

## We'll not quit Jubilee, but are ready for other options, say Ruto allies **PAGE 2**



### 10 more die in flooding mayhem

**P12-13** Heavy rains pounding country cause havoc in Kisumu, Kericho, Migori, Nakuru, Narok and Garissa as more people remain unaccounted for in the freak Marakwet mudslide that claimed 12, left 400 homeless. PD/VIOLEA KOSOME

# Nairobi, Mombasa risk total lockdown



**Coronavirus:** Interior Principal secretary Karanja Kibicho says government will impose more stringent measures as he blames the business-as-usual attitude in two Covid-19 epicentres for alarming rise in virus infections, which reached 296 yesterday after confirmation of 15 cases

**PAGES 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 14, 15 & 16**

#### COVID-19 HOTLINES

>719  
>0800721316  
>0729471414  
>0732353535

**296**

confirmed cases

**74** recovered

**14** deaths

**15**

tested positive in the last 24 hours, 7 males and 8 females.

**206**

cases in Nairobi

**61**

cases in Mombasa

**14,417**

total samples tested so far.

## Voluntary salary cuts in the public service **P.5**

**The President** 80%  
**Sh280,000** from a monthly salary of Sh1.44 million

**Deputy President** 80%  
**Sh240,000** from Sh1.22 million a month

**Cabinet Secretaries** 30%  
**Sh640,000** from Sh924,000 per month

**Principal Secretaries** 20%  
**Sh610,000** from Sh765,000 a month



## POINTERS



NEWS BEAT PAGE 9

**Police to oversee all burials in Kilifi county, says Kingi**



WORLD NEWS PAGE 20

**Trump reveals plan to suspend immigration to the US**

## WEATHER TODAY

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

# Ruto won't quit Jubilee for new party, says ally

Kositany says forming another outfit not in the cards, but DP's wing exploring other 'options'

by Eric Wainaina  
@PeopleDailyKe

Deputy President William Ruto allies are exploring new avenues to remain relevant in Jubilee Party even as they vowed they won't quit the ruling outfit.

Sources privy to the intrigues within the party told *People Daily* that Ruto's confidants had agreed to explore "other ways" to ensure the DP has a vehicle to run for the presidency in 2022 if their current push for control of the party collapses.

According to the source, the Ruto wing plans to brainstorm on the matter once the country contains the Covid-19 pandemic.

"We are not just sitting here...we have other options that we are exploring if our push fails," said the source.

And speaking separately, Soy MP Caleb Kositany said Ruto had no plans of forming another party despite the infighting in ruling Jubilee.

The MP, who is also Jubilee deputy secretary general, yesterday said the DP will stay put and deliver the promises he and president Uhuru Kenyatta made to Kenyans.

Ruto and Uhuru appear to have fallen out, with the party rocked by supremacy wars between their two camps. The President's relationship with his deputy was further complicated by the March, 2018 handshake between Uhuru and Opposition leader Raila Odinga, which seems to have sidelined the DP.

## Piling pressure

Kositany, a key Ruto ally, revealed that leaving the party to create another political outfit was not in the cards.

"We have no plans to form another party. We are not leaving Jubilee unless they (opponents), come with guns. If the law is applied and the Political Parties Act observed, there will be no reason for us to form another party," he told *People Daily*.

The MP was responding to calls by some party members and DP supporters, who have been piling pressure on him to quit the ruling party to avoid humiliation.

But Kositany was cagey on Ruto's next course of action, only concurring that the matter could only be dealt with after the pandemic. Should the health crisis take longer, he said, they will demand a meeting of the party National Executive Committee (NEC) to sort out the issues.

NEC, which acts as the executive body

of the National Governing Council and the National Delegates Convention, ensures all decisions made are implemented and all policies adhered to.

According to the party law, NEC also ensures proper order, discipline, and strict adherence to the party's constitution, by-laws, and party policies by all officials, members, and all organs of the party.

For the past one year, the ruling party has been caught up in high-octane infighting touching on the push for internal elections, demands for a parliamentary group meeting, and perceived sidelining of Ruto in the management of the party.

The wrangles escalated last week following a move by the wing led by Party Secretary General Raphael Tuju to change the membership of National Management Committee (NMC), a move that was Ruto and 146 MPs from both the National Assembly and the Senate. They claim the changes contravene the party constitution.

## Party constitution

The Soy MP wrote a protest letter to the Registrar of Political Parties Anne Nderitu claiming the change of officials was effected using falsified minutes, which he claims were forged by Tuju because NMC never met.

Kositany wants the Registrar to furnish him with documents including minutes of meetings allegedly held by the NMC, documents received regarding change of the party constitution as well as any filings of the Jubilee Constitution deposited with the office.

Another Ruto ally, Baringo North MP William Cheptum said the list of new officials does not bother them, but rather the manner in which they sneaked in.

Top DP allies want Tuju and party chairman Nelson Dzuya removed from the party to pave way for Kositany's ascendancy to the secretary general's post.

The Soy MP, one of the vocal Ruto loyalists in the Tanga Tanga faction of the ruling party, appeared to acknowledge that controversial Jubilee vice chair David Murathe, who has been critical of the DP, still held onto the post despite have declared that he had resigned.

"We are dealing with very dishonest people. Murathe was supposed to resign in writing but he only announced it on TV meaning he is still the vice chair. We don't have any problem with him. We can have him as the chairman because if the current chairman leaves, he will automatically become the chair and if Tuju leaves, I will be the SG," Kositany said.

Tuju and Kositany have been reading from different scripts, constantly issuing parallel statements as their backers cheer,



Deputy President William Ruto at a past event. His allies say he will stay put in Jubilee Party despite infighting. PD/FILE

## WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

● The infighting in Jubilee has been escalated by a move by the wing led by Tuju to change the membership of National Management Committee.

● Ruto and 146 MPs from both the National Assembly and the Senate have resisted the changes.

● But Tuju defended the changes, saying they were made long before coronavirus was reported in the country.

even as the actions continue to push the party into murky waters.

Tuju did not respond to our queries on the matter, but in a recent brutal rebuttal to the DP allies, he rubbished claims that he has been causing problems in the party, saying whatever has happened (changes of officials) is within the law.

He defended the changes, saying they were made long before coronavirus was reported in the country, dismissing assertions by the pro-Ruto wing suggesting the changes gazetted by the Registrar of Political Parties on April 6 were sneaked in as the country battled Covid-19.

However, a senior MP allied to the pro-Uhuru Kileweke faction warned that the silence among the President's supporters should not be misconstrued to mean they were cowards, adding that the "take-over plot" by DP allies did not stand a chance.

The lawmaker, who wished not to be named, said DP allies were fighting a losing battle.

"Remember Jubilee Party leadership sometimes back met with the Communist Party of China (CPC) leadership? The party is operating like the China's ruling party which is controlled by its leader," the MP said, suggesting that Uhuru's word was final as far as the party affairs were concerned.

Ruto allies, uncomfortable with Tuju, were at the beginning of this year fronting Mumias East MP Benjamin Washiali, for the position of party chairman.

## Murang'a tea farmers welcome new guidelines

Tea farmers in Murang'a county have lauded Agriculture Cabinet Secretary Peter Munya (pictured) for his guidelines seeking to eliminate cartels in the sub-sector.

The farmers allied to Kanyenyaini tea factory on Monday expressed their support for the remedies outlined by the CS last week, saying if fully implemented, farmers would benefit from the crop.

Last week Munya announced new rules to guide the sector and promised to investigate the Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA) over claims of exploiting farmers. Among other things, the government has outlawed the sale of tea outside the auction since this was used by KTDA barons to sell the produce cheaply to select buyers.

Registered auction organisers were also directed to establish an electronic trading platform. Factories shall be allowed to sell their tea directly at the auction and brokers will be limited to services of not more than 15 factories.

## No accountability

Led by Wambugu Gachunje, the farmers lamented that for many years, they had been losing cash to cartels and middlemen.

They criticised KTDA, saying it had failed farmers despite being entrusted to market smallholder farmers product. The farmers said there has been no accountability, transparency and fair competition in the marketing of tea.

"We thank the President and the minister for coming up with new directives aimed to increase earnings for tea farmers," said Wambugu.

Another farmer, Njeri Waitthaka said each of KTDA tea factories should have at most two directors to minimise expenditure on the directors.

"This time the country is faced by Covid-19 pandemic, there are no directors at the factories yet operations are going on well. We need only two directors per factory," she said.







# Peculiar styles some folks choose to exit this world...

Affluence, power, mystique and mystery seem forever, so some people wish for continuity even in their graves. Marvel at the following unique burials

## Highway to heaven: South African chief buried in his Mercedes Benz, hands on the wheel

Some people live their lives colourful and large and exit the stage of life in the same pomp and lustre. Three weeks ago, a South African traditional leader Tshekede Pitso left tongues wagging and heads shaking after he literally had own highway to heaven!

The illustrious and mysterious Pitso had left a command instructing his family to honour his final wish... a burial inside his trusty Mercedes Benz. Chief Pitso, 72, was driven to his final resting place on the back of a trailer dressed in his favourite white suit with both his hands on the steering wheel.

Then, funeral directors guided the 1990s E500 Mercedes down ramps and into the 'grave', which had been specially dug out by an excavator to eight feet deep, the former businessman and a father-of-six was then laid to rest with an official religious ceremony at the family funeral plot at their home in South Africa.

The high ranking United Democratic Movement politician became the talk of the nation with his bizarre funeral, which saw villagers break virus lockdown rules to attend.

Daughter Sefora Letswaka, 49, said: "My father was once a wealthy businessman and had a fleet of Mercedes cars. About two years ago, he bought himself a second-hand Mercedes Benz. It wasn't long before it broke down, but he still spent much of his time in it outside the house."

"He couldn't drive it, but that was where he was happy and spent much of his time, sitting behind the wheel and said when the time came he wanted to be buried in it. We listened to him and honoured his wish and hope he is happy looking down on us," she said after the funeral.



One brave man born under the zodiac sign of Leo was buried, appropriately enough, in this lion carving.



## Ghana: colourful way they send off loved ones

Funerals in the West Africa country are not sad, quiet, sombre occasions. The country of Nana Akufo-Addo funerals honours the dearly departed in a way you'd never expect. Instead of burying their dead in traditional coffins, they do something a lot more creative.



This mechanic made a living from a wrench, and in death, they departed together, as per his wish.



Even hawkers are celebrated colourfully. This woman was buried in a beautiful crate of apples.



This cocoa farmer was buried in a beautiful cocoa pod coffin.



It seems like there's nothing too crazy for this tradition. A teacher's coffin.



In life, this Chef prepared the best crabs in town. In death, that skill is celebrated!



Another striking and unique coffin. A pineapple casket for a pineapple farmer.



## CORONA CRISIS

# State mulls total lockdown of Nairobi, Mombasa cities

Principal Secretary warns government will move to issue stricter measures if rate of indiscipline persists

by PD Reporter  
@PeopleDailyKe

The government is considering more restrictions in Nairobi and Mombasa next week in a bid to contain the steady rise in the number of people infected by coronavirus, *People Daily* has established.

With confirmed cases rising to 296 yesterday and 14 deaths, Interior Principal Secretary Karanja Kibicho disclosed that the coronavirus emergency management team was discussing stricter measures to contain the spread of the virus that has already moved to the community transmission stage.

This stage is considered more challenging to contain by health experts because of the geographical spread which makes control and tracing complicated.

Kenya confirmed 15 new cases yesterday, seven of which were confirmed in Mombasa and six in Nairobi. Two were registered Mandera County.

Eleven of the new cases are Kenyans while four are foreign nationals. Some 545 people were tested in the last 24 hours.

"It will be an exercise in futility for us to continue with the 'business-as-usual' attitude when the infection rate is rising. We are looking at various options, including a complete lockdown of Nairobi and Mombasa," Kibicho told *People Daily* in a telephone interview.

## Hot spots

The PS said the government was particularly concerned about the big number of people blatantly breaking rules, which include wearing face masks while in public places and social distancing.

Others are a dawn-to-dusk curfew and ban on movement of people in and outside Nairobi, Mombasa, Kilifi and Kwale counties.

Other than imposing a complete lockdown on the two major cities, the government is also considering identifying hot spot estates in Nairobi and Mombasa with a view to handing down stricter movement restrictions.

"We are mapping out the hot spot estates, where we are thinking of imposing

a total lockdown so that we isolate them from areas where the situation is not bad," he said.

Kibicho said restriction on movements in Nairobi, Mombasa, Kilifi and Kwale seems not to have worked as many people have come up with various tricks to beat the system.

"If we continue behaving recklessly, as has been the case in the last two weeks, the government will have no option but ban all movement in the affected areas," Kibicho warned.

In Nairobi, the government has mapped out Kilimani (six cases), Ruaka (six) Pipeline (five), Karen (four), South C (four), Kawangware (three), Tassia (two), Utawala (four), Kitisuru (two), Parklands (two), Buru Buru (two) and Kibera (two) as some of the worst affected.

Other estates in the city identified as hot spots are Donholm, Eastleigh, Hurlingham, Lavington, Runda, Ngara, Madaraka and Kasarani, which have so far recorded one case each.

In Mombasa, the government has identified Nyalali, Bondeni, Mvita, Bamburi, Miritini, Maweni and Umoja as hot spots.

## Food crisis

Yesterday, sources told us the government was grappling with the economic implications of locking down the city including a possible food crisis that may be brought about by the decision.

However, Kibicho downplayed the concerns, saying it was better for people to suffer for a short period than lose a big percentage of the population.

"Already the government is putting in place measures to cushion the less fortunate. The government's determination is to save lives. It is better for the economy to suffer consequences for a few days than lose many people," he said.

Sources at the Interior ministry intimated that President Uhuru Kenyatta is likely to announce new stricter measures on Monday when the 21-day cessation of movement in the four hot spot counties comes to an end.

"What I know is that the government plans to extend the night curfew by 14 days while for Nairobi and Mombasa, it may impose either a complete lockdown or identify particular estates considered dangerous and close them down," said the senior security officer who cannot be named discussing sensitive security matters.

Kibicho's warning was reinforced by the



Health Chief Administrative Secretary Mercy Mwangangi speaks at Aya House, Nairobi yesterday during the daily briefing on coronavirus. PD/JOHN OCHIENG

Chief Administrative Secretary in the Ministry of Health Dr Mercy Mwangangi, who expressed concern over the widespread violation of rules set by the government.

"The spread of the virus is growing within our community and unless we change our lifestyles, we are all doomed," Mwangangi warned during the daily media briefing.

## 28,000 deaths

She particularly warned the youth against defying government directives and holding parties.

"Even in these times, we still have cynical Kenyans who hold the view that this disease is not real. This is very disturbing particularly in light of our growing numbers of infected people," Mwangangi warned.

On Sunday, Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe warned that more than 28,000 people might die from Covid-19 in Kenya if people continue to disregard measures outlined by the government to curb the spread of the disease.

"This is not a time for cat and mouse games. People who are modelling for us

## DISEASE HOT SPOTS

● In Nairobi, Kilimani has six cases, Ruaka (six) Pipeline (five), Karen (four), South C (four), Kawangware (three), Tassia (two), Utawala (four), Kitisuru (two), Parklands (two), Buru Buru (two) and Kibera (two).

● In Mombasa, the government has identified Nyalali, Bondeni, Mvita, Bamburi, Miritini, Maweni and Umoja as hot spots.

are telling us is that the number of people who will die or not die in this country will depend purely on the level of discipline that we exhibit going forward," the CS said.

"There are models that say that we could lose as many as 28,000 Kenyans as a result of this disease unless we start observing certain measures and ensure we do social distancing and other measures we have been told."

His warning followed information that a group of fake mourners travelled to Homa Bay County from Nairobi where the driver tested positive for the virus. The CS said the group bought a coffin to enable them to pass through roadblocks when traveling out of the Nairobi Metropolitan area.

On the same day, a video of a group of drunk youth who used an ambulance to take them home after daylong partying went viral, attracting the wrath of Kenyans. The youth were later arrested and quarantined at their cost.

So far, the government has arrested 455 people for flouting various guidelines and consigned them at various quarantine centres.



Chief Justice David Maraga addresses the press at the Supreme Court building yesterday. PD/KENNA CLAUDE.

# Maraga delays return of open court sessions

by Bernice Mbugua  
@BerniceMuhindi

Chief Justice David Maraga yesterday delayed the full resumption of court operations saying the move would accelerate the spread of coronavirus.

At a press conference, the Chief Justice, noted that court processes involved a lot of exchange of paperwork from advocates of offices to registry staff and to judicial officers, which, he said, could accelerate the spread of the virus.

"Both the Bench and the Bar as well as some court users comprise of many senior members that fall into the category that is considered most vulnerable to Covid-19. If

we open court hearings and require them to appear personally in court, it will be putting them in Harm's Way," he said.

Maraga said that while it was necessary to upscale court activities, it would not be wise to have open court sessions.

## Public safety

"Court proceedings can only be conducted remotely through increased use of technology since allowing court room interactions would be inimical to the interests of Kenyans as it would greatly endanger public safety," he said.

Maraga reiterated that plea-taking and urgent criminal hearings were still available.

He directed suspects in serious crimes to be presented to court for plea taking and the police to continue to release minor offenders on bond or bail, failure to which they must take suspects to court within 24 hours.

"It does not mean that we have closed down Court operations have and will never be closed. Consultations with the Ministry of Health will continue," he said.

Maraga directed presiding judges to meet with stakeholders in their work stations to determine which matters should be heard with the matter of remote hearing to start next week.



# Senior civil servants to take pay cut

Government rolls out guidelines on scheme launched by President Kenyatta on the back of coronavirus pandemic

by People Reporter  
@PeopleDailyKE

The government has released details of the implementation of the voluntary salary cuts for senior civil servants that would see the public officers earn less pay for three months.

In an internal memo by the Head of Civil Service Joseph Kinyua dated April 20, the guidelines stress on ensuring the exercise remains voluntary, gives officers serving in the constitutional commissions, independent offices, county governments and other agencies the option to join the scheme if they so wished.

Sources within government told the *People Daily* that Members of the National Assembly, Senators and judges and magistrates are ranked in these category of independent offices, who can decide to join the scheme on their own volition.

Officers targeted in the scheme the government insists should be completely voluntary, would see their salaries slashed in the months of April, May and June before a review is made.

"The voluntary salary cuts shall be for an initial period of three months with effect from April 2020. However, this is subject to

review based on the advice of the Ministry of Health on the Status of Covid-19 pandemic in this great nation," reads of part of Kinyua's letter addressed to all principal secretaries, accounting officers and chief executive officers.

According to Kinyua, the percentage deduction of the salaries shall be effected on the net package arising after statutory deductions such as the National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF), Pay As You Earn (PAYE) and the National Social Security Fund (NSSF).

While making the announcement on the voluntary salary cuts on March 25, President Uhuru Kenyatta and his deputy William Ruto have foregone 80 per cent of their monthly salaries towards efforts to fight coronavirus.

## The figures

"In sharing the burden occasioned by the present global health pandemic, over the duration of the global crisis and commencing immediately, my administration has offered a voluntary reduction in the salaries of the senior ranks of the National Executive," he then said.

Once implemented, this will see the President, who earns Sh1.44 million a month, according to figures from the Salaries and Remuneration Commission, take home Sh280,000.

Ruto who pockets Sh1.22 million a month, will be left with about Sh240,000.

Cabinet Secretaries, who take home Sh924,000 per month, will be earning Sh640,000 while Principal Secretaries currently earning Sh765,000 will get a 20 per



## VOLUNTARY PAY CUTS

● Guidelines stress on ensuring the exercise remains voluntary, gives officers serving in the constitutional commissions, independent offices, county governments and other agencies

● Government insists should be completely voluntary, would see their salaries slashed in the months of April, May and June

Head of Public Service and chairman of the Inter-Ministerial Committee Joseph Kinyua at Harambee House in a past function, flanked by the Chief of Kenya Defence Forces General Samson Mwatethe (left). PHOTO/FILE

cent pay cut to Sh610,000, while Chief Administrative Secretaries will take a 30 per cent pay cut.

SRC has not tabulated the monthly salaries of CAS, whose roles and functions are not stipulated in the constitution.

According to Kinyua, each public officer participating in the voluntary salary cuts should voluntarily authorise his or her accounting officer by a signing a given form.

Kinyua has also given civil servants below the ranks of CAS the option to decide the amount of money to be deducted.

Kinyua issued the implementation guidelines as various firms effected salary cuts on their employees as a result of effects of the coronavirus.

And yesterday, Central Organisation of Trade Unions (Cotu) secretary Francis Atwoli warned firms not to take advantage of the government's call for voluntary salary

cuts to reduce their employees' salaries.

"We are aware that some firms are already taking advantage of the whole situation to unilaterally reduce salaries of their employees. This is criminal as the President clearly said that everything has to be voluntary," he warned.

## Cushion measures

Atwoli warned that the umbrella workers' body is considering moving to court to challenge the decision by some firms to take advantage of the voluntary salary cuts to reduce their workers' pay.

The government move also comes a day after the Senate published the Pandemic Response and Management Bill, 2020 that among other things, seeks to cushion those in employment from salary cuts and businessmen from paying for trading licences and land rates.

# Cops filmed demanding bribe interdicted

by Carol Katana and Sophie Kagia  
@PeopleDailyKE

Two police officers based at the Kwale police station have been interdicted after being captured on camera demanding a bribe from a member of the public.

Kwale County police commander Joseph Nthenge who confirmed the incident said Police Constable Joash Miroro Kebande (255587) and PC Simon Peter Lumiti (111095) will appear before National Police Service (NPS) disciplinary committee to defend themselves.

The duo had been deployed at Ng'ombeni roadblock within Matuga sub-county to enforce the cessation of movement in and out of Kwale County but on April 18, they were captured collecting bribes from motorists.

"They were captured bargaining for a bribe and allowing motorists from Mombasa and others from Kwale to cross the border, this is in total contravention of the guidelines issued by the government to curb spread of corona virus and the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Act," he said.

The commander said the officers have been put on half pay with effect from April 20 and their uniforms confiscated pending the outcome of the inquiry by the NPS.

The officer has condemned the act and warn officers against taking bribe to members of the public who violent government



Police officers man a roadblock in Lamu during an operation last year. PD/FILE

directive that action will be taken against them.

"We are also warning members of the public against giving bribes to the police that they will face the law," said the officer.

This comes just a day after civil society organisations (CSO) raised alarm over increased cases of police and prisons officers being arrested in Mombasa and Kilifi counties for breaking the Ministry of Health (MoH) ban on social gathering

and closure of bars.

And in what appears as a deliberate attempt to save police from prosecution, the CSOs said officers who have been arrested violating the guidelines, were let off the hook while civilians are being sent into forced quarantine.

Commission for Human Rights and Justice (CHRJ) Executive Director Julius Ogogo claimed that security agents are leading in violation of safety measures to curb spread of Covid-19.

## Forced quarantine

He claimed that there is selective application of the law when it comes to security officers' involved in violation of the MoH guidelines on Covid-19.

"We have seen a big number of police, prison, Members of County Assemblies, Member of Parliament being arrested while taking alcohol in bars while the ban is still in force.

But we have not seen them being taken to court or forced quarantine, the question we are asking is, Why is there double standard?" he posed.

In Mombasa, two prison warders attached to the Shimo la Tewa G.K prison were arrested last week for failing to comply with legal notice No. 50 of the Public Health Act.

However, they were never taken to forced quarantine or court.

## THE PRESIDENCY



MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND COORDINATION OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENT  
DEPUTY COUNTY COMMISSIONER, KIAMBAA  
P.O. BOX 32-00900

## TENDER NOTICE

PROPOSED ASSISTANT COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE BLOCK FOR KIAMBAA  
TENDER NO: KBA/ACC/001/2019-2020

Tenders are invited for PROPOSED ASSISTANT COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE BLOCK (PHASE 1) FOR THE ACC, CIANDA IN KIAMBAA SUB-COUNTY.

