

People Sport PG 31

Toyko 2020 Olympics pushed to next year



UPDATE BY
NUMBERS

25 cases

confirmed in Kenya.

At least 398,842 people have been diagnosed with virus worldwide, 103,748 have recovered while 17,260 have died.

COVID-19 HOTLINES

> 719

> 0800721316

> 0729471414

> 0732353535

Quarantine chaos

Pandemic response: Confusion, desperation and poor coordination mark first day of forced isolation of travellers into Kenya as country, which recorded nine new cases bringing the total to 25, steps up battle to tame deadly disease even as government is set to announce more stringent measures today **PAGES 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14 & 15**



Some of the travellers who were stranded at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport on Monday evening as the government grappled with challenge of mandatory 14-day isolation for all incoming passengers at own cost in hotels and public facilities in Nairobi. PD/KENNA CLAUDE



Health Cs Mutahi Kagwe

News Beat PG 2

Coronavirus cases hit 25 as Kagwe confirms nine more

CORONA CRISIS

State to issue new response measures as cases jump to 25

Health CS says out of the nine new cases seven are Kenyans while two are foreigners, now in isolation

by Irene Githinji
@igitshee

Fears that Kenya's coronavirus numbers could rise since the announcement of patient zero last week yesterday came to pass with confirmation of nine new cases bringing the total to 25.

The government also identified four counties—Nairobi, Mombasa, Kilifi and Kwale—as highly exposed and, therefore, needing more response strategies and capacity to tame the spread of the deadly respiratory flu.

Giving his daily brief to the press on Covid-19 yesterday, Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe said the government will today outline new measures in view and consideration of developments so far with regards to combating the disease.

"Tomorrow (today), we will be announcing what further measures the government has decided to take to respond to the environment and situation now presenting itself to us," he said.

Kagwe said out of the nine new cases, seven are Kenyans while two are foreigners, adding that they have already been put in isolation and are being monitored together with other previously confirmed cases as tracing of those who have been in contact with them continues.

Await results

Similarly, three of the seven Kenyans cases are said to have contracted the virus through close contacts with those already tested positive for coronavirus while the remaining four got it from foreign countries affected.

He said in the last 24 hours, 82 samples from suspected cases had been tested at National Influenza Centre, Kenya Medical Research Institute (Kemri) in Nairobi, Kemri Welcome Trust in Kilifi and Aga Khan hospital.

"Out of the 82 samples, we have received confirmation of nine people who have tested positive for the coronavirus disease bringing the total number of confirmed cases to 25. These confirmed cases are spread out in four counties namely Mombasa, Nairobi, Kilifi and Kwale," said the CS in the daily updates.

He said tracing of contacts of the new cases as well as those of previous cases is ongoing, adding that the total number of close contacts that have so far been monitored stands at 745 out of which, 98 have been discharged after completing the 14-day follow-up period.

The remaining 647 close contacts are



Health CS Mutahi Kagwe addresses the media at Afya House, Nairobi, yesterday. With him is Government Spokesman Cyrus Oguna and acting Director General of Health Patrick Amoth. PD/KENNA CLAUDE

IN SUMMARY

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● Giving his daily briefing to the media on Covid-19 yesterday, Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe said the government will today outline new measures in view and consideration of developments so far with regards to combating the disease.

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being monitored while 15 individuals are currently at Mbagathi hospital awaiting test results.

On international travellers directive, Kagwe said they are all undergoing mandatory quarantine in selected hotels.

He reiterated his earlier appeal that hotels where individuals have been quarantined should not take advantage of the situation to make profit, saying it is immoral and inconsiderate.

At the same time, the CS admitted that the forced quarantine had run into challenges, but assured that the processing at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) and other designated facilities has since been streamlined.

"There have been challenges at JKIA as well as the designated hotels and government facilities where we are taking the travellers for mandatory quarantine. This was bound to happen because of the huge numbers that are coming in while at the same time we do not want to leave anything to chance," the CS said.

Kagwe added: "However, we have streamlined the process and this has been sorted out... In fact, we intend to introduce further measures to speed up the process and ease the inconvenience that we are clearly causing parents and passengers. I want to appeal to all travellers to bear with us as we continue to undertake this process. This intervention is aimed at stopping further introduction of the virus in the country."

Meanwhile, the government's fight to

tame Covid-19 spread got a boost with a donation of 25,000 testing kits for the coronavirus disease from the Chinese business magnate Jack Ma. Announcing what he termed positive news, Kagwe lauded the move, which he said will go a long way in helping fight the disease.

Respond well

"We will be carrying out mandatory testing for all contact cases. At the same time, we will carry out testing for all persons in mandatory quarantine who are coming in from overseas as well as all those who are already here," he added.

Kagwe said save for two elderly men who have shown signs of being unwell, all the patients are responding well to treatment. "We think we might have some good news but we do not want to start announcing things and then start going backwards but keep your fingers crossed, soon we could be happy about what we are receiving but for now I leave it there... somebody's prayers are being answered," said the CS.

So far, Kemri laboratory has the capacity to test 360 samples in 24 hours, even as plans are being put in place to establish a testing facility at Moi Teaching and Referral to cover the North Rift region and further ensure a shorter turn around time.

The CS urged citizens to take personal responsibility in the fight to tame the virus and condemned what he described as "Kenyans' indiscipline behaviour".



Reduce cost of fuel or we strike, matatu operators say

by PD Team
@PeopleDailyKe

Public transport operators have given the government 24 hours to reduce the cost of fuel, insurance premiums and other costs to cushion the sector from losses in the wake of the directive to cut number of passengers to curb the spread of coronavirus.

Operators are also demanding that county governments review downwards monthly charges or they ground all PSV operations.

Matatu and Boda Boda Operators Federation members yesterday said that while the new measures meant to stop the spread of Covid-19 were welcome, they were punitive to them.

Addressing the press yesterday, Secretary General Calvin Nyaure warned that the operators would go on strike if their demands are not met.

"The government has directed us to reduce the number of passengers by 60 per cent, clean the vehicles, install sanitisers and water dispensers. But the cost of fuel, insurance premiums, parking fees and other charges remain the same," said Nyaure.

Nyaure, who was accompanied by chairman Kushian Muchiri (pictured) and Boda Boda Association of Kenya chair Charles Gichira, said if the government does not reduce costs, they will ground their vehicles.

In Trans Nzoia, operators threatened to ignore the directive to reduce passengers.

"We are unhappy about the order to reduce passengers without taking into consideration the cost of fuel," said Peter Mwangi, a matatu owner.

On the Kitale-Nairobi route, fares have gone up from Sh1,000 to Sh1,500, while passengers travelling from Kitale to Bungoma have to part up with Sh400.

In Nyamira, operators said they would stop hiking fares only if the government reduces the cost of fuel and other levies.

In Siaya, matatu operators have defied government directive not to increase fares.

POINTERS



BUSINESS PAGE 18

Absa posts Sh7.5b in full-year net profit



FAMILY FUSION PAGE 24

Readying your family for coronavirus lockdown

WEATHER TODAY

Nairobi	26°	Nyeri	23°
Mombasa	33°	Kitui	24°
Kisumu	27°	Wajir	34°



Magufuli claims Covid-19 cannot survive in church

Feared and loved in equal measure, Tanzanian President John Pombe Magufuli, aka "The Bulldozer", is a funny man. Quite witty, sometimes sarcastic if not out rightly controversial.

The tough talking Magufuli is renowned for a number of tasteless roadside declarations but the latest one has left tongues wagging endlessly and for a purpose.

This is why. On Sunday, Magufuli announced that Tanzanian Government would not close down places

of worship over the killer coronavirus since these places is where healing can be found.

"These Holy places are where God is. My fellow Tanzanians, let us not be afraid of going to praise Him," he said. Speaking to a congregation in a church, he had attended, the President called the Covid-19 virus Satanic and stated that it cannot survive while in the "body of Christ". "Corona cannot survive in the body of Christ, it will burn. That is exactly

why I did not panic while taking the Holy Communion," he said while the congregation cheered.

While the president is allowed to bask in occasional limelight and enjoy ululation from the crowd, his misleading statement and allegations about corona virus is crossing the red line since churches and mosques present the most risky places for the spread of the disease that has killed over 16,000 people worldwide.



In the heat of deadly coronavirus...

Without a cure, desperation catalyses all manner of solutions on taming the scourge

Man dies after eating aquarium product containing chloroquine

Probably US President Donald Trump should take responsibility for this unfortunate death after he said chloroquine could be a "game changer" in the fight against the coronavirus thus fuelling the ongoing frenzy search for the defunct malaria tablets.

A 60-year-old man died yesterday in US after taking chloroquine phosphate, a substance used to clean fish tanks that contains a form of chloroquine. The man's wife also is in critical condition. Said a health official: "Within thirty minutes of ingestion, the couple experienced immediate effects requiring admittance to a nearby Banner Health hospital."

Within 30 minutes of taking chloroquine phosphate, the man experienced "immediate effects" and had to be admitted to a nearby Banner Health hospital. His wife, also in her 60s, is in critical condition after taking the additive, which is used in aquariums to kill some or-

ganisms, like algae, that may harm fish.

The man's wife told the media that after watching press briefings where Trump talked about the potential benefits of chloroquine — she recalled the name from the treatment she used on her koi fish.

The couple mixed a small amount of their fish treatment with a liquid and drank it as a way to prevent the coronavirus, she said.

"We were afraid of getting sick. Within 20 minutes, both became ill, at first feeling "dizzy and hot." Then "I started vomiting," the woman told the outlet. "My husband started developing respiratory problems and wanted to hold my hand." Her husband died shortly after arriving at the hospital.

Panicked people worldwide are trying to find new ways to prevent or treat the killer virus with lots of misleading concoctions being touted by fake experts, such as drinking of cow urine!

Italian wears giant board circle for his social distancing

Italy is the worst-affected country in Europe by coronavirus epidemic, with over 53,000 infections and 6,000 deaths. To forestall the spread of the disease, health officials have instructed the public to practise social distancing: staying home, avoiding crowds to keep a distance of at least one metre apart. One man in Italy literally took the advice literally and devised a one-sure way of keeping that one metre!

In a picture that was widely shared, the man is seen wearing a giant cardboard circle around his waist in Italy in a bid to enforce social distancing as he walked around Testaccio market in Rome. The huge orange disc strapped to his body was so amusing; on-lookers could not stop taking pictures of the safety genius!

When the person filming the footage asks what the security measure is for, the man turns and replies matter-of-factly: "For coronavirus".



Corona beer maker says sales have spiked in defiance of virus damage

The deadly coronavirus has an unlikely victim — one of the world's easily recognisable beer brand, Corona Beer. The Mexican brand has become the subject of memes and videos shared across various social media platforms since the virus broke out in December last year.

There are reports of an increase in online searches for "corona beer virus" and "beer coronavirus" which goes to



show that the beer regrettably hasn't been able to escape the association with the killer disease, although the beer is not in any way associated with Covid-19 despite the name's unfortunate similarity to the deadly coronavirus.

Constellation Brands (STZ), which brews several variations of the popular lager, said in a

Pastor disowned for claiming killer respiratory flu is scandal

Kenyan pastors are known for all the bad things one can imagine. From miracle-faking, sleeping with congregations, coming to church drunk to stealing from faithful through con money minting schemes, the so-called charismatic preachers have had a load of controversy with the latest one happening last week in Meru.

The government and Kenyans in general were left scratching their heads annoyed and bewildered when Reverend Nathan Kirimi of Jesus Winner Ministry said the coronavirus was a hoax.

The so-called man of the cloth had called a press conference, where he shamelessly said: "Jesus Christ our Lord told me to tell the whole world that there is no disease like coronavirus. He told me to tell the world that He Himself was the one

who caused this to intended people and let this terror hit the world to see people who truly trusted in Him fully with strong faith."

The fire-breathing preacher said he would not be closing down his church, claiming that God had instructed him to keep it open, adding that Jesus had told him the ongoing Covid-19 disease had been caused by "natural causes" and not the deadly virus!

The head of Jesus Winner Ministry, Bishop Edward Mwai swiftly came out to disown Kirimi's claims terming them as unlawful and against the government's efforts to contain the disease. Out rightly Kirimi was out to mislead his flock and the public, probably perturbed by loss of offertory and tithing once churches close indefinitely!



statement that its customers "understand there is no link between the virus and our business."

"Sales of Corona remain very strong and we appreciate the continued support from our fans," Constellation Brands spokesperson Stephanie McGuane told CNN Business. "Our advertising with Corona is consistent with the campaign we have been running for the last 30 years and is based on strong consumer sentiment."

The spokesman emphasised that coronavirus has not damaged its image; despite a survey from 5W Public Relation study that found that 38% of beer-drinking Americans would not buy Corona under any circumstances due to coronavirus fears.



CORONA CRISIS

Travellers protest confusion, pricey quarantine hotels

Passengers at JKIA say they cannot afford the exorbitant charges at facilities picked for purposes of isolation, allege negligence at airport

by Irene Githinji
and George Kebaso
@PeopleDailyKe

Confusion, long days without clear communication at the airport and exorbitant accommodation rates by hotels are some of the challenges that have turned quarantine of travellers into a nightmare.

Following the order by Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe that passengers jetting into the country must be quarantined, travellers are being forced into selected hotels in Nairobi, where they are required to pay for their upkeep for 14 days they will be in isolation.

Kenya has 25 confirmed cases of the virus, the CS said yesterday the measures are meant to tame the spread.

The situation is not any better at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA), it emerged, as guests complained that they were crammed up into a stuffy, poorly ventilated room for hours without any information on their next move.

They also complained of lack of government supply of protective gear such as masks, sanitisers and gloves, adding that they were denied food for the nearly 10 hours they stayed at the airport

Increased arrivals

Passengers who spoke to *People Daily* complained that the one-metre distance rule was not being observed.

There was, for instance, confusion yesterday when travellers who had been ferried to Kenyatta University were re-routed to a different facility after the university's management declined to allow them in.

Apart from protests over the exorbitant hotel rates and ill treatment at JKIA, there was also concern about the level of preparedness of the designated hotels as well as on the part of government to accommodate the high number of arrivals.

Travellers from various countries said they could not afford the accommodation, with some hotels charging Sh12,000 per night.

"Hotels are expensive. For instance we are expected to pay about Sh10,000 a day for the next 14 days. It is a sad situation because those without money are denied rooms and sleep on floor yet some of them look sick," said Francis Luchivya, a presenter with our sister radio station, Milele FM. He arrived Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) on Monday at around 7pm from Mwanza, Tanzania where he had visited his relatives.

Taking advantage

He has been put on mandatory quarantine at Pride Inn Hotel in Nairobi, one of the facilities picked for the mandatory isolation. It will cost him Sh140,000 to stay at the facility for the next two weeks.

"Some of those forced into the hotels are not able to raise the accommodation charge which goes up to Sh175,000 in some hotels for the 14 days, forcing them to sleep on the floor since they cannot leave until the period is over," said the presenter.

While an official from the Ministry of Health said the government had negotiated with the hotels to lower the amount, the hotel managements were still taking advantage of them.

Among 86 hotels picked for quarantine are Hill Park Hotel, Hilton Garden Inn at the Airport, Hilton Hotel (Nairobi CBD), Safari Park, Pride Inn Hotels, Jacaranda, Trademark Hotel at Village Market, Four Points by Sheraton (Hurlingham), Lamada and Boma hotels.

For instance, the cost per night at the hotel Four Point by Sheraton costs Sh10,000 which translates to Sh140,000 in 14 days.



Arriving passengers board a bus at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi. They are subjected to mandatory 14-day quarantine.

PD/KENNA CLAUDE

NEW CASES

● Kenya has confirmed 9 new cases of coronavirus, raising the total number of patients to 25.

● Health cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe said the new cases are spread out in Nairobi, Mombasa, Kilifi and Kwale counties.

● All passengers coming into the country must quarantine.

A group of travellers who were taken to Boma protested that they could not afford Sh12,000 a day, which amounts to Sh168,000 for the two weeks they stay at the hotel.

Yesterday, Kagwe, in his daily updates on the virus acknowledged that the cost of the hotels was a challenge and termed charging the passengers high rates as "immoral".

"The hotels where these people are staying must not take advantage of them. It is immoral to take advantage of persons who have no choice. If anything...they should be sacrificing. But to add on huge profits on the backbone of suffering Kenyans is really unacceptable," said the CS.

But his appeals appear to be falling on deaf ears as management of the hotels, whose business has been hard hit by the pandemic, remain keen making a kill from the situation.

Mutahi yesterday attributed the challenges to the huge number of travellers, but saying they had "streamlined things".

"There have been challenges particularly at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport as well as the designated hotels and government facilities where we are taking the travellers for mandatory quarantine. The was bound to happen because of the huge numbers that are coming in while at the same time we don't want to leave anything to chance," he said

Those who are currently arriving in the country are Kenyans of diverse careers, from different countries and students, some of whom cannot afford the hotel charges.

The process of putting the travellers

on quarantine is also challenging and it taking hours, thereby tiring and inconveniencing.

Luchivya said when the government issued travel directive, he immediately sought ways to make his way back to Nairobi, only to find out that bus companies had already halted their commuter services until further notice.

"When I saw the order issued on Sunday on cross-border movement, I sat there trying to calculate what my next course of action would be. I reached out to Modern Coast, but they said they have temporarily stopped services so I booked a flight back home," said Luchivya yesterday.

Everybody arriving from different countries, according to him, was being "detained" and then subjected to check-ups.

They were also given forms to fill indicating where they had arrived from and for how long they had been in the destinations. At least 400 of them, he said were then escorted to the immigration section and what followed was a long wait with no communication and none of them was allowed to leave.

Several hours later, people started protesting because they had all been bundled up in a room and only then that an immigration official emerged and addressed them.

"We have been given orders from above to place all those arriving into the country under mandatory quarantine. Those who are willing to go will be escorted to designated facilities and those who do not want to go will remain within the airport premises," the official allegedly told them.

Isolation the best bet in efforts to stop coronavirus, experts say

by Emeka-Mayaka Gekara
@PeopleDailyKe

Chinese authorities announced yesterday plans to lift the mass quarantine on the central province of Hubei, after coronavirus cases reduced significantly. Wuhan city—the epicentre of the outbreak in China—will end restrictions from April 8.

But how did China do it? The country reacted to the outbreak with courage and conviction, the World Health Organisation (WHO) says in its assessment of China's response to the pandemic that has claimed close to 17,000 people.

Chinese authorities have been widely credited for swiftly stemming the pandemic by strictly following a regime of measures, including lockdown and self-quarantine of citizens.

"The Chinese accepted and adhered to the starkest of containment measures," says the WHO in an assessment report. Hospital beds which were overflowing with Coronavirus cases are now empty.

In the various government measures to tame the spread of the virus, Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe ordered that travellers coming into the country will undergo mandatory quarantine for 14 days, at their own expense. The CS has insisted that Kenya adopts the Chinese model in the fight against Covid-19.

The minister is currently monitoring efforts to quarantine individuals who had flown into the country this week in government-designated facilities after a traveller who violated the directive for self-isolation tested positive for the virus.

"They will be given a choice at the

airport. Wherever they go, there will be Ministry of Health officials and security personnel. They are not prisoners, we just want to ensure security. We are training hotel staff to not expose themselves unnecessarily," Kagwe said when he announced that the country had confirmed nine more cases, bring the total to 25 said.

Health experts who spoke to *People Daily* said though punishing, quarantine remains among the best measure in the battle against Covid-19. The other is social distancing.

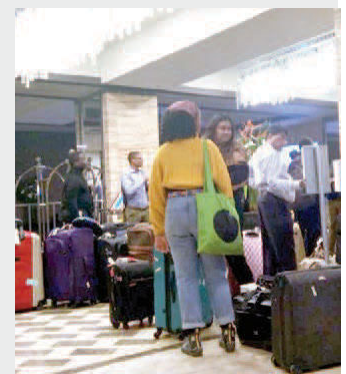
"The situation would have been better had the two patients in Siaya and Kilifi been on self or forced quarantine. Quarantine will prevent the influx of cases into the country and prevent exposure," said Moses Masika, a virologist at Kenyatta National Hospital.

He was referring to the priest in

Siaya and the Kilifi governor both of whom tested positive and had travelled back from abroad and failed to self-isolate.

"Quarantine is for those who coming from environments which are exposed to the virus. Those are the ones who are being forcibly quarantined," said Paul Yonga, an infectious disease expert. "There should also focus on social distancing because most cases was transmitted following interaction with initial patients," he noted.

Kagwe has also pointed that there should greater focus on the elderly, who studied have revealed to be the most vulnerable. Under his strategy, the government has prioritised active, exhaustive case finding and immediate testing and isolation, painstaking contact tracing and rigorous quarantine of close contacts.



Travellers who arrived into the country yesterday at the Pride Inn Hotel, Nairobi, which is an quarantine-designated facility. COURTESY

Running battles as traders resist closure

Businesspeople fight off government order to close trade centres even as some counties suspend cess

by People Daily Team
@PeopleDailyKe

There were running battles in various open air markets across the country as police implemented a Ministry of Health directive to downsize operations to combat Covid-19.

In some of the markets, business went on as usual with county governments suspending collection of levies.

In Kiambu, traders at a Thika market engaged police in running battles yesterday after they were forced out of the market over fears of spreading Covid-19.

The overcrowding witnessed at the open-air market prompted police to raid it forcing all traders out of their businesses.

Drama further ensued after the agitated traders started pelting police with stones in revenge.

"We were not given a notice not to report to work. This is humiliation and unnecessary harassment," a trader Mary Wamuyu said.

The script was the same at the Nanyuki Main Stage when hawkers defied orders from Laikipia County government to shut down their business to avoid over crowding at the bus terminus.

The small scale traders who depend on travelers to sell their items said that there

is no way they would close down over the Covid-19 and staff to death with their families.

"The government should supply us with food if they want us to be home for the next 15 days," said Jecintah Karwithia.

Nanyuki police boss Abdi Mohammed accompanied by county government officials patrolled the markets and public places and all the eateries to see if they are complying with the directive.

It was business as usual in Nakuru for hawkers and food vendors at bus termini within the county despite an order by the Rift Valley Regional Commissioner George Ntembeya to vacate to contain the spread of Covid-19.

To avoid crowding Nakuru Governor Lee Kinyanjui said his administration will distribute traders across markets in the county.

In Kisumu, residents were forced by authorities to leave town to avert the spread of Covid-19. Authorities moved to impose a partial lockdown in the lakeside city to counter the spread of Covid-19.

However, hair salons and barber shops in Mombasa county were still operating despite Mombasa County Emergency Response Committee on Covid-19 ordering their immediate closure to prevent the spread of the disease.

A spot check by *People Daily* yesterday established that owners of the facilities are yet to comply with the directive issued on Monday with level of compliance to the Covid-19 safety measures proving difficult for many traders.

In Nyali and Kongowea area, barber shops and salons remained open with no one to enforce the directive.



MARKET CLOSURES

● Ministry of Health directive to downsize operations to combat Covid-19

● In some of the markets, business went on as usual with some county governments suspending collection of levies

Police disperse *omema* traders at a market in Kisumu following a county government directive to close such outlets. PD/VIOLA KOSOME

Owners of the facilities claimed that Mombasa county had imposed the directive despite them having complied with safety precautions including provision of sanitisers.

