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Brewer donates maize flour to flood victims



'Older men nurse few worries over the Covid-19 risk'

GEORGIA, US

NEW research has found that, despite being a more at-risk demographic, older people are likely to worry less and make fewer behavioural changes in response to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic.

The research, published in The Journals of Gerontology, concludes that older people might require more education and intervention to ensure that they perceive the risks of Covid-19 accurately.

The sudden emergence and rapid spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, as well as the risks associated with contracting Covid-19, have necessitated radical changes in people's everyday life.

Emerging information about the virus has identified the demographics most vulnerable to a severe reaction to the virus.

While everyone should be making behavioural changes to reduce the spread of the virus, vulnerable groups need to take extra care, since severe Covid-19 can be life threatening.

Data from the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) shows that eight out of 10 Covid deaths in the United States have been

Emerging information about the virus has identified the demographics most vulnerable to a severe reaction to the virus

people aged 65 and over. Research has also shown that men are at higher risk of a worse disease outcome, including death.

Given this, one may expect that people aged 65 and over would be more cautious and more worried about the virus. However, previous research has shown that older people are less likely to worry about death and their mortality than other demographics.

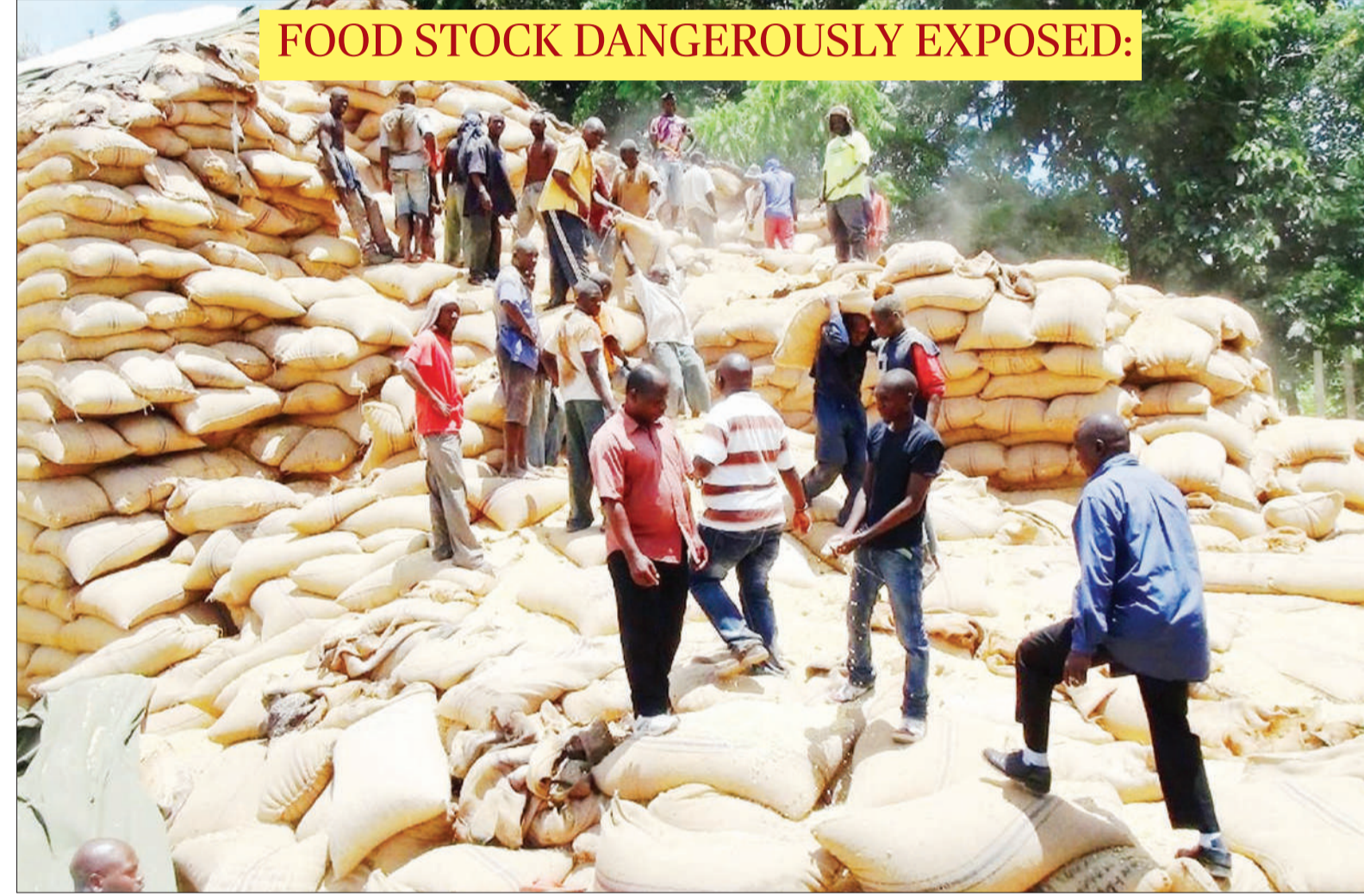
Dr Sarah Barber, a gerontology and psychology researcher at Georgia State University and corresponding author of the study, said that not only do older adults exhibit less negative emotions in their daily lives. They also exhibit less worry and fewer PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) symptoms following natural disasters and terrorist attacks.

"In normal circumstances, not worrying as much is a good thing. Everyday life is probably happier if we worry less. However, where Covid-19 is concerned, we expected that lower amounts of worry would translate into fewer protective Covid-19 behavioural changes," she stated.

The present paper explored whether these known reductions in worry were the same or similar concerning Covid-19 and if this was likely to affect a person's likelihood of making behavioural changes in response to the virus.

Ministry set for sugar price cap crackdown

By Guardian Reporter



Maize bought by the Songea branch of the National Food Reserve Agency during last year's harvesting season lies in an open space yesterday, amid reports that the warehouse where it is supposed to be kept is still under construction. Photo: Correspondent Gideon Mwakanosya

THE government has announced a crackdown on Dar es Salaam Region retailers and wholesalers selling sugar contrary to the indicative cap of 2,600/ per kilo.

The move follows complaints from city residents that sugar was still sold at highest prices in most retail shops.

Japhet Hasunga, the minister for Agriculture, told 'The Guardian' that the country's sugar supply is stable, underlining that the high prices are pushed by some unscrupulous traders, seeking super profits.

Hasunga insisted that indicative prices issued by the government are still applicable and will remain intact, warning businessmen not to take advantage of the demand to make super profits.

"We will go shop by shop hunting for traders selling the commodity at prices higher than recommended rates," he vowed.

Stern measures will be taken against wholesalers and retailers found violating the set rules and regulations, he further stated.

Traders considering the demand situation as a project for generating super profits will be dealt with accordingly, he said.

A random survey conducted by this paper in various parts of the city found several shops selling the commodity at prices ranging from 3,000/- to 4,000/- per

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'Varsities must issue upkeep allowances within two days'

By Guardian Reporter

EDUCATION, Science and Technology minister Prof Joyce Ndalichako has given 48 hours to colleges and universities to ensure that all students are issued with their upkeep allowances.

There will be no excuse for any higher learning institution not to abide by the order as further steps will be taken against recalcitrant institutions, she said.

Prof Ndalichako issued the ultimatum yesterday in Dar es Salaam when presenting four vehicles

valued at a total of 700m/- to the National Institute of Transport (NIT). They were bought by the government using a World Bank loan for improving the country's education sector.

"By Friday all students in universities should be paid their living allowances as the loans board has already disbursed 122bn/- for the purpose, so why the delay? There will be no excuse for those who will not abide by this directive," she declared.

She added: "President John Magufuli had

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Bagamoyo DC intervenes with port losing revenues

By Guardian Correspondent, Bagamoyo

TRADERS are no longer using Bagamoyo port in Coast Region, complaining of being mistreated and over taxed by port officials.

The traders' decision accounts for the plummeting of the port's revenues from 3bn/- in November last year to 293.8m/- in May this year.

This was revealed yesterday by the traders at a meeting convened by the Bagamoyo District Commissioner, Zainab Kawawa involving traders and other institutions operating at the port, including the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS), Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA), Tanzania Atomic Energy Agency (TAEC) and port

officials. A trader, Peter Mongi said boycotting the Bagamoyo port to Mbweni port in Kinondoni District in Dar es Salaam arose from frustration by Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) officials using harsh and abusive language against them.

He claimed that TPA manager at the port, Witharo Jared was imposing rates and charging traders additional levies.

"We undergo various challenges including being overtaxed through incorrect assessments. Most of us do not know the exact amounts we are required to pay as tax

TURN TO PAGE 2

SHARE FACTS ABOUT COVID-19

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



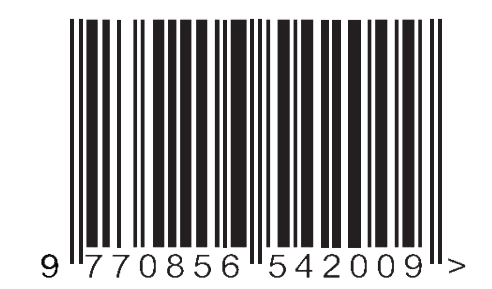
FACT 4 There are simple things you can do to help keep yourself and others healthy.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

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

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

cdc.gov/COVID-19





Bagamoyo district commissioner Zainab Kawawa (L) pictured in Bagamoyo on Wednesday addressing a meeting attended by members of the business community, representatives of financial institutions, and Tanzania Ports Authority officials. It was called to discuss reservations raised by traders relating to Bagamoyo port development plans. Photo: Correspondent Ashton Balaigwa

Ministry set for sugar price cap crackdown

FROM PAGE 1

Some residents complained that the scarcity of the sweetener and high prices have affected them dearly as they cannot afford to purchase sugar.

They called upon the government to work on the challenge.

"The high price of sugar has affected my business. I have also been forced to hike the price of some foodstuffs. I now buying sugar at 3,500/- compared to 2,400/- per kilo earlier," said Saida Rashid, a restaurant owner at Kawe suburb in the city.

Lucy Kalau from Kinyerezi suburb said her family is no longer taking tea in the morning as she can't afford sugar.

"This is like adding salt on a wound; life has been tough even before the price of sugar went up. The government should intervene to address the situation," she pleaded.

Mbezi Louis wholesaler Grace Msuya said that sugar is still in short supply in

the city because it takes them days to get the commodity from suppliers.

"Suppliers have also hiked sugar prices. We are forced to sell it against indicative rates to return our monies," she explained.

Last month the government issued indicative prices for sugar where retailers are supposed to sell the sweetener at prices ranging from 2,600/- to 3,200/- per kilo.

The government announced price caps for the sweetener after prices went up to 3,500/- at the lowest and 4,500/- per kilo in many upcountry areas.

But the selling price is mostly around 3,500/- to 4,000/- per kilo, while in parts of Dar es Salaam many shops were selling a kilo at 3,200/- early this week.

The country's available five sugar processing factories had the capacity of producing 378,000 tonnes during the 2019/2020 season.

Bagamoyo DC intervenes with port losing revenues

FROM PAGE 1

whenever importing consignments," complained Mongi.

He, however, claimed the amount written in receipts is contrary to what traders pay as taxes. He gave an example of a trader who imported 1,000 plastic containers of edible oil and was slapped with a 1m/- tax, but the receipt was written 200,000/-.

"Whenever you confront officials on the matter, you are told to choose whether to continue using the port or shift to others ports," he said.

Another trader, Chikumba Oswald told the DC that they opted to shift from Bagamoyo port due to a number of issues including being overtaxed.

"Officials here use harsh language against traders. We are now preferring Mbeni port in Kinondoni," said the trader.

In her response, the DC said that results of recent investigations have indicated a dropping trend of revenue collections at the Bagamoyo port after traders shifted to other ports. She said that decreased revenues also affect the

district's income.

DC Kawawa tasked the port manager to come up with strategies to improve performance of the old port as well as ensure stable revenue collections.

Witharo however informed that his office has been channeling all the complaints to TPA headquarters in Dar es Salaam. He claimed that performance reports of the ports were supposed to be presented to TPA and not the office of the District Commissioner.

Kawawa questioned: "Are you sure that the DC has no authority to question the port's performance? Why are other institutions submitting their performance reports to my office?"

She added: "I am in-charge of the district and with powers to order the OCD to place you under custody."

DC Kawawa ordered the district defence and security committee to investigate all the raised traders allegations, with appropriate measures taken against officials proved to be involved in the abuses the traders cited.

FROM PAGE 1

already directed this and it must be followed. If there are students who will have not signed for upkeep allowances disregard them. Pay those who have signed."

The decision is aimed at implementing the president's directive that required universities to quickly finalize procedures to enable students to continue with their studies without problems. At this time they have a tight timetable due to disturbances caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, she stated.

She said it was important for the directive to be implemented without excuses as her Ministry and HESLB have already ensured that plans for payment the money were ready.

'Varsities must issue upkeep allowances within two days'

Prof Ndlichako hailed NIT for its development strides in ensuring it goes in tandem with strategic development plans in producing experts in aviation and land transport, providing recruiting opportunities in various government projects.

NIT Principal Prof Zacharia Mganilwa said that out of 175bn/- provided by the World Bank to develop the education sector in the country, NIT received USD

21m (close to 45bn/-).

The money will be used for the construction of infrastructures, classrooms, workshops, dormitories, offices and enhanced teaching tools. This includes the purchase of three aircraft for training purposes, he said.

The vehicles presented will assist in enhancing NIT work as in recent years it has increased its teaching capabilities, initiating new training fields, he said.

NIT strategies envisage continuing to work with the government in producing experts for various projects to realize the country's development goals, the principal stated.

Apart from NIT, colleges that will benefit from the World Bank funds include the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT) and the Vocational Education and Training Authority (VETA).

DC sensitises villagers on averting and ending of land-linked conflicts

By Guardian Correspondent, Mvomero

MVOMERO district commissioner Mohamed Utaly has appealed to village and district officials to learn about the laws and various other government guidelines to enable them to resolve challenges faced by citizens especially over land conflicts.

Utaly issued the appeal at Mkata village in Mvomero as he was educating village and district officials including pastoralists and herders on how to resolve conflicts among the communities.

"I have brought together various stakeholders including village and district leaders from various levels including farmers and pastoralists to discuss how to resolve various conflicts in the community," he said and added that as the leader of all citizens in the district he does not like to hear people live like enemies, but should live in peace and harmony.

He said Mvomero District has frequently been beset by challenges emanating from land conflicts pitting farmers and pastoralists and for the peace to prevail, he has decided to educate the two communities.

He said the knowledge will assist the two communities to live in harmony and respect and tasked village and district officials to ensure they resolve these conflicts.

He warned anyone found to be the cause of land conflicts in his district and challenged the conflict arbiters to be at the frontline to tackle the issues head on.

For their part, village leaders thanked the DC saying earlier they had

no knowledge on issues of land but the knowledge acquired will assist them in tackling the issue.

Chairman of Mkata Village Samson Mwekago said during his leadership he did not know that if you contravene land laws you stand to cause conflicts in the community and said he will ensure people abide by land laws.

Meanwhile, the Maasai pastoralist community confessed of being misled by some village officials when looking for grazing areas, the situation that made them seen as the cause of conflicts.



I have brought together various stakeholders including village and district leaders from various levels including farmers and pastoralists to discuss how to resolve various conflicts in the community



Counsel Paul Kaunda (R) for the Civic and Legal Aid Organisation (CLAO), which had filed a petition with the High Court against National Assembly Speaker Job Ndugai relating to former Ndanda legislator Cecil Mwambe (Chadema), has a quick word with state attorneys outside the court in Dar es Salaam yesterday. This was shortly after the court threw out the petition. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala



Masasi District health coordinator Theresia Moyo (gesturing) takes students from a folk development college in the district through the basics of Covid-19 prevention, as found yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Hamisi Nasri

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

PCCB returns to rightful owners farms, houses acquired from them unlawfully

THE Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) has returned farms and houses to 13 people illegally acquired by Nelson Ndalul (67), a resident of Makole Village which he acquired following iniquitous loans he had offered to them.

PCCB head for Dodoma region, Sosthenes Kibwengo said yesterday that a total of 30 acres of farmland and two houses had been returned to their owners from the suspect who engages himself in accessing loans to people without following proper procedures governing loans dispensation.

"He has been providing unjust loans

with interests ranging from 100 percent upwards popularly dubbed "shilling for shilling" which many people failed to repay hence the lost their farms and houses they had used as collateral," he said.

Kibwengo said after receiving complaints from one citizen in Kongwa district, PCCB made investigations and found that Ndalul popularly known as "Osama" has been doing that for many years.

"Later more people came up with similar complaints, that made the PCCB to detain the money lender who on May 27 this year agreed to return two houses and farms to the 13 citizens after being paid the money he had lent them," he said.

Meanwhile PCCB boss had returned Plot No. 3 Block "Q" in Iyumbu town centre to Dodoma city director after investigations showed that the former CDA accountant had enabled

her associate to acquire the plot fraudulently.

"Investigations showed that the initial payment of 43.6m/- for the payment of the plot between June 2016 and January 2017 via fake receipts as the payment thereof had been done via Epicor receipt system," he added.

He said his associate denied to have made any payment for the plot as a result it had been given back to the city director.

Warehouse receipt system lures more sesame farmers

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

SOME sesame farmers in Dodoma Region have faulted the warehouse receipt system, saying it is not working for them and was perhaps meant for just few.

They claimed that government officials confiscate their produce as they go to market places since they are required to sell through the cooperative societies under the warehouse receipt system.

But the government has responded affirmatively saying it will ensure farmers get their rights of selling their products at the best prices. The government blames lack of knowledge in the system among farmers as the main reason.

Speaking during a meeting here, one of the farmers from Kondoa, Abeid Said claimed that he has several times been forced to alight from the bus at Kidoka road block while transporting sesame to market in Dodoma city.

"It is strange that I have cultivated my crops and when I want to sell some one blocks me, issue a receipt that is likely to be eaten by rats in our houses before payment is made" he said, arguing that may be the system is there to just rob them.

The same sentiments were echoed by Nassib Mohamed, a farmer from Makanda village in Bahi who observed that farmers ought to have been educated on the system before its implementation.

"We are not against the system but we appeal for the authority to ensure there are warehouses in every village unlike now where the whole district has just one warehouse," he said.

He complains about the current price of 1,600/- per kilogramme of sesame, terming it exploitative to farmers. The farmer argued that the crop sells at one dollar in the world market, equivalent to 2,200/-.

Nassib requested the government to see if the system is beneficial to sesame farmers, claiming that the situation is not good as police officers confiscate

their produce, forcing them to take receipts with directives that sesame is sold under warehouse system.

Navasi Kinungula, one of the sesame traders in Dodoma on his part argued that the system has a lot of challenges since farmers do not have knowledge of how it works.

"Imagine I have disbursed over 33m/- to farmers in contract farming and I buy at 1,900/- per kilogramme yet but farmers are forced to sell through a system that gives them only 1,600/- per kilogramme," he said.

Dabazi Hamisi, another farmer also observed that farmers in the region do not have knowledge about the warehouse receipt system.

He cited a recent case whereby one of the farmers in Chamwino district was arrested following directives from the district commissioner for selling the crop outside the system.

Following the claims, minister for Agriculture, Japhet Hasunga explained that the warehouse receipt system is meant to ensure that even the ordinary farmers market their produce.

"The system works so well but the only challenge is that many farmers are still not aware of how it works and the government will continue educating them," he said.

He noted that the system is working very well in Ruvuma, Lindi and Mtwara regions, adding that the system will be introduced to other regions once farmers were aware of the procedure.



We are not against the system but we appeal for the authority to ensure there are warehouses in every village unlike now where the whole district has just one warehouse



Vodacom Tanzania joins the rest of the World and Tanzania in efforts to combat the outbreak of COVID-19

VODACOM TANZANIA FOUNDATION in kind donation of:

\$1 million

to support the government efforts in combating COVID-19

10 routers

with 50 GBs of 10 data sim cards donated to quarantine centres



STAFF AND EMPLOYEES

We are ensuring safety by providing COVID-19 awareness training & PPE kits.

Providing digital tools to ensure our employees can effectively work from anywhere.



CUSTOMERS

Increased hygiene measures in our offices & shops to protect our customers

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Increased cap of daily spending and receiving limit to support activities of our over 10 million customers on our mobile money platform

Introduced a new feature to allow customers to set standing orders ensuring no payment or transfer is missed



EDUCATION

Vodacom Instant School Portal provides free digital content for primary & secondary schools

Vodacom has also zero-rated some E-learning platforms for institutions such as University of Dar es salaam to access free educational materials



DIGITAL HELP AND SUPPORT

Deployed digital channels to support customers & businesses to work remotely ensuring they stay connected at all times

Introduced DocuSign e-signature platform to aid signing of company documents electronically for business and corporate clients.



INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

We have placed measures to ensure quality & reliable connectivity throughout this crisis

GOVERNMENT



sms the word CORONA to 199 or dial *199#

Mining firm spends 100m/- in setting up Geita regional centre of Open University

By Guardian Correspondent, Geita

IN its effort to boost higher learning education in the country, Geita Gold Mining Limited (GGML) has spent 100m/- in the construction of Geita Regional centre of the Open University of Tanzania (OUT) through the company's corporate social responsibility initiative.

Phase one of the project includes construction of administration block consisting a boardroom, library, computer lab conference hall and five office rooms. The amount of money allocated by the mining firm has been dedicated to procuring of construction materials and payment of labor charges.

The constructed facilities are expected to benefit 500 students drawn from 3 centres of Geita region including Chato, Nyang'wale and Geita town.

Speaking about the project, GGML vice president for sustainability, Simon Shayo said the company as a corporate citizen decided to partner with the government to fund the project because it will not only enhance access to higher education but also bear a positive impact on the social welfare of Tanzania.

Shayo said the support will enable the university to produce competent graduates who will provide the much needed skills add value to the national economy.

The Geita centre of the Open University of Tanzania, like many others, has been operating from rented facilities used as classrooms and administration block. The project makes Geita among the many beneficiaries of GGML CSR activities countrywide.

"With this sponsorship, we are sure that the college will minimize operating costs and improve efficiency. Further it will create a good link between students from Geita and other 30 regional OUT Centers in Tanzania," he said.

Shayo added that the project will directly help the government to achieve goal number 4 of the sustainable development (SDGs) that is ensuring access to quality education by 2030.

Commending GGML's sustainable mining, the resident Director of the Open University, Ally Abdul appreciated the company's support, saying it would provide a conducive learning environment and enable the university to accommodate a bigger number of students.

"The University's vision is to provide relevant, quality, flexible, accessible, and affordable open online education, research and services to the community for the country's social economic development," he noted.

Abdul said through the GGML support, OUT will minimize its operating costs and improve quality of education offered at its Geita branch.

Following amendment of the Mining Act in 2017, GGML through its CSR initiatives has partnered with the Geita local authorities to execute community projects worth 18.4bn/- in Geita Region.

Prior to the amendments the mining company had historically invested in strategic sustainable projects for the community including the state of art Nyankumbu girls secondary school, the Geita town clean water supply project and the Kilimanjaro challenge against HIV/Aids which has grown to become the biggest private sector led HIV/Aids initiative in Tanzania.



Tabora regional commissioner Aggrey Mwanri addresses small traders at Puge in Nzega District yesterday on the need for them to go for the identity cards specially meant for them, as directed by President John Magufuli. Photo: Correspondent Vincent Tiganya

Rogue hyena mauls boy to death in Shinyanga

By Guardian Correspondent, Shinyanga

A TWO-year old boy was on Monday evening mauled to death by a hyena in Mwagala Ugweto, Shinyanga municipality.

The animal snatched the child when he was playing with his colleagues in the area.

According to Shinyanga Regional Police Commander, Debora Magiligimba, the incident occurred on Monday at around 7pm, when the hyena snatched the boy and dragged him 50 meters. The animal injured

the boy who died on the way to hospital.

RPC Magiligimba said that the animal left the boy after hearing the commotion from people who were chasing it.

"I urge parents to be careful and take precautions for their children during this time when rogue hyenas are roaming in different areas in the municipality.

So far, six incidents had been reported of people being attacked by beast in Shinyanga region, whereby three children had been killed.

On April 21, two residents of Ngogwa village in Kahama town escaped death in a hyena attack after they tried to chase away the beast. The beast had attacked a herd of goats in the village.

The village executive secretary Upendo Shirima said the incident occurred on Saturday morning when the hyena attacked a goat's shed before they started beating it up.

In defence the beast attacked two villagers who and were rushed to Kahama district hospital for treatment.

He mentioned the names of the victims as Donald Simoni (27) and Furaha Ngusa (46). He called upon the Natural resources Ministry to hunt for the hyenas whose numbers have increased in recent months.

