



Treasury CS
Ukur Yatani

NEWS BEAT >> PG17

What Uhuru's stimulus deal means to you

The prescription offers tax relief, protection of jobs and eases access to credit— shielding the economy and the poor from impact of the virus

70,000 policemen to enforce curfew

Taming Corona: As the country shuts down tonight and for many more nights ahead in what will be a first time for most Kenyans, it will be eerily still with all citizens being confined to their houses by a flood of security officers as efforts to stop Covid-19 intensify **PAGES 2,4,5,6,7,8,12,13,14**

General Service Unit (GSU) officers patrol the Nairobi streets yesterday ahead of tonight's a dusk-to-dawn curfew imposed countrywide as part of measures to stem the spread of the coronavirus. PD/BERNARD MALONZA.



NEWS BEAT >> PG2

One Corona patient dies as another discharged

Kenya, which has 30 confirmed cases, records first victim of deadly respiratory flu as patient zero leaves hospital

COVID-19 HOTLINES

>719

>0800721316

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POINTERS



BUSINESS PAGE 19

**SMEs weak links in
business continuity plans**


YOU PAGE 26

**Do male gynaecologists
ease or cringe you?**

WEATHER TODAY

Nairobi	23°	Nyeri	22°
Mombasa	32°	Kitui	25°
Kisumu	26°	Wajir	32°

EAC ministers want research on Corona

Ministers responsible for Health and East African Community (EAC) Affairs have directed the six regional governments to put in place measures that will curb spread of Covid-19 within the region. The ministers who met on Wednesday through video conferencing, directed the East African Health Research Commission to conduct research on Covid-19 in order to inform the partner States on new technologies such as advances in care and treatment. Those who met include Rwandese Health Minister Dr. Daniel Ngamije and Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for EAC and Regional Development, Adan Mohamed (*below*). The ministers also want the regional governments to support local manufacturing of the commodities required for the prevention of further infections. — **George Kebaso**



Nakuru PSVs down tools over relocation

Travellers in Nakuru were yesterday stranded after matatu operators in the town resolved to paralyse transport services for a week to protest a ban on all public service vehicles (PSVs) from the Central Business District (CBD).

The move followed an order by County Commissioner Erastus Mbuvi instructing all PSVs ferrying passengers to keep off the town as part of the measures to fight the spread of coronavirus.

Led by Central-Rift Matatu Owners Association chair Stephen Muli, the operators accused the county of rushing to make the decision to relocate them without any consideration of hygiene amenities and the safety of their passengers. "We are giving the county government only a week to rehabilitate the grounds and install electricity, water, and security (lights)," said Muli. — **Roy Lumbe**

Patient, 66, succumbs to virus as Kenya's cases shoot to 30

CAS says three new cases are Kenyan females and are close contacts of previously confirmed cases

by Irene Githinji
@igitshee

Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe yesterday evening announced the death of one patient as a result of the coronavirus disease.

The 66-year-old male Kenyan citizen, who had been admitted at Aga Khan University Hospital, lost the battle to the respiratory flu in the afternoon.

"We have received the sad news of the death of a patient who tested positive for coronavirus. The man who was suffering from diabetes had arrived into the country on March 13 from South Africa, through Swaziland. My condolences to the family," said Kagwe in a statement.

The news came even as one patient, who had been admitted at Mbagathi isolation unit, was discharged. Acting Health Director General Patrick Amoth affirmed that World Health Organisation (WHO) protocols were followed, which require serial tests with two consecutive ones being negative.

Kenya now has 30 cases after three new ones were confirmed yesterday in the wake of the government effecting the closure of Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) for all foreign flights.

In the last 24 hours, 74 samples from suspected cases of coronavirus were tested in various laboratories out of which three tested positive.

Health Chief Administrative Secretary Dr. Mercy Mwangangi yesterday said the 30 cases are spread out in five counties of Nairobi, Kajiado, Mombasa, Kilifi and Kwale.

"All the three new confirmed cases are Kenyan females aged between 30 and 61. The three cases are close contacts of previously confirmed cases, two are from Kilifi and one from Nairobi," said Mwangangi, during the daily press update on coronavirus.

MWANGANGI

Consultations are ongoing on how to handle Kilifi and other areas emerging as hotspots



Health Chief Administrative Secretary Mercy Mwangangi addresses the press at the Ministry of Health headquarters in Nairobi, yesterday.

PD/KENNA CLAUDE

The new patients have been taken into isolation in government designated facilities and are being monitored together with others who previously turned positive. Tracing of contacts of the new and previous contacts is underway, with the government having monitored 1,029 people out of which 123 have been discharged after completing the 14-day follow up period.

Evacuate nationals

"We are now remaining with 906 close contacts that our tracing teams are monitoring. 18 individuals are currently admitted at Mbagathi hospital awaiting test results," she said.

Although JKIA has been closed for international flights, Mwangangi said in the event there are countries that would like to evacuate their nationals from Kenya, it

would be handled through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

More than 2,000 people who arrived into the country from Monday have been placed on mandatory quarantine and tests will be carried out on them after five days from the arrival date, in line with WHO guidelines on testing.

The CAS said consultations are ongoing on how to handle Kilifi and other areas emerging as hotspots and urged people at the Coast and Kilifi in particular to observe social distancing.

Amoth urged governors to observe the central reporting system to avoid causing panic, saying a patient from Kakamega is currently admitted at Mbagathi isolation unit.

Pandemic to affect Easter rituals, celebrations

by Eric Wainaina
@PeopleDailyKe

Religious activities to mark Easter holiday will be drastically affected in most parts of the world owing to coronavirus pandemic.

Yesterday, the head of the Catholic Church in Kenya Cardinal John Njue told faithful in Nairobi archdiocese to avoid

practising activities that are synonymous with the holiday in order to respect the behavioural protocol issued by the government to halt the spread of the virus.

"I decree that the religious sisters and brothers and lay Christian residing in the Archdiocese of Nairobi be dispensed from the obligation to attend Mass on Sunday, Easter triduum and other Holy days of obligation..." said Cardinal Njue (*pictured*) in

a statement.

Nyeri Archbishop Anthony Muheria yesterday said faithful should be prepared to celebrate the holiday differently because all communal activities that are synonymous with the holiday must be suspended.

This comes as Interior Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang'i, yesterday gazetted the dusk-to-dawn curfew.





Bee stings for arthritis

Most people will run away when a bee is trying to sting them, but a few crazy ones actually want to get stung! The practice of bee sting therapy is very popular in China and it involves the application of multiple stings to an area in an effort to heal conditions like arthritis. This method has been used by the Chinese for over 3,000 years, and they claim that the stings have anti-inflammatory properties.

Bizarre medication involving animals

With medics working round the clock to save humanity from deadly coronavirus that is killing in thousands and threatening to tear the universe at its seams, here is a catalogue of remedies that came from the most unexpected places...

Monkey gall bladder to treat distressing stomachache

The monkey's gall bladder might sound like something disgusting to ingest, but believe it or not, it is a common folk medicine in China often used for a wide range of disorders including eye diseases, stomach complaints and even a child's tantrums. Many Chinese cultures also use monkey blood for strength and stamina. It was also believed that monkey blood has anti-aging effects. Over the centuries, people of various cultures have experimented with monkey blood and meat for anti-aging effects. In Indonesia, monkey brains are a common delicacy because it is believed to have various health benefits.



Old British cure for malaria was eating spider webs

Back when ague, a form of malaria, ran rampant through many parts of the world, various treatments were used to control the disease. One of the strangest was consuming tablets of compressed spider's webs, which started in Britain. Medics lauded the treatment due to a supposed medicinal qualities of spider's webs. Some variations of this treatment involved eating the actual spider – sometimes while it was alive.



Frog juice on demand on Peruvian Streets

'Extracto de rana' (Frog juice) is a bizarre folk remedy that is in very high demand at local markets of Lima, Peru. The frog juice is said to heal impotence, asthma and bronchitis. To get a dose, all you need to do is go to a market stall and pick your frogs of choice from a tank. The vendor kills them, peels the skin off before tossing the skinned frogs into a blender with hot white bean broth, some honey and raw aloe vera. And voila, a delicious warm glass of frog juice!



Droplets of bat blood for eye infections

Ancient Egyptians had a high incidence of eye infections and resultant blindness because of their near-constant exposure to sun, sand, and sandstorms. In order to combat the blindness suffered by so many people, Egyptian doctors applied a bizarre remedy. They poured bat into their blind patients' eyes. Since bats were thought to have excellent night vision, it was assumed that this treatment would transfer that quality to people who put it in their eyes or injected it in their ears.



Stressed? Consult dog therapist

Apparently, if you are stressed in US or UK, instead of visiting a normal human shrink, you can book yourself a session with a dog or a cat therapist. The wacky solution comes off the back of a survey that claims a whopping 85 percent of all cat and dog owners talk to their animals about relationships, work, family and finance and it is said to have therapeutic benefits. As a result, many Dog Therapy Clinics have popped up in the US and UK, where folks go to talk their heart burdens out to dog and cat psychiatrists. Janet Connor, Managing Director for More Than, said, "While pets might not be able to speak or have the foggiest idea what's being said to them, they are looked upon as faithful companions whose loyalty and affection is unwavering. That is why they make better therapists than humans."

CORONA CRISIS



SAMUEL MAINA

I feel for those who work at night because the economy is already bad as it is. However, the President made a sober decision.



AGNES GATHONI

The curfew is not a good idea. This should be about management of the disease without affecting everybody's daily lives.



NICHODEMUS MUIA

This curfew will affect mostly those who depend on the evening traffic. The common citizen will really be hit.



JOHN NGUGI

As a taxi driver, the curfew will greatly affect us because a lot of our work is at night. I feel the government should have consulted.

70,000 police officers to enforce curfew in efforts to tame virus

Spokesman Owino says officers on leave have been recalled, warns violators risk three-month jail term

by Eric Wainaina and Zadock Angira
@PeopleDailyKe

The National Police Service will from this evening deploy at least 70,000 officers across the country to enforce the dusk-to-dawn curfew declared by President Uhuru Kenyatta on Wednesday as part of measures to tame spread of coronavirus.

To emphasise the seriousness of the 7pm to 5am curfew, the police service, through communication director Charles Owino, warned that those who violate it risk a three-month jail term.

Yesterday, Interior Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang'i, gazetted the curfew, making it legal in preparation for the implementation started today.

"Under this Order, there shall be no public gatherings, processions or movement either alone or as a group for the period of the curfew," said the notice in part.

The curfew, which runs from 7pm to 5am, was declared after the number of those affected by the deadly flue rose to 28 by Wednesday, and hundreds of other suspected cases put on close monitoring.

Three more cases were reported yesterday, bringing the total to 30 after one patient died later in the day.

Officers recalled

Yesterday, while Owino declined to give the exact number of officers and how they will be deployed, he said there are "adequate police officers" after Inspector General of Police Hillary Mutiyambai recalled officers who were on leave.

"The Inspector General last week recalled all police officers who were on leave and with the curfew, we have enough number of police officers who will be moving around the country to ensure that Kenyans remain indoors in the hours directed and also provide security," Owino said.

There are 120,000 police officers in the country, drawn from the regular and administration police units, and according to sources, over 50 per cent will take part in enforcing the curfew which is the first since 1982 coup.

Though police are currently not detaining suspects to avoid crowding in the cells, police said, persons who will defy the 7pm to 5am curfew will have their day in court once the situation normalises.

Minimal contact

Yesterday, Mutiyambai cautioned the heads of police stations against arresting and detaining petty and traffic offenders, saying it was against the government directive to decongest cells.

In a statement signed by Titi Ayiera on his behalf, Mutiyambai warned that stern action would be taken against errant officers.

"This behaviour is against the government directive for the maintenance of minimal contact between individuals and social distancing to mitigate the spread of Covid-19 in the criminal justice sector...Disciplinary action will be taken against such OCS. In addition, the county commander in whose jurisdiction such cases occur will be held personally responsible for abdicating your supervisory duty," he said.

Those arrested persons will, however, be released on cash bail and free bonds following the directives by Chief Justice David Maraga that no prisoners or remandees will be presented to court in the next few days. Punishment for the offence, Owino said, would be guided by Section 8(6) of the Public Order Act, which provides for the applicable sentence and fine.

"Any person who contravenes any of the provisions of a curfew order or any of the terms or conditions of a permit granted to him under subsection (1) of this section shall be guilty of an offence and liable to

CURFEW GAZETTED

● Interior Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang'i, gazetted the curfew, making it legal in preparation for the implementation started today.

● The Police Service will, subsequently, from this evening deploy at least 70,000 officers across the country to enforce the dusk-to-dawn curfew

● Citizens defying the curfew are not likely to be arrested in efforts to ease congestion in police cells.



GSU officers patrol Nairobi streets, yesterday. Some 70,000 officers will be deployed to enforce the dusk-to-dawn curfew starting tonight. PD/BERNARD MALONZA

a fine not exceeding Sh1,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months, or to both such fine and such imprisonment," the section reads.

However, Owino said police officers would consider special cases where members of the public might be forced to be out during the curfew.

"Officers have the discretion to decide the action to take. The curfew does not mean that members of public who have, for example, sick relatives cannot take them to hospitals," Owino said.

Essential services

The curfew will not apply to workers offering essential services including police, media, food, medicine and petrol suppliers, mobile service providers, the fire brigade and emergency services. Others include Kenya Power and supermarkets.

George Musamali, a security expert, told *People Daily* that the government, through the police, would apply all reasonable measures to ensure that the curfew is adhered to. He argues that although the measures put in place to fight the virus discourages detention in police stations to avert crowding in police cells, it does not bar officers from arresting and prosecuting offenders.

"It's not a must that the offenders will be detained in a police station because there is

the option of a free bond where dates will be issued on when to appear in court without being asked to pay any money."

"But if it will be established that the suspect is a notorious offender, the police have an option of issuing cash bail to ensure the suspect avail him or herself in court once the pandemic is sorted," Musamali said.

However, he said, the government hopes that because the country is dealing with a pandemic, Kenyans will not require pressure to obey the curfew.

The President, in his address at State House, Nairobi on Wednesday, said the National Security Council was forced to invoke the Public Order Number One on coronavirus pandemic to restrict movement of people because Kenyans had been reluctant to adhere to behavioural protocols by the Health ministry to tame the virus spread.

Uhuru insisted that Kenyans must be prepared to have their lives affected by the measures imposed until the nation conquers the pandemic.

"If the measures are deemed to be inadequate, we shall, without hesitation, take even further and more drastic measures to ensure that the cardinal duty of the government and of the State which is the protection of life and property is assured," the President said hinting at a total lockdown should Kenyans defy the curfew orders.

Governors, deputies to take 30pc pay cut, says CoG chairman



by Douglas Dindi
@PeopleDailyKe

Governors and their deputies will take a 30 per cent pay in a bid to consolidate resources to fight the coronavirus spread.

Council of Governors (CoG) chairman Wycliffe Oparanya (*pictured*) yesterday said the county

chiefs had agreed on the salary reduction, adding that county ministers (CECs), chief officers and employees in the job group 'S' will take a 20 per cent pay cut.

County directors and other employees in the job group 'R' will also forego 15 per cent of their pay.

The cash will be channelled to a special fund which will be managed by counties to mitigate the effects of the virus in the devolved units.

The move by CoG mirrors bold decisions announced by President Uhuru Kenyatta on Wednesday that will see senior government staff take

a salary cut.

Oparanya said an extraordinary session of the council held through teleconferencing had unanimously agreed to the cuts.

Meanwhile, the council has suspended water supply disconnections to defaulting consumers for the next three months.



ROBERT NGUGI

■ The curfew by the President is a good move, but many people are going to suffer in the process, especially those who work late



ROBERT NGATIA

■ Faithful and strict implementation of safeguards will make Kenya maintain its status as regional economic hub



SALIM MVURYA

■ All open-air second-hand clothes markets in all towns and trading centres should close for the next 30 days



HASSAN JOHO

■ The county intends to deliver food packages to all households in designated areas in event of a lockdown

What it means to have a night curfew

Coast residents reminisce the dusk-to-dawn order last effected in the country in 1982 but effected during operations

■ by Reuben Mwambingu
@reubenmwambingu

While the announcement of dusk-to-dawn curfew by President Uhuru Kenyatta as part of government's response to the coronavirus pandemic may appear strange to a number of Kenyans, the few who have experienced night time movement restriction have a warning to the rest.

Edward Wanje, a Coast-based movie producer who once found himself in a curfew zone, says the directive will result in "non-stop torture".

Wanje says he was working on a documentary on a fresh water project by an Irish organisation in Tana River in 2012 when the Tana Delta clashes erupted. This was quickly followed by a dusk-to-dawn curfew imposed by the then President Kibaki after 112 people were killed within weeks of clashes.

"Curfew is such bad experience. Those tasked to implement a curfew are people who mean business, they don't joke. They walk around with pipes and clubs whipping people regardless of their age, social status or even ranks," says Wanje, adding: "Not once or twice I have found myself in the midst of sustained whipping by the mean military men."

He says during the curfew the military and policemen would begin patrols from 7pm to 5am where the entire neighbourhood goes into a chilling pin drop silence.

"During that time there was nothing like critical or essential services and therefore anybody found outside would not escape a thorough beating. An Administration Police and his Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) counterpart who were found loitering from a drinking spree were also in the mix as they were handed a thorough beating. During a curfew the officers beat people as if they are not human beings," Wanje says.



Kenya Defence Forces patrol Boni Forest in Lamu County during a past dusk to dawn curfew. PD/PHOTO CREDIT

ings," Wanje says.

Abidan Mkombola, a retired civil servant recalls they were conducting a household budget survey in Lamu County after Mpeketoni attack in 2014 when a dusk-to-dawn curfew was announced and they encountered a rough time.

"We were sleeping in a guest house but it was not a self contained facility, the lavatories were outside and so whenever you wanted to answer a call of nature or take a shower you had to go outside. But this would not be possible during the curfew time because it was very risky. One day I had a stomach upset and had to endure the pain till morning without sleep," he recalls, "After I saw the military men torturing my boss and District Officer the previous day, I was very afraid of encountering the torture."

Mkombola recalls how GSU and military officers bullied his boss forcing him to swim in the murky of stagnant water for almost 20 minutes in Mpeketoni.

It is almost a similar experience for Mathew Kingi, who says he was once forced to swallow his medication with stagnant water despite explaining to the officers that he was experiencing a diarrhea and he had gone to get medication from a nearby facility.

"Whenever I recall the nasty experience, I hate the word curfew. Just the mention of it sends jitters in me," says Kingi.

Jeffa Kahindi, a Kilifi resident, recalls how a curfew condemned his childhood friend into a wheelchair permanently.

According to Kahindi, they were at a place called Msabaha and they were returning home from a local shopping centre where they had gone to watch a World Cup match between Ivory Coast and Japan when they encountered KDF on patrol.

"We tried to run but that friend of mine was behind and he was kicked on the waist... We returned the following morning to collect him and rush him to hospital. He was admitted and later returned home on a wheel chair and that has been his way of life until today," he recalls.



PUBLIC NOTICE

CAUTION AGAINST LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS (LPG) PRICE HIKE

The Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA) has received reports that a section of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) traders are arbitrarily hiking prices at retail points.

EPRA requires all LPG traders to behave responsibly and not result to any actions that will be construed as exploitative to consumers in the wake of **Corona Virus (COVID-19)** outbreak in Kenya. Accordingly, and in order to ensure transparency in retail prices of LPG, traders are required to issue receipts for all LPG transactions in compliance with Regulation 19(7) of the Petroleum (Liquefied Petroleum Gas) Regulations of 2019.

The receipt should clearly indicate the name, address and telephone number of the retailer, the name and telephone number of the consumer. In addition, the following details should also be included - the date of the transaction, the cylinder brand, the serial number of the cylinder, the net weight of the cylinder in kilograms, the unit price and the total price of the LPG sold. Handling of cylinders and issuance of receipts by LPG retailers should follow the strict guidelines given by the Ministry of Health as a measure to prevent the spread of **COVID-19**.

Consumers are urged to immediately report any cases of price hikes or non-compliance with the above mentioned guidelines through our hotline numbers **0708 444 000** or **0709 336 000** or through emails to compliance@epra.go.ke. EPRA shall not hesitate to take stern action including revocation of licenses for traders who will not adhere to these guidelines.

Director General

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Speaker Muturi calls for modalities to channel deducted officers' pay

■ by Irene Githinji
@PeopleDailyKe

National Assembly Speaker, Justin Muturi yesterday challenged the National Treasury to come up with a mechanism of where money deducted from senior government officials' pay cut in line with President Uhuru Kenyatta's plea, will be channelled.

This came even as Muturi and his Senate counterpart Kenneth Lusaka announced

that they had take a voluntary 30 percent pay cut in the next three months, to help mobilise funds support in the coronavirus disease following President Kenyatta's Wednesday request.

But Muturi raised concerns on how the monies will be accounted for and also the modalities that will be taken in channelling it towards fighting the coronavirus scourge.

"The history of this country does not reflect very well

when it comes to such a decision but it is my expectation that if it is about a fund, it is the Treasury CS who has mandate to set one and we expect him to come up with a mechanism on how to be channelled," said Muturi.

Muturi and Senate Speaker Kenneth Lusaka, who addressed a joint press conference at Parliament Buildings yesterday, said they would write to the CS Yatani instructing him to deduct their pay.

CORONA VIRUS

Tax relief to cushion the poor, businesses from Corona shock

President Uhuru Kenyatta on Wednesday rolled out several measures to keep economy afloat

by Seth Onyango
@PeopleDailyKE

The economic stimulus package prescribed by President Uhuru Kenyatta on Wednesday is expected to boost businesses and put more money in the pockets of Kenyans as coronavirus crisis takes its toll on the economy.

It has three key ingredients—tax relief, protection of jobs and easing access to credit—to shield the economy and vulnerable citizens from the effects of coronavirus.

The package, which targets corporates, salaried employees and the informal sector, comes as the country descends into a dusk-to-dawn curfew tonight.

Experts say the tax cuts will boost household spending and increasing firms' after-tax profits.

Francis Kamau, a partner at Ernst & Young, said the corporate relief has two remedies: to pay dividends and shield employees from layoffs.

"These tax reliefs are very big...for companies, it will offer them a nine per cent shield in the event Covid-19 creates an unprecedented shrink in the coming months," he said.

But there is a caveat. It could be several weeks before the impact is felt because Parliament has to approve the proposals.

"It was a presidential decree, but this is a democracy, meaning Treasury needs to prepare a bill and send it to Parliament," said Kamau.

He said the Pay As You Earn and VAT reductions will insulate Kenyans from the impact of coronavirus in the short and medium term.

Informal sector

The tax measures are expected to increase household income by about 10 per cent, while struggling firms will enjoy a nine per cent shield against Covid-19 shocks.

