



Marakwet mudslide death toll rises to 12

Page 2 Interior minister Fred Matiang'i says 400 families were left homeless, asks residents in flood-prone areas to move to higher grounds as Meteorological department warns of more rains expected.

Security officers and rescue workers carry to safety one of the victims of the Chesogon mudslide tragedy. The Saturday night downpour caused massive destruction in villages along the West Pokot-Elgeyo Marakwet border. PD/JIMMY GITAKA

Corona now hits villages

Red alert: Health CS Kagwe blames reckless behaviour, especially by the middle class, for spread of deadly virus from Nairobi to capital's peri-urban and rural areas as country's infections rise to 281 after 11 new cases were reported yesterday

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Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe (fourth right) with his PS Susan Mochache (third right) inspects bed and other equipment for special isolation facility for health workers at the Kenyatta National Hospital, Nairobi, yesterday. The equipment was donated by Rockefeller Foundation and Amref. PD/JOHN OCHIENG

281
confirmed cases
69 recovered
14 deaths

11
new cases,
5 females,
6 males

13,872
Samples tested

News Beat **PG 5**

Why Mombasa is new virus hot spot

Kajiado

Kitengela, Matasia and Ongata Rongai.

Mombasa

Nyali 11, Mvita 7, Kisumu 7, Changamwe 2, Bwiro Road 1, Mamba Villa 1, Mkomani-Tamar Kongowea 1, Twiga

POINTERS



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Joho, Shahbal alliance sparks succession talk


WORLD NEWS PAGE 18

Brexit talks resume under coronavirus cloud

WEATHER TODAY

Nairobi	23°	Nyeri	22°
Mombasa	31°	Kitui	27°
Kisumu	26°	Wajir	33°

Met boss says heavy rainfall to last longer

by George Kebaso
@Morarak

The ongoing heavy rains will continue pounding most parts of the country, the Meteorological Department has projected.

The department warned Kenyans living in mudslide-prone areas to move to safer grounds.

Director Stella Aura said Western, Central, Nairobi and Coast regions will receive rain of more than 30mm in 24 hours.

In the latest weather report issued last evening, Aura said counties expecting heavy rainfall include Siaya, Kisumu, Homa Bay, Migori, Kisii, Nyamira, Trans Nzoia, Baringo, Uasin Gishu, Elgeyo-Marakwet, Nandi, Laikipia, Nakuru, Narok, Kericho, Bomet, Kakamega, Vihiga, Bungoma and Busia.

However, Aura said rainfall amounts may reduce as the forecast period progresses.

"In the Lake Victoria Basin, morning rains are likely to occur over a few places in that area tomorrow and Thursday, while the rest of the mornings are likely to be sunny, paving way for afternoon showers and thunderstorms," she added.

Be on lookout

Aura urged residents in areas affected by heavy rains to be on the lookout for potential flash floods.

"Residents are advised to avoid driving through, walking in moving water or open fields or sheltering under trees and near gridded windows to minimise exposure to lightning strikes," she said.

Aura said the heavy rains, large waves and strong winds offshore may result in storm surges along the Coast, and advised fishermen and other people in the marine industry to be on high alert.

She said those in landslide-prone areas, especially over the slopes of the Aberdares Ranges, Mount Kenya and other hilly areas over the Western region, should be vigilant.

Mudslide deaths rise to 12 as eight bodies retrieved

State distributes foodstuff to flood victims in Chesogon, with Matiang'i asking Kenyans in high-risk areas to move to safer grounds

by Irene Githinji
and Winstone Chiseremi
@PeopleDailyKe

The death toll from the mudslide that occurred at the border of West Pokot and Elgeyo Marakwet counties rose to 12 yesterday after eight more bodies were retrieved in Chesogon.

One of the recovered bodies was that of a policeman who went missing after the tragedy.

At the same time, a student from Moi University was rescued and airlifted to the Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital (MTRH) in Eldoret. More than 20 people had been reported missing following the Saturday mudslide that swept away households and a police post, leaving over 4,000 residents homeless.

Government Spokesperson Cyrus Oguna, said in a statement the government had dispatched assorted foodstuff for distribution to flood victims, adding that five police officers and two civilians had been airlifted to MTRH, while 13 people were treated and discharged.

Interior Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang'i yesterday said nearly 400 households have been affected by the flash floods caused by heavy rains. He appealed to Kenyans living in mudslide-prone areas to move to safer grounds as the weather department has forecast enhanced rainfall in coming days.

The Kenya Meteorological Department

(KMD) has warned that ongoing heavy rains will increase and could extend to May. Some of the areas cited as prone to risk are Murang'a, Taita Taveta, Elgeyo Marakwet, West Pokot, Nyando in Kisumu, Garissa and parts of Kitui county (see separate story).

"We can tell clearly that we are going to have challenges of flooding in some parts of the country and we have been warned. Let us listen to what we are being told. When we can see an impending danger, it is our responsibility as to advise our people appropriately and we have done this," said Matiang'i.

He said the government does not want to use force to move defiant residents, adding that advisories to move have already been issued in high-risk areas.

"Let us all take responsibility, it's our lives not about Government. We are working jointly to see how we can assist and support our people move to safer and higher grounds... the message we have is please heed the warning, move to higher ground. Condolences to Kenyans from families that lost their loved one, including two police officers."

Dams spillage

Matiang'i spoke at the Meteorological Department headquarters in Nairobi as he dismissed proposals to have the government buy off flood-prone areas and move residents.

"Tragedies should not lead us to making drastic decisions. We want to use our resources well as we are also fighting the coronavirus disease," said the CS.

Matiang'i was accompanied by his counterparts Charles Keter (Energy), Keriako Tobiko (Environment) and Eugene Wamalwa (Devolution) as well as KMD director Stella Aura. Keter said the Eastern hydros are currently full and there is already spillage from Masinga Dam, adding that in the next two



Cabinet Secretaries Fred Matiang'i (Interior) and Keriako Tobiko (Environment) during a briefing on disaster preparedness at the Kenya Meteorological Department offices in Nairobi, yesterday. PD/KENNA CLAUDE

TRAGEDY

● The Saturday mudslide swept away households and a police post, leaving over 4,000 residents homeless.

● 12 people died, among them a policeman. They were among the over 20 people reported missing following the tragedy caused by heavy rains.

● Those living on the lower parts of Garissa and Tana River have been advised to move to safer grounds after Masinga Dam started spilling over.

● Matiang'i said government may be forced to use force to move those in high-risk areas.

days, those living on the lower parts of Garissa and Tana River may experience flooding and are hence advised to move to safer grounds.

"There is an overflow of about 300 cubic metres per second in all the dams," he said.

Wamalwa said the government has already sent relief food and non-food items to support those affected by mudslides in Elgeyo Marakwet.

Chesogon market, opened last year to enhance peace among the warring Pokot and Marakwet communities, and Chesogon police post were washed away.

The government, in conjunction with humanitarian organisations, including the Kenya Red Cross Society, yesterday started distributing food and non-food items to hundreds of displaced families in Chesogon.

The exercise is coordinated by Elgeyo Marakwet County Commissioner Ahmed Omar and his West Pokot counterpart Apollo Okello in partnership with the county governments officials.

Omar said the displaced families at primary schools along Kerio Valley, will be given blankets, tents, mosquito nets, bar soaps and food items.

Omar warned that those who will defy the government order to move will be compelled to use chiefs and assistant chiefs to evacuate them by force as part of measures to avert more loss of lives and property.

Okello regretted that some areas had been cut off, making it hard for them to deliver food help displaced families.

Rift Valley Regional Coordinator George Natembeya toured the area yesterday and said a command centre had been set up at Sambalat primary and Cheptulel Secondary schools in the two counties to coordinate rescue and relief mission.

Elsewhere, Narok and Merili residents are living in fear after two bridges were swept by flash floods in on Sunday.



Residents of Chesogon and security officers at an area where a mudslide killed 12 people and left thousands homeless. PD/JIMMY GITAKA



The ugly, nasty among Kenya's crime busters

Being a law enforcement officer is more than just a job; it's an honourable career anchored on the motto: Utumishi Kwa Wote. And while there are many upright men and women living true to their calling, the few bad apples among them are tainting and disgracing the service

Rogue chief 'baptises' elderly woman using busaa!

There is no argument that illicit brews are a menace that has caused untold misery in many families—and even claimed lives. Reports of once normal and vibrant Kenyans, who have gone blind or reduced to vegetables in their moment of merriment abound across the country.

To save the victims of the toxic and unregulated concoctions, the government has deployed its law enforcers to hunt down the brewers and drinkers.

Nonetheless, in enforcing the law and law and order, the law enforcement officers are not law by themselves and should never take law into their own hands. A recent horrifying picture has been doing rounds on social media showing a merciless rogue chief pouring



changaa on an elderly hapless woman after it was allegedly confiscated in her possession.

The picture that most have labelled horrendous and highly disturbing, shows an overzealous chief showering an elderly woman with busaa. Even though the woman might have broken the law, the justice meted on her does justify the inhuman treatment.

Policemen arrested transporting bhang in DCI vehicle



No, you are not dreaming, but in real Kenya and this heading is absolutely factual! In October last year, three police officers were arrested transporting a consignment of bhang and other contraband goods in a police vehicle at Kanyonyoo area along the Thika – Garissa highway. The three male police officers were arrested by a multi-agency security team that had mounted a roadblock in that section of the road. Two of the officers were

from the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) department in Wajir County while one was from regular police. The three were traveling in a pick-up truck belonging to the DCI office in Wajir County. When their vehicle was searched, 245kgs of bhang, 150kgs of contraband sugar, another 325kgs of government rice and several liters of cooking oil were confiscated. The arrested were initially detained at Kanyonyoo Police Post but later transferred to Kyusyani Police.



Cop denies inciting riders against fellow officers

Did you know that what criminals can do police officers execute even better? A police officer attached to Langata Police Station, Nairobi, was charged with inciting boda boda riders to attack his colleague attached to Kapsowar Police Station in Marakwet West.

The officer, Newton Chebii, was last month arrested and arraigned in court for incitement at Kapsowar

Trading Centre. Chebii, also a renowned blogger, was said to have uttered the words 'Kapsowar ni kwetu na hakuna mtu atatutisha' (Kapsowar is our home and we will not be intimidated by anyone), an act which police charge sheet said were calculated to incite members of the public to turn violent.

A police officer, Thomas Opalla was dispersing a group of boda

boda riders who had gathered in Kapsowar town after the government issued a stay-at-home directive following the Covid-19 pandemic.

The prosecution said Chebii, who had been suspended by the National Police Service in 2016 and reinstated in February last year, uttered words that encouraged the riders to attack his colleague.

Daring AP officer recorded demanding bribe at gun point

This abnormal but dangerous incident that happened in Mombasa last week shows the lengths some police officers will go to just to land that filthy note in their pockets.

In a career-ending move replete with carelessness and disregard to public safety, an Administration Police officer was captured on video drawing a gun and demanding bribe from a boda boda operator.

So daring was the daylight incident that Deputy President William Ruto's attention was drawn to it.

Coast Regional Police Commander Rashid Yakub says the errant AP has since been fired and will be arraigned in court shortly.

The footage of the police officer drawing his gun on charcoal vendors caused a national uproar, with Kenyans lamenting the rot in the Police service.

In the video filmed in Magarini, two boda boda operators ferrying charcoal are seen arguing and shouting at an AP officer who kept shouting "Nipe pesa! (Give me the money)."

Boda boda operators gang up and try to rough up the police officer who swiftly pulls out his gun.

The charcoal sellers comply. The brawl lasts for several minutes.



GSU officer busted demanding bribe from fellow policeman

It seems as the coronavirus tightens grip on every Kenyan, the good, the bad and the worse of our law enforcers is coming out. Imagine the whacky scenario of the right-hand demanding bribe from the left hand!

But that's exactly what happened recently in Ruiru, when a police constable identified as Charles Mbugua was arrested by police officers while...not aiding an injured motorist or a driver whose car had stalled on the road, but.... demanding a bribe from another police officer.

In a bizarre incident on the night of Tuesday, April 14, Mbugua's woes started when he stopped a vehicle driven by Corporal Bernard Lang'at and attempted to extort money from him for "violating" curfew orders.

Lang'at who alleges that he had come from hospital was stopped by Mbugua and another police impostor identified as Michael Njenga Chege.

It is said an incensed Mbugua and his accomplice took possession of the Lang'at's car keys and proceeded to demand money from him. Lang'at, doubting the alleged officer's identity, raised the alarm after members of the public came to his assistance and arrested the two men.

It was later established that indeed Mbugua was a GSU officer attached to the Unit's Headquarters in Ruaraka and his companion, Michael Njenga who was a civilian masquerading as police officer!



Police nab colleague in the act of vandalising street lights

Away from kitu kidogo, it seems law enforcers often break the same law they are supposed to enforce. Just last month in Ol Kalou town, Nyandarua County, a police officer, Joseph Ndirangu from Olelondo Patrol Base of Ol Kalou Police Station was arrested after police bumped on him unbolting a light pole from the newly installed solar security street lights.

The streetlights programme by the county government is funded by the World Bank under the Kenya Urban Support Programme. The police officer was arrested as he allegedly dismantled a streetlight outside the Nyandarua governor's office.

The police recovered the gunny bag in which were a razor cut wire, a fork joe, spanners, screwdriver and a rope. Detectives led by Nyandarua Central DCI officer Eric Ochieng established that the footprints matched the shoes worn by the suspect at the time of his arrest and bolts recovered from the officer also matched those removed from the lighting mast.

The sleuths also recovered spanners, a rope, metal cutters and other equipment used in the vandalism. But there was a little twist to the debacle: the suspect managed to escape while handcuffed during the night incident, but was later traced to Olelondo Police Post, about 10 kilometres from Ol Kalou town.

The arrested officer is suspected to have been involved in previous theft since owing to a fresh wound on his shoulders and legs that detectives said matched those inflicted by twisted sharp-edged wires protecting the lighting panel.

County police commander Gideon Ngumi said: "Unfortunately, the suspect is one of our own. We had not been looking for somebody we know. It is unfortunate that those entrusted to guard public property are doing the opposite," he said.

CORONA CRISIS

Virus sneaks into villages beyond Nairobi region

Figures released by the Ministry of Health paint an ominous picture as Corona hits Murang'a county, other remote areas across Kenya

by Eric Wainaina
@EWainaina

The coronavirus pandemic has made its way into the densely populated villages beyond the Nairobi metropolis that was sealed off following failure by Kenyans, especially the middle-class, to observe government guidelines to stop spread of the disease.

Figures and analysis released by the Ministry of Health yesterday painted an ominous picture, after it emerged that apart from spreading to villages and modest settlements in Nairobi, Kiambu, Machakos and Kajiado counties, the virus has hit rural areas, having been confirmed in Murang'a county.

Apart from the capital city and the so-called front line counties, there was also bad news from the Coast after Mombasa registered its biggest number of victims in a single day, accounting for seven of the 11 new cases announced by Health Minister Mutahi Kagwe in the 24 hours leading to yesterday.

Contain virus

Kagwe, who in his daily briefings has continually warned that Kenyans' attitude and stubbornness could cost the country dearly, described the disease that had by last evening affected 281 people, as "something in your neighbourhood."

"Today, I want to make a special appeal to the people in the counties of Machakos, Kajiado, Kiambu and Murang'a. As Nairobi Metropolitan counties, you have a special responsibility to guard against the spread of coronavirus from Nairobi county. Already, a number of your residents have contracted the virus, and we have isolated

them for treatment," Kagwe said.

"We are talking about people just going round without wearing masks. These are the results that we are getting from these shortfalls," the CS added.

Crafty Kenyans have devised ways to beat State regulations on the ban of movement in and out of the metropolis, including faking funerals as well as holding in-house drinking parties against social gathering warnings, frustrating government efforts to contain the virus spread.

Kagwe said a case had been reported in Ting'ang'a village, a rural area in Kiambu that is out of the Nairobi metropolis, but where some residents, who have been accusing the government of being insensitive by locking them out of the metropolis, have refused to adhere to health protocols.

Hold parties

Kiambu, where dozens of people have been nabbed having locked themselves in clubs and holding drinking parties, has also recorded a case in Thindigua, a fast-growing residential suburb on Kiambu road, which hosts thousands of middle-class occupants.

Other cases were confirmed in the densely-populated Githurai 45, raising concerns over the safety of the habitats, while Waitika in Kikuyu, Ndongoru in Kabete as well as Watalamu in Ruiru sub-county, which are typical villages and where residents have been faulting government's directives, recorded cases.

Despite Murang'a having blocked the entry and exit of people from Nairobi over a fortnight ago, two cases have been reported in Gatanga and Lumumba Drive, highlighting the possibility of the virus having been passed on to more people in the area.

In Machakos, seven cases have been confirmed so far; two in Syokimau, a fast-growing residential suburb that has attracted mostly the middle-class, while Athi River, Kamulu, Rubi Garden estate, Kithunguni and Viraji have reported one case each.

"The reason for mentioning the specific areas (where cases have been confirmed),



Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe addresses the press at Kenyatta National Hospital, yesterday, where he witnessed the handing over of hospital beds for the special isolation facility. PD/JOHN OCHIENG

CASES CITED

● **Kiambu, where dozens of people have been nabbed having locked themselves in clubs and holding drinking parties, has also recorded a case in Thindigua, a fast-growing residential suburb on Kiambu road.**

● **In Kajiado, cases have been confirmed in Kitengela, Matasia and Ongata Rongai, where one of the earliest cases of the virus was reported.**

is to show you that it (coronavirus) is not a Nairobi disease; it's not a stranger's disease. It is something in your neighbourhood. It is something that is being carried by your brother, a sister, it is something that is within a friend that you have," the minister said.

In Kajiado, cases have been confirmed in Kitengela, Matasia and Ongata Rongai, where one of the earliest cases of the virus, involving Ivy Brenda Cherotich, who has since recovered, was reported.

Court death

The latest cases emerged even as the ministry warned that a single infection is likely to multiply to dozens, leading to exponential figures, especially in areas where people are not observing hygiene and social distancing measures.

The middle-class, who seem not to have been hit by the adverse economic effects of the pandemic yet, have been courting death by continually defying government directives on social distancing by holding outdoor and house parties to kill boredom especially on weekends.

Owners of bars and hotels with accommodation have turned some of the rooms

to "party areas" where they are allowing people with common interests to consume alcohol while other party goers are hosting events on fields in the estates, putting their lives and those of others at risk.

Yesterday, the minister announced that police have so far arrested 455 people for flouting the rules, some of who have been put on forced quarantine for 14 days, with government warning that Kenyans' indiscipline could cost the country dearly.

For instance, in a clear act of recklessness and life risking that could pass the sickness to the venerable, 23 people from Nyeri, including Rware MCA Paul Kanyari, were arrested and charged yesterday after they were founded drinking beer in a guest house.

Also, 39 women were on Sunday arrested in Nasra Estate in Komarock, Nairobi, at their friend's wedding ceremony, and quarantined for 14 days at their own cost.

The spread of the virus from country to country saw the government ban all international flights, and with the disease already in many counties, the government is trying to avert a full blown national outbreak by sealing off the Nairobi metropolis.

Government turns attention to safety of healthcare workers as



Medics check on equipment at the Mbagathi Hospital isolation ward in Nairobi recently. PD/FIL

by Noah Cheploen
@cheploennoah

The government has now turned its attention to protecting healthcare workers—often referred to as the frontliners—even as the number of infections rose to 281 after 11 more people tested positive.

In his daily briefing yesterday, Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe said a special designated isolation and treatment facility for healthcare workers had been opened, adding that the facility, based at Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH), is going to offer both critical and basic care services.

Noting that the isolation and treatment facility is a product of collaboration between the government, Rockefeller Foundation and Amref, Kagwe said all costs

incurred during treatment shall be catered for by the government.

The government, he said, is grateful for the provisions given to the country by the above institutions and urged medics and healthcare workers to submit themselves for testing and where found positive, to adhere to the quarantine protocols.

Train workers

Kagwe said the government moved in to protect healthcare workers since the nature of their job means that they are prone to exposure.

"In some countries health care workers contributed up to 13 per cent of cases and we do not want to go there," he said.

The CS added that the government had distributed 4,759 complete Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) kits and 237,047

assorted components (goggles, surgical masks, N95 masks, gloves, gowns, rubber boots, shoe covers, among others).

He said all quarantine sites and port health facilities have also received assorted protective gear, adding that the Ministry of Health has also trained 30,000 healthcare workers and training is still ongoing.

"The target is to re-sensitise 100,000 more workers in the next few weeks," said Kagwe.

Last week, the Kenya Medical Practitioners, Pharmacists and Dentists Union (KMPDU) officials led by chairman Dr. Samuel Orok and acting secretary general Dr. Chibanzi Mwachonda said 20 of their members had tested positive, claims the government dismissed as fantasy.

Coincidentally, out of the two people

You've crossed the red line, Kagwe tells Mombasa county

Governor Hassan Joho livid after reports indicate Coastal city leading in daily corona count for two straight days

by Murimi Mutiga
@PeopleDailyKe

For the second day, Mombasa County led in the number of new Covid-19 infections - and with reports that seven of the 11 cases confirmed yesterday were captured there, its tally now stands at 54 out of the country's 281.

Nairobi has 200 cases as per the details released by the Ministry of Health yesterday.

The alarming trend has captured the attention of the National Emergency Response Committee for Coronavirus (NERC) with Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe saying Mombasa is crossing the red line and efforts must be made to stop the spread of the virus.

During his daily brief yesterday, Kagwe said the virus had spread in almost every estate.

"It is growing, as you realise, seven cases in a day in Mombasa, that is not a small number by any standard and if you multiply those numbers by four, it tells that if you do not remove those people from the town, then each of them will go and multiply by four," he said.

Yesterday, Mombasa governor Hassan Joho blamed the spike in the number of infection on "sheer irresponsibility demonstrated by residents in the county."

Said he: "Some people still do not care, you tell people to wear masks but you find people wearing them on their chins and foreheads, yet they know very well a mask is supposed to cover nose and mouth."

Joho, who spoke in Changamwe where he launched distribution of the first phase of Covid-19 household food relief targeting 50,000 families warned that unless residents adhere to guidelines, especially on behaviour change, to stem the coronavirus spread, the resort city could overtake Nairobi.

The new cases were reported in the coastal city areas of Bondeni, Mvita and Miritini, which means that the virus has now spread to all the six sub-counties of Mvita, Nyali, Kisauni, Likoni, Changamwe and Jomvu.

County Commissioner Gilbert Kitiyo claimed residents disregard expert guidelines and still shake hands as others board crowded passenger service vehicles.



Governor Hassan Joho (centre), County Commissioner Gilbert Kitiyo (2nd right) and members of the Mombasa Household Relief and Nutrition flag off food relief distribution for vulnerable families. PD/BONFACE MSANGI

"Now as you can see cases in Nairobi are slowing down and here in Mombasa are surging, this is serious and we need to understand that if we don't take precautions we will burn this county," he warned.

