



Raila wades into Jubilee wars

Page 16 DP Ruto's 2022 State House bid in focus as Opposition chief meets key Uhuru ally David Murathe and trade unionist Francis Atwoli for 'Easter lunch'



Raila



Atwoli



Murathe



Wednesday, April 15, 2020

www.pd.co.ke // www.epaper.peopledaily.co.ke

NO. 07044

Corona Bill to stop pay cuts, waive rents

Relief package: Senate is proposing radical measures that will see vulnerable Kenyans who have been hit by Covid-19 pandemic exempted from paying for utilities and employers stopped from effecting pay cuts on workers

PAGES 4,5,6,7,8,9,12,13 & 14



Relief for kerosene users as fuel prices drop by Sh18

PG 4



Nairobi Senator Johnson Sakaja

UPDATE BY NUMBERS

216

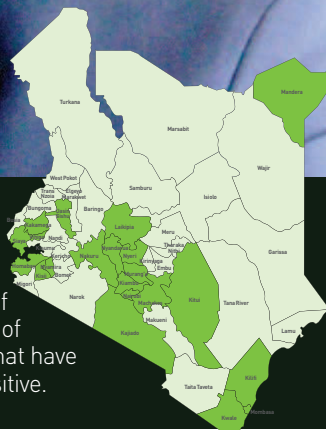
confirmed cases **41** recovered and **9** deaths.

11

new people tested positive for Covid-19 in the last 24 hours.

21

counties of residence of persons that have tested positive.



Nairobi	101
Mombasa	34
Kilifi	10
Kiambu	7
Mandera	6
Machakos	6
Nakuru	5

News Beat PG7

Counties have no capacity to handle pandemic, say governors



Study links BCG jab to low Corona rates

Coronavirus death rates are almost six times lower in countries with a widespread vaccination programme involving the Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG) jab, a new study has found.

The BCG vaccine gives immunity to tuberculosis, but mass vaccination was dropped in the UK in 2005 when rates of the lung infection dropped.

Yet US-based experts now think the vaccine could improve immune systems and protect people from infection.

New research, which is yet to be peer reviewed, suggests that countries with widespread BCG vaccination programmes have much lower rates of the coronavirus than nations without.

Looking at the mortality per one million residents of each country with sufficient data, the researchers made an estimate on the coronavirus fatality rate from the top 50 countries reporting highest case events.

Researchers factored in a nation's economic status as well as its elderly population, factors which could distort the overall picture of death rates.

Health experts

The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health experts said in their paper: "The intriguing observation of a significant association between BCG use and lower Covid-19-attributable mortality remained discernable. While mortality attributable to Covid-19 has devastated global health systems and economies, striking regional differences have been observed".

The paper was published on the online archive MedRxiv rather than an academic journal as it has not yet been peer-reviewed by other academics.

The research comes as others around the world launch trials investigating the possible benefits of BCG vaccination amid the coronavirus pandemic.

One team in Australia is trialing whether the vaccination will protect against Covid-19 or reduce severity of Covid-19 in healthcare workers.

-Telegraph

Sakaja Bill proposes exemption from paying rent, salary cuts

Senator says law is aimed at providing a framework for the effective response to, management of pandemic

by Anthony Mwangi and Hillary Mageka
@PeopleDailyKe

The Senate is proposing radical measures that will see Kenyans who have been hit hard by the Covid-19 pandemic exempted from paying rent and utilities charges as well as servicing loans.

The proposal also seeks to cushion those in employment from salary cuts and businessmen from paying for trading licences and land rates.

The recommendations are contained in the Pandemic Response and Management Bill, 2020, which is sponsored by Nairobi Senator Johnson Sakaja.

Sakaja, who is the chairman of the Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Covid-19, says the Bill is aimed at providing a framework for the effective response to and management of a pandemic in order to prevent the occurrence or spread of a pandemic whenever it arises.

"The Bill seeks to provide measures to mitigate against the effects of the pandemic and provide a mechanism to cushion those that may be adversely affected," reads the bill.

Tax measures

If it sails through the Senate, the National Treasury Cabinet Secretary will, with the approval of Parliament, introduce tax measures to cushion the affected people for the period of the pandemic.

At the same time, the National Assembly yesterday endorsed the reduction of Value Added Tax (VAT) from 16 to 14 per cent as proposed by President Uhuru Kenyatta in a move that is aimed at cushioning Kenyans against effects of coronavirus. However, some members questioned the move to reduce VAT, saying it will not have any meaningful impact on the common man.

"Treasury erred by reducing taxes. In an economy where prices of commodities are liberalised you cannot control prices, the common man will not feel it as Treasury will have to make increments elsewhere to cover the gap," said Kipipiri MP Amos Kimunya.

"This is a populist move by Treasury which is not sustainable. For instance, they are now introducing VAT on agricultural products to cover the lost amount in VAT," Kimunya, a former Finance minister, added.

Homa Bay MP Peter Kaluma said the situation will require the government to have a lot of money to reduce VAT and expect things to remain the same.

"Reduction of VAT without corresponding measures will not help, it will instead make things worse," said Kaluma.



Senate ad hoc Committee on Covid-19 chairman Johnson Sakaja with a member Abshiro Halakhe during a recent press conference at Parliament Buildings yesterday. PD/KENNA CLAUDE

Sakaja's Senate Bill seeks to have tenants give a notice in writing to their landlords or contracting party that they are unable pay rent because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Reads the draft: "Upon receipt of a notice, the contracting parties shall enter into an agreement on how the tenant shall meet their obligation at the end of the pandemic."

The Cabinet Secretary in charge of Housing, will provide measures to cushion landlords and tenants during the period under review. In situations where those affected are incapable of servicing their loans and mortgages because of the pandemic, borrowers shall notify and enter into an agreement with the lending institution on how to make the payments after the pandemic.

Sakaja wants borrowers saved from the burden of paying penalties and the Credit Reference Bureau (CRB) will not list those who default during the period. "Lenders shall not charge fees, interest or any other penalty for non-payment or late payment of obligations during the pandemic period," it states.

And where a contract was entered into before the declaration of a pandemic and the pandemic affects the performance of a contractual obligation, commencement of levying of execution, enforcement of security over movable and immovable property used for the purpose of a trade, business or profession, repossession of any goods used for the purpose of a trade, business or profession or termination of lease or license shall be prohibited.

The Bill states that employers shall not terminate a contract of service or dismiss or coerce an employee to take a salary cut. "Despite subsection (1), where an employer is unable to meet his obligations to pay salaries or wages, the employer shall

permit an employee to take leave of absence without pay for the duration of the pandemic," it says.

The Labour CS shall develop measures to protect the employer and the employee during the pandemic.

During this period, National and County governments will be required to put in place social safety schemes designed to support vulnerable persons, households and informal sector workers whose incomes have been disrupted.

The schemes include unconditional cash transfers to support the identified groups to meet their daily basic necessities. The governments may also waive water and electricity charges for identified vulnerable persons and households or adjust tariff rates in order to reduce utility charges to individuals and businesses. There shall be no disconnection for non-payment of utility bills.

County governments may suspend fees payable on renewal of trade licences and payment of property rates during the pandemic.

The President may declare, in a gazette notice, a pandemic upon receipt of a recommendation from CS in charge of Health. The Head of State shall then establish a National Pandemic Response Committee to, among other things, co-ordinate the country's response and management of the threat caused by the pandemic.

The committee shall consist of the Health CS, who shall be the chairperson; Treasury PS and other Cabinet and Principal Secretaries as the President shall consider necessary.

The committee shall during the period of the pandemic, prepare and submit to Parliament bi-weekly status reports.

KIMUNYA

Treasury erred by reducing taxes. Common man will not feel it.

POINTERS



WORLD PAGE 21

Sanders now endorses rival Biden for White House



FEATURE PAGE 24

SMS platform to boost reproductive health

WEATHER TODAY

Nairobi	26°	Nyeri	26°
Mombasa	31°	Kitui	28°
Kisumu	28°	Wajir	34°

with Julio Kiths
@PeopleDailyKE

Using all tricks in the book to beat curfew, lockdown...

It's amazingly incredulous what folks will do to outsmart the law when the heat becomes unbearable from stringent measures such as the ongoing curfew in Kenya and more stringent lockdowns applied in other parts of the world

Party-loving youth in Nairobi calls ambulance to beat curfew

Trust bored but daring and innovative Nairobians to come up with all tricks in the book when a call for booze, 'nyama choma' and partying comes calling despite the killer coronavirus pandemic.

Recently, a group of young people summoned an ambulance in Nairobi (not that there was an emergency) but just to beat the crippling police curfew and attend a party in some estate in the city.

The incident occurred on Tuesday, April 7, after the group feigned sickness in order to secure the services of an ambulance which falls under the category of essential service vehicles. Speaking during his daily address, health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe disclosed that he was alerted of the shocking and sickening incident.

"Let me also tell you the kind of abuse of this privilege that we have seen. Two days ago, there were young people who wanted to beat the curfew to go to a party, and guess what they got to go to the party in? An ambulance. That is how bad it gets," stated the CS.



Love-smitten men promise women a lot of niceties, even heaven! Most swear to do anything on this earth to prove love. An Australian man supposed to spend a fortnight in quarantine at a Perth hotel was fined \$50,000 (Sh 5,297,500) after allegedly tampering with a fire exit door and sneaking out to visit his girlfriend.

The 35-year-old was required under the Emergency Management Act to self-quarantine for 14 days in a room at a Perth hotel. "He wedged open a fire exit door at the hotel to enable him

to leave and re-enter the property without being seen by staff. He utilised public transport to travel within the metropolitan area," said a police spokesman.

The man was taken into custody and charged with two counts of failure to comply with a direction (Section 86 1A EMA). Police said he was refused bail on the basis that he will likely continue or repeat the offence, endangering the safety of others. The man allegedly used a folded piece of paper to wedge the door before catching a train to Armadale to visit his girlfriend.

Man, disguised as bush, sneaks out in Britain lockdown

Britain, just like the rest of the world, is currently under lockdown, with people only allowed to leave their homes under strict guidelines either for the shops or to the chemists.

Apparently, one clever and crafty individual wasn't going to let this stop him from venturing out!

A bizarre yet creative video shared by a British couple, Nicholas Murray and Madeline Mai-Davies, shows one of their neighbours donning a disguise to head out to the store.

The video shows the man dressed as a bush and apparently sneaking out to the store before heading back home (and tripping along the way).

The couple captioned the footage, "Neighbour's back at it again, sneaking out during lockdown" and "Neighbour always sneaking out to get his shopping."



Spaniard in full dinosaur costume dares the devil

Spain has the world's second-highest number of fatalities due to Covid-19 and Spanish authorities have implemented strict lockdown to try to forestall the spread of the killer virus. Nonetheless, one Spanish tried to beat his country's strict coronavirus lockdown laws - by heading out onto the streets dressed as a T-Rex.

However, he was quickly collared by baffled cops when they spotted him sneaking out of his quarantined home to put the bin bags out. Uniformed police were filmed giving him a stern ticking off as he slowly criss crossed a deserted street.

He seemingly escaped punishment but was ordered straight back inside his house in Vistabella, Murcia. Police later published footage of the bizarre incident accompanied by the soundtrack from Jurassic Park.

They made it clear although dogs are allowed out during the state of emergency, dinosaurs are not! Murcia police: "The state of emergency allows for the walking of dogs accompanied by one person as long as it's a short walk just so it can pee and poop."

Chinese escape lockdown by crossing river on dinghy

Hubei province in China was the epicentre of the deadly Coronavirus. The government of China swiftly effected lockdown on the province, closing all accessibility in and out of the vast province.

But that did not stop daring and panic-stricken Chinese from trying to

beat the lockdown. A video surfaced which shows Chinese police patrolling a riverbank after people trapped in a coronavirus quarantine zone attempted to escape on a rubber dinghy.

Dozens of uniformed officers can be seen guarding the embankment in Hunan, which borders Hubei - the

epicentre of the deadly outbreak where some 50 million people are on lock-down.

In the footage, a person is heard saying 'Hunan side does not want Hubei people coming' and 'look, they are sneaking to Hunan province, but they got blocked'.



Relief for poor as cooking fuel cost drops by Sh18

Motorists to also benefit in the new prices of petrol, diesel and kerosene announced yesterday

by Noel Wandera
@NoelWandera5

Kerosene users, majority of them urban poor, were yesterday handed a huge relief to enable them cope with the coronavirus economic crisis.

In new fuel prices announced by the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (Epra), the price of kerosene dropped by Sh18.8.

On the whole, consumers will enjoy cheaper fuel prices for the next 30 days following a massive dip in cost of petrol and diesel which will go down by Sh18 and Sh4.09 respectively per litre.

But Kipiriri MP Amos Kimunya warned that the decision will be counterproductive, saying such a reduction would affect the economy adversely because of likely hoarding of the fuel products.

"Reducing fuel prices by Sh18 is ill-advised. It will adversely affect the market because dealers will start hoarding fuel," he said in Parliament.

Reacting to the price cuts that many Kenyans have been calling for to cushion the vulnerable suffering the brunt of the Covid-19 impact, Consumers Federation of Kenya (Cofek) secretary general Stephen Mutoro said there would be significant gains for consumers.

"Apart from kerosene at the petrol station, Kenya has never had a history of lowering consumer good prices unless we make certain demands. In our view, we do not agree with business people who are saying they will not reduce prices of consumer goods," he said.

18-year low

In Nairobi, consumers will pay Sh92.87, Sh97.56 and Sh77.28 for super petrol, diesel and kerosene respectively, having previously paid Sh110.87, Sh101.65 and Sh95.46.

The price reduction, which takes effect today, remains in force until May 14, and is

attributable to lower global oil prices which have plunged to an 18-year low at below \$23 (Sh2,436) a barrel.

The drop comes in the wake of economic lockdown across the world which has led to contraction in demand and triggered a glut of the commodity in the market.

The world's oil supply has continued to exceed demand in recent weeks as the Coronavirus epidemic halts the world economic growth.

Opec producers and allies have, however, agreed on a record oil deal that will slash global output by about 10 per cent, a move that could see oil prices go up.

The deal, agreed on Sunday via video conference, is the largest cut in oil production ever.

Production cut

Some 9.7 million barrels per day will be cut by Opec oil producers and allies.

Opec+ had said it would cut production in May and June by 10 million barrels a day to help prop up prices. The cuts will then be eased gradually until April 2022.

Epra director general Parvel Oimeke said the landing cost of imported kerosene had reduced by 37.7 per cent from \$421.2 (Sh44,609) per cubic metre to \$262.44 (Sh27,794.8) per cubic metre.

"Diesel decreased by 9.89 per cent from \$480.21 per cubic metre to \$432.70 per cubic metre while petrol decreased by 34.61 per cent from \$472.59 per cubic metre to \$309.03 per cubic metre," he said.

With low fuel prices, Kenyans would have hit the road to travel to various destinations across the country, but with the lockdown, many are left with no option but to stay home.

"Where will we go in this lockdown? There is no money to even fill the tank," John Omambia told *People Daily* on phone.

The dip will, however, not bear much fruit going by what stakeholders and analysts are saying.

"People are not moving. So do not expect a lot of changes from transporters. As a matter of fact we have been asking for tax relief," said Matatu Owners Association chairman Simon Kimutai.

Kimutai said that despite the huge dip



A petrol station attendant fuels a car at Shell Petrol Station on Mombasa Road.

GLOBAL PRICE FALL

● In Nairobi, consumers will pay Sh92.87, Sh97.56 and Sh77.28 for super petrol, diesel and kerosene respectively.

● The drop is attributed to lower global oil prices which have plunged to an 18-year low at below \$23 (Sh2,436) a barrel.

● Landing cost of kerosene had reduced by 37.7 per cent from \$421.2 (Sh44,609) per cubic metre to \$262.44 (Sh27,794.8) per cubic metre.

in prices, trips have reduced by up to 20 per cent, and that operators will not feel much relief.

Senior Research Analyst at Genghis Capital Churchill Ogutu said the dip would reduce the country's current account deficit and hold everything else constant. He added that it would not pile pressure on the shilling while at the same time easing inflation.

"It will have a direct impact bearing in mind that transport costs account for 30 per cent of agricultural inputs. I do not expect a significant change in electricity cost because already, the cost of thermal is low as a percentage of the energy mix," he said.

Chairperson of the Cereal Millers Association (CMA) Paloma Fernandez said if there is a benefit, they will pass it to the consumer, saying 80 per cent of their costs are predominantly raw material.

However, Retail Trade Association of Kenya (Retrak) chief executive, Wambui Mbarire said if producers cut the prices of goods, they would push the benefits to consumers.

"These are uncertain times, and we shall pass the benefits if they reach us," he said.

Union seeks Sh3b fund for frontline health staff

by Hillary Mageka
@hillarymageka

Doctors are pushing for creation of a Sh3 billion fund to cover all frontline healthcare workers in the private and public sector.

The fund, they said, should be placed under an occupational injury and disease fund as subsidy legislation in the Public Finance Management (PFM) Act.

They also want relief of Pay as You are Earn (PAYE) for all healthcare workers for 12 months and emergency Covid-19 allowances.

In a memorandum submitted by Kenya Medical Pharmacists and Dentists Union (KMPDU) to the Senate ad hoc committee on the Covid-19 situation, the doctors union says their members have started undergoing burnout due to the long working hours, saying there is need for provision of accommodation to protect their families.

"We recommend that the government identifies hotels near health facilities that will accommodate medics on duty," the union recommendations to the Senator Johnson Sakaja-led committee read in part.

"This is urgent in Kenyatta University Teaching and Referral Hospital, Kenyatta National Hospital, Coast General Teaching and Referral Hospital and other county referral hospitals treating suspected and confirmed Covid-19 patients," added the union.

The union, through its secretary Chibanzi Mwachoda, also raised concern over the "insensitive" Salaries and Remuneration commission (SRC) advisory to the council of governors (CoG) on extra allowances awarded to healthcare workers on the frontline response to the virus.

In a letter dated April 9 to CoG chair Wycliffe Oparanya, SRC chair Lyn Mengich advised against counties awarding special allowances without seeking proper advice from the commission.

On addition of healthcare workers, the union claims the exercise has been marred by conflict between national and county governments.

Police officer in Coast bribe demand drama sent packing

by Murimi Mutiga
@PeopleDailyKe

A police officer based at the Magarini sub-county in Kilifi has been sacked for demanding a bribe from illegal charcoal transporters.

Chrispus Katana was sacked by Inspector General of Police Hillary Mutiyambai, a day after he was filmed engaging in a physical confrontation with motorcyclists ferrying charcoal.

Coast Region Police boss Rashid Yakub said the officer had been dismissed from the service.

"We have already dismissed him. He

is no longer a police officer," he said.

He warned officers that they must act within the law.

Gun drawn

In the video which has gone viral, the officer is heard demanding more money from two charcoal dealers.

He is then seen pushing one of the riders down and a confrontation erupts. At this point, the officer draws his gun and threatens the riders.

"Give me money, give me money. I am not Magoha, give me money," the officer is heard saying.

Medics raise alarm over stigmatisation

by Hilary Mageka
@PeopleDailyKe

Doctors have raised an alarm over increased stigmatisation of Covid-19 patients and have called for change on reporting on persons who have symptoms or have contracted the disease.

Under the aegis of Kenya Medical Association (KMA), the medics want communication on coronavirus to shift away from asking people to report 'suspects' as if they are criminals, to encouraging people to come forward in case they have had contact with someone with Covid-19, or have symptoms of disease so that they



receive adequate testing and care.

"The message of social responsibility and solidarity must be emphasised and methods to trace contacts and patients must not be unnecessarily punitive," association President Jacqueline Kitulu (pictured) said in a statement Tuesday.

The association also wants clarity around quarantine and man-

agement of hotel costs during this period, given that there have been challenges around what happens to people who have been tested and their results take a few days to come back.

KMA recommends that government covers quarantine costs persons should they need to wait overnight or longer for results, in order to avoid sending them home and then spending resources tracking them down to communicate the results, Kitulu said.

However, the association has faulted the government for putting a lot of emphasis on acquiring ventilators rather than personal protection equipment (PPEs).

Focus turns to counties amid virus spread

CAS says government will work more closely with devolved units to curb spread, avert loss of lives

by Noah Cheploen
@cheploennoah

In what could portend tougher times ahead in the fight against coronavirus, the Ministry of Health has warned Kenyans to be more vigilant as the virus has spread across the country.

During the ministry's daily briefing in Nairobi yesterday, Health Chief Administrative Secretary (CAS) Mercy Mwangangi said coronavirus has been reported in at least 21 counties with Nairobi having the highest cases of infections at 101 followed by Mombasa at 34.

Counties that have now come into the limelight in the fight against coronavirus include Kilifi (10), Kiambu (seven), Mandera and Machakos (six each), Nakuru (five) and Kisii one case.

Others are: Kitui, Laikipia, Kajiado, Muringa, Homa Bay, Kakamega, Nyamira,

Nyandarua, Nyeri, Siaya, Uasin Gishu, Vihiga and Kwale which have reported one or two cases each in the last few days.

"Despite the measures we have put in place, we have witnessed a phenomenon where the virus is increasingly moving to counties," said Mwangangi.

The official made the remarks even as it emerged that eight people tested positive in the last 24 hours, bringing the total number of Corona cases to 216. The CAS said the patients had history of travel to countries including Zambia, the United Kingdom and Comoros.

Curb Spread

Six of the new cases were reported in Nairobi, one in Siaya and another in Nakuru after the analysis of 649 samples, she said, adding that one more person recovered and was discharged, raising the total number of recoveries to 41.

"The virus is now domiciled across the length and breadth of our republic, from down Coast in Kilifi to Mandera in the North; from Vihiga in the West to Kitui in the East. We have been able to collate the number of cases per county," she said.

As a result, the official said the central



IN SUMMARY

Reported: Health CAS Dr Mercy Mwangangi says coronavirus has been reported in at least 21 counties with Nairobi having the highest cases of infections at 101.

Limelight: Counties that have now come into the limelight in the fight against coronavirus include Kilifi (10), Kiambu (seven), Mandera (six) cases.

Health Chief Administrative Secretary Mercy Mwangangi addresses the press at Afya House in Nairobi, yesterday. PD/GERALD ITHANA

government will work more closely with the devolved units to curb spread of the disease and avert loss of lives.

"In this regard, we are rolling out mass testing exercise taking into consideration the risk profiles of clusters; in Nairobi for instance we shall prioritise the quarantine centres, hotels, isolation facilities and hospitals, these form top four priority areas in Nairobi," she said.

She said Kibera has been identified in Nairobi as one of the key cluster (or hot spot in case of outbreak) and therefore, it is one of the areas targeted for mass testing which is expected to start soon.

The CAS said 12,000 testing kits will be used in the first phase which starts immediately.

At the same time, Foreign Affairs Prin-

cipal Secretary Macharia Kamau said five Kenyans died of coronavirus in the US in the last month while hundreds of others are stuck in various countries that have imposed lockdowns. He said that the five had underlying medical conditions.

Kamau said some 160 Kenyans who had travelled to India with their relatives to seek treatment are currently stuck there. On China, he said close to 3,000 Kenyans are there but that no deaths had been reported. The PS said there are two suspected deaths of Kenyans in Sweden. He also reported a recovery in Rwanda and another in Qatar.

At the same time, the government has raised the red flag over increasing cases of gender-based violence and sexual violence during the coronavirus period.