VAT reduction from 16 per cent to 14 per cent is expected to offer relief to consumers, especially those in the informal sector and those without a guaranteed income.

Uhuru's new tax stimulus also reduced turnover tax for small and medium enterprises from three per cent to one per cent.

It includes 100 per cent tax relief for those earning up to Sh24,000, offering workers in that bracket an additional income of between Sh1,000 and Sh1,400.

Employees outside that band or earning more than Sh47,000 will enjoy five per cent tax cut, from 30 per cent to 25 per cent, injecting additional cash of Sh4,241 and for those earning Sh50,000 and Sh7,229 for those earning Sh100,000.

Big earners

Those earning more than Sh150,000 and over Sh500,000 will take home an additional 9,717 and 27,229 respectively, meaning big earners will benefit more.

PKF partner Michael Mburugu says while those earning less than Sh24,000 are expected to benefit, even those earning more than that will also feel the impact.

"If you earn Sh1 million, you will also get to save about Sh50,000," he said.

"However, what they should have done in my opinion is to give the employers more relief so that they do not have to fire people. Make them pay more taxes later when things get better," he said.

Mburugu wants more interventions, especially administrative ones that do not require monetary input.

"There are a lot of administrative packages that would have done Kenya a whole lot of good. This includes giving employers incentives," he said.

But Tony Watima, an economist, warns

that the turnover tax does not look good for SMEs, which might be hit the most by the crisis.

"How do you ask someone who is about all his investments to pay one per cent of what he is not about to earn?" he posed.

Data from Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) data from 2018 shows Kenya has 2.6 million salaried employees.

Of those, 1.9 million employees in the bottom-wage bracket. This includes those earning below Sh20,000 a month who are mainly minimum wage workers such as messengers, house servants, drivers, secretaries and low-ranking teachers and police officers.

Those paid between Sh20,000 and Sh29,999 per month, stood at 964,943 or 36 per cent, according to KNBS data.

Those in the lower cadre also include the 749,344 with income of between Sh30,000 and Sh49,999.

UPDATES BY NUMBERS

2,980

cases confirmed in 48 out of 54 African countries with 75 deaths.

At least 491,150 people have been diagnosed with the virus globally, 118,059 have recovered while 22,165 have died.

AFRICA UPDATE

The knock-on effect of coronavirus across Africa

More than 2,700 cases of coronavirus have been confirmed in 46 African countries as of Thursday morning. There have also been 72 reported deaths while 210 people have recovered. Here's how it is playing out in some countries across Africa:

- 1 South Africa:** The country has the highest number of confirmed coronavirus cases in Africa, currently at more than 700. A total lockdown took effect last night in South Africa. During the lockdown, people will not be allowed to go out to even jog or walk dogs. The sale of alcohol will not be permitted – and only shops selling food and medicine will remain open. The military is being deployed to the streets to ensure the country adheres to the three-week lockdown. President Cyril Ramaphosa took a test for the virus, which the government announced turned out negative.
- 2 Nigeria:** President Muhammadu Buhari's coronavirus test also returned negative, according to Nigerian authorities. A senior member of staff at the presidency got infected, prompting self-isolation and testing by people he had come into contact with.
- 3 Somaliland:** The self-declared republic of Somaliland has announced a border shutdown with all its neighbours.
- 4 Angola** has declared a state of emergency for 15 days, starting on today.
- 5 Uganda** has banned public transport for two weeks.
- 6 Malawi** – which so far has no confirmed case – has stopped issuing visas on arrival.
- 7 In Ghana**, voter registration has been suspended.
- 8 Mali's** President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita says legislative elections will go ahead this Sunday. The country declared a state of health emergency, closed land borders, and imposed a nighttime curfew.

Parliament ready to pass Uhuru's stimulus proposals, says Muturi

by Irene Githinji
@igithinji

The National Assembly is ready to process bills that would allow the National Treasury implement tax reliefs announced by President Uhuru Kenyatta on Wednesday to cushion Kenyans against the effects of the coronavirus pandemic, Speaker Justin Muturi said yesterday.

Muturi (pictured, left) who was accompanied by his Senate counterpart Kenneth Lusaka, however, said Treasury is yet to formally contact the National Assembly on the matter.

The President directed the Treasury to reduce Value Added Tax from

16 per cent to 14 per cent, effective April 1, zero-rate Pay As You Earn for employees earning Sh24,000 and less and give a five per cent tax relief for those earning more.

"Communication from Treasury on the proposed interventions is yet to reach us," said Muturi.

Lusaka said the Senate would reconvene next week.

"The Senate will reconvene on Tuesday and sit once every week to deliberate on key issues," said Lusaka (pictured, right).

For purposes of preparing bills, Muturi said there was space for committees to give their input but their decisions must be approved by the

full House.

"The Houses make the decisions while committees make recommendations," said Muturi.

He acknowledged that under the current circumstances, certain processes may have to be fast tracked, which means public participation requirement may be skipped.

Muturi indicated he had not received a request for a special sitting to discuss the pandemic.

He yesterday said the rules allow either the Leader of Majority or Minority to write to either Speaker requesting for a special sitting or recall of the House to deliberate on specific business.



"The law requires that Leader of the Majority or Minority parties in the House write to the Speaker to cause a recall of the House. So far, that has not happened yet thus the

House continues with the short recess but as you know the matter of coronavirus pandemic is one of great concern in the country," said Muturi.

Belgut MP Nelson Koech has written to Majority Leader Aden Duale asking him to invoke powers granted to him and recall the House.

"Recall the House to pass the necessary legislation to cushion citizens, pass a resolution to the National Government CDF board to allow us spend the emergency allocations under NG-CDF on efforts to mitigate spread of coronavirus," said Koech in a letter dated March 25.

GSU takes over Likoni ferry crossing

Paramilitary unit deployed hours after President Uhuru ordered for a takeover by the security agencies

by **Murimi Mutiga**
@PeopleDailyKe

The General Service Unit (GSU) has taken over management of ferry crossing services at the Likoni channel in Mombasa to help enforce social distancing requirement to curb spread of the Covid-19.

Officers from the paramilitary unit were deployed at the mainland and Island side of the crossing channel early on Thursday hours after President Uhuru Kenyatta ordered for a takeover by the security agencies.

Despite Wednesday's suspension of pedestrians from using ferries by Transport Cabinet Secretary James



Members of the public disembark from MV Kwale at the Likoni Crossing Channel in Mombasa.
PD/NDEGWA GATHUNGU

Macharia, people walking on foot were still using the vessels.

In a letter dated March 24 addressed to the Kenya Ferry Services (KFS) Managing Director Bakari Gowa, Macharia had directed that only passenger services vehicles be allowed to ferry passengers onboard the vessels in the next 30 days.

On Wednesday, Uhuru announced the National Police Service (NPS) and

the Kenya Coast Guard Service (KCGS) would take charge at the channel to curb spread of the Covid-19.

Yesterday, pedestrians and motorists using the ferries were forced to queue, with order being witnessed throughout the day contrary to the usual chaotic scenes witnessed on daily basis.

However, contrary to the Covid-19 safety measures, the one metre social

distancing requirements was not being enforced by the officers.

This came as Mombasa Governor Hassan Joho and his Kilifi counterpart announced emergency mitigation and stimulus measures for families and businesses affected by the Coronavirus pandemic.

Joho announced a Sh700 million nutritional support for 227,404 vulnerable households in Mombasa. Of the kitty, the county said it would pump in Sh200 million and asked the national government and other partners to chip in.

"The county intend to deliver food packages to all households in designated areas in event of a lockdown," he said.


In Kilifi, Governor Amason Kingi all licensed businesses that have been forced to close down due to these safety measures will have their business licence payments prorated as a waiver in the next financial year to

take care of the period they were not in operation.

"We are in the process of identifying the most vulnerable families in the county so as to cushion them from the effects of a slowed down economy due to these stringent measures. We have already been allocated storage space in the county by the National Cereals and Produce Board where we will be storing all foodstuffs from both the county government and well wishers that will go towards assisting vulnerable families. The distribution mechanisms will be communicated," he said.

Joho and Kingi also announced pay cut for the executive effective end of April 2020.

In Kwale, Governor Salim Mvurya announced closure of all open air second hand clothes markets in all towns and trading centres for the next 30 days in a bid to combat the Coronavirus pandemic.



PUBLIC NOTICE

USSD Short Code Query and SMS Services to Enhance Service Delivery

With the USSD query service, customers will have access to:


- 1. Pump prices**
• Dial *363#, press 1 then enter the name of the town e.g. Kilifi then press send
- 2. To check the details of a licence for example expiry date**
• Dial *363#, press 2 then enter the licence number then press send
- 3. License Application status**
• Dial *363#, press 3 then enter the reference number obtained after submitting your application then press send
- 4. To see scheduled exams**
• Dial *363#, press 4 then enter the reference number obtained after submitting your license application
- 5. To check exam results**
• Dial *363#, press 5 then enter the reference number obtained after submitting your license application
- 6. To verify employee details**
• Dial *363# press 6 then the employee's national ID number. You will receive an SMS with key employee details such as name and designation.
- 7. To check the status of your Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) application**
• Dial *363# press 7 then the PPA ID
- 8. To report a complaint**
• Dial *363#, press 8 then choose the nature of complaint from the list provided e.g. if it is billing complaint press 1 then click send. Our officers will call you to get more information about your complaint.
- 9. To report an accident**
• Dial *363#, press 98(more), then press 9, then choose the nature of accident from the list provided e.g. if it is reporting work related accident press 1 then click send. Our officers will call you to get more information about the accident
- 10. Truck verification**
• Dial *363#, press 98(more), then press 10, then enter the truck's registration number e.g. KCG 254N


With the SMS service, customers will have access to:

- 1. Pump prices**
• Type the word **price** space **town** then send the message to 40850 e.g. **Price Kilifi**
- 2. To check the details of a licence for example expiry date**
• Type the word **licence** then the **licence number** and then send the message to 40850 e.g. **Licence 1234**
- 3. License Application status**
• Type the words **application status** then the **reference number** obtained after submitting your application and then send the message to 40850 e.g. **Application status 123456**
- 4. To see scheduled exams**
• Type the words **exam details** followed by the **reference number** obtained after submitting your license application then send the message to 40850 e.g. **Exam details 12345678**
- 5. To check exam results**
• Indicate the type of exam you undertook for example **written exam** followed by **reference number** obtained after submitting your license application then send the message to 40850 e.g. **Written exam 12345678**
- 6. To verify employee details**
• Type the word **employee** followed by the **national ID number** then send the message to 40850 e.g. **Employee 12345678**
- 7. To check the status of your Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) application**
• Type the words **PPA progress** followed by the **PPA ID** then send the message to 40850 e.g. **PPA progress 123**
- 8. To report a complaint**
• Type the word **complaint** and then send the message to 40850. Our officers will call you within 24 hours on weekdays to get more details of your complaint.
- 9. To report an accident**
• Type the word **accident** then send the message to 40850. Our officers will call you within 24 hours on weekdays to get more information about the accident.
- 10. Truck verification**
• Type the word **truck** followed by the registration number then click send. E.g. **Truck KCG 254N**


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CORONA CRISIS



Empty Nakuru Mashambani stage after the government closed all PSV bus stages at the Nakuru central business district, yesterday. PD/RAPHAEL MUNGE



Mombasa County Health officers fumigate buildings on Digo Road, yesterday. PD/NDEGWA GATHUNGU

Traders sell wares at Afraha Stadium in Nakuru where they were relocated yesterday. They accused the county government of not providing them with shelter, water and toilets. PD/RAPHAEL MUNGE



WORLD UPDATES

- 1 The US has almost 70,000 confirmed cases and at least 1,050 deaths.
- 2 But New York state, the worst-affected, says social restrictions are slowing hospital admissions.
- 3 US Senate passes \$2 trillion stimulus bill, which includes \$1,200 for most adults.
- 4 In the UK, financial support for the self-employed is due to be unveiled.
- 5 The number of deaths in the UK has risen to 465, out of 9,500 confirmed cases
- 6 In China, no new cases were reported in Hubei province, where the virus emerged.



Passengers in one of the buses that have complied with the government directive to reduce the number of travellers per trip to help tame spread of the virus. PD/PHILIP KAMAKYA



Passenger buses from Tanzania are now ferrying cargo especially grocery after traders from the neighbouring country were barred from entering Kenya to avert spread of Covid-19. PD/CHRISTINE MUSA



A police officer and Laikipia County Reinforcement officers camp at the Nanyuki main terminus to keep off miraa traders who had defied orders to close their businesses to avoid over crowding in the fight against coronavirus. PD/PAUL NDUNG'U



Dedan Kimathi University of Technology Vice Chancellor Prof Ndirangu Kioni (right) helps security personnel sanitise hands with a sanitiser produced by the institution outside Nyeri County Commissioner's office, yesterday. He said the university will soon start producing affordable sanitisers and face masks. PD/PAUL NDUNG'U



Charles Ndimu, a florist on Koinange Street camps at his place of work yesterday as he awaits customers. The local flower industry has recorded poor sales ever since the first coronavirus case was confirmed in Kenya. PD/JOHN OCHIENG

KENYA RAILWAYS

PUBLIC NOTICE

TEMPORARY CHANGES IN MADARAKA EXPRESS PASSENGER AND NAIROBI COMMUTER RAIL SERVICE OPERATIONS

We make reference to the Presidential Directive on prevention of Corona Virus in Kenya made on 25th March 2020. Starting **Friday 27th March 2020**, the Government has imposed a daily curfew from 7 p.m. to 5 a.m. within the territory of the Republic of Kenya except for critical service providers.

In order to comply with the directive and to ensure that our customers arrive at their destinations within the timelines, Kenya Railways has temporarily suspended the Madaraka Express (ME) Passenger Service express train between Nairobi and Mombasa ; the Nairobi - Suswa service; and the Nairobi Terminus-Ngong Commuter Service. We have also revised the ME Passenger Service Inter-county train and the Nairobi Commuter Rail Service schedules as below:

MADARAKA EXPRESS PASSENGER SERVICE SCHEDULE

	NAIROBI TERMINUS		KIBWEZI STATION		MTITO ANDEI		VOI STATION		MOMBASA TERMINUS	
TRAIN	ARRIVAL	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	DEPARTURE
N2	-	10:30	12:28	12:31	13:02	13:06	14:12	14:16	15:46	-

	MOMBASA TERMINUS		VOI STATION		MTITO ANDEI		KIBWEZI STATION		NAIROBI TERMINUS	
TRAIN	ARRIVAL	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	DEPARTURE
N1	-	10:30	12:00	12:04	13:30	13:34	14:03	14:06	16:07	-

NAIROBI COMMUTER RAIL SERVICE - MORNING

	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL
RUIRU - NAIROBI	06:10	07:45
EMBAKASI - NAIROBI	07:05	07:55
SYOKIMAU - NAIROBI	06:30	07:15
KIKUYU - NAIROBI	06:00	07:35
KAHAWA - NAIROBI	09:00	10:15

NAIROBI COMMUTER RAIL - TO NAIROBI TERMINUS

	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL
NAIROBI - SYOKIMAU	08:30	09:10
SYOKIMAU - NAIROBI	16:30	17:10

NAIROBI COMMUTE RAIL SERVICE - EVENING

	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL
NAIROBI - RUIRU	16:20	17:55
NAIROBI - EMBAKASI	17:20	18:10
NAIROBI - SYOKIMAU	17:00	17:50
NAIROBI - KIKUYU	16:20	17:55

* Customers are advised to use the tickets issued during purchase as long as the travel date is valid.

Please note that we have also temporarily suspended Madaraka Express Passenger Service to Athi River, Emali, Mariakani and Miasenyi.

We wish to re-assure our esteemed passengers and stakeholders that we shall continuously take necessary precautions to serve you within the context of safety and efficiency to tackle COVID-19 as guided by the Ministry of Health.

For more information, please contact:

☎ 0709 388 888, 0709 388 887

🌐 www.krc.co.ke, <https://metickets.krc.co.ke/>

✉ info@krc.co.ke, contact@krc.co.ke, mnsgroperations@gmail.com

📍 Kenya Railways

🐦 @KenyaRailways_



P EDITORIAL

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QUOTED TODAY



OPIYO WANDAYI

The economic stabilisation measures spelt out by President Kenyatta are reassuring. They should be able to cushion mwananchi from effects of the Corona pandemic.



FRED SIYOI

Pharmacy and poisons board prohibits all pharmacies and chemists from dispensing chloroquine to clients without a valid prescription from a medical doctor.



VLADIMIR PUTIN

We see how severely the coronavirus epidemic is developing in the world, in many countries the number of cases is continuing to grow, the whole world economy is under threat.

Kudos Mr President for relief measures

President Uhuru Kenyatta's Wednesday evening update on coronavirus went beyond confirmation of numbers and measures to tame the virus—he moved to cushion many vulnerable Kenyans from the impact of the pandemic.

Kenyans have been facing tough times since the first case of Covid-19 was confirmed in the country two weeks ago. The anxiety is real—and it keeps growing with every confirmed new case.

Like elsewhere, Kenyans are bearing the socio-economic adversities of the highly contagious virus. Movement and many economic activities are gradually grounding to halt and starting today when the 7pm-5am curfew kicks in, things are likely to move from bad to worse, especially for a country where most people live from hand to mouth and has massive youth unemployment.

This is why the President's intervention measures that come in the form of tax relief, more money to the elderly and easing access to loan facilities for medium and small-scale enterprises, is not only timely, but most welcome.

In particular, his proposals on tax relief for low earners, reduction of Pay As You Earn burden for all workers, pay cuts for senior government officials and hiring of more medical professionals to help combat the pandemic will have immediate impact.

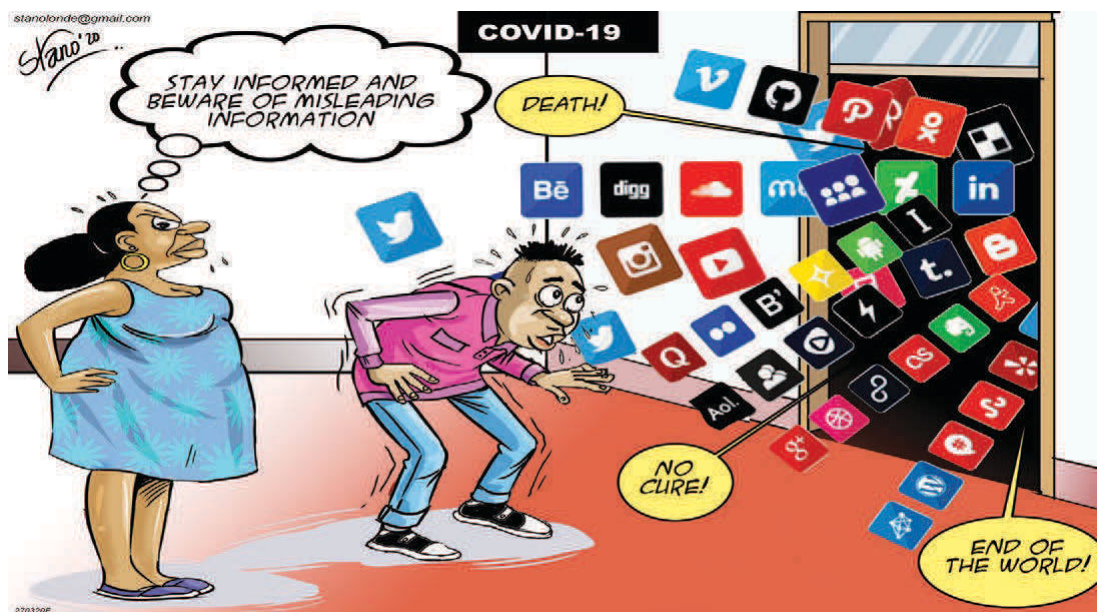
And because these measures need legislation, it is critical that the National Treasury expedites the process by tabling them in Parliament. Hopefully, the measures will come into force soonest to cushion Kenyans even as the curfew starts.

It is also comforting to learn that although the infections, which had hit 25 by Wednesday, keep rising, it is not all gloom. One patient has been confirmed to have recovered. This, coupled with the assurance from the Health Cabinet Secretary that most of the cases are stable and will hopefully soon be discharged from hospital, is good news.

However, that shouldn't be a licence for Kenyans to adopt a laissez-faire attitude to life. So far, for a sizeable part of the population, it is business as usual. This is disheartening.

To overcome the killer virus, we must all adhere to the safety guidelines such as washing and sanitising of hands, social distancing and working from home when possible.

Let's keep safe and follow advice by the experts to flatten the curve.



Kenya making right steps in anti-Corona war

It is not the easiest of time for anyone. The coronavirus has hit the world with vengeance. From Washington, DC, where the President of the United States has turned the daily briefings into something of a reality show, through London where the British Prime Minister is seeking to project an image of a reincarnation of Winston Churchill to Nairobi, world leaders are seeking to reassure their publics.

Whether it is in Italy that has become the new epicentre of the virus attack, or Spain, a nation the virus has shown little mercy, to Tehran now so devastated and seemingly forgotten by the rest of the world, countries are seeking ways to reassure their people that together we will get over this.

Nairobi has been trying her best. It may have been a fortuitous act that President Uhuru Kenyatta shuffled his Cabinet shortly before the onset of the virus bringing in Mutahi Kagwe to manage the health docket.

The minister has been managing messaging with professionalism in his briefings. His demeanour and personality has, over the short period of time, given the Health ministry a new image.

Imagine the ministry prior to the arrival of Kagwe. It could not deal decisively with the report that supermarkets were lacing meat with preservatives to make them last longer on the shelves. In a near dramatic press conference, the then Cabinet Secretary warned of drastic action telling the proprietors of the supermarkets that the ministry was coming for them.



LEVI OBONYO

The government has responded to a public concern with firmness and clarity

But the threat ended there. This is the ministry that has been wading from one scandal to the next. How would it have generated confidence to enable the public trust Afya House to even know what was happening? For the first time in a long time it appears the government has responded to a public concern with firmness and clarity.

You get it that the government gets it. Coronavirus pandemic is both a public health and economic issue. It has disrupted the normal course of life: schools are closed, businesses are slowing if not shutting down, and the normal pace of life is being disrupted.

In rural Kenya, nowhere is this being felt more than in Western region where elaborate funeral rituals have to be scaled down in keeping with physical distance requirement.

President Uhuru has not disappointed either. In the raft of measures taken to cushion the public from the ravages of coronavirus, it has been clear that Harambee House has been hard at work. The curfew set to come into force tonight is a clear reminder to any-

body doubting the resolve of the State.

The raft of measures adopted by the government suggest empathy with the public and business, desired to stir the economy. Tax relief to low income bracket, reduction in PAYE, corporation and micro, small and medium enterprises taxes and other measures should provide some cushion, however, limited to the public during these difficult times.