Tender documents may be obtained from Kiambaa sub-County Supply Chain Management Office upon payment of non-refundable fee of Kenya shillings one thousand (Kshs 1000.00) only payable to treasury officers during official working hours.

Note that meeting the criteria indicated below as a minimum supported by relevant documents at submissions will be considered for evaluation.

- The tenderer must be registered with National Construction Authority (NCA) category 7 and above, renewal to be attached.
- The tender must be accompanied by a bid bond equivalent to 2% of the tender amount on the form of tender, and should be in form of bank guarantee from a reputable bank or PPOA approved insurance company valid for the one hundred and fifty (150) days from tender opening date.
- The tenderer must properly fill, sign and stamp the confidential business questionnaire.
- The tenderer must properly fill the tender form.
- The tenderer must attach a copy of valid tax compliance certificate.
- The tenderer must show proof of having undertaken works of similar nature in the last three years.
- The tenderer must attach a list and show proof of qualified key personalities to undertake these works.
- The tenderer to attach a list of equipment adequate to undertake the works.
- The tenderer to attach audited financial statements of the last three years.

Further, tenders from the following tenderers shall be treated as non-responsive and therefore subject to automatic disqualification.

- A tender from a tenderer whose ongoing work is behind schedule or has been issued with a default notice will be disqualified.

Tender documents in plain sealed envelope with marked number on the right hand side corner and bearing no indication of the tenderer should be addressed to:

THE DEPUTY COUNTY COMMISSIONER  
KIAMBAA SUB-COUNTY  
P.O. BOX 32-00900 KIAMBAA

And deposited in KIAMBAA SUB-COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S OFFICES tender box placed at the main entrance of administration block on or before 6<sup>th</sup> May 2020 at 10.00am.

Tenders will be opened immediately after closing date and time in the county commissioner's boardroom in the presence of tenderers or their representatives who choose to attend. Late bids will be returned unopened.

The Government reserves the right to reject any tender(s) without giving reasons for the rejection and does not bid itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

HEAD SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT  
FOR: DEPUTY COUNTY COMMISSIONER  
KIAMBAA COUNTY





An elderly woman leaves Temple Road Primary School in Nyeri, where she collected her Inua Jamii cash stipend, yesterday. Some of those who turned up were not wearing face masks despite being more vulnerable to Covid-19. PD/JOSEPH KING'ORI



Thika West OCPD Beatrice Kiraguri washes hands at the Kevian Kenya Limited in Thika, yesterday. With her is the factory manager Njenga Kariuki. PD/MATHEW NDUNG'U



Joseph Yawatoti (right) teaches children how to repair a fence at his home at Chania estate in Nyeri town, yesterday. Yawatoti has taken the initiative to teach young people life skills as schools remain closed. PD/JOSEPH KING'ORI

A mini-bus loaded with cargo at OTC bus termini, Nairobi. Owing to travel restrictions, some public service vehicles plying Mombasa Road are now only ferrying goods in and out of the locked counties.

PD/PHILIP KAMAKYA



## WORLD UPDATE

- 1 President Donald Trump says he will suspend immigration to the US to fight virus and protect jobs
- 2 The US President gave no further details on the plan, which is expected to draw legal challenges.
- 3 Deaths in England and Wales are at a 20-year high.
- 4 UK government advisers meet to discuss whether the public should be told to wear face masks.
- 5 Virgin Australia, which Sir Richard Branson's group part-owns, enters administration.
- 6 Sir Richard is also seeking loans for Virgin Atlantic and has offered his island as collateral.
- 7 Cases continue to grow exponentially in Singapore, mostly among the migrant worker community.



ABOVE: Kisii Governor James Ong'wa receives a masks donation from Kisii National Polytechnic chair Kisilu Kitainge yesterday. The institution donated 5,000 face masks for distribution to residents. PD/ROBERT OCHORO

LEFT: Police officer Stephen Ronoh helps Esther Wanjiru sanitise her hands before receiving food donation from Sirikwa Quarry Ltd at Langas, Eldoret yesterday. PD/JIMMY GITAKA

Police officers carry out checks to ensure motorists are wearing face masks at the Nyali Bridge in Mombasa, yesterday. Those without masks were arrested. PD/BONFACE MSANGI



Safaricom M-Pesa senior manager Sheila Cheyne explains to Simon Mbata, a matatu conductor, how to use the mobile money services to charge bus fare. The cashless system is critical in combating the spread of coronavirus. PD/TABITHA MBATIA





Council of Governors chairman Wycliffe Oparanya, his deputy Mwangi wa Iria (second left) and other officials address the press in Nairobi recently. PD/BERNARD MALONZA

# Ministry gives in to CoG pressure on employment

Counties have their way in recruitment of staff after tussle with PSC over the mandate to shortlist and dismiss staff

by George Kebaso  
@PeopleDailyKe

The Government has bowed to pressure from the counties on the hiring of health workers after weeks of wrangling over employment mandate.

In a letter to Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe and copied to the Council of Governors, Chief Executive Officer dated April 14, the Public Service Commission (PSC) called on Governors to forward the list of counties that require its intervention in terms of short-listing and recruitment.

"In the meantime, the list of applicants for the fully constituted boards will be forwarded to the respective County Public Service Boards and copied to you," wrote PSC Secretary and CEO, Simon Rotich.

He also indicated in the letter that the Commission had segregated the data per cadre and county preference, in order to fast track the process of recruitment.

Three weeks ago, PSC advertised 5,500 positions for contractual health workers in readiness for the implementation of the Universal Healthcare Coverage, but majorly for now, to help in the fight against the spread of coronavirus following President Uhuru Kenyatta's announcement.

But this did not go down well with the governors who reacted angrily claiming the national government wanted to assume the responsibility of hiring healthcare personnel which is a prerogative of counties since health was a devolved function.

A day after the PSC advert, angry CoG chairman, Wycliffe Oparanya, asked the Health CS and PSC chair, Stephen Kirogo to call off the exer-

cise and allow counties do it.

"County governments note with utmost concern that the Public Service Commission is advertising positions on behalf of the county governments. Kindly note that this will not work since the function of hiring staff is a preserve of the county public service boards," he wrote in a strongly worded letter.

Oparanya, the Kakamega Governor accused the national government of going back on an agreement to allow counties recruit the staff. "It is important to note that under Schedule Four of the constitution, health is a devolved function and recruitment of such staff can only be undertaken by the county public service boards," he added.

This resulted in the Commission backtracking on its plan to hire the healthcare workers. The Commission announced in the letter to the CS and CoG that it had completed the list of applicants for the fully constituted boards for the recruitment of UHC health workers

"As you are aware, the advert for the recruitment of over 6000 health workers is closing on 16th April, 2020. The Commission has so far received 61000 applications for the various positions as per the attached advert," wrote Rotich.

## THE NURSES FALLOUT

● CEO Simon Rotich in a letter dated April 14 called on Governors to forward the list of counties that requires its intervention

● PSC had advertised for 5,500 positions for contractual health workers in readiness for the Universal Healthcare Coverage

● CoG chairman Oparanya accused the national government of going back on an agreement to allow counties recruit the staff

## BRIEFLY

### Ongwae suspends levying of traders

Kisii County yesterday suspended taxes for small scale traders, Public Service Vehicles (PSV) and boda bodas for three months to cushion them against the adverse effects of corona virus. Governor James Ongwae also waived penalties for Single Business Permit, effective from April to June, stressing the Covid 19 has affected the traders and operators. Ongwae said PSV and boda boda operators will not pay for monthly stickers and traders ferrying vegetables, fruits and bananas within the county will not pay cess, adding it ease their suffering. - Robert Ochoro

### Digitise Judiciary, Havi urges State

The President of the Law Society of Kenya (LSK) Nelson Havi wants the government to adequately fund the Judiciary to enable it fully digitise. He told the media after lengthy deliberations with the President of the High Court, Lady Justice Lydia Achode, that he was impressed by measures put in place by the Judiciary to facilitate resumption of hearing of cases today at the Milimani High Court and other stations. Havi said the Judiciary has assured litigants, lawyers and members of the Bench that safety measures set by the Ministry of Health would be observed.

- Alphonse Mungahu

## AG challenges bid by lawyers to void State curfew dates

by Bernice Mbugua  
@PeopleDailyKe

Attorney General Kiara Kariuki yesterday opposed a petition filed by the Law Society of Kenya challenging the publication of curfew rules published in newspapers as Public Health (Covid 19) Restriction of Movement of Persons and Related Measures Rules 2020.

Kariuki, through deputy chief state counsel Emmanuel Bitta, argues that LSK council is yet to assume office as set out under the LSK Act and thus the current proceedings should be struck out.

He said the rules on Covid-19 restriction of movement of persons

and related measures have legal presumption of constitutionality.

"LSK admits that the rules were published on April 6 and also on April 10 in the *Daily Nation* which admission contradicts the petitioner's allegation that the same have not been available to the public," he argued.

LSK in its suit papers argued that the said regulations were published without being tabled in Parliament, hence some sections of it need to be suspended from being implemented as is.

The lawyers' body wants the Ministry of Health to supply vulnerable groups including street families with free masks in a bid to stop the spread of coronavirus.

LSK claims there is no copy of the Gazette Notice on the Kenya Law Reports website, and accused the Health CS for acting in breach of rules requiring easy accessibility of a regulation or laws to the general public.

BITTA



Admission contradicts petitioner's allegation

## COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF LAIKIPIA



### LAIKIPIA COUNTY ASSEMBLY SECOND ASSEMBLY - FOURTH SESSION

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### THE LAIKIPIA COUNTY DISASTER MANAGEMENT BILL, 2019 SUBMISSION OF MEMORANDA

Pursuant to Article 196(1)(b) of the Constitution of Kenya, Section 24 of the Laikipia County Public Participation Act 2014 and Standing Order 120(3), the Committee on Labour, Social Welfare and Community Services herein invites interested Members of the public, investors, Civil Society Organizations, Community Based Organizations, Faith Based Organizations, Non-Governmental Organisations and special interest groups to submit memorandums on the Laikipia County Disaster Management Bill, 2019.

The written and signed memoranda on the Bill may be submitted to the Clerk of Laikipia County Assembly, P.O. Box 487-10400, Assembly Building 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Nanyuki or by email to:- [assembly@ca.laikipia.go.ke](mailto:assembly@ca.laikipia.go.ke) to be received on or before Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2020. The Bill is also available in the following Assembly's Website - <http://www.laikipiaassembly.go.ke>;

J. Mutuiru

CLERK OF THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY

PSC SECRETARY,  
SIMON ROTICH



In the meantime, the list of applicants for the fully constituted boards will be forwarded to the respective County Public Service Boards and copied to you



## CORONA CRISIS

# Mombasa leads in new Corona cases, says CAS

Medic says spike occasioned by slow response in isolation of contacts, adherence to social distancing guidelines

by Murimi Mutiga  
@murimimutiga

Mombasa county has reported seven more coronavirus case, with health experts saying the spike could escalate in coming weeks.

Health Chief Administrative Secretary (CAS) Dr Mercy Mwangangi said yesterday during the daily Covid-19 briefing that for the third day in a row Mombasa topped the number of new infections.

She said the National Emergency Response Committee on Covid-19 has established local transmission as the source of the new infections.

"Of the 15 news cases, seven are from Mombasa. Indeed its true we are seeing rise of cases in Mombasa," she said.

The county now has 61 cases with Nairobi recording 206.

## Establish centres

The new cases have been reported in Nyal, Bamburi, Bondeni, Mvita and Mirini. This means the cases are now spread in all the six sub-counties of Mvita, Nyal, Kisauni, Likoni, Changanwe and Jomvu.

A doctor who is a member of the County Emergency Response on Covid-19 Committee said yesterday that the spike had been occasioned by slow response in isolation of contacts of previously reported cases and adherence to social distancing guidelines.

The doctor who spoke on condition of anonymity because he is not the spokesman of the committee said the county had established more isolation centres in readiness for the surge in

new infections.

"We are anticipating that in the coming two weeks, the number of cases could rise to unprecedented levels. That is why we have established more isolation centres," he said.

The doctor said people in Mombasa took long to adopt the Covid-19 guidelines thus leading to the widespread infections.

"We have a large number of poor people in the city who must go to work to earn a living. We are pushing for speedy isolation, strict enforcement of social distancing regulations which people are still not taking seriously," he said.

Civil society organisations yesterday also raised concerns over the level of compliance with the Covid-19 guidelines, blaming security agents for exacerbating the spread of the virus.

Commission for Human Rights and Justice (CHRJ) claimed that police had taken advantage of the pandemic to fleece the public using the coronavirus guidelines.

## Pay bribes

CHRJ executive director Julius Ogogo said motorists were paying bribes at roadblocks erected at the borders of Kwale, Mombasa and Kilifi to pass in total violation of a ban on movement in and out of the counties.

On Monday, Mombasa Governor Hassan Joho said "the level of sheer irresponsibility demonstrated by residents in the county is to blame for the rise in the number of infections."

Joho, who spoke in Changanwe where he launched the first phase of Covid-19 household distribution of food relief targeting 50,000 families expressed worries that the resort city could overtake Nairobi with the number of infections if residents do not adapt quickly to the Covid-19 guidelines.

County Commissioner Gilbert Kitiyo claimed residents were still shaking hands and others boarding



## IN SUMMARY

● Health Chief Administrative Secretary Dr Mercy Mwangangi said yesterday during the daily Covid-19 briefing that for the third day in a row Mombasa topped in the number of new infections.

● On Monday, Mombasa Governor Hassan Joho said "the level of irresponsibility demonstrated by residents in the county is to blame for the rise in the number of infections."

Mombasa Governor Hassan Joho (right) with County Commissioner Gilbert Kitiyo (second right) and other officials during the launch of the relief food distribution programme on Monday. PD/BONFACE MSANGI

matatus packed to capacity.

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

Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe has warned that Mombasa was crossing the red line and efforts must be made to stop the spread of the virus.

He said the virus has spread in almost every estate in the county.

Coronavirus originated from Wuhan, China, before spreading fast across over 200 countries leaving more than 2.5 million people infected and 171,843 others dead by yesterday.

The number of recoveries was at 657,808 while the number of active cases stood at 1,669,334.

# Wamatangi urges leaders to help State fight virus

by Mercy Mwai  
@wangumarci

Kiambu Senator Kimani Wamatangi has asked elected leaders and well-wishers to help the government fight the spread of coronavirus, which has so far claimed 14 lives.

Wamatangi said any help, especially to the most venerable in the society, would play a key role in taming the spread of the virus, even as he asked regional governments to prudently use the available resources in the fight.

The senator also warned county bosses against embezzling funds, which they have set aside to fight the pandemic.

Wamatangi (below), a member of the Senate Public Accounts Committee, said an audit will be carried out and whoever will have used the unfortunate crisis to enrich themselves will be punished.

## Defeat virus

"We as leaders and people of goodwill should try and assist the government in taming the spread of the virus so that we can defeat it as fast as possible," he said.

The senator has in the past three weeks, through his Wamatangi Foundation, been spraying public places across the county, mostly trading centres and open-air markets and also ferrying water to informal settlements.

"Let us complement the government so that we can alleviate the situation even as we continue to urge Kenyans to adhere to the government directives," he said.



61

The total cases of coronavirus infections reported in Mombasa county. The Coast county is among the regions with leading cases. The others are Nairobi, Kilifi and Kwale.



Travellers board a bus at JKIA to various quarantine facilities last month. The facilities seek to help stop the spread of coronavirus.

PD/FILE

# Ministry probes claims of escape from quarantine

by Noah Cheploen  
@cheploennnoah

The government has launched investigations into claims that about 50 people escaped from the Kenya Medical Training College (KMTCC) quarantine centre in Nairobi even as the number of Coronavirus cases rose to 296 after 15 more people tested positive yesterday.

Health Chief Administrative Secretary (CAS) Dr Mercy Mwangangi told journalists during yesterday's daily briefing that they were aware of the matter, and the Ministry of Interior had taken it up.

"We have received reports from KMTCC and we have seen news circulating in the social media and we have activated channels through the Ministry of Interior that are following up this matter... we will be able to update you once all information is collected..." she said.

The CAS urged Kenyans to take seriously the curfew regulations, saying it was not meant to punish them but to contain the disease and protect their lives.

Addressing the press on a day when shortage of testing kits and its components started showing after the number of those tested in 24 hours dropped from about 1,300 to 545, Mwangangi expressed confidence that the issue will be resolved soon.

## Expand capacity

"... We are facing a challenge with regards to some of the sample kits such as nasopharyngeal swabs and that is why you're seeing our numbers in terms of samples tested reducing..." she said.

On Monday, Health CS Mutahi Kagwe said the government had expanded its testing capacity to cover all the 47 counties in a

bid to reach more people.

"In the last 24 hrs we have tested 545 samples out of which 15 persons have tested positive for coronavirus... 11 are Kenyans while four are foreigners," said Mwangangi, adding that out of the 15, seven are from Mombasa, while Nairobi and Mandera have six and two, respectively.

And in what could provide a ray of hope in the fight against Covid-19, five more patients were discharged from hospital, bringing the total number of recoveries to 74.

Among them are two patients who were admitted to Nakuru's Level 5 Hospital isolation centre.

"We are happy to announce that two Covid-19 patients in Nakuru county have recovered and have been released from our isolation facility. We thank God that we have no coronavirus case in Nakuru," Governor Lee Kinyanjui told the press.



# Can Coast health facilities handle the rising cases?

Mombasa Governor says county has enhanced the capacity of Coast General Hospital with a booster of Sh64m medical equipment

by Reuben Mwambugu  
@reubenmwambugu

Since the first case of coronavirus was reported in the country, the Coast region alongside the Nairobi Metropolitan Area have been on the focus as leading hot spots in the country.

With numbers soaring in Mombasa county which is currently under partial lockdown, alongside neighbouring Kilifi and Kwale counties, the region's level of preparedness and capacity to handle patients in case of an explosion remains a cause for worry.

Mombasa has so far recorded 61 cases. On Monday, the Ministry of Health confirmed that the cases are now spread in four out of the six sub-counties in Mombasa where Nyali is leading with 11 cases that spread from the crowded slum settlements of Maweni in Kongowea to up market areas of Nyali in Mamba and Tamarind villages.

Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe also announced seven new cases in Mombasa on Monday, three from Bondeni being part of contacts traced from a herbalist who succumbed to the virus and other cases in Miritini and other areas.

Ministry of Health Chief Administrative Secretary (CAS) Dr Mercy Mwangangi yesterday announced seven more new cases in Mombasa.

Governor Hassan Joho and County commissioner Gilbert Kitiyo, who co-chair the county emergency response committee on Covid-19, say the county has enhanced the capacity of Coast General Teaching and Referral Hospital with additional medical equipment worth Sh64 million.

"We have also expanded service delivery spectrum in battling coronavirus to include both maternity and psychiatric cases," said the governor.

Coast General hospital chief execu-

tive Dr Iqbal Khandwalla said initially the county started with an 18-bed isolation ward at the hospital's private wing "which is now full".

Khandwalla said part of the hospital has now been converted into a total Covid-19 medical centre with a 150-bed capacity.

"The hospital is now prepared with about 60 beds for handling moderate cases, 30 beds to handle critical care up to ventilator support and in this case we did not forget to set up a maternity ward because we can also get maternal cases that are Corona positive and we are going to treat them separately; we also have a separate theater in case of Cesarean sections. If there are surgical cases that are Covid-19 positive they are going to be handled in that theater," said the executive.

Khandwalla added that they have also set up a centre for psychological and psychiatric patients which is separate from the main hospital.

"We have also thought of the staff who may also get infected..." he said.

"But as we know these cases may be even more than our capacity. But this could stop the gap as we look into establishing a 300-bed capacity Covid-19 hospital at the Technical University of Mombasa," he added.

## Defy measures

But despite these efforts, Governor Joho has expressed concern over the level of irresponsibility demonstrated by residents in the county.

"It appears some people do not care at all. We 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," lamented Joho.

County Commissioner Kitiyo observed that despite the soaring cases, some residents are defying the issued health measures with some shaking hands and others boarding matatus packed to capacity.

"Now as you can see cases in Nairobi are slowing down and here in Mombasa they are surging," said Kitiyo.

In Kilifi county, which has 10 positive cases, Governor Amason Kingi said they will embark on mass testing of residents



next week on Sunday.

"We will start with healthcare workers and then staff at the government offices who have been interacting with the health officials. From there we will target those who interact with many people such as the boda boda operators and traders in the markets," said Kingi.

## Minimise spread

He warned residents against celebrating the "few cases", saying it is still too early.

"Once we carry out mass testing we will know the extent of the spread of cases in this region," Kingi said.

"For now the county has a population of more than 1.5 million people and those tested are only 156 and we cannot use that as yardstick to claim that Kilifi is out of danger," he added.

In an effort to scale down the spread of coronavirus in the county, the administration has also launched two sanitiser booths, one at Kwa Jiwa market and the other at Kilifi General Hospital main gate.

"The two, each with a capacity to spray over 50 people per second, prove to be the most effective way of disinfecting major public places offering essential services such as our markets and hospitals. As a county government, we are putting more emphasis on preventive measures to ensure we minimise the spread of this virus," said Kingi.

The county has only four ICU beds at the Jibana isolation centre and plans are on course to install another four ICU beds

**Mombasa county health officers during a familiarisation tour at the Covid-19 isolation rooms at Coast General Hospital last month. PD/FILE**

## IN SUMMARY

● **Mombasa Governor Hassan Joho says they county has enhanced the capacity of Coast General Teaching and Referral Hospital with additional medical equipment worth Sh64 million.**

● **Tana River county has a capacity to handle only two severe cases given that there are only two ventilators at the Hola hospital.**

a Mbuji isolation centre.

Tana River county has a capacity to handle only two severe cases given that there are only two ventilators at the Hola Referral hospital isolation centre which has 15-bed capacity.

"However we have a 14-bed capacity at Ngao and 15 more will be set up in Bura," said county communication director Steve Juma.

In Kwale, which is also under partial lockdown after reporting one case, Governor Salim Mvurya said they have a 21-bed capacity although sources privy to the details of the matter said the county has just 12 beds in all isolation centres.

## Guard selves

Mvurya has seemingly only been active in distributing food donations as projected on his social media accounts.

On Monday, the governor took to social media to celebrate and congratulate citizens for maintaining zero cases "in yet another week gone".

"Another week gone without a new COVID-19 infection in our County. This is commendable to all citizens who observe hygiene regulations and heed to the advice of our public health officers... We also thank God for his protection.

"I urge all of us to continue with the spirit of guarding ourselves from this disease," he said.

The governor added that health practitioners would be provided with more PPEs this week.



Kilifi Governor Amason Kingi at a past event. PD/FILE

## Police to oversee all burials in Kilifi, says Kingi

All burial ceremonies in Kilifi county will henceforth be supervised by police in new measures to contain the spread of Covid-19.

Governor Amason Kingi said it would be an offence for any family to bury their kin without notifying the police, and ordered village elders and Nyumba Kumi ambassadors to ensure strict compliance with the directive.

Speaking to journalists in Kilifi town, the governor said the measures are meant to stop the spread of the deadly virus following the confirmation of 10 cases in the coastal county.

Kingi, who was accompanied by County Commissioner Magu Mutindika, said bodies removed from public and private

morgues will have to be accompanied by police to the burial sites while village elders and Nyumba Kumi ambassadors will have to notify the police before any burial of those who die at home can take place.

"Whenever a person dies at home, village elders and Nyumba Kumi ambassadors will have to notify the police, who must be present during the burial to ensure social distancing and other directives are followed," he said.

The measures come amid continued defiance by many Kenyans to obey the directives issued to stop the spread of Covid-19.