Workers at the Port of Mombasa. Some 1,000 testing kits will be dispatched to the port ahead of mass testing for coronavirus. PD/FILE

Government to roll out mass testing of KPA staff, port users

by Murimi Mutiga
@murimimutiga

The government has announced mass testing for all Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) employees and port users, hours after the management reported it had seven confirmed cases of Covid-19.

Health Chief Administrative Secretary Dr Mercy Mwangangi said yesterday during the daily Covid-19 briefing in Nairobi that 1,000 testing kits would be dispatched to the port to carry out mass testing for the virus.

"In Mombasa, we are deploying 1,000 testing kits at the port. This is based on the risk of transmission that has been identified from our monitoring teams," she said.

Four of the cases involve KPA staff while three are contracted cleaners working at the port headquarters.

All the employees and port users will be required to undergo mandatory testing before they are allowed to enter the facility.

KPA acting managing director Rashid Salim said two staff have died from the disease; Ursula Buluma who died two weeks ago and 58-year-old James Onyango Oyugi, who passed on in Siaya on Friday night.

"All those who had contact with the patients have been identified and are being monitored in quarantine within Mombasa. Currently, all the patients are admitted at the Coast Provincial General Hospital and are responding well to treatment," he said.

Part of measures to prevent Corona spread at the port include emphasis on on-line cargo documentation to facilitate electronic cargo clearance, fumigation and releasing of staff above 58 years and those with underlying medical conditions to work from home.

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



PARLIAMENT OF KENYA

INVITATION TO TENDERS

The Parliamentary Service Commission invites sealed tenders from eligible candidates for the following:

NO.	TENDER NO.	ITEM DESCRIPTION
1	PS /006/2019-2020	Electrical Installation work for the Proposed Refurbishment and Additional Alteration to County House Building.
2	PS /007/2019-2020	Lifts Installation Work for the Proposed Refurbishment and Additional alteration to County House Building.
3	PS /008/2019-2020	Structured Cabling, Telephone and Audio-Visual equipment Installation for the Proposed Refurbishment and Additional Alteration to County House Building.
4	PS /009/2019-2020	Plumbing, Drainage and Fire Fighting Installation to the Proposed Refurbishment and Additional Alteration to County House Building.
5	PS /010/2019-2020	Air Conditioning and Mechanical Ventilation for the Proposed Refurbishment and Additional Alteration to County House Building.
6	PS /011/2019-2020	Kitchen Equipment Installation for the Proposed Refurbishment and Additional Alteration to County House Building.

Interested eligible candidates may obtain further information from the Procurement Office on 2nd Floor, Protection House, Nairobi or email through procurement@parliament.go.ke or dg@parliament.go.ke. A complete set of the tender documents may be downloaded free of charge from the Commission's Website; www.parliament.go.ke or IFMIS Portal; www.supplier.treasury.go.ke

There shall be a pre-bid meeting on Friday, 8th May, 2020, 11.00 am in the 2nd Floor Boardroom, Protection House, along Parliament Road, Nairobi.

Duly completed, serialized and paginated tender documents (original and copy) are to be enclosed in plain sealed envelopes, marked with the tender number, name and as prescribed under the tender documents and be dropped in the Tender Box at the Reception on 2nd Floor, Protection House, Nairobi or be addressed to:

Director General, Parliamentary Joint Services
Parliamentary Service Commission,
P.O. Box 41842 00100,
NAIROBI, KENYA.

so as to be received on or before Friday 22nd May, 2020 at 11.00 a.m.

Tenders will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of the Candidates who choose to attend or their appointed representatives, at Protection House, 2nd floor boardroom, Nairobi.

All Tenders must be accompanied by a tender Security of Kshs.100,000.00 valid for 150 days from the date of tender opening, in form of a bank guarantee from a reputable bank recognized by the Central Bank of Kenya.

Prices quoted should be inclusive of all taxes and delivery costs, and must be in Kenya Shillings and shall remain valid for 120 days from the closing date of the tender.

DIRECTOR GENERAL, PARLIAMENTARY JOINT SERVICES,
PARLIAMENTARY SERVICE COMMISSION

Senate censures ministry over 'undignified' Siaya man burial

Onyango, a coronavirus victim, was hurriedly buried without a coffin by unidentified health officials in the wee hours of Sunday

by Hillary Mageka, Eric Juma and Tom Rachunyo
@PeopleDailyKe

Senators yesterday criticised the Health ministry over the controversial burial of a man who succumbed to Covid-19 in Kamalunga village, Siaya County. They accused the ministry of using the virus-related deaths to entrench stigma around the disease.

James Oyugi Onyango was hurriedly buried, without a coffin, by unidentified health officials in the wee hours of Sunday.

Senate complaints came even as it has emerged the team that conducted the burial is now under fire for breaching the ministry's guidelines on interment of Covid-19 victims.

According to the ministry, before handling of the victim's remains, the family of the deceased must be informed about the dignified burial process and their religious and personal rights to show respect for the deceased.

In total contravention of gazetted rules under the Public Health Act stipulating that burials must only take place during the day, Onyango was buried between 1am and 2am in the presence of a handful of people, including security officers and county health officials. The 59-year-old worked at the Kenya Ports Authority (KPA).

Cause stigma

The Senate yesterday demanded that guidelines developed by the government are adhered to the fight against the virus is to succeed.

"With all the proper protocols in place why would somebody be buried at 2am?" posed Nakuru senator Susan Kihika, referring as "distasteful" a viral video that captured Onyango's burial in the dead of the night.

"It is this kind of actions that will cause stigma around the disease. The whole thing was an affront to African cultural practices where the dead are respected," she said.

Wajir Senator Ali Abdullahi said it is the mischievousness captured during Onyango's burial that provides a fertile ground for stigma to thrive.

"What we saw has the capacity of causing psychological and mental problems to the family and friends of the dead person. Stigma and mental illness can cause more damage than coronavirus," he said.

George Khaniri (Vihiga) also faulted the media for replaying the burial video "in total disregard" of the family.

"The Ministry must provide proper explanation on what happened so that this barbaric thing is not repeated," he said.

Bungoma Senator Moses Wetang'ula questioned the discrepancy between Onyango's burial and those of other Covid-19 victims.

"It was abhorrent and disgusting," he said.

The debate was sparked by House Leader of Minority James Orengo (Siaya), who sought a statement from the Health ministry demanding an explanation on the



Kenya Medical Practitioners, Pharmacists and Dentists Union Nyanza chair Kevin Osuri (left) with medical officers at the Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Teaching & Referral Hospital during an impromptu visit to check the facility's preparedness to handle Covid-19
PD/ VIOLA KOSOME

THE HASTY BURIAL

● James Oyugi Onyango was a 59-year-old KPA employee.

● He arrived home from Siaya on April 7 and soon started coughing. He was taken to a private hospital on April 10, where he died a few hours later.

● He was hurriedly buried by unidentified health officials in the wee hours of Sunday, without a coffin.

● The burial sparked public outrage across the country.

indignified burial.

Orengo, who is also the Siaya Senator, wants the Ad-hoc Committee on Covid-19 Pandemic to establish why the protocols developed by the ministry on the burial of victims of coronavirus were ignored and the family not consulted before the burial.

Orengo claimed Onyango's family has not been informed of the cause of his death.

"The manner in which Mr Onyango was buried elicits serious concerns which this House must look into," he said.

Tested positive

Speaker Kenneth Lusaka directed the Ad-hoc Committee, chaired by Nairobi Senator Johnson Sakaja to investigate the matter and report on the same next week.

Meanwhile, a multi-agency team in Siaya has stepped up pursuit of Onyango's son and two other people who escaped from authorities as they were being taken to a quarantine centre following his death.

The son and Onyango's sister were among people in the compound when Onyango was buried but they sneaked out when the county team started rounding up his contacts for quarantine.

And last evening panic gripped people — Onyango's contacts before his death — isolated at Siaya KMTC tested positive to the coronavirus yesterday.

Siaya Police Commandant Francis Kooli urged anyone who had interacted with Onyango and had not been put into quarantine to reach out to authorities.

"This thing is serious but it's unfortunate how lightly people are taking it. The government is not happy to close schools and markets and ban travelling. Such measures are taken for the good of all. Therefore, those who may have come into contact with the deceased should consider the good of all," he said.

Onyango died at a local hospital in Siaya last Friday, four days after he arriving with his family from Mombasa.

He had started coughing soon after arrival on April 7 and was taken to a local private health facility on April 10, where he died a few hours later. Samples from his body tested positive for Covid-19 at Kemri centre in Kisumu.

Kooli said it will only take a court order to have Onyango's body exhumed for

proper burial. He said the homestead is sealed off, but will be cleared after fumigation before his family, currently in quarantine, returns home.

Governor Cornel Rasanga formed a five member Committee headed by Dismas Wakla to probe the Controversial burial of Oyugi.

The family now want social media speculation to stop and let authorities conclude testing the quarantined members.

"It hurts me to hear Kenyans on social media speculating the death of my beloved husband but I forgive them knowing well that today it has knocked my door and tomorrow such fate may befall them," said Auma.

Elsewhere, Awendo MP Walter Owino and former Nairobi county legal officer Gad Awuonda urged the government not stigmatise Covid-19 patients to help in fight against the virus.

They cited Onyango's burial as well as use of excessive force by police officers enforcing governments protocols to tame the spread of coronavirus.

"We need government to know that to fight coronavirus we don't need stigma, patients and victims should be treated with dignity," Owino told People Daily on phone.

He said the government should learn from the stigma around HIV/Aids, which he said has taken ages and billions of shillings to scale down.

Awuonda, on the other hand, said: "Humane treatment of (coronavirus) patients is key, since everybody is a potential candidate of being infected."

SUSAN KHIKA

It is this kind of actions that will cause stigma around the disease. The whole thing was an affront to African cultural practices.



Expedite probe on attempt to kidnap scribe, police urged

by James Magayi
@PeopleDailyKe

The media fraternity has called on police to arrest a gang that attempted to kidnap *People Daily* correspondent Evans Nyakundi in Nyamira on Monday night.

The Media Council of Kenya (MCK), Kenya Union of Journalists and Media-max Network Limited, under which the *People Daily* publishes, termed the attack as a criminal act and urged police to act expeditiously to bring those responsible to book.

The journalist was saved by neighbours who responded to his distress call and arrested one of the members of the gang, Morgan Omai.

"The Media Council of Kenya is deeply concerned by this turn of events and that this is the second such attempt to intimidate him in less than a month, ostensibly because of his journalistic work. While we commend the police for their immediate action and arrest of a suspect, we call on them to conduct speedy and thorough investigations and to ensure the safety of Nyakundi and his family," MCK chief executive officer David Omwoyo (pictured) said.

Prompt conclusion

People Daily Editor-In-Chief Eric Obino urged police to escalate their operation to conclusively deal with the matter and apprehend the culprits.

"It's obvious that Nyakundi is being targeted because of his work as a journalist. We would like to tell those behind this crime that acts of intimidation will not stop the media from doing what they have been trained to do. Now that they have a suspect, we expect prompt conclusion of investigations and arrest of all suspects, regardless of their station in life," said Obino.

Kenya Union of Journalists secretary General Eric Oduor warned that other professionals risk falling prey to such acts if this one is not dealt with decisively.

"Journalists, just like other professionals must be allowed to carry out their duties without intimidation. It is improper for some people to think that they can deter professionals from doing their work. Imagine if someone went to a hospital and started intimidating nurses and doctors while on duty. Attacking journalists is akin to attacking other professionals at work. It must not be allowed," said Oduor.

CoG: Counties unprepared for Corona

Governors ask State to address logistical challenges in bid to contain virus spread

by Hillary Mageka
@hillarymageka

County governments admitted yesterday they are neither ready nor prepared to tackle the coronavirus pandemic with more cases being reported in the counties.

The damning revelation was laid out in a submission to a Senate *ad hoc* committee on Covid-19 by the Council of Governors, led by chairman Wycliffe Oparanya (pictured).

They warned that unless the National government addresses various logistical challenges facing the devolved units, they lack the capacity to contain the spread of the deadly respiratory flu.

It emerged yesterday that besides Nairobi, which is the epicentre of infections with 101 cases of the 216, Mombasa (34) and Kilifi (10), close to half of the 47 counties have confirmed cases.

In a breakdown of the distribution by Health Chief Administrative Secretary Dr. Mercy Mwangangi, there is a significant spike in numbers in the counties with Kiambu having

seven, Mandera six, Machakos six, and Nakuru five. In particular, the county chiefs allege none of the 47 counties to date has received money from the National government in support of Covid-19 response.

The Governors' plea for funding was urgent. "Release of funds to County governments to enable them procure commodities and equipment in response to Covid-19," they said in their submission to Senator Johnson Sakaja (pictured)-led committee.

Mass testing

They also expressed concern on the planned mass testing saying there are only two laboratories at the national level with their corresponding branches carrying out tests.

They include Kenya Medical Research Institute (Kenri) and National Influenza Centre laboratories in Nairobi, Kisumu, Welcome Trust Kilifi and Aga Khan Nairobi.

The governor's lobby says this poses as a great risk in the country as more counties are reporting active cases.

"Most counties have active cases and accreditation to operationalise regional laboratories has not been done and they do not have sample collection kits. These two laboratories and their branches do

not have adequate testing kits," reads part of submission to the ad hoc committee. The county chiefs claimed though Machakos, Malindi, Wajir, Busia and Trans Nzoia have laboratories constructed and equipped by the World Bank, they are yet to start operating.

The governors claimed use of gene expert machines in

ISSUES RAISED

● **Governors warn unless the National government addresses logistical challenges facing counties, they lack the capacity to contain virus.**

● **County chiefs they have not received money from National government.**

the counties could not be used because they had no received cartridges to start testing.

On the other hand, the governors appealed to the National Emergency Response Committee on coronavirus (NETCC) led by Health Cabinet secretary Mutahi Kagwe to ensure counties are provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) for health workers.

They argued they last received the kits in March 2020 from Kemri.

"County governments who have tried to purchase the kits have failed due to competition between the National and County governments. This has exposed the county health workers," they observed, adding that prices of the few available kits are too high.



PUBLIC NOTICE

COMMENCEMENT OF ONLINE ISSUANCE OF LICENSES

The Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA) hereby informs the public that in bid to enhance the efficiency of service delivery and as a measure to prevent the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19), the Authority shall henceforth issue the following licenses through its online portal.

Once approvals have been granted, the applicant shall then download and print the license.

Petroleum and Liquefied Petroleum Gas Licenses

- ▶ Import, Export and Wholesale of Fuel Oil
- ▶ Import, Export and Wholesale of Bitumen
- ▶ Export and Wholesale of Petroleum Products (Except LPG)
- ▶ Bunkering of Petroleum Products (Except LPG)
- ▶ Export and Wholesale of Jet-A1
- ▶ Transport of Petroleum Products (Except LPG)
- ▶ Transport of Jet-A1
- ▶ Petroleum Road Tanker Driver Certificate
- ▶ Retail of Petroleum Products (Except LPG)
- ▶ Import, Export and Wholesale of LPG in bulk
- ▶ Export and Wholesale of LPG in bulk
- ▶ Storage and Wholesale of LPG in cylinders
- ▶ Transport of LPG in bulk
- ▶ Transport of LPG in cylinders
- ▶ Retail of LPG in cylinders.

Electricity and Renewable Energy Licenses

- ▶ Electrical Workers (Class C2, C1, B, A1 and A2)
- ▶ Solar Photovoltaic Contractor/Vendor (Class V1)
- ▶ Solar Photovoltaic Contractors (Class C1)
- ▶ Solar Photovoltaic Manufacturer/Importers (Class V2)
- ▶ Solar Photovoltaic Technicians (Class T1, T2, and T3)
- ▶ Energy Audit Firm (Category A and B)
- ▶ Energy Auditor (Category A and B)
- ▶ Appliance Registration Certificates (Self Ballasted Lamps, Double Capped Fluorescent Lamps, Ballasts for Fluorescent Lamps, Refrigerating Appliances, Non-Ducted Air Conditioners and Three-Phase Case Induction Motors)

The applicants are encouraged to check license application status by dialing the short code *363# on mobile phones or by sending a short message with the word "license" and the "application reference number" to 40850 or by logging to the online licensing portal at www.epra.go.ke/portal.

For further enquiries, members of the public can contact us through our social media pages via Twitter at EPRA_Ke and Facebook at EPRA Kenya or email us at info@epra.go.ke or call us on our office line at +254-020-2847000/200 or mobile phone at +254-722 200947/734 414000.

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Police recover phones worth Sh120 million

by Zadock Angira
@PeopleDailyKe

Police recovered assorted phones valued at Sh120 million that had earlier been stolen from the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport.

Detectives from the Special Services Unit of the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) on Monday arrested Mwangangi Kyalo, 41, who later led them to his rented house in Imara Daima where the phones were recovered.

"Detectives narrowed down on some members of an organised criminal cartel within Nairobi and arrested four suspects believed to be behind the theft," DCI boss

George Kinoti said.

The phones had been imported by Rolling Cargo Ltd. The DCI said out of 750 cartons, about 636 of them have been recovered, adding that three lorries were transporting the cargo from the airport but only one lorry was diverted.

Mohammed Hassan Mohammed reported that he hired a lorry on April 9 to transport the goods from African Cargo at the JKIA to a warehouse in Eastleigh Section Three.

However, driver Daniel Kavuti and the vehicle went missing. Detectives launched investigations and the lorry was later recovered three days later on Mara Road with only seven cartons.



CORONA CRISIS

Kenyans not victim of China racist attacks, ministry claims

Foreign Affairs PS reveals five citizens have died in the US, thousands stranded elsewhere

by Anthony Mwangi and Robert Ocho
@PeopleDailyKe

No Kenyan has been affected by reported cases of violence and evictions targeting Africans residing in the Chinese city of Guangzhou, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said yesterday.

Foreign Affairs Principal Secretary Macharia Kamau denied reports a number of Kenyans have been affected by the skirmishes in some Chinese cities.

He told a press conference yesterday the Kenyan Embassy in China had records of only 100 Kenyans, but the ministry had reports there are thousands living in the country without documents.

"The problem we are having in China is that we have quite a big population of Kenyans who have not registered with the embassy. We cannot tell their status for now," said Kamau.

There have been reports of incidents of violence and evictions in Guangzhou with the local authorities said to be flushing out foreigners purportedly in a bid to stop the spread of coronavirus.

"The provincial governments, which are similar to our county governments, are the ones involved. We have discussed with the Chinese authorities who have promised to address the matter. The situation is not out of hand yet," said Kamau.

He said the African Union, through its current chair, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, had written a protest note to the Chinese authorities demanding that the discrimination targeting African nationals stops.

Macharia revealed that five Kenyans in the United States had died of coronavirus-related complications in the past one month while hundreds are stuck in various countries that have imposed lockdowns to control the spread of the respiratory disease.

Total lockdown

Kamau said the five victims had underlying medical conditions which may have contributed to their death.

He said an estimated 160 Kenyans, who had travelled to India with their relatives to seek treatment, were stuck in the Asian country, which has shut public operations countrywide.

"It is a concern since it's on full lockdown



Foreign Affairs Principal Secretary Kamau Macharia addresses the media in Nairobi yesterday. PD/SAMUEL KARIUKI.

XENOPHOBIC INCIDENTS

● There are reports that some Chinese authorities are targeting foreigners, particularly Africans, for evictions.

● The African Union, through its current chair, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, has written a protest note to the Chinese authorities.

so we are unable to facilitate travel. Some of them have run out of cash and cannot be helped," he observed.

He added that some of the patients who were in India to seek treatment had died and asked their families to consider having them buried there given the circumstances.

"Some of our people in India who had travelled to accompany their sick loved ones have lost them and cannot bring them home due to the lockdown. We are in talks with the Indian authorities on the best way to assist them," Kamau said.

Stranded students

He revealed that about 18 travellers were stranded in Australia while around 200 students in Iran were unable to return to Kenya.

The PS said the ministry's staff were overwhelmed by requests from thousands of Kenyans living abroad who are seeking assistance, with some of them asking to be evacuated.

"Dealing with thousands of people is challenging. In most cases we will have to wait for the lockdowns to end before we act. We would like to assure Kenyans in the diaspora to remain understanding to allow our staff to attend to their needs during these trying moments," Kamau said.

Kenyan embassies in Spain, France and Hungary, he said, were working with the host nations to assist students studying in

those countries.

Kamau said the situation was, however, challenging in the United Kingdom where there is a large number of Kenyans who are not registered with the Kenyan mission.

"The situation in the UK is a little bit challenging since we do not have the statistics on the number of Kenyans there yet. We have thousands of Kenyans living there," Kamau said.

Thika MP Patrick Wainana has urged the government not to believe what he termed as propaganda being spread by the Chinese authorities and evacuate Kenyans stranded in Guangzhou.

In Kisii, several Members of the county assembly have urged the government to intervene and protect Kenyans who are facing racial discrimination in China in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

Led by Bogeka Ward Representative Charles Nyagoto, the leaders said some Africans in China had been forced to live in streets after they were attacked or evicted from their homes.

"There are several Chinese in Kenya and in other African countries. They have not been harassed and mistreated over the disease. Africans deserve to be treated with respect," Nyagoto told *People Daily* in Kisii town yesterday.

He appealed to Kenya's Envoy in China, Sarah Serem to give Kenyans facing discrimination refuge in the embassy and facilitate their return home once the Covid-19 pandemic is contained.

BRIEFLY



Sacked flower farm staff turn to fishing

Flower farm workers in Naivasha who have lost their jobs because of the coronavirus crisis, have resorted to fishing in Lake Naivasha to eke out a living. With farms and hotels closing down due to the Covid-19 pandemic, hundreds of workers in Naivasha have been sent home without salaries.

According to Naivasha sub-county fisheries officer Nicholas Kagundu, the lake (above) was under a lot of pressure due to the new entrants popularly referred to as foot-fishermen.

"Before the pandemic, we had a manageable crowd of foot-fishermen but with the current crisis everybody has turned to the lake," he said.

— Kibera Mwit



Kisii to screen all PSV passengers

Kisii Governor James Ongwae has launched 11 screening stations for Covid-19 on county borders to curb the spread of the pandemic. Public service vehicles, boda boda passengers will be screened before entering the county, said the governor.

"Health officers will work closely with security officers and ensure operators and passengers are screened," Ongwae (pictured right) said when he launched the screening at Getare on the Kisii and Nyamira boundary.

He also flagged off 3,000 litres of sanitisers which will be distributed in sub-counties, police stations and prisons. The sanitisers, donated by Kibos Sugar Company, have been repackaged in 100 millilitre and 450 millilitre quantities.

— Robert Ocho

Murang'a establishes 35-bed ICU to treat critical coronavirus patients

by Wangari Njuguna and KNA
@PeopleDailyKe

Murang'a county government is in the process of setting up an Intensive Care Unit as part of preparations to combat coronavirus.

Yesterday, Governor Mwangi Wa Iria said the 35-bed unit, which is being set up at the Murang'a District Hospital, will be operational in a month's time.

"With the number of those affected

by the virus increasing by the day, it's high time we take drastic measures to deal with the situation before it gets out of control," he said.

Wa Iria (pictured right) said there are two isolation wards to cater for corona patients but the ICU would serve those in critical condition.

"We are working day and night to have the unit completed because this is an emergency no one had foreseen," he added.



At the same time, the governor warned rural residents against disregarding protocols meant to contain the spread of the virus which has now infected 216 people in the country.

Idling children

The governor noted that many people in rural areas were spending most of their time in trading centres without adhering to laid down measures of curbing the spread of coronavirus.

