of fewer than 300 onlookers, including club staff, media and safety stewards, all of whom had to undergo temperature checks before entering the ground.

But after the league halted in mid-March with 92 games to play, a return to action in a sterile environment dominated by strict safety measures, one-way systems to ensure social distancing and, crucially, no fans was the only way to get the Premier League show back on the road to a conclusion.

The experience felt as weird as it looked, though: deserted streets outside the Etihad Stadium, stewards standing outside locked turnstiles and a stadium divided into Green, Amber and Red Zones. It's football, but not as we know it.

The next time fans think they are being priced out of the game, they will need only to point to this unprecedented period to prove that they are the lifeblood of the game.

Two City fans from Warrington, 20 miles away, turned up in their shirts to eat at the fish and chip shop outside the Etihad. They knew they couldn't watch the game, but they simply had to play out their prematch ritual before driving home to watch on television. Another fan stood outside the stadium entrance, playing "Blue Moon" on a saxophone, but that was it. Fears of fans turning up and causing a scene were unfounded.

Football supporters in the U.K. remain split on the issue of games being played at a time the Etihad carried messages of support when the country's daily coronavirus death tally and thanks to the emergency services



Manchester City thrash Arsenal in

Premier League's weird new normal

Arsenal captain Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang (right) makes a Black Power Salute as all players took a knee before kick-off (AFP Photo)

continues to be a three-digit number. Players have also voiced their concerns about safety, some fans have taken to social media to accuse clubs of putting money before health, and there are those who believe that live football without spectators is simply not worth watching.

The Premier League's "Project Restart" has been given full government backing, however, with the view within the corridors of power being that the return of football will not only signal important steps on the road to recovery but also raise the morale of a nation.

But there can be no escaping the grief and loss experienced by many. Just 24 hours before this game, City manager Pep Guardiola spoke of the "difficult times" he has endured since his mother, Dolores, died after contracting COVID-19 in April, and banners produced to cover the empty seats at

and front-line workers who have cared for and treated so many in recent weeks and months.

Players wore a blue heart logo on the front of their shirts to pay tribute to the NHS (National Health Service), and they carried the words "Black Lives Matter" on the back of their shirts in recognition of the movement that has emerged since the death of United States citizen George Floyd last month in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Prior to kickoff, both sets of players lowered themselves and took a knee. Arsenal forward Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang also raised a clenched fist.

Football has certainly found its voice during the shutdown.

The game is taking faltering steps back to normality, though. Clubs are attempting to find a way to make their stadiums look and feel like home without the benefit of fans. City played their usual prematch tunes through

the speakers and dressed the stands in those huge banners.

But footballers need the "oohs and aahs" of the fans. They need to ride the wave of noise to change the tempo, and City do that better than most when they are at full flow under Guardiola. They can pen opponents deep into their own territory when the crowd urges them on, but without that noise, the game lacks a crucial element.

That was never more evident than when Raheem Sterling forced a saved from Arsenal goalkeeper Bernd Leno in the first half and received nothing more than a ripple of polite applause from his teammates on the substitutes' bench.

"The first 10 minutes, we were getting used to the atmosphere," Sterling said. "We expected it to be weird."

By that point, Arsenal had lost Granit Xhaka and Pablo Mari to injury, prompting manager Mikel Arteta to introduce substitutes Dani Ceballos and Luiz, who played a key part in City's victory.

The Brazilian's first contribution was to miss the ball when attempting to cut out a Kevin De Bruyne pass, leaving Sterling to open the scoring on 45 minutes.

Luiz was then, perhaps harshly, sent off for a foul on Riyad Mahrez, which led to a 49th-minute penalty. It was a clumsy challenge rather than a malicious one, but nonetheless, it was a penalty, and De Bruyne scored it.

By the time substitute Phil Foden made it 3-0 to City in the first of 11 minutes of stoppage time -- awarded as a result of lengthy treatment received by City defender Eric Garcia after a collision with goalkeeper Ederson -- the game was up for Arsenal.

"Everything went wrong from the first minute," Arteta said. "Every possible accident that could have happened hopefully happened today."

