



Mudslides hits Kericho County, four people dead

Massive landslides have hit at least three wards in Kipkelion West constituency, Kericho County killing four people, among them two minors.

Page 2

COVID-19 CASES REACH 296 AS 15 MORE PEOPLE TEST POSITIVE

In a daily pressing briefing Health CAS Dr Mercy Mwangangi said 545 people were tested in the past 24 hours of which 15 of them turned out positive.

Page 9



The

MT. KENYA TIMES

Daily ePAPER

Where Investors Get Returns

Wednesday, April 22, 2020

No. 00078

www.mtkenytimes.co.ke

themtkenytimes
mountkenytimes



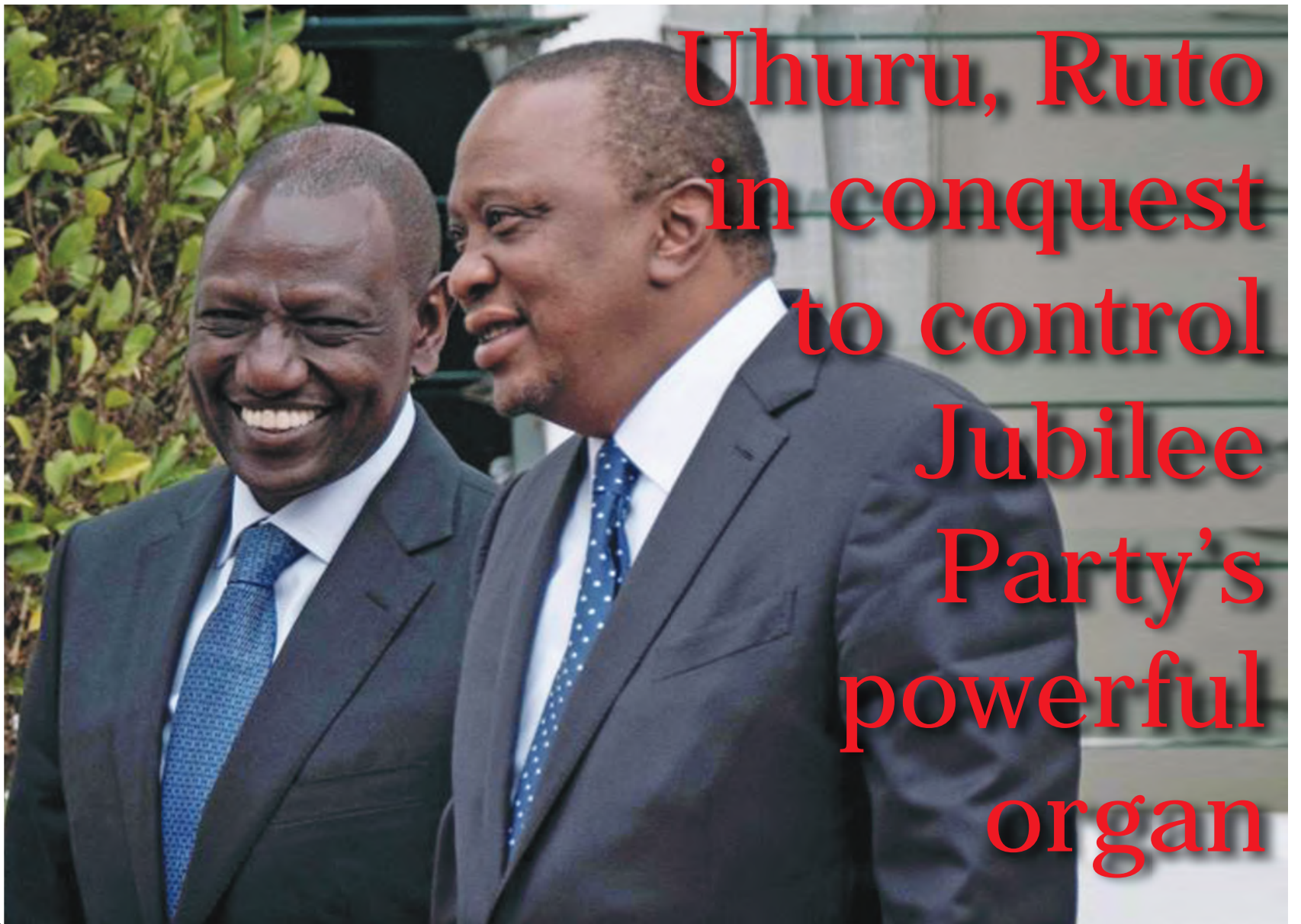
10 Romantic Tips to Spice up Your Relationship

P. 11. Set up a living room or a bedroom with just the right tone

COVID-19 HOTLINES
***719**
***0800721316**
***0729471414**
***0732353535**

TUJU BLOCK RECEIVERS HOTEL ACCESS IN SH1.6BN ROW

P. 14. Tuju has allegedly blocked East African Development Bank (EADB) from taking over his hotel



Uhuru, Ruto in conquest to control Jubilee Party's powerful organ

President Uhuru Kenyatta and Deputy President William Ruto at State House, Nairobi.

STORY ON PAGE 3



Health

P. 8. Homa Bay driver who carried empty coffin clears the air

WHO, ITU PLAN TO SEND SMSs ON COVID-19 TO MOBILE PHONE USERS WORLDWIDE

The World Health Organization and the International Telecommunication Union plan to start sending SMSs to people's mobile phones with vital information on COVID-19.

The two organizations will also be working with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and telecommunication companies around the world.

"Now more than ever, technology must ensure that everyone can access the information they need. The collaboration will

STORY ON PAGE 6

using mobile phones to fight disease



The

MT. KENYA TIMES
Daily ePAPER

Where Investors Get Returns

Read & Share
Absolutely
Free!

CONTACT US
For affordable adverts
0700 161 866, 0705 215 262
Email: epaper@mtkenytimes.co.ke

Tragedy >> Bodies of the two minors aged 12 and 15 years were moved to Kericho County hospital mortuary

MUDSLIDES HITS KERICHO COUNTY, FOUR PEOPLE DEAD

By: Justus Obando
@mountkenyentimes

Massive landslides have hit at least three wards in Kipkelion West constituency, Kericho County killing four people, among them two minors.

Tens of other people have been displaced after a heavy downpour pounded Kunyak, Chilchila and Kamasian ward for at least six hours last night causing the huge mudslides.

Bodies of the two minors aged 12 and 15 years were moved to Kericho County hospital mortuary after a landslide swept off their home at Kamasian ward.

Chilchila ward representative

Hezron Kipngeno who is also the leader of the majority at the county assembly said a handful of people and domestic animals were yet to be accounted for.

“This is the worst landslides to affect the area in recent years,” Kipngeno said.

Red Cross officials said they were on their way to Kapkese, Kamiwa, Rwandet, Timbilil and Kipteden village to ascertain the extent of the damage.

The meteorological department has listed Kericho as one of the counties set to heavy rainfall.



MACHAKOS COUNTY CONVERTS STADIUM INTO HOSPITAL

The Machakos County Government on Monday converted Kenyatta Stadium into a hospital ward in readiness to admit Covid-19 patients.

Governor Alfred Mutua unveiled the 200 bed-capacity ward made of tents while promising to extend the bed capacity further.

Speaking at the facility, Dr Mutua said it will be used for Covid-19 mass testing and isolation.

He said this will help minimise interaction between coronavirus patients and those of other illnesses at the County Referral hospital located just 200 meters away.

Dr Mutua said the facility is now awaiting approval from the national government.

“This new mass testing and isolation centre will handle mild and non-critical cases. We are targeting up to 1,000 bed capacity in the county in the next one month,” he said.

He said a similar facility will be established in Mavoko Sub-county, which is under the Nairobi Metropolitan region.

He said 2,524 community health volunteers (CHVs) and 1,600 health workers have been sensitised about Covid-19 and are ready to handle the pandemic.

This comes amid a pay dispute between Machakos County nurses

and the devolved unit, who recently moved to call off their planned strike.

The health workers had threatened to down their tools over delays in their March salaries and unavailability of adequate Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs).