"If you are keen on attending the burial of your loved one, you may be the next person to be buried after contracting the

disease," said Kingi.

The governor also warned residents against congregating in *mnazi* (local brew) drinking dens.

"Despite our directives, we recently found more than 200 people taking *mnazi* in one drinking den.

"What is more worrying is that they were sharing drinking containers and straws, a very sure way of spreading to virus," he lamented.

Kingi added that his administration had contracted a garment-making company in Mtwapa to produce face masks that would be distributed free of charge to locals, starting with boda boda operators and traders. -KNA



# EDITORIAL

A PUBLICATION OF MEDIAMAX NETWORK LIMITED

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People Daily is published by MEDIAMAX NETWORK LIMITED at DSM Place, Kijabe Street, P.O. Box 24943, 00100 - Nairobi,

Tel: 0730144100; 0709824000; 0204944100

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

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## QUOTED TODAY



AMASON KINGI

**“If you insist on attending the burial of your loved one, you may be the next person to be buried after contracting the disease and spreading it to your close family members.”**



MARTHA WANGARI

**“We shall audit every penny donated towards fighting the coronavirus pandemic because there are concerns that some people might embezzle the funds.”**



ANTHONY FAUCI

**“Clearly this is something that is hurting from the standpoint of economics... but unless we get the virus under control, the real recovery economically is not going to happen.”**

## Coronavirus, locusts harbingers of hunger

The country's major focus is the battle against the coronavirus which has turned the lives of Kenyans upside down. There are concerns the effects on the economy will be devastating.

Key businesses have closed shop and sent employees home. This would have far-reaching consequences on family incomes. Economic activities in key industries, including the agricultural sector, have been disrupted.

Trading at the Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE), was hit as soon as the first case of coronavirus was reported, forcing some investors to dispose of their stake in panic. The total market capitalisation shrunk by Sh120 billion.

The tourism sector, one of the critical drivers of the economy, has been most hit, with dozens of hotels forced to close, a move largely attributed to the international travel restrictions. The dwindling incomes and disruption of agricultural activities will have considerable effects on food security. The matter is complicated by the invasion by desert locusts which affected various regions in the past four months.

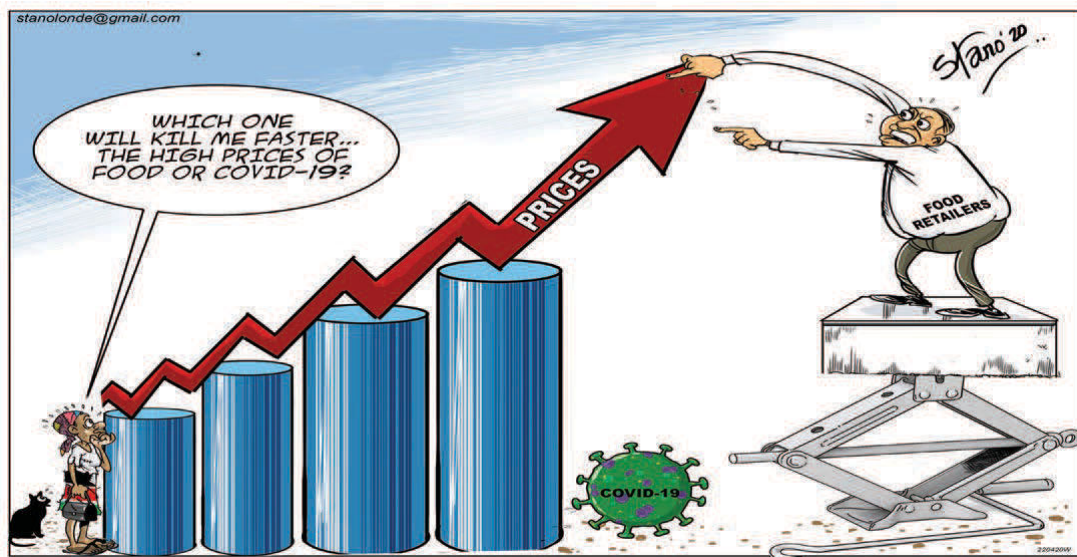
### The twin enemies

Already, there is an ominous warning about the food security status. Strategic Food Reserve chair Noah Wekesa has sounded the alarm the country may face a crippling food shortage. He says the grain stores have no stock.

The World Food Organisation has also warned of a possible second wave of locust invasion in six months, which may cause more destruction. The agency says two new generations of locusts are set to descend on Eastern Africa in June, before heading to Asia. And it is too late, according to FAO, to stop the locusts from spreading in less than six months. The agency is also concerned the chemicals used to fight the locusts could kill wildlife and ruin food supplies. Despite the warning, East Africa seems unprepared to deal with the threat.

The Health ministry has indicated the battle against coronavirus is far from being won and that it could stretch into August.

Clearly, the virus and the locust invasion are twin enemies with a strong bearing on food security. Experts have cautioned the post-Corona trauma will drain families and businesses as they struggle to regain their footing. That is why the government must come up with measures to cushion thousands of families from the impending food shortage.



## What we need do to ensure stability after pandemic

Where will we be in the next six months? One year? What will we be doing differently post-Covid-19 and how do we thrive? The Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted our way of life. These changes will stay with us for a long time to come and we must adapt swiftly.

The impact of the virus has also unsettled business. It has caused shocks on both the supply and demand sides as countries restrict movement. This has disrupted the global supply chain and, in turn, posed a challenge to industries seeking inputs. Lack of inputs means decreased production and job losses. Consequently, this affects the demand for goods and services as consumer spending decreases.

To sustain their economies, countries have now been forced to trade within themselves or with regional partners as global trade decreases. For instance, Japan is funding its companies to shift their operations back home. This is because the country was starved of supplies as China shut down factories in a bid to curb the spread of the virus. Locally, with China being one of the country's biggest trading partners, Kenyan manufacturers have also faced challenges in sourcing inputs.

Other sectors of the economy have not been spared this disruption. Limitation in the movement of goods has led to delays in importation of critical medical essentials. To avert this, the government announced that the products will be sourced locally. To this end, the textiles and apparels sector is now making fabric for use in the sewing of masks



PHYLLIS WAKIAGA

**“This crisis calls for a new way of thinking on matters policy.”**

to be used by both the public and medical personnel. KAM's Automotive Sector teamed up to develop a ventilator. The sector brought together experts from various fields, including programmers and medical and automotive engineers, to develop a ventilator that can be used by local hospitals in the treatment of Covid-19 patients. Their design can be used everywhere in the country, as it uses a battery, hence can run even where there is no power.

The manufacturing sector is also proactive in ensuring that there is no supply gap of the essential products. Some manufacturers have changed their production lines to produce hand sanitisers whereas others have continued to support their communities with hand washing kits, soap and water tanks.

Although Covid-19 has demonstrated Kenya's unity, it has also brought to light the dangers of over-relying on imports instead of building resilient industries. The supply chain gaps we are currently facing demonstrate the urgent need to develop and nurture our local value chains into vibrant sectors that will cater

for most, if not all, of our needs. This will, in turn, lead to job creation and poverty alleviation while increasing government revenue.

Our survival during and after this crisis depends on the structures we put in place. We expect that even after this crisis, the government will put in place measures that drive development and the most effective adaptations and safeguards to economic activity with or without a pandemic. This means putting in place growth-oriented, stable and predictable policies that will encourage investments in all sectors of the economy.

Government needs to fast-track the finalisation of Local Content Guidelines, approval of Local Content Policy and expanding the scope of Local Content Bill to feature all sectors within manufacturing. The implementation of the above will not only ensure sustainable local value chain integration but also reduce industrial and trade risks arising out of external shocks.

Sustainable economic growth will depend on how we react to the changes brought about by this crisis. The economic pressure accompanying it has expanded our imagination and scope by pushing us to develop measures to cushion ourselves. This calls for a new way of thinking on matters policy—we must develop policies and structures for all sectors that will consistently work for the country.

— The writer is CEO, Kenya Association of Manufacturers  
— ceofkam.com.co.ke

### THOUGHT OF THE DAY

NORMAN BORLAUG

**“Civilisation as it is known today could not have evolved, nor can it survive, without an adequate food supply.”**



# Joint corporate efforts shot in the arm in Covid-19 war

When I recently saw a testimonial online from Regina Awinja, a resident of Kibera in Nairobi, thanking Kenya Pipeline Company (KPC) for giving her and her family free hand sanitiser, I knew the sense of unity and collaboration shown by public and private institutions in the fight against Covid-19 is beginning to bear fruit.

Awinja went ahead to challenge all to ensure that each household in Kibera and other informal settlements have sanitisers. Her story resonates with millions of Kenyans as the nation comes to terms with the most demanding public health crisis of our time.

About a month ago after the first coronavirus case was confirmed in the country, President Uhuru Kenyatta tasked KPC to liaise with select oil industry firms and other private sector players to produce alcohol-based hand sanitisers on behalf of government for free distribution to the public, especially the low-income and vulnerable groups as one way of preventing the spread of the virus. Kenyans will recall that around this time, the World Health Organization (WHO) had declared Covid-19 a global pandemic and recommended the use of soap and



MACHARIA IRUNGU

**We have been humbled by a national character that is emerging**

water or alcohol-based sanitisers to clean hands.

The process of producing the sanitiser is ongoing and so far, some 500,000 litres have been produced in various blending facilities in Mombasa and Nairobi, out of which about 400,000 litres have been delivered to all the 47 counties through County Commissioners and governors for onward free distribution to Covid-19 high-risk areas, especially the informal settlements, markets, and other places that Kenyans frequent for essential services.

So far, the free sanitiser has been distributed by KPC staff and other community organisations in Mukuru, Lunga Lunga, Korogocho, Kibra, Mathare, Githogoro, Gikomba, Karura, Lang'ata Women's Prison, Kamiti Maximum Security Prison, among other areas, as the fight against Covid-19 enters critical phase. There are also plans of providing sanitisers to key health facilities in the forefront fighting the deadly virus such as

Mbagathi Hospital and Kenyatta National Hospital.

As KPC continues to spearhead this assignment, we are humbled by a national character that is emerging. Kenyans and some institutions have come together to secure the nation's prospects. The corporate solidarity that we have witnessed where businesses are putting their resources together to fight the disease are admirable and should be emulated.

Oil marketing companies such as Vivo Energy, Total Kenya, Ola Energy, Kenol Kobil, Pwani Oil, Sepyanna Oil East Africa and Solvochem East Africa have provided their blending plants and technical expertise at no cost to package the hand sanitisers for the public. Other notable brands such as EABL, Bollere Logistics, Maersk Kenya, BAT, Coca Cola and Kenya Railways have all readily offered to store and transport these sanitisers to all the 47 counties across the country. Many others have also provided their ideas and solutions

to ensure Kenyans who cannot afford sanitisers get some. We are still appealing for more support because the war is far from over.

As the old adage says, prevention is better than cure. Our authorities and public health experts have said the best, simplest ways to prevent the spread of Covid-19 which has claimed more than 140,000 lives around the world is to maintain high standards of hygiene—wash your hands with soap and water; cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze; and avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. These coupled with maintaining social distance and staying home constitute superior preparedness.

In the words of Roger Crawford, an American businessman and politician, being challenged in life is inevitable but being defeated is optional. As a nation like the rest of the world, Covid-19 has challenged us into new thinking. But with the unprecedented collaborations coming out to augment government's efforts, our best days lie ahead.

Let us all rally together as a nation and be part of the global solidarity to defeat corona.

—The writer is the Managing Director, Kenya Pipeline Company

## STREET TALK

### MP's fast discovery that he is not above the law

An MP in Nairobi has learned the hard way that he subject the law. He suffered a set-back at the weekend when police raided a bar he owns and arrested patrons for breaching government order for closure of bars to tame the spread of coronavirus. The MP had his operation licence withdrawn and the building which houses the bar shut. This comes hot on the heels of his arrest for breaching the dusk-to-dawn curfew. What's worse, his employees who run a wines and spirits shop he owns have been arrested and put on forced quarantine.

### Photoshop gone awry for Central Woman Rep

A controversial Woman Representative from a Central Kenya county is at her wits end on how to manage her mess after her supporters distorted pictures showing a nominated senator donating foodstuff to residents and portrayed them as hers. Her supporters were circulating the distorted photos in the county's Facebook pages purporting that the Woman Rep has been distributing food aid. But she was called out after some "Facebook spies" produced the original photos.

### Governor on spot over shoddy isolation centre

A governor in Luo Nyanza region is on the receiving end for putting up a shoddy coronavirus isolation centre in his county. In an apparent bid to deflect blame from his office, the combative governor offered to take journalists to visit the site. The matter is reportedly under investigation by the Directorate of Criminal Investigations over corruption.

### High octane politics rocks Nyanza county

Not even coronavirus can stop politicking in some counties, or so it appears. In a Nyanza county, some senior leaders are using selfish MCAs to divide residents. The governor is troubled as his rival, who is eyeing his seat in 2022, misses no opportunity to rubbish his efforts. In the wake of Covid-19 outbreak, everything the governor does is criticised.

# Let leaders play their part to stop pandemic spread

As the government works around the clock to contain the coronavirus pandemic, there are some Kenyans who have been undermining the very efforts. There have been cases of people arrested for locking themselves in bars or holding house parties, against government measures banning public gatherings.

Unfortunately, some leaders have been caught up in this worrying trend. While it is not advisable for ordinary Kenyans to breach State protocols to combat Covid-19, it is even worse when leaders do so, as they are supposed to set an example to their constituents on how to behave.

This past weekend, an MCA was among 17 people arrested in a bar drinking. His supporters and indeed all Kenyans watched in dismay as he was shoved into a waiting police Land Cruiser.

This is a man who should have been sensitising people in his ward on how to observe social distancing, but instead led them into breaching the very measures.

In a similar case nearly two weeks ago, Embakasi Central MP was



DENIS MBAU

**It's unfortunate that some leaders have been caught breaching State protocols**

among 34 people arrested for disregarding social distancing directive. He was arrested at an entertainment joint along the Eastern Bypass.

And recently Kilifi Deputy Governor was making news for refusing to self-quarantine after arrival from abroad. He went on to attend events only to be tested positive for the virus latter, putting many people at risk.

Just how low can our politicians go? This is a question that lingers in the minds of Kenyans as their leaders outwit each other in a classic show of arrogance if not sheer ignorance.

Though inconveniencing, most Kenyans are trying to stay at home as directed by government, scratching their heads as to how to put at least one meal on the table for their families.

Others are wondering how to even pay rent as the jobless wait in hun-

ger and abject poverty. It is a hard time Kenyans with a silent wave of hopelessness and desolation sweeps across the nation. Yet, most sacrifice and obey government measures to help combat the virus, which has ravaged the entire world.

Therefore, to see leaders making merry in a crisis is a slap on the face for residents and to the national government as it tries to do all it can to curb the spread of the disease.

Over the past, we have seen the government take stern action against those who violate guidelines. It is with the same dexterity that Kenyans would like the government act on leaders trying to prove they are above the law.

What are these leaders showing the youth who have been criticised for doing nothing to help curb the virus? Our leaders do not understand

that with great power also comes great responsibility.

Truth be told, many politicians are drunk with power and are very delusional, living in a bubble of their own comfortable ignorance. No wonder we are still grappling with the same problems we had at independence, over 50 years later.

Until this bubble bursts, Kenyans will continue to suffer from a vicious cycle of poor leadership that forever clogs the gears of development. It ensures more and more Kenyans remain jobless, cost of living goes high, people die from curable diseases and poverty rates plummet.

Yet, it must not be a blanket condemnation on all leaders. Some are doing remarkably well, creating awareness on the virus and engaging the youth as agents of awareness creation. Some, like Mombasa Governor Hassan Joho, have been distributing face masks, sanitisers and food. This is laudable.

Let the leaders be in the frontline to combat this virus.

—The writer is a Communications Consultant

## #TWEETS TO THE EDITOR



**Police were on the receiving end for allegedly harassing gospel musician Eko Dydda.**

**@VictorMochere:** The police are so heartless. Eko Dydda had gone to buy meds for his wife and any person with a functioning brain would understand that. We don't choose when to fall sick.

**@KOT\_Loyals:** That Eko Dydda story highlights how rotten our police force is. Corrupt to the core. Police officers are using the Curfew order to reap millions.

**@NudiOrawo:** Eko Dydda story is such a sad depiction of abuse of power.

**@BlackNoPC:** The Eko Dydda saga is

proof that the #StayAtHome order has nothing to do with our health. If it did, they would've allowed him to get home to his wife who needed the meds he'd gone to get.

**@JustinMoio:** justice for Dydda. Forced quarantine being used as punishment by police.



**TRUTHIS:** To influence people for God, pray to God for people.



## FLOOD MENACE

# 10 more die in floods mayhem,

Families asked to move to safer grounds while in some areas others forced to move into crowded temporary camps

by PD TEAM  
@PeopleDailyKe

At least 10 people have died while thousands others have been displaced from their homes following heavy rains pounding various parts of the country.

While in some areas families have been asked to move to safer grounds, thousands of others have been forced to move into crowded temporary camps.

Among the dead are four children aged between six and 15 who were swept by floods in Kepkelion in Kericho on Monday night.

"We have asked the residents to seek refuge in schools and churches and move to higher grounds to avoid loss of life and property. While here we have instructed them to observe social distance and other measures aimed at stopping the spread of coronavirus," said County Commissioner Moses Mbaruku.

Mbaruku revealed that two children died in Kamasi after one of them was swept by raging water while trying to cross a seasonal stream that had burst its banks while another one was buried alive by mudslides. Of the deceased, one is a boy while the rest are girls.

In Migori, a 28-year-old woman and her two children died on Monday at dawn after the building they were staying in collapsed during the rains. The woman and her children, according to neighbours, were asleep at Oruba Estate, an informal settlement on the outskirts of Migori town when walls of the building came down.

## People trapped

"I was woken up by a neighbour who said a family was trapped inside a house that had caved in. I rushed to the scene and together with other neighbours managed to remove the debris but the three had already died," said George Nyambati, a neighbour.

The deaths occurred even as authorities scaled up rescue efforts along Chesogon river on the Elgeyo Marakwet and West Pokot border where at least 12 people died due to a landslide on Saturday night. The death toll rose to 13, after one more body was retrieved yesterday.

Yesterday, the Senate Committee on environment was tasked to push the government to explain measures undertaken to ensure people affected in the two counties were accounted for following a query by Senate Majority Leader Kipchumba Murkomen, who is the Elgeyo Marakwet Senator.

"The government should state whether there is any form of compensation that will be granted to the families and victims who are counting huge losses as a result of the destruction of property and loss of lives," Murkomen told the Senate.

Two people also lost their lives in Eldama Ravine when a quarry caved in after heavy rains. The two were working at the Kapchepesat quarry in Simotwet area when the tragic incident occurred at around 3:30pm.

At the same time, a person who narrowly escaped death is fighting for his life at Eldama Ravine Hospital after he managed to pull out of the debris in time.

Sub-County police commander Maxwell Agoro said they were able to retrieve the two bodies trapped in the debris.

"The identities of the deceased aged between 28 and 38 years remain unknown but we are working with the quarry owner to trace their homes and inform the families," said Agoro. The police boss called on quarry operators to stop operations on the quarries due to the current heavy rains in the area.

Heavy rains pondering Migori region have

also forced several Nyatike residents out of their homes. The situation has been complicated by the Health protocols on the fight against the coronavirus, especially the advisory against public gatherings.

Affected areas in Nyatike are Kabuto, Nyora, Sere villages. Food crops were also swept by the heavy rains.

## Safer grounds

And in Homa Bay, over 400 families living along the shores of Lake Victoria have been rendered homeless. Families in Mgingo Island and beaches of Muhuru Bay, Lwanda Konyango and Kibro were advised to move to higher safer grounds to avoid being marooned by floods.

Some have camped in schools and churches after their property and homes were swept by raging waters.

In Kisumu, approximately 8,000 families have been displaced in Muhoroni and Nyando sub-counties. Property of unknown value including crops, livestock and houses has also been destroyed by the floodwaters.

River Nyando, which traverses Muhoroni sub-county through to Nyando, burst its banks on Monday night rendering populations in danger of being swept away. Scores of houses have been swept away while hundreds are submerged in Ombeyi, Obumba, Obiayo and Kibigori villages.

Muhoroni deputy county commissioner Erick Wanyonyi said the displaced families have been evacuated to schools. "We advise the affected families to go to safer grounds as the government explores mitigation measures including provision of relief food, nets and medicines," said Wanyonyi.

"Roads have also been rendered impassable making it difficult to access the evacuation points," he added.

More than 600 people from Kombura location in Nyando have moved to an evacuation centre at Lela secondary following the floods effects.

In Nakuru, families living along River Karati in Naivasha have been ordered to move to higher grounds after it burst its banks flooding farms, shopping centres and tens of homes.

The most affected were Manera village, parts of Naivasha town, Delamere shopping center and farms around Karati location.

"The major problem is Nyondia dam which was not completed and due to the heavy rains water is spilling on one side leading to flooding downstream," Karati chief Samuel Ng'ang'a.

Farmers at Kimelok village in Narok North Sub County have also been cautioned against crossing River Narok during this rainy season. Area Deputy County Commissioner Mutuku Mwenga warned them that crossing the river to sell their produce in Narok town would be risking their lives as the river is swollen.

Similarly, Garissa County Commissioner Meru Mwangi has also urged residents in flood-prone areas move to safer ground. Flood prone areas within Garissa town and its environs include Bula Punda, Bula Ifitin, Bouralgay, Bula Sheikh, Mororo, Ziواني and Windsor where several houses were submerged in last year's floods.

"I want to urge all the residents who live in areas prone to floods to start moving to safer grounds because there are indications that river Tana could burst its bank anytime from now," Mwangi said.

As of yesterday, the water levels on River Tana had sharply increased to 5.10 metres from 3.90 metres in the morning.

## KIPCHUMBA MURKOMEN

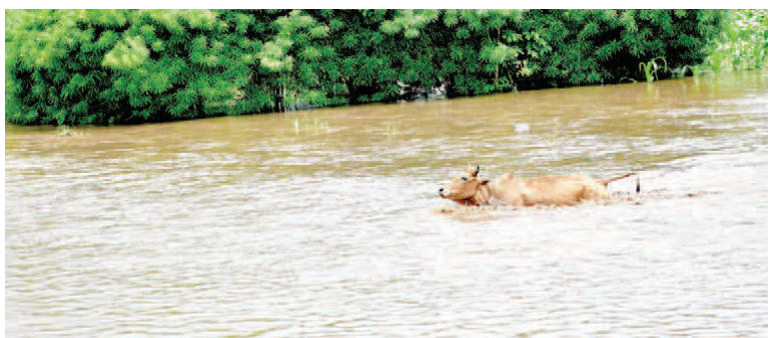
**The government should state whether there is any form of compensation for families and victims who are counting losses**



A resident of Manera village in Naivasha walks past flooded farms and homes after Karate River burst its banks. PD/KIRERA MWITI



Elgeyo Marakwet deputy governor Wesley Rotich addresses some of the more than 150 families displaced by floods and mudslides at Chesogon on the West Pokot and Elgeyo Marakwet border. PD/ JIMMY GITAKA



A cow wades through a flooded area in Nyando, Kisumu county. Farmers in the area are counting losses after hundreds of livestock were swept away. PD/VIOLA KOSOME



# thousands face displacement



Affected families at the Chesogon area where 10 more people are feared dead following heavy rains that led to mudslides. PD/ JIMMY GITAKA



A resident of Kombura village in Nyando sub-county marooned by flood water from river Nyando. PD/ VIOLA KOSOME



This man in Nyando carries his chicken to safer grounds. PD/ VIOLA KOSOME

Chesogon residents wade through a muddy area. PD/JIMMY GITAKA



## Kwale Assembly in special sitting over Sh160m budget

by Carol Katana  
@PeopleDailyKe

Kwale County Assembly has convened an emergency sitting to discuss the proposed Sh160 million supplementary budget meant to support at least 67 percent of residents at risk of starving.