## Bayern's eighth straight Bundesliga title is both incredible and a problem

#### By Gabriele Marcotti, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

WHEN it comes to underscoring Bayern Munich's dominance over German football, you can pick your poison. There's the fact that the Bundesliga was formed in 1963 and the Bavarians have won it more times (29) than every other German team combined. There's the fact that the Meisterschale they won Tuesday night is their eighth consecutive league title, and they won their previous seven by an average of 14.6 points. There's the fact that since the Bundesliga moved to three points for a win 25 years ago, Bayern have recorded seven of the eight highest points totals in history in each of the past seven seasons. (Assuming they win one of their final two games, they'll make it eight of nine.) But perhaps the most remarkable fact is that they've dominated (again) despite so many things not going according to plan. For the second time in three years, they fired their manager in midseason, replacing him with an experienced assistant who hadn't actually been a No. 1 since 2005. They suffered injuries in key roles: their record signing, Lucas Hernandez, made only nine league starts, and their second-most expensive signing, Corentin Tolisso, only seven. Niklas Sule, who was supposed to partner Hernandez, suffered a season-ending injury in October. Philippe Coutinho -- who is costing them close to \$30 million a year in wages and loan fees and was supposed to play a critical role -- turned out to be a bust, lasting 90 minutes in a league game only twice since early October. And, until last month, their goalkeeper and captain, Manuel Neuer, was in contract limbo, refusing to extend his deal after they locked down his long-term replacement, Alexander Nubel. And they still won the title with games to spare. And before we hear the old cliche about the paucity of the competition, consider that RB Leipzig are Champions' League quarterfinalists and Borussia Dortmund, who finished just two points back last season, invested heavily in the summer adding the likes of Julian Brandt, Thorgan Hazard and Mats Hummels, doubling down in January with the arrival of Emre Can and Erling Haaland.

goal four minutes after the restart. Not only did Luiz's mistake cost a

goal, with Kevin De Bruyne scoring from the spot, but his expulsion, his team a man down for the remainder of the game.

"It's my fault," he said, "The team did well, especially with 10 men. The coach is amazing, all the players are amazing, it was my fault."

Luiz suggested he should have resolved his contractual situation by now but said his status was not a factor in his performance.

"I should have taken a different decision in the last two months but as well, he can handle the situa-I didn't," he told Sky Sports. "All about my contract, if I stay

here or not. I have 14 days to be

here and that's it. I should have tried to decide my future as early as possible, but I didn't.

"I don't want to use that as an alifor the foul on Riyad Mahrez, left bi or excuse, it's my fault -- that's it. I love to be here. That's why I continue to train hard."

> Gunners manager Mikel Arteta said Luiz had held his hand up after the game and suggested his display wouldn't impact on any decision about his future.

"I don't know what will happen with his contract. I know what happened today, I know the way David reacted, as a player and as a person tion." he said.

(Agencies)

## Napoli fans swarm onto streets to celebrate Italian Cup win

#### NAPLES, Italy

THOUSANDS of Napoli fans swarmed onto the streets of Naples late Wednesday to wildly celebrate their team's first trophy in six years after a dramatic Italian Cup penalty-shootout victory over Juventus.

The match in Rome's Stadio Olimpico was played behind closed doors because of the strict postcoronavirus health protocol.

But in Naples an estimated 5,000 fans celebrated in the city's historical centre after the 4-2 penalty win after the match against the Juventus of their former coach Maurizio Sarri ended 0-0.

Parades of cars and scooters began at the final whistle and gatherings took place in different parts of the city, with flares and fireworks lit and fans brandishing scarves cember. and banners in praise of Napoli or mocking Juventus.

in Piazza Trieste e Trento, in the sence due to the coronavirus. city's historic centre, and the tra-

ditional meeting place for club tifosi on victory days.

In the midst of the flags, the horns and the songs, dozens of people threw themselves into the Artichoke fountain, in the centre of the piazza.

Napoli had not won a trophy since 2014, the year they won both

the Italian Cup and Super Cup. They have won Serie A twice, back in the days of Argentine great Diego Maradona in 1987 and 1990. The cup triumph was their sixth in the competition against a team who have won a record 13 and are coached by Sarri, who acrimoni-

ously left Napoli for Chelsea in 2018 before joining the Turin giants this season.

