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World press union pained by Covid-19 media catastrophe

By Guardian Correspondent

THE World Association of Press Councils (WAPC) has expressed concern over the catastrophic effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on the media all over the world.

In a statement, WAPC President Prof Sule Aker (pictured) said it is ironic that like many other warriors against corona, the media has become a victim itself at an individual level and as institutions.

The June 18 statement came after a monthly online (zoom) meeting of member country delegates to examine the Covid-19 environment and the media.

The meeting was attended by WAPC members from Northern Cyprus, Nepal, Azerbaijan, Kenya, India, Tanzania and Kosovo. The Media Council of Tanzania (MCT) is a member of WAPC.

WAPC noted that a number of journalists have died of the virus while reporting on the pandemic in various countries.

"Many have contracted the disease from the scores of patients as they work in the same environment. Many more are kept under observation facing an uncertain future," it said.

The economic consequences of Covid-19 are devastating on the media, WAPC said,



WAPC noted that a number of journalists have died of the virus while reporting on the pandemic in various countries

noting that at institutional level a stretch of newspapers, magazines, periodicals, TV channels, online media and some digital platforms have stopped publishing or shut down operations altogether.

Many other media including among established ones have downsized their publications or reduced operations by truncating their pages and contents.

This downsizing has a cascading effect at the individual level as scores of journalists belonging to all types of media lost their jobs while many others faced salary cuts, the statement underlined.

Other coercive measures like forced leave, leave without pay and reduction of working hours were adopted by managements and media outlet owners, it elaborated.

Despite the odds facing media practitioners owing to the pandemic, there is no reduction in readership or viewership of print, electronic or other media. People still buy newspapers, watch TV and scan through online media, the

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Small tanzanite miner finds 8bn/- gemstones



Saniniu Laizer, a small-scale tanzanite miner at Mirerani township in Manyara Region, pictured yesterday handing over to Minerals minister Doto Biteko (L, foreground) the two pieces of the rare gemstone found only in Tanzania which he has dug up. He has sold them to the government for 8bn/- but, in fact, earned some 7.5bn/- after tax. Photo: Correspondent Cynthia Mwilelezi

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

SANINIU Laizer, a nomadic Maasai pastoralist, will soon be smiling all the way to the bank to make a deposit of some 7.5bn/- earned from the sale of two pieces of the rare exclusively Tanzanian gemstone tanzanite he has recently dug up.

President John Magufuli, shortly after being told of Laizer's fortune, directed that the state buy the gemstones for 8bn/- with the miner remaining with 7.5bn/- after tax.

Laizer struck it lucky overnight, when his Block D' quarry yielded the gemstones, a feat usually achieved by large-scale conglomerates.

The state bought the two gemstones straight from the miner and paid him via a Treasury cheque directly to his bank account, with a ceremony for him to receive a dummy cheque for the amount.

President Magufuli placed a direct phone call to the miner through Minerals minister Doto Biteko, who graced the dummy cheque ceremony at Mirerani Hills of Simanjiro, Manyara Region, yesterday.

The conversation with the president was aired live to the nation during the historic event, where he congratulated Laizer, the residents of Simanjiro and the entire Manyara Region on the rare find.

"It is now obvious that the minerals are benefiting ordinary Tanzanians," Dr Magufuli remarked.

Biteko meanwhile said that in the past small-scale miners were being ignored and dismissed for being ill-equipped, as

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SADC endorses protocol to re-open transit trade

By Francis Kajubi

THE Southern African Development Community (SADC) has endorsed new guidelines for transit trade activity between member countries to facilitate movement of goods while taking precautions against Covid-19.

Prof Palamagamba Kabudi, the minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation and current chairman of the SADC Council of Ministers, said late Tuesday after ministers from SADC member states held a meeting in Dar es

Salaam.

The meeting was convened to address challenges encountered in cross-border and road transport operations, where the ministers met to discuss and approve proposals on how to address the situation.

Adopting a regional guideline for the regulation and facilitation of cross-border transit operations was the key item on the agenda, along with the management and monitoring of transit operations across the

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NEMC brass tour Kagera, Lake Victoria water rising

By Guardian Correspondent, Kagera

NATIONAL Environmental Management Council board chairperson Prof Esnat Chaggu has issued a directive to the NEMC management to conduct a study to find out why the water level at Lake Victoria was rising, and come up with recommendations on methods of tackling the problem and avoid floods.

He spoke to reporters during a visit of board members and the management in Kagera Region to see the effects of Lake Victoria water level increase.

It has caused floods in some areas that

destroyed infrastructures, Prof Chaggu said, noting that NEMC is in a better position to conduct a study and come up with recommendations on how to control floods.

"Reports of past researches should be sought out and recommendations thereof taken that will enable us figure out the best way to tackle the situation for the purpose of implementation," he directed.

Collaboration is needed to make the study a success and whose results will throw some light on the rising Lake Victoria water level.

"As the lake also covers Kenya and

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SHARE FACTS ABOUT COVID-19

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



03/04/20 03/09/20

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



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Zanzibar President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein swears in Commander Mohamed Mussa Seif as Wete district commissioner. The event was held at Zanzibar State House yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House

SADC endorses protocol to reopen transit trade

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regional road network. The proposals were mooted by a committee of health professionals on early this month.

Prof Kabudi said that the guidelines set a new procedure for embarking on the journey and completing before crossing the border.

The guidelines give directions to drivers on what to do while on the journey and how border officials should handle their arrival and proceeding towards the next destination. The guidelines cover the procedure of return, quarantine areas and reporting stations along the way, he elaborated.

Each driver will continue to undergo a health test before embarking on a journey and there will be specialized

centers on all routes reaching the 16 member countries.

"Those diagnosed as Covid-19 negative disease will receive a an unlimited 14-day certification before they are re-evaluated. The third step is to develop an integrated procurement system where Tanzania procures a series of drugs for onward distribution to SADC countries," he specified.

Earlier on April 7 the council agreed to curb passenger transportation and limit public vehicle movement to transportation of essential goods.

However, on May 29, it relaxed those restrictions to allow all goods to be freighted in compliance with existing Covid-19 prevention guidelines.

On ways to remove frustrations

that drivers face, Prof Kabudi said that challenges are part of human life, which are to be expected during and after Covid-19.

"Every family has challenges but what is important is procedure on how to solve them. Five countries with SADC ports continue to support other trading bloc member states," he said.

SADC Executive Secretary Dr Stergomena Tax said pushing the regional agenda is a must even in hard times. Approval of the guidelines on facilitating the movement of essential goods and services across borders after the pandemic erupted.

"We need to address the gaps observed in applying the guidelines. To resume trade activities the

normalization of the supply chain is necessary, as the pandemic has affected the import chain," she said.

"Increase of border movement of people and industrial goods beyond transport of essential goods and services across the borders is the next stage. To achieve this we need mutual recognition of COVID-19 testing," she specified.

At the last visual meeting on 19th May the council directed that guidelines be prepared for harmonising transport operations across the region.

The ministers had also tasked the secretariat with the preparation of regional procedures for road transport at the entry points in each member state, she added.

Small tanzanite miner finds 8bn/- gemstones

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they are not able to drill deeper than 1,000 meters into the ground.

"They used to scare people so that only large-scale firms could be allowed to mine in designated quarries, but today you have seen it by yourselves. An ordinary miner has managed to strike two valuable stones with the same equipment," the minister noted, adding that local miners "can do it, too".

He advised Laizer to invest the money earned into profitable ventures that will guarantee him and his dependants steady income for now and the future as well as creating employment for other people.

Minerals deputy minister Stanislaus Nyong'o said President Magufuli was a game changer in the country's mineral

sector "and Mirerani's recent record of Mirerani bears witness to the new reality".

Surrounded by friends and relatives, a jubilant Laizer said he was impressed by the fact that the government had bought his gemstones.

"We are really assured now that, instead of seeking markets abroad, our gemstones can fetch the right income right here," he said.

Finance and Planning deputy minister Dr Ashatu Kijaji said the Mirerani Wall, built on orders from President Magufuli, has helped substantially in preventing mineral thefts and smuggling from the quarries "and it is now possible for ordinary Tanzanians to benefit from their troves".

NEMC brass tour Kagera, Lake Victoria water rising

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Uganda, it is essential for the national authorities to work together so as to obtain a unified approach on how to save the situation," he asserted.

He said benefits from Lake Victoria are immense for the adjoining nations, thus the need to pool efforts to protect the lake for the current and future generations.

"Climate change, increase of sediments in the lake due to human activities along water sources are likely to be among the reasons," he said, affirming that the study should look into that aspect as well.

Investors and people living near the lake must seek out an environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) before embarking on projects, including human settlements, to avoid incurring losses in case challenges

increase, he urged.

Miembeni ward councilor in Bukoba district, Richard Mwemezi said for Lake Victoria water level to rise to such an extent is rare, as it is compelling people to abandon their settlements.

"We appeal to the government to rebuild roads so that we continue with economic activities especially at the major fish market, impeded by the flooding," he said.

NEMC deputy board chairman Prof Hussein Sosovele said in tackling environmental effects it is advisable that the residents observe indicative directives from the public agency to avoid unnecessary losses.

The NEMC board and management visit in the region as aimed at gauging effects of lake water level increase following heavy rains in the past few months.

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global body noted.

Public agencies and private companies keep releasing advertisements to the media, with awareness campaigns on the pandemic released to media houses routinely and created by the media each passing day, it stated.

Readership, viewership and hits have in fact increased since people in many affected countries have been under varying periods of strict lockdown, sharply restricting personal movement.

But WAPC said it was ironic that media houses are 'killing' the messengers fighting the pandemic like any other health professionals.

Several appeals by individual journalists and through press associations or unions fall on the deaf ears of managements, owners and governments.

The WAPC is an umbrella organisation of press councils and similar bodies of countries around the world. During its series of unique on-line meetings "Media Before and After the Coronavirus Pandemic," it appealed to media owners and managers to try and minimise harm to the practitioners.

This relates to employment termination and cutting their pays, similarly urging respective governments to review regulations with a view to make the situation more livable for the media, as it is the fourth

pillar of government, in a democracy.

Speaking at the zoom conference, Prof Aker advised media practitioners to remain careful and disseminate authentic news about Covid-19.

Governments and media houses need to keep the interests of media persons uppermost in issuing policy directives, and to ensure that media personnel are provided with PPE as they often engage in risky news coverage.

Regarding the situation of media freedom, she said it is universally acknowledged that countries need a free and unfettered media sector.

UN Secretary General António Guterres has lately appealed for greater protection of journalists providing the antidote to the pandemic of misinformation relating to the Covid-19 crisis.

Prof Aker further urged governments of member countries to provide information in a timely manner to avoid speculation on the real situation, which leads to gross misinformation.

WAPC is recognized by the United Nations, in which case it also decided to approach the UN and its affiliated bodies like UNESCO to provide support to media practitioners and the industry as a whole.

WAPC member countries agreed to work closely with the media in their countries and provide support whenever possible, the statement added.



Hai district commissioner Lengai ole Sabaya (in dark glasses) visits the site of a 50m/- Tanzania Electric Supply Company (Tanesco) project where construction is in progress, as captured yesterday. Photo: Godfrey Mushi

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

EALA elects twelve commissioners

THE East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) has elected twelve commissioners.

The elections held yesterday afternoon during the virtual sitting, saw the return of four unopposed commissioners who served in the previous commission (whose tenure ended on Friday, June 19, 2020).

The re-elected members are Dr Oburu Oginga and Wanjiku Muhia (Kenya) and Oda Gasinzigwa and Dr

Francois Xavier Kalinda (Rwanda).

Tanzania's new representatives to the commission are Dr Ngwaru Maghembe and Josephine Lemoyaan. From Burundi, Jean Marie Muhirwa and Mo Mamo Karerwa are the new commissioners. The new commissioners from Burundi replace Leontine Nzeyimana and Chris Nduwayo.

The Rules provide that partner states

that nominate two members for the commission shall duly be declared as elected.

Kenya, Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania each nominated two members to the commission while Uganda and South Sudan nominated more than two members for the post of commissioners, thereby necessitating a vote by secret ballot.

The elections saw EALA install

Uganda's Rose Okullu Akol (49 votes) and Mary Mugenyi (28 votes) while immediate past commissioner, Susan Nakawuki, received 25 votes. South Sudan had four contestants, Kim Ruot Gai, Gideon Gatpan Thoar, Gabriel Alaak Garang and Dr Woda Jeremiah Odok.

Gideon Gatpan Thoar scooped 40 votes to be elected. Two members, Kim Gai Ruot and Dr Woda Jeremiah Odok,

however received 28 votes, prompting the Speaker, to call for round 2 of the votes to break the tie, while Gabriel Alaak Garang got 6 votes.

In the second round, Dr Woda Jeremiah Odok was elected to the commission getting 29 votes against Kim Ruot, who got 23 votes.

Last week, each partner state nominated members for the commission in accordance with Rule

83(3) of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly. Earlier on yesterday, chairperson of the committee on Legal Rules and Privileges, Ndingiza Fatuma moved a motion under Section (3) (2) of the Administration of EALA Act, 2012, listing the nominations of members on the floor to constitute the EALA Commission, country by country.

Prior to the elections, the members from South Sudan and Uganda were each given three minutes to address the Assembly to justify their presence in the EALA Commission.



DCB Bank managing director Godfrey Ndalaha briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the bank's shareholders general meeting to be held by video on June 27. With him are internal auditor Deogratius Thadei (L) and Regina Mduma, who doubles as chief manager - legal affairs and company secretary. Story in Business Section. Photo: Guardian Photographer

Anti-poaching unit irked by continued invasions of WMA

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

ANTI-poaching Unit (KDU) for the northern zone has said it was dismayed by some people who continue invading Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Babati District, Manyara Region.

KDU head Peter Banjoko said when speaking to this paper in an interview on the issue of people who continue to invade the areas.

Burunge Wildlife Management Area is situated in the middle of Tarangire-Lake Manyara National Parks.

He said the unit, working together with game wardens from Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) in Burunge area have embarked on an operation to hunt the poachers and other invaders in the national park.

"We warn those who aim to continue with their poaching activities will not be safe, we will arrest them and take legal action against them because the wildlife being protected is for the benefit of the whole nation," he said.

He also warned some of WMA officials who are allegedly mentioned to shield the invaders in the areas that they too will face legal action.

Recently the Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism Constantine Kanyasu visited the area and warned WMA leaders who, instead of wildlife protection they were collaborating with criminals, and that they will be investigated and action taken against them.

In April, this year five people, residents of Minjingu village in Babati district were arrested for killing 11 zebras and one giraffe.

Those arrested, according to Manyara Regional Police Commander Paul Kasabango were Maneka Gidungule (44) and Gwadida Kwalisan (60), all Minjingu village residents.

Others were Gidafari Ngenoi (60), Paschal Gwandu (19) and Lwagegasi Gidungule (32) also from Minjingu village.

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA Agricultural Research Institute Naliende Centre (TARI-Naliende) in Mtwara region has embarked on various researches that identify uses and value of various products manufactured out of cashew nuts.

TARI-Naliende acting head Dr Fortunutus Kapinga says the research is aimed to resolve challenges and assisting stakeholders through the value chain for the production of quality products.

Dr Kapinga said as of now the Centre is doing ecological research involving soil ecology, climate and

TARI researching on uses, value of products made out of cashew nuts

rain in relevant areas fit for cash nuts cultivation, whereas already the government has embarked on education and technology to farmers in the country's various regions.

"TARI-Naliende is proud in increasing the number of regions cultivating cashew nuts from five to 17 which are Morogoro, Dodoma, Singida, Kigoma, Tabora, Shinyanga,

Katavi, Rukwa, Mbeya, Iringa, Njombe, Ruvuma, Lindi, Mtwara, Coast, Tanga and Ruvuma where we continue to educate farmers on the actual requirements from planting to harvesting including the crop's use," he said.

Dr Kapinga said the centre also continues researching on the use of the cashew nuts fruits which many farmers

have been throwing away, but now they can be used to make juices, wine and ethanol that are in great demand in both local and foreign markets.

Elaborating, he said "one kilogramme of the cashew nuts we get nine kilogrammes of the fruit that makes nine litres of juice which in turn can make 4-5 litres of wine whose value can go as high as 100,000/-"

He said so far the centre has produced 54 new kinds of cashew nuts seeds that ensure positive harvests as well as withstanding plant diseases and pests making Tanzania the first country in both Africa and the world to register quality cashew nuts seeds.

"The seeds have already been distributed in the country's various regions and districts, and the plan in

place is to distribute 10 million seeds each year and to mobilize the districts to produce 10 million seedlings, and in so doing we are working together with the Tanzania Cashew Nuts Board (TCB) to ensure we satisfy both local and foreign markets," Dr Kapinga added.

He said the government's strategy is to use products manufactured by home factories instead of foreign ones, hence to achieve the goals the public and private institutions should support the efforts by ensuring there is direct relationship with the industrial sector because industries are markets for raw materials that are produced by the agricultural sector.

Agriculture ministry, SIDO agree to construct modern storage facilities

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE Ministry of Agriculture and the Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO) have signed agreement to construct modern storage facilities for storing maize and groundnuts. The move is aimed at fighting aflatoxins.

The project which will be implemented by SIDO, involves construction of the storage facilities in 20 district councils in Tanzania mainland and two in Zanzibar.

Speaking soon after the signing event, Permanent Secretary of the ministry Gerald Kusaya said the construction of the warehouses will also help to curb post harvest losses.

According to him, the government has set aside 3.8bn/- which will be used to facilitate trainings on how to construct the storage facilities.

"Leaders should make sure that the funds are properly utilised to meet the intended goals, I will closely monitor the expenditure of the monies, so you must fulfill your responsibilities to bring positive results," he said.

Kusaya also called upon the public to protect the warehouses once they were completed so that they may last long and benefit future generations.

"In the implementation of the project, the ministry will cooperate with various institutions such as SIDO, Vocational Education and Training Authority (VETA), Tropical Pesticides Research Institute (TPRI),

Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI), Cereals and Other Produce Board of Tanzania (CPB), Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) and other institutions working in the food sector," he said.

The permanent secretary also said that the ministry also intends to sign another agreement with contractors to build a laboratory and a centre of excellence for grain crops supervision.

For his part, SIDO director Prof. Sylvester Mpanduji said that the organisation is going to deliver the best in the project. "SIDO also provides services in the area of technology, training, loans and markets," he said.

Clepin Mbekomize, the projects' coordinator said that VETA will provide training to over 400 young people on the technology of constructing the storage facilities.



INVITATION TO BID: No. ITB/20/TZAKAS/SUP/001 FOR THE PROVISION OF ROOFING MATERIAL FOR KITCHEN AND TRANSITIONAL SHELTERS AT NYARUGUSU CAMP, KASULU DISTRICT.

1. Background:

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Sub Office, Kasulu, invites reputable qualified and Eligible Firms/Contractors to submit firm offers for Supply and Delivery of Roofing Material for Kitchen and Transitional Shelters at Nyarugusu camp, Kasulu.

2. Eligibility:

Firms/Contractors duly registered with relevant government authorities, with sound financial basis, relevant experience, reputed clientele and with knowledge of how to meet UNHCR's requirements are invited to participate in the bidding process.

The tender documents can be collected from the following UNHCR Offices:

UNHCR Representation Office Tanzania
Plot 1658 Masaki, Rufiji Street
P.O. Box 2666 - Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

UNHCR Field Office Kasulu
Kimobwa (Mlimani Area)
P.O. Box 332 - Kasulu,
Kigoma

UNHCR Sub-Office Kibondo
Kabigwa (Near TANESCO)
P.O. Box 49
Kibondo

UNHCR Field Unit Mwanza
Mwanza Airport
P.O. Box 2273 - Mwanza

CRUCIAL DATES FOR THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Deadline for receiving requests for clarification	Friday 3rd July 2020 at 14:00hrs EAT
Deadline for submission of offers	Monday 20th July 2020 at 16:00hrs EAT

UNHCR tenders are free of charge, no fees are charged to collect the tenders.



REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF ZANZIBAR
MINISTRY OF HEALTH

P.O. BOX 236
MNAZIMMOJA-ZANZIBAR
Email: afyasmz@zanlink.com

Tel +255-21-2233454
Fax: +255-24-2231987

Tender No: SMZ/HO1/G/ICB/2019/2020/07

For
SUPPLY, INSTALLMENT, COMMISSION AND TRAINING OF LABORATORY EQUIPMENT, HOSPITAL MEDICAL EQUIPMENT, HOSPITAL INSTRUMENT, MEDICAL SUPPLIES, WOODEN FURNITURE, STEEL FURNITURE, ICT EQUIPMENT ELECTRICAL ITEMS AND GENERATOR FOR MINISTRY OF HEALTH ZANZIBAR

Invitation for Tenders

Date: 23/06/2020

- This Invitation for Tenders follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project which appeared in Zanzibar Leo ISSN 5489 dated 13/09/2018.
- The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar has set aside funds for the operation of the Ministry of health Zanzibar during the financial year 2018-2019. It is intended that part of the proceeds of the fund will be used to cover eligible payments under the framework contract for the Supply Cancer, Psychotherapeutic and Laboratory Reagents, For Ministry of Health Zanzibar.
- The Ministry of Health Zanzibar now invites sealed tenders from eligible National qualified bidders registered by Zanzibar Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (ZPPRA) as supplier to Supply of below Lots
- Interested eligible Tenderers may obtain further information from and inspect the Tendering Documents at the office of the Procurement Management Unit (PMU), Ministry of Health P.O. BOX 236 Makumbusho Road Mnazi Mmoja Zanzibar from 8:00am up to 3:30pm local time, on Monday to Friday inclusive except on public holidays.
- A complete set of Tendering Document(s) in English language and additional sets may be purchased by interested Tenderers on the submission of a written application to the address given under paragraph 5 above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of 100,000/=, Payment should be by Cash, to the Peoples Bank of Zanzibar (PBZ) account number 051103000108.
- All Tenders must be accompanied by a Tender security in an acceptable form in the amount of 2.5% of contract price or freely convertible currencies.
- All tenders in one original with two copies, properly filled in, and enclosed in plain envelopes must be delivered to the address below PMU office at Ministry of health Zanzibar at or before 2:00pm 16/07/2020. Tenders will be opened promptly thereafter in public and in the presence of Tenderers' representatives who choose to attend in the opening at the Ministry of health at conference room.
- Late Tenders, Portion of Tenders, Electronic Tenders, Tenders not received, Tenders not opened and not read out in public at the tender opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

S/N	LOT NUMBER	DESCRIPTION OF LOT
1.	LOT 1	LABORATORY EQUIPMENT
2.	LOT 2	HOSPITAL MEDICAL EQUIPMENT
3.	LOT 3	HOSPITAL INSTRUMENT
4.	LOT 4	MEDICAL SUPPLY
5.	LOT 5	WOODEN FURNITURE
6.	LOT 6	STEEL FURNITURE
7.	LOT 7	ICT EQUIPMENT
8.	LOT 8	ELECTRICAL ITEM
9.	LOT 9	STAND BY GENERATOR

- Tendering will be conducted through the National competitive bidding procedures specified in the Public Procurement (Goods, Works and Disposal of Public Assets by Tender) Regulations, 2006 - Government Notice No. 62 and are open to all Tenderers as defined in the Regulations.

N.B: Supplier can quote any complete lot

Minister happy with production of vegetables and feeds for poultry

By Guardian Correspondent, Iringa

MINISTER for Investment in the Prime Minister's Office, Angela Kairuki has been impressed by the production of vegetables and poultry feeds at the Ithemba cluster under the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT).

Kairuki said the investment is in-line with the government's development endeavours targeting to build an industrialised economy and transform the country into a middle income nation by 2025.

She said: "I have been impressed by the investment in poultry feed production and processing equipment, the chicken rearing and vegetable growing projects. The government will continue to create good investment environment."

The minister visited a poultry feed manufacturing factories at Silverlands, Masifio Estates, Pyrethrum Tanzania (PCT), Qwihaya General Enterprises and Sao Hill.

Speaking after the tour, Kairuki said such an investment will boost the region's economic growth and improve people's welfare. She said the government will provide all the necessary support to ensure the projects grow further and boost revenue collections.

She said that apart from producing chicks, the Silverlands, had provided farmers in the southern highland regions with a reliable maize market.

"The factory has also provided employment to a number of youth in Iringa region," said the minister.

She said the Masifio Estates has ensured stable supply of vegetables to hotels since it produces 14 different types of vegetables. She called upon young people in the region to engage in the cultivation of vegetables since there is a ready-made market for the

products.

Iringa District Commissioner, Richard Kasesela commended the Silverlands factory for contributing to the region's development. He said the factory has assured farmers with a reliable market for maize and soybeans.

DC Kasesela urged farmers in southern highland regions to massively engage in cultivation of the crops due to high demand of the raw materials at the factories.

The investor at Masifio Estates which is located at Ifunda, Quitin Robb applauded the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) for creating friendly investment climate.

"The state agency has been facilitating our operations and make sure we benefit with the tax incentives," said Robb.

Ifunda ward executive officer, Catherine Njoo thanked the management for providing farmers with education on modern farming practices as well as creating jobs for youth.

"We have benefitted with the investment as most of our children work at the estate. Farmers are also trained on modern farming methods to improve their yields," said the local leader.



The state agency has been facilitating our operations and make sure we benefit with the tax incentives



Kahama district commissioner Annamringi Macha (in glasses) pictured yesterday presenting wheelchairs donated by Bulyanhulu Gold Mine to people with disabilities from Bugarama and Bulyanhulu wards. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

'Patriarchy main cause of humiliation of widows'

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

PATRIARCHY has been cited as the cause for widows to undergo humiliation and being denied of their inheritance rights of property whenever their husbands die.

Patriarchy is a social system in which men hold primary power and predominate in roles of political leadership, moral authority, social privilege and control of property. Some patriarchal societies are also

patrilineal, meaning that property and title are inherited by the male lineage.

This was expressed mid this week by the ag executive director of Kahama Town Council Clemence Mkusa when speaking to reporters on occasion to mark International Widows Day while stressing to the community to abandon the habit that suppresses women.

He said widows are subjected to acts of humiliation with some of them being left with children who don't attend schools, robbed of their farms, house

and other properties that make many of them live in extreme poverty.

Mkusa called on the society to assist the government to reveal widows who were robbed of their properties in surrounding areas for them to get assistance.

Kahama Town community development officer Robert Kwela said widows are faced with many life challenges including legal challenges as well economic opportunities in their areas.

Kahama District Commissioner Anamringi Macha said as of now the government is all out to ensure widows are not disgraced and called on men to include their families about the property they own.

She said the commemoration of the International Widows Day is new in Kahama district and that her office has been receiving many complaints from widows hence great changes are needed to see they live well like men.



Newly appointed Arusha regional commissioner Iddi Kimanta (2nd-R) exchanges greetings with religious leaders who welcomed him when he reported at his office in Arusha city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

Dr Shein swears in government officials

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein yesterday sworn in various officials he recently appointed including Commander Mohamed Mussa Seif (Mkobani) who is now district commissioner for Wete district.

Commander Seif replaces Capt. Khatib Khamis Mweadini whose

appointment was recently revoked by President Shein.

Before his appointment Commander Seif was the head of KMKMC command in Pemba.

Another official sworn in yesterday in a brief function at Zanzibar State House is Dr Juma Malik Akil who becomes Deputy Executive Secretary of the Zanzibar

Planning Commission.

The function was attended by various Zanzibar government leaders including the Second Vice President Amb. Seif Ali Idd, Zanzibar Chief Justice Omar Othman Makungu and other government ministers.

Also present was the Zanzibar Attorney General Said Hassan Said, Chief Secretary and Secretary to the

Zanzibar Revolutionary Council Dr Abdulhamid Yahya Mzee and other permanent secretaries.