In the middle of the exemplary performances has been the role of the media. The media are often bashed for one reason or the other. But give credit to Kenyan media for their professionalism and focusing attention on this one major national issue. If any segment of the media is to be faulted, it is the social one with its free-for-all nature embellishing truth as it pleases.

But fingers remain pointed at sections of our society. Our political class, often in our face, have been the first to take cover at the first mention of the virus. Then the religious cadre. We do well not to bash the whole lot. A large swathe of the church behaved very responsibly, offering their services online with their doors closed on Sunday. But there will always be the wayward ones.

The journey ahead has many unknowns. But the country is making sure steps and hopefully we will turn the corner with minimum casualties. God help us.

— The writer is the dean, School of Communication, Daystar University

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

SIMON SINEK

Leadership is absolutely about inspiring action, but it is also about guarding against mis-action.

Coronavirus crisis has restored sense of unity, humanity

It is a calamity as numbers of the world comes to terms with the effects of coronavirus. The pandemic has emerged as an equaliser of states; groups and individuals as countries race against time to curb its spread.

No one seems to have the right answer on how to best manage the virus or to keep the global population immune from it. Thus far, social distancing and the strict observance of personal hygiene appear to be the trusted means of taming it.

The impact of the virus can be seen and heard daily. Families are losing loved ones, hardworking citizens are losing their source of income even as economies try to stay afloat. A lot more of this impact will, sadly, be felt long after the world emerges from this menace.

For example, in countries that have been worst hit by the virus such as Italy and China, there is an increased appreciation for their governments and service providers. Populations that have survived the virus have witnessed the institutional dedication and strategy that have gone into the policies to safeguard lives and interests.

The political polarisation that characterised states and parties at local and international levels has morphed into calls for solidar-



SANDRA OCHOLA

These experiences are likely to improve on levels of patriotism and cohesion

ity and communal supplications. World leaders and their offices have been tested for their resilience and management skills and will likely be judged by their present actions during the next elections.

Doctors, nurses and other practitioners that have sacrificed their lives for the cause have further shed light on the state of healthcare systems across the world. Small-scale traders, the transport sector and others groups providing essential services continue to keep populations and economies afloat. These experiences are likely to improve on levels of patriotism and cohesion especially, within the countries that have been most affected by the outbreak.

Technology has been viewed through varied lenses since its advent. Yet, it is now almost the only way for people to stay in-touch with each other. This experience has given our technological advances a peak into the future, demanding for aggressive and homegrown inventions towards human surveillance and public health and telemedicine.

Evangelism might also take a different meaning for some devotees post-coronavirus. That places of worship have become points of infection for the masses has, indeed, changed perceptions towards fellowship and ministering. The boundaries between state and religion have been made clearer while the need for collaboration between these two entities has been magnified. In many instances, it is no longer about blind faith but rather, informed faith given the risks the masses continue to be exposed to.

The spread of the virus has also impacted on human relationships, especially with the weak and vulnerable within our society. Majority of those affected worst-hit by the virus are the elderly. Their weak immune systems, lack of proper medical insurance and even disposable income to sustain them during this trying period has left them susceptible to the ravages of the virus.

While there are quarters that believe that this is a matter of natural selection where the old die and the

young live, the situation offers a glimpse into global social welfare systems policies and their implementation. After this, there are countries that will improve on their policies and ensure better health service provision and social security for their aged populations.

What is most dampening, is that the virus is likely to widen the inequality gap. This is not only at the micro level but also at the global level as countries address the financial impact of the virus. Job losses and pay cuts will set back low-income earners in ways they may never recover. Governments will have to come up with creative, yet costly ways of keeping their populations fed even as international institutions seek ways to lighten debt burdens across board. Stimulus packages and other cushions offered to keep economies afloat will still impact the global economy in one negative way or the other.

Regardless, the sense of unity and purpose against coronavirus must be maintained. None of the above will matter when the world is unhealthy. Indeed, for many populations the year 2020 will begin once we declare victory over the pandemic.

—The writer is an Advocate of the High Court

STREET TALK

Governor regrets his choice for senior official

There is trouble in a county paradise. A row is brewing between a governor and senior official who is yet to formally take up the office. Our mole intimates that the governor is now regretting nominating the senior county official after he discovered the nominee's spouse was a close associate of a former governor. So bad is the situation that the governor and his allies have now resulted in using bloggers to attack the official to put pressure on them to toe the line.

NYS official uses Uhuru name to shake off probe

A senior National Youth Service (NYS) official has been chest-thumping to anyone who cares to listen, how untouchable she is. Senior State officials find it difficult to work with the high-handed woman who claims to have the President's ear. Recently, the NYS official told off a team of detectives probing how she irregularly acquired land in Mavoko and Athi River areas, saying the case "is going nowhere". The woman went on to deploy NYS bulldozers and water drilling machines at her private farm in Athi River.

Governor unleashes attack dogs on groups

An insecure governor from Western region has reportedly unleashed his attack dogs on all county WhatsApp forums to put off anyone criticising his leadership. The pawns have particularly been insulting female group members critical of the county boss. Group members are angered by the foul language the governor's spin-doctors are using. What's more, one of the pawns insulted his former primary school teacher, a woman in her late 60s, leaving the group in dead silence.

What is your MP saying about Corona? Anyone?

Have you seen, or heard of, your MP since it emerged that coronavirus was no joke? The pandemic has now proven to be a nightmare for legislators, who now have no chance to politick. They are also under pressure to be part of the solution, with two MPs admitting that voters have been on their cases, accusing them of who have been abandoning them at the hour of need. But is that not what they do all the time? The MPs are afraid voters may use their contact to punish them come 2022.

Stay at home, help slam brakes on Covid-19 spread

In his daily press briefings, Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe has been imploring on Kenyans to limit movement and observe personal hygiene to stop the spread of coronavirus.

He, however, said some defiant Kenyans continue like it is business as usual, crowding supermarkets and attending gatherings.

The reason the government is not enforcing a total lockdown is because of you and I. An average Kenyan does not have savings to last even a two-week lockdown and most of us live from our daily wages, with zero ability to stock up.

After listening to the CS, I took a drive around my estate to get an understanding of his anger. I was shocked by the carelessness of some Kenyans. Inside my estate, some people, who had probably spent the Saturday night in crowded bars and night clubs, were playing basketball! Never mind their kids and people in their households also interact with the rest of us. Just outside the estate,



HESBON OWILLA

You see, the virus does not spread itself; you and I spread it and the government

the local butcheries and soup joints were buzzing with people enjoying themselves, not aware of the risk they are exposing themselves and their loved ones to.

This virus is now with us and it seems like there is probably nothing we don't know about the virus. Terms like social distancing and quarantine are soon becoming clichés and folks are even going back to history to tell us the relationship between quarantine and the town of Karatina. But it is shocking that we still want to behave the same way we behaved before the coronavirus outbreak!

We need to get back to the basics. It all begins with you and I, let us stop it. Hospitals are not anywhere near the frontline in stopping this

pandemic. In fact, hospitals only come in after you and I have run away from our responsibility of stopping the virus and, worse still, if what has happened in Italy is anything to go by, our health facilities are not adequately equipped to handle the pandemic. If, therefore, we ever reach the Italy scale, we will have ourselves to blame.

Doctors won't stop it. In fact, by the time you get to the point where you will be seeing a doctor, you shall have put your loved ones in danger. Then we will have thousands of people seeking the attention of a limited number of doctors and the crisis will be beyond what our health and medical system can handle. But we can stop this now.

You see, the virus does not spread itself; you and I spread it. The doctors, your money or even the security agencies cannot stop it from spreading. Do it for you.

Why board a matatu that is full; why attend a gathering when the government is telling you otherwise? If you stay home, wash your hands, avoid that favourite *nyama choma*, run away from *mutura* and keep off your favourite night club, we will be playing our parts in stopping the virus. If we just played our parts in protecting us, there will probably be no one to infect and the virus will be contained as the healthcare system deals with the already detected cases that we can manage.

If the scenes from Italy and the rest of the world do not scare us, let us for once think of how our carefree attitude is a fertile ground for the virus and the risks it poses. It starts with you and I.

—The writer is a PhD candidate in political communication

#TWEETS TO THE EDITOR



As coronavirus ravages the world, it is dawning on Kenyans that their elected leaders have abandoned them.

@AngawaEA: Once COVID-19 is over, and our now silent politicians come back loudly with sermons about how BBI will solve all of Kenya's problems, I pray Wanjiku shall remember their silence and

call out their BS.

@_ItsShark: Politicians are now silent and I hope Wanjiku is noting. I know when all this is over, they will come back and try to fool us again with BBI politics.

@ngurepeterwanjo: The silence from our politicians is alarming. If they loved

/// @PeopleDailyKe /// f People Daily

us as they usually claim, they should be sending videos on how we should be safe during this corona period. But wapi! Hakuna anayejali Wanjiku.

@lamElvisMvoi: Kenya has 42 individuals who are worth more than Sh3 billion, but they can't even donate a shilling to Wanjiku.



TRUTH IS: The way of obedience is the way off blessing.

Poisons board warns against use of chloroquine

by Bernard Gitau
@PeopleDailyKe

The Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB) has prohibited all pharmacies and chemists from dispensing chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine alleged to treat coronavirus.

The board has also warned Kenyans against using the drugs because it may lead to irreversible blindness.

The board indicates that since US President Donald Trump claimed the anti-malarial and anti-inflammatory drugs can be used to treat Covid-19, there has been mad rush to buy the drug.

"Please note that the clinical trials utilising the two medicines are currently ongoing," PPB chief executive Dr Fred Siyoi, said.

He said there is no robust clinical data substantiating their use for prophylaxis and curative purposes is available, hence caution has to be applied when using them. "The board, therefore, prohibits all pharmacies and chemists from dispensing these to clients without a valid prescription from medical doctor," he said.

This according to the board will protect real patients who are in need and depend on these medications every day to improve their quality



of life. The drugs are used to manage rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus and porphyria cutanea tarda.

With Kenya already recorded 38 cases of Covid-19, fear is real and this might be the cause of the drugs

panic buying but the board is issuing a warning.

"Please note that irrational use of these drugs may lead to irreversible blindness which is detrimental to the health of the public," said Siyoi.

In Nigeria, health officials issued a

warning last week over chloroquine after they said three people in the country overdosed on the drug, in the wake of President Trump's comments.

Trump claimed at a White House briefing last week that the Food and Drug Administration had approved the "very powerful" drug chloroquine to treat Covid-19.

On Tuesday, Ministry of Health and Pharmaceutical Society of Kenya issued a warning to Kenyans hoarding the drugs. Health CAS Mercy Mwangangi has said currently there is no evidence of any Covid-19 vaccine or drugs.

"We have received reports that Kenyans are trying to source these drugs in chemists and hospitals," she said.

Fake sanitisers in market pose threat to Covid-19 fight

Authorities grapple with influx of product in urban centres through untested, unregulated chemist

by George Kebaso
@PeopleDailyKe

As anxiety over the coronavirus pandemic grips the country, there is growing concern over quality of hand sanitisers on sale.

The loud silence by the testing and quality regulatory agencies—Kenya Bureau of Standards (Kebs), National Quality Control Laboratory (NQCL) and the Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB)—could be leaving the majority poor at the mercy of merchants peddling counterfeit sanitisers and thus exposing them to the killer virus.

Unsuspecting Kenyans are trooping to every possible outlet; from pharmacies to the dingy street corners, to buy sanitisers to tame deadly respiratory flu, which has already infected 31 people in the country by yesterday.

A lab technologist, who spoke to the *People Daily* yesterday in confidence and did not want to be identified because of the sensitivity of the matter, accused Kebs of licensing every Tom, Dick and Harry to engage in such business. The matter is not helped by ongoing turf war between testing agencies, NQCL and PPB.

Stakeholders want to know why the National Laboratory is not saying anything about these fake sanitisers in the market yet it is the one that's charged with quality control.

"Is the national laboratory still carrying out its mandate, or it is dead?" James posed and said what has emerged recently is that national laboratory lacks proper leadership to stand out at this time; the country is bearing the burden of COVID-19.

He said, Health CS Mutahi Kagwe should break his silence over the NQCL's place in quality control of chemicals and drugs coming into the market, so that Kenyans are not exposed to toxic substances.

"Kenya Bureau of Standards is giving licences to everyone who wants to sell sanitisers. But what are the quality standards of these things? What are the PPB, the National Laboratory and Kebs doing as this business is now a free-for-all venture?" the



A hawker sells sanitisers in the streets of Nairobi.
PD/JOHN OCHIEING

source posed.

However, Kebs defended itself saying it has started educating public on how to verify genuine sanitisers through the media after it was notified of likely counterfeit products in the market.

The standards body's corporate communications manager, Zeyana Abdullah, said if the public needs to verify products certified by Kebs they should send the permit numbers to 20023 and report cases to 1545.

"The public should only use products certified by Kebs," she told *People Daily* adding that permit numbers will give the verified information. "Actually all this information is on our social media platforms," she said.

PPB managers said they were unaware of sale of fake sanitisers in the streets. However, their inspectors have been instructed to go around and find those who are selling. "We have directed our inspectors to conduct a survey. If those who are doing so do not have a proper licence, we will arrest them," said a senior source at the board.

A spot check by *People Daily* showed that some of the sanitisers labelled as "manufactured in China" lack proper specifications.

Already, unsuspecting people who have used these products have had skin affects are calling on the PPB to test them through the NQCL that is under the board and give the correct specifications.

"I applied a sanitiser on my hands last evening to protect myself from germ and other bacterial infection, but surprisingly today I have noticed that my skin colour has changed," a Mr Davy, who runs a digi-

tal cab, Little Riders, told the *People Daily*.

In Donholm Estate, a furniture shop proprietor selling sanitisers, who has little knowledge of chemicals, told the *People Daily* yesterday that he got a supply from Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA).

However, a keener scrutiny of the product, OM Pure Magic, shows Aromakare Ltd located on Lunga Lunga Road, Nairobi, manufactures it. This is the same product used by a certain bus company that plies Jogoo Road and other Eastlands areas of the city, to sanitise its passengers.

On the bottle of OM Pure Magic Hand sanitiser, the description; "scientifically formulated with a concentration 70 per cent alcohol to kill a wide range of bacteria, viruses, protozoa and fungi where water is not available", is prominently printed.

And this alarms our lab technician, who says: "This is not true. There is no sanitiser that kills viruses. This is highly misleading." He said certified sanitisers have very simple label messages such as, "it cleans; disinfects hands and reduces the risk of infection."

At the Tom Mboya Statue on Moi Avenue and outside the National Archives in Nairobi, more other traders were selling a different category of sanitisers.

"Sisi tunatafuta chakula (we are here eking out a living)," declared a female street trader with a baby on her lap.

But as greedy traders cash in on the demand for sanitisers to combat coronavirus, the Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA) has warned that dealing in counterfeit goods is a criminal offence.

Anxiety grips Bungoma as teen returns positive test

by Yusuf Masibo
@PeopleDailyKe

The family of a 19-year-old student who tested positive for coronavirus has been quarantined under armed police protection after they were allegedly threatened by villagers.

Kakamega Governor Wycliffe Oparanya confirmed the family is quarantined at their home under police protection after hostile villagers raided their home demanding that they leave the village for allegedly shipping in the virus.

A boda boda operator who reportedly carried the boy, has been confined to the Kakamega County Referral Hospital isolation ward.

"The boda bodarider has been confined and test results are expected later today," Oparanya said, adding that three county staff and three people of Asian extraction said to have travelled from abroad recently are confined to the ward. A nominated MCA is, however, still roaming the streets after returning from a trip in Britain.

The *People Daily* independently established the county staff visited Kakamega General Hospital for screening following the governor's order but were advised to go home because they had not exhibited any signs of the disease 26 days after arriving from Italy.

Bungoma County Health executive Antony Walela yesterday confirmed that after tests were carried out on the teen, he tested positive.

Walela said already the staff at the hospital that attended to him had been quarantined.

"Already those who made close contacts with him including staff at the Life Care Hospital have been quarantined," he said.

The CEC said the national emergency team had also moved to Mumias to establish contacts that the teen made at his Mumias home.

At the same time, the county health team has forced a Catholic priest and 12 nuns in Webuye to be quarantined after it was established they had contacted a priest who conducted a funeral mass in Siaya and later tested positive.

ROGUE SANITISERS

● Kenya Bureau of Standards (Kebs), National Quality Control Laboratory (NQCL) and the Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB)—could have left the poor at the mercy of merchants

● This is the same product used as a sanitiser by a certain bus company that plies Jogoo Road and other Eastlands areas of the city, to sanitise its passengers

Court cases to be filed through email

Registrar of Judiciary Amadi says the directive is part of measures to help curb spread of Covid-19 pandemic

by Alphonse Mung'ahu
@PeopleDailyKe

Urgent cases will now be filed via electronic mail instead of the physical appearance of lawyers and litigants in court as part of the Judiciary's response to the coronavirus pandemic.

This follows the March 20 directive by Chief Justice David Maraga for courts to turn to an electronic case management regime.

A circular issued yesterday by Registrar of the Judiciary Anne Amadi time-bound pleadings, will be scanned in



Chief Justice David Maraga

portable document format (PDF) and sent to the email address milimani-certificates@court.go.ke and a copy to courtcertificates@gmail.com.



Registrar of Judiciary Anne Amadi

Each document should be scanned separately and named appropriately. "The judiciary shall process the submitted documents and advice on the

amount of money to be paid," Amadi says in the circular.

The client can then pay the fees through M-Pesa PayBill No.522537 and forward the payment confirmation to phone number 0793485077.

"The documents shall be processed and feedback sent to the parties using the provided emails. The parties shall communicate to the court on various issues, including seeking directions on any matter through the designated email addresses," says Amadi.

The circular directs that all email communication regarding any matter in court must be copied to all parties in the suit.

On Monday, the Registrar directed Judiciary staff to work from home.

The Judiciary has been providing minimal essential services across its stations to ensure access to justice is not completely disrupted.

However, Amadi said concerns have been raised by the staff regarding their safety as they attend to wananchi.

Contact details

"We have taken these concerns into consideration and having reviewed the address by CS Health Mutahi Kagwe on Monday on the seriousness of the pandemic, it is our view that the health and safety of the entire judiciary family must be prioritised," she said. A spot check at Milimani Law Courts yesterday revealed that services were still being provided, albeit minimal.

Amadi, in her memo, directed that all heads of stations notify the public of the directive by placing appropriate notices at court stations.

To facilitate urgent matters which cannot wait, the Registrar said head of station should provide two contact details for that purpose.

Curfew will bring our husbands home early, say Kisumu women

by James Magayi
@PeopleDailyKe

Women in Kisumu have welcomed the decision by President Uhuru Kenyatta to impose a dusk-to-dawn curfew beginning today.

They said the curfew would ensure their husbands come home early. According to the women, although the circumstances that led to the curfew are regrettable, they said that the coronavirus pandemic would bring families together.

"The curfew may have been brought about by a calamitous situation but it has a lot of positives. Other than helping check the spread of the virus, we will have our husbands home early. My husband is a boda boda rider and sometimes he works the whole night. I see him in the morning when I leave for the market and I cannot tell if he was really working or sleeping elsewhere," said a woman who identified herself as Risper.

Another woman is hoping the curfew would keep her hus-

band sober.

"He drinks but the extended family doesn't know about it. To hide his habit, he comes home in the dead of night. He has lost touch with the children and I'm hoping this will slow him down," said Annette Akeyo, a resident of Manyatta estate.

Lose income

But the order has not gone down well with the men. A boda boda rider said he would lose income because of the curfew.

"The best business is usually at night when patrons leave night clubs and bars. We make good money and we are not bothered by the huge traffic. This is definitely not what we wanted," said Jack Mokaya.

A primary school teacher Noel Ochuka predicted a rise in marital fights due to the curfew.

He said women like to pick fights with their husbands due to negligible issues and to avoid confrontations, men resort to spend more time away from home.

BRIEFLY

Corona screening stepped up on the Kenya-Ethiopia border

Screening for the coronavirus in Marsabit county has been heightened with teams being stationed at various points of entry and on major roads. Marsabit County Commissioner, Evans Achoki, who is also the coordinator of the County Emergency Preparedness and Response Committee said 30 thermal-scanners have been provided by the national government to test patients and travellers for signs of the virus. Achoki said all entry points into the country on the Kenya-Ethiopia border, that include Illeret and in Moyale town, were being manned by screening teams to ensure all persons crossing the border from Ethiopia and back undergo first line of defence against the virus.

-KNA



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Travellers to get SGR tickets refund in distancing directive

Operator says move meant to comply with State order that no more than 60 per cent of seats should be filled to avoid virus spread

by Irene Githinji
@igithinji

Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) tickets purchased during the pre-sale period will now be refunded to travellers, in compliance with government's directive that no more than 60 per cent of seats should be filled to avoid the spread of coronavirus.

Africa Star Railway Operation Company has issued measures to be observed to stop the spread of the disease, saying just like other modes of transport, coronavirus has disrupted railway travel plans for passengers.

"To comply with government's SGR requirement that no more than 60 per cent of seats be filled, the operator will refund tickets bought during the pre-sale period," said the operator in a statement Wednesday.

Safeguard staff

The number of passengers using SGR during this period has gone down, with statistics between January 1 and March 20 indicating that 303,063 passengers travelled on the Madaraka Express, which is 8,644 passengers less than 311,707 transported during the same period last year.

As part of combating spread of the virus, the Africa Star operator said each train is equipped with a separate isolation coach designated for passengers with high fever and stations have a quarantine area where those presenting high fever are placed.

To safeguard its staff, the operator issued a directive in January instructing all staff not to travel abroad, while those who had travelled prior to the outbreak were not



IN SUMMARY

● Africa Star Railway Operation Company has issued measures to be observed to stop the spread of the disease.

● It says each train is equipped with a separate isolation coach designated for passengers with high fever.

The Madaraka Express during a stop-over at the Mito Andei station. PD/JOHN OCHIENG

allowed to travel back to Kenya.

In case a staff member who had travelled abroad was required to physically report to work, the company has enforced the 14-day quarantine period, complete with isolation areas.

Provide update

Expatriate staff in Kenya are not allowed to travel out of the country, with the service provider ensuring regular inspections are conducted. To ensure staff are well and do not pose a risk to their colleagues and passengers, all employees are required to provide a daily update of their overall health.

The operator is also conducting tem-

perature checks at stations that attract high volumes of passengers and has embarked on deep cleaning and decontamination of trains upon the disembarking of passengers.

"The service provider has developed emergency response plans and has been conducting drills geared towards employee preparedness to combat Corona," said the operator.

And as part of the operator's sensitisation measures on the pandemic, passenger and station attendants are to periodically announce the pandemic's prevention measures both onboard the trains and at stations, through public address systems.