“The union (Kenya Medical Practitioners, Pharmacist and Dentist Union) engaged with the employer amicably and settled the unpaid salaries. We have received information that salaries were banked on Friday the 17th of April 2020, at around 4:00 pm.

The union (Kenya Medical Practitioners, Pharmacist and Dentist Union) engaged with the employer amicably and settled the unpaid salaries. We have received information that salaries were banked on Friday the 17th of April 2020, at around 4:00 pm. This ensures that the challenges of meeting daily needs have now been taken into consideration,” said Dr Okumu.

This ensures that the challenges of meeting daily needs have now been taken into consideration,” said Dr Okumu.

The row also comes at a time when the county is broke and had last week sought a bank loan of Sh900 million to pay salaries and foot the bill for Covid-19 emergencies among other expenses.

The National Treasury had

earlier refused to release an annual equitable share for the county presented in its budget after the devolved unit failed to adhere to a directive to pay pending bills, leading to the cash crunch.

The county says it is in the process of procuring 10 ventilators to supplement the existing 10 that will be used in critical care of Covid-19 patients.

On Sunday, Dr Mutua announced

closure of Joska market in Matungulu Sub-county in a bid to stall spread of the virus.

At the same time, he asked the national government to come up with a programme to cushion those who have been rendered jobless by the pandemic as is happening in developed countries.



Inside the hospital ward at Kenyatta Stadium in Machakos County.

Succession >> * National Executive Council (NEC) has the ultimate say on who flies the party flag in any elective seat

Uhuru, Ruto in conquest to control Jubilee Party's powerful organ



By: **Danson**
dan@mtkenyatimes.co.ke

Battle to Control Jubilee Party's National Executive Council (NEC) the top organ with authority over primaries and choice of the presidential candidate has continued to rock the ruling party.

The wrangles have attracted camps allied to President Uhuru Kenyatta or his deputy William Ruto flexing political muscles against one another.

These wrangles started when Jubilee party secretary General Raphael Tuju wrote to the Registrar of Political party Anne Nderitu with intention of changing the membership of NEC. The move was contested by the deputy party leader Mr. Ruto and members of parliament allied to him, 146 of Jubilee legislatures wrote the protest letter to the registrar.

The momentum by Ruto camps has recently increased as a response to the increased political strategic meeting and utterances by rival camp led vice chairman David Murathe and Nyeri Town MP Ngunjiri Wambugu.

Other influential political figures that have been offensive to Ruto and his allies are COTU Secretary General Francis Atwoli, Kieni MP Kanini Kega, veteran Nairobi politician Maina Kamanda and backed by Team Embrace.

Team Embrace is a group of female politicians from all political parties who supports the Handshake between President Uhuru Kenyatta and ODM leader Raila Odinga. Most vocal being Homa bay Women representative Gladys Wanga, Mbita MP Millie Odhiambo, Murang'a Women Representative Sabina Chege and Wajir women representative Fatuma Gendi among others.

Jubilee vice-chairman David Murathe have in many interviews made it public that Deputy resident Ruto shall never be president. To this effect he has been holding strategic meetings, interviews and press conferences to make his position known.

Recently he indicated that Uhuru is free to form coalition with other



political like leaders ODM's Raila say on who flies the party flag in any elective seat.
President Uhuru Kenyatta and DP William Ruto. PHOTO| PSCU

la Odinga, KANU's Gideon Moi, Wiper leader Kalonzo Musyoka and Amani National Congress (ANC) leader Musalia Mudavadi.

First time Nyeri MP and Kieleweke team leader Ngunjiri Wambugu has candidly said the President without consultation has powers to appoint on interim bases officials to fill ant vacant position. When doing so, he can only appoint those loyal to him and not rebels who have been fighting him unnecessarily. Wambugu is an ardent supporter of President Uhuru.

"Any vacant office can be occupied by an appointee of the president. And because he has the authority to do this without consulting anyone, I doubt he would appoint people not loyal to his vision of where he wants the party to go," said Wambugu.

Currently Jubilee Party NEC which when in full capacity should have 64 Members has 34 members in office and vacant 30 slots. Ruto's allies have, therefore, a reason to worry since if the 30 vacant positions are filled by anti-Ruto officials then his chances of flying the Jubilee Party flag come 2022 is minimal.

This is backed by the facts that, according to Jubilee nomination rules filed with the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC); NEC has the ultimate



Summary

- **Currently Jubilee Party NEC which when in full capacity should have 64 Members has 34 members in office and vacant 30 slots. Ruto's allies have, therefore, a reason to worry since if the 30 vacant positions are filled by anti-Ruto officials then his chances of flying the Jubilee Party flag come 2022 is minimal.**

- **Referring to the book The Art of War by Sun Tzu, All war is perceptual, deception and above all a mind to mind game. Thus, whether Kuria has real or perceived power, what he exhibited was power. Uhuru's side has a political duty to have an equal influential figure that is more energetic than the old weathered Maina Kamanda.**

"...It shall have the final authority and be empowered to receive and consider the reports of the nominations from the National Elections Board and from the counties in determining the results of and actual election and selection..." state the regulations.

"...the ultimate organ of the party for determining the person who succeeds (by-election or selection) in obtaining any nomination of the party," the rules add.

The Jubilee Party NEC comprises of President Uhuru, DP Ruto, Secretary-general Raphael Tuju, Nelson Dzuya (chairman), David Murathe (vice-chairman), Caleb Kositany (deputy SG), Albert Mutai (Treasurer) and Shukri Fatuma (Deputy Treasurer).

This therefore means Ruto and his allies has one option to ensure they control NEC or else forget about flying the Jubilee Party flag in the forth coming general election.

With this in mind, Aldai MP Cornelny Serem has come out gun blazing asserting Uhuru's faction has intention of acquiring undue influence over Jubilee Party so as to eventually enter into a collation arrangement with Odinga and company. In Rift Valley the MP claims Uhuru is preferring KANU's Gideon, while in Western he is eyeing ANC's Mudavadi this is in addition to Eastern's

Kalonzo Musyoka who is also the Wiper leader.

"We are aware that they want to steal the party and form a coalition with ODM and Kanu without our approval. That is why they want to pick people who sing their tunes to powerful positions," claimed Mr Serem, a Ruto ally.

If the claims are anything to go by, then President Uhuru's team is working of a jubilated NASA. If this coalition is formed, getting the constitution 50+1 per cent will be a walk in the park. It is, however, worthy noting the Mount Kenya block is hesitant on such kind of arrangement with ground politics leaning more towards Ruto.

The older generation and rural mountaineers are very skeptical of this arrangement. They are reading betrayal to Ruto which could escalate to unrest in the Rift valley and in addition they have fears of Raila could do the unexpected owing to the long contracted political wrangles between him and Kibaki government as well as Kenyatta government.

President Uhuru's allies will have to deal with this political reality or else their mission is doomed. In addition, the team that is fronting Uhuru in the mountain region needs to be re-looked at and a more appealing and strong team out into place. For anyone who cares to watch the political incidences, if we use the Meru BBI rally as case study the deep state backed Kieni MP Kanini Kega did not command authority as a leader of 12 million battalion.

Gatundu South MP, Moses Kuria, who did, not even had a chance to address his people despite demands by public to address them, pulled more than half of the crowd when he exited the scene mid-way leaving a deserted stadium.

Referring to the book The Art of War by Sun Tzu, All war is perceptual, deception and above all a mind to mind game. Thus, whether Kuria has real or perceived power, what he exhibited was power. Uhuru's side has a political duty to have an equal influential figure that is more energetic than the old weathered Maina Kamanda. In Kikuyu we say "Maguta Makuru Matiinaga rwimbo" which loosely translate you cannot rely on spent a canon on war.

IanPromise Shoes & Accessoris

"Unique & Classic Men Shoes"



**Call/Text/WhatsApp
+254 725 269 313**

BRACE YOURSELF FOR HEAVY DOWNPOUR IN THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAY

By: Isaac Mwaura

@MountKenyatimes

Be ready for heavy downpour in the next couple of days the weather man has warned. Heavy rains are currently being experienced in some parts of the country and are expected to continue in Western, North Eastern, North Western, Central region including Nairobi, and Coastal region of Kenya.

According to Kenya Meteorological Department, the rainfall intensity will increase progressively to 40mm between Thursday 23 and Friday 24 and reduce across the country on Saturday 25.