The event was also attended by the Zanzibar Urban West Regional Commissioner Hassan Khatib Hassan, heads of Zanzibar government brigades, advisors to the Zanzibar president and other officials including family members.

Tanzania faces shortage of wheat grain annually

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

TANZANIA faces shortage of 900,000 tonnes of wheat grain annually as a result the government had spend a lot of money to import the deficit to cater for the country's needs.

The Head of Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute (TARI) Uyole Centre in Mbeya Dr Tulole Lugendo Bucheyeki made the remarks during an interview with this paper in Mbeya.

He said production of the crop stands at 100,000 tonnes per year against the country's needs of 1,000,000, thus creating a deficit of 900,000 tonnes which is needed for the country's needs.

According to Dr Bucheyeki wheat is cultivated in the northern and southern highlands zones only, saying there is need for sensitisation to farmers to grow more wheat to increase production.

He said the institute had conducted research to identify areas where wheat can be grown in the country, saying farmers need be advised on better practices for wheat growing in their respective areas.

"To meet the country's demand we need to expand areas where the crop is grown, as TARI we have done research on the matter especially in areas which are suitable for growing of the crop and we are ready to give advice to farmers," he said.

Dr Bucheyeki added that the agency has also conducted research on the best seeds which can withstand weather and other climate hazards in various areas in the country.

Farmers have complained that the deficit has led to the increase in prices of the crop where in the first place it was sold at 20,000/- and now is being sold at 28,000/- per 20-litre plastic can. He further said earlier, business

people were selling the crop at 1,300/- per kilogramme and now they are selling it at 1,000/- per kilogramme.

During the meeting with agriculture stakeholders in the zones, the agriculture officers from the Ministry of Agriculture Melyus Zalawahe said the government is committed towards improving the crop's production.

He said despite the fact that regions like Manyara and Mbeya are producing the crop at a large scale, the government has put in place various strategies to ensure it is grown in other regions.



To meet the country's demand we need to expand areas where the crop is grown, as TARI we have done research on the matter especially in areas which are suitable for growing of the crop and we are ready to give advice to farmers

1,599 candidates to sit for F6 exam in Bukoba

By Guardian Correspondent, Bukoba

A TOTAL of 1,599 candidates in Bukoba Municipality, Kagera Region, are expected to sit for the Advanced Certificate of Secondary Education Examinations (ACSEE) expected to start on June 29, this year.

Education officer in Bukoba, Ebeneza Emmanuel said that the municipality has a total of ten examination centres

which include six centres of public schools and four centres for private schools.

He said that the number of school candidates is 1,347 and private candidates are 252.

He placed the number of boys for school candidates as 1038 and girls at 561. In addition, in the 252 private candidates, 140 are males and 112 are females.

Emmanuel said that the municipality has nine high schools which are Rugambwa Girls, Omumwani, Kagemu, Kahororo, Kajumulo, Josiah Girls, Kemebos, Ihungo and Kaizirege.

He said that all the examinations preparations were done which include putting Covid-19 preventive equipment to ensure that the exams are conducted smoothly.



Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children minister Umyy Mwalimu (2nd-L, foreground) makes remarks in Tanga city yesterday after being briefed on the ongoing construction of a rehabilitation centre for drug addicts at Bombo Hospital. This ran in tandem with the launch methadone services at the regional medical facility. Left is Tanga regional commissioner Martine Shigella. Photo: Correspondent Hamida Kamchalla

By Polycarp Machira, Chamwino

Chamwino District bolsters sensitisation on coronavirus

CHAMWINO district council has intensified public education on the pandemic aimed at improving hygiene and sanitation, said the campaign coordinator, Asha Mwasenga.

Mwasenga said there are many villagers in the district who still believe that the disease is not real and that it has claimed lives in the country.

Speaking during a public meeting convened by a local non-governmental organisation Women Wake Up (WOWAP) through funding by the Foundation for Civil Society, noted that there is need to continue with public campaign against the disease.

She argued that despite the government's call for people to take precautions and learn to live with the disease, there are people who believe that the country is free from COVID-19.

"The government has clearly stated that the disease might be here to stay and we should learn to live with it thus the need to intensify campaign against it, especially when there are people

who live freely knowing its gone," she said.

The coordinator noted that in addition to efforts to educate the public, there are a lot of challenges as far as use of masks are concerned.

"It is quite strange that you meet a person going to clinic without putting on face mask and if you ask she simply say, what can I do if I do not have money to buy the mask?" she noted.

Manchali Ward executive officer, Bertha Mubihu on her part echoed the same sentiments, saying people have failed to heed the government's directives on social distance, especially during funerals.

She lamented that during such occasions people gather in big crowds and when told to keep distance they do not understand, they simply defy the orders. However, she said the authority has come up with new measures to

maintain order.

"We have resorted to use the paramilitary forces at village and ward levels whereby every village has five of such officers," she noted.

Sheikh Shaban Mbaruku of the Chalinze mosque in the area on his part noted that they have continued with public education on the disease.

He said part of the education to the believers at the mosque include the importance of having masks on, social distancing as well as not shaking hands.

"I once attended a burial ceremony and saw people just shaking hands carelessly but it is high time we stick to directives issued by the government," he said.

WOWAP coordinator, Nasra Suleiman said the project is for three months and aimed at providing public education on prevention and protection against coronavirus.

Girl students to take pregnancy tests soon after schools reopen

By Correspondent Mutayoba Arbogast, Bukoba

AUTHORITIES in Misenyi District plans to conduct pregnancy tests to all female students soon after reopening of schools aiming to know their health status after a long holiday.

On mid-March this year, the government ordered closure of schools from elementary to university level following the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic, the highly infectious respiratory disease caused by the coronavirus.

The highly contagious, pneumonia-causing illness (Coronavirus) firstly reported in Wuhan, China has infected over 3 million people across the World.

Talking to journalists recently, Misenyi District Education Officer (secondary schools), Saverina Misinde said the strategy is meant to identify students who have conceived during the holiday.

He said pregnant girls will be

suspended from school while the culprits will be punished in accordance with the country laws.

All the people who will be proved to have impregnated the girls will be arraigned," Misinde said.

The official expressed fears that some of the girls may be impregnated during holiday due to poor parental care. He said authorities are more worried with female students residing in urban areas as they might be easily seduced to engage in love affairs with men.

He said there are many factors contributing into early pregnancies such as poverty at family level and poor understanding of parents and guardians on the importance of educating girls.

Misinde urged parents to ensure girls attend to schools and supervise them accordingly so that they perform better in national examinations.

He said the district is well prepared to ensure Form Six students sit for their national examination on planned dates. He said a total of 152 will sit for

the exams this year.

Last month, the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children issued guidelines to protect students from contracting the new virus, whereas it directed colleges to decontaminate buildings and school buses, re-arrange classes and dormitories, wear face masks, ensure students wash hands with soap and running water or use alcohol-based hand rubs.

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

The issued guidelines stated that students with heart complications, asthma and other respiratory diseases should be spared from wearing face coverings.

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

ARDHI UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY VICE CHANCELLOR
FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ADMISSION INTO POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES FOR 2020/2021 ACADEMIC YEAR

Ardhi University invites applications for admission into its Postgraduate Programmes (Master of Science Degree and Doctor of Philosophy Degree) in the School of Architecture, Construction Economics and Management, School of Spatial Planning and Social Sciences, School of Earth Sciences, Real Estate, Business Studies and Informatics, School of Environmental Science and Technology and Institute of Human Settlement Studies (IHSS) for the 2020/2021 academic year.

1. SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, CONSTRUCTION ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT (SACEM)

Master of Architecture (M. Arch) (By Coursework & Dissertation)

Entry Qualifications
Holders of Bachelor of Architecture of at least a Second Class Lower division from Ardhi University or from any other recognized Institution of Higher Learning.

OR
Graduate Diploma in Architecture of at least a Second Class Lower division of the former Ardhi Institute or Postgraduate Diploma in Architecture from Ardhi University or from any other recognized Institution of Higher Learning.

Master of Science in Construction Economics and Management (MSc. CEM) (By Coursework & Dissertation)

Entry Qualifications
A first degree of second class grade or above in Building Economics, Construction Management, Building Survey or related fields of Ardhi University or any other relevant first degree from a recognized institution of Higher Learning.

OR
A relevant Postgraduate Diploma in Construction Economics and Management or related fields of Ardhi University or any other institution of Higher Learning.

Master in Project Management (M. PM) (By Coursework & Dissertation)

A second or higher class bachelor's degree or post graduate diploma in any of the programmes offered by Ardhi University and other similar programmes offered by other Universities or equivalent qualifications from other recognized Universities or higher learning institutions. Also, recommendations from two referees.

Doctor of Philosophy in Architecture (PhD Arch) (By Thesis)

Entry Qualifications
A Master's Degree in Architecture from Ardhi University or any other relevant Masters Degree from Ardhi University or from a recognized University.

Doctor of Philosophy in Urban Design - By Coursework & Dissertation

Entry Qualifications
Master Degree holders in Environmental Engineering, Municipal Engineering, Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Urban Planning and Civil Engineering from Ardhi University or any other approved University.

Doctor of Philosophy in Construction Economics and Management (PhD CEM) - By Thesis
Doctor of Philosophy in Construction Management (PhD CM) - By Thesis
Doctor of Philosophy in Civil Engineering (PhD CE) - By Thesis
Doctor of Philosophy in Urban Design - By Coursework & Dissertation

Entry Qualifications
Relevant Master's Degree of the Ardhi University or holder of equivalent standing Master's Degree from a recognised University.

Entry Qualifications
At least a second class (with a GPA of 2.7) grade or above Bachelor's Degree in Land Management and Valuation, Economics, Real Estate Finance and Investment and Economics from a recognized University or Institution of Higher Learning OR for unclassified Bachelor Degree a candidate must have a B Grade average in the subject of specialisation OR an equivalent Upper Second class of at least a GPA of 4.0 at Postgraduate Diploma in Land Management and Valuation, Economics, Real Estate Finance and Investment from a recognized University or Institution of Higher Learning OR a pass grade with experience in Land Management and Valuation, Economics, Real Estate Finance and Investment.

Master of Science in Land Management (MSc. LM) (By Thesis)

Entry Qualifications
A minimum of a Second Class Upper Division, Bachelor degree in Land Management and Valuation of the Ardhi University or its equivalent from Ardhi University or any other recognized University or Institution of Higher Learning.

Doctor of Philosophy in Geospatial Sciences (PhD GS) - By Thesis

Entry Qualifications
A Master Degree in Geomatics or Land Surveying or Geoinformatics or Geodetic Science from Ardhi University or any other relevant Masters Degree from a recognized University.

Doctor of Philosophy in Real Estate (PhD RE) - By Thesis
Doctor of Philosophy in Land Administration (By Coursework & Dissertation)
Doctor of Philosophy in Real Estate Economics (By Coursework & Dissertation)

Entry Qualifications
Relevant Master's Degree of the Ardhi University or holder of equivalent standing Master's Degree from a recognised University.

2. SCHOOL OF SPATIAL PLANNING AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (SPSS)

Master of Science in Urban Planning and Management (MSc. UPM) (By Coursework & Dissertation) - FULL TIME

Master of Science in Urban Planning and Management (EVENING) (By Coursework & Dissertation)

Entry Qualifications

- (i) First or Second Class Bachelor's Degree in Urban and Regional Planning (URP), Regional Development Planning (RDP) and Housing and Infrastructure Planning (HIP); or relevant qualifications from Programs offered by the Schools at ARU, Economics and Economic Planning.
- (ii) Upper Second Class or above Postgraduate Diploma in Urban and Regional Planning or Architecture or Land Management and Valuation or Environmental Engineering or relevant qualifications from Programs offered by the Schools at ARU, other related subject from a recognized university or institution of higher learning.
- (iii) Working experience of at least two years in a relevant field will be an added advantage.
- (iv) Positive recommendations from two referees one from an academic institution where the candidate graduated and one from the practice. Candidates without sufficient background in urban and regional planning profession may be required to take additional courses offered in the undergraduate programs.

Master of Science in Urban and Regional Planning and Management (MSc. URPM) (By Coursework & Dissertation)

Entry Qualifications

- (i) First or Second Class Honours Bachelor's Degree in Urban and Regional Planning or Architecture or Land Management and Valuation or Environmental Engineering or Building Economics or Land Surveying/Geomatics or Geography or Economics or Economic Planning or Public Administration or Business Administration, or Postgraduate Diploma of the University of Dar es Salaam or any other recognized institution.
- (ii) Experience of at least two years in a relevant field would be an added advantage.
- (iii) Positive recommendations from two referees.
- (iv) This programme is currently supported by DAAD. Therefore, Tanzanian candidates aspiring for the DAAD scholarships would have their applications for sponsorship further scrutinized by a joint committee of SPRING partner universities and a DAAD representative or any sponsoring organization/institution as situation emerges.

Doctor of Philosophy in Urban and Regional Planning (PhD URP) - By Thesis
Doctor of Philosophy in Urban Planning and Management (Housing and Infrastructure) (PhD UPM) - By Thesis
Doctor of Philosophy in Economics (PhD Econ) - By Thesis
Doctor of Philosophy in Urban and Regional Planning (By Coursework & Dissertation)

Entry Qualifications
Relevant Master's Degree of the Ardhi University or holder of equivalent standing Master's Degree from a recognised University.

4. SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SEST)

Master of Science Degree in Environmental Technology and Management (MSc. - ETM) (By Coursework and Dissertation)

Entry Qualifications
At least a Second Class Lower division Bachelor degree in Environmental Engineering of the Ardhi University or any other relevant degree from a recognized institution of higher learning.

OR
A Postgraduate Diploma in Environmental Engineering of the Ardhi University or Postgraduate Diploma from a recognised University or Institution of higher learning.

Master of Science Degree in Environmental Technology and Management (MSc. - ETM) (By Thesis)

Entry Qualifications
A minimum of a Second Class Lower division Bachelor degree in Environmental Engineering of the Ardhi University or any other relevant degree of the Ardhi University or any other relevant degree from a recognized institution of higher learning.

OR
A Postgraduate Diploma in Environmental Engineering of the Ardhi University or Postgraduate Diploma from a recognised University or Institution of higher learning.

Master of Disasters Risk Management (M.DRM) (By Coursework and Dissertation)

Entry Qualifications
A Second or higher class Bachelor's degree or post-graduate diploma in any of the programmes offered by Ardhi University and similar programmes offered by other universities as approved by Senate. Other admission requirements are similar to the general entry requirements for ARU postgraduate programmes.

Doctor of Philosophy in Environmental Engineering (PhD EE) - By Thesis
Doctor of Philosophy in Environmental Technology and Management (PhD ETM) - By Thesis
Doctor of Philosophy in Environmental Science and Management (PhD ESM) - By Thesis
Doctor of Philosophy in Disaster Management (PhD DM) - By Thesis
Doctor of Philosophy in Laboratory Science and Management (PhD LSM) - By Thesis

Entry Qualifications
Relevant Master's Degree of the Ardhi University or holder of equivalent standing Master's Degree from a recognised University.

3. SCHOOL OF EARTH SCIENCES, REAL ESTATE, BUSINESS STUDIES AND INFORMATICS (SERBI)

Master of Science in Geomatics (MSc. Gm) - (By Coursework & Dissertation)

Entry Qualifications
Advanced Class or above BSc. degree in Geomatics or Land Surveying or any other relevant degree from Ardhi University or a recognized University or Institution of Higher Learning.

OR
A Postgraduate Diploma in Geomatics or Land Surveying from Ardhi University or any other relevant degree from a recognized University or Institution of Higher Learning.

Master of Science in Geomatics (MSc. Gm) (By Thesis)

Entry Qualifications
A Second Class Upper Division, Bachelor of Science degree in Geomatics or Land Surveying from Ardhi University or its equivalent from Ardhi University or any other recognized University or Institution of Higher Learning.

Master of Science in Real Estate (Valuation) - By Coursework & Dissertation
Master of Science in Real Estate (Business) - By Coursework & Dissertation

Entry Qualifications
At least a second class grade or above BSc. degree in Land Management and Valuation, Urban and Regional Planning, Building Economics, Architecture, Land Surveying, Environmental Engineering, Geography, Economics, Commerce or Civil Engineering from Ardhi University or any other relevant degree from Ardhi University or a recognized University or Institution of Higher Learning.

OR
A relevant Postgraduate Diploma of the Ardhi University or any other relevant degree from a recognized University or Institution of Higher Learning.

Master of Science in Land Administration (By Coursework & Dissertation)

Entry Qualifications
At least a second class (with a GPA of 2.7) grade or above Bachelor's Degree OR for unclassified Bachelor Degree a candidate must have a B Grade average in the subject of specialisation OR an equivalent Upper Second class of at least a GPA of 4.0 at postgraduate Diploma in: Land Management and Valuation, Law, Urban and Regional Planning, Architecture, Geomatics, Geo-informatics, Land Surveying from a recognized University or Institution of Higher Learning, OR a pass grade with experience in land administration practice of not less than three years OR an equivalent qualifications.

Master of Science in Real Estate Economics and Finance (By Coursework & Dissertation)

5. INSTITUTE OF HUMAN SETTLEMENT STUDIES (IHSS)

Master of Science in Housing and Financing (MSc. Housing) - (By Coursework & Dissertation)

Entry Qualifications

- (i) Bachelor degree with a minimum GPA of 2.7, or equivalent in the fields of urban planning, housing and infrastructure, urban development planning, architecture, urban geography, urban sociology, urban designers, environmental and civil engineering, geomatics, land management and valuation, building economics, construction economists and management, urban economics and other related fields.
- (ii) Work experience of 2 years in the respective fields is an added advantage.
- (iii) Recommendation from at least two referees - one academician and one practicing professional.

Master of Science in Public Policy Analysis and Programme Management - (By Coursework & Dissertation)

Entry Qualifications
(i) Bachelor degree with a minimum of lower second class or equivalent qualifications as shall be approved by the University Senate, in the fields offered at ARU or any other related fields.
(ii) Work experience of 2 years in the respective fields is an added advantage.
(iii) Recommendation from at least two referees - one academician and one practicing professional

C: Master of Arts in Development Studies (MA - DS) (By Coursework & Dissertation)

Entry Qualifications
Bachelor degree with a minimum GPA of 2.7 in the fields offered at ARU or other related fields or other equivalent qualification; Candidates with unclassified under graduate degree may be considered for admission provided she/he has a minimum of a B grade.

Doctor of Philosophy in Built Environment Analysis (PhD BEA) - By Thesis
Doctor of Philosophy in Climate Change Studies (PhD CCS) - By Thesis
Doctor of Philosophy in Housing and Settlement Studies (PhD HSS) - By Thesis
Doctor of Philosophy in Policy Analysis and Programme Management (PhD PAMP) - By Thesis
Doctor of Philosophy in Development Studies (PhD DS) - By Thesis
Doctor of Philosophy in Urban Governance and Environmental Studies (By Coursework & Dissertation)

Entry Qualifications
Relevant Master's Degree of the Ardhi University or holder of equivalent standing Master's Degree from a recognised University.

Duration for the programmes

Masters degree by Course work and dissertation: **18 months**
Masters degree by thesis: **24 months**
PhD by thesis: **36 months**
PhD by Coursework and Dissertation - **48 months**

HOW TO APPLY

(i) Applications forms can be obtained from the office of the

Director, Postgraduate Studies Research and Publication
Ardhi University,
P.O Box 35176,
Dar es Salaam.

A non-refundable application fee of **Tshs. 20,000/= for Masters and Tshs. 30,000/= for PhD** must be deposited to ARU NMB Account, University Agency Branch with Account Number 2080100034 or paid directly through mobile network operators (Tigopesa, Mpesa and Airtel money) after requesting control number from admission office available with Tel. No. +255 716680840 and submit the original pay slip/confirmation message from mobile network operator together with the application form.

Deadline for receiving applications is 31st September, 2020 for all programmes except for the Master's Degree by Thesis and PhD.

Starting date for Postgraduate Programmes by Coursework and Dissertation is 9th November, 2020

This announcement is also available at www.aru.ac.tz

Prof. G. R. Kassenga
 DEPUTY VICE CHANCELLOR FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

'Early detection of leprosy vital in disease eradication'

By Guardian Correspondent, Pemba

MORE efforts should be taken to identify leprosy patients for early treatment, the step that would spare them of disabilities, a Zanzibar health official has said.

Head of the academic unit dealing in tuberculosis, leprosy, hepatitis and HIV/Aids, Dr Hasnuu Fakh Hassan cited leprosy as a challenge in Zanzibar that can cause disabilities to the sufferers.

Addressing journalists here yesterday, Dr Hasnuu said education provided by the Ministry of Health is not enough as it reached only very few people.

She said leprosy has become a problem affecting the community without themselves realizing hence it is necessary to take more efforts to identify the sufferers for early treatment, the step that would spare them of disabilities.

Dr Hasnuu appealed to stakeholders and various institutions to assist them by donating funds to eradicate the disease that affect people bit by bit.

"We have sufferers who do not bother going to hospitals because the

symptoms are not discernible, hence they ignore the need of going for treatment, but once we have funds for their follow up, we believe by 2030 the scourge will completely be eradicated," she explained.

She added: "Just recently President Ali Mohamed Shein from his special fund dished out money for following up the issue, we made a follow up and we located several sufferers."

She said they identified an average of about 10 sufferers for each quarter of the year, equivalent to 40 patients in one year.

The official mentioned areas from where they identified leprosy sufferers as including Maziwang'ombe, Micheweni, Ole, Pujini, Kengeja Likoni, Mjimbini and Makombeni adding: "Once we get enough funds we shall make follow ups to identify more sufferers and have them treated before they develop disabilities."

She said leprosy is infectious hence she asked the community, especially those who suffer from it to go to the hospitals without delay, as free drugs are available.

Ministry of Health through its leprosy unit aim to completely eradicate the disease in the country by 2030.



A representative of Sikonge District's Upendo Group (in white headscarf) presents a gift of chickens and cooking oil to Tabora regional commissioner Aggrey Mwanri on Tuesday. The RC was visiting groups empowered under the 'Hebu Tuyajenge' project, which the National Council of People Living with HIV (Nacopha) is implementing in the district with USAID funding. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

PwDs appeal for safety guidelines during crises

By Correspondent James Kandoya

PEOPLE with disabilities have appealed to the government to come up with guidelines that will be used to assure their safety and security during emergencies including the outbreak of diseases.

In an interview with The Guardian, founder and chairman of Dhahabu Foundation for Children and Youth with Disabilities (DFCYD) Dr Hadija

Jilala said having the guidelines in place will prevent people with disabilities from all the types of emergencies.

According to her, the country lacks specific guidelines to protect people with disabilities during emergencies or pandemic outbreak, hence putting them on high risks of being affected.

She said knowledge gap is still a big challenge to many people as most of them were not aware on how to protect people with disabilities during

emergencies.

Dr Jilala who is also the Assistant Lecturer at the Open University of Tanzania (OUT) said since Tanzania has already ratified the International Convention for people with disabilities, it was high time that to ensure it is practiced and guidelines are formulated.

She said section II of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania expresses the need of protecting PwD

from all risks.

"We are at a risk of being victims when emergencies happen in the country, therefore it is very important to have guidelines that can protect us," she said.

"There should also be a special fund to procure protective gears for the special group. The funds can also be used to empower people with disabilities economically," she noted calling for establishment of a database

for the particular group.

She said having a database would be easy how to serve and reach them during disasters. She said there are no specific data for the particular group, hence difficulties in reaching and supporting them.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities under Article 11 provides for state duty to ensure safety and protection of persons with disabilities in situations

of risks including humanitarian emergencies and occurrence of natural disasters.

This could range from ensuring accessible information, health care, and adequate living standards.

The Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) was recently concerned that there should be inclusive and accessible measures to prevent people with disabilities from contracting Covid-19.



Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition national coordinator Onesmo Olungurumwa pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday opening what would have been three-day training to help rights defenders go about their duties without breaching the law. This was before it was called off after police intervened over what was described as "technicalities". Left is TRHDC programme manager Remmy Lema. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

By Guardian Reporter

POLICE in Dar es Salaam yesterday stopped a meeting which was organised by Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) saying they weren't satisfied with the theme of the meeting.

The incident occurred yesterday when 33 human rights defenders from 11 zones were getting prepared for the three-day meeting, which was to be held at Millennium Towers building in Dar es Salaam.

Speaking to journalists soon after the incident, coordinator of the coalition,

Police in Dar halt THRDC meeting

Onesmo Olungurumwa said that police stormed into the meeting and arrested two facilitators of the meeting.

"We cannot proceed our training as police have arrested some THRDC staffs, the arrested staff were responsible for training facilitation," said Olungurumwa.

According to him, civil society organisations conduct internal meetings to discuss various issues in

relation to their operations.

"This was part of our usual internal meetings, may I call upon the police to stop interfering with our activities including internal meetings," he said.

He claimed that earlier, police told them to stop the meeting since it was dangerous for them to meet in the presence of Covid-19 pandemic.

He wondered as to why the police have stopped them from conducting

the meeting since the President has already allowed people to continue with their daily activities including public gatherings.

"We do not understand why the police have stopped us because we also considered social distancing by limiting the number of participants to only 33 out of 55, we did this to prevent the spread of coronavirus," he said.

Olungurumwa said they have followed up the matter to Kinondoni Regional Commander, but no official was ready to provide them with clear statements.

He said some of the participants were from upcountry regions and were supposed to stay in the city for three days. He said police claims that THRDC did not inform the force on the kind of training it was providing.

"We were to train our members on issues regarding to safety and security, but police said they were the ones entitled to provide such education," he added.

Kinondoni Regional Commander, Mussa Taibu confirmed the arrest of two THRDC staffs insisting that police had wanted to know the purpose of the meeting.

"We arrested the officials for interrogations; we wanted to know what the exact theme of the meeting was. We are not holding anyone," Taibu stated.

Prepare conducive learning environment to prevent spread of Covid-19, DC directs

By Guardian Correspondent, Bahi

BAHI District Commissioner Mwanahamisi Mankunda has directed heads of schools to prepare conducive learning environment that prevents the spread of the Coronavirus as schools reopen on June 29, this year.

Mankunda wanted the leaders to prepare the environment in accordance with the guidelines provided by the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children.

She made the directives here during a meeting with the head of schools which aimed to, among other things, discuss and set up preparation strategies before schools are reopened.

She said that the government had already issued guidelines on how learning institutions can keep students safe from Covid-19, so what is needed for the schools management to implement them.

She wanted schools to also disinfect the environment, educate students on the pandemic and ensure hand washing equipment; soap and sanitisers were available in their premises.

The District Commissioner also urged teachers to prepare well in order

to ensure that they deliver the best to the pupils and students once studies resume.

"We should work hard to ensure that our students are well taught, we have to improve performance in examinations, let us all together fulfill our responsibilities to improve the education sector," she said.

For his part, district education officer -Secondary Helen Mselemu said that teachers have utilised the Covid-19 holiday well and they are ready to work hard and deliver the best.

Mohamed Msongo, district education officer -Primary vowed that they are going to work hard and collaboratively to raise the performance of pupils in national exams.

"In the 2019 Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE), the district emerged number three in the region. We are planning to raise performance and be the first in the region," he said.

"We should work hard to ensure that our students are well taught, we have to improve performance in examinations, let us all together fulfill our responsibilities to improve the education sector"

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Doctors promise to emulate Dr Kanabar's helping spirit

MEDICAL doctors and staff at the Dar es Salaam-based Regency Medical Centre have vowed to emulate the helping spirit of the late founder of the hospital Dr Rajni Kanabar as they today commemorate one year since he departed.

Dr Kanabar was born on November 9, 1940 and died in June 25 last year in Dallas, United States of America after a long illness.

