



Stay home, Kenyans told

Partial lockdown: Eight more new cases confirmed as Health minister Kagwe announces tougher measures, including mandatory quarantine, suspension of international flights, ban on religious gatherings, restricting funerals and closure of bars to tame coronavirus spread **PG 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 & 13**



Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe (right) with the National Emergency Response Committee addresses the press at Harambee House, Nairobi, yesterday. PD/JOHN OCHIENG

UPDATE BY NUMBERS

365 cases

being traced for screening in Kenya.

At least 322,625 people have been diagnosed with virus worldwide, 96,006 have recovered while 13,746 have died.

AFFECTED SECTORS



- 1 Eight more cases confirmed making 15.
- 2 Mandatory quarantine at own cost.
- 3 Churches, mosques closed.



- 4 Weddings stopped, funerals restricted.
- 5 All international flights suspended.
- 6 All bars ordered closed.

COVID-19 HOTLINES

- >719
- >0800721316
- >0729471414
- >0732353535

News Beat **PG 2**

Rogue governor who has put hundreds at risk to be charged



Gideon Saburi, Kilifi Deputy Governor



Bleak future for flower sector staff

by Kirera Mwitii
@PeopleDailyKe

Flower farms in Naivasha have warned that they could be unable to afford salaries for their workers in the coming month as the crisis in the sector deepened due to coronavirus pandemic.

This came as the government promised flower farmers support in the wake of the viral disease that has killed thousands globally.

Already, over 2,000 workers have been sent on a two-week paid leave by respective farms due to the collapse of the Dutch auction, which takes over 50 per cent of exports from the country.

In the last one week, some flower farms have resorted to destroying flowers worth millions of shillings every day as the product cannot reach the EU market.

According to Naivasha Sub-county commissioner Mathioya Mbogo, the flower sector is very critical to the country's economy and the national government would release support measures.

"We have had several meetings with the farmers and assured them of government support as they support hundreds of families directly and indirectly," he said.

He noted that Naivasha was home to tens of flower farms warning that sending workers home would lead to social disorder and rise in crime in and around the town.

The proprietor Maridadi flower farm Jack Kneppers said they would be making a major decision this week. "Early in the week we sent 150 workers home as we monitor the situation and nothing has changed meaning we could send more home," said the farmer, who has employed 750 workers.

According to the Kenya Export, Floriculture, Horticulture and Allied Workers Union secretary general David Omulama, over 15 farms had already sent part of their workers home.

Governor faces charges for failure to self-quarantine

Health officers trace people suspected to have come into contact with the Kilifi DG

by Reuben Mwambungu
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Kilifi Deputy Governor Gideon Saburi, who has tested positive for coronavirus, will face court charges when he is discharged from hospital for refusing to isolate himself after coming back from a foreign trip.

Without naming him, Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe said that a "senior government official from Kilifi" who refused to go into self-quarantine for the mandatory 14 days would be arraigned in court to face charges of willfully exposing people to the disease.

"We have observed there are those who aren't observing self quarantine protocols. National Emergency Response Council (NERC) has decided that those who violate self-quarantine protocol will be quarantined for the full 14 days and thereafter arrested and charged in accordance with the Public Health Act. This will apply to a senior government official who refused to observe this protocol and was forcibly quarantined. Upon the completion of the period given by medical authorities he will be charged," the minister said during a press briefing outside Harambee House (the Office of the President), Nairobi, yesterday.

Protect Kenyans

And now health authorities in Kilifi are tracing people suspected to have come into contact with Saburi who came back from Germany and allegedly refused to go into self-quarantine.

The deputy governor is said to have interacted with several staff members of the County Assembly in his office and further went on to attend a local burial where he is feared to have come in contact with several other people.

Health officials from the Kilifi County emergency response team had picked him up from his residence and took him to an isolation centre.

On Friday, the minister said a suspected Covid-19 case had been forcibly quarantined in Mombasa.

"Today, we have been forced to quarantine an individual in Kilifi



Kilifi Deputy Governor Gideon Saburi at a past event. PD/FILE

county after refusing to do so, on arrival from abroad. And we will continue doing so to protect other Kenyans from the contagious virus," the CS said during a media briefing.

Kilifi County's communications department declined to comment on the matter and said the Ministry of Health in Nairobi would communicate.

Governor Amason Kingi has confirmed that he also came into direct contact with the patient and he has as a result gone into quarantine since March 19, 2020 as protocol demands.

He said the emergency response team visited his home and collected specimen but the tests turned out negative.

"Despite turning negative, coronavirus protocol dictate that I continue with self quarantine till the expiry of 14 days. I will fully comply," said the Governor in a statement.

He added that the coronavirus emergency response teams have already been deployed across the county and are tracing each and every contact.

The deputy governor is said to have arrived in the country on March 6 from Germany via Amsterdam and he is said to have met Governor Kingi and senior county officials as well as interacting with hundreds of residents in social gatherings including burials and wedding ceremonies in Mombasa, Kwale and Kilifi.

On March 7, a day after arriving back, Saburi met a group of Rabai Members of County Assembly at Royal Hotel in Mazaras for preparations of the International Women's

Day function in Rabai.

He organised a breakfast meeting with the MCAs before proceeding for the burial of former Deputy Governor Kenneth Kamto's bodyguard within the same Rabai constituency. Rabai MP William Kamoti accompanied him. The deputy governor would later return to the Royal Hotel in Mazaras and continue with meetings with the MCAs.

Close contact

He attended the women's day function at Rabai where Governor Kingi and other Kilifi leaders were also present. He is said to have attended three other burials and two weddings where he is reported to have interacted with close to a 1,000 people, according to a source privy to his movement after the Germany trip.

In one of the burials he attended he was photographed in close contact with Lands Chief Administrative Secretary Gideon Mung'aro as they shared the high table.

On Wednesday afternoon of March 18, Saburi is said to have accompanied his driver to a place called Karama Mbuzi in Majengo area of Mombasa where they had a meal of Ugali and mshikaki.

The following day on March 19, he was spotted in a nightclub in Bamburi area where he mingled freely with a number of revellers.

On Friday, March 20, again alongside his driver, they took refreshments at Cafesserie Mombasa within Nyali centre where he also mingled with a number of revellers for several hours before he left for his house in Bamburi.

Kilifi Deputy Governor Gideon Saburi is said to

● Have travelled to Germany mid February

Fri, Mar 6: Jetted back via Amsterdam.

Sat, Mar 7: Met a group of Rabai MCAs at Royal Hotel in Mazaras in Rabai.

Sat, Mar 7: Had breakfast with the MCAs before proceeding for a burial of the late former Deputy Governor Kenneth Kamto's bodyguard.

Wed, Mar 18: Accompanied his driver at Karama Mbuzi in Majengo, Mombasa where they had a sumptuous meal of Ugali and mshikaki.

Thurs, Mar 19: He was spotted in a night club in Bamburi where he mingled with a number of revellers.

Fri, Mar 20: Again alongside his driver they took refreshments at Cafesserie-Mombasa within Nyali centre where he also mingled with a number of revellers for several hours before he left for his house in Bamburi.

● It was on this day that CS Mutahi Kagwe announced that the government is tracking a suspected patient in Kilifi who happened to be the DG.

It was on this same day Friday that Kagwe warned that the government will not hesitate to forcibly quarantine anyone who fails to abide by instructions outlined by the government in regards to Covid-19 containment measures.

But according to sources, attempts to quarantine the official had failed as he resisted vehemently.

He was reportedly approached by health officials where his samples were taken and advised to quarantine but he dramatically declined. On watching the CS's live address, he reportedly left his home in Bamburi and spent the night at a friend's house in Mtwapa.

However, Governor Kingi reportedly dispatched county askaris to track him down and he was forcibly arrested before he was taken to Coast Provincial General Hospital in Mombasa where he is said to have been hospitalised in isolation.

His driver, who had accompanied him in all his movements since he jetted back is also quarantined after he displayed Covid-19 symptoms.

POINTERS



WORLD PAGE 17

Rwanda imposes shutdown as infections jump in Africa



SCHOLAR PAGE 25

Rethinking secondary school funding by government

WEATHER TODAY

Nairobi	26°	Nyeri	24°
Mombasa	32°	Kitui	28°
Kisumu	29°	Wajir	37°

with Julio Kiths
@PeopleDailyKE



Igathe's resignations make him Kenya's most restless boss

Many Kenyans have aptly labeled him as Kenya's most restless chief executive officer for his unrivalled reputation of being constantly on the move. A man whose next resignation is always a breath away.

But it came to pass once more recently when Polycarp Igathe, the former Nairobi Deputy Governor (IEBC says he technically is the deputy of

the capital city) resigned for the umpteenth time from Vivo Energy.

In doing so, the charismatic honcho rejoined Equity Bank as its Chief Commercial Officer, a role he previously held at the firm before he resigned to rejoin Vivo Energy in August 2019 as the Executive Vice President in charge of sales across the oil marketing company's operations in Africa.

Mark you, all the above happened less than a year after his appointment in 2018. The serial "resigner" had first served Vivo until he left in 2017 to join Sonko as deputy governor before his, your guess is as good as mine.... prompt resignation in January 2018.

Some epic reasons people quit their jobs...

At some point in your employment life you'll leave that job you cherish—or loathe—and move on to bigger and better one. Maybe it's for a pay rise, time for a change, or perhaps.... a scandal.



Judge who resigned by accident!

A judge is always expected to be prudent and error free, but this incidence that happened last year in US shows they too, are all human! A newly elected judge accidentally resigned after he shared plans online to run for the state supreme court, apparently unaware that the Texas constitution considers such an announcement an automatic resignation!

As the Harris County Civil Court judge, Bill McLeod, later learned, Article 16, Section 65, of the state's constitution says that a judge's announcement of candidacy for another office "shall constitute an automatic resignation of the office then held."

"I messed up," McLeod said in an interview with The Washington Post. He said he hadn't combed through the Texas constitution before announcing he'd run for the Supreme Court. "The mistake was it was an archaic 180-page document that I did not know contained this particular provision. I guess I did not scour everything that could possibly disrupt a run."

Day minister Amos Kimunya preferred to die, then resigned

Some words said in fit of anger or arrogance have way of coming to bite or haunt someone.

Amos Kimunya. You remember him? The then Finance minister. In 2008, during a public rally in his Kipipiri home turf, said he would rather die than resign in a controversy over a city hotel sale.

The tiff was over claims the minister had sold Grand (now Laico) Regency hotel below the market price. The hotel

was sold to a Libyan firm for a sum that a Cabinet minister described as "not even covering the cost of furniture".

The parliament went ahead to censure Kimunya over graft claims in the hotel sale.

"One thing I am not prepared to do, and I will not do, I will not resign. I'd rather die than resign," he told the rally.

But as characteristic of Kenyan politicians, Kimunya did not keep his dare, as he unceremoniously resigned on July 8, 2008.



Minister steps down over crabs and watermelons

Working for Japan civil service requires high level of honesty, integrity and upholding societal values. All the above reads like Greek to Kenyan civil servants, but a violation of the above come with debilitating consequences in the land of Samurai.

In October last year, a Japanese Trade Minister Isshu Sugawara resigned following accusations that he violated election campaign laws by giving gifts including expen-

sive melons and crabs to voters and offering a supporter's family condolence money. His resignation was swiftly accepted by Prime Minister

"I bear responsibility for his appointment and I deeply apologise to the people of Japan for this result," Abe told reporters. "I don't want my problems to slow down parliament deliberations," Sugawara told reporters on Friday, explaining his resignation.

Man quits job after work-from-home request denied

As Covid-19 continues to wreak havoc around the world, thousands of employees have asked employers to allow them to work from home as one strategy to forestall the spread of the killer virus. Many employees love the idea of working from the comfort of a warm bed, who wouldn't, anyway!

But not all employers are of the idea. A Middle Tennessee American man quit his job after he his company refused his request to let him work from home!

Bryan Peppers, better known as Maverick, says he's worked for his company for about 10 months. "I'm a programmer. I can do what I need to behind a monitor, and it doesn't matter where I'm at.

We just come to the office for the sake of formality," Peppers says.

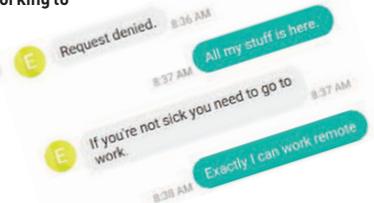
After watching news of Covid-19, Peppers became worried and says he asked to work from home. But he says his request was denied via text-message. "I decided right there and then that I'm going to quit," he says. "I asked myself, 'is my life worth more than my job or my pay check?' And the absurdity of that question popped into my head. Of course, it is."

Peppers says on Friday morning he sent an email to the supervisor and came to the office to give everything back, but says he still has not heard from the office.

"It stings to think that I haven't even gotten a follow-

up or phone call or email about what happened," Peppers says. "I really hope they take it seriously for my co-workers and friends. It's scary."

He says the whole situation and news of Covid-19 spreading stressed him out that week, and he did not get much sleep the morning when he decided to quit. Peppers says he's now working to update his resume and is looking for remote, contract work.



CORONA CRISIS

Tougher rules as Corona cases rise to 15

Health Cabinet Secretary Kagwe suspends religious gatherings and international flights and shuts bars

by Zaddock Angira, Antony Mwangi and Hillary Mageka
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Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe yesterday asked Kenyans to stay at home as government announced additional measures to tame the spread of coronavirus.

He said eight more coronavirus cases had been confirmed, bringing the total to 15. He added that new cases involved five Kenyans, two French nationals and a Mexican.

Kagwe, who asked citizens to strictly observe the self-quarantine rule, said the government is tracing 365 individuals who had come into contact with the eight.

Addressing a press conference at Harambee House, the CS said because of majority of people have ignored safety protocols outlined last Friday on social distancing, the government had been forced to ban gatherings in churches and mosques.

He also ordered closure of bars, banned weddings and restricted funerals to family members not exceeding 15.

Other measures outlined by Kagwe, include suspension of all international flights effective Wednesday with the exception of cargo flights whose crew must observe strict guidelines.

"Those coming into the country between now and Wednesday will undergo mandatory quarantine at a government designated facility at their own expense," said the CS.

Countries wishing to evacuate their nationals, he said, must make their arrangements to do so within this period.

Public Health Act

"Kenyans who are currently in foreign countries, and will not have come back within the period are advised to observe the guidelines issued in the respective countries wherever they are," he said.

Whereas the government had allowed Kenyans and foreigners with valid residence permits to come in to the country, the CS said some were not self-quarantining.

Consequently, he announced the National Emergency Response Committee had decided that all persons who violate the self-quarantine requirement would be forcibly quarantined for 14 days at their cost, and thereafter, arrested and charged under the Public Health Act.

This is the case with Kilifi Deputy Governor Gideon Saburi who allegedly refused



Inspector General of Police Hilary Mutiyambai speaks during a press briefing at Harambee House in Nairobi, yesterday. PD/JOHN OCHIENG

NEW CASES

● Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe said the new cases involved five Kenyans, two French nationals and a Mexican.

● He said the government was tracing 365 individuals who had come into contact with the eight.

● The number of global coronavirus cases surged past 300,000 on Sunday, with more than 13,000 deaths worldwide, according to John Hopkins University.

to self quarantine on returning from Germany.

Effective last midnight, the CS announced that all bars will remain closed until further notice.

However, restaurants are to remain open but only for purposes of facilitating takeaway services.

"This is meant to secure the social distance requirement, noting the increased risk of transmission these facilities cause," he said.

Kagwe added: "These directives take effect immediately until further notice."

The CS said the response council was looking for about 363 people who came into contact with the eight.

"Some of them were tourists who have visited the national parks, clubs and hotels where they interacted with many people. These are the people we are looking for," he said.

Interior Principal Secretary Karanja Kibicho directed officials of the National Government Administration officers, including the Regional Commissioners, County Commissioners to assistant chiefs, to ensure that all directives are adhered to.

"If you are found with an open church in your area, disciplinary action will be taken. We shall enforce this without mercy," said Kibicho.

Inspector General of Police Hilary Mutiyambai said officers on leave had been recalled to ensure effective enforcement.

"The role of the police is law enforcement. Our officers have been directed to ensure strict compliance with the safety regulations. We will do that to the letter," he said.

Kagwe said the disease is serious and urged Kenyans to comply with guidelines to safeguard lives.

He warned public service vehicles operators who defy the directives given last week on social distancing that they will have their licences revoked.

"We are taking this thing very seriously but some of you are holding us back. We will revoke those licences and this is not a joke," he said.

Isiolo Governor Mohammed Kuti, who is the chair of the Health Committee in the Council of Governors, said counties had also established coronavirus rapid response units.

"All governors should communicate to the electorate to avoid unnecessary movement during this period," Kuti said.

Though there is no official and specific legislation, those who knowingly spread the virus through acts or omissions will be held criminally liable.

The Health ministry has said the suspects may be charged with offences under the Public Health Act and the Penal Code.

Sections 28, 29 and 30, for example,

KARANJA KIBICHO

If you are found with an open church, disciplinary action will be taken. We shall enforce this without mercy

of the Public Health Act provides for offences related to the spreading infectious diseases.

Violators may also be charged with criminal negligence, under the Penal Code, which involves doing anything that shows reckless disregard for the lives or safety of other people.

Notify conductor

The charges may, however, be enhanced if the victims succumb to the disease.

Section 28 of the Act states: "Any person who, while suffering from any infectious disease, willfully exposes himself without proper precautions against spreading the disease shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine not exceeding thirty thousand shillings or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years or to both."

The same punishment will also be meted against any person in charge of the infected person who exposes such person.

Anyone selling or giving clothing or any item which have been exposed to infection without disinfecting them also risk similar punishment.

To prevent the spread in vehicles, the Act also requires any person suffering from any infectious disease to notify the conductor or owner of a building before they enter any vehicle or building.

All drivers and conductors of passenger vehicle and any other means of transport are expected to immediately provide for the disinfection of such vehicles on learning that a person suffering from infectious disease boarded such conveyance.

Any person who fails to do so risks a fine not exceeding Sh40,000.



Pope Francis. PD/FILE

Pope Francis to deliver special blessing, calls for global prayers

Pope Francis said on Sunday he will this week deliver an extraordinary "Urbi et Orbi" (to the city and the world) blessing - normally given only at Christmas and Easter - and called for worldwide prayer to respond to the coronavirus crisis.

Francis made the surprise announcement in his weekly Angelus message, which he has been delivering from inside the Vatican over the internet and television instead of before crowds in St. Peter's Square.

His decision to make an exception and give a special "Urbi et Orbi" blessing underscored the gravity of the situation worldwide but particularly in Italy, which has overtaken China as the country hardest hit by the virus outbreak.

Wednesday prayer

The pope said that on Friday evening he would deliver the extraordinary blessing from an empty St. Peter's Square. The square, which is part of the Vatican, has been closed

as part of a lockdown in Italy to try to contain the spread of the virus.

Catholics who receive the blessing, either in person or via the media, can, under certain conditions, receive a special indulgence. An indulgence is remission of punishment for sins.

On Saturday, Italy recorded a jump in deaths from coronavirus of almost 800, taking the death toll in the country to nearly 5,000.

Francis also called on all Christians around the world to stop at

noon Italian time on Wednesday to pray the "Our Father" together.

"We want to respond to the pandemic of the virus with the universality of prayer, of compassion, of tenderness," he said from the papal library. "Let's remain united".

In its latest desperate effort to halt the epidemic, the Italian government ordered that all businesses must close until April 3, with the exception of those essential to maintaining the country's supply chain.

—Agencies



State bans Church, mosque gatherings in new directives

...as reality dawns on faithful who were locked out of or ejected from their places of worship yesterday

by People Daily Team
@PeopleDailyKe

The government yesterday suspended church, mosque and other social gatherings as it moved to tame further spread of coronavirus.

Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe said the government would strictly enforce the directive because previous such measures to avoid gatherings, including weddings and funerals, were largely ignored.

"We've told people not to go into gatherings but some of them have decided they must continue to do so," he said in a press briefing yesterday.

The CS, while announcing the country had confirmed eight more coronavirus cases, warned that Kenyans must learn from Italy, which he said has borne the brunt of the virus because of initial defiance to social distancing directives.

The new directive comes even as Christians across the country yesterday felt the impact of the coronavirus outbreak, as most were locked out of their places of worship and others ejected by police officers.

Others attended church from the comfort of their houses as their pastors live streamed services online while others were beamed on TV and radio.

However, in some parts of the country, including Nairobi, Kiambu and Kisii counties, some followers defied the government directive and turned up in large numbers to worship, attracting criticism from Kenyans, especially on digital platforms.

For the defiant ones, some faithful were locked out of their churches, with police in Mombasa disrupting worship activities.

At the Jesus Celebration Centre (JCC) in Bamburi, Mombasa county, worshippers were forced to cut short their service following a directive by police.

"We normally conduct three services but we have been forced to do two. We are not opposed to the precautionary measures but we feel it's not right for police to disrupt us," said Kenneth Maundu, a worshipper.

Led by Kisauni police boss Julius Kiragu, officers blocked the church entrance to ensure no more worshippers could go inside. Kiragu said a multi-agency team had raided over five churches that had defied directives to avoid social gatherings to tame the spread of the virus.

"There are some churches that have defied the order and we are not going to allow people to continue disobeying government orders," he said.

ONLINE BACKLASH

● Using hashtag #IgnorantKenyans, Kenyans on Twitter castigates faithful and Churches who defied directives and insisted on physical services.

● One user, *_ItsShark*, said: "...You can't ignore the safety measures given and expect God to protect you. Kenyans, kindly let's be serious." Another one by the name *muthoni_njakwe* said: "Sometimes I wonder who God respect the Authority. Romans 13:2."

Kenya-Uganda border shut as Museveni plans to stop virus

by Anthony Mwangi and Henry Andanje
@PeopleDailyKe

The government has closed the Kenya-Uganda common border in Busia to help tame the spread of coronavirus, Busia County Commissioner Joseph Kanyiri has said.

The administrator said buses that ferry passengers from Kenya to Uganda and vice versa have been directed to cancel bookings and refund fares.

Transit trucks are, however, exempt from the directive, but with only the driver and his conductor aboard.

Meanwhile, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni announced the new tough measures, including the closure of Entebbe International Airport to all commercial flights after the country confirmed its first case on Saturday.

Museveni said in the absence of an East African Community risk plan, no person, Ugandan national or otherwise will be allowed into Uganda starting yesterday.

Yesterday, the Uganda Civil Aviation Authority blocked 10 South Korean nationals from entering the country.

Muslim lobbies want all entry points closed

by Harrison Kivisu
@PeopleDailyKe

Two Muslim lobby groups have urged the government to close all borders with neighbours to help stop the spread of the Covid-19.

The Supreme Council of Kenyan Muslims (Supkem) and Kenya Muslim National Advisory Council (KEMNAC), in a joint media briefing, said no individual should enter or leave the country until the situation is contained.