BRIEFLY

Pastor placed in forced quarantine

Security officers in Trans Nzoia have put a pastor, who arrived in the country from the US through South Africa, on forced self-quarantine. This is after he ignored directives and went on to conduct a church service. Trans Nzoia West deputy county commissioner Khalifa Abdulahi (below, centre) led the security team and Kenya Red Cross officials to the home of pastor Keffa Tundwe of the Light in the Hill church in Lukhuna suburbs of Matisi location after a tip-off. Speaking to *People Daily* at the scene, Khalifa said the pastor had been screened and found to be negative but forced to self-quarantine awaiting results from blood samples taken to Kisumu. Four other members of his family have since been isolated.

— David Musundi



E-Plus ambulances to help fight virus

Healthcare firm Emergency Plus Medical Services (E-Plus) has provided designated ambulances to respond to suspected cases of Covid-19 in the country. The firm will now help in evacuation, alongside other players such as St John Ambulance and Red Cross. E-Plus managing director Susan Ng'ong'a said the company was prepared to offer the necessary support as a show of patriotism even as the pandemic cases keep rising. "We remind our clients and general public to observe basic guidelines on hygiene; washing our hands regularly, maintaining social distance, practicing respiratory hygiene and seeking medical attention in case of suspected symptoms," read part of the statement from the firm.

— Barry Silah

PSV owners seek more time to repay loans

by Winstone Chiseremi
@Wchiseremi

Owners of the public service vehicles (PSVs) operating in North Rift region have urged the government to persuade financial institutions to give them more time to service their bank loans.

Speaking to the press in Eldoret town yesterday, the matatu owners said the sector was going through very difficult times in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic and forcing them to service their loans was tantamount to grounding their business.

Led by their chairman Michael Kiplagat, they said they will not be able to meet the deadlines given to them to clear the bank loans they took to purchase the vehicles.

"We are unable to service the loans on time as demanded by the financial institu-

tions and other creditors due to abrupt changes brought in the sector as a result of Covid-19," said Kiplagat.

The matatu owners also proposed that government abolish all taxes on basic goods to enable vulnerable Kenyans to buy food.

Essential amenities

They also urged county governments to move with speed and supply new matatu termini with clean water among other essential sanitary amenities such as toilets to help fight the disease.

"As the devolved units take appropriate measures to protect the citizens against the deadly virus as directed by the Ministry of Health, they must also consider provision of all other essential services to our new matatu terminus after relocation from central business district," he said.

Eala to seek more funds for border counties, says Oburu

by Henry Andanje
@PeopleDailyKe

The East African Legislative Assembly (Eala) will seek funds from donors to support border counties which are at high risk of experiencing coronavirus outbreak, Eala member Dr Oburu Odinga has said.

Oburu said he will reach out to the National government and donor community for injection of more funds to border counties that are at high risk.

He said he was dispatched to Western region border counties to assess Covid-19 preparedness and challenges, adding that he will compile a report to be tabled in the regional Assembly.

Oburu (pictured) spoke after meeting Busia Deputy

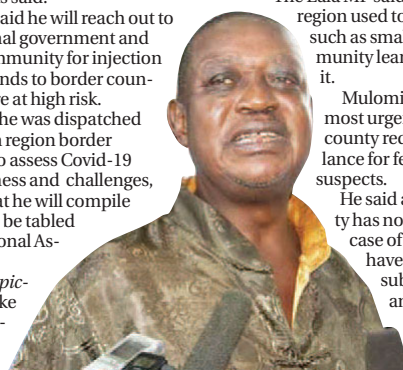
Governor Moses Mulomi, who is also the acting Health Executive, in his office to monitor the coronavirus situation in the county.

He said he was happy with mitigation measures Busia was undertaking to keep the contagious pandemic at bay.

The Eala MP said historically, the region used to have diseases such as small pox but the community learnt how to control it.

Mulomi said among the most urgent things the county requires is an ambulance for ferrying Covid-19 suspects.

He said although the county has not recorded any case of Covid-19, they have trained county, sub-county, ward and village administrators, among others, on the pandemic.



Be cautious, taxi operators urged

Taxi operators in Kisii Central Sub-county have been urged to be wary of foreigners and report them to security officers to curb the spread of the coronavirus. Area base commander Elvis Kemboi told the operators not to be blinded by huge sums of money the outsiders may offer, and risks lives of Kenyans. He said some foreigners preferred boarding taxis to public service vehicles and could sneak into the country and spread the virus. Kemboi, who spoke after meeting the operators, appealed to them to ferry only two passengers in each trip to comply with the government's directive on social distancing. "Police officers will be stopping the taxis to check whether they have complied with the directive," said the officer.

— Robert Ochoro

President shouldn't pick CJ, Maraga tells BBI team

Apex court boss says proposals by some leaders if adopted would compromise the independence of Judiciary

by Bernard Gitau
@benagitau

Chief Justice David Maraga has dismissed proposals submitted to the Building Bridges Initiative (BBI) team on Judiciary, terming some dangerous and retrogressive.

In a statement, Maraga singled out recommendations by Speaker of National Assembly Justin Muturi and Law Society of Kenya (LSK).

Muturi's proposals touched on composition, role and powers of the Judicial Service Commission (JSC), appointment and removal of judges and separation of powers between arms of government.

"These suggestions that the Executive and the Legislature should have a substantive role in the appointment and removal of judges are dangerous and retrogressive," he said. "The Speaker of National Assembly has proposed to the BBI that sitting judges and magistrates should not be members of JSC," he said.

Occurrence of petitions

Maraga added the LSK has also observed that there is need for review of the composition of the JSC given the occurrence of petitions that are being filed against sitting judges who still sit in the commission.

He said the proposals are driven by claims that judges and magistrates, who sit in the JSC, are predisposed to defend their own when handling disciplinary matters facing their colleagues.

Currently, Deputy Chief Justice Philomena Mwili is still discharging her duties despite a petition by two State agencies challenging her suitability to serve over claims of graft.

DPP Noordin Haji filed the petition at



The Supreme Court of Kenya in Nairobi. Maraga has vowed not to attend some state functions unless the government treats him and the Judiciary with respect. PD/FILE

the JSC after a five-judge bench thwarted his attempt to charge Mwili in court on claims for failure to pay taxes to the Kenya Revenue Authority, forgery and uttering a false document.

Mwili survived possible prosecution last May after the High Court ruled that the DCI had obtained evidence against her illegally by invading her privacy.

On the allegations, Maraga said the contentions are premised on non-factual and biased positions that ignore the fundamental importance of the current constitution.

"There is no evidence that judicial officers and judges in the JSC have protected their own when discharging its appointive or disciplinary roles," he said.

In the last 10 years, Maraga said JSC has recommended the formation of tribunals to remove 6 Judges of Superior Court; has disciplined and dismissed the Chief Registrar and 7 directors among others.

Another argument is that judges and magistrates carefully shield and safeguard appointments and promotions that are filed against sitting judges who still sit in

THE HIGHLIGHTS

● **Appointment:** National Assembly Speaker Justin Muturi proposes that the President shall communicate to the National Assembly a memorandum on refusal to appoint any nominee of the JSC hence JSC shall submit another one.

● **Haji team:** The BBI report proposes that the JSC send three times the number of names as the position to be filled to the President to pick a candidate.

the commission.

He said: "Evidence further belies the carefully manufactured perception that JSC cushions the existing members of the judiciary from competition from outsiders in the appointments to higher offices especially those of judgeships." On appointment of judges of Supreme Court and JSC, Speaker Muturi proposes they should forward to the President names of persons so qualified, and the President may appoint any of the judges with approval of the parliament.

Protests as gangs kill three people in Ruiru

by Mathew Ndung'u,
Sophie Njoka
and Eric Juma
@PeopleDailyKe

Ruiru residents in Kiambu county now want all provincial administrators in the area transferred and action taken against them for failing to tame rising insecurity in the region.

The area has in the last one month recorded three murders, including that of a farmer, a boda boda rider and a watchman.

The latest incident occurred on Wednesday at Kwhota village in Gatong'ora ward, where the body of Joseph Kiarie, a farmer aged 51, was found dumped in his kales plantation.

Kiarie, a father of eight, was guarding his farm on Wednesday night alongside a friend when he was attacked by a gang of criminals who have been terrorising residents in the area.

"Kiarie does not fight back even when wronged. He was killed by a gang that has found a den in Kwhota village. We are tired of seeing our husbands killed in broad daylight," said Elizabeth Wanjiku, a resident.

Police station land

James Njoroge, a neighbour of the deceased claimed the criminals have been targeting men.

Irate residents accused Ruiru provincial administration officers of failing to provide them with security and denying area MP Simon King'ara an opportunity to construct a police station.

King'ara said his office had set aside Sh10 million for the construction of a police station and the delay had been

caused by land contention between his office and that of the chief. The lawmaker accused the chief of dictating the kind of development projects that will happen in his jurisdiction but warned him that locals have the final say.

"It's sad that leaders expected to steer development are at the forefront of fighting the same. This area chief is a disappointment to locals as he has failed to maintain order and security," he said.

Meanwhile, police in Mombasa yesterday gunned down two suspects linked to a series of M-Pesa shop robberies in Kisauni and Nyali areas. The duo was shot dead at their hideout at Mishomoni area of Kisauni Sub-county. Area police commander Julius Kiragu said the two were among other suspects who escaped during the raid.

Acting on a tip-off, Kiragu said police trailed the suspects to their house in Mlango Saba area where they were reportedly asked to surrender but refused.

"The four suspects have been on the police radar for the past five months, they have been behind M-Pesa shop robberies in areas of Kisauni and Nyali. For instance today, they had planned to rob a hardware at Karama Kongowea," he said.

Elsewhere, Gem MP Elisha Odhiambo wants police to conclude investigations and arrest the people who invaded his home and stole a 65-inch TV and other valuables. The lawmaker said the thugs appeared to have used master keys to gain entry into his house in Mutumbu, Gem Sub-county as there was no evidence of forced entry.

Anxiety as locusts invade farms in Nakuru county

Huge swarms of desert locusts have invaded farms in Gilgil and Bahati Sub-counties in Nakuru causing anxiety among farmers.

County Agriculture Executive Dr Immaculate Maina said the swarm of pests stretching about 20km entered the county through Kampi ya Moto from Baringo county before splitting into three smaller swarms.

She said the locusts landed at Ndonga Farm in Waseges division, Karunga village in Gilgil and Bahati forest.

The Executive, however, assured residents that the damage was minimal as the swarm consisted of adults who were already laying eggs.

Farmers expressed concern that the invasion could lead to major loss of farm produce and hunger, and appealed to the county government to intensify aerial spraying of the insects to ensure food security. They called for speedy interven-



Nakuru Agriculture Executive Dr Immaculate Maina. PD/FILE

tion by both the county and the National governments. However, Maina said aerial and ground spraying had been launched in Bahati and Subukia Sub-counties.

Yield success

The move is aimed at ensuring the pests do not migrate to other parts of the county and to counter numbers of newly-hatched locusts. -KNA



Destructive rains

Residents of Ayweyo village in Nyando, Kisumu county, cross a flooded section of their homes after River Nyando burst its banks and swept away a newly-constructed bridge. Many families in the area have been displaced. PD/WIOLA KOSOME

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Businesshub

There are areas where the government is now saving and we are keeping our operations to the bare minimum.

Treasury assures economic rescue funds are available

PS says money had been budgeted and only awaits reclassification and prioritising the use

by Zachary Ochuodho
@Zachuodho

As Kenyans await the much-awaited fiscal policies to deal with the Covid-19 shocks, the National Treasury is leveraging measures which President Uhuru Kenyatta announced on Wednesday.

Julius Muia, Principal Secretary at the National Treasury and Planning, says most of the monies and stimulus President Uhuru outlined have been budgeted for in Supplementary Budget II.

He said what the government is doing is to ensure that the task at hand is dealt with on a priority basis above everything else. If a 100 per cent tax relief is provided for those who earn Sh24,000 and less, the Government will forgo about Sh16 billion.

"We had budgeted for the money. It's only that we are saying it should now be prioritised. In our budget prioritisation, during the Supplementary II, we made sure that healthcare receives that significant amount of money to enable us deal with the magnitude of this pandemic," Muia said during an interview.

Financial challenges

The financial challenges being encountered were unforeseen, but the government wants to ensure that funds are borrowed from areas which are not urgent, for instance, travelling.

Muia said there are areas where the government can save and that the money in those areas can be used elsewhere to assist in priority areas. Such areas include travelling - whose funds can be used elsewhere.

"So there are areas where the government is now saving and we are keeping our operations to the bare minimum in terms of the situation, so there is operational saving that we can see on the basis that offices are run with the bare minimum," Muia said.

The President said in order to protect



President Uhuru Kenyatta addresses the nation from State House, Nairobi, on Wednesday. He announced a stimulus package to address the impact of coronavirus on the economy. PSU

jobs for citizens and also to provide some degree of certainty for both employees and their employers, he directed National Treasury to undertake some measures aimed at cushioning the public from the adverse impact of the pandemic.

Apart from taxes, the president also directed that additional Sh10 billion to the elderly, orphans and other vulnerable members of the society through cash-transfers be appropriated by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, to cushion them from the adverse economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Temporary suspension of the listing with Credit Reference Bureaus (CRB) of any person, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and corporate entities whose loan account fall overdue or is in arrears, effective from April 1, 2020.

The package Uhuru announced together with what Central Bank had introduced is aimed at lessening the impact of the pandemic on businesses and individuals.

Muia's assurance comes at a time many people want to know the stimulus package Treasury plans to roll-out to support

businesses in the wake of the coronavirus-induced slump to enhance liquidity and reduce potential economic disruption.

Kenya, which has 28 confirmed cases of the virus by banned the entry of travellers from all countries by Wednesday this week and encouraged employers to allow staff to work from home. Already many companies, including airlines, malls, hotel chains and some industries, are reporting low business as customers keep away from travel or establishments.

Similar packages

Several countries have already announced similar packages which seek to reduce the cost of doing business and shield businesses from collapse.

Tourism, retail, external trade and logistics services have been the hardest hit by headwinds arising from the Covid-19 outbreak. In US, President Donald Trump has already signed into law a relief package of \$2.2 trillion (Sh232.12 trillion) to provide sick leave and unemployment benefits, free testing and food

RESCUE PACKAGES

● Germany has a supplementary budget of 156 billion Euros to counter the effects of the pandemic. In Austria, the government has announced an aid package of up to 38 billion Euros to deal with the consequences of the coronavirus.

● In the United Kingdom, Finance Minister Rishi Sunak unveiled a gigantic stimulus package, including the government paying the wages of workers throughout the country.

BANKING



M-Shwari clients to gain from deal

PARTNERSHIP: NCBA Group and Safaricom have announced a raft of measures aimed at cushioning their customers from the adverse impact of coronavirus beginning today for the next 90 days.

Key among the measures are rollover fees of M-Shwari to be deferred by 30 days, Credit Reference Bureau (CRB) listing of M-Shwari customers will be suspended for the next 90 days.

The group, a byproduct of the merger between NIC Bank and Commercial Bank of Africa, and Safaricom will continue engaging and working with customers during this time to ensure they can manage loan repayments. "As coronavirus continues to stir global economic fears, NCBA will continue to support our customers who may be financially affected," said John Gachora (pictured), NCBA Group managing director.

— Zachary Ochuodho

BOA Kenya gets Sh1.5b

STRATEGY: In a display of confidence in the Kenyan economy and in support of its Kenyan subsidiary's change of strategy from defensive to offensive, the Bank of Africa Group (BOA Group) is to make an immediate capital injection of Sh1.5 billion into BOA Kenya in the course of this month. BOA Kenya has been reorganising its business over the past four years with an aim of having a leaner balance sheet, improved asset quality and diversified liability mix supporting of efficient liquidity management. It has been on a defensive strategy which included the consolidation of its business and rationalisation of branch network given development and advancement in digital technology in driving banking business.

— Barry Silah

Ministry opens business centre

EMERGENCY: Industrialisation ministry has set up a Businesses Emergency Response Centre whose role will be to advise and promote the interest of Kenyans and foreign registered companies operating in the country. Cabinet Secretary, Betty Maina said the centre will counsel business community, regulatory bodies and trade facilitation agencies to mitigate the adverse effects of Covid-19 on the businesses in Kenya. Speaking in Nairobi, the CS said the purpose of the centre is to receive feedback from all businesses on the impact of the Covid-19 on businesses and propose interventions for different sectors. — KNA

Court upholds tribunal's ruling on firm's Sh1.6b debt to KRA



by Lewis Njoka
@LewisNjoka

A Nairobi high court has upheld an earlier ruling by the Tax Appeals Tribunal (TAT) that a local gold exporter pays Sh1.6 billion in tax arrears owed to the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA).

Ushindi Ltd (formerly Ushindi Exporters Ltd) had moved to the high court to challenge a December 8, 2016 decision by the tax tribunal which allowed KRA to compute tax owed without consider-

ing cost of sale claims presented by the gold exporter.

In its ruling, the tribunal had dismissed the claim by Ushindi that it had incurred a cumulative cost of Sh5.5 billion in 2010 and 2011 while exporting the gold as the exporter lacked documents to back up his claim. Therefore, the tribunal could not compel KRA to consider the costs in determining taxes owed by Ushindi.

Same position was maintained by the High Court which ruled that since the Ushindi had failed

to furnish KRA with the documents requested, it could not purport to claim costs under Section 15 of the Income Tax Act.

The court said it was upon the taxpayer to prove that the tax assessed had been wrongfully imposed and Ushindi had failed to do so. "It was thus the court's view that the taxpayer had failed to comply with obligations set out in Section 11 of the Trading in Unwrought Precious Metals Act as well as Section 54A of the Income Tax Act.

Coast hit hard as firms send staff on leave

Workers asked to go on mandatory annual recess with immediate effect as Coronavirus pandemic ravages the labour sector

by Reuben Mwamungu
@reubenmwamungu

The coronavirus pandemic is already taking a toll on the labour sector, with a number of Coast-based firms closing down and sending their staff on forced unpaid leave.

Southern Engineering Company (Seco) Ltd in Mombasa is the latest to despatch its personnel on compulsory annual recess.

In a memo circulated to all workers of the marine engineering company, employees were asked to take the mandatory break with immediate effect and with the expiry of the paid leave, the workers will not earn any salary.

Human Resource Manager, Tobias Bob Omwai, said staff who have already exhausted their leave days would remain on unpaid leave until the situation is contained.

Taking advantage

However, employees have protested over the move and accused the company of taking advantage of the pandemic to "sack workers in total disregard of the law."

"We have just received the memo but we feel this is so unfair. The company appears to value money more than our lives. Some of us have worked for more than 10 years and we find it so disturbing for the company to abandon us in the middle of such

a crisis," said one of the staff who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of being victimised.

The situation is not different at Umoja Rubber Products Ltd, located in Kikambala area of Kilifi County.

In fact, the rubber products company which is one of the largest manufacturers of rubber footwear including slippers and shoes has shut down all its operations including online.

"We have temporarily closed our online store. We will be back soon. Till then stay safe," this is the message that greets the company's clients on visiting their website.

A memo to all staff dated March 23 says that the factory will be shut down effective Wednesday and that the last working day will be Tuesday March 24, night shift.

The memo the management opted to pay salaries up to March 31 to be credited to their respective accounts before the end of the month, while the six days extra will be recovered when the company resumes operations.

"The management received orders from Kilifi county government to shut down operations for 14 days," the update on Covid-19 reads in part.

There was panic at the Mariakani-based Mabati Rolling Mills (MRM) where employees also said they have been asked to take leave after Kilifi County government ordered a close of factories.

The county government sent closure notices to all firms with a high number of workers to curb the spread of Coronavirus.

Its directive was addressed to all Economic Processing Zones (EPZs), Mombasa Cement Factory, all salt processing firms, sand harvesting quarries, coral blocks cutting quarries, ballast quarries and all other

STIMULUS PACKAGE

● President Uhuru Kenyatta has announced a welcome stimulus package to address the impact of coronavirus on the economy.

● He has directed National Treasury to offer a 100 per cent tax relief for individuals with gross income of Sh24,000.

industries. "There are confirmed Coronavirus cases in the county. The disease is known to alarmingly spread especially in areas with high numbers of people. Unfavourable decisions and stringent measures will be taken in favour of population decongestion, to protect people from the pandemic," the notice signed by county secretary and head of public service Mkare Jefwa reads.

Heavy sanctions

"Please note that failure to abide by the directive will attract heavy sanctions including permanent closure of your business and prosecution," warned the notice.

The coronavirus pandemic has spread across the world without being contained, forcing business closures, job losses, and plummeting stock markets.

Companies across the world are grappling with the sudden financial stress caused by the pandemic and taking measures to mitigate the inevitable blow it will have on business.

Leaders from some of the companies most affected by the pandemic, particularly airlines, are forfeiting their pay cheques as the pandemic worsens.



Taking its toll

A woman shops at a supermarket in Nairobi. The raging coronavirus pandemic has hit supermarkets so hard. The State has asked Kenyans to stay at home and ordered all churches, shrines and mosques to suspend worship programmes in a bid to ensure social distancing in the fight against Covid-19. PD/JOHN OCHIENG

SGR halts afternoon Madaraka Express train services in line with Uhuru's curfew directive

by Murimi Mutiga
@murimimutiga

Operators of the Madaraka Express have reviewed the operations of the train to merge the morning and afternoon passenger services to comply with the dusk to dawn curfew issued by President Uhuru Kenyatta on Wednesday.

Kenya Railway Corporation (KRC) Managing Director Phillip Mainga said the afternoon express train services will not be available until when the spread of Covid-19 is contained.

In the new departure and arrival schedule which kick off today, passenger trains leave Nairobi at 10:30 hours to arrive in Mombasa at 16:07 hours. Those heading to Nairobi from Mombasa will depart from Miritini station at 10:30 hours and arrive in Nairobi station at 03:46 hours daily.

Mainga said with the curfew coming into force today, those who had planned to arrive in Mombasa or Nairobi in the evening would be caught up in the ban on movement thus the need to review the schedule for the passenger train.

"We want to make sure no one of inconvenience by arriving in Nairobi or Mombasa when the curfew is in place, we have accommodated everyone in the new schedule," he said.

However, the number of passengers travelling using the Madaraka Express



Operations of Madaraka Express train services have been rescheduled. PD/FIL

train has drastically reduced since the beginning of the restrictions aimed at curbing spread of corona virus.

train departure

The changes in train departure schedule comes hours after a dusk to dawn curfew imposed by President Uhuru beginning today at 7pm to 5am.

The night curfew will disrupt the afternoon express train services because passengers have to arrive at night at their

final destination either in Nairobi or Mombasa. Normally, the express train is scheduled to leave Nairobi at 14:35 hours to arrive in Mombasa 19:18 hours daily, while that heading to Nairobi has to leave Mombasa terminal at 15:15 to arrive at Nairobi terminal at 20:14 hours.