He said fear has gripped the villagers as they beasts are now coming out during day time instead of night as they normally do.

The Councillor Ngogwa Ward Kamuli Mayuga said after receiving treatment at the hospital the two victims were discharged and called on people to take great care of the beasts.



Tanzania Distilleries Ltd plant manager Aranyaeli Ayo (R) briefs senior officials from the Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TanTrade), the Tanzania Industrial Research and Development Organisation (TIRDO) and the Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (BRELA) who toured the TDL factory in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THE Arusha-based Secretariat for the East African Community has issued official statement mourning the death of the South-Sudanese minister the late John Luk Jok who passed away last Tuesday.

The EAC Secretary General, ambassador Liberat Mfumukeko was quoted saying: "We have received with sadness the shocking news of the

EAC mourns South Sudanese minister's death

demise of Hon. John Luk Jok."

Luk Jok used to serve as the Minister of East African Community Affairs in the Republic of South Sudan. Juba is the newest among the six member states making up the EAC bloc.

In his message to South-Sudan's President, Salva Kiir, the Secretary

General stated: "On behalf of the EAC and on my own behalf, I convey my heartfelt condolences to your Excellency, and through you to: the family, relatives and friends of the Late Hon. John Luk Jok; the Government, and; the people of South Sudan."

According to ambassador Mfumukeko, during his tenure as the Minister of Justice, the late John Luk Jok played a very important role in drafting and passing of the Transitional Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan in addition to serving as the country's Minister of Justice from July

2011 to March 2020.

"We at the Community have been looking forward to working with Hon. Jok in his new role as South Sudan's Minister for EAC Affairs. Given his previous sterling performance as Justice Minister and in the country's liberation

movement, we believe he would have done an excellent job in driving forward the East African Community integration process."

Meanwhile the EAC is yet to announce when through the East African Legislative Assembly, will be tabling its fiscal year 2020/2021 budget. Though sources within the secretariat say the sessions may again be held via 'virtual meetings' due to ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

Govt urges TAHA to mobilise farmers to sell avocado and soyabean to China

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE Government has directed the Tanzania Horticultural association (TAHA) to start mobilizing farmers to sell their avocado and soya crops to China with whom they have initiated procedure for the trade.

Speaking here yesterday during his visit to inspect TAHA activities aimed to encourage cooperation between the private sector and the government, the permanent secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture Gerald Kusaya said in order to grab the huge Chinese market as well as other world countries it was important for the government to work together with the institution aimed at ensuring the existence of reliable and sustainable market for their crops.

"In this issue, my ministry through the Chinese Embassy he began discussions on how to sell to them our crops - avocado and soya as they had wanted," he said, adding that in respect of soya their experts met on June 3 this year to review the contract to export the product to China.

Kusaya said apart from China that has shown the intention to buy their crops, Belgium has also shown similar intention to purchase green peas and other crops, and the process thereon is

in initial stages.

"Since several countries need to purchase our crops in particular vegetables and fruits, I appeal to TAHA to start mobilizing our farmers to grab the market and make it sustainable," he said and added that they must produce more and the issue of buying a cargo plane is meaningless as if the crops are in abundance, the planes will come.

TAHA managing Director Jacqueline Mkindi asked the government to help them finalise procedures to sell their crops to the big Chinese market as they cannot do so on their own.

She thanked the government for seeing the importance of working together with TAHA as the move will increase the institution's income from USD 700 million up to USD 3bn/- from various products they sell.

PS Kusaya also had the opportunity to visit Fides Ltd that produces cut flowers for export and discussed with its Director Bas Van Lankveld. The firm has employed 380 people.

"In this issue, my ministry through the Chinese Embassy he began discussions on how to sell to them our crops - avocado and soya as they had wanted"

Private buyers will be allowed to buy coffee from cooperatives - Mara RC

By Guardian Correspondent, Musoma

MARA regional commissioner Adam Malima has said private buyers will be allowed to buy coffee through cooperatives instead of buying the crop directly from farmers.

Speaking at a meeting in his office with the Acting Managing Director of Tanzania Coffee Board (TCB) Prof Jamali Adam, Malima said the government established cooperatives to serve farmers to enable them get good prices for their crops hence private buyers are allowed to purchase coffee but they should abide by the procedures that are in place.

"We want farmers to sell their crops through cooperative societies so that

it becomes easy to take appropriate steps in case farmers are defrauded or conned of their crops, but for private buyers to go directly to farmers it won't be so easy," explained RC Malima.

He called upon the TCB to look for many private buyers as they can to spur competition that would ensure farmers get better prices for their coffee and other crops in Mara Region.

"Any farmers who hears about good price for coffee will sell it, he cannot go for lower prices," he said.

RC Malima praised TCB for providing 40,000 coffee seedlings for Mara Region and stressed upon the board to provide more seedlings to increase coffee production in the country.

Prof Adam said his board has set its own important targets in increasing

coffee production in the country, to ensure of good prices and to have in place better business environment for the coffee industry.

He added that TCB will continue monitoring and implementing government directives including the availability of better coffee seedlings for farmers, adequate raw materials for coffee factories and to ensure farmers receive better prices through competition in the primary and secondary coffee markets.

He also stressed upon local council directors in the country who had received applications for coffee purchase permits from private buyers and coffee factory owners to do so in time to enable TCB issue respective licences.



Fides (T) Ltd floriculture investor Bas Van Lankevelde (L), whose flower farms are in Arumeru District, has a word with Agriculture ministry permanent secretary Gerald Kusaya (4th-R) in one of the farms yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Cynthia Mwilolezi

To limit Covid-19 damage, WB calls on countries to secure core public services

By Guardian Reporter

TO limit the damage and prepare for recovery from Covid-19, the World Bank Group has suggested for countries to secure core public services and maintain the private sector to get money directly to people.

In its recent Global Economic Prospects report, the WB Group insists on short-term response measures to be accompanied by comprehensive policies to boost long-term growth which include improving governance and business environments as well as investment in education and public health.

Countries need systems that can build and retain more human and physical capital during the recovery, countries must use policies that reflect and encourage the post-pandemic need for new types of jobs, businesses and governance systems.

World Bank Group President David Malpass said: "The scope and speed with which the Covid-19 pandemic and economic shutdowns have devastated the poor around the world are unprecedented in modern times."

Malpass said that current estimates show that 60 million people could be pushed into extreme poverty in 2020. He said the numbers are likely to rise further with the reopening of advanced economies the primary determinant.

He added: "Policy choices made today, including greater debt transparency to invite new investment, faster advances in digital connectivity and a major expansion of cash safety nets for the poor will help limit the

damage and build a stronger recovery," According to him, financing and building of productive infrastructure are among the hardest-to-solve development challenges in the post-pandemic recovery.

"We need to see measures to speed litigation and the resolution of bankruptcies and reform the costly subsidies, monopolies and protected state-owned enterprises that have slowed development," he said.

Ceyla Pazarbasioglu, World Bank Group Vice President for Equitable Growth, Finance and Institutions said urgent measures are needed to limit the damage, rebuild the economy, and make growth more robust, resilient and sustainable.

"When the pandemic struck, many emerging and developing economies were already vulnerable due to record-high debt levels and much weaker growth. Combined with structural bottlenecks, this will amplify the long-term damage of deep recessions associated with the pandemic," said Pazarbasioglu.

Director of the World Bank's Prospects Group, Ayhan Kose said: "Oil-exporting emerging and developing economies entered the current crisis with eroded fiscal positions after having drawn on them to weather the 2014-16 oil price drop. In addition to the unprecedented public health crisis, these economies are now experiencing sharp economic downturns as their export revenues nosedive."

"Even if oil prices rise as global oil demand recovers, the recent plunge

in prices is another reminder for oil-exporting countries of the urgency to continue with reforms to diversify their economies," he noted.

According to the WB Group analysis measures needed to protect public health have undercut an already fragile global economy, causing deep recessions in advanced economies and emerging market and developing economies (EMDEs).

EMDEs that have weak health systems; those that rely heavily on global trade, tourism, or remittances from abroad and those that depend on commodity exports will be particularly hard-hit, states the report.

In the long-term, the pandemic will leave lasting damage through multiple channels, including lower investment; erosion of physical and human capital due to closure of businesses and loss of schooling and jobs.

Policies to rebuild both in the short and long-term entail strengthening health services and putting in place targeted stimulus measures to help reignite growth.

This includes efforts to maintain the private sector and get money directly to people to facilitate a quicker return to business creation after the pandemic.

The report suggests that during the mitigation period, countries should focus on sustaining economic activity with targeted support to provide liquidity to households, firms and government essential services.

However, policymakers should remain vigilant to counter potential financial disruptions.



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1. China Dasheng Bank Ltd (DCB Ltd) is a fully fledged commercial bank limited by shares operating in Tanzania serving both retail and corporate customers since November 2018. DCB Ltd has set aside funds for procurement of various goods/ services/works. It is intended that part of the proceeds of the funds will be used to cover eligible payments under various contracts.
2. The pre-qualification is for the following goods and services;

Reference Number	CATEGORY A: SUPPLY OF GOODS
CDB/01/2020	Supply of general stationery and office supplies
CDB/02/2020	Supply and maintenance of; scanners, computers, printers, Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS), laptops, software, toners and accessories
CDB/03/2020	Supply of branded items and promotional materials
CDB/04/2020	Supply and personalization of staff identification cards, lanyard and badges
CDB/05/2020	Supply, installation and maintenance of firefighting equipment and materials.
CDB/06/2020	Supply of bottled water, dispensing machines and maintenance
CDB/07/2020	Supply, Installation and commissioning of ICT Equipment & Consumables.
CDB/08/2020	Supply of motor vehicle/cycle parts and accessories.
CDB/09/2020	Supply of Furniture & Fittings.
CDB/10/2020	Supply of printed stationeries/forms/cheques
CDB/11/2020	Supply and Installation of wireless communication equipment, normal and network devices.
CATEGORY B: PROVISION OF SERVICES/WORKS	
CDB/12/2020	Provision of catering services
CDB/13/2020	Provision of sanitary, fumigation, pest control and cleaning services.
CDB/14/2020	Provision of internet services, HR and payroll system.
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CDB/16/2020	Provision of courier and mail delivery services.
CDB/17/2020	Provision of Medical insurance.
CDB/18/2020	Supply and maintenance of air-conditioning equipment.
CDB/19/2020	Provision of hotel accommodation and conference facilities.
CDB/20/2020	Provision of artwork design and printing services
CDB/21/2020	Provision of asset valuation and auction services.
CDB/22/2020	Provision of staff background checks/vetting
CDB/23/2020	Servicing, repair and maintenance of vehicles, motor cycles
CDB/24/2020	Provision of internet and data Backup links, physical security support and maintenance (AMC) and external vulnerability assessment and pen testing
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CDB/26/2020	Provision of general office repairs and maintenance (plumbing, fittings, office repairs etc.)
CDB/27/2020	Provision of Car Tracking devices

3. Prequalification is open to all eligible suppliers with proven experience and capacity. Existing suppliers who wish to be retained MUST apply and submit up-to-date information.
4. All applicants MUST provide the following qualification information
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 - Evidence certifying that the goods/service provider is registered with relevant professional bodies if applicable
 - Past performance and experience
 - Indicative financial proposal if applicable
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Gender actors discuss young women, girls involvement in war on spread of COVID-19

By Henry Mwangonde

A TEAM of gender actors have come together to share ideas on how to ensure young women and girls are at the centre of the COVID-19 Response and Recovery in Tanzania.

The UN Women in partnership with the Msichana Initiative, Plan International and the African Women Leaders' Network (AWLN) will host a virtual Roundtable Dialogue today aimed at renewing the momentum of the UN Women Global Campaign: The Generation Equality - Realising Women's Rights for an Equal Future.

The roundtable discussion Titled: "Keeping the Momentum of the Generation Equality Campaign" with the Theme: Placing Young Women and Girls at the Centre of the Covid-19 response and recovery, mostly young panelists will share how they are innovating their work to contribute towards addressing the multi-layered impacts of Covid-19 on young women and girls.

A set of resource persons comprising pioneers of the Beijing Platform for Action and other gender advocates will share strategies in response to presentations by the panelists including youth organization leaders, gender advocates from the civil society and male champions for gender equality.

Over 100 participants from the government, the United Nations, development partners, women's rights organisations, the civil society, youth organisations, the private sector and community-based networks are expected to participate in this roundtable.

This is a continuation of conversations on how various organisations can better support a gender-sensitive national response following the outbreak of the Covid-19 in March in Tanzania.

In an interview yesterday, UN Women Representative, Hodan Addou said the roundtable will identify areas of priority for women and girls in Covid-19 and discuss opportunities and strategies that can help to alleviate the impacts in the spirit of the generation Equality Campaign and in support of the Covid-19 National Response in Tanzania.

The Generation Equality Campaign was launched globally in 2019 to build the momentum to the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action and create opportunities that will bring together the next generations of women's rights activists with the gender equality advocates and

visionaries who were instrumental in creating the Beijing Platform for Action in 1995.

"Although the outbreak of Covid-19 shifted us into a new norm, which includes working from home virtually, we are not discouraged and have started engaging with partners to ensure that the gendered and multi-layered impacts of the Coronavirus do not deepen pervasive pre-existing inequalities and devastate women and girls," Hodan said.

She said the roundtable discussion will promote intergenerational partnerships, including Public Private Partnerships that can strengthen social protection, build economic resilience among women-led businesses, enhance infrastructure, food security and nutrition for women and girls and ensure that essential services for survivors of gender-based violence are sustained.

According to Rebeca Gyumi, Executive Director of the Msichana Initiative and Co-chair of the African Women Leaders Network Tanzania chapter, which is supported by UN Women, the roundtable discussion also aims to create a space for women and girls across Tanzania to speak up for themselves and for those who are affected and infected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Our aim is to centre young women and girls' voices in the emerging issues and connect multiple generations of women to deliberate on various issues affecting them and exchange ideas and solutions to these concerns," said Gyumi.

Dr Mona Girgis, Plan International Tanzania Country Director will participate and provide the closing remarks to the event.

Dr Girgis commended the joint efforts made by the government, the United Nations and development partners alongside young people, to ensure girls and women's rights are realised during the Covid-19 pandemic and commends the commitment of all round table participants attending today.

"We will have an opportunity to learn from each other, explore the problem of violence against women during the Covid-19 pandemic, and how we can play a role to ensure girls' and women's rights remain protected."

Also expected to give some remarks during the roundtable dialogue is the Embassy of Finland's Head of Cooperation and Representative of the Development Partners Group for Gender Equality, Riikka Raatikainen.



A small trader waits outside Dodoma city's Majengo mixed-goods market yesterday for customers for her onions after failing to get a kiosk inside the facility. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Zanzibar Government has said it will buy five boats to serve people living in small outlying islands in Zanzibar and Pemba.

This was revealed by the Zanzibar Minister for Works, Communications and Transport Dr Sirra Ubwa Mamboya when tabling his ministry's budget estimates for FY 2020/21 in the House of Representatives sitting in Zanzibar.

Mamboya said that was the pledge by the Zanzibar President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein to ensure people living in small islands have reliable

Zanzibar govt purchases five boats to serve remote islands

means of transport when crossing the sea from one area to another.

He said the construction of the boats has already begun by Damen Shipyards from the Netherlands and by March this year the work was 65 percent complete.

He said the boats will serve people of Tumbatu Island in Zanzibar North

Region with 45,000 residents who until now use privately owned vessels when travelling from the island to Vikokotoni in Zanzibar.

He said the boats are also expected to serve the islands of Fundo, Kojani, Kisiwapanza and Makoongwe on Pemba side where people have had no reliable means of sea transport.

Some members of the House of Representatives were happy by the steps taken by the government in providing its people with reliable means of sea transport.

Representative from Chake Chake in Pemba Suleman Sarhani hailed the Zanzibar president for the efforts.

Villagers appeal for govt's intervention over contemplated house demolitions

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

MORE than 40 residents from Inyala village in Mbeya District have appealed to the government to intervene in the issue in which they have been ordered to demolish their houses without compensation by Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) to pave way for the reconstruction of Inyala-Simambwe road at tarmac level.

Speaking to this paper at the village early this week, they said they are being threatened to demolish their houses without compensation, the situation that makes them live in fear and have called for government's intervention to be treated with justice.

Antony Luba, one of the villagers, said they were told to demolish the houses themselves before TARURA start doing so and if they will refuse they will have to pay more than 500,000/- penalty.

"We tried to speak to various ward and village officials but they never took any step and we do not know

what to do, but we trust that our government listens to its citizens' problems," he said.

Another villager, Marisela Majanga said the areas are used by them in their various activities including farming and other small businesses and asked for government's intervention.

Bernard Mwapinga, another villager said they do not oppose the road construction project, but what they need is to be treated justly by being paid compensation for the houses to be demolished.

Speaking on these complaints, TARURA's Coordinator for Mbeya Region Eng Gerard Matindi said before they had embarked on the project, they incorporated residents from all the villages and all of them agreed to demolish their houses that were inside the road reserve themselves without compensation to pave way for the project.

He said all residents from Inyala up to Simambwe agreed to pave way for the project without compensation from TARURA and were involved in various sittings to discuss the issue.



Residents of Kilogo ward in Kahama District pictured earlier this week harvesting rice from the farm of one of their village mates, a practice with decades-long history. Photo: Correspondent Shaban Njia

Kanyasu tasks FITI to offer certificate, diploma courses

By Guardian Reporter

DEPUTY Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Costantine Kanyasu has directed the management of the Kilimanjaro-based Forest Industries Training Institute (FITI) to start offering certificate and diploma courses to meet the local demand for quality furniture.

Kanyasu however tasked the institute to ensure production of quality furniture that can compete with imported ones. He called upon Tanzanians to buy locally made forest products.

He made the directives during a function to handover new buildings (library, laboratory and office) to the institute's management. The new structures have been constructed with

support from the Tanzania Forest Fund (TAFF) to a tune of 2bn/-.

The deputy minister noted that it was shame for the institute to produce graduates who cannot make quality and well-designed furniture that can attract market from within and outside the country.

"Most of our locally made furniture are not attractive due to poor finishing, you should produce graduates who will come up with innovative designs to lure buyers from across the world," he noted adding that imported furniture especially those from China look more attractive due to good finishing.

He said despite being durable, the locally made furniture are not well-designed. "I have toured your workshop, but I am not impressed with designing and finishing of the

furniture's you produce. It is high time for the institute to learn from other furniture producers," he said.

According to him, the old training institute which has existed for almost 40 years is not well known to Tanzanians because it has failed to produce competent graduates who can compete and make quality products.

He directed the institute management to start forging links with other international institutes for student's exchange programmes. He said there are needs for the institute to also change its teaching syllabus and courses to suit the current market demand. He added that the institute management should make sure that all the public institutions and agencies purchase furniture from the college.

There is an ample market for locally

made furniture, but they should be well-designed and properly finished, he said.

Meanwhile, Kanyasu directed the Tanzania Forest Services (TFS) to ensure stable supply of logs to the college. This followed complaints from the college management that they have been receiving a limited amount of logs for practical and production of furniture.

The institute's head, Dr Joseph Maseko mentioned various challenges they are facing including lack of modern carpentry machines.

TAFF chief executive, Dr Tully Msuya promised to continue supporting the institute to enable it produce competent graduates who will contribute to the development of forest sector development.

Brewer donates maize flour to Kilimanjaro flood victims

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA Breweries has donated 10 tonnes of maize flour to the victims of the recent floods caused by the heavy rainfall in Kilimanjaro Region.

The donation which was handed over to the Kilimanjaro Regional Commissioner, Anna Mghwira, is intended to bring relief to the residents of Kilimanjaro affected by floods.

Speaking at the handing over ceremony in Kilimanjaro, TBL's North Regional Commercial Director James Bokella said: "We at TBL Plc are committed to supporting the community in which we do business, and this is our own small way of giving back to them in their time of need."

For her part, RC Mghwira, thanked the company for the donation and called on other organisations and individuals to support the flood victims in whatever way they can.

TBL also recently donated 9 tonnes of maize flour to the victims of floods in Rufiji District.

In April this year, the company has donated 8.75 tonnes of maize flour to the victims of the recent floods caused by the heavy rainfall in Rufiji.

The donation which was handed

over to the MP for Rufiji, Mohammed Mchengerwa, is intended to bring relief to the residents of over 3,500 houses and 6,600 acres of farms that have been swept away by the damaging floods in the coast region.

Speaking at the handing over ceremony in Dar es Salaam, TBL's Managing Director Philip Redman said: "We at TBL Plc are committed to supporting the community in which we do business and this is our own small way of giving back to them in their time of need."

For his part, Mchengerwa welcomed the donation from TBL Plc and called on other organisations and individuals to support the flood victims in whatever way they can.

TBL Plc has a long history of supporting the socioeconomic development of Tanzania and plays a major role in agriculture, transportation and manufacturing sectors of the country.

In the agriculture sector, the company sources barley, maize, sorghum and grapes for the production of its products.

Last year, TBL Plc sourced over 20,000 tonnes of the raw materials locally.



A sales official with TBL's northern zone (R) pictured in Moshi yesterday presenting to Kilimanjaro regional commissioner Anna Mghwira yesterday a consignment of maize flour donated by the company for use by victims of recent floods in the region. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Don't issue gloomy statements on COVID-19 to students, Jafo directs

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

MINISTER of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government -RALG) Selemani Jafo has forbidden any person who will be issuing ominous statements on Covid-19 infections to Form VI students and college students who have returned to their education institutions for their examinations and instead they should be encouraging them to continue taking precautionary measures against the pandemic.

Jafo issued the statement yesterday in Mbeya when he made an impromptu visit at Mbeya Day Secondary School to assess students' attendance on their first day at the school.

He said at this time Form VI students should continue preparations for their final examinations instead of listening

to ominous information about the disease.

He said he was pleased by the number of students who have reported at the school - 180 students and reminded them to continue abiding by the directives from health experts on how to live at the school.

Meanwhile, Jafo directed Mbeya City Council to buy all building equipment for the completion of renovation of the secondary school before students from other classes report at the school.

Earlier, reading the report on the renovation work of the school, the Headmaster, Julius Kalinga said the work is being undertaken by the national service personnel from JKT-Itende Camp and the purchase of equipment is done by the city council and assured the minister that the work will be completed in time.

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbinga

RUVUMA Region has harvested more than 900,000 tonnes of food grain stock as of May this year.

Regional Commissioner Christina Mndeme revealed this when opening Mbinga Council meeting, which met to discuss the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) report for 2019/2020.

According to the RC, as of May this year, the region has harvested more than 1.4 million tonnes of food and cash crops.

"We have received good rains and at the same time we have been saved from pests, so we expect a good harvest

Ruvuma expects to produce plenty of food grain this year

this year," she said.

She however, warned the farmers to refrain from selling food crops at a lower prices saying there is high demand for food this year and that smugglers were on their doors to buy at a cheaper price.

She said farmers should wait for the government to issue indicative prices so that they benefit from their produce instead of being swallowed up by smugglers.

Ruvuma was the leading region in terms of harvests for the year 2018/19 after it produced up to 200 percent of the requirements.

In another development, the RC commended Mbinga municipal council for receiving a clean audit certificate for two consecutive years.

"Let me commend you for the achievement because having a clean certificate for two consecutive years is not joke," she said.

He urged other municipal councils in the region to ensure Annual Financial Statements are prepared in line with international standards to control loss of revenues.

Mndeme issued directives to regional administrative secretaries (RAS) to ensure they follow up on the use of various funds meant for development projects in their localities especially on issues that were raised in the CAG report.

KAMPALA

Covid-19: Uganda to evacuate over 2,400 stranded nationals

UGANDA plans to evacuate over 2,400 nationals stranded in 66 countries abroad amid the Covid-19 pandemic, Foreign Affairs Minister Sam Kutesa said here on Tuesday.

The Ugandan government is in consultations with the United Nations (UN), airline companies and countries involved, to make the final evacuation plans, he said.

Airport and border closures amid the pandemic, which have been in effect since March 22, have caused troubles for Ugandans to return home.

Kutesa said that each returning citizen will be tested for the virus and only those who are negative will be allowed to return home. On

arrival, they will undergo a 14-day mandatory quarantined and will be tested before being released to the communities.

The government has talked to airlines such as Ethiopian Airlines, since the company can arrange to pick up Ugandans from different locations and gather them to a more

central place, from where special flights can be arranged to bring them back home, said Kutesa.

He added that discussions have also been held with the UN, asking the agency to consider placing stranded Ugandans on its humanitarian flights across Africa.

He noted that the United Arab Emirates has agreed to arrange at least three flights to bring back home the

migrant workers stranded in the Arab country.

"Fortunately, many of these migrant workers

already have air tickets which were provided by their former employers," he said.