Speaker Sammy Ruwa says the house sitting is meant to set laws to ensure that public resources are uti-

lised for the intended purpose.

Ruwa said for the last few weeks residents of the area had gone through untold suffering due to loss of employment that has been worsened by the cessation of movement in and out of the county.

He said many of the residents work in Mombasa and commute daily and since the closure of the borders between the two counties, they have been forced to stay at

home while others like fishermen cannot venture out at night to fish to the ongoing curfew.

Speaking to the press on Tuesday in his office, Ruwa said the money will be used to feed the needy and also mitigate against Covid-19.

"The role of the County Assembly is to legislate, represent and oversight."

"Our assembly takes notice that as we put various measures in place

to curb the spread and effects of corona, we shall be called upon to exercise our full threefold mandate; we will pass legislation, we will be expected to fully represent the interests of our people.

"We will have no option but to ensure there is proper and real-time oversight of the various intervention programs undertaken by County Government," said the assembly Speaker.

# Coronavirus cash will be accounted for, says Wangari

Legislator assures benefactors of proper use of donation towards alleviating the harsh conditions of pandemic

by Kirera Mwiti  
@PeopleDailyKe

Every coin donated towards the Covid-19 fight will be audited by parliament to make sure those affected by the pandemic were the rightful beneficiaries, Gilgil MP Martha Wangari has said.

According to Wangari, parliament will play its oversight role in making sure the funds were well utilised and the intended parties had benefitted.

She said no cash should be sent to individuals adding that affected persons should instead get food rations from both the national and county governments.

This came as Parliament put on notice government institutions and persons out to embezzle the millions of shillings that they would be exposed.

"We shall audit every penny donated towards fighting this pandemic as there are fears that some persons might embezzle this funds," she said.

Wangari called on the government to update its data on the number of elderly persons in the country as the last registration was done three years ago.

"There are some elderly persons who have since died and tens of others who should benefit from the Sh10 billion set aside by the government but they have been locked out," she said.

Speaking in Gilgil after at-

### DONATIONS TRANSPARENCY

● No cash should be sent to individuals, and affected persons should instead get food rations from both the national and county governments

● Government to update its data on the number of elderly persons in the country as the last registration was done three years ago

tending the sub-county disaster management meeting, Wangari said the constituency faced a major food shortage due to the pandemic.

According to her flower farm workers, IDPs and youths working in quarries were the most affected in Gilgil and hence the need to support them.

She said they were working closely with area MCAs to make sure that those who benefited from the county did not get food rations from the national government. "We have embarked in the process of identifying all the affected families and we support ongoing mitigations measures by the government including mass testing," he said.

Mbaruk MCA Samuel Mugi said each ward in the county would get Sh3.7m to support the most vulnerable persons who had been affected by the pandemic.



Gilgil MP Martha Wangari distributes free masks to motorcycle operators in Gilgil Town as part of the fight to contain the spread of Covid-19 which has killed thousands globally and affected hundreds of businesses in the country. PD/KIRERA MWITI

## BRIEFLY

### Oparanya urges mass testing guide

Kakamega Governor Wycliffe Oparanya has challenged the national government to release a protocol on mass testing to the counties to enable them plan for the exercise. Addressing the media after a county emergency response committee meeting, Oparanya said the county was ready for the rollout and had engaged local universities to undertake the exercise. "We have incorporated Masinde Muliro and Kibabii universities in our Covid-19 Response Committee based on their research background and technical expertise," he said. The committee had also earmarked Masinde Muliro University, Kakamega School and KMTC-Kakamega as isolation centres for the county in readiness for the mass testing exercise. He ordered the closure of all private mortuaries.

- Douglas Dindi



### Chang'aa brewers attack Kuresoi elder

Nyumba Kumi elders in Tachasis area in Kuresoi South sub-county have called on the government to provide them with ample security after one of them was attacked by an angry mob of chang'aa brewers. One of the elders, John Kimutai said they were out on a raid yesterday evening when the brewers turned hostile and unleashed their wrath using crude weapons to attack them.

Kimutai said they were five of them but four managed to scamper for their safety where one was assaulted and was later rushed to Olunguruone sub-county hospital. "We are calling on security agencies to move with speed and secure the elders from these attacks, brewing of illicit brews must come to an end by all means," said Kimutai.

- Roy Lumbe

### Thika juice maker fetes police officers

Fruit juice maker Kevin Kenya Limited has donated Sh5 million worth of products to all police posts, stations and roadblocks in Kiambu County as a way of supplementing government efforts in combating Covid-19. The Thika-based company has donated water, energy, malt drinks and Afia fruit juices to keep police officers hydrated and energised.

Factory manager Njenga Kariuki said the initiative will keep the officers, usually least remembered, going. "This is the first consignment among many others that the company will be releasing weekly. We saw the need to support our officers who have been forgotten during these hard times," said Kariuki. Thika West Sub County Police Commander Beatrice Kiraguri received the donation.

- Clement Kamau

## WANGARI

We have embarked on the process of identifying all affected families



Ten revellers who were found locked in a house in Kabati, Kandara when celebrating a birthday party. PD/REBECCA WANGARI

## Hundreds arrested for defying orders

by Ben Shizukane  
@PeopleDailyKe

Over 200 residents of Malava sub-county in Kakamega County were yesterday arrested for reportedly defying government directive that every citizen must wear a face mask in public.

Police raided major market centres in the sub-county comprising Malava, Butali and Kambi ya Mwanzo to ensure locals adhered to government directive to wear face masks in public places and

enhance social distance.

Businesses were disrupted as members of the public scammed for their lives to avoid arrest and possible compulsory 14-day quarantine at Friends Malava Boys or Malava Girls High schools.

Unlucky residents including young and old ones were not spared as they were arrested and locked up Kabras Police Station in Malava town as they awaited transport to the Sub-county designated quarantine centres.

However their arrest was short

lived as county Women Representative Elsie Muhanda made a surprise appearance at the station and the residents were released "on humanitarian grounds" after she held a brief meeting with the station police boss Peter Mwanzo.

Muhanda immediately distributed face masks and sanitisers to them.

However, he warned that those who flout government orders aimed at fighting the disease will not be spared in the crackdown.



# Can lockdown trigger a clean air campaign?

Low air pollution levels in the wake of coronavirus pandemic could spark new demands for change

When India shut down last month and suspended all transport to contain the spread of coronavirus, the skies over its polluted cities quickly turned an azure blue, and the air, unusually fresh.

As air pollution plummeted to levels unseen in living memory, people shared pictures of spotless skies and even Himalayan peaks from cities where the view had been obscured by fog for decades.

On one social messaging group, a resident of the capital, Delhi, which regularly records some of the foulest air in the world, celebrated the city's "alpine weather". Politician and author Shashi Tharoor wrote that the "blissful sight of blue skies and the joy of breathing clean air provides just the contrast to illustrate what we are doing to ourselves the rest of the time".

Less than six months ago, Delhi was gasping for breath. Authorities said air quality had reached "unbearable levels". Schools were shut, flights were diverted, and people were asked to wear masks, avoid polluted areas and keep doors and windows closed.

## Report improvement

Delhi and 13 other Indian cities feature on a list of the world's 20 most polluted. It is estimated that more than a million Indians die every year because of air pollution-related diseases. Industrial smoke, vehicular emissions, burning of trash and crop residue, and construction and road dust are the major contributors.

As urban Indians gazed at the skies and breathed clean air inside their homes, researchers hunkered down to track data on how the grinding lockdown - now extended to May 3 - was impacting air pollution

across the country.

"This was an unprecedented opportunity for us to take a close look at how air pollution levels have responded to an extraordinary development," Sarath Guttikunda, who heads Urban Emissions, an independent research group that provides air quality forecasts, told BBC.

Federal pollution control authorities quickly reported a marked improvement in air quality levels in 85 cities.

Dr Guttikunda and his team of researchers looked at the data spewed out by the 100-odd air quality monitoring stations all over India. They decided to concentrate on the capital Delhi and its suburbs - a massive sprawl called the National Capital region, where more than 20 million people live. Last winter, air pollution here had reached more than 20 times the World Health Organisation's safe limit.

## Track pollution

The deadliest particle in Delhi's foul air is the tiny but deadly PM 2.5, which increases the likelihood of respiratory and cardiovascular diseases. They primarily come from combustion - fires, automobiles and power plants. Urban Emissions found the levels of PM 2.5 in Delhi during the lockdown plummeted to 20 micrograms per cubic metre with a 20-day average of 35.

To put this into context, between 2017 and 2019, the monthly average of PM 2.5 in the capital was up to four times higher. (The national standard is set at 40, and the WHO has an annual average guideline of just 10 micrograms per cubic metre.

"If 35 is the average lowest available PM2.5 with limited local emissions, it means that at least 70% of the pollution is locally generated," said Guttikunda.

His study also found a marked dip in PM 10, caused mainly by road and construction dust, and nitrogen dioxide, which comes mainly from vehicular emissions, and nearly 90 per cent of vehicles are off



Pollution in Delhi peaks during winter. PHOTO/ BBC

## IN SUMMARY

● Less than six months ago, Delhi was gasping for breath. Authorities said air quality had reached "unbearable levels".

● The deadliest particle in Delhi's foul air is the tiny but deadly PM 2.5, which increases the likelihood of respiratory and cardiovascular diseases.

● So could a lockdown to prevent the spread of a pandemic... trigger similar policy changes to clean up India's air?

the road. "The current crisis has shown us that clear skies and breathable air can be achieved very fast if concrete action is taken to reduce burning of fossil fuels," says Sunil Dahiya, of the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air, which has also been tracking air pollution levels during the lockdown.

But will this prompt change? After all, urban Indians' and the media's panic and outrage during the deadly winter pollution every year soon gets lost in the fog of summer heat and concerns over monsoon rains and droughts.

"We don't yet have a democratic demand for clean air," Arunabha Ghosh, Chief Executive Officer of the Council on Energy, Environment and Water, a leading climate think tank, told BBC. Orders to clean up the air have almost always come from the courts, responding to pleas by NGOs.

## Slide back

Crises often trigger life changing reforms. A fatal four-day "pea-souper" that engulfed London in 1952 and killed thousands provoked the passing of the Clean Air Act to reduce the use of smoky fuels.

China tried to clean up its air several times before hosting marquee international events before sliding back to grey, smoky skies.

But many believe the 2014 Apec meeting in Beijing, when China hosted 21 heads of Asia-Pacific economies, was a turning point. In a rush to clean its air, China introduced a set of far-reaching measures. Over the next four years, this resulted in a 32 per cent drop in average pollution across major Chinese cities.

So could a lockdown to prevent the spread of a pandemic trigger similar policy changes to clean up India's air?

Could it move to a shift in reducing traffic on the road by asking people to work from home in shifts? Or can India use some of the money from an inevitable stimulus to help kick-start the economy go towards helping green industries? Renewables, experts say, creates more jobs than coal: India has already created nearly 100,000 jobs in solar and wind energy firms.

Can the country use the windfall revenues accruing from the steep decline in oil prices - most of India's oil is imported - to provide rebates to polluting factories to set up much-needed emission control equipment?

What's more, if China can reduce air pollution by 32 per cent in four-and-a-half years, why can't India pledge to reduce pollution by 80 per cent in 80 cities by 2027, which is our 80th anniversary of Independence? asks Dr Ghosh.

## BRIEFLY

### Body urges SMEs to be innovative

Small and medium enterprises (SMEs), especially in the agri-business sector, should come up with innovative ways of storing their produce during the pandemic period, Micro and Small Enterprises Authority (MSEA) chief executive Henry Rithaa has said.

Rithaa (below), who spoke to *People Daily* yesterday, said: "As a country we are facing tough times... It is very sad to see farmers pouring milk. However, it is during such tough times that as a country we should come up with innovative ways of preserving our produce."

He said they will be offering technology support to enhance productivity and will also enhance capacity to train business owners on sustainability.

-Alvin Kariuki



### 10 in quarantine for holding party

Ten people who were found drinking locally brewed alcohol in a room in Murang'a on Monday evening have been taken to mandatory quarantine.

The 10, who had earlier held a birthday party for a child belonging to one of them, were taken to Murang'a Teachers College in Makuyu for 14 days quarantine.

Area Assistant county commissioner Joshua Okello said such conduct would not be allowed in the county.

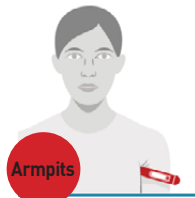
"The government has outlawed any social gathering and knowing this too well the 10 went ahead to organise the party," he said.

Murang'a county has two positive Corona cases.

- Wangari Njuguna

## HOW DO I TAKE MY TEMPERATURE?

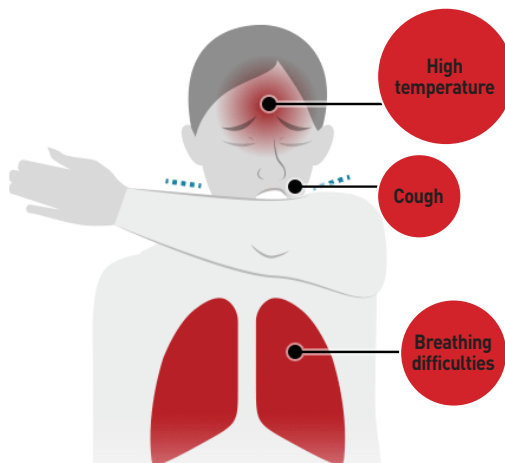
Anyone with high temperature of 37.8C+ is advised to self-isolate. Health Ministry recommends these methods to take your temperature.



**Mouth:** Place thermometer tip under your tongue

**Ear:** Gently tug on ear to straighten ear canal

## Coronavirus: Key symptoms





# Drug users more vulnerable to Covid-19, health experts warn

Medic says people with compromised lung function could be at risk of serious complications if infected

by **Murimi Mutiga**  
@murimimutiga

As Kenya and the rest of the world battle coronavirus, health experts are warning that drug users could be hit hard if the spread of virus is not stopped.

The experts say populations with Substance Use Disorders (SUDs) are more vulnerable to the virus due to the drug effects on respiratory and pulmonary health.

Apart from the underlying health issues, social marginalisation, stigma, higher economic and social vulnerabilities, including a lack of access to housing and health care, have also been cited as other factors which expose drug users to the disease.

Dr Willis Akhwale, the former Head of Disease Control at the Ministry of Health, says because Covid-19 attacks the lungs, the disease could be a serious threat to those who smoke or inject themselves with drugs. He adds that those with a compromised lung function could be at risk of serious complications of Covid-19.

"Smoking of bhang, cigarettes and others affects lung tissue. This decreases the number of air spaces and blood vessels in the lungs, resulting in less oxygen to critical parts of your body, this shows that if a drug user is exposed to the virus, then he or she is at high risk of serious complications of Covid-19," he added.

## Health threat

Dr Akhwale says Covid-19 is an emerging health threat to drug users and the government must enhance surveillance to curb the spread of the virus in this particular community.

"Sharing of needles, cigarettes, social distancing, stay-home orders, curfew and all other Covid-19 safety protocols are particularly hard for drug users to adhere to. This therefore exposes them more to the disease," he says.

"Drugs are sold in the underworld, users have to hide to take them and therefore there is need for the government to map out drug dens and disrupt the business to curb the spread of the virus," adds Dr Akhwale.



**Ahmed Sharif Nurr, a reforming drug user, demonstrates how heroin is injected. He is undergoing rehabilitation at Mewa Drug Treatment Centre in Kisauni, Mombasa.**  
PD/BONFACE MSANGI



**Mewa health and Harm Reduction projects Officer Abdullah Badrus (right) talks to drug addicts, from left, Najma Salome, Ali Mbarak and Ahmed Sharif Nurr who are undergoing rehabilitation at Mewa Drug Treatment Center in Kisauni, Mombasa.** PD/BONFACE MSANGI

## SPREAD

● **Dr Akhwale says that Covid-19 is an emerging health threat to drug users and the government must enhance surveillance to curb the spread of the virus.**

● **He says sharing of needles, cigarettes, social distancing and all other Covid-19 safety protocols are particularly hard for drug users to adhere to. This exposes them more to the disease.**

Another concern is that users of drugs such as cocaine, heroin and methamphetamine could die from severe withdrawal symptoms due to scarcity of the narcotics. The concerns emanate from the facts that cocaine and heroin are imported drugs and with many countries closing their borders, transportation of the substances is also constrained and thus this could lead to shortage.

"Shortage in supply of these drugs means that the price will go up and because most of the drug abusers are people who are socially and economically vulnerable, they will result in sharing what they have, social distancing aspect cannot be there thus such people are at higher risk for infection," the doctor says.

"What we are seeing is the likelihood of an increase in use of bhang when there is scarcity of those hard drugs. The drugs users will resort to using bhang because it is locally available," he says.

However, anti-drug activists in Mombasa say no effort has been done to curb spread of the virus among vulnerable groups like the drug users, warning that this could be a ticking time bomb.

Citizens Against Child and Drug Abuse (CICADA) director Farouk Saad says supply of heroin and cocaine, which are some of the highly abused hard drugs in the country, has not been disrupted by lockdown and closure of borders in many countries.

## Grave danger

"We have not seen any effort to reach out to drug users and we are seeing a grave danger if one of the addicts gets the virus. They are very vulnerable because most have very weak immune system and also do not observe the social distancing protocol," says Saad.

"Some of the addicts sleep in groups at drug dens, they are homeless and this can expose them to environments where they are in close contact with others. This tells you that they are at higher risk," he adds.

"We want to tell the government that any infections among the drugs users would be

catastrophic, the spread of the virus could be serious and it would be very difficult and expensive to even quarantine those people," says Saad.

Ramadhan Hussein, 31 one of the addicts under the government's methadone programme in Kisauni, and who has been using cocaine and heroin since 2018, says he is finding it hard to comply with the safety regulations imposed by the Ministry of Health because he has no money.

"I cannot stay at home the whole day. I have cravings and I must get my dose. If I don't get them I have serious withdrawal symptoms, sometimes I cannot even stand or walk. I fear this coronavirus disease but I can't stop injecting drugs, I have to go look for money and get the substance," he says.

## Social distancing

Hussein says social distancing among drug users is hard because when people are high, they somehow become "slow on thinking, understanding and reasoning."

According to National Authority for the Campaign against Alcohol and Drug Abuse (Nacada), Coast region has the highest cases of drug abuse in the country.

The authority says there are about 17,000 drug abusers in Coast region following a baseline survey conducted in 2017. The survey shows that 2.3 per cent of them use heroin, 0.9 per cent are on cocaine while 0.4 per cent abuse hashish.

Heroin, cocaine and chang'aa have been strongly associated with the burden of negative health. This is where the danger lies when it comes to the coronavirus.

Saad says Mombasa, having recorded the second highest confirmed cases of the virus, is at high risk of the spread among the drug users because it is leading in the current use of heroin and cocaine.

Data from Nacada shows that Mombasa has a 12.1 per cent heroin use while that of cocaine stands at 3.5 per cent. Lamu county is leading in the current use of hashish at 1.1 per cent among the six counties.

## KIAMBU

### Wamuchomba rolls out food distribution

Kiambu Woman Rep Gathoni Wamuchomba has embarked on a door-to-door distribution of food to residents in the county. She said the struggle to afford food because of the effect of coronavirus is being felt in the county, especially in informal settlements. "Hunger is being felt especially by those whose companies sent them home in the wake of the pandemic," she said. So far, mapped out families from, Ikinu, Nyagoti, Kiahiti, Githiga, Tatu City, BTL, Matopeni, Mwihoko and Githurai villages have benefited from the programme. Speaking when she distributed food in Ruiru, Wamuchomba (*below*) urged well-wishers to support the programme.

—Mathew Ndung'u



## NYAMIRA

### Locals defying rules to be quarantined

Nyamira county government has warned people found idling in crowded places such as market centres will be arrested and forcibly taken to quarantine centres at their own cost. Health Executive Douglas Bosire said many residents are not observing social distancing rules thus complicating the fight against the coronavirus. Bosire said although no case of the disease has been reported in the county, most residents were not observing Health ministry's regulations. Addressing the press accompanied by county commissioner Amos Mariba yesterday, Bosire warned people from locked down counties against sneaking into the county, particularly at night. He asked residents to report such cases so action could be taken against the so-called visitors.

—Evans Nyakundi

## BUSIA

### Busia health workers trained to tackle virus

More than 30 health workers in Busia county have been trained on coronavirus preparedness, bringing the total number of trainees to 150. The County Health Promotion officer Nelson Andanje said the trainees include 10 nurses, four doctors, laboratory technicians, clinical officers, public health officers and pharmacists. Speaking to the press on the sidelines of the Covid-19 training workshop at Busia Agricultural Training Centre yesterday, the promotion officer said the latest training was courtesy of Health ministry in partnership with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and Busia County government.

—Henry Andanje





What low oil price would have given us, the lockdown and curfew has taken

# Businesshub

## KAM automotive sector to supply ventilators to combat Covid-19



by Zachary Ochuodho  
@zachuodho

Kenya Association of Manufacturers' (KAM) yesterday presented ventilator prototype manufactured locally by the automotive sector to Cabinet Secretary for Industrialisation, Trade and Enterprise Development.

The designs have also been approved by Kenya Bureau of Standards (Kebs) are now awaiting finer inputs from medics as the firms await the bureau to give a local standard for

ventilators to allow mass production.

Speaking yesterday after receiving the ventilators, Cabinet Secretary, Betty Maina (pictured with Bio Engineer Niraj Hirani) said KAM's automotive sector tapped homegrown talent and expertise to develop the ventilators which can be produced immediately for use in hospitals.

"We can see the amount of innovation that is possible in our country. A challenge was given to the manufacturers and we have seen a lot coming

into the market. 75 per cent of the materials used in the production are locally sourced," Ms Maina said.

KAM Chief executive officer Phyllis Wakiaga said the innovation shows local industry's capacity to fill supply chain gaps in various sectors.

"This ventilator named PUMUAI-SHI 2.0 shall be patented and supplied locally, but will also be exported to other markets. Kebs has made standards for critical medical items free on its website and expediting

approval of products," Wakiaga said.

She said homegrown solutions are key to sustaining the fight against coronavirus, whilst cushioning the economy from shocks arising out of the virus. "Once given the final green light, the sector will be in a position to produce between 100 and 500 units per week. Unlike others, and in the event of a power blackout, this ventilator is equipped with a four-hour battery enabling it to continue service to patients," Wakiaga said.

## Why consumers are keenly watching falling oil prices

Experts warn that motorists, consumers are unlikely to benefit from the global drop due to excessive levies

by Seth Onyango  
@PeopleDailyKe

A combination of shrinking demand for oil and limited global storage has pushed oil prices to their lowest levels in two decades on the back of crippling Covid-19 pandemic.

Brent crude, the international benchmark for oil markets, dropped 15 per cent to \$20 a barrel, signaling better tidings for local consumers in the coming months.

Already, Kenyans are enjoying a relief at the pump station after the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA) revised the cost of Super Petrol, Diesel and Kerosene Sh18, Sh4.09, and Sh18.18 per litre respectively.

Internationally, the price of West Texas Intermediate (WTI), the main United States oil benchmark fell more than \$50 a barrel to end the day about \$30 below zero, the first time, oil prices have ever turned negative.

### Storage capacity

Such a crushing drop meant that oil producers are paying traders and buyers to take the commodity off their hands over fears that global storage capacity may run out next month.

According to Investment Analyst Aly-Khan Satchu, what was witnessed on Monday and Tuesday in the Oil Markets was unprecedented, and one of a kind.