"Until things normalise, the borders should be shut for the next 14 days. Many cases are from people coming from outside and we should not continue to allow people to come in," said KEMNAC chair Sheikh Juma Ngao.

Ngao urged Muslim leaders to shut down Mosques as directed by the government to avert any possible spread.

"We urge all our Muslims to cooperate and ensure they pray from home. This is the only way to cushion ourselves from the spread, shutting down mosques does not mean we are abandoning the religion," he said.



Most churches in Nairobi also suspended their services. At the Christian Foundation Fellowship (CFF), most of their sermons were broadcast online.

"You can't be reckless in the name of God. The same God allowed it and He wants us to learn and repent. Obey what the government is saying," said CFF bishop Harrison Ng'ang'a.

The Anglican Church of Kenya (ACK) has also suspended all its services for the next 30 days. This is the first time that the All Saints Cathedral in Nairobi suspended its services in 100 years.

Suspended services

The church announced that Archbishop Jackson ole Sapit will be conducting special broadcast services on Sundays at 8am and Wednesdays 6pm.

"This will be streamed live on the official Archbishop and ACK Facebook pages and other platforms. Additionally, we encourage the use of technology in the ministry," Archbishop Sapit said.

The Presbyterian Church of East Africa (PCEA) has also suspended its Sunday services and all other church activities.

PCEA secretary-general Peter Kaniah said the church has suspended the services for the next 21 days. In line with this, the service at Nairobi's St Andrews Church was broadcast on live TV.

But the Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops said masses will continue in all their churches—but that has since been overtaken by CS Kagwe's directive. A spot-check at Holy Family Basilica revealed that the masses were ongoing, but had been shortened.

In a letter addressed to all priests in Nairobi, Father Wallace Ng'ang'a directed priests not to extend mass beyond one hour. "Offertory will be done after the final communion prayer to avoid possible spread of the virus during reception of Holy Communion Fr Ng'ang'a said.

"Where possible, encourage Christians to use pay bill number," he said.

In Murang'a, it was business as usual in most churches, although some precautionary measures had been put in place.

At ACK St James Cathedral in Murang'a town, tents were erected outside the church to decongest the building.

In Vihiga, Christians were forced to stay at home after their churches closed to obey the directives given by the ministry.

Church of God in East Africa led by Bishop Byrum Makokha ordered its main churches to remain closed asking their fol-

A man at a deserted All Saints' ACK Cathedral Church in Nairobi, yesterday. The services at the church were suspended for the first time in 100 years, yesterday.

PD/SAMUEL KARIUKI

lowers to conduct prayers at homes.

Elsewhere in Nyamira, Christians went about their activities undeterred. The defiant faithful turned up in huge numbers at their places of worship.

It was an unusual Sunday for many faithful in Nakuru county as some churches remained closed.

At Christ is The Answer Ministries, gates remained closed with a poster that no one was to be allowed in the premise until further notice. The Ministry advised congregants to watch the service on Facebook or alternatively on Hope TV.

In Kisii, Catholic Bishop Joseph Okemwa cancelled weddings ceremonies and ordered they be postponed until further notice.

And in Kiambu, most churches defied the government's directives against public gatherings.

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

PARLIAMENTARY SERVICE COMMISSION

ADDENDUM

RFP NO. PJS/RFP/002/2019-2020 FOR

PROVISION OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR SUPERVISION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSED INTEGRATED SECURITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (ISMS) AND INFRASTRUCTURE FOR PARLIAMENTARY SERVICE COMMISSION

The Parliamentary Service Commission advertised the Request for Proposal for Provision of Project Management Services for Supervision of the Implementation of the Proposed Integrated Security Management System (ISMS) and Infrastructure on 24th February 2020.

The Commission would like to notify all eligible bidders of the following changes; that

- a) Eligible bidders may access questions/clarifications received from other prospective bidders and the Commission's response from the Commission website under the title: "RFP NO. PJS/RFP/002/2019-2020 CLARIFICATIONS:"
- b) The closing date has been extended by **fourteen (14) days to Wednesday 8th April, 2020 at 11.00 am.**

DIRECTOR GENERAL, PARLIAMENTARY JOINT SERVICES, PARLIAMENTARY SERVICE COMMISSION

CORONA CRISIS

WORLD UPDATE

- 1 Cases pass 300,000 with more than 13,000 deaths around the world; 92,000 people have recovered.
- 2 **Australia** to close pubs, clubs, cinemas, casinos, nightclubs and places of worship.
- 3 Sport and physical activity outside are banned in Italy's worst hit region of Lombardy.
- 4 The move comes after Italy reported nearly 800 coronavirus deaths on Saturday.
- 5 **Britons** are warned the spread of the virus is "accelerating" and they must avoid social contact.
- 6 More than a billion people in India asked to observe a 14-hour-long curfew to test the country's preparedness.



Faithful at Macedonia Full Gospel Churches of Kenya, Langas estate in Eldoret, in an open-air church service, yesterday, in the wake of coronavirus that has forced the government to urge Kenyans to observe social distancing. PD/JIMMY GITAKA



A deserted Moktar Daddah Street in Nairobi's CBD, yesterday. Most Kenyans remained indoors as directed by the government to help tame spread of coronavirus. PD/JOHN OCHIENG



Uhuru Park, Nairobi's biggest public recreation facility now seems unpopular for many. PD/ JOHN OCHIENG



Jubilee Christian Church, Nairobi, held its services normally but members were spaced out as per the ministry of Health guidelines on social distancing. PD/SAMUEL KARIUKI



A handful of worshippers in prayer at the Mitume Catholic Church in Kitale, yesterday. PD/DAVID MUSUNDI



Holy Family Minor Basilica administrator Simon Peter Kamomoe administers holy communion to faithful who attended mass yesterday. The Catholic church has not suspended Sunday masses. PD/ SAMUEL KARIUKI



Police officers disperse faithful who had gathered for Sunday service prayers at Jesus Celebration Centre in Bamburi, Mombasa, yesterday. PD/ NDEGWA GATHUNGU

New CT scan centre to help monitor virus

New facility at Kenyatta National Hospital to be connected to three counties, 37 counties

by **Hillary Mageka**
@PeopleDailyKe

To combat the spread of Covid-19, the government has launched a Computed Tomography (CT) scan centre of excellence interfaced with Artificial Intelligence Software dubbed Golden Eye used to detect the deadly virus.

The centre will be located at Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH).

The technology, the first of its kind in Africa, makes Kenya the second country globally to embrace the machine first developed in Wuhan, China, and successfully used to detect and help in monitoring progress of Covid-19 patients.

In Wuhan, the first epicentre of Covid-19, the technology aided in early detection of the virus, yielding positive and promising results.

Speaking during the launch of the initiative, Health CS Mutahi Kagwe termed the technology a game-changer in Kenya's healthcare.

Healthcare providers

Kagwe said the platform will enable patients and healthcare providers to interact with health experts at Kenya's main referral hospital, KNH, using video conferencing.

The technology is connected to Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital (MTRH), the country's second referral hospital. It will also be connected to facilities in China's Wuhan and Beijing cities, France, Egypt and at least 37 counties.

Some of the hospitals with already operational CT centres include King Fahad Hospital in Lamu, Kakamega County Referral Hospital, Thika Level Five Hospital, Iten County Referral Hospital (Elgeyo Marakwet), Narok County Referral Hospital and Voi Level Five Hospital in Taita Taveta.

China embassy in Nairobi and Neosoft offered the software solution for free.

"Through this technology

we have been able to witness realities, that instead of sending a radiologist to every county across the country, in the 37 counties, for instance we are communicating CT scans in those counties can be interpreted at this national centre by two or three radiologists," CS Kagwe told journalists.

"You can see the efficiency and gains in terms of human capital, we can achieve through use of technology," he added.

Technology assisted

The CS said the country's healthcare will be premised on technology insisting that the launch of the facility was such an example.

In yesterday's demonstrations, the CS, Chinese officials, other government officials and the media, witnessed how the CT scans can be read by at least 10 radiologists across the world with report and images being interpreted real time.

"Very quickly, we are going to have major operations being done in Kenya by local doctors with others in Wuhan China, Paris, UK and US," said the CS.

This, he added will reduce trouble for Kenyans who have been travelling abroad for treatment

"We will bring the doctors to the screens instead of taking the patient to overseas, this is what technology can do for us," he held.

On his part, KNH chairman board of management Nicholas Gumbo said the technology will enable healthcare workers to share information real time.

Gumbo added that nothing is being left to chance in

CT SCAN TECHNOLOGY

● **Computed Tomography (CT) Scan centre of excellence interfaced with Artificial Intelligence Software dubbed Golden Eye used to detect the deadly virus**

● **The technology, the first of its kind in Africa, makes Kenya the second country globally to embrace the machine first developed in Wuhan City, China, and successfully used to detect and help in monitor Covid-19 patients**

37
Number of counties connected to CT Scan centre at the KNH, Nairobi.

3
The number of countries to be connected to the new centre.

combating and defeating the Covid-19.

Should it be a success, he said, Kenya would be the first country in Africa to have put all its available resources in an effort to curb global scourge and supplement other pioneer efforts been made by the government.

The CT Scan centre will provide imaging diagnostics of

various medical ailments, routine checks, emergencies and teaching.

The KNH national data centre will serve as a centre of excellence housing CT machines and other supportive equipment including radiologists interfaced with counties in interpreting TC and MRI images.

So far, the government has installed CT scan machines in

close to 20 counties, lifting the heavy burden of treatment off the shoulders of poor families under one of the Big Four delivery pillars of the Universal Health Coverage.

Among the state-of-the-art machines fitted are automatic generator as power back-up, an Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS), cloud imaging devices, laser and thermol printers.



TO ALL OUR CUSTOMERS AND FELLOW KENYANS

Now, more than ever, we invite you to make Banking something you do, not somewhere you go!

These are challenging times. At Equity, we empathize with and appreciate the unprecedented scale of social and economic disruption to the daily lives of our members and fellow Kenyans.

The Board and management of the Bank, therefore wholeheartedly welcome the clear directives and advisories issued by the Government and CBK to help alleviate the pain being felt across the country. Equity will fully support these initiatives.

In line with this reality, and in keeping with our core belief of giving dignity and socially and economically empowering our customers and communities, in addition to the measures the Government and CBK advisories have proposed, we wish to announce the following measures designed to provide relief and help cushion our members and Kenyans at large, with effect from 20th March 2020:

- 1. Mobile Banking Transaction Fees:** We have waived Mobile Banking Transaction Fees for the following services up to 30th JUNE 2020:
 - All Equity to Equity Mobile bank transfers - FREE
 - All Bank to Mobile Wallet transfers - FREE
 - All Mobile Wallet to Bank transfers - FREE
 - Customer Payments using Equity Cards - FREE
 - Mobile payments for Bills, Utilities, Shopping, Fuel, etc. - FREE
 - Mobile balance and limit enquiries - FREE
 - 2. Loans:** Short term Personal and Micro Loans will now be processed digitally on mobile and internet and credit cards. Credit limits for Personal and Micro customers will be pre-marked for easy and automatic access for existing account holders by 31st March 2020
 - 3. Existing Loan Facilities:** Customers with existing loan facilities who may require accommodation can engage us through our contact centre (0763 063 000), on email or speak to our Branch Managers and/or Relationship Managers.
 - 4. Digital Account Opening:** We have activated digital account opening and management on our digital channels, including Mobile App and Internet.
(Download the Equity Mobile App in the Appstore (<http://bit.ly/AppleEquityEazzyBanking>) and Android (<http://bit.ly/AndroidEquityEazzyBanking>))
 - 5. Contactless Cards:** All Equity Debit and Prepaid cards (Visa and Mastercard) and our Equity POSs are now contactless. This will enable customers to transact on 'tap-and-go' so as to reduce contact and handling of POS terminals.
- We have transformed the Equity banking experience from somewhere you go to something you do, and we invite you to utilize our digital and online channels to enable you to access our banking services 24 hours a day. These include:
1. Equitel and EazzyBanking App;
 2. Equity Mastercard, VISA and AMEX Cards;
 3. EazzyFx for forex trading;
 4. EazzyNet for individuals web-banking;
 5. Eazzychama for Groups and Chamas web-banking;
 6. Eazzybiz for SME and Corporate web-banking;

We value and appreciate you. Please stay safe and continue to observe the health precautions of hygiene and be vigilant.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr. James Mwangi, CBS

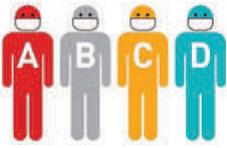
Group Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer
Equity Group Holdings Plc
20th March, 2020



Health CS Mutahi Kagwe when he officially launch the COVID-19 CT Scans machine yesterday at Kenyatta National Hospital. With the equipment patients' information from counties can be interpreted through the Diagnostic Imaging Centre at KNH. PD/TABITHA MBATIA

CORONA CRISIS

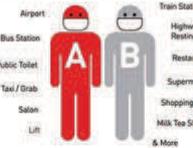
We have four groups of people A, B, C and D



The first carrier They are easy to find and mostly in care



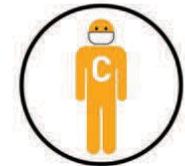
A go out to find C, passes by stranger B in public; A & B don't know each other.



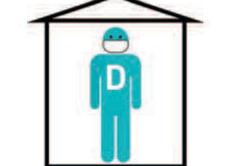
A has contact with C. No matter how many people are in C, we can find them.



Quarantined & Observed



D stay in home & never go out



Safeguard mental health of Kenyans, body urges State

Health ministry asked to publish mental health guidelines, avail hotlines for counselling sessions

by George Kebaso
@Morarak

The International Institute for Legislative Affairs (IILA) is calling on the government to urgently put in place measures to safeguard the mental health of citizens in the event a total lockdown is declared to avert escalation of coronavirus cases.

In an interview with *People Daily*, Celine Awuor, the Institute's programme officer in charge of capacity building and Medical Law writer, Elizabeth Mbugua, said going forward, decisions to be made require deliberate efforts to address mental health challenges posed by the pandemic.

Besides focusing on populations, the duo said actions should importantly target healthcare providers and caregivers.

"Should more cases be recorded in the days to come, the country may go into full lockdown as is the case in other countries and these are the times we need to be mindful of our mental health.

"These are the times the government needs to step in to ensure that Kenyans still enjoy the highest possible quality of life in the face of possible lockdown as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak," said Awuor.

While self-isolation as has already been witnessed, further scaling down of commercial activities is likely to subject people who live from hand-to-mouth to despera-



A Ministry of Health official educates members of the public on personal hygiene at the KenCom bus stop in Nairobi, yesterday, to help stop spread of Covid-19. PD/SAMUEL KARIUKI

tion and low living standards.

Fix prices

"The government needs to ensure that people who are not able to fend for themselves without going to work every day are comfortable while self-isolating. Our government should learn from the trade ministry in Rwanda which fixed prices for 17 food items including rice, sugar and cooking oil, and do the same and maybe, better so as to avoid hiking of food prices," she added.

Mbugua urged the Ministry of Health to protect the mental health of all Kenyans, including healthcare workers, by publishing local mental health guidelines and establishing hotlines through which mental health specialists will be available for coun-

selling during this Covid-19 crisis period.

"Just like the rest of the world, Kenyans are anxious about the future occurrences around Covid-19; we do not know what will happen but in the midst of all this, we should protect our health and support each other as much as possible, at all levels, to ensure that we come out of it healthy including mentally," Mbugua, an advocate of the High Court, said.

The two attribute their concerns to the amount of stress and panic that was witnessed in the country when the first case was announced.

The announcement sent Kenyans into panic mode with people scrambling for household goods in bulk, while others started sending false information on social media.

"All these reactions being evidence that despite knowing the presence of the disease in other countries we were not prepared mentally to have the disease in our country," they said.

Avour and Mbugua want Kenyans to adhere to the partial lockdown measures that have already been ordered as more cases continue to be recorded in the country.

As part of response and support strategies for countries in the face of Covid-19 pandemic, the World Health Organisation on March 12 published the 'Mental Health and Psychosocial Considerations during Covid-19 Outbreak' to act as guidelines on mental health for the psychological wellbeing of everyone during the outbreak.

The guidelines discourage attaching labels to people with the disease; as this is most likely to create stigma.

MBUGUA

Kenyans are anxious about future occurrences around Covid-19

BRIEFLY

Lobbies call for bills deferment

Some 16 human rights organisations have called upon Kenya Power and all public water providers to announce a moratorium on payment of bills for all people living in urban settlements during the Covid-19 crisis period. The organisations expressed concern that millions of people living in urban informal settlements and other neighbourhoods across the country do not get continuous clean and affordable water. The call was made in a statement to the Health Cabinet secretary signed by, among others, Amnesty International, Action-Aid, Umande Trust, and Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR). Kenya has confirmed seven cases of Covid-19 as per Thursday's government update.

— Bernard Gitau

Nyanza in corona sensitisation drive

Chiefs and assistant chiefs in Nyanza region have embarked on door-to-door campaigns to sensitise locals on the deadly Covid-19. Nyanza Regional Commissioner James Kianda said the exercise was critical to ensure that everybody adhered to the directives issued by the Ministry of Health to contain the viral disease. He said self-quarantine, handwashing and keeping social distance measures would be enforced in the area.

— KNA

China initiates knowledge-sharing in tackling Covid-19

by Janet Wang

Following the scary emergence and spread of the Novel coronavirus, medically known as Covid-19, in Wuhan, China has rolled out one of the most ambitious, aggressive, and effective disease containment measures in history.

Indeed, once the pandemic has been brought down, the world is bound to seek China's lessons learnt in addressing crisis of such a global nature.

China has offered medical material aid to countries at every level of the global socio-economic strata, from the first world to the developing countries. But also coming from the realisation that information is power, China is following this up with knowledge and information sharing.

Indeed, the latter is the most important aspect in early warning, preparedness, and even management of the fast-spreading virus.

In less than two months, China's proactive approach in curbing the spread of Covid-19 has averted a major catastrophe, both nationally and internationally.

At the core of this strategy has been the creative use of the three classic principles of infectious disease prevention and control. These include controlling the source of infection, cutting the route of transmission, and protecting vulnerable groups.

Indeed, China has breathed life to the scary 'lockdown' term, showing that it is neither a life nor death sentence! Following this success, the

JANET WANG

In less than two months, China's proactive approach in curbing the spread of Covid-19 has averted a major catastrophe...

first China-Africa video conference for responding to the virus was held on March 18. According to official Chinese sources, almost 300 health experts from 24 countries, including the ministers of health from Kenya, Ethiopia, and Libya participated in the forum.

The Chinese team introduced to their overseas counterparts the lat-

est protocols in treating Covid-19, including prevention and control strategies. Further, the African teams learned how to undertake efficient customs border inspection for both humans and cargo. During the three-and-a-half-hour teleconference, Chinese experts fielded about 50 questions from multi-sectoral audiences in 24 African countries.

Kenya's Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe observed that the initiative was a crucial step in knowledge-sharing among the people on the front line of managing the pandemic.

March 18, 2020 was an exemplary day in China's continuing fight to ensure the total eradication of Covid-19 in the country. In the epicentre of the virus in Wuhan, and the larger Hubei

Province, there were neither new nor suspected recorded cases. Most impressively, there were no new local transmission cases in China's mainland.

China has expressed her desire to continue sharing the vast amount of information and experience it has gathered in order to support African countries, and the world at large, deal with the pandemic.

In addition, China is leveraging its deeply ingrained ties with various media outlets in Africa to share its Covid-19 experience. Using these channels, the world will be fully informed of what the WHO described as a unique and unprecedented public health response.

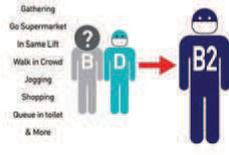
— The writer comments on social issues.

CORONA CRISIS

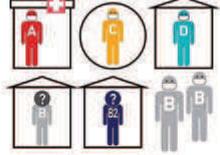
The problem is, we can't find B. Nobody knows who is B, including B themselves



Once D go out, they might contact/meet/pass by B. Now D becomes new B (B2)



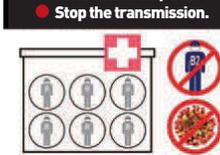
The objective of lockdown and quarantine is using time to find out Group B.



Basically incubation period is two weeks, within which Group B will show symptoms.



By this method, we can: Find out Group B. Quarantine & treatment applied.



One person can make a huge difference. STEP BACK. Stay home. Slow the spread.



A camel rider at the Jomo Kenyatta public beach in Mombasa. Members of the public have been banned from accessing the beaches to help curb the spread of coronavirus. PD/NDEGWA GATHUNGU

Ten quarantined in Coast, three test negative in Nakuru

Police in Murang'a hunting for a man believed to have defied order to self-isolate after arrival from US

by PD Team @PeopleDailyKe

At least 10 people in the Coast region are in isolation centres after exhibiting symptoms of Covid-19. Mombasa County Commissioner Gilbert Kitiyo said eight patients have been quarantined at the Coast Provincial General Hospital's isolation centre, adding that test results were expected yesterday evening. This comes as the county emergency response committee announced several measures, including closure of mosques, churches and temples for two weeks and a section of Kongowea market for a month to curb the spread of the virus. "We are asking residents to take these measures seriously," Kitiyo said. Two French tourists are in isolation ward at the Msambweni Sub-County Referral Hospital. They arrived in Kenya on March 14 and stayed at Diani beach for a week. Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe last evening confirmed the two had tested positive for the virus. Speaking to journalists, medical officer in charge of Msambweni Kelvin Mbathi said they were supposed to go back to France on Saturday but on reaching the Diani airstrip, they were screened and found to have coronavirus symptoms.

Mbathi said the guests and staff of the hotel in which the two stayed had also been quarantined. "There were nine in-house guests and 36 staff members in that hotel but we have quarantined all of them and are now awaiting medical reports," he said. Kwale County Chief Officer for Health Services Salim Mbete said the Kwale county government has set isolation rooms in all its four sub-county hospitals. "I have directed the area chief with the help of other officers to hunt down the man and the necessary action be taken against him," said Murang'a county police commander Josphat Kinyua. Residents have expressed concern that the man could be putting their lives at risk for failing to adhere to the quarantine directive. In Karagita estate in Naivasha, there was tension when a flower farm worker was wheeled into the

local health centre with symptoms similar to those of coronavirus. An ambulance was dispatched to collect her but after screening it was established she was suffering from flu to the relief of residents. According to the Chief Officer in charge of health in Nakuru County Samuel King'ori, the patient was stable. "The woman was treated for flu and is recovering. There is no reason to worry," he said. Meanwhile, there was relief in Nakuru after health officials announced the last three suspected Covid-19 cases had been discharged after they tested negative.