Wa Iria, who spoke when he distributed face masks to traders at Mukuyu market yesterday, said many children were idling markets.

He said the county might be forced to place children found in urban centres and their parents in quarantine.

"There are hundreds of children idling in market centres. The police should arrest them and move them into quarantine centres," said the governor.

Priest to spend more nights in custody

Court allows police to hold Rome-based Catholic cleric alleged to have wilfully spread coronavirus after arriving in the country

by Alphonse Mung'ahu
@PeopleDailyKe

Catholic priest Richard Oduor will spend two more days in the police cells to enable detectives to complete investigations into claims that he wilfully spread coronavirus.

This was after Milimani Principal Magistrate Martha Nanzushi granted police two more days to continue detaining him at Kilimani Police Station pending completion of the probe.

In his affidavit, corporal John Mmasi attached to DCI Kilimani told the court that the suspect was arrested on April 9 and that they needed more time to record

statements from witnesses before they prefer charges against him.

He said the offence, which the respondent is facing, attracts a sentence punishable with imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or with a fine, or with both.

The court heard that the suspect, currently based in Sudan, arrived at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) on March 12 from Rome, Italy, where he is undergoing further studies, and went to Utawala Catholic Parish, Nairobi.

Oduor is also said to have proceeded to Kisumu, then Ugenya in Siaya county and later to his parent's home at Ambira.

He was quarantine at Mbagathi hospital in Nairobi where he underwent two tests and confirmed to be free of the virus.

The magistrate directed the matter to be mentioned on Thursday.

Fr Richard Oduor had been hospitalised



Catholic priest Fr Richard Onyango Oduor at Milimani Law Courts, yesterday. PD/CHARLES MATHAI

for more than two weeks after he allegedly tested positive of the disease.

Police said they intend to charge him on Tuesday with defying a government directive to self-quarantine over the coronavirus.

He had been admitted to Kenyatta National Hospital with symptoms of the disease and he later tested positive according to Health CS Mutahi Kagwe.

Officials traced more than 130 people in Siaya and Kisumu that came into contact with the priest and put them under quarantine.

Priests serving at the Holy Family Catholic Church in Utawala, Nairobi, where Fr Oduor spent a day after arriving into the country from Rome were also put under self-quarantine.

Officials said Fr Oduor returned into the country on March 11 and spent a day at Utawala before travelling home on March 13 where he conducted the burial of a close relative.



PUBLIC NOTICE

USSD Short Code Query and SMS Services to Enhance Service Delivery



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



1. Pump prices

- Dial *363#, press 1 then enter the name of the town e.g. Kilifi then press send



2. To check the details of a licence for example expiry date

- Dial *363#, press 2 then enter the licence number then press send



3. License Application status

- Dial *363#, press 3 then enter the reference number obtained after submitting your application then press send



4. To see scheduled exams

- Dial *363#, press 4 then enter the reference number obtained after submitting your license application



5. To check exam results

- Dial *363#, press 5 then enter the reference number obtained after submitting your license application



6. To verify employee details

- Dial *363# press 6 then the employee's national ID number. You will receive an SMS with key employee details such as name and designation.



7. To check the status of your Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) application

- Dial *363# press 7 then the PPA ID



8. To report a complaint

- Dial *363#, press 8 then choose the nature of complaint from the list provided e.g. if it is billing complaint press 1 then click send. Our officers will call you to get more information about your complaint



9. To report an accident

- Dial *363#, press 98(more), then press 9, then choose the nature of accident from the list provided e.g. if it is reporting work related accident press 1 then click send. Our officers will call you to get more information about the accident



10. Truck verification

- Dial *363#, press 98(more), then press 10, then enter the truck's registration number e.g. KCG 254N

With the SMS service, customers will have access to:



1. Pump prices

- Type the word **price** space **town** then send the message to 40850 e.g. **Price Kilifi**



2. To check the details of a licence for example expiry date

- Type the word **licence** then the **licence number** and then send the message to 40850 e.g. **Licence 1234**



3. License Application status

- Type the words **application status** then the **reference number** obtained after submitting your application and then send the message to 40850 e.g. **Application status 123456**



4. To see scheduled exams

- Type the words **exam details** followed by the **reference number** obtained after submitting your license application then send the message to 40850 e.g. **Exam details 12345678**



5. To check exam results

- Indicate the type of exam you undertook for example **written exam** followed by **reference number** obtained after submitting your license application then send the message to 40850 e.g. **Written exam 12345678**



6. To verify employee details

- Type the word **employee** followed by the **national ID number** then send the message to 40850 e.g. **Employee 12345678**



7. To check the status of your Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) application

- Type the words **PPA progress** followed by the **PPA ID** then send the message to 40850 e.g. **PPA progress 123**



8. To report a complaint

- Type the word **complaint** and then send the message to 40850. Our officers will call you within 24 hours on weekdays to get more details of your complaint.



9. To report an accident

- Type the word **accident** then send the message to 40850. Our officers will call you within 24 hours on weekdays to get more information about the accident.



10. Truck verification

- Type the word **truck** followed by the registration number then click send. E.g. **Truck KCG 254N**

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EDITORIAL

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QUOTED TODAY



MACHARIA KAMAU

“We have engaged China bilaterally and regionally as East Africa, saying this is unacceptable. We have also engaged them through the African Union, saying we will not tolerate racism.”



DAVID OMWOYO

“The rights and privileges of journalists are protected in the Constitution and it is, therefore, unlawful to interfere with and intimidate a journalist in the course of their duties.”



KRISTALINA GEORGIEVA

“This provides grants to the most vulnerable members to cover IMF debt obligations for the next six months and help them channel more of their scarce financial resources towards emergency medical and other relief efforts.”

Spare us politics, focus on Corona

Besides being industrious, generous and go-getters, Kenyans shoulder the burden of peculiar habits—even absurdities. It is at such a time of the coronavirus pandemic that the virtues and vices have found expression, either as refreshing welcome or worrying concern.

The country, and indeed the whole world, is now focussed on taming the disease that has not only visited death, misery and socio-economic calamities, but also changed our way of life. To survive the pandemic, which had by Tuesday claimed close 200,000 lives across the globe and infected an estimated 1.9 million, calls for discipline and singular focus in adhering to basic guidelines such as washing hands, social distancing and wearing face masks.

Though the figures in Kenya—208 cases and nine deaths—have not been at the levels witnessed in Italy, Spain, United Kingdom and United States, which have recorded the highest infections and fatalities, we cannot afford to keep our eyes off the ball and become reckless.

It is worrying that we have passed the 200 mark in infections, despite stringent measures, including the dusk to dawn curfew, partial lockdown of Nairobi, Kilifi, Kwale and Mombasa counties, which account for the bulk of cases.

As a country we are at great risk. The thought that it could escalate is unnerving because of our weak health care system and vulnerable economy. Already, the few cases reported are testing our capacity to deal with the virus.

Unfortunately, the potential for a calamity of unprecedented potential has not sunk for the political elite and some pretenders to the middle-class status. For them it is business as usual—politicising and merrymaking.

We appeal to those who are deluding themselves that they are immune to this virus not to behave in a manner that would imperil the lives of others.

To the politicians, spare us the theatrics and let the country focus all its energies and resources on building capacity to ward off the ominous coronavirus cloud that not only hangs over our heads, but is slowly and surely closing in on us.

Like the Good Book says, there is time for everything and a season for every activity under the sun.

This is a time and season for Corona, not puerile politics.

stanoflonde@gmail.com



Pandemic exposes our innovation potential

Necessity is the mother of invention. We are witnessing an increase in innovations as the world races to develop a vaccine for Covid-19.

Many law enforcement agencies across the globe are turning to Artificial Intelligence and related technologies for support in surveillance and detection capabilities. Spain is using drones to patrol and enforce quarantine and broadcast audio messages to the public, encouraging them to stay at home.

We have also seen private companies come together to share information and create prototypes of critical medical and non-medical items. Facebook, Google and Twitter have partnered to fight misinformation about Covid-19. Additionally, new ideas to minimise the spread of the virus, such as hand-free door handles, are being developed and prototypes shared free through the Internet.

Kenya has not been left behind. Paul Kariuki and Simon Kairu from Thika made a locally assembled ventilator in a record four days. Their innovation can be used in any part of the country because it can operate using battery power and does not entirely depend on electricity. A group of engineering students in Kenyatta University's Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering (IEEE) Society is working on designing a low-cost open-source ventilator. The group seeks to bridge the shortage of mechanical ventilator machines.

Technical University of Mombasa has come up with a spray sanitiser system that releases mists of disinfectant to pedestrians. Local industries have also shifted their production



PHYLLIS WAKIAGA

“Are the current initiatives sufficient to nurture a thriving industry?”

lines to manufacture Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and develop ventilator prototypes among other essential items.

The disruption of the global supply chain due to coronavirus has pointed to gaps that Kenyans have incredibly provided solutions to as demonstrated above. Furthermore, the government's decision to source PPE from local manufacturers has also pointed to our capacity to fill gaps arising from the disruption.

How then do we support local industries and innovations even after Covid-19? Are the current initiatives sufficient to nurture a thriving industry? What are the gaps and how can we fill them?

First, the government must develop policies that support local industries. Despite the government's commitment to support local industries, an unpredictable policy environment disrupts industrial operations. Our industrial policies have also been inconsistent. In other occasions, policies have not always been diligently implemented hence undermining our industrialisation goals.

Second, we need a variety of well funded innovation hubs that enable multi-sector collaboration to spur innovation and growth. For startups, achieving success and growth depends on a support network and ecosystem in which to collaborate. Whilst the government has continued to demonstrate its desire to engage the youth in innovation using new policies, sufficient budgetary allocations for research and development, and incubation centres remain a challenge. As a result, many ideas do not reach the production stage due to inadequate support.

Third, we need to support Kenyan-made products. In any country, the government is the largest consumer of goods and services hence, the greatest opportunity for the sector, particularly SMEs, lies in public procurement. It is also important that the public and private sectors create awareness on locally manufactured products and encourage consumers to buy local. This entails affirming our commitment to building, creating, adding value and taking pride in the products that we make.

We are at a tipping point. The shifts in our way of life being introduced as part of the fight against Covid-19 might be the new normal. Hence, we must find our way to sustain ourselves for the long haul. This calls for increased collaboration and political goodwill to nurture local talents and grow resilient local industries.

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

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

JESSE JACKSON

“Time is neutral and does not change things. With courage and initiative, leaders change things.”

No, 5G technology is not related to Covid-19 outbreak

As the local telecommunications industry gears up to roll out 5G network in the country, the sector regulator—Communications Authority of Kenya (CA)—has noted a sharp spike in public concerns regarding the safety of the new technology.

These concerns have peaked in the wake of the coronavirus crisis. Unfortunately, some conspiracy theorists have latched onto the ensuing debate to fuel public fear and antipathy against this nascent technology by associating it with Covid-19 outbreak.

The theorists base their arguments on the fact that Wuhan, the city where the virus was first reported, was the first city in China to deploy 5G network. What the doomsayers, however, miss to point out is that Wuhan was one of the 16 Chinese cities to debut 5G.

Interestingly, none of the other cities have reported abnormally high incidents of the virus. And although China launched the world's largest 5G network in October, 2019, a number of firms in South Korea, UK, Germany and the US launched commercial 5G services, some on a trial basis, in late 2018.

Clearly, the association of 5G technology with Covid-19 is spurious.

More worrying is the claim by



MERCY WANJAU

I urge consumers and members of public to treat the conspiracy theories with disdain

the theorists that 5G damages the immune system, leaving affected individuals highly exposed to coronavirus. Kenya now has 208 confirmed Covid-19 cases, yet the country has not deployed 5G network.

Other theories peddled on social media allege that 5G mobile networks are being deployed in high frequency bands of up to 60GHz, thus causing ionisation of the oxygen molecules in the air. This process allegedly splits the molecules into two atoms, which then deprive the human body of oxygen, causing death.

These accounts are unfounded, as no country has deployed 5G networks in the 60GHz band. Indeed most 5G networks have been deployed in the 2.6 and 3.5 GHz frequency bands. Kenya is planning to launch 5G trials in these bands too.

Still, other social media accounts attribute Covid-19 to viruses excreted from dying human cells whose alleged cause of death is 5G radiation. Again these accounts are untrue and misplaced, as the epidemic has hit even countries yet to deploy 5G.

As expected, all these conspiracy theories have triggered public interest and anxiety on the safety of 5G, a technology billed to positively transform all aspects of life, including healthcare, agriculture, manufacturing and other sectors of the economy. I, therefore, urge consumers and members of the public to treat these allegations with disdain.

The Kenya Nuclear Regulatory Authority (KNRA) is vested with the responsibility of exercising oversight on non-ionising radiation in the country under revised legislation issued last year. KNRA is preparing to enact regulations outlining the allowable non-ionising radiation level thresholds in Kenya. Radiation from 5G and other preceding technologies is non-ionising.

Nonetheless, Kenyans should find comfort in the fact that after seven years of research, the International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) released guidelines on limiting exposure to electromagnetic fields, including 5G. According to ICNIRP, the main ef-

fect that radiofrequency electromagnetic fields have on the human body is increased temperature of exposed tissue. The human body effortlessly handles small increases to body temperature, including those caused by exercising. As long as the increase in temperature of the exposed tissues is within the set thresholds, there are no risks to human health.

5G radiation overall levels remain low and well below international safety guidelines. Further, there is no evidence that 5G can damage the immune system, and thus have a deleterious effect on human health. Indeed, the WHO says no research has linked exposure to wireless technology with negative health effects.

Conspiracy theories on wireless technology are not new. Virtually all previous mobile communications technologies from 1 to 4G have had their fair share of detractors. Experience has, without exception, served to prove the doomsayers wrong.

5G technology, which will deliver super-fast, low latency and high capacity Internet, is touted as a game changer. As a country, we should not allow detractors to have their way and scare us from adopting this transformative technology.

—The writer is acting Director General of the Communications Authority of Kenya

STREET TALK

CS's divide-and-rule campaign plot exposed

A Cabinet Secretary had a rough time at the weekend clearing up a mess he had created in a county where he is eyeing the governor's post in the 2022 polls. The man has been using the "divide and rule" tactic among leaders with a view to creating divisions and confusion ahead of the contest. But one of his targets exposed him on social media, prompting the CS to devise a cover-up strategy. He had to call his friends to ensure the story doesn't find its way to the press.

Sonko team imposters break into city homes

Criminal gangs are said to have infiltrated various teams conducting Covid-19 sensitisation activities. One gang painted a vehicle in colours similar to those associated with the Sonko Rescue Team and used the car to break into houses in Kileleshwa and Hurlingham estates early this week. It is suspected this is one of the reasons some members of the Sonko Rescue Team were arrested recently.

Defiant matatu crew give new City team headache

Enforcement officers under the newly-created Nairobi Metropolitan Services are having a rough time regulating matatu saccos that ply city routes. Empowered by cartels that run the industry in Nairobi, some matatu operators have become defiant, even resisting the two vehicles per sacco rule. It is suspected some forces in the county administration are undermining the new team that took over City Hall functions, threatening order in the CBD.

Infighting as outsiders infiltrate drug agency

A standoff at the procurement department of a State medical supply agency threatens the image of the parastatal. Staff at the department have decried alleged infiltration of the agency by businessmen of Asian and Somali origins, seeking to make a killing. This has led to infighting in the procurement office, splitting senior management officials at the agency that is crucial to the healthcare sector.

Teachers, parents must play role to stem cyberbullying

It is perhaps one of the great paradoxes of our time—the opportunities that technology presents come with complexities that can be difficult to navigate. Nowhere is this more evident than in today's classrooms. While technology is helping transform the learning experience in profound ways, it can also leave students exposed to significant risks online if the right measures are not in place.

In Kenya, clear guidelines exist under the Computer Misuse and Cybercrimes Act, 2018 that covers various offences, including unauthorised interference or interception of computer systems programmes or data, false publication of data, cyber harassment, cybersquatting, cyberterrorism, identity theft and such. But while these measures are in place on paper, reality presents an alternate situation, one where children are left with little to no protection and supervision.

While parents have a role to play in supervising access to the internet, educators can also make a key difference. The more teachers are



KENDI NDERITU

You should ensure children feel safe around so they can report cyberbullying to you

equipped to deal with cyberbullying, the better the chance we have of combatting the online threat. In fact, there are several powerful ways adults can intervene.

Helping to prevent cyberbullying begins with listening to children. Sit with children while they explore online. It's a good idea to regularly ask teens to show you around the websites they visit, where they hang out, who with, and how they talk to each other. This is particularly important in a school setting, where online activities should be closely monitored to encourage appropriate online behaviour.

You should ensure children feel safe around you to an extent they can report cyberbullying to you. To counter cyberbullying, adults need to promise unconditional support. Part of this involves reassuring children

that you won't curtail phone, gaming, or computer privileges because of others' behaviour. In the context of a classroom specifically, this would also involve providing students with an anonymous platform from which they can report cyberbullying cases.

One of the most effective ways to prevent online bullying is social and emotional learning—the process through which we learn to build strong relationships and develop healthy boundaries and self-perceptions. Key to this is promoting empathy and kindness. Actively teach thoughtfulness. This can help students understand how small, thoughtful actions can make a huge difference in others' lives.

By having students learn how to accommodate the needs of others when creating worlds in Minecraft, teachers can find opportunities to

develop deeper emotional literacy and introduce strategies to resolve challenges or understand perspectives.

Like teachers, parents have a critical role in identifying and stopping cyberbullying. As a parent, you might be surprised how difficult it can be for a child to admit, even to you, that they are being bullied. To help them get past this, create an environment that allows them to feel safe to tell you the full story.

Encourage your child not to retaliate and to rather ignore or block the bully. Save the online discussions as evidence just in case it escalates to threats of violence and the police need to be involved. Approach their teacher or school counsellor and find out what steps can be taken.

Reassure your child that they always have your support and shouldn't feel ashamed. At the end of the day, combatting online risks begins with promoting digital civility and helping one another to be responsible digital citizens.

—The writer Country Manager, Microsoft Kenya

#TWEETS TO THE EDITOR



#KOT protested a deal that allows Ethiopian Airlines to carry Kenya's cargo from JKIA to Europe and Asia.

@cgitosh: So the Government of Kenya gave cargo deal to ET but on the other hand they will use taxpayers money to bailout KQ? What logic is that?

@SokoAnalyst: And KQ chief executive Allan Kilavuka said the national carrier was not consulted about the deal and the impact it would have on its revenue.

@jumaf3: Kenya has Kenya Airways but the Government gave the cargo deal to Ethiopian Airlines. I don't know how to be mad anymore. How did this happen?

/// @PeopleDailyKe /// People Daily

@RobertAlai: Kenyan government cares for you but the same government gave cargo deal at JKIA to Ethiopian Airlines despite KQ being in the red and now having planes idle at JKIA. This is sad!!

@Mwendee: This is unacceptable. Killing our own.



TRUTHIS: When you know God's Word you can cope with your past because of your hope in the future.

CORONA CRISIS



David Oginga (left) and Elvis Ogwen of Kijenzi Ltd in Kisumu demonstrate how they make Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) using 3D machines to help fight the spread of coronavirus. PD/VIOLE KOSOME



A boy plays in raw sewage in Kibera slums, Nairobi, yesterday oblivious of the danger facing him. Most recreational places are closed forcing families to stay indoors. PD/JOHN OCHIENG

Fishermen on their routine business at Lwanda K'Otieno, Rarieda sub-county. They urged the county government to deploy health personnel for mass screening of Covid-19 disease on the borders. PD/ERIC JUMA



Brenda Akinyi weeps at the grave of her mother Ursula Namuonja Buluma at Mbaraki Cemetery in Mombasa county. Her mother succumbed to coronavirus a few weeks back. Brenda was taken for quarantine to Coast Province General Hospital in Mombasa county after her mother died hence missed the burial. PD/NDEGWA GATHUNGU

WORLD UPDATE

- 1 A day before it was due to be lifted, India's nationwide lockdown has been extended until May 3.
- 2 India has recorded close to 10,000 virus cases but with limited testing in cities, the fear is the true figure is much higher
- 3 In an angry press conference, US President Donald Trump denied ignoring early warnings about the coronavirus
- 4 Australian PM Scott Morrison warns it is "very likely" the country will see more clusters
- 5 China says it recorded no coronavirus deaths on Monday
- 6 France has also extended its lockdown for another month, until the middle of May, but Austria is to start reopening shops
- 7 More than 1.9 million people worldwide have been confirmed to have the virus and half of humanity is under some form of restriction



Accused persons outside Makadara Law Courts in Nairobi wait for the magistrate to attend to their cases. Evidently, here the social distancing regulation seemed to make no sense. PD/PHILIP KAMAKYA



Apostle Stanley Kiama of National Prayer Warrior organisation, prays to God to save Kenya from the Covid-19. His team has been fasting and praying since the outbreak hit the country. PD/RAPHAEL MUNGE



Security guards at Zion Mall in Eldoret town control customers at the entry to ensure compliance with government's anti-Corona safety measures for citizens in public places. PD/JIMMY GITAKA



Traders at Muthurwa market in Nairobi carry on with the business with little regard to the social distancing directive that aims at curbing the spread of coronavirus. PD/SAMUEL KARIUKI



World Health
Organization



WASH THEM FREQUENTLY



COVER YOUR FACE WITH ELBOW WHEN YOU SNEEZE OR COUGH



DON'T TOUCH YOUR FACE



KEEP SAFE DISTANCE FROM ONE ANOTHER



STAY HOME & STAY SAFE



CORONA CRISIS

Experts question quality of face masks in market

Team says some of the masks being hawked in streets are substandard, unhygienic and even riskier

by Bernard Gitau, Christine Musa and Tom Rachunyo
@PeopleDailyKe

The Ministry of Health and medical experts have expressed concern over the quality of face masks being used by the public in the fight against the spread of Covid-19, saying the masks could pose a bigger risk.

A health multi-sectoral team comprising the ministry, nurses and doctors union officials said most of the hawked face masks are substandard and unhygienic and might pose health risks.

Dr Eva Njenga, Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Council (KMPDC) chair said the issue of masks is critical hence the Ministry of Health should put regulations on who is distributing and manufacturing them.

"Handling masks with dirty hands and hawkers near supermarkets allowing people to try and fit them and if they do not fit hand it back makes the items contaminated and this is recipe for mass spread of Covid-19," said Njenga.

Government Spokesman Cyrus Oguna, however, said the government would not stop hawkers from selling the masks and it is the responsibility of the citizen to take caution.

"Our economy is hand-to-mouth and as government we must be conscious about



A worker at Shona EPZA Ltd in Athi-River makes protective gear, yesterday. PD/JOHN OCHINGO

it; we will not go to the streets to look at which masks are being sold but we are appealing to the public through the media that everybody be conscious about the masks they are buying," he said.

Last week, the government gazetted hefty penalties for Kenyans, including a fine of Sh20, 000 or six months' imprisonment or both if one is found breaking directives issued in line with the Public Health Act. This has made Kenyans use any form of fabric to make masks.

Ensure safety

To address this, Oguna said the government is planning to distribute free masks to members of the public through county governments.

"The distribution will not be to all 47 million Kenyans, let it be clear, they will be distributed to vulnerable members of the society and those in informal settlements," said Oguna.

The officials were speaking at Shona EPZA Ltd in Athi-River, which is manufacturing Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs).

Shona, according to Oguna, is among three local companies given the green light by the government to manufacture PPEs. Others are Bedi Investment in Nakuru and Kicotec in Kitui.

