

Daily News

FOUNDED 1878

Acting Editor Zoubair Ayoob
Newsdesk 031 308 2199
Advertising 031 308 2004
KZN.classifieds@inl.co.za
Subscriptions 0800 204 711
Deliveries 031 308 2022
0800 220 770

Mail: 18 Osborne, Greyville Durban 4001
E-mail: kznsubs@inl.co.za
Web: iol.co.za/Daily News
Facebook: facebook.com/Daily NewsSA
Twitter: @DailynewsSA
Instagram: @dailynews_sa



PRESS OMBUDSMAN

Complaints relating to editorial content
can be sent to
complaints@inl.co.za

Daily News is printed by Insights Publishing, 18 Osborne Street, Greyville, Durban, 4001. The copyright in the literary and artistic works contained in this newspaper and its supplements, as well as in the published editions and any other content or material (including in any online version), belongs exclusively to Independent Newspapers (Pty) Limited unless otherwise stated. The copyright, including the reproduction and adaptation of any content or material contained in this newspaper and its supplements, is expressly reserved to the publisher, Independent Newspapers (Pty) Limited, under Section 12(7) of the Copyright Act of 1978. The circulation of the Daily News is certified by the Audit Bureau of Circulations, which can be contacted at PO Box 47189, Parklands, 2121, South Africa or Suite 5, Ground Floor, 158 Jan Smuts, 9 Walters Ave, Rosebank, 2196, Johannesburg.
Cover price: R8.50 (includes VAT at 15%)

pandemic-ridden world.

Amid a plethora of interpretations defining sports diplomacy in his article *Sports diplomacy: South Africa and Fifa 2010*, Bishnupriya Padhi opts for a definition associated with Peppard and Riordan which describes it as "the whole range of international contacts and competitions that have implications for the overall relations between the nations concerned".

So in this era of Covid-19, what role can sport play to improve relations among states?

with cricket can open new opportunities in advancing economic benefits and strengthen the bilateral relations between our two nations".

They envisaged promoting tourism destinations in both countries in between cricket matches' telecasts and during intervals. This is a typical example of the use of diplomacy by an international sporting body wherein international sport is engaged by governments as a tool of diplomacy.

As non-state actors, such international sporting bodies have mastered

Libya was no longer able to do so.

Even the 2014 African Nations Championship (Chan) had to be hosted in South Africa owing to the political instability in Libya. On the two occasions, South Africa was a willing 'last-minute' option host.

All this after South Africa had supported the 2002 Afcon in Mali through a financial shot in the arm and seconded experienced soccer administrators to ensure the success of the continental soccer spectacle.

In the academic realm, South Africa

Springbok captain Siya Kolisi also recently partnered with the Nelson Mandela Foundation and President Cyril Ramaphosa as they marked Mandela Day with activities in Soweto.

Overall, the existence of Covid-19 has not negatively affected the abilities of non-state actors, especially in the sports arena, to exercise their roles as influencers and agents of international relations.

Tsedu is the chief executive of the South African Institute of Foreign Affairs

Time for government to lead by example

MAHMOUD YOUSSEF BAKER

AS COVID-19 has exposed major fault lines in our society, we should not miss the opportunity to learn something from the painful experience in order to reshape the socio-economic trajectory of our very unequal society.

A society with one voice is doomed to fail, as proved over the history of humankind. In the absence of checks and balances, accountability and rationality, all dictatorships and autocratic regimes have ended in disaster.

Our National Command Council (NCC), while claiming wide consultation, has regrettably shown some of the tendencies. Most of us adhered to the harsh regulations the government introduced through its NCC under levels 5, 4 and 3 of the lockdown.

Most economists do not appear to agree with the hard lockdown and warned of the negative consequences

of the sudden shut down of the economy, on growth, unemployment, the government's vulnerable finances, the credit rating of the sovereign debt and the outlook of South Africa in the eyes of foreign investors.

As a result, millions of our citizens are suffering from poverty, unemployment and crime. Let alone the severe impact on education, health care and the deteriorated services delivered by governmental institutions.

We believe no health-care system can protect people's lives without a strong supportive economy. Likewise, the economy cannot function efficiently and at full capacity without a good health-care umbrella. As there is a reciprocal relationship between the two, it requires a balancing of priorities. Has the government got this right? It seems doubtful.

The main driver of economic growth is consumption, even though

this is not the ideal model. However, amid the uncertainty about the future due to the extended lockdown, the marginal propensity of consumers to save is higher than their tendency to spend and consume. This means that the recovery of our economy will take longer than usual.

The irony is that the NCC threatens to take the country back to level 5 if members of society continue to violate the restrictive rules. Such threats enhance uncertainty and might make people even more reluctant to go back to their normal life and hence delay the desired economic recovery.

From the outset, a smarter lockdown based not only on theoretical science but also on accurate data and the realities on the ground would have been preferable. Under a smart lockdown, it would not be necessary to shut the whole economy and close all provinces, rather isolate the hot spots

where the infection rate is noticeably high and is escalating. Life must go on and we must learn how to live with any challenge and strike the right balance between working and fighting the epidemic, not asking people to stay home waiting for the unknown.

The government must seize the opportunity to start planning to transform our economic and political systems, introduce genuine democratic reforms to protect us from concentrating power in one authority and, more importantly, overcome the pervasive corruption and mismanagement.

If the government wants to see people acting responsibly, then it must start to effect the change in its branches and lead by example.

Dr Baker is the chairperson of Iqraa Trust SA and a trustee of the Durban University of Technology Foundation. He writes in his personal capacity.