Clean bill

Nakuru Health County Executive Committee member Dr Kariuki Gichuki said the three were discharged on Saturday bringing total number of those who have been given a clean bill of health to eight. "We don't have any suspected case at our isolation facility at the moment," the official said. The three include a Rwandese truck driver who developed symptoms similar to those of the coronavirus at Salgaa while on his way to Rwanda from Mombasa. The second case was a French national who was picked by emergency response unit at his hotel in Nakuru last week. Gichuki said he had not shown any symptoms but was picked as a precautionary measure because he had arrived from a country which has reported Covid-19 cases.

—Reporting by Munira Mandano, Kirera Muviti, Njuguna Wangari and Noah Cheploen

CORONA ORDERS

- Anyone who arrives in Kenya from a country which has reported cases of coronavirus is required to stay in self-isolation for 14 days.
- Defying the order could lead to serious legal consequences including a jail term.

EAC joint inspections aim to improve healthcare in region

Since 2009, the East African Community Partner States' Medical and Dental Boards/Councils carry out joint inspections of medical and dental schools and teaching hospitals in the region.

The inspections take place every five years and are aimed at ensuring universities are conforming to the standards and guidelines governing medical and dental schools with a view to improving healthcare services and promotion of the harmonisation of education and training in the region.

Other than quality assurance, the other advantage of the inspections is that the doctors from the medical and dental schools which conform to the set standards are given EAC reciprocal recognition upon their qualification as practitioners, meaning they can practise in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi or South Sudan.

The inspections are carried out by a technical team from the EAC partner States boards/councils as well as a representative of a country's Commission for University Education. So far, there have been two joint inspections, in 2009 and in 2016, with the third taking place between February and June 2020.

The inspections focus on, among other things, lecturers' qualifications and whether they are suited to teach the programmes, lecturer to student ratio, the academic programmes being run by the medical/dental school and whether they have been approved and accredited by relevant authorities, teaching and learning infrastructure such as classrooms, laboratories and libraries, quality improvement, student welfare facilities and support mechanisms such as recreational grounds, welfare policies, healthcare, accommodation and risk protection.

Before an inspection is carried out, standard tools for self-assessment are sent to the medical and dental schools and teaching hospitals.

Medical and dental schools in Uganda were the first to be inspected this year between February 10 and 14. Following the exercise that covered eight institutions, Islamic University in Uganda's Habib Medical School was the only institution that was given a clean bill of health. The Uganda Christian University School of Dentistry scored poorly and was ordered to close until proper infrastructure is put in place.

The rest of the institutions, including Makerere University Dental School, were directed to stop admission of any new students until a re-inspection by the Joint EAC medical boards/councils is carried out and approval given. None of their graduates will be eligible for reciprocal recognition within EAC.

The same exercise concluded in Kenya on March 6. Applying the same checklists



DANIEL YUMBYA

This makes graduates eligible for recognition within EAC

as those used in Uganda, the boards/councils inspected 13 universities in Kenya. Following the inspections, Mount Kenya University School of Medicine, Maseno University School of Medicine and Kisii University School of Health Sciences were found to have met the minimum requirements for the training of medical students.

This, therefore, makes their graduates eligible for reciprocal recognition within the EAC.

Institutions like the University of Nairobi School of Medicine and that of Dentistry, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology Medical School, Moi University, School of Medicine and that of Dentistry, Kenya Methodist University, School of Medicine, Egerton University, Faculty of Health Sciences, Kenyatta University, School of Medicine and Masinde Muliro University of Science & Technology, School of Medicine scored between 50 and 80 per cent, and were found to have partially complied.

Even though their graduates will be eligible for reciprocal recognition within the EAC upon qualification, the institutions will be subjected to a re-inspection within six to 12 months to ensure they are working towards the achievement of the recommendations laid out by the boards/councils.

Uzima University College, Medical School scored below 50 per cent and failed to comply with the minimum requirements for training medical students. The school will have to be closed and students redistributed under the guidance of the Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Council and the Commission for University Education, to other medical schools.

The boards/councils are committed to ensuring that the region's future doctors are learning the proper curriculum taught by enough qualified personnel and are provided with the right infrastructure and support to make their study seamless. Once this is done, Kenya, and East Africa will be assured of quality healthcare.

The boards/councils are expected to complete the exercise in Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda and South Sudan by June.

—The writer is the CEO, Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Council

EDITORIAL

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QUOTED TODAY



WYCLIFFE WANGAMATI

County employees shall work from home to avoid unnecessary contact. At the same time, only markets serving small communities and neighbourhoods will operate.



CELINE AWUOR

These are the times the government needs to step in to ensure Kenyans still enjoy highest possible quality of life in the face of possible lockdown as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak.



YOWERI MUSEVENI

This (coronavirus outbreak) is a challenge but we shall prevail over the crisis. I challenge Africans to use their talents. Christians must pray but also act.

Africa must prepare to tackle Covid-19

The World Health Organisation has expressed concern about Africa's preparedness in the battle against the coronavirus pandemic that has claimed more than 13,000 lives globally.

"Africa should wake up. My continent should wake up," said WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, an Ethiopian.

At home, Health Cabinet secretary Mutahi Kagwe has also warned Kenyans to prepare for tough times ahead and made a strong pitch for what he called citizen responsibility.

Ghebreyesus' fears are informed by the fact that African health systems are weak and could be overwhelmed if the virus, which is on its initial stages, were to hit the continent on a larger scale.

Kagwe has sounded the alarm that evidence from other countries indicate the number of infected persons increases dramatically in the second week following confirmation of the first case.

"Consequently, the next two weeks are extremely critical for this country," he said during a press briefing. This effectively means that the real battle against the respiratory disease is ahead and Kenyans should brace themselves accordingly.

As High Court judge Weldon Korir pointed out when he declined to allow a petition that would have seen Kagwe summoned to court, the country is at war with the Cabinet Secretary as a "general at the front."

It is apparent that measures to prevent the spread of the virus would have far-reaching ramifications on various sectors, mainly public transport, entertainment, trade, health with some state organs allocating more resources to the war.

On transport, Kagwe has ordered public service vehicles to reduce the number of passengers. It was directed that 14-seater matatus carry a maximum number of eight passengers; 25-seaters a maximum of 15 and 30-seaters and above to maintain 60 per cent maximum seating capacity.

This would also apply to the Standard Gauge Railway and commuter train services.

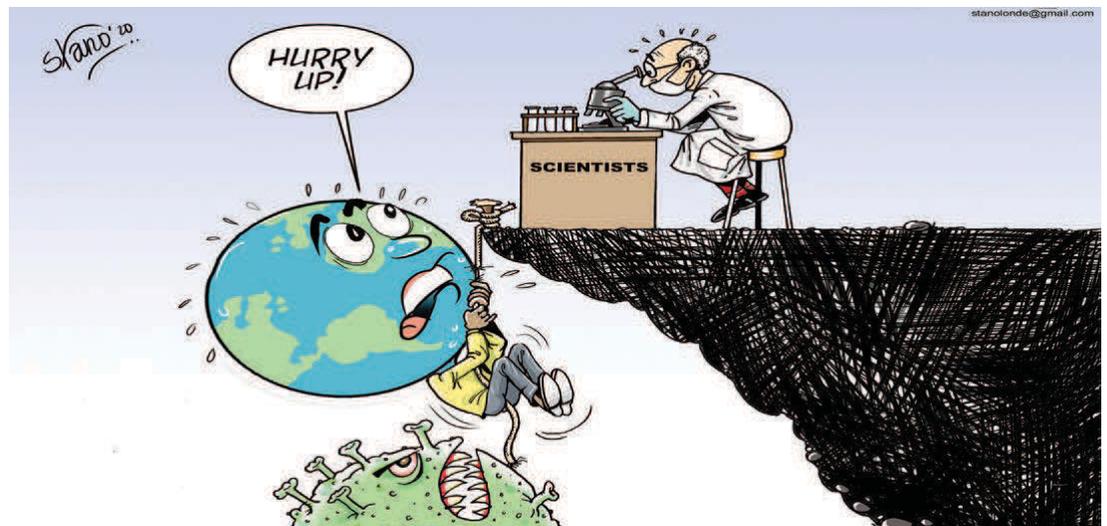
It should be emphasised that the anti-corona fight is expected to test our moral strength. There should not be a temptation to exploit a grievous situation. As President Uhuru Kenyatta warned, businesses must not exploit the situation to increase prices of essential goods. Operators in the transport sector must also heed the call.

Even critically, resources allocated for the war should be used prudently in a manner devoid of corruption.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

JILL LEPORE

Epidemics follow patterns because diseases follow patterns. Viruses spread; they reproduce; they die.



SGR freight transport to boost region's economy



VIRGINIA MUNYAO

Rail freight transport is about moving goods with efficiency.

In today's competitive economic landscape, rail freight is crucial and operators are looking to expand their networks' capacity and productivity with investments in advanced technology and infrastructure. The demand for new and upgraded rail lines has been growing rapidly in recent years.

When considered in terms of ton-miles or ton-kilometres hauled per unit of energy consumed, rail transport can be more efficient than other means of transportation. It is a fact that trains made the industrial revolution possible. When goods need to be moved across long distances, few transportation modes can be as efficient as railroads. This is why trains have always been part of the logistics chain.

Rail freight transport is about moving goods with efficiency. Rail companies are investing millions of dollars to maintain the efficiency, the safety, and the sustainability of their networks. As well, there has been tremendous growth in intermodal traffic.

Compared to transport by road, transport by rail is more environmentally friendly, as fuel consumption is lower. It is also possible to transport huge shipments at once over long distances, at relatively low costs. In addition, rail freight transport is well-organised with fixed timetables, which give accurate rail freight quotes. It is also not influenced by traffic conditions such as traffic jams, and is the safest way of transporting goods.

Rail freight particularly comes in handy when looking for high speed delivery over long distances, shipping large quantities in bulk, or shipping inland from a port. Raw materials such as coal and iron ore are also

best transported by rail freight, as it uses three times less fuel than road transport. Moreover, rail transport can lower greenhouse gas emissions by 75 per cent. It is also least affected by weather conditions such as rains and fog compared to other modes of transport. Its capacity is elastic as it can easily be increased by adding more wagons. The large capacity also means creation of more job opportunities.

President Uhuru Kenyatta launched the SGR freight service on December 1, 2017, followed by the introduction of double-stack freight trains on September 29, 2018. By 2019, an average of 16 freight trains were operated on a daily basis. As of February 24, 2020, 13,000 trains had operated on the SGR over a total distance of 6,368,000 Kilometres.

In terms of cargo tonnage, over 760,000 TEUs had been transported by the beginning of March, 2020. There are currently 17 Kenyan Junior Locomotive Drivers who drive freight trains independently. Africa Star Railway Operation Company (Afristar) transports grain, fertiliser and dangerous goods.

Just like any other industry, the rail freight business is subject to change and trends, thanks to technological innovations and im-

plementation of the Internet of Things (IoT), big data analytics and cloud computing, all having an effect on rail freight.

It is noteworthy that Transport Management Systems are becoming the norm, with each new version offering more technology, analytics and options for optimisation of transport. Afristar is keen on adopting these technologies.

With railways offering significant cost efficiency for freight (including container) haulage over distances in excess of 300km, rail is assuming an increasingly important role in trade feeder transport. It is being buttressed in this role by truck transport which assumes a local feeder role, involving the local distribution of traded commodities between inland ports stations and the trade originating and terminating locations, designated as Trade Generating Locations, over distances which rarely exceed 50km.

So far, rail freight transport has greatly contributed to the decongestion of the port of Mombasa as the increased capacity of transport infrastructure is meeting the existing transport demand at the port, resulting in the movement of high freight volumes.

The region is also set to become a competitive investment destination as the SGR will lead to higher speeds thus reducing transit times between destinations, and consequently, lower costs of production. Better access to markets will also aid exploitation of various resources in the region.

— The writer is a communications advisor, Africa Star Railway Operation Company

New habits that we must keep after Covid-19 crisis

The coronavirus pandemic has brought upheaval and Kenya, like the rest of the world, has taken drastic measures to combat it. Consequently, a lot of positive things are emerging, providing the country with an opportunity to change how it operates.

Two key things. The first is hygiene. For the longest time, Kenyans have treated hygiene very casually. Kenyan towns are dirty, and open-air food vendors are the worst. Now, all shopping establishments have water and soap for customers and there are sanitisers everywhere. People must now wash hands. Handshakes are banned, and people have adapted.

All public areas and transport are being fumigated. The National and County governments must now move to make these measures a permanent feature of the country's laws. Legislate hygiene into the Public Health Act and county by-laws. The country must also not return to handshakes.

The second is debilitating cultures which have stymied communities. Kakamega Governor Wycliffe Oparanya led governors in closing mortuaries in Nyanza and Western Kenya to compel their residents to bury their dead immediately—a

GATHU KAARA

The country must not return to handshakes. The governments must make these measures a permanent feature of our laws

brave move. This is to stop people gathering for funerals. Gatherings are the epicentres in spreading Covid-19. Of course, it has been a massive cultural shock!

Funerals are a debilitating cultural practice that has created economic destitution across that region. Those residents now have an opportunity to do away with it. Indeed, the governors should now move to discourage a return to these cultural practices. Legislate against them countrywide, if necessary, including a time limit for burials.

The crisis has shutdown the political cacophony that had brought the country to the brink. It has propelled President Uhuru Kenyatta back into the country's body politic as the key pillar around which the country's affairs are anchored. The country is now looking to only one person to lead it out of this crisis—Uhuru.

Indeed, the government's response to the crisis has been widely acclaimed as being robust and con-

fidence-inspiring. This has given the President the latitude and space to re-calibrate the country and bring it back onto the rails. With the clamour for a referendum now on the back burner, the President can recapture the BBI initiative. He should only allow politics again in 2022.

He should use this opportunity to pick up one or two agendas and drive them all the way to 2022.

The most obvious is healthcare. Right now, the focus of the whole country is on its health system. This should become the core agenda for the government. It should invest in robust facilities, medical personnel, and equipment in all counties, covering all Kenyans. Coronavirus is a warning to our leaders: develop your own hospitals because you can get stuck in your country.

Another obvious agenda is the economy. Oil prices globally have crashed. The government should pass the full benefit of the oil price fall to the economy as long as it

lasts. This will drive all costs down, a welcome boost to the battered economy.

Seek emergency funding for an economic bailout from the World Bank and Africa Development Bank to sustain the budget for at least two years. Stop government borrowing domestically, and release bank credit that the economy badly needs. This way, banks will return to lending to businesses, a role they long forgot. Have serious discussions with the Chinese government to reschedule payment of their loans.

Slash loan interest rates. All global economies have reduced interest rates to near zero to assist economies. Kenya cannot be the only country in the world that expects to support its economy amid exploitative interest rates. The Central Bank has the means to offer easy credit to banks to enable them cut interest rates below 10 per cent during the crisis.

Finally, Kenya must put in place permanent vigilance and a crises response system for viruses. Believe me, the next virus attack after coronavirus is now in diapers. Use response to coronavirus as a full dress rehearsal for the fire next time.

—gathukara@gmail.com

STREET TALK

Unionist tells off wife on hosting political visitors

An elderly unionist married to a younger woman has laid down rules of operations in his house, especially touching on political visits. Previously, the wife had prevailed upon him to stop entertaining visitors at their home and dishing out cash to political delegations. But a few months down the line, the man has realised he needs the politicians—hopefully not more than he needs the wife—and declared that his home is open to any visitor. This is after a number of politicians and leaders from his community threatened to distance themselves from him after he closed his doors on them. The unionist would do anything to remain relevant, and has swallowed the bait.

Is official aiding spouse steal siblings property?

Is a senior government official using his position to help his wife wrest property from her siblings? The man's wife is embroiled in a property row and is accused of forging her late father's will to claim ownership of a prime property. Efforts by her siblings to get justice have hit a dead end as the sister is well-connected. Any police officer who attempts to get his hands into the case receives a warning from their boss to keep off.

Politician's randy son breaks women's hearts

The son of a prominent female politician is the real definition of a playboy. The married man has been engaging in extra marital affairs with his mother's friends indiscriminately and word has it that he has impregnated two of them. The man always lies to his "victims" that he is in the middle of a murky divorce and promises to marry them soon. Truth is, the man is happily married and his uses the sob story to get his way. His mother is now forced to warn her friends to be wary of her philandering son.

Ex-official's love life worries friends, kin

Friends of a disgraced State operative are concerned over his love life. The single man is known to walk around in company of a bevy of beautiful, but no one knows his real girlfriend. Some of his friends have cast aspersions over his sexual orientation, claiming that he surrounds himself with women to hide skeletons in his closet.

There are limitless opportunities for multi-lingual Kenyans

One of the most pleasant aspects of our work as ambassadors and high commissioners is constantly marveling at just how many young Kenyans are keen to learn French.

Indeed, in Kenya, there is no need to be in a Francophone embassy or High Commission to hear people speaking French! Nearly 40,000 youth learn it from kindergartens to universities countrywide.

But what exactly do we mean by "Francophonie"? Simply, Francophonie is the term that designates the ensemble of people, organisations and governments that share the use of French on a daily basis. And in this lies the possibility of economic opportunities on the global scale, for the young Kenyans who are already busy perfecting their written and spoken French.

In its 50 years of existence, the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF),—an organisation set up specifically to promote Francophonie—has developed a network of 88 countries, including where French is not an official language.

This is what we are celebrating this month. It is unfortunate that

HATEM LANDOULSI, ALINE KUSTER-MÉNAGER, RALF HECKNER, JEAN-PIERRE OSSEY, MOHAMMED AMAR, LISA STADELBAUER AND NICOLAS NIHON

the public health crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic brought a premature end to the rich variety of programmes prepared for Francophonie month.

The disruption notwithstanding, there are practical reasons why any Kenyan would benefit from a good knowledge of French. Students can immerse themselves in a broad and diversified Francophone literature, before finding a job or starting a business. With more French-speaking entrepreneurs, Kenya's blossoming tourism sector can even be more attractive to welcome some of the 235 million people who speak French daily worldwide.

In Nairobi or abroad, French can also help in securing a diplomatic job in international organisations, where it is used as one of the United Nations' six working languages. Beyond Kenya, speaking French might open doors for East Africans in

their own continent, as it is spoken in Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, DR Congo, Madagascar, Mauritius, The Seychelles and Rwanda.

We should also note that the visionary efforts by a majority of African governments to create an African Continental Free Trade Area (ACFTA) will open up free trade throughout the continent, with those who are multi-lingual, being best placed to serve the business organisations seeking to benefit from opportunities that ACFTA will bring.

Like any language, French is not one-sided; learning it paves the way for cultural exchanges. With a solid level of French, Kenyans can teach English or Swahili in Francophone countries, as it is the case for the 60-plus language assistants currently in France who make French youth discover Kenyan cultures and traditions. Or they might increase their chances when applying for scholar-

ship programs in French-speaking countries. Already well established in Nairobi, the Alliance Française facility has been the launching pad for many young Kenyans aspiring to a career in the creative arts.

Engaging a dialogue with francophone countries, through OIF, is also a way to join a global conversation. Founded in 1970 in Niger, the OIF is a platform for exchanges, responsible for promoting and disseminating the cultures of its members and intensifying cultural, scholar and technical cooperation among them.

By 2070, there will be an estimated 500 to 800 million French-speaking people in the world, the majority of whom will be young people living in Africa. This is why the theme chosen by Tunisia for the next Summit of the OIF in Tunis in December 2020, sticks to the preoccupations of Africa and its youth: "Connectivity in diversity: Digital, a vehicle for development and solidarity in the French-speaking space."

—This article is jointly authored by envoys of Tunisia, France, Switzerland, Benin, Morocco, Canada and Belgium in Kenya

#TWEETS TO THE EDITOR



Kenyans have no kind words for people still going to church and bars as the government tries to tame coronavirus.

@Mbaka254: What was the purpose of closing schools if we are still going to endanger our kids with congregation in the name of church masses and services? #IgnorantKenyans.

@_ItsShark: They say do your part, and God will do His. You can't ignore the safety measures given and expect God to protect you. Kenyans, kindly let's be serious for once.

@PedroMbugua_: One way coronavirus spread in South Korea is through the church. And someone will ignore the

advice of the health professionals, attend church service, possibly get infected then run back to the same health professionals for treatment.

@iamkasiti: Ignorance has no defence. What they're looking for, they will get it. Instructions are simple and clear avoid crowded places



TRUTHS: Children may not inherit their parents' talents, but they will absorb their values.



PATRICK WACHIRA

Suffice it to say that the quarantine will breed (pun intended!) a situation in which recreation results in procreation

Hilarity around measures to prevent Covid-19 spread

Just about last week, one of the most trending jokes on social media said a famous self-styled prophet had cancelled a crusade owing to the coronavirus pandemic. Ha!

Of course, it was not lost on observers that a bloke who claims to heal people should not be afraid of disease, never mind it has wreaked havoc all over the world.

After all, if a man has claimed to cure diseases that folks have survived with for decades, why would they be averse to holding their many crusades and healing sessions? Is something not amiss here? The sheer irony is hard to miss.

Assuming it was true, it would go a long way to show and demonstrate to us gullible folks that some of the guys we take to be miracle performers are stunt masters at best. Not that this is news but the reality should start to sink in, that we have been deceived for long.

Indeed, at worst, they are masters of chicanery and exploit their followers. They are up to no good. *Haki!*

In some cases, incredibly naive followers have taken to using detergents to wash the tarmac where the men of the cloth will pass. It boggles the mind that these folks have a following at all.

Whoever said that religion is the opium of the masses must have had us in mind. I mean we Kenyans. But we digress. I was telling you about the hilarity that greeted public announcements about measures to be taken to



help contain the pandemic.

Of course, you heard that those who could work from home were encouraged to do so, and then the jokes started.

A wag suggested that construction workers could carry home cement, ballast and mix them. Thereafter, they could get motorcycle riders to deliver the cargo to their bosses at building sites.

Another wag took issue with the bit that civil servants be encouraged to work from home too and help reduce the congestion that authorities were particularly keen to eliminate or reduce.

His comment was greeted by incredulous reactions, with a bloke asking how folks who have not been working can start to work from home.

A man of the cloth, who shall not be named because he is my friend, also joined in, saying that given the suggestion for people to keep indoors in the spirit of self-quarantine, a population boom should be expected nine months from now.

The laughter that met this curious observation could only be compared to that inside a circus but that topic should be extended at other forums because this

is a family newspaper.

Suffice it to say that the quarantine will breed (pun intended!) a situation in which recreation results in procreation. Enough said!

Of course, spouses will be amazed to discover that their partners have been allowed to work from home but this realisation will come months later when they come to terms with a strange business trip organised just around this time. Then they will put two and two and come up with a strange answer, like six. If you know, you know!

In other circles, eaters of

my favourite mutura brought their version of hilarity, saying if anyone finds the taste different just about now, it is because the makers are suddenly washing hands, and that the real and original taste will resume once the pandemic is over.