Speaking at the hospital yesterday, physician Dr Emmanuel Maganga told this paper that Dr Kanabar will stay in his lifetime memories because he is the one who made him strong and confident in his career.

He said Dr Kanabar assisted him to go for further studies abroad as well as offering him with many opportunities after studies.

"He was a passionate man who wanted to see peace, love and harmony amongst the workers. He listened to everybody," said Dr Maganga.

Judith Mahandel, a nurse at RMC said she will continue to remember Dr Kanabar on how he helped all the people including the hospital staff without considering their background.

She said through the Heart Babies Project many Tanzanian children got the opportunity to go to India for heart surgeries and come back home with a smile.

Another nurse, Justina Kazoba said she was one of the team who regularly escorted children with heart complications to India.

"We have lost the man who was

helpful to the society, a man who cared for the lives of others. He always believed on helping others insisting all we have will remain in this world," said Justina.

Regency Medical Centre is today expected to facilitate 10 dialysis sessions for free in loving memory of Dr Rajni Kanabar.

In 1979, Dr Kanabar pioneered the 'Tanzania Heart Babies Project' which still exists to date under the supervision of Mwanza Round Table, International Heart Relief Foundation of USA, ministries of Health of Tanzania and Zanzibar, Tanzania Heart Foundation. Over 3,700 highly subsidized heart surgeries have been performed in India as a result of Dr Kanabar's successful fundraising and facilitation.

He had secured financial backing and support from a huge list of national and international partners from Former First Ladies and Presidents of Tanzania and the Late Former President Dr Abdul Kalam of India.

He also got support from political stalwarts, diplomats, philanthropists, Indian legendary film stars like Dilip Kumar, Salman Khan, corporates, foundations, airlines and student bodies.

His long-standing connection and partnership with Lions Clubs International has also brought unassailable gains to the community at large.

Partnering with state-of-the-art Indian hospitals, world-class Indian surgeons and the Indian High Commission has led to countless Gratis Visas for disadvantaged Tanzanian children to travel to India for heart surgery.

He managed to send thousands of non-cardiac tertiary care patients to India at affordable rates and also collaborated with Indian Hospitals to Conduct Medical camps at Regency Medical Centre in Dar es Salaam. These range from free eye screening, diabetes, spine, hip and knee joint, neurosurgical and specialised cancer screening health camps to cardiac checkups and free cataract surgeries for non-affording patients.

Over the past 12 years, the hospital has provided almost 59,000 subsidized, often free, hemodialysis sessions.

The centre's philosophy of giving spirit and passion for service has meant that disadvantaged children with Spina Bifida, Hydrocephalus and cancer related conditions have received special discounted rates for treatment.

In April 2014, Dr Kanabar was presented with the Order of the United Republic Medal by the Former President of Tanzania, Dr Jakaya Kikwete at the State House in Dar es Salaam in the category of 'Persons who have, by their acts and conduct, earned praise and distinction for the United Republic of Tanzania'.



Selemani Jafo (L), Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), symbolically receives 75 chairs and 45 tables from Dr Msuya Foundation Director Dr Ombeni Msuya (R) in Dodoma yesterday. The foundation spent over 1m/- repairing the items, which are for use by Bahi District's Ibhwa Secondary School. Looking on (2nd-L) is Bahi district commissioner Mwanahamisi Munkunda. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

By Guardian Reporter

Tamwa commends women aspiring for election as Zanzibar's President

said in a statement.

"TAMWA calls upon the community to support them in order to achieve equal opportunity and participation of women in decision-making bodies, arguing that more women should turn up to pick leadership forms," she said.

"Therefore, while the exercise to pick up forms is going on in Zanzibar, TAMWA Zanzibar wishes to see more women from CCM appear to pick up forms and seek nomination from the party as part of their constitutional and democratic rights."

It should be noted that Zanzibar has a good track record of women taking part in the independent struggle to demand freedom in different ways including opposing any kind of

oppression openly and transparently against colonists while many men were scared of that bold move.

Dr Mzuri said: "Unfortunately, women have been discouraged to run for the political positions due to the heightened patriarchal system much as they comprise over 50% of the population of Tanzania and yet mostly affected by the social economic challenges."

Women have proved as interested and able in making decisions in a participatory manner.

"TAMWA Zanzibar would like to advise all development-loving people to continue supporting women in their endeavour in order to attain gender equality in particular and overall social justice in the country."

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

Forum CC recommends more funding for developing renewable energy technology

THE Forum for Climate Change in Tanzania Forum CC has recommended that the government should increase funding for developing technology used in renewable energy in order to make it more productive to the economy.

Executive director for Forum CC Rebecca Muna said the government should make sure that resource mobilization should go hand in hand with the strategic planning of the country.

Muna made the remark on Tuesday in Dar es Salaam during the press conference, that investing in renewable energy is a potential opportunity to stimulate the growth of the economy, thus funding is inevitable.

"It is disappointing to see that a lot of the available sources for renewable energy hasn't been utilised to contribute to the economy," she explained.

She said that renewable energy is

one of the potential opportunities that the government needs to make use of, to make sure the sources contribute to the national economy.

"There is a need for stakeholders and the government to come up with a strategic mechanism to reduce the cutting down of trees," Muna added.

"We commend the government for its decision to establish investment on geothermal power projects located in river Ngozi, Mbeya region by 2021. The project is expected to contribute 30MW in the national grid," director said.

"But also the government is proceeding with setting up infrastructures for generating 2.4MW from wind power in Mufindi district, Iringa region. All these efforts are gear-up to give room for effective utilisation of the available sources of renewable energy in the country," Muna explained.

In 2016, the Forum through the

strategic partnership initiative on energy (SP-E) funded by HIVOS East Africa, merged with other stakeholders including Tanzania Gender and Sustainable Energy Network (TANGSEN), Tanzania Gender Networking Programme TGNP Mtandao, NUKTA AFRICA, Climate Action Network Tanzania (CAN TANZANIA), Journalists Environment Tanzania (JET) for the purpose of sensitizing the use and development of the renewable energy in the country.

But also the Forum, with funds from the European Union (EU), implemented accountable climate actions and finance transparency initiative (ACATI) focusing on increasing government accountability to invest in measures to control climate change.

According to the Power System Master Plan 2016, the wind power, solar and geothermal both contribute 3.8 of the total national energy.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY Research & Policy Specialist

About us

UONGOZI Institute is a government agency, established in 2010 by the Government of Tanzania and is supported by the Government of Finland, to inspire and equip Tanzanian and African leaders to deliver inclusive and sustainable solutions. This is done through the provision of high-quality executive education (leadership competencies), facilitation of policy dialogues, action-oriented research and technical assistance for public institutions.

The institute is currently seeking to fill the position of Research & Policy Specialist (RPS). Reporting to the CEO, the RPS will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the department of Research and Policy. The RPS will be responsible for the coordination development of operational plans for the department in line with the objectives established in the Institute's strategic plan, their implementation, management, and oversight. The RPS will also be actively engaged in networking and partnership development, as well as, resource mobilization. He will lead a team of professionals and is a member of the Institute's management team.

Duties and responsibilities

1. Manage research and policy team

- Oversee the development of the operational plans for the department as a part of the institutes planning. Ensure that the plans facilitate the achievement of the strategic objectives established in the Institute's strategy.
- Lead the process of conceptualization and implementation of the various activities of the department (policy forums/dialogues, action research, technical assistance, information sharing).
- Ensure that the department promotes gender equality in its operations.
- Represent the Institution in various events and platforms.
- Ensure timely quality reporting of the department's activities in line with the Institute's reporting processes.
- Budgeting for the departments work and follow up on financial implementation.
- Contribute to the resource mobilisation of the Institute.

2. Provide advisory and technical support on the strategic direction of the Institute

- Contribute to the management and strategic direction of the Institute as a key member of the management team.
- Ensure that the department's activities are in line with and support the implementation of all other areas of work of the institute.
- Provide guidance and support the CEO in his interactions with key stakeholders of the Institute.

3. Coordinate department's activities (action research, policy forums, advisory services, etc.) while ensuring quality and relevance

- Coordinate studies and research activities including conceptualization, outsourcing and quality assurance.
- Prepare concept notes for studies, policy forums and dialogues.
- Preparation of TORs for external facilitators, researchers and consultants.
- Work closely with external consultants and stakeholders to ensure high-quality and policy relevant outputs.
- Prepare presentations and speeches for various stakeholders including specialist and non-specialist audiences.

4. Networking with the Institute's stakeholders and resource mobilization activities

- Nurture and build relationships with public sector institutions in order to identify current government priorities to strategic entry points for the Institute.
- Nurture and establish relationships with development partners and other relevant actors to achieve collaboration, cooperation and alliances on programme development and implementation, and resource mobilization.
- Provide substantive input to the development and implementation of the Institute's resource mobilization strategy.
- Provide input to advocacy and public communication strategies.

5. Manage personnel under supervision

- Supervise, coach and guide personnel.
- Ensure a common vision aligned with the Institute's strategic plan is shared among the team.
- Create an enabling work environment and promote team work.
- Identify learning and development opportunities.

Required Competencies

1. Core competencies

- Leadership – ability to persuade others to follow.
- People management – ability to improve performance and satisfaction.
- Team management – ability to create common vision and well-functioning teams.
- Communication – ability to listen, persuade and transform.
- Delivery – ability to get things done while exercising good judgement.

2. Functional competencies

- Stakeholders Management – ability to manage multiple stakeholders and balance often contradictory expectations, building and maintaining relationships.
- Inspiration – ability to inspire colleagues and partners to be innovative and explore ways to do things differently.
- Collaboration and Partnerships – ability to develop, maintain, and strengthen partnerships.
- Programme Management – ability to formulate, implement and monitor.
- Operational Management – ability to develop plans, budgets and concept notes and deliver on them.
- Analytical Skills – ability to understand complex situations, good understanding of political economy.
- Results-based Management – ability to link implementation of plans to achieving results.
- Research Management – capacity to identify and manage studies and research. Capacity to substantially contribute to undertaking research.
- Contract Management – ability to manage and oversee outsourced research and other assignments.
- Networking Skills – ability to network with public sector leaders in the highest levels, development partners and private sector representatives.
- Advisory Skills – ability to facilitate advisory services.
- Writing Skills – capacity to tailor and deliver messages in writing in a concise manner.
- Coordination Skills – ability to coordinate implementation of activities (events, forums, assignments).
- Communication – ability to effectively communicate intentions and requirements to internal and external stakeholders.
- Team Building – ability to work effectively with diverse groups of professionals towards common goals.

Required skills

- Master's degree in social sciences or relevant field. PhD in social sciences or relevant field is an asset.
- 10 years of relevant experience with 8 years in a management position.
- Excellent analytical and writing skills.
- Proven track record of partnership building and resource mobilization.
- Solid communication skills and excellent networking skills.
- Fluency in English and Swahili.
- Past experience in writing or coordinating studies, reports articles and research management.
- Experience in linking research/studies, policy and programming.
- Capacity to manage teams and programmes.
- Good understanding of Tanzanian structures and political economy.

How to Apply

- Interested candidates should submit their application, comprising of:
- Brief statement on the related or similar work as above.
 - Detailed Curriculum Vitae with contact details for three referees.
 - Copy of your latest write-up.
 - Copies of certificates.

Above to be submitted to the following address:

Chief Executive Officer
UONGOZI Institute
62 Msasani Road, Oyster Bay
P.O. Box 105753, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Phone: +255 (0) 22 260 2917
OR through Email recruitment@uongozi.or.tz, with subject line "RESEARCH & POLICY SPECIALIST".

Deadline for Receiving Applications: July 12th, 2020.

UONGOZI Institute is an equal opportunity employer, committed to the strength of a diverse workforce. Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.

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There's every reason to fight abuse of drugs with full force

THE International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is a United Nations International Day against drug abuse and the illegal drug trade. It is observed annually on 26 June, since 1989. The date June 26 is to commemorate Lin Zexu's dismantling of the opium trade in Humen, Guangdong, ending in June 25 1839 just before the First Opium War in China. The observance was instituted by General Assembly Resolution of 7 December 1987.

Tanzania joins other countries in the world to mark the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on Friday. Drug abuse is not only a Tanzanian problem; it is a global catastrophe that requires quick intervention lest it continues destroying the lives of our youth.

Tanzania has strongly defended its war against the international narcotics trade, citing its many efforts and successes. The Drug Control and Enforcement Authority (DCEA) has made significant in-roads in its fight against illicit drugs despite the country being named in a new US government report as being among 'significant transit countries,' for illicit drugs in the world.

This year the country's efforts were also acknowledged at the 63rd session of the United Nations Commission on Narcotics Drugs in March this year, where Tanzania was described as a 'role model' for many other African countries.

We had a special chance to show how Tanzania is combating illegal drugs at all levels—access, use and effects of abuse.

The country has cut the volume of heroin being smuggled into the country from Afghanistan by a whopping 90 per cent, and also upped its monitoring mechanisms for national production and distribution of marijuana.

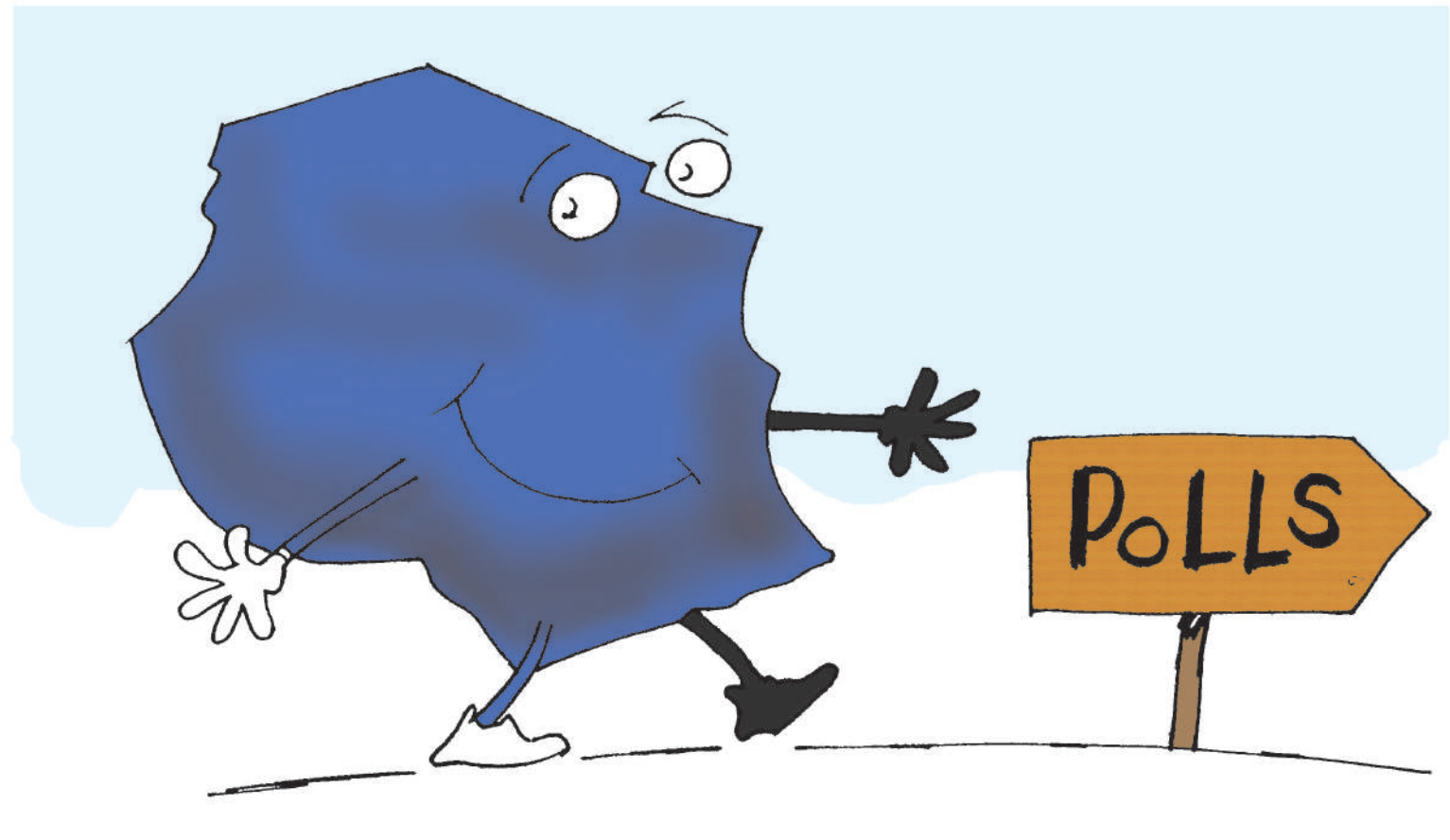
The State Department named both Tanzania and Kenya 'significant transit countries' for illicit drugs where domestic consumption was on the rise. "Tanzania's location, porous borders, and persistent corruption present challenges to drug interdiction. Traffickers exploit Tanzania's 854-mile coastline and inadequate port security," the report says.

It noted that while the Tanzanian government did not encourage the production or trafficking of illicit drugs, corruption and lack of training remained barriers to effective enforcement of anti-narcotics laws in the country.

On 26 June 1987, two important texts (Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control & Declaration of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking) were adopted at the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, which was held in Vienna during 17-26 June 1987. The Conference recommended that an annual day should be observed to mark the importance of the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking. Both the dates 17 June and 26 June were suggested, and in the later meetings 26 June was chosen and written into the draft and final resolution.

The UN's 2007 World Drug Report puts the value of the illegal drug trade at US\$322 billion a year. Campaigns, rallies, poster designing and many other programmes are conducted. People of different countries celebrate the day together. As drug use increases the day becomes more important.

'Health for Justice, Justice for Health', the theme for International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking 2019, highlighted that justice and health are two sides of the same coin when it comes to addressing drug problems.



Extraordinary China-Africa solidarity summit on the COVID-19 crisis: Some key takeaways

By Dr Muhidin Shangwe

ON 17 June 2020, Chinese and African leaders held a meeting to discuss the state of the coronavirus pandemic. The virtual meeting went by the heading of Extraordinary China-Africa Summit on Solidarity against Covid-19.

It was hosted by the two chairpersons of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), the Chinese President Xi Jinping and President Macky Sall of Senegal.

Also hosting was Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa and the current chairperson of the African Union (AU). Invited guests included Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN) and Tedros Adhanom, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO). A total of 13 African heads of state or heads of government attended.

The summit took place at the time when the number of Covid-19 cases in Africa is rising, albeit at a lower rate than predicted by experts. At the summit, President Ramaphosa revealed that the continent has more than 250,000 cases and over 6,700 deaths so far.

Meanwhile, the WHO database shows that the global number of Covid-19 confirmed cases stood at 8,242,999, whereas 445,535 people have succumbed to the disease as of 19 June 2020. Those numbers will keep rising at least in a foreseeable future unless humanity joins hands and come up with sustainable coping mechanisms, or better, cure for the disease.

The slower pace of infection may have momentarily provided some kind of relief for African governments and their people especially given initial fears that the continent would be the next epicenter of the pandemic. Yet, Africa and indeed the world cannot afford complacency by lowering their guard. It is important that humanity remains collectively vigilant.

Moreover, the relatively low infection rate warrants scientific investigation on the African conditions leading up to the current state of affairs. It means the continent has its own contribution in our understanding of the disease in particular and in the global health conversation in general. We are in this together, as equals. Such was the spirit of the summit as expressed in the language of respect, equality and mutuality.

The main theme of the summit was solidarity when the coronavirus has exposed the global political, social and economic fault lines. Instead of addressing this weakness, it is



Cyril Ramaphosa, President of South Africa



Tedros Adhanom, Director-General of the World Health Organisation



Chinese President Xi Jinping



Macky Sall, President of Senegal

unfortunate that others have opted for a blame game to the point of sabotaging the very institutions designed for dealing with crises of this nature.

For instance, both China and the WHO have been on the receiving end of, in my opinion, unfair criticism especially by the Donald Trump administration. However, as the virus spread outside China, the world soon realized that many countries were

caught unprepared despite the window of opportunity that China offered as it battled with the virus in the early stages of the outbreak. Those pointing an accusing finger were soon to find themselves being criticized for their own mishandling of the pandemic.

Certainly the coronavirus has humbled us all, regardless of borders, ethnicity or economic status.

From the perspective of Afro-Chinese

relations, the China-Africa Covid-19 Summit underscored the notion of all-weather friendship between Africa and China.

It has to be noted that China has already offered assistance to Africa by dispatching its own medical teams and equipment to many countries in Africa. Conversely, Africa has not been a passive recipient of Chinese medical aid. Early this year, for instance, the government of Equatorial Guinea donated \$2m to China to help fight the coronavirus. Additionally while China reiterated its hands-off Africa policy at the summit, the African side reciprocated by expressing support for Beijing's position on Hong Kong and Taiwan.

Perhaps the most important aspect of the summit is that it brought the continent's own Covid-19 agenda to the global limelight. The agenda essentially calls for a multilateral approach in the fight against the coronavirus. This is strategically imperative as Africa's health infrastructure cannot stand the true test of the pandemic. Indeed, even the rich countries themselves have not fared very well in this fight if our recent memories of overwhelmed hospitals in Europe and North America are anything to go by.

It's a fact that some African countries have taken commendable measures to contain the disease in the context of their limited resources. But much of the work needed to be done depends on the cooperation between the continent and other global actors such as international financial institutions, the WHO and individual actors such as China. At the summit, President Ramaphosa announced that the AU has launched the Africa Medical Supply Platform, an online space that will enable governments to access and purchase critical medical supplies. He asked China to support this initiative. He reiterated Africa's call for debt relief to allow African governments to use limited resources at their disposal in combating the coronavirus. In response, China has indicated willingness to come up with debt relief arrangements and use its influence to urge the global community to do the same. This is a positive gesture and it explains why cooperation is needed.

The Covid-19 is a transnational health crisis, therefore the solution to it must stem from multilateralism as opposed to unilateralism. We cannot afford divisions in the face of unprecedented health crisis. Solidarity forever!

Dr Muhidin Shangwe is a lecturer in the Department of Political Science and Public Administration, University of Dar es Salaam.

Victims and survivors of torture deserve maximum global support

THE United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture - 26 June is an international observance held annually on 26 June to speak out against the crime of torture and to honour and support victims and survivors throughout the world.

The day was selected by the United Nations General Assembly for two reasons. First, on 26 June 1945, the United Nations Charter was signed during the midst of World War II - the first international instrument obliging UN members to respect and promote human rights. Second, 26 June 1987 was when the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment came into effect.

The decision to annually observe the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture was taken by the UN General Assembly at the proposal of Denmark, which is home to the world-renowned International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT).

The first 26 June events were launched in 1998. Since then, nearly 100 organisations in dozens of countries all over the world mark the day each year with events, celebrations and campaigns.

This is a day on which we pay our respects to those who have endured the unimaginable. This is an occasion for the world to speak up against the unspeakable. It is long overdue that a day be dedicated to remembering and supporting the many victims and survivors of torture around the world.

—Former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, 1998. On this International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, we express our solidarity with, and support for, the hundreds of thousands of victims of torture and their family members throughout the world who endure such suffering. We also note the obligation of states not only to prevent torture but to provide all torture

victims with effective and prompt redress, compensation and appropriate social, psychological, medical and other forms of rehabilitation. Both the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council have now strongly urged states to establish and support rehabilitation centers or facilities.

The Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (commonly known as the United Nations Convention against Torture (UNCAT)) is an international human rights treaty, under the review of the United Nations, that aims to prevent torture and other acts of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment around the world.

For the purpose of this Convention, the term "torture" means any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes as obtaining from him, or a third person, information or a confession, punishing him for an act he or a third person has committed or is suspected of having committed, or intimidating or coercing him or a third person, or for any reason based on discrimination of any kind, when such pain or suffering is inflicted by or at the instigation of or with the consent or acquiescence of a public official or other person acting in an official capacity. It does not include pain or suffering arising only from, inherent in, or incidental to, lawful sanctions.

The Convention requires states to take effective measures to prevent torture in any territory under their jurisdiction, and forbids states to transport people to any country where there is reason to believe they will be tortured.

Since the convention's entry into force, the absolute prohibition against torture and other acts of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment has become accepted as a principle of customary international law.

The killer enemy of progress: Procrastination

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

TODAY, we don't call it procrastination instead we found genius ways of dealing with this lurkness monster. We adopted it, then took it to private school, not the academy ones no no we took it to those international GCE schools where kiswahili is actually an option to French and Spanish then we decided to change its name and call it Runt but that was too concentrated for our free spirited creative younging so we finally settled with productivity. Which is more forward thinking; sounds like a 14 year old who is sure that they will be a doctor and save the world as long as the sun still rises from the east and sets on the west.

Well, I found out that everyone procrastinates, yes we are in the same whatsapp group, how you ask? It's simple there procrastinators who struggle to beat deadlines and then there procrastinators who have no deadlines to beat, unfortunately for most of mankind we all fall in the latter. They are the deadline junkies will probably say they work well under pressure and will wait till the final second to revise for the exam, write that report due at work or that group assignment that is almost way overdue. Then there is the lot of us who are always pushing responsibilities, personal health decisions and career to mention a few. As we all know, these things don't have a deadline. For instance I have pushed moving to a dot com for over two years, I have pushed the decision to get that Masters Degree for 4 years and I have pushed fitness and healthy living for 3 years now. You too may have pushed having a child, marrying the lady you have been cohabiting with or dating, probably its dealing with your child's behaviour, or asking for a raise, applying for that senior position at work, or finally telling that person how much you love them. This is the most dangerous lot because we don't get the big L stuck on our head cause there is no real deadline to beat. These important things in life unfortunately, have no expiry date, which gives us room to keep pushing without realising the magnitude of the consequences because they are not paraded out like the consequences of social ills.

So why are we procrastinating? Most people say it's fear. Which I agree, you find yourself specialising in doing the right thing at the wrong time as a means to escape certain fears. You could be spending more time on instagram looking at weightloss transformation pics when you could be working out why because you are



scared of change or having to take responsibility of not taking better care of yourself. You could be cheering colleagues at work to get that promotion you are scared to apply for because you are afraid of rejection so you would rather practice contentment. You could be ignoring that person who making you life

miserable cause you are afraid of being alone so you result to rejecting yourself as a means to accommodate them in your life at whatever cost. Fear generates these various types of procrastination. What we don't see is fear is a primal instinct that has helped man exist since the dawn of time. It has enabled us to make

conscious decision, it births alertness and in mothers is what we call a nurturing instinct brought by the desire to ensure that the offspring gets to survive to an age they can protect themselves.

Then I found out that fear is an emotional element that exists in the primal part of our brains which in simple biology it's the lower part of our brain that's concoction of emotions, memory and involuntary behaviour such as walking eating you get my vibe right? Then there is the logical part that's at the frontal area of the brain the more sapien sapien part that makes us superior beings.

Finally, Amayayi, a sweet cocktail of the two that is not always even. This middle ground is where my logic and primal side meets. This is where Margaret patiently dumps down the daily to do list then offers Bushbaby a reward for playing along. Also this is where bushbaby decides how long she is willing to play along for Margaret's reward.

Simply put, you need to address your primal fears on a level by level bases instead of swallowing the whole pill in one go. For instance you can start by listing those major life decisions you have been pushing to make and why you have not made those big

decisions yet. After which you can reward yourself with something you enjoy this was your primal side is learning to slowly face it'd fears.

Tomorrow you can start by looking at one small thing you can do to slowly get you into motion. Focus on getting into motion more than your end goal. Start by saying no to that toxic partners propositions, start by texting hello to that person you have been dying to reach out to or send a meme great social ice breakers.

Start by finding the graduate or post graduate degree you would like to pursue or by coming into work early or bringing more of your ideas to the conference room. Once your little foxes run there will be less fear, less desire to back down.