Napoli have been reborn under coach Gennaro Gattuso who took over from Carlo Ancelotti in De-

They are sixth in the league table with Serie A returning this Most of the celebrations were weekend after a three-month ab-AFP

#### There are two ways to read this and yes, both can be true.

The first is that Bayern's title is a prodigious feat because of the adversity the club had to overcome. Hindsight is 20/20 and we take things for granted, but think of the number of times we've heard about the importance of managerial stability, about avoiding injuries, about getting the big decisions right, about spending money wisely. Well, Bayern overcame all that, going on a prodigious tear that saw them take 52 of a possible 54 points since December. Credit manager Hansi Flick, credit the players, credit the strength and determination and winning culture of the club ... whatever you like. But please credit them, because winning when so much goes wrong -- whether it's your fault (Niko Kovac, Coutinho) or whether you're just unlucky (Sule, Tolisso, Hernandez) -- and you still triumph, yes, that's special. But the other thing worth noting is that this is not normal. And, in fact, it hasn't been normal in the his-



Bayern star David Alaba leads team celebrations of a remarkable eighth straight Bundesliga title after Tuesday's 1-0 win at Werder nen. (Agencies)

tory of football until very, very recently. European football isn't like U.S. pro sports. There's no pretence or expectation of a level playing field; there is an acceptance that some teams are bigger and better resourced and, therefore, will win more. And winning more creates a virtuous cycle in which they earn more money and buy better players and continue winning. Yet if a team goes through as much adversity -- both external and self-inflicted -- as Bayern went through this season, you reasonably expect a closer finish.

Not any more -- and it's obviously not just a Bundesliga issue. Paris Saint-Germain

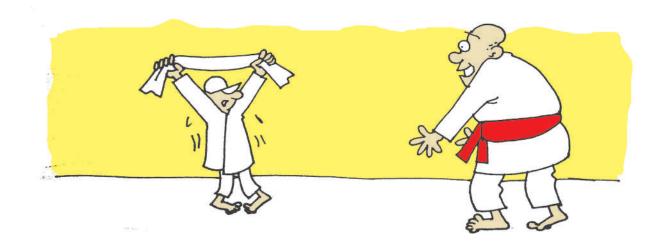
## by David Chikoko

have won seven of the past eight titles in to the scratching of heads and a search for France, while in Italy, Juventus are competing for their ninth in a row. Barcelona or Real Madrid have won La Liga in 14 of the past 15 seasons. Even in the Premier League, where the size of the TV deal means there are more wealthy clubs, only twice in the past five seasons has a "Big Six" team finished outside the top six.

If you've read this far, you've heard all this before. A combination of factors -- from globalization to the boom in commercial rights, from the growth of broadcast revenue to the Bosman rule -- have led to unprecedented polarization. And this has led

fixes from salary caps and luxury taxes to super leagues. Heck, you can read my own modest proposal here.

A lot of this is based on two assumptions that come from opposite sides of the spectrum. One is that this is somehow morally and ethically unfair and damages the spirit of competition, which is at the heart of the concept of sport. The other is that there's a commercial imperative to make leagues exciting and hard fought, and that some semblance of parity is good for business: After all, a league where the same guys win year after year gets boring.



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## Govt clamps down on Jamhuri Stadium management

# 

# Manchester City thrash Arsenal in Premier League's weird new normal

**COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19** 



1:00 DADAZ LIVE 12:00 Mid Week Movie (r) 13:30 Kali Za Wana 14:00 Bongo Hits 15:00 Funguka 15:30 Wakilisha (r) 16:00 Ujenzi (r) 16:30 #HASHTAG 17:00 5SELEKT 17:55 Kurasa 18:00 eNewz 18:30 Skonga 19:30 EATV SAA I 19:45 MJADALA 20:00 DADAZ (r) 21:00 Friday Night Live

23:00 Kurasa (r)



#### Friday Night Live The Weekend begins here! Listen to upbeat mixed music by the hottest Djs Gossip, showbiz updates and exclusive interviews with celebrities from home and abroad. Don't you dare miss this.

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06:00 Supa Breakfast **10:00 MÅMAMIA** 12:00 Kipenga Xtra 13:00 Planet Bongo 16:00 EA Drive 20:00 Kipenga 21:00 Friday Night Live





Dodoma's Jamhuri Stadium as pictured recently

social distancing on stands as spectators did not follow the one-meter apart rule.