Yesterday, passengers who had booked to travel with the evening express train were making frantic efforts to cancel or reschedule their bookings. KRC has also reduced maximum booking for each train to 60 percent as a measure to prevent spread of Covid-19.

In a notice issued yesterday, Africa Star Railway Operations Company Ltd (Afristar), the operator of the Standard Gauge Railway's (SGR) passenger transport and freight services said inter-county stoppages at four stations have also been suspended. The new measure took effect yesterday.

Afristar said the train will not make stop overs at Athi River, Emali, Mariakani and Miasenyi.

"In order to reduce risk of exposure to Covid-19, KR and Africa Star Railway Operations Company Ltd have suspended inter-county stoppages at the four station for a period of one month," the statement said.

BRIEFLY

StarTimes throws its weight behind fight against Corona

Pay Television operator StarTimes Media has launched a new dedicated television programme aimed at sharing the latest information about coronavirus pandemic.

StarTimes Daily COVID-19 Report will broadcast every weekday on 7 channels as well as on StarTimes ON mobile Application in English, Kiswahili, French among other languages. The programme aims at ensuring information on the

pandemic is more accessible to viewers. StarTimes Daily — Covid-19 Report will provide viewers with relevant updates and data about the situation in Africa and the world.

StarTimes regional marketing director Aldrine Nsubuga said that the programme aims at making sure that the general public is adequately equipped with knowledge against the virus.

— Barry Silah

Co-op Bank to help farmers to buy modern machinery

The recent joint scheme launched by Co-operative Bank and CFAO will enable farmers and co-operative societies acquire up to 80 per cent financing to purchase farm implements.

This comes at a time when the whole world is changing from traditional ways to mechanisation farming, which is in line with President Uhuru Kenyatta's agenda to enhance food security.

Co-operative Bank has over the years successfully combined innovative approaches to come up with products aimed at easing customers' burden of accessing credit at affordable terms. Agriculture is the backbone of Kenyan economy accounting to nearly 26 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP).

— by David Mariachana

BRIEFLY



Investor wants more imports banned

PRODUCTS: An industrialist in Kiambu wants the government to impose a total ban on all imported goods which can be locally manufactured.

Thika Town MP, who is also the Jungle Nuts company proprietor Patrick Wainaina, said only then can the government be equipped to tackle the high level of unemployment, adding that the ban can go a long way in creating gainful employment for the youth.

He said both levels of government should put up industries across the country where such products can be manufactured. Addressing the press in Kiambu town

yesterday, Wainaina said if the imports are banned, the country's economy would improve greatly.

"It is not economically viable to import items which can be made in Kenya and I hereby beseech the relevant authorities to ensure that all products which can be made locally are sourced and manufactured locally," he added.

Wainaina said the country should focus on exports as opposed to imports, adding that the same will create jobs and increase wages.

He said that there is need for both levels of government to promptly pay those who win tenders.

— Clement Kamau



Corona: Facebook group calls soar

INTERNET: Facebook has seen usage across its platforms surge in countries that have brought in virus lockdowns. Italy—with some of the toughest restrictions—has seen the biggest rise, with group calls up by more than 1,000 per cent in the last month.

The social media giant said total messaging traffic on all its platforms increased 50 per cent across the hardest hit

countries. Facebook owns Instagram along with popular messaging app WhatsApp.

But the company said the higher usage won't protect it from expected falls in digital advertising across the world.

"We don't monetise many of the services where we're seeing increased engagement," Facebook wrote in a post on Tuesday. Italy has a death toll now above 6,000 people from the virus. — BBC

NAIROBI SECURITIES EXCHANGE

HIGH	LOW	SECTOR	VWAP	PREVIOUS	TOTAL
		AGRICULTURAL	PRICES		SHARES
17.60	9.90	Eaagads Ltd Ord 1.25		11.00	
480.00	290.00	Kakuzi Pld Ord 5.00		300.00	
100.00	57.00	Kapchorua Tea Kenya Pld Ord 5.00		45.00	
685.00	405.00	The Limuru Tea Co. Pld Ord 20.00		475.00	
22.70	14.00	Sasini Pld Ord 1.00		16.50	
178.00	92.00	Williamson Tea Kenya Pld Ord 5.00	93.50	92.00	3,000
AUTOMOBILES & ACCESSORIES					
27.00	20.00	Car & General (K) Ltd Ord 5.00		24.00	
BANKING					
13.85	9.30	ABSA Bank Kenya Pld Ord 0.50	9.90	9.44	213,500
31.00	22.40	BK Group Pld Ord 0.80		22.40	
148.00	74.50	Diamond Trust Bank Kenya Ltd Ord 4.00	78.50	78.50	47,200
55.50	32.15	Equity Group Holdings Pld Ord 0.50	33.15	32.85	5,703,500
7.90	3.38	HE Group Pld Ord 5.00		4.00	18,100
126.00	42.50	IBM Holdings Pld Ord 1.00	49.80	48.15	11,000
55.50	33.75	KCB Group Pld Ord 1.00	35.05	35.05	7,304,400
6.50	3.22	National Bank of Kenya Ltd Ord 5.00		4.12	
41.00	24.90	NCSA Group Pld Ord 5.00	26.00	25.20	28,300
117.75	83.00	Stanbic Holdings Pld Ord 5.00	93.75	94.25	1,100
225.00	168.00	Standard Chartered Bank Kenya Ltd Ord 5.00	175.00	175.50	36,700
17.00	10.05	The Co-operative Bank of Kenya Ltd Ord 1.00	11.80	11.85	544,300
COMMERCIAL AND SERVICES					
5.10	0.45	Deacons (East Africa) Pld Ord 2.50...		0.45	
130	0.81	Eveready East Africa Ltd Ord 1.00	0.82	0.83	11,200
8.50	5.00	Express Kenya Pld Ord 5.00...		5.82	
9.50	1.34	Kenya Airways Ltd Ord 1.00	1.41	1.42	64,300
8.80	4.26	Longhorn Publishers Pld Ord 1.00	4.55	4.57	9,800
1.20	0.40	Nairobi Business Ventures Ltd Ord 1.00...	0.60	0.60	100
71.00	22.00	Nation Media Group Pld Ord 2.50	23.55	23.95	14,700
4.70	1.72	Sameer Africa Pld Ord 5.00	2.29	2.52	1,400
33.00	19.50	Standard Group Pld Ord 5.00	22.00	22.00	200
25.15	12.00	TPS Eastern Africa Ltd Ord 1.00	12.00	13.10	17,600
0.95	0.23	Wilma Supermarket Pld Ord 5.00	0.26	0.25	15,200
22.00	9.90	WPP Scoringgroup Pld Ord 1.00	14.30	13.60	1,500
CONSTRUCTION & ALLIED					
8.35	2.40	ARM Cement Pld Ord 1.00		5.55	
145.75	45.00	Bamburi Cement Ltd Ord 5.00	50.00	49.75	700
92.00	58.00	Crown Paints Kenya Pld Ord 5.00		59.00	
3.98	1.54	E.A. Cable Ltd Ord 0.50	1.64	1.65	8,800
20.50	12.95	E.A. Portland Cement Co. Ltd Ord 0.00	14.25	14.25	300
ENERGY & PETROLEUM					
7.40	4.00	KenGen Co. Pld Ord 2.50	4.46	4.15	160,700
5.50	1.43	Kenya Power & Lighting Co Pld Ord 2.50	1.77	1.78	315,600
5.50	5.00	Kenya Power & Lighting Pld 4% Pref 20.00		5.00	
4.00	4.00	Kenya Power & Lighting Pld 7% Pref 20.00		4.00	
33.00	22.25	Total Kenya Ltd Ord 5.00	24.05	24.00	1,800
8.70	5.00	Umeme Ltd Ord 0.50	6.78	6.78	119,400
INSURANCE					
10.50	5.70	Britania Holdings Pld Ord 0.10	6.28	6.00	26,600
4.85	2.00	CIC Insurance Group Ltd Ord 1.00	2.12	2.04	128,200
462.00	250.00	Jubilee Holdings Ltd Ord 5.00	250.00	250.00	700
16.30	2.10	Kenya Re Insurance Corporation Ltd Ord 2.50	2.24	2.20	373,600
13.00	6.80	Liberty Kenya Holdings Ltd Ord 1.00	8.44	7.90	1,700
26.00	13.80	Sanlam Kenya Pld Ord 5.00	15.10	14.90	1,100
INVESTMENT					
37.40	19.60	Centum Investment Co Pld Ord 0.50	23.20	23.10	22,700
0.77	0.34	Home Africa Ltd Ord 1.00	0.34	0.35	9,000
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		2.00	
4.50	1.80	Trans-Century Pld Ord 0.50...	2.00	1.84	200
INVESTMENT SERVICES					
16.00	8.50	Nairobi Securities Exchange Pld Ord 4.00	9.04	9.02	6,100
MANUFACTURING & ALLIED					
87.00	52.25	B.O.C Kenya Pld Ord 5.00	62.00	62.00	200
700.00	360.00	British American Tobacco Kenya Pld Ord 10.00	364.50	378.00	84,700
10.80	7.10	Carabaid Investments Pld Ord 1.00	7.52	7.72	84,600
230.00	135.00	East African Breweries Ltd Ord 2.00	135.75	139.75	1,285,100
3.15	0.92	Flame Tree Group Holdings Ltd Ord 0.825	0.99	1.02	221,000
14.00	12.25	Kenya Orchards Ltd Ord 5.00		12.25	
0.70	0.25	Mumias Sugar Co. Ltd Ord 2.00		0.27	
42.00	28.75	Unga Group Ltd Ord 5.00	29.00	29.00	200
TELECOMMUNICATION					
33.50	20.10	Safaricom Pld Ord 0.05	24.65	24.50	13,624,300
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST					
11.00	6.88	STANLIB FAHARI R-REIT Ord 20.00	7.90	8.18	12,600
EXCHANGE TRADED FUNDS					
1650.00	1235.00	ABSA New Gold ETF	1650	1650.00	

NSE ALL SHARE INDEX: UP 0.79 points to close at 125.09

NSE 20-SHARE INDEX: UP 17.83 points to close at 1891.30

NSE 25-SHARE INDEX: UP 21.57 points to close at 2965.17

MARKET WATCH

COMMODITY PRICES IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES (26/3/2020)

VARIETY	COMMODITY	Weight	Nairobi	Malindi
CEREALS				
	Dry Maize	90	2700	3200
	Green Maize	115	2100	3400
	Finger Millet	90	8600	7200
	Sorghum	90	5300	6300
	Wheat	90		6300
LEGUMES				
	Beans Canadian	90	7800	9000
	Beans Rosecoco	90	8400	
	Beans Mwitmania	90	7200	9000
	Mwezi Moja	90	5400	9000
	Dolichos (Njahi)	90	12000	9000
	Green Gram	90	10200	9000
	Cowpeas	90	6600	7200
	Fresh Peas	51	3000	5300
	Groundnuts	110	14300	18700
ROOTS & TUBERS				
	Red Irish Potatoes	50		6050
	White Irish Potatoes	50	2900	
	Cassava - Fresh	99	2450	3000
	Sweet Potatoes	98	4000	5880
HORTICULTURE				
	Cabbages	126	1800	4500
	Cooking Bananas	22	600	480
	Ripe Bananas	14	600	420
	Carrots	138	3800	6600
	Tomatoes	64	6000	7680
	Onions Dry	13	1060	1900
	Spring Onions	142	2900	
	Chillies	38	2450	3800
	Cucumber	50	2400	2500
	Capsicums	50	2500	5000
	Brinjals	44	1540	2200
	Cauliflower	39	2950	3900
	Lettuce	51	1400	8000
	Passion Fruits	57	4100	6000
	Oranges	93	3500	1500
	Lemons	95	2600	2850
	Mangoes Local	126	2300	2100
	Mangoes Ngowe	25	1300	450
	Limes	13	2600	1040
	Pineapples	13	800	650
	Pawpaw	54	2000	2250
	Avocado	90	2600	3200
	Kales	50	900	2000
OTHERS				
	Eggs	300	370	

COMMERCIAL BANKS' AVERAGE FOR MAJOR CURRENCIES (OPENING MARKET) - 26/3/2020

CURRENCY	MEAN	BUY	SELL
US DOLLAR	106.4206	106.3176	106.5235
SW KRONER	10.4006	10.3890	10.4121
STG POUND	125.3638	125.2229	125.5047
SINGAPORE DOLLAR	73.5178	73.4289	73.6066
SAUDI RIYAL	28.3335	28.3023	28.3647
SA RAND	6.8606	6.8527	6.8685
S FRANC	108.7367	108.6093	108.8641
NOR KRONER	9.6010	9.5904	9.6116
KES / USHS	36.8351	36.7524	36.9177
KES / TSHS	21.6688	21.6009	21.7367
KES / RWF	8.7371	8.6488	8.8254
KES / BIF	17.8058	17.6711	17.9405
JPY (100)	95.8571	95.7558	95.9585
IND RUPEE	1.4011	1.3997	1.4025
HONGKONG DOLLAR	13.7223	13.7090	13.7356
EURO	114.8474	114.7212	114.9735
DAN KRONER	15.3933	15.3774	15.4092
CHINESE YUAN	15.0721	15.0557	15.0885
CAN \$	73.5304	73.4972	73.6117
AUSTRALIAN \$	62.9584	62.8869	63.0300
AE DIRHAM	28.9738	28.9426	29.0049

SMEs weak links in business continuity plans

Most grapple with best business models, co-ordination of staff working from home

by Steve Umidha
@PeopleDailyKe

Business continuity plans of many local companies, detailing how to keep operating in the face of unprecedented disruption, are inadequate or non-existent, chief executive officers say.

As a result of the ongoing coronavirus crisis, firms are contending with concepts to sustain regular communica-

tions that align with current government and health policies to help employees remain engaged as they navigate through the crunch.

Business Hub sought comments from various CEOs to find out how their work had been affected since the country's first case of Covid-19 was reported on March 13 and what adequate contingency plans they had employed to stay afloat.

It has now emerged that most companies especially those with physical dealings with clients are grappling with a significant impact on running programmes and coordinating staff, harmonising financial systems and planning security systems as well as communicating to customers.

Scale down

"It is costly now to come up with those measures and as a result we have been forced to scale down on staff, especially technicians and engineers with front office also affected,"

RISK MANAGEMENT

● Labour shortages and increased costs due to mobility restrictions that the government has imposed continue to impact businesses.

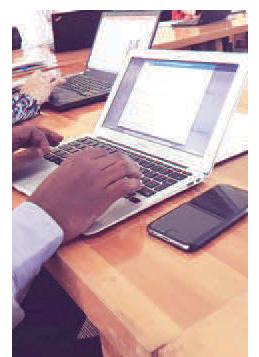
● Dozens of firms have changed working practices with a chunk of them directing some staff to work from home.

said Kennedy Omondi, Electri-net Solutions CEO.

The situation, he added, could heavily impact on many businesses if the crisis persists with most of his clients in ex-

port business having either halted operations or closed.

And while some firms had succeeded in implementing programmes on the ground in an environment of "social distancing" to adequately serve clients, Peter Macharia, Jijenge Credit Ltd CEO, admits that dealing with financial systems and planning was the most significant business continuity concern. He said his firm has been forced to scale down operating hours with half of his staff working from home and others sent on paid leave.





A priest is always close to the people. For good or bad.

BRIEFLY



Malawian VP sues president Mutharika in poll agency row

BLANTYRE, THURSDAY: Malawian Vice President Saulos Chilima (right) has filed a lawsuit against President Peter Mutharika after he refused to fire the electoral commissioners who oversaw last year's failed election, his lawyer said Thursday.

A battle has been raging for months between the opposition and head of state over the May 21 vote, which was tainted by irregularities.

Mutharika has refused to

promulgate laws to hold the new ballot and to fire members of the Malawi Election Commission (MEC), which was requested by the constitutional court in its historic judgment.

Parliament's public appointment committee also found that the commissioners were incompetent to manage fresh elections.

"The MEC commissioners' continued presence in the office is and is illegal," said Chilima's attorney. **-AFP**

Christchurch gunman Tarrant pleads guilty to 51 murders

WELLINGTON, THURSDAY: A man accused of deadly attacks on mosques in the New Zealand city of Christchurch a year ago has pleaded guilty to 51 charges of murder.

Brenton Tarrant, 29, also admitted the attempted murder of another 40 people, and one terrorism charge. He had previously denied the charges and was due to go on trial in June. The gun attacks at two mosques sent shockwaves around the world. In the wake of the killings, New Zealand brought in stricter gun laws.

New Zealand is in a state of

lockdown due to the coronavirus outbreak and the plea was made at a scaled-down court hearing in Christchurch High Court on Thursday.

No members of the public were allowed in to the hearing and Tarrant, from New South Wales, Australia, and his lawyers appeared via video link.

A representative of the two mosques that were attacked was allowed to attend the hearing to represent the victims and their families. Sentencing on the 92 charges will take place at a date yet to be set. **-BBC**

Bobi Wine releases Corona song as Uganda bans PSVs

KAMPALA, THURSDAY: Ugandan musician-turned-politician Bobi Wine has released a song to raise awareness about the coronavirus pandemic as his country imposes new restriction in a bid to stem the spread of the virus.

The rapper, whose real name is Robert Kyagulanyi (pictured), teamed up with fellow musician Nubian Li to highlight the importance of personal hygiene in the fight against the disease that has claimed the lives of more than 21,000 people worldwide.

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni on Wednesday announced a 14-day ban on



public transport to curb the spread of the coronavirus.

The ban takes effect immediately. This includes the ubiquitous "boda-bodas", as the motorcycle taxis are locally known.

Uganda has 14 confirmed cases of coronavirus, including an eight-month-old baby girl. **-BBC**

Spain, US death toll surges as global cases hit 487,648

coronavirus claims over 22,000 across the world and WHO warns America could be new epicentre

■ Madrid, Thursday

The coronavirus death toll in Spain surged to 4,089 after 655 people died within 24 hours, the health ministry said on Thursday.

It was a 19 percent increase on figures released Wednesday by the authorities in Spain, which has the world's second highest death toll from the disease after Italy.

The global figures stood at 87,648 infections and 22,000, according to Johns Hopkins University.

The United States registered 1,050 COVID-19 deaths as the country confirmed more than 69,000 cases. The true number of infected people is believed to be far higher, meaning the real death rate would be lower.

The US Senate passed a sweeping \$2 trillion measure to aid workers, businesses, and the healthcare system. The bill was taken back to the lower house for approval. The economic shutdown caused by the coronavirus pandemic sparked an explo-

sion of Americans filing for unemployment benefits, surging to 3.3 million last week—the highest number ever recorded, the Labour Department said Thursday.

More fatalities

Italy recorded more than 680 deaths in the last 24 hours as concerns grew that the disease was spreading more towards the south of the country. Italy has seen more fatalities than any other country, with latest figures showing that 7,503 people have died from the infection in barely a month.

In Spain, which has 56,188 confirmed cases, Madrid remains the worst affected area, with close to a third of cases. But Catalonia has also seen a steep rise, reporting 11,592 confirmed infections.

Late Wednesday, Spain extended its

national state of emergency until April 12 in a bid to halt the spread of the virus. Despite a national lockdown imposed on March 14, which parliament on Thursday agreed to extend, both deaths and infections have continued to mount, with officials warning this week would be particularly bad. Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, whose wife is infected with the virus, has said this is the country's most difficult moment since its 1936-39 civil war.

And in America, the World Health Organization warned the US could become the new epicentre for the pandemic after a "very large acceleration" in cases in recent days. New York is by far the state worst affected but infections stretch right across the country.

In the UK, London hospitals are overwhelmed by Covid-19 patients, state-run National Health Service said Thursday.

China, where the deadly virus was first reported, is set to drastically cut its international flight routes to blunt the number of imported cases, the civil aviation authority said.

Flights out of China will be capped at just one route a week to each country, with international airlines also permitted only one route.

-AFP and Agencies

G20 ONLINE TALKS

● **Saudi King Salman on Thursday urged G20 leaders to take "effective and coordinated" action to combat the global crisis triggered by the coronavirus pandemic, and called on them to assist developing nations.**

● **"This human crisis requires a global response. The world counts on us," the king said in his opening remarks as G20 leaders began an emergency online summit.**



Palestinian Muslims pray as Israeli security forces watch near the closed gate of the Aqsa mosque compound, which was closed to curb the spread of the COVID-19 in Jerusalem. **AFP**

The heavy price paid by priests in Italy

■ Rome, Thursday

They preside over funerals, comfort the sick, and are often themselves elderly: in the coronavirus crisis in Italy, priests are paying a heavy price.

"A priest is always close to the people. For good or bad, it's his raison d'être," said Monsignor Giulio Dellavite, secretary-general of the diocese of Bergamo, which is currently the hardest hit area in Italy. Over 7,000 people have been infected by

Covid-19 in the city and province of Bergamo, and priests have not been spared.

Of the 67 Italian priests who have died of the virus, more than 20 have come from Bergamo, including a bishop, according to the Catholic newspaper *Avenire*.

However, the grim toll does not deter many. Giuseppe Locatelli, the priest of the parish in Albino, also in the province of Bergamo, says he has no plans to renounce his ministry.

"Priests are on the second line. Doctors

and nurses are on the front line with the risks they take every day. We take fewer risks," Locatelli said.

He recently blessed a man on his death bed, he said, "because it was a special circumstance," with only the ailing man's wife and handicapped son at home.

Like doctors and nurses, priests need to protect themselves, Dellavite said.

"Our priests are dying because they're not calculating" the risks, he said.

-AFP

Clique & Clicks ▶ Get Spotted

THE PREMIERE



MMS Advocates' Allan Mzungu with advocate Corazon Kwamboka cut the cake.

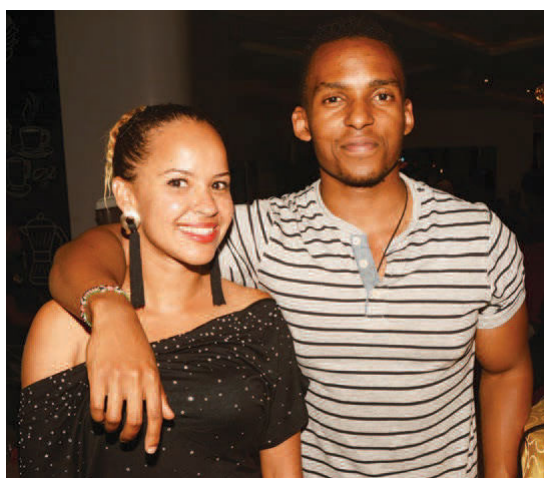
■ by John Ochieng

The Anga IMAX in Nairobi recently played host to lawyers from various firms, legal practitioners in Non-Governmental Organisations, law students and movie lovers as the highly acclaimed Hollywood legal drama film *Just Mercy* premiered in Kenya. Before the screening, the guests were treated to a cocktail reception where they interacted with each other over a glass of champagne. *Just Mercy* is directed by Destin Daniel Cretton, and starring Michael B Jordan, Jamie Foxx, Rob Morgan and Tim Blake Nelson, among others. It tells the true story of Walter McMillian, who—with the help of young defense attorney Bryan Stevenson—appeals his murder conviction.

PD/ JOHN OCHIENG



Celebrity trainer and vlogger Frankie Deonly aka Frankie Just Gym It captures the moments.



Superbiker Mina Reeve with film producer Tevin Waiguru.



Movie lovers Faith Cheruto, Patience Twyla and Mary Claire.



Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology law students Reuben Mburu and Claude Kandem.



Mercy Mumbe and Luiz Johnson.



Advocates Romario Chacha and Derrick Ochieng.



Don Niller with Diana Kemunto.

Spice ▶ Flavour your day  @PeopleDailyKe

THE CARDS ARE

There's a reason Michael Jackson continues to amass accolades, 11 years since his demise. He's still regarded one of the greatest performers of all time. He put thought into his outfits, dancers and the voice. Not much can be said for some of our local artistes, who always put in almost no effort before hitting the stages for a live show. However, we have others that give value to the fan's money, writes the SPICE TEAM



Nadia Mukami

WHACK ON STAGE...



Bahati



Ben Cyco



Avril

Ben Cyco

Performing on stage is not one of Ben Cyco's strengths. The former Christ Cycos member is great on camera with his great charm and wit as evident from the videos he does with his girlfriend YouTuber Wanjiru Njiru. But he can definitely do better when on live performance. *Spice* observed that his songs get the audience up on their feet but that's as far as it goes. The nudge to dance and sing along shimmers down as his performances carries on.

Gengetoners

In the same breath, the so-called breed of new wave music gengetone has let us down a great deal. Not only did the Ochungulo Family show up on stage dressed in pajamas and mismatched and uncoordinated outfits during the last Koroga Festival, but spectacularly failed to impress the already hyped and intoxicated crowd in Naivasha. It is not the first time gengetone artistes have ridden on their hype and views on social media and YouTube. Artistry goes beyond that. It will not come as a surprise if this wave fails to survive the test of time. Ethic, Boondocks Gang and Sailors have nothing to be *desired*. Cutting edge lazy performance is not worth the while of revellers who have spent money to get entertained.

Redsan

Kenyan dancehall regga artiste Swabri Mohammed aka Redsan has been in the music business for close to two decades now. However, his presence on stage over the years has been quite wanting, to say the least. His performances are marked with some rather obvious routine. On stage, he will teach the audience a few dance styles that had been witnessed in all his previous concerts and worse he has zero connection with the crowd. His *Baddest* album launch in 2018 at the Carnivore Grounds was a perfect example.

The Kansoul

The trio that consists of Madtraxx, Mejja and Kidkora

(although he has been missing in action) has tried to remain relevant in the game with their sudden transition into the gengetone wave. That aside, their music recording strengths have never manifested in the concerts. One may be drawn to the curvy vixens that they present on their videos and on live stage, but their individual or group live performance abilities are nothing to be desired. Also, there is a lot of dance competition during their performances. "Amweza ama tuchague mwingine?..." is a familiar phrase in their shows.

Bahati

The young talent has made a name for himself in the music industry since releasing his first single *Siku Ya Kwanza* in 2013. But even with all the talent, Bahati has been hugely criticised for his underperformance on stage as many have termed him as being boring and mostly depending on his dancers to entertain the crowd. The four-time Groove Awards winner mostly performs on playback and asks his fans to sing along with him. This is not a bad thing, but as we all know, too much of something is poisonous. Many fans go home disappointed after ending up being the ones that have had to do most of the singing.

Nazizi

Two decades ago, Nazizi self-proclaimed herself the 'First Lady' of Kenyan rap music and spent the earlier years of her music career trailblazing the region. From the days of the famed Necessary Noize and the East African Bashment Crew, she ruled the roost until the then newbies of the industry such as STL emerged, then she waned into the corners. When she came back into the scene, she had tilted into reggae scene, which worsened the situation. Her presence on stage no longer sparks the fire she used to light.

Ken wa Maria

Despite being the king of benga in the lower eastern region, the *Fundamentals* hitmaker has never elic-

OUT!



Redsan

ited a pint of excitement amongst his adoring fans when in live performance. Most of the time during his live shows, Ken will pace across the stage hundreds of times with little performance from him to arouse the audience, leaving much of the entertainment to his waist gyrating dancers.

Masauti

The Kenyan boy has endeared many Kenyan music lovers with his emergence as the crown prince of SwaR&B. Tedd Josiah chiseled his career before the two unceremoniously parted ways. Although he is in safe hands now while working with Dream Nation, his level of performances has grown but not to people's expectation. For someone who has been touted to compete at the levels of Diamond Platnumz, there is still a long way to go for the */pepete* hit singer.

Avril

Singer Avril has been in music for about 10 years now, with songs such as *Mama, Kitu Kimoja* and *Yule*, among others. Although music critics have negatively criticised her lyrics from time to time, there has been little or no improvement over the years. Her stage performances are also among those that would fall below the average bracket. The only times we have seen her do live performances with a band is at the *Coke Studio Africa* TV show; all her concert performances are always on playback. Avril also puts little or no effort in dressing up for her shows, it's almost like she is not sure of what it entails to be on stage.

Nadia Mukami

Mukami's stage presence can be felt, but only because she knows how to dress up for it. However, her entertainment delivery lacks. Maybe live bands are not necessary for her short five-minute performances, but we need to hear her sing louder and clearer rather than the music playing in the background. She also needs to have more dancers during her performances, just to add to the fun to her stage performance.

THE REAL DEAL

Kenya is also blessed with great performers too. This group of artistes is great both on the recording and performing fronts.



H_art The Band

The boy band that comprises of Wachira Gatama, Kenneth Muya and Mordecai Mwini is yet another group that delivers a worthy performance on stage. At first, they had only two or three hit songs; one being *Uliza Kiatu*. However even with those few songs, they still would perform like life depended on it. This is what made them get so many live concert gigs early in their career. This ensemble always performs with a live band that Muya is part of as a guitarist. The trio also has an alluring dress code that is not necessarily elegant or classy, but it's what has made them popular; the identity is what makes them the authentic act they are.

Mercy Masika

The *Mwemahit* singer is ever keen on her delivery. She puts in the time, complete with her background vocalists and band, which is not hard to note when she is up on stage. Mercy Masika and fellow gospel artiste Pitson have an incredible effect on the audience whenever they are live on stage. Their performances will have audiences singing and dancing and even bursting into worship and prayer. These two don't perform often, but when they do, the auditoriums are packed to the rafters and we now know why. They leave it all on stage and their zeal, passion and ministry is clear as day.



Fena

Rapper Fena Gitu is an effortless performer with great delivery. She might not jump as vigorously, chant her way through songs or create a lot of hype, but she pulls through her shows so seamlessly. Usually, she has one dancer on stage called Ayomar. She does her solo dance routines while Fena raps and sings, delivering such an entertaining act. She also dressed the part; not exaggerated, but perfect for the occasion. Although she rarely has a back-up band, she sings along with the instrumentals just so perfectly and with no playbacks.



Khaligraph Jones

Papa Jones, as he fancies himself, has carved a sit for himself as one of the top performers in town. Give his area of trade, hip-hop, many would be quick to dismiss him, but his ability to chuck out hit after hit combined with his endless energy on the stage has left many concert goers a satisfied lot. While he is not active on stage or studio, trust 'Omolo from Bondo' to be spending time lifting weights at the gym to keep fit and most certainly for the looks.



Sauti Sol

Sauti Sol is one of the biggest names in the Kenyan and African music industry. The multi-award winners are well known for their creative style of music from lyrics to great music videos. But the boy band possesses more than just great videos and lyrics; they are well known for giving exhilarating live performances. A Sauti Sol performance will always leave the crowd asking for more, an aspect that answers the question why they are always attracting big crowd with sold out tickets. The *Suzanna* hit quartet always performs with a live band, and the boys also show a lot of energy, exhibiting some great dance moves in their performances that keeps the crowd totally hooked.

Juliani

Apart from the *Barua Ya Ocamp* hitmaker's ability to get the audience singing word for word, Juliani goes the extra mile to interact with his fans and sometimes takes requests from them before wrapping up his ever energetic shows. Even without dancers, the crowd jumps and waves as he instructs without fail. Incredibly, during his performances, he sings for as long as it takes when need be with great voice control and with all the keys in check. He gives it his all and is definitely a great performer; it's exponential potential at its best.

Jua Cali

The King of Genge has been applauded to having maintained his brand for the two decades he has been on the scenes, creating some classic hits. His sing along tunes have crossed different generations to an extent that he remains relevant in the times of gengetone. A good judge of crowds, his signature 'watuli' and 'nipe mkono moja' phrases have never failed to get the crowd on its feet.



Nameless

David Mathenge aka Nameless has been in the game for 21 years now. His energy on the stage has always been unparalleled. On a live performance, Nameless is a 'beast' and he lives up to the hype. His experience has come in handy as he is able to not only judge the type of crowd he is entertaining, but also what type of show to put up, and either way, he is always an electrifying performer.

Lavosti

Majority of international performers headlining Kenyan concerts have been Jamaicans, most of who are known to give value for money on stage. While Kenya has many reggae artistes, none can match the stage prowess of Lavosti. On most occasions, he has been chosen to curtain raise for many international acts, and has been invited to perform on international festivals. He has never disappointed in any of the occasions.

Boma ▶ Home of Property & Leisure

Corona jitters hit construction sector

Slowdown in building activities due to supply bottlenecks from China and local transport restrictions threaten project completion deadlines and workers' jobs

by Wahinya Henry and
Milliam Murigi
@PeopleDailyKe

The outbreak of coronavirus disease (Covid-19) has sent anxiety among investors in the local construction sector.

Reports indicate that production lines in China where the first case was reported have been at a standstill due to quarantined workers. "It's reasonable to consider supply chain interruptions as a result of proactive measures in mainland China. It's also logical to anticipate supply delays," say Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology real estate consultant, Dr Obadiah Kipng'etich.

He says restriction on movement and a reduction of passengers public vehicles are allowed to carry is causing delays in construction workers' movement.

"If public transport halts, many workers may find it difficult or impossible to show up for work on time – or at all," says Thika-based real estate investor, Dominic Chege, whose project in Makongeni estate has stopped because of diminishing availability of workers who have opted to stay home.

Players in the sector expect more construction site closures going forward. "We anticipate uncertainty in the market over the next one month," says Mizizi Africa Finance and Operations Director, George Mburu.

Cashflow fears

"We are likely to see a general slowdown in construction activities over the next few months as players comply with the directive to observe social distancing. Project completion deadlines could be affected. Visits to construction sites will also be limited after movement restrictions," says Mburu.

And as the Covid-19 pandemic escalates, the real estate sector has just seen the beginning of what could become a long, winding challenge. Worse, if regions are locked down and residents quarantined, all construction in the country will have to cease. Already, companies that do business with Chinese companies by procuring raw and other construction materials are feeling the heat.

Four Chinese cargo ships that supply goods from China have failed to dock at Mombasa for the second month in a row following the outbreak of the virus, says Kenya Ports Authority managing director Daniel Manduku.

Cytonn Real Estate CEO Edwin Dande says, the industry is facing delays in equipment delivery that will cause a sector slowdown. He foresees delayed payments and decision making, especially from Chinese affiliated projects.

"There are also delays in payments from clients and businesses that are affected by the slowdown in economic activity and reduced



funding from financial institutions," he adds.

Mburu anticipate mild effects on installment payments as customers shift focus on preventive measures; purchase of food and stocking up hygiene products. "However, the situation will be corrected partly by commercial banks resolve to restructure loans, extending repayment periods for credit facilities and waiving of transaction charges," he says.

The disease has paralysed production globally, with the Kenya Private Sector Alliance (Kepsa) saying Kenyan firms and others in the region are already experiencing a hit from the outbreak. The alliance says China has become the biggest source market for many African companies due to the low-cost production, which has made it possible for these companies to procure goods affordably.

"The construction sector is among the hardest hit at 70 per cent as the coronavirus continues on its rampage worldwide," Kepsa said in an economic status report on the impact of the virus. The report said industries that depend on imported raw materials, intermediate and capital goods from the affected regions will be hard hit.

These include manufacturers, construction and infrastructure developers among others. "In addition, public and private projects being implemented by foreign companies or that rely on expertise from affected countries may also suffer slow progress," said Kepsa.

Diaspora remittances

George Wachiuri, Optiven real estate founder and CEO says the country has already started experiencing low uptake because of the challenges facing America and European markets. This will result to lower diaspora remittance from the Sh250 billion expected in 2020 to lower amounts. Real estate enjoys about 30 per cent of diaspora remittance.

He foresees a crisis in lower rental collections and stalled projects. "Real estate firms will be driven to their knees as they grapple with loan obligations and other costs," he says.

The closure of Land registries has been the most painful nail to the entire real estate industry. "This is because even if you are still



TOP: Penguin Estate 1, which is under construction, off Thika Road.
ABOVE: Mizizi Africa Finance and Operations Director, George Mburu.

PD/ JOHN OCHIEING

conducting your business online you have to wait until the office reopens to get the most crucial documents," says Wachiuri.

Optiven Real will be leveraging on technology to continue conducting its land selling business. Through their *Optivenapp*, customers can access different projects the firm is offering from their homes.

"With our mobile application, customers can view, get pin for site visit and are able to see what is available. Virtual reality and virtual tours continue to provide a way for buyers to continue with their property search from their homes," says Wachiuri.

He says use of technology is the way forward for all real estate companies with or without Covid-19. This is because technology will help to keep transactions moving as more people are now conducting their businesses online. It will also help to attract more investors from abroad.

Hope despite pandemic

Not all is gloom. "We are not expecting the slow-down to last long. The rise in momentum and growth in interest on off-plan units experienced in January and February will be sustained in a bounce back upon containment of the pandemic," says Mburu.

He says involving prospective buyers in the entire construction process, eliminating the risk of missed timelines in project completion and building customer confidence should be a priority in the industry.

Property sellers are also controlling customers' physical site visit numbers and exploring delivery of construction updates digitally. "We are exploring use of virtual tours to help clients make informed decisions using videos," Mburu says.

Meanwhile, the Architectural Association of Kenya (AAK) is holding its annual general meeting online this week, making it one of the first Kenyan organisations to scrap plans for an in-person AGM. "Due to the situation caused by Covid-19 and the association's commitment to the health and safety of its members, AAK AGM will be a digital event that will be hosted virtually on Zoom," AAK said in a statement.

BRIEFLY



Skylark Construction director Vinod Patel says activities are at a standstill.
PD/NOVEN OWITI

Kisumu real estate business down as pandemic bites

by Noven Owiti
@PeopleDailyKe

Real estate business in Kisumu town is reeling from the devastating effects of coronavirus, with a major slowdown being experienced in activities.

A spot check by *Boma* established that entrepreneurs are contemplating new strategies to adjust to circumstances arising from the effects of Covid-19. Some dealers are considering stopping all operations and laying off employees.

Skylark Construction Limited Company director, Vinod Patel, says activities are at a standstill as a result of reduced cashflow. He attributes the slowdown to the ripple effects of the deadly virus on the economy.

"Money circulation is just a trickle due to the ravaging effects of the epidemic on the local economy, yet cashflow is crucial to spurring growth in the construction and real estate industry," he says.

The businessman predicts price increases of construction materials in the coming days particularly as no new supplies are forthcoming following cancellation by shipping lines. "Warehouses are running out of stock since about 60 per cent of the building materials are imported," he says.

Opande Africa Investment Limited's managing director, Nickson Opande, says there is a drastic drop in clientele base for property buyers in the town as the country grapples with the epidemic. "The buyers' market is non-existent for now. Majority of developers are stuck with their properties, which were earmarked for sale," he says.

Opande regrets that the slowdown has come just few months when the sector was gradually picking up from the fall-out of the 2017 political hostilities. "Worse, the virus has struck when the national economy was already in a slowdown," he says.

Closure of government services such as the Lands registry and courts has also compounded business woes in the sector, halting key operations. Opande recommends periodical opening of the lands offices to facilitate minimal property transactions.

Patel warns that if the pandemic is not contained soon, all construction-related businesses will be forced to scale-down operations and reduce the workforce in a bid to cut costs. "We are monitoring the outcome of the prevailing situation for the next two to three months," he adds.

He recommends that the county and national governments suspend taxes for the sector to cushion proprietors. He also proposes that banks defer loan repayment periods and waive interests on loans for developers who took credit as business continue to shrink due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Banks should exercise leniency on property developers by considering deferment of loan repayment period for two to three months," says Patel.

THELOUNGE



A panel during the release of a survey on the number of women graduates and professionals in the construction industry in Kenya, legends and leaders awards ceremony held in Nairobi recently. PD/JOHN OCHIENG

More women graduate, but few in the built environment

With 90 female architects out of 763 industry total and only 78 quantity surveyors out of 459, the dice are loaded against the fair sex

by Milliam Murigi
@milliamur1

Kenya continues to add more female graduates in the construction industry. However, biases and discrimination discourages them from staying in the professions within the built environment.

This is according to a new survey conducted by Women in Real Estate (Wire), an organisation whose main goal is to advance the achievements of women in the built industry. The study aimed to bring to light the demographics of women professionals in the construction industry in Kenya and to show the opportunities available in the sector.

University enrolment

Data collected from universities indicate that the total number of women enrolled for construction-related courses including planning, real estate, and construction management stands at 585 this year. These institutions are the University of Nairobi (UoN),

Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) and Kenyatta University. JKUAT holds the highest number of enrolled students with 440; Kenyatta University 45 and UoN holding 100. However, not all institutions are recording more graduates.

Data provided by the Institute of Quantity Surveyors of Kenya shows that women students enrolled in quantity surveying stands at 183 against only 81 graduates in the same field. More alarming is that the number of licentiates, which stands at one against a total of 23 licentiates.

"In spite of a steady increase in the number of female graduates, women account for only a small proportion of employees within the built environment in Kenya," said Emma Miloyo, Wire Vice President.

"The number of women within the construction industry is lower than that of men from the entry point, which is, at enrolment into the various universities," she added.

Distribution of women inside professional associations' also remains skewed. According to the Engineers Board of Kenya,

female graduates account for 10.6 per cent of engineering graduates. This means that out of 14,320 graduates, only 1,519 are female.

On the other hand, data supplied by the National Construction Authority (NCA) indicates there are about 2,645 female contractors. Road works hold the highest number of contractors at 1,514 followed by water works, mechanical works and building work with 996, 121 and 14 respectively. There are only two forewomen.

Negative perception

On the other hand for accredited artisans, there are about 983 female professionals out of 34,298 NCA has registered. There are also 90 female architects out of 763 and 78 female quantity surveyors out of 459.

This shows that in order to improve these numbers, young girls need to be encouraged and exposed to the construction industry at an early stage, for example through mentorship. "Gender discrimination within the construction industry, negative perception that women's capabilities do not suit construction work, lack of mentoring, slow career progression and cultural bias are some of the factors that contribute to these low numbers," said Miloyo.

Women in the sector say such statistics confirm that women are still highly under-represented within the construction industry in Kenya and the industry is still, by and large, male-dominated. The percentage of both female students and female professionals within the built environment, range between seven per cent to 36 per cent – less than half of the total construction workforce.

"Women need to be encouraged and trained in their various fields within the construction industry. Existing organisations also need to create more forums that enlighten young women on opportunities for women in the built environment. By exposing young girls to the world of construction and construction-related subjects, women's entry into the construction industry may be encouraged," said Miloyo.

Wire officials noted that organisations also need to collect more data on female professionals within their sector. "Using the data will help to ascertain factors affecting the entry of women into the construction industry and the challenges they face within the industry," Miloyo said.

PROPERTY NEWS

Tips for property dealers in the era of coronavirus

by Wahinya Henry
@PeopleDaily

Personal interaction is an essential aspect of the real estate business, so social disruptions such as elicited by coronavirus creates some tension in conducting business.

Some tips are necessary for land agents, realtors and other real estate professionals at this time:

■ Getting information

First, do not panic, stay informed, and use your best judgment. The pandemic is not a static situation, but beware of changing levels of risk. Focus on putting policies in place to keep your employees informed, safe and avoid business disruption in case the situation worsens.

■ Client screening

You may ask clients or employees about their recent travel, particularly to regions identified as having an increased risk of Covid-19. To avoid compromising future clients, be sure to explain the process upfront to potential clients let them know it is for their safety as well as yours. To prevent appearing discriminative, ask all clients the same screening questions based on current and factual information from public health authorities.

■ Driving clients to show houses

You may be cautious of driving clients to property sites, especially if they indicate symptoms of illness or came from areas of increased risk. It is preferable to simply arrange meetings with clients at a site. Should you continue to drive clients in your car, it is a good idea to frequently clean and disinfect surfaces such as door handles and seat belt latches, and to ask clients to use hand sanitisers when getting in and out of the car.

■ Viewing Property

Speak openly with your client about the pros and cons of holding an open house based on the local situation. Assess the risks based on specific locations and direct your clients to government health authorities for specific information on the virus. This is also the time to experiment with alternative property marketing technologies that limit the requirements for buyers to be present for making initial assessments of the property, such as video tours. If you must hold an actual open house, ask all visitors to disinfect their hands upon entering the home, limit the number of people in the house or plot and provide alcohol-based hand sanitisers at entry points. Also, use soap and disposable towels in bathrooms.

■ Office Operations

First, property brokers should implement a mandatory "stay-home" policy for any sick worker or agent. Sending staff on leave and imposing a mandatory remote work policy for employees can help. All office meetings and events should be cancelled; hold virtual meetings instead. Also, a greater application of digital technologies will ease the operational efficiency for most entities.

Source: Francis Kihanya, CEO, Man-yatta Capital/ Internet sources.

DÉCOR WITH CYNTHIA MUKANZI @PEOPLEDAILYKE

Cozy up on that balcony

It is possible that many people will be spending their days at home in the coming weeks due to Covid-19 fears. This period of social isolation doesn't have to be unbearable; challenge yourself and take time to restyle your home spaces such as the balcony with simple Do It Yourself (DIY) ideas. It could also be a way to bond with your loved ones; a decorated balcony makes working from home, reading, bonding and more enjoyable.



1



2



3



4

1. Balcony reading and chilling vibes never felt so good.

2. A handmade lounging couch with African print fabric accents.

3. A pallet-crafted plant holder brings a touch of nature to the balcony.

4. Soft lighting for a calm evening mood.

You ▶ It's all about Life & Style

Do male gynaecologists ease or cringe you?

Does the thought of your annual gynecological examination make you uncomfortable, especially if it is by a male gyno? While some women have no qualms about it, others often experience fear and anxiety just thinking about showing their privates to a total male stranger, we find out why

by Betty Muindi and Sandra Wekesa

In a post somewhere on Facebook, a woman posted, "Who knows of any professional and friendly gynecologist I can visit, and why are most gynos male anyway?" Subsequent comments and photos set some hearts aflutter, and made a few shudder. While some commenters swooned, others seemed disturbed by it all. The fact that a male doctor would specialise in women's health care was essentially turned into a fired up debate gone wild.

Then another question came in within the post, "would you consult a male gynecologist?" While some women answered with a resounding "yes" others said they would never let their private parts be touched by a man unless they were giving birth.

One Pamela Ong'iro said she has never been treated by one and never would, "The mere thought makes me uncomfortable," she added.

Her sentiment was echoed by Tiffany Njeri, who is in her 30s. "My obstetrician-gynecologist is a woman, which is just how I like it. I just feel male gynos are a bit creepy," she chuckled.

Malia Kavali, had mixed feelings too, "I worked as a receptionist for three male gynecologists and there was no creepy factor with them."

Even so, she would not want a male gynecologist treating her. "The first time I ever made an appointment with a male gyno, I felt like I was getting ready for a date. It was a lot of pressure, shaving, scrubbing and all," she said laughing.

And then there are women who say they feel more comfortable being seen by male gynecologists. Gemini Wangari, 26, and a mother of one says her experience with a female gynecologists was overwhelmingly negative. She finds them particularly judgmental and cold.

"I once had a female gyno who used to handle me as if I was wasting her time. I was pregnant and whenever I went to see her

over an issue, she would just conclude that I am just being paranoid because it was a first time pregnancy," she says.

Her sentiments are backed by Lorna Ndanu who says her female gyno was great until one day she told her that she had made bad sexual choices. "I was confused and upset by her statement. I am not sure if it was because my sex life as a single person didn't fit with her Christian principles. I felt she was not professional and I never went back to see her again," she quips.

The men on the platform who caught up with this discussion mostly said they would prefer their women being seen by fellow women. "I would feel really uncomfortable letting my wife to be seen by a man like me. But that is not the worst of the indignities, she is forced to endure minutes of a male gynecologist who might be ogling her body to comment on it later to colleagues," said one Peter Cleophas.

Another man, Dan Mwaniki said he would only allow his woman to be seen by a male gyno that he trusts and probably older. "It is a cruel world, he might touch her inappropriately or he might subject her to an arrogant attitude that demands unquestioning submission," he puts.

Dr Francis Wasike, an obstetrics-gynecologist in Nairobi says the choice

WHAT'S NORMAL

● First, know how much touching to expect.

● Examinations should be performed with only the necessary amount of physical contact required to obtain data for diagnosis and treatment.

● If you're seeing a new doctor and you've had a pelvic exam before, bring up any concerns before the exam starts.

● Most doctors will walk you through the exam verbally as its happening. He or she should also ask you if you'd like a female nurse or medical student in the room during the exam.

● If you've had a difficult time with some aspect of the examination in the past, this should be conveyed to the physician at the start of the visit.



Anthony Khaemba. PD/ SANDRA WEKESA

on whether a woman settles on a male or female gynecologist all depends on the age, preference or exposure of a woman.

There are those who may feel comfortable seeing a male doctor during their childbearing years and feel uncomfortable talking to a man about their struggles with menopause. Or, a 20-year-old girl may be too aware of her body and get shy about being seen by a male doctor, but an older experienced woman may not.

He debunks the notion that men who practise gynecology are suspect. "I don't feel it's creepy, oby-gyn is a very attractive field because it's a great combination of internal medicine, a little psychiatry, and also surgery. I can totally understand why a man might be drawn to the field. But the problem is you have to look at patients, and a lot of patients want women, and more and more will continue to want women," he says.

Unfortunate incidences

He, however, says he understands why women may feel uncomfortable, and admits that he has heard stories of patients that they were made to feel uncomfortable. "I'm sure it is ever a doctor's intention to make a client feel odd, and it is unfortunate that there are stories out there of men doing strange things with patients. It's unfortunate because it casts a real shadow on the profession," he admits.

Asked if female gynos have a harsher attitude towards their patients than their male counterparts, Dr Wasike disagrees saying because of the rules that govern sexism, some men can be perceived as kinder and gentler. A woman who is direct in her manner can be perceived as cool and detached and lacking empathy. "It is worth noting that having ample choice in choosing a woman's health provider is still a luxury," he explains.

Anthony Khaemba, a nurse says ultimately, many female patients want what all patients want, the best health provider possible. "Many really don't care if it's male or female. When asked if they have a preferred doctor in mind, they say they just want an experienced and qualified one, regardless of gender," he offers.

Khaemba who has been delivering and examining pregnant women for the last 10 years says, women react differently. There are those who prefer male gynos because apparently men are gentle and some prefer women gynos because they feel shy being examined by a man.

In cases where a patient shys off or becomes comfortable, he calls in a female nurse to attend to her.

Khaemba says religious barriers are another major reason many women will turn down a male doctor. "From experience, Muslim women are always uncomfortable with a man assessing their labour contractions. Muslim women are more conservative than their Christian counterparts," he explains.

He says he totally understands men who politely request that their wives be attended to by a female gynaecologist.

MALIA

The first time I ever made an appointment with a male gyno, I felt like I was getting ready for a date.





- 5.00 Inuka
- 6.00 K24 This Morning
- 9.00 The Daily Brief
- 12.30 Inside Business
- 13.00 News Cut
- 13.30 Sports Hub Live
- 14.00 Bongo Movie
- 15.00 Sweetest Love
- 16.00 K24 Mashinani
- 16.30 Jus Kids
- 17.00 Beatbox
- 18.00 Hollywood Movie
- 19.00 K24 Saa Moja
- 19.30 Jane And Abel
- 20.00 A Carnival Affair
- 21.00 Weekend With Betty
- 22.00 Overdrive Fresh
- 00.00 DW Feed Live



- 5.00 Am Ime Ria Rucini
- 6.00 Rikiratha
- 11.00 Kurekereria Kodii
- 12.00 Mathaga Maitu
- 12.30 Thandi Cia Wendo
- 1.00 Mohoro Gitau
- 1.30 Thirika Music Mix
- 3.45 Kameme Toonz
- 4.00 Ririmbuka Live
- 6.00 Tuika Wakwa
- 7.00 Kameme Maturaini
- 8.00 Njunga Ya Kihenjo
- 9.00 Mutamburuko Wa Mauhoru
- 10.00 Kigoco Music Mix
- 12.00 Deustche Welle Tv



- 12.00 Football Review- Rpt
- 6.00 Morning Express
- 08.00 Life N' Style
- 12.00 Documentary
- 4.00 Mibu-Ya-Ktn
- 5.00 Baseline
- 6.00 Losing Heaven
- 7.00 KTN Leo
- 7.30 Just Kidding
- 8.00 Food Detectives
- 8.30 New Beginnings
- 9.00 KTN Friday Briefing
- 10.20 Movie

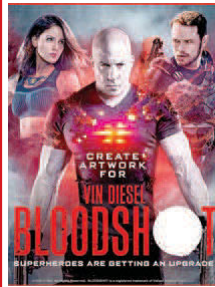
TIME OUT!

17.00pm BEATBOX



::IN THEATRES NOW::

ANGA DIAMOND PLAZA: 10:30, 15:10, 18:10, 20:45: **BLOODSHOT** 20 20
 ANGA IMAX CBD: 10:00, 12:00, 14:00, 16:00, 18:00, 20:00, 22:00: **BLOODSHOT** 20 20
 ANGA SKY CINEMA: 10:00, 13:00, 13:05, 14:00, 18:00, 20:00, 22:00: **BLOODSHOT** 20 20
 NYALI CINEMAX MOMBASA: 11:00, 16:15, 18:40, 21:00: **BLOODSHOT** 20 20
 PRESTIGE CINEMA PRESTIGE PLAZA: 15:40, 18:20, 20:50: **BLOODSHOT** 20 20
 ANGA DIAMOND PLAZA: 10:20, 13:30, 16:40, 19:45, 21:00, 22:50: **BAAGHI 3** 20 20



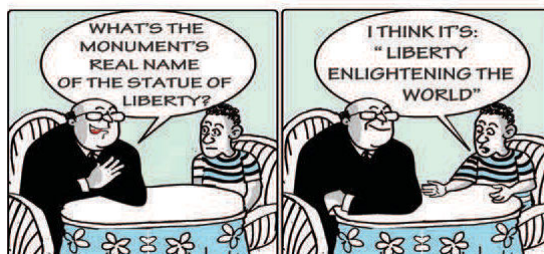
		6	1	2		5
	4			3		
1	3		8	4	6	
			3	5	6	8
	6	4			5	9
3	5	7	9			
	5	7		6		1 9
			9			4
4		3		1	7	

SUDOKU

6	5	4	2	8	3	9	1	7
2	1	7	6	9	5	4	3	8
9	8	3	7	4	1	6	5	2
3	6	8	4	2	9	1	7	5
4	7	1	3	5	6	2	8	9
5	9	2	8	1	7	3	6	4
8	3	6	9	7	4	5	2	1
7	4	5	1	6	2	8	9	3
1	2	9	5	3	8	7	4	6

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



- 5.00 BBC
- 5.30 Gear Up
- 6.00 Good Morning Kenya
- 9.00 Lay'd Back
- 9.30 Classic Tales
- 10.00 Dully and Pals
- 10.30 Mtaani
- 11.00 Beautiful Ceci
- 12.00 Afrusion
- 1.00 Lunch Time News
- 1.30 Business Defined
- 2.00 Kwa Raha
- 2.30 Zangu
- 4.00 Ukumbi Wa Kisumu
- 4.00 Club 1
- 6.30 The Great Debaters
- 7.00 Taarifa
- 7.30 Attitude
- 8.00 First Lady
- 9.00 Channel 1 News
- 10.00 Top Masharki
- 11.00 CCTV News
- 12.00 Lay'd Back
- BBC



- 5.00 Password Plus
- 6.00 Am Live
- 8.00 Better Living
- 9.00 On The Wings Of Love
- 10.00 Wild Skin
- 11.00 Ntv Today
- 1.00 NTV At 1
- 1.30 NTV Sasa
- 3.00 China Wings
- 3.30 Gina D's Kids Club
- 4.00 NTV At 4
- 4.15 Password
- 5.00 The Beat
- 6.00 Be Careful With My Heart
- 7.00 NTV Jioni
- 7.30 Wicked Edition
- 8.00 Wild Skin
- 9.00 NTV Tonight
- 10.00 Lit 360
- 11.00 World Cup Daily Highlights
- 12.00 CNN

HOROSCOPES



ARIES (MAR. 21- APRIL 20)
 Concentrate on your career and on making money. You will be in the doghouse if you are being. You will be inclined to make unwise investment choices.

TAURUS (APR. 21- MAY 21)
 Your ideas may be a little ahead of their time; don't push them, instead just continue working on development.

GEMINI (MAY 22-JUNE 21)
 Your family needs to spend some time with you, too. Trying to deal with your mate will be unproductive and possibly hurtful.

CANCER (JUNE 22-JULY 22)
 A romantic dinner, followed by a quiet evening with the one who is enticing you, should be most satisfying. Don't let any small misunderstandings get in the way.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG 22)
 Do not trust others with important information. If you're looking to do something worthwhile, consider volunteer work.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 23)
 Confusion is apparent and you'll need some sound advice if you want to do the right thing.

LIBRA (SEPT. 24-OCT. 23)
 Sudden romantic connections may be short lived. Catch up on overdue phone calls and correspondence. You are best to sit back and think it through, rather than add to the ranting and raving.

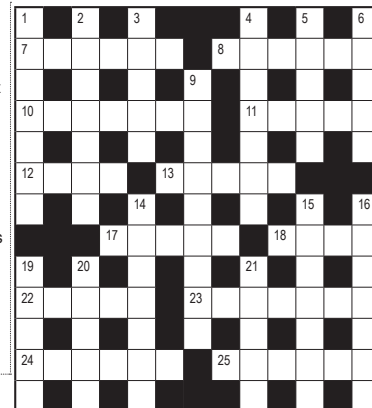
SCORPIO (OCT. 24- NOV. 22)
 Join a club to work off that excess energy; but consider ways of doing that without spending the money. Your greatest gains will come through your creative ideas. Catch up on your reading and correspondence.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23-DEC. 21)
 Your outgoing nature will surprise others today. You can make money if you put your savings into conservative investments.

CAPRICORN (DEC 22- JAN. 20)
 Don't overspend or give too freely to others. Your love will not be willing to listen to your criticism.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 -FEB. 19)
 Elders may need your help. Do not hesitate to help elders with legal documents that are too confusing for them. Try not to allow superiors or those in a higher position to take advantage of you.

PISCES (FEB. 20-MAR. 20)
 Mingle with those who can further your You are best to avoid such unsavory circumstances, especially if you're in a group situation.



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 7. Accompaniment | 1. Acts |
| 8. Especial | 2. Solemn |
| 9. Oats | 3. Options |
| 10. Meaning | 4. Angle |
| 12. Shook | 5. Smooch |
| 14. Giddy | 6. Unctuous |
| 16. Catfish | 11. Edifying |
| 19. Hype | 13. Sangria |
| 20. Laggards | 15. Deeper |
| 22. Indefatigable | 17. Fracas |
| | 18. Cloak |
| | 21. Doll |

- ACROSS**
- 7. Responds to (6)
 - 8. Hold fast (6)
 - 10. Sparkle (7)
 - 11. Renown (5)
 - 12. Midday (4)
 - 13. Dog-like mammal (5)
 - 17. All (5)
 - 18. Wire lattice (4)
 - 22. Possessor (5)

- 23. Arrogant person (7)
- 24. Hesitate (6)
- 25. Squall of snow (6)

- DOWN**
- 1. Starting-points (7)
 - 2. Gambling houses (7)
 - 3. Express one's opinion (5)
 - 4. Viewing (7)
 - 5. Sells (5)

- 6. Extravagant meal (5)
- 9. Without water (9)
- 14. Traditional piano keys (7)
- 15. Mends (7)
- 16. Sleep (4-3)
- 19. Head coverings (5)
- 20. Oneness (5)
- 21. Sacred song (5)



Sport

► The one-stop Sport Shop...

FOOTBALL PG31

Sports Tribunal boss Ohaga now says Fifa statutes are not greater than the Kenyan constitution



Comeback girl Chebet hopes to achieve more

by Philip Yegon
@PeopleDailyKe

Despite myriad challenges weighing her down, she has exhibited desire to shrug them off and re-start her passion for athletics.

Vicky Chebet, 32, is not about to let go the love for athletics. She had shone in the past and now she is raring to go in a bid to re-start it.

In 2012 she competed in Palentino Half Marathon, Italy where she finished second. Before that in 2006, Chebet ran in the then Standard Chartered Half Marathon returning a poor 20th. But she did not lose hope and went on to hone her skills, a move which earned her place in the then Palentino Half Marathon.

She started running while in primary school and used to compete in long-distance track events culminating in her first major competition -Standard Chartered Half Marathon in 2006 while still a pupil. "I love athletics since my childhood and I am very determined to re-start it and conquer the world despite challenges weighing me down," Chebet adds and discloses that while at Rift Valley Institute of Science and Technology as a student she used to compete in 5,000m race and cross country events. She left the institute in 2010.

Chebet, a widowed mother of one, grew up as orphan. Her husband passed on in 2014. "Problems bombarded me from all corners. It reached a stage that I asked myself, why me? But I have come to realise, it is God's plan," she says.

Being the first born child in her family, she took care of her nine siblings before she got married in 2012.

Now a tea picker with multinational tea companies in Kericho, Chebet says: "Life had become difficult after losing both parents and my husband. The money I get from this job goes towards supporting my siblings and my family."

The situation forced her to drop athletics and concentrated on what she termed as "a matter of life and death." But she still had the dream of becoming a celebrated athlete.

She thanks Kericho governor Paul Chepkwony for supported her.



Coronavirus stops Lewa marathon on its tracks

by Barry Silah
@PeopleDailyKe

The 2020 edition of the Lewa Safari Marathon has been cancelled as Kenya and the rest of the world grapple with the rapid spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This year's edition, powered by Huawei and Safaricom PLC was slated for June 27 allowing participants from all over the world to compete whilst running through one of Africa's most breath-taking conservancies.

"Hosting a race in a wildlife conservancy comes with a unique set of chal-

lenges. For the past 20 years, we have worked to mitigate these challenges and offer all 1,400 of our annual runners what we hope is an optimum running experience. Having all of you at Lewa has always been the highlight of our year. Despite our great willingness to push on, having weighed all factors, we have come to the very difficult decision to cancel this year's race," said the CEO of Lewa Wildlife Conservancy Mike Watson.

By yesterday, the government announced 31 cases of COVID19 within the country and has since banned all international flights effective March 25.



Taylor Ongwae takes on Makuel Jambo in Basketball at Nyayo National Stadium.
PD/DAVID NDOLO

Ongwae signs new deal

Kenya international keeps faith in Danish top flight side with extended contract

by Lynette Matheka
@PeopleDailyKe

Kenya international Tylor Ongwae who plays professional basketball for Denmark's top flight record title holders Bakken Bears has extended his stay at the club for another year.

The small forward has been with the Danish side for the last two seasons, helping them win their 15th and 16th league titles in the two seasons he has been with the Aarhus-based club.

Bakken Bears had, in the

2019/20 season of the FIBA Europe Cup, reached the semi-final and had a date with Bahcesehir Koleji on March 25 with a return match scheduled for April 1. However, the season was cut short after the covid-19 outbreak with its return uncertain.

"This is going to be my third year here. I like it at Bakken and that is why I chose to extend my stay. After the season is over, maybe we can talk about my next move. In addition to winning another title with the team, we got to the semi finals of FIBA Europe Cup but now we can not play because of the virus. It leaves the questions of 'what if?'," said Ongwae.

Placed in group H at the start

of the Europe Cup, Bakken Bears amassed 11 points to finish top of the group and advance to the second round where they ranked second. The team beat Tsmoki Minsk home and away in the play-off quarters to book a slot in the now postponed semifinal.

FIBA Europe board, on March 12, decided to suspend indefinitely and without resuming until the end of the current club season all games of the competitions organised by FIBA Europe which include the EuroLeague Women, EuroCup Women and FIBA Europe Cup. Based on the situation of the Covid-19 pandemic, a final decision on the status of the 2019/20 edition of said competitions will be made.

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING

ACT NO.13 OF 2019

CHANGE OF USE

The owner of property L.R. NO. 61/63, located off Joseph Kangehe Road, in Kibera, Nairobi County, intends to change use from Single Residential to Multi-dwelling (Flats), subject to approval of the County Government of Nairobi. Any individual(s), institution(s) or organization(s) etc, with comments or objections to the proposal are requested to forward the same in writing within fourteen (14) days of publication of this notice to:

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING

ACT NO.13 OF 2019

CHANGE OF USER

The registered owner of land parcel No. Muhiito/Thiha/85 proposes to change use from agricultural to residential use (multi-dwelling units), subject to approval by the County Government of Nyeri. Any individual(s), institutions and organization with any objections or submission(s) or comments to the proposal are requested to forward the same in writing within 14 days of publication of this notice to:

The County CECM of Physical Planning,
County Government of Nyeri,
P.O. Box 1112-10100,
Nyeri.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING

ACT NO.13 OF 2019

CHANGE OF USER

The registered owner of land parcel No. Konyu/Baricho/961 proposes to change use from agricultural to residential use (multi-dwelling units), subject to approval by the County Government of Nyeri. Any individual(s), institutions and organization with any objections, submission(s) or comments to proposal are requested to forward the same in writing within 14 days of publication of this notice to:

The County CECM of Physical Planning,
County Government of Nyeri,
P.O. Box 1112-10100,
Nyeri.

LAAR AUCTIONEERS

Auctioneer, Debt Collection, Private Investigation and Process Service
SUMMIT HOUSE, 2ND FLOOR, ROOM 209, P.O. BOX 40781-00100, NAIROBI. MOBILE: 0722647615 / 0732257161, EMAIL: laarauctioneers@gmail.com

PUBLIC AUCTION

Under instructions from our principals we shall sell the under mentioned motor vehicle by public auction
AT VARIOUS STORAGE ON 02ND APRIL, 2020
AT 10.30 AM

- FINANCIERS V/S
1. MAKALE LUSENEKA KENNETH
 2. MAKALE LUSENEKA KENNETH
 3. JOYCE NAMAZI MWAYI KWEYU
 4. MOSES AMBA OCHINGI
 5. HENRY KIPROTICH KISSINGER
 6. SARAH KOSGEI
 7. PHILIP KIMUNYU

REG NO.	MAKE	BODY TYPE	VIEWING
1. KBQ 707B	MERCEDES	STATION WAGON	VALUERS YARD
2. KBK 646U	TOYOTA	SALOON	VALUERS YARD
3. KBP 215U	TOYOTA	MARK 11	VALUERS YARD
4. KCA 822Y	NISSAN	WAGON	VALUERS YARD
5. KKB 339W	NISSAN	WAGON	VALUERS YARD
6. KBR 143K	RENAULT	SALOON	VALUERS YARD
7. KCN 712E	HONDA	WAGON	STARTRUCK

CONDITIONS OF SALE
CASH AT THE FALL OF THE HAMMER.