With the company having the capacity of producing 20,000 face masks and 20,000 coveralls in a day, the health experts flagged some gaps in the products that need to be rectified before they are used.

Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Union (KMPDU) acting secretary gen-

eral Chibanzi Mwachonda commended the government for incorporating health workers' officials to ascertain the standards of PPEs.

Though some of the PPEs have gaps in terms of quality, Mwachonda said this was work in progress and once the quality is ascertained the end product will ensure safety and protection of health workers.

"The safety and protection of health care workers who are in the frontline is critical. Local manufacturing of PPEs is welcomed because there is global shortage and hence a good initiative," he said.

National Nurses Association of Kenya chairman Alfred Obengo also commended the government for the move.

Provide masks

This comes as many desperate citizens have resorted to improvising masks using shopping bags since they are unable to buy imported medical masks.

Some Migori residents interviewed by *People Daily* urged the government to ensure safety of all citizens by providing them with good quality masks. They added that while it is good to provide health workers with masks, the medics could contract the virus from the general population if the masses are not catered for.

Mbonya Kalawi, a resident, said many Kenyans live below the poverty line and should not be blamed for improvising the masks in a bid to keep the virus at bay.

He appealed to the government to supplying rural areas with the protective items since many are unemployed and cannot afford them.

BRIEFLY

Fear of measles resurgence amid coronavirus outbreak

Measles outbreaks may occur as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, officials say, because some vaccination programmes are being delayed.

The UN children's agency, Unicef, says 117 million children in 37 countries may not get immunised on time.

There have been several large outbreaks in countries across Europe where

the MMR vaccine uptake has been low. The UK has already lost its measles-free status, because of rising cases of the potentially deadly infection.

The disease, which causes coughing, rashes and fever, can be prevented by two doses of the mumps, measles and rubella (MMR) vaccine, available free to all young children in the UK. - BBC

Sudan set to impose full lockdown in Khartoum

Sudan's capital Khartoum will from Saturday go on a three-week lockdown to curb the spread of coronavirus.

Government spokesman Faisal Salih said the lockdown would also cover Omdurman, the twin city of Khartoum. The country over the weekend reported 10 new cases of coronavirus bringing the total to 29 including four deaths.

During the three-week

lockdown, grocery stores and pharmacies will be opened for a limited time that the government is yet to specify.

Employees will be granted paid leave for the three weeks except those offering essential services.

The government plans to announce how poor families will be supported. Sudan imposed a night-time curfew last month. - BBC

China 'willing to look at' debt relief for African nations

China could temporarily freeze debt repayments by African nations to free up cash for the countries to tackle coronavirus, reports the Reuters news agency.

"The origin of Africa's debt problem is complex, and the debt profile of each country varies," China's foreign ministry told Reuters.

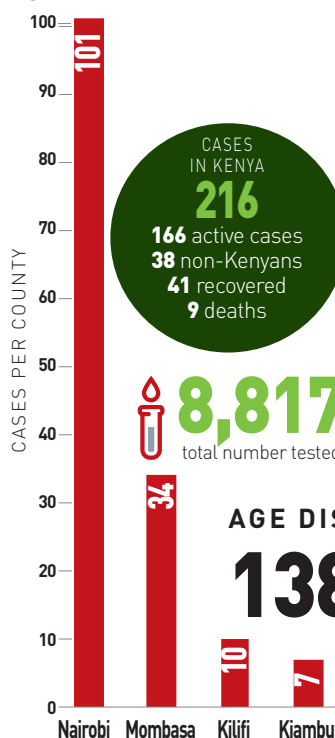
"We are aware that some countries and in-

ternational organisations have called for debt relief programmes for African countries, and we are willing to study the possibility of it jointly with the international community."

China is a member of the G20 group of economies, which meets this week. The group is expected to make an agreement on debt relief for the world's poorest nations. - BBC

Kenya updates

April 14, 2020, 13:57 GMT



CASES IN KENYA

216

166 active cases
38 non-Kenyans
41 recovered
9 deaths



8,817 total number tested

21 counties of residence of persons that have tested positive.

38 persons who have tested positive are non-Kenyans.

5 Kenyans who have died of Covid-19 abroad since the pandemic outbreak.

AGE DISTRIBUTION

138 cases between 30 to 59 years.

58 cases between 15 to 29 years.

15 cases above 60 years.

5 cases below 14 years.

CASES GLOBALLY

1,946,447
460,121 recovered
121,709 deaths

CASES IN AFRICA

16,030
838 deaths

Top 10 Global updates

Country	Cases	Deaths
United States	587,173	23,644
Spain	170,099	17,756
Italy	159,516	20,465
France	136,779	14,967
Germany	130,072	3,194
United Kingdom	88,621	11,329
China	82,249	3,341
Iran	73,303	4,585
Turkey	61,049	1,296
Belgium	30,589	3,903

Top 10 Africa updates

Country	Cases	Deaths
South Africa	2,272	27
Egypt	2,190	164
Algeria	1,983	313
Morocco	1,763	126
Cameroon	848	12
Tunisia	726	34
Côte d'Ivoire	626	6
Ghana	566	8
Niger	548	13
Burkina Faso	515	27

Source: www.worldometers.com Graphic: Michael Mosota

Corona fears halt illegal border crossing

Kenyans, Tanzanians near the Taveta boundary police each other as worries of virus infection increase

For decades, authorities manning the Kenya-Tanzania border at Taveta sub-county have watched with mounting helplessness as crafty residents from border villages devise ingenious ways to illegally cross to Tanzania and back.

However, in a strange twist of fate, rising but muted hostilities and mutual suspicion between Kenyans and Tanzanians on the porous border—borne from fears of Covid-19 infections—are achieving what governments of both countries have been unable to enforce for years; halt uncontrolled civilian movements across the border.

For James Kadi (not his real name), a young Kenyan farmer and a regular border-crosser, it all started with a beating a fortnight ago.

Kadi says he was caned by a vigilante group at Himo area in Tanzania. He had crossed the border to buy herbicides for his tomato crop but the vigilante group that seized him was not impressed even after giving his reason for crossing over.

"To make it worse, they poured water on me saying they intended to wash away the virus I might be carrying," says Kadi.

Block routes

The farmer says since the outbreak of coronavirus, Tanzania deployed police along the porous border to block many illegal routes used by residents of both countries. To further curb this crossing, village community security committees in Tanzania reportedly activated highly mobile vigilante groups to identify Kenyans who have crossed illegally to Tanzania.

It is these vigilante groups that have become a nightmare for Kenyans such as Kadi. Once caught, illegal crossers are allegedly subjected to hours-long grilling and humiliation. Some are caned but a majority are doused with water and hurriedly sent back to Kenya; extremely wet and furious.

"It is not the police but youth groups who are humiliating us. They say we are risking their lives. We have now lost all interest in crossing the border until further notice," says the farmer.



The One Stop Border Post at Kenya-Tanzania border in Taveta. Residents of border villages say using the official crossing route is too taxing.
PHOTO/KNA

100
From Madarasani village in Kitobo location, Tanzania is less than 100 metres away.

Kadi's woes are similar to those of many border residents, who are bewildered by the sudden hostility from cross-border neighbours they always regarded as brothers.

Before Covid-19 pandemic, the interaction between Kenyans and Tanzanians across the Taveta border was marked by frequent trade and engagement in other social activities including common church services, weddings and parties.

From Madarasani village in Kitobo location, Tanzania is less than 100 metres away. For residents of Kitogoto and Jipe, two remote villages separated from Tanzania by a swamp and Lake Jipe, respectively, a canoe ride would easily take you across. Other villages where illegal crossings are common include Lesesia, Njukini and Challa.

"There has always been very tight ties between communities on both sides of the border. Apart from being related by marriage, there is also a lot of trading between the two communities," says Hussein Juraji, a farmer in Kitobo.

Family ties or not, the government has always viewed such unregulated movement across the border as a threat since it can allow movement of criminals, contraband goods and other dangerous cargo.

Officially, any cross-border movement is processed at the One Stop Border Post customs offices along the Voi-Taveta-Holili High-

way. While most large-scale traders, passengers, tourists and government officials follow this path, residents of border villages find such a requirement too taxing.

Trigger panic

Their reasons are diverse. First, they find the distance too prohibitive; the customs office is located over 60km away from Kitogoto village. Tanzania, on the other hand, is just a shouting-distance away from their homes. There is also open aversion for the protracted customs' processes that many find too tiresome.

"There is no compelling reason to make me go all that way and endure long hours at the customs office yet I only need to buy 10kg of onions at Himo," says a boda boda rider who sought anonymity.

Confronted with such a situation, the security agencies manning the border were mere spectators despite their best efforts—including random patrols and putting up roadblocks on routes used by criminals to sneak stolen vehicles into Tanzania.

Further, reporting of illegal crossing is a rare occurrence in the border villages.

"They (residents) know all these paths better than us. When you mark one out, they easily avoid it and use others. What makes it even harder to stop them is they have excellent bush telegraph and alert each other when-

THE HIGHLIGHTS

● Before Covid-19 pandemic, the interaction between Kenyans and Tanzanians across the Taveta border was marked by frequent trade and engagement in other social activities.

● Family ties or not, the government has always viewed unregulated movement across the border as a threat since it can allow movement of criminals, contraband goods and other dangerous cargo.

● Currently, Covid-19 pandemic has triggered panic of cross-border virus spread between the communities living along the border. All feelings of love and brotherly camaraderie are at their lowest.

ever we are seen around," says a former border patrol officer who has since been transferred to Nairobi.

That was then.

Currently, Covid-19 pandemic has triggered panic of cross-border virus spread between the communities living along the border. All feelings of love and brotherly camaraderie are at their lowest.

Mistrust has led border communities from both countries to police each other over illegal crossing.

"Since they started chasing us away, Kenyans are not allowing any of them to come. It is a tit-for-tat game at the border now," says Barnabas Maimbo, a local opinion leader in Taveta.

County Commissioner Rhoda Onyancha says with the Corona outbreak, any cross-border movement remains a threat. She says government officials at the grassroots are working closely with Nyumba Kumi elders to monitor illegal movements.

Taveta Sub-County Police Commander Lawrence Marwa says security agencies have established close links with local youths and riders to share intelligence and information about any illegal crossings.

The mutual hostilities are expected to last until Covid-19 is declared defeated. After that, the border communities might call for a cease-fire and repair the tattered relations. Such a détente will ultimately lead to resumption of unreported cases of illegal border crossings; much to governments' chagrin.
- KNA

Kiambu landlord slashes rent by half

by Mathew Ndung'u
@PeopleDailyKe

A landlord at Kibute village in the outskirts of Wit-eithie town, Kiambu county, has put a smile on the faces of more than 100 tenants after he slashed April and May rent by 50 per cent.

The landlord owns Chris Plaza 2017 and Kipkabus Plaza, among others.

Jonah Maina, a brother of the property owner, said they agreed to waive the rent owing to the economic downturn caused by Covid-19.

"We should be human enough. The currently challenged tenants are the ones

who have been consistently paying their monthly rent. We must show solidarity during such a time that the country is suffering," said Maina.

Disconnect power

In sharp contrast, families living in the nearby Limpopo Apartments have been forced to stay in houses without essentials after their landlord removed the doors and disconnected power and water supply over delayed rent payment.

The occupants of the building said they were unable to raise Sh3,000 monthly rent each.

Murang'a resident isolated after showing Covid-19 symptoms

by Wangari Njuguna
@PeopleDailyKe

One person has been placed in isolation in Murang'a hospital after exhibiting signs similar to those of coronavirus.

The county Health Executive Joseph Mbatia said the suspect was taken ill last week and rushed to the hospital. He added that his samples have been taken to ascertain if he has contracted the virus.

Mbatia (pictured) said the isolated person shall be monitored by medics for two weeks before being discharged.

He added that 98 people who had been in isolation have been



discharged. "We had six other people who had come from abroad and they were also put on quarantine and their tests came out negative," he said.

Mbatia said the county is scaling up the fight against the virus and has set up eight quarantine centres in the devolved unit.

The centres, he said, shall also be used to hold people who are defying the safety measures issued by the government to keep the virus at bay.

"Some people are still ignorant of what is happening around us and they are posing a threat to the members of the public and they are the ones we shall be taking to these centers," he said.

The Executive said any patient seeking medical attention at any health facility in the county must wear a face mask.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING

ACT NO.13 (2019)

CHANGE OF USE

The owner of the Parcel Title No. RUIRU/RUIRU EAST BLOCK 1/2839, located off the Eastern Bypass in Ruiru Sub-County, Kiambu County, wishes to change the use of the plot currently under Agricultural to Residential Multi-dwelling (Apartments), subject to approval by the County Government of Kiambu. Individual(s), Organization(s) and Institution(s) etc. with objections or comments to the proposal should submit them in writing within fourteen (14) days from the date of this advert addressed to: County Director of Physical Planning, County Government of Kiambu, P.O. Box 2344-00900, KIAMBU.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING

ACT NO.13 (2019)

CHANGE OF USE

The owner of the Parcel Title No. RUIRU/RUIRU EAST BLOCK 2/161, in a Sub-County, Kiambu County, wishes to change the use of the plot currently under Agricultural to Light Industrial (Go-down), subject to approval by the County Government of Kiambu. Individual(s), Organization(s) and Institution(s) etc. with objections or comments to the proposal should submit them in writing within fourteen (14) days from the date of this advert addressed to: County Director of Physical Planning, County Government of Kiambu, P.O. Box 2344-00900, KIAMBU.

Splinter Legio Maria church head to be buried today

by Alvin Mwangi and Noven Owiti
@PeopleDailyKe

The head of the splinter faction of the Legio Maria Church of Africa Cardinal Alphonsus Romanus Ong'ombe will be buried today in a ceremony to be attended by its top leadership only.

Bishop of Nairobi Diocese Rt Reverend Peter Joseph Onyango said the decision to bury Ong'ombe was in line with government directive that dead people be buried within 24 hours to curb the spread of Covid-19.

Onyango confirmed that the burial will be led by Pope Raphael Adika who was the main rival with the late Ong'ombe since 2009 when leadership wrangles began.

He said there were plans to have another cleric lead the burial but after several talks, the interment committee settled on Adika.

"Our papa will be leading the mass at Got Kweru in

Migori, the holy ground where we bury our top clerics. In as much as our brothers wanted to exclude us, Ong'ombe still remained to be one of us and the only person who has the capacity to lead such a vital service is our pope," said Onyango.

With the burial set to last two hours, Onyango said all the other rituals will be followed where worshippers will have to walk on their knees from the entrance of Got Kweru and then crawl with their stomachs while within the burial site which is deemed a holy ground.

Onyango, who also doubles up as the administrative secretary of the church, appealed to the splinter to avoid the divisive politics and embrace unity during this time of mourning.

Meanwhile, Cardinal Lawrence Ochieng will lead the church on interim basis until a substantive replacement is appointed.



Cotu Secretary General Francis Atwoli and former Jubilee Party vice-chairman David Murathe during a function in Kakamega. The duo are said to have met last weekend to plot an alliance to block William Ruto's rise to the presidency in 2022. PD/FILE

Raila, Atwoli form axis to block Ruto 2022 bid

Comments by those at meeting leave party more divided over plot to scuttle DP Ruto plans in 2022 election

by Winstone Cheseremi
@PeopleDailyKe

The latest crisis in the ruling Jubilee Party took a new dimension on Monday when Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) leader Raila Odinga met several leaders opposed to Deputy President William Ruto.

The meeting at Ildamat, the residence of Central Organisation of Trade Unions (Cotu) boss Francis Atwoli in Kajiado County, is said to have discussed, among other issues, effects of the coronavirus pandemic on the country's economy and the raging war for control of the Jubilee Party.

Also discussed was the state of the country's health facilities in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic, the 2022 succession politics and the closure of businesses and massive job losses as a result of the virus.

Sources, however, intimated to the *People Daily* that Ruto's 2022 presidential bid took the centre stage, with majority of those present "resolving to ensure that his desired rise to the country's top seat is nipped in the bud".

The meeting is also said to have explored possibilities of forming a formidable alliance to bring together politically like-minded individuals.

And those present at the meeting, which began at around 11am and ended some minutes after 5pm point to an emerging alliance to lead the onslaught against Ruto's 2022 State House bid.

They included Devolution CS Eugene Wamalwa, Jubilee deputy vice-chairman David Murathe, Siaya Senator James Orendo, Suna East MP Junet Mohamed, Ugunja MP Opiyo Wandayi and ODM executive officer Oduor Ogiwen.

Before leaving for Kajiado, Raila had met Baringo Senator Gideon Moi at the Karen residence of former Funyula MP Paul Otuma. The three held a two-hour closed-door meeting that was said to have dwelt on Ruto's 2022 presidential bid.

The two Easter meetings, whose details remained scanty, have raised eyebrows within the opposing political camps, es-

pecially on the emerging Raila-Atwoli-Murathe axis aimed at scuttling the DP's 2022 presidential ambitions.

Yesterday, Atwoli, while confirming the meeting at his home, said it had tackled various issues affecting the country with some pundits pointing at possible political realignments ahead of 2022.

"Though the meeting ended up with some strategies, it was meant to be a get-together to celebrate Easter. After all, Raila has always been paying me visits because he is my brother-in-law while Murathe usually comes due to the friendship I had with his late father," he said.

The trade unionist, who has never hidden his opposition to the DP's ambitions, confessed that the 2022 succession politics, in particular Ruto's political strategy, was discussed at length.

"What I can tell Ruto is that at the moment nobody is going to kick him out of Jubilee. He will leave Jubilee by himself because of his own political goofs. How does he expect to remain relevant in Jubilee when he is busy fighting the Jubilee party boss, President Uhuru Kenyatta?" Atwoli posed.

The unionist said it would have been difficult for a gathering of such political heavyweights to have ended without discussing the direction the country is headed and how to drive it in the right path.

"We talked about several issues, among them how the government should cushion Kenyans from effects of the coronavirus pandemic. We also looked at how the country would recover economically after the pandemic," Atwoli said by telephone.

"The meeting brought together like-minded people sharing similar tenets and beliefs in the country's economy, politics,

the current coronavirus scourge. Above all, all of us are not Tanga Tanga leaning individuals," said Atwoli.

Commenting on possible political alliances, Atwoli said all avenues were being explored to ensure "Ruto does not become the next President of Kenya".

"In the coming days you are going to see a lot happening on the political scene. New alliances may come up. Who knows what will happen next?" he posed, adding: "Anybody dreaming that Ruto will be the president of this country should forget those dreams. He is going nowhere."

Murathe said though the caucus was specifically not meant to discuss Ruto's presidential bid, it had "digressed into the subject".

"Atwoli, who is my good friend, had invited us for lunch to celebrate Easter. But there is no way we could have avoided a topic that is apparently on everyone's lips; Uhuru's 2022 succession. But we discussed other issues such as the coronavirus and other challenges facing Kenyans," he said.

Hinting at a possible political alliance between politicians opposed to Ruto, Murathe said nothing is impossible in politics as long as those involved achieve their desired objective.

"Some people in Jubilee think that we cannot move on without them. And if it is the party that they want, we can leave it to them. People can expect new formations in the future. We can move on to a bigger house which will be bigger than Jubilee," he said without elaborating.

Speaking yesterday, the DP allies dismissed efforts by the Raila-Atwoli-Murathe axis to frustrate Ruto's presidential ambitions. Led by Kapseret MP Oseah Sudi and his Kimilili counterpart Didmus Barasa, they challenged the President to declare his stand on the matter to save the party from disintegrating.

"We are appealing to the President to come out and pronounce himself on the recent change of five officials that were made in the National Management Committee in order to clear the air on the matter once and for all," said Barasa.

He accused Murathe and Atwoli of trying to cause a wedge between the President and his deputy with the aim of splitting the party.



Kirinyaga governor Anne Waiguru with county commissioner Jim Njoka (right) and a section of MCAs allied to the governor when she distributed water tanks recently. PD/GITHINJI MWANGI

Temperatures rise in Kirinyaga over threats

by Githinji Mwangi
@PeopleDailyKe

Political temperatures continue to rise in Kirinyaga with several Members of County Assembly (MCAs) claiming their lives are in danger.

The MCAs allege they have received death threats while others have been attacked following what they said was a ploy to cow them not to continue with planned impeachment motion of Kirinyaga governor Ann Mumbi Waiguru.

Unknown arsonists attacked Mutira MCA David Kinyua Wangui's homestead last night setting ablaze a store at midnight.

Kinyua said the unknown assailants wanted to kill him and his family but quick intervention by residents saved them after responding to the alarm raised by one of his workers.

He said the assailants left behind a petrol jerrican.

"This was clear attack to me and my family after I tabled a

motion to impeach the governor, but I want to tell them that I'll not be intimidated or bow down to pressure. We must ensure people elected in this county are accountable," he said.

The independent MCA revealed he has received numerous threats since he tabled the motion, saying the threats are well-coordinated to intimidate him to withdraw the motion but vowed to soldier on.

Ngariama Ward MCA Michael Ileri and Rose Njeri (nominated) recorded statements with DCI officers at Kianyaga Police Station after leaflets were circulated warning them of dire consequences for hiring youths to discredit Kirinyaga governor over the weekend.

Ileri revealed that he recorded a statement with police and called the law enforcers to beef up the MCAs security saying that they are receiving pressure every day to drop impeachment motion.

KIAMBU

Karimenu workers protest pay delays

Over 100 workers at the Karimenu II dam in Gatundu North, Kiambu, have protested delayed salary payment two weeks after the project stalled in the wake of Covid-19. The workers, among them drivers, welders, cooks, and technical support staff accused Synohydro Corporation Ltd that is executing the mega project of delaying their March salary. "The management has been taking us in circles. This is the second time we are demanding for our salary despite having been promised payment in four days," said James Mwangi, one of the workers. One of the senior staff at the company, who sought anonymity however, said there have been issues in remitting workers' dues to their bank accounts. He, however, assured they would receive their pay by Friday.

-Mathew Ndung'u



GILGIL

Cops hunt for pastor over sexual abuse

A pastor from Gilgil has gone into hiding after he was reportedly caught in a compromising situation with a 12-year-old girl in his church. Following the move, police have launched a manhunt for the pastor after it emerged that he had sexually abused over four girls this year. According to medical documents from Gilgil sub-county hospital, the 12-year-old girl, the latest victim, had been sexually abused. Child activist Sakina Mohamed said neighbours who rescued the girl, got suspicious of the pastor who they say would lock up himself up with young girls in the church. "The cleric fled during the rescue mission on Sunday as the minor was taken to hospital. We are seeking the other girls who were molested by the pastor" she said.

-Kirera Mwit

TRANS NZOIA

Man shot dead over livestock theft claim

A suspected livestock thief was on Tuesday shot dead in a botched robbery in Kalro station in Trans Nzoia. Police said the man who was with two accomplices raided a home of a livestock farmer at 2am and made away with three animals valued at Sh300,000 each but were cornered by villagers after the farmer raised alarm. Trans Nzoia County Police Commander Ayub Gitonga said one of the thugs was shot dead after attacking police with a panga leaving them with head injuries. He said two others managed to escape and are being pursued by police who also managed to hand back the cows to the farmer.

-DAVID MUSUNDI

Ugandan truck drivers want KPC to work through curfew

Group says move would address the problem of congestion being witnessed in Eldoret

by Winstone Chiseremi
@Wchiseremi

More than 200 truck drivers from Uganda have expressed their frustrations over the slow pace of loading products for export at the Kenya Pipeline Company Eldoret depot.