Don't start everything at once look at what you feel is manageable in your list then be willing to take breaks when you feel you have done the most. Always remember to reward yourself this can be as little as a sweet or taking a vacation.

Allow you primal side to occasionally stop the train and get wild don't judge yourself when it happens instead thank the universe that you are human and keep on going step by step.

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Message to ostracised world leaders: You don't need a US Visa to address the UN

UNITED NATIONS

THE coronavirus pandemic is beginning to transform the United Nations into an institution far beyond recognition.

The Secretariat building has been shut down since mid-March, and the UN campus will continue to remain a ghost town through end July- and perhaps beyond- with nearly 3,000 staffers, delegates and journalists working, mostly from home.

And most meetings, including Security Council sessions, are taking place via video conferencing (VTC) while "informal consultations" are done "remotely," along with "virtual" press briefings.

Last week the UN hosted a "virtual ministerial pledging conference" with hardly a minister in sight.

The deadly pandemic has, most crucially, grounded the upcoming session of the General Assembly, an annual event which usually attracts over 150 world leaders. And it has also upended the "live" commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the world body.

And so, perhaps for the first time in the 75-year history of the UN, most world leaders would be invited to address the General Assembly via pre-recorded video statements.

The message particularly to ostracized world leaders - and those "blacklisted" by the US - is clear: You don't need a US visa to address the UN, come September.

Dr Palitha Kohona, a former Chief of the Treaty Section in the UN Office of Legal Affairs, told IPS the US has denied entry visas to certain individuals to attend meetings of the world body, including senior officials from Iran, Syria, Yemen, Libya, Venezuela, Russia, North Korea and Cuba, among others.

The US will be severely challenged if it seeks to justify its actions as being consistent with its obligations under the Headquarters Agreement with the UN. (HQ Agreement, II UNTS I), he argued.

With the US in the present confrontational mood, and the real risk of an intractable conflict between the UN and the US, COVID-19 provides a convenient way out, with which the UN will be comfortable.

The members of the world body can now opt to address the organisation through video link, he said.



The Leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Yasser Arafat, arrived at UN Headquarters by helicopter. A view of the helicopter as it approached the North Lawn of the UN campus on 13 November 1974. But Arafat was denied a US visa for a second visit to the UN in 1988. File photo

An entry visa will no longer be sine qua non for the purpose of entering the US and addressing the UN, said Dr Kohona, a former chair of the General Assembly's Legal Committee and Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the UN.

Meanwhile, some key meetings, including those focusing on nuclear disarmament, women's rights, indigenous peoples and biodiversity - have been postponed, plus the Conference of Parties (COP26) on climate change scheduled to take place late November in Glasgow, Scotland.

The beneficiaries, if they do exercise their right to address the UN, via video conferencing, would include leaders from Iran, Syria, Yemen, Libya, Venezuela, North Korea and Cuba, who are virtually designated persona non grata by the US - even as a growing new political confrontation continues between Washington and Beijing.

Last week Michael Pompeo, US Secretary of State, had an implicit warning: "the United Nations Human Rights Council (in Geneva), now comprised of Venezuela and recently, Cuba and China, has long been and remains a haven for dictators and democracies that indulge them. It is a grave disappointment to those genuinely seeking to advance human dignity."

Dr. Simon Adams, Executive Director of the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (R2P), told IPS "I'm not an expert on US visa law, but banning foreign leaders from being able to attend the UN General Assembly would seem to violate the spirit of the UN headquarters agree-

ment". The US and Soviet Union were on the brink of nuclear war in 1960, but Khrushchev was still allowed to attend the UN and bang his shoe on the desk, he said.

And Che Guevara, also no friend of the US, was allowed to speak to the UN General Assembly in 1964, although in that case someone tried to fire a bazooka at the UN in retaliation, he noted.

"However, with regard to the International Criminal Court (ICC), it is an independent court and is in a different category. While I think that the United States threatening sanctions against ICC officials is unethical and antithetical to international justice, I guess it is their legal right to do so."

It just means that the United States has now joined a select club of countries, mostly ruled by dictators and atrocity perpetrators, that threaten ICC officials and their families for doing their jobs and upholding international law, said Dr Adams, who worked with Sinn Féin and former IRA prisoners in support of the Northern Ireland peace process.

In theory, he said, that means even North Korea's Kim Jung Un could make a speech to the UN General Assembly this year-although given his recent bromance with the US President, he could probably get a visa anyway, he added.

"Personally, I think any leader of a UN member state should always be given the opportu-

nity to address the annual General Assembly, unless they are currently under ICC indictment for war crimes, crimes against humanity or genocide," declared Dr Adams, a former member of the international anti-apartheid movement and of the African National Congress in South Africa.

Ifikhar Ali, a longstanding UN correspondent for the Associated Press of Pakistan (APP), who has covered General Assembly sessions since 1971, told IPS the upcoming "virtual high-level debate" with only a small number of diplomats present in the iconic General Assembly hall will be devoid of the excitement, colour and high expectations that has always generated by the physical presence of 100-plus world leaders.

No bilateral meetings between friends or foes, no receptions or dinners where discussions take place in a relaxed atmosphere that help ease tensions in parts of the world, he said.

Also absent will be hundreds of television cameramen and reporters from around the world who push and shove to get closer to action with nervous security men chasing them around, said Ali, who worked for the U.N. in Tehran and Kosovo and is a former President of the UN correspondents' Association (UNCA) and Chairman of the Dag Hammarskjold Memorial Scholarship Fund from 1984-1993.

"In short, the crucial week-long high-level debate will make very little contribution to advancing the cause of international peace and

security," declared Ali. In 1988, when Yasser Arafat was denied a US visa for a second visit to New York to address the General Assembly sessions, the United Nations delivered a resounding slap at the United States by temporarily moving the UN's highest policy making body to Geneva in order to provide a global platform for the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

On his first visit in 1974, he avoided the hundreds of pro and anti-Arafat demonstrators outside the UN building by arriving in a helicopter which landed on the North Lawn of the UN campus adjoining the East River.

But since then several political leaders - mostly antagonistic towards the US or heading regimes under American sanctions - have either been denied visas or implicitly declared persona non grata.

As a result, heads of state from "rogue nations," including North Korea's Kim Il Sung and Iraq's Saddam Hussein, never addressed the UN while, more recently, Syria's Bashar al-Assad and Venezuela's Nicolas Maduro, have avoided the UN, even though they have a legitimate right to address the General Assembly, as leaders of UN member states.

When former Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir, accused of war crimes, was refused a US visa to attend the high level segment of the General Assembly sessions back in September 2013, a Sudanese delegate told the UN's Legal Committee that "the democratically-elected president of Sudan had been deprived of the opportunity to participate in the General Assembly because the host country, the United States, had denied him a visa, in violation of the U.N.-U.S. Headquarters Agreement."

Asked if world leaders like Bashar al Assad and Kim Jong un could remotely address the General Assembly, UN Deputy Spokesperson Farhan Haq told reporters last week "arrangements are being finalised".

"We do expect to have a virtual component, but you'll have seen what the outgoing General Assembly President said in his briefing last week about this issue."

"As we get closer to the specific arrangements, the General Assembly President and his office, including our spokeswoman, Reem Abaza, could provide you with more details. But we do expect that there will be some virtual component, and that format is still being decided among the Member States," he noted.

Pressed further, Haq said he does not want to prejudice what is currently being discussed by Member States.

"We're working for a mix of virtual attendance and then some limited physical attendance, and it's been very clear that it will have to be limited," he noted.

Estimates of Covid-19's impact on journalism fail to count freelancers

By Molly McCluskey

WHILE nearly every industry is facing layoffs due to the coronavirus epidemic, journalism is bearing a particular brunt. The New York Times estimated in April that 36,000 workers at news outlets had been laid off, or had their positions reduced, since the beginning of the outbreak.

Legacy publications and new media alike have slashed their rosters, and national and local outlets are being forced to make difficult decisions about who will stay - and who will go.

But dire as these figures are, they fail to provide a complete picture of the devastation to the industry because they fail to account for freelance journalists, many of whom have seen their livelihoods vanish overnight and who do not have unemployment and other protections.

The true cost to journalism is much greater. One only has to look at the recent articles bemoaning media layoffs to see a disturbing trend: nearly none accounts for freelance journalists or contractors.

The New York Times article makes no mention of freelance or contract workers - on which NYT and so many other outlets have relied, particularly in the higher-risk foreign assignments.

In its media layoff round-up list, Forbes - which has long relied on unpaid "contributors" to fill its content - makes a nod to freelance budgets being slashed at just one outlet.

When the impact to freelancers is mentioned, it's told through the perspective of a few journalists, as in the CNN article which fails to mention that last year CNN told their freelancers that they wouldn't be paid until 90 days after in-

voice - which is typically after publication.

To report on freelance journalism, and journalists properly, media outlets would have to contend with their own relationships with their freelancers, their complicity in the current state of the news media, and how the erosion of salaries, employer-paid health insurance, unemployment insurance, formal employment networks and other protections have placed these journalists at unprecedented risk during the Covid-19 epidemic.

Despite this, many freelance journalists are still reporting, albeit without the protective gear and crew that staff journalists would have, in similar situations, for the pennies on the word pay many will receive for their work. Or, worse, they're expected to provide it themselves, out of pocket, if they're able to find a place to buy it at all.

But, as their work dries up and their safety nets fail, they have neither quit nor been fired; and so, when it comes to the toll of the coronavirus on our profession, they are simply ... not counted.

There are no solid figures for how many people are currently working as freelance journalists, nor are there any for how many of them are now out of work.

Two surveys conducted by the Freelancers Union of their members in March (5,247 respondents) and April (3,163 respondents) found that 80 per cent of respondents who self-identified as journalists had lost work by end of April - whether that's having pending contracts cancelled or in-progress work being halted - while only 67 per cent reported having lost work a month prior to end of March.

Fifty-one per cent of journalists who responded to the



survey in April reported having lost more than \$5,000 in income since the crisis began. Journalists represented 13 per cent of the survey respondents.

While this measures a fraction of the work lost, it's impossible to measure work never assigned, the pitches not responded to, the work that never materialised, the fellowships and grants cancelled - because of the coronavirus.

Study Hall, an online media community that offers resources for freelancers, has compiled an ongoing list of outlets that have stopped commissioning freelance work; those that are still commissioning, albeit on a restricted basis, or have reduced their rates.

To those not familiar with the freelance journalism industry, the list of commissioning outlets can be misleading. As someone with a decade of freelance experience, an expansive

network and a strong portfolio of legacy bylines and fellowships, I, too, have recently, and frequently, had pitches rejected by many of the outlets on the list - even before the Covid-19 crisis. This is part of the hustle of being a freelance journalist.

Since the coronavirus pandemic began, however, I have seen six months of assignments, speaking engagements and trips vanish because the things I was meant to be reporting on, like conferences, lectures and field-based reporting, were suspended indefinitely.

Laboriously-crafted grant applications have been rendered moot after funding rounds have been cancelled or suspended indefinitely. Returned e-mails are a rarity, even from editors with whom I've worked, and rejections are so frequent that they're becoming demoralising. Four months in, there's no telling when, if ever, my normal workload will resume.

I'm not alone. Whether due to the recent coronavirus pandemic or years of being slowly, steadily squeezed out by shrinking rates; overburdened and unresponsive editors; staff layoffs that create new freelance competition; or pay that comes too late to pay rent, or not at all, many freelance journalists and media professionals are finding our profession simply too untenable to pursue. And there's no way to measure the toll on our mental health that this all can take.

For ten years, I have supported myself entirely on freelance work, usually journalism, without the trust funds or wealthy spouses that so many writers confess are the secrets to their financial success.

During those ten years, I have been punched in the face in Northern Ireland, have reported while gunfire rang out in Congo, have learned only when safely out of a refugee camp in Jordan that I had been close to a bombing and, most recently, was exposed to the coronavirus while on a story.

I've accepted \$300 for a 2,500-word investigation that took me two years to complete because three outlets folded under me in the course of reporting it, and I needed it to be placed so I could sleep at night.

For a year-long investigation, I was paid \$350 at a legacy outlet (now also laying off staff), but was required to buy errors and omissions insurance for \$500 and sign a contract that I would pay the outlet's legal fees if we were sued.

I was later told that the story, subsidised by a fellowship, ultimately wouldn't receive an award because "freelancers don't fill tables at the awards gala".

My work has frequently been stolen and run with another byline, or reprinted without my permission or any additional pay, with a frequency that makes my blood boil.

Three years ago, I sold an article to The New York

Times and was thrilled. We went through edits, had a publication-ready article ... and the editor vanished.

She ignored repeated e-mails and phone calls and, eight months later, she finally had a mutual acquaintance tell me to sell it elsewhere - without an explanation or a kill fee. I ultimately sold it to Pacific Standard, a great outlet that shuttered in 2019, (and has since had its archives purchased by Grist). I was paid \$400. The process took over a year.

I have also, on occasion, been paid fairly and on time, and worked with kind and generous editors. While these three things seldom happened simultaneously, like any bad relationship, those moments of grace kept bringing me back.

For ten years, the slights and hardships paled when compared to the work. The long days and fretful nights, the risk, the worry - always the worry - paled when compared to the righteousness of it all; the dogged pursuit of the truth, the belief that I was telling stories that needed to be told, that might help people in some way, to understand each other, and the world around them, in a way they might not have before.

I believed in it so fervently that I was willing to, and did, sacrifice a great deal: stability, traditional advancement, a job that loved ones would more easily understand, and often, my own peace of mind.

That belief in the work is **A Poynter piece. Molly McCluskey is an award-winning freelance foreign correspondent and investigative journalist whose work has appeared in The Atlantic, The Washington Post, National Geographic, Rolling Stone, and many more publications. Follow her on Twitter at @MollyEMcCluskey.**

SPECIAL INTERVIEW

'Africa must brace itself for disruptive new norm of work'

WHO would have thought the term Working From Home (WFH) would be one of 2020's buzz words. Well, the Covid-19 pandemic has made this our reality, as businesses of all shapes and sizes continue to respond to the future that is now upon us. Is Africa ready for this future? What should businesses do to ensure that employees sustain optimal performance? What does the future hold for HR practitioners? In this interview with a Special Correspondent, Sahara Group Head - HR Ivie Imasogie-Adigun (pictured) shares insight into, among other issues, how the energy conglomerate with operations in Africa, Asia, Europe and the Middle East is managing the new norm, how businesses should respond to the pandemic, and the future of work. Excerpts:

How has Sahara Group managed virtual working following the Covid-19 pandemic?

It: Being a global business with vast operations across the energy sector value chain, we moved swiftly to activate our virtual working protocols in response to the pandemic. In order to optimise opportunities for remote working, we carried out an internal Working From Home (WFH) survey and used the insight gained to develop robust business continuity and contingency plans which have made our operations seamless.

We have relied heavily on technology to ensure that we maintain connectivity across all our entities and business continuity amid the disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. This has helped our operations continue seamlessly, enabling our people to remain focused on delivering the best possible value to our stakeholders under the circumstances. We have also provided guidelines to govern these unprecedented times, especially as relates to the safety and wellbeing of our people as well as maintaining satisfactory levels of work standards and outputs across our business value chain. Our people have optimised their level

of output during this period as we are all still committed to ending the year on a high note of outstanding performance and output.

Employee engagement is critical in times of emergency. How has this played out at Sahara?

Constant and strategic communication has been an effective strategy for us at this time. At Sahara, we maintain a high level of communication with our employees via various channels that include feedback mechanisms to ensure alignment and understanding across the Group. Our messages are creative in design and disseminated to ensure that employees are kept abreast of developments regarding the pandemic, and how to stay safe and healthy. We have also constantly shared facts and hints on how best to contend with virtual working. We have offered wellness programmes such as virtual workout sessions and keep an open line to our mental health professional partners for those requiring such support. Through our employee volunteering vehicle, employees were given platforms to contribute to various initiatives geared towards stopping the spread of the coronavirus and providing relief materials for people affected by the pandemic. Being there for others and service to humanity are values that continue to inspire and energise our people to perform outstandingly at our various locations across the globe.

Sahara Group's recruitment policy includes creative interview sessions. What exactly do you look out for in your fresh and experienced hires?

Sahara culture is truly unique, and it takes a unique, 'unusual' type of personality to excel in our environment. As such, we are constantly looking out for individuals who are imaginative, dynamic in their thought processes, teachable and who display a lot of grit - call it determination or fortitude, if you will. Flexibility is also of crucial



importance. Our selection process seeks out individuals excited about making a difference both within and outside our business operations. We are also committed to ensuring that our selection process is reflective of our diversity as a company and enshrines the principles of equal opportunity. Of course, all these attributes are layered on top of having the required skills for the job and if the individual is not an experienced hire, then having 'raw' talent which can be built upon once joining the Sahara Family will have to be on display during the selection process.

Agile learning becomes even more instructive as the Covid-19 pandemic continues. How can organisations institute an effective framework for this?

First of all, the notion that learning needs to be classroom-based must be

de-constructed in order to make way for agile learning. Secondly, it is important to recognize that content resides in subject matter experts and not in the classroom. Thirdly, organisations need to provide a virtual technology platform that brings together content owners and participants in a synergistic relationship that enables the flow of ideas and encourages learning. At Sahara, we continue to partner with several strong learning brands to convert our previously planned classroom like content into online-enabled material and deploy this to our employees virtually.

What would you say are some of the lessons HR practitioners have learned from the covid-19 pandemic?

There are several lessons that have been learnt during this time. I will list only a few key ones, the first being the

nature of work - the value of work is not defined by location but by the individual.

The second lesson is the opportunity given to adjudge the true value of what organisations are paying for when they hire talent, while the third is the realisation that the 'Future of work' is NOW and not in some distant future.

Fourthly, these times have demonstrably underscored the need for constant, clear and consistent communication as a way of reducing anxiety and allaying fears in a time of uncertainty.

Another important and surprising lesson is the appreciation of the instant collaboration inherent in face-to-face interactions that allows for a psychological sharing of work responsibilities and the co-creation of value. WFH has removed that aspect of office working and organisations are striving to re-incorporate it via platforms such as Microsoft Teams and Zoom. It is still a work in progress, though.

Lastly, an old belief that all things are possible if you just believe has come alive again during these times. The manner in which organisations were required to switch gears and embrace WFH is testimony to that belief.

Do you think Africa is ready for this future and, if not, what needs to be done?

While I would say Africa's readiness for the future of work post Covid-19 is still a work in progress, we need to catch up on a number of things, among them power and technology infrastructure, which are critical components for driving virtual working. We also need to work on a shift in mindset shift - that is, to one that embraces remote working in its fullest form. This will give rise to the provision of enabling technology required to make its adoption successful.

Looking back to your multi-sectoral experience over the years, how has the HR role morphed into a full business partner status across mar-

kets?

The move to HR business partnering started roundabout 2006. At the time, it was an 'alien' concept in Nigeria but one that was growing in popularity and acceptance internationally. Over the years, it is now the norm and it has enabled HR professionals to better articulate the value they bring to organisations. In addition, HR business partnering has compelled HR professionals to better understand proactively the 'underbelly' of businesses - which, in turn, has led to better people insight being included in the executive decision-making process.

With ongoing breakthroughs in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and landmark tech solutions, do you envisage HR practice taking a hit in the future?

Similar to trends developing in the medical field such as telemedicine, there will be elements of the HR role that can be defined by complex algorithms which will be overtaken by Artificial Intelligence. Such areas will include administrative processes, policy administration, learning administration and HMO (Houses of Multiple Occupancy) management. There will be a trend for self-service offerings and the core of HR practices will be clustered around highly specialised aspects (of HR) that require deep human intuition for decision-making. The future is upon us.

What aspect of managing people do you find most challenging, and how do you deal with it?

In my opinion, the unpredictability of human nature and the diverse nature of each individual preference are the most challenging aspects of being an HR professional. In order to deal effectively with these inherent challenges, it is important to have a baseline understanding of human psychology and behaviour; some conflict resolution experience; a quiver full of best practices guided by carefully considered policies and procedures; and, above all things, wisdom from above.

East Africa: People seeking safety trapped at borders due to Covid-19

By Guardian Reporter

A COALITION of international, national and refugee-led organisations in the Horn, East and Central Africa (HECA) has called on governments in the region to reopen borders for asylum seekers.

The organisations are calling on governments to put in place measures that manage the current health emergency while ensuring asylum seekers can seek protection.

Countries in the HECA region host approximately 4.6 mil-

lion refugees and asylum seekers and have a long history of receiving asylum seekers and providing them with protection. Before the pandemic, the countries continuously received new people seeking safety and protection from violence and conflict, political persecution, or other threats to their lives. States started closing their borders in March as a public health measure to contain the transnational spread of COVID-19, without safeguards for the many women, men and children fleeing threats to their lives and freedoms and

needing to seek asylum.

"While countries in the region are faced with a genuine public health emergency, governments, with support from international partners, must find solutions that respect international human rights and refugee law commitments, including the right to seek asylum. Governments should consider measures such as medical screening or testing, preventative and time-bound quarantine facilities at border crossing points to allow access to asylum seekers," said Deprose Muchena, Amnesty International's Director for East and Southern Africa.

Burundi, Ethiopia, Rwanda, and Somalia closed their borders in March 2020. In Kenya, the borders with Somalia and Tanzania closed on 16 May. Asylum seekers and refugees who cross into Kenya are sometimes arrested and returned to the border point of entry.

Blanket border closures contravene international refugee law by denying people in need of international protection an effective opportunity to seek asylum. They also violate the principle of non-refoulement, which prohibits states from turning away people at a border and returning them to a country where they would be at risk of persecution or danger.

Along the DRC-Uganda border, approximately 10,000 displaced people have been camped out since May, waiting to seek asylum in Uganda.

Following a 16 June decision by the Uganda government to allow them to enter the country, efforts are underway to prepare for their safe entry, quarantine, and settlement.

"We welcome Uganda's decision to receive this specific group of Congolese asylum seekers. We urge the government and partners to ensure quarantine conditions for this group are dignified, and to develop more general measures to admit people needing international protection at other border points," said Robert Hakiza, Coordinator of the Global Refugee-Led Network-Africa Chapter.

On Uganda's border with South Sudan, for example, hundreds of people displaced by recent fighting between govern-

ment soldiers and armed groups in Central Equatoria State are stuck, hoping to cross into Uganda.

They are living in makeshift structures and are in urgent need of food, proper shelter, medical care, and access to clean water. Uganda closed its borders on 20 March.

Governments should consider measures such as medical screening or testing, preventative and time-bound quarantine facilities at border crossing points to allow access to asylum seekers

Harnessing of potential of satellite data to help development for Africa

By Natalie Donback

WHILE nations around the world grapple with how to best respond to the Covid-19 pandemic, many low-income countries in Africa now face a triple threat. In addition to the health and economic challenges posed by the virus, a locust infestation is decimating crops in East Africa and putting the food security of millions of people in peril.

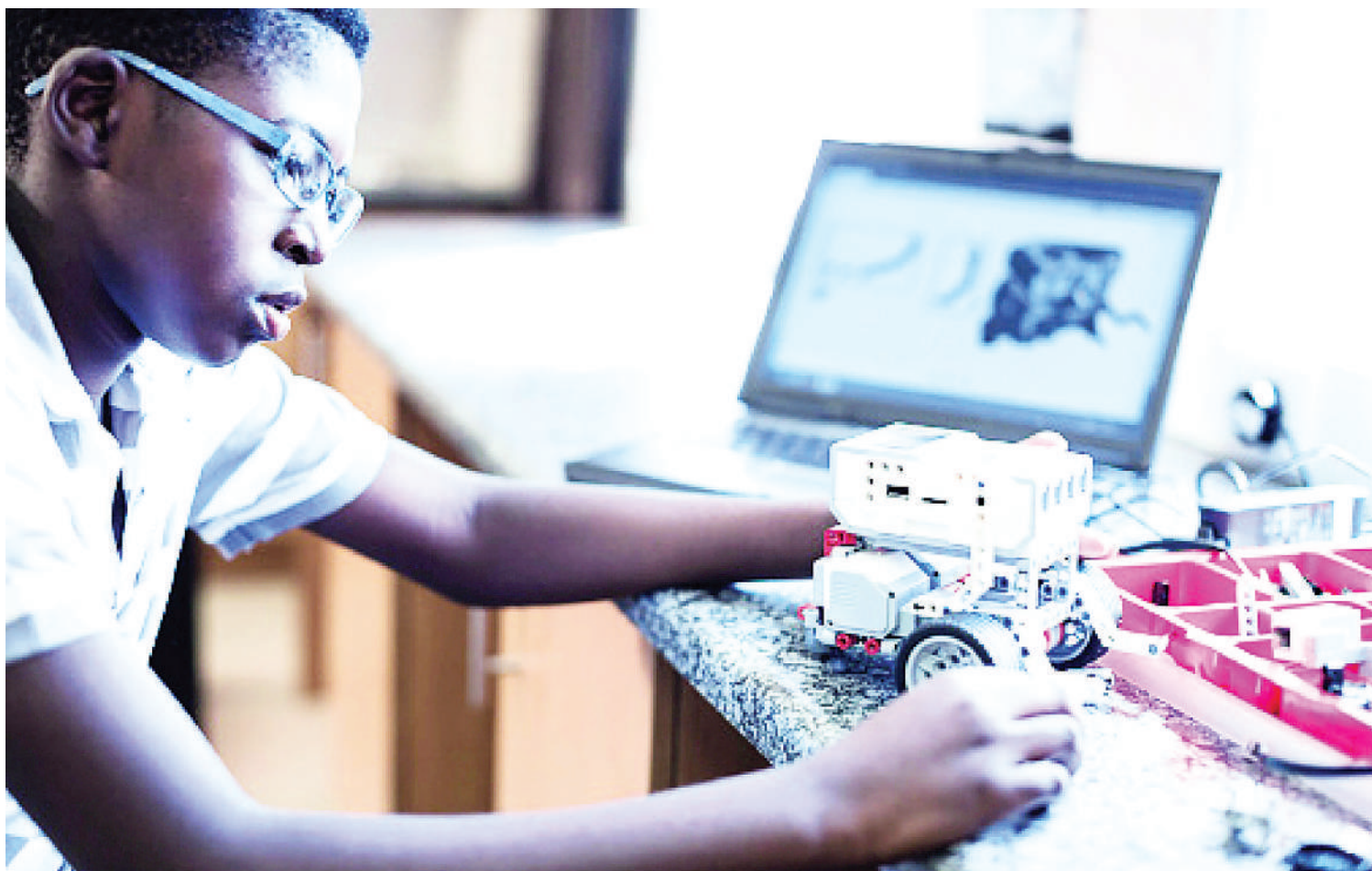
At a time when social distancing and travel restrictions challenge traditional responses, development specialists are increasingly relying on satellite data to monitor swarms, breeding grounds, and the environmental conditions that might lead to new invasion.

This is just one of the ways that data is being used to respond to various development challenges throughout the continent. Because satellite data is cheaper and easier to access than ever before, it has become a key tool that scientists can use to tackle a range of important development issues by combining geospatial data with other sources, such as population data and censuses.

In fact, a recent study on the status of Earth observation and geoinformation sciences in Africa found that, over the past 20 years, the continent has witnessed a steady advancement in space-based technologies that are "increasingly recognized as an essential tool for decision-making that can leapfrog African development."

However, harnessing their potential requires data training and literacy on a massive scale – among university students, who will become the next generation of data scientists, as well as government officials looking to use data for improved decision-making. Today, universities across Africa are trying to fill that gap by ramping up their data science degrees and providing shorter 101 courses to policymakers and professionals in the development sector.