He said the social distancing is one of the public health guidelines targeting to counter the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic during this period when football has resumed.

Mwakyembe said closing the Jamhuri Stadium will, though, not be one of the has directed that actions, which are to be taken against action must be management of the stadium.

He disclosed he has advised his ministry's Permanent Secretary, Hassan Abbas, to follow up the matter and take necessary action.

The minister was among a section of government officials that had turned up at the Jamhuri Stadium to watch the match, which saw JKT Tanzania hold Yanga to a 1-1 draw.

Minister for Information, "I was there at the stadium, the aim Culture, Arts and Sports was not to watch the match but to see how people (spectators) are following Harrison Mwakyembe, said the stadium's management precautionary measures to counter the failed to take precautionary spread of coronavirus, but I was not happy measures which included and something has to be done, it won't

be closing the stadium," he stated in a monitored radio interview.

"I have advised the Permanent Secretary in my ministry to follow up the matter, you know he has been touring stadiums across the country to inspect and appreciate measures stadium owners are taking to avoid the spread of the pandemic," Mwakyembe said.

During the game, video pictures posted on social media platforms were showing the stadium filled to its capacity and spectators were sitting close to each other, with many of them not putting on face masks.

Abbas could not be reached on his mobile phone, while his deputy Ally Possi did not respond to our questions when we asked for his reaction on the minister's directive.

However, Abbas had recently told the local media that he is satisfied with the implementation of public health guidelines by fans who are watching football games live.

He is reported to have said that everything is fine after he keenly observed the implementation of health guidelines in

various venues.

"First of all, we should thank President John Magufuli for letting sporting activities resume, since many countries are vet to resume sporting activities and Tanzania has done well so far," he stated. "The second thing we should cherish is his authorization to allow

supporters to watch live games at stadiums while taking into consideration all precautionary measures to avoid further spread of COVID-19," he said .

The Permanent Secretary mentioned some of the precautionary measures as, people should wash their hands before going into the stadium by using running water, use sanitisers and, if possible, wear face masks. The soccer supporters

should, moreover, have temperature tests and create a one-meter distance with each other once they are inside the venue.

Also a similar incident was spotted during a Vodacom Premier League game between Mwadui FC and Yanga, which took place at Kambarage Stadium in Shinyanga last week.

There were video pictures which were showing spectators sitting

close to each other and many of them did not put on face masks.

Due to this, some observers have said all precautionary measures outlinedbythegovernment can be adhered to by fans at football stadiums, with the exception of that of creating one-meter distance with each other.

They pointed out reducing stadium capacity is the best way to ensure social distancing, as this will ensure that venues are not congested, thereby taming the spread of the pandemic.

Michael Msemakweli, a football follower, said although reducing stadium capacity is going to affect gate revenue, Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) can offset it by raising ticket prices.

Other measures, he should include said, advance ticket sales with no option for the same on match day at the gates and tightening of security to ensure enforcement of the measures.

He further noted that gates should be opened early to reduce congestion and that stadiums, which do not have capacity to enforce coronavirus precautionary measures, should not host matches.

## Simba SC seeks to close in on VPL silverware

#### By Correspondenta Sabato Kasika

**By Correspondent Joseph** 

taken

management of Dodoma's

Jamhuri Stadium for its fail-

ure to adhere to precaution-

ary measures for coronavi-

rus (COVID-19) pandemic

when IKT Tanzania hosted

Yanga in a Vodacom Premier

League clash at the venue on

HE government

against

**1**chekadona

Wednesday.

VODACOM Premier League's Simba SC has made it clear that victory in four matches will see the outfit lift the league's trophy.

Simba are on Saturday expected to play host to Mwadui FC in a league clash, which will take place in Dar es Salaam.

Belgian tactician, Sven Vanderbroeck, who heads Simba's technical bench, stated he hopes they will clinch the trophy, if they will give their all in the matches and come out

two matches against Mbeya clubs, Prisons and Mbeya City, and later head to Tanga to face Coastal Union.

"The next three matches are extremely important to us, my players are aware of that and we will see to it we live up to our expectations. Winning the next three duels will ease the workload," he noted.

The coach disclosed he is impressed by his players' work ethic and their determination to lift the trophy early.