The drivers, who have been queuing for the past two weeks, complained they were incurring high costs of upkeep and other necessities due to congestion at the only public managed depot.

Led by their chairman Abdul Aziz, the drivers asked the Kenya government to also allow KPC to be included in the list of essential service providers in the wake of the curfew aimed at containing the spread of Covid-19.

Congestion issues

Addressing the media at the depot yesterday, Aziz said the move would address the problem of congestion that is being witnessed at the depot daily as KPC staff would be able to load fuel for local consumption and export during day and night shifts.

He urged the government to exempt KPC from the 7pm to 5am curfew to save them



Uganda truck drivers chairman Abdul Aziz (left) at the Eldoret Kenya Pipeline Company depot, yesterday.
PD/JIMMY GITAKA

from more suffering, adding that some of them have spent two weeks waiting to load.

"We are facing loading challenges and congestion at the Kenya Pipeline Company's Eldoret depot as the KPC staff are giving local fuel truck drivers first priority," said Aziz, added that they have now been forced to sleep in the trucks to avoid the wrath of police officers enforcing the dusk-to-dawn curfew after exhausting all the money they had for bookings in guest houses and food.

"Some of our colleagues have been on the queue for a period of between two to

three weeks but they are yet to be served. We are being told that the only fuel products remaining are for local consumption and we should wait," said Aziz.

Another truck driver, Soki Saad said the outbreak of coronavirus has worsened the situation for them as they have been forced to be indoors before 7pm to avoid being arrested for flouting the government guidelines.

When reached for comment outgoing Eldoret depot manager Anthony Sang said he was not in a position to comment on the matter.

SUFFERING

● Drivers urge the government to exempt KPC from the 7pm to 5am curfew to save them from more suffering, adding that some of them have spent two weeks waiting to load.

● Aziz said they have now been forced to sleep in the trucks to avoid the wrath of police officers enforcing the dusk-to-dawn curfew after exhausting all the money they had.

Kinyanjui pledges to repossess land

The Nakuru County government says it will not hesitate to repossess public land to facilitate infrastructure development.

While announcing plans to restore public property for construction of critical infrastructure, Governor Lee Kinyanjui (pictured) said the interests of individuals could not override the interests of Nakuru residents.

Defending his administration's move to repossess land set aside for construction of a bus park, the governor warned that he would not be intimidated nor compromised in his bid to safeguard the interests of Nakuru residents.

He accused some individuals of engaging in cheap publicity stunts by deliberately distorting the facts so as to win public sympathy.

-KNA



Farmers in Homa Bay seek help to eradicate tsetse flies

by Noven Owiti
@PeopleDailyKe

Livestock farmers around Ruma National Park in Homa Bay county are counting losses caused by tsetse flies which invaded the area last year.

The killer flies, feared for causing sleeping sickness in humans, transmit Nagana, a livestock disease that is killing livestock in the area.

Locations affected by flies in-

clude Gwasssi East, Ruma, East Kakisingri, Gwasssi Central and Gwasssi South.

Richard Achiego, a farmer at Wiga Village in Gwasssi East, decried the loss of seven cattle and four goats, which were bitten by the flies in the last two years.

The farmers raised concerns saying continuous invasion by the insects is likely to cause unprecedented poverty in the area and appealed to the government to intervene.



Charged!

Robbery with violence suspects Paulo Muinde Mutua and Carlos Nzioka Wambua at Milimani Law Courts in Nairobi, yesterday where they were charged with robbing Stephen Sang Kipng'eno of his mobile valued at Sh3,500 at Uhuru Park on April 9. They were released on a cash bail of Sh100,000 or alternative bond of Sh300,000. PD/CHARLES MATHAI

The Central Bank of Kenya is projecting a growth of 3.4 per cent this year

Sub-Saharan Africa to chop 1.6pc from GDP

Health crisis will have adverse effects on economic activity for commodity exporters

Sub-Saharan African economies are projected to contract by 1.6 per cent in 2020 due to blanket lockdowns, curfews and closures imposed by governments to brake the coronavirus juggernaut, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said yesterday.

The GDP of the continent's economic superpowers, Nigeria and South Africa, is expected to shrink by 3.4 and 5.8 per cent respectively as a result of the pandemic, which has crushed global demand and caused commodity prices to plummet.

"The health crisis is having a severe impact on economic activity," said the IMF in a world economic outlook released yesterday.

It projected the global economy would contract by three per cent this year – worse than during the 2008/09 financial crisis.

"Among emerging market and developing economies, all countries face a health crisis... which will have a severe impact on economic activity in commodity exporters," said the report.

Grim prediction

The bleak figures were released following a grim prediction by the World Bank, which warned last week that sub-Saharan Africa could slip into its first recession in 25 years because of coronavirus.

Africa continues to lag behind the global race for coronavirus infections and deaths.

To date, the world's poorest continent has recorded nearly 15,500 cases of the respiratory disease and almost 850 fatalities, according to an AFP tally which includes North Africa.

Many African governments used precious time to close borders and impose stay-at-home laws to stem the disease when just a handful of cases had been confirmed.

Effects of lockdowns

Recession

The World Bank warned last week that sub-Saharan Africa could slip into its first recession in 25 years because of coronavirus

Disruption

Anticipated domestic disruptions to economic activity from coronavirus will result in significant downward revision to the 2020 growth projection, according to the IMF

Mitigation

The IMF said fiscal measures provided the keys to easing the slump and helping businesses recover once shutdowns are lifted



"Even in countries not experiencing widespread detected outbreaks... the significant downward revision to the 2020 growth projection reflects large anticipated domestic disruptions to economic activity from Covid-19," the IMF said.

Africa's larger economies will be disproportionately affected.

Oil giants

South Africa had already slipped into recession in the final quarter of 2019 and recently saw its credit ratings cut to junk status.

In Kenya, the Central Bank is projecting a growth of 3.4 per cent this year, while the Treasury expects it to hit three per cent.

Oil giants Angola and Nigeria saw their revenues tumble with the global fall in oil prices, as air travel has almost ground to a halt due to the pandemic.

3pc

Percentage drop in economic growth globally, a worse contraction than that seen in the 2008-09 economic crisis

The IMF said fiscal measures provided the keys to easing the slump and helping businesses recover once shutdowns are lifted.

It called on "external support" for countries "facing financing constraints to combat the pandemic".

South Africa's central bank also predicted yesterday that the economy would shrink by 6.1 per cent in 2020 as it cut its main interest rate by a full percentage point.

"Fiscal stimulus can preempt a steeper decline in confidence, lift aggregate demand and avert an even deeper downturn," said the Fund.

"But it would most likely be more effective once the outbreak fades and people are able to move more freely."

The IMF has approved immediate debt service relief for 19 African countries for an initial period of six months to enable them to channel financial resources towards dealing with the coronavirus pandemic.

Burkina Faso, Chad, Central African Republic and Mozambique are among the countries that will benefit from this relief.

– AFP and BBC



Private entities throw weight behind State's anti-coronavirus kitty

CSR: The emergency response fund set up to fight Covid-19 last month is doing well with a number of companies pledging to provide cash to support the cause.

Created by President Uhuru Kenyatta and headed by Jane Karuku, the fund is tasked with the responsibility of mobilising resources to assist in the fight against coronavirus.

Karuku said although some people provide cash, others partner with different organisations to give what they can.

Ventilators

The World Bank has donated Sh5 billion while Danish Ministry of Development Cooperation has given 22 million Danish Kroner (Sh232.83 million) – all which will go to the Covid-19 kitty.

The bank has also contributed 250 ventilators, while Chinese billionaire, Jack Ma and co-founder of e-commerce multinational Alibaba, has also provided 20,000 testing kits to help contain the pandemic.

Last week, local corporations such as Co-op Bank, Devki Steel Mills – each donated Sh100 million to go

towards the fight against the pandemic.

Kenya Pipeline Company, East African Breweries Ltd and Pwani Oil said they would provide public hospitals with hand sanitisers.

Devki pledged to donate Sh100 million worth of oxygen to public hospitals. Narendra Raval, who is also a member of the Covid-19 Emergency Response Fund board, said the donations will be available for collection from their Mombasa, Athi River and Ruiru plants.

Pwani Oil said it will provide 60,000 bottles of free hand sanitisers. The firm has also partnered with Kenya Ferry Services to provide soap on ferries and also distribute hand washing equipment to be used at police stations, health facilities and other public spaces across the country.

The company has also partnered with the Kenya Progressive Nurses Association to provide 122 hand washing kits and 70 cartons of soap to be distributed to the medical personnel in hospitals across 11 counties. United Bank for Africa-Kenya has also donated Sh15 million.

– Zachary Ochuodho

Safaricom doubles bandwidth to support clients working from home

by Noel Wandera
@NoelWandera5

Safaricom has doubled its bandwidth to accommodate the work-from-home plea by the government as part of measures to mitigate the spread of Covid-19 pandemic.

Chief executive Peter Ndegwa said the doubling of its bandwidth is bearing fruit, with the telco registering a 70 per cent growth in Internet data

consumption and a 35 per cent increase in mobile data usage.

"Our support to the government's directive for people to work from home by doubling bandwidth—which effectively means customers are accessing high-speed Internet connectivity at half the normal price—has seen a double digit growth in data volumes, demonstrating that more Kenyans are indeed studying, working and connecting with their

loved ones from home," he said.

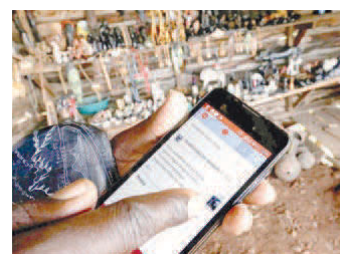
Ndegwa attributed the surge in mobile data usage to customers accessing social media and entertainment sites most popular being Netflix and Facebook.

Sustained demand

Industry rivals Telkom Kenya also reported a spike in residential data usage, with the firm's director of sales and enterprise Geoffrey Shimanyula

noting a sustained demand from corporates and international schools asking for plain internet, whether mobile or fixed data.

"Normally, corporates utilise between 80 and 90 per cent of bandwidth in their offices. However, this has reduced to below 50 per cent," said Shimanyula indicating the level of compliance to the Head of State's plea for companies to retain only essential staff in the office.



BRIEFLY



Naivas launches food items drive

RETAIL: Naivas Supermarket has begun a mobilisation programme where its partners and customers can shop for food items and deposit them at designated points across the retailer's national network for distribution to Kenyans severely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Naivas chief commercial officer Willy Kimani said the programme, referred to as Share Kidogo, will assist the needy, struggling to secure meals in the midst of lost jobs and income opportunities. "Food shortage remains a major dilemma especially for people living in low income areas. We are working with our partners, suppliers and customers to share whatever little they can afford to mitigate the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic," said Kimani.

— Noel Wandera

Absa restructures Sh8.3b of loans

CREDIT: Absa Kenya has restructured Sh8.3 billion of loans, equivalent to about 4.25 per cent of its net loans at the end of last year, as it seeks to cushion customers who have been hit by the coronavirus crisis, it said yesterday. The lender, one of the largest in Kenya by assets, is the first to disclose the impact of the health crisis on its loan book, following a loosening of the rules by the central bank last month. "We are working with our customers to help them get through these extraordinary times," said Jeremy Awori, chief executive of the lender, which is part of South Africa's Absa Group. The relief, which is being determined on a case-by-case basis, applies to personal loans, mortgages, asset finance, credit cards and business loans, the bank said. Borrowers do not incur additional restructuring costs, it added.

— Reuters

Centum to quench thirsty Kiambu slum

CSR: Centum Foundation has embarked on plans to connect 10,000 residents of Githogoro settlement to clean water and provide food hampers to more than 3,000 needy families whose livelihoods have been affected by the coronavirus pandemic. The food hampers, packaged to last the families two weeks, will be distributed by Centum Foundation and Vipingo development Ltd, a fully owned subsidiary of the Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE) listed Centum Investment Company Plc. Centum is also installing tap water and storage tanks that will benefit an estimated 10,000 residents of the Githogoro settlement, located near the Two Rivers Mall in Kiambu county.

— Noel Wandera

KRA to settle ongoing tax disputes online

MONEY: Individuals and organisations having tax disputes with Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) can now have their contentions heard and resolved online during ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

This follows an announcement by the taxman that it has launched online Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) sessions with the aim of enabling taxpayers to access essential services during the pandemic.

The virtual facility will bring together the taxpayer, the assessing commissioner and a facilitator who will chair the session, just as would happen in a face-to-face meeting.

Teleconferencing

With the system in place, KRA can now connect with taxpayers and their agents from the comfort of their homes through secure video and teleconferencing technologies such

as Zoom, Skype and Google Hangout.

KRA Deputy Commissioner for Tax Dispute Resolution Rispah Simiyu said this means taxpayers with disputes can still be heard and get solutions without physically attending ADR sessions. "The online session is cost effective and convenient to taxpayers as it covers a larger geographical area with the option of multiple individuals at different locations dialling in," she added. — Lewis Njoka



Economy could deflate by Sh1 trillion, analysts warn

Reduction in household, private and government consumption will adversely affect GDP growth

by Lewis Njoka
@LewisNjoka

The economy will shrink by between Sh317 billion and Sh1 trillion this year due to the coronavirus pandemic, a report has said.

According to a McKinsey report, Kenya's gross domestic product (GDP) growth could decline by between three and 10 percentage points depending on how the pandemic is handled.

In the best case scenario, the country's GDP growth will reduce by about Sh317 billion (\$3 billion) and Sh1 trillion (\$10 billion) in the worst case scenario.

Private consumption

The report says the GDP growth decline will be mainly due to a reduction in household, private and government consumption expenditure as well as supply chain disruptions.

The pandemic's impact on tourism and the dynamics in the global oil industry are also expected to have a major impact on the country's GDP growth.

If the outbreak is well contained and economic slowdown stemmed in good

BEST CASE SCENARIO

● If the outbreak is well contained and economic slowdown stemmed in good time, McKinsey projects that the country's gross domestic product growth will reduce from the earlier projection of 5.2 to 1.9 per cent.

● If the situation is poorly handled and the virus spreads wide in Africa resulting in prolonged economic downturn, Kenya will register a negative GDP growth estimated at -5 per cent.

time, McKinsey projects that the country's GDP growth will reduce from the earlier projection of 5.2 to 1.9 per cent.

Much earlier, the management consulting firm had projected that Kenya's GDP would grow by six per cent but revised it downwards to 5.2 to take into account the ongoing locust infestation.

If the situation is poorly handled and the virus spreads wide in Africa resulting in prolonged economic downturn, Kenya will register a negative GDP growth estimated at -5 per cent.

The report anticipates four different scenarios ranging from one where the outbreak in Africa is contained and economic slowdown contained, to one where the outbreak is widespread resulting in prolonged economic downturn.

Predictive model

In all the four scenarios, however, the country will experience reduced economic growth.

Luckily, the predictive model shows that Kenya could avoid a recession (negative growth) this year on condition that the Covid-19 outbreak is contained.

"In two out of four scenarios, Kenya could potentially avoid a recession. These scenarios imply a GDP reduction of \$3 billion (Sh317 billion) to \$10 billion (Sh1 trillion) in 2020," says the report.

In both best case and worst case scenarios, manufacturing and tourism sectors will be the worst hit.

Manufacturing will be hit hard due to decreased consumption and supply chain disruptions while tourism could experience a 60 to 90 per cent decline due to restrictions placed on movement globally.

Several other organisations have in the recent past revised their economic growth projections for Kenya downwards to take into account the effect of the Covid-19 pandemic.

NCBA Bank, for instance, projects that the country's economic growth will reduce to 2.3 per cent in 2020, should the Covid-19 pandemic persist through the second quarter of this year, a sharp decline from the 5.7 per cent GDP growth it gave in January.

Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) too has admitted that its earlier economic growth projection was no longer feasible due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"While we do not know how the long this pandemic will last, the World economy is already in a recession, meaning that even our GDP growth projection of 6.2 per cent no longer holds. This is why the monetary policy committee is acting to minimise the damage this economy will suffer," said CBK Governor, Patrick Njoroge in a recent interview.

Asset management firm, Cytonn, says it expects the country's GDP growth to range from 4.3 per cent to 5.2 per cent for the year 2020 depending on the severity of the outbreak.



Business as usual

Carol Mokua, a fish monger at Imara Daima estate, Nairobi, sells omena to Maryroza Njeri at an open air market. Mokua says business is going on as usual even as coronavirus cases continue to rise in the country. PD/DAVID NDOLLO

Co-op bank to pay Sh6b dividends to shareholders

Board of directors approved payout, to be ratified in next AGM, to put money in pockets of members

by Zachary Ochuodho
@zachuodho

Co-operative Bank Group has notified its members that it will pay Sh5.9 billion in dividends on April 23, should the shareholders approve the payment.

A statement, issued by Coop Bank group company secretary Samuel Kibugi, said the board of directors had approved and recommended the payment of a first and final dividend of Sh1 per share.

Kibugi said the release of the dividend will be crucial to shore up member financial standing by providing an estimated Sh15 million to those in the grassroots. Only shareholders registered by April 15 will be paid.

According to its 2019 financial report, Co-op Holdings Coop Society Ltd owned 64.56 per cent of the group while minority shareholders controlled 35.4 per cent.

The bank, Kibugi said, will bring up the dividend payment for ratification at the next annual general meeting.

Net profit

"In this regard we hereby give notice that the dividend shall be paid on or about Thursday, April 23 to shareholders on the register," said Kibugi.

The group reported an after-tax profit of Sh14.3 billion compared to Sh12.7 billion in the previous year – which was a 12.6 per cent rise.

It posted a profit before tax of Sh20.7 billion in 2019 compared to Sh18.2 billion the previous year.

Coop Bank Group chief executive Gideon Muriuki attributed the good performance to the "Soaring Eagle" transformation agenda that has re-tooled and equipped the business with added competitive edge as reflected in the sustained growth in market share across all market segments.

Muriuki said the financial inclusion model is rooted in the more than 15 million-member

co-operative movement that is the face of Kenya.

"The Group has continued with a strategy of 'increased dominance' in the domain market segment (Kenya) leveraging on our successful penetration of retail and consumer banking, micro, medium and small enterprises, corporate banking and the co-operative movement," he said.

On March 11, the board of directors approved the progression of discussions with Jamii Bora Bank Ltd, for acquisition of 100 per cent share.

Asset base

Jamii Bora Bank is a Kenyan bank incorporated under the Companies Act with more than 350,000 customers in 17 branches and an asset base of Sh12.5 billion.

The acquisition offers Co-op Bank the opportunity to cross-sell and deepen product offering to the enhanced customer base and create a niche bank to offer specialised credit products that include MSME banking, microfinance, youth and women banking, asset finance and leasing.



FINANCIALS

● The group reported an after-tax profit of Sh14.3 billion compared to Sh12.7 billion in the previous year – which was a 12.6 per cent rise.

● It posted a profit before tax of Sh20.7 billion in 2019 compared to Sh18.2 billion the previous year.

● The performance was driven by its "Soaring Eagle" transformation agenda and its drive to shore up financial inclusion

NAIROBI SECURITIES EXCHANGE

HIGH	LOW	SECTOR	YVAP	PREVIOUS	TOTAL
		AGRICULTURAL	PRICES		SHARES
17.40	9.90	Eaagadi Ltd Ord 1.25		10.00	
440.00	290.00	Kakusi Pic Ord 5.00	301.00	301.00	3,800
100.00	57.00	Kapchorua Tea Kenya Pic Ord 5.00		71.00	
605.50	405.00	The Limuru Tea Co. Pic Ord 20.00		475.00	
22.70	14.00	Sasini Pic Ord 1.00	16.00	16.50	200
178.00	92.00	Williamson Tea Kenya Pic Ord 5.00	111.00	106.00	200
AUTOMOBILES & ACCESSORIES					
27.00	20.00	Car & General (K) Ltd Ord 5.00		22.40	
BANKING					
13.85	9.30	ABSA Bank Kenya Pic Ord 0.50	10.35	9.86	8,300
31.00	22.40	BK Group Pic Ord 0.80		22.40	
166.00	76.50	Diamond Trust Bank Kenya Ltd Ord 4.00	80.25	85.50	11,900
55.50	32.15	Equity Group Holdings Pic Ord 0.50	33.05	32.80	3,231,700
7.90	3.38	HE Group Pic Ord 0.50	4.20	4.20	2,000
126.00	42.50	I&M Holdings Pic Ord 1.00	51.25	51.00	17,200
55.50	33.75	KCB Group Pic Ord 1.00	35.10	34.50	1,279,300
6.50	3.22	National Bank of Kenya Ltd Ord 5.00		4.12	
41.00	24.90	NCSA Group Pic Ord 5.00	27.60	27.95	25,300
117.75	83.00	Stanbic Holdings Pic Ord 5.00		93.75	
225.00	168.00	Standard Chartered Bank Kenya Ltd Ord 5.00	182.75	182.25	300
17.00	10.05	The Co-operative Bank of Kenya Ltd Ord 1.00	12.50	12.45	1,679,900
COMMERCIAL AND SERVICES					
5.10	0.45	Deacons (East Africa) Pic Ord 2.50		0.45	
1.30	0.77	Eveready East Africa Ltd Ord 1.00	0.82	0.85	6,000
8.50	5.00	Express Kenya Pic Ord 5.00		5.50	
9.50	1.13	Kenya Airways Ltd Ord 1.00	1.16	1.25	107,100
8.80	4.26	Longhorn Publishers Pic Ord 1.00	4.22	4.75	1,900
1.20	0.56	Nairobi Business Ventures Ltd Ord 1.00		0.56	
71.00	22.00	Nation Media Group Pic Ord 2.50	24.30	24.50	13,300
4.70	1.92	Sameer Africa Pic Ord 5.00	2.21	2.25	900
33.00	19.50	Standard Group Pic Ord 5.00		19.80	
35.15	11.50	TPS Eastern Africa Ltd Ord 1.00		15.00	
0.95	0.23	Uchumi Supermarket Pic Ord 5.00	0.30	0.28	72,800
22.00	9.90	WPP Scengroup Pic Ord 1.00		16.00	
CONSTRUCTION & ALLIED					
8.35	2.40	ARM Cement Pic Ord 1.00		5.55	
145.75	45.00	Bamburi Cement Ltd Ord 5.00		48.15	
92.00	53.00	Crown Paints Kenya Pic Ord 5.00		53.00	
3.98	1.44	E.A. Cables Ltd Ord 0.50	1.70	1.71	1,000
20.50	12.95	E.A. Portland Cement Co. Ltd Ord 5.00		14.25	
ENERGY & PETROLEUM					
7.40	4.00	KenGen Co. Pic Ord 2.50	4.90	4.90	176,400
5.50	1.63	Kenya Power & Lighting Co Pic Ord 2.50	1.94	1.94	227,300
5.50	5.00	Kenya Power & Lighting Co 4% Prefr 20.00		5.00	
6.00	6.00	Kenya Power & Lighting Co 7% Prefr 20.00		6.00	
33.00	22.00	Total Kenya Ltd Ord 5.00	23.90	22.00	200
8.70	5.00	Umeme Ltd Ord 0.50	7.00	6.88	13,200
INSURANCE					
10.50	5.70	Britannia Holdings Pic Ord 0.10	7.24	7.00	9,100
4.85	2.00	CIC Insurance Group Ltd Ord 1.00	2.14	2.26	22,400
442.00	250.00	Jubilee Holdings Ltd Ord 2.50	277.25	274.75	300
16.30	2.10	Kenya Re Insurance Corporation Ltd Ord 2.50	2.65	2.66	26,700
13.00	6.80	Liberty Kenya Holdings Ltd Ord 1.00	8.40	8.46	200
26.00	13.80	Sanlam Kenya Pic Ord 5.00		15.00	
INVESTMENT					
37.40	19.60	Centum Investment Co Pic Ord 0.50	22.75	22.95	15,400
0.77	0.30	Home Africa Ltd Ord 1.00	0.43	0.41	2,400
1580.00	1,580.00	Kenya Ventures Ltd Ord 100.00		1,580.00	
3.39	2.00	Olympia Capital Holdings Ltd Ord 5.00		2.50	
4.50	1.80	Trans-Century Pic Ord 0.50	1.91	1.92	20,400
INVESTMENT SERVICES					
16.00	8.24	Nairobi Securities Exchange Pic Ord 4.00	9.10	9.00	8,100
MANUFACTURING & ALLIED					
87.00	52.25	B.O.C Kenya Pic Ord 5.00		60.00	
700.00	355.50	British American Tobacco Kenya Pic Ord 10.00	360.00	360.00	5,400
10.80	7.10	Carbacid Investments Pic Ord 1.00	9.04	9.00	900
230.00	135.00	East African Breweries Ltd Ord 2.00	152.75	145.00	453,800
3.15	0.90	Flame Tree Group Holdings Ltd Ord 0.82	1.14	1.05	105,400
14.00	12.25	Kenya Orchards Ltd Ord		12.25	
0.70	0.25	Mumias Sugar Co. Ltd Ord 2.00		0.27	
42.00	26.10	Unga Group Ltd Ord 5.00	26.40	26.10	700
TELECOMMUNICATION					
33.50	20.10	Safaricom Pic Ord 0.05	27.05	26.35	10,513,800
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST					
11.00	6.88	STANLIB FAHARI I REIT Ord 20.00	8.14	8.20	900
EXCHANGE TRADED FUNDS					
1650.00	1235.00	ABSA New Gold ETF		1615.00	