A traffic police officer has a first-hand account of a road crash involving a motorcycle and a bus at Magomeni in Dar es Salaam yesterday. There were no immediate reports of casualties. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma



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Let us make World Bicycle Day boost healthy lifestyles globally

IN April 2018, the United Nations General Assembly declared June 3 as International World Bicycle Day. The resolution for World Bicycle Day recognises the uniqueness, longevity and versatility of the bicycle, which has been in use for two centuries, and that it is a simple, affordable, reliable, clean and environmentally fit sustainable means of transport.

Professor Leszek Sibilski from the United States led a grassroots campaign with his sociology class to promote a UN Resolution for World Bicycle Day, eventually gaining the support of Turkmenistan and 56 other countries.

World Bicycle Day is a global event meant to be enjoyed by all people regardless of any characteristic. The bicycle as a symbol of human progress and advancement promotes tolerance, mutual understanding and respect and facilitates social inclusion and a culture of peace. The bicycle further is a symbol of sustainable transport and conveys a positive message to foster sustainable consumption and production, and has a positive impact on climate.

World Bicycle Day is now being associated with promoting a healthy lifestyle for those with type 1 and type 2 diabetes.

In Tanzania, bicycle poverty reduction is the concept that access to bicycles and the transportation infrastructure to support them can dramatically reduce poverty. This has been demonstrated in various pilot projects in South Asia and Africa. Experiments done in Africa namely Uganda and Tanzania and Sri Lanka on hundreds of households have shown that a bicycle can increase the income of a poor family by as much as 35 per

cent. Transport, if analysed for the cost-benefit analysis for rural poverty alleviation, has given one of the best returns in this regard. For example, road investments in India were a staggering 3-10 times more effective than almost all other investments and subsidies in rural economy in the decade of the 1990s. What a road does at a macro level to increase transport, the bicycle supports at the micro level. The bicycle, in that sense, can be one of the best means to eradicate poverty in poor nations.

In the same vein, boda bodas are bicycle and motorcycle taxis commonly found in East Africa. While motorcycle taxis like boda bodas are present throughout Africa and beyond, the term boda boda is specific to East Africa. In Kenya, they are more frequently called piki pikis.

So, Where did the popular Uganda boda bodas come from? The name 'boda boda' is synonymous to cycle taxis both motorised and bicycles in many parts of East Africa, especially Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. In Rwanda they are called motos. It originated from the small border town of Busia as a means of transport to the Kenyan border.

Their ubiquitous presence in East African cities is the result of a number of factors including an increasing demand for public transit, the ability to purchase motorcycles on credit, and an influx of cheap imports from Indian manufacturers like Bajaj. In the countries where they are present, boda bodas can provide transportation options to riders and job opportunities to drivers while at the same time resulting in an increase in road hazards and collisions and unnecessary injuries and deaths.



By Elisabeth Jacobsen

THIS year the Nordic countries, Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden, celebrate the Nordic week in Tanzania for the 5th time. Nordic Week highlights the strong ties and over 50 years of cooperation between Tanzania and the Nordic countries. The Nordic Week is an opportunity to share our values and learn from each other's experiences.

The world is not only facing the Covid-19 pandemic and an economic recession, but also an environmental crisis affecting the livelihood of millions of people. In an increasingly globalized world, no country can solve these challenges on its own. The situation calls for multilateralism; we need more, not less coordinated international efforts.

Multilateral cooperation is under pressure globally. This is evident when in international trade: isolationism and protectionism have over the last years challenged a rules-based world order. At the same time, the ripple effect of the Covid-19 virus on economic activities and livelihoods is being felt by countries around the world. For Tanzania, there has been an impact on tourism and access to export markets for agricultural products. We need to step up regional and international cooperation on trade to strengthen our common ability to counter the global

Why we should cooperate more than ever in these testing times



Elisabeth Jacobsen

economic recession. We need to work together to ease trade restrictions and facilitate trade flows.

The Nordic countries are committed to upholding fair and equitable rules of trade within the framework of an open global economy. We will collaborate with all like-minded nations that seek rules based multilateral trade and cooperation. We will also be a driver for reforms that make international organizations more effective and representative.

The Nordic countries have a long history of partnership with developing countries, and we remain a consistent partner in times of crisis. The

Covid-19 pandemic affects us all, and it requires a multi-sectoral response with continuous awareness raising and communication to the public. The pandemic has also highlighted the extent to which protection of public health is dependent on international cooperation. Multilateral efforts are needed to ensure that a Covid-19 vaccine, once developed, is made globally accessible, and is rapidly and fairly distributed to vulnerable groups and low-income countries. The Nordic countries firmly support the leading role played by the WHO in coordinating international global health efforts. We will continue to support efforts to improve global health, including through our substantial contributions to various multilateral financing mechanisms.

Over the past 20 years, the relations between the Nordic countries' and African countries have broadened. Today, there is a much stronger emphasis on political dialogue and economic partnership. We are pleased to note that one area of increased cooperation is on multilateral issues. The Africa Nordic Foreign Ministers meeting, successfully hosted by the

Tanzanian government in Dar es Salaam in November 2019, brought our countries closer on a number of issues.

We will continue to deepen our dialogue with countries in Africa on multilateral issues. We must jointly give priority to strengthening and reform institutions, such as UN, development banks and WTO. The United Nations needs to adapt to changing circumstances and the Nordic countries will work to secure solid financing for this reform process.

At this time of great uncertainty and global disruption we must work together, and we must take coordinated, decisive and innovative action. A united global response will need a strong UN at its centre, together with the multilateral development banks.

We would like to explore how we, together, can make the multilateral system better fit for achieving our common Sustainable Development Goals.

Elisabeth Jacobsen is Norway's Norwegian Ambassador to Tanzania. She has written this op-ed on behalf of all the Nordic countries' ambassadors in Tanzania.

Ending coronavirus disease in Africa has relevance to scenarios elsewhere

SOLIDARITY is an awareness of shared interests, objectives, standards, and sympathies creating a psychological sense of unity of groups or classes. It refers to the ties in a society that bind people together as one.

The UN chief said recently that the coronavirus pandemic threatens the hard-earned gains Africans have made throughout the continent, urging the world to stand in solidarity with the people, "now, and for recovering better".

At the virtual launch of a UN briefing paper focusing on the impact of COVID-19 across Africa, Secretary-General António Guterres pointed out that citizens across the continent have done much to advance their own well-being, detailing strong economic growth, an on-going digital revolution, and a bold free-trade area agreement.

The Digital Revolution also known as the 3rd Industrial Revolution is the shift from mechanical and analogue electronic technology to digital electronics which began anywhere from the late 1950s to the late 1970s with the adoption and proliferation of digital computers and digital record keeping that continues to the present day. Implicitly, the term also refers to the sweeping changes brought about by digital computing and communication technology during (and after) the latter half of the 20th century. Analogous to the Agricultural Revolution and Industrial Revolution, the Digital Revolution marked the beginning of the Information Age.

Central to this revolution is the mass production and widespread use of digital logic, MOSFETs (MOS transistors), and integrated circuit (IC) chips, and their derived technologies, including computers, microprocessors, digital cellular phones, and the Internet. These technological innovations have transformed traditional production and business techniques. Yes indeed as the UN Secretary General pointed out the pandemic threatens African progress.

The UN chief elaborated on the

coronavirus' potential to aggravate long-standing inequalities and heighten hunger, malnutrition and vulnerability to disease, saying much hangs in the balance.

Surely demand for Africa's commodities, together with tourism and remittances, are in decline. The opening of the trade zone had been pushed back - and millions could be pushed into extreme poverty.

Moreover, the virus has taken more than 2,500 African lives: Vigilance and preparedness are critical to curb the COVID-19 pandemic.

Noting that while UN agencies, country teams, peacekeeping operations and humanitarian workers continue to provide support, a spectrum of urgent challenges, require more urgent assistance. We are calling for international action to strengthen Africa's health systems, maintain food supplies, avoid a financial crisis, support education, protect jobs, keep households and businesses afloat, and we ought all to cushion the continent against lost income and export earnings as the UN chief spelled out.

Guterres echoed his call for a global response package amounting to some 10 per cent of the world's gross domestic product and advocated for "cross-the-board debt standstill", followed by targeted debt relief.

It will also be essential for African countries to sustain their efforts to silence the guns and address violent extremism", he continued, noting that upcoming elections "offer potential milestones for stability and peace".

The UN chief underscored that as women will be central to every aspect of the response, stimulus packages must prioritize increasing social protection and putting cash in their hands.

"Many difficult decisions will need to be taken as the pandemic unfolds, and it will be essential to retain the trust and participation of citizens throughout", Guterres said. Moreover, African youth must be empowered, and human rights respected.

Why South Africa needs basic income support now

By Lynette Maart

A rapid increase in hunger levels in the poorest households undermines people's ability to comply with the lockdown.

The expansion of social grants can be viewed as one of the greatest post-1994 redistributive achievements in South Africa. Social grants provide financial relief to the most vulnerable: the elderly, children, and people with disabilities. However, there is no social income support for able-bodied people who have little to no income between the ages of 18 years, after which the Child Support Grant ends, and 59 years, after which the Old Age Pension kicks in.

In 2020 there are over 18 million grant beneficiaries. According to Stats SA's 2019 fourth quarter report, approximately 10.2 million people were unemployed before the Covid-19 crisis, and economic growth was forecast at 0.8 per cent (on the back of 0.7 per cent growth in 2019). Unemployment (including discouraged work seekers) was effectively at 40 per cent.

Three weeks into a State of Disaster and an almost complete lockdown of the economy, we can only guess how many more people are unemployed now. On Tuesday, 14 April, Finance Minister Tito Mboweni said that the

South African Reserve Bank expects GDP in 2020 to contract by 6.1 per cent. Three weeks before this, on 27 March 2020, Moody's downgraded South Africa to "junk" because, amongst other reasons, GDP was expected to contract by 0.2 per cent. Some economists are predicting that the number of jobs lost could be in the millions.

In this period, beneficiaries will continue to receive their (inadequate) social grants, but those in the informal economy who are self-employed or semi-employed in marginal enterprises are likely to suffer a massive income shock. A rapid increase in hunger levels in the poorest households undermines people's ability to comply with the lockdown. Many fear that they will die of hunger instead of the coronavirus.

We were in serious economic trouble before Covid-19. Now, households are running out of food. Children who were fed at school are now at home and need to eat. If the only household income is the already inadequate Child Support Grant, it has to suddenly stretch a great deal further than a month ago.

However, the current economic meltdown is simply an accelerated version of what we have observed over the last 20 years: the steady decrease of formal sector jobs, as a consequence of macroeconomic challenges in the world economy, and the corruption

and mismanagement of our economy. Many South Africans are structurally unemployed. Most will never work in the formal economy, no matter what promises are made at election time. It is time to acknowledge this, and to roll out basic income support for all poor and unemployed, or insecurely employed, people not yet registered in the grant system.

Government (including Social Development and SASSA) does not have a coherent social security or social protection strategy for dealing with Covid-19. Government's humanitarian response to the pandemic is Social Relief of Distress, with food parcels as the primary relief. This is pitifully inadequate considering the sheer numbers of increasingly desperate people whose livelihood strategies have suddenly failed.

The Disaster Relief Fund, announced by Social Development Minister Lindiwe Zulu in a statement on 17 March, is only R96 million. President Ramaphosa in his speech on 9 April announced that R400 million was available for Social Relief of Distress, with a further unspecified amount from the R2.1 billion in the Solidarity Fund.

A "humanitarian" response is an important first line of defence in a disaster. It is crucial that humanitarian efforts are augmented with systemic

structural economic interventions. Without national, provincial and local government coordination, temporary humanitarian efforts in the context of increasingly desperate and unmanageable queues of people at randomly chosen locations, will bring little relief.

The question is not, can we afford it? The question is, can we afford not to? These are extraordinary times, and extraordinary times demand extraordinary measures. By the end of March 2020, 84 countries had introduced or adapted social protection and jobs programmes in response to Covid-19. The most widely used intervention was social assistance in the form of cash transfers.

Our government has ratified the United Nations International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). As recommended by the UN Committee, the government must ensure that those between the ages of 18 and 59 years with little or no income or who are unemployed, have access to social assistance. Government must report back on its progress in this regard by October 2020. If Brazil and Namibia, to name but two examples, can step up to the plate and support vulnerable families, surely we can respond to this challenge with the speed and innovation required in this crisis?

Job hunting and comm

As lockdown measures are being lifted, the social distancing norm is also affecting our productivity levels at times, anyway, my unemployment series had this topic long when the city still had sane people who had everyone's best interests at their hearts and conning wasn't anywhere in their lists of what brotherhood is and the world was not completely falling apart. These days, comen have elevated their tactics and for anyone to survive they have to stay woke.

We should all be clear that everyone, I mean a huge percentage of y'all have been conned. Some of us more times than we would like to admit. We cannot even share some incidences in public, because of embarrassment. The truth of life is that at some point we can be



a lil stupid or naive, even the smartest geniuses.

My misfortunes, mostly come in presents wrapped as friends, manipulative people, some even took months to elevate their

game plan, but we survive, we move on and thrive, we have to look past the pain and the deceit, past their pettiness and past the bitter truth that not everyone has good intentions.

Job application cons are not as rare as you think, they come in all cases such as text messages, creating fake websites for huge respectable companies during mass recruit seasons, the rule is, if you have to pay any money before hand, before any interview or aptitude test, then think twice, most genuine employers will just cut any extra expenses from your first salary, because in a way they kind of control your finances and that is if you only depend one source of income.

Some weeks ago, a friend of mine went for a job interview, after having several gruesome phone interviews and finally passing for the final interview, at this point he was already convinced that

they were legit, because of the way they had disguised themselves.

He went to the interview venue, somewhere around city center, on meeting the interviewer and a handshake later, he lost consciousness. For more than eight hours! he had no idea what happened to him for over eight hours! of course, everything was stolen including his documents and the comen went ahead and started calling his family members to send urgent money, because they claimed he was in need of urgent medical attention.

Too bad. What happened to my friend? For those 8 hours? Who knows but I can assure you, he is still traumatised.

Sadly, life moves on, but



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this doesn't have to happen to you, so please take some precaution, before going for interviews, these precautions may include. Takin' time to look at the company website and background, before applying for jobs, I know applying for jobs is already taxing but please take some time to check if there is any recruitment in the official company website.

Not paying any money before hand and before securing the job vacancy.

Goinh with a friend or request to meet at an open area where you feel safe if

the interview is not in the company offices.

Praying, it might not seem as much but it may prevent you from a lot of tricks and lies literally!

Ask for opinions on the matter, ask questions and as well.

In as much as we would jump at any gesture, call, text to attend an interview it's important that we do a background check on the source of the information as well.

Commen are everywhere and it's a pity that they have no mercy for struggling job hunters, stay woke.

Global digital transformation: The upside of the coronavirus disease

By Lisa MacLeod

Rahm Emanuel's famous words "Never let a good crisis go to waste" are so relevant to the situation the media and journalists now find themselves in, particularly with digital transformation.

Now, Rahm Emanuel (full name Rahm Israel Emanuel is an American politician who served as an adviser to US President Bill Clinton (1993-1999) before being elected to the US House of Representatives (2003-2009). He was chief of staff (2009-2010) to Barack Obama and afterwards became mayor of Chicago (2011-2019).

It seems that the Covid-19 crisis could be the final warning to adapt digitally or risk extinction. While digital revenues are still no match revenue for print advertising, an informal survey of international colleagues has confirmed that there are some hard truths emerging.

Those news organisations that moved to digital publishing earlier have been in a better position to service their readers through the crisis. And those journalists whose digital skills are up to speed have found working through the disruption of isolation much easier.

Here is how digitally savvy organisations found themselves ahead of the game: staff are equipped with laptops and data bundles to enable them to work from home or remotely; digital staff are well-skilled and trusted and empowered to make decisions within the hierarchy; and paywall or registration technology is in place to capture the enormous inflow of digital audiences.

Additionally, product teams work in an agile way and can quickly create or alter products to suit audience needs, and tech infrastructure is sound; tracking and analytics engines are in place to help newsrooms gauge interest and engagement on

topics and themes, and to interact successfully with new readers; and e-editions are part of the regular product offering and can be quickly scaled to "replace" the comfort of print - though there are caveats.

Unfortunately, the speed at which the lockdowns arrived would have largely precluded those individuals and news operations behind the transformation curve from successfully implementing such measures in a short space of time.

But there are many positive stories about how digital is suddenly the cool kid on the block, with one digital transformation leader saying he was delighted because all his lengthy battles to win over his colleagues to digital thinking and publishing had been supercharged and realised in just a few weeks.

Previously, he said, he had not even been invited to attend news meetings, "and now I am running them!"

Several positive aspects have emerged from the crisis, among them: digital audience numbers are surging, with record numbers of unique browsers being reported globally; while there has been a reduction in direct digital ad sales and private marketplace (PMP) deals, there are reports of decent budgets flowing to open auction buys as advertisers take advantage of the traffic numbers; and it's a great time to convert colleagues to the power of digital publishing, emphasizing the immediacy of digital distribution.

Other positive aspects: those with paywalls have seen record numbers of digital subscribers, one reporting a 60 per cent increase in the past six weeks; there is a huge demand for truth and authenticity at a time like this, with consumers seeking out branded news above all to make sure that what they are reading is correct and true; and because the nature of Covid-19 coverage obviates almost all other news streams, it's a good

time to reassess content choices for the future.

Yet others: organisational changes in crisis can help pinpoint future leaders in one's organisation; production and operational changes to distribution of print products may highlight opportunities to make changes permanently in the future. An example would be to move permanently to reduce print editions during the week and double down on the (usually) more profitable weekend print editions.

Also: it's a great time to experiment with payroll access and pricing: offering lower entry points to capture a bigger slice of the huge influx of online readers; if the payroll is suspended for Covid coverage, one could at least ask for registration to facilitate future acquisitions; this is a time to foster closer engagement with readers and to use video to connect with current or future customers.

It is also possible to build trusted brand relationships now. Examples are media houses facilitating photography competitions, recipe sharing, book recommendations, online quizzes and exercise with readers; and there is an opportunity to monetise these "franchises" as advertisers shy away from fragmented advertising and look for meaningful sponsorships instead.

Furthermore: many media houses have used the opportunity to entrench their e-editions with their readers as a viable alternative to print, with some reporting incredible numbers akin to print consumption - but there are caveats. Is your user journey seamless, and is your e-edition provider/partner able to secure your pdfs to paid-access only, and prevent downloading and sharing? This is a common technology problem and needs to be addressed if e-editions are to provide a "new" revenue stream.

Let your stars shine: if you have

talent in online video and interactives or graphics, this is a great opportunity for alternatives to text storytelling. There is a huge appetite for data-led stories right now, and video is a powerful and deeper way of capturing the national mood.

Now, the need to start planning for the future. This planning at the moment seems to be focused almost entirely on disaster scenarios and worst-case outcomes. But it is also a good time to think about the green shoots, and how to build a resilient and future-proofed business.

It is well worth reading Frederic Filloux's recent Monday Note in which he asked his students for their view of the future for media.

They all see news operations becoming smaller, more agile and less centralised with new ownership structures and business models favouring deep audience involvement, engagement and support. Advertisements are seen for the most part as "unethical, invasive, misleading, and just moderately efficient. Only some forms of carefully vetted sponsorship seem acceptable".

The students favour a different kind of news, absolutely focused on fact and data-driven analysis. Explanatory journalism scored highly as many of them were "shocked by the recklessness of some journalists always ready to jump on juicy stories without any distance or even research".

Finally, despite the reaffirmation of the value of good journalism, the students were unequivocal that the Covid-19 pandemic has once and all declared print "the embodiment of the ancient world" that will not have a place in the future.

A womeninnews report published in the Executive News Service, an initiative of the World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers (WAN-IFRA), of which Lisa MacLeod is Vice President.



How publishers can win back trust from advertisers beyond Covid-19

By Neha Gupta

Most publishers around the world have felt the pinch of advertisers pulling their spend during the coronavirus pandemic - Covid-19. As a result, they have no choice but to prove their worth and value to those clients.

Take Bonnier, for instance: the large Swedish publisher is reaching out to its clients to show them independent data that help to prove that its readers and consumers trust not only its content during this difficult time but its advertising as well.

Serdar OK, Head of Business Analytics at Bonnier News Sales in Sweden, and Lauri Löfveblad, Head of Strategy and Products, Syno International in Sweden, joined WAN-IFRA in a recent webinar to talk about ad trust in news content.

To set the stage for the session, Dean Roper, Director of Insights at WAN-IFRA, presented some of the key findings of the Ad Trust Survey and Report that the global association produced in association with Syno International, a consumer data intelligence and market research specialist.

The survey targeted 40,000 respondents (panels set up or purchased by Syno from 40 countries across five continents). Advertising trust was evaluated across a variety of media, including printed newspapers, online newspapers, commercial radio stations, search engine pages and online video.

Printed newspapers and local newspapers emerged as the most trusted mediums for advertising, while social media were the least trusted.

Takeaways from the report included: advertisements in traditional media platforms such as print are still trusted by most; the medium in which advertisements appear plays a role in a consumer's purchasing

decision; advertisements on online media platforms were found to be least trusted. This could negatively affect purchasing decisions.

Across continents, South Americans (at 38.5, a net ad trust score is calculated based on the percentage of how many people agree minus those that disagree, for example), followed by Africans (28.9) and Asians (25.6) were all significantly more likely to trust advertising than North Americans (9.8) or Europeans (-0.8). Women generally showed a higher level of ad trust than men.

Crucially for publishers, the study found that 94 per cent of trust in advertisements across media can be explained by the trust in content. "We are looking at how the correlation between trust in content and trust in ads is shifting between countries, brands and media," said Syno's Löfveblad, adding: "If you have a high trust content platform, it is going to spill over strongly in trust in ads."

Challenges in advertising

Bonnier, the biggest news media company in Sweden, has registered a record growth in subscribers during the coronavirus pandemic, OK said.

According to a recent WAN-IFRA webinar that featured representatives of programmatic advertising marketplaces that work with premium publishers, most publishers have faced the challenge of registering increased traffic and subscriptions during the peak of the pandemic while taking a big hit in advertising revenue.

Even before the pandemic hit, many publishers were facing numerous challenges with their digital advertising revenue. Keyword blocking around coronavirus content has only exacerbated the problem.

"It is a challenging time,"

said OK, "because our consumers want information about the pandemic, which has helped us hike up our subscription numbers."

"However, we have had to use data and numbers to show advertisers that our readers are still consuming content and that running advertisements next to Covid-19-related news is not going to affect the business negatively," OK added.

Bonnier News and Syno carried out a survey in the first two weeks of April 2020 about how people in Sweden and their news habits have been affected by the pandemic, but also in relation with advertising.

The survey included consumers between the ages of 18 and 80 and the sample comprised 50 per cent of responses from Bonnier's reader panels and 50 per cent from external research panels.

The survey found that media consumption increased in almost all mediums, except outdoor advertising owing to social isolation rules.

With massive focus on the pandemic prevailing in media coverage, relatively few respondents (one in nine) viewed advertisements negatively in connection with the coronavirus - running counter to brands keyword blocking anything related to the topic.

An equal proportion were found to react positively to relevant advertising, in connection with the reporting of the epidemic. The most negative to advertising related to coronavirus were people who were directly affected by the crisis and lost jobs.

Elderly people were found to be more worried about the ongoing situation, and 74 per cent of the respondents believed that things would get back to normal by this August.

• WAN-IFRA



We need to rethink, just about everything

By Mcebisi Jonas

In an unwittingly sage moment, US President Donald Trump called the coronavirus a genius.

And indeed, who would have imagined that a microscopic virus transferred from a bat (or so we are told) would, in a matter of months, create a global catastrophe?

The pandemic has graphically exposed our weaknesses, humbling developed nations such as the US and the UK as they fumbled their response, and shone a light on the global and societal inequalities that have been hiding in plain sight all the time.

The virus has shown, in the national death counts, that leadership and good governance do matter.

Donald Trump, Jair Bolsonaro, Boris Johnson and Vladimir Putin are learning that you cannot lie or manipulate your way out of a pandemic. It is no accident that the US, Brazil, the UK and Russia top the table for the most deaths during the pandemic.

The virus is putting us to the test as we struggle not just to survive the pandemic but puzzle over what could emerge at the other side. What is going to drive South Africa forward and beyond the stagnation of the last decade?

Growth has been anaemic since the great recession, and we remain trapped in a bubble economy in which a developed South Africa thrives side by side with a country of the poor living close to the breadline.

Covid-19 is teaching us - again - that the old system is deficient and we must prepare to build a different future. But how, after the destruction of the pandemic? Do we even have the tools?