Some of the areas that should be on high alert according to the meteorological department include; West Pokot, Baringo, Uasin-Gishu, Elgeyo- Marakwet, Vihiga, Bungoma, Homa Bay, Kisumu, Siaya, Kakamega, Nakuru, Kericho, Bomet, Nakuru, Narok, Migori, Trans- Nzoia, Nandi, Nairobi, Nyeri, Kiambu, Nyandarua, Murang'a,

Embu, Meru, Kirinyaga, Tharaka Nithi, Isiolo, Samburu, Turkana, Machakos, Kitui, Makueni, Garissa, Busia, Kisii, Nyamira, , Kwale, Kilifi, Mombasa, Lamu, Tana-River, Wajir, Marsabit, and Taita- Taveta.

"Residents in all the mentioned areas are advised to be on the lookout for potential floods. They are also advised to avoid driving through, or walking in moving water or open fields and not to shelter under trees and near grilled windows to minimize exposure to lighting strikes."says the director of meteorological services, Stella Aura.

"The heavy rains, large waves and strong winds off shore may result in storm surge along the coast; hence fishermen and all in the Marine industry should be on high alert. People in the landslide prone areas especially over the slopes of the Aberdare ranges, Mt. Kenya and other hilly areas over the western region should be vigilant." She added.



A section of flooded road in Mombasa



MASH PARK HOTEL

HOSPITALITY REDEFINED

WHERE COMFORT & SERENITY MEET EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE



Room
Options

SUPERIOR ROOM
DELUXE ROOM
TWIN ROOMS
BUSINESS SUITES
EXECUTIVE SUITES



SWIMMING POOL



DINING EXPERIENCE



CONFERENCING / MEETINGS



ACCOMMODATION



THE BAR TERRACE

HOTEL FEATURES

SWIMMING POOL
SAFETY DEPOSIT BOX
24 HOUR ROOM SERVICE
AIR CONDITIONING
RESTAURANT
BAR AND TERRACE
MEETING ROOMS
VALET PARKING
WI-FI AVAILABILITY
PREMIUM TV CHANNELS
PORTER

AT MASH PARK HOTEL, WE HAVE THE RIGHT OPTIONS FOR EVERY DISCERNING TRAVELLER, WITH OUR WELL EXPERIENCED STAFF THE ACCOMMODATION IS FLAWLESS.

WITH A TOTAL OF 110 ROOMS WITH SUITE OPTION, EACH ROOM OFFERS MODERN AND EXQUISITE DESIGNS WITH DUE ATTENTION TO DETAIL, LEAVING OUR DISCERNING GUESTS PAMPERED

Contact Information

Joseph Kang'ethe Road
Off Ngong Road, Nairobi
P.O. Box 55298 - 00200, Nairobi
Tel: 020 3861218/9, 0721 304 311/8
www.mashparkhotelsnrb.com
info@mashparkhotelsnrb.com

Covid-19 >> * The text messages are intended to reach billions of people that aren't able to connect to the internet

WHO, ITU PLAN TO SEND SMSs ON COVID-19 TO MOBILE PHONE USERS WORLDWIDE



By: Rose Karanja
rose@mtkenytimes.co.ke

Contd from Page 1



“Now more than ever, technology must ensure that everyone can access the information they need. The collaboration will start in the Asia Pacific region and then roll out globally,” ITU said in a statement.

start in the Asia Pacific region and then roll out globally,” ITU said in a statement.

The text messages are intended to reach billions of people that aren't able to connect to the internet for information.

The goal is to reach everyone with vital health messages, whatever the connectivity level.

An estimated 3.6 billion people are reported to be offline, with most people of them living in low-income countries, where an average of just two out of every ten people are online.

ITU and WHO are urging telecommunication companies worldwide to join their initiative to help unleash the power of communication technology to save lives from COVID-19.

The initiative builds on current efforts to disseminate health messages through the joint WHO-ITU BeHe@lthy BeMobile initiative.

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is the first pandemic in human his-

tory where technology and social media are being used on a massive scale to keep people safe, productive and connected while being physically apart.

Health workers are utilizing telemedicine to diagnose patients and hospitals rely on being connected to coordinate and triage them.

Resilient and trustworthy telecommunication networks and services are essential, as more countries, companies and individuals turn to digital technologies to respond to and cope with the impact of COVID-19.

Building on their longstanding collaboration, ITU and WHO say they

are committed to identifying and scaling best evidence-based digital health solutions and to leveraging frontier technologies such as artificial intelligence and big data to diagnose, contain and predict out-

breaks better and faster.

In Kenya, the Health Ministry has partnered with telcos such as Safaricom & Airtel to send free text messages with information on coronavirus.



The World Health Organization and the International Telecommunication Union plan to start sending SMSs to people's mobile phones with vital information on COVID-19.

FEAR TO FACE POLICE WITHOUT A FACE MASK CUTS MAN'S LIFE SHORT

By: Yvonne Atieno
[@Haifaabeid](https://twitter.com/Haifaabeid)

A middle-aged man has drowned after falling into a fish pond while running from police officers who accosted him over a face mask.

According to witnesses the deceased was being chased by police officers at Kambu in Kibwezi, Makueni County before the incident.

The police chase turned chaotic after the deceased accidentally slipped into the pond where he drowned.

This incident comes a week after the Kenyan government warned that any person caught in public spaces without a mask would be arrested and prosecuted.

So far Kenya has confirmed 296 cases of the Covid-19 amid fears that the numbers may rise once the government embarks on mass testing.

Ministry Of Health has advised members of the public to practice personal hygiene, social distancing and to do masks at all times while in public spaces.

According to research carried out across Asia, masks come in handy in slowing down respiratory infections considerably.

“Consistently wearing a mask in public was associated with a 70% reduction in the risk of catching SARS” a study of community transmission in Beijing found out.



Fish pond

SEX WORKERS AND THEIR CLIENTS ARRESTED AND QUARANTINED IN EMALI

Drama witnessed at Emali town, Makueni County when police stormed lodges and arrested 30 commercial sex workers and their clients for flouting the social distance rules meant to curb the spread of Covid-19.

Police did not reveal much details about the clients with whom the sex worker were arrested during the Monday night incidence.

“We found them in two different lodgings with these women in miniskirts and several men,” said Emali Sub-County Police Commander Okumu Dullo.

Okumu said they had already taken all the culprits to Mulala Girls School for 14 days quarantine waiting to be arraigned in court after the quarantine for going against the government directive of staying indoors to minimize the spread of the coronavirus.

During the same operation, police also arrested bar attendants and revelers who had locked themselves inside a famous joint in the town. The officers forced their way in as the occupants refused to open the door.

There were three other people who were also sent to the same quaran-

tine centre for violating dusk to dawn curfew.

On Monday, Makueni County Commissioner Maalim Mohamed warned that police would be carrying out an operation to ensure government directive on the prevention of the coronavirus is followed.

“Whoever will be found outside during curfew time, those in pub-

lic places without masks will be arrested and taken to safer places,” said Maalim.

The town is notorious for sex workers depend on truck drivers using the busy highway Nairobi-Mombasa highway and revelers. The stay at home order which has restricted movement has affected their earnings as clients are depleted.



Sex worker



Swish Fashions®
wish "The gentlemen's shop"

The advertisement displays a variety of men's fashion items. At the top left, a grey denim jacket with patches is shown on a mannequin. Below it are a pair of black aviator sunglasses and a pair of brown leather brogue shoes. In the center, a light blue suit with a white shirt and black tie is displayed on a mannequin. To the right of the suit is a blue button-down shirt. Below the suit, a pair of light blue trousers is shown on a hanger. At the bottom left, a dark blue checkered suit with a white shirt and red bow tie is displayed on a mannequin. On the right side, there is a vertical strip of eight small images showing different colored shirts (pink, dark blue, light blue, white, pink, dark blue, pink, dark blue). At the bottom right, a pair of brown leather shoes is shown. The background is a vibrant blue with abstract light patterns.