Fred Omondi, a barber working at Tafsiri Kinyozi in Jomvu area said he would not shut down their shop as they had already complied with set precautions.

"We are not opposed to the directive, but shutting down this business means I will stay idle in the house without food. We urge the county to be considerate that those who have already complied with the safety precautions," said Omondi.

Maureen Killian, a salonist said she has no other means of earning a living and shutting down her business would deal a blow to her. The mother of two children termed the directive punitive and discriminatory to those working in the informal sector.

"We have no any other option to survive, if they want us to close our salons, then let them provide food stuffs for us because closing the shops means we will die of hunger," said Killian.

Other resolutions announced by the committee on Monday include barring individuals with flu like symptoms from entering the ferry at the Likoni crossing channel.

The committee has also directed all private hospitals in Mombasa to set aside isolation wards in their respective hospitals for Covid-19 patients. So far, only Coast Provincial General Hospital in Mombasa has set aside isolation wards for coronavirus victims.

Jack Ma Foundation donates medical equipment to boost fight on virus

by George Kebaso
@PeopleDailyKe

Kenya has received medical equipment from the Jack Ma Foundation towards the fight against Covid-19 that has so far left 25 people test positive for the virus.

Jack Ma's equipment includes 100,000 masks, 20,000 test kits and 1,000 other personal protective gear.

The shipment arrived at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) from Addis Ababa aboard an Ethiopian Airlines flight and was received by the Director of Public Health in the Ministry of Health Dr Patrick Amoth accompanied by Ethiopia's Ambassador to Kenya Meles Alem.

Jack Ma, the founder of China's e-commerce giant Alibaba, had promised to issue out a total of 1.1 million testing kits, six million masks and 60,000 medical protective suits and face-shields to be distributed among all the 54 African nations.

Amoth said the donation would immediately be put into use to enhance capacity with the existing kits.

"We shall equip our National Influenza Centre, as well as all our Kenya Medical Research Institute (Kemri) testing centres here in Nairobi, Kilifi and Kisumu," Amoth said.



Ethiopia's Ambassador to Kenya Meles Alem (left), KAA chief executive Alex Gitari (centre) and Kenya's Director of Health Patrick Amoth receive a donation from Chinese billionaire and Alibaba co-founder Jack Ma at JKIA in Nairobi, yesterday.

PD/KENNA CLAUDE

Amoth said priority will be given to personal protection especially to those working in isolation centres. "The government is assuring the Kenyan healthcare worker that Kenyans are supportive of their worthy course," he added.

He said the donation will go a long way in the efforts aimed at preventing the spread of the Covid-19.

Meles said Ethiopia shares the same predicament with Kenya hence the collaboration.

"This is a global pandemic that requires global concerted and coordinated efforts. All of us risk infection and therefore with such collaboration, we can be sure of winning against this pandemic," he said. So far 43 African countries have reported 1,872 cases with 50

deaths.

Ethiopia has 12 cases while Kenya has 25 cases with the first case having been reported on March 13.

The Chinese entrepreneur also said that while delivering it won't be easy, they will try to get it done. This comes just days after Ma announced that his Jack Ma foundation will be donating 20,000 test kits, 100,000 masks and 1,000 protective suits to each of the 54 African countries.

Ma's philanthropic efforts come after global shortages of essential medical and protective equipment have affected even the most developed economies. Most African countries have closed their air entry points but have made room for cargo planes to enter and exit.

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CORONA CRISIS

Siaya thrust into anxiety after clerics' blunders

Preachers failure to self-quarantine after abroad trips exposes hundreds of vulnerable residents to grave danger of virus

by Eric Juma
@PeopleDailyKe

In a clear, ungodly act borne out of the recklessness by three clergymen, Siaya county residents have been thrown into anxiety and panic over a possible outbreak of the deadly coronavirus in the area.

The villagers are sitting on the edge following revelations that another cleric, who closely interacted with Rome-based priest Richard Oduor has been airlifted to Nairobi with Covid-19-like symptoms.

Fr Oduor had flown into the country from Rome, the now global epicentre of the pandemic which has been claiming up to 700 lives a day.

Another cleric, pastor James Oyoo, jetted into the country last week and ignored the 14-day self-quarantine directive and engaged in preaching on Sunday at Jesus Celebrations Centre in Siaya.

The actions of the three shepherds who have taken oath to alleviate human suffering have exposed hundreds of vulnerable lives to grave danger.

Revelations about the yet-to-be identified Ugunja Catholic priest, who spent the better part of last Saturday with the colleague who tested positive for coronavirus has alarmed authorities prompting his quick transfer to the capital.

Godwin Omolo, a resident, who hosted Fr Oduor during his stay in Siaya has also been isolated.

Also isolated are 30 nuns visited by the priest at a convent in Lwak and members of the family where the cleric presided over a funeral mass.

Siaya deputy county commissioner Joseph Sawe, acting on a tip-off from the public, questioned the pastor through the phone before security and health teams were dispatched to his residence.

"We quickly mobilised coronavirus surveillance and response team and ran several tests. Our worry is that he failed to observe the 14 days either in Nairobi or Siaya," said Sawe.

But the clergyman defended his movement, saying health teams at JKIA cleared him.

"I jetted into the country from US last week aboard KQ flight 510 and was subjected to thorough screening at the airport and did not test positive that's why I boarded a bus to Siaya," said Oyoo, who also admitted to being in church on Sunday but has since remained in the house to monitor his situation.

Ban services

The series of blunders has thrust Siaya county right in the thick of coronavirus hotspot as authorities work round the clock to round up and isolate every individual known to have made contact with the infected.

"We are still tracing those who went to the burial including those that were served sacrament by the Rome-based father," said County Commissioner Joseph ole Tialal.

Meanwhile, the Siaya County Church



ABOVE and BELOW:
Rome-based priest Father Richard Oduor interacts with residents and faithful in various functions in Siaya.

PD/FILE



Leadership forum has warned pastors against defying the government's ban on gatherings.

Led by their chair James Opiyo, they said the order is not a strategy to glorify works of the devil but concise efforts to mitigate spread of Covid-19.

"All worshippers will stay home and hold prayers as a family in their houses as that is the only way to prevent the spread of Covid-19 that has engulfed parts of Siaya county," said Opiyo.

This comes only three days after the Anglican Church of Kenya (ACK) termed as impractical directives being issued by the government in the fight against the spread of coronavirus.

Bondo ACK Bishop David Kodia termed as impractical and illegal, directives being issued by various county governments in the wake of the coronavirus cases.

Speaking on Friday, Bishop Kodia of the Anglican Church of Kenya (ACK) said most of the orders were not anchored in law and cannot be implemented.

The bishop, who leads the Bondo diocese, cited banning of church services by some county bosses as illegal.

"It was also impractical to have people buried the same day in some communities because of culture," added Kodia.

The government on Sunday banned gatherings in all places of worship in a renewed bid to stop the spread of Covid-19.

Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe

THE HIGHLIGHTS

● A series of blunders by clerics has thrust Siaya county right in the thick of coronavirus hotspot as authorities work round the clock to round up and isolate every individual known to have made contact with the infected.

● Siaya County Church Leadership forum has warned pastors against defying the government's ban on gatherings.

banned weddings and communal worship, saying it was illogical for people to attend gatherings where they risked infection.

"Let us not forget that Italy began its unfortunate experience through the decision of some people to continue attending gatherings, including religious ones, as if nothing had happened.

"On Sunday, Italy lost 784 people within 24 hours. We will not escape a similar fate if we do nothing to address the risk in such gatherings," he said.

Interior Principal Secretary Karanja Kibicho directed administration officials to ensure all places of worship remain closed.

"Ensure all churches, mosques and temples are closed. If any are found open within your area, you will be held personally responsible," said the PS



Riruta MCA James Kiriba. PD/DAVID NDOLLO

MCAs in forced quarantine after bench-marking trips

by People Daily Team
@PeopleDailyKe

MCAs' appetite for foreign bench-marking trips has now come to haunt them after it emerged that nine ward reps from both Nairobi and Murang'a counties have been forced to self-quarantine.

Details emerged yesterday that the nine had failed to quarantine themselves despite having travelled overseas.

In Nairobi, MCAs led by Riruta's James Kariuki Kiriba, who travelled from Germany, are currently undergoing mandatory government quarantine. Mlangi Kubwa MCA Patricia Mutheu and Nominated

MCA Hafsa Khalif ward agreed to self-quarantine.

In Murang'a, six MCAs who had travelled outside the country have been asked to submit their travel documents and undergo another test for corona virus. The MCAs had travelled to the United Arab Emirates and have reportedly been in self-quarantine for the past 14 days.

At the same time, seven people from different villages in Gatundu South, Kiambu county, have been forced to quarantine themselves after jetting into the country from overseas.

The seven from Thiririka, Gatukira, Kiamwangi, Githuya and Kiganjo villages arrived on different dates

from Sweden, Germany, Dubai and Greece, respectively.

A taxi driver who ferried some of them has also been isolated.

Further, a Ruiru man who recently visited Rwanda was on Tuesday put in isolation at Mbagathi hospital with symptoms of Covid-19.

His father, who had interacted with him after he arrived in the country has also gone into self-quarantine.

In Kisumu, three people have been put on forced quarantine at Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Teaching and Referral Hospital after they failed to observe self-quarantine regulations.

The three, who jetted into the

country from Dubai on March 16, 17 and 20 respectively, travelled by public means from Nairobi to Migori and Kisii respectively to renew their passports. Kisumu County Commissioner Susan Waweru on Monday directed that the trio be put on forced quarantine for 14 days.

And in Mombasa, hair salons and barber shops were still open yesterday despite the county emergency response committee on Covid-19 ordering their closure to prevent the spread of corona.

-Reporting by David Ndolo, Wangari Njuguna, Mathew Ndung'u, Harrison Kivisu, KNA



KENYA BANKERS
ASSOCIATION

PUBLIC STATEMENT

Kenya Banking Industry Response to Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) 19 March 2020

The banking industry through the Kenya Bankers Association (KBA) has adopted Guidelines towards ensuring the safety and security of bank customers, employees and other stakeholders during this unprecedented time when the country responds to the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19). These standards are informed by global best practice and have been developed in consultation with Ministry of Health and Amref Health Africa (Amref) to ensure the wellbeing of Kenyans.

Furthermore, in conjunction with the Central Bank of Kenya, banks have come together to adopt measures that will help cushion the banking public. Banks are putting in place the modalities to implement these timely measures, which we believe give our customers reassurance and a level of stability as we all come to terms with how COVID-19 will impact our lives. These measures were announced on 18 March 2020 by the Central Bank of Kenya and banks have already begun adjusting their systems and working to deliver on the commitment with an aim to be 100 percent compliant as soon as possible.

Relief on Loans

Banks recognise that households and businesses have already been impacted and will continue to be affected as the National Government introduces COVID-19 mitigation strategies such as social distancing. Business clients in certain industries will experience a marked decline in commercial activity and as such will need their financiers, including banks, to work with them during this difficult time. Banks therefore will assist clients who have directly been affected by COVID-19, and whose loan repayments were up to date as at 2 March 2020. Relief to borrowers will include extensions in repayment periods (loan tenor) and other restructuring arrangements. Customers are encouraged to speak to their bankers about how COVID-19 has affected their employment or business operations.

Use of Digital Banking Channels

KBA encourages banks and the banking public to go cash light through the use of debit cards, mobile banking, and internet banking. To facilitate increased use of mobile or digital platforms, all charges for transfers between mobile money wallets and bank accounts have been removed for 90 days. With access to numerous digital banking options, we hope to reduce instances of customers, staff and suppliers coming into contact with COVID-19 within our branches.

We Remain Open to Serve

Banks have operated in this country for over a century and over time we have witnessed many industry, economic and national events that have strained our system but ultimately result in a stronger and more committed banking industry. We are here to serve our fellow Kenyans and we couldn't be more dedicated to the national call to action that we must together overcome the COVID-19 threat. Towards this end, we will remain open and ready to serve you. Our staff are being trained, and our branches are being fitted with hand sanitizers. High-touch areas within our branches and offices will be sanitized regularly for your safety and comfort. There are several other measures banks are working on in consultation with health experts. We do ask that you follow guidance you are given by staff in branches during this period, including regarding the 1 meter or 3 feet social distancing guidance.

Kaa Chonjo

Unfortunately, perpetrators of fraud will take advantage of this unsettling time to gain access to bank customers' information and accounts through COVID-19 related scams. Every year, the banking industry conducts a Kaa Chonjo safety awareness campaign and we urge Kenyans to refer to these materials so as to refresh themselves on how to prevent cyber fraud, such as email scams or phishing. Customers should never click on links within emails from unverified sources, never respond to unsolicited SMS messages, and never provide their financial information to unverified callers.

Finally, as Kenyans, we are all concerned with the health and safety of our families and our communities. We see in the news and on social media how COVID-19 is affecting people around the world and we anticipate what will unfold. The banking industry is sound and stable, and we assure you that we will do everything we can to support our customers and protect our employees. Pamoja tutamaliza coronavirus.

Signed,

Joshua Oigara
Chairman, Kenya Bankers Association
Group Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, KCB

CORONA CRISIS

BRIEFLY



Respect safety directives, Naivasha residents urged

NAIVASHA:

Naivasha residents have been asked to adhere to government directives in the fight against coronavirus after 25 workers of a hotel were placed on quarantine.

This came after it emerged that one of the 25 people who have tested positive of Covid-19 had spent the night at the three star hotel on Moi South Lake road.

According to Naivasha sub-county commissioner Mathioya Mbogo, they had heightened surveillance in and around the town.

Addressing the press in his office, Mbogo (above) called on residents to adhere to the government directives of washing hands, staying indoors and avoiding crowded areas.

"We are working closely with health workers and

our chiefs in identifying those people who arrived in the country recently so that they can be placed on self-quarantine," he said.

On the issue of the 25 workers, Mbogo said they were keenly monitoring their condition with visits to the hotel limited only to health workers.

"A French couple visited the hotel on March 9 before departing the following day for Amboseli and later to Kilifi where the man was confirmed to be positive," he said.

The officer said they were keenly following operations in tens of flower farms in the area in the wake of the pandemic.

"Farmers have agreed to send their workers on paid leave and we hope the situation will improve in the coming days," he said.

-Kirera Mwiti

Doctors explain how virus affects respiratory system

EXPERT WARNING:

Doctors and specialists have warned members of the public against engaging behaviour that can expose them to the coronavirus.

Painting a grim picture of what it feels to contract the virus, the doctors said reckless behaviour was tantamount to signing one's own and loved one's death certificate.

According Paul Yonga (pictured), an Infectious Diseases and Travel Medicine Specialist, coronavirus attacks the cells and multiply quickly, making the cells to burst inflicting unbearable pain to the victims.



"The cells are within respiratory tract and when the virus enters it tries to convert itself as cells and replicates. Smaller virus tries to convert again and literally bursts that cell open," he said.

As the virus multiplies, it destroys the cells in the nose and throat leading to the dry cough and sore throat.

-Bernard Gitau

Couple's hard decision of putting off wedding

Thousands of nuptials cancelled across the country following ban of gatherings to prevent Corona spread

by Eric Wainaina
@EWainaina

For Bernard Muchuri and his fiancée Rachael Muturi, Saturday would have been a special day.

The duo from Kawangware in Nairobi had planned for months and heavily invested in their wedding.

All was set for their relatives and friends to witness them walk down the aisle at the Full Gospel Church Kawangware this weekend.

But this will, unfortunately, not be. Instead, the couple, like many others who had scheduled to solemnise their unions in the next few weeks, can only imagine how the big day would have been.

Muchuri, a pastor, and Muturi had to call off the ceremony, whose planning started in January, following the government's ban on large gatherings.

The ban affected weddings, church services and even funerals, as part of the measures to prevent a spread of coronavirus.

Since Monday, the couple has been reaching out to their friends and relatives in Meru, Nakuru, Kiambu and Nairobi, who they had invited to the wedding, to inform them that the nuptials will not proceed.

"We want to thank you for your love, support and every deed to see that our wedding day was successful this Saturday 28th March, but it will not take place due to the directives given by the government of Kenya that no public gatherings of more than 20 people will be allowed," they wrote in their message.

Hired vehicles

They added: "Bearing in mind that all of you would wish that we celebrate the big day together and as per now it's impossible, with the help of our

DELAYED VOWS

● PCEA Naivasha Parish, 30 weddings have been called off in line with the government's directive.

● Christ is the Answer Ministries (CITAM) Thika Road church has put off 11 weddings, according to communications manager.

religious leaders, we have decided to postpone the wedding day until a day that we shall let you know."

The couple had already bought a wedding gown for the bride and a suit for the groom, clothes for bride maids and groomsmen and their parents. They had also hired vehicles to ferry the couple and their guests on the wedding day.

The couple had also booked the St James Catholic Church HGM grounds for the reception and paid a deposit.

Yesterday, Muchuri told *People Daily* that though the postponement of the wedding was a difficult decision, it was better that they wait. "We would have just come together with my bride, pastor, parents and best couple and carried on with the marital vows. But we have many friends who have been part of our lives and had participated in the planning and we felt that it was better to wait."

Safety protocols

On Sunday, Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe said the government had decided to ban all social gatherings, including in churches and mosques, because majority of the people had ignored safety protocols on social distancing outlined last Friday.

Kagwe also ordered closure of bars, banned weddings and restricted funerals to family members not exceeding 15 as part of measures to slow down the spread of coronavirus.

Muchuri said two other weddings in the church had been called off.

But they are at least lucky that their suppliers, most of who belong to their church, had agreed to compensate for the services procured from them once the disease is subdued and another date set.

The couple's predicament is an illustration of the impact of coronavirus on social activities, with thousands of weddings having been called off in churches and mosques across the country.

Presbyterian Church of East Africa Secretary General Rev Peter Kania yesterday told *People Daily* that though they have not tabulated the numbers "they so many".

"We shall give the numbers later but all I can say for now is that they are so many," Kania said, adding that the PCEA Naivasha Parish alone had 30 weddings called off in line with the government's directive.

Christ is the Answer Ministries (CITAM) communications manager Rogers Wambua said they have put off 11 weddings at the Thika Road church.



Bernard Muchuri postponed his wedding to Rachel Muturi that would have taken place at the Full Gospel Church Kawangware on Saturday. This was after the government banned social gatherings, including weddings to check the spread of coronavirus. COURTESY

Judiciary employees told to operate from home as pandemic persists

by Irene Githinji and
Alphonse Mung'ahu
@PeopleDailyKE

The Judiciary yesterday directed its staff to work from home until further notice as part of the measures to mitigate the spread of coronavirus.

Chief Registrar of the Judiciary Anne Amadi said the staff had raised concern about their safety from contracting the virus.

All heads of stations have been directed to use electronic communication to serve litigants.

"We have been providing minimal essential services across our court stations to ensure access to justice is not disrupted. However, concerns have been raised by our staff regarding their safety as they attend to wanjanchi and taken them into consideration and upon consultation with the Chief Justice, it is our view that the health



and safety of our entire Judiciary family must be prioritised," said Amadi (pictured).

To facilitate urgent matters, Amadi directed the heads of stations to provide contact details for that purpose.

The details, including name of judicial officers, mobile number and email addresses are to be placed prominently outside the court premises and also forwarded to the Registrar and Magistrates courts to facilitate uploading on

Judiciary website.

They are also expected to ensure telephone or email enquiries by litigants and the public are responded to promptly.

"Embrace the Electronic Case Management Practise Directions, 2020 where practicable under the circumstances. These are temporary measures and we will continue to provide further guidelines as the situation unfolds," said Amadi.



A man washes hands of his son and neighbours' children at Bangladesh slum in Mombasa, yesterday. Kenyans have been urged to wash hands regularly. PD/PHOTO BONFACE MSANGI



Police officers patrol Nakuru Lions Garden Park yesterday to make sure nobody is idling at the park. People with no business in town were advised to stay at home. PD/RAPHAEL MUNGE



A meat supplier delivers at the popular Burma market in Nairobi as workers at the market sanitise their hands to tame spread of coronavirus. PD/KENNA CLAUDE



Despite the recent directive by the government that Kenyans observe social distancing, boda boda riders in Nairobi are still carrying extra pillion passengers in unprotected gear. PD/BERNARD MALONZA



Anthony Mugambi reads a notice pinned at Kensilver's booking office on Dubois Road, Nairobi, yesterday, suspending operations until further notice over the virus outbreak. Kensilver is one of the oldest means of public transport on Meru-Nairobi route. PD/GERALD ITHANA



This pharmacy management in Eldoret has placed a notice warning customers to keep their distance in order to prevent spread of coronavirus. PD/JIMMY GITAKA



Branch restaurant on Moi Avenue, just many others in Nairobi remained closed following a directive by the government that all entertainment joints be closed to tame spread of coronavirus. PD/TABITHA MBATIA

WORLD UPDATES

- 1 The UK is waking up to new, stricter measures announced by PM Boris Johnson.
- 2 Shops selling non-essential goods are shut and police have powers to disperse gatherings.
- 3 514 more people die in Spain, the worst day yet.
- 4 Donald Trump insists the US will "soon be open for business", despite more states shutting down.
- 5 China announces 78 new cases - 74 of them from abroad.
- 6 Wuhan - the city where the virus emerged - is to partially lift its lockdown next month.
- 7 The most populous country without a case until now - Myanmar - announces two cases. One of Africa's most famous musicians, saxophonist Manu Dibango, dies of the virus.
- 8 Confirmed cases approach 400,000, deaths near 17,000, more than 100,000 recoveries.

EDITORIAL

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KEN NGARUYIA:
Acting Chief Executive Officer

ERIC OBINO:
Group Editor-in-Chief, Print

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E-mail: editor.people@mediamax.co.ke

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QUOTED TODAY



JOHN ELUNGATA

“We are monitoring the situation closely and have identified the ferry crossing as a possible flash-point of the pandemic and are prepared for possible cases of the virus.”



CYRUS OGUNA

“We are in the right direction to flatten the curve. We have seen a lot of improvement. Many people are obeying the advisories and if we stay that way, we may not get to a lockdown.”



CYRIL RAMAPHOSA

“Immediate, swift and extraordinary action is required if we are to avoid human costs of this virus. The action we are taking now will have lasting economic costs but the cost of not acting now will be far greater.”

We ignore rules on virus at own peril

The deadly coronavirus disease, which by yesterday had infected close to 400,000 and claimed 17,000 lives, is hitting the globe with apocalyptic devastation.

Without a cure, humanity is at the mercy of the respiratory disease. Although governments, health experts and even individuals are sending out information on how to stay safe, some are not heeding it. This is unfortunate and reckless.

Many Kenyans fall in this category of irresponsible people who are ignoring guidelines on taming the spread. The consequences of a full-blown outbreak will be devastating, more so because of our vulnerable healthcare system.

Why are some Kenyans ignoring the reality that the virus is here? There are already 25 confirmed cases and many more are in self-quarantine after coming into close contact with the infected.