Apart from matatus, markets in the county are still crowded with people paying scant respect to social distancing.

For example, at Tononoka grounds where part some of the traders from Kongwea market have been relocated, the social distancing aspect of the guidelines is not being observed.

Kagwe told Kenyans to respect medical guidelines to help curb the spread of

MOMBASA COUNTY SHOCKER

● Alarming trend has captured the attention of the National Emergency Response Committee for Coronavirus with Health CS Mutahi Kagwe saying Mombasa is crossing the red line

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corona and cited the latest case involving three people who came into contact with a herbalist who died of the disease on Saturday. The herbalist was buried on Sunday at Kikowani Muslim Cemetery.

"The three from Bondeni and Old Town are all contacts of the herbalists. We have one more case on Miritini and Mvita and those are from our quarantine centres," he said. "This indicates that the virus is not a Nairobi disease, it is not a stranger's disease. It is something in your neighbourhood, it is something that is being carried by a brother or a sister and it is something being carried by a friend".

281

Confirmed cases

69 recovered
14 deaths

11

Tested positive in the last 24 hours.

13,872

Total samples tested

2,425,437

cases in the world with 636,378 recovered and 166,067 deaths

23,201

cases in Africa with 1,131 deaths

coronavirus cases reach 281

who were discharged yesterday, Kagwe said one was a doctor who had contracted the deadly virus in line of work. He said one more doctor is still undergoing treatment in one of the facilities.

Expand testing

The number of people who have recovered since the first case was reported one month ago now stands at 69. The number of deaths remains at 14. Giving a breakdown of the 11 new cases, the Cabinet Secretary said five are females and six males aged between 11 and 80 years.

He said 33 quarantine centres holding 483 individuals are currently active while 455 people have been quarantined in various parts of the country for contravening curfew rules.

Kagwe added that testing has been ham-

pered in the last two days because of global shortage of some of the components, a fact that was reinforced by Acting Director General of Health Dr. Patrick Amoth.

He, however, said testing had been expanded from the current 10 centres and will now be conducted in each of the 47 counties within the next two weeks following approval of four new testing methods.

"The Pharmacy and Poisons Board is now accelerating regulatory decisions regarding approval of Covid-19 test kits," he said.

The CS also appealed to the health facilities managed by both the Central and county governments to settle any pending bills owed to oxygen suppliers. Oxygen is a major component in the treatment of coronavirus.

He also urged institutions and firms owning oxygen plants to ensure that they are in proper condition and functional.

PUBLIC NOTICE



Proposed Dividend - Update:

As announced during the release of the audited 2019 full year results, the Board of Directors ("Board") had resolved to recommend to the shareholders for their approval at the Annual General Meeting to be scheduled, the payment of a final dividend for the year of Shs 1.50 per share. The dividend was to be paid to the shareholders registered on the Company's register at the close of business on 23 April 2020.

The Board has considered events that have taken place since the financial results were published, particularly the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic and its devastating effects to the world and the Kenyan economy. This has led to a reconsideration of the Board's decision as to the type of return to offer to the shareholders whilst ensuring the company continues to support its customers and the communities in which it operates.

The Board will therefore be varying its proposal and recommending to the shareholders the payment of a stock dividend (Bonus Issue) and not a cash dividend. The proposed Bonus issue is one (1) share for every ten (10) shares held. The Board views that this will place the shareholders in a better position than the earlier proposed cash dividend. The Bonus Shares will be issued to the shareholders registered on the Company's register at the close of business on 12th May 2020 and upon approval of the Capital Markets Authority and the shareholders of the Company.

The Group continues to offer relief to customers that have been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Furthermore, the Group has committed Kshs 100 million towards the Covid-19 Emergency Response Fund to support the humanitarian needs of the more vulnerable members of our communities.

The Board will continue to implement strategies to maximize and sustain corporate value by effectively utilizing internal reserves to build a strong financial base, strengthen existing businesses and progress with new investments.

By order of the Board
Livingstone Murage
Group Company Secretary
20th April 2020

DISCLAIMER:

This announcement has been issued with the approval of the Capital Markets Authority pursuant to The Capital Markets (Licensing Requirements) (General) Regulations, 2002. As a matter of policy, the Capital Markets Authority assumes no responsibility for the correctness of the statements appearing in this announcement.

Regulated by the Central Bank of Kenya

ncbgroup.com

Go for it

CORONA CRISIS



Machakos Governor Alfred Mutua launches the testing centre, yesterday. PD/ PETER MUTUKU

Mutua turns stadium into isolation centre

by Mutuku Mwangangi
@PeopleDailyKe

A Covid-19 mass testing and isolation facility at Kenyatta Stadium in Machakos that was unveiled yesterday by Governor Alfred

Mutua will accommodate up to 400 patients.

Mutua said he opted to convert the stadium to a hospital to minimise interaction between coronavirus patients with those of other illnesses at the

county referral hospital 200 metres away.

Speaking at the Stadium where he inspected the first phase of the facility established in a week, Mutua sought to demonstrate his administration's

preparedness for the virus in the county which has recorded one case. "This centre will handle mild and non-critical cases. We are targeting up to 1,000 bed capacity in the next one month," said Mutua.



New York couples free to tie the knot via Zoom

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo has signed an order allowing online marriages, as many weddings are cancelled under lockdown restrictions.

From now on, people in the US state will be able to apply for marriage licences remotely and clerks allowed to conduct ceremonies virtually.

Cuomo joked that the decision meant there was now "no excuse" for couples not to tie the knot. "You can do it by Zoom. Yes or no?" he said in his briefing on Saturday.

The decision comes after New York state extended lockdown measures until May 15. More than 13,000 people have died of coronavirus in New York city alone.

Social media reaction to the decision was mixed. Some questioned why couples would choose to hold weddings when their families and friends are unable to join them, or criticised the governor for not prioritising other decisions. But others said during a pandemic, marriage could offer practical benefits, such as allowing couples to share health insurance coverage.

New York isn't the first place to turn to the Internet to offer a legal solution. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) recently announced that citizens and residents would be allowed to get married online, after the justice ministry created a website for couples to submit required documents. A virtual ceremony, complete with a registrar and witnesses, can then take place.

Similar measures have been introduced in the US state of Colorado, where couples are being allowed to apply for marriage licences online.

-BBC

Locally made PPEs below set standards, says medics union

KMPDU particularly points out that the hazmat suits do not meet leakage test

by George Kebaso
@Morarak

Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) locally manufactured for use by frontline healthcare workers do not meet local industry standards set by Kenya Bureau of Standards (Kebs).

As a result, the Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Union (KMPDU) wants local manufacturers to adhere to the standards required for the production of masks, disposable scrubs, aprons, surgical gowns and hazmat suits.

Acting Secretary General Chibanzi Mwachonda particularly pointed out that the hazmat suits—used by workers in toxic environments as is in the case of coronavirus in isolation centres for positive cases—that are manufactured locally do not meet the leakage test.

Leakage test

"KMPDU visited the Export Processing Zone on invitation of the Ministry of Health and found out that the PPEs being manufactured there for use by our health workers are yet to meet the standards as defined by Kebs. Specifically, the suit failed the leakage test and the manufacturers promised to improve the quality," said Mwachonda in a statement yesterday also calling on the government to make accessible a number of conditions for healthcare workers.

He cited an incident at Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH) where health work-



KMPDU acting Secretary General Chibanzi Mwachonda addresses the media during a recent visit to Shona EPZ. PD/ JOHN OCHIENG

48

Hours KMPDU want coronavirus test results for health workers availed

ers alleged that they did not have adequate PPEs, a situation that caused a stand-off between them and the hospital administration concerning suspected Covid-19 patients.

"This, therefore, brought to light the feeling of inadequacy of protection of the health workers. We appreciate the efforts by the KNH management in addressing the concerns raised, this should be a lesson learnt for all public hospitals," he said recommending that as a bare minimum for frontline healthcare workers; the government avails the N95 masks, Face shields or goggles, surgical gowns and shoe covers in the high risk areas.

Mwachonda also called on the Ministries of Health and Public Service Gender and Youth to develop a comprehensive welfare package to cushion health care

workers, which they should fast track as instructed by President Uhuru Kenyatta.

"Our proposal as KMPDU includes; a waiver of PAYE for a year, additional emergency Covid-19 risk allowance and comprehensive NHIF insurance package. Further to this is the creation of an Occupational Disease Fund under the WIBA Act for compensation. There is also need for timely payment of salaries and effecting promotions should be prioritised by the County Governments," he added.

He also the government to develop clear guidelines that should be communicated to healthcare workers on; where to present them for testing and results be availed within 48 hours.

The union called for speedy resolution of protracted labour disputes in Kirinyaga, Laikipia, Taita Taveta and Kwale counties.

Over 30 people in Homa Bay placed in quarantine

More than 30 people, including those who came into contact with "fake mourners" who had travelled with an empty coffin from Nairobi to Seka village have been placed under quarantine in Homa Bay.

The suspects were sent into quarantine at KMTC in Homa Bay town after being tracked by the county health officials and security team in the ongoing war to fight the spread of coronavirus in the county after the region recorded its first confirmed case on Saturday.

Homa Bay County commissioner Yatichi Kipkemei (pictured) said the suspects have been quarantined at the facility and the county health officials are yet to take their samples for test at KEMRI in Kisumu.

Kipkemei reiterated that they are still tracing more people who interacted with the victims to ensure all contacts have been quarantined. He urged those who had interacted with the mourners to present themselves.

-KNA



Nyeri MCA, 22 others charged with contravening Covid-19 rules

by Seth Mwaniki
@PeopleDailyKe

Twenty three people, including a sitting Member of County Assembly (MCA) arrested in Nyeri during a drinking spree at a guesthouse were on Monday charged with contravening Covid-19 regulations set by the Ministry of Health.

The suspects, among them Rware MCA Paul Kanyari, were charged before Nyeri Chief Magistrate Wendy Kagendo that on May 17 they were gathered at Laquisin guesthouse in Nyeri consuming beer contrary to public health regulations set to curb spread of Covid-19.

Those who pleaded guilty were fined Sh20,000 or in default serve three months sus-

pended sentence while those who denied the offence were ordered to deposit a cash bail of similar amount or in default be quarantined at Wambugu farmers centre.

Plead guilty

The other suspects who pleaded guilty for the offence and opted for community service, were ordered to move with public health officers for one hour for a whole week conducting public education. The prosecution had sought the accused to be put on mandatory 14 days quarantine at Wambugu Farmers Training center but the court opted for the fine.

The case for those who denied charges will be heard on Thursday when the magistrate visits the scene.

Governors rush to refurbish, build hospitals

Murang'a's Wa Iria working on a project to construct ICU facility in 21 days to boost preparedness

by Wangari Njuguna
@PeopleDailyKe

Counties are racing against time to equip hospitals should coronavirus spread to the regions, in a move that has also exposed their general unpreparedness on health matters.

The state of preparedness in county hospitals is poor despite them spending the lion's share of their budgets since the advent of devolution on health.

Devolved units, which for long have been grappling with poor health care systems despite spending an upward of 30 per cent of their budget on the sector, now have to construct new intensive care units (ICUs) in record time, earning praise and ridicule in equal measure for county chiefs.

Others are refurbishing existing facilities and converting them into ICU and isolation

centres as well as training their health-care workers to enable them to tackle the pandemic, whose national tally rose to 281 yesterday.

Murang'a County Government, for instance, has embarked on an ambitious project to construct a 35-bed ICU facility at Murang'a Level Five Hospital as part of the preparation measures against Covid-19, in a record 21 days.

"Nobody had foreseen this pandemic and thus the need to put in drastic measures to ensure no life is lost. We could be having a situation where we get patients flocking our hospital and we need to be prepared on how to handle them," said Wa Iria, who has been making daily inspections of the project.

The construction is done day and night and the workers have 11 more days to go, with Wa Iria saying he intends to open the facility as soon as possible.

The governor says the facility, which is expected to be the biggest in Central region, shall handle patients who might be critically affected by the disease.

He said all the necessary equipment for the facility have already been purchased. "I



MURANG'A PROJECTS

Project: Murang'a County Government has embarked on an ambitious project to construct a 35-bed ICU facility at Murang'a Level Five Hospital, in a record 21 days.

Handle patients: County Health Executive Joseph Mbai says there are two isolation wards set up in the county to handle patients suspected to have the virus.

Ongoing construction at the Murang'a district hospital. PD/REBECCA WANGARI

am personally supervising how the work is being done and it shall be complete in the set days," said Wa Iria.

Tighten grip

With two cases of Corona having been reported in the county, the Governor said they are leaving nothing to chance to ensure it does not spread further.

County Health Executive Joseph Mbai said there are two isolation wards set up in the county to handle patients suspected to have the virus. In addition eight quarantine centres have also been established which will be used to contain those found flouting the safety measures issued by the government.

Mbai said most residents are still tak-

ing things casually and this has forced the county government to tighten its grip in the fight against Covid-19.

"We have issued a directive that anybody found in public places without wearing a face mask shall be taken to mandatory quarantine and they shall cater for their cost," he said.

Last week, 52 people who were being ferried to a farm in Maragua were put on mandatory quarantine for 14 days.

Mbai said the county has also launched mass distribution of face masks to residents, targeting those living in remote areas.

The Executive also said they have started distributing foodstuff to the vulnerable people in the county and they are in the process of establishing a pay bill number which shall be used to mobilise funds to aid the poor.

Other measures put in place include the distribution of hand sanitisers and water tanks to help set up hand washing points in public places. Public health officers and various corporate companies have been fumigating local market places twice a week.

"We don't know how long this pandemic shall last but our aim is to keep sustained efforts to ensure our people are safe from the disease," he said.

The county governments last week told the Senate that they were unprepared to tackle the pandemic. This has raised concerns over their commitment to address health issues, which are part of the devolved functions.

"Most counties have active cases and accreditation to operationalise regional laboratories has not been done and they do not have sample collection kits..." the submission of the governors to the Senate reads in part.

World Health Organization

DO THE
CLEAN YOUR
HANDS
WELL

WASH YOUR HANDS WITH SOAP

RUB THOROUGHLY THE INSIDES OF YOUR FINGERS

CLEAN YOUR KNUCKLES

AND THE BACK OF YOUR HANDS

AND DON'T FORGET THE WRISTS

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CORONA STATUS



A Sonko Rescue Team member fumigates a section of Moi Avenue in Nairobi yesterday as a measure to curb the spread of Covid-19. PD/BERNARD MALONZA



Daniel Njogu recites a poem "Stop Corona" at the Nakuru Bus Station yesterday. Njogu, who lost his job at a local hotel following the corona outbreak, has resorted to creating awareness of the outbreak. PD/RAPHAEL MUNGE

Pepsi Human resources manager Serah Wangethi, guides a boda boda operator on how to put on a face mask at Baba Dogo, Ruaraka yesterday. The company has rolled out a campaign to distribute the PPEs. PD/CHARLES MATHAI



A director at Micro and Small Enterprise Authority Eng Charles Kalomba (left) hands over a face mask to Wud Odongo, a welder, as the firm's CEO Henry Rithaa looks on. PD/JOHN OCHIENG

WORLD UPDATE

1 Germany re-opens smaller shops after deciding outbreak is coming under control

2 Czech Republic allows some markets and other small businesses to re-start

3 US oil prices drop to 21-year low as demand dries up

4 UK to try to use the blood of survivors to treat patients

5 Three beaches in Sydney re-open as New South Wales records just six new cases

6 New York's governor says cases there are "slowing, not growing"

7 Number of deaths in the US now exceeds 41,000

8 There are more than 2.4m infections worldwide, with more than 165,000 deaths



ABOVE: Hawkers keep social distance as they sell fruits and vegetables at Ukwala Street in Nairobi. LEFT: Traders at Tononoka Market Mombasa. Few people at the market are putting on face masks despite the huge population. PD/BONFACE MSANGI/PHILIP KAMAKYA



Health workers at the newly launched Machakos County Covid-19 Mass Screening and Isolation Centre at Kenyatta Stadium, Machakos, yesterday. The Centre was launched by Governor Alfred Mutua. PD/PETER MUTUKU



Two men in Enkorika village, Kajiado county cannot take chances and have decided to wear face masks. PD/CHRISTINE MUSA



Edward Ouma, a garage attendant at Kariobangi South, refurbishes a matatu with a fresh coat of paint while wearing a scarf as a face mask. PD/JOHN OCHIENG

Ministry faulted for listing alcohol as essential product

Civil society groups challenge MoH to explain the move which also places tobacco in the category

by George Kebaso
@Morarak

The Ministry of Health has been challenged to explain why it has not opposed the recent listing of alcohol and tobacco as essential products, yet it should be in the forefront in raising awareness against the harmful effects of the two commodities.

At the same time, a group of civil society organisations advocating for the removal of the two products from the essential list, is concerned that the Ministry of Industrialisation has not responded to the call more than two weeks since it received a letter from 11 entities.

Urgent response

Some of the representatives of the 11 organisations yesterday revisited the concerns calling on the two ministries to give an urgent response to the matter since it borders on health of millions of Kenyans.

Kenya Tobacco Control Alliance (KET-CA) chairman Joel Gitali yesterday said it should be of great concern to the public



Kenya Tobacco Control Alliance chairman Joel Gitali. PD/FILE

why the Ministry of Health did not correct the mess when it's mandated with the task of safeguarding Kenyans' health.

"We want MoH, as a matter of urgency, to explain why it seems comfortable and whether it agrees with its Industrialisation counterpart on the listing of the two products as essential," he told *People Daily* yesterday through telephone.

On April 8, 2020, the Ministry of Industrialisation, Trade and Enterprise Development listed alcoholic beverages and tobacco among essential products during

ISSUES RAISED

● **Response:** Some of the representatives of the 11 organisations yesterday revisited the concerns calling on the two ministries to give an urgent response to the matter since it borders on health of millions of Kenyans.

● **Mess:** The Kenya Tobacco Control Alliance chairman Joel Gitali yesterday said it should be of great concern to the public why the Ministry of Health did not correct the mess.

the coronavirus pandemic. This did not go down well with organisations that have been fighting proliferation of tobacco use and alcohol abuse.

"We believe that this move will not only make the Ministry of Health and the government's efforts counterproductive in the fight against Covid-19 but also subject Kenyans to unnecessary yet preventable deaths," the groups said in a statement.

However, while revisiting the issue yesterday, International Institute of Legislative Affairs (IILA) added its voice to the growing concern that the government is playing double standards in addressing the general health of Kenyans.

IILA chief executive Emma Wanyonyi said the MoH should take the lead, or provide direction on the matter- at the very least.

Lobby groups query forced quarantine

by Sophie Njoka
@PeopleDailyKe

A Mombasa-based civil society organisation has threatened to move to court, to stop mandatory quarantining of people found violating Ministry of Health's (MoH) Covid-19 directives.

Commission for Human Rights and Justice (CHRJ) has given Inspector General of Police 48 hours to order a stop to forced quarantine on Kenyans failure to which the issue will be challenged in court.

CHRJ executive director Julius Ogogo said if the forced quarantine will not be stopped, the government should foot bills for those taken into the isolation facilities.

Ogogo said some of the quarantine facilities look like detention centres because they are infested with bedbugs, are dirty and lack proper hygiene.

"There is nowhere the gazetted guidelines on coronavirus state that if you are found violating, you will be forced into quarantine. This amount to violation of human rights," he said.

He said this even as it emerged that several police and prisons officers arrested in Mombasa and Kilifi counties for breaking MoH ban on social gathering and closure of bars are walking scot-free.



Fishermen at Lake Naivasha. Nakuru government has banned fishing in the lake at night. PD/FILE

Nakuru bans night fishing in Lake Naivasha, ferrying fish in matatus

by Kirera Mwitii
@PeopleDailyKe

Nakuru county government has banned night fishing in Lake Naivasha following reports that tens of fishermen were spending the night in the water body despite the current curfew.

Through the department of fisheries, the county has also outlawed transportation of fish using matatus as one way of containing the spread of Covid-19 pandemic.

This came as the department, Kenya Wildlife Service and police officers formed a special patrol unit around the lake, which in the recent month, has been under immense pressure from former flower farm workers.

In a notice, Naivasha sub-county fisheries officer Nicholas Kagundu said fishing was going on at night despite the by-laws set by the county.

He warned that anyone found flouting the law would

be arrested while the fishermen would have their licences revoked.

"We have reports of massive fishing at night despite the national curfew and this endangers the lives of the fishermen who are not observing social distancing," he said, adding: "As part of addressing Covid-19 spread, we have banned the transportation of fish using matatus, traders are supposed to use refrigerated vehicles," he said.

BRIEFLY

Observe Health ministry guidelines, Mvurya urges

Kwale Governor Salim Mvurya (pictured) has encouraged residents to respect the National and County government's measures to fight coronavirus spread.

He said everyone must follow advisories such as staying at home, social distancing, washing hands with



soap or hand sanitisers, wearing of face masks among other guidelines to reduce the spread of the virus.

"We all need to respect these simple advisories to protect ourselves," he said on Monday at his office in Kwale town.

-KNA

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EDITORIAL

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QUOTED TODAY



MOHAMED KHALIFA

This Ramadan promises to be different for Muslims across the world because of the restrictions on gathering and closure of places of worship to curb the spread of Covid-19.



EVANSON KAMURI

There are people who will need full gown (coveralls), others, N95 and others mere face masks and gloves - all these are personal protective equipments.



YUAN ZHIMING

As people who carry out viral study, we clearly know what kind of research is going on in the institute and how the institute manages viruses and samples. As we said early on, there is no way this virus came from us.

E-learning plan locks out underprivileged

Efforts by the Education ministry to keep learners busy after the closure of schools following the coronavirus outbreak are commendable.

The government has established online platforms, radio and TV broadcasts for learners and tutors of different classes based on the curriculum. The lessons are freely available on Kenya Broadcasting Corporation channels.

Edu Channel TV and EduTV Youtube are some of the channels where lessons are transmitted on the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) -owned channel, which is available on the Signet free-to-air channel. The Edu Channel broadcast programme line-up is also available in the KICD website and on youtube @edutvKenya (live streamed or recorded).

Unfortunately, the plan locks out a majority of poor Kenyans, particularly the majority who live in rural areas and urban slums, who may not have access to radio and TV or the internet.

The atmosphere in many homes is also not conducive for learning. Many learners in rural areas are expected to participate in various activities, including herding livestock, farm work and household chores.

Even for those who have the equipment, electricity bills and pay-TV channels are a luxury.

Online programmes require access to the Internet, which many rural families cannot. Already, teachers in many rural parts of the country are projecting poor performance in national examinations in public institutions in remote areas.

Education Cabinet Secretary George Magoha has said the government is monitoring the issue keenly, with the promise to postpone the exams if need be.

However, learning is going on for learners in international schools and elite academies where families and tutors easily access online facilities, computers, radios and TV multi-channel, pay sets. Magoha has defended the decision by private schools to ask for the extra fees. He said if these institutions are offering more content than the one government is offering, they have the right to charge more so as to pay the content creators.