Countries that have been the most successful in containing Covid-19, many of them led by women, are those whose actions have been accompanied by a high degree of public trust. This is not a simple matter of liberal democracy versus the rest. Some of those who have coped best are democratic nations such as South Korea, New Zealand, Denmark, Germany, Taiwan and Ghana, but Singapore, Vietnam and China are also among the winners.

They have three things in common:

Wise policymaking based on consultation and the advice of experts;

Sound governance, which means the ability to implement those policies effectively to protect public health, save lives and ensure that aid reaches where it's intended; and

A two-way street between the people and government which flows from clear communication so that people understand what is being done and why.

The South African response

President Cyril Ramaphosa's administration embraced policy based on evidence and has been prepared to learn from what has worked elsewhere in the world. He established a partnership between policymakers and experts that is unique in our history.

The president acted early and his message was well-received across the nation even as he was asking people to do unpopular and painful things. The country glimpsed a fleeting few weeks of unity.

But the gap between intentions and implementation became painfully apparent. And the good start was partly squandered by mixed messages and an exercise in old-style commandism and micro-managing that many found difficult to understand.

Heavy-handed actions of security forces and the diversion of some aid for political patronage further undermined the good intentions. Bureaucratic incompetence meant that much of the aid intended to support the poorest among us and to bail out businesses has still not reached its intended targets.

Furthermore, there remains a fear that much of the hard work and sacrifice of the lockdown will be negated by the government's inability to implement an effective programme of tests and tracing.

This has been articulated by some of the experts that the government has been relying on, concerned that while the lockdown has bought time for the health system to prepare, problems with the testing regime and the slow release of results have "snatched away government's chances to significantly slow community infections."

Many of the critiques of the government's response, however, ignore a large number of unknowns and uncertainties surrounding the virus that continue to confound good policymaking.

And the sacrifice and hurting have not been for nothing. South Africa is one of the few countries in the world that has had zero excess deaths during this period. According to some analysts, the infection and mortality rates outside the Western Cape are in a similar range to South Korea, one of the world's Covid-19 success stories.

Donald Trump, Jair Bolsonaro, Boris Johnson and Vladimir Putin are learning that you cannot lie or manipulate your way out of a pandemic. It is no accident that the US, Brazil, the UK and Russia top the table for the most deaths during the pandemic.



While we need to proceed with caution, especially as we go into winter, South Africa's response has so far been relatively successful. However, we should take to heart the warnings that the pandemic is far from over.

As one US doctor was quoted as saying: "If they're lifting the lockdown it doesn't mean the pandemic is over - it means they have room for you in the ICU."

Us and Them

In a society as divided as South African, it was never going to be easy to prevent the different perspectives of people locked down in suburbs or townships from becoming politicised and racialised.

The coronavirus was transported into South Africa by the most affluent members of society - those travelling to Europe for a skiing trip - and the drastic extent of the lockdown measures were designed to slow the spread of the disease into the community at large, especially the overcrowded townships and informal settlements.

Pain has been felt across the board but the lockdown fell hardest on the poorest - ordinary workers who lost their jobs and those who live and work in the informal sector, who have no savings, no property and whose only means of support, if they cannot work, are their families.

The weakness of the "actuarial" case is that it was not the lockdown that sunk the South African economy. The flight of foreign investors and the collapse of international travel and tourism, commodity prices, and international trade, all would have happened whether or not the government imposed a lockdown.

We will not soon forget the

queues of hungry people just miles from the centre of Johannesburg standing in line for food parcels only weeks into the lockdown.

Dissension soon set in over the next steps: the "lift the lockdown" chorus highlighted the racial and class mindsets that divide us.

A narrative has been widely disseminated in some circles that the lockdown itself caused the damage - that the cure is somehow worse than the disease.

The weakness of the "actuarial" case is that it was not the lockdown that sunk the South African economy. The flight of foreign investors and the collapse of international travel and tourism, commodity prices, and international trade, all would have happened whether or not the government imposed a lockdown.

The problem is an unannounced narrative that pits public health versus the economy as a zero-sum or binary choice. There are ways to open up that protect public health.

But the views that are affixed to each position, the subtext of this debate, are so familiar that it did not take a lot of "genius" on the part of the coronavirus to expose where we fail as a society.

Last year I wrote in my book *After Dawn*, and it bears repeating:

Despite the vast investment in reconciliation during the Mandela years, we are stuck in a racial paradigm. What is particularly concerning is the failure of political parties to talk coherently about solving the country's most pressing problem: the need for rapidly accelerated inclusive economic growth that will provide jobs for the millions who find themselves without a stake in the establishment. Instead, parties

remained stuck in identity politics and opt to call each other out on race and other prejudices, adding fuel to the fire that is burning up valuable social cohesion.

Time for a rethink

The IMF is now admitting that the global economy will take much longer to recover than initially expected. Managing director Kristalina Georgieva said the fund was revising downward its expectation of a strong recovery in 2021.

There is debate about what shape the recovery will take: There is increasingly less support for a V-shaped strong rebound. There is also the W, where restrictions are lifted too soon and a new wave paralyses the economy, or even a slower U-shape or the L-shape, the very worst scenario, where the global economy never gets better.

The destruction to balance sheets and undermining of consumer confidence mean it is a safe bet that even with massive stimulus programmes, global demand will be damaged for years to come.

There remain so many unknowns:

How long will it take for a widely available vaccine or drug therapies that will ameliorate the health crisis?

Will tensions between the United States and China undermine global recovery?

Will the high levels of sovereign debt precipitate a financial crisis?

How much long-term damage will Covid-19 do to the economies of Africa?

A worst-case scenario is the US and China at each other's throats, as we sink into a global depression that lasts longer than the one in the 1930s.

Forecasts for South Africa indicate a GDP contraction this

year of anywhere between 4.5% and 10.6% - and debt levels rising to over 75% of GDP by the end of the year.

So what did we learn from this crisis and what kind of shape are we in to build inclusive growth given that the task of rebuilding just got harder?

New York Times columnist Farhad Manjoo compares the coronavirus to a heat-seeking missile "designed to frustrate progress in almost every corner of society, from politics to the economy to the environment."

"We should spend more time considering the real possibility that every problem we face will get much worse than we ever imagined."

An optimistic counter-view is that people might now be willing to try new things.

The coronavirus has shaken up assumptions, challenged worldviews and taught us where our weaknesses and faultlines lie.

Rethinking the globe

The end of the Second World War was a pivotal moment in world history. There was a widespread recognition of the need for international collaboration to rebuild after the devastation of the war. Multilateral organisations such as the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank were created in this period.

Western Europe, much of it reduced to rubble, was lifted up by a massive US infrastructure and aid programme, the Marshall Plan. As they rebuilt, many European countries and Japan evolved into social democracies - a Labour government in Britain introduced the National Health Service - and new trade organisations such as the European Common market took shape.

The independence movements of the developing world began 20 years of decolonisation, starting with the Philippines and India, and ending with almost all of Africa outside the white-run south.

Though the spirit of global cooperation was disfigured by the rapid descent into the Cold War between two global superpowers, the period did carry a spirit of rebirth.

Are we at another inflexion point when the leaders of the planet face up to our shared humanity and work towards greater institutional connection, in a more inclusive manner than 70 years ago?

Aside from defeating the pandemic and the wreckage in its path, the challenges of inequality and climate change are common to all nations, and the way to combat them is not further alienation but greater cooperation in the face of a

common enemy.

Seventy years ago the US rebuilt Europe with the Marshall Plan because it needed other countries to buy its products. Today, the reconstruction of global demand does not end at any one country's borders.

The most effective way for all countries to recover would be a global stimulus, promoting areas of global concern - a green growth model with a new emphasis on sustainability, redirecting global liquidity to where demand is greatest.

Africa remains a special case and we can argue that the developed world owes us a special debt.

We would not look for hand-outs, but rather argue that it is in no one's interests to have one continent housing so many of the poorest people, and to construct a new global architecture around that principle.

That would mean taking on the oligarchs, who have stashed so much of the world's (and Africa's) wealth in tax havens and whose business model depends on tax evasion, transfer pricing and corruption. A global response is required to close global loopholes.

We would demand fair terms of trade and an easing of the unsustainable debt burden.

A world hungry for demand will increasingly look to young Africa as a massive dynamic emerging consumer market. Investors will look to Africa as a more profitable destination than some of the low-growth economies of the developed world.

African economies should stand to benefit from the reconfiguration of global value chains that have come under extreme pressure because of overconcentration in China.

Covid-19 has been an extraordinary setback, but the heartbeat of the African economy - the street, the markets, the traders, the people - is extremely resilient and will recover.

Oil and mining will remain an important component of African economies but our exports of the future will go well beyond the extractives to showcase the strengths of our people - in entertainment, in fashion, in design, in sport. And with the slowing of the pandemic, tourism will come back.

South Africa's recovery and future growth will be closely tied to our trade and investment relationships in the region and we can benefit from and contribute to the free trade area that will now be hastened on the continent - including the building of regional value chains.

Rethinking government

One thing over which there can be no further argument is the centrality of the state.

Throughout the world, citizens are looking to governments to rescue and guide them.

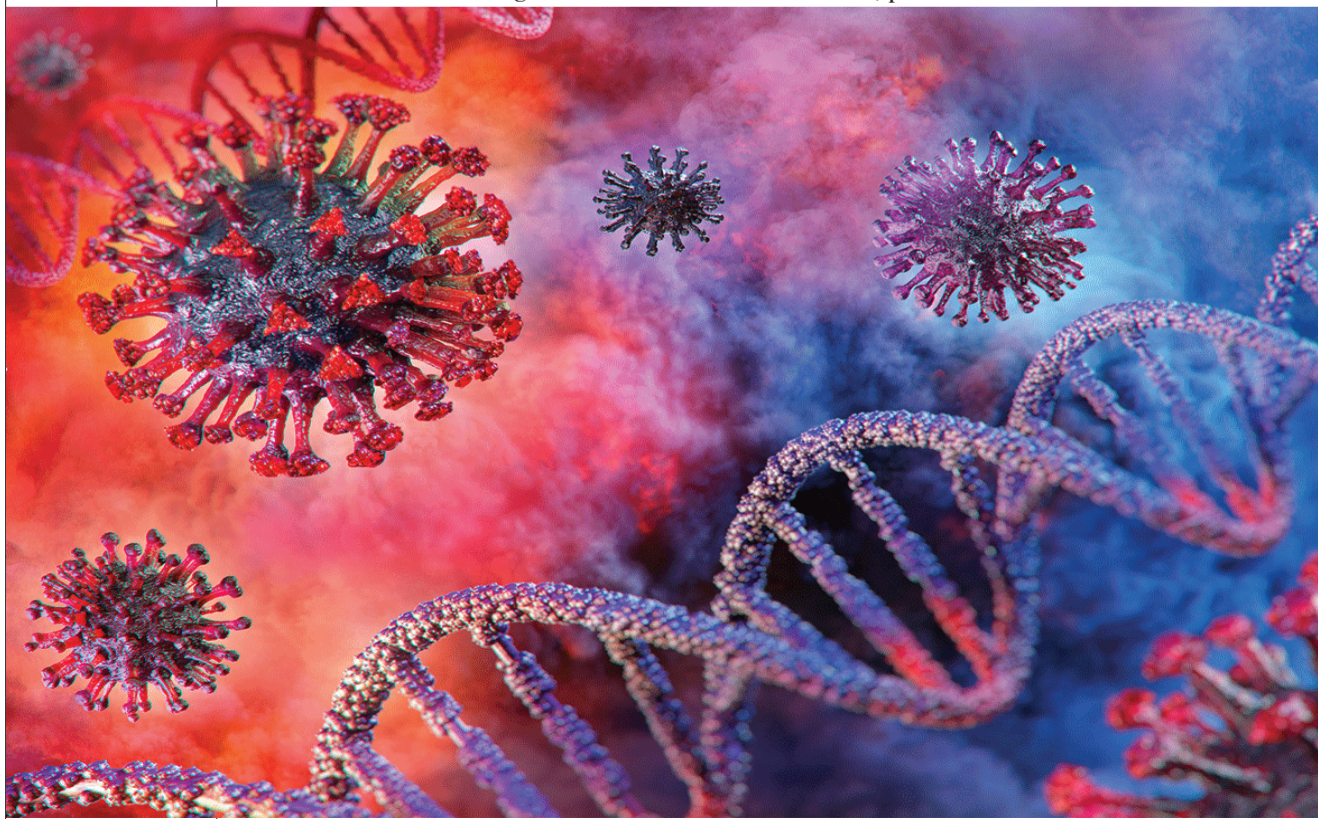
Even in the United States, the small government ideology has been discredited and abandoned as people realise that their livelihoods and survival depend on a well-functioning, properly resourced state.

The discussion has moved to, what kind of state can drive growth?

More specifically, how do the state and the market relate to one another?

In South Africa, there has been a flurry of thoughts around a "year zero" plan - in which some believe everything now becomes possible. But chasing unsustainable grand plans that the state has no capacity to implement or afford will fail and will fail brutally.

Continued on page 12



By Godfrey Ivudria, Abidjan

AfDB delivers on decade of transformative commitments to ease poverty across Africa

FOR the past five decades, the African Development Bank Group (AfDB) has been at the forefront of driving Africa's economic transformation, leveraging its diverse resources and unique know-how as an indigenous development finance institution.

The Bank has delivered on its goals of reducing poverty and fostering inclusive growth on the continent. We scaled up development support for our 54 regional member countries and recorded remarkable successes in recent years in our renewed push to help deliver life-changing impact to livelihoods.

Overall, the Bank's investments have benefited millions of Africans through its 10-year strategy which it began implementing from 2013. Here are highlights of the Bank's achievements:

Landmark General Capital Increase: At an extraordinary shareholders' meeting in October 2019 in Abidjan, Governors of the African Development Bank, representing shareholders from 80 countries, approved a landmark \$115 billion increase in capital for the continent's foremost financial institution.

The increase, the largest in the history of the Bank since its establishment in 1964, more than doubled its capital from \$93 billion to \$208 billion. This solidifies the Bank's leadership in development financing for the continent.

Successful African Development Fund (ADF15) replenishment: In December 2019, donors announced a remarkable \$7.6 billion to replenish the African Development Fund. The replenishment represented a 35% increase in financing for low-income African countries at the end of the fifteenth replenishment of the African Development Fund, the concessional window of the Bank Group. The ADF contributes to poverty reduction and economic and social development in the 38 least developed African countries by providing concessional funding for projects and programs, as well as technical assistance for studies and capacity-building activities.

Resource mobilization for Women-Owned Businesses at G7 summit: At the G7 summit of world leaders in Biarritz, France, in August 2019, the President of the Bank Group, Akinwumi Adesina, successfully launched a global campaign of the Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA) to mobilize \$3 billion for women entrepreneurs in Africa, with strong support and resources from G7 leaders and nations.

During the summit, French President Emmanuel Macron announced

France's contribution of \$135 million to the AFAWA initiative to encourage women's access to funding in Africa. The amount represents more than half the financial support of \$251 million promised by the G7 governments.

Also, the Bank co-hosted delegations from around the world for the first Global Gender Summit held in Africa, in Kigali, Rwanda. The gathering, attended by the presidents of Ethiopia - Sahle-Work Zewde, and Rwanda, Paul Kagame - moved the needle forward on gender equality and women's empowerment in Africa and around the world. Several agreements were signed to facilitate project financing for women entrepreneurs in Africa.

2019 Africa Investment Forum (AIF): Following a highly successful inaugural event, the Bank secured more than \$40 billion worth of investment interest in less than 72 hours at the second edition of the Africa Investment Forum held in Johannesburg, South Africa. The Forum, Africa's largest marketplace for mobilizing capital, featured 56 boardroom deals valued at \$67.6 billion - a 44% increase from the 2018 debut.

Transparent Institution: The Bank ranks 4th globally in transparency among 45 multilateral and bilateral institutions by Publish What You Fund, an outfit that consists of 19 developed economies. In



addition, all the major rating agencies Moody's, Standard & Poor's, Fitch and the Japanese Credit Rating Agency have assigned it a triple-A rating. The outlook on all the ratings is stable and reflects the Bank's strong membership support, healthy capital adequacy, preferred creditor status and strong financial condition.

In 2018, the Bank launched Room2Run, a pioneering \$1 billion synthetic securitization of a portfolio of its private sector loans to serve as a model for other multilateral development banks and investors as they seek new ways to release much-needed financing to catalyse private capital in developing markets.

COVID-19 Social Bond: In March 2020, the Bank raised an exceptional \$3 billion in a three-year bond to help ease the economic and social impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on livelihoods and Africa's economies. The Fight Covid-19 social bond garnered interest from central banks and official institutions, bank

treasuries, and asset managers, including socially responsible investors, with bids exceeding \$4.6 billion. It was the largest dollar-denominated social bond ever launched in international capital markets and the largest US dollar benchmark ever issued by the Bank. It will pay an interest rate of 0.75%.

LSE listing of Social Bond: The Bank celebrated another milestone with the listing of its Fight Covid-19 social bond on the London Stock Exchange on April 3. The bond is now available through its Sustainable Bond Market.

TAAT innovation boosting agriculture: The Bank's Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation program (TAAT) is leading the charge in helping to transform local staple crops across the continent, including maize, rice, wheat, cassava, high-iron beans, sorghum, millet, orange-fleshed sweet potatoes as well as livestock and fish.

TAAT aims to raise food output in Africa by 100 million tons and lift 40 million people out of poverty by 2025 by harnessing high-impact, proven technologies to raise productivity, mitigate risks, and promote diversification and processing.

World poverty for a steep rise after crisis due to COVID-19

By Jamie Dettmer

THE coronavirus has wreaked havoc across the globe but one of the most alarming consequences of the potentially deadly pathogen will be a likely dramatic increase in poverty.

According to major charities, banks and international agencies, as many as 420 million more people will slip into poverty this year - and as many as 60 million of them could be propelled into extreme poverty, defined as living on less than \$1.90 per day.

The pandemic risks reversing all the gains made in the past decade to reduce global poverty - a step back that will see more children dying of preventable diseases, or their educations curtailed and their life prospects stunted. Global poverty will actually increase for the first time, for a very, very long time," said Homi Kharas, a vice president at the Brookings Institution, a Washington, D.C.-based research group.

Kharas is a former World Bank staffer and lead author of an ambitious, groundbreaking 2013 report for the U.N. secretary-general on how to eradicate poverty through sustainable development. He told VOA the damage won't just be "a temporary phenomenon," but one with "long-lasting consequences." It isn't, Kharas said, just an issue of immediate hunger. He says there will

be a devastating impact "on the opportunities that children and families have going forward."

Since 1990, one-quarter of the world's population has risen out of extreme poverty, partly due to globalization, increased trade and economic activity, say analysts. Before the pandemic struck, less than 10 percent of the world's population were enduring extreme poverty. The number of children dying from the preventable causes of hunger and disease every day had reduced from 35,000 to 15,000. The pandemic will likely doom any chance that extreme poverty will be eradicated by 2030, a U.N. goal.

The charity Save the Children and UNICEF, the U.N. agency responsible for overseeing humanitarian and developmental aid to children worldwide, has warned that without urgent action, the number of children living in poor households across low- and middle-income countries could increase by 15%, to reach 672 million, a jump of 86 million. Nearly two-thirds of these children live in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. But countries across Europe and Central Asia could also see the most significant increase, up to 44% across the region. Latin America and the Caribbean could witness a 22% jump.

"The coronavirus pandemic has triggered an unprecedented socioeconomic crisis that is draining



Residents wearing protective face masks hold food boxes distributed by the government during a lockdown to contain the spread of Covid-19 on the outskirts of Quito, Ecuador.

resources for families all over the world," said Henrietta Fore, UNICEF executive director. "The scale and depth of financial hardship among families threatens to roll back years of progress in reducing child poverty and to leave children deprived of essential services. Without concerted action, families barely getting by could be pushed into poverty, and the poorest families could face levels of deprivation that have not been seen for decades," she added in a statement last week.

"The shocking poverty impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic will hit children hard," says Inger Ashing, the CEO of Save the Children International. "Children are highly vulnerable to even short periods of hunger and malnutrition - potentially affecting them for their whole life. If we act now and

decisively, we can prevent and contain the pandemic threat facing the poorest countries and some of the most vulnerable children," she added. COVID-19 is the disease caused by the coronavirus.

The World Bank aims to help vulnerable communities by providing grants and loans to both individuals and businesses, as well as suspending debt payments for some of the world's poorest countries. Overall, it has pledged at least \$160 billion to combat the virus so far.

The normal "coping mechanisms" the poor have fallen back on traditionally to lessen the impact of a shock, like a poor harvest, drought or other catastrophic weather event, are now fraying. With the economic consequences of the global pandemic hitting

everyone at once, friends or families can't provide rollover help. There is not extra work to be had; the poor generally don't have jobs they can do remotely, working from home.

Even relatives overseas are being affected, meaning they can't provide temporary handouts in the form of remittances, money sent back home, to stave off destitution. The World Bank estimates that global remittances from migrant workers could drop by 20%, about \$100 billion, this year.

The UN World Food Program predicts that acute hunger will double. The agency's executive director, David Beasley, last month warned the Security Council that the pandemic is sparking "the worst humanitarian crisis since World War Two." He is especially concerned

about countries that are already mired in conflict or are suffering impact from climate change. He warned of famines of "biblical proportions."

The signs of distress are already obvious. They were on vivid display in India in March when millions of migrant laborers fled locked down cities and trudged back hundreds of kilometers to their villages in a human displacement normally only seen in wartime. The Brookings vice president, Kharas, says he worries about India a little less than parts of Africa. The World Bank predicts that African government revenues will plunge from 12- to 16% this year.

"I'm less concerned about India because it has a reasonably well-functioning government," he said. "They've got a social safety net. And

the government has announced quite a significant program to distribute funds to people who are being hit hard." He said thanks to digital accounts, the Delhi government can transfer money directly through mobile phones. India, like countries in South Asia, have broader tax bases, too, and "have the channels and the instruments to be able to alleviate some of poverty, whereas in many African countries, to be honest, they don't."

Locusts sit in trees near Miyal village in Banaskantha district some 250km from Ahmedabad, Dec. 27, 2019. A massive locust invasion has destroyed thousands of hectares of crops in northwest India, authorities said.

The focus of his anxiety currently is east Africa, parts of which are also trying to cope with a locust plague. A collapse in tourism and a

massive reduction in trade are upending public finances, which are also much more dependent on commodity prices, he said.

Poor countries will need help from the rich. Will that happen? "There are plenty of calls for debt relief, for a new issuance of special drawing rights from the International Monetary Fund," he said. And this stage, Kharas said, "It is difficult to be precise about the needs as the spread of the virus in developing countries has come later and there is still a lot that's not known about the overall public health and economic impact of the virus in developing countries," he added.

So far, the IMF and World Bank have lent \$26 billion in all to poorer countries to cope with the impact of the virus. Some analysts worry that talks about debt relief are moving too slowly. Larissa Pelham and Nigel Timmins of Oxfam, a British charity, said the "current crisis calls for a response on an unprecedented scale." They added that \$2.5 trillion in debt relief and special drawing rights will be needed to support developing economies to withstand the impacts of coronavirus.

Will the richer countries step up, especially when they're struggling with their public finances and pouring cash in to shore up their flagging economies?

Kharas draws some comfort from the fact that the advanced countries have found money to subsidize their economies, revealing what is possible. And by stepping up, "We will make everyone, including ourselves, better off. So it's not that we're losing. We do get a return and in some cases, a very handsome return, both in terms of increased economic activity, which benefits us, and a reduction in war and violence."

Johannesburg

ONE thing is certain, and that is that the Covid-19 pandemic has shone an uncomfortable spotlight on how challenging it can be for businesses of every size, and across every industry, to continue with business during times of crisis.

"So much has happened over the last three months since we've been put in lockdown," says Sandra Crous, Managing Director of payroll and human capital management software, PaySpace.

"No one knew what to expect. At first everyone moved to home offices, but soon realised that it is much bigger than that. It has exposed how important ensuring continuity of business operations really is."

Crous says businesses need to future-proof themselves and ensure that they are able to perform mission-critical work under a wide range of circumstances, noting: "It is about preparing your business for this and other catastrophes."

She cites the example of cloud payroll users - versus legacy hosted users: "Very few companies have truly merged to proper digital operations. Covid-19 has been a wake-up call for many businesses, in the payroll world, everything has to continue."

The 'new normal' is an opportunity to be more creative and innovative



"HR departments had very little policies in place that spoke to how remote employees would work, how to measure productivity, how leave policies would work, or how remote working would be managed," she adds.

While governments and health officials were doing

their best to contain the spread of the coronavirus as well as mitigate its impact, organisations across the globe found themselves in various stages of preparedness, from scrambling to react to semi-prepared as well as to proactively carrying on with business as usual.