"The field has already presented great opportunities for solving real-world issues. Now, universities need to collabo-



rate with the end users to build data applications if they are to really solve challenges on the ground," said Joyce Nakatumba-Nabende, lecturer and head of the artificial intelligence lab at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda.

Data literacy and capacity are currently the biggest barriers preventing policymakers from

making data-driven decisions to improve policies and their outcomes, according to Emmanuel Nkurunziza, director general of the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development – an intergovernmental organization supporting its 20 member states across Africa with geoinformation and technologies for sustainable development.

Nkurunziza noted that once policymakers have been sensitized to the potential of satellite data, then technical equipment and computing infrastructure, such as connectivity, can be addressed. This would make satellite data accessible for applications in development efforts ranging from agriculture to

natural resource monitoring and management, he said. For example, satellites can be used to help countries remotely monitor their crops to create yield estimation and food balances, among other applications.

"Agriculture and food security are one of the key areas where we do a number of activities that support countries in crop moni-

toring," he said.

One way that universities are supporting the scale-up of the practical applications of satellite data for development is to offer more data science-focused programs. "Historically, if one wanted to be a data scientist, they would either go study a statistics degree or they might do a computer science degree," said Kanshukan Rajaratnam, director of the newly formed School for Data Science and Computational Thinking at Stellenbosch University in South Africa.

This was problematic, however, because such programs did not necessarily link data to real-world issues. "However, more universities have now started to offer data science-focused programs," Rajaratnam said.

Solutions to these issues are already coming out of these programs. The artificial intelligence lab at Makerere University, for example, has developed an application to help farmers diagnose plant diseases. According to Nakatumba-Nabende, the application has been distributed to smallholder farmers who send images of their crops, which are then analyzed using artificial intelligence and machine learning to spot any new diseases, predict how they might spread, and ultimately help support the development of more resilient crop varieties.

While the results of the project have not yet been disseminated, Nakatumba-Nabende stressed that the farmers' knowledge of different crops and diseases has increased. "It's really been able to help them combat the spread of diseases and to also increase their knowledge of diseases," she said.

Establishment of Workers Compensation Fund a crucial development - Arusha RC

By Guardian Reporter

ARUSHA Regional Commissioner (RC) Idd Kimanta has hailed the establishment of the Workers Compensation Fund (WCF) saying that it carries a lot of advantages to workers, employers and the nation at large.

According to him, with the Fund, employees are sure of their incomes security even if they fall into accidents or get injuries at workplaces.

In his speech read on behalf by the Arusha District Commissioner Kenan Kihongozi at the opening of a five-day training session for physicians on how to assess occupational-related injuries and disabilities, Kimanta said that employers currently work without fear as they are sure of their protection.

The training brought together doctors and other health providers from northern zone regions.

He said that the Fund which started its operation in mid 2015 had helped to address various challenges that employees are facing while creating and supervising for conducive working environment.

"Both employers and employees now work and live comfortably as they are sure of their guaranteed protection from WCF especially during disasters, those who get disabilities due to occupational accidents and illnesses are compensated fairly and on time," he noted.

Kimanta said that the training was vital as it capacitate health providers with essential knowledge and to help them assess and decide well on the disabilities compensations.

For his part, the WCF director general Masha Mshomba said that the training was part of the Fund's plan



Arusha district commissioner Kenan Kihongozi (L) pictured in Arusha city yesterday opening a seminar meant to boost medical practitioners' ability to assess various forms of impairment. It is organised by the Workers Compensation Fund. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

to strengthen disability assessment and provision of the compensations to employees.

"We commenced the training provision exercise in 2015/16 and so far, we have trained 956 doctors in all Districts in the country. The today's training is part of our continued strategies

to strengthen our operations," he said.

Mshomba said the trainings are provided by some of the best experts from the Muhimbili Orthopaedic Institute (MOI), Ocean Road Cancer Institute (ORCI), the University of Health and Allied Sciences

(MUHAS), Occupational Health and Safety Authority (OSHA) and WCF on the whole process to receive and assess affected workers eligible of being compensated.

THE WCF established in accordance with Section 5 of the Workers Compensation Act

(Cap 263 Revised Edition of 2015) with its main purpose being to provide for adequate and equitable compensation for employees who suffer occupational injuries or contract occupational diseases arising out of and in the course of their employment and in case of death, for their dependants.

UWAWAZA hails Zanzibar First Lady for participating in House dissolution

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR's Association of Women Members of the House of Representatives (UWAWAZA) has congratulated the Zanzibar First Lady Mwanamwema Shein for her participation in the dissolution of the Ninth House of Representatives in Zanzibar recently.

UWAWAZA chairperson who is also the House's Deputy Speaker Mgeni Hassan Juma, on behalf of the Association at her Chukwani office in Zanzibar said they congratulated Mwanamwema Shein for accepting their invitation and fully participating in the event.

She said UWAWAZA and other male members of the House of Representatives were pleased with her participation in the rare event.

She said Mwanamwema Shein has been at the forefront in working together with Members of the House of Representatives including UWAWAZA as she values their accomplishments.

She said the First Lady has been participating in various political activities in both Unguja and Pemba including her full participation in support of the Women Wing of Chama cha Mapinduzi (UWT) in the country.

She said the association also congratulated Mwanamwema Shein for her various contributions to the community and stressed that UWAWAZA fully values such contribution that she provides without consideration of colour, religion, gender or political affiliation of the recipients.

The UWAWAZA chairperson also used the occasion to congratulate President Shein and insisted that women had given great contributions to men's development and mentioned how Mwanamwema Shein had been assisting Dr Shein during the whole period of his presidency.

She said during President Shein leadership, great development strides had been realised in all development sectors including economic, political and social.



First Lady has been participating in various political activities in both Unguja and Pemba including her full participation in support of the Women Wing of Chama cha Mapinduzi (UWT) in the country

Political presentation essential in addressing challenges facing women

By Correspondent Daniel Semberya

FINDINGS have revealed that the need for promoting women leadership was as important as creating an enabling environment for women to hone their leadership qualities. Despite umpteen measures to empower women and see them in leadership positions, the representation of women in such positions across the globe is quite upsetting. Women make up just 4 per cent of CEOs in the world's 500 top companies, even a lesser per cent of heads of government at national level belongs to women and the least per cent of international leadership positions is occupied by women in the world today.

Absence of gender equality in leadership positions not only hampers the due progress in every sphere but also costs the global economy substantially. Hence, there is a need to promote women leadership. Corporate houses or companies need the best of leaders and it will not be fulfilled if the recruitment pool excludes women. Statistics show that women have not yet reached their full potential in leadership positions.

Debates have now sparked up because more than ever people are now seeing the relevance of women in leadership.

Africa still is the continent with the lowest number of women leaders on the globe. It is high time for the Africans to speak out for their beloved continent and find pragmatic solutions to this problem. Women are supposed to be part of the decision-making process across all African countries. Nobody can speak to the issues of women more than women and women have expertise in various fields and so they can speak on other issues as well.

Speaking over the weekend through a virtual debate organised by African Young Ladies Change Makers Network

that involved young ladies from six African countries namely Tanzania, South Africa, Zimbabwe, The Gambia, Nigeria and Ghana, a Tanzanian Lady, who is also a Gender Focal Point with the Policy Forum in Tanzania, Iman Hatibu has urged Tanzanian young ladies to vie for high political positions in the coming general elections so that they can represent the unrepresented big part of women in the society.

"There are many challenges facing women in our community but are not spoken out, are not revealed because there is no enough representation in decision and policy making platforms," she explained.

Hatibu further noted that the challenges facing women will only be echoed out by women themselves. "That's why we encourage women to be in leadership, decisions, and policy making positions so that they can be in good position to fight and defend for their essential rights and needs."

She has, however, advised her fellow young ladies and women that before vying for any political posts they first need to be knowledgeable and well informed on different matters going on in the communities they are living.

And because of that, Hatibu has said that there was need of having a dialogue that would raise awareness and find ways on how women can effectively participate in political platforms, nationally, regionally, and internationally.

"I call upon role model women leaders to render support by grooming the emerging young lady leaders, so that they can also become successful and role models like them," she urged.

"I also urge young ladies and women who aspire for political posts in the coming general elections to seek for intellectual support as well so that they can learn crucial leadership skills."

For her part, Angela-Genevieve Nhlamulo Ngobe from South Africa said: "A Woman is not just a female but she is a person who has choices. Choices



Gender Focal Point with the Policy Forum in Tanzania, Iman Hatibu insists a point on the importance of young women to participate in political positions. Photo courtesy: Policy Forum

means she has the ability to pursue every opportunity given to her. Political office like motherhood is a choice a woman can make. I think it is very important for women to lead and take up politics because politics has the power to shape their lives."

She further noted that women's voices are important because they bring their experiences to the table which allows policies regarding women to be shaped by women. I believe that a woman feminist voice brings a distinct voice on how to govern. Women have always played a role in leading and shaping the continent.

I think it's time for African women to come in front and take their place in political offices. "I believe that a woman can do it all and be successful."

Benevolence Sindwe Mbano from Zimbabwe believed in

the power of dialogue. "Women should come out and speak about their issues and challenges facing them to encourage each other and find solutions together."

According to a new International Labour Organisation (ILO) report published for International Women's Day on 8 March, 2020, women are still underrepresented at the top, a situation that has changed very little in the last 30 years. Fewer than one third of managers are women, although they are likely to be better educated than their male counterparts. The report shows generally that education is not the main reason for lower employment rates and lower pay of women, but rather that women do not receive the same dividends for education as men.

"A number of factors are blocking equality in employment, and the one playing the largest role is caregiving."

Manuela Tomei, Director, ILO Conditions of Work and Equality Department.

The Quantum Leap report shows that achieving gender equality will mean policy changes and actions in a range of mutually reinforcing areas, and it points to measures that can lead towards a transformative and measurable agenda for gender equality.

"We need to implement a transformative agenda that includes enforcement of laws and regulations - perhaps we may even need to revisit those laws and regulations - backed by investment in services that level the playing field for women, such as care and social protection, and a more flexible approach to both working hours and working careers. And there is the persistent attitudinal challenge of attitudes to women joining the workforce and their place in it," said ILO Director-General Guy Ryder.

Meanwhile, the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action flagged 12 key areas where urgent action was needed to ensure greater equality and opportunities for women and men, girls and boys.

It also laid out concrete ways for countries to bring about change. Various gender and women rights stakeholders works with governments and partners to ensure such change is real for women and girls around the world. Education is essential for women to reach gender equality and become leaders of change.

According to the Beijing Platform, once in leadership roles, women make a difference. But they are under-represented as voters and in top positions, whether in elected office, the civil service, corporate boardrooms or academia.

The media plays a significant role in perpetuating and challenging social norms that condone discrimination or violence against women. It can objectify women but also showcase strong women leaders and protagonists who can become role models in a society.

The COVID-19 pandemic and big picture behind getting vaccinated

By Joanna Horvath

EUROPEAN explorers who went to the New World are said to have gone there with diseases like measles and the flu which led to more Native American deaths than battle.

We often forget however, the significance of the fact that those explorers were often immune to the virus themselves due to previous exposure.

Germs have been around for as long as we have, and symptoms that we get from diseases originally existed as a way for viruses to mutate, and infect a new body/host organism.

So when anti-vaccinators argue that vaccines are unnatural, it is a sound counter-argument to say that our ability to mutate and build resistance is actually the most natural thing about our existence as human beings.

If viruses are able to change to survive in different environments among new hosts, haven't human beings adapted just the same?

During the Spanish Flu of 1918 which killed roughly 50 million people, epidemiologists had no idea that they were dealing with a new strain of influenza, which eliminated the chance that they could isolate the virus and find a vaccination to prevent its spread.

It wasn't until the 1940s that a commercial vaccination was developed for the flu, and it's worth noting that almost as many soldiers died in WWI from the deadly flu pandemic as they did from warfare.

Today, over one hundred years after the Spanish Flu, an estimated 19.4 million people under the age of one year do not receive vaccinations, while immunisation currently prevents between two and three million deaths per year, according to the World Health Organisation.

The invention of vaccines has saved millions of lives and re-

mains to be one of the world's most successful and life-changing health interventions.

Over half of children who do not receive immunisations live in poor regions with limited access to healthcare. For the remaining children who go without getting immunised, the explanation is that their parents choose to not have them children vaccinated.

This is nothing new. The anti-vaccination movement has been around since the beginning of vaccines.

The first advancement in the development of vaccines came about when Edward Jenner, a doctor who worked in rural London in the 1700s, noticed that farmhands were not contracting smallpox the same way everyone else around them seemed to.

Jenner scraped the pus from sick cows and, one by one, rubbed it on his family members' skin. Remarkably, they didn't get sick. This led to the smallpox vaccine and, later, the world's first infectious disease eradication.

At the time Jenner was ostracised for putting his family in contact with pathogens from sick animals, but he made a discovery that would change the course of history and diminish the risk of disease for all of humankind.

Talk about opting out of immunisations again began circulating in 1998 when Dr Andrew Wakefield published a case series in which he suggested that the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine could predispose children to behavioural and developmental disorders. Soon after, vaccination rates began to drop rapidly because many parents believed that they were putting their children at risk for autism.

Later it was found out that Wakefield had used selective sampling in his study, and he eventually retracted his paper,



admitting that many of the original claims were incorrect. However, the anti-vaccination movement was already in full effect. There are plenty of people who still believe in those assertions.

Apart from Wakefield's fraudulent study, people have argued over the years that vaccines are unnatural, unsafe and untrustworthy. People have also been quick to blame medical and pharmaceutical companies as profiting off fear and misinformation.

Skepticism of any nature is understandable, even warranted, but in the case of vaccines, it is ill-informed, beside the point and downright unhealthy. Vaccinations can help us protect ourselves, but they also increase our herd immunity.

Herd immunity is something that happens indirectly when a large portion of a population becomes immune to a disease because of previous exposure

or vaccination.

A decrease in herd immunity can have devastating effects. Throughout history, we have witnessed entire societies and civilisations completely collapse owing to the spread of infectious disease and outbreaks brought to foreign soil from explorers who acted as carriers.

Today, we are witnessing an unprecedented pandemic in Covid-19 and, while health professionals and researchers frantically try to find a cure for the virus, it seems to be a part of our future indefinitely.

This means that our lifestyles and every-day decisions are crucial in containing and building immunity to Covid-19. Diseases have always found ways to carry on and mutate on their own, but usually so have we.

If the coronavirus has already shown us anything, it is the fact that social distancing seems less about saving oneself and more about protecting others in the process. Like social distancing, herd immunity is built up by people getting vaccinated.

When five children receive MMR vaccines, they limit the exposure that other vulnerable populations have to getting sick, in turn making the world safer, healthier and better for us all. This most crucially protects our elderly, immune-compromised, and already sick or disabled loved ones.

Perhaps we can use this current situation as a reminder about why vaccinations exist in the first place. We don't need to think about vaccines to detract from the seriousness of the issue at hand or to stir up any further controversy, but history offers us countless examples of vaccines playing a crucial role in saving the lives of millions.

Right now, there is no vaccine for Covid-19. For those who consider themselves anti-vaccinators, though, maybe now is a decent time to revisit the question of 'safe over sorry'.

As countless celebrities and professional athletes have brought to our attention in the past weeks, "they're just like us!" Well, it's true.

Herd immunity is very real, germs have no boundaries and pathogens

don't care if we are immune. Diseases will continue to exist and seek out ways to survive and thrive, regardless of the fact that you're Tom Hanks, or a little child suffering from leukaemia. The most we can do is limiting their ability to exist by limiting our access to each other.

As a society, we no longer think of contracting smallpox or rubella, and the symptoms of yellow fever or measles are probably unrecognizable to us. We no longer know what measles or polio looked or felt like, but their demise is none the less significant.

Vaccines have worked. We know this because the memory of these diseases has faded, while leaving behind important footnotes in the pages of human history.

We should not take sanitation, testing, vaccinations or our public health systems for granted, and if this difficult time can remind us of anything, it's that our very lives depend on the vaccines and testing available to us. They always have, and they especially do now.

It is easy to forget that the benefits of vaccines are enormous. You don't see anyone getting on Facebook to say: "Hey everyone, just wanted to announce I didn't get polio again today!" Or: "I'm so thankful yet again that I have not contracted measles #Blessed!"

Maybe we should be, though, because more and more vaccines are looking like kryptonite (something rendering us helpless). To doubt or deny the positive impact of arguably our world's greatest privilege and superpower would be a terrible shame.



Thursday 25 June 2020

DCB Bank shareholders to get dividend a full 4 years too late

By Francis Kajubi

AFTER a spell of four years without paying dividend because of making losses, DCB Commercial Bank Plc will finally pay its shareholders get some incentive for their investments.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam this week, the bank's Managing Director, Godfrey Ndalaha said the dividend amount will be determined by shareholders during their virtual annual general meeting following better results last year.

"The bank had in 2018 adopted a five year strategic plans with goals intended to increase liquidity, expand its network and transform it from loss making to profit generation," Ndalaha said noting that the bank last paid its shareholders a 14/- per share dividend back in 2015.

He explained that the 18th AGM on Saturday is expected to bring together some 7,000 shareholders who, among other things, will endorse the dividend payment. Last year, the Dar es Salaam based bank made a gross profit of 2.10bn/-, which was an increase of 30 percent from the 1.62bn/- registered in 2018.

The CEO added that DCB's bad loans portfolio decreased to 13 percent at the end of 2019 from 19 percent it suffered the previous year. The bank collected 1.8bn/- from loan defaulters during the period which was up from 986m/- collected in 2018.

Ndalaha further added that part of the



DCB Commercial Bank Plc's founding managing director, Edmund Mkwawa.

profit made last year will also be invested in expansion through physical branches but also innovation technol-

ogy. "The bank plans to open new five branches in six regions of the country to bring service closer to our custom-

ers. The bank will also open 28 new point of sales to enable customers in areas with no branches enjoy our ser-

vices," he added.

New branches are due to be opened in urban centres of the country while four PoS have already been opened in Singida, Kondoa, Mwanza, Morogoro and Mbeya. Currently the bank has eight branches located in Dodoma and Dar es Salaam regions.

Established in April 2002 as Dar es Salaam Community Bank Limited as a regional microfinance institution, the bank was given a banking license in June 2003 and successfully broke-even in 2005, after three years of operation.

In 2008, DCB became the first bank in Tanzania to be listed on Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange and changed its name from Dar es Salaam Community Bank Plc to DCB Commercial Bank Plc in February 2012. In July 2012, it got a licence to carry out banking business country wide as a fully-fledged commercial bank.



The bank had in 2018 adopted a five year strategic plans with goals intended to increase liquidity, expand its network and transform it from loss making to profit generation

Equity calls off Sh10bn plan to buy regional banks

NAIROBI

EQUITY Bank Group #ticker:EQTY has called off its plan to acquire four regional banking subsidiaries from London-listed Atlas Mara Limited in a move aimed at preserving its capital in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The parties had initiated talks in April last year, but the negotiations targeting Atlas Mara's units in Rwanda, Zambia, Tanzania and Mozambique dragged on until the pandemic hit. This has worsened the outlook for the businesses at a time when Equity is also facing the twin challenges of navigating the crisis and raising \$105 million (Sh11.1 billion) for a separate deal (purchase of a 66.5 percent stake in DRC's Banque Commerciale Du Congo).

While the Atlas Mara deal was to be paid for through Equity shares equivalent to a 6.72 percent stake valued at about Sh10.6 billion, the loss-making subsidiaries would have needed substantial capital injection from the Kenyan bank.

"The reasons for this decision include the need to refine Equity's strategy given the Covid-19 pandemic," the Nairobi Securities Exchange-listed firm said in a statement.

"This refinement entails conserving cash and liquidity (including the non-declaration of dividend for the financial year ended 31 December 2019) and deploying it to support customers in existing businesses."

The bank cancelled its proposed dividend payout of Sh2.50 per share or a total of Sh9.4 billion after the pandemic forced it to restructure Sh92 billion of loans to customers hurt by the economic disruption.

Completing the DRC acquisition and the Atlas Mara deal simultaneously while running its current six-market operations in a crisis environment would have strained the bank's balance sheet. The Atlas Mara transaction, in particular, would have taken long to pay off while requiring substantial capital support.



Equity Group CEO James Mwangi

"We expect near-term increases in non-performing loans, customer withdrawals and other effects including yield and fee compression as central banks intervene and foreign exchange markets display extreme volatility," Atlas Mara said in reference to the pandemic's impact on its businesses.

"While there can be no certainty at this stage, we expect 2020 operating and financial performance to be negatively impacted in each of our markets." The Atlas Mara deal would have seen Equity acquire 62 percent of the share capital of Rwanda's Banque Populaire du Rwanda and 100 percent of African Banking Corporation of Zambia, African Banking Corporation Tanzania and African Banking Corporation Mozambique.

The London-listed firm says it will seek another buyer for the four banks after the Equity deal collapsed. "Atlas Mara remains committed to implementing the previously announced strategic decisions of the board,

which include focusing on improving performance in core markets, streamlining the holding company structure and related costs and exiting or partnering in certain countries," the multinational said in an update.

"The company continues to evaluate a number of options with the objective of completing when practicable a strategic transaction aligned with these objectives. The company will provide further updates to the market in due course." In its preliminary discussions with the Kenyan bank, Atlas Mara had agreed to reduce the value of the four subsidiaries by Sh11.2 billion to reflect their weaker earnings.

These banking units previously reported a return on equity (RoE) of approximately two percent. Equity, in contrast, has posted returns in excess of 20 percent in recent years. Atlas Mara says the value of the four banks will be hurt further by, among other factors, weaker currencies in their markets.

Amazon unveils \$2 billion Climate Pledge Fund to shore up sustainable technologies

NEW YORK

AMAZON rolled out a Climate Pledge Fund, with an initial funding of \$2 billion to invest in sustainable technologies and services.

The new investment programme will help Amazon become carbon neutral by 2040 - the main goal of The Climate Pledge initiative, which was co-founded by the tech giant last year. The new fund will back "entrepreneurs and innovators" who are building products and services to help companies reduce their carbon impact and operate more sustainably. Jeff Bezos, founder and chief executive of Amazon, said.

"Each prospective investment will be judged on its potential to accelerate the path to zero carbon and help protect the planet for future generations," he said. The fund will initially invest in companies operating in sectors such as transportation and logistics, energy generation, storage and utilisation, manufacturing and materials, circular economy and food and agriculture.

Companies from pre-product start-ups to well-established enterprises will be considered for the grant. Amazon and other technology giants have pivoted to focus on sustainability after mounting pressure from activists to reduce their emissions. Microsoft, one of Amazon's cloud computing rivals, said it would invest up to \$1bn to back technology that could help remove carbon from the earth's atmosphere.

Many companies have also joined Amazon in The Climate Pledge programme, which pledges to meet the Paris Agreement goals 10 years before they are due. Last week, the US telco Verizon, British consumer goods company Reckitt Benckiser and Indian technology firm Infosys joined the programme.

Amazon is aiming to run on 100 per cent renewable energy by 2025 and is investing in the deployment of 100,000 electric vehicles from American automaker Rivian, some of which will be operational by 2021.

"Amazon has demonstrated its leadership in adopting low carbon technologies at scale," said RJ Scaringe, chief executive of Rivian. "Their investment and subsequent order of 100,000 electric delivery vans will substantially shrink the carbon footprint of Amazon's package delivery network. We are excited about a future of decarbonised delivery services," said Mr Scaringe.

Over the past few years, Amazon has significantly reduced waste in packaging. It has decreased the weight of outbound packaging by 33 per cent and reduced more than 880,000 tonnes of packaging material, the equivalent of 1.5 billion shipping boxes, in the last five years. Last September, Amazon also rolled out a \$100 million grant to invest in nature-based solutions and reforestation projects around the world, including recent investments in the US and Germany.



Jeff Bezos, founder and chief executive of Amazon, said companies will be selected on the basis of their potential to accelerate the path to zero carbon.

JOHANNESBURG

SARB and FSCA investigating Crowd1

SOUTH Africa's financial regulatory authorities are taking a serious look at Crowd1, the controversial Spanish company that claims to be a networking marketing firm.

The South African Reserve Bank (Sarb) Prudential Authority says it has been investigating Crowd1, part of Impact Crowd Technology group, since last month - looking specifically into whether it is a deposit-taking organisation.

Crowd1 told Moneyweb last month that it makes its money

through the sale of products such as education packages. It disputed findings made by regulators like that of the Bank of Namibia that it is actually a pyramid scheme, with most of its revenue derived from getting existing members to sign up new members.

Crowd1 has grown rapidly in South Africa following its global launch late last year. While the exact number of people involved in Crowd1 in SA are hard to come by, there are several lo-

cal Facebook groups, with members numbering in the thousands.

The Prudential Authority, along with the Financial Sector Conduct Authority (FSCA), are not investigating whether it is a pyramid scheme, but rather if it is acting like a bank or financial services firm in taking and holding people's money.

Although the investigation is ongoing, the Prudential Authority, which governs banking, says

it has "not issued any licence in terms of a financial sector law or in terms of the Financial Sector Regulation Act to Crowd1 for any financial product, financial service or market infrastructure provided."

The regulator did not specifically tell investors not to be involved in Crowd1, but did stress in its statement that the public should be careful when it comes investing in unregulated companies.

Pulses farmers, exporters applaud VAT waiver by the finance ministry

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

THE Treasury's decision to waive 18 value added tax imposed on raw agriculture exports including pulses will make the country's commodities more competitive at global markets.

Tanzania Pulses Network's Board Chairman, Cosmas Bulala said in Dar es Salaam earlier this week while commenting on the 2020/21 budget which was endorsed by parliament last week, said the move to maintain the waiver which was first introduced last year, will also improve earnings by farmers hence encourage them to increase production.

"We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to the government for listening to the private sector and address some of our main challenges that we encounter doing this business," Bulala said adding that TPN's members who include farmers, traders, processors and service providers are targeting to flood the global market with the commodity.

"We presented our request for a VAT waiver, among other issues, to Ministry of Finance and Parliamentary Budget Committee in 2019. As expected, the ministry positively responded to our proposal by scrapping the tax as confirmed by Finance Minister Dr Philip Mpango in his 2020/21 budget speech,"

he added.

He said the decision has already contributed to an increase pulses exports from US\$72 million in 2018 to US\$147.1 million last year. The TPN's Chair pointed out such an enabling business environment stimulates them fully explore the domestic potential to exploit international markets.

He also applauded the government for allowing use of Methyline Bromide Fumigant to treat pulses targeting the Indian market which is one of their major global markets accepting the chemical. "As TPN, we worked closer with the government to lift a ban on use of Methyl Bromide Fumigant imposed in 2016 which meant losing the lucrative Indian

market which placed this fumigant usage a mandatory standard for any exporter to its market," he noted.

Currently Pulses represent 12 percent of crop production in Tanzania with producers ranging from subsistence farmers to medium-sized commercial farmers with an estimated 95 percent of the farms being less than five hectares in area.

It is estimated that 40% of pulses production is consumed, 48% is sold in domestic market while the remaining 12% is exported. Markets for local pulses are in the entire East, Southern and Central Africa, Europe and India with a commanding 20 percent share in the Indian market.



Tanzania Pulses Network's board chairman Cosmas Bulala (C) comments on the 2020/21 Budget in Dar es Salaam earlier this week. Others are TPN's members and officials. Photo: Correspondent Beatrice Philemon.

Airtel Africa employs thousands directly and 1.6m indirectly as it clocks 10 years

By The Banker Reporter

AIRTEL Africa Plc marked 10 years of operations in Africa employing over 3,300 people directly and another 1.6 million indirectly while serving over 110 million customers across 14 countries.

In a statement to mark the 10th anniversary last week, the telecommunications conglomerate which is part of India's Barti Airtel said its turnover peaked US\$3.4 billion thanks to its growing voice, data and mobile money services.