NSE ALL SHARE INDEX: UP 2.52 points to close at 133.59

NSE 20-SHARE INDEX: UP 3.12 points to close at 1970.26

NSE 25-SHARE INDEX: UP 55.04 points to close at 3122.51

MARKET WATCH

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

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

COMMERCIAL BANKS' AVERAGE FOR MAJOR CURRENCIES (OPENING MARKET) - 14/4/2020

CURRENCY	MEAN	BUY	SELL
US DOLLAR	105.9088	105.8088	106.0088
SW KRONER	10.6283	10.6146	10.6420
STG POUND	131.5444	131.4024	131.6865
SINGAPORE DOLLAR	74.8367	74.7607	74.9126
SAUDI RIAL	28.1672	28.1332	28.2013
SA RAND	5.8757	5.8661	5.8853
S FRANC	109.7502	109.5897	109.9107
NOR KRONER	10.3750	10.3611	10.3888
KES / USHS	35.7384	35.6574	35.8193
KES / TSHS	21.8396	21.7718	21.9074
KES / RWF	8.9920	8.9111	9.0730
KES / BIF	17.8503	17.7863	17.9144
JPY (100)	98.3232	98.2258	98.4206
IND RUPEE	1.3877	1.3864	1.3891
HONGKONG DOLLAR	13.6620	13.6491	13.6749
EURO	115.3624	115.2394	115.4853
DAN KRONER	15.5298	15.5140	15.5456
CHINESE YUAN	15.0302	15.0145	15.0459
CAN \$	76.3417	76.2586	76.4248
AUSTRALIAN \$	68.0358	67.9610	68.1107
AE DIRHAM	28.8332	28.8033	28.8632

AAR turns tide to post Sh517m net profit

by Barry Silah
@gobel_barry

A significant reduction in claims ratio saw AAR Insurance record improved performance in 2019, with a net profit of Sh517 million compared to a loss of Sh253 million the previous financial year.

Profit before tax also climbed to Sh756 million from a loss of Sh334 million in 2018. This is a result of growth in revenue, commission earned from reinsurance arrangement, efficient claims management and savings on management expenses.

Net claims fell from Sh3.3 billion in 2018 to Sh1.7 billion last year due to enhanced efficiency in claims management. This was mainly driven by improvement in technology and efficiency in claims processing which led to reduction in claims incurred compared to

NIXON SHIGOLI

Our focus on operational efficiency is paying off

the previous year.

Gross written premiums increased by 4.5 per cent from Sh5.6 billion to Sh5.9 billion while operating expenses declined from Sh1.1 billion in 2018 to Sh1.08 billion. Income from fees and commissions rose from Sh32 million to Sh586 million owing to new reinsurance arrangements placed.

Shareholder funds

Total assets rose from Sh3.9 billion to Sh4.8 billion with shareholders' funds increasing from Sh563 million to Sh1.1 billion during the period under review.

AAR Insurance Kenya managing director Nixon Shigoli attributed the overall improved performance to a realignment of the business to focus on enhanced efficiency, product innovation and expanding into new market segments.

"Our relentless focus on operational efficiency, tightening claims management and exploiting new opportunities in the market is paying off. Going forward, we will be expanding our customer relationships, enhancing the client experience and deepening innovation in our distribution ecosystem," said Shigoli.

I'm asking every American to support your candidacy which I endorse

BRIEFLY



Covid-19 stalls Notre-Dame rebirth a year after inferno

PARIS, TUESDAY: Perched over the gaping roof of Notre-Dame, a crane stands idle above the silent Paris cathedral, where repair work has ground to a halt one year after the monstrous blaze that nearly destroyed one of the world's most revered monuments.

Millions around the world watched in horror last April 15 as firefighters battled through the night to save the 13th-century masterpiece from the fire, which ravaged its roof and

toppled the steeple.

French President Emmanuel Macron promised a herculean effort to have the UNESCO heritage site restored within five years, in time for 2024 Paris Olympics.

But France's lockdown to combat coronavirus—which has forced suspension of work at the site—is making that goal unlikely. No commemorations are planned to mark the anniversary of the fire, in line with the ban on public gatherings. **-AFP**

Sanders now endorses rival Joe Biden for White House

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY: Former US presidential hopeful Bernie Sanders has endorsed Joe Biden's campaign to take on Donald Trump in November's election.

Senator Sanders pulled out of the contest to be the Democratic Party's nominee last week, leaving Biden as the only remaining candidate.

In a live split-screen webcast, former vice-president Biden thanked his former rival for the endorsement. Senator Sanders urged all Americans to unite to defeat Trump.

He described him as "the most dangerous president

in the modern history of this country".

"Today I am asking all Americans; I'm asking every Democrat, I'm asking every independent, I'm asking a lot of Republicans - to come together in this campaign to support your candidacy which I endorse," Sanders, 78, said.

"It's imperative that all of us work together."

Biden, 77, said he was "deeply grateful" for the endorsement and said he needed Sanders not just for the campaign, but to govern. **-BBC**

Netanyahu, Gantz resume coalition government talks

JERUSALEM, TUESDAY: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his main rival Benny Gantz held new talks on forming an emergency unity government Tuesday, with a deadline less than two days away.

A deal would give Israel its first fully functioning government since December 2018, stability that could prove crucial as it confronts the coronavirus pandemic. The two men had been in talks up until a midnight Monday deadline but jointly asked President Reuven Rivlin for a two-day extension to finalise details. They resumed negotia-



tions in Jerusalem on Tuesday morning, after releasing a joint statement late Monday hailing "significant progress".

Claims of progress in coalition talks have been made repeatedly since an inconclusive March 2 election, but a deal has remained elusive.

Neither man earned enough support in any of the polls to form a stable governing coalition. **-AFP**

WHO warns against easing lockdown as virus toll rises

...and IMF declares that the world faces worst recession since Great Depression of 1930s

Vienna, Tuesday

The number of new cases of Covid-19 is easing in some parts of Europe, including Italy and Spain, but infections are still growing in Britain and Turkey, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said Tuesday. "The overall world outbreak, 90 per cent of cases are coming from Europe and the United States. So we are certainly not seeing the peak yet," WHO spokeswoman Dr Margaret Harris said in Geneva.

The UK recorded 778 coronavirus deaths in 24 hours, bring the total toll in the country to 12,107. More than one in five deaths in England and Wales is linked to coronavirus, figures show.

There were some 1,935,646 confirmed cases of coronavirus in 185 countries, according to Johns Hopkins University tally, with 120,914 deaths at Tuesday evening.

This came as the International Monetary Fund declared that the world faces worst recession since Great Depression. IMF said the global economy will contract by 3 per cent this year. It said the pandemic had plunged the world into a "crisis like no other".

In Europe, Austria cautiously eased

confinement measures Tuesday as coronavirus deaths appeared to start levelling off in several hard-hit countries, though WHO reignited warnings against lifting lockdowns too fast. Austria followed Spain in slowly reopening some sectors, while US President Donald Trump said in his country—the worst hit—numbers were "plateauing".

Italy also allowed some business to resume, though a nationwide lockdown remained in place.

As countries reach different stages of the coronavirus curve, debate is raging over whether to return to normal life and possibly risk a second wave of infections.

Not all countries are ready to reopen.

WHO: WHEN TO END LOCKDOWNS

- **Transmission should be controlled**
- **Health system capacities are in place to detect, test, isolate and treat every case and trace every contact.**
- **Outbreak risks are minimised in special settings like health facilities**
- **Preventive measures are in place in workplaces, schools and other places.**
- **Importation risks are managed.**
- **Communities are fully educated, engaged and empowered.**



A man wearing a face mask and a plastic bag on his head rides a bicycle on a street in Wuhan, China, yesterday. China has largely brought the coronavirus under control within its borders. **-AFP**

Museveni extends shutdown, SA hails 'success'

Kampala, Tuesday

Uganda President Yoweri Museveni on Tuesday extended the country's lockdown for another 21 days up to May 5.

"This is meant to allow us study the situation longer. All previous measures still stand. It is safer to go another 21 days than to stop prematurely," he said in a briefing in Kampala.

And in South Africa, the government says it is succeeding in fighting the coro-

navirus pandemic, with a nationwide lockdown showing clear signs of containing the disease, for now.

At a televised briefing, the chair of the government's advisory committee said South Africa's success in halting an exponential rise in cases was unprecedented.

South Africa says it is on a unique path—that new evidence from the past fortnight shows that no other country has managed to cut and then stabilise the number of new infections so abruptly.

Elsewhere, a first delivery of medical supplies from WHO has landed in Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa.

The supplies, including includes masks, goggles, gloves, gowns and other protective gear for health workers and ventilators for patients will be distributed to Djibouti, Sudan, Eritrea, Somalia and Tanzania and then on from those hubs to "as many countries as possible", World Food Programme spokeswoman Elisabeth Byrs was quoted saying. **-BBC**

Spice

► Flavour your day **STYLE** @obel_barry

Mikaela Mwangura is a fashion stylist and blogger with a bias on lifestyle, fashion and relationships. She is also the co-founder and CEO of the Eminence Global, a public relations firm. She chats with **BARRY SILA** on her style preferences

What style do you subscribe to and why?

I subscribe to a sophisticated-sassy fashion style. It's because the style depicts my character; which is bold, lively, cheeky and yeah, sophisticated!

What are the trends currently rocking and why do you think that's so?

Floral and 60s wallpaper prints, because they bring major colour, pattern and life to all the top collections. Another one is Spring Leather styles; whether it's full leather or it makes just a part of the cloth, the material never runs out of style. It was actually spotted in 2020 spring runways in every form—from vintage jackets to colourful leather skirts at Marni & Alexander McQueen. Also the Polka dots. These rarely run out of trends; they are actually making waves in the spring 2020 runways all over the world. Leopard prints is one of the animal prints wears that has crossed over to 2020, especially the ones that are styled with bits of leather or denim material, they look really chic. They are absolutely taking over the fashion world currently from shoes, to dresses, jackets and pants.

How about among the celebrities?

Spring Silk Wrap Dresses is a segment that is becoming a trend among the celebrities. It comes with different styles of sleeves from puffed sleeves to bishop sleeves and showstopper sleeves. It becomes sexier because of the silk material that flows with the body revealing every curve.

What's the best style advice you've ever received?

"Style is a deeply personal expression of who you are, and every time you dress, you are asserting a part of yourself" by Nina Garcia. I try to express myself through my personal style and she nailed it!

Between shoes and bags, what is your weakness?

Shoes! I never seem to have enough; I keep buying them and they fill up my spaces, but I hardly complain. I feel that apart from complementing my different styles, they somewhat define me.

Is there that one style every woman should try at least once in her life?

Yes, the sophisticated style. It's only known to be popular among the filthy rich, but I am certain that every woman should have that piece of cloth or a full outfit that they have heavily invested in guilty pleasure. And that's what my e-shop 'mskaela-closet.com' is all about.

What is your view on spend versus value in fashion today?

I will quote the words of Vivienne Westwood, "Buy less, choose well and make it last". Cheap is expensive, they just don't last for a long time because of the poor quality.

Your favourite fashion quote and how does it inspire you?

"Style is a way of saying who you are without having to speak." Style is an art and as such, I express myself through it.

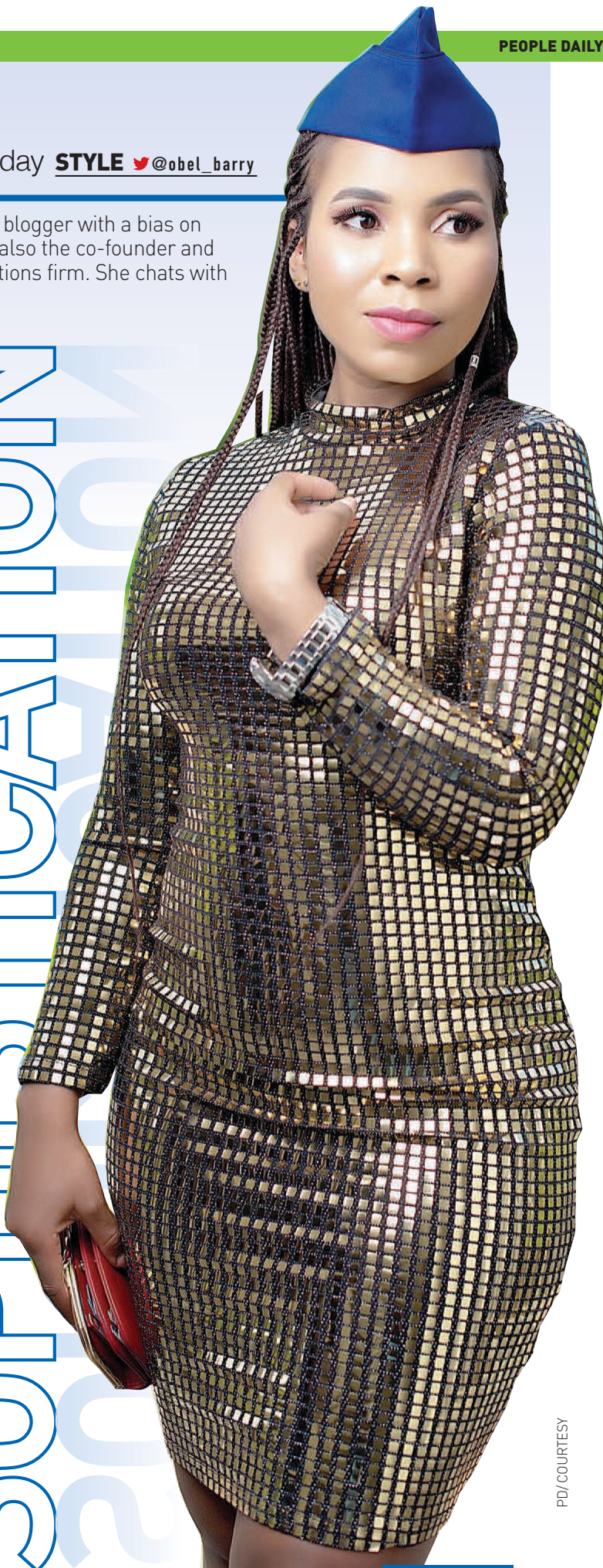
What fashion read has the biggest impact in your image?

The Truth About Style by Stacy London. Style develops self-confidence thus the saying "Look Good Feel Good". It has really helped me build my self-confidence.

What is the one thing you wished you knew about your looks when you were younger?

I wish I knew how to experiment more on different pieces and also how to dress my body. That would have helped a great deal I think, especially in finding the right fit.

SOPHISTICATED



Mikaela Mwangura

GET THE LOOK WITH FAITH KYOUMUKAMA

Reginae Carter

Reginae Carter is rapper's Lil Wayne and Toya Wright's daughter. She is an actress, known for *Pride & Prejudice: Atlanta*, *Dear Santa*, *I Need a Date* and *Growing Up Hip Hop: Atlanta*. She is also a vibrant young fashionable bubble who likes to dress up, with sporty looks seemingly being among her favourites. Check out a few of them.



Easy tracks mean comfort, but a crop top gives it an edgy touch.



A little dazzle is what you need, especially when on a night out. Tracks don't have to be boring.



This splash of pink is dressy and can be worn with heels for that flattering look.

PD/COURTESY

Ten... Celebrities on the Covid-19 statistics

The rate of coronavirus infections has been increasing, and celebrities have not been so lucky either. They, too, have tested positive for the virus with some unfortunately succumbing to the infection while others continue with the treatment. Our write FAITH KYOUMUKAMA traces some...



Sallam Sharaff

Bongo star Diamond Platnumz' manager Sallam Sharaff also tested positive for the virus. Sallam is believed to have traveled to Europe. He disclosed the news on his social media page on March 19, while he announced the cancellation of Diamond's show due to the pandemic. The development forced Diamond and a few members of the Wasafi Classic Baby team to also stay in isolation and undergo tests since they had been in contact with Sallam.



Idris Elba

British actor Idris Elba was tested for coronavirus after realising he'd been exposed to someone who'd tested positive for Covid-19. On March 16, he announced he had tested positive. According to the *100 Streets* star, he had been self-quarantining and had no symptoms. A week ago, his wife Sabrina Dhowre revealed she had also tested positive for coronavirus after having chosen not to self-quarantine away from her husband.



Manu Dibango

Jazz icon Emmanuel N'Djoke Dibango aka Manu Dibango was pronounced dead just five days after it was announced that the *Soul Makossa* had tested positive for coronavirus. The 86-year-old Cameroonian singer—who had a passion for the saxophone—passed away on March 24, 2020. His close assistants confirmed that he had been admitted to a hospital in France for a different disease and that's when he contacted the Covid-19. It was announced via his social media platforms that his funeral service would be held in strict privacy, and a tribute to his memory organised when possible. He was buried days later at a private ceremony in Paris.



Charlotte Lawrence

American singer-songwriter and model Charlotte Lawrence announced on March 17 that she had tested positive for coronavirus. The 19-year-old pleaded with her Instagram followers to take the pandemic seriously. "We have the power to slow this down. So, please, please isolate yourself. Stay clean. Stay informed. Stay aware and make others aware," she wrote.



Arlus Mabele

Congolese music legend Arlus Mabele passed on Friday, March 20, in Paris, France, of the coronavirus at the age of 67. His daughter, singer Liza Monet, confirmed his death, saying her father had contracted the virus. He had had a stroke a few years ago and had been in fragile health. Popularly referred to his fans as the 'King of Soukous', his music blended traditional African and Caribbean rhythms.



Mwana FA

Tanzanian rapper Khamis Mwinjuma aka Mwana FA confirmed on March 19 that he had tested positive for Covid-19. In a video on his social media pages, the singer revealed that he had started developing a fever and symptoms of the virus after his return from South Africa. In the same video, he advised people on the importance of regular hand washing, social distancing and not to panic if they caught the virus. Mwana FA is in hospital recovering from the virus.

Lucian Grainge

American global music corporation, Universal Music Group (UMG), chairman and CEO Lucian Grainge, 60, was also hospitalised after testing positive for the virus. This was after multiple sources close to him confirmed to the media on the March 15 that his coronavirus test had turned out positive. Grainge sent a letter to UMG staff on April 6, updating them about his condition, saying his health is expected to make a full recovery. Grainge was hospitalised at Los Angeles' UCLA Medical Center, where he received treatment for over two weeks.



Chef Chioma

Chioma Avril Rowland fiancée to Nigerian singer Davido also tested positive for the virus. Davido announced this on his Instagram post, saying due to his recent travel history as well as that of his lover who had travelled from London recently with their son David Jr, it was necessary for him to take the coronavirus test. The 27-year-old music star assured fans that he and his family were doing well despite the diagnosis and they would be taking the necessary precautions. He also disclosed that Chioma was in quarantine and that he would be self-isolating for 14 days as required. Chioma is a foodie and social media influencer who loves to share her cooking skills.



Andy Cohen

Popular American TV host Andy Cohen told his 3.7 million Instagram followers that he tested positive for coronavirus and had to temporarily stop shooting his show *Watch What Happens Live*, which he planned to film at home. He said that after a few days of self-quarantine and not feeling great, he tested positive for Covid-19. This required him to also postpone shooting the *Real Housewives of Atlanta Reunion* TV show that was to take place a week or so ago.



Slim Thug

American rapper Stayve Thomas alias Slim Thug revealed to his social media followers on March 24 that he had tested positive for the virus. In a video posted on Instagram, the *I Run the Streets* hit rapper explained that he may have gotten the virus while he was out grabbing something to eat, asking the public to take precautions while out in the public. "Y'all gotta take this stuff serious. Stay home, self-quarantine, and do not come outside for however long they're saying. If you have symptoms, you need to go get checked out," he wrote.

Eureka ▶ Design, innovate, engineer

SMS platform to boost reproductive health

Through messages and Facebook Messenger, Ask Nivi, has gained over 330,000 users who inquire about family planning and sexual health

by Sandra Wekesa
@wekesa_sandra

Sexual and reproductive health among adolescents continues to be one hard topic to discuss, especially in many African households. With many parents tiptoeing around the subject, it is so hard for teenagers to get answers to important aspects such as family planning and sex.

Research show that women worldwide often lack easy and confidential access to contraceptive information and services, even where local providers and products are involved. There has also been improving quality of care and increase consumer knowledge of contraceptive methods.

Zero judgement

However, with the growing numbers of mobile phone use among the youth, it is safe to say such issues can be tackled with ease. Lillian Kihui and her team can attest to this, as they have been able to bridge the gap between parents and children, and between teens and their peers, through the invention of Ask Nivi, an artificial intelligence platform that answers sexual and reproductive health questions.

Her team, comprising six permanent employees and 50 casual labourers, discovered the unwillingness of people to hold conversations around sexual reproduction and access of information, hence introducing chat robots, which automate conversations anonymity and zero judgment.

"We are dedicated to help girls take care of themselves, eventually leading them to become better at what they do, especially in school because they are no longer tied down to pregnancies," she says.

Although their main office is based in the US, Kenya is the flagship county with about 300,000 users of the app at the moment. This has helped them roll out in India and America.

In 2017, Kihui saw the need of starting off in Kisumu to try lower HIV/Aids prevalence by having conversation with the community on the need for protection and basic self care.

"I remember we would go to campuses

talk to them on the need of using condoms and that is how we were able to grow," she says.

With time, they were able to grow from having one on one conversation in campuses to coming up with short message services (SMS) codes and social media platforms.

How it works

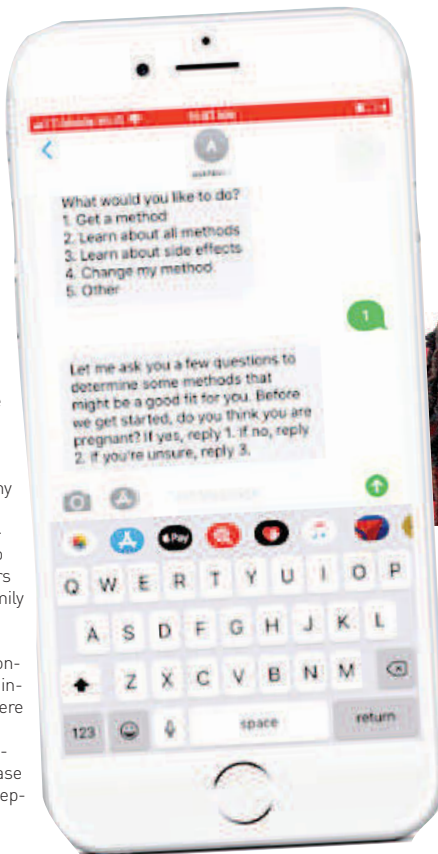
Users can use the platform in three specific steps. The first one is sending 'AskNivi' to 22684. The second step is to provide their age, sex and location, then finally step three is to ask their question.

"The moment a user shares a message, Nivi will then interact with them and ask about fertility preference and contraceptive history and then recommend up to three contraceptives that you can use and nearby providers," she says.

This allows users to learn privately about available contraceptive options and make cost effective and informed choices. The SMS platform is free.

The other way is through Facebook, where Ask Nivi is able to reach various users through Messenger, the platform's messaging app. It also takes advantage of the advertising feature on the social media giant to expand their audience.

"We get to advertise specific topics and



LILLIAN KIHUI

The moment a user shares a message, Nivi will then interact with them and ask about fertility preference and contraceptive history and then recommend up to three contraceptives that you can use and nearby providers

the time of discussion. This helps in re-engaging users and also provides more information in a wider perspective," Kihui says.

But this couldn't have been possible if they hadn't looked for different alternatives such as creating awareness of the platform through radio shows and community engagement.

Despite many successes, some challenges the team faces include poor internet connection, which limits number of users on the platform.

Also, not every teenager is able access a mobile phone meaning the platform is inaccessible to them. Consequently, one of their future plans is to find a way to reach more young people without phones.

They hope to expand their topics of discussion from just family planning to cervical cancer and maternal health-care.

GADGET REVIEW WITH NUTA WAWERU



No more numbers for LG

In an effort to move away from confusing number titles for their phones for more familiar and expressive names, LG is set to launch a new phone called Velvet. The new product will come with a 3D Arc Design, which means symmetrically curved edges for a comfortable grip. It also comes with a 'raindrop' camera at the back, which features three cameras stacked in descending order. The aim is for the cameras to take less space and give the phone a sleek look. No details of specs and other features of the phone are out yet. The launch date is also set to be announced.



Huawei goes Pro with P40

The company's flagship device of 2020 was launched recently and the most obvious aspect is the absence of Google Play Store. This means that the phone's app gallery is highly limited, missing some of the most favourite apps in the market such as Facebook and WhatsApp. Even so, the device comes with a 6.58-inch OLED display, 8GB of RAM and 256GB of storage. It also features four camera sensors: a 50-megapixel primary shooter, a 40-megapixel ultra-wide-angle shooter, a 12-megapixel telephoto and a depth sensor. It costs Sh95,000.

Redmi excites with budget phone

From Xiaomi comes the new, albeit bulky Redmi Note 9 pro, which weighs 209g. Fortunately, it packs a number of features that might make users overlook the weight, including a Gorilla Glass for the front and rear of the phone and a polycarbonate frame. The camera protrudes from the device, raising questions, especially since many other companies are moving away from this fad. With its big display, reliable performance and impressive battery life, the phone is set to retail at Sh19,000.



Family Fusion ▶ All about kin and kith

You just found out your nanny gets sudden episodes of unconsciousness. She has been with you for months without experiencing seizures. How safe is it to leave your baby with her, considering she is very good with the kids and that it is difficult to come across her kind? Our writer MILLIAM MURIGI finds out

 @PeopleDailyKe

Raising five children is no walk in the park, especially if only one child is able to do a few things by themselves and the rest are quadruplets under five. You worry that finding a reliable babysitter for such a home setup is near impossible, due to the extra attention, knowledge, and patience necessary needed to care for the children. And when you find one that fits all these characteristics, you don't want to let them go. But what happens if you find out that your new found helper has a life threatening condition, not only to her, but also to the children?

This is exactly what happened to Divinar Joseph two weeks ago.

One morning while her househelp and her eldest daughter were having breakfast, she heard a loud thud followed by a loud scream by her daughter. Panicking, she rushed to see what had just happened.

Her househelp was lying helplessly on the floor, in uncontrollable fits of convulsions biting her tongue and frothing at her mouth.

In a flash Divinar's legs started shaking and in a confused state started calling out for her neighbours' for help.

Traumatic experience

"It was a horrific experience, my quadruplets had also heard the screams and were also wailing in anguish," recounts Divinar.

After gaining consciousness, Divinar asked her if she had ever experienced a similar seizure before and she answered in the affirmative. "That is how I learnt that she was epileptic. I wished my children were not present to witness the whole event and they haven't stopped talking about it since then and my daughter, who was there when it all happened is still traumatised," she says.

Divinar says too many questions linger about the worst that could have happened if she was not around on that particular day. She wondered whether she should let her go or keep her, but decided to keep her since she was good with her job.

But when Divinar took her to the hospital, the doctor advised that she was not fit to raise children as her condition was too fragile.

Epilepsy is one of many unseen conditions, under the category of disability that has left many employers at crossroads on whether they should employ minders suffering from it.

"I would let her go immediately," says Nelly Njau, a mother of two. She says even though the girl was good with her work, she would

Would you keep or let an epileptic nanny go?



THE LAW

- Looking into the Occupational, Safety and Health Act, an employer should provide necessary gear to protect the epileptic worker from danger.
- In the event an employer asks for the health status of an employee, a doctor is required to only give a certificate of fitness and not a full medical report.
- It is a breach of the constitution; right to privacy and right not to have information relating to one's private affairs revealed.

Ruth Khakame,
the Chairperson
of the National
Domestic Workers
Council.
PD/COURTESY

just let her go. She says she would not take any chances with her children because accidents happen any time.

But what if the issue of human rights and discrimination comes up? Ruth Khakame, the Chairperson of the National Domestic Workers Council and Kenya Union of Domestic, Hotels, Educational Institutions, Hospitals and Allied workers (Kudheihia) says disability should go hand in hand with ability to perform.

Well-being checkups

"On the subject matter I think it is dangerous to hire a domestic manager with some of these conditions because it is dangerous for her and it extends to the people she is taking care of," says Ruth.

She says it is important for employers to monitor and not ignore symptoms manifested by their domestic workers. In extreme

cases they should accompany or recommend health checkups for their workers well-being while in or before employment to avoid eventualities. "If she is already hired, the worker is entitled to medical protection and she can be allowed sick leave to seek medication. However, if it is a condition that affects their work performance and poses a danger, employment can be terminated, but due procedure should be followed to avoid discrimination against the employee on basis of their health status," adds Ruth.

On matters of health status, Ruth says that even with disclosure where needed, a doctor is only required to only give a certificate of fitness and not a full medical report.

"Matters of disclosure should be between the healthcare provider and the worker. It is a breach of the constitution; right to privacy and right not to have information relating to one's private affairs revealed," Ruth says.



DADDY'S DIARY

Look for the silver lining

During this Covid-19 pandemic, most of us have come to appreciate the many things we took for granted. That you can meet a stranger on the street and give them a warm embrace and a handshake without giving a hoot. If anyone next to you sneezed, you wouldn't be bothered. Now even having a normal flu is like a criminal offence. Never in my wildest dreams, would I have imagined that times will come when it will be mandatory to wear a mask when going out of the house. The push and shove that we have always witnessed in the supermarkets is over and everyone is keeping distance. Who would have thought that our matatus would agree to carry half their capacity?

Granted, the economy will take a beating for sure. Many families will have their sources of income significantly reduced or completely wiped out. But I am optimistic that in some not so distant future we will get over this. But before that time comes, what do you do in the meantime? One of the things that you will have in plenty is time. What you do with that time will be up to you. For some, it is time to watch all the latest movies and series while for others its sleeping till midday without anyone asking a question. What about you?

Maybe its time to take that online class you have been postponing for many years due to the challenge of time? The year is still young, you can still work on your fitness programme at this time. Although the gyms are closed, with the right motivation you can improvise something within your household to enable you maintain your fitness levels.

If there is a recipe book you bought and have never tried any of the recipes this might be the time to try it out. If you have been wondering when your children will learn how to cook, now is the time for those lessons. If there is a book you bought a while back and have not had a chance to read it, now is probably the best time. Don't just sit in the couch watching one movie or episode after another, rise up and make yourself useful.

Janet Wanjiku, a counsellor says medical conditions such as epilepsy is not a respecter of person. Anyone can have it, therefore, it would be unfair to release a domestic worker on such grounds. She advises employers to talk to the rest of family members about the new employees condition and let them know it is a normal part of life.

"Before releasing her ask yourself this simple question what if it is my child, close relative or even family member? Would I be happy to see them treated that way because of their health status? If not treat them as your own and ensure that they are safe in whatever they do.

We need to empower such people and learn to live with them. In the event, a child is involved, lawfully terminate the contract adhering to provision of employment act on termination," says Wanjiku.

Relatively Speaking ▶ From the horse's mouth



Capturing dad's life through the lens

The late MOHAMED AMIN was and is still regarded one of the best photojournalists the world has ever seen. SALIM AMIN, his only son who followed in his footsteps, takes us down the memory lane, 24 years later

by Harriet James
@harriet86jim

On Saturday November 23, 1996, renowned photojournalist, Mohamed Amin and his fellow journalist and business colleague Brian Tetley, were on their way home from a business trip in Addis Ababa. Little did they know that they would not reach their destination. The plane had been hijacked by three young men seeking political asylum, and due to their conflicting commands, the plane ran out of fuel and crashed off Comoros Island. Mo, as he was popularly referred to was trying to negotiate with them to release the hostages. "At the time of the crash, I was at the gym while my mum and wife were at home. One of my friend's called my mum and asked her to check the news as there was a plane crash. Dad was supposed to come back on that day, so we knew that he was on that plane," narrates Salim Amin, Mo's only son.

Together with his father's business partner Duncan Willets, Salim rented a plane together with his father's partner to Comoros Island to look for him. He was hopeful throughout the five and a half flight that he would be reunited with his father. Little did he know that the last dinner that he had with him, just before he went on the business trip would be the last. "When I identified his body at the Comoros, it hit me that he was not going to be around. And

SALIM AMIN

...My father kept most of his company details to himself. I sometimes see his ghosts haunting me asking what I've done with his business so far. I wish I spent more time with him. I wish I took a little more interest and maybe proved myself more to him

that was a very difficult time," he says

In a career spanning four decades, Mo had covered almost every major news story in Africa. For him, getting a story was not just a goal, but an obsession. From Idi Amin's brutal regime, to Tom Mboya's assassination, to the 1984 Ethiopian hunger that placed him on a pedestal of prominence, Mo won awards, and moved the world to do the one thing he loved. Sadly, at just 53, he was among 153 people who perished in the accident, including the hijackers. Salim was just 26 years old then and he inherited his father's home and Camerapix, the company he built from scratch to become one of Africa's largest media houses.

Making the documentary

"Though I worked with my father, he handled most of the details pertaining to the company. I sometimes see his ghosts haunting me asking me what I've done to his business so far. I wish I spent more time with him. I wish I took a little more interest and maybe proved myself more to him, but no regrets," he says.

Salim didn't know his father well until he made the famous documentary on him, *Mo and Me*. As he narrates, it was a three-year journey of going back and learning about him. "My whole office is like his shrine. We have a cross given by Pope John Paul II to him, Idi Amin's epaulette, a wooden curving of an eagle that used to live in Idi Amin's living room, a lot of his awards, and one of his prosthetic arms as he had two, with one acting as a spare. For me it's a source of constant inspiration," Says Salim

Born in 1970, Salim's passion for photogra-

phy began when he was just five years old. His photos of the safari rally were first published in the Times magazine.

His father never wanted him to become a photo journalist or a journalist and desired that he gets a real job. But journalism was something that was in Salim's heart and after high school, he went to Vancouver, Canada for his university and studied a degree in journalism and started working for his father in 1992. "It was very rare that he was around. He would travel like nine months a year, but the time he was around we would have a great time. We had a great relationship. My best memories are of covering the rally and doing wildlife photography and filming with him during Easter," says Salim.

But even during the holidays and with the little time that he spent with his family, the workaholic Mo would still be waking up at 2am or 3am in the morning to do his paper work. This is where Mo and his son differed in personality. While they both wanted to get things done, Mo was extremely driven and his work was far important than anything else. His son though, is motivated and though he loves his job, his family is the most important thing in his life.

Though the two had a great relationship, the father of two admits that his father was tough on him when it came to work. This is because Mo didn't want to be seen that he was favouring his son and Salim would find himself doing more work just to impress his father. Consequently, this made Salim crave for his father's attention and approval on many things as he was never around. "I wanted him

FAR LEFT: An exclusive photo the late Mohamed Amin took after securing access to a makeshift refugee camp in the northern town of Korem, a previously restricted hunger-stricken area in Somalia. ABOVE LEFT: Photo moment with former South African president Nelson Mandela during an official visit to Kenya. ABOVE RIGHT AND LEFT: Salim Amin with his father Mo. COURTESY

to tell me that I was doing a good job in a lot of things, but he was miserly with his praise for anybody and, especially me because he didn't want me to have a big head. I wish he had told me more about the business and looking after it, because I was very young when he passed away and didn't really know the ropes as he kept everything close to himself, probably because, I think, he felt that he had more time," he narrates.

Salim was thrown into the deep end and had to learn about the business by himself as he went along. He worked even harder after his father passed on, and the desire to make him proud consumed his life. "Carrying on his legacy has been a privilege and I've never felt the weight of it. People never thought that I was going to amount to much. It's kind of nice to be able to continue with my father's legacy and hopefully, I will be able to take it to a couple of levels up," he says.

Siblings

"Another difference between my dad and I is that we lived in different ages, and it affects how we do business," he says. Technology was different and Mo was pretty much a monopoly in covering Africa. Currently, everyone is doing news and it's not business doing news anymore. This consequently made the company adapt and change as well as he had to detach the company from his personality. "The company was so much linked to his name, so we've had to reestablish it so that it can still continue even though he isn't around. I think this is a lesson of how important photojournalism and journalism is. My dad showed what difference good journalism can make and how we can change the world," he explains.

Camerapix has presently expanded to A24 and his library is the largest resource of its kind in Africa. With four million still images and 8,000 hours of film and footage, it charts the history of the continent from the 1960s. There is also a journalism and film school. And so far almost 200 students have graduated from the school and many have become great in their fields.

Although Salim's sisters are also passionate about this generational gift, they have followed different paths; they are both in the university where one is studying to become a lawyer while the other is pursuing international business and is also passionate about speech therapy and working with children with disability.

Taboo ▶ Let's talk about it



by Harriet James
@harriet86jim

Rumours that people dying of coronavirus in European nations were being cremated was enough to create panic and fear that the same would happen in Kenya. And while it's still a wait-and-see situation, should the government's directive for cremation for fear of spreading the diseases be the norm, the pandemic would have disrupted a major cultural rite.

Over the years, the topic of cremation has been a subject of debate bringing both cultural and religious beliefs to the fore.

"Africans believe that cremation is taboo and that fire is linked to total destruction. Destroying the body stops the person from being joined with the ancestors who have influence amongst the living. A proper burial site in a grave that is constantly taken care of brings good luck to the family," notes Gladys Nyachio, a sociologist.

Already, burial norms are being disrupted, creating confusion, pain and even anger. The recent burial of James Onyango, who succumbed to Covid-19, in Siaya, has caused a furore on social media. Oyugi was wrapped in body bags and buried within hours of his death, causing Kenyans to question about the dignity of the dead. This comes at a time when photos of burials from the West, where deceased are put in coffins and prayers are conducted with just a few family members seen to be the norm.

Rushed service

Sophie Wanjiku went home to bury her uncle during this period in Tinga'ng'a village in Kiambu county. However, due to the restrictions, instead of the usual large number of mourners, only a few came.

"We were less than 10 people at the mortuary to receive the body. There was no viewing of the body. There wasn't much to do, only a short prayer then proceeding to the burial site in the village," she narrates.

In many African cultures, a huge number people often come to pay their last respect to the dead. They believe it would bring bad luck if someone misses a funeral, especially that of an elder. Funerals are also not rushed, allowing people to spend as much time with the bereaved family for the dead to be pleased and so that no misfortune follows mourners afterwards. However, Sophie feels sad about how rushed the process was due to the virus.

"The church conducted the service in a record 30 minutes, with less than 20 people present. No tributes, no speeches, only the reading of the eulogy, a very short sermon, vote of thanks, no surrounding the coffin for

Burial unusual

The pandemic has seen abandonment of age-old rituals including flamboyant funerals that take weeks



SOPHIA
The Church conducted the service in a record 30 minutes, with less than 20 people present. No tributes, no speeches, only the reading of the eulogy, a very short sermon, vote of thanks

special family prayers, and within no time, the procession proceeded to the grave site," she says.

As is normally the case, in the African culture, young men and older men ready to pick the shovels and inter the body. However, this time round, because of limited number of people, both women and men had to participate in covering the grave with soil. While it has no symbolism in the Kikuyu culture other than the fact that men are strong enough to do it, in some communities such as the Luo, men with pregnant wives are often barred from digging the grave as their wives would have premature births. Twins are also not allowed

to do so as it brings bad luck.

No food was served to the few guests at Sophie's uncle's funeral, and soon after the short burial, it was time to go home. While some communities believe in spending and celebrating to send off the dead and to appease the ancestors, Sophie is glad the budget was kept at minimum. The major cost was the hearse and transport of the body from mortuary to home.

"I don't think there's any custom that was bypassed. Among the Kikuyu, especially my family most rituals are usually after the burial including deciding what happens in his home, and to his property. Those were not affected in



Sophia Wanjiku and her grandmother ahead of a relative's burial. COURTESY

any way," she says.

The case is different for James Onyango, who lost his father after an illness on April 2. The former teacher, aged 102, had many grandchildren, and close relatives would have wanted to have all those who mattered to him be there on his final day. However, the burial took place one day after he was pronounced dead and without fanfare.

Bulls and he-goats

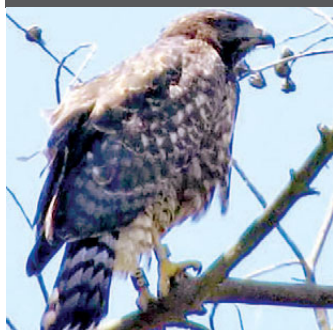
In the good old days, bulls and goats would have been the hallmark of the celebration reminiscing his exploits that spanned three decades. Being an elder, in the Kisii culture means his remains spend at least one night at his home before he was laid to rest, but it wasn't done," he explains.

The funeral was so brief that only family members, as per the government's directive, were permitted to bury the old man. With the aim of maintaining social distance, kin avoided embracing or shaking hands, something ingrained in African traditions, especially for mourners.

Though painful and difficult, Onyango believes this disruption will only happen during this pandemic and once it's all over, those die-hard conservatives, will continue to uphold the old-age rituals.

However, Nyachio foresees a new cultural order once the pandemic is over. According to her, people will continue doing what was deemed as a taboo once they see no negative consequence.

"They always say behaviour forms after 21 days. Whenever people find that the new way of doing things is better and simpler, they will leave the old habits. This is what I see happening after the pandemic," she explains.



Hawks' forbidden love results in rare hybrid

She was a common black hawk. He was a red-shouldered hawk. They weren't in the same genus, let alone species, and normally don't even live in the same part of the continent. But in a strange twist of fate, none of that mattered: it was love at first screech.

Researchers have discovered two hawks from surprisingly distant perches on the tree of life have mated, resulting in rare hybrid chicks.

In 2009, Stan Moore, a master raptor bander at Fairfax Raptor Research, captured the hawk and tagged it with a leg band, determining it was female. It was around this time that the hawk was seen performing mating displays in the air toward local red-shouldered hawks. These advancements didn't go over well, and she was routinely chased away in a flurry of feathery pique.

But, according to a new study pub-

lished in the Journal of Raptor Research by Moore and Jennifer Coulson, a population ecologist at Tulane University in New Orleans and president of the Orleans Audubon Society, after years of unrequited courting, someone finally swiped right.

In 2013 and 2014, the common black hawk was seen fraternising with a red-shouldered hawk, and later on, the two were recorded mating and tending to a

nest. In the spring of 2014, Moore spotted their hybrid nestling.

Like its mother, it had dark plumage on its back and was pretty big. But its head was round, bill shallowly hooked, and jaw narrow, like its father.

"The common black hawk, as a juvenile, has a really striking face pattern, with a lot of white or cream colour with some bold dark brown," said Coulson, adding that the hybrid didn't have this patterning.

-Gizmodo



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



- 5.00 Ime Ria Rucini
- 6.00 Rikiratha
- 9.30 Kurekereria Kodii
- 12.00 Njanjo Ya Muturire
- 1.00 Mohoro Gitau-Live
- 1.30 Kameme Iharoini-Live
- 2.00 Kiigunyia Kia Wonjoria
- 3.00 Thirinka 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 Ndokariganira
- 9.00 Mutamburuko Wa Mohoro
- 10.00 Thenema Cia Kameme
- 11.00 Mutamburuko Wa Mohoro-Rpt
- 00.00 Rimbuka
- 2.00 Deutsche 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 Womack
- 11:45 Cnn

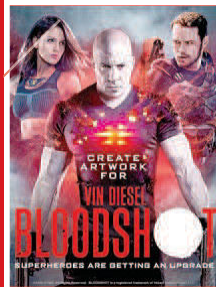
TIME OUT!

20.00pm A CARNIVAL AFFAIR



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 will be erratic and quite likely to make personal mistakes. Deception may cause disputes you can do without.

TAURUS (APR. 21- MAY 21)
 Do not lend money or belongings to friends. Being unappreciated by your boss could make it hard to do your work effectively.

GEMINI (MAY 22-JUNE 21)
 You may think gifts will win their heart, but it could add stress from lack of funds. Be prepared to overcome frustrations and obstacles at work. You can make money if you work on personal investments.

CANCER (JUNE 22-JULY 22)
 You may have a hidden adversary who would love to prove you wrong. Help others solve their dilemmas.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG 22)
 Look into ways that you can make extra cash. Be tactful if you see flaws in someone else's work. Overindulgence will mean poor health.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 23)
 Lay your cards on the table regarding your personal direction. Avoid any erratic behavior or it could cause isolation at home.

LIBRA (SEPT. 24-OCT. 23)
 Don't be shy; show your abilities! Pay attention to small but important details. You will be well looked upon due to your compassionate and giving nature.

SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)
 Opportunities will come through long term investments. Get together with people who stimulate you mentally. Don't prejudice. You may get drawn into a personal situation that will not be to your liking.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23-DEC. 21)
 Your words will be taken out of context if you're evasive with coworkers or employers. Arguments with relatives may lead to a split in the family.