The PaySpace executive

says that Covid-19 has, unfortunately, shown many businesses how woefully unprepared they were to deal with such an unprecedented and global crisis.

"Now that we're in the throes of the crisis, we are seeing that the companies that were prepared and that were already agile and had

digitised their offices, and are able to assure their staff of a brighter future," she notes.

These are the organisations that are adaptable, that have broadened their employees' skill sets and that have been able to carry on as usual, moving staff around to where they are needed

within the business.

"This is the new way of working, and forward-thinking companies are viewing this as an opportunity," Crous says.

The companies that were less prepared, she says, are now asking how to remain relevant and upskill employees to enable them to be moved to different roles.

She elaborates: "The unprepared are now faced with thinking about how to re-skill from scratch. These days it isn't feasible to only use employees for a single task. Ensure that they have a broader view, a wider set of skills and more knowledge, and apply their skillsets across the organisation."

Covid-19 has highlighted the need for a truly agile workforce, and it has to be prioritised now, Crous says, adding: "Businesses have to make sure that they can deploy the right skills in different areas when times are tough, and this is true of every industry. Maintaining momentum has become critical and key to business

survival."

Speaking of how HR will look after Covid-19, Crous says: "The pandemic has challenged us, and pushed us to be more creative. There's no more business as usual."

She adds: "The only way to survive is to be more agile, adopt fluid teams, encourage broader skillsets, and have a very adaptable mindset. We have also seen cases where productivity went up, as people travelled less and increased working hours. That for me is phenomenal."

Crous stands convinced that no one was really 'ready' for this,

"but we have seen a lot of businesses transforming", noting further: "For example, distillers which were once making craft gin or vodka are now making hand sanitiser. Fashion labels are now making face masks and other protective wear for essential service workers. When pushed out of a comfort zone, people will be more innovative."

Agencies

From page 10

We need to rethink, just about everything

Increasing money supply might be tempting but, if sustained, will bring inflationary and currency devaluation risks that will have an impact on the balance of payments. Sharp price increases and a weakened fiscus will hurt all South Africans.

If we have learnt anything these last few weeks, it is that while we look to the state as a guiding force, a lifesaver, and a safety net, it becomes overbearing when it tries to control every aspect of our lives.

There is a danger that instead of learning the lessons of how successful nations are coping, we become more authoritarian, less imaginative and less hopeful.

Authoritarianism has little public support unless it is accompanied by the kind of effective state mobilisation that only the Chinese appear able to manage.

South Africa has neither the ruthless bureaucratic efficiency nor the cultural tolerance that would allow a reversion to the command economy of the apartheid era of the 1950s and 1960s.

While the state should remain focused on social protection and inequality reduction, it should also be the catalyst for a dynamic and forward looking economy based on rising productivity and income.

It should support emerging black businesses through a rigorous, coherent tender system at all levels of government and ensure that it is insulated against cronyism and rewards quality and performance.

We should also look at ways of promoting businesses owned by women and youth as part of a broader equity agenda.

The government needs to start making business and investment easier for all, not inventing new obstacles and regulations that have to be policed. We need to unclog the system.

We need a state that leads and is nimble enough



to adjust to uncertain times.

Rethinking technology

Technology is going to shape our world in ways that we cannot yet imagine.

We need to think in the long term, and not just in terms of one cycle. We need to look beyond 2021 to the next decade and beyond.

The recovery will be tech-driven in an accelerated way.

We will need to invest in projects that will attract financing and drive growth, such as the just energy transition, ICT and network industries, urban infrastructure and logistics infrastructure for African integration. Not to mention education and especially technical education.

One of the big winners that will emerge,

shaped not just by Covid-19 but by the incredible technological advancement that is occurring as we speak, will be the health sector.

We are talking about 3D printing for medical devices, less invasive laser and robotic surgery, telehealth to provide treatment from a distance, artificial intelligence to assist with diagnoses and treatment options, brain implants to treat brain disease, immunotherapy for cancer, and so on and so on.

The entire continent is hungry for this kind of innovation.

The world will be transitioning to a greener economy and South Africa needs to be at the forefront of the African response - and to be part of the breakthrough technological research and development.

This will also spawn new industries, such as artificial food. One of the biggest causes of climate change is beef production. Laboratory-grown meat is already becoming a reality, the only challenge is to make it taste as good as the real thing.

New technology in mining and natural gas extraction is also able to reach previously uncommercial deposits and extract them in a cleaner way. South Africa can serve as a technology hub for much of the region and as a preferred investment destination for Africans themselves.

Rethinking poverty The turbo-charged growth of the last quarter century did two seemingly paradoxical things: it increased inequality and, for much of the world, decreased

poverty. Now the pandemic could do exactly the opposite - increase poverty and (as often occurs after economic catastrophes) decrease inequality.

The trick will be to tackle poverty and inequality at the same time - that is the essence of the phrase inclusive growth. If South Africa is to grow, it is absurd to continue to deny access to the mainstream economy to more than two-thirds of our people.

We stand at the cusp of a technology-driven banking revolution that, coupled with the extension of social grants for an extended period of time, could move cash to where it is most needed. Here the state has a major role to work with the financial sector to make capital available to localised entrepreneurs.

We know that the Treasury is already drained, and the social grants will not be sustainable forever. But if it is well designed and implemented, some form of universal basic income is a way of changing the trajectory of inequality in South Africa by creating the conditions for growth: expanding employment, the consumer class, the number of taxpayers and overall demand in the economy.

We need to see this as a stimulus - as an investment in market-driven growth - rather than just a hand-out to the poor.

It will need to be accompanied by equitable land and housing policies that allow people to accumulate capital through holding assets, and we need real support from the state and

the private sector for small businesses, including smallholder farmers in agriculture. Finally, we have spoken since 1994 about the need to redress the spatial inheritance of apartheid. We will not be able to tackle structural inequality without starting to change the way South Africa was built.

That means that any far-reaching infrastructure plan must be modelled towards a realistic vision of smart cities - through mass transit systems, ICT infrastructure and the allocation of urban land to new property owners.

Rethinking politics Is this crisis the jolt that we need to fix our politics, which has grown so out of sync with our need for a more inclusive society?

dichotomy. Structurally, the problem is that big business wields economic power but has no political power; and the political elite don't necessarily have a stake in the economy.

Clearly, as we enter the new world, we need a new social compact that brings the two kingdoms into one federation.

At the same time, we need to revive and refresh our democracy so that every South African feels they have a stake in the system.

South Africans at all levels are already making a tremendous collective effort, none more so than the essential workers and the nurses and health workers risking their lives at hospitals and township clinics throughout the country.

This should be the moment for us to unite, instead of fragmenting into old predictable tribal ideologies.

Unfortunately, we are still stuck in the old politics, in which mainstream political parties have increasingly lost legitimacy and relevance.

The danger is that more militant tendencies will move into the vacuum - especially if there is an exponential increase in poverty and desperation without a workable plan to come out the other side.

The challenge is to give real meaning to democracy by opening up the space for all the critical voices in our society to contribute, especially the youth.

We need to build on the promise of that moment when we stood together as a society to face the immense challenge of a global pandemic bearing down on us and find hope that we can emerge stronger and more ready.

Neither ruling party factionalism nor opposition opportunism, hoping to make short-term gains by scratching away at the wounds of our past, are going to serve us in this new reality.

If we don't get the politics right, there is no pathway to prosperity.

Agencies



Thursday 4 June 2020

Controversial FMO loan to TDB for Dutch exports to Southern Africa raises eyebrows

By The Banker Reporter

A controversial 40 million euros loan to finance Dutch exports to Eastern and Southern Africa countries for the next 12 years was given by Netherlands based entrepreneurial development bank FMO.

The loan which experts have described as being tied and almost equal to Chinese state banks tied loans was issued by FMO last April to Nairobi based Trade and Development Bank (TDB). "It's an outdated type of loan which is unheard of in this century because it's not free money, it attracts interest," said a source in the multilateral banking industry.

He said TDB being a regional bank has a wide spectrum to borrow from instead of a Dutch privately owned bank which attaches stringent conditions as to what the loan should finance. "These kinds of loans are phased out in the West and are also being phased out in China because global free markets don't condone such tied loans," said the source who has over 20 years in multilateral lending industry.

In a statement last April, TDB said the loan is destined for financing the acquisition of Dutch sourced capital goods with the aim of being to enable



Admassu Tadesse, TDB President and Chief Executive.

African enterprises to procure Dutch goods and services at attractive funding conditions.

The EUR 40 million program, in collaboration with Atradius DSB (the Dutch Export Credit Agency), will be used to facilitate commercial activities between Dutch exporters and local importing enterprises active in the region TDB serves. The program aims to support the economic and social development of the region, especially in sectors focusing on medium-sized growth companies.

This is the second agreement to be signed between FMO and TDB. The first was a nine year facility of USD 50 million signed in 2009 which was geared mainly at supporting SMEs in the region.

"We are delighted to further our cooperation with FMO" said Admassu Tadesse who is TDB President and Chief Executive noting that through such a new facility, the regional bank is looking forward to continue

supporting high impact business initiatives and the enterprises which drive them in our region.

"Since the launch of its ECA financing services in 2016, TDB has so far executed more than half a billion US-dollars of ECA-backed credit lines thanks to its rapidly expanding relations with funding partners such as FMO," Tadesse noted.

"We are pleased to announce our cooperation with TDB in facilitating investments in Africa. This program allows us to provide long-term capital to projects of mutual interest which support innovation and job generation", said Janet Nieboer Director, NL Business at FMO.

"Furthermore, the program stimulates export projects that include service and equipment deliveries from the Netherlands," added Nieboer. Critics argue that the tied loan is aimed at forcing African entrepreneurs purchase expensive Dutch products which are not competitive on the global market.

Stanbic pays SA parent Sh733m in franchise fees

NAIROBI

Stanbic Holdings #ticker:CFC is set to pay its South Africa-based parent company Standard Bank Group franchise fees of Sh733.9 million, a 14.7 percent increase from the previous payment of Sh639.7 million. The amounts due have been disclosed by the Nairobi Securities Exchange-listed lender in its latest annual report for the year ended December.

Stanbic did not give further details on the payouts but such fees, rare among the local listed banks, are typically paid to the franchise owner for business support, use of its brand or access to its marketing muscle. The multinational, for instance, packages products and lending opportunities across multiple markets for its subsidiaries. It also supplies Stanbic with a CEO for free.

"In line with Standard Bank Group's transfer pricing policy, Greg Brackenridge's function is a group oversight role and therefore the majority shareholder, Standard Bank of South Africa Limited, bears all his employment costs and benefits," Stanbic says in the report.

"Those costs and benefits are not recharged to Stanbic Holdings Plc." The franchise fees are among a series of income streams that saw Standard Bank earn a total of Sh3.7 billion from its local banking subsidiary in the year ended December.

This represented a 58 percent jump from Sh2.3 billion the year before. The multinational charged Stanbic "other operating costs" running into Sh861.3 million, rising 11.1 times from Sh77.4 million. It billed the local subsidiary information technology fees of Sh199.4 million, a 279.5 percent jump from Sh52.5 million.

Standard Bank is also set to earn total dividends of Sh1.9 billion from the local unit in which holds an estimated 69.1 percent stake. The dividend will rise from the Sh1.5 billion paid on the results for the year ended December 2018. The multinational is buying more shares in the local subsidiary to raise its stake to 75 percent by December. Standard Bank intends to have Stanbic Holdings retain its listing on the NSE.

If Standard Bank gets all the new shares it is seeking, it will have spent more than Sh5 billion in the stake-building transactions that started in 2018. The multinational's move to increase its stake was seen as an expression of its confidence about the subsidiary's prospects.



In line with Standard Bank Group's transfer pricing policy, Greg Brackenridge's function is a group oversight role and therefore the majority shareholder, Standard Bank of South Africa Limited, bears all his employment costs and benefits

Cryptos facing make-or-break moments with bitcoin hitting \$10,000 mark

NEW YORK

Major cryptocurrencies including bitcoin and ether have surged over the past week, but technical indicators show they're butting up against a key resistance level.

The Bloomberg Galaxy Crypto Index, which includes most of the largest digital tokens, is nearing a critical juncture at the 400 mark, which has acted as both a support and a resistance line since March. A break below it led to one of its largest-ever selloffs earlier this year, but technical analysis now suggests a break higher could presage a rally that potentially takes the gauge to an annual high.

In addition, the index's MACD – or the moving average convergence divergence gauge – shows a positive trend could be formed as soon as this week. The index has gained more than 11% since last Tuesday and is trading at its highest level since early March. Bitcoin, which topped US\$10,000 again on Tuesday, has advanced nearly 8% in the same period, while ether is up more than 17% – the two tokens make up 60% of the index.

Cryptocurrencies, which sold off precipitously at the onset of the coronavirus-induced crash earlier this year, have regained their footing in recent weeks. A warning from Goldman Sachs last week about crypto assets did little to dent optimism. Fans have instead been buoyed by an embrace from some of Wall Street's most famed investors, including Paul Tudor Jones, who is buying bitcoin as a hedge against the inflation he sees coming from central bank money-printing.

"Cryptocurrencies have weathered the panic-selling storm that took place in March and seem poised to benefit from a wide-range of growing institutional interest," said Edward Moya, senior market analyst at Oanda. "It is not just bitcoin that is attracting interest – alternative coins such as ether and bitcoin cash seem to have bigger upside potential."



SA Reserve Bank's deputy governor, Kuben Naidoo.

Banks told to cut lending rates in SA

By The Banker Reporter

TO enhance delivery of financial inclusion of marginalized groups in the community, NMB Bank Plc has teamed up with Savings at the Frontier (SatF) to offer them digital transactions and mobilise savings.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam this week NMB's acting Managing Director, Ruth Zaipuna said the partnership's aims at bridging the gap between the supply of formal financial services and informal savings groups by improving access to financial services.

"This is an enhancement of the current groups saving product named NMB Pamoja Account for affordable,

convenient and easy to access banking services," Zaipuna said adding that the deal extends the bank's commitment to financial inclusion.

She said NMB Pamoja is fully integrated with the NMB Chap Chap account to allow groups and members to seamlessly transfer funds between groups and individual accounts with zero fees. The platform which is safer and more convenient, is allowing thousands of savings group members to access formal financial services for the first time.

The NMB chief further added that increased simplicity and convenience include being able to make contributions, check balances,

view mini-statements, open a group account via USSD, all with no monthly maintenance fee or account operational fee as well as attractive annual interest rates.

"We are very proud to support NMB in this venture," said Janet Hayes, Team Leader for SatF after announcing the deal noting that the partnership with NMB is a great opportunity to test a sustainable and scalable model that could really benefit informal savers in the country and contribute to the government's financial inclusion plan.

The partnership also involves Mastercard Foundation and Oxford Policy Management. Through the partnership, NMB and SatF target to incorpo-

rate over 28,000 financially excluded groups across the country.

The new model allows groups and their members to use the bank's digital advantage which gives them room to self-open group and individual accounts through their mobile phones, manage members' activities without a physical visit to branches, safely and securely save their excess funds while taking advantage of the banking agents and mobile money integration.

The new model is an enhancement of the 'NMB Pamoja Account' which targets Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs), Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILC), Village Community Banks (VICOBAs),

Community Based Savings Groups (CBSG), Community Based Organizations (CBO), family and friends groups, and links them to the bank.

The NMB-SatF collaboration breaks new ground, pioneering a new financial inclusion model in a move expected to pave the way for more investment and participation of other players in the financial services sector.

While NMB provides its banking excellence and platform as among the biggest banks in the country, SatF brings to the table global experience and expertise in improving the financial inclusion of low-income individuals and communities in sub-Saharan Africa.

USAID pledges continued help to horticulture industry in Tanzania amid coronavirus disease

By The Banker Reporter

THE coronavirus outbreak which has interrupted cargo and passenger flights global and negatively impacted on the country's export oriented horticulture industry will continue getting support from United States Agency for International Development.

USAID Mission Director to Tanzania, Andy Karas said in Dar es Salaam last week when briefing the media on the US government's support to Tanzania to contain the COVID-19 epidemic which has not only affected human health but also the economy.

"As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent halt of international flights, export of horticultural crops was stopped temporarily, affecting production and jobs," Karas said noting that most horticultural products in Tanzania are destined for the export market, with demand exceeding supply, making this an important development in a key sector for the economy.

He said the US has so far committed US\$3.6 million (over 7.8bn/-) in its new funds to support the country's efforts in the fight against the pandemic while also redirecting US\$1.9 million (over 4.4bn/-) from existing USAID activities.

"USAID is investing in the Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA) and the government of Tanzania's capacity and systems to manage airfreight that are picking up fresh horticultural



USAID Mission Director to Tanzania, Andy Karas.

products for European markets," the USAID Mission Director, added.

Established in 2004 as an apex association for horticulture producers

with less than 50 companies earning the country a paltry US\$64 million per annum, TAHA said grown into a group of companies with millions of members

mostly smallholder producers who now earn the country over US\$700 million in revenue annually by end last year.

Apart from USAID which has financed TAHA's development for many years, other key partners include SIDA, UNDP, TRIAS and FFD.

Meanwhile Karas said the grant also goes to finance education activities by transitioning school-based learning and training to virtual training, with respect to teachers and educators during the Covid-19 school closure.

"We will use platforms like Zoom, WhatsApp, and YouTube to continue teacher training and share training materials via SMS," he noted while stressing that in support of the education sector, the US government has committed itself to provide audio books and electronic books to children while teacher will be provided with airtime to access and share content on COVID-19 prevention materials and messaging.

USAID through its partners continues to use mass media and other technologies to reach its beneficiaries with health and education programs, through mass campaigns using radio, television and digital platform such as USAID's Tulonge Afya project.

Karas said that the donation to Tanzania, is part of nearly US\$6.5 billion provided by the American people through public and private donations to the global COVID-19 response which is nearly 60 percent of the total global efforts.

Nigeria president Buhari backs embattled African Development Bank chief

ABUJA

Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari on Tuesday gave his backing to the head of the African Development Bank (AfDB), Akinwumi Adesina, in his re-election bid despite allegations of improper conduct.

Adesina, who served as Nigeria's agriculture minister before taking the AfDB's top job in 2015, has been accused of abuse of office by a whistleblower at the bank including favouritism in hiring. Adesina, who denied the allegations, was later cleared of wrongdoing in an internal investigation.

But US Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin signed a letter to the bank's board on May 22 rejecting the internal investigation. The United States, AfDB's second-largest shareholder after Nigeria, is demanding a new independent investigation, saying it has reservations about the integrity of the banks process.

Adesina later this year plans to pursue a second term as head of the multilateral lender, which is headquartered in Ivory Coast's commercial capital Abidjan. He visited Buhari in Nigeria's capital, Abuja, on Tuesday.

"President Muhammadu Buhari says Nigeria will stand solidly behind Dr Akinwumi Adesina in his bid to get re-elected as President of the African Development Bank," a statement from Buhari's office said. It also quoted Adesina as saying the allegations levelled against him are baseless.

"I was exonerated, and any other investigation would amount to bending the rules of the bank, to arrive at a predetermined conclusion," Adesina said. Several former African heads of state and current presidents have signed a separate statement supporting Adesina.

KPMG loses yet another top banking auditing job

NAIROBI

KCB Group was yesterday expected to replace KPMG Kenya with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) as its external auditor, dealing a blow to the consultancy after it lost Absa Kenya job last year. The changes will now hand PwC audit control of Kenya's top two banks – KCB and Equity Group. Equity dropped Ernst & Young for PwC in 2017.

KCB audit job has been among the highest payers, with remuneration paid by the lender amounting to Sh55 million in the financial year ended December 2019. Absa Kenya last year also dropped KPMG after two years of auditing its books, dealing it a blow of annual audit fees of between Sh32 million and Sh40 million.

KPMG's credibility was put to question over work done for controversial Gupta family, which faced corruption investigation in South Africa. Absa Group, the parent firm of the Kenya unit, also dropped it. Top banks' audit jobs are the most lucrative and are usually shared among the Big Four auditors – PwC, Deloitte, EY and KPMG.

For instance, PwC made Sh54 million for auditing Safaricom in the year to March 2019 yet the telco's profitability is nearly 2.5 times higher than that of KCB. It made Sh396 million for auditing East African Breweries.

KCB has spent Sh333.05 million on audit remuneration for the last nine years that KPMG has been its principal auditor. Part of the payment has been going to PwC, Deloitte and Ernst & Young that have been auditing some of KCB's subsidiaries in the region.

KCB board is set to recommend to shareholders to endorse PwC as new auditors in the virtual annual general meeting set for this Thursday. "To appoint Messrs PwC, Certified Public Accountants, as the new Auditors of the Company in place of KPMG, Certified Public Accountants whose term expires at the end of this meeting," reads AGM notice in part.

This will offer PwC a huge revenue boost given that it has historically been auditing National Bank of Kenya alone but will now extend to KCB. KPMG is leaving at a time the acquisition of NBK by KCB saw audit fees jump from Sh45 million in 2018 to an all-time high of Sh55 million last year.

Jumia, Mastercard incentivise consumers on cashless payments in African countries



Raghav Prasad, division president, Sub-Saharan Africa, Mastercard.

Lagos

E-COMMERCE platform Jumia and Mastercard have partnered to incentivise the use of cashless payments platforms in Africa, as people look for safer ways to pay in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Through this initiative, consumers who purchase essential products using their Mastercard on the Jumia platform will receive up to a 10 percent discount on their order, encouraging consumers to safely transact using digital payment channels and avoid human-to-human contact, in line with recommendations from global and regional health authorities and governments.

"We are proud to partner with Mastercard as part of our social commitment and business responsiveness to the global pandemic. We

are also happy to support our customers by offering them a strong incentive to use cashless payments and providing access to essential products with affordable prices during this challenging time. This incentive will help drive more consumers to adopt JumiaPay, the safe and digital payment method," said Sami Louali, EVP financial services at Jumia.

The discount offers from Mastercard and Jumia is available in five countries including Nigeria, Egypt, Kenya, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana. "This partnership supports the various government cashless payment policies in each of these countries. This is an additional step to limit cash exchange at this time," he said.

Commenting on the partnership, Raghav Prasad, division president, Sub-Saharan Africa, Mastercard, said: "Our mission at Mastercard is to connect and power up a world

beyond cash that benefits everyone, everywhere through transactions that are safe, simple, smart, and accessible. Our partnership with Jumia seeks to further encourage Mastercard consumers to stay safe by using available digital payment platforms to purchase their essential items all from the comfort of their own homes in a clean, seamless and convenient experience. We look forward to further collaborations with our partners to continue delivering such relevant solutions, enabling people to stay safe."

Consumers in these five markets can be a part of this promotional offer by logging on to the Jumia platform, shop and pay for their essential goods on the JumiaPay portal, using their Mastercard, and automatically receive up to 10 percent discount.

Virus strikes 20 pct off FNB customers' income

OHANNESBURG

The average income of customers at South Africa's First National Bank plummeted by about 20% during the nation's lockdown as people took pay cuts or had less work to do.

FirstRand Ltd.'s retail banking unit also experienced a "major drop off" in transactional activity and credit-card spending as businesses closed and people stayed home, FNB's retail banking head Raj Mankjee said on a call with reporters on Tuesday. Credit growth suffered as South Africans opted to save, he said.

The slump in business is in line with guidance from other South African lenders

that earnings for the first half of the year will probably decline by at least 20% as measures to curb the pandemic take their toll on the finances of customers. Unlike its main competitors, FirstRand reports annual results through June.

Banks have all extended relief to clients to help shore up their cash flows, including payment holidays and emergency loans. South Africa moved to alert level 3 from June 1 after being at level 4 for a month. That was preceded by five weeks of a strict level 5 lockdown that shuttered almost all activity except essential services. The central bank sees the economy contracting by 7% in 2020.

FNB has also adjusted its eBucks rewards

programme to offer Netflix and Spotify Technology SA discounts as clients spend more time indoors, Mankjee said. Pressure to outshine peers persists for South Africa's biggest banks, which have seen several new players enter the market in recent years, while intensified competition in the industry has also seen incumbents snatching some clients, Mankjee said.

"When the economy goes through this level of challenge we do expect a level of consolidation. It's going to be very difficult for all competitors to stand and cope with the magnitude of the impact," he said. "Certainly we want some of these new competitors to be strong but we think it's going to be tougher."

How is your financial health during COVID-19?

As we continue our battle against COVID-19 pandemic, our health and wellbeing is a top priority. Wearing of masks and frequent hygiene practices have become the world's new norm of life in combating COVID-19.

It's great to note we are keeping our physical wellbeing in check. The question is - how is your financial health during COVID-19 pandemic? What measures are you putting in place to protect your financial health?