BRIEFLY

ICC shuts down World Cup qualifiers until July due to virus

CRICKET: Cricket's governing body postponed a swathe of qualifiers for next year's Twenty20 World Cup and the 2023 50-over World Cup on Thursday as the coronavirus pandemic continues to wreak havoc on international sport. All qualifiers scheduled to take place before July in Kuwait, South Africa, Namibia, Spain, Papua New Guinea, Belgium, Malaysia and Finland are affected, a statement said. "The decision has been



taken in conjunction with members and in line with the relevant government and public health authority advice," the International Cricket Council said. India will host the T20 World Cup, a revamped version of the former Champions Trophy. -AFP

Kenya coach hopes athletes will overcome virus, conquer Olympics

ATHLETICS: Renowned coach Bernard Ouma said Thursday the restrictions put in place are making it hard for elite athletes to train as governments bolster their efforts to fight the coronavirus pandemic. Ouma who runs the Rongai Athletics Club, which has over 20 athletes including World 1,500m champion Timothy Cheruiyot and Commonwealth Games champion Elijah Manangoi, said they will do everything to safeguard to health of their runners. However, he said the athletes need to

follow specific program issued so as to maintain their fitness, which will make their return to competition easier. Ouma said numerous African nations have closed shop on all training camps in a bid to try stopping the spread of the disease. "Everywhere in the world, the restrictions make training very difficult for elite athletes. The pandemic is affecting all across the world and we stand with the victims of coronavirus and offer our heartfelt condolences to the families who have lost their loved ones," Ouma said. -Xinhua

Aussies calls for higher age limit at 2021 Games Olympics football

FOOTBALL: Australia called Thursday for men's football at the postponed Tokyo Olympics to be changed from an Under-23 tournament to Under-24 so all players who helped their teams qualify can compete. "We would like to open up discussion with FIFA and the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) to consider adjusting the men's football tournament so that it becomes an U24 tournament for the Tokyo Olympic Games," Football Federation of Australia CEO James Johnson



said. The decision to move the Tokyo Games from this July to July 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic has raised concerns across the sporting world. -AFP

In this file photo taken on July 24, 2019 International Olympic Committee president Thomas Bach (R) walks with Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (L) as they leave the stage during a ceremony marking one year before the start of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo. PHOTO/FILE



Unending commitment

For Japan's Prime Minister Abe, Olympic delay may be no sweat as he desires to deliver

Tokyo, Thursday
@PeopleDailyKe

In 2016, Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe broke with his staid public image to pop up in Rio dressed as Super Mario for the official handover of the Olympic Games to Tokyo.

The stunt reflected his commitment to an event that was supposed to be the crowning glory of his tenure. But analysts say the historic delay of the Games over the coronavirus may not be all bad news for Abe.

If the country's longest-serving premier can see off the twin threats of a larger-scale outbreak of the virus in Japan and a major economic crisis caused by the pandemic, he could even end up extending his tenure, due to expire in September

2021, experts say.

Abe has bet heavily on Japan hosting the Games, casting them as a chance to showcase recovery after the 2011 earthquake, tsunami and Fukushima nuclear disaster, and delaying them would once have been seen as an "unthinkable political defeat," said Tobias Harris, senior vice president at consultancy Teneo.

But the rapidly expanding coronavirus epidemic has changed the political calculus, making holding the Games a greater risk than putting it off for now, he said.

The delay "removes a significant source of uncertainty for the administration and could give a bump to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's approval ratings, since large majorities support delaying the games," Harris said.

Japan has so far been something of an outlier in the pandemic, recording around 1,300 cases and 45 deaths, far fewer than in many countries around the world.

If the outbreak can be contained, Abe may find himself with enough support to continue his tenure past September 2021, said Tetsuro Kato, professor emeritus of Hitotsubashi University in Tokyo.

"It's possible that members of his Liberal Democratic Party argue for a further extension of his term," Kato said.

- Economic pressure -

Abe's government enjoys stable public support, hovering around 50 percent in approval rating polls, and the prime minister has benefited from a dearth of viable alternatives both within his ruling party and the fragmented opposition.

A series of corruption scandals, the stumbling economy and unpopular legislation have at no time seriously threatened his government.

"In this case, the pandemic could even shift the public's attention" away from his administration's shortcomings," Kato said.

FOOTBALL

Promoted Nakuru West hope for good tidings

by Gibo Zachary
@PeopleDailyKe

Newly-promoted Kenya Women's Premier League side, Nakuru West Queens' life at the top flight is idling along with those of all her locked-down rivals, but coach Ben-Peters Esitoko is planning for how to conquer the league once it resumes.

Esitoko who has guided Queens to three successive promotions in a span of three years, thinks the Nakuru best side can win a league title as they have done in the previous years in their maiden promotions.

The belief stems from their resounding start to the league after thrashing Oserian 3-1 on March 7 at Afraha Stadium, Nakuru in their opening match of the 2020 season.

"KWPL is the highest women league in the country and being new, we expect stiff competition from teams that have been in the league for long but our first win has given us belief and motivation that we are a good team and can challenge the big girls in the league. I know eyeing the title in our first attempt will be seen as over ambitious but our minimum target is to finish in top

three," said coach Ben-Peters Esitoko. "Coronavirus will definitely affect the fitness of all players once the league resumes but I hope to get them in good frame of shape and ready ahead. Honestly I am worried (no trainings), the players left camp to exercise self isolation with their families and we don't know exactly when to return to even training," he added.

Esitoko's little bit of wary is based on the fact that Zone B is a very tough zone as it features current league champions Vihiga Queens (yet to kickoff their league season), heavyweights Trans Nzoia Falcons, Eldoret Falcons, Wadadia, Kisumu All Starlets and the other fellow prompted side, SEP Ladies FC.

After week one's matches, Nakuru West Queens lead the league table standings with three maximum points, tying with fellow promoted side SEP Ladies FC and league regulars Trans Nzoia Falcons.

Defending champions Vihiga Queens and Wadadia are fourth and fifth on the table though they have not yet played a match, while week one losers; Eldoret Falcons, Kisumu All Starlets and Oserian Ladies FC are in sixth, seventh and eighth places in the eight-teams.



Nakuru West Queens after first half during their match against Gusii Starlets in FKF Division One tie. PD GIBO ZACHARY

BRIEFLY

Spanish MotoGP postponed due to current pandemic

PARIS: The Spanish MotoGP due to be staged on May 3 has become the latest sporting casualty of the coronavirus pandemic. "The ongoing coronavirus outbreak has obliged the event to be rescheduled," organisers announced on Thursday. "As the situation remains in a state of constant evolution, a new date for the Spanish GP cannot be confirmed until it becomes clearer when exactly it will be pos-

sible to hold the event," a statement added.

The postponement of the race at the Jerez circuit follows the cancellation of the elite category season-opening MotoGP in Qatar. The next three legs of the 2020 calendar in Thailand, Texas and Argentina have also been put on ice, with Dorna, the series promoter, hoping to run them in the second half of a truncated season.

-AFP

French sports minister evokes Tour de France spectator ban

PARIS: French sports minister Roxana Maracine-anusays this year's Tour de France could be staged without spectators in a bid to combat the coronavirus pandemic. The French government is in talks with Tour organisers about the future of the June 27-July 19 edition of world cycling's top event which draws more than 10 millions fans annually to the roads of France. All options are being considered including postponement or cancellation of the event which has been raced every year in peacetime since 1903, the minister said. "Everything is imaginable. We have imposed spectator bans for other competitions before, even though it won't have the same impact because the business model of the Tour doesn't depend



on ticket sales like football or rugby," she told France Bleu radio station on Wednesday.

The postponement of the Tokyo Olympics and the Euro 2020 football championships has focused attention on the Tour which winds its way for thousands of miles through the towns and villages of France in a wide loop for three weeks ending on the Champs Elysees in Paris.

-AFP

Spanish Football Federation pledges Sh58b to help clubs

MADRID: The Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) will launch a fund worth Sh 58 billion (500 million euros) to help clubs struggling financially amid the coronavirus pandemic. The money will help clubs who cannot claim back lost television rights from the period when matches are not played. It would be paid back over a period of five years. In addition, the RFEF also pledged to loan four million euros (£3.7m) to non-professional men's and women's teams. "We want to sit down with La Liga to talk about the problems that some clubs might have," said RFEF president Luis Rubiales. "My message is one of union, hope, discipline. All of football, from the modest to the elite, we



should send a message of solidarity, together we will stop this virus." The death toll in Spain from coronavirus has overtaken China, rising by 738 to 3,434 on Wednesday. That puts it second only to Italy globally.

-AFP

My first season at Madrid was bad, judge me after the second one, says former Chelsea star



Madrid, Thursday
@PeopleDailyKe

Eden Hazard (pictured) accepts he has work to do to justify his place at Real Madrid following a nightmare first season after his mega-money move from Chelsea.

Hazard departed Stamford Bridge in a deal worth an initial £88m, with add-ons potentially taking it up to as much as £150m.

But the Belgian has had a terrible time in Spain so far, with injuries and questions about his fitness after he appeared to arrive for pre-season out of shape.

"My first season at Madrid is bad, but not everything is bad," Hazard told RTBF.

"It is an adaptation season. I will be judged in the second. It is up to me to be in good

shape next year.

"The group is good, I have met new people. For me it is a great experience. I still have four years of contract, I hope to be in good shape."

The 29-year-old has scored once and provided five assists in 15 appearances in the 2019-20 season.

At present, the Spanish campaign is on hold due to the coronavirus outbreak and Hazard is in isolation.

"I'm not saying I can't catch it, but I'm inside the house, nobody's coming, we can't see anyone," he said.

"I'm a little scared, like everyone else, but I especially have to be careful not to pass it on to others [if I get it], that is the most delicate thing."



Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola reacts during a past English Premier League match. PD/FILE

Why always me?

Man City 'shocked' that Liverpool have joined the group of EPL clubs trying to stop them playing in the Champions League

Manchester, Thursday
@PeopleDailyKe

Manchester City have been left shocked by Liverpool's involvement in a group of clubs trying to stop a stay of their Champions League ban as they appeal, according to reports.

City have been handed a two-year ban from European competition after breaching Financial Fair Play rules and have launched an appeal against the decision from UEFA in the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

Sportsmail reported on Tuesday that the entire Premier League top 10 – aside from City and Sheffield United – have lodged a joint application with CAS to stop City from attempting to play Champions League football in that time.

The application states that should City request that their punishment is 'stayed' while their appeal is ongoing, all the clubs strongly object.

It is understood, however, that such a request has not been lodged by the Premier League champions.

And the Express are now reporting that City are surprised the league leaders are part of that group.

City expected that teams below them in the Premier League would want clarity on the situation, yet did not think a team above them would be involved.

There is now a chance City's appeal against the ban will not be heard before the start of next season's competition.

A source told Sportsmail on Tuesday that there was a level of 'outrage' among the group at how City had behaved.

"The feeling is that enough is enough," said the source. "For too long, City have been able to get away with breaching the rules at the expense of at least one other club that has been unable to get into the Champions League."

"The fear is that they will be able to delay any punishment and — should they win the appeal — get off scot-free, which would be outrageous."

EPL STANDINGS

TEAM	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
1. Liverpool	29	27	1	1	66	21	82
2. Man. City	28	18	3	7	68	31	57
3. Leicester	29	16	5	8	58	28	53
4. Chelsea	29	14	6	9	51	39	48
5. Man. United	29	12	9	8	44	30	45
6. Wolves	29	10	13	6	41	34	43
7. Sheffield Utd.	28	11	10	7	30	25	43
8. Tottenham	29	11	8	10	47	40	41
9. Arsenal	28	9	13	6	40	36	40
10. Burnley	29	11	6	12	34	40	39
11. Crystal Palace	29	10	9	10	26	32	39
12. Everton	29	10	7	12	37	46	37
13. Newcastle	29	9	8	12	25	41	35
14. Southampton	29	10	4	15	35	52	34
15. Brighton	29	6	11	12	32	40	29
16. West Ham	29	7	6	16	35	50	27
17. Watford	29	6	9	14	27	44	27
18. Bournemouth	29	7	6	16	29	47	27
19. Aston Villa	28	7	4	17	34	56	25
20. Norwich	29	5	6	18	25	52	21

Referees call for sobriety, ask government to adhere to

by Webster Nyandika
@PeopleDailyKe

A section of Kenyan referees have welcomed Fifa's directive regarding Football Kenya Federation (FKF) elections.

The whistle blowers expressed concerns that disobeying the directive could cause disastrous consequences to the country and affect smooth running of the game.

They also condemned persons resorting to court action in resolving football issues, noting that the trend risks eliciting

a ban and sweeping away the gains so far achieved.

Former Fifa referee Mwangi Gikonyo said gains made in the last four years will go down the drain in case of a Fifa ban.

"We have experienced stability in our game and we expect to take it to the next level. We do not want anything that will impede this progress," Gikonyo said.

He said local referees had received high profile appointments in recent years and fears that this could go down the drain.

"Mary Njoroge was in the women world

cup last year in France. Another referee, Peter Kamaku was at the Africa Cup of Nations in Egypt and was even earmarked for appointment in the Africa Nations Championships (CHAN) before they were shelved," he said.

Kamaku has also been slotted for a possible appointment to officiate in the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

He added: "Kamaku is now one of our elite referees and has undergone four VAR courses so far. We cannot allow that to go down the drain."



Some match officials before a past Kenyan Premier League. PD/ DAVID NDOLO

Why Fifa trashed SDT ruling and ordered incumbents to remain in office until after polls

by Webster Nyandika
@PeopleDailyKe

Following Wednesday's strong response from world football governing body Fifa to a ruling made by the Sports Disputes Tribunal (SDT) chairman John Ohaga on March 17, it is clear that the global body prefers aggrieved parties file their complaints at the Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS), which they recognise, instead of the local tribunal.

In his two-page response to proposals by SDT last week, Fifa's Chief Officer of Member Associations Veron Mosengo-Omba did not mince his words by stating that the world governing body does not recognise SDT as the ultimate arbitration forum at national level and quoted Fifa circular 1010 dated December 20, 2005, which calls for the principle of parity when constituting the arbitration tribunal; right to an independent and impartial tribunal; principle of a fair hearing; right to contentious proceedings and principle of equal treatment.

In the case of SDT, Fifa could have felt that since the tribunal was formed by the government, it may not meet the said threshold.

According to article eight section two of the current Fifa statutes, it states that: "Executive bodies of member associations may under exceptional circumstances be removed from office by the Council in consultation with the relevant confederation and replaced by a normalisation committee for a specific period of time."

Through this, it is clear that there is no way Fifa could have gone against its own statutes and allowed the formation of Normalisation Committee as requested by SDT.

SDT is a statutory organ established through a judicial process on the model

of a magistrate's court with members appointed by the government and who sit collegially. It is not an arbitral tribunal as contemplated by FIFA's circular 1010.

Whereas it provides a forum for hearing contentious matters, it fails two crucial tests of an arbitral tribunal. First, parties to proceedings have no input or choice in the constitution of the panel hearing the matters. A principal feature of an arbitral tribunal is that parties are involved in the determination of the persons to sit in the hearing of their matter. Where they cannot agree, there is provision of an independent process for the appointment of the tribunal. The SDT has a members appointed by the government without any input of the parties and neither do parties have any choice on who will hear their dispute. Arbitral tribunals like CAS have a very elaborate procedure for parties to appoint arbitrators who they want to hear their matters and which leads to very transparent and acceptable dispute resolution procedures.

Secondly, SDT does not have a provision or procedure for the exclusion of members from hearing a dispute where parties have legitimate doubt as to their independence for instance where the chairman is clearly biased or conflicted, FKF cannot exclude him from the SDT hearing of any matter. *Lupientem nos si ipsam que preputis nece con reipsa volere et velis piotior ovidiore nis aut etur asin rerum laut volupta tibusamus.*

The term of office for FKF president and NEC is provided by the FKF statutes. Fifa has found that there is no contravention of the said statutes so no violation of any law has been shown.

The writer is a sports journalist currently studying sports law

On the war path

Sports Tribunal's Ohaga says Fifa statutes are not greater than the Kenyan Constitution, reiterates FKF polls must be held under the Sports Act

by Barry Silah
@PeopleDailyKe

Sports Disputes Tribunal chairman John Ohaga seems to have folded his sleeves in readiness for a bout with world football governing body Fifa, after expressing dissatisfaction with the latest directive from Fifa Chief Officer in charge of Member Associations, Veron Mosengo-Omba on

Wednesday. Ohaga in his ruling on March 17 had called for a raft of measures to be effected prior to a free and fair election, but a week later Fifa responded to his requests, watering down all his proposals and upholding the controversial FKF Electoral Code to keep the incumbent in office.

Though Ohaga categorically said he did not want to get involved in the murky football politics, he said Fifa statutes can never be greater than Kenya's Constitution, stating: "As long as the FKF elections will be held within the borders of Kenya, it will have to be under the Sports Act."

Ohaga questioned Fifa's motive after, incidentally, agreeing with some of the SDT rulings earlier. He warned that SDT had full authority over sporting disputes since it was a constitutionally recognised body created under the Sports Act.

"First of all, we are a body that deliberates cases or disputes according to the law and as per our mandate. We are not interested in politics neither are we party to the fights. Let me make it clear that football elections will be held in Kenya under the Constitutional framework and therefore all players must abide by the law," he said.

He further stated that his ruling on NEC tenure had no contradiction because the substance issue which was on eligibility was flawed and therefore did not affect the Electoral Board or Appeals Board creation which was clearly done in a procedural manner.

Fifa stated that the Electoral Code was duly adopted by a validly convened General Assembly and emphasised that the relevant SDT ruling had no legal effect on Fifa.



OHAGA

As long as the FKF elections will be held within the borders of Kenya, it will have to be under the Sports Act

Sports Disputes Tribunal chairman John Ohaga addresses members of the media at a past function. PD/ RODGERS NDEGWA

OHAGA'S REACTION IN BRIEF:

-SDT's ruling on Membership Eligibility in the FKF Electoral Code was proper and constitutional as addressed in Kenya's Constitution.

-SDT warns FIFA that as long as the Football Elections will be held in Kenya, the Sports Act will have to be adhered to even as FIFA trashed the suggestion to form a Normalisation Committee.

-Ohaga argues that NEC member's tenure had expired as per terms of service and are therefore supposed to be out of office

-The tribunal avers that the proposed April 6 meeting by FIFA is a non-issue and that the follow-up meeting of a Mention in relation to the case at hand will be dealt with expeditiously.

-SDT says it is not at war with anybody as they are not party to the case.

Turkish boxing chief slams London Olympic event after coronavirus infections

ISTANBUL: Turkey's boxing federation on Thursday slammed organisers of an Olympic qualifying tournament in London after three Turkish fighters and a coach tested positive for the coronavirus. The London competition featured around 350 male and female boxers from dozens of European nations and was the first opportunity for boxers from Europe to qualify for Tokyo 2020. "The International Olympic Committee Boxing Task Force and the local committee in London responsible for the organisation acted as if nothing happened rather than postpone the tournament over coronavirus while every corner of the world has been on fire since December," Eyup Gozgec, president of the Turkish Boxing Federation, told AFP in a phone interview.

-AFP



Hosts Kenya postpones Africa hockey Cup of Nations qualifiers due to Corona

NAIROBI: Kenya has postponed the hockey North East regional qualifiers for the 2021 Africa Cup of Nations, which was to be held in Nairobi from May 11-17. The move follows a directive by the African Hockey Federation (AHF), which has announced that all competition on the continent will be pushed back to offer governments a chance to focus on the fight against coronavirus. AHF president Seif Ahmed said all African hockey events in 2020 have been postponed until further notice and

another update would be made by the end of April. "Given the worldwide development of the coronavirus outbreak and following the WHO, International Olympic Committee (IOC) directives as well as the measures taken by the governments of our events hosting countries with respect to holding any sports or gatherings-related activities, this is to announce that all AHF 2020 tournaments dates will be postponed until further notice," Ahmed said on Thursday.

-AFP

Adebayor stuck in quarantine in Benin

FOOTBALL: Former Manchester City, Real Madrid and Togo international forward Emmanuel Adebayor is stuck in quarantine in Benin over the coronavirus pandemic, his Paraguayan club Olimpia said on social media. The 36-year-old "took the decision to return to his country for the duration of the quarantine period declared by the government" of Paraguay, said Olimpia late on Monday. However, in trying to return home he was put in quarantine in a hotel in the port of Cotonou, the largest city in Benin, alongside another 84 travelers, Olimpia said. "His decision was to spend this time with his family," Olimpia said of Adebayor's attempts to make the long journey from Paraguay to Togo. Like much Latin America, Paraguay is in partial shut down and has imposed a nighttime curfew. The former Togo forward, who also played for Arsenal, Tottenham and Crystal Palace during a decade-long stay in the English Premier League, made a surprise move to the Paraguayan champions in February having left Turks Kayserispor in December.

-AFP



Athlete Rutto frustrated under quarantine

NAIROBI: Kenyan athlete Samson Rutto has been placed under quarantine in Nakuru town in the northwest region as a precaution after he arrived in the country from his tour of France and India. Rutto returned to the country after his planned races in France and Bangalore, India was canceled. However, despite his going through the mandatory screening in France, India, Ethiopia and on arrival in Nairobi, he was placed under quarantine as the government intensified its efforts to curb the spread of coronavirus. "Everybody is running away from me because I am suspected. I am not getting any help. However, I have been screened in Nairobi, Addis Ababa, Bangalore and in France. I was screened and told to go home where I will self-quarantine for 14 days. So, I was on my way to Eldoret," Rutto said on Wednesday in Nakuru. He was intercepted on his way home by other road users after he picked up his mobile phone responding to a call announcing his arrival in the country.

-Xinhua



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A Datsun
 260z splashes
 through a mud
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 Taita hills during
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 LIP KAMAKYA



Safari Rally now under threat

Returning WRC leg
 under scrutiny as FIA
 mulls postponement
 over COVID-19

Nairobi, Thursday
[@PeopleDailyKe](#)

Federation Internationale de'Automobile (FIA) has put Kenya on notice of the likelihood to postpone the Safari Rally, which serves as the seventh round of the World Rally Championships (WRC), FIA president Jean Todt said on Thursday. In a statement, Todt said FIA is closely monitoring development of efforts to curb the spread of coronavirus pandemic

that broke out at the beginning of the year, and the evolving situation with its affiliate countries and relevant authorities including governments and WHO. "The FIA will evaluate the calendar of its forthcoming races and, if necessary, take any action required to help protect the global motor sport community and the wider public," Todt said.

Todt said with the extension of a state of emergency in Portugal and similar measures in Italy, the FIA and WRC Promoter unanimously agreed to postpone the two rallies, which serves as the fifth and sixth leg of the WRC. Vodafone Rally de Portugal, round five of the FIA World Rally Championship, was due to take place in Matosinhos on May 21-24. Rally Italia Sardegna,

round six, was due to take place in Sardinia on June 4-7. FIA left open Kenya's Safari Rally, the next surviving round on the calendar which runs from July 16-19.

Todt added that the WRC Promoter and FIA will discuss with Kenya and other countries, as well as the home countries of WRC teams and all competitors. "All parties will work to identify potential alternative dates for the postponed rallies later in the season should the COVID-19 situation improve, taking into consideration championship logistics, the ability of competitors to travel again and the ability of the country in question to prepare and host the WRC at such a time," said WRC Promoter managing director Oliver Ciesla. The WRC Promoter and FIA asked

the crews to stay in solidarity with these who are fighting this pandemic.

-Xinhua

KENYA SPORTING EVENTS AFFECTED BY CORONAVIRUS:

- *Kenya Open Golf Championships
- *World Under 20 Athletics Championships
- *Safari Sevens Rugby tournament
- *Africa Hockey Cup of Nations qualifiers
- *Lewa Marathon
- *All local leagues in football, basketball, handball etc