Pay on Delivery

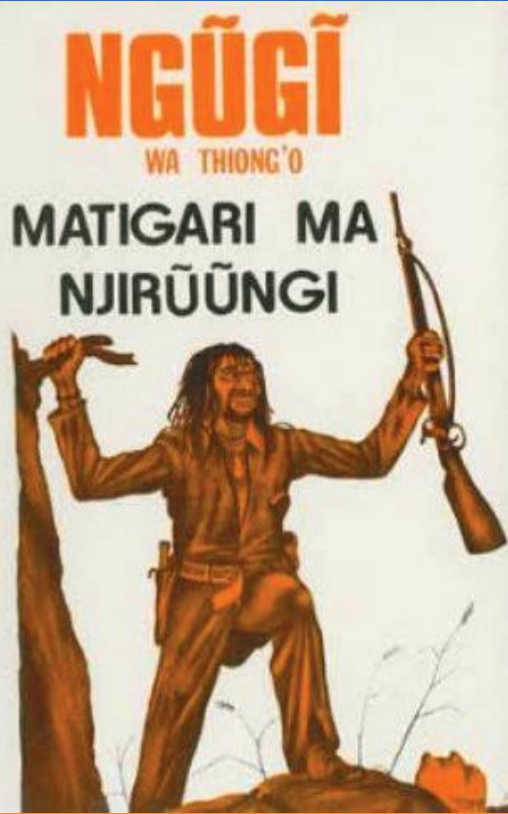
 **swish_fashions**

 **Swish fashions**

 **swishfashions**

 **0721 977 982**

Health >> * I am healthy. Since I was taken to isolation, I have not been prescribed any medication



Duniani Kuna Watu

Mohamed S. Abdulla



Rosa Mistika



E. Kezilahabi



HOMA BAY DRIVER WHO CARRIED EMPTY COFFIN CLEARS THE AIR

Ministry of Health Director General Dr Patrick Amoth has come out to clear the air over health claims made by a driver who ferried mourners from Nairobi to Homa Bay County.

In a viral clip doing rounds online, Kelvin Aura, 26, claims he is healthy despite Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe announcing recently that he had tested positive for coronavirus.

Mr Kelvin Aura, 26, who has been isolated at Malela Health Centre, has disputed the results and says he does not exhibit any symptoms of Covid-19.

"I am healthy. Since I was taken to isolation, I have not been prescribed any medication because I do not show any symptoms of being sick," he said.

He said he had previously suffered from malaria but had been cured after he took some drugs.

He also claimed that Mr Kagwe had been misinformed by Homa Bay Governor Cyprian Awiti regarding his health status and the circumstances under which the group of mourners he was transporting had travelled to the county.

However, in an interview on a local TV station Monday evening, Dr Amoth reiterated that Mr Aura had indeed tested positive but was an asymptomatic carrier of the virus.

"Kelvin is our test number 257...he was tested in Kemeri Kisumu and his result came back positive. He's one of those people who tested positive but are asymptomatic," he said, while revealing that 56 percent of those who've tested positive in Kenya are asymptomatic like Mr Aura.

"We're keeping Kelvin in the isolation centre until the fourteenth day when we'll start repeating the tests to see if he turns negative. If released now he will be able to pass on the disease to others. We do not have to give him any treatment because he is asymptomatic. If you don't

have any symptoms we keep you there until the disease runs its incubation period," he added.

County Health Executive Prof Richard Muga has also clarified that while Mr Aura does not exhibit any symptoms of Covid-19, he was carrying the virus.

"The fact that he does not show any symptoms does not mean that he cannot infect others. Not all positive patients will show any symptoms. Those who do not have personal protective gears are at risk of contracting the disease," the health executive said.

Samples from the driver were taken on Thursday afternoon before he was told that he was infected on Friday morning at 3 am.

The other mourners have been quarantined at Homa Bay KMTC since Tuesday night.

Questions have also been raised on whether mourners from Nairobi travelled to Homa Bay County with an empty coffin and forged documents to get past roadblocks as reported by CS Kagwe.

It has since established that there were two groups of mourners from Nairobi who travelled to Homa Bay County last week to attend two different funerals in Rachuonyo North.

The first group made up of nine people, including Mr Aura, travelled on Tuesday evening to Seka Kamser to bury a woman identified as Joice Were Opar.

They had brought a coffin and burial clothes from Nairobi to bury their kin.

A second separate group comprised of 12 mourners had also travelled on Saturday to Alego Village in Kamser Nyakongo to bury Milton Obote.

Mourners from the first group said they arrived in Homa Bay on Tuesday evening and went to Gendia Mission Hospital in Kendu Bay where the body of their kin was being preserved.

State officials came out to accuse them of using forged doc-

uments indicating that they had a body from Mama Lucy Hospital.

A mourner from the group said on phone that they were surrounded by police officers on Friday midnight before being escorted to Miriu health centre along Homa Bay-Kati to road.

"We were locked up in a room until the following day (Wednesday). Some nurses took our body temperatures which all turned to be normal. No one exceeded 37 degrees," the mourner claimed.

Another mourner said they were later taken to Homa Bay KMTC on Wednesday afternoon where they were subjected to what they termed as suffering.

"We had no food to eat neither could we get out to go for calls of nature. We were all, including men, women and children, kept in the same room that was locked from outside," she said.

They say they managed to get one of the children out through the window to open the door from outside so they could buy food from the local trading centre.

They were picked again at midday and taken to Homa Bay KMTC.

A mourner said samples were taken from them on Thursday afternoon before they were given their results on Friday morning at 3 am.

"One result turned out positive, it was of the driver who brought us from Nairobi. He was immediately taken to an ambulance then driven to Malela when he was isolated," the mourner said.

On the same day, the second group of mourners were on their way from Nairobi to Homa Bay as confirmed by Mr Charles Juma, a brother to the driver who gave a TV interview on Saturday.

Mr Juma dismissed claims that his brother was sick.



Mr Kelvin Aura, the driver who transported mourners to Homa Bay County recently.

PHOTO | COURTESY

Before starting their journey, they wrote a letter to police bosses in Nairobi requesting permission to travel out of the capital city to bury their kin in Homa Bay.

In the letter, they listed six people who will travel using two cars.

According to authorities in Homa Bay, the mourners were intercepted before they could get home for exceeding the number of mourners who were allowed to travel.

Rachuonyo North Deputy County Commissioner James Mabeya said they were arrested between Kendu Bay town and Pala trading centre.

He said they acted on a tip-off from local administrators and villagers.

Mr Mabeya accused the mourners of violating the travel permits they were issued in Nairobi.

"The permit required only six people to travel. They were supposed to travel in two vehicles in which each vehicle was to carry three people. But all of them travelled in a small vehicle," he said.

They had used a Toyota Noah.

The twelve were then taken to Homa Bay KMTC for 14-days mandatory quarantine.

Mr Mabeya said legal action will be taken against the twelve later.



Covid-19 >> * 545 people were tested in the past 24 hours of which 15 of them turned out positive

COVID-19 CASES REACH 296 AS 15 MORE PEOPLE TEST POSITIVE

By: Karanja & Abeid
@MountKenyatimes

Kenya has confirmed fifteen more cases for corona virus bringing total to 296. Ministry of health has announced.

In a daily pressing briefing Health CAS Dr Mercy Mwangangi said 545 people were tested in the past 24 hours of which 15 of them turned out positive.

Over the same time five people have recovered and no deaths were registered.

Eleven of those who tested positive for the virus are Kenyans while the remaining four are foreigners.

The CAS said that the government is currently tracing 730 contacts. Further, cautioned Kenyans against defying the health safety rules for social distancing, ban on gatherings and wearing masks.

As of Tuesday, the government had already quarantined over 400 people over for defying the safety rules.

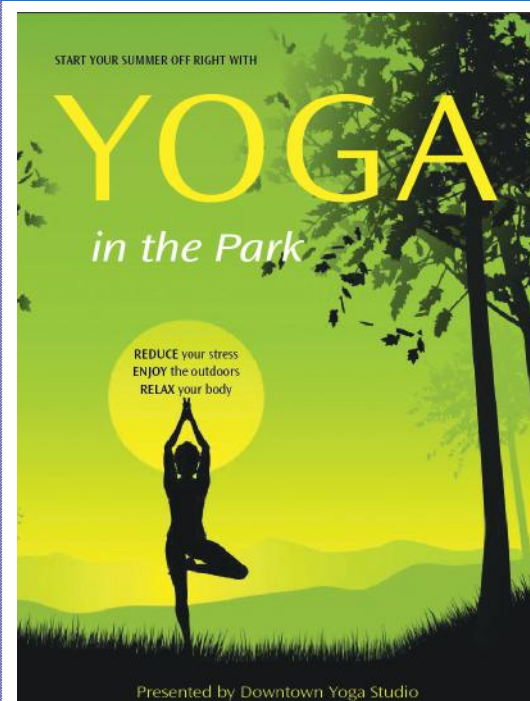
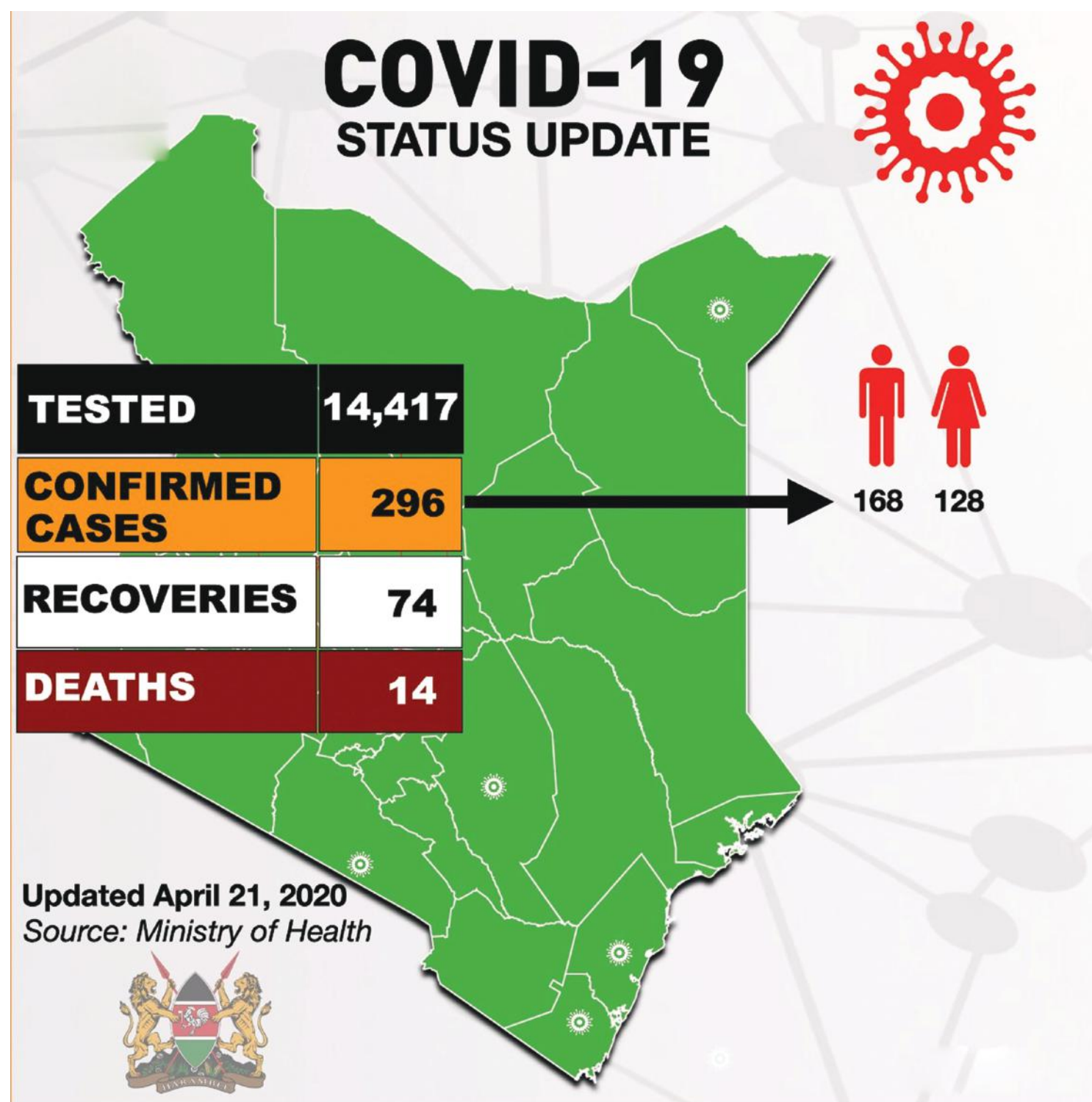
She emphasized on personal hygiene and urged the supermarket and bank attendants to ensure that safety rules are observed as they serve their clients.

"It is important that cashiers handle goods carefully at the supermarkets.... this should also apply to banks especially where people share pens in the banking halls," she stated.

She lauded the efforts of the Kenya Editors' Guild, nurses' union among other organisations for coming up with an appreci-

ation moment for the medics dubbed 'saa sita', where members of the public will clap for the medics at six o'clock.

Dr Mwangangi also praised efforts of the Kenya Defence Forces who flew a chopper with a banner on Tuesday congratulating the medics for the work and at the same time encouraging Kenyans to observe safety.



Kid's Healthy Eating Plate



EAT WELL BE WELL

SPECIALITY SERVICES:

- Sports Nutrition
- Weight Loss
- Anti-Aging and Detoxification
- Cancer Prevention
- Children Health
- Speciality Diets

Call or email today and get a **FREE 30-MINUTES**

(303) 5689 321
EMAIL@YOURDOMAIN.COM
WWW.YOURDOMAIN.COM



Tumaini Academy



Facilities:

Kindergarten

Pre-unit

Class 1-7

Address: 1073 Kerugoya
Tel: 0721 804 741
Location: Near Gakoigo ACK
towards Ngaru Sec

Transport available
Day & Boarding



10 Romantic Tips to Spice up Your Relationship

By: Ciru Kamau
@mountkenyatomes

Do you find sometimes that your relationship is becoming stagnant? Sometimes when you get comfortable with your special significant other, you can find yourselves missing out on the old romance that brought you together in the first place.

There are a few little things that you can do to put the spark back into the fire and find what it was that brought you together in the first place. Look through some of these suggestions to spice up your relationship and love life.

1. The power of touch

Don't underestimate the power of touch. If you are not an overly affectionate couple, then it is time to reintroduce touch into your relationship to spice it up.

Kiss, hug, and cuddle one another in order to maintain a physical connection. If the mood is right, you can take this up a notch and even engage in a nice massage for each other.

2. Dress a little sexier

One way to spice things up in a relationship is



to dress a little sexier. Is there a favorite shirt or dress that your significant other really likes to see you in? Or maybe even a certain color that they always think looks flattering on you.

You can even turn this up a notch by putting on some sexy lingerie in order to spice up your relationship because not everything about your relationship has to be the same old thing.

3. Wear his or her favorite cologne

Try wearing some of her favorite cologne or his favorite perfume. Nothing starts up the senses quite like the sense of smell and that lingering scent will be sure to leave a lasting impression to the point of where you will be nuzzled up to one another.

4. Use your imagination in bedroom

Use your imagination and try something new in your bedroom. You do not always have to be in the same old position or even be yourself.

Try a little role playing or even check out Karma Sutra books that can help educate you on tantric positions or ways to conduct foreplay that will blow your partner's mind and make your relationship even hotter

5. Romantic atmosphere

Set up a living room or a bedroom with just the right tone. Turn down the lights, put on a little bit of music, and spend a little bit of intimate time together.

Just the two of you alone, letting the weight of the day just melt away can be a significant distraction and help spice up the love in your romantic life.

6. Take a romantic bath together

Nothing spices up a little romance like running a bath surrounded by lit candles. This sultry gesture will spice up your relationship.

whether you choose to bathe together or just run a nice relaxing warm bath for your significant other so they can take a load off from their day. The dimmed lights with the glow of flickering candles will also set a romantic mood.

Something as simple as shampooing each other's hair or washing one another's backs can be very sensual. Take your time and enjoy your time together.

7. Make out

How long has it been since you actually sat on the couch or in a theater and made out like teenagers?

Sometimes just bringing back that thrill of being glued lip to lip is exciting and exhilarating which can be fun and add a little bit of spunk back into your romance.

8. Sexy messages

Lighten the mood and be playful throughout the day by sending little flirty or sexy and romantic messages, emails or texts throughout the day. Let your other half know that you are thinking of them.

You might even leave a naughty note inside your significant other's briefcase, laptop bag, in the car, or even on their pillow.

9. Drink some wine together.

Take a little together time and spend it peacefully talking. Relax with a glass of wine in front of a cozy fireplace or out on a blanket underneath the stars.

Just a little bit of wine can help lighten the mood. For non-drinkers, even a sparkling grape juice can be just as romantic. Remember, it is all about who you are with.

10. Take a break from life – do something fun

The everyday life can become tedious and it can be fun to just go to an amusement park, a sporting event.

Challenge each other while playing games and have fun little bets in the case that one of you wins. This is a fun and exciting way to put the spice back into your relationship.



Address: Lamu Road, Malindi, Kenya
Phone: +254 42 20480



Sai Eden Rock is nestled in a 38 acre tropical garden with direct access to the miles long Malindi beach. The location is unique, combine a beach vacation with all the amenities of the historical coastal town of Malindi and easy access to Tsavo East National Park.

Each room is self-contained, has an air-conditioner or ceiling fan, adjoining private balcony, a flat screen TV, and a private bathroom with bathtub.

Parking

Parking

General

Air Conditioning, 24h Electricity

Activities

Gym

Services

Airport Shuttle, Safety Deposit Boxes, Babysitting, Laundry / Dry Cleaning, Car Hire, Daily Newspaper, Room Service 24h, Ironing, Storage room, Event facilities

Food & Drink

Pool Bar, Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner, Restaurant

Services and Facilities

Outdoors

Swimming Pool

Security

Guarded Complex, Security Guard

Internet

WiFi Internet



Sai Eden Roc Hotel



Fountain Construction

Our Services

- * Real Estate
- * Property Development
- * Landscaping
- * Executive car hire & Sales
- * Cleaning Services



Wiseden Ventures Ltd
4th floor, Mbandu Complex, Karen
Opp Galleria Shopping Mall, Nairobi

P.O Box 67693 - 00200
Cell: +254 702 365 215
Cell: +254 724 006 042

info@wisedenventures.co.ke
www.wisedenventures.co.ke

BUSINESS

TUJU BLOCK RECEIVERS HOTEL ACCESS IN SH1.6BN ROW



Jubilee Party Secretary-General Raphael Tuju block receivers to hotel access in Sh1.6bn row.

By: Karanja RW

[@mountkenyatiimes](#)

Jubilee Secretary-General Raphael Tuju has allegedly blocked East African Development Bank (EADB) from taking over his hotel and property firms at the centre of a Sh1.6 billion defaulted loan.

Two receiver managers appointed by EADB to manage the property said in court documents that they had been blocked thrice from entering the premises in defiance of judge's order.

Justice Mary Kasango had on March 25, directed the directors of Dari Ltd, to allow two receiver managers- Muniu Thoithi and George Weru, access the Karen property.

This followed an earlier order to place the Tuju firms under the watch of the receiver managers on failure to pay the Sh1.6 billion loan that was borrowed in 2015 and defaulted in 2017.

Mr Weru, an insolvency practitioner from PricewaterhouseCoopers, said despite serving the directors of Dari including Mr Tuju with court orders, they had refused

to allow them access the properties or share information on the company such as staff payroll, books of accounts and list of debtors.

Justice Kasango opened the way for Mr Tuju and his three children to be fined or committed to civil jail for up to six months in the event they fail to grant access to the receiver managers. The judge directed the case to be heard on May 20 if Mr Tuju breaches the court orders.

"That I am advised that it is clear that the plaintiffs have no intention of obeying court orders given their persistent and flagrant disobedience of court orders. It is critical that this honourable court upholds the sanctity of court orders," Mr Weru said in court papers.

He told the court he reported the breach of court orders to Karen Police Station, arguing the station commander informed the receivers that police officers had been assigned to guard the restaurant against terror threats and that they were under the direction of the di-

rectors.

Mr Tuju had argued that the bank's intention was to frustrate his plan of repaying the debt and ultimately auction the property.

The loans were meant for the construction of Sh100 million two-storey, flat-roofed bungalows sitting on a 20-acre forested land dubbed Entim Sidai and the purchase of a 94-year-old bungalow built by a Scottish missionary, Dr Albert Patterson, which currently operates as a high-end restaurant.

But development of the 12 luxury homes worth Sh1.2 billion has fallen behind schedule, setting the stage for defaults and asset seizures.

Mr Tuju and his children guaranteed the multimillion-shilling loan, allowing EADB to suck them into the suit where it is seeking to take over the 20-acre prime property in Karen and the high-end hotel operated by the Tujus.

RUTH MATETE PRESENTS HERSELF TO THE DCI FOR QUESTIONING



Ruth Matete & her husband John Apewajoye

Kenyan gospel singer Ruth Matete on Tuesday morning presented herself at the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) to record a statement following the death of her husband John Apewajoye.

Matete was been accompanied by her lawyer.

Last week, Ruth confirmed the news of her Nigerian husband's death via social media.

"My Husband Beloved John Apewajoye has gone to be with the Lord. I humbly ask for your prayers during this difficult time," she wrote on Facebook.

Pastor John passed away on Saturday while receiving treatment at a local hospital.

He succumbed to injuries after he was burnt while in the kitchen a few minutes after fixing a gas cylinder. Matete's friend and YouTuber Milly Chebby gave an account of the incident.

She said, "Last week on Monday, Ruth and her husband John changed their gas cylinder and when they got to the house, he went to the kitchen to fix it. he noticed it was excess, and he took the cylinder to the balcony and tried releasing some so that it would be okay to use."

P-SEGMENT: *What's Hot in Counties*

ELACHI ERRED BY DISMISSING GOVERNOR SONKO'S MEMORANDUM



By: **Ben Mulwa**

The writer is a political analyst & commentator

By dismissing a memorandum by Nairobi Governor Mike Sonko without even presenting it for debate in the Nairobi County Assembly, Speaker Beatrice Elachi failed to provide the much needed leadership to help steer Nairobi County Government on the right path.

Section 24 of the County Government Act gives the Governor the prerogative to reject with reasons any Bill from the Assembly, and to give recommendations on what needs to be done, just like the President has on many occasions declined to assent to Bills passed by the National Assembly. Upon receiving the Memorandum from the Governor, the Speaker is required to subject it to debate for members to either accept or reject the Governor's recommendations and the Governor still declines to assent to the Bill, after 14 days it automatically becomes law. This procedure is clearly outlined in Standing Order No.43 of the Nairobi City County Assembly.

However, what happened on Friday in the Nairobi County Assembly was a legal atrocity at its worst, where Speaker Elachi not only unilaterally abrogated unto herself the responsibility of the Assembly, to which she is only an ex-officio member, but also appointed herself a High Court Judge, in contravention of Article 165 (3) (d) of the Constitution.

Speaker Elachi received the memorandum from Governor Sonko declining to assent to a supplementary budget that was recently passed by the House. Instead of presenting it to members, she dismissed the memorandum on a nonexistent technicality and said the Governor has seven days to assent to it or it automatically becomes law.

The most plausible argument out there is that the 14 days rule only kicks in after members reject the



Nairobi County Speaker Beatrice Elachi. PHOTO | CourtesyL

Speaker Elachi received the memorandum from Governor Sonko declining to assent to a supplementary budget that was recently passed by the House. Instead of presenting it to members, she dismissed the memorandum on a nonexistent technicality and said the Governor has seven days to assent to it or it automatically becomes law.

Governor's memorandum. In the case where it was never presented to them for debate, then the 14 days don't apply. The days only start to apply when the memorandum is brought for debate, even if it is three months from today.

So, what is the big deal with this supplementary budget?

On February 25, 2020, Presi-

dent Uhuru Kenyatta and Governor Sonko signed a deed transferring four functions from Nairobi County Government to the newly created Nairobi Metropolitan Services (which incidentally has never been created by any law into a body corporate capable of suing or being sued). The deed came into effect on March 18, 2020.

Prior to that, there had been a Presidential decree that all government agencies and county governments must clear pending bills owed to their suppliers of goods and services. Hence the Nairobi County Government Finance Executive proceeded to prepare a supplementary budget which aimed to remove money from new projects and recurrent spending in all sectors, in order to pool all the unspent money into a kitty to pay pending bills. When the supplementary budget was presented to the County Assembly for consideration, the Finance, Budget and Appropriation Committee chaired by MCA Robert Mbatia, on instructions from Speaker Elachi proceeded to rewrite it, in order to create votes under which the Nairobi Metropolitan Services would be allocated money.

The problem is that the Public Finance Management Act which governs how public money is spent does not envisage or allow a county

government to transfer money to an outside entity.

Here is a brief journey of how money travels within the Nairobi County Government cycle. First, users pay for services by directly depositing money into the county government's collection accounts in banks. At the end of everyday, these commercial banks transfer the collected money to the county's Revenue Fund at the Central Bank of Kenya. To access it in order to pay for anything, the county Treasury has to prepare a list of intended payments and present the list to the Office of the Controller of Budget. If the Controller is satisfied, and having confirmed that the county government has the money in its CBK account, she writes a letter allowing the county government to withdraw the cash. The county Treasury then writes to CBK on the intended withdrawal, attaching the letter from the Office of the Controller of Budget. CBK then releases the money to the county government's commercial bank account, from where the county government, through the IFMIS system, pays its bills.

With the four services of Health; Lands, Planning and Housing; Roads, Public Works and Transport; and Environment and Water having been transferred to NMS, the money should follow the function. The

question is how. The Mbatia-led Finance, Budget and Appropriations Committee of Nairobi County Assembly first tried to sneak in a law that the Sh15 billion the county government receives annually from the equitable share given by the national government to all county governments, should now go to NMS directly. That is devious and illegal. The Senate dismissed this idea with contempt.

The same Mbatia Committee then took the proposed supplementary budget and inserted clauses, illegally transferring other functions to NMS that were not contained in the Deed of Transfer. The Bill that the assembly passed, and which the governor rejected, said even ICT, Inspectorate Services, Finance and pending bills payments should now be under NMS. This was an attempt to irregularly expand the functions previously outlined in the deed of transfer.

Thus Governor Sonko's memorandum to the Assembly was to ask the members to correct this; that is, not to take away more functions, and to allow the county executive to find ways of legally transferring money to NMS for the transferred functions.

It is in the public domain that Governor Sonko and Speaker Elachi have not always agreed. But this is a case that requires partisan politics to be set aside and to find the best solution that will give the citizens of Nairobi the best deal. For Speaker Elachi to disregard the Governor's memorandum, and dismiss it without even presenting it to the MCAs for debate, was a very poor decision from a leader.

It denied the elected representatives of the people the opportunity to discuss a pertinent issue and reach consensus.

Meanwhile, the County Executive is drafting a Bill that will allow it to legally transfer money to NMS. This is despite the fact that the NMS Director General has never created even a single opportunity to consult with the County Executives and County Chief Officers. Such progressive action by the executive is what should be encouraged. Governor Sonko and his executive have never been against the transfer. The intention of the President has always been regarded as good, but some crooks want to take advantage to do what they have always wanted to do with Nairobi.



- Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner
- Free Office Delivery
- Outside Catering



Food with Passion

FRESH DELICIOUS DISHES, SNACKS, BEVERAGES & REFRESHMENTS
We Bake Birthday, Wedding & Anniversary Cakes on Order

NAX FOODIEZ CAFE

OPP. TOWER ONE, OFF KENYATTA AVENUE, NAKURU

OPEN HOURS: 7AM-8PM, MONDAY - SATURDAY

Tel: 0718 865 114  **Nax Foodiez Cafe**

Health >> * Twenty five bats of Rousettus and Pteropus species from India were found positive for BtCoV

ICMR - Bat coronavirus found in two Indian bat species



Bat



Pratibha Bissht

pratibhabissht@mtkenytimes.co.ke

Mt. Kenya Times Asian region Senior editor based in India

Summary

• These bat coronaviruses have no relation with SARS-CoV2 responsible for the COVID-19 pandemic, DrYadav said, adding that Pteropus bat species were earlier found positive for Nipah virus in 2018 and 2019 in India.

• In the present scenario of changing demography and ecological manipulations, it is challenging to have checks on the encounters of bats with other animals and humans, the study stated, highlighting that the need for active and continuous surveillance remains crucial for outbreak alerts for bat associated viral agents with epidemic potential, which would be helpful in timely interventions.

Researchers have found the presence of a different kind of Coronavirus bat Coronavirus (BtCoV) in two bat species from India, according to a first of its study by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

According to the study published in the Indian Journal of Medical Research, there is no evidence or research to claim that these bat coronaviruses can cause disease in humans, said Dr Pragya D Yadav, Scientist at the National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune.

Twenty five bats of Rousettus and Pteropus species from India were found positive for BtCoV.

These bat coronaviruses have no relation with SARS-CoV2 responsible for the COVID-19 pandemic, DrYadav said, adding that Pteropus bat species were earlier found positive for Nipah virus in 2018 and 2019 in India.

Bats are considered to be the natural reservoir for many viruses, of which some are potential human pathogens. In India, an association of Pteropus medius bats with the Nipah virus was reported in the past. It is suspected that the recently emerged severe acute respiratory syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) also has its association with bats, the objective of the study titled 'Detection of coronaviruses in Pteropus and Rousettus species of bats from different states of India' stated.

In the present scenario of changing demography and ecological manipulations, it is challenging to have checks on the encounters of bats with other animals and humans, the study stated, highlighting

that the need for active and continuous surveillance remains crucial for outbreak alerts for bat associated viral agents with epidemic potential, which would be helpful in timely interventions.

Although CoVs in the subfamily Coronavirinae do not usually produce clinical symptoms in their natural hosts (bats), accidental transmission of these viruses to humans and other animals may result in respiratory, enteric, hepatic or neurologic diseases of variable severity. It is still not understood as to why only certain CoVs can infect people, the study said.

The detection and identification of such viruses from bats also recommends cross sectional antibody surveys. The study said while emphasizing on the need of developing strong mechanisms for working jointly with various stakeholders such as wildlife, poultry, animal husbandry and human health departments.

In conclusion, the study showed detection of bat CoVs in two species of Indian bats. Continuous active surveillance is required to identify the emerging novel viruses with epidemic potential, Dr Yadav said.

Dr Yadav said throat and rectal swab samples of two bat species Rousettus and Pteropus from seven states of India were screened for the bat coronavirus.

The reverse transcription poly-

merase chain reaction (RT-PCR) tests and sequencing were used for the confirmation of the findings. This is an ongoing study to understand the prevalence of the Nipah virus in bats, she said.

Pathogenic coronaviruses have been found in two species of Indian bats – Indian Flying Fox and Rousettus, a scientific study of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) on presence of bat coronaviruses revealed.

Swab samples of 25 these bat species collected from some states of India tested positive after reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) tests were carried out.

However, it is too early to say if these coronaviruses can affect hu-

mans adversely as no such study has been conducted on the issue yet, an official source said.

These findings are part of a larger study being done in India for the first time to research the presence of bat coronavirus (Bt-CoV), the source added.

The ICMR study, carried out jointly with a team of scientists from National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune, was published in the Indian Journal of Medical Research.

The outbreak of COVID-19 disease caused by SARS-CoV-2 virus has been linked to bats and pangolins, but there is no conclusive evidence yet to prove that the virus jumped from bats to humans via an intermediary species.

The ICMR-NIV study was carried out on samples collected between 2018 and 2019 from the forests of India's few states.

Roosting sites of bats were identified in these states and with the permission of state wildlife departments, the researchers trapped bats and collected their rectal and nasal swabs. Twelve bats also died in the process of trapping, the study said.

A total of 508 samples of Indian Flying Fox bats and 78 samples of Rousettus bats were collected, as per the study. Of these, four samples of Rousettus samples and 21 samples of Indian Flying Fox tested positive for BtCoV.

According to the results of the study, only the rectal swab samples tested positive in both species, while the throat the entire swab samples tested negative.

Official sources aware of the ongoing research developments said two more species of bats will be tested for presence of Coronaviruses. Bats have been the focus of several such studies.



SPORTS NEWS

PHOTOS
SCORES
OPINIONS
STATISTICS
SCHEDULES
BREAKING NEWS



Sports >> * "We have tried our best to make sure we pay [Amrouche] as ordered by Fifa but we have reached a dead-end," Mwendwa told Goal on Tuesday

FKF ready for Fifa ban and will not be end of world – Mwendwa



B: Dennis Mabuka

The federation boss admits they have tried their best to pay the Algerian-born as ordered by Fifa and are now ready for a ban

The Football Kenya Federation (FKF) has given up on efforts to pay former coach Adel Amrouche and is ready for any sanctions to be meted out by the world governing body, Fifa. The Federation was ordered to pay the Algerian-born Ksh109m for wrongful dismissal from his position as the Harambee Stars head coach by April 23 (on Thursday) and according to the FKF president Nick Mwendwa, they have done all they could but was unable to find a solution.

"We have tried our best to make sure we pay [Amrouche] as ordered by Fifa but we have reached a dead-end," Mwendwa told Goal on Tuesday. "We have tried all possible ways to get money but in vain, we have written to Fifa for more time so we can get money but I don't think they will listen to us, we have also been engaging the government but now they have the coronavirus issues they are dealing with and it won't be possible. "We cannot do anything now, the deadline is on [Thursday] and we don't have the money, all we will wait for now is Fifa position, if they take the decision to ban us [from World Cup qualifiers], it will not be the end of the world, we will have another year

to compete in the same qualifier." Mwendwa further said if Fifa takes the decision to ban them, they will channel their efforts to nurture talent ahead of the next World Cup qualifiers. "I want to tell Kenyan it will not be the end of the world," Mwendwa continued. "We have several qualifiers coming up, we have Afcon, we have Chan, we have women qualifiers, we have U17, U20, U23 teams which will be active during the same period we are supposed to play in the World Cup qualifiers so I don't think it will be a blow as such." A possible disciplinary measure against the FKF is throwing Kenya out of the 2022 Qatar World Cup qualifiers, in the

same manner Zimbabwe was ejected from the qualification process of the same competition in 2018. The Harambee Stars under coach Francis Kimanzi, are pooled in Group E of the Qatar qualifiers alongside Mali, Uganda, and Rwanda. Fifa expelled Zimbabwe from the 2018 World Cup qualifiers for a similar offence in March 2015 after their FA failed to pay Brazilian coach Jose Claudinei Georgini 'Valinhos' his dues. Apart from removing Kenya from World Cup qualifying rounds, Fifa could alternatively divert development funds meant for Kenya to settle Amrouche's debt and also institute other disciplinary actions on the federation.

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> * "It didn't make any sense that 3,000 Atletico fans could travel to Anfield at that time," Martinez-Almedia told Spanish radio station Onda Cero

Coronavirus: Liverpool v Atletico Madrid virus link an 'interesting hypothesis'



More than 52,000 fans watched as Liverpool lost 3-2 to Atletico Madrid at Anfield on 11 March, a result that sealed the holders' elimination from the competition

Speculation over a possible link between coronavirus cases in Liverpool and the club's Champions League match with Atletico Madrid last month is an "interesting hypothesis", a scientific adviser to the UK government has said.

Some coronavirus deaths in Liverpool have been blamed on the 11 March match at Anfield, which was attended by more than 52,000 people, including 3,000 from Madrid, where a partial lockdown was already in force.

While there is no confirmed link between the match and any coronavirus cases, the government's deputy chief scientific adviser, Angela McLean, said it warranted further investigation.

"It will be very interesting to see in the future, when all the

science is done, what relationship there is between the viruses that have circulated in Liverpool and the viruses that have circulated in Spain," she said at the UK government's daily coronavirus news briefing on Monday.

Liverpool city council's director of public health Matthew Ashton previously told the Guardian the match should have been called off, while the mayor of Madrid, Jose Luis Martinez-Almeida, said over the weekend that it was a "mistake" to allow thousands of Atletico fans to attend.

"It didn't make any sense that 3,000 Atletico fans could travel to Anfield at that time," Martinez-Almedia told Spanish radio station Onda Cero.

Latest figures show that 246 people have died with coronavirus in Liverpool's NHS hospi-

tals.

Madrid, meanwhile, is one of Europe's worst affected cities. Spain has the second-highest number of confirmed infection cases in the world, behind the US, figures from Johns Hopkins University say.

The country's death toll climbed close to 21,000 on Monday.

□ Premier League clubs including Liverpool and Man Utd amend season ticket plans

Speaking at Monday's news briefing, UK chancellor Rishi Sunak rejected claims the government was too slow to cancel large sporting events in the days before the coronavirus lockdown was enforced.

The Cheltenham Festival, along with Liverpool's Champions League match with Atletico, went ahead in the second week

of March. There were 251,684 racegoers in attendance across the four days of the Festival, while 68,500 watched the Cheltenham Gold Cup on 13 March.

Strict limits on daily life - such as requiring people to stay at home, shutting many businesses and preventing gatherings of more than two people - were introduced on 23 March.

□ 'Serious questions' over why Cheltenham went ahead

"There is often a wrong time to put certain measures in place, thinking about sustainability and everything else," Sunak said.

"At all parts of this we have been guided by that science, we have been guided by making the right decisions at the right time, and I stand by that."

BBC

SPORTS NEWS

PHOTOS
SCORES
OPINIONS
STATISTICS
SCHEDULES
BREAKING NEWS



Uefa says some leagues could be cancelled 'in special cases'



Uefa is still planning for a June restart across its leagues but says in "special cases" some could be cancelled because of the coronavirus pandemic.

All 55 European national FAs met by video conference on Tuesday when ways to finish the season were outlined.

Each involved a June start, with the Champions League final on 29 August.

Earlier this month, Uefa warned leagues that ending competitions early could result in them forfeiting Champions League and Europa League places.

However, the uncertainty over when football can restart has made detailed planning impossible and for the first time, Uefa has accepted completing the season in some countries may not be possible.

"There was a strong recommendation given to finish domestic top division

and cup competitions, but some special cases will be heard once guidelines concerning participation to European competitions - in case of a cancelled league - have been developed," Uefa said in a statement after the meeting.

□ *When might Europe's top leagues return?*

□ *Uefa set to confirm Women's Euros for 2022*

It was not explicitly outlined to associations what "special cases" would mean. However, Uefa expects leagues to come to it with their reasons for wanting a season to be ended prematurely.

The Belgian Pro League became the first major European league to be cancelled because of coronavirus on 15 April.

Uefa has to work out the qualification process for its 2020-21 competitions, which might overlap with the end of the 2019-20 season.

While the qualification process is an afterthought for the major European leagues, it represents a crucial part of the fixture calendar for many countries.

The number of countries involved has created a massive logistical headache for Uefa at a time when travel bans are in place across Europe.

The current plan is to play the 2020-21 season as normal, including two-legged ties, but with the usual dates already put back, this may be impossible to implement.

It is also not clear how Uefa intends to play out the Champions League and Europa League this season, with both still to complete the last-16 stage.

The option of fitting games into the schedule around league matches as normal remains, as does completing the tournaments after domestic leagues have finished. No deadline has been put on making a final

decision but the latter choice would seem more likely as it is hoped - by August - that travel restrictions will have eased.

No changes have been made so far to the international calendar, with all matches currently postponed until September.

It is anticipated the Euro 2020 play-offs will be completed at the earliest available opportunity, and the use

The number of countries involved has created a massive logistical headache for Uefa at a time when travel bans are in place across Europe.

The current plan is to play the 2020-21 season as normal, including two-legged ties, but with the usual dates already put back, this may be impossible to implement.

of triple match windows during international breaks has not been ruled out given the present desire to complete every tournament.

The working group responsible for coming up with a revised fixture calendar will meet on Wednesday, with Uefa's executive committee due to meet on Thursday.

That meeting is also expected to provide an update on the Women's European Championship, which is set to take place in July 2022, and the Nations League. Both have been moved to allow Euro 2020 to take place a year later than scheduled.

BBC Sport