We would like to equip you with some tips that will help you maintain a good financial health condition during COVID-19 pandemic as presented below:

Set budgets
By setting budgets, you determine what is important to spend on, how much you can afford to spend on a product and how much you are willing to part with to stay in control of your finances.

You can start by writing down any last paychecks due to you or savings you may have and then list your monthly bills. It also helps you spot any potential opportunities to save. Come back to this budget at least every week, to track how are doing against your plan, to identify where you might have spent beyond your budget and make any changes as necessary.

Prioritize
Prioritize your purchases.



Mariam Sezinga
Manager for Corporate Affairs
at Standard Chartered Bank
Tanzania Limited.

Prioritize your bills
on the most important needs to keep you safe such as housing, food, utilities and needs. Write down the minimum payment and when its due for payment. Analyzing and differentiating between your needs and wants is

essential when trying to save money and during this period. Take stock of what you have at home before you decide to make purchases. Reduce your spending to only what you need. If you spend less on the needs, you can use the money saved for the wants.

Spot offers
It's good practice to first do your homework and find out the prevailing market prices especially for large purchase items. Search for discounts and offers made by various outlets as well as benefits offered by financial institutions for example,

getting discounts of up to 20% in some instances when you swipe your bank card when shopping or at various restaurants instead of paying cash. Spending a little time looking around for the best deals can help you save substantial amounts of money which takes the pressure off your finances.

Let your creditors know about your financial situation

During this unprecedented period of COVID-19, it is important to inform your creditor about your financial situation as hard as it is to think about. It is highly recommended that your reach out to your creditors before you your

next scheduled payment window so that that they know your debt repayment plans and know that you are tracking your debt payment.

Up-skill yourself
Use time efficiently to up-skill yourself on different subject matters. Utilize online learning resources, journals, books and various educative materials to further your knowledge. The more knowledge you acquire, will help you increase your efficiency at work, get better jobs and ultimately increase chances of earning more income.

Be cautious of fraud
During this period, Fraudsters may seek donations or make offers that don't exist regarding

medical treatments or products to beat the virus. Fraudsters will try to reach you by any means including social media, email, calls or SMS.

Take note of further tips: Never reveal personal information, your Personal Identification Number(PIN), password or account number to strangers; Do not download anti-virus or software updates sent via email or SMS; and Ignore suspicious calls and emails about contests or offers that require personal information or payment to receive a prize. We hope that the shared tips will support your financial health in order to achieve your financial freedom.

Belgian agency, Enabel team up with WFP to give Kigoma farmers market

By The Banker Reporter

KAKONKO, like neighbouring districts, has red soil that turns into a heavy dust during the dry season. When it rains, most of the residents are busy planting maize, cassava, beans, bananas as well as other staple crops. Many of the farmers are dependent of the annual harvest for the majority of their income for the entire year.

"Every year we are in the fields working, but the lingering question always is, are we going to be able to find a buyer, and how much will we get?" Said Jackson Christopher, a forty-year-old farmer, born and raised in Kakonko.

The district which is in Kigoma Region, bordering Burundi in the northwest of Tanzania, has an estimated over 90,000 metric tonnes of beans - enough to fill 3,000 trucks, produced each year. Of this, 24,000 metric tonnes are 'surplus' and traded within the country supplying markets such as Dar es Salaam, and other neighbouring regions.

For smallholder farmers like Christopher, accessing reliable markets can be a daunting challenge. Typically, farmers market their produce locally within the village or ward. A buyer might come and purchase the produce, but the prices can be unfavourable for the farmer who is left with little to no other option.

For the buyer, receiving consistent quality can be a challenge and transporting the produce up the supply chain can be expensive. "That is why we use a value chain approach to organize smallholder farmers to produce high-quality produce and bring it to market," said Earnest Musinamwana, Agricultural Marketing Advisor for Enabel, the Belgian Development Agency.

Enabel, with funding from the Belgian government, works with 15,000 farmers throughout Kigoma region under the Sustainable Agriculture Kigoma Regional Project (SAKIRP). Using a pro-poor value chain development approach, farmers are systematically supported from production all the way through storage and marketing.

Access to finance helps farmers purchase various agro inputs like improved and marketable seed varieties, pesticides and fertilizer while training and exten-



Agriculture extension training in Kakonko District. Photo courtesy of Enabel

sion coaching on good agricultural practices helps farmers to maximize the quantity and quality of their harvests.

"Our ultimate objective is to increase the income of smallholder farmers in Kigoma region. "While we work to boost smallholder farmers' productivity and reduce their post-harvest losses, the last piece is finding a reliable market for the produce," Musinamwana said.

About 15 kilometres from Christopher's farm, lies a unique community, Mtendeli Refugee Camp, a historic refuge for asylum seekers from neighbouring countries. The camp reopened in January 2016, following an influx of refugees from Burundi and currently hosts more than 30,000 refugees. Refugees in Tanzania are restricted by an encampment policy with limited resilience and livelihood opportunities. They are dependent on the humanitarian community to provide for their basic needs such as food.

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) provides refugees with rations of cereals, pulses (including beans), vegetable oil, specialized nutritious food and salt to meet their daily minimum food requirements.

In total, WFP provides food assistance to 230,000 refugees in Tanzania and over one million vulnerable persons in neighbouring countries including Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan Burundi and Rwanda.

Last year, WFP purchased 20,000 metric tonnes of food in Tanzania at a cost of nearly US\$9m (over 21bn/-). The food was then distributed in Tanzania and in neighbouring countries to the refugees.

"WFP is a big buyer of food commodities produced locally in Tanzania," said Michael Dunford, WFP Representative in Tanzania. "In collaboration with Enabel, WFP is now able to help unlock a new market for smallholder farmers in the host

community can benefit from WFP's support to refugees. With the success of this procurement WFP will continue to expand support through more purchases directly from the local community," Dunford said.

With the assurance that WFP would buy their beans, farmers supported by Enabel mobilised themselves to produce a sufficient quantity of beans while meeting the required quality levels. Christopher harvested 18 bags, or about 1.3 metric tonnes of market-grade beans.

However, a truck can carry up to 30 metric tonnes and WFP Tanzania distributes hundreds of metric tonnes a month, making it prohibitive to have contracts with individual smallholder farmers with much smaller tonnage.

"To bridge this gap, Agricultural Marketing Co-operatives or AMCOS were identified as an institutional solution," said the Agricultural Marketing Advisor for Enabel. "Building on the foundation of multiple individual producer groups, each AMCOS is able to aggregate the produce from hundreds of farmers to meet WFP's quantity and quality requirements," Musinamwana added.

This year, WFP, under the coordination of Enabel, purchased almost 400 metric tonnes of beans from Nyakitonto and Muugano Kiziguzigu AMCOS. These AMCOS' bean aggregation efforts straddled the four districts of Kakonko, Kibondo, Kasulu and Uvinza, all in Kigoma region. Christopher serves as the chairperson of Muungano AMCOS which is located in Kiziguzigu ward of Kakonko district

"Having lived with refugees as neighbours for most of my life, it is encouraging that WFP has given the opportunity to support them through food supply opportunities," he said adding, "In the past, our market interactions with refugees had been limited, but the collaboration with WFP has put us on a different level."

The beans, purchased for more than US\$ 300,000, will be distributed in the coming months to the 230,000 refugees hosted in Kigoma. "WFP and Enabel are key partners in this project, providing a catalyst for transforming smallholder farming from a largely subsistence operation into a commercial one," said Peter Van Acker, Ambassador of Belgium to Tanzania.

"And purchasing food directly from smallholder farmers in Kigoma is a great opportunity to support the refugee hosting communities. In my previous capacity as Director of Humanitarian Affairs at the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, I had been struggling with the concept of the nexus between humanitarian and development aid. To see this happening now in Tanzania makes me extremely proud," Ambassador van Acker noted. He said for too long, humanitarian and development actors have been working independently from another.

Enabel's Resident Representative in the country, Patrick Gaudissart said the Belgian development agency believes that strengthening the coherence and coordination between humanitarian and development efforts and building on their respective comparative advantages strongly contributes to reduce needs, risks and vulnerability of populations.

"Supporting the humanitarian-development architecture through local development actions reduces the vulnerability of displaced women and men while it enhances the resilience of communities and systems in hosting countries," Gaudissart noted.

The other side of the plate About 150 kilometres to the southwest of Kakonko is a largest refugee camp called Nyarugusu which is home to 136,000 refugees, of which 76,000 are from Democratic Republic of Congo and the rest are primarily from Burundi.

No way to help SA govt on budget - reserve bank

CAPE TOWN

South Africa's central bank has ruled out the possibility of helping the government fund its runaway budget deficit by paying for its spending through loans.

"We do not think it is prudent to finance government directly," Kuben Naidoo, a Reserve Bank deputy governor, said on a conference call hosted by money manager Ninety One. "It would increase inflation risks. It would blur the lines between an independent central bank and publicly-elected office bearers. If we were to finance government directly, there would be no pressure on government to manage their costs in any way."

The idea of monetary financing - where the central bank buys debt directly from the government - has been touted by Willem Buiter, a former Bank of England policy maker and Citigroup Inc. chief economist, as a potential solution for developed economies pouring money into the Covid-19 fight. Doing this, though, said Naidoo, removes the central bank's role in ensuring the government remains disciplined in its spending and could mean the "entire system crumbles."

Finance Minister Tito Mboweni, who has forecast the budget deficit could swell to more than 10% of gross domestic product, said in a tweet on Tuesday that he stands by the central bank's independence.

The comments come after the central bank in March started buying government bonds in the secondary market as the pandemic and plunging oil prices sent stocks, bonds and other asset prices into turmoil. The Reserve Bank is insisting that the aim of that intervention was to reduce dysfunctionality in the market caused by concerns over Covid-19 rather than an attempt at quantitative easing.

"There is a limit to central bank purchases, especially if you are an emerging market," Governor Lesetja Kganyago said in a webinar organised by the South African Chamber of Commerce in London. The likes of the US, UK and Japan can embark on quantitative easing "with the knowledge that their currencies are reserve currencies and because

they are reserve currencies, people will continue to hold them."

The central bank has more than doubled its holdings of government securities to 20.64 billion rand (\$1.2 billion) in April, helping to reduce borrowing costs in the domestic bond market. It has also cut its benchmark repurchase rate and relaxed accounting and capital rules to release additional money for lending as it seeks to shore up an economy expected to contract the most in at least four decades due to shocks caused by the virus and a lockdown to curb its spread.

"Walked away"

Even so, the Reserve Bank's critics accuse it of not doing enough to support the economy and have called for its nationalisation. South Africa's central bank is one of a handful, including Switzerland and Japan, still owned by private individuals. However, shareholders are limited to 10,000 shares each and have no say over monetary policy. The ruling African National Congress wanted to nationalise the central bank in order to address its ownership structure and assert the nation's sovereignty before the virus struck.

While Kganyago has in the past warned that changing the ownership would be protracted and expensive and could be used as a "Trojan horse" to reopen the debate about the institution's role, he said Tuesday the central bank has "walked away" from the debate and will instead focus on executing its mandate. The Reserve Bank's mandate, according to the constitution, is to maintain price stability and it therefore targets inflation in band of 3% to 6%.

Another policy mooted by the ANC, that of forcing pension funds and money managers to invest in government securities, also didn't find resonance with Naidoo, who serves as the chief executive officer of the Prudential Authority, which oversees banks and life insurers. "Prescribed assets doesn't work," Naidoo said, adding that it is his personal view and not that of the central bank. "If you force someone to buy something, then they won't buy it. They will find every way of not buying it."



South African Reserve Bank governor Lesetja Kganyago

WORLD

Pope urges US reconciliation, condemns racism and violence

VATICAN CITY

POPE Francis called for national reconciliation in the United States yesterday, saying that while racism is intolerable, the street violence that has broken out is "self-destructive and self-defeating".

Francis broke his silence on the tensions in the United States, which has seen eight nights of protests over the death of a black man in police custody, by dedicating the entire English-language section of his weekly audience to the turmoil there.

He called the death of George Floyd, a 46-year-old African-American who died after a white policeman pinned his neck under a knee for nearly nine minutes, "tragic".

Francis said he was praying for all who died as a result of the "sin of racism", including Floyd.

"My friends, we cannot tolerate or turn a blind eye to racism and exclusion in any form and yet claim to defend the sacredness of every human life," Francis said.

"At the same time, we have to recognize that the violence of recent nights is self-destructive and self-defeating. Nothing is gained by violence and so much is lost," he said.

Francis asked Americans to implore God for "the national reconciliation and peace for which we yearn".

US President Donald Trump came under fire from Christian leaders who criticised him for using religious



Pope Francis celebrates Mass in St Peter's Basilica at the Vatican on Sunday. (AP)

symbols as a backdrop for staged photo opportunities.

They condemned the administration's forceful displacement of peaceful protesters near the White House on Monday so Trump could be photographed holding a Bible in front of an Episcopal church.

On Tuesday Catholics protested as Trump rode to a photo opportunity at a shrine dedicated to St Pope John Paul II.

Washington's Roman Catholic Archbishop

Wilton Gregory said in a statement that John Paul "certainly would not condone the use of tear gas and other deterrents to silence, scatter or intimidate them for a photo opportunity in front of a place of worship and peace".

Gregory, who is black, criticised the administrators of John Paul shrine, saying he found it "baffling and reprehensible that any Catholic facility would allow itself to be so egregiously misused and manipulated".

Agencies

Washington's unruly withdrawal from WHO draws ire, opposition across globe

BEIJING

WASHINGTON'S decision to sever ties with the World Health Organization (WHO), widely seen as irresponsible and immoral, has once again riled the world for the Trump administration's indulgence



in scapegoating others, particularly China and the WHO, for its own malfeasance to handle the double crisis of the raging COVID-19 pandemic and rampant racial unrest across the country.

U.S. President Donald Trump has repeatedly blamed China for loss of life and economic recession in the United States, as well as accused the WHO of being "China-centric." However, it's widely acknowledged that there is no evidence for the alleged wrongdoing of China and the WHO.

Public health experts and officials worldwide generally stand opposed to the U.S. president, debunking his moves "as a way to deflect attention" for his administration's botched attempts to deal with domestic predicaments and calling for global collaboration.

Epidemiologists have revealed that 90 percent of American lives might have spared amid the pandemic had Washington imposed restrictions including lockdown measures and social distancing two weeks earlier on March 2.

The pain for the U.S. exit from the WHO, a decision "both immoral and likely illegal," will be inflicted on "the COVID-19 battlefields and in every poor community that relies on U.N. agencies for emergency food, child immunizations, essential medicines, and guidance," Laurie Garrett, a Pulitzer Prize winning science writer, said in an article published by Foreign Policy.

Garrett also opined that Washington's move to abandon the WHO "encapsulates the most questionable aspects of the president's leadership style: his penchant to blame others for his mistakes, his refusal to share the global stage politely with other actors, his indulgence of blind self-interest, and his utter contempt of science."

The Infectious Diseases Society of America "stands strongly against President Trump's decision," said Dr. Thomas M. File, its president, on Twitter. "We will not succeed against this pandemic, or any future outbreak, unless we stand together, share information and coordinate actions."

"Calling Trump's decision 'shameful and irresponsible,'" Ami Bera, Democrat of California in the U.S. House of Representatives, tweeted that leaving the WHO "will make the United States and the world less safe."

The U.S. severance of ties with the WHO is "not a good sign," said Shekhar Mande, director general of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research in India.

"WHO is a valuable body which has played an important role. It has been involved in smallpox elimination, polio virus elimination and it has worked very well with countries," he said according to Indian daily newspaper Mint.

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas also voiced his opposition against Washington's move, criticizing it as "the wrong signal at the wrong time," according to German news media Funke. "We cannot tear down the dike in the middle of a storm," Maas was quoted by Reuters as saying.

Xinhua

EU looks to Johnson to stop no-deal Brexit with talks stuck

By Bloomberg

THE European Union will try to convince Boris Johnson to forge a compromise later this month in an attempt to stop the UK from breaking away from the bloc without a trade deal.

With the negotiations deadlocked, and the latest talks set to end Friday without a breakthrough, the EU is pinning its hopes on a dramatic intervention by the British prime minister when he speaks to European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and EU Council President Charles Michel later this month, according to people familiar with the matter in Brussels.

Johnson will be told where the EU could potentially make concessions -- as long as the UK takes a similarly conciliatory approach, the people said. That could allow the two sides to reach an accord in the second half, they said.

But there is no guarantee that the prime minister will agree. On Tuesday, Johnson's spokesman, James Slack, dismissed suggestions of a compromise as "wishful thinking by the EU." The UK government has threatened to walk away from the negotiations in June if they haven't made adequate progress.

If the two sides fail to reach an agreement by year-end, Britain will default to trading with the bloc on terms set by the World Trade Organization, leaving businesses and consumers grappling with the return of tariffs and quotas.

On Wednesday, Bank of England Governor Andrew Bailey told bank chief executive officers to step up their preparations for leaving the EU without a trade deal, Sky News reported, citing unidentified people briefed on the call.

Agencies

Americas tormented by COVID-19, 'still a killer virus'

BEIJING

COVID-19 has not changed either in its transmissibility or severity so far, still plaguing many parts of the world, notably the Americas.

More than 6 million confirmed COVID-19 cases were reported to the World Health Organization (WHO) globally as of Monday afternoon, the latest WHO dashboard on the disease showed.

The United States, the country hardest hit by the virus around the world, topped 1.8 million cases on Monday, with more than 105,000 deaths.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus on Monday said his agency still hopes to continue cooperation with the United States, despite Washington's decision last week to cut ties with it.

"INTENSE ZONES"

The WHO said on Monday that Central and South America have become "intense zones" of COVID-19 transmission, and solidarity and support are needed to help them overcome the pandemic.

"I would certainly characterize that Central and South America, in particular, have very much become the intense zones of

transmission for this virus as we speak, and I don't believe that we have reached the peak in that transmission," Michael Ryan, executive director of WHO Health Emergencies Programme, said in a press conference on Monday in Geneva.

"Five of the 10 countries worldwide reporting the highest new number of cases in the past 24 hours are in the Americas: Brazil, USA, Peru, Chile and Mexico," he said.

Brazil, now the second worst hit country, on Tuesday morning said its confirmed COVID-19 cases have reached 526,447, while the death toll neared 30,000, according to the Center for Systems Science and Engineering at Johns Hopkins University.

Neighbouring Peru on Monday reported 5,563 new COVID-19 cases and 128 more deaths, bringing the total caseload of infections to 170,039 and the death toll to 4,634.

Among the worst-hit areas, capital Lima has registered 103,020 cases, followed by the west-central province of Callao, with 12,495 cases, the Health Ministry said in a statement.

Chile on Monday reported a total of 105,159 cases of novel coronavirus infection, and 1,113 deaths from the disease.



Police arrest a protester refusing to get off the streets during an imposed curfew while marching in a solidarity rally calling for justice over the death of George Floyd, on Tuesday, in New York. (AP)

In the past 24 hours, 5,471 new COVID-19 cases were detected and 59 more patients died, the Health Ministry said.

A lockdown is in effect in capital Santiago and the metropolitan area through June 5, as the region is the epicenter of the country's outbreak.

"Clearly the situation in many South American countries is far from stable. There's been a rapid increase in cases and those systems are coming under increas-

ing pressure and they need our support, they need our solidarity," Ryan said.

"STILL A KILLER VIRUS"

Many health experts have warned of a possible second wave of infections if lockdowns are lifted hastily.

Zhong Nanshan, a renowned Chinese respiratory specialist, told the South China Morning Post last week that authorities should not be complacent as the

What Washington has done is using the pandemic as an excuse to unilaterally fast-track deportations of undocumented immigrants across the border into Mexico, without considering the health implications amid the pandemic.

A so-called "expedited removal," which allows authorities to deport immigrants without going through the normal legal process of holding hearings before an immigration judge, began on March 21. In a few weeks, about 10,000 immigrants, many from Central America, had been deported to Mexico.

The prestigious El Colegio de la Frontera Norte (El Colef), a Mexican research center that

Xinhua

Washington using pandemic to pursue unilateralism, play blame games - experts

MEXICO CITY

THE U.S. administration led by President Donald Trump is taking advantage of the COVID-19 pandemic to pursue unilateral policies while pinning the blame for a mismanaged national health emergency on others, said experts from Latin America.

Trump has repeatedly tried to scapegoat the World Health Organization (WHO), claiming the United States is paying the price for the agency's mishandling of the pandemic, Guatemalan political observer and former diplomat Manuel Villacorta told Xinhua.

At a time when the international community should be more united than ever, Trump is

pulling the United States out of the WHO citing the global body's alleged mishandling of the novel coronavirus outbreak, said Villacorta, describing the move as a grave error.

In fact, the U.S. handling of the health emergency has been "devastating," he said, noting upwards of 100,000 Americans have died from COVID-19, more than any other country, and 40 million Americans have lost their jobs and numerous businesses have gone under.

"That's why President Trump is looking to blame someone else. First he did it with China and now he's doing it with the WHO -- an unprecedented political mistake," said Villacorta, who served as

Guatemala's ambassador to Israel. Other Latin American observers agree that the U.S. government fails to take action after the WHO declared COVID-19 a global emergency on Jan. 30.

Not only did Washington drop the ball on taking timely preventive measures, but its inaction shows that the United States is not leading a global initiative of this kind, said Argentine political columnist Andres Oppenheimer.

"Instead of launching a serious campaign to promote social distancing, and ordering tests and ventilators, Trump constantly minimized the pandemic," Oppenheimer wrote in a May 4 article.

China gathers public wisdom in compiling civil code

TO compile the civil code is a major legislative task set by the Fourth Plenary Session of the 18th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

According to schedule, general rules of the civil code, which is dubbed as an "encyclopedia of social life," will be made first, followed by detailed provisions.

Huang Wei, an official with the Legislative Affairs Commission of China's National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee, told the People's Daily that legislative departments, conducting

thorough and extensive research, have heard advice via multiple channels and constantly improved the draft version of the civil code since the compilation started in 2015.

To gather wisdom from the mass is a conspicuous characteristic of the compilation, Huang noted.

She took the provisions on marriage and family as an example. Regarding the marriageable age, an issue that draws wide social attention, legislative departments have not only studied the opinions from different parties, but also conducted special surveys to solicit public

opinions on desired marriageable age under the help from the National Bureau of Statistics, to further improve the rationality and accuracy of the legislative resolution.

Relevant drafts have all been published on the website of the NPC to solicit public opinions after being deliberated by the NPC Standing Committee.

According to preliminary statistics, the Legislative Affairs Commission of the NPC Standing Committee has published seven times the drafts since August 2018, receiving 951,607 pieces of advice from 410,349 people.

The advice and relevant problems have been studied by legislative departments, and highlighted during the revision process.

Legislation shall be fact-based and shall conform to social reality. According to Huang, legislative departments have gone to different regions multiple times for investigation, hearing advices from parties concerned on the drafts.

During the drafting of the general rules and compilation of detailed provisions, these departments also went to various places for investigation and seminars.

They visited residential communities, neighborhood committees, enterprises and universities to solicit opinions. Besides, they also established a coordinating group consisting staff from the Supreme People's Court, the Supreme People's Procuratorate, the Ministry of Justice, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and the China Law Society, convening conferences on a regular basis.

How to improve the relevant regulations on high-rise littering is a hotspot issue during the compilation of the provisions on torts, Huang introduced, saying

high-rise littering is a frequent problem that seriously endangers people's lives and property.

Legislative departments, based on the existing terms in the tort liability law, have thoroughly studied relevant legislation of foreign countries, held seminars for parties concerned, scholars, property management companies and residents, and have gone to places concerned for special investigation, Huang introduced. They finally improved relevant provisions and won high recognition.

People's Daily

The coming suffocation of the American dream

BEIJING

"I can't breathe," black man George Floyd struggled to repeat as Derek Chauvin, a white police officer, knelt on his neck last week in the U.S. city of Minneapolis. Eight minutes and 46 seconds later, Floyd (pictured) died. A day later, protests against racism and police brutality erupted, spreading rapidly across the United States in six days.

Floyd's desperate dying plea echoed the last words of Eric Garner, another African American man who died in police custody in 2014 in New York. Garner's death also ignited high-profile protests nationwide. U.S. TV network NBC news exclaimed on Monday that "from Eric Garner to George Floyd: protests reveal how little has changed in 6 years."

Racism has been a chronic problem in the United States, with a history almost as old as the country itself. Floyd's death serves as a new, chilling reminder that racial discrimination seems to be showing no signs of improvement among the American population.

In a report entitled Race in America

2019, released in April by the Pew Center, 58 percent of Americans surveyed in 2019 say race relations in the United States are bad, and of those, few see them improving. Some 56 percent think the current administration has made race relations worse.