The telco which is listed at London and Nigerian stock exchanges further stated that it provides voice services to 110.6 million cus-

tomers, data services to 35.4 million while its mobile money platform serves 18.3 million subscribers.

The company said in the statement that over the past decade it had supported social transformation across the continent by enabling millions of people to access data services. Airtel Africa's CEO, Raghunath Mandava said the telco which acquired Zain Telecom's Africa operations in June 2010, has achieved significant growth.

"Airtel Africa's voice, data and mobile money services are driving growth and transforming customers' lives. We provide voice services to 110.6 million customers, data services

to 35.4 million and mobile money services to 18.3 million subscribers," Mandava said.

He said that over the past decade, Airtel Africa had expanded its network footprint enabling millions of people to access telecoms services and had taken the lead in the roll out of robust 4G networks, helping to drive digitisation.

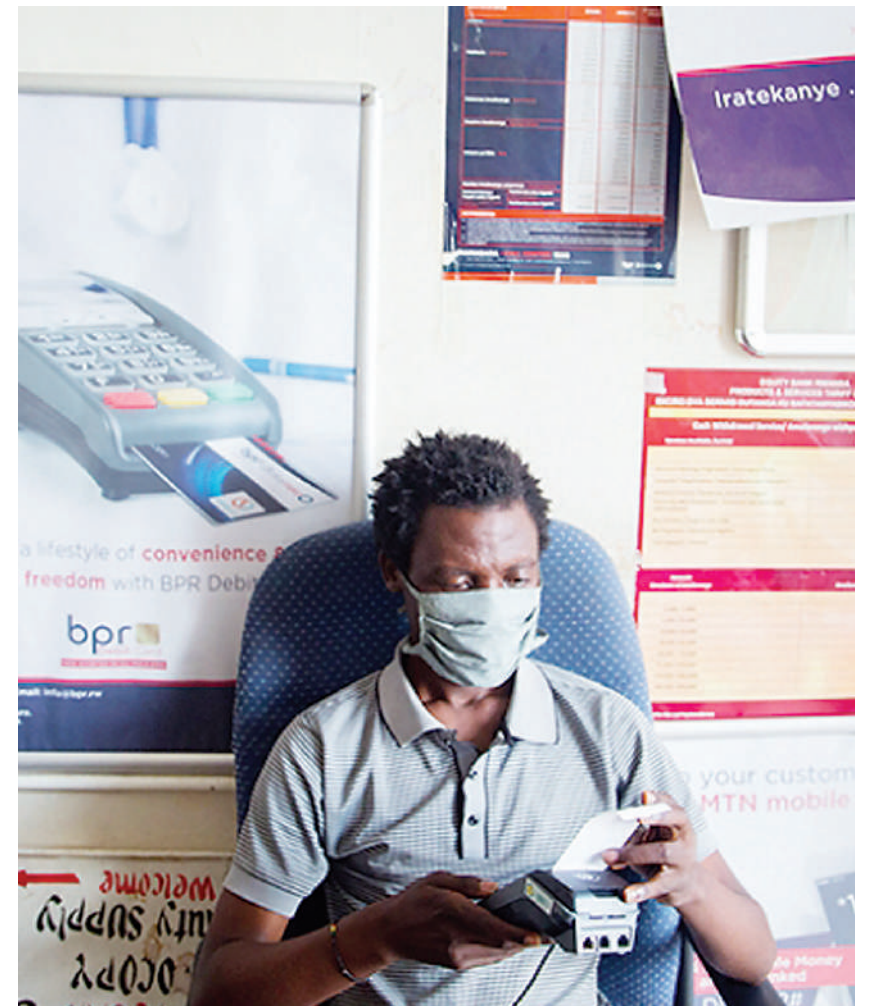
Mandava noted that the introduction of wireless home broadband had further helped service customers' evolving needs. "Airtel Africa's mobile money services provide customers with exclusive assured float and a growing number of strategic partnerships enable cross-border money

transfers.

The company has also launched a virtual card, further boosting financial inclusion," he added.

He further noted that at these challenging times, Airtel Africa's team along with partners are working hard to provide customers with reliable voice, data, and mobile money services.

Over the past decade, Airtel Africa has expanded its network footprint enabling millions of people to access telecoms services and taken the lead in the rollout of robust 4G networks, helping to drive digitalization. Airtel Tanzania Limited is a subsidiary of Airtel Africa Plc.



A BPR Hafi agent at an outlet in Kigali.

Rwanda introduces cardless transactions at agent outlets

KIGALI

THE Rwandan banking scene is witnessing further innovation following the introduction of card-less transactions at Banque Populaire du Rwanda agent outlets (popularly known as BPR Hafi Agents).

Banque Populaire du Rwanda Plc (BPR Plc) has improved clients' convenience at agent outlets by setting up card-less transactions at agent outlets. BPR clients registered on either mobile banking or internet banking can now use the 'izi cash' functionality without a debit card to generate a one-time password which can be used by the customer or someone they want to send money to at BPR Hafi Agents.

This functionality has previously been available for use at ATM outlets only. Users registered to BPR mobile Banking (App or USSD by dialling *150#) or internet banking can use the Izi cash function to send money from their account to any mobile phone number (Airtel/Tigo or MTN)

On sending the funds, the sender receives a 5 digit transaction code to be sent to the receiver. The sender is expected to share the amount sent and transaction code with the receiver. The recipient of the funds receives a second 10 digit code which is used at the agent outlets.

The system allows for funds to be sent

to both BPR account holders and non-BPR account holders. Receivers do not need a debit card to access their funds. In recent months, BPR Bank has grown their agency network across the country offering secure, convenient, and reliable banking in neighbourhoods.

The over 300 agents provide a range of services including cash deposit and withdrawal, sending and receiving money, paying taxes and balance inquiry among others. The bank also runs electronic banking channels allowing clients to stay safe by using electronic banking channels and avoid crowded banking halls.

As clients take on digital payment channels, BPR has cautioned its clients on emerging digital financial security challenges and vulnerabilities which could lead to theft of funds precautions are not taken.

The bank has noted that with ongoing efforts encouraging bank customers to adopt and use electronic channels for banking, fraudsters have been attempting to take advantage of the development to con clients.

The bank in May this year improved credit access terms by reviewing key lending aspects that were pain points for its clients. The bank adjusted its unsecured loans up to Rwf15 million from Rwf6 million previously a move that the bank says is in response to consumer demands and market trends.

PayPal said to be all ready to offer direct crypto sales to its 305 million customers

SAN JOSE

FINTECH firm PayPal is reportedly planning to roll out a new service that will allow its 305 million users to directly sell and purchase cryptocurrencies from its platform, according to a new report.

The California-based company would be working with "multiple exchanges to source liquidity" and is looking forward to launching this service "in the next three months, maybe sooner", CoinDesk, reported.

"My understanding is that they are going to allow [buying] and [selling] of crypto directly from PayPal and Venmo," the US-based news site said, citing a source. "They are going to have some sort of a built-in wallet functionality so you can store it (cryptocurrency) there."

It is not yet clear which, or how many, cryptocurrencies PayPal would incorporate in this new project, or if it would involve the company's Venmo mobile payment service. So far, customers can use PayPal services as an alternative medium to withdraw funds from crypto exchanges but the firm does not directly sell digital currencies.

PayPal facilitates receipt of funds in over 100 currencies and withdrawals in 56 currencies. Speculation about the FinTech firm's foray into cryptocurrencies gained pace after PayPal listed a job opening for "technical lead - crypto engineer" on LinkedIn and its own website last week. The role includes designing, developing and maintaining key crypto products targeted towards scalability of PayPal services, the company said in the job description.

"The role expects [a] high standard of engineering excellence with practical experience in building and maintaining internet-scale applications and services. We are looking for a person who is passionate about security and can thrive in [a] high pressure environment and is an expert in crypto domain," it added.

The new role is based out of Chennai where PayPal has an engineering team working on cryptocurrencies. Earlier this year, the company posted jobs for roles to strengthen its blockchain research group. It posted eight engineering positions - four each in San Jose and Singapore. Blockchain is a digital chain of transactions that are linked with each other using cryptography - a mechanism for secure communications - on an open ledger.

"We are a strong believer in the potential of blockchain. The digitisation of currency is only a matter of when not if," the company's chief technology officer Sri Shivananda said in an earlier interview with CoinDesk. Last year, PayPal said it would support Facebook's cryptocurrency project, but later backed out after regulatory pressure on the project increased.



Airtel Africa's CEO, Raghunath Mandava.

Covid-19 remains an impediment to Africa-wide free trade agreement

ADDIS ABABA

THE outbreak of Covid-19 remains a barrier to the implementation of an Africa-wide free trade agreement, but the political will remains to complete a deal that is key to the continent's economic revival, according to the secretary-general of African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA).

"Covid-19 has been a barrier," Wamkele Mene told a Bloomberg web event on Tuesday. "However, the political will remains, the political commitment remains and when the conditions are conducive, Africa will be back on track."

Africa, which lacks the financial muscle to roll out trillion of dollars in fiscal stimulus, needs an agreement to reboot economic growth. The majority of the continent's 55 countries are either in full or partial lockdown to stem the spread of Covid-19, which has infected about

9 million people worldwide and killed more than 472,000, according to Johns Hopkins University.

The pandemic brought economic activity to a grinding halt as authorities closed borders and shut all-but essential businesses. The global economy is set to slide into the deepest recession since the Second World War. Earlier this month, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development said global output will contract 7.6 per cent this year without a vaccine.

The World Bank expects global output to shrink by 5.2 per cent, while the IMF said last week that it expects to cut its April forecast of a 3 per cent contraction when it releases its latest projections on Wednesday.

Governments and central banks have poured about \$10 trillion into global economies to stabilise financial markets and



Secretary-general of African Continental Free Trade Agreement, Wamkele Mene.

cut job losses. Individual African nations have rolled out their own stimulus packages, which are far smaller than those in larger economies.

"We will redouble our efforts to implementing the [free trade] agreement as unlike many other countries in the world, Africa desperately needs this agreement to be the driver for [economic] recovery," Mr Mene said. "We don't have stimulus packages of trillions of dollars. The economic recovery plan for us is to significantly boost intra-Africa trade from 2021 year-on-year."

Mr Mene in April announced a delay to the implementation of AfCFTA, which was due on July 1. The agreement, the biggest free trade agreement in the world, aims to bring about 1.3 billion people into a single market and could pave the way for fresh foreign direct investment into the continent.

Asked if the implementation could be delayed beyond 2020, the secretary-general said governments across the continent were co-ordinating their response to the pandemic. "We have managed it with a high degree of success, of course, we have the experience of dealing with infectious diseases," he said. Policymakers will continue to work on the implementation framework, while governments adhere to advice from health experts, he added.

Africa, regarded as the world's last growth frontier, is home to major economies such as South Africa and Opec members Nigeria, Gabon, Algeria and Angola. African nations present huge investment opportunities in sectors including power, renewables, healthcare, education, agriculture, industries, logistics zones and infrastructure.

NMB invests over 230m/- in community projects so far this year

By The Banker Reporter

NMB Bank has donated more than Sh230 million in recent months to support various development endeavours across the country as part of its corporate social responsibility (CSR) spending for 2020.

The beneficiaries of this huge CSR investment have been public institutions in five regions of which three are in the Central Zone, namely Singida, Dodoma and Manyara. The donations made by the bank, which also went to Morogoro and Mwanza regions, were mostly building materials to help complete undertaking of ongoing health, education and public security projects and support other related operations.

Speaking at events to hand over some of the contributions, NMB Bank officials said the leading lender in the country in terms of profitability and market outreach has an annual budget of over 1bn/- for CSR investments.

The spending is directed by its operational policy which dictates that part of the profits made by the bank be given back to the communities where it operates through investment in social and community development initiatives.

"NMB has a policy of supporting development projects initiated and undertaken by communities in various parts of the country. We give this kind of support to help completion of such projects therefore these iron sheets we are giving today are part of that endeavour," the bank's head for the Eastern Zone, Baraka Ladislaus, noted after the handing over of the donation in Kilosa District recently.

The donation of the 160 iron sheets was worth 5m/-. Another recent donation made by the bank amounted to 30m/- was in Magu district of Mwanza region, aimed in part, to support completion of a health facility.

The major support by the bank has been the over 200m/- dished out in the first five months of this year to jack up public and community development efforts in several districts in the Central Zone.

This was disclosed recently by NMB Central Zone Manager Nsola Mlozi in Singida Region when handing over



Primary school pupils carrying desks donated by NMB Bank Plc's in Morogoro region recently.

250 desks and 80 beds worth over 29.5m/- to various schools in Iramba district of Tabora region.

Mlozi said during the handing over ceremony that the construction materials as well as educational and medical items, were made to enable authorities timely completion of classrooms, health facilities and a police station.

Speaking when handing over the latest donation at New Kiomboi Secondary School, Mlozi said NMB Bank is dedicated to invest in education, health and disaster relief management. "The more than 200m/- assistance that we donated in materials was part of implementing our CSR policy through which the bank invests part of its profits in community projects," he noted.

The donation in Kilosa was for completion of construction of a police station and Msowelo Primary School with the two projects each getting 80 pieces of iron sheets.

Beneficiaries of the bank's donations have expressed appreciation for the support. The Officer Commanding District in Kilosa, Mayenga Mapalala said after receiving the iron sheets that they will be used to complete construction of buildings to be used as an armoury and a cell for remandees. "I would like, on behalf of Morogoro Regional Police Commander, Wilbrod Mutafungwa, to thank NMB for the assistance which will help us complete our project," OCD Mapalala said.

Following suit in the OCD's footsteps, Kilosa District's Primary Education Officer, Christina Hauli said the assistance will go a long way to

alleviate classrooms shortage at the targeted school. Hauli said Msowelo Primary School has a number of shortages including classrooms, teachers and desks.

In Magu districts, beneficiaries of NMB philanthropy were Nsola villagers who received building materials worth 20m/- to complete construction of a dispensary in the area. When completed, the facility will serve more than 6,000 residents who are currently forced to walk 11 kilometres to Bubanza village for medical treatment.

In addition to the building materials handed to Magu District Commissioner Philemon Sengati, the NMB's Lake Zone Manager, Donatus Richard said the bank also donated 130 desks worth 10m/- to Matela and Muda primary schools in the area.

"We are donating this to give back to the community because as NMB we have allocated over 1bn/- to be invested in community development projects targeting health and education sectors this year," Richard said.

Commending NMB Bank for the timely intervention, two community health workers in Nsola village, Lucia Abel and Julius Magigima, said when ready for use the dispensary will also help to reduce mortality rate among pregnant women and under five children.

In a speech after receiving the donations, DC Sengati thanked NMB for the donation and directed the Magu District Executive Director, Lutengano Mwalibwa, to see to it that construction of the dispensary is completed before the end of this year.

Credit rating actions on banks slowed last month, S&P states

LONDON

S&P Global Ratings said it has taken fewer rating actions on banks globally in May due to measures taken by lenders to protect their balance sheets from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The agency took 212 credit rating actions on banks from the time the pandemic began up to June 10, Alexandre Birry, S&P Global Ratings' credit analyst, said. About three quarters of those actions were outlook revisions, with 30 per cent of banks around the world now carrying a negative outlook.

"We expect that second-quarter results will shed more light on the relative impact of the pandemic on banks across the globe, but the full effect on asset quality will likely only become clear much later in the year," Mr Birry said on Thursday.

Governments around the world have leapt into action to protect their economies from the effects of pandemic-related movement restrictions that have devastated air travel, hurt international trade and triggered the deepest recession since the Great Depression. Governments and central banks have introduced economic stimulus packages to shore up the private sector. They have also cut interest rates and injected more liquidity to support citizens and businesses hit by the fallout from the coronavirus.

"We continue to expect that bank rating downgrades this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic will be limited by banks' strengthened balance sheets over the past 10 years, the support from public authorities to household and corporate markets and our base case of a sustained economic recovery next year," S&P Global Ratings said in its report.

However, the ratings agency said its outlook bias is still markedly "negative" due to the potential long-term impact on banks' profitability. Governments and central banks have poured in about \$9 trillion in economic stimulus packages this year to ease the pressure on businesses and stem job losses.

The UAE was the first country in the Middle East and North Africa to unveil fiscal and monetary support packages worth more than Dh282bn.

The packages include zero-interest funding from the UAE Central Bank to encourage banks to lend, and measures such as discounted utility bills and waivers of government fees for business and residents. The International Monetary Fund said the global economy is recovering more slowly than expected from the coronavirus pandemic and will bear lasting scars from the experience.

The IMF is set to release economic growth projections on June 24 that "will be, very likely, worse than what we had" in April, even as "profound uncertainty" remains concerning the forecasts, Gita Gopinath, the IMF's chief economist, said in a video recorded on June 4 and released on Friday as part of the seventh annual Asian Monetary Policy Forum, Bloomberg reported.

BANKING & FINANCE

Coders in demand as big banks begin hiring

SINGAPORE

LENDERS including DBS Group Holding, Oversea-Chinese Banking and Citigroup are adding workers to their tech departments in the region despite the economic downturn. Financial institutions are especially hungry for mobile app designers and data scientists who can build systems to crunch figures and move business online, recruiters say.

"Over the past few months, we have certainly seen the banking sector slow down its hiring due to Covid-19," said Bethan Howell, a Hong Kong-based consultant at financial recruiter Selby Jennings. "However, we are now seeing the hiring freezes thawing and with this, a large amount of roles" emerging in technology, Ms Howell said.

The recruitment plans are a promising sign for workers in an industry that remains under pressure to reduce headcount, and underscore how banks see tech investment as a priority even as the pandemic hammers economies. Asia has emerged faster from the months-long lockdown, giving room for lenders in the region to step up recruiting.

"Demand is strong - a lot of the talent we talk to have a few offers on hand from the finance sector," said Hubert Tam, a managing partner at recruitment firm Sirius Partners in Hong Kong. "While other hiring can wait, tech is not just something that you can pull the plug on. The systems need to keep running."

Social distancing has increased demand for digital services such as

online banking and securities trading, and with it the need to beef up security. DBS is creating 360 tech jobs for experienced staff to bolster its digital platform, Singapore's biggest bank said last month when it announced plans to hire more than 2,000 people in its home market this year.

The tech hires range from interface designers and data scientists to experts in fraud detection and compliance. The lender is also looking to train and hire more people focusing on artificial intelligence and cloud computing. Part of the initiative is to help people reskill even if they don't have backgrounds in technology, said Shee Tse Koon, DBS Singapore country head.

"We want to do our part to avoid having a lost generation of young graduates in Singapore whose career

prospects are jeopardised because they are unable to find jobs due to the pandemic," said Mr Shee. OCBC plans to hire 3,000 people in Singapore this year to support job creation. While it hasn't disclosed how many of those may be for tech positions, it's seeking data scientists, analysts and engineers, along with mobile developers and people for information systems security roles, among others, the Singapore-based bank said in an emailed statement.

Daniel Tan joined OCBC in Singapore as a data scientist at its AI Lab last week, having been let go from an online travel startup just days into the job, due to the virus outbreak. The 32-year-old wrote about his experience on LinkedIn, catching the attention of his now-supervisor at OCBC, who wrote to him to provide encouragement. When there

was an opening about six weeks later, he applied and got the job.

"I consider myself lucky," said Mr Tan. "The world is changing after Covid-19." Citigroup, meanwhile, is filling up positions for the 2,500 coders it decided to hire earlier this year, a large number of whom will be based in Asia including Shanghai and the Indian cities of Pune and Chennai, the US bank said.

"We have made significant progress to date and have put in place new and more digital hiring initiatives in response to the changing operating environment as a result of the ongoing pandemic," Citigroup said in an emailed statement.

A push toward virtual banking in Hong Kong and Singapore has fuelled competition for tech talent who understand the financial industry. In Hong Kong, companies including ZA Bank, backed by Zhongnan Online P&C Insurance, and firms funded by Ant Financial and Tencent Holdings are vying for a slice of the market dominated by traditional lenders like HSBC Holdings.

WORLD

President Putin says Russia ready to create global security system

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin said yesterday that the country is open for dialogue and cooperation on the most burning issues, including creating a common reliable system of security, which the complex and rapidly-changing world needs.

"We understand how important it is to strengthen friendship and confidence among peoples ... Only by uniting together can we protect the world from new dangerous threats," Putin said in a speech at a ceremony marking the 75th anniversary of Russia's victory in the 1941-1945 Great Patriotic War on Moscow's Red Square.

He said that the glory goes to numerous Soviet soldiers who died during the Great Patriotic War fighting

and defeating the Nazis.

Putin said Russia will protect and defend the fair truth about the war, an integral part of World War II lasting from 1939 to 1945.

Opening a military cathedral on Monday, Putin said the Soviet wartime victory remained a touchstone for modern Russia, calling it a sacred memory.

"It's always with us and gives us strength, strength to serve our country and moral messages which we do not have the right to resile from and will never do so," said Putin.

The results of a survey released by state pollster VTsIOM on Tuesday showed that 95 percent of Russians regarded the 1945 Soviet victory as the most important event of the 20th century for Russia.



Russian President Vladimir Putin

Russians will vote from June 25 until July 1 on constitutional changes, including an amendment that would allow Putin two more six-year terms as president if re-elected. Current constitutional limits bar him from seeking re-election when his mandate ends in 2024.

Experts from state pollster VTsIOM have forecast that 67-71 percent of voters will endorse the changes. Kremlin critics say the vote is a sham they fear will be falsified.

Putin's approval rating is 59 percent, according to Levada, an independent pollster whose research the Kremlin has said it is not inclined to trust. Though high by most countries' standards, it is at its lowest since 1999.

Polls show people's willingness to protest has risen as lower oil prices and a prolonged lockdown have battered the economy, unemployment has risen, and a Kremlin plan to reverse years of falling real wages has been knocked off course.

More than 14,000 troops, over 200 armored vehicles and 75 aircraft will take part in Wednesday's military parade to mark the Soviet wartime victory, as well as representatives from 13 other countries.

Sergei Aleksashenko, an economist who has been critical of Putin, told the Ekho Moskvy radio station on Tuesday that the Russian leader was determined to hold the parade in Red Square despite the pandemic.

"Vladimir Putin believes that the parade is a reaffirmation of his greatness, the greatness of the country and of our historical memory," said Aleksashenko.

China-Europe freight trains in full swing despite epidemic gloom

XIAMEN

AT the transport hub of China-Europe freight trains in the eastern Chinese city of Xiamen, several container trailers on Tuesday morning were being busily loaded with goods bound for Hamburg, Germany.

Despite the COVID-19 epidemic that has shaken the global economy and necessitated transportation restrictions, China-Europe freight trains in Xiamen are gaining steam, providing a safe and efficient logistics platform for enterprises.

"The epidemic had limited influence on our production. The stable operation of China-Europe cargo trains can guarantee the timely delivery of our LCD panels to a Polish factory," said Wang Weidi, manager of the logistics department of TPV Display Technology (Xiamen) Co., Ltd.

According to Wang, the company had exported a total of 705 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) of electronic products through the cargo train service in the first five months of this year, 26 TEUs less than the same period last year.

"It's not easy to achieve such a result, especially amid the epidemic. The train service has provided a solid foundation for our production and sales in the European market," Wang said.

From Jan. 1 to May 29, a total of 112 China-Europe cargo trains had departed from Xiamen, transporting 10,206 TEUs worth around 396 million U.S. dollars, up 84 percent, 119 percent and 120 percent year on year, respectively, according to Xiamen's Haicang Customs House.

Chen Qi, head of Haicang Customs House, said the China-Europe freight trains departing from the coastal city of Xiamen now make



nine trips every week, compared with six trips in the past, to meet customers' booming demand.

Nationwide, China-Europe freight trains hit a new high of 1,033 trips in May, up 43 percent year on year, transporting a record of 93,000 TEUs of freight, data from the China State Railway Group Co., Ltd. showed.

The coronavirus has severely affected air, sea and road trans-

portation. With competitive costs, convenient customs clearance and other advantages, however, China-Europe freight trains have served as a bridge to boost trade between China and Europe amid the epidemic, according to Li Peigong, a professor with Shanghai Lixin University of Accounting and Finance.

China's foreign trade with the European Union (EU) totaled 1.6 trillion yuan (about 226 billion U.S.

dollars) in the first five months of this year, making the EU the largest trading partner of China during the period, according to the General Administration of Customs.

The freight trains have also been playing a crucial role in supporting Europe's anti-epidemic fight, sending 1.86 million pieces of supplies totaling 12,524 tonnes to European countries including Poland, Germany, Italy, France, Spain and the Netherlands from January to May.

"The nonstop operation of China-Europe freight trains amid the epidemic has provided strong support in stabilizing the global supply chain," Li said.

"The China-Europe freight train service helps enhance the economic and trade cooperation between China and European countries, which aids the recovery of the global economy," Li added.

Xinhua

Women, babies at risk as COVID-19 disrupts health services, World Bank warns

LONDON

Millions of women and children in poor countries are at risk because the COVID-19 pandemic is disrupting health services they rely on, from neonatal and maternity care to immunisations and contraception, a World Bank global health expert has warned.

Monique Vledder, head of secretariat at the bank's Global Financing Facility (GFF), told Reuters in an interview the agency was gravely worried about the numbers of children missing vaccinations, women giving birth without medical help and interrupted supplies of life-saving medicines like antibiotics.

"We're very concerned about what's happening - particularly in sub-Saharan Africa," Vledder (pictured) said as she unveiled the results of a GFF survey, one of the first seeking to assess the impact of COVID-19 on women's and children's health.

"Many of the countries we work

in are fragile and so, by definition, already have very challenging situations when it comes to health service delivery. This is making things worse."

From late March, the GFF has conducted monthly surveys with local staff in 36 countries to monitor the impact of COVID-19 on essential health services for women, children and adolescents.

Sharing the survey findings with Reuters, GFF said that of countries reporting, 87% said the pandemic, fears about infection or lockdown measures designed to curb the spread of the coronavirus, had led to disruptions to health workforces.

More than three-quarters of countries also reported disruptions in supplies of key medicines for mothers and babies, such as antibiotics to treat infections and oxytocin, a drug for preventing excessive bleeding after childbirth.

The number of GFF countries reporting service disruptions nearly doubled from 10 in April to



19 in June, and the number reporting fewer people seeking essential health services jumped to 22 in June from five in April.

GFF found that in Liberia, for example, fears about COVID-19 were preventing parents from taking their children to health clinics. In Ghana, some pregnant and lactating mothers were opting to postpone antenatal services and routine immunisations for fear of contracting the pandemic disease.

"We are seeing declining vaccination rates among children. We're seeing women accessing services less for ante- or post-natal care. We're seeing a decline in babies being born in health facilities. And we're also seeing a slide in outpatient services - for treatments for diarrhoea, malaria, fever, pneumonia for example," Vledder said.

Rapidly declining access to reproductive health supplies is also a key worry, Vledder added. The GFF estimates that if the situation does not improve as many as 26 million women could lose access to contraception in the 36 countries, leading to nearly 8 million unintended pregnancies.

Agencies

Trump's ex-national security adviser John Bolton's memoir released

WASHINGTON



THE memoir of John Bolton, U.S. President Donald Trump's former national security adviser, was released on Tuesday, days after a federal judge denied the Trump administration's request to block its publication.

"There is simply no precedent for a former top administration official publishing a book about a sitting president that is as damning as John Bolton's," a CNN report commented on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, many local analysts say the revelations of Bolton's book, titled *The Room Where It Happened*, are not likely to make much difference among most Republicans behind Trump.

Trump blasted Bolton's book on Twitter last week, calling it "a compilation of lies and made up stories, all intended to make me look bad."

Bolton (pictured) reportedly received a 2-million-U.S.-dollar advance for his tell-all book and if it sells well, additional royalties could follow.