The government should ensure the coronavirus pandemic does not widen the academic divide between the rich and poor. The ministry and stakeholders need to re-strategise on the e-learning, radio and TV broadcasts. What is available is only benefitting the 'haves' while the 'have nots' are greatly disadvantaged.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

NELSON MANDELA

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.



Shaping a post-coronavirus new world order

The coronavirus pandemic has captured global attention, drowning political contestations while also spawning conspiracy theories.

Despite the unprecedented havoc wreaked on humanity, health and economies, the pandemic has also opened a floodgate of scientific interrogation and digestion that has greatly contributed to the dissemination of accurate information.

Never in the past two centuries has humanity come to appreciate the media and technology's vital role in delivering timely, correct information to the public as governments, health workers and scientists confront a pandemic that threatens our very existence.

The pandemic has triggered an avalanche of research and studies, strengthening the media's capacity to hold power, politicians and corporations to account based on empirical evidence.

Legacy media should be wary in a contested information environment of distrust and confusion where their authority is undermined by social media and fringe news that often spread misinformation, disinformation and flawed analysis.

As the global community battles to contain the spread of the pandemic that has affected over two million and left more than 150,000 dead, there is hope that it will eventually be contained. The big question is what next... how will our lives be after coronavirus?

Currently, focus is on immediate needs—



ALBERTO LENY

The big question is what next... how will our lives be after coronavirus?

boosting hospital capacity, addressing hunger and protecting firms and families from the economic downturn.

Work has already started on the next phase of recovery that demands strong public action in rejuvenating our health systems, stabilising financial systems, building prosperity and resilience for the vulnerable and charting a new pathway for sustainable development.

Africa will experience an acute economic crisis, and the IMF warns that Covid-19 will exact a heavy human toll, threatening to reverse hard-won gains and recent momentum.

With economic growth projected to sink by an unprecedented 1.6 per cent, African countries should take advantage of the recent debt relief to boost health spending and provide social transfers to the millions whose livelihoods have been overturned.

World Bank president David Malpass and IMF managing director Kristalina Georgieva said after the G20 finance ministers' meeting: "This is a powerful, fast-acting initiative that will do much to safeguard the lives and

livelihoods of millions of the most vulnerable people."

The killer virus has devastated the lives of peasants and working classes. Going forward, two leading scholars of international politics, Inderjeet Parmar and Atul Bhardwaj, warn of the threat to hijack such opportunities to rejuvenate the socio-economic rights of the vulnerable.

"Corporate-dominated states are already in action to help the privateers and rentiers to re-emerge from the health tsunami with renewed neo-liberal vigour, parading as the saviours of mankind.

However, they face significant political and moral barriers to returning to pre-Covid 'normalcy' because workers are on the move with popular recognition that the state has been forced to act to support working people."

Overseas Development Institute chief executive Sara Pantuliano concurs, saying a return to normalcy post-crisis does not mean mere restoration of the previous situation, but should lead to the establishment of a new order that, in the words of Mark Fisher, allows "what was previously deemed to be impossible seem attainable."

This calls on citizens to unite into social movements to push for change involving the media, trade unions, civil society, think tanks and NGOs to work with governments and businesses to help shape a more sustainable and equal 'normal' for all.

—albertoleny@gmail.com

Use certified PPEs to combat Covid-19 transmission

Two weeks ago a woman and her daughter were captured on camera wearing improvised masks made of plastic bottles at the Likoni channel. Her sense of personal responsibility to combat the spread of coronavirus did not go unnoticed. Days later, the county leadership provided the woman with proper face masks and some Sh100,000 to buy basic needs.

Susan Kageha took precaution rather than resign to fate and despondency. Her story signifies the increasing realisation by Kenyans that they bear responsibility in the fight against Covid-19.

As the government and relevant agencies propagate containment measures, the citizens required to play their part in the fight against the pandemic. Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) are key to curbing wide-spread transmission through droplets when one sneezes or coughs. PPEs such as masks act as barriers to direct transmission of infectious agents that could be from external environment or by the wearer.

However, an effective mask must factor in the filtration capacity, efficiency of the material, capacity to absorb moisture and the fit of the mask on the wearer's face. It behooves all to ascertain the quality of the mask one



BERNARD NJIRAINI

Kebs has begun crackdown on rogue traders selling uncertified sanitisers and masks

is purchasing.

The Kenya Bureau of Standards (Kebs), working with the Health ministry and the Department of Industrialisation, has tested samples of various PPEs to ensure they meet the quality thresholds and are safe for human use.

Verified and certified equipment will help stem the spread of the virus. We are sensitising Kenyans on the certified sanitisers, masks as well as cautioning them to beware of unscrupulous traders out to capitalise on the pandemic. We have ramped up our market surveillance activities to ensure PPEs sold in the market meet the required standards.

As part of a multi-agency team, Kebs has begun crackdown on rogue traders selling uncertified sanitisers and masks. The Standards Act Cap 496 provides for a fine or imprisonment for anyone who fails to provide samples for tests and inspection.

KEBS has a multi-faceted mandate

— as the custodian of standardization services, conformity assessments as well as a facilitator of fair and just trade. We have allowed free access to Standards that will guide manufacturers in the production of PPEs. We are holding consultative meetings with local manufacturers including Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions, factories, universities and other entrepreneurs. We guide them on the requirements including the materials, composition, type, workmanship, design, size, test methods, labeling, and packaging of surgical masks and other PPEs.

Currently, there are two Kenya Standards relating to medical face masks including KS 2636:2016 that specifies materials, composition, type, workmanship, design, size, test methods, labelling, and packaging of surgical masks and KS 2409-6:2018 on filtering face masks to protect against particles. The surgical masks

offer one-way protection — capturing droplets from the wearer while the N95 offers two-way protection by filtering air entering of exiting the wearer.

Use of face masks and social distancing are critical containment measures as well as personal hygiene including regular hand-washing with soap and use of alcohol-based hand sanitisers to prevent the exposure and spread of the virus.

Manufacturers are encouraged to consult Kebs for guidance on quality and certification of PPEs. The public and traders, on the other hand, must check the validity of the Standardization Mark permit on products being sold or purchased by sending the code (numbers) underneath the Standardization Mark logo to 20023 (i.e. type message SM#Code and SMS to 20023) to get product manufacturing details and permit validity status or ISM#code for imported products. If the details are different, retailers should not purchase, stock or offer for sale the products but report to KEBS Toll Free Number 1545.

We must all recognise that, the fight against coronavirus is ours all. We must work together.

—The writer is the Managing Director, Kenya Bureau of Standards

STREET TALK

Without foreign trips, MPs are now flat broke

The coronavirus pandemic has changed a lot of things. Besides lockdowns, countries have shut borders and cancelled flights. This means our MPs, who itch at the thought of foreign travels, are forced to stay here with us. How unfortunate! Some MPs, used to reaping big from overseas trips, are yet to get accustomed to life without the trips. One was overheard complaining how it has been tough for him to take care of his family without *per diems*.

Governor, his deputy cannot see eye to eye

The relationship between a governor and his newly-appointed deputy in not so rosy, thus threatening county operations. Our mole intimates the two are not seeing eye to eye as the governor cannot trust the deputy. Reason? The deputy was an ally of his rival in the 2017 General Election. The deputy is said to have braced for a bumpy ride in the office, but seems determined to stay despite impending humiliation.

Hush! Jubilee honchos ordered on party row

Just who warned some jubilees honchos against issuing statements both in mainstream and social media platforms on the wrangles in the party? Some parliamentarians were overheard saying that calls were made from a higher office telling the individuals to refrain from making any comments especially now that the country is dealing with Covid-19 pandemic.

Troubled county chief seeks legislators' help

An embattled philanthropic governor has been meeting legislators seeking to enlist their support against "dark" forces keen on intimidating him. The legislators are said to have met the governor in at a Nairobi hotel and assured him of total support. But not without cost! The lawmakers named their price and are now smiling all the way to the bank. Or is it from the bank?



TRUTHIS: Be as patient with others as God has been with you.

The pillars driving Kenya's resilience against virus

As the Covid-19 scourge sweeps across the world, Kenya has largely been spared the mayhem in countries worst hit by the pandemic such as the US, Spain, Italy and the UK. Health experts continue to warn us that if social distancing and other preventive measures put in place are not sustained, infections could escalate exponentially, with deadly consequences.

Although the Covid-19 cases in Kenya remain far below the official projections of 5,000 cases by mid-April, we must upscale efforts to tame the pandemic. Compliance to the measures in informal settlements, market places and other settings should be escalated to decrease chances of community transmissions.

Sustained preventive measures will save many lives. Prevention is the first pillar in a four-pronged strategy underpinning Kenya's resilience to the deadly virus. The other three pillars we must focus on are financial resource mobilisation, building manufacturing capacity and protecting vulnerable groups.

Mobilising adequate financial resources is crucial to supporting

PETER MURUMBA

Enhancing local manufacturing capacity must go hand-in-glove with innovation

short-term interventions while easing pressure on the Exchequer. The efforts to tame the virus require emergency funding on unprecedented scale. This demands collaboration between the State, the private and civil sectors.

This is already happening through the Covid-19 Emergency Response Fund, a joint government-private sector initiative, which has so far raised over Sh1 billion to assist vulnerable groups. But as President Uhuru Kenyatta has directed, the Fund needs to be innovative and responsive to the evolving circumstances so as to effectively fulfil its mandate.

In addition, the country continues to receive financial support from multilateral agencies such as the World Bank, African Development Bank and the Export-Import Bank.

Financial resources are also coming from unexpected sources. On

April 7, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission handed over Sh2 billion corruption proceeds to boost Covid-19 response. The Central Bank handed over another Sh7 billion from the demonetisation process.

But as we source funding, we must seriously ramp up local manufacturing capacity to meet the high demand for personal protective equipment (PPEs) and other essential supplies. There is a global PPE shortage owing to high demand and supply chain disruptions.

Lack of PPEs exposes our frontline medical personnel and the public to the risk of contracting the virus. As a result, increasing PPE availability is critical to enhancing the capacity of our hospitals to cope with Covid 19.

Since everyone is now required by law to wear a mask in public,

demand for affordable masks has already shot up. There lies a huge opportunity for the textile industry.

Rivatex is currently producing over 8,000 face masks daily, while the Kitui County Textile Centre is now manufacturing 30,000 face masks daily. Local production of PPEs creates employment and saves the country billions of shillings that could have been spent on imported protective gear.

Enhancing local manufacturing capacity must go hand-in-glove with innovation. We have to support local innovators including our universities and research institutions. This rich reservoir of innovative talent is exemplified by a group of students at Kenyatta University who have put together a ventilator prototype for the local market.

Finally, we have to sustainably cushion the most vulnerable groups in society especially the elderly and the poor from the effects of the disease. All these interventions will serve to boost the country's short-term resilience to Covid-19.

—The writer is the Managing Director of Impulso Kenya

#TWEETS TO THE EDITOR



Journalists and the media received some flak over alleged skewed coverage. Using #Githeri, KOT attacked the media.

@o_abuga: I agree with many of you; Yellow journalism/githeri media is REAL. People sit in newsroom or their offices, fail to verify facts. And at times, they ma-

nipulate facts for brown envelopes.

@KiMuiruri: Not saying Ruto will win but githeri media is sinking low, but when have they ever been credible?

Arabyamet: The TV stations and Radio stations should be clear on what they post to public...they will make us believe

they are Githeri media.

@ClintonMurila: Unearth stupidity and the rot in this githeri media houses. The streets won't forget.

@waetner: Githeri media can't ask where Jack Ma donations went or where government produced sanitisers went.

The fear of being quarantined in Kenyan centres

Citizens held say social distancing is impossible because of overcrowding, complain of lack of water

Rachel Gachuna is extremely worried about catching coronavirus. But she is just as fearful about being locked up in a Kenyan quarantine centre.

If the single mother of one-year-old twins is to believe those already held at some of these government-assigned facilities who say living conditions are not much better than at a prison, then she has every reason to be apprehensive.

"The toilets are just messy, dirty... even the cleaners who clean them, once a day, complain how messy they are," one woman in quarantine told the BBC.

"It's because there is no water, so people are touching the same taps when you want to wash your hands, if there is even water... it's just a mess."

Close borders

People who arrived in Kenya from countries affected by the virus before it closed its borders and those found to have been in contact with a coronavirus patient have been sent to these centres for 14 days.

However, the quarantine period has been extended twice for everyone at centres where someone has shown symptoms of the virus—and they have had to keep paying the bills.

There have also been complaints that social distancing is impossible at some centres because of overcrowding. "You pray to God that it never happens because I honestly do not know what I would do," Gachuna said.

She is now on leave after first choosing to work from her home in the capital, Nairobi—even though the city's residents are able to go out during the day.

To protect her family from infection, she only goes out to the shops when necessary. Kenyans now have to wear face masks in

public and buses are carrying fewer passengers, but social distancing can be difficult. "I try to be careful. When I get into the house, I have to take a shower before I touch my children. You can't guarantee what your clothes have picked from outside," she said.

She has also let go of one of her nannies, who came in to help look after the twins during the week, because she was worried that her use of public transport would leave the family vulnerable to infection.

And her fears were heightened last week after dozens of people attempted to storm out of an isolation centre at Kenyatta University just outside Nairobi, citing unbearable conditions.

"First on our inability to pay and secondly because it does not make any scientific sense for our continued stay at the centre," Simon Mugambi, one of the would-be escapees, said.

Others spoke of their psychological and mental anguish after the government extended their stay beyond 14 days. But the group was forced to return. In the words of another quarantine complainant: "It's like you are condemned... it's like you are at the mercy of the government."

KENYA'S CORONAVIRUS RESTRICTIONS:

- Borders shut and flights restricted.
- Night-time curfew between 7pm and 5am.
- No travel to or from the capital Nairobi and parts of the city's neighbouring counties. Such measures also apply to some coastal counties.
- Schools, pubs, entertainment venues, churches and mosques shut.
- Everyone required to wear face masks in public and face arrest for not doing so.
- Employers encouraged to allow staff to work from home.
- All places of work required to have a hand-washing area with soap and water or approved hand sanitiser.



Passengers who had just arrived at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport board NYS bus to an isolation facility in Nairobi, last month. PD/KENNA CLAUDE

By the end of March, the government had more than 50 quarantine facilities at hotels, hostels at schools and universities, which cost between \$20 (Sh2,000) and \$100 (Sh10,000) a night.

Some of these have now closed—but at least five are subject to a third period of quarantine. Out of 2,336 people put into quarantine, 425 remain there. Some have fared better than others.

A Kenya Airways pilot who arrived from Dubai on March 24, told the BBC the airline was paying the hotel bill for him and his crew and had offered them counselling sessions.

Mentally tough

Being confined for so long away from one's family was mentally tough, said the pilot, who did not want to be named.

A group of human rights organisations, Keli, has raised concerns over the conditions and lack of information being given to those in quarantine. "The government has not been clear on who is paying for the cost; the government has not been clear on when people are supposed to be tested," it said.

Kenya's Health ministry has said it is aware of the inconvenience, but maintains the practice is being done in the interest of protecting the public as some of those quarantined have tested positive for Covid-19, the respiratory illness caused by coronavirus.

Acting Director General of Health Dr. Patrick Amoth also pointed to five centres

when a second extension was announced where people "did not maintain optimal social distance and instead had close contact and interactions".

The head of Kenyatta National Hospital, the country's largest public referral hospital, also criticised the behaviour of some of those in quarantine. "They are becoming so hostile even to the workers; even some of my workers have had to be physically abused," said Evanson Kamuri adding: "They are putting their lives at stake, the least you can do as Kenyans is to give them some little, basic support and even show some level of etiquette."

But the extensions have, according to one person who posted a video from a quarantine centre at Lenana School in Nairobi, meant that people have lost their jobs as well as being faced with crippling bills. For Gachuna, a logistics manager, this would be a disaster.

She's already concerned about finances given that her firm that has now had to pause operations because of the coronavirus restrictions—and she has had to take on more child care herself.

The Kenya Airways pilot, who is now required to self-isolate at home for a further week, advises others to do everything to avoid being put in a mandatory quarantine facility.

"Quarantine is not a good place to be, so if you can avoid being there, just practise personal hygiene and social distancing to avoid all this trouble," he said.

-BBC

Kiambu governor gives farmers Sh48m worth of maize, bean seeds and avocado seedlings

by Clement Kamau
@PeopleDailyKe

The Kiambu county government has embarked on an ambitious avocado and fast-maturing maize project aimed at ensuring that it becomes food secure in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic.

Governor James Nyoro has released maize and beans seeds worth Sh48 million which will be distributed to farmers across the county.

The county is collaborating with Alliance for Green Revolution in Agriculture (AGRA) to train village-based volunteers on the best farming methods. The volunteers will then pass their

knowledge to farmers.

Nyoro said the strategy will go a long way in ensuring that farmers use their land productively no matter the size. "As a county, we shall ensure farmers have access to high quality seeds, appropriate fertilizer and access to agricultural extension officers," he said.

The seeds have been tested for the last two years in different ecological zones within county and are expected to increase maize yields by 106,000 bags or Sh266 Million.

Nyoro handed out 800 avocado and mango seedlings per ward to Members of the County Assembly, who will distribute them to their constituents.



Kiambu Speaker Stephen Ndicho (right) receives avocado seedlings from Governor James Nyoro (left) on behalf of MCAs who will supply them to their constituents. COURTESY

BRIEFLY

Kakamega Assembly set to pass Sh102m Corona budget

Kakamega Governor Wycliffe Oparanya has said his administration is seeking authority from the County Assembly to spend Sh102 million earmarked for the fight against effects of the coronavirus.

Oparanya made the remarks ahead of the Assembly's meeting aimed at giving a nod to the proposed budget review to enable the implementation of programmes lined up to mitigate the spread of the virus in the county.

"We expect the Assembly

to pass the supplementary budget to enable us move with speed in the war against coronavirus," Oparanya said, adding almost half of the county's population is in need of food relief.

Oparanya said 748,000 people living in rural areas constitute the poor, widows, disabled and vulnerable whose level of poverty had been exacerbated by Covid-19 effects, hence need help.

— Douglas Dindi

KNH chief denies claims nurses lack protective gear

by George Kebaso
@PeopleDailyKe

Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH) Chief Executive Officer Dr Evanson Kamuri (*below*) has dismissed claims by a section of nurses that the hospital management had refused to provide them with sufficient personal protective equipment (PPE) saying the allegations border on selfishness.

Speaking to *People Daily* on phone yesterday, Kamuri asked the nurses and other healthcare workers at the facility to follow the World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines on the use of the PPE instead of advancing unnecessary complaints.

On Saturday, the nurses who were using an exclusive WhatsApp group chat complained that some of them had been forced to handle Covid-19 suspected cases without proper protection, and even expressed fear of infection.

"No PPEs, no work," read a message in a string of chats seen by *People Daily* as the nurses threatened to down tools until the hospital management responds.

But reacting to the claims by the nurses, Kamuri said those who were complaining were not honest as each healthcare worker at the facility has access to the guidelines on the use of PPEs.

"How could we be running this Corona pandemic for the last 30 days without PPEs? Kenyatta is at the centre stage of this programme, how possible is it that we have been running it without PPEs?" he posed, saying for the fight against Covid to be won, everyone would be required to participate objectively.

He said currently, the supply of PPEs across the world is limited and the hospital had chosen to follow the WHO guidelines to utilise the little that are available. "All of us cannot use PPEs. There are people who will need full gown (Coveralls); others, N95 and others mere face masks and gloves- all these are PPEs. It is strange that those who are complaining that they don't have PPEs, are the ones the hospital has made arrangements to even go home with equipment; masks, gloves etc in case they are called in for an emergency they have standby PPEs," he added.



Muslim faithful set for Ramadhan amid Corona

Muslims across the world are set to start observing the holy month of Ramadhan, a period of fasting and prayer, this week amid the global Covid-19 pandemic.

In Kenya, the start date is expected to be announced by the Chief Kadhi Sheikh Ahmed Muhdhar but is anticipated to start either tomorrow or Thursday depending on the sighting of the new crescent moon.

Muslims consider the ninth month of the lunar calendar, known as Ramadhan, to be more than just a time of

fasting—it's a month of restraint for the whole body.

The fasting month is also the time of reaching out to people and giving charity as the faithful are required to reach out to the needy and poor, feed and give them charity throughout the 30 day fasting period.

During the daily fast, Muslims refrain from eating at dawn until sunset, drinking, smoking and sexual relationships for married couples.

Fasting is compulsory for every Muslim male or female with exemption of

children under the age of puberty, insane people, men and women who are too old to undertake the obligation of fasting among others.

Others include sick people whose health is likely to be severely affected by the observance of the fast, pregnant women, breast-feeding mothers and women in the period of menstruation.

At the Coast, during Ramadhan, hundreds of street vendors across Mombasa usually sell a variety of authentic Swahili homemade delicacies that are irresistible. - KNA

Health officials assess court ahead of full Judiciary return

CJ Maraga's announcement of possible resumption of business throws staff into action amid distancing rules

by Alphonse Mung'ahu
@PeopleDailyKe

Ministry of Health officials spent the better part of yesterday assessing courtrooms and registries at the Milimani Law Courts ahead of the resumption of activities at the Judiciary as announced by Chief Justice David Maraga.

The officials, accompanied by some Judiciary officials, assessed how the public, advocates, litigants and prisoners will adhere to the social distancing rule during court proceedings.

Yesterday, traffic court sitting at Milimani handled about 50 traffic files where offenders pleaded to various offences and were freed after paying fines ranging from Sh2,000 to Sh15,000.

The health officials are expected to give guidelines on how the court will be operating, and the number of people who should be inside at any given time.

On Thursday, Maraga issued a statement announcing the re-opening of courts doors to the public after almost two months since the shutdown on March 16 due to coronavirus.

The Judiciary appeared to have yielded to pressure from lawyers to partially open its doors to the public.

The reopening follows numerous petitions by advocates urging the CJ to reconsider his directive to shut down the courts and give Kenyans an avenue to seek recourse in the event of violation of their rights.

The CJ declared scaling down of Judiciary activities soon after the first coronavirus case was confirmed in the country.



JUDICIARY RETURN

● MOH officials accompanied by some Judiciary officials assessed how the public, advocates, litigants and prisoners will adhere to the social distancing rule during the court proceedings

● Decision follows numerous petitions by advocates urging the CJ to reconsider his decision to shut down the courts and give Kenyans an avenue to seek recourse

Chief Justice David Maraga makes a ruling at the Supreme Court in Nairobi during a past session. PD/FILE

Under the auspices of the National Council on the Administration of Justice, the CJ said the council has reviewed current situation and directed that all suspects, will now be arraigned in court within 24 hours, irrespective of the nature of the offence.

"Unless otherwise released on bond or bail by police stations where they are held," Maraga said in a statement sent to newsmen.

He added: "The hearing of criminal appeals by the High Court and the Court of Appeal shall be scaled and proceed through modalities to be agreed upon judges seized of the appeals, the DPP, appellants and their advocates as well as prison authorities."

Where applicable, the CJ disclosed the appeals will be heard by video link and

where facilities for video link are not available, in open court subject to compliance with the guidelines of the ministry of Health in combating Covid-19.

Initially, CJ Maraga had instructed that some suspects be charged from police stations, while prisoners and remandees were not to be presented to court.

"With regard to new arrests, all cases except serious ones will be dealt with at police stations in accordance with guidelines to be issued by the Inspector-General of Police," he had said.

However, the CJ has since said operations and services at all registries shall be scaled up, with court registry supervisors reporting this week.

"There shall be a limited number of registry staff as shall be determined by stations," the CJ said.

Local leaders resist move to host coronavirus victims in Bondo

by Eric Juma
@PeopleDailyKe

The choice of Bondo Sub-County Hospital to host Covid-19 patients has been resisted by the region's leaders.

The County Health Management and Emergency Response Committee jointly chaired by County Commissioner Michael ole Tialal and Governor Cornel Rasanga had identified the Bondo hospital as a designated centre an issue that has been opposed by leaders including Opposition leader Raila Odinga.

A reliable source said the leaders have asked healthcare sector management to choose hospital at the peripheral part of the county for that purpose.

"The facility serves lots of patients from Bondo and its environs and it would be wrong to designate it for Covid-19 victims," he said adding that Raila was so angry when he received information that people now fear going to Bondo hospital for they fear contracting virus.

It's reported that a woman who allegedly turned positive to the virus and was equally suffering from pneumonia was ferried to Bondo hospital

for further treatment.

The response team had settled on Urunga, Siaya and Bondo Kenya Medical Training College as key quarantine centres while the Bondo hospital reserved for the victims treatment.

According to Siaya health officer who sought for anonymity, we landed on Bondo hospital after establishing that it had met requirements as per guidelines issued to us by the Ministry of Health.

"We do not want the issue to be politicised or be drawn into health politicking as that is likely to thwart our bid to fight the pandemic," she added.



Kenya Ports Authority staff during mass testing for Covid-19. PD/BONFACE MSANGI

Resume duty, Ottichilo urges health staff amid pay hitches

Vihiga Governor Wilber Ottichilo has appealed to health staff to go back to their work stations as his administration seeks funds to pay their salaries.

Ottichilo said money for March salaries had been wired to banks and the workers would start receiving their pay this week.

He faulted the National Treasury for failing to release funds to the county on time hence occasioning the pay delay.

The medics have kept off work due to unpaid salaries, a move the governor says could derail efforts to

fight coronavirus.

Meanwhile, Kakamega County Government is yet to pay 1,900 nursery school teachers their March salaries amounting to Sh190 million

County Education Executive Joseph Indire said the teachers had not been paid their March salaries because affected staff were not recognised on the payroll after expiry of their contracts in March. "We were in the process of renewing the contracts when the Corona pandemic struck," he said.

— Enock Amukhale and Douglas Dindi

INDIRE

We were in the process of renewing contracts



Locals vow to sue firm over anomalies in bills

Trans Nzoia residents have threatened to sue Nzoia Water and Sewerage Company (Nzowasco) over alleged fraudulent bills and disconnection of metres.

Through Centre for Peace and Justice Programme Co-ordinator Bonnie Wanyoike, they gave the water firm seven days to rectify the anomalies.

Speaking to *People Daily* in

Kitale town on Sunday, Wanyoike faulted Nzowasco for disconnecting water supply to hotels and shops, among others, making it hard to maintain high levels of hygiene.

Nzowasco regional manager Hudson Makhanu, however, said some strangers and former employees have been impersonating staff and defrauding customers. — David Musundi

Joho, Shahbal alliance sparks succession talk

The saying there are no permanent enemies in politics seems to be at work for the two politicians, who were fierce foes in the 2017 elections

by Harrison Kivisu
@PeopleDailyKe

Mombasa Governor Hassan Joho and arch-rival Suleiman Shahbal's new found friendship has become the talk of town, triggering a political succession debate.

As they say, there are no permanent enemies in politics, and the saying seems to be at work for the two politicians who were fierce enemies in the 2017 General Election. Shahbal, who was the Jubilee Party candidate, lost to Joho in the contest for the governor's seat.

But since March 30, Joho has found a new friend in Shahbal as the duo teamed up to launch the sanitising spray booth prototype at the Likoni Ferry Terminus jointly sponsored by their respective foundations.

Revive economy

Shahbal also met ODM leader Raila Odinga twice in Mombasa and at his Nairobi home, where it seems, apart from discussing Covid-19 issues, they had a chance to discuss Mombasa succession politics.

Photos of Shahbal with Raila Odinga trended on social media on Friday when Shahbal visited the ODM leader in Nairobi, eliciting different opinions from political pundits.

After meeting Raila, Shahbal posted on his Facebook page that he and Joho would do all they can to cushion Mombasa residents from hunger, perhaps an indication that Raila seems to have endorsed the new working relationship.

THE HIGHLIGHTS

● Since March 30, Joho has found a new friend in Shahbal as the duo teamed up to launch the sanitising spray booth prototype at the Likoni Ferry Terminus jointly sponsored by their respective foundations.

● Shahbal has also backed Joho's plan to mobilise resources to provide food for more than 227,000 vulnerable residents affected by the measures to stop the spread of coronavirus.

"We had long discussions with Raila Odinga on how best we can revive our economy with job creation and economic incentives post-Corona and SGR. We must prepare for the future," Shahbal posted on Facebook.

Shahbal has backed Joho's plan to mobilise resources to provide food for more than 227,000 vulnerable residents who are to be affected by the measures to stop coronavirus.

"I reminded Baba that he also has children in Mombasa and while we appreciate his gesture to send food to Kibra he must not forget his children in Mombasa. I am starting my food distribution plan next week and I wanted him to also remember us in Mombasa," said Shahbal.

"He graciously arranged to send me some food to distribute on my behalf. I will discuss this with Gov Joho and community leaders on the best way forward and to make sure that as many people benefit as possible. This is a great contribu-



Mombasa Governor Hassan Joho (right) and politician Suleiman Shahbal in the new greeting style, foot-shake, recently. COURTESY

tion to Gov Joho's drive to help our people," he added.

But does his closeness with Raila and Joho have a bearing on the plan to succeed Joho?

After his post on Facebook, the social media was awash with praise for Shahbal for setting aside politics and deciding to work with Joho to better the lives of Mombasa people.

Support efforts

A Kenyan Mandata Masapata said: "Just loving the way that you kept away politics and decided to work with Joho in dealing with this pandemic. God bless you my incoming governor."

"Your gesture is very much welcomed but beneath it, there are volumes of political moves," wrote Nicholas Koech.

"Politicians should learn politics, leadership and friendships from Governor Joho and Suleiman Shahbal. They were both fierce competitors in the gubernatorial race. But they're working

now together, this only happens in Mombasa in Africa; May Allah bless you people. I'll come with my present after this pandemic," posted Sk Lenguya.

Last month Joho announced his government's plan to set aside Sh250 million to buy food for 227,404 vulnerable households.

Shahbal, who vied for the governor's seat in 2013 and 2017, said he would do everything possible to support the relief food mobilisation efforts to assist those who will be affected by harsh economic times.

"What the county government is proposing is fantastic. It is a noble initiative that will cushion the most vulnerable members of society who have to work on a daily basis during the curfew (and) in the event of a lockdown," said Shahbal.

Attempts by *People Daily* to reach Joho for a comment on this matter were unsuccessful as phone calls and text messages went unanswered.

KISII

Family in Kisii seeks justice for assaulted medic

A family in Kenya, Kisii county, yesterday urged the government to arrest suspects behind the attack of their kin, who is a health worker. Hezron Omayio claimed security officers attacked his son, James Atogo, at Nambale in Busia as he headed home after delivering drugs to a patient during curfew hours. Omayio (*below*), who is the Kisii Municipality Public Health Officer, said his son was not given time to identify himself. "Good Samaritans rushed him to Nambale Health Centre and he was referred to Aga Khan in Kisumu," he told *People Daily* in Kisii town. — Robert Ochoro and Evans Nyakundi



KAJIADO

Police investigate death of couple

Kajiado county police commander Beatrice Gachago says police are investigating an incident in which a man reportedly stabbed his wife to death before committing suicide at Loitoktok town, Kajiado South sub-county on Friday. Stanslaus Nzovah Mulinge, 40, is said to have stabbed Fenes Seiyen Odour, 33, several times in the chest killing her on the spot. Gachago said police recovered the kitchen knife suspected to be the murder weapon. The couple's child was not in the house when the incident occurred. Area Assistant Chief Leonard Kasaine condemned the incident and asked families to resolve their differences amicably. — Christine Musa

KIAMBU

Residents decry rising cattle theft

Residents of Githima village in Gatunyanga, Thika in Kiambu county, have expressed concern over increased cases of cattle theft in the area. In the last few days, rampant burglary has seen over 10 homes raided and more than 200 sheep stolen. The thieves are reported to be sedating house owners before stealing. Led by 90-year-old Johanna Muiruri, whose eight sheep were stolen on Thursday last week, the locals accused area police of laxity in arresting the perpetrators. Makongeni Police Station officers and Nyuma Kumi officials have since recovered seven sheep.

— Mathew Ndung'u

SHAHBAL



We had long discussions with Raila Odinga on how best we can revive our economy with job creation.

Corona: Kenya to retain Sh70b if creditors agree to debt relief

Experts says rescheduling of loan repayments would help revamp the economy after pandemic

by Seth Onyango
@PeopleDailyKe

Kenya could soon tap contingency fund to fight Covid-19 on the back of discussions with multinational creditors to reschedule debt servicing agreements.

Experts say such a debt relief will free up fiscal space which will greatly help the National Treasury to wade through the challenges during this period amid depressed economic growth.

Welcoming last week's announcement by President Uhuru Kenyatta on Thursday, the experts said postponement of loan repayment will help revamp the economy once the pandemic is over, but warned that all eyes must be on China.

"The largest economies in the world are in discussions with ourselves on the issue of suspension of debts," Uhuru had announced during the address from State House.

Economist Samuel Nyandemo estimates that Treasury could retain up to Sh70 billion in the medium term from the exercise to tackle coronavirus-based expenditures, if the lenders agree to a debt relief.

He, however, warned the relief or a waiver could be eroded by the dismal revenue collection by Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) during the ongoing partial lockdown.

KRA has already missed its mid-annual tax collection bull's eye by Sh88.3 billion after netting Sh779.3 billion in the first half of the 2019-2020 financial year. "Sh70 billion is not little money at a time like this, though we will still need intelligent financial navigation to manage the situation and pre-empt an economic crash," Nyandemo said.

Cash retained from debt relief will be



CBK Governor Patrick Njoroge displays new currency notes. Kenya is in talks with world's major economies on suspension of its debts. PD/PHOTO FILE

PACKAGE

● The G-20 nations have agreed to suspend bilateral debt service payments until the end of the year for 76 low-income countries.

● Kenya, South Africa and Angola were not included as they borrow from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

used to employ more healthcare workers to bolster the medical system, offer monthly stipends to struggling Kenyans and purchase of essential medical supplies.

Last week, the G-20 nations agreed to suspend bilateral debt service payments until the end of the year for 76 low-income countries eligible for the World Bank's most concessional lending via the International Development Association.

In total, \$20 billion in debt service payments will be suspended, including \$8 billion from private sector creditors, according to Brookings.

Middle-income

Kenya, South Africa and Angola were not included as they borrow from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the World Bank Group organisation that lends to middle-income countries. Nyandemo argues that Kenya is in a fix because most of its debts from China are commercials with other syndicated loans having already reached maturity.

It is on that premise that former vice president and Finance Minister Musalia

Mudavadi urged the government to expeditiously ink a favourable debt relief deal with Beijing.

"China has a moral obligation to accede to a fresh look at Kenya's debt portfolio. An engagement with Kenya's Treasury is of the greatest essence," he said.

According to Reuters, economies like Kenya which are heavily indebted to China will only enjoy a relief if the populous Asian giant agrees to a comprehensive debt deal.

"China is in the driver's seat," said Scott Morris, a senior fellow at the Center for Global Development (CGD), a Washington think-tank told the agency. "But this is going to require real pain for creditors, and I'm not sure they've come to terms with that."

Multiple reports say Beijing is likely to endorse a temporary freeze on debt payments by African countries as part of an expected agreement by the G20, but to also use the move as a political move.

But Martin Mugambi, chief executive officer at Citibank Kenya and East Africa head, told Euromoney that a blanket debt relief will be unlikely.

TOURISM



Corona hurts travel agents

PANDEMIC: Kenya Association of Travel Agents (KATA) yesterday said the coronavirus pandemic has brought the travel and tourism sectors to a complete standstill owing to movement restrictions to avoid spreading the disease.

Chief Executive Officer Agnes Mucuhu (pictured) said over 90 per cent of forward bookings for this month have been cancelled since Europe, America and the Middle East issued lockdown notices for non-citizens. Similarly, she said the industry's forecast on bookings for the period May, June and July 2020 is also extremely depressed as travellers have opted to postpone their travel until quarter four. She said the worst hit sectors are aviation, travel and tourism and is bound to lead to unprecedented job loss. - Irene Githinji

Economy: Report paints grim view

GROWTH Kenya Private Sector Alliance has warned that coronavirus crisis will have severe impact on economies across the world.

The concern comes at a time Kenya's economic growth rate in 2020 is expected from a forecast of 6.1 per cent to a dismal 3 per cent. Among sectors experiencing reduced demand are manufacturing (non-essential), education, tourism and leisure, aviation and maritime, all of which generally contribute a great deal to the growth of Kenya's real output growth.

The apex body has further said in its Economic Framework for Covid-19 response that massive job loss is another blow dealt to the Kenyan economy.

- Barry Silah

Facebook to stop covid-19 cheats

PLATFORM: Facebook has announced another step the company is taking to combat the spread of hoaxes and misinformation about Covid-19 on its platforms. Through Facebook's Newsfeed, users who interact with Covid-19 claims will receive messages on Covid-19 myths debunked by the World Health Organisation (WHO) including misinformation that has led to imminent physical harm. This step, social media and technology company, said aims to ensure that all Facebook users who may have interacted with harmful information about the virus get the truth from authoritative sources in case they encounter these claims again on Facebook. - Barry Silah

World Bank extends Sh1.5b to boost coffee production



by Nicholas Waitathu
@PeopleDailyKe

World Bank has extended a Sh1.5 billion concessional loan to boost production, quality and modernisation of infrastructure in the coffee sub-sector.

The money released under the government sponsored coffee revitalisation action plan is further supposed to strengthen the coop-

erative societies majority of which are in sorry states after farmers abandoned them in 1990s.

Agriculture Cabinet secretary Peter Munya said the fund supports President Uhuru Kenyatta coffee reform agenda started in 2016. "The programme seeks to support increase coffee production and productivity, improving the efficiency of farmer cooperative societies, supporting

research development and technology dissemination, supporting development of alternative coffee markets and project coordination," he said.

Munya (pictured) said the money will be committed to support farmers in 31 coffee growing counties in two phases. The first phase of the programme is a pilot, Munya said will cover eight coffee producing counties.

Covid-19: Digital financial services agents counting losses

COST: Digital Financial Services agents are counting losses after their transactions and commissions fell by half due to the effect of Covid-19 mitigation measures on their businesses.

This is despite being key frontline service providers and government giving a directive in March to promote digital transactions to curb the spread of the pandemic.

Curfews, restricted movement into and out of areas such as Nairobi metropolitan area, social distancing requirements and reduced bank operation hours have affected agents' businesses resulting in low transactions and commissions.

Value of deposit

A recent study by Microsave Consulting and Caribou Data shows

that Cash-In, Cash-Out (CICO) frequency has fallen but the average value of deposit/withdrawal has increased since the curfew was announced in March.

"Cash-in, cash-out frequency on a per-person basis has fallen by half over the course of the month as further measures around social distancing, bank opening hours and personal mobility have been

brought in to restrict the spread of Covid-19," says the report.

"While both deposit and withdrawal volume has fallen significantly when compared to pre-curfew levels in the first week of March, the average value per deposit and withdrawal has increased in parallel as consumers try to adapt to the infrequency of agent access," it adds.

— Lewis Njoka



Banks reaping big dividends of digital investments, says report

Sector showed improved performance, evidenced by 17.4pc growth in non-funded income in 2019

by Zachary Ochuodho
@zachuodho

Kenya's banking sector has started reaping big from investments made in information technology in the recent past, a new financial report indicates.

It says banks' innovation have seen growth on the non-funded income (NFI) to funded segments increase to 63:37 compared to 67:33 recorded in a similar period in 2018. Commercial banks have been riding on the digital revolution wave to improve their operational efficiency.

The increased adoption of alternative channels of transactions such as mobile, internet and agency banking, has led to increased transactions carried out via alternative channels and out of bank branches, which have been reduced to handling high-value transactions and other services such as advisory.

According to the report, the banking sector showed improved performance, evidenced by the 17.4 per cent growth in the non-funded income in the period which ended December 30, 2019, from 3.8 per cent growth in the previous year.

Investment management

"The growth in NFI was attributable to the growth in fees and commissions which recorded an 18.4 per cent growth in 2019," the study done by Cytonn Investment Management indicates.

Rodney Omukhulu, Assistant Investment Analyst at Cytonn Investments, said the commercial banks have been engaging in innovation but it became more critical, especially after the law capping interest rate was enacted.

"We expect banks to refocus on lending once they recalibrate their models to adjust for new loan pricing, therefore, increasing the Loan to Deposit Ratio," he said.

Omukhulu said with the loosening of the regulations, particularly the repeal of the interest rate cap, the sector can now focus on core operations; adopt technology, expansion and further consolidation, revenue diversification to increase growth and profitability.

"Co-operative Bank's 'Soaring Eagle Initiative' enables both channel diversification through internet banking, Mco-op cash, and merchant banking among others, as well as consultancy and capacity

Transactions

Systems

Bank branches are running on the concept of 24 hours every day, made possible by the use of tele-banking, ATMs, internet banking, mobile banking and e-banking.

Channels

These technology-driven delivery channels are being used to reach out to maximum number of customers at lower cost and in most efficient manner.

Innovation

The beauty of these banking innovations is that they put both banker and customer in a win-win situation. Effective use of technology has a multiplier effect on growth and development.

Economy

Commercial banks see building strong digital foundations as critical to their long-term success in harnessing the potential of the digital economy as a driver of growth and service delivery.



OMUKHULU

Banks have been engaging in innovation but it became more critical, especially after the law capping interest rate was enacted.

building," Omukhulu said.

He said with the Microfinance Bill 2019 of increasing the minimum on core capital requirements still in its pilot stage, more mergers and acquisitions, would enable the unprofitable and/or smaller banks to manage the requirement and be able to increase profitability through cost efficiency and deposits growth.

Head of Research at AIB Capital Ltd Sarah Wanga said with the repeal of the interest rate cap, banks can now price loans based on customers' risk profiles, banks and will, therefore, be able to increase interest rates with bias to credit risk rating of borrowers, which will, in turn, improve their interest income.

She said she expects banks to refocus on lending with many of them looking to target select segments such as corporate entities and small and medium enterprises (SMEs). Wanga said NFI growth outperformed that of interest income, thereby allowing the banks to remain profitable amid a rigid regulatory environment.

Commercial banks have been riding on the digital revolution wave to improve their operational efficiency.

The increased adoption of alternative channels of transactions has so far, KCB Bank deploy its digital customer service platform as part of its digital transformation efforts. Aside from improved customer

experience, the platforms will be able to collect real-time data on customers, then analyse and use it to make educated decisions on how to improve operations on an ongoing basis.

Co-operative Bank of Kenya has also launched Co-op Bank Property Hub under its mortgage division, which will offer property sales and mortgage origination to its clients. The bank also plans to grow the business of its leasing-focused subsidiary Co-op Bank Fleet.

Diamond Trust Bank Kenya has partnered with SWIFT, a leading provider of secure financial messaging services, to provide real-time cross border payments to its clients.

Innovation hub

Standard Chartered Bank Kenya has also launched an innovation hub lab in Nairobi dubbed Xcelerator in a bid to boost its revenue streams and diversify by riding on financial technology.

John Kirimi, Sterling Capital Ltd director said commercial banks in Kenya are changing into a one-stop supermarket – where nearly what is required is done under the same roof.

"The focus is shifting from mass banking to class banking with the introduction of value-added and customised products," he said.

BRIEFLY



Safaricom predicts 7pc hit on revenue

M-PESA: Safaricom expects a Sh5.5 billion hit to its revenue from M-Pesa in the three months from mid-March after it adjusted prices because of the coronavirus crisis, its chief executive told Reuters.

The foregone revenue, equating to 7.3 per cent of the mobile money platform's annual earnings, will be caused by the removal of all charges on small peer-to-peer transfers to facilitate cashless payments to help to contain the coronavirus pandemic.

The company, partly owned by South Africa's Vodacom and Britain's Vodafone, is not worried by the projection, said CEO Peter Ndegwa (pictured), who took the helm on April 1.

"When Kenya gets back on track, our business should get back on track," he told Reuters. "We are in a good place to be able to weather this storm, but our business is linked to how the country comes out on the other side."

Economic growth

The government has restricted movement of people and expects the nation's economic growth to halve to three per cent this year. Under an initial 90-day deal with the government, all charges for cash transfers of less than Sh1,000 have been removed by all operators.

M-Pesa, which was launched by Safaricom in 2007, is one of the most popular modes of payments in Kenya. The platform is used to send money, save, borrow and make payments for goods and services.

Ndegwa said that the M-Pesa business could benefit from increased usage as customers shun bank notes during the crisis, but cautioned that it was too early to say for certain.

"We are not factoring in any upside until we see how customers cope with this crisis," he said. Safaricom has experienced a surge in data traffic as people work from home and students turn to e-learning services.

It has doubled internet speeds for its fibre customers – about 300,000 homes – and is accelerating installation of new fibre connections to meet growing demand, Ndegwa said.

— Reuters

New motor vehicle sales dip by 1.4pc

Latest industry data shows Isuzu EA sold majority of the units since the year started at 1,048 motor vehicles

by Steve Umidha
@UmidhaSteve

New motor vehicle sales stagnated at 2,661 units, registering a marginal 1.4 per cent drop in the first three months of 2020 compared to a similar period last year when 2,700 units were sold.

The latest industry data by the Kenya Motor Industry (KMI) shows that Isuzu EA sold majority of the units since the year started at 1,048 motor vehicles, Toyota delivered 637 while Mitsubishi managed to sell 316 units.

A sharp decline in vehicle sales is expected in the coming months due to the Covid-19 plague that continues to not only claim lives, but has also unsettled businesses, slain industries with key sectors such as automobiles adversely affected. Owing to the uncertainty brought by the coronavirus pandemic, Kenyans are expected to spend less on new vehicle purchases.

Slow growth

"The uncertainty will unquestionably push down the demand for new vehicle orders and we can only predict slow growth this year," said Simba Corp managing director Dinesh Kotecha.

Several government ministries and agencies, that had previously placed tenders for vehicle leases as well as local purchases in line with the President Uhuru Kenyatta's 'Build Kenya, Buy Kenya' directive, are expected to tempo-



rarily halt such plans with most of the monies now channelled towards fighting Covid-19.

This in return is projected to deny car dealers the much needed revenue stream from the State.

Through the 'Build Kenya, Buy Kenya' initiative, the government seeks to reduce the level of vehicle parts importation to make it possible for local companies to buy from local manufacturers as well as reduce tariffs for the country's car assemblers, lower high costs of additional taxes, charges, and logistical charges to grow the industry and make it competitive.

The implementation of Motor Vehicle Policy (MVP), being prepared by Kenya vehicle manufacturers and auto vehicle companies, is expected to be ready and will pave way for the ban on importation of second-hand vehicles, in particular, those with 1,500cc engine capacity and are older than three years.

NAIROBI SECURITIES EXCHANGE

HIGH	LOW	SECTOR	YVAP	PREVIOUS	TOTAL
		AGRICULTURAL	PRICES		SHARES
17.60	9.90	Eaagads Ltd Ord 1.25		10.00	
440.00	290.00	Kakuzi Pic Ord 5.00		301.00	
100.00	57.00	Kapchorua Tea Kenya Pic Ord 5.00		71.00	
405.00	405.00	The Limuru Tea Co. Pic Ord 20.00		475.00	
22.70	14.00	Sasini Pic Ord 1.00	16.50	16.10	24,200
178.00	92.00	Williamson Tea Kenya Pic Ord 5.00	115.00	115.00	4,000
AUTOMOBILES & ACCESSORIES					
27.00	20.00	Car & General (K) Ltd Ord 5.00		22.00	
BANKING					
13.85	9.30	ABSA Bank Kenya Pic Ord 0.50	10.05	10.25	3,317,000
31.00	22.40	BK Group Pic Ord 0.80		22.40	
164.00	74.50	Diamond Trust Bank Kenya Ltd Ord 4.00	86.00	85.00	200
55.50	32.15	Equity Group Holdings Pic Ord 0.50	35.50	32.95	3,121,900
7.90	3.38	HE Group Pic Ord 5.00	4.12	4.15	41,200
126.00	42.50	I&M Holdings Pic Ord 1.00	52.75	52.75	1,500
55.50	33.75	KCB Group Pic Ord 1.00	35.95	34.60	777,800
6.50	3.22	National Bank of Kenya Ltd Ord 5.00		4.12	
41.00	24.90	NCSA Group Pic Ord 5.00	28.50	28.15	7,300
117.75	83.00	Stanbic Holdings Pic Ord 5.00	95.00	95.00	250,000
225.00	168.00	Standard Chartered Bank Kenya Ltd Ord 5.00	194.50	184.50	11,900
17.00	10.05	The Co-operative Bank of Kenya Ltd Ord 1.00	12.30	12.40	901,100
COMMERCIAL AND SERVICES					
5.10	0.45	Deacons (East Africa) Pic Ord 2.50		0.45	
1.30	0.77	Eveready East Africa Ltd Ord 1.00	0.86	0.81	5,200
8.50	4.95	Express Kenya Pic Ord 5.00		5.48	
9.50	1.02	Kenya Airways Ltd Ord 1.00	1.08	1.07	193,500
8.80	4.25	Longhorn Publishers Pic Ord 1.00	4.67	4.64	100
1.20	0.54	Nairobi Business Ventures Ltd Ord 1.00	0.60	0.55	100
71.00	22.00	Nation Media Group Pic Ord 2.50	24.05	24.25	116,800
4.70	1.72	Sameer Africa Pic Ord 5.00		2.00	
33.00	19.50	Standard Group Pic Ord 5.00		19.80	
25.15	11.50	TPS Eastern Africa Ltd Ord 1.00		15.00	
0.95	0.23	Uchumi Supermarket Pic Ord 5.00	0.30	0.30	500
22.00	9.90	WPP Scangroup Pic Ord 1.00	16.00	16.00	36,700
CONSTRUCTION & ALLIED					
8.35	2.40	ARM Cement Pic Ord 1.00		5.55	
145.75	45.00	Bamburi Cement Ltd Ord 5.00	48.00	48.00	1,500
92.00	53.00	Crown Paints Kenya Pic Ord 5.00		53.00	
3.98	1.44	E.A. Cables Ltd Ord 0.50	1.80	1.78	4,000
20.50	12.95	E.A. Portland Cement Co. Ltd Ord 5.00		14.25	
ENERGY & PETROLEUM					
7.40	4.00	KenGen Co. Pic Ord 2.50	4.90	4.90	178,000
5.50	1.63	Kenya Power & Lighting Co Pic Ord 2.50	2.19	2.22	250,200
5.50	5.00	Kenya Power & Lighting Co 4% Pref 20.00		5.00	
4.00	6.00	Kenya Power & Lighting Co 7% Pref 20.00		6.00	
33.00	22.00	Total Kenya Ltd Ord 5.00	2190	23.90	4,700
8.70	5.00	Umenne Ltd Ord 0.50	6.98	6.90	2,700
INSURANCE					
10.50	5.70	Britania Holdings Pic Ord 0.10	6.90	6.70	246,000
4.85	2.00	CIC Insurance Group Ltd Ord 1.00	2.30	2.16	27,000
442.00	250.00	Jubilee Holdings Ltd Ord 5.00	280.25	281.50	1,100
16.30	2.10	Kenya Re Insurance Corporation Ltd Ord 2.50	2.57	2.53	51,400
13.00	6.80	Liberty Kenya Holdings Ltd Ord 1.00	8.36	8.36	1,700
24.00	13.80	Sanlam Kenya Pic Ord 5.00		15.00	
INVESTMENT					
37.40	19.60	Centum Investment Co Pic Ord 0.50	23.00	23.00	1,596,000
0.77	0.30	Home Africa Ltd Ord 1.00	0.41	0.41	12,900
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	2.30	2.30	500
4.50	1.62	Trans-Century Pic Ord 0.50	1.70	1.65	17,500
INVESTMENT SERVICES					
16.00	8.24	Nairobi Securities Exchange Pic Ord 4.00	9.08	9.30	18,400
MANUFACTURING & ALLIED					
87.00	52.25	B.O.C Kenya Pic Ord 5.00	72.00	66.00	600
700.00	355.00	British American Tobacco Kenya Pic Ord 10.00	365.00	364.75	4,800
10.80	7.10	Carbacid Investments Pic Ord 1.00	9.00	9.08	200
230.00	135.00	East African Breweries Ltd Ord 2.00	147.75	148.00	342,600
3.15	0.90	Flame Tree Group Holdings Ltd Ord 0.825mm	0.96	1.03	64,100
14.00	12.25	Kenya Orchards Ltd Ord 0.50mm		12.25	
0.70	0.25	Momias Sugar Co. Ltd Ord 2.00		0.27	
42.00	26.10	Unga Group Ltd Ord 5.00	29.00	29.00	200
TELECOMMUNICATION					
33.50	20.10	Safaricom Pic Ord 0.05	28.50	28.00	7,590,700
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST					
11.00	6.88	STANLIB FAHARI I-REIT Ord 20.00	8.50	8.34	2,700
EXCHANGE TRADED FUNDS					
1650.00	1235.00	ABSA New Gold ETF	1731	1615.00	

NSE 20-SHARE INDEX: UP 1.91 points to close at 137.84
NSE 20-SHARE INDEX: UP 11.71 points to close at 1985.54
NSE 25-SHARE INDEX: UP 34.65 points to close at 3179.80

MARKET WATCH

COMMODITY PRICES IN DIFFERENT COUNTIES (9/4/2020)

COMMODITY	Weight	Code	Nairobi	Kitale	Embu
Dry Maize	90	20	3300	2800	2500
Green Maize	115	19	2100	3000	2300
Finger Millet	90	41	8000	4950	7000
Sorghum	90	42	5300	3600	3000
Wheat	90	48		3600	3400
Beans Canadian	90	4	8200	8000	7200
Beans Rosecoco	90	5	8600	7500	8000
Beans Mwittemania	90	7	7200	6000	6200
Mwezi Mjaji	90	6	6600		7600
Dolichos (Najili)	90	35	12600	9900	12000
Green Gram	90	46	10600	10800	8800
Cowpeas	90	45	6800	7000	7000
Fresh Peas	51	27	3000	3000	2550
Groundnuts	110	44	13600	17600	12000
Red Irish Potatoes	50	29			2200
White Irish Potatoes	50	30	2800	2100	2000
Cassava - Fresh	99	43	2450	2900	2300
Sweet Potatoes	98	31	3000	2400	1800
Cabbages	126	9	1400	1890	2520
Cooking Bananas	22	2	600	550	450
Ripe Bananas	14	3	600		550
Carrots	138	13	3300	5600	5520
Tomatoes	64	32	5700	4500	5120
Onions Dry	13	22	1060	1200	1650
Spring Onions	142	23			
Chillies	38	11	2800	2800	3040
Cucumber	50	14	2400	2000	2500
Capsicums	50	12	2500	2500	2000
Brinjals	44	8	1540	1350	2200
Cauliflower	39	10	2900		2730
Lettuce	51	17	1400		4080
Passion Fruits	57	25	4100	3850	5700
Oranges	93	24	3500	4000	2400
Lemons	95	16	2600	2850	
Mangoes Local	126	21	2600	2400	
Mangoes Ngowe	25	36			
Limes	13	18	2600		
Pineapples	13	28	960	900	1500
Pawpaw	54	26	2000	2750	3780
Avocado	90	1	2500	1800	2200
Kales	50	15	1100	700	1200
Eggs	47	300	330	330	330

COMMERCIAL BANKS' AVERAGE FOR MAJOR CURRENCIES (OPENING MARKET) - 20/4/2020

CURRENCY	MEAN	BUY	SELL
US DOLLAR	106.7941	106.6941	106.8941
SW KRONER	10.6545	10.6420	10.6670
STG POUND	132.9618	132.8224	133.1012
SINGAPORE DOLLAR	75.0407	74.9625	75.1188
SAUDI RIAL	28.4178	28.3836	28.4520
SA RAND	5.6480	5.6405	5.6555
S FRANC	110.1141	109.9939	110.2342
NOR KRONER	10.2468	10.2343	10.2593
KES / USHS	35.3485	35.2685	35.4284
KES / TSHS	21.6679	21.6008	21.7350
KES / RWF	8.9179	8.8361	8.9977
KES / BIF	17.7040	17.6422	17.7657
JPY (100)	98.9751	98.8732	99.0769
IND RUPEE	1.3939	1.3925	1.3952
HONGKONG DOLLAR	13.7794	13.7665	13.7923
EURO	115.6982	115.5771	115.8194
DAN KRONER	15.5245	15.5097	15.5394
CHINESE YUAN	15.0880	15.0696	15.1064
CAN \$	75.7566	75.6750	75.8383
AUSTRALIAN \$	67.7128	67.6334	67.7922
AE DIRHAM	29.0743	29.0443	29.1043

MARKET

US oil prices drop to 21-year low

DEMAND: The price of US oil has fallen to a level not seen since 1999, as demand dries up and storage running out. The price of a barrel of West Texas Intermediate (WTI), the benchmark for US oil, dropped 14 per cent to \$15.65 in Asia trading on Monday.

The oil market has come under intense pressure during the coronavirus pandemic with a huge slump in demand.

US storage facilities are now struggling to cope with the glut of oil, weakening prices further. The oil industry has been struggling with both

tumbling demand and in-fighting among producers about reducing output.

Earlier this month Opec members and its allies finally agreed a record deal to slash global output by about 10 per cent. The deal was the largest cut in oil production ever to have been agreed.

But some analysts said the cuts were not big enough to make a difference. "It hasn't taken long for the market to recognise that the OPEC+ deal will not, in its present form, be enough to balance oil markets," said Stephen Innes, chief global market strategist

at Axicorp.

Meanwhile, concern continues to mount that storage facilities in the US will run out of capacity, with stockpiles at Cushing, the main delivery point in the US for oil, rising almost 50 per cent since the start of March, according to ANZ Bank.

"We hold some hope for a recovery later this year," the bank said in its research note.

"It's a dump at all cost as no one, and I mean no one, wants delivery of oil with Cushing storage facilities filling by the minute," added Mr Innes.

- BBC



SMEs to benefit from Sh63.9m relief fund

SUPPORT: Boehringer Ingelheim, a leading pharmaceuticals firm has stepped up its support to the fight Covid-19.

Through a global support programme, the firm will bring more financial relief, protective materials and medicine donations to healthcare institutions and communities in need around the world.

Local social enterprises are expected to receive Sh63.9 million in support of their programmes in

Kenya. Some of the beneficiaries of the fund include Access Afya, Healthy Entrepreneurs and Jacaranda Health.

"As a pharmaceuticals company, we feel a strong commitment to offer our help to patient and to those who take care of them", said Hubertus von Baumbach, chairman of the board of managing directors. "Many of our employees want to participate in the programme," he added.

- Barry Silah



World News

ANGELA MERKEL



We are not out of woods yet. We must maintain discipline.

BRIEFLY



Harry and Meghan blacklist UK tabloids

Prince Harry and his wife Meghan have blacklisted four major British tabloid newspapers, accusing them of publishing stories that were "distorted, false and invasive beyond reason". In a scathing letter to the editors of The Sun, Daily Mail, Mirror and Express, the couple said there would be "no corroboration and zero engagement" with the newspapers, The Guardian said. **-AFP**



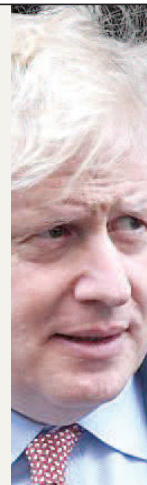
Nigerian woman, 68, gives birth to twins

The Lagos State University Teaching Hospital has announced the successful delivery of twins by a 68-year old woman. The chairman of the hospital's Medical Advisory Council, Prof Wasiu Adeyemo, made the announcement in a statement on Sunday. It said the woman gave birth through an "elective cesarean section at 37 weeks gestation." The babies and mother are doing well. **-BBC**



16 killed in Canada's deadliest shooting

A gunman disguised as a policeman killed at least 16 people, including a female police officer, in the worst mass shooting in Canada's modern history. The 12-hour rampage started late on Saturday and ended with a car chase. Police said the suspect shot people at different locations in Nova Scotia, many of them randomly. He was killed in a confrontation with police. **-BBC**



Brexit talks resume under Covid-19 cloud

■ Brussels, Monday

British and EU officials were scheduled to restart Brexit trade talks Monday after a break because of the coronavirus, which is making an end-of-year deal look even more unlikely.

After a first round in early March negotiations were suspended for six weeks as officials focused on the deadly virus sweeping Europe. The June deadline set by London to assess the chances of an agreement is

now fast approaching.

The novel coronavirus has affected officials directly, hitting both EU chief negotiator Michel Barnier and his British counterpart David Frost—and then, dramatically, putting Prime Minister Boris Johnson (pictured) in intensive care.

Despite the ticking clock and the extra pressure brought by the worst global pandemic in living memory, Johnson's government rules out extending Britain's transition period. **-AFP**

Germany eases restrictions as protests rock battered US

Trump supports calls to lift lockdown despite America registering 750,000 Covid-19 cases and over 40,000 deaths

■ Berlin, Monday

Germany and other parts of Europe took tentative steps to ease lockdown measures on Monday but officials warned the battle against the coronavirus pandemic was far from over.

Germany reopened small shops, car dealerships and bicycle stores, in a tentative easing of the coronavirus lockdown imposed nearly a month ago. The country has flattened the curve of new infections and last week said it had got the spread under control. But social distancing remains.

This happened as protests rocked the US, with citizens demanding that governors reopen economies shut by the coronavirus pandemic.

Rallies in Arizona, Colorado, Montana and Washington state took place yesterday, following earlier protests in half a dozen states. Agitation for easing restrictions has grown, despite the risk of a Covid-19 resurgence posed by reopening too soon.

US President Donald Trump has signalled support for the protests. The US has become the centre of the Covid-19 crisis, with more than 750,000 cases and over 40,000 deaths—but signs have emerged that it is reaching the apex of the outbreak.

After being hit hard by the virus that first emerged in China late last year, Europe has seen encouraging signs in recent days, with death rates dropping in Italy, Spain, France and Britain. The hope is tempered by fears of new waves of infections, warnings that life will not be back to normal for many months and deep concern over the devastating impact the virus is having on



Protesters gather at the Texas State Capital building calling for the easing of restrictions put in place to tame the spread of Covid-19. Trump has supported the protests. **AFP**

the global economy.

But even the smallest return to normality was welcome. In Norway, Silje Skifjell dropped off her boys Isaak and Kasper at a nursery in the north of the capital Oslo.

"He was so excited we had to leave the house early to come here and see the other children," she said. "I almost cried, he was so happy to see his friends."

Humanity confined

Governments around the world are mulling how and when to ease lockdowns that have kept more than half of humanity confined to their homes.

The virus has so far infected more than 2.4 million people globally and killed some 166,066 as at Monday, with nearly two thirds of the victims in Europe, according to Johns Hopkins University tally.

Germany, which has been hailed for

keeping fatalities low, is allowing smaller shops to reopen in some regions. Larger shops and those in major German cities will open later as part of an attempted phased return to a more normal existence that will also see some students go back to school from May 4. But officials are keeping a watchful eye, with Chancellor Angela Merkel saying Monday she is "greatly concerned" that virus-fighting discipline among the German public may ebb.

Hard-hit Spain, where a nationwide lockdown has been extended, also said it would ease some restrictions to allow children time outside. The country on Monday recorded 399 coronavirus deaths in the last 24 hours, its lowest daily count in weeks, and authorities are starting to shut some makeshift facilities set up to relieve the overburdened health system.

-AFP and BBC

GLOBAL SITUATION

● As of yesterday, there were more than 2.4 million coronavirus infections worldwide, with more than 166,000 deaths.

● The US is the worst hit with 750,000 cases and over 40,000 deaths.

● New infections have reduced in Europe.



Ghana lifts lockdown, Zim extends

■ Accra, Monday

Ghanaian President Nana Akufo-Addo on Monday lifted restrictions on movement in parts of the country that were under a partial lockdown and urged citizens to wear face masks.

Other restrictions like a ban on social gatherings and closure of schools will remain in force, while border crossings will stay shut for two more weeks to prevent the spread of coronavirus. The president said the decision follows a better understanding of the nature of the virus, success in containing its spread, an enhanced testing programme and the expansion of isolation and treatment centres.

The country has now recorded 1,042 cases of coronavirus and nine deaths.

In Zimbabwe, President Emmerson Mnangagwa extended the lockdown by two weeks. But mining and manufacturing operations will be exempted to keep the economy running. Zimbabwe has recorded 25 coronavirus cases and three deaths.

South Africa's correctional services fired a verbal broadside on Monday after a prisoners' rights group called for protests to demand the release of inmates to help curb coronavirus.

-BBC

Ten...

World's most powerful passports of 2020

1 Japan 191

For two years in a row, Japan has maintained the first position according to the index. Holders of this powerful passport can travel to 191 of the 199 nations as well as regions in the world without obtaining a Visa in advance. However, despite having this privilege, the irony is that most Japanese, according to reports, do not travel beyond their neighbouring Asian countries such as Hong Kong, South Korea, Taiwan and as Macau.

2 Singapore

Last year, it tied the spot with Japan as the strongest passport. The global financial centre, that borders Malaysia to the north, has its passport holders tour visa-free to 190 countries giving its citizens enormous travel flexibility.

3 Germany and South Korea

Holders of the two passports can travel to 189 countries visa free. Germany has moved up one position from last year's in the official world rankings by Henleys Passport Index, where it tied at second place with Finland and Denmark. German passports are valid for 10 years for adults and six years for citizens under the age of 24. A German passport means that one can also, live, work and study in any neighboring country.

4 Finland, Italy, Luxembourg and Spain

Being a Finish entitles you to a passport which will give you visa-free access to 188 nations in the world. EU passports offered to Finish citizen are valid for five years. Italian citizens can apply for either a 10, five or three-year passports, depending on the age of the applicant. They are also entitled to be EU citizens

5 Austria and Denmark 187

Comprising of the Jutland Peninsula and numerous other islands, Denmark is a Scandinavian country whose passport allows its citizens to travel to 187 countries without a visa. In addition, it also gives its bearer freedom of movement in Switzerland as well as the EU. However, Danish nationals who live in Greenland or the Faroe Islands, have the choice to either have the Danish EU passport and or the local non-EU Passport.

6 France, Ireland, Netherlands, Portugal and Sweden

Having a passport from the five countries gives citizens the right to travel to 186 countries visa-free. The Swedish passport is one of the world's most secure travel documents with a strong reputation.

7 Belgium, Norway, Switzerland, UK and US

The US passport allows its citizen to access 185 destinations. Since Brexit, the UK passport has dropped to its lowest position since the Henley Passport Index began in 2006. In 2015, it was the world's most powerful passport.

8 Czech Republic, Greece, Malta and New Zealand

The new report revealed the four countries tied at number eight permitting its citizens to access 184 countries visa-free.

9 Australia and Canada

Australia and Canada's passports tied in the ninth, with their citizens accessing 183 countries visa free. This is a drop by two places for Australia whose dark blue passport with the kangaroo and emu coat of arms give it an equal footing with countries such as Canada, New Zealand and the Czech Republic.

10 Hungary

With visa-free access to 182 countries, Hungary joins the world's top 10 powerful ranking passports. Known as the first communist bloc nation and one of the oldest countries in Europe, Hungary boasts a rich cultural heritage that links the gap between European charm and historical Soviet influence.



Spice ▶ Flavour your day

5MINSWITH LA ROTA @Manuel_Ntoyai

VOICE OF CHANGE

Who is La Rota?
Lauriette Rota is an artiste, the CEO of Larota Management and director of Kibanda Online. I have a diploma in business Management from Technical University of Kenya and degree in Psychology from Kenyatta University. I'm a psychologist at Mwangaza Wellness and Counselling Centre in Mombasa.

You have started an initiative to fight different abuses using art. Tell us more.

'Art Against Abuse' is an initiative that intends to create awareness and enlighten the public on types of abuse in our society and how to deal with and eradicate abuse. The idea behind it was that most people barely realise they are being abused, especially if it's not physical. As a society we tend to ignore the other kinds of abuse be it emotional, financial, psychological or mental. Together with a group of friends I have organised charity concerts for provisions for the abused children in Kibra, Nairobi. Through poems and singing in the concerts and school children and young adults were able to learn more than what we were teaching them on how to deal with abuse.

How did you end up in the collabo with Governor Joho, Susumila, Kigoto and Mercy D Lai?

Artistes are using edutainment to teach people on how to prevent and stop the spread of coronavirus. Through music, we can reach more people by encouraging social collaborations. The *Corona* song is a strong collabo from Mombasa county aimed to sensitise people on Covid-19 and how to take care of themselves during this pandemic. I ended up in this collabo after an agreement by my record label Kubwa Studios, my manager and the governor's brand manager, highly contributed by the fact that I sing on matters that affect the society and I guess talent. Working with these renowned artists has been exciting and fulfilling as we were able to bring out the message with ease and proper articulation to suit different audiences.

Why did you choose to address social media bullying and the price for fame in your song *Grateful*?

I wrote this song when I was coming out of depression. I had felt very low at some point in my life in 2018 to around mid-2019. As a musician, my way of

LA ROTA is a Kenyan artiste who is committed to using arts to fight various forms of abuse. She recently released a collabo titled *Corona* with Mombasa Governor Hassan Joho. She speaks to MANUEL NTOYAI



expressing myself is through music. It was, and still is, therapeutic to me. It helped me come out of that dark place. I looked around and realised I had a lot to be thankful for despite the fact that I was struggling in music and I felt I had under-achieved my goals in life. I wanted to create awareness through it on the aforementioned topics.

What are some of the lessons you learnt with artiste management?

Artiste management is not easy. As the Larota Management CEO, I am greatly assisted by my manager Felix Ombui who does most of the ground work. Management should be able to open doors for artistes and be beneficial to a struggling musician. At some point I felt like a struggling musician and that's where the inspiration to start the company came from. I felt the urge and need to help other artistes like me one step at a time, as growth in the entertainment industry is gradual and not instant. I have learnt over the years that management can be a great determinant in getting a record deal and other contractual jobs as an artiste.

What is Kibanda Online all about?

It is an e-delivery platform for buying groceries and other household utilities. My partner Vincent Oenga and I run the business, and we saw the need for this delivery service because there are the sick, elderly or even those who have crazy work schedules and don't have time or ways of getting to convenient stores, shops, supermarkets or grocery shops. The business operates entirely on social media for now. Just like any other start-up, it has not been easy because raising funds for capital was hard. The equipment needed such as refrigerated trucks and online operations have been expensive. In the wake of coronavirus and the need for more delivery, we still cannot deliver to most people due to the limited time and means to access bulk orders at once.

How has the market been for online start-ups?

For start-ups you need a lot of patience and that's why many businesses fail because people quit easily as soon as they realise they are not making a lot of instant profits. It has been tasking for me as I run two companies, as a musician and psychologist. So, I have to properly plan and focus on what is important and what requires my attention at any particular time. Start-ups need a lot of attention and proper marketing strategies, online or not. The government should offer training on tax management for start-ups and also offer easier ways of getting start-up capital.

MUSIC REVIEW
@Manuel_Ntoyai

JANA by Miss Sunshine

Residing in Belgium, Miss Sunshine is a Kenyan Afro pop singer, songwriter and producer. She is the founder of Sunny Music Records and has been writing, recording and performing her own music since 2010. Her melodic voice, laced with cool beats has got us thinking about the gem she is. In *Jana*, she speaks about her quest to find love, having experienced some good loving the night before, hence *Jana* (yesterday). "It is a personal journey to personally serenade myself, my hope is meeting and loving again. I am a single mum raising two boys and I must say the hustle is real when searching for that soulmate while balancing my career life. Love is everything and everything is love," she says. In this Woud Omollo produced track, Miss Sunshine sings her heart out explaining different love paths experienced by different people. Shot and directed on the coastal beaches of Ukunda, in South Coast, VJ One captures the moments that count creating a visual storyline that's well played by the characters in the video. With a catchy sing along chorus, *Jana* is simple and classic; one of those jams you would play over and over again. Rating: 7/10



You

It's all about Life & Style

Why people defying stay-at-home order just won't listen

Just as the coronavirus has so far spread unevenly across the country and the world, so too has the caution that is necessary to mitigate it. For each Kenyan leaving home only when absolutely necessary, it seems, there is another who is gallivanting all over the place like it's still 2019



by Sandra Wekesa
@Sandra_wekesa

Living through the coronavirus pandemic is strange. Most people have never been asked to make sacrifices such as staying home and limiting physical contact with others like this.

All this disruption can make people anxious to the point of impairing their judgement. And for some, that includes ignoring the novel coronavirus altogether and carrying on as though it's business as usual, yes, even with the curfew in place.

Despite repeated pleas from the government through the Ministry of Health to stay home and slow the spread of Covid-19, many people just won't. Party lovers, including government and judiciary officials, are throwing underground parties in estates, people are visiting friends and family, shoppers are packed in markets, supermarkets, movie shops, hair salons and barbershops. And the slogan when friends and family meet has been 'You don't look sick,' or 'I trust you'.

Business as usual

Over the Easter weekend, 16 residents of Embakasi's Nyayo Estate were arrested for attending a birthday party in a house and forced into quarantine.

Embakasi Central Member of Parliament Benjamin Gathiru was also on Saturday evening arrested in a pub after breaking the curfew directive. The MP was among others who were arrested at the Royal Tavern Pub in Ruai for flouting the curfew rule.

This raises the question, why won't some people take the coronavirus threat seriously? Are people overlooking the reasoning for these

MERCY

It has been quite a challenge keeping my family and friends away since they are excited to see my newborn baby, but I can't just let them



recommendations or are they just throwing all caution to the wind?

Arnold Odhiambo says staying at home at this time is boring, so he maintains a 'small' social circle that he meets to have a good time with. "I am sure do not hang out with other people except our circle," he says blatantly.

Psychologists say there are a handful of reasons, and most of them come down to human nature. "There's a psychological reason why some people may feel highly disinclined to ignore social distancing. In times of high stress, some people respond with rebelliousness," says counselling psychologist Lydia Mueni.

She points out that some people are trying to retain a feeling of control by ignoring or defying stay-at-home orders. Other people are oppositional in nature and routinely defy authority. Many more are in denial, especially if they aren't in hardest-hit areas, aren't in high-risk groups and don't know anyone with the virus.

Ken Munyua, a counselling psychologist agrees. He says rather than calling it social dis-



MUNYUA

Rather than call it social distancing, it should be called physical distancing for the sake of people's mental well being

tancing, it should be called physical distancing for the sake of people's mental well being. Telling them to stay away from each other breaks them, thus the anxiety. "Anxiety affects our ability to think clearly and make sound decisions. The influx of uncertainty could be contributing to denial of reality," he says.

However, he says, this doesn't mean that you hop onto everyone's house and hold parties. "I still visit my parents who live close by, but we discussed the importance of maintaining a social circle. This means we are exclusive with each other, especially on the people we interact with," he says.

He says people who are defying calls to self isolate are doing so because they don't realise the influence their actions on others. They are trapped in their own minds, looking out at what is going on elsewhere, and failing to recognise their own role in it.

What to do

Given that we still have a long time to stay indoors, how should friends and family members who aren't convinced by facts be managed?

Mercy Wandie says hosting people in her house is the last thing she can do because she is a new mother. "It has been quite a challenge keeping family and friends away since they are excited to see the baby, but I cannot just let them. Besides people have been too careless, ignoring the social distancing order, I just can't trust anyone to visit us," she says.

Mercy has been using virtual means to introduce her child to her family. She also ensures that movement in and out of the house is minimal, and agreed with her househelp not to take any offs until the pandemic is over. Being African, though, it's been against the norm as people always want to hold newborns physically.

The best way to try to convince people to stay away from each other Munyua says is by using positive reinforcement.

"People are doing whatever they're doing to maintain a sense of control over the situation, to feel like they're protecting themselves. So you could give them another option to achieve a similar effect," he says. Do this by being empathic, nonjudgmental, noncritical in tone and you are much more likely to motivate the other person to abide.



LOVE & LAST
WITH WAIHERA OTIENO

Nurturing a long distance relationship in time of Corona

Long distance relationships aka LDRs are not everyone's cup of tea, but you may have found yourself in one during this period of movement restrictions.

LDRs are challenging because of the vast distances and time spent apart from your beloved. They are also sweet because they make the simple things such as cuddles, hand holding, eating together and date nights much more precious. This is how to make your long distance relationship work even better.

Be honest with each other about your feelings, your expectations and your fears. If you are going through something significant, share your experiences with your sweetheart.

And if your sweetheart shares their thoughts, feelings and experiences with you, be supportive. Share your individual schedules so that both of you understand the other's world.

Exchange a thoughtful personal object or gift to hold onto when you are apart and missing each other. This could be a scarf, a piece of jewellery, a playlist of songs or even a bottle of fragrance. Attach a story to that item to make it more meaningful.

You can also use the traditional mailing system at the post office to mail each other letters or cards. If this is not available, you may use email instead of always relying on the short messages you share on phone.

Communicate regularly, but don't be too sticky and insist on always being on the phone 24/7. Be creative on how you communicate. You may schedule video calls once or twice a week to avoid monotony and schedule voice calls more often.

Try to discuss various interesting topics to make your conversations more interesting. This means that you both need to keep your separate lives interesting. Enjoy your time with other friends and family and get a hobby.



FAMILY FABRIC WITH JOSEPH HELLON

How to become an active listener in your union

What many people desire from others is to be understood, not necessarily to be agreed with. Mistakes are not the end of the road, but poor communication can be the end of the road for a relationship. It's important, therefore, to listen to your partner keenly and to note down areas that need rectification in a relationship. A good listening ear solves the majority of relationship problems.

Many people feel that they must inter-

rupt their spouse whenever they talk. Interruption has its place when you are not giving the other person room to express themselves too. Such people ought to be interrupted, albeit wisely. Firmness goes along way coupled with assertiveness.

A good listener responds by repeating words spoken to them with the aim of seeking clarification from the speaker. It helps to ask if what you understand is exactly what the speaker meant. Misun-

derstandings occur when one assumes that they already know what their partner is talking about. Some people will even complete their partner's statements as if they knew exactly what was in their partner's mind. This is one characteristic quality of poor listeners.

When dealing with a difficult subject or a sensitive matter, write down what you hear in point forms. If unclear, politely interrupt and seek clarification. After-

wards, go through the points you noted and address them as honestly as you can. This way, you'll end up dealing with every matter conclusively.

Listening portrays care to the one who feels aggrieved. When things are heated, the primary matter brings out older fermented issues that have nothing to do with the current or present situation. This can cause a negative reaction from the one who feels falsely accused. Nevertheless, listening keenly and empathetically can quell animosity and restore a rela-

tionship on the precipice of disaster.

In most cases, tension ceases as soon as defensiveness ends. Words like, "I care about your feelings" can go a long way in building compassion. Being too quiet sometimes comes forth as indifference even if that's not what is intended. It, therefore, helps to intersperse moments of silence with words of affirmation and concern. Reading books and watching videos about communication can go a long way in improving relationships, especially during this time of global lockdowns.

Agri biz ▶ Smart Way to Grow Money



Seed propagation takes root in Nyandarua county

Last year, the European Union launched an ambitious, four-year project to promote competitiveness and help to market produce locally, regionally and internationally

by Wahinya Henry
@PeopleDailyKe

On a cold, rainy afternoon at Kibathi Village in Nyandarua county, Timothy Kimani is making rounds in one of the two greenhouses at his farm. Two women are busy planting seeds onto propagation trays. As we approach, they are placing various seeds including chilli, broccoli and black nightshade. Nightshade is known as *mnavu* in Kiswahili, *managu* (Kisii, Mt Kenya communities), *namasaka* (Luhya), *osuga* (Luo), *isojot* (Kalenjin), *kitulu* (Kamba), *ormomoi* (Maa) and *ndunda* (Taita), among others. We are at Sanjo Seed Raisers Farm, which Kimani, 29, started in 2018, after having been employed by a multinational agro-dealer for two years. "While working for that firm, I saw farmers struggle to get quality seedlings," he recalls.

Propagation trays

The growers, he said, would propagate their seeds directly in the soil. This causes a lot of damage, as the plantlets are prone to destruction by pests and soil diseases. Besides, plantlets planted directly on the soil succumb after transplantation due to challenges in adopting to a new



environment. However, those pre-planted in propagation trays are re-planted with a small content of the propagation medium, so slowly, but surely they adapt to the new environment.

Additionally, seedlings propagated in trays and grown under safe conditions do not get roots interference while being transplanted. The process of planting seedlings in trays starts with a special medium, mostly known as coco peat while not treated, or peat moss,

ABOVE: Kimani displays seedlings at his farm, which are kept under regulated temperatures and humidity. BELOW: A worker plants seeds in a propagation tray.

PD/ WAHINYA HENRY

which is sold as already treated.

During our visit, Kimani was using the coco peat medium. This type needs to be thoroughly cleaned and dried before use. The medium is then put in small homes on propagation trays. Tiny seeds are then put in the holes and covered with the same media.

The propagation trays are then exposed to a temperature of between 35 to 50 degrees centigrade and a humidity level of 70. To achieve this, Kimani has modified a small room, in which he lights a charcoal *jiko*, to achieve the needed heat.

"The same can be done using machines, but I currently cannot afford the imported equipment needed," says Kimani. His dream is to mechanise the farm, including planting the seeds.

Most seedlings are exposed to these conditions for three days, before being transported to a greenhouse. Here, they are watered daily and are ready for sale after four weeks.

However, capsicum vegetable seedlings specifically takes longer as it stays under the heated and humid conditions for six to seven days and is only ready for transplanting after six weeks.

Donor support

Farmers make arrangements with the farm to have seedlings propagated from seeds. Alternatively, some growers avail their own seeds, which Sanjo Seed Raisers Farm propagates for them at a fee.

A plantlet goes for between Sh2 to Sh6 for the farm's own seeds, but between Sh1.5 and Sh2 if farmers bring their own seeds. The prices are dependent on varieties and type of crop. His major markets are in Laikipia, Kirinyaga, Nakuru and Baringo counties.

Currently, this farm employs three permanent workers, but usually has between eight and 10 casual workers, especially when there is a heavier workload. Although Kimani sometimes propagates herbs such as mint, he is keen on not only farming at this level, but is also looking forward to establishing an own farm.

"My favourite crops are mint and chilli, and I would like to export these and other herbs," he says, adding that he often admires chilli and herbs farms while delivering plantlets.

Kimani is happy about a new project, which will be supporting farmers and others in the value-chain. He hopes to be a beneficiary.

Last year, the European Union (EU) launched a four-year project, to promote competitiveness and seek markets for produce locally, regionally and internationally.

Dubbed *Market Access Upgrade Programme*, the initiative focuses on value chains such as herbs and spices, chilli, macadamia, passion fruits and groundnuts, among others.

"Through such a project, I am optimistic that I will be able to link up with more clients for my plantlets, meaning more business for me.

"Besides, I will also benefit from knowledge available, especially about the herbs and chilli value chains, of which I have special interest," Kimani adds.

The project is being implemented by United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (Unido), Fresh Produce Exporters Association of Kenya (FPEAK), and the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS), among others. Unido and the other partners will implement this project in 12 counties.

BRIEFLY



City grocery delivery app launched

by Hillary Mageka
@hillarymageka

The past three months have seen retail prices of tomatoes skyrocket in local markets, forcing consumers to dig deeper into their pockets to afford the vegetable.

Tomatoes have become the subject of jokes on social media as Kenyans wonder about the price hikes. The irony is that in the rural farms, growers have been selling produce at usual prices. For example, a farmer in Kajiado sells a litre of milk for as low as Sh20, at the supermarket the average milk prices for a half a litre ranges from Sh50 to Sh60.

According to the Kenya Agribusiness and Agroindustry Alliance, farmers put a lot of effort in production, but they earn the least in the value chain. It is only through value addition that this trend can be reversed.

One tech startup, *Famobile*, operating from Nairobi, is providing solutions for farmers to instantly access urban markets. The firm has developed an e-commerce platform that links farmers to vendors and vendors to customers.

The newly launched on-demand grocery and delivery service promises to deliver online purchases within 60 minutes to customers. "The farmers list their various produce on the App, complete with prices and quantities," says *Famobile* CEO Nelly Lagat.

The produce is fresh and direct from farms, so customers get direct and instant benefits. The App, which is available on *Google play store*, features more than 5,000 products —groceries, organic products, meat, pastries and confectionery, dairy products, pet feeds, flowers, bulk water and alcohol.

"The tech startup aims at creating value for all actors in the value chain from the farmer to the vendor and customer. We also want to lower prices for consumers and ensure farmers get direct benefits," says the CEO.

Famobile is currently encouraging farmers across Kenya to supply produce through the App. "In our time-pressed society, providing consumers with a swift, on demand grocery and more delivery service is like giving them back time; today's most precious commodity," adds Lagat.

We all know that going to the market for shopping can be time-consuming and a bit of a hassle. Thankfully, this startup is here to make lives easier and create impact for more Kenyan farmers and consumers.

by Lewis Njoka
@LewisNjoka

Tree tomato farming is fast gaining popularity as an alternative to traditional fruits and vegetables due to its attractive returns.

The crop, scientifically known as *Cyphomandra Betacea*, has high levels of iron, fibre, potassium and vitamin A, B6, C, and E and are ideal for home gardeners who don't have much space. It is popular in Kericho, Kisii, Migori, Meru, Murang'a, Embu, Nyeri, Nyandarua and Kakamega counties, which receive high rainfall.

However, the crop does poorly in areas, which experience prolonged drought. Also known as Tamarillo, this fruit has been looked down upon for a long time, being grown only for food. Farmers have now begun realising its huge economic potential.

James Njeru Ndirangu, a farmer in Kangaita, Nyeri county, is grateful that he got to know of tree tomato farming early in his farming career. He began growing tree tomato trees immediately after completing secondary school education 15 years ago. His main inspiration was some successful farms he had visited during his travels.

Today, he runs a successful tree tomato farm named Green Safari Orchard. From 300 trees he planted initially, Ndirangu now has 1,800 trees spread on a two-acre farm grown under drip irrigation.

Ndirangu grows the red *Orati* variety, which he grafts with *bug weed*, known locally as *Muthakwa*. The tobacco-like plant is preferred for its deep taproot, which enables the tree withstand dry weather. "I graft the trees as they resist *nematodes* (roundworms) best. Non-grafted trees have shallow roots which reduce their chances of survival during drought," he says.

Exposure to pests

Each tree produces 60 to 70kg of fruit per year, which he sells at Sh150 per kilo. He picks ripe fruits every 10 days to give room for green ones to ripen fully. The current price, according to Ndirangu, is a huge improvement compared to three years ago when he sold a kilogramme at between Sh50 and Sh80.

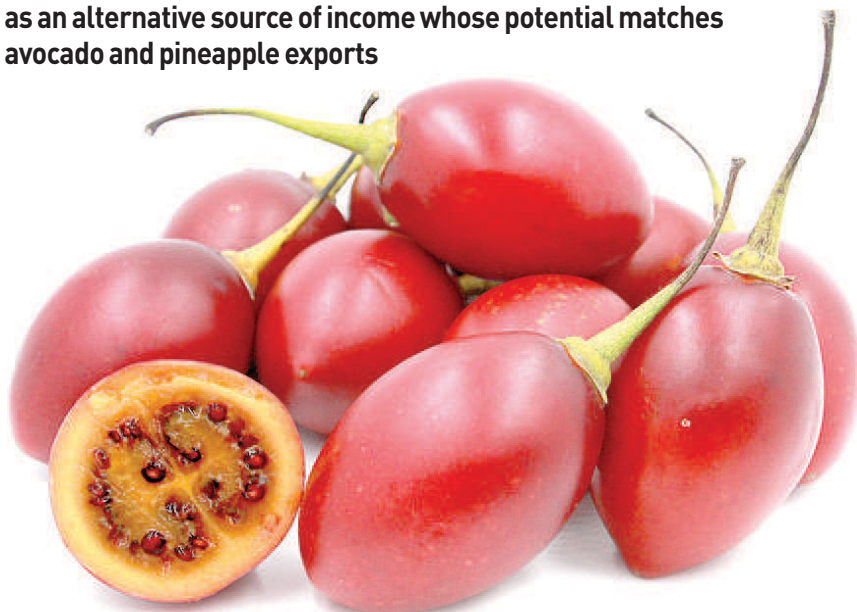
The farmer used to sell his produce to brokers, but switched to contract farming when he realised it offered him better returns. He now has a contract with a local firm to sell his produce at pre-agreed prices.

During planting, the seedlings should be spaced four feet apart, with a space of five feet between one row and the next. Normally, tree tomato plants grow to about two metres tall and only fruit after they have formed several branches, usually after the second year.

Optimum production is reached after

Increasing demand in foreign markets boosts tree tomato farming

Government takes the lead in promoting the adoption of the fruit as an alternative source of income whose potential matches avocado and pineapple exports



three to six years, depending on the variety. The crop can live up to 12 years and produce fruits throughout the year. "I chose tree tomato because it is not a complicated fruit to grow. It is in high demand, but has very few suppliers. There is a huge demand for the fruit even within Nairobi," said Ndirangu.

The tree grows fast and can fruit after 18 months to two years, making it attractive to farmers seeking quick returns. In some favourable conditions, it bears fruits in less time.

To supplement his income, Ndirangu runs a tree nursery where he propagates tree tomato seedlings, selling each at Sh100. His main challenges are pests and diseases such as wilting. "Some insects called *Asian Citrus Psyllid* are a real nuisance. They cause tree tomato plants to wither and die, but we manage them using abamectin insecticides," he says. Other pests that threaten tree tomatoes

include aphids, thrips and whiteflies.

Ndirangu advises growers to ensure they have enough water as the crop, just like conventional tomato, does poorly in dry conditions. "You need sufficient amounts of water throughout the year to ensure you produce good quality fruit," he says.

Other challenges

Ndirangu takes care of the crop the same way one does conventional tomatoes, including pruning to increase fruit size and dealing with *nematodes*, which feed directly on the nutrients absorbed by tree tomato roots. "You also need to prune your trees if you want your fruits to mature uniformly," he says.

The farmer strongly advocates for organic farming as it reduces the chances of fruits being contaminated with toxic chemicals compared to using chemical fertilisers. He, how-

James Ndirangu near his tree tomato seedbed in Kangaita, Nyeri county. He has been growing the fruit for 15 years. BELOW: Esther Muthoni, formerly a student at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology grows tree tomatoes in Githiga village, Kiambu county.
PD/LEWIS NJOKA, MILLIAM NJERI, COURTESY



ever, advises those unable to engage in organic farming to plant with DAP fertiliser for formation of strong roots, top with CAN fertiliser for formation of foliage and foliar feed with boron to help in fruits and flower formation.

Tree tomato fruits have several uses many of which are gaining popularity in the country. They can be eaten fresh, or squeezed to produce fruit juice. In some instances, tree tomato flesh is added to stews to make add flavour.

The government has been at the forefront promoting the adoption of tree tomato farming as an alternative source of income. In Nyeri, the county government has helped set up an agro-processing firm — named Tamarillo after the fruit — which now processes tree tomato fruits into juice and tomato paste.

Institutions of higher learning such as Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) are offering short courses for farmers who wish to master grafting and other skills useful in tree tomato growing.

Last year the value of Kenya's fruit exports stood at Sh13.2 billion up from Sh12.8 Billion in 2018, a 2.8 per cent increase according to a report by the Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA). Similarly fruit production rose from 75,500 tonnes in 2018 to 81,800 tonnes in 2019 mostly due to avocado and pineapple exports.

Foreign exchange

"The increase was attributed to an increase in pineapple exports from value of Sh29 million to Sh850 million. Avocado remains the single highest exported fruit, taking 80 per cent of the total value at Sh10.6 billion in 2019 with a slight fall from Sh10.8 billion in 2018," says AFA.

In total, the entire horticulture sector comprising flowers, fruits and vegetable sub-sectors earned Sh142.7 billion in exports last year down from Sh153.7 billion in 2018. This translates to Sh11 billion decline and a 17 per cent drop in earnings.

According to AFA, only earnings from fruits grew last year in the entire horticulture sector, an indication that the sub-sector has great potential to transform the socio-economic well-being of farmers and the economy as a whole.

If well embraced by farmers, tree tomato could soon be competing with avocados and pineapples for the biggest foreign exchange earner position.



People Plus ▶ Tell your Story

K24 TV *Arena 254* show host, SHARON KATE NG'ANG'A's warm and bubbly personality while on air is contagious. Her petite frame is clad in simple jeans and a stylish top exuding soft charm and confidence. She is also an online influencer, mentor and commercial model. NAILANTEI NORARI finds out what really makes her tick

Sharon Ng'ang'a has been the host for *Arena 254*, an entertainment show on K24 for close to three years now. She says this is a dream come true for her and proof that your dreams will come true if you put in the work and consistently move towards your dreams.

"TV presenting is a passion and dream that I had since I was eight years old. You know one of those things you know you were born to do? Yes, and somehow God aligned every opportunity to get me here," she enthuses with a ready smile.

Sharon always had an idea of where she wanted to be and spent much of her time in primary and secondary school nurturing her multiple talents. She joined artistic clubs such drama clubs, choir chorale, debate and dance groups at a very young age where she learnt confidence and good diction, which she says, have helped her become the great orator she is today. She also recognises the pivotal role her parents played by allowing her to explore her different areas of interest.

Down to earth

"My parents always gave me opportunities to explore myself and my talents. They may not have had much in means, but they had plenty of love and advice that helped nurture and mold me into the person that I am today," the Precious Blood High School alumnus recaps.

Sharon manages to remain down to earth and relatable despite having worked in the entertainment industry for quite a while. Her experience spans several media stations including WTV, formerly TVC Kenya and Ebru TV. She credits God and family as the main forces that ground her and keep her on course.

"I believe in the fact that God has a grand plan in everybody's life. So I do everything to the best of my ability, confident in that fact. I set goals once a year and strive to achieve them in line with the purpose that I feel God created me for.

"My family reminds me why and where I started. They pick me up when things get tough and cheer me on when things are good," she says.

Sharon is passionate about issues that impact and affect the youth and is a fierce advocate for youth empowerment.

She speaks openly about the importance of mental wellbeing and as a result won

TV presenter with passion for youth empowerment

SHARON

I live by the best advice that I have ever gotten in a book, 'Opportunity favours the bold. If someone offers you an opportunity and you are not sure how to do it, accept it and learn on the job'

the 2016 Young Rockstar Award from the Segal Family Foundation. She also volunteered as a teacher at Moonlight School and Dagoretti Rehabilitation Centre immediately after completing secondary school and taught English to further impact on the younger generation.

And in 2016, she was nominated as a Blaze Be Your Own Boss (BYOB) mentor in 2016, while still in campus. She was the youngest of the BYOB mentors.

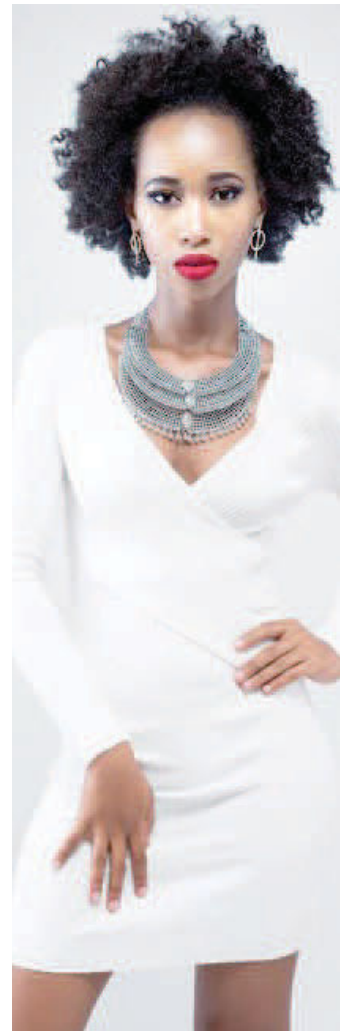
She explains why youth mentorship is important to her; "Scholarships enabled me to get through my education. My sponsor in secondary school was Akili Dada, an international award-winning leadership incubator nurturing a generation of young African women from underprivileged back-

grounds whose commitment to the underserved will transform their communities. Akili Dada played a vital role in building me into the woman and leader I am today.

"This is why I take every opportunity I get to give back to the youth and guide them as I too, was similarly molded," she explains.

Live by mantra

Sharon reads widely and believes in learning something new every day and putting herself in opportunities and places that will stretch her intellectually. "I live by the best advice that I have ever gotten in a book, 'Opportunity favours the bold. If someone offers you an opportunity and you are not sure how to do it, accept it and learn on the job'," the University of Nairobi



MANY HATS

- She is an online influencer, commercial model and the lively presenter of *Arena 254* on K24 TV.
- She is big on youth mentorship and community development.
- She is the 2016 recipient of the Segal Family Foundation, The Young Rockstar Award.
- Founder and director, New Book Media Limited, an innovation space focusing on the Information and Communication sector.

Economics and Statistics graduate quotes self-made billionaire Richard Branson.

She is also a passionate entrepreneur, who founded and is the director of New Book Media Limited, an innovation space focusing on the Information and Communication sector.

Her annual projects include 2016 Girls Have Dreams Campaign, an entrepreneurial networking mentorship forum and movement created to spark economic, social and personal empowerment for the girl child through candid conversations.

What would she tell those who look up to her? "If something excites you, register for classes or surround yourself with people in that field. Get a mentor.

"No one has it all figured out, everyone is trying to figure things out, don't be fooled by appearances. Work on yourself and your craft and when the time is right, everything will align," Sharon concludes.

Take Off ▶ Building Capacity

BRIEFLY

Group calls for ban of live animal markets

A group of Congressional lawmakers are calling on leaders of the World Health Organisation (WHO), the United Nations (UN), and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) to ban live wildlife markets and international trade of live wildlife.

Live wildlife markets, also known as "wet" markets, create a breeding ground for infectious diseases such as the 2003 SARS outbreak. They are also the suspected source of the Covid-19 crisis.

"Global action is needed to prevent future deadly pandemics. It is imperative we take action as a global community to protect public health," the lawmakers wrote in a letter to the Directors-General of the WHO, the OIE and UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

"The viruses can subsequently spread or 'spill over' into humans through handling and consumption of wildlife, potentially starting highly contagious outbreaks of new and deadly diseases for which we have no natural immunity — as we are currently seeing with Covid-19 and have seen with SARS, Ebola, monkeypox and Lassa fever in the recent past," they continued.

"Wet markets in particular pose a threat to global public health because wildlife comes from many different locations without any standardised sanitary or health inspection processes."

Scientists estimate approximately 60 to 75 per cent of emerging infectious diseases is zoonotic, meaning they are diseases that can move from animals to humans. These zoonotic diseases have been responsible for at least five pandemics over the last 45 years, including Ebola and MERS (Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome).

—Homeland Preparedness News



Winning big for conservation

At just 24, ELIZABETH WATHUTI'S zeal to enhance awareness on maintaining and creating a pollution-free environment has caught global attention and won her awards

by Milliam Murigi
@amillymur1

When Elizabeth Wanjiru Wathuti planted her first tree in 2003 at the age of seven, she did it just for fun. Little did she know, that was the birth of her passion and personal commitment to environmental conservation.

Born and brought up in Tetu, Nyeri county, an area with the highest forest cover in the country and Gura River, the fastest flowing in Africa, Elizabeth never dreamt of having a country with no flowing rivers or forests.

Unfortunately, as she was growing up, she learned about the rampant burning down and clearing of forests, pollution of rivers and how humans were unfairly treating the planet. All those environmental injustices greatly disturbed her and she knew she needed to rise up and do something about it.

Because of this, when she joined Kangubiri High School, she revived the Environment Club, which started growing trees in a portion of land assigned by the school. Though this was one step ahead, she was never satisfied with whatever they were doing because of limited coverage.

"My aim of reviving the club was to reach as many people and plant as many trees as possible. However, this was not realistic considering very few people were interested in my project. However, I worked with anyone willing to work with me for the four years," says the 24-year-old.

Her dreams of keeping forests alive got a major boost when she joined Kenyatta University in 2014, where she was undertaking bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies and Community Development. There, she found a bigger group with environmental conservation matters at heart.

Nature-first culture

Because of her aggressiveness on environmental conservation, she was elected the Kenyatta University Environmental Club (KUNEC) 1st-year representative, club vice-chairperson and eventually the chairperson for three consecutive years.

"I conducted numerous tree planting activities, clean-ups, and environmental education activities. I also created awareness on global environmental challenges such as climate change," she says.

Additionally, she started visiting schools, talking to pupils on the importance of conserving the environment and planting trees. Her aim was to make an impact on the children who would then impact the whole community.

In 2016, her passion and commitment to the environment was recognised by the Greenbelt



Elizabeth Wathuti

For food insecurity, we incorporate fruit trees in our work. We ensure every school we work with has a fruit forest. They connect children to tree growing culture

Movement, Kenya Community Development Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation. She became the fourth recipient of the Wangari Maathai Scholarship Award.

With the scholarship, she established a tree seedling nursery in Tetu and started Green Generation Initiative (GGI). This initiative seeks to address global environmental challenges such as deforestation, pollution and environmental injustices as well as food insecurity.

It focuses on nurturing young environmental enthusiasts by promoting a nature-first culture, love for nature and environmental con-

QUICK FACTS

- Wathuti has been nominated, shortlisted and won a variety of awards including the Africa Green Person of the Year 2019.
- She was among finalists for the Commonwealth Youth Awards 2020, which recognises outstanding young people whose innovative projects are helping their countries achieve Sustainable Development Goals.
- Her project, Green Generation Initiative, seeks to address global environmental challenges such as deforestation, pollution and food insecurity.

sciousness. Their main programmes include practical environmental education, greening schools, inculcating a tree growing culture among people for forest cover increment through adopt a tree campaign and establishing food forests.

"For food insecurity, we incorporate fruit trees in our work. We ensure every school we work with has a fruit forest. These forests make children more connected to tree growing culture because of the end results."

When she started working with children, she used her pocket money to buy seedlings. To ensure they not only plant trees, but grow them, she encourages every child to adopt a tree.

So far more than 30,000 trees have been planted and around 25,000 children have been reached. She has also expanded to seven other counties with an aim of reaching all the 47 counties in the near future.

Making real impact

Elizabeth has volunteers who help her to run the initiative daily. She has also partnered with Kenya Forest Services, from where she gets seedlings.

Because of her work, she has won different awards. In 2018 she was among winners of 2018 Global youth in landscape leadership by the Global Landscapes Forum (GLF).

She was also the 2019 Regional Finalist for Africa for the UN Young Champions of the Earth Prize 2019, and Africa Green Person of the Year 2019 Award by the Eleven Eleven Twelve Foundation. She was also feted with the Africa Youth Awards in its 2019 list of the 100 Most Influential Young Africans. Her blog www.lizmazingira.com was declared the best environment blog 2018 by Bloggers Association of Kenya.

This year, Elizabeth was among the Commonwealth Youth Awards finalists. The awards recognise outstanding young people whose innovative projects have made an impact in helping their countries achieve Sustainable Development Goals. It was won by Ugandan, Galabuzi Brian Kakembo for his initiative of transforming plastic into eco-friendly briquettes.

"I would like to be a landscape leader because I am a young changemaker who believes in landscape restoration as an opportunity to transform lives and I know that its achievement calls for bold and innovative leadership," she says.

Despite the success, her journey hasn't been without challenges, with lack of finance as the main limitation for establishing the project in all 47 counties.

Low numbers of volunteers has also been a challenge, which explains why she is looking for people to partner with to expand her reach.



- 5.00 Inuka
- 6.00 K24 This Morning
- 9.00 Daily Brief
- 12.30 Inside Business
- 13.00 News Cut
- 13.30 Sports Hub
- 14.00 Bongo Movie
- 15.00 Sweetest Love
- 16.00 K24 Mashinani
- 16.30 Jus Kidz
- 17.00 Beatbox
- 18.00 Hollywood Movie
- 19.00 K24 Saa Moja
- 19.30 Jane And Abel
- 20.00 Kimchi Family
- 21.00 K24 Evening Edition
- 22.00 Tujwane X
- 23.00 Playlist 254 Rpt
- 00.00 DW Feed



- 5.00 Ime Ria Rucini
- 6.00 Rikiratha
- 11.00 Kurekereria Kodii
- 12.00 Rimwe na Kuuna
- 1.00 Mohoro Gitau
- 1.30 Thirinka Music Mix
- 3.45 Kameme Toonz
- 4.00 Rimbuka Live
- 6.00 Tuika Wakwa
- 7.00 Kameme Maturaini
- 8.00 Njungwa ya Muthoe Kihengo
- 8.30 Gatimia Karogi
- 9.00 Mutamburuko Wa Mauhoro
- 10.00 Thenema cia Kameme
- 12.00 Deutsche Welle Tv



- 12.00 Football Review- Rpt
- 6.00 Morning Express
- 08.00 Life N' Style
- 12.00 Documentary
- 4.00 Mbiu-Ya-Ktn
- 5.00 Baseline
- 6.00 Losing Heaven
- 7.00 KTN Leo
- 7.30 Just Kidding
- 8.00 Great Bake Off
- 9.00 KTN Friday Briefing
- 10.20 Movie

TIME OUT!

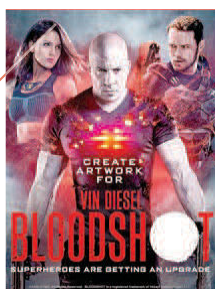


22.00pm Tujwane X



::IN THEATRES NOW::

ANGA MEGA KISUMU: 16:20: BLOODSHOT 2020
 NYALI CINEMAX MOMBASA: 19:00: BLOODSHOT 2020
 PRESTIGE CINEMA PRESTIGE PLAZA: 18:30, 20:40: BLOODSHOT 2020
 ANGA MEGA KISUMU: 20:45: BAAGHI 3 2020
 NYALI CINEMAX MOMBASA: 20:45: BAAGHI 3 2020



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

SUDOKU

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

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 Layd Back
- 9:30 Animation Time
- 10:30 Jee, huu ni unguwana?
- 11:00 Hypochondriach RR
- 12:00 Afrusion
- 1:00 Lunch
- Time News
- 2:00 IAAF Recorded
- 4:30 Big Minds Rpt
- 5:00 Club 1
- 6:30 The Great Debators
- 7:00 Taarifa
- 7:30 Grapevine
- 8:00 First Lady
- 9:00 Channel 1 News
- 10:00 Maisha ya mama
- 11:00 CCTV
- 11:30 Layd Back



- 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
- 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)

Confusion could result when communicating with others. Avoid letting family get involved in your personal life.

TAURUS (APR. 21- MAY 21)

Don't expect the whole family to be overjoyed. Make any decisions you have to in order to avoid feeling unsettled. Accept the inevitable and continue to do your job.

GEMINI (MAY 22-JUNE 21)

Raise your self esteem and your confidence if you want to get back into the mainstream again.

CANCER (JUNE 22-JULY 22)

Do your job and don't ask for favors. You need to spend time with friends and family. Passion will be your only answer.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG 22)

Take a look at your legal position. Try to take some time to listen to their complaints, and in turn, do something to appease them.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 23)

Someone you like may be receptive and actively seeking your company. A second chance will result in good work. Involvement in groups of interest will bring you in touch with important individuals.

LIBRA (SEPT. 24-OCT. 23)

You might find group functions tiring. Finish those changes you've been talking about making to your residence.

SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)

Get proper medical attention and confront your situation decisively. Short trips to visit others will do the whole family a world of good.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23-DEC. 21)

A quiet restful day just staying in bed or catching up on reading will be your best bet. You will feel the limitations if you have been overdoing it. You may meet that special person if you attend fundraising functions.

CAPRICORN (DEC 22- JAN. 20)

Risks will not be profitable. Be careful what you consume today. Use your charm, but don't be phony.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 21-FEB. 19)

Your added discipline will help you complete the impossible at work. You could find yourself caught in a one sided relationship.

PISCES (FEB. 20-MAR. 20)

Need some adventure in your life? Exotic destinations beckon you. Escapist tendencies may lead to overindulgence.

1	2	3	4	5	6
8					
11					
17	18				
20					
21					

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

ACROSS

1. Sobs
4. Luncheon
7. Cheroot
8. Owing
9. Improvised
11. Cogent
15. Bottle
17. Additionally
19. Reign
20. Nursery
21. Prelude
22. Tend

DOWN

1. Succinct
2. Bleep
3. Utters
4. Crosscountry
5. Eminent
6. Nigh
10. Conventional
12. Deweyed
13. Godlike
14. Tinned
16. Liage
18. Crop

ACROSS

1. Openings for air; outlets (5)
4. Explain more clearly (7)
7. Complete; absolute (5)
8. Deeply respectful (8)
9. Very masculine (5)
11. Visitors to a place (8)
15. Discrepancy (8)
17. Incites (5)
19. Against the current (8)

DOWN

1. Quivering (9)
2. Apprehensive (7)
3. Eighth sign of the zodiac (7)
4. Wind instruments (6)
5. Habitual practise (6)

DOWN

6. Recently made (5)
10. Furthest away (9)
12. Halfway through political office (7)
13. Acquire from someone else (7)
14. Changes (6)
16. Domesticated llama (6)
18. Pale brownish-yellow colour (5)

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PUBLIC NOTICE

PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING

ACT NO.13 OF 2019

CHANGE OF USER

The registered owner of this property Share Certificate No. 01165 (Thika Mwalimu) Plot No. 038 of Thika Mun. Block 6/431, located in Kijaro, Thika Sub-County, intends to change its use from agricultural to residential multi-dwelling units (flats), subject to approval by Kiambu County Government. Individuals, institutions, etc. with objection(s) to the proposal are requested to forward the same in writing within fourteen (14) days of this notice to:

The CECM, Land, Housing and Physical Planning,
Kiambu County Government,
P.O. Box 2344-00900,
Kiambu.

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING

ACT (NO.13 OF 2019)

CHANGE OF USER

The owner of L.R. No. Ruiru/Ruiru West Block 1(Githunguri)/397 (Share Cert no. 5784) is proposing change of use of this property from single dwelling to multi-dwelling residential (flats), subject to approval by Kiambu County Government. Individuals, institutions and organizations with objections or comments are requested to forward them in writing within 14 days from date of this notice to:

CECM-Land, Housing and Physical Planning,
County Government of Kiambu,
P.O. Box 2344,
Kiambu.

National Environment Management Authority

Popo Road, off Mombasa Road

P.O. Box 67839-00200, Nairobi, Kenya, Tel: (254 020) 6005522, 6001945, Fax: (254 020) 6008997

E-mail: dg@nema.go.ke Website: www.nema.go.ke

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC TO SUBMIT COMMENTS ON AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT STUDY REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED WASTE OIL HANDLING FACILITY ON PLOT NO. FR. 343/73, MIRITINI AREA, MOMBASA COUNTY

Pursuant to Regulation 21 of the Environmental Management and Coordination (Impact Assessment and Audit) Regulations, 2003, the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) has received an Environmental Impact Assessment Study Report for the above proposed project. The proponent, Wang-Tech Petroleum Limited proposes to construct and operate a waste oil handling facility. The proposed project activities entails civil works associated with reconstruction of the existing yard include construction of the following: reinforced concrete slab in the working area, bund walls to serve as secondary containment for the waste oil storage tanks, concrete storm water drainage channels incorporating oil/water interceptors, an office block and washrooms. Activities to be undertaken during operation phase of the proposed project include transportation of waste oil from the port of Mombasa to the yard for processing (decanting) and selling to third parties for reuse or recycling. The technology to be used in the processing of waste oil entails separation of oil from water without an addition of any chemical. The design of the processing facility consists of a chamber with a mechanical screen (sieve) on top, a long channel and a six stage underground oil separator chambers arranged in series. These are simply decanting chambers that have connecting pipes which allow water to pass from one chamber to the next.

Environmental Aspect	Potential Environmental Impact	Mitigating Measures	Environmental Aspect	Potential Environmental Impact	Mitigating Measures
Dust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adverse Human health Soiling of neighbouring properties Nuisance to neighbours Impaired visibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frequent watering of all exposed earth surfaces Enclosure of the site with iron sheet perimeter fence Enclosure of the concrete mixer with dust nets Cover trucks with canvas to prevent loose materials from being blown by wind Concrete mixer to be positioned away from major work areas & perimeter fence Provide personal protective equipment including dust masks, eye goggles and coveralls Limit drop heights of sand and soil Construction materials to be stockpiled and protected from wind erosion 	Fuel and/or oil	Injury to workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide appropriate number of standard first aid kits Adequate number of workers to be trained on first aid Names of trained first aiders to be conspicuously displayed at the site Maintain a record of incidents & accidents on site Document the procedure for working at heights Provide safety net/traps Use appropriate safety signage to warn workers Restrict access to the construction site by unauthorized individuals Statutory inspection of all lifting equipment (Chain blocks and cranes) Cranes should be operated by trained & experienced personnel Adhere to the safe load of lifting equipment
Noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adverse Human health Nuisance to the public 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of ear protectors by workers exposed to noise hazard >85 dB(A) Recondition engine exhaust systems Proper engine tune-up Establish inspection and maintenance program for equipment and tools Post appropriate notices to warn drivers against unnecessary honking Reduction of idling time of equipment and vehicles Construction activities to be scheduled between 8.00 a.m and 5.00 p.m. 	General Health and Safety Aspects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Injury to worker Loss of life Damage to property 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of a site office for coordinating construction activities Appoint a health and safety personnel Document emergency response procedures Conduct mandatory safety inductions for all visitors to the site Document and display at the site emergency phone contacts for external emergency service providers (Obtain indemnity cover for all workers on site) Provision of wholesome drinking water to workers Use of permit to work for critical tasks Hold toolbox and monthly meetings to discuss general safety concerns, review incidents, and determine actions needed to implement job safety Maintain a register of workers on site Designate an emergency assembling point Establish a health and safety committee where appropriate
Exhaust emissions from equipment & vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adverse Human health Contribution to Greenhouse effect (global warming) Nuisance to workers and neighbours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recondition engine exhaust systems Proper engine tune-up Establish inspection & maintenance program for equipment 	Increased traffic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nuisance to neighbours Violation of traffic rules 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schedule delivery of materials to the site during periods of light traffic Install appropriate traffic signs Define speed limit within the yard Maintain a record of incidents and accidents Control traffic flow to and from the site
Spillage of hazardous materials like lubricants and fuel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ground water contamination through leaching Contamination of surface water through storm water run-off Soil contamination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document spill prevention procedure & response plan Off-site maintenance of fuel powered equipment and vehicles Maintain spill response kits at the site Use of drip trays when carrying out minor servicing of equipment Hazardous materials to be stored in closed containers and placed on water proof surface Minimize the quantity of hazardous materials stored at the site Provide suitable and well labelled solid waste containers Proper segregation of waste generated Reduce generation of solid waste at the source Re-use of top soil for landscaping of the site Empty packaging materials like cartons and cement bags should be piled in a safe place and sold or reused for reuse Sell used oil and scrap metals to licensed dealers Other solid waste to be collected by licensed waste handlers for appropriate disposal Provision of sanitary facilities for use by workers Provide appropriate firefighting equipment Train workers on fire fighting Ensure inspection of the fire equipment Designate a smoking zone Post No smoking signs at the storage areas for the 	Fire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of property and/or life 	

The full report of the proposed project is available for inspection during working hours at:
1. Principal Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, MHF Building, 12th Floor, Ragati Road, Upper Hill, P.O. Box 30128-00100, NAIROBI
2. Director General, NEMA, Popo Road, off Mombasa Road, P.O. Box 67839-00200, NAIROBI
3. County Director of Environment, MOMBASA COUNTY
A copy of the EIA report can be downloaded at: www.nema.go.ke
NEMA invites members of the public to submit oral or written comments within thirty (30) days from the date of publication of this notice to the Director General, NEMA, to assist the Authority in the decision-making process for the project. Kindly quote ref. no. NEMA/EIA/SP/1693
Comments can also be e-mailed to dg@nema.go.ke

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Premier League's transfer market bubble set to burst

LONDON: The financial squeeze put on Premier League clubs by the coronavirus crisis could be felt across the continent in the coming months as the well to fund massive transfer fees runs dry. For each of the past four summers, Premier League clubs have flexed their financial muscle to splurge over £1 billion (\$1.3 billion) on transfers. That has helped spread the wealth of television contracts worth billions across Europe and crucially down

the divisions to cash-strapped clubs in England. Now even the world's richest league is facing economic meltdown. Premier League matches have been suspended indefinitely with no return expected before mid-June at the earliest. Broadcasters could be due a rebate worth a reported £762 million if the season is not completed and, even when the games do recommence, they are likely to be behind closed doors, quashing income from gate receipts. **-AFP**

Depression among football stars now a major concern

PARIS: Increasing numbers of professional footballers are struggling with anxiety and depression having been forced out of action with the sport suspended due to the coronavirus pandemic, according to a report by global players' union FIFPro released yesterday. FIFPro surveyed 1,602 players across 16 countries, including England, Scotland, France, Australia and the United States, with 468 female players featured in the study. It found that 13 percent

of male players surveyed, and 22 percent of female players, reported symptoms of depression. Close to one in five of both male and female players reported symptoms of anxiety. "In football, suddenly young men and women athletes are having to cope with social isolation, a suspension of their working lives and doubts about their future," said Vincent Gouttebarge, a French former player who is FIFPro's chief medical officer. **-AFP**



Spurs' Son begins three-week military training

SEOUL: Tottenham Hotspur's South Korean striker Son Heung-min (left) began his three-week military training at a marines boot camp yesterday, a report said, with the Premier League on hold over the coronavirus pandemic. All able-bodied South Korean men are obliged to serve in the military for nearly two years, making up the bulk of Seoul's 600,000-strong forces who face off against North Korea's army

of 1.3 million. But Son was among the South Korean footballers who earned an exemption by winning gold at the 2018 Asian Games in Indonesia. The 27-year-old's Premier League season ended even before the coronavirus outbreak spread to Europe when he broke his arm against Aston Villa on February 16, and Spurs said he returned to South Korea for "personal reasons". **-AFP**

M-Bet launches simulated reality league

by Barry Silah and Elly Gitau
@PeopleDailyKE

M-Bet has launched the Simulated Reality League (SRL) in African markets through leading Sportsbook provider SportRadar.

The SRL is a new virtual sport that consists of pre-match and live (in-play) betting options using simulated sports betting technology.

Based on AI and machine learning capabilities, SRL provides a betting experience as close to real life as possible.

SportRadar is the world's leading provider for the gaming industry working with more than 500 leading operators across the world.

The sport consists of the top leagues including in England, Germany, Italy

and Spain.

With the launch of the new SRL and virtual games across Kenya, Tanzania, Democratic Republic of Congo and Zambia, customers are able to experience a unique gaming experience with low data usage. The new games are available on both android app and web, providing a better player experience and multiple play options.

M-Bet Group CEO Daniel Fischer said: "With SRL and other virtual games, M-Bet is able to continue to deliver to customers unique gaming experiences across all markets. Customers are able to engage in pre-match and 90 minutes of live betting on their favourite leagues. SportRadar technology and insights are able to provide a real gaming experience with live in-play tracker."



Allan Mushi (right), the Marketing Manager off M-Bet, rewards a past winner. PD/BARRY SILAH



A woman walks past a building with a Tokyo 2020 Olympics banner in Tokyo, Japan. PD/FILE

Doubts over Olympics

Japan virus expert 'pessimistic' Tokyo Games can be held next year

Tokyo, Monday
@PeopleDailyKE

A Japanese expert who has criticised the country's response to the coronavirus warned Monday that he is "pessimistic" that the postponed Olympics can be held even in 2021.

"To be honest with you I don't think the Olympics is likely to be held next year," said Kentaro Iwata, a professor of infectious diseases at Kobe University.

Japan and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) agreed last month to delay the Tokyo 2020 Games until July 2021 after pressure from athletes and sports federations.

But in recent days, as the coronavirus pandemic continues to spread worldwide, there have been questions about whether even a year-long delay will be sufficient.

Iwata told a press briefing that the virus would have to be under control at home and abroad for the Games to take place "because you have to invite the athletes and the audience from all over the world".

"Japan might be able to control this disease by next summer, I wish we could, but I don't think that would happen everywhere on Earth, so in this regard I'm very pessimistic about holding the Olympic Games next summer."

Iwata said he could only see the Games being held next year if they were significantly altered, "such as no audience, or very limited participation".

Iwata made headlines earlier this year for his public criticism of Japan's handling of the coronavirus-wracked Diamond Princess cruise ship that docked off the country's coast.

Japanese officials opted to carry out an on-ship quarantine, but more than 700 people on board ended up contracting the virus, and 13 died.

The decision to postpone the Olympics is unprecedented in peacetime, and followed

a wave of complaints from athletes facing travel bans and lockdowns.

The postponement is a huge undertaking, but organisers have insisted they are working towards the new opening date despite ongoing uncertainty about when the pandemic will be over.

'Speculative questions'

Asked about potential delays to the 2021 date, organisers said their "mission is to prepare the stage for next summer".

"We do not feel it is appropriate to respond to speculative questions," they told AFP.

"With regard to countermeasures against COVID-19, Tokyo 2020 and the IOC have a framework for information exchange and are cooperating closely with the World Health Organisation. We will continue to work closely with relevant organisations and review all necessary countermeasures."

Last week, Tokyo 2020 spokesman Masa Takaya told reporters at an online briefing there is "no Plan B" for the Games being postponed again. **-AFP**



Shabana FC players and coaches celebrate after securing promotion to NSL in 2018. PD/RODGERS NDEGWA

Sickly Shabana wriggling on life support machine

Considered the third most supported team in Kenya, Tore Bobe still far from returning to their days of glory as unresolved on-and-off pitch woes keep on piling daily

by Gibo Zachary
@PeopleDailyKe

For a team that prides itself for having the third largest following in Kenya, Shabana FC can be described as a giant that never realised its potential.

Established in 1980 by Kisii-based businessman Dogo Khan, Shabana was home to some of Kenya's greatest players such as Henry 'The Elephant' Motego, Henry Nyandoro, goalkeeper-turned-striker Mike Okoth, Richard Otambo, Salim Mabruk, Hussein Omar 'Tigana', Peter 'Kasskass' Kamau, Kisco Kariuki, Alfred 'Fwaya' Oloo 'Fwaya', Sammy Simiyu, Sylvester Mageni, Evans Ombuna who formed some of the best national team squads the country has ever produced.

But unlike the other two community clubs, Gor Mahia (18 titles) and AFC Leopards (12 titles), Shabana have nothing to show for their history as after brilliant displays in the 80s and 90s, they have been flirting with relegation from one division to the other since the turn of the millennium.

Tore Bobe, as they are commonly known, last tasted Premier League football in 2006 and since then, their diehard fans have been taken through a roller-coaster of emotions as they have watched their team get close to returning to KPL

27 matches after 10 wins, five draws and 12 losses.

That is a massive 29 points behind NSL leaders Nairobi City Stars, meaning they are already out of contention for a promotion place.

So when did the rain start beating them? Ex-coaches, players and fans believe mismanagement and selfishness from past and present leaders are to blame for the free-fall Tore Bobe has experienced.

They believe leaders without a vision are the reason the club has struggled to attract sponsors and top players, leading them to live a hand-to-mouth life as they rely on well-wishers,

and even sink deeper into the third tier Division One.

Most of the 14 years since their relegation from the KPL has been spent in the second tier National Super League (NSL) and that is where they currently find themselves.

Before the coronavirus pandemic brought a halt to all sporting activities in the country last month, Shabana were 10th on the 19-team league table with a paltry 35 points from



Shabana FC players Bob Mugalia (right), Ken Omunyini and Danny Shikanda during a past match in Nairobi. PD/DAVID NDOLO



A Shabana player ecstatic after scoring a goal. PD/GIBO ZACHARY

had.

Reflecting on how he managed to turn around the fortunes of the team in 2018 and guided them to promotion from Division One to NSL with meagre resources, Kanuli said he had to work some magic.

"My achievement of gaining promotion to NSL was not easy. I didn't go for big signings because obviously we did not have the resources. I relied heavily on the experience of Wycliffe Nyangechi, Bob Mugalia, Daniel Murage, Oscar Oketch, Nixon Amulundu and Dennis Ongeru all of whom were former KPL players and blended them with the other players to ensure we gained promotion," added the coach, who handled the team between January 2017 and 2018 December before being cast way unceremoniously after securing promotion.

Nick Migosi, who was Shabana team manager between 2013 and 2018, agreed with Kanuli.

"Shabana is a household name which by now could be playing in the Premier League. It's just that some officials are selfish. There are those who don't have the team at heart, they are there to benefit while some have tainted images hence to get a sponsor is a big problem," said Migosi.

"The solution for this team is simple. Start by registering members in all branches, then elections. If we do this, it won't take a season before Shabana gets a sponsor. Then get quality players and technical bench that has the team at heart. We also have raw talent in Kisii that is affordable. If all these is done, we can get promotion in a season," added Migosi, who is currently head coach Kiendege Jets FC, an KFF Division Two side based in Nyamira County.

Looking at Shabana now, it is hard to imagine they represented Kenya in the 1988 Africa Cup of Champion Clubs (now CAF Champions League). Only time will tell if they can return to such lofty heights again.

contributions from fans and singular funding from club chairman Jared Nivaton.

"Shabana needs to be in KPL like yesterday, but poor management. When you can't afford to pay players, you should not expect miracles. Proper planning before the start of the season is key. Management should look for ways of raising resources if they can't secure a sponsor then bring in quality signings, provide adequate training equipment and ensure smooth training," advised Andrew-Rix Kanuli, the most recent successful coach Shabana

Shabana stars savour the moment after victory over Hot Springs in a past match. PD/FILE

Why for some, it is happily never after

Experts give varied opinions on costly mistakes that have turned winning into a perilous road to ruin for a number of Kenyan sports stars and how to avoid the blunders

by Barry Silah
@PeopleDailyKe

Sports has been credited with changing the fortunes of athletes with some turning from paupers into instant millionaires while some are converted from virtual unknowns into overnight celebrities.

However, how they handle the instant wealth and fame varies from one person to another while for others, it has been devastating.

Stories of athletes who fell from grace have abounded galore all over the world with Kenya not being an exception.

From footballers, runners, boxers and cricket players who lived large but now cannot afford a single meal to those who rolled in luxury cars and now walk to their destinations, the stories are endless.

In 2015, Kenyans watched in disbelief when cricket great Maurice Odumbe narrated his heart wrenching story of survival on the JKL show with TV host Jeff Koinange.

"From riding in BMWs to using a boda boda, sometimes I cannot believe it Jeff," a tearful Odumbe told Koinange on the KTN show.

Odumbe's fall from grace began in 2004 when he was banned from the game for alleged match-fixing and his fortunes took a turn for the worse.

Like most sports heroes Kenya has produced, Odumbe was quickly relegated to the dustbins of history and for a man who was part of the Golden Generation that took Kenyan cricket to great heights such as the semi-final of the 2003 World Cup

and played in major tournaments, earning big buck, this was hard to take.

Odumbe—who has maintained his innocence to date—has since rebuilt his life and is back in the game, serving as Kenya's head coach but the ban took away everything he worked so hard for and it has never been the same.

Sorry athletes

Another moving story is that of boxer Kenyan boxer Suleiman Bilali, the 2000 Summer Olympics light flyweight quarter-finalist, who has been battling a mental illness after being abandoned.

In the Rift Valley, the high-altitude region that is home to the vast majority of Kenya's elite athletes, the belief in running as an escape from poverty remains prevalent, but few among the thousands of young athletes who flock to training camps each year ever make a living from running.

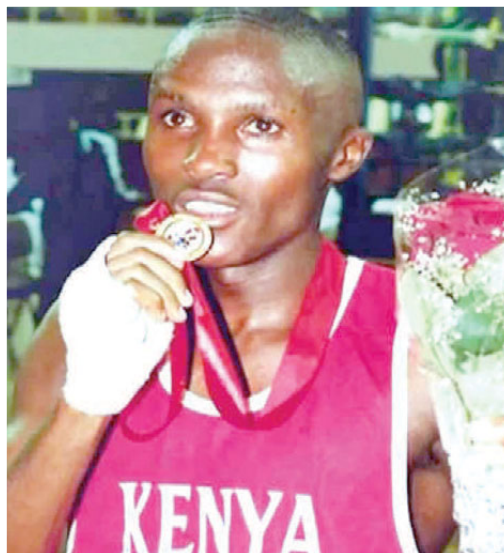
Even for those who ascend to the sport's pinnacle, long-term financial stability is rarer than most realise, even if they win one of the world's biggest marathons.

Benjamin Limo, the 2005 world champion in the 5,000 metres and a former Kenyan representative to the IAAF (now World Athletics), the sport's governing body, estimated that only 25 percent of

Pemela Jelimo wins the 800m at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, China. FILE



Athletes take off during a past race at Kasarani Stadium.
INSET: Boxer Suleiman Bilali at the height of his powers.
PD/FILE & COURTESY



A combination marital issues, poor advice and rogue managers saw her lose most of her fortunes which also affected her form and she never returned to those heights again.





the country's former top-level athletes were living in a "sustainable" manner. "More than half are really struggling," Limo told the New York Times last year.

Former 800m 2008 Olympics champion Pamela Jelimo and former Rotterdam marathon champion Duncan Kibet are among a large number of runners who lost their fortunes for different reasons.

Jelimo was the first Kenyan woman to win an Olympic gold medal and also the first Kenyan to win the now defunct Golden League Jackpot which came with a \$1 million (Sh70 million at the time).

However, a combination marital issues, poor advice and rogue managers saw her lose most of her fortunes which also affected her form and she never returned to those heights again.

For Kibet, who earned an estimated \$180,000 (Sh18 million) after clocking a personal best of 2:07:53 to win the 2009 Rotterdam Marathon, a groin injury later kept him from finishing marathons in Berlin and London.

His fitness waned, and two years after his Rotterdam triumph, he was essentially broke and out of work.

Experts attribute a number of reasons for the sudden change in fortunes for these big-

name athletes who never recover after losing their money.

"Career transition takes a real psychological blow to most athletes post-active era and to some extent end up depressed. For ages, they have put in the work and suddenly it disappears especially when sound investment was not done. It is a dicey situation considering most of them come from humble backgrounds and when they are not exposed to proper training on discipline and money utilisation, it becomes a problem in the future," sports psychologist Kanyali Ilako

Coach Maurice Odumbe, accompanied by batting coach Wynand De Ridder with the Kenyan team during a training session in preparation for the Africa T20 in Uganda last year. INSET: Odumbe walks to the pitch. PD/ PHILIP KAMAKYA



Former boxer Suleiman Bilali at past event at Nairobi's City Stadium. FILE

those based here never get that. If you follow some of the sorry tales, it all boils down to lacking a plan and purpose for their money and they are always bound to fail," said Ambani.

Boxing promoter Caleb Kuya of Osaga Promotions is also of the opinion that financial education plays a key part in an athlete's post-active era.

"In a sportsman's life, the one thing which is critical is future focus. One has to have a 'Plan B' because the life-span of an athlete is very short and could even be curtailed by things like injuries or lack of form. My concern is most of our athletes have no financial capability or reliable advisors and this always turns out really costly. At the same time, lack of humility when one gets big money also see them fall hard," said Kuya.

Sports marketer Raymond Oruo of Red House is of a different opinion, blaming the country's education system for not preparing such sportsmen for the realities of life.

"I will not be quick to judge the athletes because they are human and could fall like anybody else. However, our curriculum over the years has stifled certain aspects of development like sports. A lot of our sportsmen and women might get lucky to get early gigs especially with shrewd managers. However, almost none is taught how to manage their money unless they are based abroad," Oruo told People Sport.

told People Sport in Nairobi last week.

Sports Consultant Cynthia Mumbo of Sports Connect Africa said: "Most athletes who end up broke are more likely than not ignorant which is dangerous. If one is not taught financial discipline early in their careers, then most definitely they will fail. At the same time, I want to strongly believe that some managers and even agents take advantage of their subjects, sweep them clean and vanish."

Value of investment

However, former AFC Leopards and Harambee Stars forward Boniface Ambani, who runs a sports merchandise shop, blames most of those problems to the attitude of some athletes.

"The kind of ignorance you see around is quite worrying and the painful bit is that most of the sportsmen are not willing to take advice. There is a difference between exposed and localised athletes. Those exposed are prepared and taught the value of investment out there but



Former Rotterdam Marathon champion Duncan Kibet.

CLUB CAREER

2009-2011: Simba
2012: Muhoroni Youth
2012-2013: SC Villa
2013-2014: Western Stima
2014-2015: Sofapaka
2015-2016: Western Stima
2016-2017: Tusker FC
2017-2018: Singida United
2018-Present: Gor Mahia

How Batambuze overcame injury hurdle

After waiting for three months before securing surgery, Gor defender thanks friends for coming to his aid as he eyes June return

by Lynette Matheka

@PeopleSports11

Gor Mahia and Uganda Cranes left-back Shafik Batambuze is expecting to be back in action by June after recovering from a knee injury that saw him undergo surgery last November after an agonising three-month wait.

The 25-year-old got injured in Gor Mahia's 4-1 win against Aigle Noir of Burundi in a CAF Champions League match in August. However, the club's financial constraints saw him wait until November when he underwent surgery in Entebbe at his own cost.

Two months ago, the ace got back to light training after engaging a personal trainer who is walking the journey to full recovery with the defender. He had been given seven months to full recovery and he is confident by June, he will be ready to get back to the pitch.

"I am getting better each day and I am confident by June I will have recovered fully. I got back to the gym under a personal instructor and also went for swimming sessions until the Covid-19 pandemic made it impossible. I have since switched to home training where I do the same things, with the exception of swimming," Batambuze told *People Sport* on phone from Uganda, adding that alongside a few friends in the neighborhood, he is also able to do some football drills which have helped him regain

ball control.

He added: "I am also going for five kilometre runs every day and having sprinting sessions in my compound. Since my trainer lives in the same vicinity, he comes to my house twice a week and the rest of the days he leaves me a programme that I have to follow."

His injury, alongside those of others such as his Gor team-mate Philemon Otiemo that hit the headlines last year, brought out the sorry state of local clubs as the club was unable to help in the treatment. In the three months that Batambuze waited for the club to act as he also solicited funds to cater for the procedure, that eventually cost Sh350,000, he lost precious time.

"I do not blame the club because I understand they had no money after the shirt sponsor withdrew. However, if we had insurance, the check-up, tests and subsequent surgery would have been done within a short time and by now I would be back to playing but I lost three months as I waited. I understood the situation at the club and they promised to refund my expenses when things get better," the player said.

Two of his closest friends came to his aid when all else had failed and helped him pay for the surgery. Former Gor defender, currently playing for Egyptian Premier League side Misr El Makkasa SC, Khalid Aucho and Alex Kajubi, a Ugandan player based in Netherlands playing for Rijtersbleek FC in the Third Klasse (fourth division) were those who stood with him.

"The two are like brothers to me. We have grown up together in Jinja and they stayed true to the brotherhood when I needed them.

This is the same thing I would urge everyone who has a friend or relative playing for Gor Mahia to do. Things are tough at this time and all these players need help," said Batambuze.

To the defender, this is just a minor setback and he is working towards getting back on the pitch a better player. As his contract at Gor Mahia is set to expire in November, he believes he will be fit enough to land another deal immediately.

"I want to challenge myself to be better than I was and I am working towards that even as I recover. The challenging part was before I underwent surgery and with that behind me, I am focused on coming back better and stronger. I am a journeyman. My contract ends in November but, whatever happens, I cannot stay without a club," said Batambuze who has been in the Kenyan Premier League for close to six years, having also played for Muhoroni Youth, Western Stima, Sofapaka and Tusker before landing at K'Ogalo.

SHAFIK BATAMBUZE

Age: 25 years
Playing position: Left-back
Nationality: Ugandan
Place of birth: Jinja

INTERNATIONAL CAREER

2016-Present -
Uganda Cranes (3 appearances)

HONOURS

SportPesa Cup (2018)
KPL Super Cup (2018)
KPL title (2019)



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Gor Mahia defender Shafik Batambuze training at Everton's Finch Farm base when the club toured the UK in 2018. Top, Batambuze in action at Kasarani Stadium and below, the Ugandan against Angola's Petro Atletico in a CAF Confederations Cup game. PD/RODGEERS NDEGWA