The ravaging coronavirus pandemic, meanwhile, has served to highlight the long tradition of racial inequality in the United States, after recent data compiled by the non-partisan APM Research Lab revealed that African Americans are suffering a disproportionate share of the negative health and economic impacts of COVID-19.

With a death toll of more than 20,000, African Americans are dying at a rate of 50.3 per 100,000 people, compared with 20.7 for whites, the data showed.

What's more, Washington's promise of equality and justice for all in the country has remained hollow at best. For many black and other minority groups, the American dream of equal opportunity and upward social mobility irrespective of race is slipping away.



Take the job markets for example. Even before the pandemic hit the United States, the unemployment rate among African Americans was almost twice the national rate.

As of now, the coronavirus outbreak has been distributing economic pain even more unevenly. With the national unemployment rate rising to 14.7 percent in April, black and Hispanic unemployment rates have jumped to 16.7 percent and 18.9 percent respectively, the U.S. Bureau of La-

bor Statistics reported early May.

However, those problems themselves are not the most terrible part of a deeply divided America – Washington's continued failure to come up with any serious answers is. And the current White House administration has made matters worse.

Amid the ongoing anti-racism protests in the country, decision-makers in Washington, instead of trying to soothe the pain and anger of the public, have been fanning the flames, calling protesters "THUGS," and threatening them with "the most vicious dogs, and most ominous weapons."

Playing the race card has been the trademark of this administration. It remains fresh in the mind that this administration rolled out an executive order that banned foreign nationals from seven predominantly Muslim countries from visiting the country and suspended the entry of all Syrian refugees indefinitely only one week after assuming power.

And in the middle of the rampaging COVID-19 pandemic, this administration has been busy deporting Latin American migrants back to southern-neighboring

countries, showing little care that such mass deportation could make the pandemic situation in the region worse.

And because of Washington's reckless disinformation campaign to scapegoat China for its own fiasco in handling the outbreak, prejudice and hate crimes targeting Chinese and other groups of Asian origin have also shot up.

An Ipsos poll in April found that over 30 percent of Americans have witnessed COVID-19 bias against Asians. The STOP AAPI HATE reporting center, tasked to track coronavirus discrimination-related cases, has received 1,710 incident reports from Asian Americans across the country since mid-March.

It seems the incumbent U.S. administration has been leading the country in an increasingly polarized American political environment by dividing the American public, and appealing to the worst of humanity. That divide-to-win tactic will only form and reinforce a vicious cycle where division triggers more hostility, and further hostility begets greater racial alienation. **Xinhua**



Lesotho former first lady arrested in murder case

MASERU

LESOTHO'S former first lady, Maesaiah Thabane, was arrested yesterday over the murder of the previous wife of her husband and former prime minister, Thomas Thabane, police said.

Lesotho's Appeal Court revoked her bail last week on suspicion that procedure was not followed correctly when her bail was granted.

Thabane (pictured) was transferred to court, where she wore a fur coat and black protective anti-coronavirus mask, a Reuters witness said.

The date for a new bail application was set as June 6.

Maesaiah Thabane has been charged with ordering the killing of Lipolelo Thabane, her love rival, who was shot dead near her home in Lesotho's capital, Maseru, in June, 2017. Maesaiah Thabane was released on bail in February.

Lipolelo was estranged from Thomas Thabane at the time of the murder.

The case had been causing growing political instability in the independent mountain kingdom of 2 million people encircled by South Africa before Thomas Thabane resigned as prime minister last month.

He is also a suspect in the murder. He denies any involvement and has yet to be formally charged.

Agencies

World's longest growth streak ends as Australia enters recession

SYDNEY

AUSTRALIA'S economy has fallen into recession, the country's treasurer said yesterday, after data showed gross domestic product fell last quarter as entire business sectors were closed to fight the coronavirus.

The A\$2 trillion (US\$1.39 trillion) economy contracted 0.3% in the three months ended March, the Australian Bureau of Statistics said, the first

decline in nine years.

That took annual growth to 1.4%, the slowest since the 2009 global financial crisis, as the economy was hit by the worst bushfire season in living memory, a prolonged drought and a pandemic that shut down businesses and left many without jobs.

When asked if the country was already in recession, technically defined as two straight quarters of GDP contraction, Treasurer Josh Frydenberg

answered in the affirmative.

"Based on what we know from Treasury, we're going to see a contraction in the June quarter, which is going to be a lot more substantial than what we have seen in the March quarter," he told reporters in Canberra.

That would mark Australia's first recession since the early 1990s and end one of the world's longest growth streaks.

Household consumption

was the biggest drag on growth last quarter with massive falls in spending on clothing, cars, transport, recreation, hotels, cafes and restaurants.

Net exports and government spending supported the economy in the quarter.

HUMAN TOLL

The economic fallout deepened in Australia as the number of local coronavirus cases surged from less than 100 in early March to more than

7,000 now, forcing the government to shut borders and restrict large gatherings.

Those curbs hit retailers and upended Australia's labour market with 600,000 people losing work and the unemployment rate spiking to 6.2% in April. The central bank expects unemployment to hit 10% by June and stay elevated for much of 2021.

Gurpreet Singh lost his job at a cafe in Sydney's west after it cut casual worker shifts. His

home rental payments have now fallen five weeks into arrears.

To survive, he earns money delivering for UberEats on his pushbike and has turned to free food drives.

"This recession will be particularly bad for us young people," Singh, 29, said.

"This money from UberEats is not bad but I am worried about my future. It's going to be hard to find (permanent) work." **Agencies**

Russia Federation Council of the federal assembly appealed to nations as the world marks 75 anniversary victory over Nazi

MOSCOW

THE Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation has urged the parliaments of foreign States and the peoples of the world to once again appreciate the invaluable achievement of the human civilization, which is the Victory of the Anti-Hitler Coalition and all its allies in World War II against their common enemy, Nazis, and their accomplices.

Noting the particular importance of the Anti-Hitler Coalition as a unique historical example of States with different political systems uniting their efforts to counter the threat to the entire humankind, the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation welcomes the Joint Statement by President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin and President of the United States of America Donald Trump commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Meeting on the Elbe of April 25, 2020, that, among other things, says:

"The 'Spirit of the Elbe' is an example of how our countries can put aside differences, build trust, and cooperate in pursuit of a greater cause."

The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation further supports the annual adoption since 2005 of the resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations (UN) titled "Combating glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other practices that contribute to fuel-

ling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance", as well as the proposal to adopt a resolution of the UN General Assembly commemorating the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II that has already been co-sponsored by around 40 UN Member States.

The Russian government went on to say that war was one of the bloodiest in the history of humankind. It claimed countless civilian victims. Millions of ordinary people, including women, children and the elderly, were slaughtered just for belonging to a certain ethnic group.

The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation recalls that the Verdict of the International Military Tribunal established for the prosecution and punishment of the major war criminals of the European Axis (Nuremberg Tribunal) recognized the deeds of the major Nazi criminals who bear full responsibility for initiating and waging World War II as criminal offenses. The Tribunal's decision became crucial, as it essentially provided a final assessment of both the causes and outcomes of the war and clearly identified who was in the right and who was in the wrong, who was guilty and who was innocent, who was a criminal and who was a victim.

World War II is an important and difficult period in modern history. The examination of its events is far from complete. Historians from various countries play a major

role in this process. The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation appreciates their work for the sake of historical truth and understands the related discussions but states with full responsibility that the assessment of the offences of the Nazi leaders made by the Nuremberg Tribunal and confirmed by the UN General Assembly cannot be forgotten.

The States where the battles of World War II took place bear a special responsibility for preserving the monuments to the victorious heroes. In this regard, the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation urges the parliaments of foreign States and the peoples of the world to support the initiative to recognize the Victory over Nazism in World War II as part of the world heritage of humanity and declare the monuments to the fighters against Nazism in all countries world monuments of humankind. This initiative has already received the support of many inter-parliamentary organizations.

Any attempt to place equal responsibility for initiating and waging the war on both the Nazi criminals and the Anti-Hitler Coalition countries, as well as to justify Nazi criminals and their accomplices is not just a falsification of history. Such attempts are illegitimate, immoral in nature and blasphemous to the memory of those who liberated the world from the evident and legally confirmed evil.

The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian

Federation strongly condemns the desire of certain political forces of the world to shield those who are actually responsible for the war, diminish the role of the Soviet Union in the victory against the Nazis and rehabilitate those who fought against the liberators alongside Hitler's executioners, served the occupation regime in the European countries and participated in the atrocious Holocaust, as well as other crimes against humanity.

Seventy-five years is not the longest period of time in human history, however, the lessons learned in that part of history that still lives in the memory of those who made it with their heroic deeds cannot be forgotten, otherwise, we will be forced to relive the most horrific of its pages. No one has the right to betray the memory of our ancestors to serve their petty and fleeting political interests, however tantalizing such a prospect might seem.

The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation urges the parliaments of foreign States and the peoples of the world to ensure that the historical truth is not distorted, fight against the glorification of former Waffen-SS members, members of Nazi and fascist movements, Banders and other nationalists like them and their current successors and continuers, and prosecute those who insult the memory of the heroic liberators, deny Holocaust and the extermination by the Nazis of the so-called non-Aryan peoples and glorifies Nazi executioners. **Agencies**

Germany moves to reactivate European travel as virus ebbs

BERLIN

GERMANY will lift a travel ban for European Union member states plus Britain, Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein and Switzerland from June 15 as long as there are no entry bans or large-scale lockdowns in those countries, the foreign minister said.

Speaking to reporters on Wednesday, Heiko Maas said all countries concerned met those criteria except Norway due to an entry ban and Spain, where he said parliament was deciding whether to extend an entry ban.

Maas (pictured) said the travel warning would be replaced with guidelines, adding that Germans would be urged not to travel to Britain when not essential while a 14-day quarantine in place.

There were 285 new cases in the 24 hours through Wednesday morning, bringing the tally to 183,879, according to data from Johns Hopkins University. That compares with 184 the previous day. Fatalities increased by 8 to 8,563.

The reproduction factor of the virus, known as R-naught, fell to 0.89 on Tuesday from 1.20 the day before, according to the latest estimate from the Robert Koch Institute (RKI).

According to data from RKI on Wednesday, the number of confirmed cases rose by 342 to 182,370. The reported death



toll rose by 29 to 8,551, the tally showed.

Parties in German Chancellor Angela Merkel's coalition wrestled on Tuesday over final details of a huge stimulus package to aid recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, including whether cash incentives to buy new cars should exclude combustion engines.

Negotiations were to resume on Wednesday, a SPD party spokeswoman said. Initially, a final deal was expected on Tuesday.

The fiscal stimulus fund will include measures worth up to 100 billion euros, government and coalition sources have said.

UN chief asks for protection of people on the move

United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Antonio Guterres yesterday asked for protection of people on the move in the face of COVID-19.

In a video message for the launch of a policy brief on the impact of COVID-19 on people on

the move, Guterres asked countries to develop a new mindset on human mobility. "The COVID-19 crisis is an opportunity to re-imagine human mobility. Four core understandings must guide the way," he said.

Firstly, exclusion is costly and inclusion pays. Secondly, human dignity must be upheld in face of the pandemic. Thirdly, no one is safe until everyone is safe. Lastly, people on the move are part of the solution, Guterres said.

People on the move, such as refugees and internally displaced persons who are forced to flee their homes from violence or disaster, or migrants, face three crises rolled into one: a health crisis, a socio-economic crisis, and a protection crisis, said Guterres.

One third of the world's internally displaced population live in the 10 countries most at risk for COVID-19, Guterres said.

The UN chief expressed gratitude to countries, especially developing countries, that have opened their borders and hearts to refugees and migrants, despite their own social, economic and health challenges.

Global tally

Global COVID-19 deaths surpassed 380,000 on Wednesday, according to the Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) at Johns Hopkins University. **Agencies**

South China's Hainan dispatches sci-tech experts to countryside to lift agricultural production

WANG Fuyuan, a farmer from Maohui village, Wuzhishan of south China's Hainan province, recently had a big harvest of his chilis. The red plants, grown in a vast demonstration field, present a picturesque image together with surrounding lush mountains, signaling the joy of a bumper year.

"It's the third batch we have picked, and we were busier days ago," Wang said. "With a unit price of over 2 yuan (\$0.28) per kilogram, I can earn over 1,000 yuan after a day's picking," the farmer introduced.

However, this was barely imaginable a year before.

"We planted tens of mu (1mu equals to about 667 square kilometers) of chilis last year, but the production was low because

of the insect pests," noted Wang Zhihai, Party chief of Maohui village. "We failed due to the lack of planting techniques," he added.

"But now things get better, because we are assured by Zhao Mingyuan," the Party chief of the village told People's Daily, referring to the sci-tech expert sent to the village by Hainan Academy of Agricultural Sciences.

Zhao not only brought planting techniques, but also established a demonstration program of chili planting which provides the growers with seeds and fertilizers. Now, villagers in Maohui are rushing to plant chilis.

Zhao is one of the many sci-tech experts who help farmers solve agricultural problems with their expertise. Taking techniques, information, manage-



Villager Wang Fuyuan from Maohui village, Wuzhishan of south China's Hainan province picks chilis at a demonstration field. Photo by Wang Shuo, People's Daily Online

ment and capital to the countryside, they assist farmers to increase income and restructure industries under the guidance of relevant policies.

Maodao is a village known for its passionfruit planting. Dubbed as "golden passionfruit", the tasty fruits grown in the village are normally sold at 30 yuan per kilogram. Flocks of people have visited the village in recent years to learn experiences.

Lv Jiawen, a sci-tech expert dispatched to Maodao village unveiled the secrets to the village's success.

According to him, the passion fruits used to be grown on flat trellises, which only enabled the fruits to receive sunlight on only one side; but now a "curtain type" method is adopted, by

which the plants can fruit as the vines climb up. This method expanded the sunshine coverage, thus helping the plants yield more fruits. "The production increased threefold to fivefold," Lv noted.

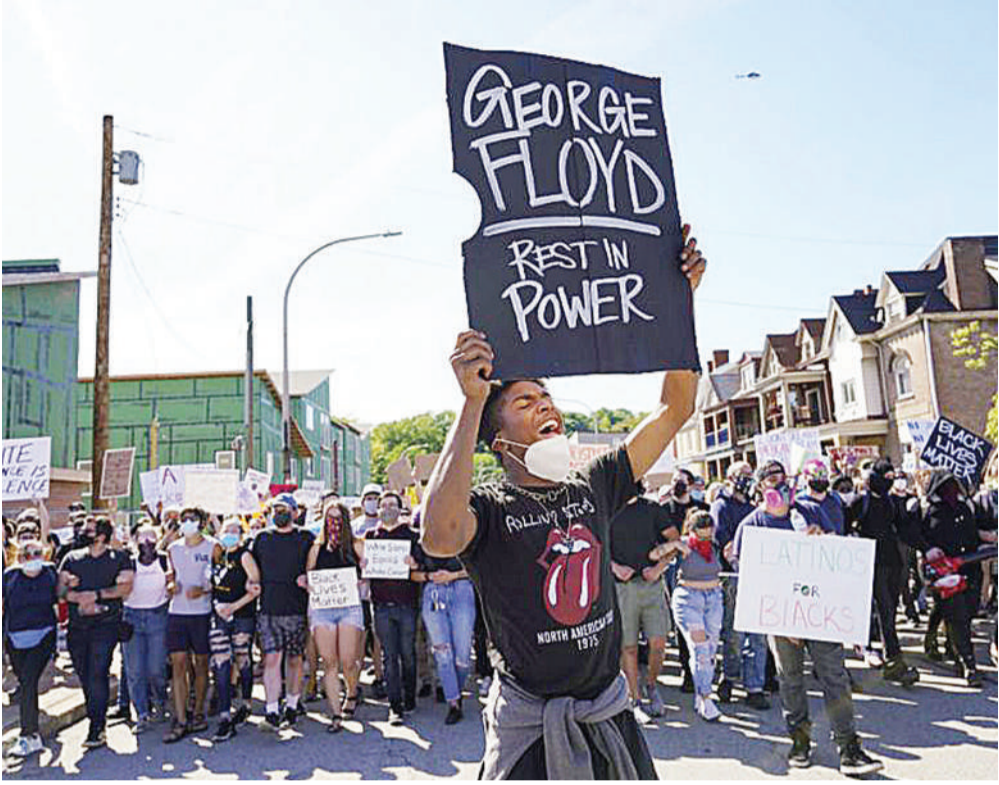
The technical revolution came from institutional innovation. Forceful measures have been rolled out in Wuzhishan to fully implement the sci-tech expert mechanism.

The experts selected or sent can enjoy an annual subsidy of 20,000 yuan, and the programs approved can receive a funding of no more than 200,000 yuan. "This boosted our confidence in continuing technical research," Lv told People's Daily.

Statistics showed that a total of 78 sci-tech experts have

been dispatched in Wuzhishan, including university professors and rural entrepreneurs, whose footsteps have covered all administrative villages in the city. Sixty relevant programs have been approved in 3 batches, which are expected to train 4,380 farmers and benefit 411 rural households, including 180 impoverished ones. The output of these programs will reach 9 million yuan.

The sci-tech experts are also encouraged to establish rural scientific cooperatives, technical societies and cooperatives through technical or capital investment, so as to build economic complexes with the farmers and make the sci-tech expert mechanism more lasting. **People's Daily**



In this Monday, June 1, 2020 photo, Dinico Perry-Ellis leads a chant on Station Street in Pittsburgh, protesting the death of George Floyd, who died after being restrained by Minneapolis police officers on May 25. (AP)

'We won't tolerate': Sports world unites behind Floyd

BY STEVE DOUGLAS

PLAYERS who scored in the German and Hungarian soccer leagues removed their jerseys to display undershirts with the words: "Justice for George Floyd."

Others from English soccer clubs Liverpool, Chelsea and Newcastle dropped to one knee during practice in a clear gesture of support.

In New Zealand, a Nigerian-born UFC fighter addressed a crowd of 4,000, imploring those listening to "speak up" and take peaceful action to register their discontent.

Dismayed by the death of Floyd and inspired by the actions of Colin Kaepernick, athletes from around the world have come together during one of the most politically charged periods in modern history.

"I can't tolerate. I won't tolerate. WE WON'T TOLERATE," Manchester United midfielder Paul Pogba, one of the world's most famous soccer players and a World Cup champion with France, wrote on his Instagram page to his 41 million followers alongside a picture of him looking to the sky with a clenched right fist.

It was powerful image to accompany the picture of 29 Liverpool players kneeling around the center circle at Anfield Stadium at the end of a practice session on Monday. Or the entire Chelsea squad kneeling down and forming the letter "H" – for humans – during training on Tuesday.

Their actions mimicked the one made by Kaepernick during the national anthem in 2016 in silent protest of police brutality and racism while then playing for the San Francisco 49ers.

Kaepernick's gesture kicked off a period of pregame activism in the NFL and other sports but it didn't gain a strong hold worldwide.

Not like the killing of Floyd, a black man and former community college basketball player who died after a white police officer pressed his knee into Floyd's neck for several minutes even after he stopped moving and stopped pleading for air.

"It hit a nerve in this very particular time, which I think made people all around the world reflect on the environment we live, not only in the U.S. but in all kinds of places where there is a perpetuation of discrimination and inequality," Jonas Baer-Hoffmann, secretary general of global soccer players union FIFPro, told The Associated Press.

"We're seeing a generation of players right now moving into the steps of athletes in the past who were socially quite engaged and willing to put themselves behind causes they care about. I think it's incredibly empowering to see these players step forward and share in that fight for a better society."

Things have escalated so much that FIFA, the governing body of world soccer, took the rare step of urging competition organizers to consider not sanctioning players who support justice for Floyd during matches. The laws of the game prohibit "any political, religious or personal slogans, statements or images."

"The application of the laws of the game ... should use common sense and have in consideration the context surrounding the events," FIFA said, acknowledging "the depth of sentiment" regarding Floyd's death.

English soccer leaders have already said players will be able to show solidarity without the prospect of facing sanctions when games resume this month after a three-month break because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Emboldened soccer players appear to be more confident in speaking out about racism than ever before, including Jadon Sancho, who revealed a handwritten "Justice for George Floyd" message on his undershirt after scoring a goal for Borussia Dortmund on Sunday, openly and knowingly flouting the rules.

Marcus Rashford, a black striker for Manchester United, called for justice for Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor – two other black people killed in shooting incidents in America this year – on Twitter in the wake of Floyd's death.

Soccer players may also take what has happened to Floyd more personally because of how often black players have been abused inside stadiums around Europe in recent years. The sanctions for racism – if they are handed out at all – can often be derisive.

As their own form of protest, some black players have taken to walking off the field after being racially abused by fans because many have little faith in authorities and governing bodies to effect change.

That's the position many protesters in the United States are finding themselves in.

Baer-Hoffmann said the reaction of sports stars was a reflection of uncertain times around the world since the outbreak of the coronavirus.

"Maybe it's because we are living in a time where the interconnectedness of people through the pandemic has become more conscious to us all," he said.

"When you look at the images (of the incident involving Floyd), it is manifestly disturbing. It scares you and forces you to think ... I think it stands for something much greater. For footballers in this context, they are people ... They are speaking out and, of course, have a bigger platform than most."

When Kaepernick took a knee four years ago, United States star Megan Rapinoe was one of the few high-profile soccer players to champion his cause publicly. But the clear parallel between Kaepernick's action and the knee of the police officer on Floyd's neck has roused more athletes to speak out.

"In no way are we asking black lives to matter more than white lives," DeAndre Yedlin, a U.S. soccer international who plays with Newcastle in England, wrote on Twitter.

"All we're asking is we are seen as equal, as more than 3/5 of a man, as humans. My heart goes out in solidarity to George Floyd, his family, and all of the countless number of victims that have had their lives taken at the hands of meaningless police brutality."

AP

Yanga, La Liga deal bold step forward in tough times

BY CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL MWEBE

AFTER months of negotiations, Tanzania's Young Africans SC (Yanga) and Spain's La Liga signed a strategic consultancy agreement on Sunday.

The historic agreement aims at helping the record Mainland Premier League champions in their transformation and development process.

The agreement involves two other equally important players, Spanish side, Sevilla, and Yanga main sponsors, GSM Group.

Sevilla are multiple UEFA Europa League winners and will play the role of contributing a strategic vision to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of Yanga resources.

"La Liga will be tasked with providing a global vision of the football industry from its position of being regarded as one of the best leagues in the world, while Sevilla will offer its advice as an internationally-renowned club with a replicable business model," reads a part of the press release.

Needless to say, this is a right step forward for Yanga as they look to push their transformation agenda after years of empty endless talk.

Tanzanian football has perennial problems which are very familiar to all and despite being identified, real solutions have never been achieved.

The transformation agenda has been a thorn issue at the Jangwani Street club for the past ten years. So divisive is the issue that at one time it led to the birth of two factions, the conservative 'Yanga Asili' and the liberal 'Yanga Kampuni'.

Bringing on board La Liga and Sevilla will, on the one hand, help Yanga acquire impartial advice from a leading football league and club.



A section of Yanga players feature in the squad's training at Tanganyika Law School's venue in Dar es Salaam recently to prepare for the remainder of the Vodacom Premier League. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Perhaps with that hindsight, one would understand why the club albeit through main sponsors GSM Group are willing to pay a princely figure of around 2.7bn/- as consultation fee to La Liga and Sevilla if various media reports about the financial details of the deal are to be believed.

If everything goes well, from an opportunity cost angle that will be considered a bargain. If Sevilla manage to at least partially replicate their operating model, then Yanga will enjoy sporting excellence which naturally comes with financial rewards for a club that draws support from nearly half of Tanzania's 55-plus million population.

On the other hand, if naysayers to the deal are proven right it could be an embarrassing project that will join the long list of much hyped projects in Tanzanian football that never took off.

From a neutral point of view, it is good to see a local club make

a bold transformation attempt. Yes, there will be challenges.

La Liga and Sevilla operate in a totally different financial environment. However, learning from the outside world is an opportunity that should be embraced.

The four parties understand the challenges ahead. Various solutions will have to be modified and fine tuned to fit in the local setting, that is Tanzanian football.

Fans have been promised much and many might be tempted to see instant results in what is actually a transformative process that needs at least three years to complete.

This calls for transparency given the amount of money being reportedly spent in the process.

Whether Yanga succeed or not, the La Liga deal is a bold and ambitious step taken in these tough times of Coronavirus pandemic when various

African clubs and football federations see it as a perfect time to employ the everlasting 'begging bowl strategy' and are more than happy with handouts from FIFA and CAF.

In Tanzanian football context, this deal opens another competing frontier for the three top clubs. The Simba SC fans and leaders might ridicule the deal but points have been noted and they know their rivals have taken a vital step in rebuilding the club after three seasons without silverware.