"Essentially, the settlement price yesterday of -\$37.13 for WTI May delivery spoke to an oil market broken by an invisible circuit breaker as invisible as the Covid-19. Demand has cratered by more than 35m barrels per day and the oil market is now in complete disequilibrium," he told Business Hub.

But Satchu argued that local motorists and consumers will hardly benefit due to the excessive levies on fuel by the government. He said it is unlikely that the con-



A crude oil truck en route to Mombasa from South Lokichar oil fields in Turkana for export. The price of oil has been steadily falling across globe since coronavirus first broke out in China. PD/FILE

sumer will benefit because more than 50 per cent of the pump price is fixed and is a tax.

"I imagine the government will probably uplift the tax take and keep the pump price around here. The shortfall at the Treasury is exponential," Satchu opined, adding that tumbling oil market has sounded the death knell of Kenya's nascent crude industry.

He said dreams of oil riches via Turkana and in the wider East African region are now defunct and it is a question of pronouncing the last rites.

"There is no one I know who is insane enough to continue with these projects. Tullow Oil is no longer a going concern. Of course, the positive flip side is that our oil import bill will crater. And this will be singularly helpful at this time," he added.

This comes even as petrol stations have started fighting for survival as the partial lockdown and night curfew leaves huge numbers of cars unused as people stay at home.

Petrol stations between Mombasa and Nairobi are the worst hit due to unprecedented low motorist traffic leading to

low sales. According to business analyst Hezron Otiemo, Kenyans would have benefitted more from tumbling oil prices if the government had not imposed travel restrictions in Nairobi, Mombasa and other affected counties.

"What low oil price would have given us the lockdown and curfew has taken. Very few people are travelling and few goods are being transported, most of them essential... it is a lose-lose scenario," he said.

Meanwhile, the crash of oil prices in the U.S. below \$0 has thrown investors around the world off guard.

### Stock market

Shares of energy and oil firms bled on stock markets around the world as experts predicted a global energy glut in the wake of suspended economy activity due to Covid-19 pandemic.

The oil price collapse is sending shockwaves throughout the entire industry, with oil majors slashing spending across the board, and explorers cutting as much as 13 percent of their drilling fleet as the crisis rages on.

### STORAGE SPACE

● Oil prices are still crashing after a stunning collapse Monday that saw US crude futures plunge below zero for the first time in history as the Coronavirus pandemic's economic contagion spreads through the rest of the world

● The pandemic has caused oil demand to evaporate to an extent that the world is running out of space to store its extra oil as Saudi Arabia prepares to increase its fossil fuel production even as global demand for energy continues to fall.

### AVIATION



## KQ announces new Nairobi to London flights

**PASSENGERS:** Kenya Airways (KQ) has announced scheduled flights from Nairobi to London and back only a week after converting some of its grounded passenger planes into cargo freighters.

"Kenya Airways offers you an opportunity to reunite with your loved ones. Fly from Nairobi to London on April 24 and London to Nairobi on April 25," the national carrier said in a Twitter post.

It said while the flight is open to Kenyans flying back home only, and that once ticket is issued, passengers will be required to proceed to Lancet Kenya for Covid-19 testing within 72 hours of flight.

"All passengers must undergo a mandatory quarantine of 14 – 28 days at their own cost as per government of Kenya guidelines," the airline said.

Last Sunday, a repurposed Dreamliner delivered medical goods and essential items from Kenya to South Africa.

"As we do things differently, we know that it is critical for essential goods to be transported. Today, KQ 2764 took off from Nairobi to Johannesburg packed with medical goods and essential items aboard one of our Dreamliners," KQ said.

This is in addition to dispatching another Boeing 787 Dreamliner passenger aircraft from Nairobi to London, loaded with 40,000 kgs of fresh produce as part of the innovative initiatives the airline has embarked on by converting four wide body passenger aircraft to fit our cargo operations in order to reduce the impact of COVID-19 on operations.

"There is demand for cargo aircraft across the world and we will continue to play our part by keeping essential supplies moving during this time. Some of our grounded passenger aircraft will therefore complement the work of the cargo freighters," said KQ.

— Noel Wandera



# Branson pledges private island resort to secure Virgin bailout

...as he pleads with UK government to step in and save his Virgin Atlantic airline from collapse as Covid-19 wreaks havoc

■ London, Tuesday

Sir Richard Branson has pledged his luxury island resort as collateral to help get a UK government bailout of his stricken airline Virgin Atlantic.

The billionaire Virgin Group boss said in an open letter to staff he was not asking for a handout, but a commercial loan, believed to be \$500 million (£65.98 billion).

The airline's survival was in doubt, and his Necker Island home in the Caribbean could be mortgaged, he said. It comes as Virgin Group's airline in Australia enters administration. Both airlines have been hit hard by the global coronavirus lockdown, and Sir Richard has appealed to governments in both countries for help.

However, he has been criticised for appealing for taxpayer aid rather than drawing on his huge wealth. Sir Richard's fortune is thought to be well over £4 billion (\$27.83 billion). The large US airline Delta owns 49 per cent of Virgin Atlantic.

Sir Richard said in his letter to staff: "Many airlines around the world need government support and many have already received it." The crisis facing airlines, and the staff they employ, was "unprecedented," he said.

Despite his wealth, this did not mean he had "cash in a bank account ready to withdraw". And he hit back at criticism that he was a tax exile who did not deserve help, saying he and his wife "did not leave Britain for tax reasons but for our love of the beautiful British Virgin Islands and in particular Necker Island".

He said Necker would be offered as security for any loans. "As with other Virgin assets, our team will raise as much money against the island as possible to save as many jobs as possible around the group," Sir Richard said.

In his letter to staff, Sir Richard said: "We will do everything we can to keep the airline [Virgin Atlantic] going - but we will need government support to achieve that in the face of the severe uncertainty surrounding travel today and not knowing



Sir Richard Branson's private island paradise in the heart of the British Virgin Islands. (INSET) Virgin founder Sir Richard Branson PD/COURTESY

how long the planes will be grounded for. "This would be in the form of a commercial loan - it wouldn't be free money and the airline would pay it back (as EasyJet will do for the £600 million loan the government recently gave them)."

He pointed out that Virgin Atlantic started with one plane 36 years ago, before adding: "Over those years it has created real competition for British Airways, which must remain fierce for the benefit of our wonderful customers and the public at large." Sir Richard offered to inject £250 million into the Virgin Group last month, with most of that going to the airline.

## BRANSON

**We will do everything we can to keep the airline [Virgin Atlantic] going.**

### Supply chain

Earlier this month, Rolls-Royce, Airbus, Heathrow airport and Manchester Airports Group sent letters to the government highlighting the importance of Virgin Atlantic to the UK's manufacturing supply chain.

Meanwhile, Virgin Australia - in which Sir Richard holds a stake of around 10 per cent - is going into administration.

The carrier has been forced to cancel nearly all of its flights during the coronavirus crisis and been unable to restructure its debts. Australian government offered some support, but refused a request from the company for a \$1.4bn (£720m) loan.

The airline is part-owned by Sir Richard along with Etihad, Singapore Airlines and



China's HNA.

"The brilliant Virgin Australia team is fighting to survive and need support to get through this catastrophic global crisis," Sir Richard said.

"We are hopeful that Virgin Australia can emerge stronger than ever, as a more sustainable, financially viable airline."

He warned: "If Virgin Australia disappears, Qantas would effectively have a monopoly of the Australian skies. We all know what that would lead to."

Sir Richard also addressed the fierce criticism he has faced in recent weeks over his tax situation.

Critics have pointed out he has paid no UK income tax since moving to the tax-free British Virgin Islands 14 years ago.

Sir Richard is the 312th richest person in the world with an estimated \$5.2 billion (£555.88 billion) fortune, according to the Bloomberg billionaires index.

"I've seen lots of comments about my net worth - but that is calculated on the value of Virgin businesses around the world before this crisis, not sitting as cash in a bank account ready to withdraw," he said. -BBC

## BRIEFLY

### Corona: Absa Bank donates Sh50m

Absa Bank Kenya has donated Sh50 million to help fight the coronavirus pandemic in the country. Out of the amount, Sh20 million will go directly to the Covid-19 Emergency Response Fund - which will be used to acquire Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) and other support for health workers.

However, Sh30 million will be directly invested in various initiatives such as psychosocial support programme through which the bank will provide a mental wellness care centre for Covid-19 patients, health workers and caregivers. Jeremy Awori, Absa Kenya Managing Director said the magnitude of the challenge caused by the Covid-19 pandemic requires the support of all Kenyans, businesses and individuals alike, to actively play their role in minimising the economic and social impact on our country.

- Zachary Ochuodho

### IMF chief gives tips on easing recession

International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva (pictured) has said that countries have responded strongly in the initial phase of the Covid-19 crisis, but there is much more to be done to avoid a painful and protracted recession.

"We need to think hard about where this crisis is headed and how we can be ready to help our member countries, being mindful of both risks and opportunities," Georgieva wrote in a blog, which is part of a special series on the response to the coronavirus.

"Just as we responded strongly in the initial phase of the crisis to avoid lasting scars for the global economy, we will be relentless in our efforts to avoid a painful, protracted recession," said the IMF chief.

- Xinhua



## Experts bet on improving investor sentiments to lift markets

by Steve Umidha  
@UmidhaSteve

Stock prices and general financial well-being of the country will continue to climb if investors focus on the positives as the global economies bout to combat Covid-19 pandemic.

Online Forex trading manager, Standard Investment Bank (SIB) stressed on the need to shift attention to domestic policies to guide future investment decisions after stock market responded to coronavirus plague with worrying volatility, as some traders mainly in foreign markets had panic-sold out of fear.

"Investor confidence will play a critical role in rallying the markets... people buy out of sentiments and

when it is positive, you see a boom in the market and it happens a lot during elections especially in 2002 when the late President Moi was leaving power," said SIB's executive director corporate finance Job Kihumba.

Despite the unclear prospects and uncertainty brought by the deadly virus and expected slower domestic economic growth, Kihumba believes positive market sentiment will play a key role in improving decisions taken by the big companies that have been able to digest negative external shocks brought by the pandemic.

"It depends on how people perceive the situation... if they see it as being well managed and right

measures taken by the government, it could turn out to be a positive, it will instead of going down it will instead go up," he said in an interview with *Business Hub*.

At the beginning of the year, Kihumba said, a good number of companies had announced growth plans which have since been shelved because of the ongoing uncertainty - but that could change the mindset of key decisions makers if the sentiments remain.

### Modest growth

Indeed, SIB is predicting a modest growth in the forex market this year which is the largest, most liquid and most traded financial market globally with a total volume of more than

\$5.3 trillion traded daily.

"We are going to see new types of investments like the global markets, but I don't see the likes of IPOs going forward... A lot of Kenyans are going to invest in the global arena because of the globalisation taking place and the exposure to technology by younger generation as well as growing online trading," he said.

The market has reacted to recent unpredictability with large drops since Mid-March with the Kenyan shilling getting a slight hit against the US dollar which was trading at Sh106.84 yesterday against the dollar.

Online Forex exchange (FX) entails the trading of different currency pairs.

Ask Price	Previous Closing	Trade Price	Net Change	Volume
0.61	0.57	61	0.04	3
3.30	3.47	3.30	-0.17	81
0.36	0.35	37	0.02	1000
32.20	32.50	32.20	-0.30	19
7.50	7.60	7.50	-0.10	7
6.00	6.00	6.00	0.00	144
2.50	2.50	2.50	0.00	1
12.00	11.50	11.50	0.00	
40.20	40.00	40.20	0.20	25
12.00	11.95	11.90	-0.05	

Standard Investment Bank says there is need to shift attention to domestic policies to guide future investment decisions PD/FILE





## Helping the needy

Pwani Oil Operations Manager Personal and Home Care Sim Moonesawmy (middle) poses with colleagues Hussein Kasmani (Executive Logistics and loading supervisor) and Yusuf Mohamed (right) before dispatching foodstuff and hygiene products worth Sh1.5 million donated in Kilifi County. PD/COURTESY

# Massive job losses loom at Tusksys

Retailer plans to close several branches as it looks to reduce operating costs, boost profit

by Lewis Njoka  
@LewisNjoka

Hundreds of Tusksys Supermarket employees could lose their jobs after the retailer announced plans to consolidate branches across the country in response to the economic dip brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic.

This announcement comes only months after the collapse of former retail giant, Nakumatt, whose demise saw thousands of workers lose jobs and creditors still unsure of recovering Sh38 billion owed to them.

Worse still, the coronavirus pandemic, currently ravaging the world, has affected virtually all businesses in the country dimming hopes that those axed could secure employment in the near future.

## Employing more

As of August 2019, Tusksys had 63 stores in Kenya and Uganda employing more than 6,000 people and about 3,000 suppliers, making it the largest home-grown supermarket after the fall of Nakumatt and Uchumi.

In a statement, Tusksys said it would close down its Tom Mboya branch and merge it with Tusksys Imara, a more spacious store located on the same street. Kitale Mega branch will also be closed down and its op-

erations shifted to Kitale central business district branch.

In Mombasa, Digo Road branch will be closed and its customers are expected to seek services from Tusksys Bandari located about half a kilometre away along Haile Selassie Road.

"We have noted that in some areas where we have multiple locations close to each other, we can adequately serve customers better and more efficiently by consolidating our businesses in spacious branches which allow us to implement social distancing and personal hygiene measures better," said Tusksys chairman Bernard Kahianyu in a statement.

Recently, Tusksys formally known as Tusker Mattresses, closed Parklands branch and Kisumu Lolwe branch triggering fears that many more employees could lose jobs in the near future.

Kenyan retailers have been operating in a tough business environment recently, characterised by economic slump, reduced consumption, and thin profit margins which range from 1.5 to 3.8 per cent.

## PERFORMANCE

● In September last year, **Chopies, a Botswana retailer, announced plans to quit the Kenyan market only four years after acquiring Ukwala Stores for Sh1 billion citing poor performance.**

● Players in the sector are facing increased competition after multinational stores such as **Carrefour, Shoprite and Game set shop in the country eating into the market share of leaders such as Tusksys and Naivas.**

## NAIROBI SECURITIES EXCHANGE

HIGH	LOW	SECTOR	VPAP	PREVIOUS	TOTAL
		AGRICULTURAL	PRICES		SHARES
17.60	9.90	Eaagads Ltd Ord 1.25		10.00	
460.00	290.00	Kakusi Pld Ord 5.00		301.00	
100.00	57.00	Kapcharua Tea Kenya Pld Ord 5.00		71.00	
605.00	405.00	The Limuru Tea Co. Pld Ord 20.00	475.00	475.00	100
22.70	14.00	Sasini Pld Ord 1.00		16.50	
178.00	92.00	Williamson Tea Kenya Pld Ord 5.00		115.00	
AUTOMOBILES & ACCESSORIES					
27.00	20.00	Car & General (K) Ltd Ord 5.00	23.50	22.00	100
BANKING					
13.85	9.30	ABSA Bank Kenya Pld Ord 0.50	10.25	10.05	17,396,200
31.00	22.40	BK Group Pld Ord 0.80		22.40	
166.00	76.50	Diamond Trust Bank Kenya Ltd Ord 4.00		86.00	
55.50	32.15	Equity Group Holdings Pld Ord 0.50	34.85	33.50	2,635,500
7.90	3.38	HE Group Pld Ord 5.00		4.00	100,400
126.00	42.50	IGN Holdings Pld Ord 1.00	52.00	52.75	107,200
55.50	33.75	KCB Group Pld Ord 1.00	37.00	35.95	2,834,300
6.50	3.22	National Bank of Kenya Ltd Ord 5.00		4.12	
41.00	24.90	NCSA Group Pld Ord 5.00	29.05	28.50	7,800
117.75	83.00	Stanbic Holdings Pld Ord 5.00	97.00	95.00	100
225.00	168.00	Standard Chartered Bank Kenya Ltd Ord 5.00	195.00	194.50	496,500
17.00	10.05	The Co-operative Bank of Kenya Ltd Ord 1.00	12.25	12.30	3,364,400
COMMERCIAL AND SERVICES					
5.10	0.45	Deacons (East Africa) Pld Ord 2.50		0.45	
1.30	0.77	Emwagdy East Africa Ltd Ord 1.00	0.80	0.86	1,900
8.50	4.95	Express Kenya Pld Ord 5.00	5.48	5.48	100
9.50	0.98	Kenya Airways Ltd Ord 1.00	1.04	1.08	257,200
8.80	4.26	Longhorn Publishers Pld Ord 1.00	4.88	4.67	1,100
1.20	0.54	Nairobi Business Ventures Ltd Ord 1.00	0.60	0.60	500
71.00	22.00	Netion Media Group Pld Ord 2.50	23.60	24.05	61,900
4.70	1.72	Sameer Africa Pld Ord 5.00	2.20	2.00	100
33.00	19.50	Standard Group Pld Ord 5.00		19.80	
26.15	11.50	TFS Eastern Africa Ltd Ord 1.00	15.00	15.00	100
0.95	0.23	Uchumi Supermarket Pld Ord 5.00	0.30	0.30	39,500
22.00	9.90	WPP Scangroup Pld Ord 1.00	16.05	16.00	100
CONSTRUCTION & ALLIED					
8.35	2.40	ARM Cement Pld Ord 1.00		5.55	
145.75	45.00	Bamburi Cement Ltd Ord 5.00		48.00	
92.00	53.00	Crown Paints Kenya Pld Ord 5.00		53.00	
3.98	1.44	E.A. Cables Ltd Ord 0.50	1.81	1.80	3,200
20.50	12.95	E.A. Portland Cement Co. Ltd Ord 5.00		14.25	
ENERGY & PETROLEUM					
7.40	4.00	KenGen Co. Pld Ord 2.50	4.90	4.90	144,700
5.50	1.43	Kenya Power & Lighting Co Pld Ord 2.50	2.19	2.19	224,800
5.50	5.00	Kenya Power & Lighting Pld 4% Pref 20.00		5.00	
6.00	6.00	Kenya Power & Lighting Pld 7% Pref 20.00		6.00	
33.00	22.00	Total Kenya Ltd Ord 5.00	23.65	23.90	900
8.70	5.00	Umeme Ltd Ord 0.50	6.90	6.98	45,000
INSURANCE					
10.50	5.70	British Holdings Pld Ord 0.10	6.64	6.90	48,800
4.85	2.00	CIC Insurance Group Ltd Ord 1.00	2.30	2.30	40,100
442.00	250.00	Jubilee Holdings Ltd Ord 5.00	280.00	280.25	1,200
16.30	2.10	Kenya Re Insurance Corporation Ltd Ord 2.50	2.70	2.57	74,700
13.00	6.80	Liberty Kenya Holdings Ltd Ord 1.00	8.50	8.36	1,000
26.00	13.80	Sanlam Kenya Pld Ord 5.00		15.00	
INVESTMENT					
37.40	19.60	Centum Investment Co Pld Ord 0.50	23.40	23.00	12,400
0.77	0.30	Home Africa Ltd Ord 1.00	0.41	0.41	51,500
1500.00	1,500.00	Kurwila Ventures Ltd Ord 100.00		1,500.00	
3.37	2.00	Olympia Capital Holdings Ltd Ord 5.00		2.30	
4.50	1.60	Trans-Century Pld Ord 0.50	1.61	1.70	4,800
INVESTMENT SERVICES					
16.00	8.24	Nairobi Securities Exchange Pld Ord 4.00	9.30	9.08	10,600
MANUFACTURING & ALLIED					
87.00	52.25	B.O.C Kenya Pld Ord 5.00	70.25	72.00	900
700.00	355.50	British American Tobacco Kenya Pld Ord 10.00	360.00	365.00	10,100
10.80	7.10	Cartalad Investments Pld Ord 1.00	9.80	9.80	200
230.00	135.00	East African Breweries Ltd Ord 2.00	148.75	147.75	255,300
3.15	0.90	Flame Tree Group Holdings Ltd Ord 0.825mm	0.96	0.96	54,900
14.00	12.25	Kenya Orchards Ltd Ord 5.00mm		12.25	
0.70	0.25	Murnias Sugar Co. Ltd Ord 2.00	0.27	-	
42.00	26.10	Unga Group Ltd Ord 5.00	29.00	29.00	100
TELECOMMUNICATION					
33.50	20.10	Safaricom Pld Ord 0.05	28.40	28.50	19,408,900
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST					
11.00	6.88	STAN/13 FAHARI I-REIT Ord 20.00	8.90	8.50	1,100
EXCHANGE TRADED FUNDS					
1650.00	1235.00	ABSA New Gold ETF	17181	1615.00	

NSE ALL SHARE INDEX: UP 0.41 points to close at 138.25  
NSE 20-SHARE INDEX: UP 9.32 points to close at 1994.86  
NSE 25-SHARE INDEX: UP 28.79 points to close at 3208.59

## MARKET WATCH

### TREASURY BONDS CLOSURE OF REGISTERS

ISSUE NO.	PAYMENT DATE	PERIOD OF CLOSURE	PAYMENT TYPE	APPLICABLE INTEREST RATE (%)	REFERENCE INTEREST RATE (%)
FXD3/2007/015	11-05-2020	07-05-2020 to 11-05-2020	Interest	12.5	Fixed
FXD2/2019/005	11-05-2020	07-05-2020 to 11-05-2020	Interest	10.874	Fixed
FXD2/2019/015	11-05-2020	07-05-2020 to 11-05-2020	Interest	12.734	Fixed
FXD1/2011/020	18-05-2020	14-05-2020 to 18-05-2020	Interest	10	Fixed
FXD1/2012/020	18-05-2020	14-05-2020 to 18-05-2020	Interest	12	Fixed
IFB1/2016/009	18-05-2020	14-05-2020 to 18-05-2020	Interest	12.5	Fixed
IFB1/2018/020	18-05-2020	14-05-2020 to 18-05-2020	Interest	11.95	Fixed
IFB2/2009/012	25-05-2020	21-05-2020 to 25-05-2020	Interest	12	Fixed
FXD2/2015/005	25-05-2020	21-05-2020 to 25-05-2020	Interest	13.92	Fixed
IFB1/2017/007	25-05-2020	21-05-2020 to 25-05-2020	Interest	12.5	Fixed
FXD1/2018/015	25-05-2020	21-05-2020 to 25-05-2020	Interest	12.65	Fixed
FXD4/2019/010	25-05-2020	21-05-2020 to 25-05-2020	Interest	12.28	Fixed
FXD2/2007/015	08-06-2020	04-06-2020 to 08-06-2020	Interest	13.5	Fixed
IFB1/2015/009	08-06-2020	04-06-2020 to 08-06-2020	Interest	11	Fixed
FXD2/2010/015	15-06-2020	11-06-2020 to 15-06-2020	Interest	9	Fixed
FXD1/2010/025	15-06-2020	11-06-2020 to 15-06-2020	Interest	11.25	Fixed
FXD1/2008/020	15-06-2020	11-06-2020 to 15-06-2020	Interest	13.75	Fixed
FXD1/2012/010	15-06-2020	11-06-2020 to 15-06-2020	Interest	12.705	Fixed
FXD2/2018/010	15-06-2020	11-06-2020 to 15-06-2020	Interest	12.502	Fixed
FXD3/2019/005	15-06-2020	11-06-2020 to 15-06-2020	Interest	11.492	Fixed
FXD1/2013/010	22-06-2020	18-06-2020 to 22-06-2020	Interest	12.371	Fixed
FXD1/2015/005	22-06-2020	18-06-2020 to 22-06-2020	Interest	13.193	Fixed
FXD1/2018/025	22-06-2020	18-06-2020 to 22-06-2020	Interest	13.4	Fixed

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Date: 20/04/2020

Date: 20/04/2020

Date: 20/04/2020

### CBK KEY RATES

Central Bank Rate	7.25%	23/03/2020
Inter-Bank Rate	6.29%	20/04/2020
CBK Discount Window	13.25%	23/03/2020
91-Day T-Bill	7.201%	20/04/2020
REPO	6.90%	16/08/2019
Inflation Rate	6.06%	March, 2020
Lending Rate	12.19%	February, 2020
Savings Rate	4.2%	February, 2020
Deposit Rate	7.06%	February, 2020
KBRR	8.9%	27/07/2016

### KEY CBK INDICATIVE EXCHANGE RATES 21/4/2020

CURRENCY	MEAN	BUY	SELL
US DOLLAR	106.8824	106.7824	106.9824
SW KRONER	10.6813	10.6681	10.6945
STG POUND	133.0094	132.8635	133.1553
SINGAPORE DOLLAR	75.1740	75.0825	75.2655
SAUDI RIYAL	28.4830	28.4525	28.5134
SARAND	5.7062	5.6995	5.7129
S FRANC	110.4271	110.3010	110.5532
NOR KRONER	10.2980	10.2869	10.3092
KES / USHS	35.2725	35.1927	35.3523
KES / TSHS	21.6500	21.5830	21.7171
KES / RWF	8.9113	8.8324	8.9902
KES / BIF	17.6894	17.6277	17.7511
JPY (100)	99.2178	99.1111	99.3244
IND RUPEE	1.3964	1.3950	1.3977
HONGKONG DOLLAR	13.7911	13.7782	13.8040
EURO	116.0891	115.9629	116.2153
DAN KRONER	15.5713	15.5562	15.5865
CHINESE YUAN	15.1115	15.0944	15.1287
CAN \$	75.8031	75.7214	75.8848
AUSTRALIAN \$	68.0306	67.9563	68.1050
AE DIRHAM	29.0983	29.0683	29.1283

## Tea, coffee auction houses change rules over Corona

by Nicholas Waitathu  
@PeopleDailyKe

Managements of coffee and tea exchanges have reorganised their weekly operations at the Nairobi and Mombasa auction halls to comply with Covid-19 safety measures being implemented by the government.

Nairobi Coffee Exchange (NCE) closed the auction hall on Haile Selesse Avenue, moving members to an online trading platform.

East African Tea Trade Association, that manages the Mombasa Tea auction, has separated trading by grades by leasing a separate bigger

auction hall to trade the main tea grades and retained the original trading hall for lower grades. The changes come after the Ministry of Health demanded that the exchanges be closed. Alternatively, managers were asked to look for other ways of conducting

the trade in line with the social distancing directive among other safety measures.

NCE Chief executive Daniel Mbithi confirmed that the auction room was closed on March 31 with members moving trade online.

### Marketing agents

"In order to comply with the safety measures being fast-tracked by the government, NCE managers, buyers and marketing agents are now conducting business online. The only ongoing activity at the exchange offices is presentation of coffee samples

which require less people," said Mbithi on phone.

Marketing agents are required by law to deposit samples of the coffee they intend to offer for sale 12 days before the auction day. During sale 18 and 19 average prices reached Sh16, 506.4, and Sh16,911.6 for a 50 kilogramme bag of clean coffee respectively.

Last month, when launching the coffee revitalisation programme being funded by the World Bank, Agriculture Cabinet secretary Peter Munya asked the management of the two exchanges to ensure they comply with the government's safety measures.

Auction room was closed on March 31 with members moving trade online.



# World News

ZITTO KABWE

There shall be no two set of laws—for MPs and for the people

## Trump to suspend immigration to US

On Twitter, President cites attack from the invisible enemy and need to protect jobs of Americans

■ Washington, Tuesday

President Donald Trump has said he will sign an executive order to temporarily suspend all immigration to the US because of the coronavirus.

On Twitter, he cited "the attack from the invisible enemy", as he calls the virus, and the need to protect the jobs of Americans, but did not give details.

It was not clear what programmes might be affected and whether the president would be able to carry out the order.

Critics say the government is using the pandemic to crack down on immigration.

Immigration has traditionally been a strong campaigning theme for Trump, but has taken a back seat during the pandemic and in the lead-up to the November election.

Trump's announcement late on Monday came as the White House argued that the worst of the pandemic was over and the

country could begin reopening. The restrictions on people's movement, implemented by many states to curb the spread of the virus, have paralysed parts of the economy.

Over the past four weeks, more than 20 million Americans have registered for unemployment benefits. That amounts to roughly as many jobs as employers had added over the previous decade.

The US has more than 787,000 confirmed cases of Covid-19 and more than 42,000 deaths, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University, which is tracking the pandemic globally.

It was not immediately clear who could be affected by Trump's announcement or when such a move could come into force, and the White House has not commented.

According to the New York Times, citing several people familiar with the plan, a formal order temporarily barring the provision of new green cards and work visas could be one way of implementing the measure; the administration would no longer approve any applications from foreigners to live and work in the US for an undetermined period of time.

Last month, the US suspended almost all visa processing, including for immigrants, because of the pandemic.



People take part in a "reopen" Pennsylvania demonstration on April 20 in Harrisburg. Hundreds have protested in cities across America against coronavirus-related lockdowns.

AFP

### CAMPAIGN THEME

● Immigration has traditionally been a strong campaigning theme for Trump.

● The theme has taken a back seat during the pandemic and in the lead-up to the November election.

-BBC

### BRIEFLY

## Kim Jong-un illness rumours untrue, S. Korea officials say

Reports that North Korean leader Kim Jong-un is seriously ill after heart surgery are not true, officials in South Korea have said. Headlines that Kim Jong-un was "gravely ill", "brain-dead" or "recovering from an operation" were always going to be impossible to verify. But the presidential office in Seoul has said there have been no particular signs from the North to indicate the 36-year-old is "gravely ill". It is also not the first

time rumours about his health have fired up intense flurries of speculation—only to be later dismissed. Kim Jong-un recently missed the celebration of his grandfather's birthday on 15 April. This is one of the biggest events of the year, marking the birth of the nation's founder. Inevitably, his absence prompted speculation and rumour, none of which is easy to substantiate.

—BBC



### Keeping fit

Members of Palestinian Karate coach Khaled Sheikh Eid's family, train together on the rooftop of their house at a refugee camp in Rafah in the Gaza Strip on April 12 as coronavirus epidemic forces residents to stay indoors. AFP

## Coronavirus fears in Tanzania parliament after MP diagnosed

■ Dar es Salaam, Tuesday

A Tanzanian member of parliament has tested positive for coronavirus, triggering calls for a suspension of House sessions.

Without naming the politician, Deputy Speaker Tulia Ackson said the MP had travelled to the commercial capital, Dar es Salaam, the country's epicentre of infections.

She believes that is where the MP contracted the virus.

Parliament's sessions started three weeks ago, albeit with fewer MPs in the chamber, shorter hours of discussions and some debates held over video conferencing facilities.

Speaker Job Ndogai has defended reconvening amid the epidemic, arguing that the country's important operations must continue.

Ndogai, together with President John Magufuli, have disapproved of stricter measures such as a lockdown to curb the spread of the virus



in the country.

But some politicians want parliament to be suspended to allow for disinfection of the chamber and testing of all MPs to identify and quarantine those who may be infected.

"There shall be no two set of laws - for MPs and for the people. All MPs should be isolated, tested and contact-traced. Right from the beginning we advised that the parliament sessions should not be held. It's dangerous," said Zitto Kabwe, an opposition MP and leader of the ACT-Wazalendo party.

-BBC

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING

ACT NO.13 OF 2019

CHANGE OF USER

The owner of L.R. No. 28428/67 located off Kiambu Road is proposing change of use of this property from agricultural to light industrial use (gas refilling plant), 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.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING

ACT NO.13 OF 2019

CHANGE OF USER

The registered owners of Land Parcel NO. OTHAYA/KIHUGIRU/2961 situated in Othaya, Nyeri County, proposes to Change the User from Agricultural to Residential Multi-dwelling Use. This is subject to approval by the County Government of Nyeri. Any individual(s), institutions and organizations with objection(s) or comments to the proposal are requested to forward the same in writing within 14 days of publication of this notice to: The C.E.C.M - Lands, Housing, Physical Planning and Urbanization, COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF NYERI, P.O. BOX 112-10100, NYERI.



# Spice Flavour your day **STYLE** @chebetkorir

HAGGAI ODHIAMBO, also known as Zuma, is a renowned Kenyan fashion guru, Kabaddi player, runway model and fashion designer. He chats with **CHEBET KORIR** about his life

## THE MAIN GUY

### Tell us a bit about yourself and what you do?

I am a professional sportsman who plays Kabaddi game internationally. I am also a runway model and fashion designer. My dad and uncle on the other hand were once football players who played for the Kenya national team Harambee Stars. That automatically moulded me to become a sportsman, albeit in a different field.

### How did you discover your love for fashion?

I have always been passionate about dressing well and following trends since my high school days. No fashion magazine would pass me and from that, I used to steal a few styles and incorporate them on my own.

### Why did you separate yourself from street fashion house Jamdown Fashion House?

The fashion house still exists. D'man Mkare and I decided to make our personal brands more visible as he focused on launching his own fashionline and I wanted to focus on my sport and being a runway model. I also relocated to the United States because of the games, which was a minor setback when it comes to the fashion house. However, I am still part and parcel as a model.

### As a full-time Kabaddi player representing Kenya, how are you able to incorporate your fashion prowess into the sport?

One thing people should realise is that fashion is everywhere and it's how you choose to display it. I try as much to let my fellow players know that being a sportsman doesn't limit you to sweat-pants and vests.

### How has the runway impacted on your career?

I have been featured as a runway

model and part-time designer at the JW Show, currently one of the biggest fashion events in Kenya.

This has made me mingle with big designers locally and internationally, which has helped in exchanging cultures, sharpening my runway skills and widening my network.

### How can you define your style and how do you play around with colours and designs?

I can describe my style as smart casual. When it comes to colours, I have no limits. I can pop the brightest of colours and play around with it to give an awesome look.

### Who dresses you?

Slatta Styles who is part of the Jamdown Fashion House. His fashion thoughts are broad and he does not limit himself.

### How then does your style reveal your personality?

I am a brave and classic man; attributes I try to showcase in some of my outfits. Spotting me in a lime green silk shirt is brave as I throw in a pair of white

pants, which makes the outfit smart and classic.

### What do you think Kenyans should embrace more when it comes to fashion?

I think Kenyans are still scared of extreme high fashion style. We only have a few bold ones. However, most are stuck to basic attires and as you can see, most of our celebrities are never recognised by their looks because they are too basic and obvious.

### Do you have fashion trends that you are currently crushing on?

As a fashionista, I don't follow trends. But some are eye catchy outfits that I appreciate such as colourful silk shirts, fish net vests, bright coloured shorts and raincoats paired with suits.

### Who are your favourite designers and how do they influence your style?

I support local and with that, I believe Ashok Kenya and Slatta Styles are worth my praise. They have an eye for classy clothings and patterns, which I am currently into.

## GET THE LOOK WITH FAITH KYOUMUKAMA



You can never go wrong with a white outfit, especially with the hat accessory. It's sassy!

### Tammy Rivera

Tammy Rivera is an American television personality, singer, fashion designer and businesswoman.

Apart from her swimwear line T-Rivera [that features all sizes for women taking a fashion forward approach], she sure has a fashion sense on check too. She likes to dress up unique ensembles and most of her looks are classy. Check some of the best.



The hairdo gives this dress meaning and adds character for that royal look.



Egyptian goddess would be the name of this outfit. The shimmery feel uplifts the fringe dress. We could go dancing with this look.



Haggai Odhiambo



# Ten... Ways to keep career afloat through the Covid-19 crisis

## 1 Keep applying for jobs

As an active job seeker, it is important to keep applying for open positions. Your success in job applications is determined by your activity in the application; when you keep applying for jobs you stand a greater chance of landing onto one. The economy may be moving at a slower pace, but it doesn't mean that companies are not hiring. Continue sending out your job applications.

## 2 Make informed decisions

Many employees are now working from home and it is an entirely new way of doing things for many companies. Being self-aware at this time will help you have the most optimal output in your work. Understanding times and environments within your house when you feel most productive is key in your performance working at home. Understand your strengths and weaknesses, whether you are a night owl or early bird and set aside a place in your house to be your workspace. Create a schedule that leverages on your strengths and ensures your tasks are completed.

## 3 Learn a new skill

Whether you are currently employed or seeking employment, use this time to learn a new skill. If you are not actively looking for a job, you should actively grow your career. Take advantage of the available online courses on different sites. This is crucial because you might not know what direction businesses will take after the Covid-19 pandemic, thus you are better off improving your current skillset to remain competitive. For active job seekers, adding a new skill to your resume will make you stand out.

## 4 Stay connected with colleagues

The current unprecedented events have affected people in many ways. It is, therefore, important to check up on your colleagues from work and find out how they are generally holding up. Take advantage of the virtual meeting spaces such as Google Hangouts, Zoom or Skype to just catch up about work, home and how you are all coping with the current situation. Talking about things with your colleagues will help everyone relieve some stress and also keep you motivated to face the challenging times that lie ahead.

## 5 Network with other professionals

At a time where video and virtual meetings have become the norm, it is recommended that you join those that are relevant to your industry and career. You will find valuable information from experts on how to thrive through the current situation. Take advantage of

**Our lives have taken an unprecedented turn with the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. As businesses bear the brunt of the virus resulting in economic downturn, it is easy to lose focus on your career. Here are a few ways to ensure you stay afloat during these challenging times**



these online sessions to connect and network with employers and experts in your respective industry or sector.

## 6 Keep up with tech

Advancements in technology such as artificial intelligence, machine learning and robotics are creating a workforce that needs to be increasingly more intelligent, aware and understanding of the progressions being made. You can no longer afford to rely on other team members and peers to provide all of the technical skills. You need to be familiar with and capable of leveraging the latest technology tools.

## 7 Stay motivated

Even if your career plans aren't quite going as you had imagined, it is important to stay calm and motivated. Motivation and determination will get you a long way in your career, so try to stay positive whenever you can. Sometimes life can knock you down and this will be a true test for you at the start of your journey. As long as you love what you do, you shouldn't find it hard to remain inspired and driven every single day.

## 8 Keep resume updated

Since you likely don't dictate every decision your organisation makes, you probably can't control whether or not your employer let's go of you or downsizes. Therefore, it becomes equally important that you maintain a high degree of marketability and attractiveness to potential external employers at all times. This means keeping your resume and profiles on platforms such as LinkedIn updated. Done regularly, this task can require minimal effort, but result in a significant impact on your ability to quickly shift towards new opportunities.

## 9 Be a cross-functional asset

Demonstrating value to your employer will go a long way during these challenging times. If you can amplify your value and be a multi-faceted resource, your importance to the organisation will likely be higher than your peers.

## 10 Read!

Reading is a necessary habit for every successful person. It broadens your mind, helps with your written and verbal communication skills, and gives you a certain level of understanding and empathy. Time spent with your nose in a book is never wasted rather it's productive. Whether you read to escape or pass the time, you're doing yourself and your career a great favour.

-Compiled by Milliam Murigi



# Eureka

Design, innovate, engineer



The Pregmum team. ABOVE: A mother tries out the initial prototype. BELOW: The final prototype currently in testing phase. PD/COURTESY

## New gadget aims to reduce infant mortality

by Faith Kyoumukama  
@PeopleDailyKE

A meeting of four strangers, four years ago, at a 24-hour Hackathon tech conference in Nairobi, resulted in two things; a strong bond and an innovation called Pregmum that helps in detecting foetal heartbeat.

A project between Villgro Kenya Limited and Gearbox produced a team of four namely Bonface Sato, a mechanical and electrical engineer; John Kiragu, a registered nurse; Timothy Kimemia, a system developer; and Linus Wambugu a public health officer.

"Pregmum is inspired by personal experiences, especially those of Linus and John who worked in health facilities. They noted that Pinard Fetoscope, the tool usually used to detect foetal heart rate is subjective," says Bonface.

### Repeat test

Studies carried out by the two, Bonface adds, shows nurses confessing they sometimes make assumptions of heartbeat count, recording 28 per cent of heartbeat within the expected one minute. Long wait times at clinics made things even worse, especially since nurses

The device is designed to detect foetal heartbeat not only to save lives, but also enhance mother-child bond

have to repeat tests.

It is a known fact that high maternal and infant mortality rates in Kenya, especially among the middle-to the low-income population, are worrying. Conclusively, foetal heart rate is the primary and easiest way to ascertain the infant is alive and healthy.

So, how exactly does Pregmum work and what makes it different?

The device replaces the human ear and watches for a sensor and system that tallies and records the foetal heartbeat. It has the ability to take the mother's pulse, compare and keep a record of the same. The information is stored, analysed and graphs drawn and stored on the cloud under the users' profile, making the information accessible anywhere anytime.

Although the device is currently in the pilot

phase, John says results have been quite impressive. "The device was used in a joint pilot with the University of Nairobi School of Nursing and we were able to test it for iterations," he says.

Further, Pregmum foetal monitor is a cheap solution for baby monitoring, with a projected retail price of between Sh2,500 - Sh3,500.

"This is a solution for Kenya by Kenyans. Infant mortality stands at 35.198 per 1,000 live births according to United Nations Children's Fund's (Unicef) report on Kenya demographics. Pregmum is a solution aimed at empowering the woman to be able to take basic foetal healthcare into her own hands," says Linus.

### Business coaching

John, a nurse, says Pregmum will also help expectant mothers create a bond with their unborn child as she can always listen to the heartbeat.

"When individual mothers cannot afford the device, community health workers will do the job as one device can be programmed to keep records of different mothers. The gadget is well equipped with local storage and can upload data to the cloud even from the remotest part of Kenya," he says.

At the beginning, being strangers with one goal, the four struggled with team dynamics.

"The team had no business brains. We were all in technical and health-related fields. We had to go through business coaching with the help of Villgro Kenya, and a one-month business class at Strathmore University organised by Safaricom," says Linus.

For now, they say, their biggest challenge is lack of funds to fabricate and go on to the next phase and finally push the product to the market.

"Sourcing for investors and government support is quite a long process, thereby slowing down our ability to go to market with the innovation," he notes.

Such challenges in the industry have led to calls by stakeholders for government to support local start-ups.

"Manufacturing is expensive due to many reasons with the most apparent being high taxes and corruption. Gross Domestic Product on manufacturing has dropped to eight per cent from 11 per cent, which has impacted these areas greatly. The government needs to support local startups, such as this one and protect manufacturing ecosystems from external players. Good policies must also be employed to create a level playing field for small scale manufacturers who are building things that respond to the needs of Kenyans" says Kamau Gachigi, Executive Director of Gearbox.

## GADGET REVIEW

WITH NDUTA WAWERU @Ndata

### Dell now goes almost bezel-less

The newly launched Dell XPS 13 is seen as an improved offering compared to its predecessors. First off, it comes with a slightly bigger screen, thanks to the reduction of the bezel around it. It is also lighter and thinner. Users have two options: the Core i7-1065G7, 16GB RAM, a 512GB SSD, and a 1920 x 1200 touchscreen and the Core i5-1035G1, 8GB RAM, a 256GB SSD, and a non-touch display, which cost Sh186,500 and Sh119,300, respectively. They will also have to contend with issues such as a poor webcam and a keyboard that gets too hot.



### Microsoft Surface Book 3 leaked

As one of the most anticipated gadgets of 2020, Surface Book 3 by Microsoft has created jitters after leaks about its price and specifications hit the interwebs. According to the leak, the price is set to be on high-end, pegged at Sh187,500 and Sh259,000 for the 13-inch and 15-inch respectively. While the general design will remain the same, the device will come with 10th-gen Intel processors, storage up to 1TB and memory options in 8GB, 16GB and 32GB.



### Asus improves Chromebook Flip

The bendable laptop, while similar to previous models, comes with a few improvements. It has two options: the Intel Core i3 processor, 128GB of storage, and 8GB of RAM, and the Core i5, 512GB of storage, and 16GB of RAM, both with a microSD slot that expands storage to up to 2TB. Some positives include its lightweight, kickstand mode that makes it easy to video conference, smooth set up and Wi-Fi 6. Users have to contend with touchscreen issues and the price.





# Family Fusion ▶ All about kin and kith

## Domestic abuse spike as coronavirus traps people indoors

Many of us are feeling stuck at home right now, but it's a much scarier feeling for those trapped at home with their abuser, isolated from the people and the resources that could help them

**■ Evelyn Makena**  
@PeopleDailyKe

**T**wo weeks ago, Pacifica Ongecha was preparing to go to bed when she heard deafening screams from her neighbour's house. It was 10pm, hours after the dusk to dawn curfew had taken effect and the streets of her neighbourhood in Limuru town were quiet.

Pacifica rushed to the house to find two children screaming, and their mother negotiating with their father who had brandished a knife ready to attack her. It took the intervention of Pacifica to calm down the couple that had gotten into an argument over allegations of infidelity and financial tensions. "The husband had arrived home that evening drunk after spending the previous night away. That coupled with the fact that the man was alleged to be not providing for the family sparked off a quarrel," says Pacifica.

For Pacifica, a community leader in Limuru, cases of domestic violence have become frequent since the start of the partial coronavirus lockdown. Over the past three weeks, not a day goes without domestic abuse cases.

It is a similar scenario across the country where cases of domestic abuse have increased since the government restrictions began. Recently Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs Cabinet Secretary, Margaret Kobia confirmed this saying there has been a surge of domestic violence cases reported through the Gender Based Violence (GBV) hotline, 1195.

### Swept under the carpet

In March alone, 106 cases were reported through the hotline marking an increase from 62 in February and 50 in January. Statistics show that both men and women are suffering abuse in the hands of their partners at home where they are presumably supposed to be safest.

Since the government introduced measures to curb the spread of coronavirus, some of which include maintaining social distancing, there has also been a rise of sexual abuse incidents. Data by the National Council on Administration of Justice shows that there had been a spike of sexual offences in the last two weeks of March with the

offences constituting 35.8 per cent of all criminal matters reported within that period.

Fridah Githuku, CEO, Groots Kenya, a civil society organisation that works with women at the grassroots says the number of domestic abuse victims could be higher. The organisation that is present in 14 counties and with over 200,000 members, reports daily cases of violence from mostly women. "There are more cases that go unreported. The situation is made difficult by the fact that most government officers are busy with Covid-19. Besides, victims may not be able to get help because of restrictions on movement and lack of money," says Fridah.

Pacifica notes there are similar patterns on the factors triggering the violence. With schools closed and some companies cutting down on their operations, families are spending a lot of time together. That means that couples now have more time to confront domestic issues they may have initially swept under the carpet. "It has become apparent that women have been supporting families financially, while the men have been escaping respon-

sibility. But now, men who have all along avoided such discussions have to confront their realities," says Pacifica. That coupled with financial strain brought by job losses is causing a lot of tension in homes.

### Nowhere to vent

Families who were initially used to busy schedules are finding it difficult to adjust to spending too much time together. "Chances are, some couples that were used to being away from each other all day became strangers overtime, and are now locked up together," explains Susan Kahema, a counselling psychologist.

Financial stress, uncertainty about the future and other stressors related to everyday life have been linked with various coping mechanisms including domestic violence and substance abuse. "For people who are not able to handle the stress that comes with these challenges, becoming violent may look like the easy escape," explains Susan. Limited social interactions have left people with few options of where to vent their anger and stress. One cannot go to a bar, visit a friend or watch a match to deal with stress. Perpetrators resort to violence to cope with the feeling of loss of control brought about by the quarantine.

Women withstand the worst of domestic abuse. According to the KDHS 2014, 45 per cent of women and girls aged between 14 and 49 have experienced physical abuse. Fridah notes that the quarantine has brought to the fore the male impunity in homes. "Under normal circumstances men in most families do not spend a lot of time at home. But now that they are spending too much time in the house some are criticising how the home affairs are run including how children are being taken



ABOVE: Pacifica Ongecha, a community leader. BELOW: Susan Kahema, counselling psychologist. PD/COURTESY



care of, without really offering viable alternatives," adds Fridah.

For families that rely on daily wages, the present circumstances have made them highly vulnerable. In villages especially, the spike in other forms of abuse, Alice Isoyi, a community leader in Ikolomani, Kakamega county says that difficult financial circumstances are pushing children to engage in child labour.

"It's the weeding season and children who are supposed to be home studying are working in people's farms to supplement the family's income," she says. Alice has also encountered few cases of widows being disinherited during this Covid-19 period. Abuse of illicit brews is still rampant in this season in villages where enforcement of the law may not be strict.

There is the worry that restrictions imposed to prevent the spread of COVID-19 could make it difficult for survivors to report and to seek help. Experts worry that this scenario could have far-reaching effects even way after the pandemic is over.

"From this spike of violence we are likely to see an increase in HIV infections and a rise in unwanted pregnancies," says Fridah.

### KAHEMA

**Couples that were used to being away from each other have become strangers overtime, and are now locked up together**



## PARENTING BY KWACH WAKHISI @PeopleDailyKe



MAIN: A past photo of Susan and her family (left to right) Susan's first born daughter Sally, Susan, her husband Sammy, secondborn daughter Sarah and third born Sam. (Front row), her youngest daughter, Sandra. RIGHT: Sarah Keter suffered depression at 12. PD/COURTESY.

SUSAN KETER, 53, quit employment to bring up her six children. Now all grown and successful, she doesn't regret it, and is proud of how her children have turned out. Here is her story of great sacrifice, resilience, and patience

## I quit my job to be stay-at-home mum for 12 years

**S**usan Catherine Keter's journey to motherhood, raising six children was no mean task. "I got married when I was totally inexperienced as far as dealing with children was concerned. I am the last born in our family, so I learnt about parenting on the job. I must say it was challenging to chart my own path," she begins. As she figured out her way around, Susan encountered what most new mothers experience, she was criticised for not doing things one way instead of another, especially by parents who were more experienced than she was.

It is these hurdles that led Susan who had graduated with a Bachelors degree in Education at Kenyatta University to quit her job as a bilingual secretary to take up full time parenting. "When I quit my job, I was expecting our second baby and my firstborn daughter, Sally was hyperactive and needed a lot of attention. She would often destroy things around the house and I had no idea what hyperactivity was, hence I would end up punishing her to make her behave like 'other children'.

SUSAN

**It was painful to learn that our daughter had been judged harshly for struggles that were not of her own making**

As a result we both got frustrated," she recalls.

She is, however, glad that God was faithful, because every new baby that joined the family was accompanied by a promotion for my husband," smiles Susan who marked 30 years of marriage on April 7.

She describes holding her children in her arms for the first time as one of the most fulfilling moments. "Watching your child's milestones from the first steps to the first tooth cannot be described in words. I have enjoyed watching them grow into responsible adults, and now they are taller than I am," she laughs.

Her biggest challenge was her children's health. "My second born suffered foetal distress and the birth complication caused damage to certain areas of her brain. So, throughout her childhood, she would get irritated fast.

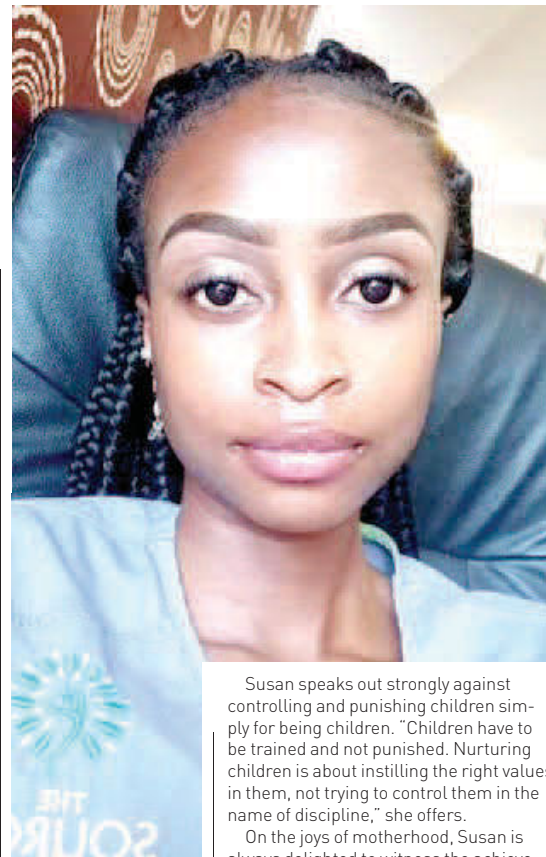
It was only after she was diagnosed

with depression at age 12 after comprehensive history of her life that the root problem was unveiled. The foetal distress, caused the behavioural problems in her early childhood. "It was painful to learn that our daughter had been judged harshly and often punished in school because of struggles that were not of her own making," she says.

### Depressed

Her fourth born son got critically ill just before his second birthday hence necessitating an emergency operation. At that time, Susan was in the first trimester of her fifth pregnancy. "Our next son was born seven months later and had a birth defect in the gastrointestinal tract. He required life-saving surgery during the first week of his life," she says.

All these vulnerabilities from prenatal and postnatal factors and the health complications triggered Susan's depression.



Susan speaks out strongly against controlling and punishing children simply for being children. "Children have to be trained and not punished. Nurturing children is about instilling the right values in them, not trying to control them in the name of discipline," she offers.

On the joys of motherhood, Susan is always delighted to witness the achievements of their children. Now between 17 and 29 years old, they are at different stages of their lives; her firstborn, Sally is a website developer, her second born, Sarah works at a plastic surgery clinic, her third, Sam is a software developer, her fourthborn Steve is a fitness trainer and rugby player, her fifthborn, Seth is in university and also plays rugby. Her last born, Sandra, is in Form Four. "Seeing my children being successful brings so much joy to my heart. Sometimes I come across billboards on the streets of Nairobi that are the work of the company run by my son-in-law and my daughter and feel proud of them," she beams.

Susan who now works as a transformational and business coach started rebuilding her career when her last born was two years old. "I worked in the mental health field from 2007 to 2012 and was one of the founders and first CEO of USP-Kenya, an organisation for consumers of mental health services in Kenya.



**InTheMix** With FANNE MWAMBI

## Rising against an unpredictable world for our kids

We're in the second month of fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. I can't help, but think of my parents-in-law who hoped we would warm their home up on the hills this month, or my mum who we know would have loved to see all her children on the day she commemorates the death of her husband. Or my dad who has been lying deep in the cold, damp soil for the last 12 months, waiting for a new batch of flowers, or a prayer

that has not been forthcoming. With the curfew and county lockdowns, the most we can do is video call the living and find reasons to laugh to keep sane. Everything else has to wait.

### Counting losses at work

Most people I know are now living on their last salary till further notice, and unless we catch the notorious virus, we will begin fighting for survival too. Having been used to

planning my budgets, having nothing more to plan with is somewhat disorienting. I now want a job, and precisely with a clause that allows me the benefits of getting compensations during pandemics. But is that even possible? This might be that time when you get laid off or demoted if you're in bad books with your boss. Many homes will suffer even after this is over. So then how will we survive?

While we all can't sell

masks, we need to adapt to the new lifestyle. Go back to the drawing board, do your market research, identify a need and see how you can solve it. Our children are watching us. Some, like mine, ask a lot of questions. Scary as it looks, I am doing it, partly to show them that it's possible, and to make it easier for them. Education is an excellent gift to them, but learning to make it in an unpredictable world is invaluable.





# Taboo ▶ Let's talk about it



## Euthanasia: Dignity or sin?

For ages, the debate on whether to pull the plug on a suffering patient has remained contentious...

by Sandra Wekesa  
@wekesa\_sandra

The pain and agony that Lucy Wanjiru\* had been subjected to as her son's caregiver is something she can still not explain, five months after he died. The sound of the machine he had been plugged to six months ago is the only thing that lingers in her mind.

Even as she comes to terms with his absence, Wanjiru's wish is to get back on her feet and resume her life as she lived before all this.

She recalls how her James\*, just like many other teens, was trying to complete school and set a path towards a career as a doctor. He always topped his class and it was not a doubt that one day he would get to live a full life and take care of the family.

But as fate could have it, in 2017 when he was in form two, he started falling ill. He got headaches so severe that he had to go to the hospital. "I remember every time he got these headaches, we would take him to hospital only for the tests to show nothing was wrong. We would get him painkillers and take him back to school," Lucy explains.

After some time, the pain became unbearable, and they opted for more tests, with Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) as the first option. The tumour discovered wasn't that big, making it easier to be treated with an operation.

### Dashed dreams

But it wasn't as easy because the family had to dig deep into their pockets to ensure their child got well. "Treating the tumour was the hard part for our family. As an entrepreneur, I didn't believe I could come up with money for surgery, but eventually, we were able to raise it, thanks to well wishers," Lucy recalls.

James got well and went back to school but after a year, his health deteriorated.

"He now had to stay away from school because he was not stable enough to even do anything for himself. We then went back to the



hospital, and that is when he was diagnosed with brain cancer," she says with sobs and tears down her cheek.

Getting out of this as a family was hard; they had to look for money for chemotherapy as the cancer was advanced. She didn't have any other option than to sell everything they had, from the family house in Nairobi to the car and other property, everything had to go to support their child.

Her business suffered since she would spend so many hours in the hospital, yet James still didn't show any sign of improvement.

"My son slipped into a coma, and I had to be there full time. He was just a teenager who needed his mother. I couldn't afford to go to work with all this going on, so I just stayed at the hospital and waited for him to wake up. But this went on for months, the bill was accumulating and I just didn't have any other option other than to ask the doctor for advice on how to lessen the pain," Lucy explains.

This was how her son died, after a series of pain. It wasn't the kind of experience she would wish for an 18-year-old.

Geoffrey Wango, a psychologist at University of Nairobi, says euthanasia also known as mercy killing is intentionally ending a life

to relieve pain and suffering. He adds that although it is illegal in Kenya, some countries such as Belgium, Netherlands, Switzerland, and states such as Washington and Oregon have embraced it.

Euthanasia can be voluntary, non-voluntary and involuntary. Voluntary is conducted with consent and non-voluntary is conducted on a person unable to consent due to their health conditions, therefore, the decision is made by another person. The third one is usually performed on a person who would be able to provide informed consent, but still does not for any reasons including they don't want to die.

### Psychological trauma

This process causes a psychological dilemma in caregivers, whether family or friends, for instance, they might not know whether to allow it or let faith come to play and work miracles for them.

In some instances, patients normally have this spelt out in their will, indicating clearly that when they become critically ill, or are undergoing excruciating pain, the family should just let them die with dignity. However, the family might not know the extent of the pain, making it difficult for them to make a decision.

"After this, some families might go through



Peter Wambua, an Akamba elder. COURTESY



Pastor Edward Kamau of God's Grace Ministry. COURTESY



Geoffrey Wango, a psychologist at University of Nairobi. COURTESY

trauma because of guilt that they might have murdered their loved one, and this kind of psychological trauma is not that easy on them," Wango says.

The UoN don adds that in as much as people might consider financial burden as a reason for 'mercy killing,' it usually is never an option because most people always think of the pain their loved one is going through.

Pastor Edward Kamau of God's Grace Ministry says death with dignity is not an act of compassion, but of breaking the commandments. "The first thing that should come to mind is ending the life of someone who has a chance of regaining is not right, because God is the only one who gives and takes away life," he says.

The narrative is not different in the African cultural context, where communities believe talking about death means inviting it to your home and that human life is sacred for we are only stewards of our body and answerable to God for it. Peter Wambua, an Akamba elder, says mercy killing in African culture was not allowed. Some communities believed that life and death of a person is in the hands of the God and ancestors.

"Since we live in a system of belief it was not right according to our culture to take away the life of a person; instead, they should be allowed to live to face another day and enjoy their life here on earth," he says.

### BRIEFLY

## 'Ambition' still taboo word for female executives

Almost 90 per cent of people in the world hold some sort of bias against women, including that about half of the population agrees that men make better political leaders, according to the Gender Social Norms Index (GSNI), a new United Nations study that contains data from 75 countries, or 80 per cent of the world's population.

Additionally, 40 per cent of people

feel that men make better business executives and that men have more right to a job when jobs are scarce.

With these statistics, it doesn't come as a shock that women's relationship with the word "ambition" is an extremely complex one — almost as complex as their relationship with make-up in the workplace.

A new global study, published by Amex and commissioned in partner-

ship with The New York Women's Foundation, looked at working women's relationships with ambition, confidence, recognition, and advocates.

According to the study, a majority of women consider themselves ambitious, but only 31 per cent said they are proud to call themselves "ambitious" publicly.

Additionally, the study found that only 32 per cent of women were very

confident they could actually achieve career ambitions.

"Earlier in my career, I was told, and not always in a positive way, that I was 'ambitious.' It was labeled as negative. I didn't see it as negative and still don't. It's about confidence and growth," said Monique Herena, the Chief Colleague Experience Officer at American Express.

As a way to fight this negative connotation, the company launched The Ambition Project. The goal is to not

only to help employees embrace their own ambition but to encourage them to back the ambitions of others as well.

"Many women, in particular, still have a complicated relationship with the word 'ambition,'" Herena said. "Our hope is that leaders everywhere will recognize their responsibility to support their colleagues' ambitions, — whether it's for their careers, personal lives or their communities."

-The Ladders





- 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 Lotto Live
- 22.20 Playlist 254 Fresh
- 23.20 Beatbox Repeat
- 00.00 DW Feed



- 5.00 Ime Ria Rucini
- 6.00 Rikiratha
- 9.30 Kurekereria Kodii
- 12.00 Njanjo Ya Muturire
- 1.00 Mohoro Gitau-Live
- 1.30 Kameme Iharoini- Live
- 2.00 Kiigunyia Kia Wonjoria
- 3.00 Thiririka Mixx
- 3.30 Satai
- 3.45 Kameme Toonz
- 4.00 Rimbuka Live
- 6.00 Kayu Ka Murimi
- 7.00 Kameme Maturaini
- 8.00 Njunga Ya Muthee Kherjo
- 8.30 Ndakariganira
- 9.00 Mutamburuko Wa Mohoro
- 10.00 Thenema Cia Kameme
- 11.00 Mutamburuko Wa Mohoro- Rpt
- 00.00 Rimbuka
- 2.00 Deustsche Welle



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

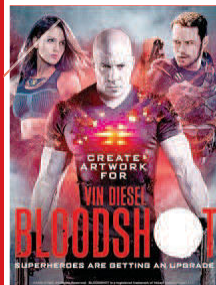
# TIME OUT!

20.00pm KIMCHI FAMILY

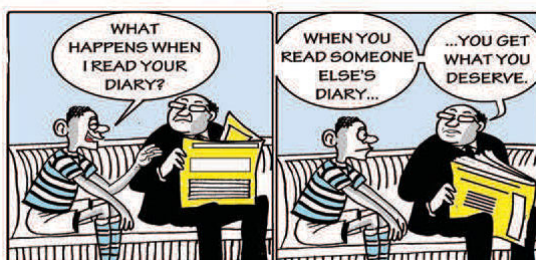


IN THEATRES NOW

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



LIFE'S LIKE THAT! | BY TUM



## HOROSCOPES



**ARIES (MAR. 21- APRIL 20)**  
 You can get the attention of important individuals but it might not be the time to get them to help or to back your ideas.

**TAURUS (APR. 21- MAY 21)**  
 You may overspend if you travel today; however, the trip will be one to remember. Property investments, insurance, taxes, or inheritance should bring you financial gains.

**GEMINI (MAY 22-JUNE 21)**  
 Travel and entertainment will be pleasurable. You may not have the same ideas when it comes to what you both enjoy. Join groups of a humanitarian nature.

**CANCER (JUNE 22-JULY 22)**  
 Sudden changes could result in estrangements. Visit friends or relatives you rarely see.

**LEO (JULY 23-AUG 22)**  
 Avoid functions that will bring you in contact with those you find difficult to get along with. Plan a day of enjoyment with them. New interests are preoccupying your time.

**VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 23)**  
 Don't say things that could be damaging later on. Cut loose. Your emotional state will vacillate. Travel will promote new romantic encounters.

**LIBRA (SEPT. 24-OCT. 23)**  
 Concentrate on your job. Don't be too eager to give a piece of your mind or even your opinion today. Secret affairs may be tempting.

**SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)**  
 For best results get out of the office and do your job en route. You should teach children some of your unique creative talents.

**SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23-DEC. 21)**  
 However, you must not neglect your family. Don't spend too much on products that promise amazing cosmetic results.

**CAPRICORN (DEC 22 - JAN. 20)**  
 Consider a trial separation if you and your mate just can't come to terms. Take time to help children with projects that may be too hard for them to do on their own.

**AQUARIUS (JAN. 21-FEB. 19)**  
 Be sure to catch up on overdue correspondence and help those you love find solutions to their dilemmas. Do not make rash decisions about your personal life.

**PISCES (FEB. 20-MAR. 20)**  
 Losses are likely if you aren't careful where you leave your valuables. You can make major decisions regarding your professional direction.



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



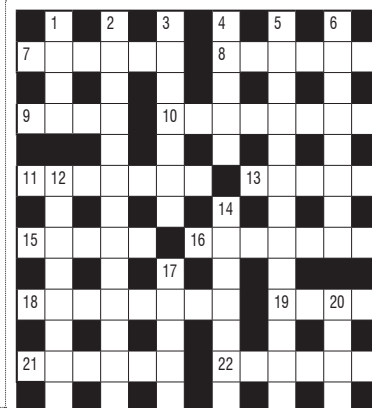
- 5:00am Password Plus
- 6:00am AM Live
- 8:00am Living With Ess
- 9:00am NTV Today
- 11:00am NTV Sasa
- 1:00pm NTV at 1
- 1:30pm Auntie Boss!
- 2:00pm The Good Son
- 3:00pm The Girl Named Feriha - RPT
- 4:00pm NTV Alasiri
- 4:30pm Barbie Living The Dream House
- 5:00pm The Heat
- 6:00pm Asintado
- 7:00pm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

## SUDOKU

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

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

The aim is to fill the grid so that each row, column and every 3x3 shaded box contains only one of the digits 1-9. You need to reason out where to place the missing numbers by using the numbers given in the grid and a process of elimination. It is a game of logic not mathematical ability.



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

- ACROSS**
- 1. Verbs
- 4. Clarify
- 7. Utter
- 8. Reverent
- 9. Macho
- 11. Tourists
- 15. Variance
- 17. Goals
- 19. Upstream
- 20. Chaps
- 21. Persona
- 22. Milet
- DOWN**
- 1. Vibrating
- 2. Nervous
- 3. Scorpio
- 4. Comet
- 5. Ritual
- 6. Fresh
- 10. Outmost
- 12. Mclern
- 13. Inherit
- 14. Adapt
- 16. Alpaca
- 18. Ochre

- ACROSS**
- 7. Uncover (6)
- 8. Outdoes (6)
- 9. Writing fluids (4)
- 10. Educating (8)
- 11. Child's vehicle (7)
- 13. Holy chalice (5)
- 15. Aqualung (5)
- 16. Corridor (7)
- 18. Made better (8)
- 19. Period of imprisonment (4)

- 21. Coating (6)
- 22. Soldiers (6)
- DOWN**
- 1. At another time (4)
- 2. Animal used for heavy work (5,2,6)
- 3. Planned (7)
- 4. Member of the weasel family (5)

- 5. Power to give orders (13)
- 6. Paying out money (8)
- 12. Long green vegetable (8)
- 14. Official instruction (7)
- 17. Creamy-white colour (5)
- 20. Thick cord (4)





# Sport

► The one-stop Sport shop...

## ATHLETICS

**Cherono**  
undeterred by  
Boston marathon  
postponement- Pg30



## Families sue helicopter firm in Kobe Bryant crash

**LOS ANGELES:** The families of four passengers who were killed in the helicopter crash with NBA legend Kobe Bryant and his 13-year-old daughter Gianna have launched legal proceedings against the firms that owned and operated the chopper, media reports said. The lawsuits were filed Sunday in the Los Angeles Superior Court on behalf of the families of basketball coach John Altobelli, his wife Keri and their 13-year-old daughter Alyssa—who played

basketball with Gianna—and of assistant coach Christina Mauser, the TMZ website said. The complaints accuse Island Express Helicopters and Island Express Holding Corp of negligence. Bryant's widow Vanessa filed a lawsuit nearly two months ago against the operators of the helicopter and the estate of the pilot, Ara Zobayan, who was among the nine killed when they crashed in rugged terrain west of Los Angeles on January 26. **-AFP**



## UEFA in pitch for conclusion of leagues on the continent

**LAUSSANE:** UEFA made a "strong recommendation" yesterday that domestic European football league seasons, currently on hold because of the coronavirus pandemic, be completed. "There was a strong recommendation given to finish domestic top division and cup competitions," European football's governing body said. It added that "some special cases will be heard once guidelines concerning participation to

European competitions, in case of a cancelled league, have been developed." UEFA said any further decisions would be announced after its Executive Committee meets tomorrow. League seasons across Europe were halted in March as coronavirus spread across the continent. The German Bundesliga is set to become the first top-flight league to attempt to restart its season, with clubs expected to agree to a May 9 resumption. **-AFP**



## Barca toss Nou Camp naming rights in virus fight

**MADRID:** Barcelona will raise money for the fight against coronavirus by selling the naming rights to their Camp Nou stadium next season for the first time in the club's history. The income generated from the re-naming of Barca's 99,000-seater home for one year will be put towards "research projects and other projects involved in the battle against the ef-

fects of Covid-19, both at a local and international level". The stadium will keep 'Camp Nou' in its name while also including the new sponsor. The club have previously advertised UNICEF children's charity for free on their shirts. In a statement yesterday, the club said the process of finding a buyer will begin "in the next few weeks". **-AFP**



## Badoer's Super League plans get backing

A section of Western Kenya football coaches support move by Wazito boss to have elite division in East Africa

by Fred Likuyani  
@PeopleDailyKe

A proposal by Kenyan Premier League side Wazito FC owner Ricardo Badoer to have 10 teams from East Africa compete in a super league-style competition have received backing from a section of Western Kenya football stakeholders.

Vihiga Queens coach Alex Alumira supports the move, terming it good for an investor seeking a platform to market his business empire.

"Football is all about money, the league, with good sponsorship will attract quality players and hence re-

main very competitive; something that brings passion and entertainment for the fans," said Alumira.

"It will exert more pressure on local leagues to put in place right structures in order to attract more sponsorship for the them to remain relevant. Football is money and just like the lucrative UEFA Champions League, every player will strive go where big money is," he added.

"This is something that has been mooted and discussed even by the richest clubs in Europe with intentions of coming up with a form of a super league, so this is the best idea if the right structures will be put in place," said Alumira.

### Good structures

The proposal also received endorsement from Kakamega Homeboyz team manager Boniface Imbenzi who said football is all about sponsorships and good structures.

"Our administrators are always playing a lot of public relations,

promising many things that are never implemented. I think we need to improve this if we dream of developing football in the country. Our league has made some steps backward after the withdrawal of sponsors and we can't match the other regional leagues who are well organised with good finances," said Imbenzi.

"If Badoer will borrow a leaf from former Cecafa secretary general Nicholas Musonye who did great work to improve soccer standards in the region, then we can expect something good. However, we need to strengthen our leagues first," he added. But former Kenyan international Nick Yakhama opposes the move, calling on Badoer to support Cecafa instead as it already has 12 teams and established structures.

The Wazito owner has revealed that measures for the regional event are at an advanced stage, having finalised registration of the company and was working on the logo.

Sony Sugar's Yusuf Muhammed (left) vies for the ball with Wazito FC's Michael Oduor during a past league match.