However, the Saturday ruling by U.S. District Judge Royce Lamberth has raised questions about whether Bolton will be allowed to keep the money for his book. Lamberth rejected the Trump administration's attempt to block the formal publication of the book, citing that news organizations already had copies, hundreds of thousands were at warehouses about to be shipped, and Bolton was giving interviews.

However, the judge also wrote that Bolton was publishing without receiving an official letter from the government saying the book does not contain classified information.

"This was Bolton's bet: If he is right and the book does not contain classified information, he keeps the upside mentioned above; but if he is wrong, he stands to lose his profits from the book deal, exposes himself to criminal liability, and imperils national security," the judge wrote.

Bolton, a foreign policy hawk who served as Trump's third national security adviser from April 2018 to September 2019, was ousted over disagreements with the president on a range of issues.

Xinhua

EU may opt to keep Americans out when external borders open

By Bloomberg

THE European Union may decide to keep the door shut to Americans when officials convene yesterday to discuss whom to let in as the bloc eases controls on its external borders.

Diplomats from the 27-nation EU in Brussels are scheduled to discuss the criteria for lifting a curb on non-essential travel to the bloc as of July 1. One of the criteria up for discussion is "reciprocity," which would mean US citizens wouldn't be allowed into the bloc starting next month because Europeans are still barred for health reasons from traveling to their country.

Europe is trying to revive domestic economies as the summer tourist season gets underway while guarding against a second wave of infections. The restrictions were introduced in mid-March for 30 days and extended three times through June as Europe battled to contain the coronavirus.

The New York Times reported the potential longer restriction on US travelers earlier on Tuesday. The EU faces a technical test in determining which foreigners should be allowed to travel to the bloc as of July 1 because the coronavirus outbreaks are in flux in numerous countries including the US.

Anthony Fauci, the US government's top infectious-disease expert, told Congress he was seeing a "disturbing surge" in new cases. California, Texas and Arizona reported their biggest daily jumps, and Florida's infection rate climbed above 10 percent.

Closer to the EU, the western Balkans received a shock when tennis superstar Novak Djokovic of Serbia tested positive for the virus after an exhibition tour in the region.

The European Commission, the EU's executive arm, recommended on June 11 that member-country governments draw up a common list of countries outside the bloc from which visitors would be allowed as of July 1 based on "objective criteria" and comparable epidemiological situations.

The EU diplomats may also continue their discussions on Friday this week as they seek to agree on the specific criteria for easing the travel restrictions.

Agencies

Qatar participates in Arab ministerial meeting to discuss developments in Libya, file of Renaissance Dam

DOHA

THE State of Qatar participated in an extraordinary meeting of Arab League's council at the ministerial level to discuss developments in Libya and the file of the Renaissance Dam.

The State of Qatar was represented during the meeting, which was held today via video conferencing system, by HE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad Al Muraikhi.

In a speech to the meeting, HE Sultan bin Saad Al Muraikhi said that the

State of Qatar stresses the need to respect the sovereignty of States and non interference in their internal affairs, and the need to avoid standing with one party against another for personal goals and interests and to seek serious collective work to make the political process in Libya successful, in a way that leads to a comprehensive settlement to enable Libya to achieve the desired stability and ensure its sovereignty and territorial integrity and the security and safety of its citizens.

He commended the internationally

recognized Government of National Accord for its efforts to uncover the perpetrators of the torture incident against a number of Egyptian citizens in the city of Tarhuna as well as its efforts to secure their safe return to their homeland and take legal measures to punish the perpetrators of this crime.

He added: "The unity, stability and sovereignty of Libya along with the integrity of its lands and independence as well as stopping the bloodshed and preserving its capabilities and wealth are a goal we all aspire to

and we strive to achieve it."

In this context, His Excellency renewed Qatar's support to the Government of National Accord in Libya, and its call on all Libyans to implement the Skhirat Agreement and its outputs along with return to negotiations and national dialogue and the completion of the transitional phase in order to preserve Libya's sovereignty and territorial integrity and achieve the aspirations of the Libyan people.

HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs said that the State of Qatar af-

firms its support for all efforts aimed at ending the conflict in Libya and moving forward towards building a state of institutions and protecting and promoting human rights. It stressed its steadfast position to reject all forms of external interference in the Libyan internal affairs in all its kinds and sources.

He added: "We are all sure that the continuation of the conflict in Libya is being paid for by the brotherly Libyan people and is draining the resources of their country, instead of using them to rebuild and achieve

sustainable development."

In this regard, His Excellency stressed the State of Qatar's call on all parties to assume their legal and moral responsibility and respect and implement international laws and agreements to ensure the protection of civilians and civilian facilities, in addition to holding accountable all those responsible for crimes and human rights violations, especially systematic and extrajudicial killings proven by mass graves recently discovered in areas controlled by rogue militias.

Agencies



Graduates of the Nantong Vocational College of Science and Technology, East China's Jiangsu Province pose for a photo in front of a memory board, May 16. (Photo by People's Daily Online)

Chinese college students move graduation photography online to mark special graduation season amid COVID-19

THE COVID-19 pandemic is making this year's graduation season different for China's 8.74 million college graduates, and the college graduates have decided to make it special.

After completing online thesis defense on June 1, Ning Jiajun, a senior student from the College of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering under Central South University (CSU), suggested in the chat group of his class to "take" graduation photos online, and his suggestion sparked warm response from his classmates, who couldn't return to the campus due to the epidemic.

"I can draw cartoon caps and gowns and place add-ons to make the photo cuter," He Jialei, the monitor of Ning's class, who's also a painting enthusiast, volunteered to join the online graduation photo service.

Ning collected the headshots of all his 28 classmates and removed the background parts with an image editing software. He later pasted them to the cartoon graduation gowns drawn by He, and used photos of landmark buildings of the campus as backgrounds.

In less than three days, a graduation photo album was finished, and every picture comes with a memorable background - the gate of the campus, the lawn where they had the first class meeting, etc., carrying a ton of beautiful memories of their four college years.

The graduation photo album will be delivered to each student to make the graduation solemn, said Fan Fan, an instructor for the graduates this year with the university's College of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering. Every class has designed such an album, and it includes the messages from college lead-

ers and teachers, as well as the photos of the students have taken in the past four years, he explained.

"According to CSU's arrangement, the graduates will return to the campus in batches, so it's difficult for them to get together before graduation," Fan said.

"It's a pity that we hardly have the time to get together again before we separate," said He Xianchen, a student in Ning's class, while his classmate Xue Huiying noted that the smiles on their faces were the best memory of her college life. In the eyes of their instructor Yi Xiaoyi, the class was united, friendly and warming. He also sent his blessings to the students when looking at the familiar faces in the album.

According to Fan, the college promised that each graduate can go back to school at any time after COVID-19 ends to take graduation photos in caps and gowns, as a way to make it up to the students who can't do it this year, and a graduation T-shirt will also be provided for each student.

Besides, a graduation party, a tradition of the college, is scheduled to be held online for the students to share their joys.

At present, 60 percent of the students in the class have been enrolled as post-graduates, and the rest are about to get their foot in the door.

"From this graduation season, we feel more care from our university and cherish more our college life and friendship," Ning said, hoping that his classmates can recall their college memories whenever they open the album. "Youth is eternal, and so our friendship is," he said.

People's Daily

ICC members defend it in face of US sanctions

THE HAGUE

OVER half the member states of the International Criminal Court defended the world's only permanent war crimes tribunal on Tuesday in a diplomatic response to a US threat of sanctions against its employees earlier this month.

A joint statement drafted by Costa Rica and Switzerland was backed by 67 out of 123 of the ICC's members, the first effort to show a united front among members from all continents.

"We reconfirm our unwavering support for the court as an independent and impartial judicial institution," it said. The ICC was an "integral part" of the international judicial order and "a central institution in the fight against impunity".

US President Donald Trump's administration says it opposes the ICC because it fears what it calls politically motivated prosecutions of the United States and ally Israel. Trump signed an executive order two weeks ago authorising the blocking of assets and travel restrictions against ICC employees involved in an investigation into alleged war crimes in Afghanistan by US forces.

ICC prosecutor Fatou Bensouda wants to investigate possible crimes committed between 2003 and 2014, including alleged mass killings of civilians by Taliban insurgents, as well as the alleged torture of prisoners by Afghan authorities and, to a lesser extent, by US forces and the CIA. The ICC investigation was given the go-ahead in March.

Xinhua

Ukraine to review, axe treaties with Russia

KIEV

UKRAINE continues revision of bilateral documents signed with Russia and intends to quit another part of Ukrainian-Russian treaties, Ukrainian Deputy Foreign Minister Vasily Bondar said.

"Before the war (Donbass conflict - TASS), we had 453 signed bilateral agreements. Now, there are around 300 still in force, but we are continuing revision of what we can abandon," he said in an interview published by Ukrinform newspaper Monday.

At the same time, he noted that Kiev is not going down the path of "radical and emotional steps" which can affect its citizens. "We did not sever diplomatic ties with Russia, did not end our diplomatic presence in Russia.

Therefore, Ukrainian citizens could freely move there and could apply for protection when there," the deputy minister said.

According to him, should all agreements with Russia have been cancelled, a difficult situation would emerge in trying to protect Ukrainian citizens' interests in Russia. "We have millions of people - both Ukrainians

citizens and ethnic Ukrainians - living in Russia," Bondar added.

In light of this, Bondar underscored that "treaty base with CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States - TASS) and particularly bilateral one" is in place with Russia. "However, our ministries and agencies are gradually revisiting them (agreements and treaties - TASS) to optimize them and leave minimally possible documents which would allow us to preserve the necessary level of protection of rights and interests of Ukrainian citizens," the deputy minister concluded.

Agencies

N.Korea removes loudspeakers from border, suspends military action against South Korea



South Korean activists launch huge balloons carrying anti-Pyongyang leaflets across the border to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) in the border city of Paju, South Korea, Oct. 29, 2012. (Xinhua)

SEOUL

THE Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) was seen removing loudspeakers set up from Sunday afternoon in the border areas with South Korea, multiple local media reported yesterday.

An unnamed government source was quoted as saying that DPRK officials were seen Wednesday morning removing the loudspeakers that had been re-deployed since Sunday afternoon in the eastern inter-Korean border area.

The two Koreas removed propaganda loudspeakers from frontline areas after South Korean President Moon Jae-in and top DPRK leader Kim Jong Un agreed to the removal during their first summit in April 2018 at the border village of Panmunjom.

Meanwhile, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) has decided to suspend military action plans against

South Korea, the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported yesterday.

The KCNA reported that the country's top leader Kim Jong Un presided over a preliminary meeting for the fifth meeting of the Seventh Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) through a video conference on Tuesday and made the decision.

At the preliminary meeting, the WPK Central Military Commission took stock of the prevailing situation and suspended the military action plans against the South brought for the fifth meeting of the Seventh Central Military Commission by the General Staff of the Korean People's Army," the report said.

The meeting examined agenda items of major military policy to be laid before the fifth meeting of the Seventh WPK Central Military Commission, and made a study of a report and decisions, which will be submitted to the fifth meeting,

and some documents carrying the state measures for further bolstering the war deterrent of the country," it said.

A week ago, the army announced a detailed military action plans in protest against the South Korean authorities for failing to stop "defectors" from sending anti-Pyongyang leaflets to the North.

The leaflets fuelled tensions between the neighbouring countries with the DPRK cutting off all communication lines with South Korea and demolishing the inter-Korean joint liaison office building at the DPRK's border town of Kaesong.

Among the action plans proposed by the General Staff of the Korean People's Army included redeployment of troops to the Mount Kungang tourist area and the Kaesong Industrial Zone, and security guarantee for the people to distribute propaganda leaflets to the South in the border areas.

Xinhua

World Bank approves 55 million USD grant for Somalia

MOGADISHU

THE World Bank has approved a 55 million U.S. dollar grant to support Somalia's economic recovery through continued fiscal and other economic policy reforms.

Hugh Riddell, World Bank country manager for Somalia, said the policies will strengthen fiscal management and promote inclusive private sector-led growth.

The budget support will help protect lives and livelihoods and strengthen the capacity of Somali in-

stitutions to respond to the triple crisis of COVID-19 pandemic, locust invasion and flooding that threatens to derail Somalia's reform program and its emergence from fragility," Riddell said in a statement issued yesterday.

The supplemental financing helps Somalia ease the effects of the global COVID-19 crisis and continue implementing the reform program supported by the Somalia re-engagement and reform supplemental Development Policy Financing (DPF). According to the lender, the DPF delivers critically needed

financing for Somalia's revised 2020 budget, which allocates funds for an integrated and national response to the pandemic, including increased grants to sub-national governments to ensure continued service delivery.

Somali finance minister Abdirahman Beileh said the revised budget expands cash transfers to vulnerable households and provides a substantial increase in grants to sub-national governments to help them respond to the pandemic in the face of declining revenue.

Xinhua

Huawei to replicate Kenya digital classroom in five more countries

NAIROBI

CHINESE technology firm, Huawei, yesterday announced that a successful model of teaching digital skills to disadvantaged communities in Kenya will be replicated in five other countries including France and the Philippines in the next two years.

Huawei's initiative, known as DigiTruck project, which was launched in September last year provides digital skills training to rural and remote communities in Kenya through mobile digital classrooms converted from truck containers.

"As a technology company, Huawei wants to help with connectivity, applications, and skills by focusing on two important areas of connecting schools and developing digital skills respectively," said Huawei's deputy chairman Ken Hu in a webinar.

Hu said since the launch of DigiTruck in Kenya at the end of last year, it has provided training for more than 1,500 young people and teachers in rural areas. "Huawei plans to replicate the program in France, the Philippines and three other countries in the next two years," said Hu.

In Kenya, in the all solar-powered, mobile classrooms with wireless broadband access that can reach even the most remote communities, participants learn how to use computers and office software, how to use the internet to find and do work online, how to learn and develop their careers online, and how to be safe online.

Stone He, Huawei Kenya chief executive officer said the digital skills that the DigiTruck helped provide before the COVID-19 pandemic struck have never been more necessary now that even more of life and work is necessarily happening online.

"As Kenya's digital transformation gathers pace, it is critical that every single Kenyan is prepared for this, and our research has shown that digital skills are currently a very significant challenge for many.

We thank our partners in Kenya who have enabled Huawei's first DigiTruck to be so successful that now Huawei is going to scale up our support to other countries," He said.

Xinhua



Since the launch of DigiTruck in Kenya at the end of last year, it has provided training for more than 1,500 young people and teachers in rural areas. "Huawei plans to replicate the program in France, the Philippines and three other countries in the next two years,

China stands firmly with African brothers, sisters in fight against COVID-19

CHINESE President Xi Jinping presided over an extraordinary China-Africa summit on solidarity against COVID-19 in Beijing on June 17 via video link and delivered a keynote speech.

At the crucial moment of global pandemic response, the summit was jointly proposed by China; South Africa, the rotating chair of the African Union (AU); and Senegal, co-chair of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation.

It demonstrated China and Africa's resolve to deepen anti-pandemic cooperation, and their willingness to take concrete actions to promote the building of a closer community with a shared future between China and Africa and a global community of health

for all.

"Developing countries, African countries in particular, have weaker public health systems. Helping them build capacity must be our top priority in COVID-19 response," Xi said recently at the virtual event of the opening of the 73rd World Health Assembly, calling on the international community to provide greater support for Africa and shoulder responsibilities.

When having a telephone conversation with South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, Xi noted that "For China and Africa, it is more important than ever to work in unity to fight the disease and tide over difficulties. China will continue to stand firmly with

its African brothers and sisters." Xi's remarks show the two sides' resolve to work in unity to win the fight against the pandemic and embody the profound friendship of the Chinese people for the African people.

China and Africa are good friends, good partners and good brothers with shared destiny and vision. In the joint fight against COVID-19, the Chinese people and African people have always worked closely together to pursue their shared goals.

Over 50 African leaders have expressed their sympathy and support to China in phone calls or public statements, and some African countries even managed to collect and donate medical sup-

plies to China despite their own difficulties.

China has provided material assistance for over 50 African countries and the AU in batches and sent medical expert teams to Africa's five sub-regions and surrounding countries. Resident Chinese medical teams in 45 African countries have acted swiftly to help with COVID-19 containment efforts locally, holding nearly 400 training sessions for tens of thousands of African medical workers. China has also organized video conferences for exchanges of medical diagnostic and treatment technologies between Chinese and African health experts.

Besides, China's local govern-

ments, non-governmental organizations, and enterprises have also lent a hand to African countries by cash and supply donations, with Chinese enterprises in the continent helping local governments turn their medical facilities into designated hospitals for treating patients infected with the novel coronavirus.

A friend in need is a friend indeed. The Chinese people share a close bond with their brothers and sisters in the African continent. As Cyril Ramaphosa, who is also the rotating chairperson of the AU, has put forward, China is a true friend and reliable partner for South Africa and other African countries in times of difficulties and challenges.

China and Africa have always

been a community with a shared future, standing together through thick and thin, sharing weal and woe and fully trusting each other.

China sent its first medical team to Africa in 1963. As of today, the country has sent 24,300 medical workers to the continent, where they have provided medical services to over 200 million African people and trained tens of thousands of local medical workers.

When the Ebola epidemic broke out in West Africa in 2014, China was the first country to send chartered flights to deliver emergency relief materials and send a medical team to fight the outbreak, making important contributions to relevant countries' victory over the disease.

China attaches great importance to improving public health capacity of African nations. It raised a series of proposals to enhance public health cooperation with Africa in the ten cooperation plans between China and Africa announced in 2015 and the eight major initiatives for China-Africa cooperation declared in 2018, and these proposals have all been implemented and welcomed by African countries.

China-Africa cooperation in public health also demonstrates that China has always followed the principle of sincerity, practical results, affinity, and good faith and the right approach to justice and interests.

People's Daily



In this April 7, 2017, file photo, members of the Philadelphia Phillies stretch before the team's baseball game against the Washington Nationals in Philadelphia. Five players for the Philadelphia Phillies have tested positive for COVID-19 at the team's spring camp in Florida, prompting the club to indefinitely close the complex. The team also said Friday, June 19, 2020, that three staff members at the camp have tested positive. The club didn't identify any of those affected. (AP Photo)

Is the rush to play this year really worth it?

By TIM DAHLBERG

WHO knew a tennis ball could be so dangerous?

Certainly not Novak Djokovic, whose incredibly misguided decision to flout the coronavirus pandemic with a series of tennis exhibitions ended with the world's best tennis player, his wife and who knows how many others infected. He's now sorry, of course, but tell that to anyone who ends up on a ventilator because he couldn't wait to get back on the court.

His fellow players didn't exactly line up in support of Djokovic, who previously spouted anti-vaccination views and did not encourage social distancing or masks at the exhibitions.

"Speedy recovery fellas, but that's what happens when you disregard all protocols. This IS NOT A JOKE," Australian player Nick Kyrgios tweeted.

Danger lurks everywhere in today's new world and not just in Djokovic's orbit, where three other players in his exhibitions in Serbia and Croatia also tested positive. The pandemic that shut down sports three months ago continues to wreak havoc even as leagues, teams and players struggle to find a new way forward.

Colleges already are reporting positive COVID-19 tests among athletes returning to campus in the U.S., and there are reports of a number of positives in the NFL that include star Cowboys running back Ezekiel Elliott. A woman's soccer team pulled out of a proposed NWSL restart when several players were infected and at least one WNBA player already has said she won't play a proposed season because of health concerns.

NBA stars are worried, and so are NHL players as their leagues race to finish makeshift seasons. The NFL, meanwhile, continues to forge ahead with its plans to play even as teams report positive tests on an almost daily basis.

And while baseball owners and players wasted time arguing about their season, spring training facilities were ordered closed after a spate of new infections and the Phillies reported a dozen cases in their organization alone.

It was never going to be easy for any sport to return with a pandemic of historic proportions still raging. There's still way too much unknown about how the coronavirus spreads for athletes to trust anyone – even the experts – with their lives.

And as the rate of infections rises in states across the country, the question has to be asked: Is the rush to play this year really worth it?

Owners and team officials say yes, largely because there are billions of dollars in TV contracts at stake. Money is also the motivation for players on the PGA Tour, who were elated to be able to play for pay once again even as one of

their own tested positive after playing last week. Fans are happy to see sports coming back, that's for sure. So are sports bettors, who in recent months had little other than Russian table tennis matches to wager on.

But it's becoming increasingly clear that a sport like football simply can't be played under current conditions. That's especially true in colleges, where protocols change from school to school and there is no way to really build a bubble to protect players.

The NFL has a better shot, but not much better. The nation's chief infectious disease doctor said as much last week when asked about the possibility of football returning.

"Unless players are essentially in a bubble – insulated from the community and they are tested nearly every day – it would be very hard to see how football is able to be played this fall," Dr. Anthony Fauci said.

Indeed, if the PGA Tour and boxing and UFC can't keep their athletes from getting the virus, it's hard to see how those running team sports can figure out a way for everyone to stay safe.

That includes the NBA, which has a 113-page plan to protect players that might as well be tossed out the window with the surge in cases in Florida.

And who, if anyone, thinks MLB really is not inept after all and can somehow safely handle staging games in stadiums across the country?

It may be time to accept the new reality in sports, just as we've had to accept it in life. The things we once took for granted now have to be rethought, with health the No. 1 priority.

That includes tennis tournaments, from the U.S. Open still scheduled in August to Djokovic's ill-fated exhibitions.

"I pray for everyone's full recovery," Djokovic said in a statement of remorse.

You've got to wonder who will be issuing the apologies when NBA stars start testing positive by the handful or when half an NFL team is infected. Who tells the parents of a college football player that for all of everyone's seemingly good intentions, their son has come down with COVID-19.

And who can say anything when the unthinkable happens – as it surely will – and athletes actually die?

The bottom line is there's no real reason – other than money – to take the risk. We've gotten this far without sports, and we can make it to the end of the year without them.

By then, Fauci said Tuesday, he's pretty certain there will be a vaccine. We can begin living normally, and we can have sports without bubbles and with fans in the stands.

Until then, most sports should simply take a pause.

Because not doing stupid things means never having to say you're sorry.

AP

Mike Tyson 'return': Eccentric image or black people stereotyping, again?

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

HEATED discussion is going on in professional boxing circles in post-lockdown United States, around the supposed return of Mike Tyson, a legend in the heavyweight category, and in his days, had a string of early knockouts of hapless challengers. That was the case for his first ten years in professional boxing, from his 1986 maiden thrashing of Trevor Berbick to much less impressive fights in the mid-1990s where he went to the extent of biting the ear of Evander Holyfield. Fighting the ugly way was a signal that the energy is draining out of him; is it likely that he now has energy to fight much better 23 years later, or he puts Black America to shame?

This supposed return of Iron Mike is being worked upon and is likely to bring in fatter paychecks than would a 53 year old anyone competing against whatever boxer of the past or the present would ordinarily expect to fetch. The reason is the magic around Iron Mike, but his legacy isn't just centred on the ropes and canvass; there is more besides and that is what brings about his wish to return to the ring. This brings up implications for his image and for other stakeholders well beyond Madison Square Garden in New York. There are issues for black people generally.

Images of the legendary boxer appearing online show that he means every word of what is being said, with US pundits saying he has been at work in the gym, losing ten stone to get back into shape, which is stunning by any standards. A stone is an English-US weight measurement equivalent to 6.5 kilos, implying that the former heavyweight champion lost anything up to 65 kilos of his usual weight. He very much looks like his old boxing self, and going by



Mike Tyson

the rival wrestling game, his age would be considered normal in that game, as it would also do for golf.

Heavyweight is a different matter altogether as even those in the right age category often suffer intense bruises and near death experience isn't rare in that game. It is even from such a situation that professional boxing rounds were trimmed from 15 in the past to 12 later, after a boxer who was still heavy and on his feet in the 12th round started losing balance and fell by knockout later. Apparently he was brain damaged and medication failed, and so he did not regain consciousness.

It is on the basis of such apprehensions that one pundit declared that if Iron Mike will die if he was to face any of the current contenders for the world heavyweight championship, say of the

World Boxing Council (WBC) often said to be the likely host of his 'comeback' fight. That may be to go too far but the question is, why ought the legendary boxer come back to the ring in a competitive fight? Chances are that he hasn't found another occupation, or isn't settled enough.

A number of those who have discussed the now likely appearance in the ring of the former 'Baddest Man on Earth' have been discussing merely technical issues, for instance who is Tyson likely to fight and what is the track record, etc. Not much attention has been given to the other aspects, for instance the sort of life outside the ring that Tyson has led, and how this led to his financial ruin, and in that case why he wishes to climb into the ring to boost his finances, to wit.

For anyone who would have earned a trifle of the legendary heavyweight boxer's pick in each of his sell out fights, not only would he be a multimillionaire from those earnings alone, but would make a name for himself in an array of investments. As plenty of other black athletes and artistes have done just that, failure on the part of Iron Mike can be counted as tied to an eccentric attitude rather than a blemish that characterizes black people or African American people specifically. Yet there are broader societal comparisons, for instance how black people dominate sports and the arts, but are virtually invisible on the stock exchange, on the basis of regular commentaries.

There is hence a negative aspect collectively in relation to the 'return' of Mike Tyson, that any eventual humiliation on his part in the ring – as losing weight isn't the same as making oneself much younger – shall reinforce the stereotype image. Questions will be asked as to the wisdom of a 53 year old man fighting boxers in their mid-30s for instance, as there is just one noticeable challenger who is 41, billed as likely to be picked to take on Iron Mike. Dying by a blow in the ring is definitely out of the cards in such a fight, but it will be a hard climb for Tyson to prove he is a boxer worth sliding into the ring and not just because he needs some cash and very badly too.

TFF salutes Serengeti Premium Lager sponsorship towards Taifa Stars



Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) president, Wallace Karia

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) president, Wallace Karia, has hailed Serengeti Breweries Limited (SBL) through the company's flagship brand, Serengeti Premium Lager, for financially sponsoring the senior men's national soccer team, Taifa Stars.

Karia said the sponsorship had revitalized the team's performance, making it register enviable feats.

The official pointed out the achievements include qualifying for the prestigious African Cup of Nations (AFCON) finals last year, after a 21-year hiatus.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Karia expressed his heartfelt gratitude to SBL, explaining that the beer-makers backing for the last three years had been a breath of fresh air that had relieved the

federation of the previous financial burden that had dogged the body, derailing its efforts to reclaim the national team's international soccer glory.

Before the sponsorship by SBL, we had serious financial constraints that stalled most of our strategic plans. But with the sponsorship, our team and management had less stress and as a result the players and the technical bench were able to concentrate on their assignments, enabling us to achieve exemplary performance in most of our fixtures, he said.

He added: It was during this period that our national team managed to qualify for AFCON finals after two decades of being in the continental soccer wilderness, as well as qualifying for African Nations Championships (CHAN).

Taifa Stars last year confounded friends and foes when, against all

odds, qualified and participated in the 32nd edition of AFCON finals in Egypt, the prestigious biennial international men's football championship organized by the Confederation of African Football (CAF).

Much as Taifa Stars achieved mixed fortunes in the encounter, the squad had, once again, put Tanzania on the continental soccer map.

In May 2017, SBL entered into a sponsorship deal with TFF, inking a three-year agreement in which the beer-makers, courtesy of the company's award-winning beer, Serengeti Premium Lager, pumped into the federation 2.1bn/-, thus becoming the official sponsors of the national team.

The SBL's passion for the development of sports in the country was further heightened a year later (January 2019), when the brewers, through their new, Superbrands Award-

winning brand, Serengeti Lite, signed another contract with TFF to support the Mainland Women Premier League.

The three-year sponsorship pact worth 450m/- has effectively made the beer-makers the first company ever to sponsor the women's premier league.