When it comes to Simba and Yanga, it is always about bragging rights.

Simba, who kickstarted their transformation process three years ago under the finance of billionaire Mohamed Dewji, now know they have to push various projects to completion before Yanga completely steal their thunder with the backing of business tycoon, Gharib Said Mohamed (GSM).

Social media, music world go dark for Black Out Tuesday

NEW YORK

THOUGH Black Out Tuesday was originally organized by the music community, the social media world also went dark in support of the Black Lives Matter movement, joining voices around the world outraged by the killings of black people in the U.S.

Instagram and Twitter accounts, from top record label to everyday people, were full of black squares posted in response to the deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor.

Most of the captions were blank, though some posted #TheShowMustBePaused, black heart emojis and encouraged people to vote Tuesday with seven states and the District of Columbia are hosting the largest slate of presidential primary elections in almost three months.

Rihanna, Alicia Keys, Radiohead, Coldplay, Kelly Rowland, Beastie Boys and were among the celebrities to join Black Out Tuesday on social media.

"I won't be posting on social media and I ask you all to do the same," Britney Spears tweeted. "We should use the time away from our devices to focus on what we can do to make the world a better place ... for ALL of us!!!!"

Spotify blacked out the artwork for several of its popular playlists, including Rap Caviar and Today's Top Hits,



In this Nov. 29, 2018 file photo, the Instagram app logo is displayed on a mobile screen in Los Angeles. Though Black Out Tuesday was originally organized by the music community, the social media world went dark on Tuesday in support of the Black Lives Matter movement and the many killings of black people around the world that has caused outrage and protests. Instagram accounts, from top record label to everyday people, was full of black squares posted in response to the deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor. (AP Photo)

simply writing "Black lives matter." as its description. The streaming service also put its Black Lives Matter playlist on its front page, featuring songs like James Brown's "Say It Loud – I'm Black and I'm Proud," N.W.A.'s "(Expletive) the Police," Sam Cooke's "A Change Is Gonna Come" and Childish Gambino's "This Is America."

The opening pages of Apple Music and iTunes focused on supporting Black Lives Matter, and SiriusXM said it will be silencing its music channels for three minutes at 3 p.m. EDT in tribute to "all of the countless victims of racism."

The company said it "will continue to amplify Black voices by being a space where Black artists showcase their music and talents, and by carrying

the message that racism will not be tolerated."

Some on social media questioned if posting black squares would divert attention away from posts about the Black Lives Matter movement.

"this is the 4th completely different flyer I've seen for it," Grammy-nominated singer Kehlani tweeted about Black Out Tuesday. "this is the only one without the saying go completely silent for a day in solidarity. the messages are mixed across the board and I really hope it doesn't have a negative effect."

When musician Dillon Francis posted that the hashtag for Black Lives Matter was blank on Instagram because users were posting black squares, rapper Lil Nas X responded with: "this is

not helping us. bro who the (expletive) thought of this?? ppl need to see what's going on."

Emma Watson posted three white squares followed by three black squares with captions reading #blackouttuesday and #amplifyblackvoices on her Instagram account to show her support Tuesday. But she was heavily criticized, and began to trend on Twitter, for adding white borders around her black squares to match the aesthetic of her Instagram page. Others called the actress out for speaking out too late about Black Lives Matter and for not including links to guide users on where they can learn more information about the cause or donate to it.

Several music releases and events were postponed as a result of Black Out Tuesday. Interscope Geffen A&M Records said it would not release music this week and pushed back releases from MGK, Glack, Jessie Ware, Smokepurp and others. Chloe x Halle said its sophomore album will come out June 12 instead of Friday, while the group Glass Animals postponed the Tuesday release of its new single "Heat Waves." Instead of being released Wednesday, singer Ashnikko will drop her song "Cry" and its video on June 17.

AP

What next for Premier League's 'Project Restart'

LONDON

THE Premier League's return is just two weeks away but there are plenty of details for the 20 clubs in the English top-flight to work out before competitive action resumes on June 17.

AFP Sport looks at what is on the agenda at the latest in a series of meetings between the clubs on Thursday.

What happens if season is stopped again?

There have been squabbles over how final league standings should be decided if the season cannot be completed but clubs need a contingency arrangement if a spike in coronavirus cases wrecks their plans.

Most of the teams in the bottom half of the table are reportedly pushing for relegation to be scrapped if the season is not completed on the field.

That still seems highly unlikely, with the English Football Association and English Football League both insisting on promotion and relegation throughout the pyramid.

A points-per-game formula is the most likely option and is part of the reason why the restart will begin with two matches on June 17, to ensure every side has played the same number of games.

Fixture list
Once the two outstanding games -- Manchester City v Arsenal and Aston Villa v Sheffield United -- have been played, all 20 sides will have nine games remaining.

No dates for other matches have yet been released, but fixtures are expected to continue from where they left off in March and be crammed into just five weeks ahead of the FA Cup final on August 1.

Substitutes and squad sizes
A long lay-off, little time together in contact training and a gruelling schedule mean players' bodies will be pushed to the limits.

In an attempt to minimise injuries and fatigue, world governing

body FIFA has allowed leagues to temporarily change their rules to allow five substitutes.

Chelsea have also reportedly proposed increasing the number of substitutes available from seven to nine.

However, critics have suggested those changes will simply play into the hands of the bigger clubs with deeper squads.

Neutral venues
Premier League clubs appear to have won their battle to have games played in their own grounds rather than on neutral sites.

However, the UK's national lead for football policing confirmed last week that a "small number" of fixtures will take place at neutral venues.

That is likely to include any match that could see Liverpool crowned champions for the first time in 30 years, to try and avoid crowds gathering at Anfield.

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp is unconcerned by playing at neutral venues, with results from four rounds of Germany's Bundesliga showing no advantage for home sides in a closed-doors environment.

"We will not have the help from the crowd but no team will have that, so where is the advantage?" Klopp told the BBC.

"Whoever we play it is the same situation, which is why I'm not too worried about it."

VAR
The use of VAR could also be dispensed with for the rest of the season should the clubs wish to further cut the number of people required for games to go ahead.

However, the Premier League's CEO Richard Masters is keen for it to remain.

"VAR has its own social-distancing issues, but we think there is a way of completing the season with VAR," Masters told Sky Sports.

AFP

Rohr vows to make Nigeria champions of Africa again

ABUJA

COACH Gernot Rohr said he made sacrifices in his new contract with Nigeria in order to guide the country to a fourth Africa Cup of Nations triumph.

Rohr, 66, has extended his stay in Nigeria till 2022 after he agreed to a pay cut in the local currency and reside in the country.

Officials said the German-born coach will earn \$49,000 a month instead of the \$55,000 stipulated in his previous contract and he will live in Nigeria for at least 10 months a year.

"This is a special job because this is my team, I built it with my staff," the former Niger and Gabon coach said Monday on local television.

"It's a very young team, but the mission is not finished yet, so we want to continue."

"We all have to make sacrifices and I will be the first."

Rohr said the target is to be champions of Africa again. The Super Eagles have won the Africa Cup of Nations three times -- in 1980, 1994 and 2013.

"Let's qualify for (the Nations Cup) and then we want to win it," he said.

"We have a good team, we're now number three in Africa. When I arrived (in 2016), we were number 13."

"We have worked together for

the past four years and I hope we can progress."

Rohr led Nigeria to third place at last year's Africa Cup in Egypt, where they lost 2-1 to eventual champions Algeria in the semi-finals after conceding a stoppage-time goal.

His team top their qualifying group for the 2021 Nations Cup slated for Cameroon with six points after winning their first two games against second-placed Benin and Lesotho, who are third.

Sierra Leone are the other team in the group and are bottom on a point.

The top two teams in the group will advance to the final tournament.

In his four years in charge of the Super Eagles, Rohr has faced criticism for overlooking players based in Nigeria for those in Europe.

His employers have ordered him to now pick players from the domestic league, but Rohr has insisted only the best will make his squad.

"I pick the best players and I don't do it alone," he said.

"We have to take the best players no matter where they are coming from."

"We have very good young players, so it's difficult for the local players to break into the team."

AFP

Blatter says Swiss have dropped one of his corruption cases

LAUSANNE

SEPP Blatter said on Tuesday that one Swiss investigation into his handling of a television contract has been dropped, but FIFA said that does not mean its former president is in the clear.

"I was officially informed today that the federal public prosecutor's office has decided ... to close

the investigation," Blatter, who is 84, told AFP on Tuesday.

"This news is already a good thing and above all it comes exactly five years to the day after my decision to vacate my mandate as president of FIFA," added Blatter, who quit on June 2, 2015, just four days after winning a fifth term as FIFA president. AFP

Infantino now says player calls for Floyd justice should be 'applauded'

PARIS

FIFA president Gianni Infantino said on Tuesday that footballers in Germany calling for justice for George Floyd during matches deserve applause rather than sanctions.

The German Football Association (DFB) is investigating Borussia Dortmund's Jadon Sancho and Achraf Hakimi, Schalke's American midfielder Weston McKennie and Borussia Mönchengladbach's French forward Marcus Thuram for their tributes to Floyd at the weekend.

Floyd died last week after a white policeman in Minneapolis knelt on the handcuffed man's neck for several minutes. The incident has sparked days of violent protests across the United States.

"For the avoidance of doubt, in a FIFA competition the recent demonstrations of players in Bundesliga matches would deserve an applause and not a punishment," Infantino said in a FIFA statement.

"We all must say no to racism and any form of discrimination. We all must say no to violence. Any form of violence."

Earlier FIFA called on football leagues to use "common sense" when deciding whether to discipline footballers for displaying political messages.

"FIFA fully understands the depth of sentiment and concerns expressed by many footballers in light of the tragic circumstances of the George Floyd case," world football's governing body said in a statement.

After scoring in Dortmund's win at



Borussia Dortmund's Jadon Sancho shows a 'Justice for George Floyd' t-shirt after scoring against Paderborn (AFP Photo)

Paderborn on Sunday England winger Sancho lifted his shirt to reveal the message "Justice for George Floyd".

His team-mate Hakimi and McKennie expressed similar calls for justice, while Frenchman Thuram, the son of World Cup win-

ner Lilian Thuram, took a

knee after scoring for Glad-

bach in memory of Floyd.

- Racism 'unbearable' -

The International Foot-

ball Association Board

(IFAB), the sport's law-

makers, bans players from

showing "any political, reli-

gious or personal slogans,

by the IFAB is left for the

competitions organisers which should use common sense and have in consideration the context surrounding the events," FIFA said.

The DFB is investigating the players in line with IFAB's laws, although president Fritz Keller said he understood their actions.

"If people are discriminated against because of the colour of their skin, it is unbearable," said Keller.

"If they die as a result of the colour of their skin, then I am deeply disturbed. The victims of racism need all of our solidarity."

Sancho was booked after revealing the message to mark scoring against Paderborn, although the DFB has said the yellow card was actually because he lifted his shirt over his head.

"This is defined under rule number 12 as behaviour that is clearly against the rules and should be seen as independent of any political message," said Lutz Michael Froehlich, head of the elite referees unit of the DFB.

"For referees it is not possible to make a judgement during a match about political, religious or personal slogans, messages or pictures," Froehlich added.

AFP

Brazil's 7-1 loss to Germany still haunts the Selecao

MILAN

SERIE A's hopes of following Germany and Spain back onto the pitch will be decided on Thursday in a meeting with the Italian government which will determine the fate of the season in Italy.

Sports Minister Vincenzo Spadafora will tell representatives from the Italian football federation and Lega Serie A if the health conditions are right to return to action after nearly three months.

The season has been on hold since March 9 when it was halted as coronavirus infections spread rapidly in Italy. The pandemic has killed almost 33,000 people in the country.

Clubs returned to group training on May 19 but competitive action remains suspended until mid-June.

The indications are that Spadafora and the government's Scientific Technical Committee will agree to both implementing a health protocol and to resume the season.

If there is a green light on Thursday, Lega Serie A will meet Friday to examine "the different calendar hypotheses" for the remaining Serie A and Italian Cup matches.

The league wants competition to resume on the weekend of June 13-14, starting with four postponed fixtures -- Atalanta-Sassuolo, Verona-Cagliari, Inter Milan-Sampdoria and Torino-Parma.

They hope the season will resume fully on June 20, with the goal of awarding the league title, defining promotions and relegations, before playing Italian Cup semi-finals, with the final in early August.

The closing stages of the European club competitions could also be played in August. Three Italian clubs are still in the Champions League and two in the Europa League.

- 'Risking safety' -

But not everyone agrees with a return to the pitch and the packed schedule required with teams needing to play three matches a week, in hot summer conditions.

Brescia and Torino, situated in the northern regions of Lombardy and Piedmont respectively, which accounted for nearly 60 percent of Italy's COVID-19 deaths, have consistently opposed to a return.

"To finish this championship is forcing it in my opinion," Brescia captain Daniele Gastaldello said this week.



As Brazil rewatch their infamous 7-1 World Cup semifinal loss to Germany on home soil in 2014, one wonders if there have been any lessons learnt. (Agencies)

"It's risking the safety of the players."

Brescia are sitting last in the league, and have nothing to gain by concluding this nightmare season.

Torino president Urbano Cairo, whose club are 15th, would also gladly abandon the season.

"I bow to the majority choice," said Cairo, voicing his concerns over "the short time between the end of this season and the start of the next one," scheduled for September 1.

AC Milan's Swedish forward Zlatan Ibrahimovic, one of the big stars of the championship, has already suffered a calf injury in training, and could be out for a month.

"I think it's chaos," said Italy coach

Roberto Mancini.

"If I were to speak only as a coach, I would prefer it to stop and start calmly next season."

"There is going to be an endless series of matches and I don't know what state the players will be in."

On Friday, the 'Plan B' will also be analysed at the Lega Serie A meeting, a format with short playoffs to determine the title, European places and relegation, if the season is again suspended, or all the matches not played.

Another issue to be solved is that of players' contracts and whether they can be extended to complete the sea-

son beyond its natural expiration.

The issue of wage cuts also remains unresolved and liability in the event of illness remains complex.

But one team who have been anxious to return to the pitch are Lazio.

The Roman club were just one point behind leaders Juventus when the season was suspended, and without touching distance of the third Scudetto in the club's 120-year history.

"We miss football, I don't speak only for myself or for our team. We hope that the right decision can be made soon to complete this championship," said captain Senad Lulic.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



Yanga confirm interest in re-signing Makambo

SPORT

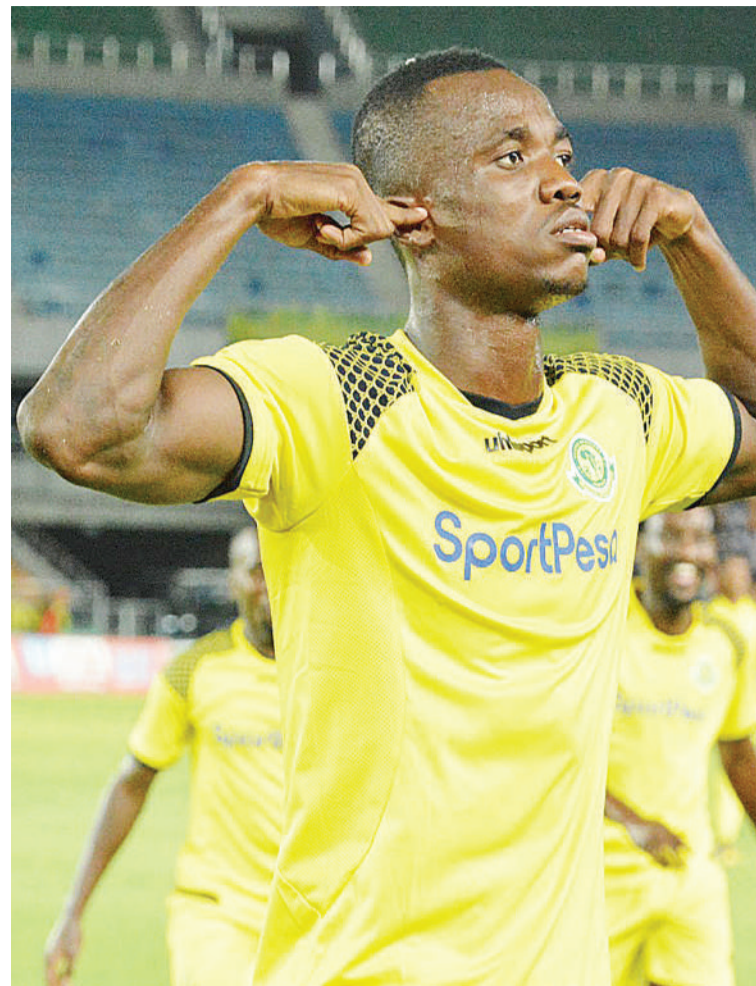
Pep Guardiola and the European Cup: It's complicated

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YOUNG Africans SC (Yanga) interest in bringing Congolese striker Heritier Makambo back to the club has been confirmed by Hersi Said, Chief Investment Officer of GSM Group, the club's main sponsors spearheading the players recruitment process.

The 26-year-old forward



Heritier Makambo

spent one season with Yanga in which he scored 22 goals in 44 appearances across all

competitions. He was sold to Guinea football giants, Horoya AC, at the end of

the 2018/19 campaign as Yanga struggled financially.

His game time at his current club Horoya AC has been hit by both injuries and the form of fellow striker, the evergreen Burkinabe Aristide Bance, and other strikers who have propelled the team to the semi-final stage of this season's CAF Confederation Cup.

Despite signing a three-year deal, Makambo has long been tipped to be heading for an exit from Horoya AC after spending just one season with the West African side with the player not thought to have settled in Guinea.

Yanga are believed to be already in touch with Makambo's camp following reports of his challenges, however Horoya AC insist they have not received any bid from Yanga.

Commenting on the possibility of signing Makambo, Hersi said they would love to bring him back as he fits their bill.

"Makambo is one of the players in our radar. We know he faced challenges at Horoya. We must wait and see how things develop," he disclosed.

"We need quality players. We are in for two strikers who are currently topping goal scoring charts in their respective leagues at the moment. A top winger

from one of the top five leagues in Africa is on the way as well."

"According to the coach's recommendation, we will make wholesale changes to our squad. Most of these season's signings were poor, we can't afford to make the same mistake."

Meanwhile, Yanga head coach, Luc Eymael, is expected to arrive in the country as soon as possible as his travel logistics have been sorted.

Hersi said the Belgian tactician's arrival was delayed due to lack of flights in and out of Belgium.

The 27-time Mainland Premier League Champions will resume the season with an away fixture against Mwadui FC on June 13 before taking on JKT Tanzania four days later.

Yanga are placed third on the domestic top flight table with 51 points after 27 matches, 20 points behind leaders Simba who are destined to win a third consecutive title.

Yanga's main focus is on the Azam Sports Federation Cup where they have been pitted against Kagera Sugar in the last eight match.

A potential semi-final clash with either Simba or Azam FC in the competition is also on Yanga's way.

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21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM

Don Bosco chess players focus on online tourneys

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadonga

DAR ES SALAAM's Don Bosco and Rising Star chess players have resorted to taking part in online tournaments following the social distancing directives issued by the government.

Kara Louis, one of the coordinators of the initiative, said the aim of online chess training and games is to keep the players busy.

He said chess is a mental sport that requires a consistent habit of training and practice to keep the mind alert.

The organizer said Don Bosco, a youth sports center, and Rising Star, an activity center, are focusing on activities that train mental calculations.

According to him, the two centers, moreover, have a joint club that also participates in the National Chess League and the outfit is now placed second.

"After the suspension of the league, players needed to practice and the only available option was online," he said.

"We have Arena competitions every Saturday and Sunday at 11.30am and 4.30pm that's four times on the weekend and eight hours of play. That is the Don Bosco Arena and the Rising Star Arena, these are in two categories, Open for high rated players and the U-14 rated players."

Louis disclosed that there were online games last weekend, with the Open category having been won by Aaditya BhattBhatt who got 25 points.

The category's second place went to Mugema Arthur with 22 points, the third place was won by Cleophas Charles who got 19 points.

The U-14 category was won by Salim TBoat who got 16 Points, the second place went to Viva Pujari with 16 Points and Shriansh S took the third spot with 12 points.

He also said there was 22nd edition of the Rising Star Arena, which had Cleophas Charles winning the Open category, the second position went to Haruna Mohamed while Louis took the third spot.

In the 23rd edition of the Rising Star Blitz Arena, Mugema Arthur won the competition after collecting 37 points, Charles took the second position with 36 points while Sai Nishith was third with 32 points.

In the 24th edition of the Rising Star Arena, Charles turned out to be the Open category winner with 38 points, Louis settled for the second position with 33 points and Sriansh took the third spot with 22 points.

"Online chess training and competitions with the right tools is effective and yes the players miss the touch of the pieces but right now I think it's the best option we have," he said.



A section of elite athletes take part in a past Ngorongoro Half Marathon, which took place in Arusha.

Ngorongoro Half Marathon likely to be held in August

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THE annual Ngorongoro Half Marathon, which was briefly postponed due to the outbreak of the infectious Covid-19 in Tanzania, will now take place next August, according to the race's organizers.

The Ngorongoro Half Marathon is an athletic event usually running in April and involves runners racing from Loduaire entry gate in Ngorongoro Crater, down to Karatu and Rhotia townships then climaxing at Mazingira Bora grounds.

More than 2000 athletes were expected to race in the 2020 installment of the annual Ngorongoro Half Marathon which was to take place a week after Easter, attracting participants from Tanzania, Kenya and other countries.

Organized by Meta Sports and bankrolled by the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA), the athletics event is annually flagged off from the Loduaire gate at the NCAA, with the main race sticking to the usual half marathon distance of 21 kilometres.

The event also features 5 kilometres Fun Race as well as the children category topping at the 2.5 kilometres' distance run.

Now the race coordinator, Meta Petro, revealed here that they intend to organize the race on August 2, 2020, over four months since the previously mentioned date of April 19.

Runners will race all the way to Rhotia Hills, then turn back and complete the race at the Mazingira Bora grounds of Karatu

township.

It usually rains when the race is held in April, but for August, dust will prevail.

This year's race theme, 'Race Against Poaching, Promote Domestic Tourism,' also remains as it is expected that the race will highly promote tourism activities at the Ngorongoro Conservation Area as well as keeping the adjacent Karatu township busy.

Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Khamis Kigwangalla, participated in the Ngorongoro Half Marathon for two consecutive years, 2018 and 2019.

During the previous Ngorongoro Half Marathon, which was held last year, Kenyan runner, Abraham Too, emerged as the men's category champion,

completing the race in one hour, five minutes and 59 seconds.

Michael Kishiba from the National Service (JKT), who covered the distance in one hour, five minutes and 45 seconds, was second and the only Tanzanian in the top-three positions in the category.

He was ahead of the third-placed runner, Festus Cheboi, who also hails from Kenya.

The same case applied to the race's women category, which had Esther Chesang from Kenya topping the lot having raced the 21 kilometers in one hour, 16 minutes and 49 seconds.

She beat Tanzanian, Natalie Elisante from Talent Club of Arusha, who completed the half marathon in one hour, 16 minutes and 41 seconds.

Singida United now target place in 2020/21 Mainland Premier League

By Correspondent Adam Fungamwango

VODACOM Premier League's Singida United have stated they are well prepared for the remainder of the top flight games and are sure they will not be relegated to the First Division League (FDL).

Festo Sanga, Singida United's Director, stated after the domestic top flight was given greenlight to get back to action, his side had gone for intensive training in an effort to nail a spot in the league next season.

Sanga disclosed the government's recent directive that the domestic top flight format should be in use has had them stay optimistic, as far as excelling in the rest of their matches, particularly home fixtures, is concerned.

The official disclosed they will see to it they register victory in the home matches in an effort to escape relegation.

"We still have lots of matches which will have us stay in the Premier League, if we will post victory," he stated.

"There are plenty of people who feel we will be relegated to the FDL, but I assure soccer followers, as well as Singida residents, we are well prepared and we are training well for the top flight restart," he disclosed.

"If you look at our last clash prior to the suspension of the top flight we posted 2-1 victory over Mbeya City FC, thus we will start from a spot we had been in."

In actual fact, Singida United have challenging task, as far as staying in the Premier League is concerned, as they are lately placed at the bottom of the top flight.

They have collected 15 points and have nine matches left.

Singida United are eight points below Mbao FC which is holding the 19th spot with 23 points.

The domestic top flight will see four outfits drop to the FDL, two FDL sides will be automatically promoted to the next season's Premier League.

Two other Premier League sides will take part in play offs with two FDL outfits to get two more sides which will nail a spot in the next season's Premier League, which will comprise 18 clubs.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