INSET: Wazito FC owner Ricardo Badoer. PD/RODGERS NDEGWA

## Birds day out

Before the coronavirus pandemic halted all sporting activities in the country, the Kenyatta Stadium in Machakos would host a football match every weekend. But with no action in sight, birds took over. The stadium has now been turned into a temporary isolation centre for Covid-19 patients in the county. PD/PHILIP KAMAKYA





# As Corona bites, Ndigiti has resorted to making jikos for survival



Africa junior walk race champion Dominic Ndigiti shows off one of the jikos he is making in Kisii PD/GIBO ZACHARY

by Gibo Zachary  
@PeopleDailyKe

An athlete's life is profoundly dependent on running and thus, many professional runners solely rely on it for a living.

However, with the global sporting calendar interrupted, athletics included, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, real struggle for athletes to beat the harsh economic times has seen some of them resort to different means of survival.

One such athlete is reigning Africa junior 10,000m walk race champion Dominic Ndigiti.

Ndigiti, who was preparing for the Tokyo Olympics Games and the 22nd Africa Senior Athletics Championships in Algiers, Algeria before the virus struck, has decided to go back to what he used to do as a child to eke out a living.

That involves making clay cooking stoves popularly known as jikos. Though he is now

doing the much-advanced multipurpose ones, Ndigiti is loving it as it will not only earn him money but is also keeping him busy during the break.

"This is the job I am doing at home now that there's no race to compete in," the former World Under-18 bronze medalist told *People Sport* in Kisii on Monday.

## Clients' demands

"Jiko making is an art I learnt and used to do when I was young before I realised that I had the gift of running. While still very young and with poverty overwhelming my family, I ventured into the jiko making business. At the time, I only used soil but at the moment, and depending on my client's demands, I do both soil and cement jikos," added Ndigiti.

Ndigiti's multipurpose jikos use both firewood and charcoal and sale for Sh3,000, Sh2,500 or Sh1,500 depending on the material used, number of burners and if someone

wants one with a chimney that directs smoke outside.

It takes Ndigiti five to six hours to have one jiko installed in a permanent house, and up to 12 hours in a semi-permanent building. This is because he has to construct a strong foundation with cement to hold the jiko.

The athlete hopes the health situation will be fine soon so that he can return to his first love since he is keen to graduate into the senior ranks.

"I rise up early to train before going to my jiko making business. Practice is a must for me. I want to keep fit because you never know, you might wake up and you're told to prepare for a race," he said.

"As much as I am into the jiko-making business which is putting food on the table for me and my family at the moment, I also have a well-planned practice schedules because I firmly believe, soon we're going to defeat this disease and get back to running," he added.

# CK releases, then recalls its draft constitution

Division within Cricket Kenya seems far from over after document that sought to quell wrangles is taken back following mixed reactions from stakeholders

by Barry Silah  
@PeopleDailyKe

Divisions within Cricket Kenya (CK) came to the fore once again yesterday when the association released its proposed draft constitution in the afternoon before recalling it in the evening.

Recall came hours after mixed reactions greeted its release following months of lobbying.

The 34-page draft had been seen as a win-win situation for stakeholders in the game that has been bedeviled with endless wrangles for a number of years.

The constitutional process was as a result of an attempt by former Sports Cabinet Secretary Rashid Echesa to intervene in the feuding sides who in 2018 disagreed on the status of the CK constitution and the fact that the association, under lawyer Jackie Janmohamed, had failed to comply with the Sports Act 2013.

Some of the new proposals that had been included were to have more women voices and the creation of a unitary Development Director in Charge of Counties, replacing the former Provinces Development Managers.

The draft had been undertaken to create a position of Director of Women's Cricket in the newly-proposed Executive Board and also a sub-committee specifically deal-

ing with women's cricket which analysts believe is a big score for the near forgotten lot.

Treasurer of the Interim Committee that facilitated the draft Kennedy Obuya had backed the draft before its recalling. "I believe with this draft, it is a new dawn in the making and we should start work. I know there could be gaps but largely, it is a progressive document even though such a process can sometimes be complex and divisive," Obuya told *People Sport* yesterday.

## Proposal is good

Another idea that had earned the backing from some key stakeholders in the sport was the proposal that at least 30 per cent of International Cricket Council funds and from other donors be taken to full members of the association.

"We want to see clubs especially involved and so the 30 percent proposal is good. We also



agree with one vote being handled by a delegate selected from the associations. Some of these issues were raised in the previous meetings and therefore we only await the modalities to be used," Coast Cricket Association Secretary General Dhiru Halai said.

However, former CK treasurer Ravi Kaul poured cold water on the enlarged committees. "There needs to be at least five and not the 11 being mentioned. Committees must be beneficial to the sport," he argued even as he pointed out that the three positions of gender minority proposed for nominations to the Executive Board with full rights were needless and waste of resources."

Former men's national team assistant coach and Kenyan international Peter Ong'ondo suggested the drafters of the document wanted to avoid blame by creating so many positions to silence

'noisemakers'. "It is obvious that the pressure from ICC was telling and so we had to work smart. However, it is not of benefit to just impress people who would otherwise lose elections to be given safe landing slots. We need a solid structure that will curb inefficiencies," Ong'ondo.

## Ignore email

However, in an email sent to newsrooms last evening, CK recalled the document, saying: "I refer to the below email which was erroneously sent out earlier today (yesterday). Kindly ignore the said email together with the attachment (draft). The correct communication on this subject will be sent out in due course."

It is not clear why CK recalled the document but it is an indication that the issues the constitution sought to address are still far from over.

Rakep Patel bats off a delivery as wicket keeper Ankit Hirani watches during a training session in preparation for the Africa T20 in Uganda last year. INSET: Cricket Kenya boss Jackie Janmohamed.

PD/PHILIP KAMAKYA.



## Cherono undeterred by Boston marathon cancelation, eyes title

by Ericson Kiprono  
@PeopleDailyKe

Reigning Boston Marathon champion Lawrence Cherono has not been deterred by the coronavirus pandemic and is looking forward to defend his title during the 124th edition of the race.

The event, initially set to take place on April 20, was postponed to September 14 as part of measures by the US government to curb the spread of the virus.

Cherono, who trains in Kaptagat, Elgeyo Marakwet County will face Ethiopia's Lelisa Desisa, 2017 winner Geoffrey Kirui, 2018 champion Yuki Kawauchi among other quality runners.

"I am continuing with the training despite the postponement but I look forward to that day and I am delighted that I will be going back to the USA to defend my title and I have prepared well for the marathon. I am optimistic that I will do well even though the elite field is strong," said Cherono.

"The 2017 champion Geoffrey Kirui and 2018 winner Yuki Kawauchi and Lelisa Desisa, who won in 2013, will be competing with me. They have all won before and will be hungry for another title," he added.

At last year's edition, Cherono won the Boston title in a sprint finish, clocking 2:07:57 to beat Desisa to second place (2:07:59) while Kenya's

Kenneth Kipkemai settled for third in 2:08:07.

"Desisa is a tough athlete and we were together in the leading pack up to the last 50m. That's when I sprinted, leaving him behind. His body could not react and that is how I was able to win the race," said Cherono, who is also the Chicago Marathon champion.

Meanwhile, Kirui is also looking forward to a good run with the intention of recapturing the crown he last won in 2017. The athlete, who normally trains at his home in Keringet, Nakuru County has since shifted to Kaptagat in a bid to improve his performance.

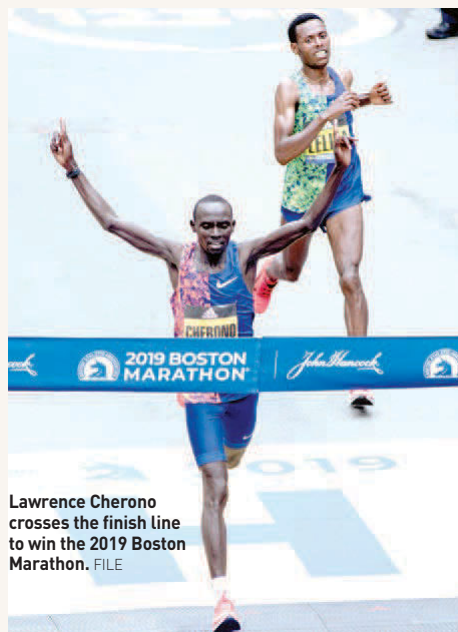
"I have been training in the two regions (Kaptagat and Keringet) and both areas have similar conditions which are good for training," said Kirui.

He finished second in a rain-soaked race in 2018 and fifth last year.

In the women's category, 2015 champion Caroline Rotich will compete against 2017 winner Edna Kiplagat and reigning champion Ethiopia's Worknesh Degefa.

Degefa won last year's race in 2:23:3 with Kiplagat second in 2:24:14 while USA's Jordan Hasay clocked 2:25:20 for third place.

Challengers for the title include Mare Dibaba of Ethiopia, who will return in excellent shape having run 2:20:21 for second place at the 2019 Berlin Marathon.



Lawrence Cherono crosses the finish line to win the 2019 Boston Marathon. FILE

## Taylor can't wait to compete in Nairobi

In an interview with K24's Caren Kibbett, multiple Olympics, World triple jump champion talks about desire to start season in Kenya and being inspired by David Rudisha



17

Rio 2016



by Lynette Matheka  
@PeopleDailyKe

Reigning Olympics and World triple jump champion Christian Taylor will be in Nairobi to compete in the inaugural World Athletics Continental Tour when a new date is set.

New in the World Athletics calendar, the Continental Tour was scheduled to make its debut in Kenya on May 2 before the Covid 19 pandemic forced the event to be postponed.

"I was to start my season in Kenya and I was very excited to see what the Tour had in store being a new system. This would be my first time in Kenya and I had visions, aspirations and goals that I had set to achieve there. To have the opportunity to compete there will be very special so hopefully come August, when the event is tentatively set to take place, I will be in the country for the Tour," the American said from his US base via a Skype interview with K24 sports anchor Caren Kibbett.

With all sporting events at a standstill and the United States recording the highest Covid-19 infections and deaths in the world so far, the 29-year old has not been able to jump for close to two months.

He is, however, hopeful that with the Olympics moved to next year, he will have enough time to prepare as he sets his eyes on break-

ing the world record that stands at 18:29m.

"I was prepared to defend my Olympics gold in Tokyo as well as break the world record. Now I have another year to prepare and I have everything pushed towards that goal. I am healthy and motivated. By then, I will be 30 which I think is a perfect age and with experience, I hope the stars will line up for me to achieve that," he added.

### Stiff competition

He went on: "I am preparing for the Olympics next year but I would also love to be in Paris 2024. I love being a part of these historical events and I have been lucky to see some spectacular moments throughout my career. My biggest take from the 2012 Olympics, for instance, was watching David Rudisha set a new world record in the final. Watching that 800m race was special. I am taking it one event at a time but hopefully I can make it to Paris too."

Even as he eyes the world record, Taylor admits he is likely to face stiff competition from, among others, Africa record holder and World bronze medalist Burkina Faso's Hugues Fabrice Zango. He, however, welcomes the pressure, saying it will push him to do better.

"He (Zango) is a phenomenal person. I know the pressure will be there but it is very important

to have people to push you. I hope to be the victor but it sure will be a good fight," Taylor said.

With a packed calendar ahead, probably stretching all the way to the Paris 2024 Olympics, the triple jumper says he will use every opportunity to stay fit and at the same time be smart about the competitions he will be a part of.

After the 2021 Olympics there will be back-to-back World Championships in 2022 and 2023 after World Athletics moved next year's event to accommodate the Tokyo Games, making it a packed calendar for athletes.

### Diamond League series

"I love track and field and I will take every opportunity to compete in the triple jump where I can. With the discipline removed in the Diamond League series, if the 400m is the only option I have to remain active in the series I will do what I can to survive. Additionally, I will engage older athletes who are more experienced on how I can handle the packed calendar ahead. I will be getting older and competing will not be the same but I am willing to do the hard work," added Taylor.

The four-time world champion won his first USA outdoor national title in 2011. He followed it up with a win in the triple jump at the 2011 World Championships. He





18

Olympics and world triple jump champion American Christian Taylor competes at the 2016 Rio Games. TOP RIGHT: Taylor shows off his gold medal at the Doha 2019 Worlds. RIGHT: Taylor competes in Doha. FILE



won gold at the 2012 Olympics in London after placing fourth at the 2013 World Championships but regained his title at the 2015 event.

#### Victory in triple jump

He would defend his Olympics title in the 2016 Games in Rio de Janeiro with a jump of 17.86m. In 2017, Taylor once again stormed to victory in the triple jump at the

World Championships in London with a jump of 17.68m.

Coming to the 2019 World Championship in Doha as the defending champion, Taylor took his fourth crown after producing a 17.92m jump.

He also competes in the long jump with a best of 8.19m and in the sprints to a high level. His best for the 400m dash is 45.07 seconds and he has run 20.70 seconds in 200m.

## Cheruiyot hopes to maintain form through to 2021

Nairobi, Tuesday  
@PeopleDailyKe

World 1,500m champion Timothy Cheruiyot is ruining a missed opportunity to cement his name in the sport's wall of fame by winning an Olympics medal in 2020.

Cheruiyot, 24, had high expectations this season, but all that has disappeared as he can't train or compete in any event at the moment.

The Diamond League has been postponed with the first race likely in August and the Olympic Games pushed to 2021.

Now, he is left with doing his part-time job, farming. "Of course I had set my sights on winning my fourth Diamond League trophy and the Olympic Games," said Cheruiyot on Monday from his home in Bomet.

Cheruiyot had hoped to use the top form he has enjoyed recently to challenge some of the times set in the distance, defend the Diamond Trophy and win the Tokyo Olympics.

Now he will have to wait, hoping he will find similar form in 2021, to hunt for medals and records. "Hopefully, I will be in the same form as last season. But we have to accept to live with things we can't change. We have to accept the postponement of the Games because nothing much could have been done," he said.

Cheruiyot believes the world will emerge stronger after the coronavirus and it is important that athletes continue training no matter how hard it is to do it alone. "Of course, we are finding ourselves in a very difficult situation as athletes but we take heart because it is a global problem. We will overcome it and sports will be back on the big stage," Cheruiyot said.

Kenyan athletes will have a tough choice to make in 2021 when most sports events are expected to return. There will be the Commonwealth Games, the Olympic Games, the Diamond League, Africa Championships and Continental Tour.

-Xinhua



## Simiyu finding it hard to train alone but optimistic for future



Daniel Simiyu during a past race in Eldoret.  
PD/EMMANUEL MASINDE

by Emmanuel Masinde  
@PeopleDailyKe

Standard Chartered Nairobi marathon 10km champion Daniel Simiyu is having it rough training alone since the coronavirus pandemic led to the closure of all camps last month.

The Iten-based runner, who hails from Samburu County, was ready to compete before the crisis as he was eyeing a slot in Team Kenya to the 2020 Olympic which event has since been postponed to next year due to the disease.

"I was in good shape and I had

prepared well for the season as I targeted a slot in Team Kenya to the Olympics Games in Tokyo," said Simiyu who was competing in different local and international races to build up his fitness for the season before the break.

#### Training alone

Simiyu, who is also the Kisumu 10km winner, says training alone is very difficult since doing so in a group gauge one's level of preparedness and offers competition.

"It is impossible now to know

if you are training well because there are no competitions to test your endurance and see if what we have been doing needs correction," he added.

Simiyu endured harsh treatment last year when he was ejected from the Kenyan squad to the 2019 World Championships in Doha, Qatar despite winning the 5,000m in the trials in Nairobi.

Athletics Kenya (AK) cited failure to meet anti-doping test regulations that require a minimum of three out-of-competition tests before one's name is submitted into the entry list.

Simiyu blamed AK for the debacle, claiming the federation did not inform him of the regulations before he signed up for the trials.

The athlete, however, put that behind and went on to win last year's Family Bank Half Marathon in Eldoret and is keen to make up for the lost opportunity in future competitions.

"I am hoping to perform well in my running career which I believe I will do. I will put more effort in my training as I was born with a purpose. God can turn my past and present pain into future gains," he summed up.





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## La Liga, Spanish FA concur on training restart protocol

**MADRID:** La Liga and the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) have agreed a return to training protocol for professional players in the country after the coronavirus outbreak, the Spanish National Sports Council (CSD) announced on Monday. Spain's top division has been suspended since March 12 due to the COVID-19 outbreak which has so far killed more than 20,800 people, the third-highest number of deaths in the world after the United States and Italy. "This decision remains controlled by the evolution of the Covid-19 pandemic and by the decisions adopted by the Ministry of Health," the CSD said in a statement. La Liga clubs will train again "when health conditions allow it, and by following strict health protocols," it added. **-AFP**



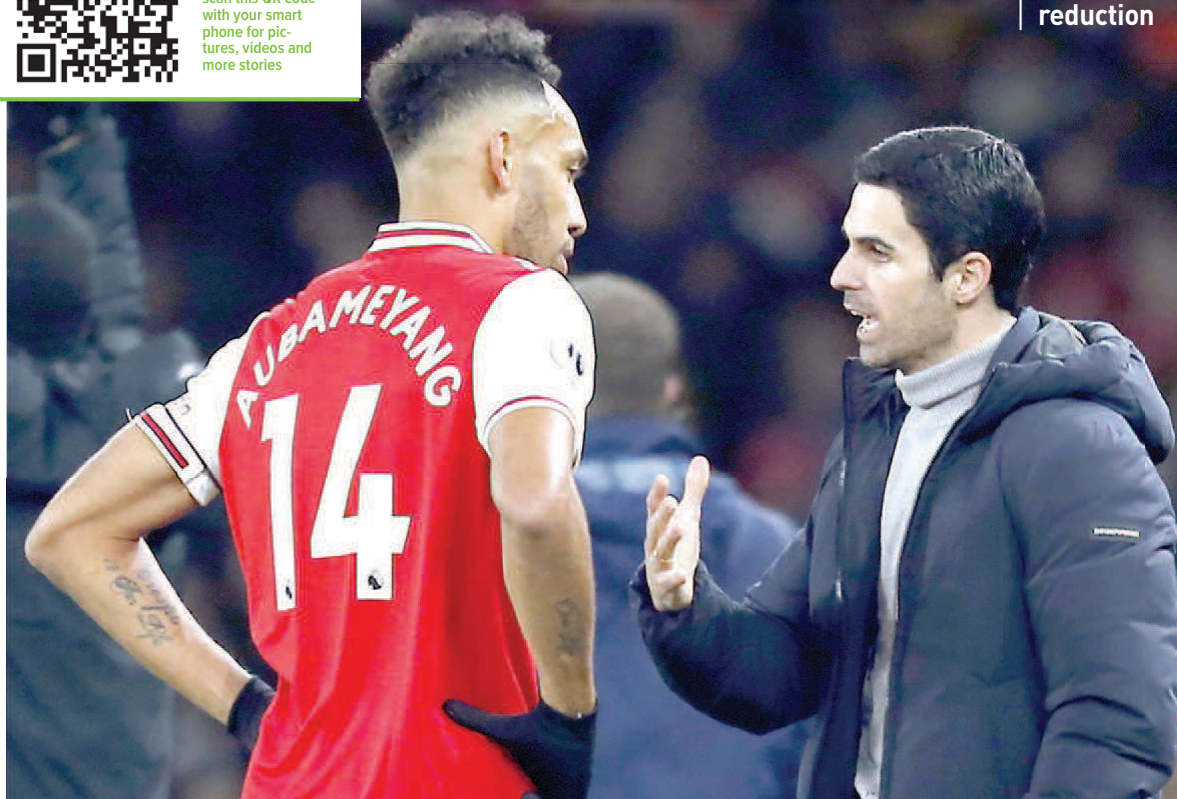
## Possible May 9 resumption of Germany's Bundesliga behind closed-door stadiums

**BERLIN:** Germany's Bundesliga could resume from May 9, regional leaders of the country's biggest states said on Monday, although games can only take place without spectators to prevent coronavirus contagion. Markus Soeder, state premier of Bavaria which hosts champions Bayern Munich, said it remains "completely unimaginable to have spectators" in the stadiums given the need for social distancing to slow the virus spread. But "we could perhaps from May 9 play such a round of 'ghost games'," Soeder told Bild, us-

ing the German term "Geisterspiele" for matches played in empty stadiums. "A weekend with football is much more bearable than a weekend without football," he added. Likewise, Armin Laschet, premier of North Rhine-Westphalia state which is home to Borussia Dortmund, said Germany's top flight could resume "on condition that there is a thoroughly thought-out concept". The German Football League (DFL) has presented "safeguards" in recent days, said Laschet, adding he "can imagine us returning to 'ghost games'". **-AFP**

## Pay cut for Arsenal stars

**Gunners players and boss Arteta agree on coronavirus salary reduction**



**London, Tuesday**  
@PeopleSports11

Arsenal became the first English Premier League club to agree a coronavirus pay cut with their players as manager Mikel Arteta and his stars slashed their wages by 12.5 per cent on Monday.

After Southampton and West Ham announced wage deferral agreements with their players, Arsenal went one step further by securing the pay cut from Arteta and the first-team squad.

"We are pleased to announce that we have reached a voluntary agreement with our first-team players, head coach and core

coaching staff to help support the club at this critical time," Arsenal said in a statement.

"The move follows positive and constructive discussions. In these conversations there has been a clear appreciation of the gravity of the current situation caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and a strong desire for players and staff to show their backing for the Arsenal family."

The pay deals come after a series of negotiations over the last two weeks amid a backdrop of criticism for Premier League players over their failure to agree quick wage cuts while some top-flight teams furloughed non-playing

staff to save money.

The Premier League asked clubs to put a 30 percent pay cut to players, but the English Professional Footballers' Association said that would affect tax contributions to the UK's state-run National Health Service.

It was reported that Arsenal initially proposed a 12-month drop in salary for their players.

### 'Financial risks'

After a muted response to their request, Arsenal were able to secure the agreement thanks to Arteta's influence, according to reports.

Arteta, who has recovered after

contracting the virus in March, spoke to his 27-man squad in a video call on Wednesday.

He is said to have made it clear that he would not engage them in discussions about money normally, but in this case he wanted them to take a strong collective stance in supporting Arsenal through the unprecedented financial mayhem caused by the pandemic.

There are reports that Arsenal, whose yearly wage bill is around £230 million (£28.6 billion), will give players their money back in the event that they bridge an eight-point gap and qualify for the Champions League when football restarts. **-AFP**

## Belgian league end date delayed

**BRUSSELS:** The Belgian Pro League has postponed until next week its controversial decision to become the first European league to officially end its season and declare Club Brugge champions with 11 matches unplayed. The measure was unanimously approved by the Pro League board at the start of the month and was due to be rubber-stamped on Friday. It will now meet next Monday.

The measure riled European football's governing body UEFA who are meeting this week to discuss the fate of the 2019/20 season. UEFA had called the Belgian move to call time on their domestic season "at this stage, premature and not justified". It threatened to ban all teams from European competitions next season if they did not complete their league season. **-AFP**



## Serie A commits to finishing season

**MILAN:** Serie A insisted Monday that they were committed to finishing the season despite reports seven clubs are against a return to action as the coronavirus pandemic continues to afflict Italy. "The Lega Serie A Council that met today unanimously confirmed its intention to complete the 2019-2020 season, if the government allows it to take place," Italy's top flight said in a statement. It added that any resumption will take place "in accordance with regulations laid out by FIFA and UEFA" and the Italian Football Federation (FIGC), and "in compliance with medical protocols to protect the players". Brescia, Torino, Sampdoria, Udinese, SPAL, Genoa and Sardinian outfit Cagliari do not want to play because of the "incalculable risk" of restarting, according to reports in Italy.

Six of those clubs are situated in the north of Italy which has been hardest hit by a virus which has killed over 24,000 people. **-AFP**