Simba will thereafter feature in in every match, we will not underestimate our opponents simply because we are enjoying the driver's seat, we know we will not fulfil our targets, should we not be careful" he added.

Simba are currently placed at the top of the league table, as they have notched 72 points in 29 matches.

They have created a 15-point gap with second-placed Azam FC and a 17-point gap with rivals Yanga, who are placed third.

Each of the ree outfits has taken

## Moshi tennis centre set to resume training

#### By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

KILIMANJARO's tennis training center, dubbed 'Rafiki Foundation', is set to resume training tomorrow to prepare for the coming local and international events.

The outfit's head coach, Charles Laizer, said he was using social media platforms to monitor the progress of his players, who were indoors due to the coronavirus pandemic.

He said the actual training will now start at the foundation's premises in Machame tomorrow.

He said the foundation has 26 players but the training will begin with eight players, who are based at the facility, and they will follow all precautionary measures set by the government as safety of the players and technical officials is of paramount so the medical team will be on the ground.

"After the government had announced that all activities, including sports, should turn to normal, we

## Azam FC in high spirit ahead of Yanga clash

#### By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

VODACOM Premier League giants, Azam FC, have stated they are looking forward to their league clash with Young Africans SC (Yanga) to be played at the National Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Sunday.

Azam FC information officer, Thabit Zakaria, said after their 2-0 win against Mbao FC in a league clash, which took place at Azam Complex in the city last Sunday, the focus now is on Yanga match on Sunday.

He said Azam FC head coach, Aristica Cioba, is rectifying the weaknesses which his side showed during the last Sunday's match.

"The win against Mbao FC is water under the bridge, we are now looking forward to our next game against Yanga as the aim is to collect maximum points, the team is working hard so as to win our next game," he said.

Buoyed by their 2-0 win, Zakaria said Azam's aim is to continue from where they stopped during their victory over Mbao FC.

Azam FC has been positioned second in the league log with 57 points from 29 matches played.

The Sunday clash will be more interesting as results will give a clear picture on who will finish second in the second in the Premier League table.

Both squads are expected to be boosted by the return of their players who missed last week's games.

Yanga will welcome back winger, Bernard Morrison, and midfielder, Papy Tshishimbi, while Azam FC will boast of key players including Never Tigere and Bruce Kangwa.

Yanga had, before yesterday's game against JKT Tanzania, notched 54 points from 28 games and a win on Sunday will bring level them with Azam FC on points.

The Jangwani Street based side looks to be favourites on paper but if their performance against Mwadui FC last Sunday is anything to go by, then anything can happen considering that they will face an unpredictable side determined to win the game.

A defeat for Yanga on Sunday will be disastrous to them and the squad's head coach Luc Eymael is well aware of its complications.

Victory will be more important to them, as it will see them put pressure on Azam FC and Namungo FC, who are also the second place contenders.

with good results.

"We nevertheless must be careful part in 29 games.



Simba forward, Meddie Kagere (L), and defender, Shomari Kapombe (C), feature in training under supervision of the side's assistant coach, Adel Zrane, in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday. PHOTO; CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

thought it wise to resume training, we will not start with all 26 players which we have, we will begin with only eight players who are based here and the rest will join in the near future," he said.

Coach Laizer said he is confident that his players will be in good shape as, during the period when sporting activities were suspended, he had been giving his athletes instructions using social media platforms.

Rafiki Foundation is the hub of tennis in the country as it has seven national junior team players.

The players are Eunice Ali, Irene Munisi, Naitoti Singo, Natasha Singo, Emmanuel Lema, Rachel Swai and Hillarv Ndosi.

Natasha is the champion of the just ended Uganda Junior Open tournament which was held in Kampala.

It was used as a qualifying tournament for Africa Junior Championships (AJC), which will be held in Morocco later this year.

Laizer stopped short of mentioning the local and international events which his players will compete.

However, the International Tennis Federation (ITF) suspended all tennis tournaments up to July 13.

The ITF issued guidelines which will be followed once the sport returns.

Some of the guidelines include arriving at a venue already dressed and leaving immediately after the conclusion of a match, no handshakes, no sharing of equipment (rackets, towels, water bottles, etc), no doubles matches.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