You see, folks who excel in frying that delicacy have a little aversion to hygiene but that is beside the point. The fact remains it is much loved by many guys, especially as they sip their favourite tippie.

Did I say sip? Wrong! Folks who do frothy stuff actually swig it. That means a glass is emptied in two trips to eager lips. Bottoms up. By contrast, chaps who afford costlier stuff with exotic names take the trouble to appreciate the aroma, then they sip gingerly as if their lips are fragile and must be handled with care. This side up.

But we digress, again.

On a really brighter side, the pandemic has taught some of us to keep hands clean, even if it is by default, and to avoid handshakes. I like that. If you are a notorious germs carrier, you keep them to yourself.

You see, out there in the west, folks shake hands the first time they meet or are introduced. After that, they never, ever shake hands again. If they meet in the streets, they just nod and say 'hi'. Now that is a very, very good thing. It's actually cool.

Have a handshake-free week, folks!

— The writer is Special Projects Editor, People Daily

Meeting to plan for coronavirus funds ends in disarray

So the threats by a section of MCAs to impeach our governor actually worked? You probably recall some ward reps had threatened to oust the county boss. Reason? He was sitting on funds meant for coronavirus control in the county.

Towards end of last week, the air was full of rumours the boss was about to release the funds. The sweetest bit of the rumour was that we MCAs would be in full control of the monies!

Not to be caught unawares, I immediately swung into action. I called my chief advisor, Mokonyonyo Spoiler, and asked him to help in setting up a Ward Coronavirus Control Steering Committee. I had a few of my people in mind, but I did not want to be seen to favour my friends.

"No problem. How many people do you want?" Moks asked.

"Just a reasonable number," I said. This was a mistake, as I later realised.

I also shared the plans with



MCA GWINSIO

I was worried. This was a gathering. The seating arrangement was not anti-coronavirus

Mama Hirohito, daughter of my mother-in-law. Much as it was never my wish to let her into any plans involving funds, this time I had no choice. The committee would most likely meet in her territory, given the work-at-home directive.

"That is so thoughtful of you," she said, to my surprise.

I had expected some resistance since this arrangement would mean she was to be the actual host.

"I hope you will not leave out our church members from the committee," she added.

"Of course not," I retorted. Another mistake!

The following day, Moks called to say he already had in mind people he trusted would serve well in the committee. I suggested he contacts

them so that we have our first meeting in my house immediately.

Distribute funds

Well, it was until the committee members arrived that I realised my mistake. I should have been exact about the number of people I expected. While I initially had about seven people in mind, here was Moks leading into my house about 25, most of them his buddies!

"More people are on the way," Moks said.

We had to make quick alternative seating arrangements since we had only planned to cater for about 12 people inside the house.

"I hope we won't need a public address system," Mama Hiro whispered to me as a few more people

streamed in. I gave her a don't-be-ridiculous look, to which she responded with a don't-say-I-didn't-tell-you sigh.

The meeting began and I confidently informed the gathering that the World Bank had given Kenya Sh6 billion to fight coronavirus. This money, I affirmed, had already been cascaded to the counties, and was on its way to the wards (I heard a few claps).

"We want the money to find us well prepared," I declared.

"Kuna sitting allowance ya leo?" someone asked loudly.

Before I could say anything, a group of people, led by Mama Hiro's church pastor, walked in. On seeing them, Mama Hiro stood and broke into a chorus.

Soon, our compound was sounding like a crusade venue. Two more choruses later, the pastor led in a prayer. He asked the Almighty for wisdom to enable us spend the billions well.

"May our leaders also remember

to spare something for the church," he intoned.

After the prayer, it was time for introductions. However, I was now a worried man. This was no longer a committee meeting but a gathering. The seating arrangement was not anti-corona. To make it worse, there were no sanitisers at the entry into the compound.

I, however, did not have to worry for long. Someone—and I suspect it was my rival Alfalfa—had already called the area chief and told him I was distributing coronavirus funds in my residence. What cheek!

"So Bw MCA, I am giving you five minutes to disperse," the chief growled at me on phone.

Knowing how ruthless this man could be when the law was on his side, I had no choice but to request the people to leave. Thankfully, they understood and obeyed, but not before someone led them into chants like "Corona *ishindwe!*"

— a.otieno@pu.ac.ke



More than 3.6 billion people globally can't access water

by Bernard Gitau
@PeopleDailyKe

As the country struggles to fight the unprecedented Covid-19 pandemic, over 3.6 billion people live in potentially water scarce areas at least one month per year and cannot wash their hands at home.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Secretary General Qu Dongyu said the crisis might hit 5.7 billion people by 2050 in a message during the World Water Day yesterday.

"This most precious resource is now under increased pressure due to global growth. And climate extremes," he said.

According to FAO, two in five people worldwide do not have a basic hand washing facility with soap and water at home where at least two billion people live in countries experiencing high water stress.

The report also shows one out of four healthcare facilities worldwide lack basic drinking water services.

Water shortage puts the fight against Coronavirus at crossroad in over 188 countries and territories around the world.

In Kenya, seven cases of Covid-19 have been confirmed with the Ministry of Health continue to monitor and test more people.

The National Emergency Response Committee on Covid-19 recommends hand washing with soap as the first line of defense.

This has put most of the Kenyans in informal settlements at greater risk.

According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) report 2019, 19 million Kenyans do not access at least basic drinking water sources and indication that they were using unsafe water for consumption.

John Omondi, a water vendor in Kibra, express concern that hand washing in the slums was a luxury many cannot afford.

He said access to clean water was a mirage and the national and county governments must take drastic action to see all Kenyans get it.

Commuters to brace for fare hikes in new passenger rules

Public transport players term rules counterproductive and costly, call for cost-sharing with commuters

by Alvin Mwangi, Roy Lumbe and James Magayi
@PeopleDailyKe

Most public transport operators have welcomed the directive on carrying fewer passengers in bid to curb the spread of Covid-19 but said they will have to increase fares lest they incur losses.

Speaking to *People Daily* on phone, chairman of Matatu Owners Association (MOA) Simon Kimutai said despite Health CS Mutahi Kagwe ordering PSV operators to carry less passengers in the fight against the coronavirus, he never gave a clear outline.

Kimutai warned that Kenyans should prepare to dig deeper in their pockets if by any chance the directive will be forcefully effected.

"We don't have any other choice but to hike fares. The cost of doing business is certainly getting higher each and every day. I can tell you for a fact that even getting passengers to fill a 14-seater vehicle is becoming difficult. Our daily customers are now working from home," said Kimutai.

Kimutai further said the sector was in talks with several providers to see how they will have to use cashless transactions.

Disinfections

On the issue of sanitising MOA chairman said prices for disinfectants and sanitisers had gone up and not every matatu could afford them.

"This is a national crisis and the government should subsidise the prices of sanitisers so matatu saccos can afford them. Imagine how much of the disinfectant we would require, noting the number of trips made in a single day," he said.

Most operators, which *People Daily* caught up with said their business has been facing challenges as they are unable even to meet their daily targets.

"It has become hard for us to meet our daily targets. We are being forced to add more trips to see if we will meet our targets," David Kamau, a driver working with Eastern By Sacco said. Kagwe on Friday directed that 14-seater matatus should carry only eight passengers while 25-seater should only carry 15 passengers.

Kagwe said the decision was reached to ensure there is personal space between passengers.

However in Nakuru matatu operators were in a rush to implement set regula-



MATATU CRISIS

● Last Friday Health CS Mutahi Kagwe directed that 14-seater matatus should carry only eight passengers while 25-seater should only carry 15 passengers

● Most operators said their business has been facing challenges as they are unable even to meet

A public health official from the Ministry of Health sprays a bus in Nairobi Railways Bus Stop. PD/SAMUEL KARIUKI

tions on social distancing through limiting of passengers.

A spot check by *People Daily* on various bus termini within the county revealed a number of PSVs had already complied with the directive to carry at least 60 percent of passengers as measures to curb the spread of Covid-19.

At 2NK Sacco stages only eight passengers were allowed to board a 14-seater matatu as the management seeks to implement the order of social distancing as directed by the ministry of health.

Travellers were placed into separate seats within a safe distance of at least one metre with strict instructions not to relocate from their positions as one way to ensure the spread of the virus is easily contained.

Social distancing

Joel Muchina, a passenger travelling from Nakuru to Murang'a, welcomed the move of social distancing, saying it will go a long way in complementing the government's efforts seeking to stop further spread of the virus.

Muchina called on other PSVs to comply with the directive, adding that with the usual Kenyan mentality of doing everything the last minute saying people need to be patriotic and responsible citizens.

"Public service vehicles carry millions of Kenyans everyday and this is the crucial sector that needs to be taken seriously to ensure there is no penetration of the virus. It can be catastrophic," said Muchina.

He however, noted that fares had slightly gone up, adding that initially they used to

pay Sh350 to Murang'a but currently they had to travel with Sh500.

"I am not bothered with adding a few shillings to my usual bus fare, the most crucial part is that we follow the government's directive on social distancing to stop further spread and I am happy some matatus have complied," he added.

Government guidelines

At 4NTE stage the situation was the same as no more than eight passengers were allowed to enter one 14-seater matatu as the Sacco moves with speed to implement the set guidelines by the government.

However, this was different among town service operators as 14-seater matatus continued with their normal routine with the directive set to take effect from today.

At 3NS Sacco it was business as usual with routine hygiene exercises of hand washing and disinfecting of vehicles save for the social distancing.

According to the Sacco's supervisor Johanna Gachau, for the directive to work a number of things have to be looked into by the government, adding that at the moment it is a hard task.

He said the directive is inapplicable, adding that passengers will have to bear with increase in fares so as to accommodate the limited number of people in a single vehicle. "At long last we will be left with no other option but to slow down business activities, vehicles will be grounded. If we add even Sh10 at the moment we will get few customers since we depend on them for our daily living it will be chaotic," said Gachau.

KIMUTAI

We don't have any other choice but to hike fares. The cost of doing business is certainly getting higher

Murang'a governor calls on government to bar movement

by Wangari Njuguna
@hillarymageka

Murang'a Governor Mwangi wa Iria has urged the government to implement measures which would minimise movement to various parts of the country.

The governors said in as much as the government is putting efforts to fight the spread of the corona-

virus massive movement of people will always be a challenge. Wa Iria warned that if this is not heeded to, the situation is likely to get out of hand and more people will be infected.

Speaking in Murang'a, he urged the national government, through the Ministries of Transport and Interior Coordination, to come up with measures to enforce this. "Controlling the movement of



people will be a sure way of containing the spread of the deadly

virus because viruses are the major carriers" he said.

He said people need to be sensitised on the seriousness of this situation for them to understand the need to stay indoors as much as possible.

"I think this matter has not sunk into the minds of the people and that's why they are still moving around" he said.

"People should only travel

when their cause is very necessary like going to hospital, but anything else can wait" he added.

He said soon they might be forced to monitor the movement of the people getting in and out of the county.

"We don't mean to curtail the freedom of movement but let people understand it is for their own good," said the governor.

PUBLIC NOTICE
PHYSICAL LAND USE PLANNING ACT
NO 13 OF 2019
CHANGE OF USER

The owner of L.R. No. Thika Municipality/Block 1/226 is proposing change of use of this property from single dwelling to multi-dwelling residential (flats), subject to approval by Kiambu County Government. Individuals, institutions and organizations with objections or comments are requested to forward them in writing within 14 days from date of this notice to:
CECM, Land, Housing and Physical Planning
County Government of Kiambu
P.O. Box 2344
Kiambu

BRIEFLY



Court suspends arrest warrant on Kitui CEC

A court has stopped arrest warrant on Kitui County Health CEC for contempt of court. Justice Byram Ongaya of Nairobi's Employment and Labour Relations Court suspended the execution of the arrest warrant on Richard Mukula Muthoka pending the hearing of application challenging the arrest order. This followed application, under certificate of agency, filed by Muthoka's lawyer.

- Christine Musa



KRA officers lead raid on tax cheats

Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) officers led other members of the multi-agency team in a successful raid on alcoholic drinks and spirits in Bahati, Nakuru. Following a tip-off from members of the public the team intercepted a vehicle offloading suspected counterfeit alcoholic drinks at Phonex Wines and Spirits outlet at Ahero area in Nakuru North sub-county.

- Mutuku Mwangangi



Bungoma couple held over dead child found

Police in Bungoma are holding a couple for questioning after it emerged that the duo allegedly conspired to murder then secretly dumped the body of their four-year-old son at a nearby road. Residents of Misikhu location, Webuye West constituency in Bungoma County were shocked after they encountered the lifeless body of the baby abandoned on a feeder road and traced the late child to the couple.

- KNA



Water scarcity hits populous Kitengela

by Christine Musa
@PeopleDailyKe

In the wake of coronavirus, water scarcity is still a major challenge at the populous Kitengela town.

Despite promises by both the national government and county government of Kajiado, the town taps remain dry with residents relying on scarce water from water vendors and water bowsters from Nairobi.

A 20-litre jerrycan of fresh

water and salty water cost Sh50 and Sh20 respectively.

Residents have now raised alarm that some water suppliers have withdrawn water bowsters due to the Covid-19 scare.

"We depend on buying water everyday. We want to maintain high hygiene levels but it is unfortunate that the supply of water is so limited. You are subjected to buy a limited number of jericans and this will compromise the situation," said Ann Wanjiru, a resident.

Government focus on desert locusts shifts temporarily

Imminent danger of coronavirus pandemic slows down fight on destructive pests

by George Kebaso
@PeopleDailyKe

The government is between a hard place and a rock as efforts to combat the desert red locust slowed down in the past week due to the raging Covid-19.

A scheduled tour of the six counties most affected by the locust invasion this week was called off as much of the government efforts were focused on the fight against further spread of Covid-19.

Agriculture PS, Hamadi Boga admitted, despite ongoing ground spraying of the locusts in the affected areas, mainly in the North Eastern region of Kenya, the efforts he said, have been scaled

down due to the attention on the Covid-19.

Continuing operations

"We are however, continuing with the operations killing the oldest as we wait for the young ones that are not really a bother to us. We count for four weeks for the hatched ones. We are waiting for them in a systematic manner," he told *People Daily* on telephone extending confidence.

But the PS's confidence faded quickly recollecting the new locusts will pose a headache since they have multiplied in many areas and seem to have adapted to the climatic conditions in Kenya as opposed to the Sahel weather that is ever dry.

"The increasing numbers of new ones are really overstretching us but we are doing our best," he said.

The counties where ground spraying continues include; Isiolo, Tharaka Nithi, Garissa, Samburu,

Marsabit and Turkana. These are counties with Arid and Semi Arid Land (ASAL) like conditions.

The UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) is taking a technical lead role in the ongoing exercise, and has hired three consultants who are doing livelihood assessments in the affected counties, to inform on compensation.

Looming attack

An insect expert, Christian Pantenius, who worked with the FAO for years, last appealed to governments in the region to accelerate efforts in containing a looming locust attack saying it will be more furious than the current one.

He said if the winds blowing Northwards from the Indian Ocean, where cyclones are influencing rainfall in the Sahel, start blowing southwards through Ethiopia, Somalia to Kenya, the swarm of locusts flying to East Africa will increase.

Mandera County employee's cash frozen by court

The High Court has frozen two accounts holding over Sh62 million belonging to an employee of Mandera County government suspected to be proceeds of graft. Justice Jessie Lesiit allowed the application by Assets Recovery Agency (ARA) freezing the accounts for 60 days. This is to enable the agency to complete investigations over alleged theft at the county. According to ARA, one of the accounts has Sh40.8 million belonging to Abdi Mohamed Ali and another jointly held with his wife, Saadia Sheikh Osman, contains Sh21.4 million. ARA believe they are proceeds of crime and may have been siphoned from the county where Ali works as director. "That an analysis of statements of accounts established that the accounts received suspicious huge cash deposits that indicate activities of money laundering," the ARA investigators told the High Court. According to the agency, investigations established that there were suspicious cash deposits made from different locations, including Garissa, Mandera and Moyale, Eastleigh and Westlands in Nairobi.

- Alphonse Mung'ahu

Vihiga MCAs appeal to party over positions

Vihiga Members County Assembly (MCAs) ousted from the house leadership positions have asked their party leader of Amani National Congress (ANC) Musalia Mudavadi to intervene and have them reinstated. They accused their fellow MCAs of ousting them from their house leadership without consulting their party leadership. Nixon Butiya of Shiru Ward who was ousted deputy speaker, Victor Ijaika of Lugaga Wamuluma ward who was removed as assembly chief whip and Moses Opole who was removed as leadership of majority said they were removed from their leadership for pushing the impeachment of governor Wilber Otichilo. They said their ouster would destabilise the support of ANC in their area of representation.

- Enock Amukhale



A farmer attempts to scare away desert locusts from his farm in Nyandarua county last month. PD/DAVID MACHARIA



Garbage mount

A heap of garbage at Gikomba market on Saturday. Traders at the market complain the mess poses a health hazard and urged the county government to clear it. PD/JOHN OCHIENG

It has become necessary to restructure the company with some roles becoming unnecessary.

Debt, Corona dims Kenya commercial oil prospects

Covid-19 continues to take toll on global oil prices even as investors hoard cash, to monitor how pandemic unfolds

by Seth Onyango
@PeopleDailyKe

Tullow Oil's crippling Sh300 billion net debt and the plunging global oil prices on the back of the novel coronavirus pandemic are set to dim Kenya's prospects for commercial output in 2023.

Tullow's bonds due to mature in 2025 fell to 55 cents on the dollar and its shares have slumped to 27-year low as investors fretted about the exploration group's mega debt. Now, the firm is seeking to shave Sh2 billion off its annual costs that include cutting a third of its global workforce and closing its office in Dublin.

In Kenya, the firm announced plans to shed multiple employees in its unit as it fights for survival.

"Due to this review, it has become necessary to restructure the company with some roles becoming unnecessary," Tullow Oil Kenya managing director Martin Mbogo said in a memo.

But the move is unlikely to help the firm stay afloat as the novel coronavirus continues to take toll on global oil prices even as investors hoard cash, to monitor how pandemic unfolds.

Knocked down

Already, the Covid-19 fallout has knocked down oil prices to a staggering 24 per cent to \$20.37 a barrel in the United States as the commodity drops below \$30 globally. The International Energy Agency also warned that global oil demand will fall this year for the first time since 2009, serving to compound the woes of heavily-indebted oil companies.

"People will have to take a view of how sustainable these oil prices are. If oil prices stay in the \$30s, a lot of companies will struggle," David Round, an analyst with BMO Capital Markets in London said.

ACTIVITY

● **Shares plunged:** Tullow Oil's bonds due to mature in 2025 fell to 55 cents on the dollar and its shares plunged to levels not seen since 1993

● **Annual costs:** The firm is seeking to shave Sh2 billion off its annual costs that include cutting a third of its global workforce and closing its office in Dublin.

For Tullow, Kenya's oil dream company, the future looks bleak and so does the nation's hope to become a commercial oil producer.

Last month, Kenya failed to flag off the second shipment of early oil exports as the government hoped to test the market for its Turkana crude oil reserves.

A past Reuters report showed that Tullow is eyeing to sell its entire 50 stake in the oil blocks.

The firm, together with its other partner in the project, Total Oil, have contracted French bank Natixis to run the joint sale process for Blocks 10 BA, 10 BB and 13T in the South Lokichar Basin.

Urgent funds

Tullow's saving grace would be to mobilise urgent funds from optimistic investors, who are hard to find in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

In January, it said that it had hedged the

equivalent of 45,000 barrels per day (bpd) at a minimum \$57.28 per barrel at the end of last year, which will underpin its cash flow forecasts.

The company expects to produce an average of 70,000 to 80,000 bpd in 2020, down as much as 19 per cent from last year's level.

According to UK-based analytic site, Motely Fool, a bounce in the oil price – which could happen given instability on the Middle East – would also be a welcome boost for the group.

"A takeover may well be the best hope for current shareholders and there have been rumours that much larger French company, Total, is interested. Although even if a takeover did happen it's far from clear that a premium would be paid for Tullow's shares give the challenges it faces," read analysis in part.

For now, Kenya will need to bank on Total if it is to revive its hope of becoming commercial oil exporter.

BRIEFLY

EABL increases Serengeti shares

East African Breweries Board (EABL) has advised members of the public to exercise caution while dealing in firm's shares after signalling tapping an additional 30 per cent shareholding in Serengeti Breweries Ltd. The warning is done in accordance with the Capital Markets Authority (Securities) Regulations of 2002 for the deal sealed in July last year following Tanzania's Fair Competition Commission approval. Serengeti Breweries Ltd (SBL) is the second-largest beer company in Tanzania, with its brands accounting for 15 per cent of the market by volume and when combined with EABL's portfolio, accounts for approximately 28 per cent of the Tanzanian branded beer sector.

– Zachary Ochuodho.



Savannah Cement fires 22 employees

Savannah Cement has laid off 22 employees in a restructuring bid at the troubled cement manufacturer. The move which comes a few weeks after completion of a new Sh5 billion capacity grinding plant launched a month ago has declared them employees redundant and their employment terminated. This will affect four senior managers in production and 18 other employees in different departments. In a letter seen by *People Daily*, managing director Ronald Ndegwa said they will get benefits. "The grinding plant is at final stages undergoing commissioning. We are compelled to lay off some employees and engage technology. The restricting is geared towards increasing cement production and minimising cost," Ndegwa said.

– Christine Musa



Business as usual

For traders and shoppers at Gikomba market in Nairobi it was business as usual yesterday despite coronavirus fears and calls by the government on Kenyans to avoid crowded places and congregating in social events or religious places of worship. PD/JOHN OCHIENG

CBK policy body meets on back of pandemic to give guidance on economy



by Zachary Ochuodho
@zachuodho

Central Bank Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meets today to decide whether to review its base lending rate, also known as Central Bank Rate (CBR) from the current 8.25 per cent.

The MPC meets at least once every two months and reviews data and analysis from various sources

including the Central Bank departments enabling it to decide on any action to maintain or vary its stance.

Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) lowered the benchmark lending rate from 8.5 per cent in January in a move it says is aimed at supporting economic activity.

The meeting comes amid mixed speculations from analysts that the base lending rate could either be further cut down, stayed or raised. The

speculations are not without any basis. The team meets at a time when several fundamental issues affecting the economy call for attention from CBK.

"The issues include economic growth, foreign exchange, stability of the Kenya shilling and inflation – all which CBK team is supposed to deal with," Renaldo D'Souza, Sterling Capital says in their brief statement.

According to D'Souza, Kenya's

economy has not been cushioned from the impact of what is becoming a global financial crisis with economic activity especially export trade affected as is the case with movement into and out of the country.

"Inflows of capital through remittances, foreign direct investment, capital markets, particularly the equities market and tourism earnings are likely to be negatively affected," D'Souza said.



COUNTRYWIDE EXPANSION: Usha Nagpal (left) General Sales manager Volkswagen at DT Dobie hands over keys for two Volkswagen Caddy Kombi vans to George Obel (right), the National Operations manager for G4S Secure Solutions. The fleet investment is part of G4S worldwide expansion of its technical support services.



WAITING FOR CUSTOMERS: Traders wait for customers to buy omena at the Gikomba market, Nairobi, yesterday. Small traders say business has gone down as coronavirus pandemic takes its toll on markets, businesses and everyday lives worldwide. PD/JOHN OCHIENG



CORONAVIRUS FIGHT: President Uhuru Kenyatta with Central Bank of Kenya Governor Patrick Njoroge and CBK board Chairman Mohammed Nyaoga at State House, Nairobi during the transfer by CBK of Sh7.4 billion to the Government Consolidated Fund, in support of the fight against coronavirus.



INCREASED PRODUCTION: Ayub Okoko a quality assurance manager at Nia Cosmetics (right) at one of the company's sales outlets. The company has doubled up production of hand sanitisers and antibacterial soap following market demand driven by coronavirus pandemic. PD JIMMY GITAKA



FEW HIDDEN WINNERS: Traders along Kimathi Street, Nairobi, wait for passers-by to buy hand sanitisers and face masks. Sales of hand sanitisers have drastically increased amid the coronavirus pandemic. PD JOHN OCHIENG



A PREMIUM NEW PACK: Benjamin Kyalo (right) and David Masinde celebrate after a successful production of WhiteCap Lager Beer, in a new redesigned bottle. The new bottle includes a redesigned logo adapted from its original, historic form PD/ ALICE MBURU

Keroche tax tussle through brewer's eye

By Tabitha Karanja

Keroche and Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) tax dispute has become almost toxic and a subject that has severely divided public opinion in Kenya.

Two critical offices approve introduction of new products into the market. First, Kenya Bureau of Standards (Kebs) approves the quality and determine product category, then KRA determines the tax rate in what is supposed to be a simple predictable process.

In March 1997, Kebs approved Vienna Fortified Wine. On June 4, 1997, KRA gave it a classification—Tariff HS Code 22.04 or 45 per cent of ex-factory value as the excise duty. This was reconfirmed on April 27, 1998.

Vienna Fortified Wine was well received in the market bringing more Kenyans to the drinking tax bracket and KRA tax collections surged. Everyone was happy. In fact, by June 2006, Keroche was due for a tax refund of Sh84 million.

Aiding competitors

However, in November 2006, KRA disrupted this arrangement. They wrote to Keroche stating that classifying Vienna Fortified Wine under Tariff HS Code 22.04 was a mistake, and, a decision had been made to reclassify the product to a higher Tariff HS Code 22.06 or 60 per cent of ex-factory value as the excise duty.

KRA backdated the new 22.06 Tariff for five years to recover their "error" amounting to Sh1.2 billion with full knowledge Keroche had never collected the money from the public.

The matter went to court. In a ruling delivered in Nairobi on July 6, 2007, the High Court quashed KRA's notice.

It ruled that the classification of the products had a direct bearing on the price Keroche was selling its products and applying a different classification years later was unfair, oppressive, irrational unreasonable and constituted abuse of power and authority aimed at aiding Keroche's competitors.

This was shortlived as the 2007/2008 Finance Bill forced the change of Vienna Fortified Wine classification to a higher Tariff HS Code 22.06 or 60 per cent of ex-factory value. This finished the product.

KRA appealed the ruling. The court ruled that an appeal could be heard if and when the revenue authority produced new supporting documents with reasonable notices.

KRA sent the same 2006 assessment - that had been quashed by the High Court - on May 10, 2017, and demanded that Keroche pays the Sh1.2 billion within 14 days.

Keroche objected and the matter was sent to the Tax Tribunal where it remained pending till 2019 when the Tax Appeals Tribunal (TAT) was constituted. The TAT recently ruled in favour of KRA in the much publicised Sh9.1 billion decision. Keroche stands with the 2006 decision that termed KRA's change of tariff and backdating as "abuse of authority".

The year 2006 marked the beginning of the false narrative that "Keroche owes billions to KRA" and "Keroche does not pay Tax"

Keroche Breweries in 2007 presented a new alternative for moderate drinking, a ready-to-drink vodka derived from our existing Crescent Vodka.

This is similar to what a consumer would do - walk into a bar, buy some tots of Crescent Vodka and mix with water or soda. Little did we know that seven years later (May 2014), the same 2006 scheme would be replayed. Keroche received communication from KRA saying there was "confusion" of the applicable rate of the Vienna Ice ready-to-drink Vodka.

The new demand directed that water added to vodka to make Vienna Ice ready-to-drink Vodka and consumed between 2007 to 2014 would now attract Sh119.90 per litre. The assessment was backdated for three years and new demands amounting to Sh6.113 billion issued.

Punitive rate

This is the genesis of the highly publicised new Sh9.1 billion demand, billions that do not exist in reality but on paper. KRA on July 22, 2015 acknowledged that Vienna Ice ready-to-drink Vodka met the standards of an innovation. However, in June 2019, KRA withdrew their support for this arrangement with a new letter demanding Keroche either pays for the added water at the punitive new rate (now at Sh210/litre) or create a product below 10 per cent. This left the product on its death bed.

These disruptive reclassifications explain the Sh14.4 billion case and sheds light on how torturous our 22-year-old journey has been.

It is time to ask how does a local enterprise survive in such a hostile environment?

— The writer is the CEO, Keroche Breweries.

World News

DONALD TRUMP



This is a time of shared sacrifice, but also a time to treasure our loved ones

States roll out more measures as corona deaths pass 14,000

Covid-19 global infections top 300,000, with a billion people confined to their homes to tame spread

Rome, Sunday

Nearly a billion people around the world were confined to their homes on Sunday, as the coronavirus death toll crossed 13,000 and factories were shut in worst-hit Italy after another single-day fatalities record.

The raging pandemic has forced lockdowns in 35 countries, disrupting lives, travel and businesses as governments scramble to shut borders and unleash hundreds of billions in emergency measures to avoid a widespread virus-fueled economic meltdown.

More than 300,000 infections have been confirmed worldwide, with the situation increasingly grim in Italy where the death toll spiked to more than 4,800—over a third of the global total. Italy Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte announced a closure of all non-essential factories in a late-night TV address Saturday.

Italy, with a population of 60 million, is now the epicentre of the disease, which first emerged in central China late last year before marching out to the rest of the world.

Italy has now reported more deaths than mainland China and third-placed Iran combined, and it has a death rate of 8.6 per cent among confirmed COVID-19 infections—significantly higher than in most other countries.

Across the Atlantic, more than a third of Americans were adjusting to life in various phases of lockdown, including in New York, Chicago and Los Angeles. Other parts of the United States are expected to ramp up restrictions as well.

"This is a time of shared national sacrifice, but also a time to treasure our loved ones," US President Donald Trump said.

As world leaders have vowed to fight the pandemic, the number of deaths and infections has continued to rise, especially in Europe—now the coronavirus hotspot. Spain on Sunday announced 394 new



IRAN DECLINES AMERICA'S AID

● Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei rejected America's offer of aid to help the country battle coronavirus.

● In a televised speech, he said the US was Iran's "most evil enemy" and hinted at a conspiracy theory, also voiced by some Chinese officials, that the US was responsible for the pandemic.

● "Possibly your medicine is a way to spread the virus more."

The pandemic has bludgeoned global stock markets, and the United States is preparing a huge emergency stimulus package that could top \$1 trillion.

Millions have been ordered to stay home in the United States. New Jersey on Saturday followed several states in telling residents to stay indoors. And in neighbouring New York, Governor Andrew Cuomo warned that the disruption is likely to last for months, not weeks.

"I don't think it's possible in a city of this size for people to maintain it for much longer than three weeks before they start losing it," Yona Corn, a 35-year-old singer, said. "I think there's going to be a big mental health crisis."

US Vice President Mike Pence and his wife tested negative for the coronavirus. The couple had taken the test after one of Pence's staffers contracted the illness.

Britain has told pubs, restaurants and theatres to close and warned citizens to stop panic-buying. While the elderly and those with pre-existing medical conditions are the hardest hit by the virus, the WHO has warned that young people are also vulnerable.

A nurse wearing protective gear comforts a colleague as they change shifts on March 13 at a hospital in Lombardy, Italy. The Italian healthcare workers are exhausted as the country bears the brunt of the coronavirus pandemic. AFP

BRIEFLY

China begins clinical trial for virus vaccine

China has started the first phase of a clinical trial for a novel coronavirus vaccine, records show, as the world's scientists race to find a way to combat the deadly pathogen. It comes after US health officials said last week they had started a trial to evaluate a possible vaccine in Seattle. The Chinese effort began on March 16—the same day as the US announcement—and is expected to continue until the end of the year. "Volunteers of the Covid-19 phase one trial have already started receiving the vaccine," a staff member involved in the government-funded project said Sunday. The 108 participants, aged between 18 and 60, will be tested in three groups and given different dosages. They are all residents of Wuhan—where the virus first emerged.

-AFP



Earthquake rocks Croatia's capital

An earthquake on Sunday rocked Croatia's capital Zagreb, damaging buildings and leaving cars crushed by falling chunks of masonry. A teenager is in a critical condition after a roof collapsed, local media say. The spire of the city's cathedral also snapped off. After the tremor, Zagreb's mayor urged people to return to their homes given fears about the coronavirus. The 5.3-magnitude quake is the largest to affect the city in 140 years. Panicked residents ran out into the streets when it struck around 6am local time and were initially told to stay out by authorities. "Keep your distance. Don't gather together. We are facing two serious crises, the earthquake and the epidemic," Interior Minister Davor Bozinovic said.

-BBC

deaths, a 30 percent increase over the previous day, raising to 1,720 the official death toll in Europe's worst-hit country after Italy.

Spain PM Pedro Sanchez warned that the nation needs to prepare for "very hard days ahead".

Unprecedented measures

Fatalities in France jumped to 562 as police officials said helicopters and drones were being deployed to boost the government's attempts to keep people at home.

The unprecedented measures to counter the spread of COVID-19 have shredded the international sports calendar, and pressure is mounting on Olympic organisers to postpone the 2020 Tokyo Games.

-AFP

Rwanda imposes shutdown as Covid-19 infections jump in Africa



Masked South African officers patrol Diepsloot township in Johannesburg. AFP

Kigali, Sunday

Rwanda imposed a nationwide shutdown and border controls to combat the coronavirus at the weekend in some of the strictest measures taken in Africa, as infections spread across the continent and authorities warn healthcare systems are ill-equipped to cope.

Uganda reported its first case Saturday evening after testing a

passenger who had returned home from Dubai. The confirmation came hours after President Yoweri Museveni announced several crowd control measures.

From Mauritius to Burkina Faso, governments have banned public gatherings, shuttered schools, churches, mosques and bars and closed their airports.

Africa has lagged behind the global curve for coronavirus infections and

deaths, but in the past few days has seen a significant rise in cases.

The continent has now reported more than 1,100 infections—more than 1,000 of them in sub-Saharan Africa. The DR Congo reported its first death on Saturday, taking the sub-Saharan African toll to six after Burkina Faso, Gabon and Mauritius previously reported fatalities.

But World Health Organization chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

warned that official figures being given likely did not reflect the full picture. The figures for Africa are just a fraction of the more than 300,000 confirmed infections worldwide and the more than 13,000 dead.

Despite fears over the virus, Guineans were set to go to the polls Sunday to vote in a divisive referendum on whether to adopt a new constitution that has sparked protests.

-AFP and BBC

Spice

Flavour your day

@ElijahGitau



CAMPORAGE

@michael_muraya

Kenny Rogers



Hailed as one of the greatest musicians in history, Kenny Rogers stood as a country music idol

by Elly Gitau and Agencies

Country music lovers continue to mourn the death of one of the genre's biggest acts in Kenny Rogers. The music icon—who dominated the pop and country charts in the 1970s and 1980s with a string of sleekly tailored hits and won three Grammys—passed away aged 81 on Friday under hospice care at his home in Sandy Springs, Georgia, in the US, a representative for the singer said in a statement.

Speaking to *Spice* on phone, Kenyan musician Suzanna Owiyo said that it was artists such as Rogers and other Country musicians that helped her hone her imperious skills on the guitar.

"On Friday, I woke up to the sad news of Kenny Rogers passing on. The world and music industry at large has lost a legend. My dad was a great fan of his music. I remember listening to Country music courtesy of my dad when I was growing up. To some extent I got glued to this genre because it helped shape my guitar picking. I celebrate him. His legacy lives on," said Suzanna.

Rogers had announced a farewell tour in 2015 and was able to keep it going through December 2017. In April 2018, shortly before he was to spend a few months finishing out the tour after a break, he announced that he was having to call off the remaining dates due to unspecified "health challenges."

"I didn't want to take forever to retire. I've thoroughly enjoyed this opportunity to say farewell to the fans over the course of the past two years on 'The Gambler's Last Deal' tour. I could never properly thank them for the encouragement and

support they've given me throughout my career and the happiness I've experienced as a result of that," the *Gambler* hitmaker said in a statement in April 2018.

Among the world's greatest

Known with hits such as *Coward of the County*, *Lucille*, *Write Your Name*, *Evening Star* and *Daytime Friends*, Rogers is revered as one of the world's greatest musicians of all time. His appealing, sometimes gritty voice propelled 20 solo 45s to No. 1 on the country charts from 1977-87.

Two of them (his 1980 cover of Lionel Richie's *Lady* and the 1983 collaboration with Dolly Parton *Islands in the Stream*) also topped the pop lists. He worked profitably with a number of other female vocalists, including Dottie West, Sheena Easton, Kim Carnes and Anne Murray.

The *Gambler* was added to the Library of Congress' National Recording Registry in 2018, making it one of the most recent of a lifetime of honours bestowed on the singer. Others included the induction into the Country Music Hall of Fame (2013), three Grammy Awards (1977, 1979, 1988) and six Country Music Association Awards (1979).

"I hope my fans understand that I'm a father first and a singer second," he said about his planned retirement from touring in a 2016 inter-



Best of darlings: Kenny Rogers and Dolly Parton.



Aurlus Mabele

view with CMT.com, mentioning at that time that he had 11-year-old twin boys with his wife Wanda Miller. Married five times, Rogers is survived by his last wife Wanda and five children.

Another icon bows down

Meanwhile, on Thursday, the music world was thrown into mourning following the demise of Soukous legend Aurlus Mabele. The Congolese musician died in hospital in Paris, aged 67. Unconfirmed reports said he had died of the coronavirus disease. His daughter, singer Liza Monet, tweeted saying her father had died of Covid-19.

"I am inconsolable," she wrote. Mabele's hits include *Embargo*, *Evelyne* and *Rosine*.

Where art thou the 'comrades power'?

Dear comrades, aren't you the souls that went around singing that Comrades' power is the most superior thing after God's power? Aren't you the intelligent children of Israel who claim to be feared by Satan and adored by John the Baptist? Aren't you the chosen intellectuals who claim comrades are the fourth arm of the government? Now that we have a world in crisis and a nation at the brink of peril, where is that everlasting comrade's power energy?

Previously comrades' power has proven to be very efficient whenever deployed. We have, in the recent past, witnessed comrades fiercely engaging anti-riot policemen in regular "friendly matches" in the streets. In other days, we have seen comrades guided by the spirit of comrade's power, throwing stones viciously to calm down rioting policemen.

Thanks to Comrades power, the Higher Education Loans Board (Helb) money has always been appearing out of nowhere like the proverbial manna from heaven. The tale always starts with the chiefs at Anniversary Towers claiming that there is no Helb money. Comrades quickly mobilise and march to Anniversary Towers with bricks and stones, where they chant the words, "I look up the Anniversary Towers, Where does my Helb come from?" And in just a few days, the state deposits money in their accounts, Comrades power at work!

But now that coronavirus is here, where is the Comrades' power? Comrades are so quiet you'd think education here ends at High School. Seemingly, the power is only powerful where violence is required. It comes in handy in the streets, against the 'oppressors'. In a time when other comrades around the world are assisting their governments to find the vaccine for coronavirus, our comrades are at home tweeting and wondering when next they'll picket and show their VC the power of Comrade's power.

When other comrades are spending nights in discussions and research, our comrades are busy waiting for 8pm twitter follow trains. When other comrades are volunteering and walking at the face of the fire to save their nations, our comrades are taking selfies in gas masks feeling like stars straight out of a contagion movie. When other comrades are harnessing the power of their brains to save the world from the pandemic, our comrades are at home making coronavirus memes and tik-tok videos!

Clique & Clicks ▶ Get Spotted

ELEGANT FUSION

by John Ochieng

Fashion lovers were recently treated to a one-of-a-kind experience as this year's edition of the Wine, Music, Fashion and Art Affair went down at the Michael Joseph Centre in Nairobi. The event, organised by Farishta Fashion and Events, brought together different designers who exhibited their diverse creations. As the guests in attendance sipped on some wine, models showcased various outfits from the varied designers. PD/ JOHN OCHIENG



Exclusive Apparel's Aziz Abdallah.



Musician Judy Wangechi serenades the guests.



Musician Cara Feral and Jill Tafyana.



Guests Barrack Teg and Roza Arega.



Farishta Fashion MD Tatiana Whitup with Allan Sigei.



A model struts the runway.



Fashion of our times: A model showcases a novel creation.



Fashion lovers Emma Ochieng and Chemitei Janet.

Ten... Star athletes who have fallen foul of the law

Brazilian football legend Ronaldinho faces six months behind bars after his hopes of release from a fake passport rap were dashed last week. PD takes a look at some big names in the sports world who rubbed the law in the wrong way and ended behind bars.



1. Ronaldinho

The party-loving former Barcelona and AC Milan superstar, famed for his lavish birthday bashes, left a court hearing in handcuffs last week. Ronaldinho, a star of Brazil's 2002 World Cup winning side and one of the greatest ever footballers, is being held in a jail in the

outskirts of Paraguayan capital Asuncion. His birthday will be a far cry from others including his 26th when he partied until 6am at a Barcelona nightclub as he is expected to celebrate his 40th birthday behind the bars. His 32nd, which lasted five days and cost tens of thousands of pounds, took place at a luxury hotel in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.



2. Oscar Pistorius

Oscar Leonard Carl Pistorius is a 33 year old South African former professional sprinter and convicted murderer. In 2013 he was found guilty for the 2013 murder of his girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp. Both of Pistorius' feet had been amputated when he was 11 months old due to a congenital defect. He is currently serving a 15 year prison sentence.

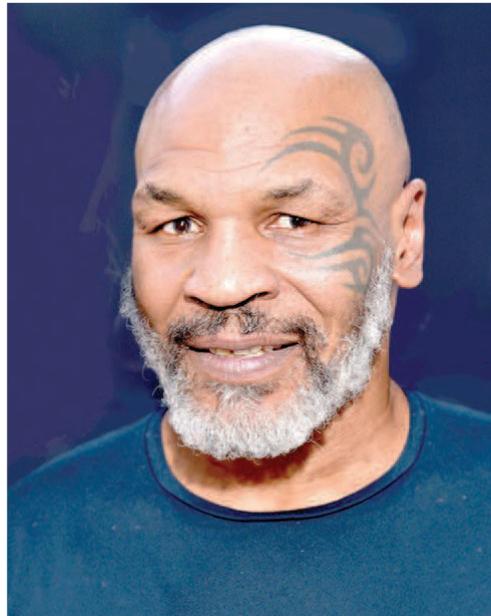
3. Tedium Rodgers

Tedium Rodgers, who joined I joined Mathare Youth Sports Association (MYSA) in 1987 starting off in the under-12 team, was arrested on July 4, 2000 and was convicted on robbery with violence. Court records indicate that at Kiambu township, while armed with crude weapons - knives and machetes - Teddy and his co-accused jointly robbed their accuser of his Panasonic TV valued at Sh27,000 and one blanket valued at Sh500; and that they threatened to use actual violence on the complainant. He spent 19 years in jail and was freed on August 19, 2019 on grounds of being a first offender.



4. Marion Jones

Marion Lois Jones, also known as Marion Jones-Thompson, is an American former world champion track and field athlete and a former professional basketball player for Tulsa Shock in the WNBA. She was sent to prison for six months on charges of using an illegal substance while in competition. She is one of the few athletes in this country who were charge and some thought unfairly since this was her first offense.



5. Mike Tyson

Tyson is an American former professional boxer who competed from 1985 to 2005. He reigned as the undisputed world heavyweight champion and holds the record as the youngest boxer to win a heavyweight title, at 20 years, four months, and 22 days old. He stayed in trouble back in the 1990's. He was sent to prison on rape charges which some feel to this day were trumped up charges.

7. OJ Simpson

OJ Simpson a former American Football star was acquitted of a double homicide in one of the most high-profile criminal cases in recent history. Many in the nation were shocked that the superstar football player-turned actor and TV pitchman was accused of murder. Simpson had been out of the spotlight after the trial, but he was arrested for armed robbery, kidnapping, and assault charges in 2007. Convicted in 2008, Simpson was paroled in 2017 after serving the minimum of his nine-to-33 years sentence.

8. Joey Barton

Barton a professional English footballer who even played for Man City, has been sentenced to a total of 10 months in prison during his career, serving 77 days. While at Newcastle, he was sentenced to six months in jail in May 2008 after being found guilty of common assault and affray during an incident in Liverpool City Centre. In July 2008 he was also given a four-month suspended sentence after admitting assault occasioning actual bodily harm on former team-mate Ousmane Dabo.

9. Marlon King

The former Watford, Wigan and Sheffield United striker is currently serving 18 months in jail following a conviction for dangerous driving in May 2014. King has served three jail sentences in his lifetime as well as having a number of other criminal convictions. In 2009, whilst at Wigan, he was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment for sexual assault charges.

10. Jermaine Pennant

Another player forced to wear an electronic tag while playing, Pennant was given a three-month prison sentence for driving offences. At the time the player was on loan at Birmingham City. When he returned from his time in jail after 30 days the Blues signed the winger on a permanent deal. He remained with the side for a year before signing for Liverpool on a four-year deal. He has since played for Real Zaragoza and Stoke City.

6. Allen Iverson

Back in Virginia, where former NBA star Allen Iverson played football and basketball, he was accused along with several others of starting a race fight in a local bowling ally which divided his hometown along racial lines because it was debated whether or not Iverson deserve to spend time in jail for the incident.



TWOINONE

Life lessons from the coronavirus pandemic

When the coronavirus pandemic first hit Wuhan in China, little did we know we would soon be battling it in Kenya.

Then the first case was announced and the President announced a raft of measures the Government was taking, including shutting down schools to slow its spread.