This business as usual attitude will be our undoing. Thousands are pouring into crowded places such as markets and jostling for crowded matatus and trains. Some are even going on with weddings and burials despite restrictions.

Is this out of ignorance, impunity or the love for money? Whatever it is, this madness that is exposing Kenyans to the virus must stop.

The government must now go beyond appeals for reason, which clearly eludes many, and resort to stricter enforcement, including targeted lockdowns in counties such as Siaya and Kilifi where there are fears of community exposure.

The latest World Health Organisation warning that the coronavirus pandemic is accelerating is alarming, especially for Kenya and other African countries. But WHO director general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus says it is still possible to change the trajectory, if countries adopt rigorous testing and contact-tracing strategies.

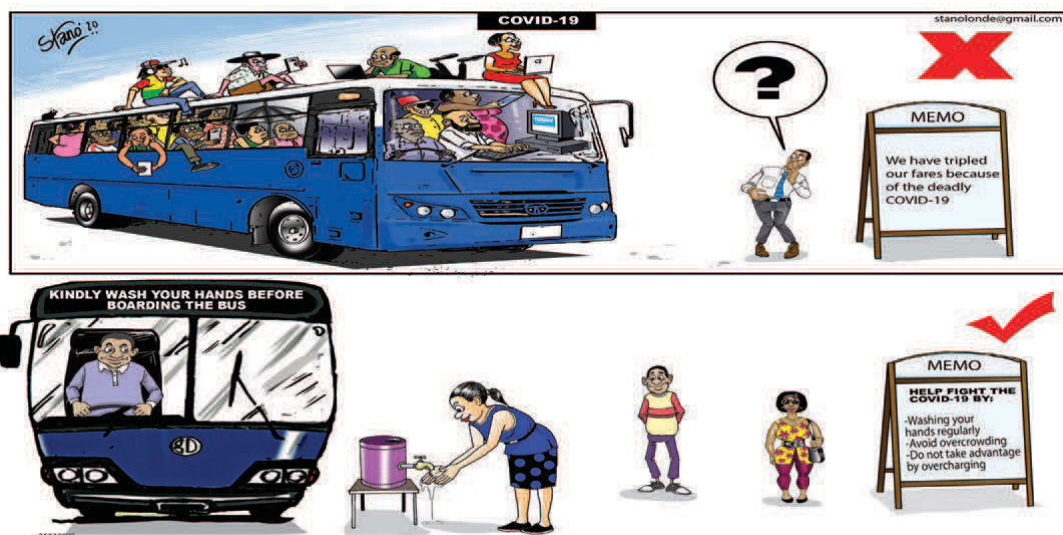
He, however, notes that measures put in place to slow the spread of the virus may have unintended consequences of exacerbating shortages of protective gear and the materials needed to make them. This is a reality many countries, including the developed ones, are grappling with. It can get worse in our situation because of high unemployment levels, fragile economy and impunity.

Once again, we ask every Kenyan to embrace social distancing and other measures aimed at taming coronavirus spread. And to those who are obsessed with making profits at whatever cost, shame on you! As Health CS Mutahi Kagwe warned, this immorality will harm you, your families and country. Stop it!

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

ARTHUR SCHOPENHAUER

“The greatest of follies is to sacrifice health for any other kind of happiness.”



Corporate responsibility key in the face of Corona

The battle against the Covid-19 pandemic is a pivotal moment for humanity. Coronavirus is spreading swiftly across countries, on a scale and magnitude never seen before.

Our lives have changed, with demonstration of solidarity against a common enemy. We are all in it together. As the crisis unfolds, the developing narrative suggests that the pandemic is multifaceted in nature. Covid-19 is a personal, business, religious, social, political, economic, national and global issue.

On a global scale, the Covid-19 pandemic is turning economies upside down. Whereas the top priority of governments is to stop the spread of the virus, track and treat the sick, businesses have a critical role to play in joining government efforts to minimise any further spread and cushion the impact on the economy and livelihoods.

According to a poll conducted by Ipsos earlier this month, it is interesting to note that public concerns on the economic impact of Covid-19, is possibly only second to their own health. Governments' pronouncements about economic rescue measures do not yet appear to gain the public's confidence.

The recent temporary suspension of trading by the Nairobi Securities Exchange is a possible predictor of depressed financial flows and weakened investor confidence.

The pandemic has also had negative effect on job security. Several companies are grappling with the government's directive for workers to observe social distancing as a measure against spread of the virus.

In an effort to mitigate financial risks, some



JUDY NJINO

“Some health insurance covers are treating coronavirus as an exclusion.”

firms are reported to have enforced short-term layoffs and production shut-downs on prorated pay. Some health insurance covers are treating coronavirus as an exclusion.

With the ongoing border closure and lockdown around the world, Kenya's flower industry, which is export-driven is one of the hardest-hit. The ripple effect has caused the closure of various farms with over 1,000 seasonal workers sent home.

In the face of these grave challenges, what then should businesses do to remain resilient?

As the world's largest corporate sustainability initiative, the United Nations Global Compact is calling on business leaders everywhere to unite in supporting workers, communities and companies affected by the pandemic.

For every decision-maker, the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact can provide ideas and inspiration in uncertain times.

In upholding their corporate responsibility to respect Human Rights, businesses should ensure that any measures to address Covid-19 is accessible to people without discrimination of any kind. Further, they should ensure the needs of the most marginalised and/or vul-

nerable are given the appropriate attention.

For businesses everywhere, ensuring continued productivity is crucial in these turbulent times. Responsible businesses can respond with flexibility, compassion and solidarity to the impact on their employees and their business partners, especially SMEs.

Their efforts to limit financial impacts should not be made at the expense of workers' rights and welfare. They should also apply the principles of prevention and ensure a safe working environment by adhering to the protective measures in the workplace.

With every dark cloud, there's a silver lining. In a very short period of time, the corona crisis has had a positive impact on the environment by reducing pollution and carbon emissions.

This crisis presents businesses everywhere with an opportunity to track positive environmental impacts of telecommuting and virtual meetings on their carbon footprint in order to assess which practices could be encouraged long-term to reduce emissions.

The challenges of this crisis notwithstanding, we can draw many lessons from the experiences. The future of businesses will largely depend on their ability to demonstrate responsibility by working closely with government, civil society, medical and research entities and fellow citizens.

This battle is not between people, but one that unites the entire world in our shared humanity.

— The writer is the executive director of Global Compact Network Kenya —info@globalcompactkenya.org.

Kenyan-Norwegian business partnerships blooming

One of the largest Norwegian business delegations to ever visit an African country has just returned home after three full days in Kenya. The large and broad specter of companies represented in the delegation reflects the increasing interest among Norwegian businesses in the Kenyan market. Many Norwegian actors with experience from Kenya are now seeking to strengthen their existing portfolios, while even more companies new to Africa are attracted by the diversity, openness and vibrancy found in the East Africa's largest economy.

Kenya is an especially interesting market for Norwegian companies within renewable energy, ICT, smart cities, agricultural technology, flower production and tourism sectors. Business cooperation is indeed an increasingly important part of the bilateral relationship between Norway and Kenya.

The Government Pension Fund Global—the world's largest sovereign wealth fund—and Norfund have already placed their bets on Kenya. Sustainable Kenyan and foreign investments are a prerequisite for development, job creation and tax revenues. Private sector growth is key in ensuring Kenya's young



AMB ELIN ROGNLIE

More companies new to Africa are attracted by diversity and vibrancy found in Kenya

population can graduate from poverty. More Norwegian firms are now ready to contribute to growth through increased trade and investments.

Around 25 Norwegian companies are currently set-up in Kenya. Norwegian investors in renewable energy and solar energy production, where companies such as Scatec Solar, Gjertsen and Bright Products already have a presence in Kenya. There is also significant economic cooperation within agriculture and agricultural technology. Companies such as Yara, Mester Grønn and Bama are stakeholders in this sector.

Up to 60 per cent of Norway's exports to Kenya are chemical fertilisers. Yara here is the major player, celebrating 25 years in Kenya. The firm is currently working on developing technology that makes fertilisers available to the smaller farms off the beaten track, which have previously been difficult to reach.

However, companies do not need

to be big to have a big impact. One company that visited Kenya this month is called "Find My". It all started with a sheep farmer from Norway who needed a solution when many animals disappeared from pasture. A sheep bell that sends signals through satellites to the phone was the solution. Now they are bringing the solution to Kenya.

On the other end of the spectrum, the Government Pension Fund Global, started investing in Kenya in 2012 and had by the end of 2018 an equity portfolio of Sh10 billion. The investments are distributed between 17 Kenyan companies.

Norfund has a portfolio worth approximately Sh23.16 billion in Kenya, which is invested in clean energy, agriculture and the financial sector, as well as eco-tourism. Norfund has its regional East Africa office here in Nairobi. Kenya is one of Norfund's largest investment markets.

There is an evident connection between education and business

development. There are clear expectations that business should contribute to job creation and wealth creation in local communities. This is vital to ensure sustainable job creation and business development.

The Norwegian government expects that Norwegian companies conducting international business are well versed with guidelines for responsible business and the UN's guiding principles on human rights.

An unfortunate deterrent for Norwegian companies considering Kenya as an investment destination is, however, corruption. The Norwegian government, therefore, fully supports the ongoing Kenyan measures in combating this endemic evil.

Kenyan products are also increasingly popular in Norway. Imports from Kenya have doubled in the last decade, earning Kenyan producers Sh5.5 billion in revenue last year.

A sound macroeconomic environment with a stable currency, low inflation rates and solid foreign reserves makes Kenya even more appealing. Kenya showed itself yet again as a dynamic market with vast opportunities to the Norwegians visiting last month.

—The writer is Norwegian Ambassador to Kenya

STREET TALK

Just where is 'prophet' as corona ravages us?

Just where is a self-proclaimed prophet, famed for his claims to prophesy every calamity that befalls Kenya? The man seems to have gone underground—of course to keep coronavirus crisis at bay—but his followers claim he has gone into meditation to come up with a medicine for the pathogen. The opinionated man has been conspicuously silent on coronavirus matter. Now his adherents claim that the man will emerge from his retreat with a solution to the disease. Well, wouldn't he be a life saver?

Nowhere to hide for virus-scared governor

A governor from the Western region who had travelled to a "safe zone" in Uganda to avoid contracting coronavirus has been forced to return in Kenya after President Yoweri Museveni banned travel in and out of the country. On realising that he may be trapped in the neighbouring country, the governor, known for his love for the bottle and college beauties, hurriedly returned home. Now he has nowhere to run to, and has to face the very voters he was running away from.

Respect human rights when combating coronavirus

In the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, governments across the world have adopted far-reaching measures. But some of the responses have raised concerns about human rights violations.

Globally, the measures have ranged from prohibition of public gatherings, closure of bars and restaurants to lockdown of entire cities. In Kenya, the government has ordered closure of learning institutions, made it mandatory to self-quarantine for all who have entered the country in the recent past, limited movement of prisoners and stopped prison visits while the Judiciary has scaled down operations, among other measures.

There have also been arrests on allegations of spreading fake news on the coronavirus while a clinic was shut down for purporting to sell test kits for Covid-19. The Health Cabinet Secretary has threatened the jailing of those who refuse to self-quarantine when required to.

While there is no doubt about the public interest that the government seeks to safeguard, namely public health, it is also the opportune time



EDWARD KAHUTHIA

Measures taken must be those that are strictly required by the exigencies of this crisis

to increase vigilance against possible government excesses and human rights violations in the current crisis.

Kenya is a signatory to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and, therefore, legally bound by state obligations therein. Under the ICCPR, the following rights can be limited on grounds of public health: the right to liberty of movement, the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, the right to freedom of expression, the right of peaceful assembly and the right to freedom of association with others.

There is now consensus, internationally, that such limitations are to be guided by certain principles some of which are captured under Article 24 of our Constitution. The Constitution stipulates that the limitation must be based on human dignity, equality and freedom.

International and domestic human rights courts, including ours, concur that there are four questions that must all be answered in the affirmative if a measure limiting a human right is to be considered lawful. Is there a legal basis for the measure limiting the right? Does the limitation pursue a legitimate aim such as respect of the rights or reputations of others, the protection of national security, public order or public health? Is the limitation necessary to achieve the legitimate aim, and is the extent of the limitation proportionate in pursuit of the identified aim? Finally, does the restriction respect the principle of equality and non-discrimination?

In view of the above, during this crisis, every time the President, Health CS or other official announce measures that seek to limit rights and freedoms, Kenyans must de-

mand to know the legal basis for the same. When the government warns against the spread of fake news on the coronavirus crisis, Kenyans must be vigilant to ensure the government is not unnecessarily restricting free flow of information on the situation, particularly through social media.

Should an expansive lockdown become necessary, we must demand that in such severe restriction on movement, slum dwellers, persons with disability, the elderly, the unemployed who live from hand to mouth and other vulnerable groups are not affected in a disproportionate manner.

Measures taken, and which would lawfully permit derogation from human rights, must be those that are strictly required by the exigencies of this crisis. This will keep in check overzealous public officers who may be tempted to capitalise on the crisis to normalise authoritarianism.

In sum, as the government responds to the coronavirus pandemic, respect for human rights should not be an afterthought

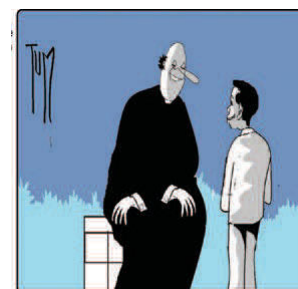
—The writer is an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya

Officer isolates, but not over Corona pandemic!

Many prominent personalities have been forced into self-quarantine after coming into contact with persons with coronavirus symptoms or having travelled to regions ravaged by the virus. But an Assistant Inspector of Police has been quarantined for different reasons. His seniors have gagged him—from interacting with any media house—and has reportedly decided to stay indoors in order not to attract trouble.

City Hall veteran mulls resigning to save face

A senior Nairobi City County government official, described by his peers as the face of corruption and impunity is now mulling quitting his job. The man who served in the Nairobi City Council before devolution, and under governors Evans Kidero and Mike Sonko, is said to have read the writing on the wall with the appointment of an army general to take charge of City Hall affairs.



TRUTHIS: What we leave in our children is more important than what we leave to them.

#TWEETS TO THE EDITOR



So, a man died in China from Hantavirus—another virus other than Covid-19. The online world is shook.

@rolf_shinchan: Scientists haven't yet prepared the vaccine for Corona. And then you see #Hantavirus trending.

@jinjjataee: JUST SO YOU KNOW: hanta-

virus CANNOT be transmitted from human to human. #Hantavirus

@iamrayugaa: When the whole world is trying to fight corona virus...China - Hantavirus.

@1234Zaina: Please China stop eating any rats, snakes, snails and any other

/// @PeopleDailyKe /// f People Daily

creatures. We are already in war with Corona and now we have this virus.

@iammalickzayd: Prayer for today "Dear God, Could we please un-install 2020 and re-install it? It has a virus!"

@SouthINDGoogly: Person to person HAS NOT BEEN documented, be safe.

Kilifi, Mombasa medics turn away people with coronavirus symptoms

by Harrison Kivisu
and Sophie Njoka
@PeopleDailyKe

Medical personnel in Kilifi and Mombasa are now sending away patients with symptoms similar to those of Covid-19 cases.

The medics say they are ill-prepared to deal with the virus because of lack of basic necessities and adequate training.

In Mombasa, a woman who had presented herself at the Mvita Health Centre with symptoms similar to those of Covid-19 was allegedly turned away by medics who told her they had no capacity to handle her case.

This is despite the facility together with Tudor Sub-county Hospital having been designated as an isolation centre for patients with the virus.

Health facilities in Mombasa are also anticipating



a surge in number of patients after closure of hospitals in Kilifi. On Monday, Kilifi county discharged all patients except for those who are critically ill.

Yesterday, the Kilifi county ordered all medical staff on annual or study leave to report back to work in anticipation of a crisis occasioned by the high number of people who are feared to have come into contact with deputy governor Gideon Saburi who has tested

positive for the virus.

County secretary Mkarie Jefwa directed doctors, nurses and other medical officers to report to work latest by March 29 until such time that the virus is contained in the county.

Summary dismissal

"Disciplinary sanctions which may include summary dismissal will be taken against those who will not have valid reasons without further reference to yourself," he said in a notice sent to all the medical staff yesterday.

However, fear among health personnel who came into contact with some of the patients who have confirmed positive for coronavirus is rising. The medics have protested over slow response to have themselves tested for the virus after they claimed to have been exposed.

A medical doctor who claim to have come into

contact with one of the people who has tested positive for the virus at a private laboratory raised alarm yesterday that health professionals could be exposed to infection because of slow response from the Emergency Response Committee on Covid-19 in counties.

Dr Salim Mohamed Ahmed said yesterday, 24-hours after raising alarm, the Mombasa County Emergency Response Committee on Covid-19 that he had come into contact with a suspected case, health officials had not reached him.

Mohamed claimed that a patient he attended to at his private clinic in Nyali had tested positive for the virus at Lancet Laboratories but despite reporting the matter to Kilifi medical officers, no one has come to take his blood samples or isolate the patient to a government facility.

Kilifi partially locked down on Kingi's piecemeal orders

Businesses are closed, movement is restricted and boda boda services banned after deputy governor, driver test positive of Covid-19

by Murimi Mutiga
@PeopleDailyKe

Kilifi county is on a partial lockdown after Governor Amason Kingi ordered immediate closure of shops and industries dealing in non-essential goods and a ban on unnecessary movements to curb the spread of coronavirus.

The development comes in the wake of confirmation that his deputy Gideon Saburi had tested positive for Covid-19. Saburi is still in hospital.

His driver has also tested positive for the virus.

"Only those shops that are dealing with essential commodities will remain open and shall strictly observe the hygiene standards already set and other safety measures as earlier communicated," Kingi said.

The governor outlined new measures to stop the spread of the virus in the wake of revelations that Saburi could have come into contact with more than 300 people during a cabinet meeting, burial and wedding ceremonies he had attended after returning from a foreign trip.

One confirmed case

"To the residents of Kilifi County, Coronavirus is finally right here in Kilifi County. Apart from the one confirmed case, we don't know who else is infected in our county."

"This calls for more stringent measures and self-discipline to effectively combat the spread of this virus and save our lives. You and I can stop the spread of this virus and save Kilifi County if we choose to do the right thing and follow all safety measures given to us," he said.

The county has also banned all boda-boda passenger services as it implement the social distancing advisory for Covid-19.

"They pose a challenge between the boda-boda rider and the pillion passenger thus posing a great risk of transmission of the virus. However, boda-boda services can still be used for ferrying cargo and courier services," he added.

Tuk-tuks will be required to carry only



Office of Kilifi Deputy Governor Gideon Saburi closed as measures to lock down the county take effect on Governor Amason Kingi's orders yesterday. PD/BONFACE MSANGI

one passenger at any one given moment and strictly observe the set hygiene standards. He said Kilifi County Coronavirus Emergency Response Team has directed all industries whose labour force ordinarily crowds in the course of duty at the work place to be closed forthwith.

As a result, hotels and over 20 Export Processing Zones (EPZ) companies which have set up factories in the area have sent workers home. About 8000 people work in the EPZ factories in the area.

The county also announced closure of all public gyms, play grounds, public recreation centres and cinemas with immediate effect.

The county has already ordered closure of all public hospitals for manageable medical cases except for the critical ones.

On Monday, the county discharged all in-patients who are out of danger with the "aim of decongesting the medical facilities and ensure safe distancing between patients".

Panic has gripped leaders and residents with several individuals going on self quarantine and others turning themselves into hospitals for Covid-19 tests after coming into contact with him after he returned from Germany.

The county government has also sent all

its employees home to curb spread of the virus.

Governor Kingi who admitted having come into contact with Saburi, Lands Chief Administrative Secretary (CAS) Gideon Mung'aro, Woman Rep Gertrude Mbeyu, Rabai MP William Kamoti, several MCA and CECs have all gone into self quarantine.

Shook hands

The leaders are alleged to have hugged and shook hands with the deputy governor during a burial and wedding ceremony in the county.

Sixteen police officers attached to Mtwapa police have gone into self-quarantine after falling under the long chain of people who came into contact with the coronavirus patient.

Mtwapa deputy OCS Bernard Otomei who developed breathing difficulties on Monday was also put in quarantine alongside Base Commander Mathew Koech.

The two police chiefs allegedly came in contact with the patient at Tusks Mall in Mtwapa township on March 20 for two hours between 8.00 pm and 10.00pm.

Fourteen other junior officers who came into contact with the two police bosses have also gone into self-quarantine.



Covid-19 to impact TB management

by Evelyn Makena
@PeopleDailyKe

As cases of Covid-19 continue to rise, experts have expressed concern about the damage the pandemic may inflict on TB—an already existing infectious killer.

Based on how developed countries like China and Italy with more advanced health systems have struggled to cope with the spread of Covid-19, the fear is that lower income countries with much less resources may be overburdened by the pandemic.

As the globe marks the World TB Day, there is an indication that efforts to treat the world's top infectious disease will take a hit from the Covid-19 response.

"This outbreak, if not managed early, will overwhelm our health systems, both in terms of medical resources such as hospital capacity, diagnostic, screening and protective equipment as well as trained healthcare workers," said Bernard Lang'at (pictured), Programme Director HIV, TB, Malaria Programme in Kenya (Amref Health Africa).

Treatment of infectious diseases such as TB and HIV will be affected as resources are likely to be diverted to responding to Covid-19 to contain its spread. Kenya suffers from a high burden of TB and HIV with TB which accounts for 9081 deaths per year being the fourth highest cause of mortality according to the Economic Survey 2018.

Globally Kenya is ranked by WHO as among 30 countries with the highest burden of TB. It also ranked among the 14 countries with the highest burden of TB and HIV and Multidrug resistant TB. The high pre-existing disease burden coupled with limited resources will severely strain the already overburdened health system.

KILIFI LOCKDOWN

● Governor ordered immediate closure of shops and industries dealing with non-essential goods and a ban on unnecessary movements.

● Kingi's deputy Gideon Saburi had tested positive for Covid-19. Saburi is still admitted at hospital. His driver has also tested positive for the virus.

● Governor has outlined new measures to stop spread of the virus in the wake of revelations that Saburi could have come into contact with more than 300 people during a cabinet meeting, burial and wedding ceremonies he had attended after returning from a foreign trip.

16

Number of police officers attached to Mtwapa police who have gone into self-quarantine after falling under the long chain of people who came into contact with a coronavirus patient.

KFS directed to enforce rules at Likoni to avert Covid-19

Regional Commissioner orders management to limit number of users per trip to stem infection

by Harrison Kivisu
@PeopleDailyKe

Kenya Ferry Services (KFS) has been directed to enforce safety and security measures at the busy Likoni channel in Mombasa to stem the spread of Covid-19.

Coast Regional Commissioner (RC) John Elungata said the government will not condone reluctance in enforcing the coronavirus safety guidelines by the management and other enforcement agencies.

Elungata, who toured the channel that connects Mombasa island to the mainland directed KFS to limit the number of ferry users per trip to avert possible infections.

"We are monitoring the situation closely and have identified the ferry crossing as a possible flash-point of the pandemic and are prepared for possible cases of the virus," he said.

He said KFS management must maintain strict sanitation measures on its vessels and at the terminals for ferry users.

This comes in the wake of public outcry over the "casual" manner in which the KFS management was dealing with coronavirus safety issues.

KFS has installed hand-washing points



Passengers board a ferry at the Likoni Crossing Channel that connects Mombasa island to the mainland to the south. PD/NDEGWA GATHUNGU

at both sides of the channel as a preventive measure against spread of the disease but only a few ferry users are using them.

"We are also asking ferry users to play their part in preventing the spread of the virus and support the safeguards being taken in the wake of the global outbreak," he said.

Elungata said more police officers would be deployed at the channel to help in the enforcement of the new safety measures and for crowd control.

"We are not out to punish anyone, we are only asking people to adhere to the safety

measures for their good," he added.

The regional administrator said the new regulations are temporary measures that must be obeyed by passengers, motorists and crews.

"As cases of coronavirus continue to rise globally, we have no option but to take strict measures to minimise the risk posed to the ferry users," he said.

Elungata said the restrictions on the flow of passengers to the ferries are in line with government guidance on social distancing and in the best interest of the health of the population.

LIKONI CHANNEL

● Likoni Channel connects Mombasa Island to the mainland

● KFS has installed hand-washing facilities at both sides of the channel as a preventative measure against spread of Covid-19

● More police officers would be deployed at the channel to help in the enforcement of the new safety measures and crowd control

THIKA

Four arrested for defying orders

Four people were arrested on Monday night after they were found drinking in a Thika bar in defiance of a government directive closing all entertainment premises. The four, who included a bar attendant, were arrested at Paleo Hotel taking beer from the sixth floor and booked at the Thika Police Station. Area chief Simon Kamau (pictured), who led the crackdown on local bars, said one of the patrons arrived in the country recently from the US and will be put under forcible quarantine. The chief said some bar operators had defied the closure order and warned that pubs found in operation will have their licences revoked and the owners and workers charged in court.

- Oliver Musembi



NAIROBI

UN urges Kenya to provide free water

The United Nations has urged Kenya to provide water for free to vulnerable people during this time of the Covid-19 crisis to people. The UN-Habitat says water access is critical to beating back Covid-19 spread in slum areas where people live hand-to-mouth and water access points are hard to find. "The impacts of the new coronavirus disease could be considerably higher on the urban poor living in slums, where overcrowding also makes it difficult to follow other recommended measures such as social distancing and self-isolation," UN-Habitat said in a statement. The UN-Habitat said as regular hand washing is a key tool in combating Covid-19, the UN and its partners are taking steps to ensure people living in slums have access to running water at this critical time.

- Bernard Gitau

HOMA BAY

County cancels all market cess fees

Homa Bay county government has suspended revenue collection in all its open-air market for the next 30 days. Addressing the press at the governor's office, the county executive for finance and economic planning Nicholas Obuya Koriko said following directives by the national government, they have now temporarily suspended revenue collection and revenue officers asked to help in activities of combating the spread of the coronavirus in the region. Koriko said the move has been necessitated by the government's decision to restrict market activities to barely provision of food items to reduce overcrowding in public places.

- KNA

Extend licence fees by three months, tour operators urge



Tourism players in Nakuru have called on the county government to consider extending the grace period in the payment of trade licences by three months amid a reduction of business caused by Covid-19 panic.

Led by Nakuru Tourism Association chairman David Mwangi (pictured) the tour company operators said they are already under pressure to secure permits by March 31 deadline.

Mwangi wants the county government to allow his members until June 30, to make the payments saying with the increase in trade licences it will be a huge burden. "Businesses are closing, how would they pay the trade licences, the county needs to extend the grace period and allow normalcy in business as a measure to cushion the current economic state," said Mwangi.

- Roy Lumbe

MTRH: Patients to receive only one visitor per session

Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital (MTRH) has suspended patient visitation with immediate effect due to rising cases of Covid-19.

"Due to the increased instances of Covid-19, patient visitation will not be allowed from March 24, 2020 as a precautionary measure until further notice," said the hospital in a statement, adding that the move was necessary to curb

any possible spread of the contagious disease.

On Tuesday MTRH chief executive Dr Wilson Aruasa said only one visitor will be allowed to visit a patient admitted at the hospital each visiting hour.

Meanwhile, governors from the North Rift have also encouraged residents to reduce visiting or accompanying their sick or injured kin in hospital.



JIAM doors shut

Hawkers in Nairobi take advantage of the recent government's directive to close worship centres by displaying their wares outside Jesus is Alive Ministries church on Haile Selassie Avenue in Nairobi as the church's doors now remain closed.

PD/BERNARD MALONZA

Kenyan student's experience in Italy dorm self-quarantine

Grace Sabiri Mageka says since the lockdown in the virus-hit country her life and that of her foreign peers has really changed

What does it mean to be self-quarantined? This is my experience as Italy enters its second week of a total lockdown.

On March 9, 2020, the government of Italy under Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte imposed a national quarantine, restricting the movement of the population except for necessity, work, and health circumstances, in response to the growing Covid-19 pandemic in the country.

As a result, schools and institutions of higher learning were not spared as the government moved to secure its citizens and deter spread of the virus.

Since the total lockdown, life has really changed both for the citizenry and visitors, especially students from other countries who study in various Italian universities.

Being a student at the University of Rome Tor Vergata studying MA in Global Governance with specialisation in Global Politics, we have been compelled by our university management to strictly follow university schedules online, do assignments and submit them on time.

Buy masks

I must acknowledge that self-quarantine is very expensive because one is required to be stable in economic, health and mental wellbeing aspects.

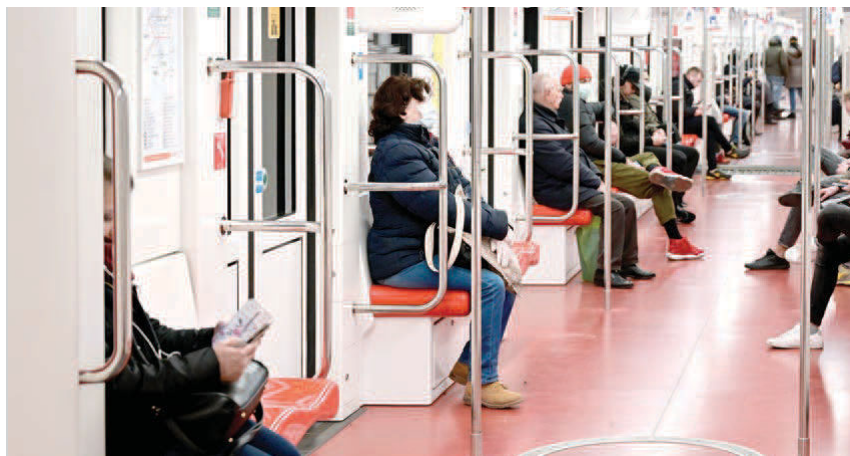
It is not easy to wake up every day in your four corners dormitory room and spend the whole day and night there.

Before the lockdown this month, on Saturday February 22 at around 6.15 am, my friends and I had travelled to another city in the south of Italy called Naples for one of my friend's birthday.

We took the risk and went because earlier we had booked for our trip and paid the cost-related expenses. It was not something we wanted to miss despite news that the virus was already spreading in some parts of Italy, especially in the North.

Prior to the trip, we bought masks to keep ourselves safe since we didn't have a personal car and we were going to use public transport provided by Flix Bus.

The trip to the South of Italy was almost two hours long and we had a good time



Commuters travel in the underground metro in downtown Milan on March 10. Italy imposed unprecedented national restrictions on its 60 million people on March 10 to control spread of coronavirus. AFP

without thinking about Covid-19.

I remember vividly that evening after I returned to our student residence, my mum called me to find out how my day was and I told her that my day went well, we travelled to another city and we just got back.

Restrict movements

My mum paused and changed her tone and at that moment, I knew that something was wrong because after the virus was reported to have gotten to most parts of the country, mum had warned me to restrict my movements.

On this particular day, I had not told her of the planned trip because she would have told me to cancel it. I had been looking forward to explore the city because in the past I had not had time to explore the city and I felt that was a good opportunity to do so.

Fast forward, exactly one month since we had the trip to Naples, a friend from Malawi, who is also my course mate, developed some fever and cold.

Her situation threw panic across the campus, and those of us who had accompanied her to Naples had more reason to be worried. I quickly recommended that she takes some medicine called Tachipirina because it is one of the drugs one can get at the pharmacies without prescrip-

tion. In Italy, no pharmacy sells medicine without prescription from a doctor.

However, our friend recovered and we started to share our fears of illness.

On March 2, we went shopping in preparation for a possible lockdown. We bought groceries, fruits and dry foods which we have continued to use to date while quarantined.

Some days before the closure of universities I also had some crucial appointments with the immigration office. Then on March 4 mid-morning, the Italian leadership closed all schools and universities from the next day to March 15, and we were asked to stay home.

The lockdown period was later extended to April 3.

In the early days of the lockdown, it's likely some people got some directives wrong, such as when the university was closed and for many students it was an opportunity to go partying until when the leadership came out strongly to enforce the lockdown.

I am happy to see how people have embraced self-isolation and the mandatory self-quarantine rules.

As of now, we continue to have lectures online. Since I have been indoors for over two weeks now, I have learned new things and clearly know what I would like to do more after the lockdown.

While on quarantine there were two Iranian students that were suspected to have Covid-19 but after check ups at the hospital this was not the case.

We are dealing with a challenging situation, some people are experiencing fear, desperation and anxiety. The sooner we can get Covid-19 under control, then life can begin to return to normal.

Some lessons that Kenya can learn from Italy: The health care sector in Italy was not prepared for the outbreak, the framework that has been in place for many years was not one that could easily expand to cater for the sick people.

Doctors and nurses in Italy are doing their best but if political systems continue to reduce money meant for health care, many countries will always be unprepared to face such kinds of emergencies.

Grace Sabiri Mageka is an MA Global Governance student specialising in Global Politics, at the University of Rome Tor Vergata in Italy.

BRIEFLY

Executive waives morgue charges

Nairobi county government has waived all mortuary fees for the next seven days in a bid to encourage Kenyans to pick bodies of their loved ones for burial. County Health Executive Majevdia Hitan said failure to comply, will prompt the county government will seek authority to dispose the bodies pursuant to Public Health (Public Mortuaries) Rules 2. Hitan (*below*) said the move is aimed at decongesting city morgues as well as curbing the spread of coronavirus. "Only dead bodies with police cases will be exempted..." he said. On Sunday, Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe banned church and mosque gatherings. Funerals were restricted to immediate family members as the country steps up efforts to curb the spread of Covid-19. — **Bernard Gitau**



County to acquire three ventilators

Elgeyo Marakwet county is in the process of procuring three ventilators to be used in the 20-bed isolation ward that has been set aside for coronavirus cases at the Iten County Referral Hospital. Health Executive Kiprono Chepkok said the county will strive to acquire ventilators, which are critical in case they receive a patient with respiratory problems. While briefing the press in Iten yesterday, Chepkok said while the county had been classified as low risk, it has the highest number of foreigners in the athletic training camps, adding that even after closing the camps, the foreigners have not left. He added that the foreigners are still arriving in the area, and they received one from Hungary three days ago. — **KNA**

Nyeri residents stock up foodstuff

Nyeri residents have started stocking foodstuff and other necessities over fear of a possible lockdown owing to increasing cases of coronavirus in the country. A spot-check by *People Daily* showed that supermarkets in Nyeri town have recorded bulk buying of foodstuff including long-life milk. Peter Kiboi, a manager at Naivas supermarket in the town, said they have noticed unusual buying of foodstuff and that the most sought after goods are maize flour, rice, powdered milk and cereals. At Chieni supermarket, the situation was the same with most customers buying foodstuff such as maize flour in bulk. A manager who spoke on condition of anonymity said that they are restocking daily.

— **Seth Mwaniki**



Grace Sabiri Mageka, a Kenyan student in Italy. COURTESY

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PUBLIC NOTICE

PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING

ACT NO.13 OF 2019

CHANGE OF USE

The owner of the property Plot LR No. 1/183 located at the junction of Argwings Khodek & Wood Avenue Roads in Kilimani, Nairobi County, intends to change the user from Single dwelling to Multi-dwellings (Apartments), subject to approval by the Nairobi County Government. Those with objections should write within 14 days of this notice to:

The County Secretary
Nairobi County
P.O. Box 30075-00100
NAIROBI

PUBLIC NOTICE

PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING

ACT NO.13 OF 2019

CHANGE OF USE

The registered owner of Land Parcel No. OTHAYA/KIHUGIRU/3313, Othaya Sub-County, proposes to change its use from Agricultural to Residential Multi-dwelling Units, subject to approval by the County Government of Nyeri. Individual(s), Institution(s), Organization(s) etc. with any objections/comments to the proposal should forward the same in writing within fourteen (14) days from the date of publication of this notice to:

THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER,
LANDS, HOUSING, PHYSICAL PLANNING
AND URBANIZATION,
P.O. BOX 1112-10100,
NYERI.

GARAM INVESTMENTS AUCTIONEERS

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PUBLIC AUCTION AT AUTO GALLERY YARD LOCATED ALONG WAIYAKI WAY, OPP. LION PLACE-WESTLANDS NAIROBI ON WEDNESDAY 01.04.2020 AT 11.00 A.M (A) LANDLORD VS GREGORY KANJA (B) SHRINES HOME SCHOOL (TENANTS) (C) CLIENT VS. REBECCA MUTHONI GITAU (D) ANTONY MWANGI KANOGO (DEBTORS)

- (A) 5-Seater sofaset (3pcs), Sony radio + 2 speakers, Hisense 43" TV, Glass top side table, big speakers
- (B) 6-Seater sofaset (2 pcs), straight back metallic chairs, glass sided cupboard, single pedestal desk, wooden coffee table, office table, stool, assorted computers, Curved wooden counter, Epson printers
- (C) MOTOR VEHICLE REG. NO. KCK 711V, MAKE: MITSUBISHI FUSO CANTER, Y.O.M 2008
- (D) MOTOR VEHICLE REG. NO. KCT 344H, MAKE: VOLKSWAGEN GOLF, Y.O.M 2011

NB: Pictures of the aforementioned goods can be viewed on our website www.garam.co.ke

CONDITIONS OF SALE:

1. Viewing is on the same day at 9.00 a.m. 2. Payment terms will be Cash at the fall of the hammer. 3. Sale will be subject to reserve price.



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Businesshub

While extent of corona effects on the Kenyan economy is still evolving, it is already evident that the impact will be severe

State mulls Sh117b Covid-19 package to cushion economy

Government expects assistance from IMF and World Bank to come in by end of April or early May

by Zachary Ochuodho
@zachuodho

Kenya is banking on a Sh116.9 billion (\$1.15 billion) short-term facility from global lenders as an emergency package to sustain the war against coronavirus disease and cushion the country from economic shocks emanating from coronavirus.

The assistance from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, is expected to come in by the end of April or early May.

Speaking during a media briefing yesterday, Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) Governor Dr. Patrick Njoroge intimated that already the World Bank has provided \$50 million (Sh5.3 billion) to fund the Ministry of Health's activities in a bid to fight coronavirus in the country.

He said in addition to that, the government has applied to the IMF for non-conditional emergency assistance totalling \$350 million (Sh37.2 billion) to be channelled towards budgetary support.

The Governor said the Government has also made a similar request from the World Bank for Sh79.9 billion (\$750 million). This announcement comes on the back of a Sh35.2 billion package, which CBK's Monetary Policy Committee said will be availed to commercial banks immediately, to support distressed borrowers as a result of the novel coronavirus (Covid-19).

It also follows Sh7.4 billion which the CBK gave to the National Treasury last week to support government's efforts towards containing the spread of coronavirus. The money was from the mop-up of the old Sh1,000 banknotes during the demonetisation exercise last year.

Dr Njoroge said while the extent of the effects of coronavirus on the Kenyan economy is still evolving, it is already evident that the impact will be severe, adding, however, that the Treasury is expected to announce a raft of fiscal measures

Official flow

Sh35b

Government seeks \$350 million from the International Monetary Fund

Sh75b

Estimated \$750 million to come from World Bank to cushion the economy from adverse impact of Corona.

Sh35.2b

Central Bank of Kenya says has been made available to commercial banks to support distressed borrowers as a result of the novel coronavirus.

Sh7.4b

Amount Central Bank of Kenya has released to support government efforts to contain the spread of Coronavirus in the country.



geared towards reducing the impact soon.

Lock downs in other parts of the world has seen reduced demand by Kenya's main trading partners, disruptions of supply chains and domestic production, resulting in a situation where economic growth is expected to decline significantly in 2020, from an estimate of 6.2 per cent to 3.4 per cent.

Food prices

Njoroge, however, said lower food prices due to favourable weather conditions, decline in international oil prices and muted demand pressures are expected to keep the overall inflation within the target range in the near term.

"The fundamental concerns and anxieties centre on the health impact, job losses, and duration of the crisis. The ongoing interventions by the government are aimed at containing the pandemic and moderating the economic and social impact," he said.

Globally, there has been a significant

strengthening of the dollar largely due to COVID-19 causing jitters among traders in Kenya. Njoroge also assured traders that there were enough foreign exchange reserves, which stand at \$8.251 million which is about 5 months of import cover.

"We appeal to traders to be ethical at this time of crisis. He said the recent weakening of Kenyan shilling was caused by a misunderstanding of the Central Bank's plan to boost it's reserved by buying dollars from the market.

The governor said despite disruption of trade in some sectors such as horticulture and tourism, there is also the IMF standby facility to help cushion the country from any unforeseen economic shock.

A market survey carried out in February shows renewed focus on MSMEs and agriculture, payments of pending bills by the government, the decline in international oil prices, benefits from infrastructure investments, and improved lending to the private sector.

RESCUE PACKAGE

● CBK says it also seeks to ensure the interbank market and liquidity management across the sector continue to function smoothly and looks forward to the implementation of a comprehensive package of supportive measures.

● Njoroge said continued lock down of economies abroad could hit Kenyans working there and translate to lower diaspora remittances, adding, however, its forex reserves are still adequate.

SYSTEMS



Water firm offers coronavirus tips to entrepreneurs

PREVENTION: Water treatment specialist firm, Davis & Shirliff, has urged businesses to use properly sanitised water to shield their customers from exposure to the deadly coronavirus disease.

"Strictly use properly disinfected water as a precautionary measure to guard against the spread of the Coronavirus and other waterborne diseases," it said in a statement.

The firm noted that while there are no reported cases of direct water related transmission of COVID-19 in Kenya, individuals and institutions operating water treatment systems are advised to ensure their systems are well serviced to prevent contamination.

"Conventional water treatment methods that use filtration, chlorination and ultraviolet treatment, such as those in most domestic, industrial and municipal drinking water systems, should remove or inactivate the virus that causes COVID-19," the statement reads in part.

Additionally, the firm encouraged the use of appropriate disinfectants such as Chlorine solutions at concentrations of about 50g per 1000litres (50ppm) as recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO) to clean surfaces and inactivate the virus which is known to persist on inanimate surfaces for extended periods.

It released a technical brief early this month for water and sanitation practitioners and providers, saying there is no evidence about the survival of the COVID-19 virus in drinking water or sewage.

Conventional, centralised water treatment methods that use "filtration and disinfection should inactivate the COVID-19 virus", the Organisation added.

— Seth Onyango

Accountants call for tax concessions as pandemic ravages markets

by Lewis Njoka
@LewisNjoka

Accountants are calling on the government to give short-term tax concessions to businesses to cushion them and the general public from the effects of Covid-19 pandemic.

The proposal by the accountants follows another issued by the Kenya Association of Manufacturers recently on how to mitigate the effects of the pandemic on businesses and

the economy as a whole.

Institute of Certified Public Accountants (Icpak) said the concessions will help businesses affected by the pandemic maintain reasonable cash-flow and remain afloat, preventing job losses.

In a move that is likely to elicit a lot of debate within the accounting and auditing circles, Icpak proposes that the date of filing tax returns together with audited accounts be extended

for three months from June 30, 2020 to September 30 2020, subject to containment of the pandemic.

Limited number

"Due to quarantine measures, there will be a very limited number of employees to facilitate completion of the returns and audits," says the ICPAK report.

"In instances where employees must take unpaid leave and there-

fore, bear living costs without income, consideration should be given to waive off 50 per cent of pay as you earn tax due (PAYE).

This will provide more disposable income to employees and cushion them from the impact of the pandemic," it adds.

The report further recommends that PAYE be due and payable on actual salaries paid and not on accrued salaries.





Corona: Airlines call for waiver of landing, parking fees

AVIATION: In the wake of economic slowdown caused by Covid-19, players within Kenya's aviation sector now want the government to waive landing and parking fees for scheduled operators to cushion them from further losses.

The pandemic, which originated from the Chinese city of Wuhan late December, has unleashed a trail of economic destruction on the travel

and hospitality industry, which feeds airlines, leading to most scaling back on operations.

Abdelrahmane Berthe, Africa Airlines Association (Afraa) secretary general, said demand for air travel has been negatively affected by the Covid-19 pandemic which has resulted in losses for airlines due to substantial schedule changes, travel restrictions and cancellations.

"Afraa strongly recommends that African airlines engage their governments and stakeholders to develop an all-inclusive proactive response strategy that addresses the impact of the Covid-19 on their businesses to ensure airlines recover effectively to support key economic sectors," said Berthe.

Githae Makathimo, an aviation consultant concurred with Berthe.

He said about 16 of Kenya's scheduled carriers need to engage the government to either bail them out or waive landing and parking fees for the next 90-days.

"In the midterm, the government also needs to extend a kitty to scheduled operators to support their minimal operations for the next three months," said Makathimo. — Noel Wandera

Why Kenya is not about to force Covid-19 lockdown

CBK governor says total shut down would be the last resort after all efforts to contain pandemic have failed

by Seth Onyango
@PeopleDailyKE

Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) Governor Patrick Njoroge yesterday signalled that the government is not about to impose a lockdown to contain the spread of coronavirus disease any time soon.

His observation came as Kenyans continued feel the effects of a partial lockdown that led to the closure of schools, bars and clubs with restaurants only allowed to offer take away or delivery services. Most offices are also offering services online.

In a televised address yesterday to outline CBK's monetary policy stance, Njoroge argued that the State has reserved a total shutdown as a last resort after all efforts to contain the pandemic would have failed.

"The point I am making here is that this should relate to a business continuity scenario that is sensitive to health of the workers and indeed the health of the customers. But beyond that, we are very much in the hands of competent authorities," he said.

Chain of transmission

A total lockdown entails extreme social distancing measures meant to help people to stay healthy by breaking the chain of transmission and give the vulnerable population a fighting chance.

Njoroge is confident safety protocols in place will help tame the spread of Covid-19.

"We are completely in the hands of the health authorities when it comes to this," he said.

CBK is currently mobilising the financial services sector to fortify the economy against a major fallout from the fast spreading coronavirus in conjunction with other players that include local banks and Bretton Woods institutions.

"We do realise that the financial sector provide critical services and those are things that, as you can imagine. Even in places where they have declared lockdowns, they have indicated that banks and other ser-



Small-scale traders outside the Machakos Country Bus Station. The traders complain that business has reduced due to the limited number of passengers travelling. PD/KENNA CLAUDE

vices need to remain open because of its critical role," he observed.

"So we have been working with the banking sector to ensure that it deals with the crisis as we have it today, and if indeed things get worse they can respond appropriately."

Elsewhere, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan said on Sunday that the nation cannot undergo a complete lockdown, saying that the poor and daily wage earners will suffer drastically if the government takes the decision.

"Pakistan cannot afford to impose a total lockdown (when) 25 per cent of the people in the country live below the poverty line," the prime minister said while addressing the nation.

Italy and Spain have been under intense nationwide lockdowns, with citizens required to stay in their homes except for essential work, food shopping or medical appointments. Economist Samuel Nyandemo told Business Hub that government was just buying time since an unprecedented lockdown will strain the State rickety coffers with dwindling collections from Kenya Revenue Authority.

"The government is broke, it is just that it doesn't want to admit," he said asserting that Treasury needs to implement a three-pronged stimulus

package to keep the economy afloat.

First, he advocated for tax holidays for small businesses in the short term to keep them from closing shop. "Farmers should also be encouraged to boost production to help cope with the growing demand for food, by giving them tax rebates, so that we have enough supplies during this period," he said.

At the same time, the University of Nairobi economics lecturer wants the government to offer salaried employees payroll tax cuts to inject more disposal income in their kitty.

For consumers, he wants Treasury to waive taxation on essential goods like maize flour, rice, and cooking oil and cut tax on fuel. That basically means, momentarily pausing significant chunk of tax regime to keep more cash in people's pockets.

Healthcare system

With cash in government's reserve, Nyandemo urged treasury to employ more doctors to bolster the healthcare system which is on the frontline battling the coronavirus pandemic. The International Monetary Fund in its World Economic Outlook in January 2020 had projected a rise in global economic growth to 3.3 per cent in 2020 up from 2.9 per cent in 2019.

However, with COVID-19, it is

BRIEFLY



Safaricom, PSVs team up to collect fares through M-Pesa

PAYMENT: Safaricom has rolled out a partnership with public transport sector players to accept cashless payments through M-Pesa in the ongoing battle to combat the spread of Coronavirus.

The partnership will see crew from partnering public transit firms begin accepting fares through their phones. Sitoyo Lopokoiyit, chief financial services officer at Safaricom said many businesses are seeing an increase in demand to accept M-Pesa payments due to current concerns about Covid-19.

"Our partnership with the different public transit players brings the convenience

and safety of M-Pesa to this crucial sector given the widespread uptake of public transport across the country," he added.

The service has already been deployed to more than 300 City Star Shuttle vehicles in Nairobi and will be rolled out to additional players in the coming days, helping them further comply with the Government's recommendations to combat the spread of Coronavirus.

Passengers paying fares through the service will follow the standard procedure when sending money, keying the number provided by the crew. — Barry Silah



US technology giants team up to tackle Corona pandemic

FUNDS: Amazon is teaming up with researchers funded by Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates to pick up and deliver coronavirus test kits. The Gates Foundation-backed Seattle Coronavirus Assessment Network (SCAN) is learning how the infection spreads.

It involves collecting nasal swabs to track the virus among residents of Seattle's King County in Washington. Amazon Care, the retail giant's employee medical care arm, is now helping with deliveries of the kits.

King County is one of the places hardest hit by the outbreak in the US.

SCAN, a group of medical, public health and research organisations, is trying to

find out how the infection is spreading in different parts of society, with an aim to seeing how the outbreak is likely to develop.

Amazon Care will assist the work by delivering test kits to people's homes and then picking them up for researchers. If the virus is detected, the participant will then be put in touch with healthcare workers.

"We are grateful to be surrounded by a strong community of public health, global health and academic leaders and are eager to leverage Amazon Care's infrastructure and logistics capabilities to support this local effort," an Amazon spokesman said.

— BBC

NJOROGE

We are completely in the hands of the health authorities when it comes to this.

Absa bags Sh7.5b in full-year net profit

Income excludes Sh1.5b, which relates to costs it incurred in recent rebranding from Barclays Kenya

by Zachary Ochuodho
@zachuocho

Absa Bank Kenya has recorded a net profit of Sh7.45 billion for the period ended December 31, 2019 compared to Sh7.41 billion reported during a similar period previously.

The bank's Managing Director, Jeremy Awori, said the performance excludes exceptional item of Sh1.5 billion, which relates to costs incurred in the rebranding exercise into Absa.

Awori (pictured) said the performance is mainly attributable to a 7 per cent growth in total income, 1 per cent growth in operating costs partially offset by a 9 per cent growth in impairment. "The total assets grew by 15 per cent year-on-year driven by growth in customer loans, government securities as well as other liquid assets," he said in statement.

Asset finance

He said the net customer loans were up 10 per cent to close at Sh195 billion driven by key focus products namely; general lending, asset finance, mortgage and scheme loans that recorded strong growth year on year.

During the period the bank's customer deposits grew by 15 per cent to Sh238 billion with transactional accounts making up 70 per cent of the total deposits.

"The total income increased by seven per cent to Sh33.8 billion driven mainly by the growth of non-interest income, which was up by nine per cent year on year," Awori said.

He said the main areas of growth were risk fees, fixed income trading and risk-managed products.

Interest income grew by five per cent from the previous year largely because of growth in the lending book; though partially offset by the margin compression as a result of drop in Central Bank Reference rate.

According to the bank's financial statement, costs were well managed at Sh17.3 billion reflecting a one per cent

increase year on year largely because of spending discipline and cost saving initiatives.

The cost saving initiatives included automation of the processing centres, investment in alternative channels and branch rationalisation programmes.

The savings derived were used to fund sustainable investments, especially in automation and digitisation.

Awori said since the brand transition journey was completed in February, the bank has delivered 100 per cent on separation projects including successful migration of all technology systems.

"What has been really exciting about our transition is that we are building on a strong foundation, a rich legacy that spans over a century. As we look into the future, we are excited about the opportunities as well as the challenges," Awori he added.

Awori said the current challenges present the bank with opportunities to innovate, create and continue adding value to its communities.

REBRANDING

● Following the issuance of the requisite regulatory approvals, Barclays Bank of Kenya re-branded to Absa Bank Kenya, on February 10, 2020. The lender expected to complete the rebranding and transition process before June 2020.

● Absa has been undergoing a transition after parting ways with Barclays Plc, which reduced its shareholding in the African financial services group to a minority stake in 2017.



NAIROBI SECURITIES EXCHANGE

HIGH	LOW	SECTOR	VWAP	PREVIOUS	TOTAL
		AGRICULTURAL	PRICES		SHARES
17.60	9.90	Eaagads Ltd Ord 1.25		11.00	
460.00	290.00	Kokim Plc Ord 5.00	30000	320.00	2,400
100.00	57.00	Kapchorara Tea Kenya Plc Ord 5.00 a.	62.00	62.00	300
405.00	405.00	The Limuru Tea Co. Plc Ord 20.00		475.00	
22.70	14.00	Sasini Plc Ord 1.00	16.50	16.50	200
178.00	93.00	Williamson Tea Kenya Plc Ord 5.00	93.00	94.75	1,300
AUTOMOBILES & ACCESSORIES					
27.00	20.00	Car & General (K) Ltd Ord 5.00	24.00	24.00	100
BANKING					
13.85	9.30	Absa Bank Kenya Plc Ord 0.50	9.74	10.20	323,700
31.00	22.40	BN Group Plc Ord 0.80		22.40	
164.00	74.50	Diamond Trust Bank Kenya Ltd Ord 4.00	78.25	84.50	15,600
55.50	22.15	Equity Group Holdings Plc Ord 0.50	32.55	35.70	15,149,600
7.90	3.38	HE Group Plc Ord 5.00	4.25	4.18	10,900
126.00	42.50	I&M Holdings Plc Ord 1.00	45.95	46.10	50,700
55.50	33.75	KCB Group Plc Ord 1.00	33.90	37.45	5,302,000
6.50	3.22	National Bank of Kenya Ltd Ord 5.00		4.12	
41.00	24.90	NCBA Group Plc Ord 5.00	25.10	27.65	71,700
117.75	83.00	Stanbic Holdings Plc Ord 5.00	95.00	99.00	100
225.00	168.00	Standard Chartered Bank Kenya Ltd Ord 5.00	179.25	188.00	3,900
17.00	10.85	The Co-operative Bank of Kenya Ltd Ord 1.00	12.10	12.60	10,195,000
COMMERCIAL AND SERVICES					
5.10	0.45	Deacons (East Africa) Plc Ord 2.50acc		0.45	
1.30	0.81	Evereedy East Africa Ltd Ord 1.00	0.89	0.90	900
8.50	5.00	Express Kenya Plc Ord 5.00 m.		5.82	
9.50	1.46	Kenya Airways Ltd Ord 1.00	1.48	1.62	57,700
8.80	4.26	Longhorn Publishers Plc Ord 1.00	4.35	4.36	5,400
1.20	0.40	Nairobi Business Ventures Ltd Ord 1.00	0.60	0.45	1,000
71.00	22.00	Nation Media Group Plc Ord 2.50	24.45	25.05	24,400
4.70	1.72	Sameer Kenya Plc Ord 5.00	2.52	2.52	200
33.00	19.50	Standard Group Plc Ord 5.00	22.30	21.00	600
25.15	12.75	TPS Eastern Africa Ltd Ord 1.00		12.85	
0.95	0.23	Wilma Supermarket Plc Ord 5.00	0.25	0.27	73,500
22.00	9.90	WPP Scangroup Plc Ord 1.00	14.65	14.55	11,300
CONSTRUCTION & ALLIED					
8.35	2.40	ARM Cement Plc Ord 1.00		5.55	
145.75	45.00	Bamburi Cement Ltd Ord 5.00	49.15	44.00	600
92.00	58.00	Crown Paints Kenya Plc Ord 5.00		59.00	
3.98	1.54	E.A. Cable Ltd Ord 0.50	1.64	1.71	23,400
20.50	12.95	E.A. Portland Cement Co. Ltd Ord 5.00		14.25	
ENERGY & PETROLEUM					
7.40	4.00	KenGen Co. Plc Ord 2.50	4.14	4.42	220,700
5.50	1.63	Kenya Power & Lighting Co Plc Ord 2.50	1.69	1.81	243,500
5.50	5.00	Kenya Power & Lighting Plc 4% Pref 20.00		5.00	
4.00	4.00	Kenya Power & Lighting Plc 7% Pref 20.00		4.00	
33.00	22.25	Total Kenya Ltd Ord 5.00		23.05	
8.70	5.00	Umenne Ltd Ord 0.50	6.78	6.76	200
INSURANCE					
10.50	6.00	Britania Holdings Plc Ord 0.10	6.12	6.56	19,100
4.85	2.00	CIC Insurance Group Ltd Ord 1.00	2.07	2.16	44,400
462.00	250.00	Jubilee Holdings Ltd Ord 5.00	250.00	275.00	100
16.30	2.10	Kenya Re Insurance Corporation Ltd Ord 2.50	2.19	2.22	124,100
13.00	6.80	Liberty Kenya Holdings Ltd Ord 1.00	8.12	5.00	4,000
26.00	13.80	Sanlam Kenya Plc Ord 5.00	15.00	15.00	400
INVESTMENT					
37.40	19.60	Centum Investment Co Plc Ord 0.50	22.25	20.25	29,400
0.77	0.34	Home Africa Ltd Ord 1.00	0.35	0.37	92,000
1500.00	1,500.00	Kurwitu Ventures Ltd Ord 100.00		1,500.00	
3.39	2.00	Olympia Capital Holdings Ltd Ord 5.00	2.10	2.00	100
4.50	1.80	Trans-Century Plc Ord 0.50	2.00	2.00	200
INVESTMENT SERVICES					
16.00	8.90	Nairobi Securities Exchange Plc Ord 4.00	9.32	9.34	3,500
MANUFACTURING & ALLIED					
87.00	52.25	B.O.O Kenya Plc Ord 5.00		63.00	
700.00	375.00	British American Tobacco Kenya Plc Ord 10.00	378.00	380.00	500
10.80	7.10	Carbolic Investments Plc Ord 1.00	7.72	7.72	5,200
230.00	143.00	East African Breweries Plc Ord 1.00	147.00	155.75	110,300
3.15	1.05	Flame Tree Group Holdings Ltd Ord 0.8254	1.07	1.16	80,600
14.00	12.50	Kenya Orchards Ltd Ord 5.00		12.50	
0.70	0.25	Mumias Sugar Co. Ltd Ord 2.00		0.27	
42.00	28.75	Unga Group Plc Ord 5.00		29.00	
TELECOMMUNICATION					
33.50	20.10	Safaricom Plc Ord 0.05	24.45	24.60	7,508,200
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST					
11.00	6.88	STANL/B FAHARI I-REIT, Ord. 20.00	7.92	8.00	400
EXCHANGE TRADED FUNDS					
1650.00	1235.00	Absa New Gold ETF	1490	1490.00	

NSE ALL SHARE INDEX: DOWN 4.72 points to close at 128.21
NSE 20-SHARE INDEX: DOWN 66.75 points to close at 1958.55
NSE 25-SHARE INDEX: DOWN 132.33 points to close at 3092.10

MARKET WATCH

COMMODITY PRICES IN DIFFERENT COUNTIES (23/3/2020)

COMMODITY	Weight	Nairobi	Kilale	Karatina
Dry Maize	90	2800	2700	2500
Green Maize	115	2100		1340
Finger Millet	90	8600	4500	5600
Sorghum	90	5300	3600	3400
Wheat	90		3600	
Beans Canadian	90	7800	8000	6000
Beans Rosecoco	90	8400	7500	7500
Beans Mwittemania	90	7200	6000	6000
Mwezi Moja	90	5400		
Dolichos (Njahi)	90	12600	9900	13000
Green Gram	90	10600	10800	6800
Cowpeas	90	6600		5000
Fresh Peas	51	3000	3000	3550
Groundnuts	110	14000	17600	18500
Red Irish Potatoes	50			2500
White Irish Potatoes	50	2900	2300	
Cassava - Fresh	99	2450	2700	
Sweet Potatoes	98	3800	4000	5000
Cabbages	126	1400	1890	1200
Cooking Bananas	22	600	500	450
Ripe Bananas	14	600		500
Carrots	138	3300	5600	4600
Tomatoes	64	5700	5000	8500
Onions Dry	13	1060	1200	910
Spring Onions	142	2900		4260
Chillies	38	2450	2000	
Cucumber	50	2400		
Capsicums	50	2500	2000	2500
Brinjals	44	1540	1350	
Cauliflower	39	2950		
Lettuce	51	1400		
Passion Fruits	57	4100	3300	4200
Oranges	93	3500	4000	2500
Lemons	95	2600	2850	
Mangoes Local	126	2300	2400	2500
Mangoes Ngowe	25	1300		1500
Limes	13	2600		
Pineapples	13	840	900	600
Pawpaw	54	2000	2200	3780
Avocado	90	2600	1800	3000
Kales	50	800	900	400
Eggs	30	300	330	300

COMMERCIAL BANKS' AVERAGE FOR MAJOR CURRENCIES (OPENING MARKET) - 24/3/2020

CURRENCY	MEAN	BUY	SELL
US DOLLAR	106.5441	106.4382	106.6500
SW KRONER	10.3400	10.3282	10.3518
STG POUND	123.8462	123.7024	123.9900
SINGAPORE DOLLAR	73.1634	73.0681	73.2587
SAUDI RYAL	28.3702	28.3306	28.4097
SA RAND	6.0320	6.0218	6.0423
S FRANC	108.6742	108.5440	108.8043
NOR KRONER	9.3124	9.2495	9.3752
KES / USHS	36.5577	36.4744	36.6410
KES / TSHS	21.6343	21.5659	21.7027
KES / RWF	8.9370	8.8547	9.0193
KES / BIF	17.7275	17.6465	17.8085
JPY (100)	96.4593	96.3504	96.5683
IND RUPEE	1.3996	1.3981	1.4011
HONGKONG DOLLAR	13.7375	13.7239	13.7512
EURO	114.5574	114.4365	114.6782
DAN KRONER	15.3798	15.3624	15.3972
CHINESE YUAN	15.0262	15.0103	15.0421
CAN \$	73.7687	73.6852	73.8522
AUSTRALIAN \$	62.7279	62.6389	62.8168
AE DIRHAM	29.0098	28.9793	29.0402

Corona to have mild impact on sector, report shows

by Lewis Njoka
and Barry Silah
@PeopleDailyKE

Construction and the professional services sector will be affected the least by the ongoing coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic, a Cytonn report has revealed.

Agriculture, tourism manufacturing and health sectors, on the other hand, will be the most affected, according to the asset management firm.

The construction industry is facing delays in equipment delivery, mostly from China, delays in payments and decision making, as well as delays

in payments from clients who are affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Similar situation is facing the professional services sector which has suffered delays in payment from clients in China and other affected countries resulting in delayed project implementa-

Tourism sector, a major foreign exchange earner, has been hit hard.

tion and reduced incomes.

The disruption in the two sectors, however, is nothing compared to the disruption in tourism, agriculture, manufacturing and health sectors.

Tourism sector, a major foreign exchange earner, has been hit hard following a lockdown in major source markets such as Italy, UK and China. Kenya earned Sh163 billion from tourism last year. "The lockdowns have seen a reduction in revenues to the aviation industry which also greatly contributes to the tourism sector," the Cytonn report reads in part. Meanwhile, property de-

velopers are anticipating uncertainty in the next month as a result of the Covid-19 crisis.

They also warned of the likelihood of a general slowdown in activities in the local real estate sector over the next few months as players comply with the directive to observe social distancing.

Property Developers Mizizi Africa Homes Ltd Operations Director Alex Mburu warned of mild effects on consumer payment plans in the sector.

"Customers will probably shift focus on preventive measures, purchase of food and stocking up hygiene products," he said.

Even countries with very developed health systems are crying out for help.

BRIEFLY



South Africa's cases top 500, Uganda registers eight more

H, TUESDAY: South Africa reported more than 150 new coronavirus cases on Tuesday, taking the new tally to 554, the highest in Africa, a day after it ordered a three-week lockdown.

"As of today, there are 554 cases of coronavirus in South Africa," Health Minister Zweli Mkhize, told a news conference. "For the next week or two we still expect the numbers to go up. This is a disease pattern we cannot predict."

In a bid to stem the spread of the deadly virus, South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa announced a 21-day military-patrolled lockdown would be enforced from Thursday.

Uganda confirmed eight new cases of coronavirus, bringing the total number of infections in the country to nine. All the new cases involve its nationals who recently travelled to Dubai.

-AFP and BBC

Afro-jazz legend Dibango, 86, succumbs to coronavirus

PARIS, TUESDAY: Veteran Afro-jazz legend Manu Dibango died Tuesday after contracting the new coronavirus, one of the first global stars to succumb to the disease.

The 86-year-old Cameroonian, best known for the 1972 hit "Soul Makossa", "died early this morning in a hospital in the Paris region," his music publisher Thierry Durepaire said.

A message on his official Facebook page confirmed that his death had come after he contracted COVID-19.

"His funeral service will be held in strict privacy, and a



tribute to his memory will be organized when possible," the message said.

Born in the Cameroonian city of Douala in 1933, which at the time was under French colonial rule, Dibango's musical career spanned across more than six decades. -BBC

Priest who gave respirator to young Italian patient dies

ROME, TUESDAY: An Italian priest who gave a respirator to a younger coronavirus patient he did not know has died of the disease.

Father Giuseppe Berardelli, 72, died in hospital in Lovere, Bergamo—one of the worst-hit cities in Italy.

At least 50 priests have reportedly been killed by coronavirus in Italy. The world's worst affected country with 6,077 deaths so far, Italy has been under prolonged lockdown as it tries to stop the spread of infections from the worst-hit region of Lombardy.

Berardelli, the main priest in the town of Casnigo, re-

fused to use a respirator his parishioners had bought for him—choosing to give it to a younger patient, instead.

Coronavirus has been spreading rapidly across the globe, affecting more than 160 countries and claiming more than 16,000 lives.

Residents of Casnigo were reported to have applauded from their windows and balconies as the coffin was taken for burial.

On Tuesday, Pope Francis led a prayer for the deceased doctors and priests, "thanking God for their heroic example in serving those who were sick". -BBC

UK in lockdown as global Covid-19 deaths hit 17,000

WHO boss Tedros warns pandemic accelerating, with pace of infections higher than when it first emerged

London, Tuesday

Britain late Monday ordered a three-week lockdown to tackle the spread of coronavirus, shutting "non-essential" shops and services, and banning gatherings of more than two people.

"Stay at home," Prime Minister Boris Johnson said in a televised address to the nation, as he unveiled unprecedented peacetime measures after the country's death toll climbed to 335.

"From this evening (Monday) I must give the British people a very simple instruction—you must stay at home," Johnson said. "Because the critical thing we must do is stop the disease spreading between households."

Across the planet, the coronavirus toll continued to mount, with close to 17,000 fatalities and almost 390,000 declared infections.

Under the new measures, Johnson said going out to shop for basic necessities was still allowed, as was exercise, medical

needs, and travel to and from work.

Britain's leaders on Tuesday urged people to respect the lockdown, saying it would stop people dying of coronavirus.

Pandemic accelerating

But shops selling items such as clothes or electronics as well as libraries, playgrounds and places of worship would be shut, with the ban also extending to weddings and baptisms but not funerals.

World Health Organisation chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus had warned Monday the pandemic was clearly accelerating, with the pace of infections much

higher than when the outbreak first emerged in China in December.

Tedros acknowledged that many countries were struggling to take more aggressive measures because of a lack of resources. "We are not helpless bystanders. We can change the trajectory of this pandemic."

And in the US, anxiety ratcheted up across an eerily deserted New York, America's coronavirus epicentre, but President Donald Trump said he'd soon call for lifting the lockdown in some parts of the country. Trump—who faces reelection in November and is keen to avoid extended economic damage—told reporters he would be "opening up our country to business because our country was meant to be open."

The relaxation could be announced early next week when a 15-day period recommending tight restrictions on social distancing expires, he said, stressing that governors would make final decisions in their own states.

China announced Tuesday an end to travel curbs in Hubei, the epicentre of the coronavirus pandemic, even as governments around the world tightened lockdowns in a desperate effort to slow the spread. The relaxation of rules, which will not apply to the hardest-hit city of Wuhan until April 8, comes as UK and New Zealand joined nations in Europe, the Middle East, North America and Asia in declaring countrywide shutdowns.

Italy has seen the number of daily fatalities come down from a world record 793 on Saturday to 651 on Sunday and 601 on Monday.

In Spain, another 514 people died over the past 24 hours, raising the death toll to 2,696, as the number of infections surged towards 40,000. -AFP and Agencies

OLYMPICS POSTPONED

● Organisers of the Tokyo 2020 Olympics have agreed to a one-year postponement of the event to the summer of 2021.

● The Games were set to run from July 24 to August 9.



Staff line up at attention as they prepare to spray disinfectant at Wuhan Railway Station in China's Hubei province, yesterday. AFP

Africa's weak health systems under pressure

Lagos, Tuesday

Equipment shortages, scarce beds and poorly-paid doctors and nurses: Africa is finding that it has few means to protect itself as a coronavirus tsunami looms.

The continent has so far confirmed around 1,800 cases and 57 deaths—a tally that is low compared with Europe, the Middle East and Asia, but is now ratcheting up quickly as testing remains patchy.

In Nigeria, doctors complain that years

of underfunding and neglect have debilitated the health system.

"No country is really prepared for this—even countries with very developed healthcare systems are crying out for help," said Yusuf Tanko Sununu, the head of the health committee in Nigeria's lower house of parliament.

Figures for critical care facilities in Africa are hard to find and the World Health Organization (WHO) itself said last week it was still trying to assess the continent's

capacity in this area.

The global body's Africa director Matshidiso Moeti said that intensive care beds were in "very short supply" and even countries with the most advanced systems like South Africa would struggle.

In West Africa, which dealt with the devastating Ebola epidemic from 2013-2016, health services are falling back on the facilities put in place to cope with that outbreak.

-AFP

Spice

► Flavour your day

STYLE [@yaa_grace](#)

GRACE EKIRAPA is a television host and creative. She talks with **GRACE WACHIRA** about what her fashion sense entails

ALL GRACIOUS



PD/COURTESY

Grace Ekirapa

We recently caught up with you at a wedding-themed shoot. Is modelling a feather you are adding to your hat?

Well, I found myself in the industry and to be honest, I didn't mind it at all. It's exciting and involves working with incredible people, so I took it up. The people around me discovered the ability in me and now, here I am.

Where do you draw the line when it comes to decency?

I respect myself enough to know what to wear and what not to. I do not indulge in anything that makes me uncomfortable and that is standard. I don't believe in compromise for publicity.

What was your most memorable fashion moment?

I recently had this incredible designer, Joyce from Joyma Collections, make me an outfit that was part Ankara and part ball gown. I absolutely loved that dress so much that I didn't want to take it off.

How would you describe your style?

Simple and classy. I love being comfortable in my outfit, so anything that gives me that feel is definitely something I'd go for. I don't explore much with my hair so most of the times I'll leave it flowing or have an up do. My nails are always either with red or white polish or something subtle. I am sensitive with my nails and what I put on them. I am not a colour blocker, so my colours have to be in sync, which means I work with colour codes, at most three colours and they have to match through the outfit. I do not mean to sound complicated, but a lot of my inspiration is based on my values and beliefs.

As a celebrity, do you feel the pressure and need to dress the part?

I wouldn't say pressure has gotten to me yet. I simply love how I dress and most importantly, I do it for me.

As a designer, whose closet would you kill for, literally?

I hope this doesn't sound rude, but I would go for my own closet. Over time, I have acquired pieces that I love and that define my style. That's really why I like my own stuff.

Which local or international style do you desire to work with?

Honestly, I admire so many brilliant designers such as Mbogori Fashions and of course my latest discovery Joyma Collections. I love they are creative in their designs and not afraid to take risks. This makes them outstanding plus, they are local!

Who are you wearing currently?

I am wearing Joyma Collections and Miss Keeree.

If you were not in the media or creative industry, what would you have been?

I would be a doctor because I have always felt the need to see and make people feel comfortable and happy. It gets to me, especially when I see children in pain. So, being a doctor would give me the chance to treat them. In the end, I know it would be very fulfilling to help put a smile on their faces.

What are your go-to accessories?

When I'm shopping, earrings and rings get my attention; consequently, I love to incorporate them in my looks. They complete any look.

What does your signature look involve?

Unless I have an engagement that requires me to dress up, my go to style is well fitting pants, a top and cap. This keeps me comfortable and flexible. Helps me 'hide' when I just need to run errands in town or meet up with friends without feeling the need to dress up.

Your greatest fashion obsessions are...

Shoes and handbags!

What is your definition of good-looking woman?

A well-groomed lady is one who has her colors well coordinated. It doesn't have to be expensive, but at least shows that she took time to put together her outfit to look good. Looking good also gives a feel good aura.

GET THE LOOK

WITH FAITH KYOUMUKAMA

Bonang Matheba

If you don't know Bonang Dorothy Matheba, then you probably are missing on great fashion moments. Bonang is a South African TV and radio presenter and reality star, who has a knack for good looks. We might want to give her the title of the 'head-turning red carpet queen'. Here are some looks she has worn at various occasions.

Not just a few, but a whole feathery tail will definitely add edge to your look, especially when you want to show off the curves.



Oops! Did you say more feathers? You can also put it on as a scarf in case your jumpsuit needs a great accent to it.



She loves a little feathery drip and when you do that in red shades, you are most certainly going to get the attention. Tip: go minimal on the make-up and accessories.

Clique & Clicks ▶ Get Spotted



Raring to go: The new VW Tiguan Allspace is all set for Kenya's tarmac, rough and tumble.



Volkswagen enthusiast Mwaniki Mageria shares his VW experiences.

LET'S HIT THE ROAD

by John Ochieng

In a bid to up its game, automotive distributor DT Dobie recently launched a new look Volkswagen Tiguan at the company's headquarters in Nairobi. The Tiguan Allspace is a seven-seater SUV that comes into the market to replace the five-seater VW Tiguan. Among those in attendance, included DT Dobie managing director Ian Middleton, company's outgoing chairman Zarak Khan and sub-Saharan Africa director Rochelle Ready.

PD/ JOHN OCHIENG



Event hostesses Linda Orlando and Esther Njuguna.



DT Dobie head of sales Marcus Butros with the company's sub-Saharan Africa director Rochelle Ready.



DT Dobie outgoing chairman, Zarak Khan, receives a gift from marketing manager Caroline Wamai.



DT Dobie managing director Ian Middleton.

Ten... Bizarre last wishes put down in wills

While most people approach death with fear and trepidation, some approach it courageously and at times with specific instructions that those left behind either view as hilarious or simply confounding. **NAILANTEI NORARI** looks at some of the strangest last wishes

1

Smoke the inheritance

One Samuel Pratt decided to get his comeuppance from across the grave. Before his death in 1960, his wife made it impossible for him to smoke his favourite cigars as he was ill. To get even, he left a will bequeathing her £330,000 (Sh40million) so long as she smoked five cigars a day.

2

A rose a day

Jack Benny had a rose delivered to his wife every day after his death till she breathed her last. Though the marriage was far from ideal, with Jack alleged to be a serial philanderer while the Mrs was alleged to have been vain and demanding, Mrs Benny received a rose a day from her husband till her death, nine years after his demise.

3

Married at nine

Jayla Cooper had been battling terminal leukemia since she turned seven. Her only wish was to hold a wedding to fulfill her childhood dream of having a beautiful big white wedding; however, it was becoming increasingly unlikely that she would be old enough to have one. With donations pouring in from well wishers; from flowers to the banquet hall, Jayla got her happy last wish and wedded a fellow patient at her children's hospital. She was nine.

4

Dog takes all

Leon Helmsley is best known for leaving her dog Trouble with US\$12 million (Sh2.2 billion) while she left her brother with US\$10 million (Sh1 billion) and her grandchildren with nothing. The dog's share was in a trust the brother was to manage and set for taking care of the pet. The dog was also to be buried next to her grave after its death.

5

Joked to the grave

Charles Millar was a renowned Canadian practical joker. His last wish was bequeathing US\$9 million (Sh9.5 billion) to a woman in Toronto who would manage to birth the largest number of children within the next 10 years after his death. What followed was a circus the media covered, dubbing it 'The Stork Derby'. Four families got their money after each got nine children while two families with a similar number of children went to court demanding to be included in the payout. Another woman went to court after three stillbirths, which would have upped their children to 11. She was given a settlement of US\$200,000 (Sh21 million).

6

A womanless library

One lawyer with an extreme disdain for women left US\$35,000 (Sh3.7million) to be put in a trust for 75 years, and the total amount plus interest accrued to be used to build The Zink Womanless Library. The library was to have no female patrons and carry no works by female authors or artists. The daughter who had been bequeathed US\$5 dollars only contested the will and won.

8

Remarry for inheritance

This is not what you think it is. It is not the story of a fortune hunter marrying a wealthy spouse for the loot. This, instead, was a husband leaving the wife an inheritance so long as she remarried. The famous German poet Heinrich Heine was married to a Frenchwoman alleged to be of scandalous character. Heinrich left his fortune to her on condition that she remarried. That at least one person would understand him and regret his death was the reason he gave for this strange condition.

9

Forever in attention

In Puerto Rico, a 24-year-old man wanted to be standing at his wake according to his will. The mother honoured her son Angel Pantona Medina's wish by having him don a New York Yankees cap and sunglasses and propped up in the living room during his three-day wake.

10

All to science

Solomon Sanborn was a Boston hatmaker who left his body to science in 1871. Sanborn further stipulated that his skin should be made into two drums, which his friend would beat to the tune of 'Yankee Doodle' on Bunker Hill each year on the June 17. But wait, there's more. Sanborn wanted each drum inscribed: 'One with Alexander Pope's Universal Prayer' and the other with The Declaration of Independence. Crazy patriotic or just plain crazy? You decide.

7

Seated in death

English philosopher Jeremy Bentham best known for utilitarian theory died in 1832, though he still roams the halls of University College of London (UCL). In his will, Bentham instructed his friend, a doctor, to preserve his head and skeleton, dress his remains in a suit, seat him in a chair with his cane and display him in a cabinet or case on the university campus with a placard reading 'Auto-Icon.' Bentham has been there since 1850 and even has a virtual 360-degree rotatable version for those who can't make the trip in person. UCL did replace his real head with a wax one, partially due to decay and partially because students stole it all the time.



Relatively Speaking ▶ From the horse's mouth

Love brewed on Instagram

They say love can be found in the strangest of places; at a funeral, social gathering or while on holiday. For FAITH CAREN MOCHE and gospel musician BILLY FRANK, their love was found and blossomed on the Internet. Faith lets us in on their four years of love and finding a common purpose abroad

by Harriet James
@harriet86jim

When Faith Caren Moche commented on her friend's post on Instagram one fine afternoon in 2016, she didn't know her post would attract the attention of Billy Frank, a top gospel artiste in Kenya. Frank would afterwards send a message to her inbox and from then on, their friendship began.

"He would check up on me virtually from time to time and then one day, he asked for my number. We started talking more frequently, got to know each other and developed a friendship," she narrates.

Billy expressed his interest in pursuing marriage with her early in their conversations. In fact, most of their talks were about marriage.

"He shared with me YouTube sermons about marriage and slowly, the idea of me marrying him sank in. I loved how humble, yet confident he was and, especially the fact that he was God-fearing. Early 2017, he asked to meet me in person in North Carolina where I was living at the time, with him coming all the way from Kansas, where he lived," she reminisces.

Saying 'I Do'

That meetup was the beginning of their courtship. And after two years of a long-distance relationship.

"I enjoyed his music so much and one time I posted on Instagram that I wished to get married to someone who sang like him. I had totally forgotten about that post until he pointed it out to me when we were dating. What a coincidence! We choose to believe that it was destiny though. For me that was evidence that God not only hears our prayers, but He even listens to our causal wishes and answers them if it is His will," narrates Faith.

The two said 'I Do' at a colourful garden ceremony on September 28 in North Carolina, US. For Faith, it was like a fairy tale asking for something in prayer and getting exactly what you had wished for.

Faith says while conducting his various worship ministries in the US, Billy tries not to affiliate himself with any specific church and did as much as he could with different churches, which made him build a proper foundation for his music ministry.

"That was the foundation he built and so it wasn't hard moving around spreading the gospel in the US. He also did this in Kenya where he pretty much went to JCC and still served at Maximum Miracle Centre where he served closely with pastor Andrew Muiru until he relocated to the US in 2014. He never struggled with the idea that he couldn't attend another church or serve in different places of worship, unless he and the congregation did not believe in the same principles. He strongly believes that he is called to serve the body of Christ and

ABOUT BILLY FRANK

- His passion for music started when he was a child, his greatest inspiration being his father, also a musician.
- He wanted to be a pilot, but ended up loving music.
- Faith has a younger brother named Billy like her husband. Frank and Faith's dad share the same birthday.
- His worship songs include *Umeniweza, Milele Daima, Kama si Wewe, Kwa Sababu Yako* among others.
- He was awarded the Best Audio Producer in the 2012 Agma award, the biggest gospel African music awards held annually in UK, and the best audio producer east Africa by Groove Awards.

not a church. But at the same time, he has a home church called Neema Church in Dallas Texas where he serves and it's his first priority," explains Faith.

And with God's grace, as she puts it, Billy Frank has been able to influence a number of churches, which now have an open door approach towards him.

Being his manager

He also has something good baking in the oven as far as his personal music goes. His ultimate goal is to produce music that reaches not only Kenyans, but can minister to people internationally.

Having had a dad who was a pastor, Faith feels like she was prepared all along for the role of being Billy Frank's missing rib. Besides being a physician assistant, Faith is currently in the worship team with him and is also his personal assistant in all matters including his record label.

She says being a worship leader at her church back in North Carolina made it an easy and smooth transition into ministering with the love of his life.

"I'm still learning how to best help him with his record label and I'm looking forward to our company growing and helping other artistes expand their ministry," she says.

The two have no plans to relocate back to their motherland for now, but plan to raise their family in the US.

When it comes to being a wife of a celebrity, Faith is glad that they are living in the US where she doesn't have to be under pressure because of her husband's status.

"Well, I haven't experienced any challenges in having a celebrity husband here in the US because people don't have that mentality here. We all treat each other the same. But I can imagine things would probably be different in Kenya," she says in conclusion.



Family Fusion

► All about kin and kith



Caroline Nyawira has done two months shopping in preparation for a looming lockdown. COURTESY

Readying your family for coronavirus lockdown

The past two weeks have seen, Covid-19 finally crashing down on us, wiping away many of our ordinary routines and leaving us in a strange new landscape. Parents are now juggling with feeding and keeping children engaged during this period

by Jasmine Atieno
@sparkleMine

After the spread of novel coronavirus was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organisation (WHO), the country had to take drastic actions, including declaring public spaces de facto no-go zones; bars, churches and non-essential workplaces and schools have been closed to prevent the spread of the deadly virus.

The rapid spread of the virus means more of us have chosen or are forced to minimise time outside of home to either quarantine or prevent social contact. As the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) explains, families should channel concern into preparation, especially for potential mandatory coronavirus lockdown.

The centre has called on households to create a plan to help empower families to feel a little less stressed by taking positive steps that will ease their minds.

Stocking up

Caroline Nyawira, a mother of two and business woman in Bamburi, Mombasa county, shares that the news of coronavirus pandemic has been of a major shake for her and her family. She came up with a 'stay at home' checklist to get her and her family prepared for staying indoors until the wave passes. "I have stocked up on essentials to last me and my two boys at least two months," she says.

In her pantry, Nyawira has piled up 20 kilograms of rice, 10 litres cooking oil, two cartons of longlife milk, several rolls of tissue paper, bundles of maize and wheat flour, 10 kilograms washing powder, five litres disinfectant, five litres tomato sauce, two boxes tomato paste, five kilograms, 10 kilograms sugar, two kilograms of salt, enough soap and shower gels, beans and green grams among other items.

In total, she has spent about Sh30,000 in house shopping, noting that this has caused a financial strain. "I had already paid full year school fees for my children who are in boarding school, so having them unexpectedly come back home for an unknown period of time is financially draining," she says but adding that



Caroline Nyawira

her children's well-being comes first.

Most importantly, however, she is concerned about how she can help her children manage their fears, while also remaining aware and alert themselves. "I have talked to the boys and explained to them about what is happening and what is expected of them while social distancing. This includes washing their hands regularly, wiping locks and entire house with disinfectant, toilets, basins and household surfaces using disinfectant," she says.

At a personal level, she has had to cut down the number of visitors coming to her house, tries to stay away from crowded places, avoids shaking hands among other measures. "From the information I have gathered, hygiene is key, and I intend to try my level best." She understands that having children at home for this period also means having to find creative ways of keeping the children busy. "I am engaging them with house chores such as doing their laundry, washing the utensils as well as teaching them how to cook," she offers. The children are also keeping up with educational TV programmes as well as making use of materials provided by their school to ensure they keep up with their lessons and academic needs.



Peace and Ken Olwala have some fun time with their children. PD/COURTESY

Sabrina Habib, co-founder and chief exploration officer of Kidogo, a network of childcare centres in Nairobi's informal settlements says as the nation shuts down and loved ones huddle at home to weather what may well be weeks of coronavirus-induced isolation, family tensions are rising. "We are concerned about the health and safety of children who are being kept at home all day long. We have been using Facebook as a means to communicate ideas on how to keep young children engaged in play and how parents can talk to their children about coronavirus. Parents need guidance on how to keep their children happy, healthy and joyful during these difficult times," she says.

Structure and routine

In order to cope, Sabrina notes that children need structure and routine such as naptime, meal time, play time. "Play is, especially important to deal with stressful situations. Keep young children engaged through songs, games and play materials. Things like bottle tops, tissue rolls, paper scraps and other recycled materials are great for sorting, counting and stacking," she says.

Engaging them in simple household chores and saying things like, "How many spoons do we have?" or "Let's name the colours of all of these ingredients!" keeps them occupied, develops their language and creates an opportunity to bond with their parent.

If they are not experiencing any sickness symptoms, Sabrina says it's still fine to go outdoors as long as they practice proper social distancing as it important to allow their children to get a few minutes every day of fresh air and movement. On talking to them about the virus, Sabrina notes that children, even as young as two years old, will likely have heard about it from TV, radio or other adults talking. "Ask them how they feel about it. Some children express their feelings better through creativity. Invite them to draw what they're feeling, or use a puppet, and use that as a conversation starter. Be sure to remind them that we're all doing our best to keep them safe," she explains. Children deal with stress in different ways. Some are more clingy, others withdraw, some get agitated and throw tantrums. She urges parents to respond to these reactions in a supportive way. Remember that children will need extra love and attention during this time.

More importantly, help children feel empowered with what they can do to keep healthy by letting them wash their hands properly, not touching their face and sneezing or coughing into their sleeve. "Children rely on their parents to provide a sense of safety and security. They take their cues from us. Manage your own anxiety and provide them with a loving, playful environment," she says in conclusion.



DADDY'S DIARY

Why this Covid-19 is no joke

As of Monday, the Health Cabinet Secretary had reported that the country already had 16 confirmed cases of Covid-19. This is no longer a laughing matter and if as a nation we don't take this matter seriously, we are looking at a disaster in a few weeks. The same way Italy is paying the heavy price with more deaths than China where this epidemic originated.

For the first time, I was able to attend church service online in line with the direction of both the government and our church. Unfortunately, some of the churches ignored this instruction of cancelling their Sunday services. This is quite irresponsible and its important to heed to the instructions of the government of the day, even where you feel you are not at risk. The measures instituted are purely for the safety of each one of us. It was unfortunate that one of the Kenyan politicians came back from abroad and even when instructed to be on self-quarantine, refused to do so and more people are suspected to have been infected with this virus. Why even simple instructions are difficult to follow baffles me.

At the family level, if you have young children, kindly speak to them about this virus. Most of them are damn scared and think that death is lurking in the shadows. Some might have scary moments and its important as parents to assure them that the concerned authorities and we as their parents are doing everything to minimise chances of infection by following on the instructions given, such as cleaning hands and keeping social distance.

I know many times we insist the kids to be out and play with their friends, but this is the time where I am okay if they spend the whole day indoors. It's a huge inconvenience, but my kids will not be put in harm's way. If they have to watch cartoons or TV the whole day and there is nothing, I can do to occupy them further, this is a lesser evil than exposing them to the dangers of this virus. This is not the time for family catch ups with your neighbours. It's time for self-isolation. That way we all remain safe and don't put those we love in unnecessary danger. We have a saying that "The coward came back to his mother". Directly translated it means that the one who took precaution and didn't play tough was able to come back home safely to his mother. He may have been considered a coward, but he saved his life.

PARENTING 101 WITH MILLIAM MURIGI

Raising Pinky amidst thorns

First births are supposed to be magical, amazing moments. But for **CECILIA AWUOR**, it was anything but that. News of her pregnancy at just 18 did not go well with her friends and family as her father threw her out. She shares her story of getting back on her feet again

When you meet Cecilia Awuor and her eight-year-old daughter, Pinky Buere for the first time, you will be forgiven to think life has always been a bed of roses for them.

On Instagram streets, you will always spot them dressed in matching outfits. She says her Sundays are treated as mother-daughter moments. You will find them having fun in different places and from a distance you can envy their life. However, Cecilia says it has not been a smooth journey for her, especially as a young mother.

Cecilia, 27 says she is only alive because of her eight-year-old daughter.

Shortly after completing secondary school in 2011, Cecilia got pregnant by a boyfriend who refused to take responsibility. To make matters worse, her friends and family also rejected her leading her to contemplate suicide. "After giving birth, I tried to take away my own life three times, but it all backfired on me. I stopped when reality hit me that my daughter only had me and nobody else to take care of her. Since then I have never entertained suicidal thoughts. I had to put my pride down to hustle for our life."

Tough life

She remembers vividly how her father kicked her out of their house 10 days after giving birth. With nowhere to go to since the father of her child had changed his phone number, she was forced to seek

refuge in a friend's house. "My dad was so disappointed when he learnt that I was pregnant because I was his favourite daughter and I was only 18 years old. Though he didn't take any action immediately, after giving birth, he kicked me out of the house and asked me to take the child to her father," she sadly recalls.

Forced by circumstances she couldn't afford to exclusively breastfeed her daughter and she ended up weaning her when she was just 12 days.

After two months her friend's mother gave her some money, which she used to rent a single room and she bought some essential household items.

To make ends meet, she started preparing and selling porridge to casual labourers working in construction sites.

Life was not easy, more so because she was a single mother and a teenager with little or no experience about parenting.

To run her business with little or no disturbance, she had to take her daughter to a daycare since she couldn't afford to hire a house help. Even in the midst of all these tribulations, her vision to make something out of her life was not dead. She still had hopes of joining college. When her daughter turned two months old, she talked to her father, who had eased up and had agreed to pay half of her college fees. That is how she was able to enroll for a diploma course in Cabin Crew at the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

With still other bills to shoulder as a mother and be able to pay the remaining fee balance, Cecilia continued with her



CECILIA THROUGH THE YEARS

- Cecilia Awuor is 27 years old.
- She was rejected by family and friends and even thrown out of home after she got pregnant at 18.
- She started selling porridge to casual labourers in construction sites.
- She went back to school to pursue a diploma course in Cabin Crew and got a job.
- She then quit to pursue fashion design and now, she is the face behind Justcycy Designs.
- She also holds a diploma in procurement.

porridge business, a venture she sustained until she graduated. "To manage all this, I used to wake up early in the morning to make porridge and prepare my daughter for daycare. I then would drop her at the daycare on my way to sell porridge. After selling porridge, I would then proceed to school. It was not easy, but I managed," she recounts.

Luckily, immediately after graduation, she secured a job as a cabin crew and since then, her life changed from worse to better. She also founded a fashion line, Justcycy Designs and her designs have made appearances on different runaways. She went back to school and attained another diploma in procurement, supply and purchase.

Mother-daughter bond

"I love fashion. So when I secured a job I started attending tailoring classes informally. That is how I learnt how to stitch. After three years I resigned and opened my workshop and I don't regret it," she offers.

Her daughter remains to be her number one fan and best friend. They talk about everything and anything. To her, the strong bond they have is what keeps them close.

How about her father? Cecilia says they are in good terms now and she loves him. "It is because of what my father did to me that I am now an independent lady. I have never blamed him for his action because I know he acted that way out of anger."

Her advice to young single mothers is that they can break down if they want, but always remember they have a child or children to take care of. "Even if you don't have a stable income, be ready to work through the hard times, you will eventually make it," she quips.



MOMINTHEMIX WITH FANNE MWAMBI



We can do more while homebound

At first, it was difficult, not just for hubby and I, but for the kids too, to stay indoors. In the same way we struggled to keep our hands off our faces, we also found it hard to stay in one place. It almost hurt to keep up an entire day without going to the shops or just somewhere!

But as the days went by, we adjusted to the new lifestyle, and the urge to step out reduced.

What do we do for sanity's sake?

I have seen challenges of great minds that discovered or invented something during a time of crisis. I have also spoken to people that have taken this time to do those things they have postponed for a

long time or didn't have a chance to do. My sister, for instance, decided to work on her interiors. She has been exploring DIY wall mastery and sends pictures of her activities with her kids! Another friend decided to work on her second book, which I'll have the honour of editing.

Online courses are also furiously marketed, and unless we simply want to take a break out of this, it really is a great time to improve ourselves or our lives.

Let's make the time count

I have a list of things I would love to do too. For instance, I found the perfect wall that would take my

kitchen cabinets. I have also been wondering how much it would cost to put a slab over our roof. My interest in prefabs has also peaked, and I have been reading on them.

Fortunately, working from home is not new to me. I remember back in March 2018, when I asked my former boss to let me work from home. When he said no, my urge to rise even higher, and I finally quit. The following year seemed exciting and scary at the same time, working without a 9-5 boundary. It was as though I was practising for this! Now, with no boundaries at all, we might as well use the time we would otherwise have spent in traffic to do a lot more! Make it count!

Eureka ► Know your tech

Tech comes to the rescue of learners grounded by virus

Parents, teachers polish up on their digital skills to ensure children don't miss classes even as they stay at home following closure of schools over Covid-19

by Lynette Matheka
@PeopleDaily KE

The sudden closure of learning institutions following the directive by President Uhuru Kenyatta to avert the spread of coronavirus has boosted e-learning.

And Nairobi International School (NIS), which offers the British National Curriculum as they prepare students to sit IGCSE and 'A' level from Cambridge and Edexcel as a stepping-stone to universities around the world, has grasped the opportunity.

The directive presented no challenges to NIS administration and students as they seamlessly switched to virtual learning and are holding their usual 8.30 am to 3.30pm classes without a hitch.

"We held a meeting with the teaching staff last Monday and agreed to switch to virtual classes. Having adopted online learning 11 years ago, teachers were prepared and lessons went on smoothly and we recorded 100 per cent attendance," said NIS director Radhika Lee.

Email ID

The school migrated to Google Classroom, a free web service, developed for schools in 2010, where students have been receiving and submitting assignments and homework. With every student already on platform, the school is using MEET, a video conferencing application under the Google suite for education platforms to attend classes.

"It is a requirement for every student to have an email identification and Internet at home, so this was easy for everyone to do. Only teachers are able to start meetings and the usual school schedule is followed for each lesson. The breaks are

also observed as would be at school," she explains.

Lee added: "Only teaching staff have the ability to start a call and students join by accepting the calendar invite, email or through a Meeting code sent by the teacher. The sessions are recorded and transcribed for future reference. A teacher can have up to 250 students join the class simultaneously."

Additionally, the school has advised parents/guardians to keep the students occupied with physical activities at home during Physical Education (PE) and swimming sessions.

Initial infrastructure

The school's engagement with students, at this time of closures, is so elaborate that end of term exams, with the exception of Science Practicals, will go on as scheduled through Google MEET. When students are through with their exams, they will be required to scan or take a photo of their answer sheets (where Microsoft word was not used) and send it to their teachers.

This is applied for students in Year Five and above. For those in kindergarten up to Year Four, the school is sending worksheets and digital learning materials to guardians through email and WhatsApp platforms.

Lee says financial implication to the parent or the school is very minimal when the initial infrastructure is in place.

"Laptops have become affordable and parents only need a laptop and Internet at home for this to be possible. The biggest financial burden for the school was incurred 12 years ago when we were setting up the IT infrastructure, but I do not regret it. While school is important for the social development of our children, the future is technology based. A mix of both is needed in our education sector," said the NIS director.



Nairobi International School director Radhika Lee. LEFT: Winnie Ngota, director Grace Brookside Academy. PD/COURTESY

The switch to virtual classes at NIS has been received well with parents expressing gratitude and admiration for the administration's efforts to ensure their children's learning goes on uninterrupted.

"I am very thankful as a parent. This platform has shown us what is possible. It is very convenient at this time. The school has had Google Classroom for a couple of years now. It is not hard to understand. For

TECH INCLINED

● Platforms such as Google Classroom, Zoom, MEET are being used in ensuring children across the country are able to access assignments and continue learning.

● WhatsApp and email have become useful in sending parents assignments for their children.

● Old technology such as radio and TV are also in use, with the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development offering programmes on the national broadcaster and on local channels.

parents who are not tech-savvy, the school is organising tutorials which is good," a Year Eight parent, Cynthia Mumbo, told the *People Daily*.

Schools running the Competence Based Curriculum (CBC) programmes have not been left behind as Winnie Ngota, the director at Grace Brookside Academy, based at Syokimau, tells us.

"We joined Google Classroom immediately after the president's directive and are now sending parents study materials and assignments for all the grades. As at now, we have now embarked on virtual learning as we are hoping the pupils will keep busy with the assignments at the moment. We also hope that the pandemic will be controlled and we can resume normalcy," she says.

On her part, Caroline Keli, the director at Umoja's Joystar Academy is relying on links from credible book publishers which she shares in parents' WhatsApp platforms to form part of her pupils' assignments in the period they will be at home.

Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) through the national broadcaster, KBC, and their own media platforms have also rolled out a schedule for education programmes aimed at keeping learners engaged while away from school.

GADGET REVIEW WITH PETER SAGINI

iPhone-friendly Samsung?

Leaked information from Samsung indicates the upgraded set of Galaxy Buds will be compatible with iOS to make it appealing to iPhone users. They will come with better sound and battery life (of more than 11 hours) and an iPhone app, which is already available on the App store. The wireless pods are available in four colours—black, white, red and blue. Their Sh15,000 price tag makes it an edge over older AirPods.



New Nokia 5G phone to launch

HMD, Finnish mobile phone company, is set to release its first 5G phone, Nokia 8.3 5G. Although late in the market compared to its other competitors, this handset is said to have a wider range of 5G bands. Other features, include quad-camera comprising the main 64-megapixel sensor, 12-megapixel ultrawide camera, 2-megapixel macro camera, and a 2-megapixel depth sensor. At the front is a 24-megapixel selfie camera. The screen is 6.81-inch and has capabilities to adjust to lighting conditions. It will retail at Sh73,300.



Motorola goes curved with Edge Plus!

Details of Motorola's unannounced flagship phone, Edge Plus has been leaked, and has indicated the phone will come with curved hole-punch display, 108-megapixel back camera, 16-megapixel wide-angle camera and an 8-megapixel telephoto camera and 3.5mm headphone jack. The information also indicates the company will produce a scaled down version of the phone called Edge. Motorola is yet to announce when they'll release the phone.



Taboo ▶ Let's talk about it

Changing face of wife inheritance

🐦 @PeopleDailyKE

When her husband died in 2016, Lydia Nyawanga* was only 24. The tall, slender woman had been married at age 20 and had given birth to a baby girl in her second year of marriage before a grisly road accident took away the love of her life.

She was dejected and lost for words. She was at her prime age. Her dark, rich complexion and a characteristic headscarf, her signature attire, sold her out to the world. She attracted many suitors.

What worried her most was the number of both young and old men who frequented her home in the name of "mourning and celebrating the life and times of her husband", then a respected fisherman with numerous boats and fishing nets to his name.

Soon after her husband's burial, a plethora of men started hovering around her compound. Some went as far as offering her help around the homestead.

"They used to come into the compound, clean it, split firewood and even fetch water for us. I innocently didn't realise their mission, until they started seducing me," she recalls.

She had heard tales of such men and their loads of trickery. At first, she refused-but later gave in after it emerged failure to get remarried would make her an outcast in the family!

Ugly head

Nyawanga's predicament represents what women go through whenever they lose their husbands. Wife or widow inheritance, social experts agree, has become one of the difficult battles to win. While in some cultures communities consider being inherited a natural thing, others loathe the mention of the word.

The advent of HIV/Aids threw a new dimension to the practice, with advocates and stakeholders working around HIV prevention programmes up in arms against it.

However, in some communities, especially in Western Kenya, the practice still rears its ugly head even though it is considered both taboo and retrogressive.

The tradition has taken a new face, with the emergence of "professional inheritors", a group of men on the lookout for newly widowed women. They have gone ahead of technology to form inheritance groups, albeit, not on social media.

These groups are said to be raiding funerals, churches and funeral fundraising events to cast their net wider. They have even gone to an extent of apportioning widows to specific individuals based on the experience as an inheritor!

In the 19th Century, when wife inheritance was considered a consensual remarriage of a widow, there were elaborate steps to follow. Several factors compelled such occasions, including age and number of children



Greedy individuals have devised a new way to propagate the age-old tradition that was almost phased out. **CLIFFORD AKUMU** highlights how it usually pans out and how young women are affected

AT A GLANCE

● The age-old tradition was considered a safety net for women after the death of their spouses.

● It, however, came under scrutiny with regard to rights of women to choose whether or not they wanted to be remarried, the spread of HIV/Aids and right of women to inherit property.

● While a number of communities still practise it, an emergence of professional inheritors has caused concerns.

● Many inheritors have sinister motives and target wealthier widows.

if any, and age of these children.

In the Luo community, a council of elders and revered clansmen met and vetted the would-be suitors first using different criteria including, behaviour and wealth. They would then involve the widow and the suitor, where they read the riot act on how he should take care of her, among other things.

If the widow was young, like the case of Nyamanga, she had the option of remarriage any of her husband's younger brothers, or paternal cousins. It was consensual and the new husband had to pay bride price again. In many cases, they went on to have children.

Other inheritors were just ceremonial head of families. Their role was to give security to the widow and act as pillar to lean on. Things are, however, different today.

Professional inheritors are an eyesore in the community today. Contrary to the norm, this group is known to harbour sinister motive, especially when they know the widow's husband was a rich man.

Nyamanga's roller coaster life with the inheritor is still etched on her mind. After two years into her 'new marriage', she lost all the wealth she had accumulated with her

first husband after disputes arose between her and her new spouse.

Rights violation

"My inheritor secretly sold boats and nets my husband had left behind. Life became tough and I parted ways with him," she says.

Although the government has already recognised the need to improve women's economic rights, its 1997-2001 National Development Plan noted lack of property rights is a major factor of poverty in Kenya.

"Dispossessing widows of their inheritance violates their right to equal rights in marriage and adequate living conditions under international and regional law", says Empowering Women with Rights to Inheritance report by Federation of Women Lawyers, Kenya.

Nyamanga supports the ongoing campaign to kick out "professional" inheritors from the region to curb the spread of HIV/Aids. She no longer wants to see any woman go through what she experienced in the hands of inheritor.

"I loathe the idea. It is backward thinking. Period!" she says.

IN BRIEF

How the handshake became taboo

A simple handshake can get you told off these days. The coronavirus pandemic is upon us and the greeting that we once used to receive people every day has become an absolute taboo. But where does the gesture come from?

Archaeological ruins show handshaking practices being used as long ago as in ancient Greek times, as early as the 5th Century BC.

While some form of the handshake has existed for thousands of years, to pinpoint the exact origin of the way we use it today is difficult.

According to *history.com*, one popular theory is that by extending one's empty right hand, strangers could show that they were not holding weapons and had no ill intent towards the person they were greeting.

The 'shaking' motion that we use today, some suggest, was supposed to signal that no knives or weapons were hidden in the sleeves.

Another explanation of the gesture is that it was simply a symbol of good faith when making an oath or promise. When people clasped hands, they showed that their word was a sacred. The Iliad and the Odyssey contain descriptions of the gesture. In ancient Rome, the handshake was seen as a sign of fidelity and friendship, with the practice even appearing on ancient Roman coins, *history.com* stated.

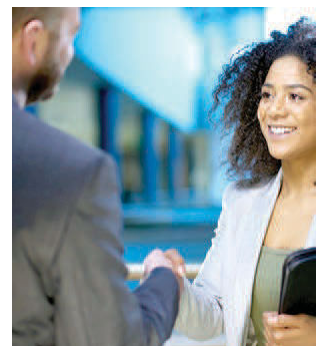
Today, the ritual is used in business meetings, between politicians, family and friends. However, recent developments about the coronavirus outbreak have made it a complete no-no. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has asked people to use alternative greetings.

The Namaste that is used mainly in India and other Asian countries like Thailand is a great alternative.

Asian cultures have also given us the bow. The act of lowering one's head or the upper part of the torso, commonly used as a sign of salutation, reverence, apology or gratitude in social or religious situations.

Some people, like WHO Director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, are also placing their hand on their heart as a form of greeting. A simple wave when meeting someone is also an effective way of greeting them while avoiding physical contact.

-Gulf News





5.00 Inuka
6.00 K24 This Morning
9.00 Daily Brief
12.30 Inside Business
13.00 News Cut
13.30 Sports Hub
14.00 Bongo Movie
15.00 Sweetest Love
16.00 K24 Mashinani
16.30 Jus Kidz
17.00 Beatbox
18.00 Hollywood Movie
19.00 K24 Saa Moja
19.30 Jane And Abel
20.00 A Carnival Affair
21.00 K24 Evening Edition
22.00 Lotto Live
22.20 Playlist 254 Fresh
23.20 Beatbox Repeat
00.00 DW Feed



5.00 Ime Ria Rucini
6.00 Rikiratha
9.30 Kurekereria Kodii
12.00 Njanjo Ya Muturire
1.00 Mohoro Gitau-Live
1.30 Kameme Iharoni- Live
2.00 Kiguny Kia Wonjoria
3.00 Thirinka Mixx
3.30 Satai
3.45 Kameme Toonz
4.00 Ririmuka Live
6.00 Kayu Ka Murimi
7.00 Kameme Maturaini
8.00 Njungwa Ya Muthee Kihenjo
8.30 Ndokariganira
9.00 Mutamburuko Wa Mohoro
10.00 Thenema Cia Kameme
11.00 Mutamburuko Wa Mohoro- Rpt
00.00 Ririmuka
2.00 Deustche Welle



05:00 Command Your Morning
06:00 Tech24
06:30 Wild Planet
07:00 Life And Style
09:00 Music Interlude Rnb
09:30 Afriscreen
11:00 The Promise
12:00 Labour Of Love
01:00 Newsdesk
01:30 Afriscreen
03:00 Music Interlude Rnb
03:30 Wild Planet
04:00 Sanaa Ya Watoto
05:00 Baseline
06:00 Family Jewels
07:00 Ktn Leo
07:30 My Two Wives
08:00 Foods Of Kenya
09:00 Ktn Prime News
09:45 Voa Red Carpet
10:00 Kenya Lotto
10:15 E-Curve
11:15 Andrew Wommack
11:45 Cnn

TIME OUT!

20.00pm A CARNIVAL AFFAIR



IN THEATRES NOW

ANGA DIAMOND PLAZA:

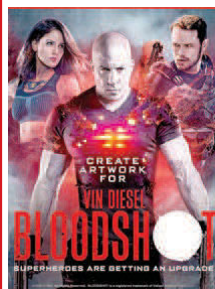
ANGA IMAX CBD:

ANGA SKY CINEMA:

NYALI CINEMAX MOMBASA:

PRESTIGE CINEMA PRESTIGE PLAZA:

ANGA DIAMOND PLAZA:



5:00 BBC
5:30 Gear Up
6:00 Good Morning Kenya
9:00 Layd Back
9:30 Parliament Live
11:00 Hypochondriach Rpt
12:00 Top Mashariki Rpt
13:00 Lunch Time News
13:30 Business Defined
14:00 Business Africa
14:30 Parliament Live
17:30 Club 1
18:30 The Great Debaters
19:00 Taarifa
19:30 Bold Conversations
20:00 First Lady
21:00 Channel 1 News
23:00 CCTV
23:30 Layd Back



5:00am Password Plus
6:00am AM Live
8:00am Living With Ess
9:00am NTV Today
11:00am NTV Sasa
1:00pm NTV at 1
1:30pm Auntie Boss!
2:00pm The Good Son
3:00pm The Girl Named Feriha - RPT
4:00pm NTV Alasiri
4:30pm Barbie Living The Dream House
5:00pm The Heat
6:00pm Asintado
7:00pm NTV Jioni
7:30pm The Real House helps Of Kawangware
8:05pm The Three Sides Of Ana
9:00pm NTV Tonight
10:00pm Smart Money
10:30pm Movie: UNDESERVED
12:30am The Heat
1:30am CNN

HOROSCOPES



ARIES (MAR. 21- APRIL 20)

Listen to the advice given by others. Avoid any confrontations with colleagues. You can enhance your reputation by making contributions to worthwhile causes.

TAURUS (APR. 21- MAY 21)

Your greatest enjoyment will come through social activities and pleasure trips. You may have taken on a little too much, but you will enjoy every minute of it.

GEMINI (MAY 22-JUNE 21)

Look out for yourself today. You may be sensitive concerning friends and their situations. You must be careful not to reveal secrets or get involved in gossip.

CANCER (JUNE 22-JULY 22)

Don't let other people meddle in your private affairs. You need more space for the whole family.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG 22)

Depression may result if you don't get to do things your own way. Romance could develop through social activities or short trips.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 23)

Be careful that you aren't saddled with the responsibilities of others. Love could develop with someone of a different cultural background.

LIBRA (SEPT. 24-OCT. 23)

Get involved in worthwhile endeavors and meet new friends. Keep your feet on the ground, if you can. Things may not be as harmonious as you would like with colleagues or employers today.

SCORPIO (OCT. 24- NOV. 22)

You're best to channel your energy into work. Don't be too quick to sign documents. Don't be afraid to push your beliefs and attitudes.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23-DEC. 21)

Don't be too quick to judge those you live with. Do not make rash decisions about your personal life. This is a great day for a trip.

CAPRICORN (DEC 22- JAN. 20)

Be sure to take care of the needs of your immediate loved ones first. You will be in the mood for competition, and your ability to lead a group will bring your popularity.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 21-FEB. 19)

Travel may change your attitudes with regard to your philosophy. You must lay down ground rules so that you can complete a job.

PISCES (FEB. 20-MAR. 20)

The stamina you possess will be apparent in your approach to your hobbies and creative projects.

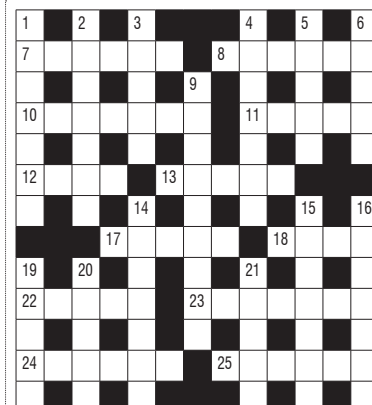
SUDOKU

9	1	5				8		
2	3	7		1	8		9	
		8			3	1		
	9		7	8				
			2		6			
				4	5		8	
		2	1			6		
4		3	2		5	1	8	
	1				2	3	4	

5	8	7	4	2	3	1	6	9
9	4	6	5	8	1	7	3	2
1	3	2	9	6	7	8	4	5
7	6	1	2	9	5	3	8	4
3	5	4	6	7	8	2	9	1
2	9	8	3	1	4	5	7	6
6	1	3	7	4	2	9	5	8
8	7	9	1	5	6	4	2	3
4	2	5	8	3	9	6	1	7

The aim is to fill the grid so that each row, column and every 3x3 shaded box contains only one of the digits 1-9. You need to reason out where to place the missing numbers by using the numbers given in the grid and a process of elimination. It is a game of logic not mathematical ability.

LIFE'S LIKE THAT! | BY TUM



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

ACROSS

1. Humane
5. Plot
8. Canon
9. Trigger
12. Lancets
12. Entitle
14. Blended
16. Chateau
18. Tadpole
19. Adrift
20. Films
21. Bouyancy

DOWN

1. Inch
2. Honest
3. Miniature
4. Nettle
6. Logger
7. Threshold
11. Necessary
12. Educator
13. Random
14. Bureau
15. Deaden
17. Levy

ACROSS

7. Indistinct (6)
8. Gambling house (6)
10. Highest singing voice (7)
11. Laborious task (5)
12. Makes brown (4)
13. First appearance (5)
17. Musical sounds (5)
18. Animal enclosure (4)
22. Dog (5)

DOWN

23. Drinking vessel (7)
24. Avoided (6)
25. Sleeplike state (6)
1. Corpulence (7)
2. Knocking into (7)
3. Special reward (5)
4. Holy place (7)

ACROSS

5. Movable helmet part (5)
6. Abodes (5)
9. Changes in position (9)
14. Pasma stripes (7)
15. Layered pasta dish (7)
16. Person who interferes (7)
19. One who steals (5)
20. Wall painting (5)
21. Growl with bare teeth (5)



Ronaldinho barred from receiving visitors in jail

RIO DE JANEIRO: Brazilian football great Ronaldinho will no longer receive visits at the Paraguayan jail where he is being held as local authorities attempt to combat the coronavirus outbreak. Ronaldinho and his brother, Roberto Assis, have been imprisoned since March 6 for allegedly using fake passports to enter the South American country. According to the Globo Esporte news portal, Paraguayan officials have ordered that the prison on the outskirts of capital Asuncion tighten protocols to prevent the spread of the virus. In addition to barring all visitors except lawyers, jail staff have been ordered to wear protective gloves and masks while all prisoners must undergo a daily health check, the report said. Ronaldinho and Assis traveled to Paraguay on March 4 to participate in a children's charity event and promote a new book. **-Xinhua**



Ireland coach McCarthy in 'very frightening' situation

LONDON: Ireland football manager Mick McCarthy is in self-isolation in London with his wife due to the coronavirus pandemic, describing their situation to the Football Association of Ireland website as 'very frightening.' The 61-year-old revealed two nearby neighbours had been diagnosed with the illness provoking him and his wife Fiona to self-isolate. Britain ordered a three-week lockdown on Monday in a bid to slow the spread of coronavirus as the country's death toll has climbed to 335. McCarthy is in his second spell as Ireland manager and had been due to take the team to Slovakia for a Euro 2020 play-off first leg match. However, Euro 2020 has been postponed to next year and the play-offs tentatively re-scheduled to June. **-AFP**

Infected players feeling good, says Juve keeper

WARSAW: Juventus goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny said on Monday that the players of his team who were infected with COVID-19 feel good and they don't have any symptoms of the disease. The team is in isolation after Daniele Rugani tested positive for coronavirus. Blaise Matuidi and Paolo Dybala were also both infected with COVID-19. "Mentally, it's a hard situation. For 10 days all the team was isolated and we had to stay at home. The players who have already tested negative on coronavirus are allowed to leave the flat for example to do shopping. The streets are empty," Szczesny was quoted as saying by Polish media on Monday. "Rugani had a fever and asked for tests, just after he tested positive the club decided to isolate the team. Now all players who were diagnosed with COVID-19 feel good," added Szczesny. **-Xinhua**

Coach Mogire credited for turning school from obscurity into three-time county champions

Nyanchwa: From the oblivion into basketball titans



Nyanchwa Boys basketball team after winning this year's Kisii County title. **INSET:** Coach Kepher Mogire (left), the brains behind the team's rise. PD/GIBO ZACHARY

by Gibo Zachary
@PeopleDailyKe

Winston Churchill once said, "success is stumbling from failure to failure with no loss of enthusiasm."

It is a statement that is perhaps true for Nyanchwa Boys, winners of the Kisii County Secondary Schools Games basketball title for the last three years.

Until their maiden county title in 2018, Nyanchwa were an unknown quantity and it took the efforts of their teacher and coach Kepher Mogire to turn them into what they are today.

However, it was not easy as Mogire had to literally start from scratch.

"When I joined Nyanchwa High School in 2011, there was no basketball court, leave alone a team. But with my love for the game, I immediately assembled a group of players," remembers Mogire.

"We started from scratch and put together a team without training much and as expected, we didn't go far. We lost all our matches, but it was what we needed for a start," he adds.

"In 2012, we made some progress and I started by establishing a murrum court. I then prepared a team that managed to win one match against Gusii Highlights at the zonal level. With zeal and determination, we kept improving and in 2016, we made it to the sub-county championship where

we met Highlights again and to the surprise of many, we defeated them," says Mogire.

It is from then that Mogire gained confidence in his project and in 2017, Nyanchwa reached the county championship for the first time, going all the way to the semi-final where they lost to eventual champions Cardinal Otunga High School.

That good run acted as the fuel to fire Mogire's ambitions and the following year at Kisii School, Nyanchwa got their revenge on Cardinal Otunga whom they hammered 73-43 to win the Kisii County basketball title for the first time.

They have not looked back since, going on to win the 2019 and this year's crowns at the same level.

Having conquered the county, Nyanchwa have now cast their eyes on doing the same at regional level. It has, however not been smooth-sailing as they have stumbled in the Nyanza region games in the last two years, although they remain optimistic of positive results in 2020.

"In 2018, it was about learning given it was our maiden appearance in the Nyanza regional games. In 2019, we finished fifth and picked our lessons and now we have another chance. It will be better since we always improve," says coach Mogire, who started playing basketball while a student at Cardinal Otunga in 1997.

"After high school, I joined Kenyatta University where I played under coach Waringo

Gitau who made me who I am today," says the tactician, whose coaching prowess started in 2008 when he was trained as a referee-cum-coach while working as a board teacher at Kisii School.

"In 2009, I took Kisii School to the regional games just when my coaching begun and when I got employed and posted to Nyanchwa, I sharpened my coaching and refereeing skills further by acquiring a license," Mogire says.

The FIBA-trained coach also wears other hats. He is the Kisii County Kenya Basketball Federation secretary, a post he has held since 2016, was appointed technical advisor in basketball for Kisii County Secondary Schools Sports Association in 2015 and is the founder of Kisii Raptors, who have been promoted to the Division Two League, after just one season in existence.

"Basketball is me and I am the game," concludes the 38-year-old, six-foot tall coach.

Starlets close to completing self-isolation after trip to Turkey

by Barry Silah
@PeopleDailyKe

Harambee Starlets players are among Kenyans who have either been on or currently observing the mandatory self-quarantine as directed by the government over the coronavirus pandemic.

The national women's football team had been to an in an invitational tournament in Turkey for 10 days and came back home on March 11, going straight into the

14-day self-isolation.

None of the members of the squad has tested positive for the virus since their quarantine was more of a precautionary measure and they are said to be doing well and looking forward to joining their families.

However, the experience is said to have set the team back before medical personnel cooled their nerves after letting them know the importance of the exercise.

"We knew beforehand that cer-

tain tests would be done so that bit was not surprising. Obviously people can fear and it was not different for the girls but the most important thing was precaution. Europe is the epicenter of the disease now and so the government had to be alert. It is reassuring that we are now about to end the quarantine in good health," Starlets coach David Ouma told *People Sport* on phone yesterday.

Team manager Mike Kamure said: "We followed all instruc-

tions by the health officials. It is entirely about discipline and responsibility so we are just finishing the phase of self-isolation at our own homes. It can be mentally exhausting but after counselling we are fine."

Meanwhile, Harambee Stars strength and conditioning coach Mikael Ingelia is also about to end his self quarantine after attending a CAF Conference in Johannesburg, South Africa a fortnight ago.



Harambee Starlets players during a past training session. PD/DAVID NDOLLO

AFC Leopards coach Anthony Mudo Kimani during the 'Mashemeji' derby two weeks ago. PD/RODGERS NDEGWA



'Mudo' rejects ending league prematurely

by Barry Silah
@PeopleDailyKe

AFC Leopards coach Anthony 'Mudo' Kimani is against calls to end the Kenyan leagues prematurely due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Kimani feels it would be unfair for the leagues to end now given a quarter of the season was still remaining before the games were suspended due to the global spread of the virus.

There were calls from some quarters to have the leagues ended now with Gor Mahia and Nairobi City Stars who are currently leading the Kenyan Premier League and National Super League crowned champions.

Football Kenya Federation CEO Barry Otieno had also hinted at that happening in case the prevailing situation does not slow down soon but Kimani says that would

not be right since other teams still had a chance to fight for the title while the matter of relegation and promotion would also need sorting out.

"We should not take advantage of the league suspension to rush decisions which have very heavy impact on some teams. The federation should at the very least consult widely on this issue which to me is very sensitive particularly for the teams fighting relegation. I believe many teams particularly at the bottom would feel they had a chance to fight with 12 matches of the season left to play," said Kimani.

"If they believe they have a chance for survival, then these decisions would be harsh for sure and that would bring lots of noise," said Mudo, who has asked the league's governing body Kenya Premier League and FKF, to readjust the calendar instead and run the season to completion once the pandemic

is quelled.

Kakamega Homeboyz and Tusker FC had called on the football authorities to exercise fairness considering the Kenyan Premier League was still being closely fought.

Gor lead the standings with 54 points from 23 matches, seven ahead of second-placed Homeboyz and eight adrift of Tusker in third, having played one match more than the two.

In the second tier, City Stars have 64 points from 26 matches, 10 ahead of Bidco United, in second, and 12 more than third-placed Vihiga United, meaning the two still have a mathematical chance of claiming the title.

The argument fronted by FKF was that deadlines for Confederation of African Football (CAF) entry to continental assignments would be affected by further delays and other related projects interfered with substantially.

KIMANI
The federation should at the very least consult widely on this issue which to me is very sensitive particularly for the teams fighting relegation

Coronavirus delays Shilwatso's move to Spain after visa hitch

by Lynette Matheka
@PeopleDailyKe

The global Covid-19 outbreak could not have come at a worse time for Harambee Starlets and Vihiga Queens' ace Cynthia Shilwatso as she would have joined her Spanish side last week were it not for the virus.

Shilwatso signed a three-year deal with Spanish top flight side EDF Logrono in February and was in the process of finalising her travel plans to Spain before the virus hit the world, sending things to a standstill.

The forward had opted to stay out of Starlets' squad that recently did duty in the Turkish Cup Championship, playing against teams from Northern Ireland, Chile and Ghana, as she followed up her visa processing with her place in the national team taken up by Zetech's Fosca Nashivanda.

"A day to my appointment for an interview to get my visa at the embassy, I received a message from them informing me that they would remain closed until further notice in the wake of the coronavirus. I have since been in Nairobi as I wait for things to get better. The Spanish league, just like majority leagues globally, has also been suspended," said Shilwatso.

She added: "I was really looking forward to joining my new club but safety comes first. I hope a cure will be found soon so we can all go back to living our lives. I had already signed the deal so what was remaining was joining up therefore I am not worried. When things settle and leagues resume I will travel."

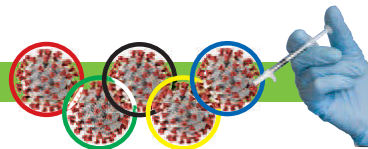
The youngster was among several Starlets' players who landed professional deals between January and February following the team's stellar performance at the CECAFA championship in Tanzania and the Olympics qualifiers.

Starlets beat Tanzania 2-0 to clinch their first CECAFA title. In the qualifiers, they reached the penultimate round falling to Zambia 3-2 on aggregate. Ruth Ingosi, goalkeeper Annette Kundu and Corazone Aquino landed deals. Mwanahalima Adam is, however, yet to travel for trials in Sweden. The coronavirus has halted sporting activities around the world with the Tokyo Olympics Games the latest to be cancelled over the disease.

Major leagues in Europe as well as the lucrative UEFA Champions League and Europa League have been suspended with the Euro 2020 tournament moved to 2021.



Harambee Starlets striker Cynthia Shilwatso celebrating a goal against Malawi during the 2020 Olympics qualifier in Nairobi last year. PD/DAVID NDOLLO



CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

Only war has cancelled Olympics before in 1916, 1940 and 1944

■ Tokyo, Tuesday
@PeopleDailyKe

The Olympic Games has suffered political boycotts (Moscow 1980) and terrorism (Munich 1972), but has only ever been cancelled due to outbreaks of war.

With the announcement that the 2020 Games will be postponed over the coronavirus pandemic, only Berlin 1916, Tokyo 1940 and London 1944 are incidents when global conflicts forced the Games to be scrapped.

At the IOC meeting in Stockholm in July 4, 1912, the sixth Olympic Games were awarded to Berlin, with the German capital beating out competition from Alexandria, Amsterdam, Brussels, Budapest and the US city of Cleveland.

Germany pulled out all the stops, opening a stadium with a capacity of around 33,000 in western Berlin's

leafy Grunewald district in 1913 to celebrate 25 years of Kaiser Wilhelm II's reign as head of the German Reich.

The stadium took only 200 days to build, according to the German Olympic Committee (DOSB) and featured a 100-metre-long swimming pool on its northern side.

The sporting programme was to feature athletics, wrestling, fencing, shooting, modern pentathlon, cycling, gymnastics, swimming, rowing, hockey and golf.

For the first time, women were invited to participate in swimming, diving, tennis and netball, the DOSB said in its history of the 1916 Games.

A two-day test event was held on June 27 and 28, 1914 in the Berlin stadium. On the second day, Archduke Frank Ferdinand of Austria and his wife were assassinated in Sarajevo, starting a chain of events that would lead to the outbreak of World War I. -AFP

Moving Japan games nightmare for aging javelin star Yego

■ Nairobi, Tuesday
@PeopleDailyKe

At 32, Africa javelin champion Julius Yego knows he has limited time and capacity to win gold at the Olympic Games.

In another four years, when the next cycle of the Games will take place, Yego is certain he will be too old to make an impact. Yet he was not certain if the Tokyo Olympic Games would go on as planned from July 24 to August 9 in Japan before Tuesday's cancellation.

The global COVID-19 pandemic had left the Tokyo Olympics on the cusp of cancellation or postponement.

However, Yego is not leaving anything to chance. He badly needs to upgrade his silver medal he won in the Rio Games back in 2016 to gold.

"I have one mission this season, to win gold. I want it more than before, to add to my career collections," Yego said in Nairobi on Monday.

"The gold is something that I have dreamt of for a long time. Since my breakthrough at the Beijing

World Championships in 2015, I have dreamt of feeling the texture of the gold medal dangling down my neck," he added.

But that chance to compete at the greatest sporting stage could have been shattered in a second had the organisers of the Games and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) agreed to cancel the Games because of the coronavirus.

Canada had already said they would not send athletes to Tokyo. Australia, Britain, France, the United States had all called for the review and postponement. Yet for Yego, still held onto the outside chance, he will be able to raise the bar higher in Tokyo.

"I don't want to imagine that there may be a potential postponement or a total cancellation of the Tokyo Games. The 2024 Olympics are still far away, and age is catching up with me." -Xinhua



Kenya's javelin superstar Julius Yego during the 2017 World Championships in London. PD/FILE

Kipruto, NOC-K back Games postponement

■ by Lynette Matheka
@PeopleDailyKe



Olympics and World 3,000m steeplechase champion Consensus Kipruto (pictured) has backed the postponement of the Summer Olympics in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

Kipruto, who hoped to defend his title in Tokyo this year, feels it is in the best interest of the athletes for the games to be called off until the situation allows.

"In the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, the best decision, in my opinion, was to postpone the Games until such a time when a cure is found and the safety of everyone who will attend the competitions is guaranteed. This will also give us time as

athletes to prepare well as the prevailing conditions do not allow us to do that," said Kipruto.

The 25-year-old says training alone has been challenging given the government's directive to ban gatherings to avoid the further spread of the disease, adding that the situation is made worse by the fact the he is far from his coach Japter Keter.

"It is tough. I had to ask the coach to stay away for now. This would have definitely affected results at the Olympics if we had not got more time for better preparations. I am keeping tabs with my fellow athletes via the phone and the situation is the same for them," he added.

His, and Kenya's three decade, dominance in the

distance came under threat during the World Championships in Qatar last year as Kipruto had to chase down Ethiopia's Lamache Girma to clinch gold by a hundredth of a second.

A photo finish saw the Kenyan race home in a world leading time of 8:1.35 while the Ethiopian recorded 8:1.36 to settle for silver as Kipruto clinched gold.

The National Olympics Committee of Kenya (NOC-K) has also welcomed the decision to postpone the Games, saying it will help the country's athletes prepare well. "This gives great time and opportunity for those who have qualified to prepare and those who had not the chance to give it their best shot," said NOC-K.

People opposed to the Tokyo 2020 Olympics display placards during a rally in front of Tokyo railway station yesterday. AFP

Japan, Tokyo chief agree to postpone Olympic Games

Country's prime minister, IOC boss decide to move global event to 2021 as the world battles the coronavirus pandemic

■ Tokyo, Tuesday
@PeopleDailyKe

Japan's prime minister and the head of the International Olympic Committee agreed to postpone the Tokyo 2020 Games by a year Tuesday in an extraordinary move, unprecedented in peacetime, as the world battles the coronavirus pandemic.

"I proposed to postpone for about a year and president Bach responded with 100 percent agreement," Shinzo Abe told reporters referring to Thomas Bach, head of the IOC. The move would be a devas-

tating blow for the city of Tokyo, which had won widespread praise for its organisation, with venues finished well ahead of time and tickets massively oversubscribed.

The Olympics, which has experienced boycotts, terrorist attacks and protests, but has been held every four years since 1948, would be the highest-profile event affected by the virus that has killed thousands and closed sports competitions worldwide.

The IOC has come under increasing pressure in recent days to postpone the Games, scheduled to start on July 24, with 1.7 billion people across the planet

in lockdown to prevent the further spread of COVID-19.

Training has become impossible for many athletes and exposes them to the risk of contracting or spreading the disease. Competitions and qualifiers have been scrapped, while international travel is severely limited.

On Sunday, the IOC had initially given itself a deadline of four weeks to come up with a proposal to postpone the Games, a Herculean task that touches on every aspect of Tokyo 2020 planning from venues to security to ticketing.

But after Canada and Australia withdrew their teams

COST OF CANCELLING OLYMPICS

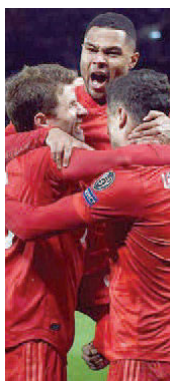
- **Sh1.4 trillion:** What Japan could lose if the Tokyo Olympics are cancelled.
- **Sh1.2 trillion:** Bill for the Olympics including huge taxpayer spending on a new national stadium would be regarded as wast if the Games are cancelled.
- **Sh812 billion:** Combined losses to private firms who have already shelled out billions for sponsorship and media contracts.
- **Sh266 billion:** Amount of money in media rights that could go down the drain if the Games do not go ahead.
- **Sh215 billion:** Loss to Japan's tourism industry, could lose if the expected millions of spectators do not materialise.

and the powerful US Olympic Committee and World Athletics also joined the chorus calling for a postponement, the writing was on the wall for the July start.

Tokyo was spending some \$12.6 billion (Sh1.26 trillion) to host the Games, according to its latest budget, and experts believe a postponement could cost it some \$6 billion (Sh600m) in the short-term before recouping it when they eventually go ahead.

Bayern, other Bundesliga clubs, take pay cut

BERLIN: Footballers at Germany's top teams including Bayern Munich have agreed to take pay cuts to help clubs survive the economic impact of the coronavirus, media reports said yesterday. Newspaper Bild reports that players and club officials at champions Bayern, top of the Bundesliga when the Bundesliga season was halted on March 13, have accepted a 20 percent cut in their salaries. Like all top European leagues the German top flight is losing income from broadcasting, sponsorships and ticket sales during the COVID-19 pandemic, with matches in Germany suspended until at least April 2. Bayern has a massive wage bill which reached 336 million euros (364 million dollars) last year, almost half of club turnover.



How Europe's football media keeps fans occupied during coronavirus lockdown

LONDON: From impassioned debates around the kitchen table to detailed reports about matches that never happened, Europe's football media are working overtime to give fans a welcome distraction during the coronavirus crisis. Former Tottenham, Barcelona and England striker Gary Lineker, a keen amateur chef, even opened up his home in a bid to satisfy the British football public's appetite for sports talk. As the presenter of long-running English top-flight highlights show Match of the Day, Lineker, ignoring social distancing guidelines,

played host to regular studio guests Alan Shearer and Ian Wright around his kitchen table last week. Match of the Day was screened as a panel show rather than highlights on Saturday, with Lineker, Shearer and Wright debating the greatest captains of the Premier League era. For once there was no talk of VAR as ex-Newcastle and Blackburn star Shearer detailed his memorable battles with Manchester United's Roy Keane and former Arsenal striker Wright described his use of "Franglais" to make conversation with team-mate Patrick Vieira. **-AFP**



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Federation feels they are being held responsible for mistakes of previous regime over former coach's Sh109m compensation



FKF boss Nick Mwendwa. INSET: Former Harambee Stars coach Adel Amrouche. PD/RODGERS NDEGWA & FILE

FKF in tight corner over Amrouche pay

by People Reporter
@PeopleSports11

Football Kenya Federation (FKF) Chief Executive Officer Barry Otieno is crying foul over the latest Fifa ruling requiring them to pay Belgian coach Adel Amrouche Sh109 million for breach of contract within 30 days.

Otieno feels his team is being held unfairly responsible for offences committed by the immediate formee regime under the stewardship of then federation chief Sam Keengu Nyamweya.

He disclosed that present office-bearers had written to the Ministry of Sport to seek a way forward.

The head of Fifa Disciplinary Department Carlos Schneider Salvadores on Monday evening issued a ruling demanding that FKF pays the former Harambee Stars coach a total of Sh109 million for wrongful dismissal in 2014.

"FKF is found guilty of failing to comply in full with the Arbitral award rendered by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) on September 19, 2019, partially confirming the decision of the Single Judge of the Players' Status Committee on

August 29, 2017 according to which a number of things were ordered," read the ruling by Salvadores.

It further stated: "Coach Amrouche to be paid Sh86,250,00 as compensation for breach of contract within 30 days as from the date of notification of the award, plus five per cent interest per annum on said amount as from March 4, 2016 until the date of effective payment. A further Sh5 million to be paid to him as outstanding remuneration also within 30 days as from the date of notification of the decision, plus interest as follows, five per cent per annum over the amount of Sh2.5million from July 21, 2014 until the date of effective payment and five per cent per annum over the amount of Sh2.5 million from August 21, 2014 until the date of effective payment."

If FKF is unable to pay Amrouche the money within the 30 days, the matter will upon the request of the coach, be resubmitted to the Disciplinary Committee to impose harsher sanctions on the federation. The sanctions may include expulsion from all Fifa competitions.

"We are carrying a burden of the past regime. During our regime, we have had four coaches,

Stanley Okumbi, Paul Putt, Sebastian Migne and now Francis Kimanzi and none of them ever went to court because of contractual or payment issues," Otieno told People Sport.

He added: "Nyamweya never even gave us hand over notes. We are learning of all these debts through litigations."

Amrouche's contract was terminated in 2014 by FKF after Confederation of African Football (CAF) suspended him for confronting a centre referee during an Africa Cup of Nations qualifier against Comoros in Moroni.

Pundits feel that instead of terminating the coach's five-year contract and installing Bobby Williamson as he waited for his

ADEL AMROUCHE'S COMPENSATION CASE

- **February 2013:** FKF appoints Adel Amrouche as Harambee Stars coach on a one-year contract.
- **January 2014:** FKF hands Amrouche an improved five-year deal after Harambee Stars won the 2013 CECAFA Senior Challenge Cup.
- **August 2014:** FKF unprocedurally terminates Amrouche's contract after he was suspended by CAF.
- **August 2014:** FKF appoints Bobby Williamson to replace Amrouche.
- **February 2016:** Nick Mwendwa is elected FKF President. CAF lifts Adel Amrouche's six-match ban.
- **March 2016:** Both Amrouche and Williamson claim to have running contracts with FKF. (Amrouche 5 years, Bobby, Open Contract).
- **April 2016:** Amrouche files a case at the FIFA Player Status Committee demanding compensation for wrongful dismissal.
- **August 2017:** FIFA communicates the decision of the Players Status Committee to award Amrouche Sh65 million plus interest that had accrued since July 2014.
- **September 2017:** Amrouche appeals to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) as he was not satisfied with the amount that was awarded to him by FIFA's Players Status Committee. FKF also files a petition at CAS contesting the amount awarded to Amrouche.
- **September 2019:** CAS makes a ruling on the matter, awarding Amrouche Sh108,194,863 in compensation for wrongful dismissal.
- **December 2019:** CAS directs FKF to pay Amrouche a further Sh1,181,511, bringing the whole amount to Sh109,376,374.
- **February 28, 2020:** FIFA Disciplinary Committee writes to FKF instructing the Federation to pay the amount owed to Amrouche or risk sanctions.
- **March 3, 2020:** FKF requests FIFA for more time to settle the payment.

appeal to be heard and determined, the previous office should have temporarily replaced him with assistant coach James Nandwa until the case with CAF was sorted out.

Nyamweya has, however distanced himself from the claims, saying: "Dragging my name into their arrogant failure to honour a substantive contract in the manner Mr Otieno is purporting to do is laughable yet unfortunate, principally because it exposes the incompetence that has been resident at Kandanda House for the past four years. Little wonder they were unable to respect the rule of law, FIFA Statutes and even their own constitution."