CAPRICORN (DEC 22 - JAN. 20)
 Friends may not understand your situation. Good friends will give you honest answers. Do not let lovers cost you money or take advantage of you.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 21-FEB. 19)
 Accept the inevitable, and opportunities for advancement will follow. You need to do something energetic and different.

PISCES (FEB. 20-MAR. 20)
 Get busy putting your place in order. Lending and borrowing may be a problem. You must strive to get the most important projects completed properly, rather than doing everything in a half baked way.



- 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



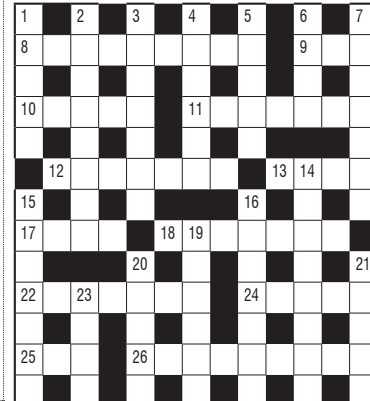
- 5:00am Passworld Plus
- 6:00am AM Live
- 8:00am Living With Ess
- 9:00am NTV Today
- 11:00am NTV Sasa
- 1:00pm NTV at 1
- 1:30pm Auntie Boss!
- 2:00pm The Good Son
- 3:00pm The Girl Named Feriha - RPT
- 4:00pm NTV Alasiri
- 4:30pm Barbie Living The Dream House
- 5:00pm The Heat
- 6:00pm Asintado
- 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

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

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

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 | DOWN |
| 1. Romance | 1. Rose |
| 5. Aces | 2. Land |
| 9. Virus | 3. Abstemiously |
| 10. Alias | 4. Cognac |
| 11. Detachable | 6. Climbing |
| 14. Dams | 7. Suspects |
| 15. Planet | 8. Pathological |
| 17. Camouflage | 12. Educated |
| 20. Trawl | 13. Tramways |
| 21. Canto | 16. Please |
| 22. Dusk | 18. Knew |
| 23. Newlywed | 19. Cord |

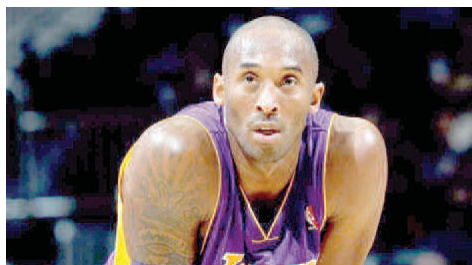
ACROSS

- 8. Fivefold (9)
- 9. Unwell (3)
- 10. Coral reef (5)
- 11. Identifying outfit (7)
- 12. Poured with rain (7)
- 13. This place (4)
- 17. Oust (anag) (4)
- 18. Allots (7)
- 22. Tortilla (7)
- 24. Concentration of a

DOWN

- 1. Crouch (5)
- 2. Projectile rebound (8)
- 3. Soothed (7)
- 4. A husband or wife (6)
- 5. Danger (5)

- 6. Grain store (4)
- 7. Shut with a bang (7)
- 14. Famous physicist (8)
- 15. Stealing (7)
- 16. Jumpy (7)
- 19. Flies down rapidly (6)
- 20. Backless sofa (5)
- 21. Clothing made from denim (5)
- 23. Mocks (4)



Bryant remembered on NBA farewell anniversary

LOS ANGELES: The anniversary of Kobe Bryant's 60-point NBA finale was recalled by his widow, Vanessa, on Monday in an Instagram post remembering the late Los Angeles Lakers legend. "My husband worked his ass off for 20 years," Vanessa Bryant wrote of her superstar husband, who died in a January 26 helicopter crash with daughter Gianna and seven others. "Gave it his all. All he

wanted was to spend time with our girls and me to make up for lost time. He wanted to be there for every single milestone and special moment in our girls' lives." The post included a video featuring highlights from the Lakers' 101-96 victory over the Utah Jazz on April 13, 2016. Bryant scored 60 points in that, his final game in a 20-year NBA career that included five championships. -AFP

French Grand Prix decision expected soon - Organiser

PARIS: A decision on whether to go ahead with June's French Formula One Grand Prix behind closed doors, postpone or scrap the event will be made in the coming days, organisers said on Monday. The grand prix scheduled for June 28 is the first race on the revised Formula One world championship calendar with nine races already scrapped or suspended as a

result of the coronavirus pandemic. Following French President Emmanuel Macron's announcement Sunday that the lockdown in France will be extended until May 11 and public gatherings banned until mid-July, a spokesman for the race organisers told AFP that they "have been studying all scenarios" including postponement or staging the event behind closed doors. -AFP



Fellini out of Chinese hospital after Corona scare

SHANGHAI: Former Manchester United star Marouane Fellaini was discharged yesterday after three weeks in a Chinese hospital being treated for coronavirus, his club said. The 32-year-old Shandong Luneng midfielder, the only player known to have contracted the disease in the Chinese Super League (CSL), will now spend 14 days in quarantine for further observation. The Belgium

international said on March 22 that he had tested positive for the virus, having just returned to China, but assured fans that he was feeling fine. While in hospital in the city of Jinan, Fellaini posted videos of himself on Instagram exercising in his room. "Fellaini was assessed and was deemed to have recovered, and was discharged today," Shandong said in a brief statement. -AFP



Olympic 1,500m champion Faith Kipyegon after winning gold at the 2017 World Championships in London. FILE

Olympics champion uses layoff instigated by coronavirus to prepare for title defence in Tokyo

Nairobi, Tuesday
@PeopleDailyKe

Rio Olympics women's 1,500m champion Faith Kipyegon may have returned early to competition before a hip injury curtailed her progress, but she hopes to use the long recess to rediscover her form ahead of the 2020 Tokyo Games in 2021.

The 26-year-old plans to stage a successful defence of her title in Tokyo, having returned from maternity leave, a season too early. "To come back in 2019 very strongly after maternity leave motivated me for the Olympic Games," Kipyegon said on Monday from Eldoret.

However, she has been forced to bite her time as she trains at home

with her family after the Kenyan government enforced a partial lockdown, banning all training camps and having a dusk to dawn curfew.

This has limited her training as she can only make solo long runs to gauge her endurance and make short speed work to stay fit. "I had started my training early. I knew that I would be back to my best shape ahead of the Diamond League campaign," she said.

"But it was never to be. The season has been wrecked by Covid-19 and we have to do with what we have. The important aspect is to remain safe and healthy by following the directives of the government and health officials," she added.

When Kipyegon opted to have her first baby back in 2017, she envisaged returning to action in 2020. But to her own surprise, she was feeling ready in 2019 and went ahead of schedule to compete at the World Championships in Doha last year. However, she lost the gold title to Dutch Sifan Hassan, a fact she puts down to the hip injury, which she has now gotten over.

"Last year, my preparation for the

world championships was hurried. It was short and the impact it left me with was the hip injury," she added.

"I was happy to win silver, looking at the circumstances, but I feel on a good day, Hassan was not to beat me. Remember, I was also coming back from maternity leave," said Kipyegon.

But with the Olympics postponed and no clear indication when competition will resume, Kipyegon is keeping herself busy doing solo training.

She has also shifted camp from Nakuru to Kaptagat near Eldoret to join Olympic champion Eliud Kipchoge's Global Communication Management team.

"Of course the virus has stopped the world and we just have to understand and wait. After this things, will be back and we will be able to return to action and train together," she said.

Kipyegon has to prepare without the benefit of one-day competitions to gauge herself after World Athletics cancelled Diamond League, which was to start in Doha on April 17 and the Continental Tour (May 2) has also been pushed back -Xinhua

Bolt goes viral with 'social distancing' photo

Washington, Tuesday
@PeopleDailyKe

Retired track star Usain Bolt showed he is still a few steps ahead when he posted an AFP picture of him outstripping his rivals at the Beijing Olympics with the cheeky caption: "Social Distancing".

Bolt's post, featuring a picture by AFP photographer Nicolas Asfour of the 2008 Olympics 100m final, blew up on social media, drawing more than half a million likes and 90,000 retweets.

It showed the Jamaican crossing the finish line at the Bird's Nest stadium in a then-world record time of 9.58sec, glancing round from lane four as his despairing competitors trail two paces behind.

"Savage", commented one Twitter user, while New York Times journalist Christo-

pher Clarey posted another picture of Bolt out in front on his own, captioned "self isolation".

Bolt's chest-thumping celebration in Beijing added to a legend that grew further when he won the 200m in another world-record time. He retired in 2017 with eight Olympic gold medals and the current 100m mark of 9.58sec, set in 2009.

Bolt, 33, has been encouraging Jamaicans to self-isolate during the coronavirus pandemic, posting videos of himself exercising at home and juggling footballs with a friend. He also helped promote a major fundraiser, Telethon Jamaica.

After retiring from athletics, Bolt, a Manchester United fan, attempted to launch a career in football, and had a trial with Australia's Central Coast Mariners before contract talks failed. -AFP



An Olympics photo of Usain Bolt winning the 100m in Beijing 2008 which has gone viral after the Jamaican sprinter captioned it 'Social Distancing' on Twitter. AFP

How ace Koranga turned adversity into triumph in US



Budding Kenyan star opens up on wanting to quit before Troy University came calling to offer her a massive career break

by Lynette Matheka
@PeopleDailyKe

National Women's basketball team, Kenya Lionesses, star forward Felmas Koranga is set to become the first Kenyan to play in the National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) Division One League after signing for Troy University in the United States last week.

After a stellar performance in her two years at Tyler Junior College where she picked several accolades, Koranga had a myriad of suitors but settled for Troy University.

However, unbeknown to many, the youngster almost quit basketball last year, in her last season at Tyler as she struggled with a patella injury. The General Psychology student admits that at some point, she thought her career as a basketballer had come to an end and was ready to pack and leave for Kenya.

"It was bad. I did not think I was going to get back. I used to call my parents crying every night. I was ready to quit and

come home but my family gave me the strength to keep going and keep fighting to recover fully. It was a tough time but I am happy I came out stronger," Koranga who has Kenyan internationals Ariel Okall and Emmanuel Koranga for siblings told People Sport via Skype from her US base last week.

She added: "I had issues with patella overuse. My usage rate was too high as I was playing for many minutes. Practice here is also intense. I persevered the whole academic year, playing through adversity. I missed a couple of practice sessions, about four matches and was unable to do post-season workouts."

The youngster says it took the concerted efforts of athletics trainers and her mother to recover fully. She got back to active training when she took part in the national team assignment in Uganda at the Zone Five championships in June.

"I went through the necessary workouts and treatments but I was not fully recovered by summer. I was home for summer break and my mother played a huge role in my recovery as she massaged my leg and stretched me out," she said.

Journey to Trojan

As she struggled with her injury, Troy University showed interest in her. March 2019, marks her journey to becoming a Trojan. When the recruiting process came, their interest in her while she was not at her best helped in deciding to settle at Troy.

"It was a tough process as I had to choose from four top schools. I settled for Troy University after consultations with my family. My choice was based on the atmosphere I was assured of. They are family-oriented and assured me of graduating in two years. The fact that they came to me in April 2019 during the open visit period when I was still struggling with injury, after following my progress in the national tournament for more than a month, also helped me in settling for them," she says.

Koranga, a former Shimba Hills student credits her good foundation on basic skills for the smooth transition in her junior college playing career.



THIS GIRL FELMAS

Full name: Felmas Adhiambo Koranga

Age: 24 years

Sport: Basketball

Playing Position: Forward
Nurtured at Shimba Hills Secondary school

RECENT HIGHS

● Set to become the first Kenyan to play in the National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) Division One League.

● Number two junior college recruit according to World Exposure Report composite ranking and named in the World Exposure and NJCAA first teams All-American.

● 2020 Women Basketball College Association (WBCA) Player of the Year

● Amassed over 1,000 points and 750 rebounds in her two-year career at Tyler Junior College.

RECENT LOWS

● Almost quit basketball last year in her last season at Tyler as she struggled with a patella injury.

University league to conclude if Covid-19 is over by July

by Lynette Matheka
@PeopleDailyKe

National University Basketball League (NUBL) organiser James Mavisi says the inaugural tournament that was suspended due to the Covid-19 pandemic will be concluded if the spread of the disease is contained and ban on gatherings lifted by July.

The seven-week tournament was set to conclude on March 15. Zetech University were set to play Africa Nazarene University (ANU) with Strathmore University taking on Riara University

in the semis slated for Saturday March 14.

Third place and final matches were scheduled on March 15 but Kenya recorded her first Covid-19 case on March 13 and consequently all public gatherings were banned.

"In the event that this ban is lifted in the next two months, the tournament will conclude before we begin preparations for the league that is scheduled to jump off in September. If the situation does not change by August, then the best decision will be to cancel the tournament.

Teams will need time to start proper training before competition and that will spill over to September," said Mavisi.

Kenya University Sports Association (KUSA) was using the tournament as a test before adopting it as their official league format for men's and women's basketball come September.

The September league will see two more universities, probably from outside Nairobi, added to the men's league. The inaugural women's league, the suspended tournament involved men's

teams only, will only include teams from Nairobi.

"We would love to have the more than 45 universities in the country involved in this league but we are slowly building towards that. Eventually, we will have Division One and Two to accommodate as many schools from across the country as is possible. We are working towards bringing in sponsors to make this possible," added Mavisi, who has largely used his own savings and donations from friends to run the inaugural men's tournament.



Zetech university during a past match at the National University Basketball League. FILE



Laiser Hill and Kakamega High School during a past rugby 15s match at the national secondary school games. PD/DAVID NDOLLO

School games bosses target June return to action

by Ericson Kiprono
@PeopleDailyKe

Rift Valley Secondary Schools Sports Association Secretary Kirwa Koech believes the regional games will take place in June after sporting activities in the country were halted by coronavirus.

Koech remains hopeful that the disease will be contained soon so that action can resume and has urged teams that qualified for the regional games to continue with their individual training in the meantime.

"I urge the teams to continue with their training and once everything is back to normal, we are scheduled to meet with the ministries of Sports and Education officials to map the way forward.

We are considering having the term one games in June but we will have to wait and see," Koech told *People Sport* in Kericho on Monday.

The games, which feature basketball, rugby 15s and sevens, hockey, swimming, handball and athletics had reached the county level across the country before they were put on hold a month ago after the government prohibited public gatherings as a measure to curb the spread of the coronavirus.

The regional games were scheduled to be held at Kapsabet Boys and Girls High schools from March 17 to 20 before everything was put on hold.

Kenya is also scheduled to host the East Africa games from August 14-24 in Kakamega, an event that brings together Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda,

Burundi, South Sudan and the hosts.

Kenya Secondary Schools Sports Association Secretary General David Ngugi said the Term Two and National Championships dates which were set to take place between July 31 and August 9 will remain unchanged.

"Four years ago, we used to stage term Two 'A' Games in June while Term Two 'B' were held in late July and early August before terms headed for the East Africa event and they were successful before we changed the calendar in 2018. The circumstances have put us in that position and we cannot run away from it," said Ngugi.

Football Under-16 and Under-19, netball, volleyball, table tennis, lawn tennis, and badminton form the term two games.

Olunga teams up with Unicef to fight Corona

Nairobi, Tuesday
@PeopleDailyKe

Kenya international Michael Olunga has sent a passionate appeal to his countrymen to continue following government directives to help combat the coronavirus.

The former Gor Mahia striker, who currently turns out for Japanese top side Kashiwa Reysol, delivered the message in a video posted on the Unicef Kenya Facebook page.

"I would like to urge the members of the public to adhere to the rules of the Ministry of Health to curb the spread of Covid-19 pandemic because prevention is better than cure," Olunga said.

"Always wash your hands with soap and water, maintain social distance, cover your nose and mouth while sneezing and cough into your elbow too. By observing these measures, we will surely win the battle against the coronavirus," he added.

Olunga, who also featured for Tusker FC in the Kenyan Premier League (KPL), cautioned Kenyans against spreading unverified and misleading information about Covid-19, especially now when the government is trying to control the spread of the virus.

"I also urge Kenyans to stop giving false information on social media as this will lead to misleading reports which might cause panic in the country," he added.

Like many footballers across the world, Olunga has been isolated and training at home in Japan, after their league was also suspended in February.

Before the league was stopped, Olunga had kicked off the season with a brace against Consadole Sapporo in a J-League match. -Goal



Harambee Stars striker Michael Olunga. PD/RODGERS NDEGWA

Pogba, Souness tiff escalates

'Put your medals on the table', Liverpool legend tells Man United ace after Frenchman said he 'didn't know' him

London, Tuesday
@PeopleDailyKe

Graeme Souness has told Paul Pogba to "put his medals on the table" after the Manchester United star claimed he "didn't know" who the Liverpool legend and Sky Sports pundit was.

Souness has been one of the Frenchman's fiercest critics since he returned to England

in 2016 and has frequently condemned his behaviour both on and off-the-field.

And after the midfielder claimed he still had no idea what the Scot looked like four years later, Souness has issued a withering response.

"I'm happy with it. The oldest thing in football comes to mind, put your medals on the table," he said on Sky Sports' The Football Show on Tues-

day morning

Jamie Carragher was also critical of Pogba's comments, adding: "We're quite critical of Paul Pogba, when you're a player you've certainly got to be respectful of certain players with certain opinions at different times, and at times you have to take that criticism on the chin, so to come out and say you've never heard of Graeme Souness really was below the belt."

The Frenchman has proven to be immune to criticism from Souness, and made headlines for his comments about Souness, who lifted

three European Cups and three league titles at Liverpool.

"I didn't even know who [Souness] was. I heard he was a great player and stuff like that. I don't know the face but the name [I do]," Pogba said to UTD Podcast.

"Like I said, I'm not someone that watches a lot of [punditry], I watch a lot of football but I don't stay after the game to listen to what they say about Why they did this or why they did that. I like to focus on football," added Pogba.

One of Souness' most recent jabs at Pogba came in March when the Frenchman was filmed dancing at his brother's wedding while supposedly out injured.

Souness claimed his actions showed he doesn't want to play for United and he claimed he expected Pogba to make a return to full fitness shortly before the now postponed Euro 2020.

-Dailymail

SOUNESS' PREVIOUS DIGS AT POGBA

● February 2018: Souness compares Pogba's style to a "schoolboy running around in the playground".

● October 2018: Souness blasts Pogba after mistake against Chelsea and says he needs to change his attitude.

● August 2019: Souness thinks players in the Manchester United dressing room don't want Pogba there.

● March 2020: Souness slams Pogba's lengthy absence through injury and claims the midfielder doesn't want to play for Manchester United.

SOUNESS VS. POGBA CAREER HONOURS	
	
FIRST DIVISION (X5)	SERIE A (X4)
LEAGUE CUP (X3)	COPPA ITALIA (X2)
EUROPEAN CUP (X3)	LEAGUE CUP (X1)
COPPA ITALIA (X1)	EUROPA LEAGUE (X1)
SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION (X1)	WORLD CUP (X1)
SCOTTISH LEAGUE CUP (X1)	



Manchester United midfielder Paul Pogba. INSET: Liverpool legend and Sky Sports pundit Graeme Souness. FILE

Yakhama calls for investment in youth structures

by Fed Likuyani
@PeopleDailyKe

National Under-17 football team manager Nick Yakhama (pictured) has called on stakeholders to heavily invest in youth programmes as one way of developing the sport.

The former Kenyan international said it's only through well-structured youth programmes that will see Kenya post impressive performances in various international competitions.

"Let's try to borrow a leaf from our brothers in west Africa. They have dominated football in Africa for decades after moving ahead of others by doing the right thing of establishing youth structures that are well managed by professionals," Yakhama said in Nairobi on Monday.

"From my experience as team manager of the Under-17 team, I see a bright future but we need to do more. It is not only about national teams, all the branches, clubs and other in-

stitutions should establish these programmes and make them a priority," added the AFC Leopards coach who is currently team manager of National Super League team Vihiga United.

"If we can have structures that target players aged between 10 and 23 years, it will serve our football well. We have seen many stars develop and come out of these structures that helps players build confidence and improve their skills at an early age," he said.



Timbe in talks to extend his Reading stay

In an interview with K24's **SHON OSIMBO**, Harambee Stars winger talks of being taken aback by level of English game, training alone and making his own music

by Joel Omotto

Kenyan international Ayub Timbe is in the process of extending his stay with English Championship side Reading FC.

Timbe joined Reading during the January transfer window for a six-month loan deal from Chinese side Beijing Renhe but the global outbreak of coronavirus disease has complicated matters after leagues were suspended indefinitely, meaning an extension is on the cards.

The pacy winger had expected to use the loan spell to impress the side and make the deal permanent and still hopes that will be the case once leagues resume action once the Covid-19 pandemic subsides.

"I like what is going on. My contract was to end in June but we are in talks with the club for an extension. I have been taken aback with everything here and I do not want to leave that behind," Timbe told K24 sports presenter Shon Osimbo via Skype from his England base yesterday.

Timbe, who has made two appearances for Reading, is awestruck by the level of professionalism in the English game, something he says is shaping him into a world class player.

"It is a total new experience. People here are more professional and they are much more ahead. It is about handling the team's goals. The mentality is great and the level of concentration in games from minute one to 90 is on another level," he added.

Unbeknown to many, Timbe's move to Reading might have happened earlier after he received reports of the club's interest in him last year.

However, the move never materialised after a concrete offer failed to come and from then on. He gave up.

But the player was shocked in January when he heard of renewed interest from Reading, but keen to avoid lightning striking twice, he never took it seriously.

"I was in pre-season with my Chinese team and all of a sudden, the president and coach of Reading showed up and I was told I have five days to be with the team. For five minutes, I was in shock, I could not believe it. It looked like a joke," he remembered.

He went on: "This is a life-changing moment and a good challenge. I want to make the most of it."

But while arriving at Reading seemed easy, getting into the team was not. "The team here was fully fit because they were halfway through the season while I was coming from pre-season. I had to work extra hard in training before I got the chance to play," said Timbe, who like everyone else is struggling to train from home due to the lockdown imposed by

the British government to curb the spread of the virus.

"We have programmes from the club which we follow as we train alone but it is challenging. The fitness is still there because I run every morning and do other exercises. But it is not the same as doing it with the team where you have balls, there is contact and someone is watching over you," said the former Genk player.

The silver lining for staying at home is that Timbe has learnt other talents that he probably never thought he had.

"I like music and in the last four years I was so busy I never had time like this. I did not have time to explore other hobbies but now I am doing a lot of fashion and trying to do my own music,"

said Timbe.

Moving to Reading made Timbe the second Kenyan international to play in England after Harambee Stars captain Victor Wanyama, who featured for Southampton and Tottenham, before moving to MLS side Montreal Impact last month.

The move brought a lot of excitement in Kenya with social media awash with praises for Timbe. Surprisingly, the player did not like the attention.

"I am not big on social media so I did not even notice. However, when I went to Facebook, there were so many comments and people requesting to chat with me which made me close it and open a new one. I even opened a new Instagram account," said Timbe.

He now wants to reciprocate the love by supporting the underprivileged back home during this coronavirus pandemic.

"From Friday, we will be doing something in Kawangware, Kibera, Kangemi and the small areas I know in Nairobi. I am going to support them for three days and donate food, water, sanitizers and many more," said the player.



Ayub Timbe after signing for Reading in January. BELOW: Timbe in action at the 2019 Afcon. FILE



Ayub Timbe against Egypt in a 2021 Afcon qualifier in Nairobi. BELOW: Timbe against Uganda in a friendly match at Kasarani Stadium. PD/DAVID NDOLO