The pandemic has caused a lot of panic, not just in Kenya, but all over the world. Our lives have come to a standstill and suddenly we are conscious about our hygiene. It has reminded us how fragile and fickle life is and how things can change in a moment. I know many of you had various plans for the coming days, but they have since been suspended. We don't know what lies ahead of us and are living one day at a time hoping for the best. This should be a reminder that we are mortal beings and our lives are not in our control. At such times, we also realise how health is more important than wealth. There are things in life that money cannot buy or prevent. Imagine one of the most prosperous continents, Europe has now become the epi-centre of this pandemic.

Opportune time

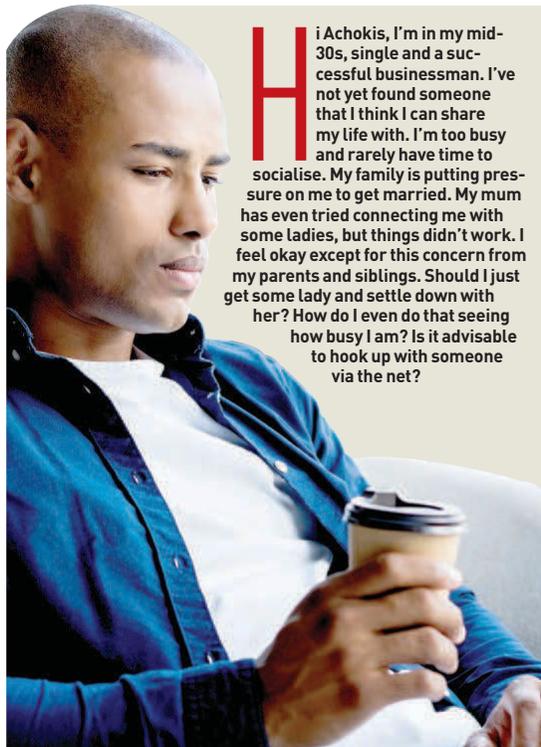
Because of this panic, a once hitherto, not popular product has suddenly become popular and the demand for it has caused its price to shoot up, the hand sanitisers. Kenyans being Kenyans, there are those that have suddenly seen a business opportunity here and will be making hay while the pandemic persists. Others are selling fake drugs pretending to be vaccines against the virus. Whereas I don't approve of this, these guys have learned that times of disruption, panic, and crisis are actually moments of opportunity. After all, doesn't the Chinese word for danger depict these two things, crisis (panic) and opportunity?

And so during this time of crisis, let us take the opportunity to reflect on what is really important in life. Let spouses take advantage of this "working from home" and "no social gatherings" season to catch up and reconnect with each other. Who knows the one good thing that can come from this is a happier and stronger marriage and that way the two can remain one.



You ▶ It's all about Life & Style

Too busy to date, yet relative's pressure to marry is too much



Hi Achokis, I'm in my mid-30s, single and a successful businessman. I've not yet found someone that I think I can share my life with. I'm too busy and rarely have time to socialise. My family is putting pressure on me to get married. My mum has even tried connecting me with some ladies, but things didn't work. I feel okay except for this concern from my parents and siblings. Should I just get some lady and settle down with her? How do I even do that seeing how busy I am? Is it advisable to hook up with someone via the net?



ACHOKIS

OUR TAKE...

Thanks for your question. You begin by saying that you are yet to find someone that you think you can share your life with. Is this because you are too busy as you have alluded to or you haven't found your type, or you just aren't ready for marriage? It is important to distinguish between these three.

First if it is a matter of being too busy then you might as well consider other avenues that can allow you to hook up with someone such as dating sites. This increases your reach, gives you a wide variety of people to choose from while at the same time is convenient for a busy guy like you. The only thing is that even if you get to connect with the other person via the Internet, please make sure that you actually get to meet with them

in person and have several face-to-face interactions before settling on them.

Nothing can replace a face-to-face interaction, especially when considering a long-term relationship. There are certain things that you can only get to find out over time through interpersonal interactions. So, you cannot avoid spending time with them, which means taking time off your busy schedule.

Too choosy?

Secondly, it could just be that you haven't found someone you like, whom you click with, not because of time, but maybe because you are a little bit too choosy. People like you, perfectionists, have a really hard time finding the perfect match. So, it may mean looking inward and accepting that there's no such person on earth. You too are not perfect. Marriage is about compromise, adjusting, accepting and adapting to each other. No matter who you meet, there will always be one or two things that you don't just like about them. The sooner you accept that, the easier it may be for you to find someone.

Finally, it could also be possible that you are not really ready for marriage and that is okay. You should be okay with that fact. If that's how you feel then you don't need to be under any pressure to marry. You don't marry for your family you marry for you. Sometimes our family or friends' concerns for us are legit, while other times it's due to their own beliefs, social norms or even fear of their reputation. It is about them and not you. It is, therefore, important for you to ask yourself what you really want? Is this the time to marry? If yes, why do you want to marry and what kind of person; character and other qualities, not just physical beauty?

*The writers are marriage and relationship coaches
barnieachoki@gmail.com*

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Confide not in the firmness of your principles, or the steadfastness of your integrity. Be always vigilant and fearful. Never think you have enough of knowledge, and let not your caution slumber for a moment, for you know not when danger is near.

-Charles Brockden Brown



CITYMAMACITA WITH CATHERINE NJIRU

Oh its an allergy you say? But please cough with decorum

Wee si corona has stopped reggae, literally-reggae nights remain cancelled. Metaphorically, the BBI talk and rallies, vacays, schools, church, weddings, court sessions have all stopped. It's dry season, so dust is unavoidable. But war unto you if you're allergic to dust or pollen. You sneeze like this and wollah, people scatter. You cough, and people want you to explain your cough or sneeze. But they have an answer already. It can't be allergy. No one sprayed chilli around. So bang, 'rona'. There's an explanation: If it sneezes like a rat, breaths like a bigger rat and coughs like rat *baba lao*, it's definitely it. It's important to note that in all this, no one's talking it's the stares talking. If you want to get the most coveted seat in a matatu, just cough and back it up with a sneeze and if you survive the stares, sit next to the seat

you're eyeing and your neighbour will automatically move, you'll be on self-quarantine, the whole trip. But then again who would blame anyone given the new infections reported almost on a daily basis. So, we understand, when you want to cough and sneeze in peace, without causing any alarm. But we need you to sneeze and cough decently. How do we not panic when we don't know if you're exposed to risk or not?

When we don't know if you have no relative or friends overseas and the farthest you've travelled was KICC, and most of all only see 'Kenyans abroad' on Chamwada's *Daring Abroad* (is he still daring abroad or on *Viusasa?* Hmm *haidhuru*). Either way, this is your time to shine. See the way people feel FOMO (Fear Of Missing Out) because well, they don't have relatives or friends abroad

neither have they dared abroad themselves, well... it's your time to *jivunia kuwa Mkenya*. You can stand tall and say, yes I've never travelled outside the country, neither do I have friends or relatives out there and you'll be the new influencer, believe me. But only now, when business is unusual.

But I digress. Maybe that cough or sneeze is allergy related or just common cold, we understand. But please cough with decorum. Don't go coughing and sneezing on people's faces and not expect the 'corona look.' Flu, allergy, dust, dry air whatever it might be please suffer in peace, in these Corona times you don't have to rub it on our 'healthy' faces. When time comes and we need to cough, we will mind our neighbours and cough on our elbows or handkerchiefs.



NUTRITION WITH CHRISTINE NDERITU

Dietary tips for social distancing period

The last week has had so much buzz, and rightfully so, as the government and public health experts have taken measures to educate and protect the public from COVID-19 virus.

While watching a briefing in one local channel, a viewer called in and asked what dietary practices people need to observe to protect themselves. One doctor answered "the normal healthy diet - a balanced diet".

There is no 'new' dietary guideline for COVID-19. As the doctor answered, we need to observe a healthy, nutritious and balanced diet, where we limit or avoid deep fried and junk food, highly processed foods, sugar sweetened beverages and snacks, and consume more plant based proteins, fruits and vegetables.

During this time when we are spending a lot of time in our homes, it is particularly important we observe food safety and hygiene. If you are going to eat animal based products like meat, en-

sure they are thoroughly cooked. Also ensure you clean with water and soap, the chopping boards, knives and surfaces used while handling raw meat, before you can use them on vegetables or cooked food. Ensure food is properly stored and reheated.

It is also important to work out. The internet has given us access to many sites that allow us to exercise in the comfort of our homes.

If you have a yard, or a park within your estate where you can safely observe your social distance, then you can enjoy your walks and a little play time with the children. But remember to keep your children in sight. Discourage close contact and sharing of food and drinks with other children. Educate and reassure them.

Finally, take care of your mental health. Use this time to rest and bond with your loved ones, and choose your source of information on the virus updates wisely, lest you get drawn into panic.

Your Health ▶ It matters

Hidden casualties of

WHO statistics that show about a million children with TB and 230,000 deaths in 2018 raise concerns as the world marks TB Day tomorrow

by Evelyn Makena and Sandra Wekesa
@PeopleDailyKE

Eleven years ago, when Catherine Nerima was nursing her seven-month-old firstborn child, she visited a clinic in Nairobi to get treatment for what she thought was a common cold. She had been experiencing a persistent cough for weeks before she sought medical attention in March 2009. The doctor prescribed a strong expectorant, but still the cough did not subside.

As she was undergoing treatment, her baby, Kofi Meshack Wandera, also started having similar symptoms. A month after the initial visit to the clinic, Nerima was advised by the doctor to have a chest x-ray, which revealed she had tuberculosis (TB). "When I got the results, I immediately got worried about the possibility of having infected my baby. He was still breastfeeding at the time," she explains.

With tests results out, she immediately began her treatment at Kangemi Health Centre in her neighbourhood. While undergoing treatment that entailed taking daily pills for the following six months, Nerima informed nurses about the persistent cough her son was having and whether he was likely to have been infected with TB.

"The nurses quickly dismissed me, saying it was not possible that my child had TB. Even without conducting any tests, they speculated he was suffering from asthma," she says.

Despite going to several hospitals and getting different drugs, her son's cough persisted. "He was so weak, and I was getting desperate. At the same time, I was dealing with strong side-effects of the TB drugs, which mostly left me feeling fatigued," she explains.

Nerima, who was working as a cleaner at University of Nairobi at the time, had to resign from her job to focus on her treatment and nursing her son.

TB STATUS

- 1 Tuberculosis (TB) is caused by bacteria (*Mycobacterium tuberculosis*) that most often affect the lungs
- 2 It is spread from person to person through the air.
- 3 TB is one of the top 10 causes of death and the leading cause from a single infectious agent (above HIV/AIDS)

1.5m
people died from TB globally in 2018.

251,000
of this had HIV.

10m
people fell ill with TB worldwide in 2018.

5.7m
were men
3.2m
were women

1.1m
were children aged 0-14,
205,000 died

24%
were from the African region



KENYA STATUS (2018)

- Total TB incidence was 150,000, with the multidrug resistant TB at rate of 4.5 per 100,000
- Total new and relapse cases was 94,534, of which 47 per cent were tested, 98 per cent with known HIV status.

"My work would regularly get disrupted by my son's medical emergencies. Besides, I had to excuse myself from work every Tuesday morning to get my weekly supply of drugs from the clinic. It became exhausting," she adds. Two months after beginning treatment, her son got a proper diagnosis at Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH).

Kofi fell so ill one day and upon being rushed to KNH, he was diagnosed with pneumonia and was admitted in critical condition. For the three weeks he was admitted at the hospital, doctors treated him for pneumonia. However, on the day of being discharged, he underwent an X-ray that showed he had pulmonary TB.

The case is the same for Elizabeth Mueni, the mother of Mercy Mutheu, 12, who had been diagnosed with pulmonary TB at Makueni

Referral Hospital. Mutheu's treatment entails taking two sets of medication, taking nutritious foods and walking 7km every Monday to get refills. Her health started deteriorating in October last year, and in a span of two weeks, she had lost 10kgs. Mueni took her to the clinic in her village in Ukia, but Mutheu did not improve, and a trip to a different hospital in Makueni did not help.

All along, no one had been testing Mutheu for anything serious and it was becoming expensive for Mueni as she had to make arrangements for transport. "It drained me. That I was not able to provide adequately for my child was hurting me, especially since she was getting worse by day," Mueni says.

Outlined roadmap

The trip to Makueni Referral Hospital turned things around as Mutheu received proper diagnosis and started receiving treatment for TB. It also forced Mueni to interrogate some beliefs about the disease she had.

"Since the bacteria had been hiding for a period of over two months, my next step was to take everyone in the house for check up because I didn't want any more problems than the one I had," the mother of three says, explaining how shocking it was for her to learn that TB could affect a perfectly healthy child who didn't, at any point, have any medical issue that could cause such an exposure.

Kofi and Mutheu are among dozens of children globally who suffer from TB every year.

An estimated 1.1 million children under 15 years fell ill with TB in 2018, and 230,000 of them died, according to World Health Organisation (WHO). Just like in the case of Kofi and Mutheu, TB detection in children is low, leading to delayed diagnosis, non-diagnosis and unavoidable deaths. Until 2013, the global approach in tackling TB mainly focused on



Funding gaps haunt plans to end disease

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has listed Kenya among the 30 high burden Tuberculosis (TB) states. Despite considerable investment in the care and prevention in the past 20 years, TB is still a leading cause of death.

Kenyan health sector hugely relies on donor funds. And since the country was ranked as middle-income, donors have been pulling out their support, leading to the big question: is the government ready to fund the health sector?

Dr Newton Omale (pictured), the policy, planning and global fund

manager for National Tuberculosis Programme, says the country has about Sh3 billion for TB funding, against the required Sh6 billion.

"Kenya relies on external funding to finance HIV, TB and Malaria. Global fund is the main financier contributing about 50 per cent, followed by USAID with 20 per cent and the rest from the national government," says Omale.

To ensure there is enough funding locally, Omale says, TB is getting about Sh360 million from the Universal Healthcare programme. Other measures by government

include increasing domestic resources and inclusion of private sector for more funding.

"There is need for the government to increase domestic resource allocation for TB because they are capable of doing so. TB should be treated as a domestic issue and not a donor issue," he adds.

However, Omale says cost of medicine for drug sensitive TB has doubled over the last two years because of

scarcity of active ingredients used to make those drugs worldwide. Consequently, more funds are needed even when number of patients remain the same.

Although Kenya has made great strides in TB control such as giving out TB drugs for free, emergence of multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) remains a big challenge. By 2050, DR-TB could cost the global economy up to \$16.7 trillion in medical expenses and lost wages.

-Milliam Murigi



tuberculosis

India, China, Indonesia, Pakistan, Nigeria, Bangladesh and South Africa account for 2/3 of total new cases.

4 About 58 million lives were saved through TB diagnosis and treatment between 2000 and 2018

5 People who are infected with HIV are 19 times more likely to develop active TB

6 Vulnerable groups include people with HIV (19 times more likely), persons suffering from other conditions that impair the immune system, and people with undernutrition (three times at risk).

30 high TB burden countries accounted for 87 per cent of new TB cases in 2018

Globally, TB incidence is falling at about 2% per year

Men, women and children accounted for 58 per cent, 32 per cent and 10 per cent of these case.



Catherine Nerima and her son, Kofi. PD/COURTESY



Elizabeth Mueni. PD/COURTESY

duced playfulness

Similarly, health professionals sometimes expose children to the disease by failing to educate infected mothers on the necessary precautions to take. As a precautionary measure, infected mothers are advised not to breastfeed their babies or be in direct contact with them until they start taking TB medication and are no longer infectious. "If that information is not shared with a mother then that puts other people at risk. This is some sort of negligence," he says, adding that it is the right of every TB patient to access prevention, diagnosis, treatment, care and support services. Kelin, an organisation that promotes human rights of TB and HIV patients, works with communities to educate them about the diseases and the necessary response.

Joseph Mulei, a doctor in Makueni says Tuberculosis in children is a difficult disease to treat, because unlike in adults, children don't show any symptoms.

Vital advice

"Most doctors, therefore, seek alternatives including skin tests—mainly an X-ray or a blood test called interferon-gamma release assays (IGRA)," he explains.

They also resort to inquiring about the child's history, asking whether a child has been exposed to someone who is coughing, if the child has symptoms of HIV/Aids and if there are any recorded weight loss, fever and even poor appetite. Another challenge is that most caregivers, especially in the rural areas, find it hard to access facilities because it automatically means walking for longer distances. Lack of awareness also contributes to cases.

Dr Mulei, however, believes that with the new child-friendly medications, TB patients then get healed and will not even need to worry about it anymore. "Initially, paediatric TB was hard to treat, but the new children friendly medication is beneficial," he says.

Nerima and her son recovered fully after each undergoing a six-month treatment regimen. The 36-year-old mother of three advises infected mothers to take precautions to protect their children. "Maintain good hygiene at home, keep the house properly ventilated, air beddings regularly and cover your mouth while coughing," she says.

Although her daughter is doing fine and still on medication, Mueni urges the government to train health workers in rural areas, especially the ones that give wrong diagnosis as this misinformation could result to death.

BRIEFLY

Activist at forefront in stopping TB transmission

Looking back, Peter Owiti realised in his polygamous family of 28 siblings, he had lost eight to HIV/Aids complications and TB. He noted there was no other way to fight this monster by facing it head on.

His solution was to form Wote Youth Development Projects in 1999. The organisation's aim was to use football to fight HIV and TB.

A few years later, in 2006, Owiti's son contracted TB from his adopted nephew. The disease had hit home and he had to make changes. Since he previously focused on people with HIV, his son contracting TB pushed him to focus on the infectious disease.

At first, Owiti didn't know how to handle it, but "With the little knowledge I had acquired through the project, I was able to navigate the situation," he says. He had his child put on the six-month treatment regimen and he got better.

Poor maginalised lot

At community level, Owiti focused on implementing his project with support from donors such as Stop TB Partnership, Amref Health Africa and Geneva Global Inc. He also invested personal funds into the project that saw him and volunteers work with community health workers on a door-to-door campaign to raise awareness about the disease, especially since it affects poor and marginalised communities.

"When they contract TB, they lose their income. It is worse when the patient is the sole breadwinner. This comes with many trips to the hospital to collect drugs weekly during intensive phase, and monthly during continuation phase. Telling them to take drugs without giving them food is a challenge. Then, there are people who are difficult to reach out to because they live in remote locations," he says. As a global anti-TB activist, Owiti says he has dealt with hundreds of cases. Annually, the organisation handles around 1,500 cases, with treatment for a minimum of six months and two years of multidrug resistant-TB. His activities saw him catapulted to the international front,



Peter Owiti and Stanlus Kioko in Wote, Makueni. PD/COURTESY

earning him invitations to global forums such as the Union Conference, where he was recognised as an important player in the fight against TB.

"As an organisation and partners, we have been able to find missing cases and hand them diagnosed and treated. We have also been able to raise the profile of TB, so that duty bearers can pay attention. We have fought for the rights of patients to access life-saving drugs. We have been able to advocate for research and development on less toxic drugs and shorter regimen for adults and for child friendly regimens," he explains.

Some challenges Owiti has had to deal with include lack of funds to run the project, which means volunteers are unable to work for long or opt to change careers once an opportunity arises. Consequently, he has had to fund projects out of his own pockets, something that is not sustainable.

"Other than funds, there are also issues of stigma and violation of rights of TB patients and dealing with this becomes hard. In some cases creating awareness in the community is futile as some still fail to understand this dangerous disease," he explains.

Sometimes, the community has high expectations Owiti and the team cannot meet.

"The other challenge is the expectation of the community and the sick. They feel we are able to solve all their socio-economic problems, which is very difficult. In many cases, community health volunteers' burn out is too high. We can train 200 and after a few months we are left with only 24 because they have limited resources," he says.

-Sandra Wekesa

TIMOTHY WAFULA

When parents take their sick children to a health facility, they may withhold information that could be helpful in diagnosing the children

preventing transmission between adults. Then the WHO introduced the first ever strategy focused on ending childhood TB, a situation the global agency referred to as the "hidden epidemic".

The roadmap outlined 10 steps, including adding the needs of children in research and policy development. It recommended allocation of funding to programmes tackling TB in children, improving data collection and training healthcare workers on childhood TB.

Years after the roadmap was launched, challenges still exist in tracing TB in children. Timothy Wafula, programme manager, health governance programme at Kenya Legal and Ethical Issues Network (Kelin), says TB is often overlooked or misdiagnosed due to difficulties in obtaining sputum in children.

An airborne infectious disease, TB is tested through sputum specimens of the patients or a chest x-ray. Caused by a bacterium Mycobacterium tuberculosis, TB can be spread by air through coughing or sneezing.

Wafula adds lack of information among communities puts children at risk. "Usually communities do not have the right information on how TB manifests in children. When parents take their sick children to a health facility, they may withhold information that could be helpful in diagnosing the children," he explains.

According to WHO, symptoms of childhood pulmonary TB include, persistent cough, weight loss, fever or night sweats and re-



Owiti at a TB outreach session in the area. The Wote Youth Development Project aims at creating awareness on the disease including how to access treatment. PD/COURTESY

Take Off ▶ Guru

New hope for Samburu teen mothers

For many underage girls, getting pregnant spells the end of education. But a programme in Samburu is helping these teens get a second chance at learning

by Lilian Kaivilu
@liliankaivilu

When 14-year-old Dinah* got pregnant in early 2018, she dropped out of school, casting uncertainty on her future. She was then in Class Six at Logorate Primary School in Samburu East. From the experience of her peers, Dinah knew her education had hit a dead end. She would give birth later in the year. Dinah is just one of the 777,000 teenage girls below the age of 15 across the globe who give birth each year. Many of them drop out of school to take care of babies. The World Health Organisation says at least 10 million teen pregnancies in developing countries are unintended. In some communities, however, stigma keeps many girls out of school as they are too ashamed to resume learning.

But Dinah's case was different as her school accepted her back. "I resumed school in the first academic term of 2019 and am now in Class Eight," says a jovial Dinah. Her mother, she says, encouraged her to go back to school.

Second chance

Through Binti Shujaa programme, an initiative by Afya Timiza, Dinah, together with tens of other girls have gotten a second chance in their education. "Although I went through a challenging time as a teen mother, I want to tell other young girls there is hope after pregnancy," she says.

Binti Shujaa is a USAID-funded initiative that seeks to reintegrate teenage mothers to formal school system.

John Lekamparach, assistant chief of Logorate sub location blames stigma for the high school dropout rate among teenage mothers. "When girls get pregnant before marriage, they are excluded from all activities in the community, including political and community dialogues," he says.

The assistant chief was compelled to offer a solution to the girls who, he observed, were being punished for getting pregnant while in school. "I spoke to community

THE FACTS

● Eight of the Binti Shujaa identified in Logorate village have since returned to school.

● Six are transitioning to secondary school, two are set to join polytechnic schools for vocational training, one has joined college and seven are set to join college.

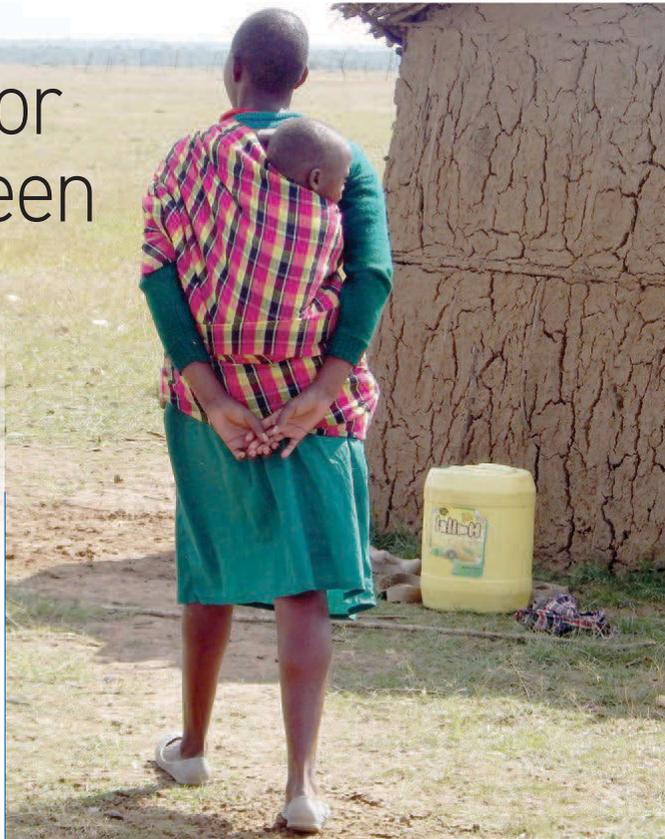
● Two of the Binti Shujaa members have graduated from secondary school have since started businesses and are using the proceeds to take care of their children and families.

● The initiative has led to increased primary school enrolment of girls in Samburu East.

● Through the initiative the girls have saved Sh32,000. They plan to open a wholesale shop.

● An estimated 777,000 teenage girls below age 15 give birth each year.

● 10 million teen pregnancies in developing countries are unintended.



MAIN: Dinah*, a beneficiary of Binti Shujaa programme. LEFT: Peter Lemuna, headteacher, Logorate Primary School. PD/LILIAN KAVILU

members on the need to give the girls a second chance. Many of them have accepted," Lekamparach says.

As a result of his efforts, 10 girls have so far enrolled in colleges and polytechnics after resuming school. Some are pursuing beauty courses and entrepreneurship. "One is in Form Four this year and we are optimistic she will perform well," he adds.

To sustain themselves, the Binti Shujaa have formed a self-help group and registered it with the aim of equipping the teens with life skills to apply for business loans, start businesses and earn a livelihood to support their families.

Improved enrolment

Lydia Ogutu, the Afya Timiza project officer in Samburu Central says the Binti Shujaa concept is aimed at rehabilitating school-going mothers to return to school, empower adolescents girls and young women with knowledge on sexual and reproductive health.

The initiative also eases access to sexual reproductive health services.

The girls in the Binti Shujaa programme have a merry-go round that has helped them

save up to Sh32,000. They plan to open a wholesale shop called Binti Shujaa Logorate. The chief lauded the impact of the initiative, saying it has seen many girls go back to school and become more confident in life. "We have seen significant drop in teenage pregnancies in this sub location. In the last three years, there has been only one pregnancy in this area," he said.

Peter Lemuna, headteacher at Logorate Primary School, says the institution recorded increased enrolment of girls as a result of the Binti Shujaa initiative.

"In the last three years, the enrolment of girls has continued to increase. Last year, we had 70 candidates in total; 37 boys and 33 girls. The gap is quite small compared to the past years. This year we have 35 girls registered to sit the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education examination, higher than the 24 male candidates registered for the same examination. This is a big milestone to our community and particularly to the girls," says Lemuna.

*Name changed to protect identity

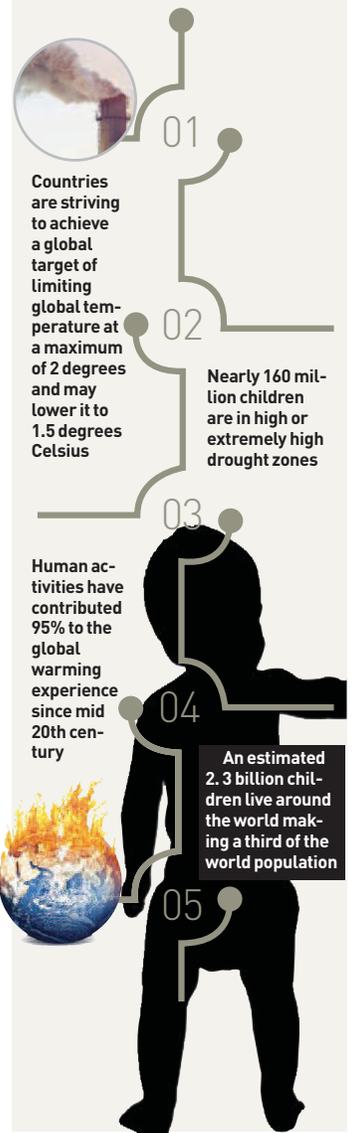
RANDOM SENSE WITH EVELYN MAKENA

Children failed by nations

Nations across the world are letting down children by failing to cut down carbon emissions a UN report has shown. Wealthy nations particularly scored poorly in curbing global warming posing a huge threat to children and adolescents. The report commissioned by Unicef, WHO and Lancet medical journal shows that only three countries Norway, South Korea and Netherlands offered children the best chance of survival and well being due to good healthcare, nutrition and improved education. It further reveals that the warming of the planet presents children with an uncertain future. Environmental degradation also posed a risk to their health. Countries from Africa had the best score on emissions.

INQUICKFIGURES

Of all the top 25 countries with the best score on emissions only two were from outside Africa.



Scholar ▶ Training future leaders

Kenya can't afford to waste its hard-earned income on the inefficient capitation model the State has been using since 2003 and 2008 when the Free Primary and Free Day Secondary Education, respectively, were introduced

by John Masika
@PeopleDailyKe

The 100 per cent transition from primary to secondary school is probably the boldest decision Kenya has made in recent years in the education sector. Under the policy, all candidates who sit for the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education test must transit to secondary school.

This is the third school calendar year the Education ministry is implementing the policy. The programme is well-meaning since education is a public good, benefitting the society in terms of employment, economic prosperity, health and social cohesion.

However, questions are now stalking the policy intention and its execution, especially given the prohibitive cost of education in boarding schools. The State has stepped in to ease the fee burden for parents through the Free Day Secondary Education (FDSE) that pays Sh22,244 for every learner in public secondary school. Parents whose children attend boarding secondary schools pay Sh53,554 in national schools and Sh40,535 in the rest of the boarding schools.

The ministry statistics show more than 60 per cent of public secondary schools are day schools, which admit more than 70 per cent of the student population. This means majority of secondary school students attend day institutions. Therefore, the State is spending more money to cater for about 30 per cent of those boarding schools less on the majority students.

An urgent policy review is needed to make education affordable for the 100 per cent transition to succeed. This will cure the heart-wrenching scenes on media of parents and their children crying after failing to raise school fees. Worse, suicides and attempted suicides have been reported.

From an economic perspective, boarding schools are significantly more costly compared to day counterparts because of the extra fees levied for accommodation and food. There are also contingent costs that arise due to administration and other logistics.

Boarding schools

Boarding schools also impose additional charges of not less than Sh40,000 per year. Other indirect costs such as uniforms, personal effects and transport costs are incurred by guardians. About 30 per cent of secondary school learners attend boarding institutions — an estimated one million learners — meaning that Sh40 billion is spent annually in boarding facilities.

Boarding secondary schools are costing households Sh40 billion exclusive of the Sh22,244 they attract from the students courtesy of the FDSE. The combined sum public day and boarding secondary schools receive from government under FDSE is approximately Sh60 billion on Free Day Secondary Education programme annually.

In other words, public secondary schools in this country receive more than Sh140 bil-



Rethinking secondary school funding by State

lion annually in capitation and in direct funding from guardians of the children in school.

These are colossal amounts of resources. Some of the immediate policy interventions for these resources are to improve teaching, learning facilities and staffing in day schools to ensure quality education and encourage more learners to join day schools.

Education ministry officials should spend time and energy to rethink the model of financing and staffing of day secondary schools to minimise the costs of secondary education.

The current model of spending money on boarding schools—building hostels and dining halls—is wasteful. It is better to spend that money on building classrooms, laboratories, libraries and sanitary facilities in day schools and to ensure Teachers Service Commission (TSC) deploys teachers there.

For the sake of access, equity and efficiency in administration of 100 per cent transition, it is important that the government also relooks at how it funds free primary education.

The FDSE programme is based on capitation. School financing targets children admitted in a school. This glosses over the differences in the resource endowment and the unique needs of each school being funded.

The current FDSE system (one-size-fits-all model) of funding secondary schools has

hurt many institutions while it has benefited a few. The State should consider introducing a national funding formula for the institutions. Resources should be distributed on a formula based on the individual needs of schools.

There should be a minimum per pupil funding for secondary schools—funding support that is different to that provided to all pupils because of an evidenced need—and top-up funding for pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans. The latter should target Special Needs Education learners wherever they are.

Blank cheques

The Sh60 billion FDSE budget can modernise school infrastructure in all public secondary schools within five years. It will also cut costs; parents can save on the Sh40 billion they spend in boarding school fees.

Moreover, principals of secondary schools have a field day determining suppliers and the prices of the personal effects children need such as uniforms. Prices of some of the personal items parents are being forced to buy for their children upon admission are exorbitant.

Who gave the principals the blank cheque to swindle parents of their hard-earned cash? One of the campaign platforms President Uhuru Kenyatta ran on in the 2002 presidential elections was that he would make education affordable. Affordability of education lies in the State deliberately channeling resources into funding day secondary schools.

Kenya cannot afford to waste its hard-earned income—from government and households—on the inefficient capitation model the State has been using 2003 and 2008 when the free primary and free day secondary education programmes were introduced.

It is time the Ministry of Education went back on the drawing board with a view to saving this country from the waste, tears and blood we witness every time students join secondary education.

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It is time the Ministry of Education went back on the drawing board with a view to saving this country from the waste, tears and blood we witness every time students join secondary education.



The writer comments on social issues



From left: KFC chief executive Timothy Owase and Paul Zeleza after signing the memorandum. PD/PETER NGILA

Entertainment industry eyes global market

by Peter Ngila
@peterngilanjir gitau

United States International University (Usiu)-Africa and Kenya Film Commission (KFC) have signed a five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at making Kenya a first-class provider of screen entertainment for local, regional and international market emanating from relevant training by the university.

The MoU will see both institutions jointly work together. Some of the initiatives will include building capacity through organising film classes, workshops, seminars, film boot camps, short courses, projects, and programs. Going with the international nature of the university, the partnership will also see to the market penetration of the Kalasha International Film and TV Festivals. This step is aimed at increasing market penetration and visibility for Kenyan content at international film markets.

Signing the MoU, USIU-Africa Vice Chancellor Prof Paul Zeleza said partnership will position the institution and KFC as resource centres for local broadcasters, media, film and communication researchers and scholars.

"USIU-Africa will be able to offer mentorship programmes for students interested in film. We will conduct film industry research and collect data which will enable us to develop short courses tailor-made for industry practitioners for certification," he said.

Kenya Film Commission Chief Executive Officer Timothy Owase said the corporation will continue to source and negotiate for tax relief incentives on film and animation equipment to boost the growth of the industry.

"We will offer guidance on standards of excellence and advocate for the use of best practice in film production while working closely with relevant government agencies to create robust and streamlined mid-level film education that will lead to more exportation of locally-made films," he said.



- 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 Hollywood Movie
- 23.00 Overdrive Repeat
- 00.00 DW Feed



- 5.00 Ime Fia Rucini
- 6.00 Rikiratha
- 11.00 Kurekereria Kodii
- 12.00 Nyarari-Rpt
- 1.00 Mohoro Gitau-Live
- 1.30 Kameme Iharoini-Live
- 2.00 This Wildlife-Rpt
- 2.30 Thiririka Mixx
- 3.30 Satai
- 3.45 Kameme Toonz
- 4.00 Ririmbuka Live
- 6.00 Rikiria Na Country
- 7.00 Kameme Maturaini
- 7.30 Nditumirano Live
- 9.00 Mutamburuko Wa Mohoro
- 10.00 Mathaga Maitu
- 11.30 Ririmbuka
- 12.30 Deustsche Welle



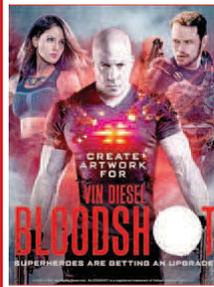
- 5.00 Command Your Morning
- 6.00 Morning Express
- 8.00 Life-N-Style
- 10.00 Carmela Rpt
- 11.00 Tendereza
- 12.00 The Entrepreneur
- 12.30 Dakitari Rpt
- 1.00 News Desk
- 1.30 Drive It
- 2.00 Afri-Screen:
- 4.00 Mbiu Ya KTN
- 4.10 The Emperor's New School
- 4.30 Teenage Mutant: Ninja Turtles
- 5.00 Baseline
- 6.00 Losing Heaven
- 7.00 KTN Leo
- 7.30 Mshamba
- 8.00 Steve Harvey
- 9.00 KTN Prime
- 10.05 Documentary
- 10.30 Movie
- 12.30 CNN

TIME OUT!



:::IN THEATRES NOW:::

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



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



- 5:00 Password Plus Rpt
- 6:00 AM Live
- 9:00 Movie:
- 11:15 The Young & Restless
- 12:00 Rhythm City
- 12:30 Scandal
- 1:00 NTV at 1
- 1:30 Movie:
- 3:00 Password Plus
- 4:00 NTV at 4
- 4:15 Password Plus
- 5:00 The Beat
- 6:00 Tropical Paradise
- 6:40 Pika Chakula
- 7:00 NTV Jioni
- 8:00 Press Pass
- 9:00 NTV Tonight
- 10:05 Shark Tank
- 11:00 Movie
- 01:15 CNN

HOROSCOPES



ARIES (MAR. 21- APRIL 20)
 You'll be able to discuss your ambitions with your mate. Opportunities for travel and communication are evident.

TAURUS (APR. 21- MAY 21)
 You will be able to dazzle others with your obvious charm and your outgoing nature. Help children with important projects.

GEMINI (MAY 22- JUNE 21)
 Let go of the past in order to progress. Consider a trial separation if you and your mate just can't come to terms. Don't let yourself get rundown.

CANCER (JUNE 22-JULY 22)
 You need some help today. You could experience unusual circumstances and meet eccentric individuals.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG 22)
 Spend time with friends and relatives. Travel for pleasure. Your efforts will be rewarded handsomely.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 23)
 You really can't do anything to change matters today. You will do well in social settings, and new and interesting individuals may spark a romantic curiosity.

LIBRA (SEPT. 24-OCT. 23)
 Problems with your boss could lead to unemployment. Don't hesitate to present your unique ideas. Find out more, if you want to start your own business.

SCORPIO (OCT. 24- NOV. 22)
 You can make extra cash if you act on a hunch. You may have some difficulties with someone you live with. Don't push your mate if you want to keep this union going.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23-DEC. 21)
 Unpredictable events will disrupt your routine. Balance is required if you want stability. Someone you care about may not be too pleased with you.

CAPRICORN (DEC 22- JAN. 20)
 You are best not to discuss your personal life with others. Partnerships with creative people could lead to financial gains. You'll meet new friends if you try new activities.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 21-FEB. 19)
 You can make alterations to your appearance that everyone will admire. Consider selling your homemade crafts at the flea market.

PISCES (FEB. 20-MAR. 20)
 Don't let your emotional partner upset you today. Your disciplined attention to jobs will enhance your position. One of your female friends may try to disrupt your day. Stand up for your rights.

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

SUDOKU

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

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.

1	2		3	4	5	6	7
			8				
9					10		
11				12			
13	14				15		
					16		
						18	19
20					21		
22							23

FRIDAY'S SOLUTION

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1. Reward | 1. Revolve |
| 4. Tsetse | 2. Wardrobe |
| 9. Vertigo | 3. Rails |
| 10. Mopping | 5. Sceptic |
| 11. Karts | 6. Taxi |
| 12. Inure | 7. Emigre |
| 14. Sonic | 8. Commendable |
| 15. Inept | 13. Unravels |
| 17. Stair | 14. Streams |
| 18. Proverb | 15. Impala |
| 20. Lioness | 16. Prison |
| 21. Assess | 17. Sword |
| 22. Edison | 19. Odes |

LIFE'S LIKE THAT! | BY TUM



ACROSS

1. Exhausts (4)
3. Having a strong smell (8)
9. Brighten up (7)
10. In a slow tempo (of music) (5)
11. Male parent (5)
12. Stringed instruments (7)
13. Subtle variation (6)
15. Capital of the Bahamas (6)
17. Follows very closely (7)
18. Praise highly (5)

DOWN

1. Any means of advancement (8,5)
2. Person who flies an aircraft (5)
4. Go back on a promise (6)

ACROSS

20. Leaves out (5)
21. Weighing more (7)
22. Commonplace (8)
23. Small freshwater duck (4)

5. Having many sides (12)
6. Statements of intent to harm (7)
7. Dealing with different societies (5-8)
8. In a greedy manner (12)
14. Amino acid (7)
16. Respiratory condition (6)
19. Apart from (5)



FOOTBALL PG31

Maldini, Dybala latest big names in Italy to test positive for Coronavirus

Sport

The one-stop Sport shop...

- AMOS KIPRUTO

I have been called a Wanjiru wannabe. I take all that positively because he was a top athlete, one who inspired many. I admired him right from secondary school

AMOS KIPRUTO'S HONOURS

- 2016 Rome Marathon -**Winner**
- 2017 Amsterdam Marathon -**Fourth place**
- 2018 Berlin Marathon -**Runners-up**
- 2018 Tokyo Marathon -**Third place**
- 2019 World Championships -**Bronze**

Wanjiru wannabe tag fits just well for family man Kipruto

World marathon bronze medallist speaks of being inspired by late Olympics champ as he credits family support for his meteoric rise

by Amos Abuga @PeopleDailyKe

The words of former US President Barack Obama "we have not inherited this land from our forebears, we have borrowed it from our children" ring loudly in the ears of world marathon bronze medallist Amos Kipruto.

The soft-spoken athlete, who speaks fondly of the motivation he derives from his five-year-old twin daughters Joy and Joyline, says his role model in athletics is 2008 Olympics marathon champion, the late Samuel Wanjiru.

But having said that, Kipruto gives a hint on his secret to success.

One, he says settling early in life was a starter block to his meteoric rise which has seen him become a household name in Kenya.

"Getting peace of mind from home is the single most basic ingredient to success. I am happy because I have an amazing and supportive family and with my daughters, I feel I have more responsibility," says Kipruto, who is married to Janet Samoei, a stay at home mum.

And this has helped the 27-year-old escape many social distractions that come with his success. His eye

is firmly trained on a legacy. "If we can have a positive mindset while being mindful of others, then we will leave a better world for our children. I think we owe them that much," adds the former Tulwet Secondary School student.

One of the goals Kipruto has set for himself is equal and better Wanjiru marathon record; the Olympics title holder and the London and Chicago marathons champion.

"I have been called a Wanjiru wannabe, I take all that positively because he was a top athlete, one who inspired many. I admired him right from secondary school. I treasure and to date I carry with me the pride that I was humbled to meet him before he passed on," Kipruto says of the former Olympic champion who died in May 2011.

Born in Tulon village, Nandi county, the former Rome marathon winner believes Wanjiru could have been the greatest marathoner of all time had death not come too soon.

That tag is currently held by Olympic and world record holder Eliud Kipchoge and while Kipruto has no qualms about that, he believes Wanjiru could have reached such levels if not more.

"Nobody really knows the heights

he could have scaled. I think he had the potential to do something extraordinary," adds Kipruto.

It's therefore, no coincidence that he is under the tutelage of veteran Italian coach Claudio Berardelli, who also handled Wanjiru.

"Credit must be given to Berardelli. He nurtured Wanjiru and helped him become a world beater. I am lucky to be learning from him too. It is such a great honour for me" he says.

While there is still uncertainty over whether the July 24-August 9 Tokyo Olympics will be held because of the coronavirus, Kipruto says being included in team Kenya's squad for the Games alongside Kipchoge and Boston Marathon champion Lawrence Cherono was not by accident.

"It is about hard work and persistence. You keep working hard to give selectors no option but to include you in the team. Work doesn't stop there. Competing to win for your country is the biggest achievement in sports," adds Kipruto.

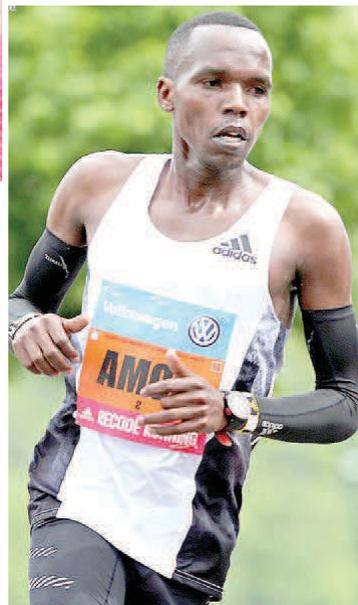
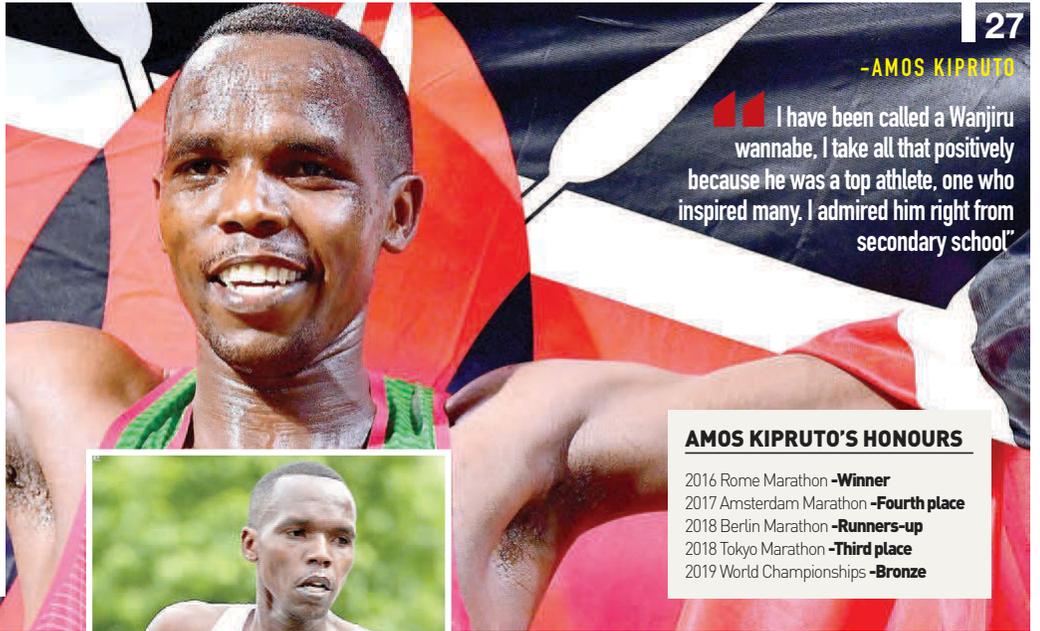
He hopes Covid-19 pandemic will come to pass and let the Olympics go as scheduled.

"I am in no position to say anything on whether the Games will go on but all I am advocating for is safety. There can't be Games without athletes. For now, the message is keep safe," he says.

Like every athlete around the world, Kipruto's training programme has been disrupted by the disease, having been forced to leave camp in Kapsabet and train from home.

He says despite the training disruption, he remains focussed.

Amos Kipruto after winning the World Championships marathon bronze medal in Doha, Qatar last year. INSET: During a race in Prague in the Czech Republic. FILE



INJURY COLUMN WITH WYCLEF ODUO

Neck injury among athletes in high contact sporting activities

Neck injury is common among athletes whose sporting activity involves tackling with the arm and involving upper body tackle like rugby, judo, wrestling and martial arts.

It also can occur in people who participate in cycling, and gymnastics. The nerves that give feeling to the arms and hands originate from the neck spinal cord. As these nerves leave the neck, they form a large weave of nerves. They then branch as they pass under the collar bone on the way to the shoulder.

Most often this nerve gets injured when the person makes a hard hit using his shoulder. The direct blow to the top of the shoulder drives it down and causes the neck to bend towards the opposite side.

This motion severely stretches or compresses the nerves and triggers an intense discharge of electricity. For a few seconds, the electricity shoots down the nerves to the tip of the fingers.

After this intense electrical discharge, the nerves' fibers that allow movement in the arm do not function well. The dysfunction is evident by weakness in the arm. The weakness often involves the muscles that allow the athlete to lift the arm away from the body, to bend the elbow, and to grip.

Symptoms also include sensations of tingling and of burning or stinging pain in the arm and hand. The extent of the damage varies considerably.

The pain usually lasts only a few minutes, but the weakness can last weeks, months, or years. Rarely, the injury may cause permanent damage.

Treatment begins as soon as the player runs off the field with the limp arm hanging by his side. The team's physio carefully examines the neck, evaluates nerve function in the neck and upper back, tests muscle strength, and

tests reflexes.

If the physio suspects that the athlete has a spinal cord injury, he or she treats the condition as a medical emergency with full spinal precautions.

This condition produces symptoms in only one arm. Injuries that can accompany a neck problem include fractures, dislocations, or damage to the ligaments (tissue connecting two bones) of the neck.

Therefore, when treating, the medical personnel takes appropriate precautions to protect the spine. A spinal cord injury usually causes symptoms involving more than just one arm and possibly the legs.

This injury must be treated as a medical emergency. A contusion (bruise) to the spinal cord in the neck during athletics competitions can lead to temporary weakness of the body, producing symptoms of pain and tingling in both arms and both legs.

Certain athletes may be more prone to this injury because the space in their necks through which the spinal cord travels is narrow. Other injuries to the spinal cord can cause lasting, serious nerve damage. The health care provider always treats neck injuries with full precautions until serious injuries are ruled out.

If the athlete's sense of feeling, strength and neck motion have returned to normal, the athlete may be able to return to the game provided there is no pain or tenderness.

All protective gear should be inspected to ensure it fits properly and is in good condition. Additional shoulder pads or a neck roll may be added.

The writer is a physiotherapist, Mathare United & Harambee Stars wyclef_200@yahoo.com

Ombija keen to seal NSL golden boot gong

Coast Stima forward can't wait to claim Super League top scorers award as he eyes KPL promotion

by Barry Silah
@PeopleDailyKe

There have been suggestions that the 2019/20 Betika National Super League season could be brought to a premature end in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

If that comes to pass, then a number of players would walk away with individual awards besides the winner's trophy that would go to current league leaders Nairobi City Stars.

One of the players who would walk away with an award is Coast Stima striker Eric Ombija who is currently the top scorer in the second tier league with 17 goals from

27 matches. It has been a remarkable rise for the 25 year-old goal machine who had to abandon top flight football kick start his career in the lower league.

The Mombasa-born striker was snapped up by former Gor Mahia tactician Dylan Kerr for a season-long loan two years ago but his hopes of playing a starring role for the 18-time champions were not realised as he found himself playing bit-part roles at K'Ogalo.

"I did not play as many games as I would have wanted but the few minutes I had got were utilised. For me, it was about growth and therefore my only purpose at the time was excelling.

"My biggest memories were in 2018 during the CECAFA Club Championships when I scored two goals and provided an assist in our two matches against AS Port of Djibouti and KMKM of Burundi. I also featured in the GOtv Shield that season alongside substitute roles against Mathare United and the now defunct Sony Sugar,"

says Ombija. Realising he might not fulfill his potential fully by warming the bench at Gor, Ombija decided to join Coast Stima.

It was not easy settling in initially but after overcoming an early season injury, the lanky forward has found his best form.

"I know I have to constantly work hard to get better. It has not been easy but slowly I am getting sharp and it helps when the Coach has confidence in you," says Ombija.

With his goal scoring form, Ombija is naturally attracting the interest of the big boys and given he still harbours ambitions of playing in the Kenyan Premier League, he is not ruling out a move in future.

"I would consider that when the season is done. I want to help my team go as far as possible," he adds.

His coach Paul Ogai is also full of praise for him, saying: "He is in a familiar environment and the management supports him. He wants to develop his game every day and he can only go far."



Eric Ombija of Coast Stima (right) vies for the ball against an Administration Police defender during a past Betika National Super League match. PD/RODGERS NDEGWA



St Joseph's Nyabigena Boys coach Saphinah Kenyando (right) celebrates with her team after winning the 2018 Kisii County Secondary School Games rugby sevens title. PD/GIBO ZACHARY

Meet Kenyando, 7s rugby female coach adept at beating men

by Gibo Zachary
@PeopleDailyKe

Oscar Bimpong once said, "success is for those that presses on when they see a wall, find ways around a road block and consistently push boundaries and conquer territories against all odds".

This was true during this year's Kisii County Secondary Schools Term One Games when Saphinah Kenyando, the only female rugby coach in the championship, led St Joseph's Nyabigena Boys to glory.

In a sport dominated by men, Kenyando went against all odds to beat her male counterparts as she repeated the heroics of 2018 by guiding her side to the rugby sevens title.

In the 2018 final, Nyabigena beat Kisii School 12-7 to lift the title for the first time and that fueled Kenyando's desire to conquer in the region and nationally.

She, however, fell short,

exiting at the Nyanza region games before switching to 15s where she triumphed at sub-county level and went on to lose at the county finals.

She returned to her first love, sevens rugby, this year, reached the county games final and thrashed hosts Cardinal Otunga Boys 31-0 and now wants more.

"It was not easy but I'm so happy to have finally broken the jinx of winning the county trophy.

We play and train on stoney grounds because we don't have a good rugby field. However, the trophy is finally home and being the only woman coach in the competition, I'm so excited," she said.

"Winning is a great feeling. We thank God for this victory. This achievement is not for one person. I want to acknowledge the boys' efforts and my colleagues too," added Kenyando, who is now targeting the Nyanza region games title.

BRIEFLY

Ex-teammates send 40th birthday wishes to jail-bound Ronaldinho

RIO DE JANEIRO: Former team-mates of Brazilian football great Ronaldinho took to social media on Saturday to wish him a happy 40th birthday. The retired attacker celebrated the day with inmates at a Paraguayan prison, where he and his brother, Roberto Assis, have been held since March 6 for using fake passports. Those to pay tribute included Ronaldinho's 2002 World Cup-winning team-mates Ronaldo, Rivaldo and Roberto Carlos. "Congratulations, mate. May you overcome this difficult moment in your life with the happiness of always," Ronaldo



said on Instagram. "Congratulations my friend. It was very easy to play with you," said Rivaldo. "I will never forget those moments. May you have strength to get through this difficult time." -XINHUA

Fitness, focus, frustration: life in lockdown for footballers

MADRID: Juventus midfielder Sami Khedira is learning to play the piano. La Liga clubs are facing off on playlistation and Atalanta's Robin Gosens has been revising for exams in psychology. Yet as thousands of footballers, from the highest levels to the lower leagues, remain on lockdown while coronavirus spreads across Europe, all of them are tasked with keeping themselves fit, as well as entertained. "Everyone needs to be ready so that when the health advice says resume, we can resume straight away," Emmanuel Orhant, medical director of the French Football Federation (FFF), told AFP. Nobody knows when that will be and with the global death toll from coronavirus passing 13,000 on Saturday, there is little appetite yet even to address the question. But within football, the absence of a deadline only enhances the sense of urgency. -AFP

Vitafoam have eyes on Division Two slot when league finally resumes

NAIROBI: Vitafoam FC, playing in the Football Kenya Federation (FKF) Nairobi Zone A league, are looking to earn promotion to FKF Division Two League when this season finally concludes. Their matches, just like all sports around the world, were halted due to the Covid-19 threat. However, head coach Dennis Kimuyu believes the team will carry on the good momentum, upon resumption, and earn promotion. "The team is in sixth place in the 20-team league. We have managed 17 points so far with eight matches to go. We are hoping to manage



enough wins in the remaining encounters and be in the top four, consequently earning promotion to division two," said Kimuyu, adding that playing in the Kenya Premier League remains their long-term goal.

-Lynette Matheka

Transfer headache

Uncertainty abounds as football's player movement industry grinds to a halt

■ **Paris, Sunday**
@PeopleDailyKe

With football having ground to a halt because of the coronavirus pandemic, the usual transfer rumour mill has fallen silent and nobody cares much where Neymar or Paul Pogba might be playing next season.

Nobody even knows when next season might be, and the financial impact on football clubs, and therefore the transfer market, is likely to be significant.

A study by KPMG this week estimated that cancelling the rest of this season would cost clubs across Europe's top five leagues as much as four billion euros (\$4.33 billion) in lost revenue.

The knock-on effect could be enormous, trickling down to smaller clubs worldwide.

After all, look at a club like Monaco, who have raked in huge sums in recent years from selling players like Kylian Mbappe, who went to Paris Saint-Germain in 2018 for 180 million euros. They have then invested

that money in new recruits, helping spread the wealth.

"Given the international situation, clubs are going to be less inclined to pay the kind of sums we look for," admitted Monaco's vice-president, Oleg Petrov.

Nevertheless, beyond worrying about who Mbappe, Neymar or Pogba could sign for, there is a more pressing concern.

What about players out of contract? UEFA's commitment to ending the European season by June 30 was surely partly because it is common practice for contracts to run until that date.

Players like Manchester City's David Silva, Willian at Chelsea, or Paris Saint-Germain's Thiago Silva and Edinson Cavani, will be free to leave on July 1 even if the season has not been completed.

FIFA has set up a working group which could amend rules on transfers and make changes to "protect contracts for both players and clubs".

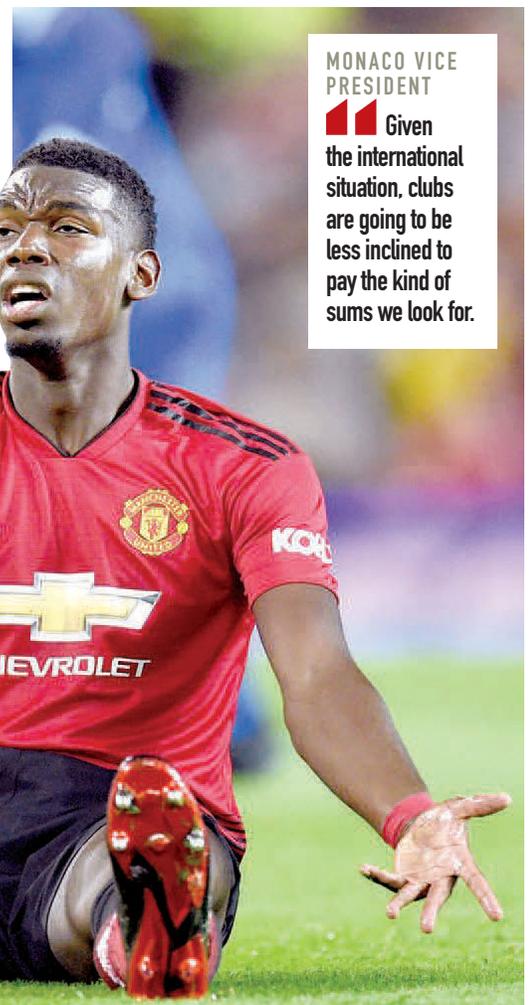
However, clubs are already having to take drastic action to stave off financial disaster.

Some French sides, including Lyon, put their players on short-

time working as a means of saving money. Swiss outfit Sion cancelled the contracts of nine players who refused to go on temporary unemployment.

In Scotland it is not unusual for player contracts to expire immediately after the scheduled last game of the season in May. In any case, struggling Hearts have asked players and staff to accept 50 percent pay cuts.

Meanwhile, young players who are out of contract are a problem, points out David Venditelli, a French agent whose company Score represents Arsenal's Alexandre Lacazette among others. **-AFP**



Manchester United's want-away midfielder Paul Pogba. PD/FILE

MONACO VICE PRESIDENT

Given the international situation, clubs are going to be less inclined to pay the kind of sums we look for.

Juve star Dybala, Milan great Maldini get coronavirus

■ **Rome, Sunday**
@PeopleDailyKe

Argentine striker Paulo Dybala (pictured) said Saturday that he has become the third Juventus player to test positive for coronavirus while former AC Milan defender Paolo Maldini revealed that he and his son have also been infected.

"Hi everyone. I just wanted to let you know that we have received the Covid-19 test results and that Oriana (Sabatini, his girlfriend) and I are positive," the 26-year-old Dybala tweeted.

"Fortunately, we are perfectly fine. Thank you for your messages."

Italian champions Juventus said that Dybala had been self-isolating since Wednesday.

"He will continue to be monitored. He is well and is asymptomatic," said the club in a statement.

Later Saturday, the club said Maldini, now the technical director at Milan, and his 18-year-old son Daniel, a youth team player, were also

battling the disease.

"Paolo and Daniel are both well and have already completed two weeks at home without contact with others," said a statement from AC Milan.

"They will now remain in quarantine until clinically recovered, as per the medical protocols outlined by the health authorities."

Maldini, 51, is considered one of the greatest defenders of all time.

He won five Champions Leagues with Milan and appeared in 647 matches. **-AFP**



BRIEFLY

Social distancing to tame killer flu has Serena 'on edge'

LOS ANGELES: Tennis great Serena Williams says she is "on edge" as she practices social distancing recommended by health experts in a bid to slow the spread of coronavirus. The 23-time Grand Slam champion posted a series of videos on TikTok describing her concerns for her two-year-old daughter, Olympia. "I'm just on edge. Any time anyone sneezes around me or coughs I get crazy. I don't hang out with anyone, and when I say anyone I mean my daughter. She coughed, I got angry and gave her a side-eye," she said. **-AFP**

Former Real president succumbs to Covid-19

MADRID: Former Real Madrid president Lorenzo Sanz, who was hospitalised with coronavirus, died on Saturday at the age of 76, his son announced. Sanz was in charge of the Spanish giants from 1995-2000, overseeing two Champions League titles. "My father has just passed away. He did not deserve this ending and in this way," tweeted his son, Lorenzo Sanz junior. "One of the best, bravest and hardest-working people I have ever seen. His family and Real Madrid were his passions." **-AFP**

F1 champ Hamilton self-isolating

LONDON: Six-time Formula One champion Lewis Hamilton says he is self-isolating but will not get tested for coronavirus as others need attention more than him. The 35-year-old Briton said he decided to self-isolate because he had been at the same function in London that actor Idris Elba and Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau's wife Sophie Gregoire-Trudeau attended earlier this month. Elba and Gregoire-Trudeau subsequently both tested positive for COVID-19. "I want to let you know that I am doing well," Hamilton said in a statement. **-AFP**

Fellaini is first corona case in China League

■ **Shanghai, Sunday**
@PeopleDailyKe

Footballer Marouane Fellaini has tested positive for the coronavirus, his club Shandong Luneng said Sunday, the former Manchester United player becoming the first known case in the Chinese Super League (CSL).

The 32-year-old Belgian international midfielder has a normal temperature and is feeling fine, Shandong said, but "is under observation and having treatment at a designated medical facility".

"The club will do its best... to help in the treatment and recovery of the player."

Fellaini, who had just returned to China, is the latest high-profile name in football to catch the disease, along with Juventus forward Paulo Dybala, Chelsea winger Callum Hudson-Odoi and Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta.

Former Real Madrid president Lorenzo Sanz, who was hospitalised with the coronavirus, died on Saturday at the age of 76.

But Fellaini is the first confirmed case in the CSL, dealing a blow to the league's hopes of starting

the season as early as next month.

The campaign was supposed to begin last month but has been indefinitely postponed by the outbreak.

Fellaini, also formerly of Everton, joined Shandong Luneng from English giants United in February last year for a reported 7.2 million euros. **-AFP**



Shandong Luneng midfielder Marouane Fellaini who has tested positive for Covid-19. FILE

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Norway urges IOC to postpone global Games

OSLO: The Norwegian Olympic Committee (NOC) said Saturday they had asked the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to postpone the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo until the new coronavirus pandemic was under control. In a letter sent to the IOC on Friday, the Norwegian sports body said it was

"concerned about the COVID-19 pandemic and the public health situation both nationally and internationally." "Our clear recommendation is that the Olympic Games in Tokyo shall not take place before the COVID-19 situation is under firm control on a global scale," the letter continued. **-AFP**

Spanish athletics want Tokyo 2020 delayed as COVID-19 disrupts global sports

MADRID: The Spanish athletics federation (RFEA) on Saturday joined the calls for the postponement of the Tokyo Olympics this summer because of the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. "The Board of Directors of the Royal Spanish Athletics Federation, on behalf of the majority of Spanish athletes, is advocating the postponement of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games," the RFEA said in a statement. Earlier in the day, USA Track and Field urged its national Olympic committee to request a postponement of the Games, scheduled for July 24 to August 9 in Japan, where 11,000 athletes from around the world are expected. "Circumstances do not guarantee adequate preparation or fair competition with the rest of the athletes in the world, without endangering the health (of Spanish athletes)," said the RFEA. Spain, one of the most affected countries, had recorded more than 1,320 deaths from Covid-19 by Saturday and is enforcing confinement to try to stop the spread of the virus. **-AFP**



A woman wears a face mask amid concerns over the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus as she sits at a bus stop advertising the Tokyo 2020 Summer Olympics. **-AFP**

VOLLEYBALL

KVF official: Moving Tokyo games would benefit Atuka

by Amos Abuga
@PeopleDailyKe

A Kenya Volleyball Federation official is certain national women's team Malkia Strikers blocker Trizah Atuka will benefit a lot should the Olympic Games be postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Kenya Pipeline player missed the Africa Olympic qualifying tournament in Cameroon in January after suffering a knee injury last November and is on course to full recovery, though the July 24 to August 9 Games might come too soon for her.

The remarks by the official, who did not want to be named, comes at a time the international sports calendar has been disrupted by the coronavirus, leading to wide spread calls to have the Tokyo event postponed or cancelled.

Last week, the Kenyan international, who played a key role in Malkia Strikers winning gold at the 2019 African Games, in Rabat, Morocco told a local daily that she will not be ready for the Tokyo Olympics.

"I need to catch up with the rest of my team-mates in terms of fitness as I start court rehabilitation and a month will not be enough to make the cut for the Olympics," Atuka was quoted saying in the interview.

The official now believes a delay in the Games might be a blessing in disguise for Atuka and other players who might be injured or even out of form.

"We have to be mindful of athletes, fans and even officials. While it is true millions have been used in the preparations of the Games, organisers will have to do the right thing for everyone," said the official.

Kenya qualified for the games for the first time since 2004 after beating Nigeria, Egypt, Uganda and hosts Cameroon in a round-robin qualifiers in January.



Malkia Strikers blocker Trizah Atuka. PD/ DAVID NDOLO

Japan begins talks to put off Olympics

Country finally starts discussions over moving Tokyo Games after weeks of denials as officials admit 'we are making alternative plans'

■ Tokyo, Sunday
@PeopleSports11

Organisers of the Tokyo Olympics have finally begun making preparations to postpone the Games this summer, reports claim.

The biggest global sporting event, which is only held every four years, has been plunged into doubt as the coronavirus pandemic brings sport across the globe to a standstill.

Euro 2020 has already been pushed back until next year and other summer events such as Wimbledon look increasingly unlikely to happen.

But Japanese officials and International Olympics chief Thomas Bach have long been insistent that their Games will go ahead on July 24, despite the ever escalating crisis.

An official source close to the organising committee has now admitted, however, that discussions are underway to delay Tokyo 2020, with various plans and timeframes already being drawn up.

"Finally, we have been asked to make a simulation in case of a postponement," the source, who is involved in the talks, told Reuters.

"We are making alternative plans, plan B, C, D, looking at different postponement timeframes."

COST OF CANCELLING OLYMPICS

- Sh1.4 trillion: What Japan could lose if the Tokyo Olympics are cancelled.
 - Sh1.2 trillion: Bill for the Olympics including huge taxpayer spending on a new national stadium would be regarded as wasted if the Games are cancelled.
 - Sh812 billion: Combined losses to private firms who have already shelled out billions for sponsorship and media contracts.
 - Sh266 billion: Amount of money in media rights that could go down the drain if the Games do not go ahead.
 - Sh215 billion: What Japan's tourism industry could lose if the expected millions of spectators do not materialise.
- Athletes: 11,109 athletes expected at the games from 206 nations, taking part in 50 disciplines.

Meanwhile, another official source, also reported to be a senior member of the Tokyo 2020 organising committee, said that time was running out to make a decision.

"The more they push the decision away ... more and more preparations have to be made - this will cause cancellation fees to go through the roof."

There has been a growing number of calls for the Games to be pushed back.

The Global Athlete movement have demanded both the Olympics and Paralympics be postponed having spoken to hundreds of athletes.

They said restrictions on public gatherings across the world in addition to training facilities being closed on a wide scale mean that stars are without the "ability to appropriately prepare for these Games." **-DailyMail**