The sponsorship has rejuvenated the women's soccer teams across the country, eliciting more enthusiasm and excitement than ever before.

Commenting on the support, Serengeti Premium Lager brand manager Anitha Msangi said that the brewers applauded Taifa Stars for making Tanzanians proud and raising the hopes of all soccer lovers due to the team's new-found spirited performance.

As the sponsor of the team, we are very proud to note that our contribution to the team's success has borne fruit, a fact that can be confirmed by the team's winning trajectory during the sponsorship period, she said.

Arsenal given Leno boost but lose Martinelli to injury

LONDON

ARSENAL goalkeeper Bernd Leno's knee injury is not as bad as feared, but the Gunners suffered another blow on Tuesday as Brazilian forward Gabriel Martinelli was ruled out for the rest of the season.

Leno suffered a ligament sprain rather than cruciate ligament damage in Saturday's 2-1 defeat at Brighton that the club confirmed would keep him out for four to six weeks.

The German is still expected to miss the rest of the campaign, but should be fit for the start of next season.

"At least we know the cruciate ligaments are not damaged. It was the biggest fear at the start," said Arsenal boss Mikel Arteta.

"He was more positive and in less pain today so that is good news."

Martinelli, 19, has scored 10 goals in an impressive debut season.

"We got really bad news again yesterday in training. In the last action he (Martinelli) got hit by another player, he damaged his knee.

"The doctor hasn't seen the extent of the injury but it is not looking good at all. We don't know (how long) but it is looking months."

Arsenal's return to action has been

beset by injuries as Granit Xhaka and Pablo Mari had to be replaced inside the first 20 minutes in a 3-0 defeat at Manchester City last week.

The club have also left it late to ensure David Luiz, Mari, Dani Ceballos and Cedric Soares can end the season at the Emirates.

Luiz's contract is due to expire at the end of the month, while Mari, Ceballos and Cedric all have loan spells due to come to an end.

Arteta is confident all four will remain at least until the end of July, while a permanent deal to sign Mari from Flamengo is imminent.

"We've been trying to get the deal done because we are happy with what Pablo can bring to us.

"The club are trying to finalise the deal. I think the club will announce that as quick as possible when everything is sorted. Our intention clearly is to keep him."

Arsenal travel to Southampton on Thursday hoping to rekindle their faltering hopes of European football next season.

Back-to-back defeats have left Arteta's men six points off fifth and 11 outside the top four.

AFP

Burnley chairman vows to 'root out racists' after banner stunt

LONDON

BURNLEY chairman Mike Garlick has pledged to "root out the racists" behind the White Lives Matter banner that flew over his team's match at Manchester City.

A plane towing a banner that read "White Lives Matter Burnley" was seen in the sky above the Etihad Stadium on Monday shortly after both teams had taken a knee in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement.

Burnley have promised to hand lifetime bans to those responsible and Garlick told ESPN: "We will root out these racists and I am sure they will be dealt with in due course.

"We will do whatever we can to make sure justice is done against these people.

"Let's be clear. The plane didn't fly in our name. It has absolutely nothing to do with Burnley Football Club and we absolutely deplore it.

"But we have to talk about it. We cannot and will not sweep it under the carpet.

"I was at the game and I have been chairman or co-chairman for eight years. I have always been proud to be in that position, but I can tell you that I wasn't proud to be Burnley chairman last night."

However Despite a storm of criticism for the banner, Lancashire police investigated the incident and said no crime was committed.

"Today Lancashire Constabulary has been in liaison with Greater Manchester Police, the Aviation Authority and the Crown Prosecution Service regards the 'White Lives Matter' banner that was flown over the Etihad Stadium last night," Chief Superintendent Russ Procter said.

"After assessing all the information available surrounding this incident we have concluded that there are no criminal offences that have been disclosed at this time."

AFP

Players at PSG, Toulouse test positive for coronavirus

PARIS

THREE players from Paris Saint-Germain and four from fellow French soccer team Toulouse have tested positive for the coronavirus, their clubs said Tuesday.

PSG said the three players and a member of staff were infected by the virus during the lockdown when they were not in contact with each other. They "are no longer contagious and can carry on their training program," the club said.

PSG was crowned French champion after the league decided to abort the season because of the pandemic. However, the team is

still set to play two domestic cup finals and has made it to the last eight of the Champions League, which will be played as a mini tournament in Portugal in August.

Toulouse, which has been relegated to the second division for next season, said its players were tested Monday ahead of the resumption of training.

Toulouse said it has taken "the strictest measures to ensure that the professional group can prepare in complete safety, with the health of the players, coaching staff and personnel remaining the club's priority."

AP

Lionel Messi's evolution as a player: From Ronaldinho's Barcelona understudy to GOAT candidate - 1

By Gabriele Marcotti, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

FOR more than 15 years, Lionel Messi has been Barcelona's main man, scoring and assisting hundreds of goals and winning countless trophies. But how has his game changed over time as he has aged and his supporting cast has changed? Gab Marcotti digs into the data.

Note: Statistics and data measured per 90 minutes via Opta and StatsBomb and based upon games played by Messi prior to the coronavirus-enforced shutdown of European football in March. Breaking through at Barcelona (2003-08)

Lionel Messi stood out among his peers from a young age. While youth coaches love to talk about developing and nurturing talent, the reality is Messi had such an evident and well-defined skill set -- far above teammates and opponents -- that ensuring he had the ball as much as possible was his quickest path to success.

He could dribble, he was fast, he had great timing when running from deep and he could score goals. And because he could do all of that in tight spaces, the easiest thing was to put him in the middle of the action. He played at the top of the diamond in the 3-4-3 formation that most of Barcelona's youth teams used, with freedom and licence to turn into a second striker.

At 17, he began playing regularly for Barcelona B -- sometimes in attacking midfield, sometimes wide on the left -- while accumulating a few minutes for the first team. The following season, 2005-06, he had turned 18 and became a regular in coach Frank Rijkaard's senior setup.

The Dutchman used a 4-3-3 system, so Messi's "in the hole" role did not exist. Too slight and inexperienced to play up front on his own, the only possible destination for him was out wide. And because there was, understandably, a hierarchy -- Barcelona had won the Spanish title the previous season -- he split time on the right wing with Ludovic Giuly.

It is pretty standard, even for the most talented ones, that young players are eased into a first team playing a role that builds confidence. Many No. 10s and center-forwards start out wide as traditional wingers, with the idea to give them space, minimise responsibility and make it as straightforward as possible. If they are right-footed, for example, they play on the right flank and are tasked with running at full-backs, beating them and putting in crosses.

For the left-footed Messi, the natural thing was to play on the left, except occupying that position for Barcelona was a guy named Ronaldinho, who happened to be the Ballon d'Or holder and arguably the best player in the world. He had licence to roam and often ended up inside, where he would join up with Deco, a gifted passer, who was part of Rijkaard's midfield three and tended to break forward in attack.

Messi's early numbers reflect this. He dribbled a lot (9.77 attempts in 2005-06, followed by 9.79 and 11.77 in 2006-07 and 2007-08, respectively) and did so successfully (7.40, 7.08 and a whopping 8.64), which is not surprising, as he often received the ball wide on the right in one-on-one situations, with opponents keying in on the Ronaldinho threat on the opposite flank.

We did not see much of Messi in the penalty area as compared to later years (he averaged 6.26, 5.39 and 5.54 touches in the box), and he did not shoot much either (3.60, 2.72, 2.79). When he did have an effort from distance, he was not particularly effective, scoring just once in 62 attempts from more than 21 yards over the 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 seasons.

He was diligent in doing defensive work off the ball over the same period; indeed, his possession-adjusted tackles+interceptions were above 3.0 for the only time in his career.

In addition, his development was likely hampered by two things. A string of muscular injuries limited him to 23 league starts in both 2006-07 and 2007-08, just as the club was giving him more responsibility. Moreover, he had yet to turn 21, and as Guillem Balague points out in his biography of the Argentine, Messi continued to largely subsist on the diet of a teenager: soft drinks, pizza and plenty of red meat. But that would change...

Taking over from Ronaldinho (2008-10)

The summer of 2008 saw a symbolic passing of the torch at Barcelona. Pep Guardiola replaced Rijkaard as first-team coach, while Deco and Ronaldinho were sold, as it became clear to the new manager that not only was Messi the club's future, but the future was now.

Messi was given the No. 10 shirt and made the team's highest-paid player, but it was critical that he stayed fit after eight muscular injuries over the previous two seasons. His diet had to change, so he was assigned a nutritionist and, probably not by coincidence, grew in strength and durability.

Guardiola shaped the team in a way that undeniably suited Messi, who began to enjoy some of the creative freedoms moving inside that would become his hallmark. Thierry Henry, who had arrived a year earlier, flourished in a wide position with similar licence, but he was different in that he looked to run behind defences.

More generally, Guardiola's early style -- heavy on possession and short passing -- suited Messi. He was comfortable in congested areas and surrounded by pure footballers, from Xavi and Andres Iniesta in midfield to the newly arrived Dani Alves at right-back.

Messi had a phenomenal season in 2008-09, as

Messi's league rankings: successful dribbles

	1ST	LEAGUE RANK	10TH
2006-07	1ST		
2007-08	1ST		
2008-09	2ND		
2009-10	1ST		
2010-11	1ST		
2011-12	2ND		
2012-13	1ST		
2013-14	2ND		
2014-15	1ST		
2015-16	2ND		
2016-17	2ND		
2017-18	1ST		
2018-19	2ND		
2019-20	1ST		



Barcelona won the La Liga-Copa del Rey-Champions League Treble. He created plenty (his expected goals -- xG -- assists from open play were up to 0.35), while he also dribbled effectively (9.27 attempted, 6.27 completed) and took more shots (3.65).

Tellingly -- and this would be a staple for him during the Guardiola era -- Messi was taking mostly good shots with an xG/shot mark of 0.15. His fitness was improved and decision-making was better, while Guardiola's style, which favoured taking an extra pass if it meant getting a better shot, also helped.

The 2009-10 campaign proved to be a bit of an outlier due to the arrival of Zlatan Ibrahimovic. Guardiola was the talk of football, with a team of seven homegrown La Masia academy alumni and an approach predicated on movement and possession, but center-forward Samuel Eto'o, who had worked tirelessly for the more glamorous players behind him (first Ronaldinho and now Messi), was involved in a contractual dispute.

There also was a sense that, despite their success, this Barcelona team was small, lightweight and one-dimensional. If you could add a player blessed not only with strength and size and power, but also a delicate touch on the ball, then surely the team would be even greater than the sum of its parts. And so Ibrahimovic moved to the Camp Nou from Inter in a cash-plus-player deal that saw Eto'o shipped to Italy.

Ibrahimovic did not fit Barcelona's style, though, and clashed with Guardiola. And while there was no personal issue between the two players, the impact on Messi's game was evident: His touches in the box fell from 8.79 to 7.92, and his shots from distance went way up, from 36 to 63. That total was the highest of his career until 2016-17, when he was almost 30 and again playing with a genuine center-forward (Luis Suarez).

Simply put, while Eto'o worked to make space for others, Ibrahimovic was less mobile and, perhaps, more determined



to be the offensive terminus. Ibrahimovic clogged the middle, and that meant Messi had to operate farther away from goal.

Barcelona won La Liga with a record points total of 99 but fell short in the Champions League. Messi's season was productive, with 33 league goals from open play, but it was the sort of performance that quickly convinced Guardiola he could be even more productive without Ibrahimovic, who was sent to Milan. Henry, whose minutes and production had declined, as well, was dispatched to Major League Soccer.

In came David Villa, also a center-forward but more mobile and versatile. Meanwhile, Pedro, who had come up from the B team and begun to replace Henry the season before, was anointed a starter. Finally, Messi had a front three that was made-to-measure for his skills.

The hub of the wheel (2010-14)

With Pedro and Villa as natural foils and Guardiola's short-passing game in full swing, Messi enjoyed some of his best individual seasons. At once a creator and finisher, he was still nominally starting on the right wing, but in such a fluid front three, Messi appeared all over the front line, which meant he spent plenty of time in the middle.

Barcelona won La Liga and the Champions League in 2010-11. And while his non-penalty league goals were down to 27, Messi was still untouchable when it came to dribbling (10.75 attempted, 7.47 successful) and delivered a stellar 0.34 xG assisted from open play.

The following year would be Guardiola's last at Barcelona and saw him experiment with more exotic formations, including playing three at the back and tinkering with midfield. Cesc Fabregas, Barcelona born and bred, returned to the club after a long spell at Arsenal to freshen up the Xavi-Iniesta partnership but made little impact. Alexis Sanchez, who also arrived in the summer, failed to live up to the hype, as well, and Villa missed six months of 2011-12 through injury.

The turbulence meant Barcelona would end the season empty-handed in terms of trophies, but that did not stop Messi from taking on more responsibility. He finished with 73 goals in all competitions -- an absurd number by any measure -- but it was his 40 non-penalty goals in the league that really stood out, plus the fact that they came with an xG/shot of 0.17, ludicrously high for someone taking a whopping 187 shots.

Guardiola's longtime assistant Tito Vilanova took over but was diagnosed with cancer in December 2012 and spent much of the rest of the campaign undergoing treatment. Villa returned, but he was still beset by injury and not the same, while Sanchez continued to struggle.

By this stage, Messi was pretty much Barca's entire offense, and he was red-hot. He won his third straight Ballon d'Or and notched 42 non-penalty league goals, seven of which came off 58 shots from beyond 21 yards. His touches in the box did dip slightly, to 8.8, which was perhaps a sign he had become primarily a finisher. His average position left little doubt: Messi was effectively playing center-forward.

It was evident that Barcelona revolved around Messi at this stage and he was carrying the attacking burden on his own. In the summer of 2013, the club got him help in the form of Neymar, while Gerard "Tata" Martino replaced Vilanova, who sadly died in April 2014. Martino came from Messi's hometown of Rosario and was seen as the right man to connect with Messi on a personal level, as well as a sporting level.

Despite all that, the heavy dependence on Messi continued. Neymar, just 21, took time to adapt and was limited to 19 league starts. Off the pitch, team president Sandro Rosell was forced to resign following allegations of impropriety relating to Neymar's transfer, and Barcelona were found guilty of breaching rules relating to the signing of foreign youngsters, which led to a transfer ban. Messi carried them as far as he could in 2013-14 and took more shots than ever (5.34), but he was simply less effective, ending up with 22 non-penalty league goals. Muscular injuries, which he had banished for several seasons, reared their head as Barcelona ended the season trophyless and Martino was let go.

Birth of the 'MSN' (2014-17)

In the summer of 2014, with Atletico Madrid champions of Spain and Real Madrid holders of the European Cup, it was obvious that the notion of the false nine or interchangeable front three was no longer working for Barcelona and just gave Messi a greater burden.

To address this, Luis Enrique replaced Martino as coach, and the Blaugrana acquired Luis Suarez from Liverpool for around \$90 million. With Sanchez moving on, the road was paved for the so-called "MSN" -- Messi-Suarez-Neymar -- and Barcelona would go on to win another Treble.

Not that the change was immediate. Suarez arrived with a four-month ban after biting Italy's Giorgio Chiellini at the World Cup. And Neymar was much improved but not yet on the level he would later reach. In fact, we did not get to see the MSN together on the pitch until January 2015. But perhaps most importantly, Messi stayed fully fit and appeared in every game in the Champions League, Copa del Rey and Liga, starting all but one.

His shots were down (from 5.34 to 4.62), as were his dribbles (both attempted, 9.67 to 8.52, and successful, 6.78 to 5.75), but his attacking output improved tremendously. He scored 38 non-penalty league goals -- the third-highest total of his career -- but also managed to serve up 0.33 expected goals against -- xGA -- from open play, which was a function of the talent around him.

To be continued

Gwiji by David Chikoko



CAF in favour of behind closed doors matches

SPORT

Lionel Messi's evolution as a player: From Ronaldinho's Barcelona understudy to GOAT candidate

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Morrison opens up on contract with Yanga

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE future of Young Africans (Yanga) winger Bernard Morrison at the club has taken a new twist after the Ghanaian professional had disclosed yesterday that he has one month left in his contract with the club.

In yesterday's sound clip and published media reports, the player disclosed that he signed a six-month contract with the Jangwani Street based club, which is set to end mid next month.

However, the club, in separate press releases, signed by Acting Secretary General Simon Patrick and that of one of the club sponsors, GSM Group, through the firm's official Hersi Said, claimed the player has a two-year contract which runs up to July 2022.

The player is heard saying he signed a six-month contract with Yanga and now he is receiving offers from other clubs interested in his services.

Morrison said it is not true that he signed a two-year contract extension with Yanga.

"I still have a contract with Yanga which runs up to 14 July 2020, I have not renewed my contract with them...but what I can say is that there are teams which are interested in my services and I informed the club on the development," he said.

However, GSM Group through Said, said the player signed a two-year contract with Yanga.

"Morrison signed a two-year contract in my presence, he belongs to Yanga up to July 2022, currently there is nothing to be discussed regarding the player future as he legally belong to Yanga," he said.

He confirmed to have been approached by Morrison asking for termination of the latter's contract with the club as he is looking for green pastures.

The GSM Group official said he advised the player to follow procedures if he wants his contract terminated.

"Morrison approached me asking for the termination of his two years contract, he said he has found another club which is offering him better pecks, I advised him to follow right procedures as he legally belong to Yanga," he said.

Patrick in the yesterday press release said the player signed a two-year contract with his club and they registered the contract with Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) and world soccer governing body, FIFA.

"Yanga SC firstly signed the player on a six-month contract (January 15, 2020 to 14 July 2020). One of the conditions of the contract was that if the club (Yanga) can sign him another contract upon being satisfied with his services and on March 20, 2020 the club signed the player for two years," the official disclosed in the release.

"This was after meeting the needs of the player, this new contract ends on July 14, 2022."

He, however, said his club is not happy with the tendency of the player to grant an interview to a journalist at the camp where the team was preparing for yesterday's game against Namungo FC, without following Yanga protocols and due to this the winger has been fined 1.5m/-.

Patrick said the club informs the general public and his team's supporters that no any player is bigger than the club hence the players must follow the club's rules.

Recently, the Yanga versatile player confirmed to have received money amounting to US dollars 10,000 which was meant to entice him to sign for Simba SC, but he did not sign, a development which makes him uncomfortable as the agent who gave him the money is demanding it back.

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE Confederation of African Football (CAF) has recommended that member associations should host matches behind closed doors when the associations resume football amid coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) through the federation's information officer Clifford Ndimbo, though, could not say if they are in receipt of the CAF guidelines.

Ndimbo only said they are delighted that CAF named them as the first African country to resume football during the pandemic.

"And Tanzania is exemplary to CAF as being



JKT Tanzania's center back, Damas Makwaya (L), dribbles past Singida United player in a Vodacom Premier League encounter which took place in Dodoma early this week. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TFF

the only nation which has resumed its league(s) with supporters after (cases of coronavirus had decreased)," he said.

As many African football associations are contemplating of resuming their leagues. On Monday CAF released the recommended guidelines.

The continental soccer governing body, in the recommended guidelines, disclosed the associations are advised to resume matches without supporters because the associations, leagues and clubs have health security challenges.

From the view of health security, according to the continental football governing body, the resumption of training and matches will not be easily managed by stakeholders as basic standards and absolutely necessary procedures are beyond the reach of many clubs.

Further, the continental soccer governing body said, the danger is poised as many elite African clubs do not have organized medical departments.

"A great challenge awaits the African federations, their professional leagues and their clubs, often unaccustomed to scrupulously respecting standards and procedures of this type. Especially since health security is not negotiable," CAF stated.

"Unfortunately, basic standards and absolutely necessary procedures are beyond the reach of many clubs that we know. Apart from a few rare exceptions, which confirm the rule, the clubs of the African elite do not have really organised medical departments." Said part of CAF guidelines.

The continental soccer governing body

has also recommended that each of African leagues and clubs recruit an officer with medical background, to be in charge of coordinating all actions related to the pandemic.

All participants such as players, officials, referees, ball boys, stewards, police, paramedics and the media, moreover, must take COVID-19 tests.

The guidelines also highlight on group training sessions, disinfection of sporting facilities and installation of hydro-alcoholic gels and hygienic equipment on all venues.

"This comprehensive

document is major step towards resuming football on the continent. Based on recent developments, it is important we have a plan in place to guide our stakeholders on the return of continental and domestic competitions, and the need for an all hands on deck approach.

"Many considerations were factored into the putting together of the document by our team of experts notably the specifications of the continent. Together with strategies established by local authorities, it provides the associations with adequate information to resume operations upon receiving the green light," said CAF Acting Secretary General, Abdelmounaim

Bah, stated in a statement. Tanzania's leagues resumed last week, with football teams and stakeholders following health guidelines directed by the government.

Some of the precaution measures which are being observed at local stadia include people being required to wash their hands before going into the stadium by using running water, use sanitisers and, if possible wear masks.

Soccer followers, moreover, are required to have temperature tests and create a one-meter distance with each other once inside the venue. Recently, the government through Ministry of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports directed that all football matches played at Jamuhuri Stadium in Dodoma are to be played without supporters.

The order was issued after the stadium's management had failed to adhere to some precautionary measures during a Vodacom Premier League game pitting JKT Tanzania against Young Africans (Yanga).

However, the management of the stadium and JKT Tanzania indicated that they will appeal to the government to reverse its decision, promising to adhere to all precautionary measures.

Mbuni FC eyes promotion to FDL

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

IT is not the case of an Ostrich burying its head in the sand, Mbuni Football Club of Monduli, Arusha is looking up in the skies instead, making final preparations to resume the Second Division League (SDL) in Morogoro with dreams of climbing into First Division League (FDL).

Following the three-month hiatus, after COVID-19 outbreak, Mainland Tanzania's SDL is getting back on track next Sunday.

Mbuni FC, usually camping at the Tanzania People's Defence Force (TPDF) base in Monduli, is among the teams that are getting ready for the SDL battle into top six.

The team is currently playing in Group A fixture of the third tier of the domestic soccer tournaments.

Mbuni FC departs from Arusha, heading to Morogoro, next Friday, ready for the side's match against

Mkamba Rangers in the final game of the ongoing SDL.

This will be the qualifying stage for the participating clubs to climb into the top six slotting of the SDL.

"It is a special mission for us, intending to perform well in the final stage of the league, which will enable us to move up into the top six slot. This is an important step towards playing in the FDL, next season," Mbuni FC's head coach, Leonard Budeda, said.

Inching closer to departure day, the Mbuni FC players have moved from Monduli, pitching camp in Arusha town where they are training at Seliani playgrounds of Burka, in the city suburbs.

So far the team holds the second spot in Group A of the SDL with 26 points and a tally of 10 goals.

Leading the pack in the group is Tanga's African Sports that also has

26 points but with 12 goals. Eagle FC comes third with 24 points, Rufiji United (fourth) with 21 points while Villa Squad occupies the fifth slot with 14 points.

Mpwapwa United has been placed sixth with eight points and trailing last are Mkamba Rangers with six points.

There are 24 teams participating in the SDL and these are divided into three groups, A, B and C. The first and the second outfits in each of the three groups will excel to play into the top six slotting of the FDL.

In other matches, to be played next Sunday, African Sports are set to tackle Eagles FC at Mkwakwani Stadium in Tanga, while Rufiji United are to play against Dar City at Utete Stadium in Rufiji.

Meanwhile, Mpwapwa United are expected to entertain visiting Villa Squad at the Mgambo grounds in Dodoma.



Mbuni Football Club

Azam FC pros not coming back soon, says official

By Guardian Correspondent

TANZANIA'S football giants, Azam FC, have disclosed their foreign professionals, Razack Abalora, Daniel Amoah and Yakub Mohamed, are not expected back in the squad soon.

The Ghanaian trio is still in their home country due to lockdown.

Azam FC has eight duels left in the 2019/20 Vodacom Premier League and the squad is also in the quarterfinals of Azam Sports Confederation Cup (ASFC).

Azam FC's Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Abdulkarim Amin, said it is difficult to facilitate travel logistics of the three players, as Ghana has imposed lockdown to fight coronavirus pandemic.

He said there is no flights coming into and going out of Ghana.

"It is difficult to have the three players back, there are no flights going or leaving Ghana, the country is under lockdown, Ghana is in West Africa, it is not East Africa where they can board buses to reach here," he said.

The Azam FC CEO also said currently it is difficult for the squad's head coach Aristica Cioba to give the three players training program as it is difficult to monitor them if they are following the program.

He said the players will be assessed once they arrive in the country.

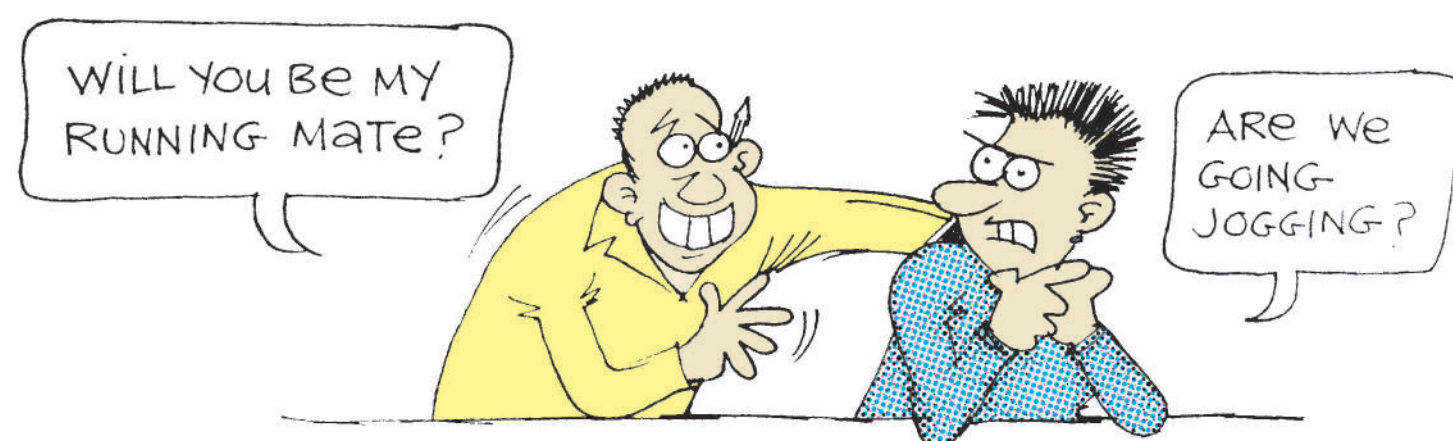
"You can not follow their training program while they are away in Ghana, the players do the training themselves, you can't be sure if they are following the program but once they are back in the country we will know if they were really training," he said.

Before the resumption of the Vodacom Premier League games, Azam FC's seven players were missing due to lockdown in their respective countries.

The side's foreign professionals, Ugandan Nicholas Wadada and two Zimbabweans Never Tigere and Bruce Kangwa, nevertheless are back in the team while the club did not renew the contract of Zimbabwean Donald Ngoma.

Meanwhile, Amin said his team arrived safely in Kagera two days back and was ready for yesterday's encounter against Kagera Sugar. Azam FC are placed second in the log with 57 points while hosts, Kagera Sugar, are holding ninth position with 41 points. Both teams have played 30 games.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



MORNING @ 11:00

DADAZ.

EATV THURSDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 MPYA
12:30 Bongo Hits
13:30 Msasi Kitaani (r)
13:30 Keli Za Wana
14:00 Ujenzi (r)
14:30 DK10 Za Maangamizi
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Wagonga Ulimbo (r)
16:00 Ubongo Kids (r)
16:30 #HSHTAG
17:00 S5ELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:30 EATV SAA I
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 Kibashara Zaidi

DADAZ A show that explores social and political issues from a feminine perspective.

eastAfrica RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
14:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM