



BIG READ
THE PROBLEM WITH STAYING AT HOME: BOREDOM PROMOTES RISKY BEHAVIOUR

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INFIGHTING



DP William Ruto / FILE

Ruto relies on 'fake' minutes to block Jubilee Party changes

Deputy President William Ruto's camp is now relying on minutes they say are fake to stop proposed key changes in the Jubilee Party. The DP's men have raised questions on the authenticity of minutes sanctioning the appointment of five new members to the powerful National Management Committee.

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CORONA EFFECTS

Domestic, gender violence and rape on the increase

Cases of sexual and gender-based violence have gone up threefold amid the war on the coronavirus, the government has said. Health CAS Mercy Mwangangi said yesterday data shows that in the past week there has been an increase in GBV and sexual violence cases.

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VOICES

OKECH KENDO

Covid-19 defines worthy leaders

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BILL BUSINESSES WILL NOT BE MANDATED TO PAY TRADE LICENCES, LAND RATES

Senators want rent, loans frozen due to Covid-19

The Bill wants tenants and landlords to negotiate rent payments PG 2

5 MASK-WEARING MISTAKES

<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>DON'T: Wear the mask below your nose</p>	<p>DON'T: Leave your chin exposed</p>	<p>DON'T: Push your mask under your chin to rest on your neck</p>	<p>DON'T: Wear your mask so it covers just the tip of your nose</p>

5

THIS IS HOW TO DO IT RIGHT

Wear your mask so it comes all the way up, close to the bridge of your nose, and all the way down under your chin. Do your best to tighten the loops or ties so it's snug around your face, without gaps

NEW BILL PROPOSED

Senators want rent, loans frozen in pandemic times

Proposed law shields Kenyans from adverse effects of epidemics

JULIUS OTIENO

@TheStarKenya



Kenyans hit hard by the Covid-19 pandemic will be exempted from paying rent, servicing bank loans and their utility bills waived during the period if a new Senate Bill is enacted.

They will also not be laid off or coerced to take a pay cut by their employers, Proposes the Pandemic Response and Management Bill, 2020.

Those doing businesses will not be mandated to pay trade licenses and land rates, the Bill notes.

The Bill is drafted by the seven-member Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Covid-19 and sponsored by Nairobi Senator Johnson Sakaja who chairs the panel.

The committee was formed to oversee the National Emergency Response Committee on Covid 19 and propose policy and legislative measures to cushion Kenyans against the health and economic effects of the pandemic.

"The principal object of this Bill is to provide a framework for the effective response to and management of a pandemic in order to prevent the occurrence or spread of a pandemic whenever it arises," Sakaja said.

It also seeks to provide measures to mitigate the effects of the pandemic and provide a mechanism to cushion those who may be adversely affected by it.

The proposed law provides that where a pandemic affects the economic or purchasing power of the public, Treasury Cabinet Secretary may, with the approval of Parliament, introduce tax measures to cushion the affected persons for the duration.

For tenants who may not be able to meet their contractual obligations, the Bill states they shall give notice — in writing — to their land-



Senator Johnson Sakaja in Parliament yesterday /EZEKIEL AMING'A

lords or contracting party stating that they are not able to pay rent because of the pandemic.

"Upon receipt of the notice, the contracting parties shall enter into an agreement on how the tenant shall meet their obligation at the end of the pandemic," the Bill reads in part.

Housing Cabinet Secretary, with approval of Parliament, shall provide measures to cushion landlords and tenants.

The Bill further states that where citizens are not able to service their loans and mortgages, the individual borrower shall notify and enter into an agreement with the lending institution on how to make the payments after the pandemic.

Penalties shall not be imposed and the defaulter shall not be listed by the Credit Reference Bureau during the period.

"A lending financial institution shall not charge fees, interest or any other penalty for nonpayment or late payment of obligations during the pandemic period," it states.

And where a contract was entered into before the declaration of a pandemic and it affects the performance of a contractual obligation, commencement of levying of execution or auctioning of their property shall be prohibited.

For employers, the Bill states that they shall not terminate a contract of service or dismiss or coerce an employee to take a salary cut.

"Despite subsection (1), where an employer is unable to meet his obligations to pay salaries or wages, the employer shall permit an employee to take leave of absence without pay for the duration of the pandemic," it says.

Labour Cabinet Secretary shall develop measures to protect the employer and the employee during the pandemic.

During this period, national and county governments shall put in place social safety schemes designed to support vulnerable persons, households and informal sector workers whose incomes have

been disrupted.

The schemes include unconditional cash transfers to support identified groups to meet their daily basic necessities. The governments may also waive water and electricity charges for identified vulnerable persons and households or adjust tariff rates to reduce utility charges to individuals and businesses.

There shall be no disconnection for non-payment of utility bills.

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

The Bill, however, states that a person who knowingly makes a claim they know or has reason to believe to be false — for the purpose of obtaining any relief — commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding Sh1 million or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or both.

According to the Bill, the President shall declare, in a gazette notice, a pandemic upon receipt of a recommendation from the Cabinet Secretary in charge of Health.

The head of State shall then establish a National Pandemic Response Committee to, among other things, coordinate the country's response and management to the threat caused by the pandemic.

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

Others are the chairperson to the Council of Governors or such other governor as the chairperson shall designate in writing and such other public officers, not exceeding three as the President shall consider necessary.

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

The reports shall detail the rate of infection of the disease within the country, measures taken to mitigate the pandemic and challenges faced in the mitigation efforts.

MASS TESTING STARTS

GBV cases rise amid virus fight

MAGDALINE SAYA/ Cases of sexual and gender-based violence have gone up by three times amid the war on the coronavirus, the government has said.

Health CAS Mercy Mwangangi said on Tuesday data from the Gender Violence Recovery Centre and the National Council on Administration of Justice has shown that in the past week there has been an increase in GBV and sexual violence cases.

Most of the time, the violence has been perpetrated by close relatives and guardians.

"During the Easter weekend, neighbours came to my house to report a case of domestic violence. There is a woman who was thoroughly beaten," Mwangangi said. She said the ministry is in communication within relevant departments to see how the problem can be addressed.

"We are calling on Kenyans to focus on fighting the virus and to handle disputes within the laid down civil structures, devoid of any violence," the CAS said.

Meanwhile, the country has rolled out mass testing to pick out positive cases. The process started with health workers at the Kenyatta National Hospital.

The mass testing will be rolled out with priority being given to quarantine centres, isolation facilities, hotels and hospitals.

Mwangangi said 12,000 testing kits will be deployed in phase one that will cover Nairobi, Mandera, Mombasa and Siaya counties. "In Mombasa, we are deploying 1,000 testing kits to the Kenya Ports Authority, the same will happen in Mandera and Siaya counties."

By Tuesday, the number of positive cases in Kenya had risen to 216 after an additional eight cases were confirmed. The eight new cases were out of 694 samples that were tested in 24 hours.

Meanwhile, 32 people who were in mandatory quarantine at a facility in Elwak in Mandera county have escaped under unclear circumstances. The 32 were out of 66 passengers who were placed in quarantine.



14% VAT APPROVED

MP roots for Sh100bn to cushion poor people

LUKE AWICH/An MP wants the government to set aside Sh100 billion to help Kenyans living on less than two dollars a day.

Thika Town MP Patrick Wainaina said the effects of the coronavirus outbreak has seriously affected millions of Kenyans living from hand to mouth who are finding it hard to put food on the table.

The MP said each vulnerable household should receive Sh1,000 every week to enable them to meet basic needs.

The first-time MP said the government stipend should run for three months to enable the majority to comply with the stringent measures put in place by the government to curb the spread of the Covid-19.

"It is time the government must come up with a strategy to ensure the poor who cannot afford a meal are supported even as we battle the coronavirus," Wainaina said.

He lauded President Uhuru Kenyatta for reducing VAT and corporate tax but noted the same might not benefit the majority of Kenyans because of job losses.

Meanwhile, MPs yesterday voted to ratify the regulation setting VAT at 14 per cent.

Lawmakers gave the National Treasury the legal authority to implement the VAT regime in all transactions that attract the tax. This was, however, with caution that the move would have negative effects on the economy amid projections the country would lose Sh49 billion in revenue every quarter.



STAR SURVEY

TODAY'S QUESTION

Do you like working from home?

YESTERDAY'S QUESTION

Do you think the Siaya man should be reburied with dignity?

YES 82%



NO 18%



SENT HOME WITHOUT PAY

Sacked Naivasha workers turn to fishing for income

Situation aggravated by school closure as children compete for fish at lake

GEORGE MURAGE
@TheStarKenya

Tens of sacked flower farm workers in Naivasha have now turned to the lake for their livelihood, leading to a major crisis—over-fishing.

With farms and hotels closed down due to the Covid-19 outbreak, hundreds of workers in and around the lakeside town have been sent home without pay.

The situation has been worsened by the closure of schools, with minors joining in the competition for fish despite the dangers posed by hippos that have killed more than 10 people this year.

Naivasha subcounty fisheries officer Nicholas Kagundu said the lake was under high pressure from foot fishermen or poachers.

The official admitted that all the gains made in restocking the lake would be eroded in a couple of months due to the new challenge, with the number of those involved increasing by the day.

“We are working with KWS and police in patrolling the lake but this is not enough and there is an urgent need to address this or fish production might be brought to its knees,” he said.

Kagundu noted that the closure of tens of farms and hotels had contributed to the crisis, terming it as worrying.

“Before the virus, we had a manageable crowd of foot fishermen but with the current crisis everybody has turned to the lake,” he said.

One of the sacked workers



Foot fishermen, including children and former flower farm workers, fish illegally in Lake Naivasha
/GEORGE MURAGE

identified only as Wilberforce said he had been forced into the lake by the current circumstances.

“We have families to feed after our employer kicked us out due to this crisis and the lake is the only option where one can get food and a few coins to buy unga,” he said.

Kagundu noted that the situation had been worsened by the number of informal estates around the lake.

“We have Karagita, Kamere, DCK, Tarembete, Kihoto and Kwa Muhia estates which are homes to the sacked workers who have now turned into the lake,” he said.

Subcounty commissioner Mathioya Mbogo admitted that the issue had been raised with the security committee.

He said they would meet various stakeholders including KWS,

fisheries and county representatives to formulate a way forward over the crisis.

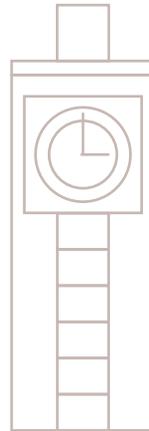
“This crisis has been brought about by loss of jobs due to the virus outbreak but we shall not allow some people to use this excuse to break the law,” he said.

Honourary game warden David Kilo said seining (fishing along the shores) and use of undersize nets had become the norm.

He attributed the recent hippo attacks to the high number of the illegal fishermen, warning that if this was not contained the fishing sector would be dead by the end of the year.

“The lake has become the only source of livelihood and food for tens of sacked workers and they are using undersize nets to fish,” Kagundu said.

CORRIDORS OF POWER



POLITICAL GOSSIP

Who is doing what and where in the world of politics

★ **ARE SOME POLITICAL** brokers now trying to broker a deal between Governor **Mike Sonko** and Nairobi Metropolitan Services director general **Mohamed Badi** (pictured)? Corridors understands that a group has been trying to reach out to the county boss to convince him to meet Badi. Insiders say an influential city MCA is at the centre of the plan to unite the two. It is not clear if they have succeeded in meeting the governor but the men were seen coming out of his private office in Upper Hill late last week.

★ **A GOVERNOR IN** Central is a wanted man. Residents of his county are unhappy with his efforts to combat Covid-19 and are said to be quietly planning to teach him a lesson. They accuse him of making very little effort, if any, to fight coronavirus. They say less prominent people in the county have made huge efforts to fight the disease but their governor can only distribute cheap masks. A resident told Corridors well-off locals are donating sanitiser, water tanks and soap to the less privileged but the governor has only been seen donating low-quality masks. Rumour has it that residents plan to chase him away with his cheap masks if he does not up his game.

★ **A CEC FROM** a county in Western is the subject of social media debate over his lack of decorum. The official is said to be arrogant and insults anyone who seems to criticise the county chief or his administration. He is said to go to the extent of reprimanding colleagues who keep quiet when residents complain about various issues. What annoys residents most is the fact that the executive is quick to take to social media to defend matters that are not under his docket. He is said to comment on anything that touches on the county and tries very hard to portray his boss like an angel.

★ **ARE SOME POLITICIANS** taking advantage of the measures announced to curb the spread of coronavirus to keep away unwanted guests? A resident of a constituency in the North Rift told Corridors that no one is allowed near the home of the area legislator, not even MCAs. The legislator is said to have instructed guards at the gate to tell visitors to instead call him if they have pressing issues they want addressed. However, his phone has been off for some time now. Visitors are further told appointments will be made after the coronavirus measures are lifted. Residents are wondering how the local leadership will discuss intervention measures in the constituency with the legislator in hiding.

If you have any tips send them to Tips@the-star.co.ke

WE HAVE FAMILIES TO FEED AFTER OUR EMPLOYER KICKED US OUT DUE TO THIS CRISIS AND THE LAKE IS THE ONLY OPTION

CARTOON



INFIGHTING DP'S MEN QUESTION AUTHENTICITY OF MINUTES SANCTIONING APPOINTMENT OF

Ruto relies on 'fake' minutes to block Jubilee Party

JAMES MBAKA AND
GIDEON KETER
@TheStarKenya

Deputy President William Ruto's camp is now relying on the minutes they say are fake to stop proposed key changes in the Jubilee Party.

The DP's men have raised questions on the authenticity of minutes sanctioning the appointment of five new members to the powerful National Management Committee.

Jubilee secretary general Raphael Tuju has dismissed claims that the minutes were fake.

"To be more clear, those changes do not require any minutes. Those changes are premised on the transitional clause and that is what was sent to the Registrar of Political Parties," Tuju said.

"It is not that this (change) is all we sent. Every year, we are supposed to submit returns on a lot of things, including how we have used our money because the monies are allocated by the Treasury.

"Our accounts must be audited. We have to publish our accounts in the local papers. So, returns are many, on how we are spending our money, our programmes, things we are doing and so forth.

"So, as far as the changes are concerned, that was premised on the transitional clauses of the party. If there are any minutes they saw, then they must be in respect to other things but not the changes," Tuju said.

The tug of war pitting the country's first and second in command now puts acting Registrar of Political Parties Anne Nderitu at the centre of the conflict.

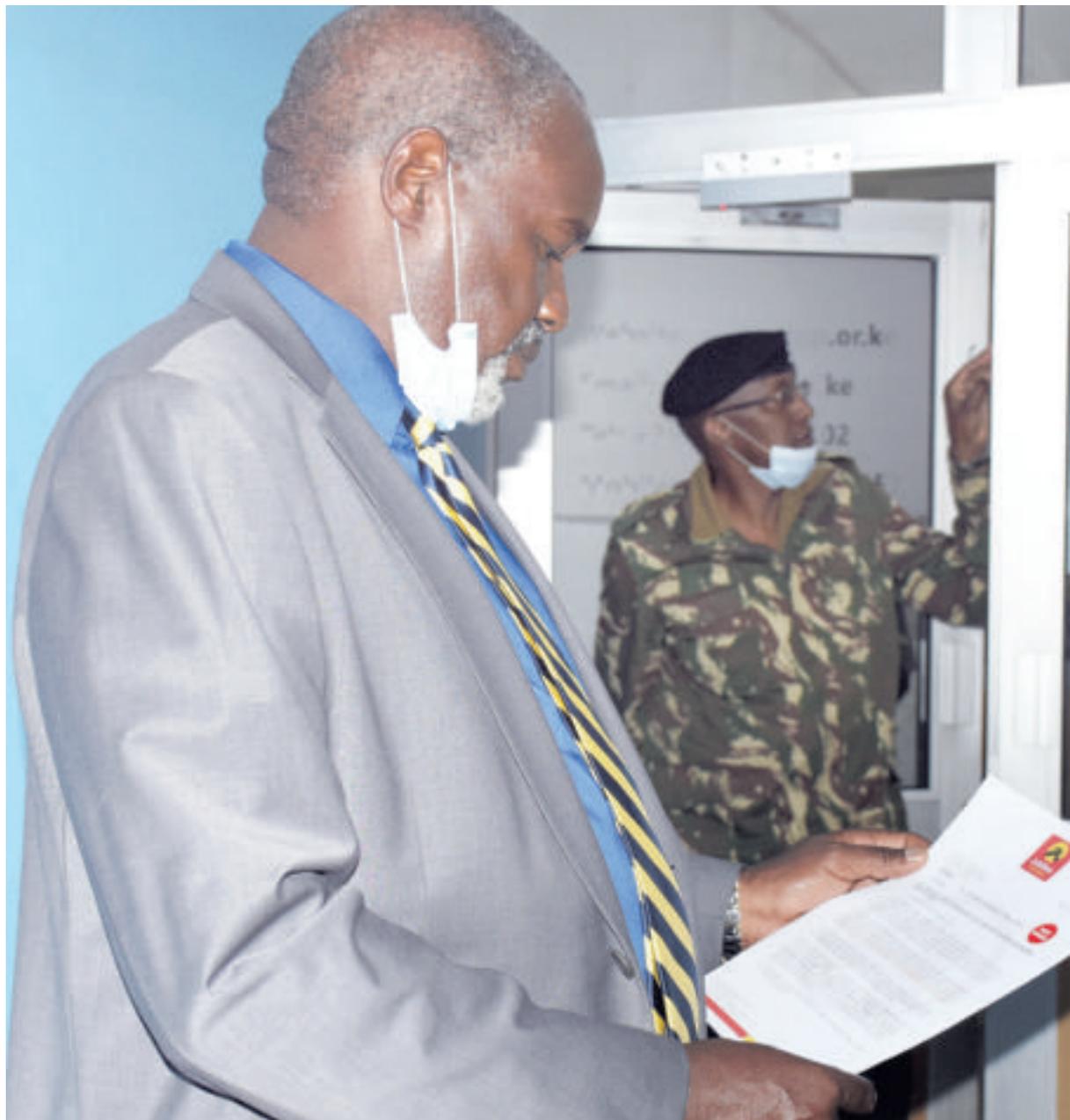
Yesterday, Nderitu said her office had received robust feedback from both Jubilee elected leaders and party members.

She promised to make a ruling on the matter within the law after collating all the views. "The office will analyse the submissions as soon as it is practically possible and deal with them as per laid down procedure and the law," Nderitu said.

Ruto's men claim the minutes were falsified and will be the smoking gun for what the DP himself has termed illegal and fraudulent changes.

"The minutes submitted to the office of the registrar were forgeries. No changes of party officials can be done without procedural minutes of party organs," Senate Majority leader Kipchumba Murkomen.

"The case is as simple as that," Murkomen added, suggesting that with the revelations of fraudulent



minutes, the battle is as good as over.

This even as President Uhuru Kenyatta's key confidant, David Murathe, told the Star that they had agreed on a ceasefire to allow the government to fight Covid-19.

As Ruto firms up his case, details that the proposed officials are strangers in the Jubilee National Executive Council could have informed the tactical withdrawal by the President's men.

Uhuru's handlers are understood to have voiced concerns that the raging political war would adversely affect the government's efforts to deal with coronavirus.

They would also expose internal affairs of the outfit, some of which border on non-compliance with the law.

For instance, Jubilee organs including the NEC have never held any formal meeting since 2017, posing tough sanctions from the

“

DAVID MURATHE

The minutes touched the raw nerves of his (Ruto's) obsession with the 2022 succession. We are now on a ceasefire and people should stop 2022 politics as it is an unnecessary diversion

Registrar of Political Parties.

Yesterday, vice chairman Murathe, who has been backing the changes, declared, "we have a ceasefire," signalling a possible de-escalation of tensions.

"Now we are on a ceasefire. Our instructions are that we should focus more on the coronavirus epidemic and stop political side-shows," he told the Star on phone.

The former Gatanga MP and Uhuru's political strategist fired a salvo at Ruto, whom he accused of "obsession" with 2022 politics at the expense of serving Kenyans.

"The minutes touched the raw nerves of his [Ruto's] obsession with the 2022 succession. We are now on a ceasefire and people should stop 2022 politics as it is an unnecessary diversion," Murathe said.

He had also on Monday said that Uhuru's allies can as well leave the Jubilee Party if push comes to

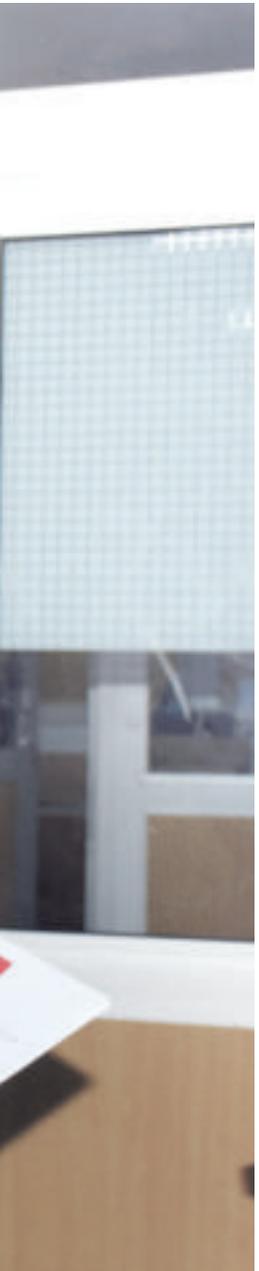


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5 NEW MEMBERS TO NATIONAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Party minutes changes



Soi MP Caleb Kositany presents a protest letter on the change of Jubilee officials at the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties at Lion's Place, Nairobi, yesterday /MERCY MUMO

shove and settle on a "bigger political house."

"It is not like we cannot move on. And if it is the party that they want, we can leave it to them," he said after a meeting with opposition chief Raila Odinga at the Kajiado home of Cotu secretary general Francis Atwoli.

Yesterday, Tuju said the proposed changes were not after all "any big deal." The former Rarienda MP said the fuss around the changes will not hinder his office from discharging its mandate, including making any changes.

"There is no big deal in the changes. Some people can make a big deal out of it but there is nothing. If some people want to make a big deal out of something, they can still do it out of nothing but that will not stop us," Tuju told the Star.

Jubilee deputy secretary general and Soi MP Caleb Kositany yesterday petitioned Nderitu's office to release a raft of documents allegedly submitted or filed with her office by Jubilee officials since 2017.

Kositany wants Nderitu to also avail to them any correspondences between her office and the Jubilee party regarding the postponement of internal elections.

Other documents being sought by Ruto include minutes of meetings allegedly held by the NEC, documents received regarding change of party Constitution, any filings of party returns and a certified copy of the Jubilee constitution deposited with the office.

Ruto's allies believe the documents will expose "impunity and forgery" on the part of officials at the centre of the initiated changes to the NMC.

"We have information which is highly reliable that the minutes submitted to the registrar's office were fake with forged signatures of the some NEC members," Kositany told the Star.

According to Kositany, Tuju and party chairman Nelson Dzuza could have submitted to the registrar illegitimate minutes of fake NEC meetings that purportedly took place and ratified the changes.

"These possible commissions include probable submission of documents and forms to your office that carry or may carry weighty decisions of the party," Kositany said in his letter to the registrar.

He delivered the letter in person to the office yesterday.

ODM national treasurer Timothy Bosire welcomed the toning down of the political fights saying it "was the best course to take" so that energies are harnessed in the fight against coronavirus.

"The epidemic has no parallels, this is a unique situation. Any personal interests would be to parade ignorance and lack of leadership properties. The situation we are in spares nobody and any diversionary conduct is an indictment to personal character," the former Kitutu Masaba MP said.

Lucy Nyawira Macharia, Prof Marete Marangu, Walter Nyambati, Jane Nampaso and James Waweru have been proposed to the membership of the Jubilee NMC in place of Veronica Maina, Fatuma Shukri and Pamela Mutua.

Gatundu South MP Moses Kuria, a supporter of Ruto, warned that the DP's allies are not visitors to the party but integral founders.

He challenged those pushing for

unilateral changes to officials of the party to quit if they were uncomfortable with working with the DP.

"This party is not somebody's bedroom or kitchen or property. This is a party for all the people who voted for us, it is no owner's occupier. Let them quit. Let them form a coalition on their choice but for us, we will remain in Jubilee Party," Kuria said.

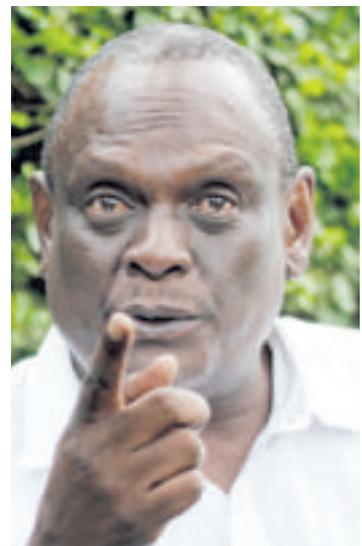
The changes to the NMC has stoked tensions in the ruling party with Ruto claiming they were "illegally and fraudulently" done without authority from the President who is the party leader.

Section 33 of the Jubilee constitution gives the party leader and deputy party leader the powers to appoint interim officials during the transition period before internal elections are done.

The constitution, which was ratified in 2016, presumes that the President as the party leader and the DP as his deputy would work in harmony to make party decisions.

However, the roiling tussle over the changes to the NMC has exposed the deep-seated differences pitting the President against his deputy even as their allies exchange bitter words.

However, Uhuru's silence over the matter had raised speculations of his approval of the far-reaching changes to the crucial organ in a manner that appears to further isolate the DP and his allies.



David Murathe



EXPERT COMMENT
JAYNE KIHARA

Jubilee will survive beyond 2022

While I appreciate that our party - Jubilee - is faced with problems, to me they are still minor and caused by elements within and outside the party.

There is nothing to worry about and our party members should rest assured that we will soon overcome these challenges.

Jubilee will be here in 2022 and will be even stronger.

We just want to ask our disgruntled members, who are no longer interested in JP, to quit and leave us peacefully.

If they have the numbers and influence as they claim, let them start another party or even form a coalition with any outfit they prefer.

It is immoral and absurd that as the country is finding ways to combat Covid-19, some members have the audacity to create a political row. I want to challenge our President -Uhuru Kenyatta - to reign in his men. He cannot be quiet when those causing all these problems are purporting to speak for him.

The decision by Kenyatta and William Ruto to bring together all Jubilee affiliate parties was not about winning elections. It was about uniting Kenyans.

Jubilee was to set an example as the home of all Kenyans regardless of tribe, religion or age, where everyone could express their opinions freely.

But now, some individuals who are scared of competition, who are scared of change of government, are wasting resources to frustrate and kill the party. They will not succeed.

I want to challenge Kenyans to re-visit the speech Kenyatta - who is also our party leader - read during the launch of JP at Kasarani.

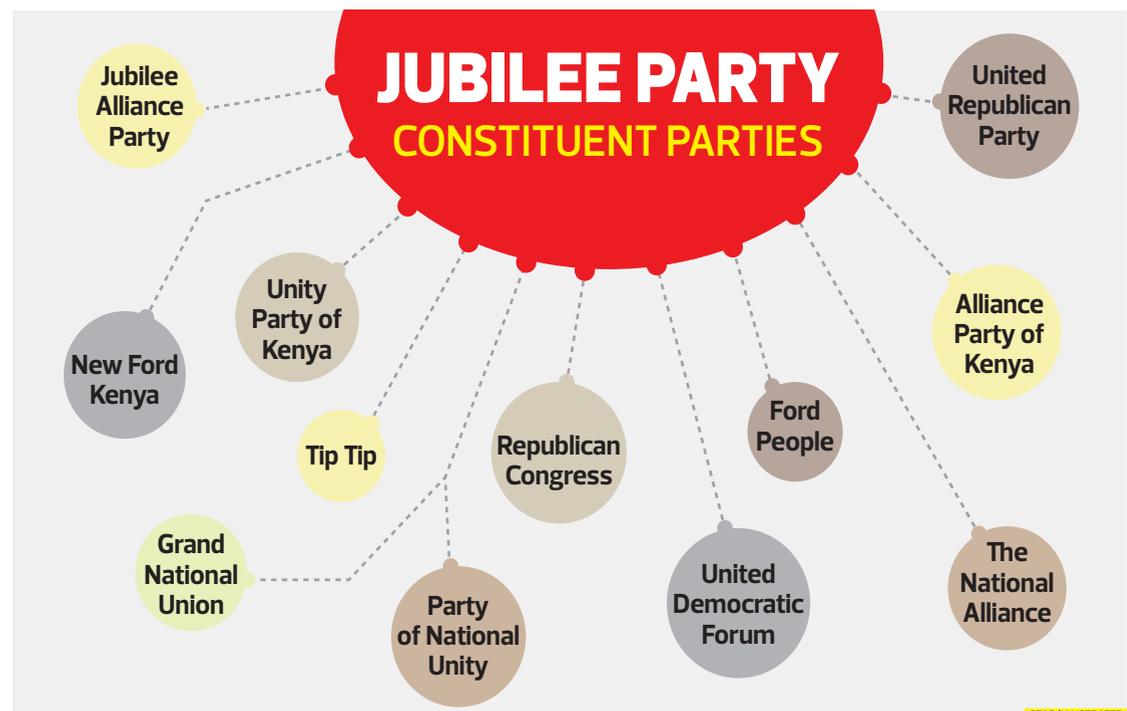
JP was to be a democratic party managed by the rule of law.

Tribalism and negative ethnicity are outdated practices, which could only be eradicated if Kenyans are united through the formation of political parties with a national outlook.

We must believe in higher ideals than just winning an election and at the same time be honest with the politics of our country

Therefore as Kenyans, and more so the members of the JP, we must guard against those who want to use the tribal politics to drag us back while we want to march forward as a progressive country.

The Naivasha MP spoke to the Star



STAR ILLUSTRATED

NEWS GENERAL

WORKING FROM HOME

We're rolling with the p

Our days are pretty much still busy; we miss the human touch, some of us. One of us could use a cat, but the plants will do in the meantime



FRANCIS MUREITHI It's three weeks now since I was at Lion Place, Westlands. Three weeks working from home.

I didn't know I could do virtually all my duties outside the office. Apart from the centre of operations shifting, nothing has changed much.

The days have been busy as usual, going through stories, helping reporters develop content. But having journalists who have been used to operate from the news-

room work from home has been a real challenge.

In some cases, I have to wake up writers in the morning so that we can discuss stories. Zoom has helped in holding editorial meetings.

But my little daughter, Alaine, who will be celebrating her fourth birthday later this year, is now well known to my fellow editors. She grabs the earphones when a Zoom meeting is on, and follows the office proceedings. She is very happy to see on camera who else is participating in the meeting. The other two kids and their mum can understand and keep a distance in total silence. But this one, never.

I am not used to taking lunch in the office. But I guess I will have added weight by over 10kgs by the time I return to the office.

I have turned one corner of my sitting room into an office, but occasionally the garden provides a perfect working area. But I am not very sure I should be doing the garden Zoom any more.

Four days ago in the middle of a meeting, the heavens opened up, and I was not sure whether to run into the house while still on Zoom or just go off!

OLIVER MATHENGE If there is one thing that Covid-19 disruption has taught me, it is that there is a lot of value in shared working spaces.

This is the third week that I am working from home.

While it has been smooth for the most part, the lack of human connection with co-workers has been a steep curve. Holding meetings on Zoom is not the same as sitting around a table sharing ideas and making fun of each other while at it.



For someone who is used to walking to a colleague's desk to discuss an idea, working from home is a huge disruptor.

The key challenges with working from home in our situation are that reliable Internet connectivity is not a guarantee and unstable power supply dogs us often.

Turnaround time is highly compromised when people are working from different locations, thus dealing a blow to efficiency.

One other lesson is that working from home requires team leaders to understand the needs of their staff. Many people, myself included, are working from couches and dining tables, which in my experience is not conducive.

The other thing one needs to do is to come up with a routine similar to when working from the office. Wake up, shower and dress up as you would normally; take breaks similar to those you do at work; have meals at the same time you would if you were working from the office.

But the most important thing is to keep in touch with your colleagues and check with your supervisors since you do not have the luxury of walking up to them.

SUSAN MUHINDI My day starts at 5.30am to allow me to have a quiet time with God and shortly after, get my brain and body active by doing some physical exercises.

Distraction from my neighbour's loud music, worries of power going off, children playing along the corridors and temptations to watch an episode of my favourite TV series are challenges that I have to deal with almost every day.

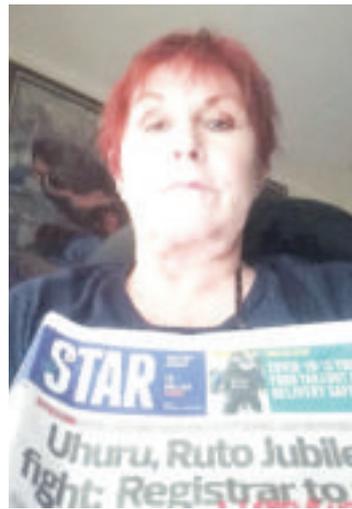
If it was my choice, I would work from the office, which is far better than sitting on my couch which is harmful to my back. Access to

the internet is also another issue. Loading up bundles every day is financially straining.

Sourcing for stories is a big challenge I have encountered. Prior to the pandemic, courts were operational but now everything is at a standstill.

This means sourcing for stories through my networks which is another challenge considering the financial constraints.

Adjusting to this isolation or loneliness from a busy working environment has been a reflective journey.



VICTORIA GRAHAM I hear about people suffering under partial lockdown as though it's the worst thing in the world.

There's a deluge of advice on what to do to keep healthy, handle stress and loneliness - deep

breathing, not overeating, exercising, taking up crocheting, trying new recipes, cracking the books one has been meaning to read, keeping in touch with friends and so on.

For me, I don't have sad tales to tell. I rather like working at home. I'm a workaholic anyhow and I've always lived alone, except during university and a brief marriage.

If I didn't have work, it would be quite boring. Right now I'm on leave but there's nowhere to go. I had wanted to go on a safari.

I spend most of my day editing stories. I call up correspondents who've left out key elements, suggesting how to improve their work, suggesting non-corona stories.

I work for about eight hours a day. Sometimes it's tedious but I get a lot done. I especially liked the story about Lamu women cutting up old brassieres and using them for face masks for their families. How many men would be caught

dead - an unfortunate expression - rather than wear mum's discarded bras?

We finish early so people can get home before curfew. but I'm already home. So I can read books I've downloaded on Kindle, watch movies. I do miss the buzz in my office but it's practically empty now, so we communicate twice a day by Zoom and WhatsApp. Still, I wish I had someone to talk to in person, a real person.

Yes, I occasionally call, email or get calls and emails. I'm planning to resume my Kiswahili lessons with my teacher over Zoom. Maybe I need a cat. Occasionally I go to the chemist or the supermarket. I exercise.

I walk out on my balcony, look at the trees. My laptop is set up next to my balcony so I can look outside and see birds fluttering about.

I work on my plants on the balcony and at the end of my outdoor hallway-breezeway.

MOSES ODHIAMBO It's been a month since we started operating remotely in line with the work from home concept.

My experience has been a mix of convictions, that it is a workable system and also one that presents challenges.

The biggest difficulty is the sourcing of news, especially one that involves sensitive material.

Apart from a few sources with whom one has a working relationship, others tend to be uneasy with phone conversations.

Others have challenges of sharing documents - bulky ones. All the same, working from home of-

fers one more hours at the workstation - mostly lost in traffic, with minimal disruption. Apart from a few calls and messages that need attention, there is little room for that banter that will take your 15 minutes of work.

There is also convenience in conducting meetings. In terms of cost, working from home has meant more units of electricity and Internet hours but the experience from this is more of an opportunity to carve out a new way of doing journalism. I would encourage that the current mode of operation be viewed as a step towards a new future for the industry.



GRACE KERONGO My biggest challenge has been the extra hats I have had to wear and the balancing acts.

Besides, meetings and editing stories and coming up with content, I am also the teacher of my daughter.

I ensure that in addition to my workload, the little one has enough work to occupy her.

The work has to be checked and posted in the online portal for grading. However, once the rou-

tine was set, everything fell into place.

The benefits of working from home include wearing your comfy pajamas all day, having editorial meetings as you gaze out at the sprawling green scenery and, above all, never having to deal with traffic or rude makangas to and from work.

The lessons I have learnt from working from home is that you have to maintain a strict routine.

unches

AGATHA NGOTHO It is now a month since I started working from home. The experience has taught me time management and patience with my children as I have to be a teacher sometimes.

My day starts at 6am with a morning run or exercises for about 20 to 30 minutes. After, I prepare breakfast for the family. By 8am, I have to send at least two story ideas for the daily docket.

To get the stories, I interview experts and other sources over the phone. Having a good rapport with experts has been a massive advantage as they are always ready to comment when called.



I also research a lot online to get new information on what is happening in the agriculture sector.

The main problem is that many of the agricultural events, innovations or research happen in the farms. With the lockdown, there is no movement in the rural areas and most of the stakeholders in the agriculture sector have scaled down activities due to the

Covid-19 outbreak.

So once again I have to rely on and trust experts to get information.

This is not always positive because some of them claim that there is not much happening so they cannot comment.

Nevertheless, the training I have received in sourcing stories from reports and research papers has come in handy.

I have been able to get a few good stories on topics like the locust invasion from reports.

TOM JALIO The past month has been a crash course in adjustment. You go from the daily commute to work and the pressure cooker of the office to having to do everything from home.

A friend asked how I'm faring. I said, "I'm rolling with the punches." It must be harder on social animals than it is on an introvert like me. Even in the office, I was often the statue amid a vibrant lot. I had just moved to a quieter corner before we were asked to work from home.

My work involves editing, so silence is good for my concentration. I never wore headphones in the office because I don't know how you can listen to music and edit at the same time. But this meant I was exposed to all the chatter.

At home, I have peace of mind. I do not have children frolicking around and shrieking their heads off. There are some in the neighbourhood, but they play in the compound, a safe distance away from my house.

Going to work meant travelling to town first then connecting to my destination. Coming back meant waiting out the traffic in the office if I could not leave early. The final leg both ways often involved queuing at the bus stop, which could eat up some time.

I cannot say I miss that experience. More so now that fares have been hiked to make up for losses due to social distancing.

I Zoom with colleagues now and then and with family every Sunday. I exercise regularly. And I watch the news on the coronavirus every evening on YouTube.

I thought I would have time to write more but the atmosphere has not been right.



PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 101(y) of the Petroleum Act No. 2 of 2019, Legal Notice No.196 of 2010 and Legal Notice No. 26 of 2012, the Energy & Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA) has calculated the maximum wholesale and retail petroleum prices which will be in force from 15th April 2020 to 14th May 2020.

A. MAXIMUM RETAIL PETROLEUM PRICES (INCLUSIVE OF VAT)

	15 th April 2020 - 14 th May 2020	MAXIMUM PUMP PRICES(VAT INCL)		
		Super Petrol (PMS) KES/L	Automotive Diesel (AGO) KES/L	Kerosene (DPK) KES/L
TOWNS				
1 Mombasa		90.40	95.09	74.82
2 Kilifi		91.11	95.81	75.53
3 Likoni Mainland		90.76	95.45	75.17
4 Kwale		90.76	95.45	75.17
5 Malindi		91.33	96.01	75.74
6 Lungalunga		91.47	96.16	75.89
7 Voi		91.88	96.56	76.29
8 Taveta		93.30	97.98	77.70
9 Lamu		93.71	98.39	78.11
10 Hola		93.99	98.68	78.40
11 Nairobi		92.87	97.56	77.28
12 Thika		92.87	97.57	77.28
13 Machakos		93.11	97.79	77.52
14 Kajiado		93.29	97.98	77.70
15 Makuyu		93.16	97.85	77.57
16 Muranga		93.39	98.08	77.80
17 Sagana		93.61	98.30	78.02
18 Embu		93.98	98.66	78.38
19 Kerugoya		93.90	98.58	78.31
20 Narok		94.26	98.95	78.66
21 Nyeri		94.25	98.93	78.65
22 Namanga		94.42	99.10	78.82
23 Kiganjo		94.20	98.90	78.62
24 Chuka		94.51	99.19	78.91
25 Kitui		94.40	99.09	78.81
26 Mwingi		94.79	99.48	79.20
27 Nanyuki		94.80	99.49	79.21
28 Nkubu		95.77	100.46	80.18
29 Mtito Andei		95.30	100.00	79.71
30 Meru		95.96	100.66	80.38
31 Isiolo		95.82	100.52	80.23
32 Maua		95.87	100.55	80.27
33 Garissa		97.04	101.73	81.45
34 Marsabit		100.73	105.41	85.13
35 Liboi		99.81	104.49	84.21
36 Moyale		102.30	107.00	86.71
37 Sololo		101.36	106.05	85.77
38 Habaswein		99.73	104.42	84.14
39 Dadaab		98.43	103.11	82.83
40 Tarbaj		101.98	106.67	86.38
41 Elwak		103.59	108.27	87.99
42 Wajir		102.13	106.82	86.55
43 Modogashe		99.87	104.56	84.28
44 Mandra		105.91	110.60	90.32
45 Nakuru		92.71	97.53	77.32
46 Gilgil		92.68	97.50	77.27
47 Mogotio		92.67	97.49	77.26
48 Molo		92.75	97.58	77.35
49 Olenguruone		93.45	98.28	78.05
50 Londiani		92.97	97.79	77.57
51 Nyahururu		92.96	97.78	77.56
52 Archers Post		95.95	100.77	80.54
53 Lodosoit		97.05	101.87	81.65
54 Naivasha		93.03	97.87	77.64
55 Marigat		93.44	98.27	78.04
56 Kabarnet		93.93	98.75	78.54
57 Maralal		95.02	99.84	79.62
58 Eldoret		93.68	98.50	78.29
59 Kiplombe		93.68	98.50	78.29
60 Iten		93.68	98.50	78.29
61 Naiberi		93.68	98.50	78.29
62 Kesses		93.68	98.50	78.29
63 Kapsabet		93.69	98.53	78.30
64 Webuye		94.11	98.94	78.71
65 Kitale		94.05	98.87	78.64
66 Kapenguria		94.68	99.51	79.28
67 Bungoma		94.45	99.27	79.04
68 Moiben		93.69	98.53	78.30
69 Matunda		93.67	98.53	78.28
70 Burnt Forest		93.63	98.46	78.23
71 Tambach		93.72	98.55	78.32
72 Kapsowar		94.19	99.01	78.78
73 Chebara		94.07	98.89	78.68
74 Kimwarer		93.99	98.82	78.60
75 Timboroa		93.92	98.74	78.51
76 Nandi Hills		93.88	98.70	78.48
77 Kaiboi		93.74	98.56	78.34
78 Kimini		94.23	99.05	78.83
79 Endebe		94.58	99.40	79.17
80 Saboti		94.25	99.08	78.85

	15 th April 2020 - 14 th May 2020	MAXIMUM PUMP PRICES(VAT INCL)		
		Super Petrol (PMS) KES/L	Automotive Diesel (AGO) KES/L	Kerosene (DPK) KES/L
TOWNS				
81 Chepareria		94.89	99.71	79.49
82 Lomut		96.50	101.32	81.11
83 Burgich		95.30	100.12	79.90
84 Sigor		95.43	100.25	80.03
85 Lodwar		97.86	102.68	82.47
86 Kakuma		99.45	104.27	84.05
87 Lokichar		96.87	101.69	81.46
88 Kalokol		98.63	103.45	83.22
89 Lokori		97.22	102.05	81.83
90 Lokitaung		101.51	106.33	86.11
91 Kapedo		96.50	101.32	81.11
92 Malaba		94.85	99.67	79.45
93 Lokichogio		100.65	105.47	85.24
94 Ziwa		93.88	98.70	78.48
95 Soy		93.68	98.50	78.29
96 Moi's Bridge		93.75	98.57	78.35
97 Turbo		93.63	98.46	78.23
98 Kibish		101.74	106.56	86.34
99 Nakalale		100.56	105.38	85.17
100 Loima		96.99	101.81	81.58
101 Lokirama		98.55	103.37	83.15
102 Kainuk		95.75	100.58	80.35
103 Kacheliba		95.09	99.91	79.68
104 Kiwawa		95.69	100.51	80.29
105 Ortum		95.28	100.10	79.87
106 Kachibora		94.07	98.89	78.68
107 Kwanza		94.78	99.61	79.39
108 Kaplamai		94.10	98.93	78.70
109 Eldama Ravine		94.51	99.34	79.11
110 Tenges		94.65	99.48	79.26
111 Barwessa		94.77	99.60	79.37
112 Kipsaraman		95.68	100.50	80.27
113 Loruk		95.55	100.37	80.14
114 Kabartonjo		94.51	99.34	79.11
115 Tindiret		94.58	99.40	79.17
116 O'lessos		93.75	98.57	78.35
117 Kobujo		94.15	98.97	78.75
118 Serem		94.23	99.05	78.83
119 Kabiye		93.68	98.50	78.29
120 Cheptulu		94.11	98.94	78.71
121 Songor		94.65	99.48	79.26
122 Kapcherop		94.30	99.12	78.89
123 Sambalat		94.98	99.80	79.58
124 Aror		94.63	99.45	79.23
125 Tot		94.84	99.66	79.43
126 Kaptarakwa		93.88	98.70	78.48
127 Kisumu		93.67	98.49	78.27
128 Sondu		93.78	98.60	78.38
129 Oyugis		94.26	99.09	78.86
130 Kakamega		93.72	98.55	78.33
131 Mumias		94.01	98.83	78.60
132 Bondo		93.89	98.71	78.49
133 Siaya		94.01	98.83	78.61
134 Kericho		94.19	99.01	78.78
135 Nyamira		94.24	99.08	78.85
136 Kisii		94.56	99.38	79.16
137 Sotik		94.38	99.21	78.99
138 Keroka		94.57	99.39	79.17
139 Busia		94.55	99.37	79.15
140 Homabay		94.49	99.31	79.10
141 Migori		95.34	100.17	79.95
142 Isebania		95.64	100.46	80.23
143 Bomet		94.79	99.62	79.39
144 Muhoroni		93.91	98.73	78.50
145 Mbita		94.48	99.30	79.09
146 Mbale		93.68	98.50	78.28
147 Etago		95.13	99.95	79.72
148 Magenche		95.23	100.06	79.83
149 Kilgoris		95.06	99.89	79.66

B. MAXIMUM WHOLESALE PETROLEUM PRICES (INCLUSIVE OF VAT)

	15 th April 2020 - 14 th May 2020	MAXIMUM PETROLEUM WHOLESALE PRICES		
		Super Petrol (PMS) KES/L	Automotive Diesel (AGO) KES/L	Kerosene (DPK) KES/L
TOWNS				
1 Mombasa		81.56	86.25	65.97
2 Nairobi		84.03	88.71	68.43
3 Nakuru		83.86	88.69	68.47
4 Eldoret		84.84	89.66	69.44
5 Kisumu		84.83	89.65	69.42

In accordance with Section 99 of the Petroleum Act No. 2 of 2019 (the Act), a person convicted of retailing petroleum products above the recommended price shall be liable to a fine of not less than ten million Kenya Shillings, or a term of imprisonment of not less than five years or to such fine and imprisonment. Further, Oil Marketing Companies are cautioned that non-compliance with the recommended maximum wholesale petroleum prices shall attract a fine of not less than five million Kenya Shillings as per Section 124 of the Act. In this respect, consumers are requested to be vigilant in reporting non-compliant retailers to EPRA for necessary legal action. The Authority has installed a hotline number (0708 444 000), operational during normal working hours, with a view of increasing its engagement with stakeholders to enhance enforcement and compliance activities.

Members of the public can obtain the latest petroleum prices in major towns by sending the message: "price <space> name of major town" to 40850 or by dialing the short code *363# on their mobile phones.

The Authority would also wish to alert petroleum retail station dealers of increased instances of fraudsters purporting to monitor petroleum prices on behalf of the Authority. On this account, the Authority has put in place an SMS inquiry system where dealers can verify the authenticity of persons inspecting their stations by sending the message employee followed by the employee's national ID number to 40850 e.g. employee 12345678 or by dialing the short code *363#.

Further, the Authority wishes to caution petrol station dealers that it is an offence to store or offer for sale adulterated or export bound petroleum products. The Authority shall not hesitate to revoke licenses of petroleum dealers found to have committed such an offence.

Corporate Communications
Energy & Petroleum Regulatory Authority



NEWS GENERAL

KMPDU SPEAKS

Health workers issue demands to effectively fight coronavirus

They want an emergency allowance of Sh15,000 for all health workers, Sh5,000 for frontline support personnel per month and about 30m personal protective equipment (PPEs) for three months



Health officer Joyce Kidogo takes swab samples from Health PS Susan Mochache for coronavirus analysis at KNH yesterday
/DOUGLAS OKIDY

Health workers want the government to establish a Sh3 billion fund to cushion them as they put their lives on the line to save Kenyans suffering from Covid-19.

The medics also want an emergency allowance of Sh15,000 for all health workers, Sh5,000 for front-

line support personnel per month and about 30 million personal protective equipment (PPEs) for three months. The allowances, they said, should be in addition to the current risk allowances paid to all health personnel in the country.

These are among the raft of de-

mands contained in a memorandum submitted to the Senate ad hoc Committee on Covid-19 by the Kenya Medical Practitioners Pharmacists and Dentists Union.

The panel, chaired by Nairobi Senator Johnson Sakaja, has been receiving proposals from stakeholders on how Kenyans can be insulated against the health and economic effects of the pandemic.

Emphasising how doctors and other frontline workers have been adversely affected in the line of duty in other counties, the union said there is a need for a comprehensive compensation package of all health workers. More than 100 doctors have been infected in the US, Italy, France and Germany, while others have succumbed.

“Already, four doctors have tested positive and 62 health workers are under quarantine,” KMPDU acting secretary general Chibanzi Mwachonda said in the memorandum.

The union proposed the creation of an Occupational Injury and Disease Fund as subsidiary legislation to the Public Finance Management Act with a seed amount of Sh3 billion to cover all frontline workers in public and private sectors.

“The amounts payable to the workers shall be as prescribed in the Work Injury Benefits Act 2007,” the document reads. They also want all health workers to be exempted from Pay As You Earn for at least 12 months, and the government to effect payment of emergency call allowance for all doctors in the public service.

In addition, the medics want the government to provide PPEs in line with World Health Organization Standards and prioritise testing for health workers.

For the first containment period of three months, they want 8,280,000 surgical masks, 4,140,000 N95 masks, 4,140,000 disposable gowns, caps, hazmats, shoe covers and face shields, 92,000 medical glasses.

“The unavailability of adequate personal protective equipment for the frontline healthcare workers is an issue of great concern and urgently needs to be resolved,” Mwachonda said.

DISRUPTION

Budget bills in limbo as MPs vote to alter House calendar

MOSES ODHIAMBO / Members of the National Assembly yesterday voted to alter the regular House calendar following the constraints of the coronavirus pandemic.

The lawmakers will now hold sittings only on Wednesdays, with numbers limited to 53 members including the leaders. The changes present a race against time for crucial budget bills whose deadline has affected by the disruption.

The House will adjourn sittings from Wednesday, April 15, until the next Wednesday, April 22 at 10am.

Normally, MPs hold four sittings in a week – Tuesday afternoon, Wednesday morning and afternoon and on Thursday.

However, the sittings, following a motion by the Business committee, will be spread to each Wednesday until May 6, when members will break for a short recess.

Leader of Majority Aden Duale moved that the House would resume its sittings for the second part on June 2 – depending on how the emergency situation would pan out.

The changes would mean fewer hours for members' motions and bills and legislation that is not considered part of Covid-19 response.

Speaker Justin Muturi's rules restrict committee meetings to nine participants and only in rooms marked in line with the Health ministry guidelines.

FALSE SENSE OF PROTECTION

Kebs to arrest hawkers selling cloth masks

JOHN MUCHANGI / Hawkers selling cloth masks and diluted sanitiser face up to one year in jail if convicted.

The Kenya Bureau of Standards is already hunting down such traders, saying it has not approved cloth masks because studies show most of them are useless. Kebs managing director Bernard Njiraini says the bogus products give unsuspecting buyers a false sense of protection while increasing the risk of exposure.

The Standards Act Cap 496 says first-time offenders are liable to up to 12 months imprisonment or to a fine not exceeding Sh1 million or both.

Culprits face additional fines and a jail term under the Public Health Act for endangering lives.

“As part of a multi-agency team, Kebs has begun a crackdown on rogue traders of uncertified sanitizer and masks. Stern action stipulated in the Standards Act Cap 496 will be taken against the culprits,” he said in a statement yesterday.

The MD said an effective mask must factor in the filtration capacity, efficiency of the material, capacity to absorb moisture and the fit of the mask on the wearer's face.

However, the Ministry of Health says Kenyans can use cloth masks because of the shortage of the approved varieties.

UNION PROPOSED THE CREATION OF OCCUPATIONAL INJURY AND DISEASE FUND

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



PARLIAMENT OF KENYA

INVITATION TO TENDERS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**DIRECTOR GENERAL, PARLIAMENTARY JOINT SERVICES,
PARLIAMENTARY SERVICE COMMISSION**

NEWS GENERAL



Father Richard Oduor at the Millimani law courts / ENOS TECHE

PROBE INCOMPLETE

Siaya priest 'who spread virus' to spend two more days in custody

ANNETTE WAMBULWA
@TheStarKenya

The Siaya priest alleged to have knowingly spread Covid-19 when he jetted back from Italy last month has been detained for two more days.

Father Richard Oduor was arraigned on Tuesday. He had been in custody since last Thursday after recovering from the virus.

Oduor was nabbed by police after being discharged from Kenyatta National Hospital where he had been receiving treatment after earlier

testing positive for the coronavirus.

The prosecution asked the court to remand him for five days to allow the police to complete investigations.

However, magistrate Martha Nanzushi allowed them to detain him for two more days at the Kileleshwa police station.

The case will be mentioned on Thursday.

The state says Oduor is suspected to have had the virus when he arrived in Kenya from Italy.

He travelled to Kisumu and Siaya, interacting with people.

FR ODUOR IS SUSPECTED TO HAVE HAD THE VIRUS WHEN HE ARRIVED FROM ITALY

INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE

Supervisor in Sh500K metal theft case freed

Magistrate says the prosecution failed to prove its case

CLAUSE MASIKA
@TheStarKenya

A Nairobi court has freed a Bomas of Kenya supervisor charged with stealing metal bars valued at Sh500,000 for lack of evidence.

Evanson Maina was also charged with another count of handling stolen goods.

The offences were allegedly committed on January 31, 2015. Maina denied both charges when he was arraigned and was released on bond.

During the trial, the prosecution called nine witnesses.

The complainant John Wambua told the court that he had erected the billboard at the Bomas of Kenya.

He received a call from the property manager, a Mr Njoroge, informing him that a person had been arrested trying to steal the billboard.

"The manager also told me that a vehicle that had been procured by the accused person had also been impounded," he told the court.

Bomas of Kenya employee Elizabeth Amboso told the court that she was a security officer in 2015 when the alleged offence took place. She

had worked at the place for 13 years.

Amboso testified that she saw the accused cut the iron bar but was told it belonged to him. She said she saw the accused person park the items into a lorry. On enquiring from the supervisor, she learned there had been no permission to cut the iron bars. The guard said after some time, a Mr Abdi came with police officers and arrested Maina.

The investigating officer and other six witnesses also testified in the case. Maina said he sought permission from the person who was in charge of the property, security, maintenance and housekeeping.

He said Bomas had disposed of some scrap metals in 2012 and it is these that he borrowed and was given the go-ahead to take.

He got a car to park them and his colleagues assisted him in loading the scrap metals. He denied any wrongdoing. In her ruling delivered on Skype, Kibera senior resident magistrate Renee Kitagwa said the prosecution depended on hearsay but failed to prove the case.

Kitagwa said most evidence presented posed more doubts.

GUARD TESTIFIED THAT SHE SAW THE ACCUSED CUT THE IRON BAR BUT WAS TOLD IT BELONGED TO HIM

DENIES WRONGDOING

Kisumu woman charged after 'torching' house over funeral

MAURICE ALAL/A woman in Kisumu county has been charged in a Maseno court with arson and assault. Donnet Rose Odhiambo is accused of torching a Sh3,288,600 family house after disagreeing with her husband.

Steve Sande allegedly refused to allow her to attend her relative's funeral with their four-year-old child amid fears for their safety in the wake of Covid-19 infection. The two have been married since 2015 and have one child. The charge sheet says she committed the offence on April 3, at Kapuonja location in Kisumu West. In the second count, she was charged with causing Sande bodily harm. Odhiambo denied the charges.



House torched in South Kapuonja village / MAURICE ALAL

KISUMU COUNTY ASSEMBLY



THE SECOND ASSEMBLY
FOURTH SESSION

NOTIFICATION OF NOMINEE TO THE OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER

In the matter of consideration before the County Assembly of Kisumu on the nominee to the office of County Executive Member; Roads, Transport and Public Works -Kisumu County.

Pursuant to the Provision of Article 179(2)(b) of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, County Government Act 2012, Section 35, 87 and Section 8(1)(a) of the Public Appointments (County Assembly Approval) and Standing Order No. 187 of the Kisumu County Assembly Standing Orders; we wish to notify the General Public that the Governor of Kisumu County has submitted to the County Assembly of Kisumu the following underlisted person nominated for appointment as **County Executive Member for Roads, Transport and Public Works -Kisumu County.**

Date:	22nd April, 2020	Venue:	County Assembly Hall
No.	Name of Nominee	Position	Time
1.	Dr. Joyce Atieno Osogo	CEC Roads, Transport and Public Works	9.30am - 11.30am

The nominee is hereby invited to appear before the County Assembly Committee on Appointment at the venue, date and time indicated above.

The nominee is asked to collect a questionnaire from the office of the Clerk of the County Assembly during official working hours and is required to return 14 copies of the filled questionnaire to the office of the Clerk of the County Assembly at the County Assembly Building next to Kisumu Regional Police Headquarters (Central Police Station) not later than **17th April, 2020**. The Nominee should ensure that certified copies of academic certificates/testimonials and copies of clearance certificates from the following bodies are submitted:

1. National Police Service
2. Higher Education Loan Board
3. Credit Reference Bureau
4. Kenya Revenue Authority
5. Ethics and Anti Corruption Commission

Note:

1. Nominee with foreign degree must obtain accreditation from the Commission of University Education of Kenya.
2. Nominee should ensure that his academic certificates /testimonials are certified by the Educational Institutions which issued /awarded them.
3. The originals of the aforementioned should be availed to the Committee during the approval hearing.
4. Due to the current health situation of Covid-19 pandemic, members of the public can submit any information or comments on the suitability or otherwise of the nominee for appointment to the position nominated by way of sworn statements or affidavits.
5. Submission may be sent or hand delivered to the following address/email so as to be received by **Tuesday 21st, April, 2020 before 5pm.**

The Clerk
County Assembly of Kisumu
P.o Box 86-40100
Kisumu
Email:kisumuassembly@gmail.com
Website: www.kisumuassembly.go.ke

NEWS GENERAL

WARD REPS DEMAND SECURITY

Arsonists attack MCA in Waiguru impeachment bid, home torched

Two ward reps supporting motion for governor's removal from office have received threats

REUBEN GITHINJI
@TheStarKenya



A Kirinyaga MCA who tabled an impeachment motion against Governor Anne Waiguru was on Tuesday attacked and his home partially burnt by arsonists.

The unknown number of raiders descended on the homestead of Mutira MCA David Wangui in Kanjia area of Kirinyaga Central subcounty and set a section of it on fire at around 1am.

The used petrol to torch a fodder shed but a farmhand quickly discovered the fire and alerted Wangui's family who extinguished it.

Wangui said they found two jerricans of petrol and a jug that they suspect was used to pour the fuel on the structure.

"The farmhand was sleeping near the shed which my brother uses to store fodder and he smelled something burning. He woke up found the fire and raised alarm," Wangui said.

He said the arsonists whose number could not be established escaped, expressing worry that they could have planned to do worse things.

The MCA said they reported the matter to the police and that investigations have started.

Kirunda sub-location assistant chief Francis Muchiri said they carried the two petrol jerricans to help police with investigations.

He appealed to residents to volunteer information that could help in the arrest of the culprits.

It was not clear whether the arson was connected with the impeachment motion that Wangui moved on April 1 at the county assembly.

MCAs want Waiguru impeached for allegedly violating the Constitution, procurement and finance management laws and abuse of office.

The attack happened two days after two other MCAs supporting the impeachment received threatening leaflets.

On Monday, Ngariama MCA Erastus Ireri and Rose Njeri (nominated) recorded statements at Kianyaga police station over the threatening leaflets.

Njeri alleged she was traumatised to find the typed leaflets circulating in the area warning her to keep off the governor's affairs.

She was told to focus on her office or face the wrath of the writer of the leaflet.

On Sunday, supporters of Waiguru and those opposed to her clashed at Kithure market where both Njeri and governor come from.

MCAs led by Majority leader Kamau Murango met on Monday evening and demanded that they be provided with security. They expressed fears for their lives.

Since the impeachment motion was tabled, there have been wrangles among MCAs. Some have claimed intimidation from Jubilee Party secretary-general Raphael Tuju who announced the dismissal of Kerugoya MCA Kamau Murango as the county assembly's Majority leader.

Murango was accused of joining his colleagues for the governor's



Mutira MCA Kinyua Wangui after moving a motion for Kirinyaga Governor Anne Waiguru's impeachment on April 1 /REUBEN GITHINJI

impeachment bid. Jubilee Party has ordered all elected and nominated MCAs to tow the party line and disassociate themselves from any impeachment motion against the governor.

Tuju said the ward reps must exhaust all inside party resolution mechanisms before resorting to impeachment. The governor has only seven MCAs on her side while 27 are supporting her removal from office.

COWARDLY ACT

Wajir leaders condemn killing of 6 KPR officers by Shabaab

Region has witnessed calm for two months



Wajir Governor Mohamed Abdi during a tour of Wajir County Referral Hospital to assess preparedness in handling Covid-19 patients /COURTESY

STEPHEN ASTARIKO/Leaders in Wajir on Tuesday condemned the Monday morning killing of six Kenya Police Reservists by al Shabaab militants in Khrof Arar, Wajir East.

Four Shabaab militants were also killed in the gun battle that started at 10am and lasted several hours.

Speaking during the burial of the six, Governor Mohamed Abdi and MP Rashid Kassim said the attack on the reservists will not dampen the spirit to completely eradicate the militants.

The police reservists were on routine patrol when they were attacked by the militants about eight kilometres from the Kenya-Somalia border.

Abdi regretted that the "cowardly act" happened when the country's focus is on containing the spread of the coronavirus.

He said the sole mission of the militants was to distract the county's attention from the war on Covid-19 pandemic. The region has for the past two months witnessed calm with no terror attack being reported.

The last attack in Wajir was in January after an unknown number of suspected Shabaab militants attacked a passenger bus in Khorof

Kharar, injuring two people.

"As we gather here to bury our fallen heroes and condole with the bereaved families, I want to say that we shall continue fighting these outlawed militants and secure our region," Abdi said.

He said his administration will continue working with the national government in recruiting and equipping KPR officers because they are an integral part towards improving the security of the region.

MP Kassim urged the security agencies to act with speed to apprehend and bring the perpetrators to book.

He said fighting al Shabaab should be an everyday business and both leaders and the community must not be cowed.

"We shall fight these outlawed militants who are out to kill our people and destabilise our county. We must stand strong against extremists and not let them consume our existence," the legislator said.

The militants have always taken advantage of the porous border and proximity to Somalia to carry out attacks before escaping either on foot, using motorbikes or vehicles.

STOP STIGMA

Encourage people with virus signs to report, state urged

MAGDALINE SAYA/The government has been urged to encourage Kenyans who suspect to have been exposed to coronavirus to come forward.

The Kenya Medical Association Covid-19 Response Advisory Committee on Tuesday said communication should move from asking people to report suspected cases as this leads to stigmatisation.

The government has always maintained that Kenyans should be vigilant, and report those within their neighbourhoods whom they suspect could have contracted the virus for action to be taken.

"Communication on Covid-19 must shift away from asking people to report 'suspects' as if they are criminals, to encouraging people to come forward in case they have had been in contact with someone with Covid-19, or have symptoms of the disease and they will receive adequate testing and care," KMA president Jacqueline Kitulu said.

The association said social responsibility and solidarity must be emphasised but methods to trace contacts and patients must not be unnecessarily punitive.

Kitulu also urged the government to cater for quarantine costs of those whose samples have been taken and have to stay longer at the facility awaiting the results.

"There needs for clarity on quarantine and management of hotel costs during this period, given that there have been challenges on what happens to people who have been tested and their results take a few days to come back," Kitulu said.

NO JOBS

Long-distance bus crews struggle to make ends meet

PILI CHIMERAH/Long-distance bus drivers and their conductors are feeling the heat of the effects of Covid-19, with most being rendered jobless.

This is after the government restricted movement in and out of four hotspot counties - Mombasa, Kilifi, Kwale and Nairobi - for 21 days in a bid to curb the spread of the virus.

In Mombasa, about 20 bus companies have been grounded since the directive took effect last Wednesday.

Dreamline Bus conductor Hemedi Mwinyi said on Tuesday he is the breadwinner and does not know how he will feed his family because he is now jobless. Mwinyi has seven children and a wife who look up to him.

"I wish I could get another job but it is impossible because almost all sectors have been affected by the pandemic," he told the Star on the phone.

Mwinyi said the government should lift the directive of sealing the counties so that the transport sector can continue thriving.

"There should be strict directives for passengers to put on masks and every bus should have sanitisers. Our bosses should come forward and provide gloves and masks," he said.

NEWS GENERAL

RARE FIND

KWS probes death of dugong in Lamu

CHETI PRAXIDES/ Rangers in Shanga Rubu island in Lamu East have recovered a carcass of the endangered dugong — a rare marine mammal — inside a mangrove forest.

Dugongs, commonly referred to as sea cows, are large grey marine mammals belonging to the same scientific class as elephants. However, unlike other marine animals, dugongs are unique because they give birth to and breastfeed their young on their two teats.

The rare mammal has a whale-like flat tail and flippers that move up and down to enable movement. They feed majorly on sea grass.

The carcass, which was estimated to be two days old, was recovered by

ranger Athman Shee Kupi working at the Pate Marine and Community Conservancy.

The dugong weighed approximately 200kg and was about 6.5 feet long.

It is estimated that the remaining population of dugongs in Kenya is less than 10 but an aerial census survey led by KWS in 2017 recorded zero sighting of the marine mammals whose lifespan is up to 70 years and above.

PMCC manager Nadhir Hashim said the recovery was historic as dugongs haven't been sighted in Kenyan waters for centuries.

He said they are yet to ascertain the cause of death of the animal

but suspected it could have been trapped inside the thick mangrove forest as it came out to look for food.

He said it is also possible that it consumed toxic plastic waste as its stomach appeared distended and abnormal.

Hundreds of residents made trips to the area to catch a glimpse of the mammal. Hashim called for concerted efforts to protect endangered species along the Kenyan Coast and globally.

"It's so unfortunate that the dugong was already dead when it was recovered otherwise we would have done everything to keep it alive. We need to stop more deaths of endangered species," he said.

Northern Rangeland Trust Coastal region deputy director Hassan Yusuf said the sighting of the dead dugong was both sad and good news.

"Sad because a vulnerable species has been lost and its population down by one. Good news because the sighting of the carcass gives hope that this species is still around



The carcass of a dugong that was recovered in Lamu /PRAXIDES CHETI

and has found safety in Lamu owing to the increased conservation efforts by the community," he said.

Fishermen in the region have constantly reported sightings of dugong grazing trails and the recovery of the carcass confirms the anecdotal reports. Lamu's senior KWS warden Mathias Mwavita said samples from the carcass have been obtained to test and unravel the cause of death.

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Lamu rehab centre closed down over coronavirus fears

CHETI PRAXIDES/The Lamu Rehabilitation Centre has closed down indefinitely over coronavirus concerns. All services have been immediately suspended until further notice. New addicts seeking to be admitted were turned away.

The Sh98 million facility is the only one of its kind in the region having opened its doors for operations last year on April 5, its major objective being to rehabilitate the growing number of drug users.

The 100-bed capacity rehab was fully sponsored by the Kenya Red Cross Society in coordination with other partners like the Nons Verbe Foundation, Italian Red Cross and Lamu county government.

Kenya Red Cross Lamu coordinator Kauthar Alwy said the facility had been closed following directives from the National Authority for the Campaign Against Alcohol and Drug Abuse until the situation in the country normalises.

She said operations at the facility will resume as soon as the government announces the containment of the coronavirus.

AFTERNOON SHOWERS

Heavy rain will spread across the country this week, forecast shows

Western region and Coast predicted to receive heaviest amount



A boda boda rider drives through a flooded road in Ombaka village, Nyando, in Kisumu county /DANIEL OGENDO

and Busia. Aura said Central Kenya including Nairobi, Embu, Meru and Nyeri will have morning rains in a few places. The afternoon showers will be widespread.

"Evening showers may occur over a few places on all nights except on Thursday and Sunday when they may spread to several places."

At the Coastal Strip, morning showers will spread from Thursday while Northeastern Kenya (Marsabit, Mandera, Wajir, Garissa and Isiolo counties) will have sporadic rains throughout the week.

Aura says the rains across Kenya have been increasing in the last two weeks.

"A comparison between the previous review period (March 30 to April 5) and the current review period (April 6-12) indicates an increase in rainfall amounts over much of the country," she said.

The rains could fuel the spread of the desert locusts, because of widespread green vegetation, according to the Food and Agriculture Organisation.

"In May, the eggs will hatch into hoppers bands that will form new swarms in late June and July which coincides with the start of the long rains harvest," the UN food agency said last week.

"In March, numerous hopper bands continued to develop causing an increasing number of immature swarms to form and mature. Infestations were mainly in Turkana, Marsabit, Samburu, Isiolo, Laikipia, Meru and Embu counties."

Ground and aerial control operations covered 15,278 hectares in February and 3,968 hectares in March.

Agriculture PS Hamadi Boga said on Monday that 600 trained National Youth Service cadres are in the field doing the control operations.

"The Covid-19 pandemic has not affected their work because they are moving with security officers. The services they are offering are some of the essential and crucial services that are still operational during the curfew hours," Boga said.

He said training of the 30 people to train other trainers will be completed this month.

Met director Stella Aura said Nairobi should also prepare for heavy rains this week.

The rains will be more pronounced in the afternoon although some regions will experience morning and evening showers.

"Parts of the Lake Victoria basin, the Highlands West of the Rift Valley, Central and South Rift Valley, the Highlands East of the Rift Valley (including Nairobi) and the Coast are likely to receive heavy rainfall,"

Aura said. The forecast shows that counties around Lake Victoria and in Rift Valley highlands will have morning rains in a few places.

However, afternoon showers and thunderstorms are likely to occur in several places throughout this week.

These counties include Siaya, Kisumu, Homa Bay, Migori, Kisii, Nyamira, Trans Nzoia, Baringo, Uasin Gishu, Elgeyo Marakwet, Nandi, Laikipia, Nakuru, Narok, Kericho, Bomet, Kakamega, Vihiga, Bungoma

THE DATA

10

Estimated number of rare dugongs in Kenya

But an aerial survey by KWS in 2017 recorded no sightings of the huge mammal that gives birth to a single calf after three to seven years.

FAMOUS KICOTEC

Makueni county buys 20,000 face masks from Kitui

MUTUA KIMETI/ Makueni county has received 20,000 face masks purchased from Kicotec in Kitui county to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

The face masks packed in brown cartons where delivered by Kitui Trade and Cooperatives director Fedelis Mwaniki.

They were received by the Health Products and Technology director of Makueni James Kanyange.

Mwaniki said Makueni was one of many clients, including private and public entities, who have ordered for the masks from the factory in the last two weeks.

"We are making 30,000 pieces per day working in 24-hour shifts to meet the rising demand," Mwaniki said. Kicotec is playing a major role in management of Covid-19 in the country, he added.

The manufacturing facility is one of Governor Charity Ngilu's flagship projects.

JOHN MUCHANGI
@TheStarKenya



Rainfall will spread across the country this week, with Western Kenya and the Coast receiving the heaviest amounts.

This is likely to be the pattern this month, according to the Meteorological department. April is the peak of the long rains season.

BIG READ / HIDDEN DIFFICULTY

THE PROBLEM WITH STAYING AT HOME BOREDOM PROMOTES RISKY BEHAVIOR

The bored are more likely to break laws or take chances with their health

RAJ PERSAUD FOR
PROJECT SYNDICATE

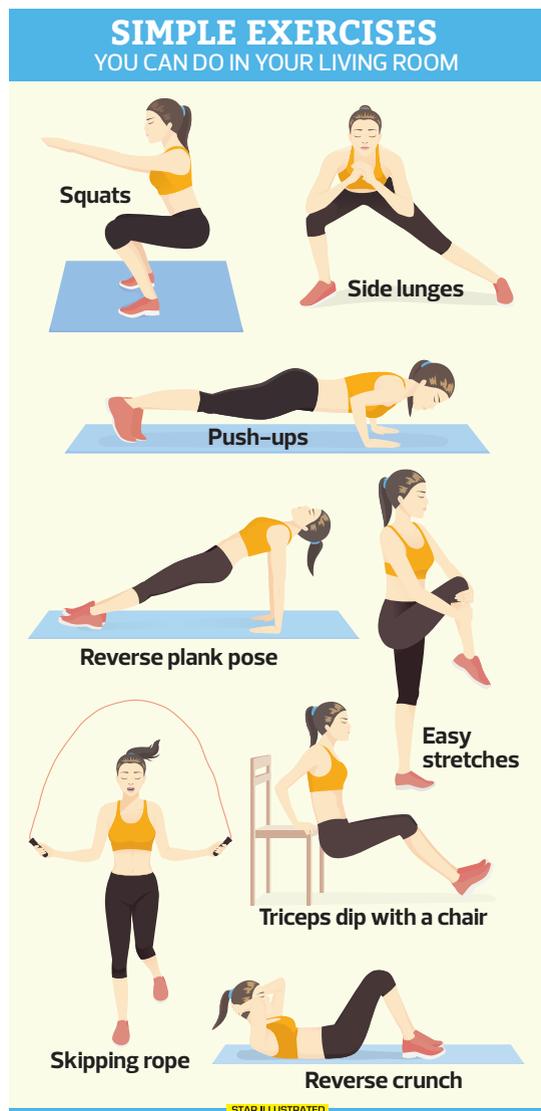
As people around the world find themselves in confinement to control the Covid-19 pandemic, look out for another affliction with an even higher infection rate than any virus. Boredom is now a serious health risk.

Is it possible that the more preoccupied we become with the physical danger posed by the virus, the more we underestimate the mental harms produced, for example, by negative emotional states, such as boredom?

Some psychoanalysts believe that boredom, if it becomes entrenched, can become a neurotic condition called “alysosis”. Historically, ennui was associated with workplace tedium. By contrast, the epidemic of monotony we are facing is an unusual variant of what psychologists call “leisure boredom”.

Because many have not encountered this kind of boredom before, they may be worse at managing it. Severe boredom has been reported to be linked to a host of problems, including gambling, reckless driving, self-harm, alcoholism, substance abuse, depression, suicide, psychosis, paranoia, irritability, aggression and even homicide.

In 2018, the Journal of Forensic Sciences published an investigation into the motive behind the murder by two 16-year-olds in Idaho of a classmate, who was stabbed 30 times. It concluded that relief from boredom and the need for excitement, which were evident in the



case, are common factors in a variety of legitimate and deviant leisure experiences.

Boredom is hardly a new area of inquiry. In *The Antichrist*, philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche remarked, “Against boredom, even gods struggle in vain.”

In *Notes from Underground*, Fyodor Dostoyevsky wrote, “Of course boredom may lead you to anything. It is boredom sets one sticking golden pins into people, but all that would not matter. What is bad (this is my comment again) is

that I dare say people will be thankful for the gold pins then.”

RISK-TAKING TENDENCIES

The most recent psychological research into boredom has uncovered a tendency for tedium to drive

people to political extremes, greater risk-taking and impulsivity. If these findings are replicated in households, even when the viral pandemic has subsided, we could be left with a fundamentally altered psychological and political landscape.



Left, Residents watch television during curfew hours in Kibera slum, Nairobi, on March 27
/REUTERS

Right, A bored woman relaxes on the balcony of her house
/STOCK IMAGE



AT HOME: BEHAVIOUR



A frustrated man looks at a utility bill /STOCK IMAGE

In 2016, psychologists Wijnand van Tilburg from the University of Essex and Eric Igou from the University of Limerick published a study in the *European Journal of Social Psychology*, titled “Going to Political Extremes in Response to Boredom.” They point out that “existential threats” were previously thought to drive the electorate to embrace political extremes.

For example, demagogues who emphasise the danger to society from foreigners and other scapegoats induce fear in the electorate. But Tilburg and Igou found that inducing tedium by giving people a very boring task leads to significant political polarisation.

Tilburg and Igou report that those who hold more radical political views claim to have a greater sense of understanding of the world, even if their explanations can be overly simplistic or incorrect. Thus, the psychology of the predicament when facing a major threat drives us to seek for certainty and coherence, while boredom’s tendency to trigger a search for meaning helps to ex-

plains the political shifts it induces.

This argument suggests the current viral pandemic represents a “double whammy” that is pushing the world further toward political extremism. In addition to confinement, flu-like symptoms and deaths, Covid-19 also has delivered a potent existential threat in the form of mass ennui.

In a recent study, Gillian Wilson of The New School replicated Tilburg’s and Igou’s findings that boredom drives people toward political extremes. But she found that boredom induces extremism among conservatives rather than liberals.

An intriguing implication of this might be increased electoral support for right-wing leaders like Donald Trump and Boris Johnson, which could encourage them to pursue even more authoritarian policies. Indeed, this viral pandemic may lead to a political spiral into fanaticism — on a mass scale.

Another recent study published in the *Journal of Behavioral Decision Making* found that people prone to boredom reported greater risk taking across financial, ethical, recreational and health and safety domains.

The research, by Tilburg, Igou, and Ayşenur Kılıç, suggested that elevated risk taking might be due to the erosion of self control that occurs under boredom. A study published in *Social Psychology*, this one by Igou, Tilburg and Andrew Moynihan, provides more evidence of heightened risk-taking.

This research may be taken as a warning that telling people to stay indoors and comply with other anti-contagion rules can backfire if such measures elevate boredom. The bored are more likely to engage in risky behaviour, whether breaking laws and rules, or taking chances with their health.

Whether we realise it or not, a key reason why we go on holiday is that a change in environment is a cure for tedium. But this treatment is denied to us for the foreseeable future. We can’t even change our scenery by getting outside as much as we need to, or should. Authoritarians and dictators around the world may already be rejoicing at the support that could soon come their way.

Raj Persaud is a London-based psychiatrist and the co-author, with Peter Bruggen, of ‘The Street-wise Guide to Getting the Best Mental Health Care’



RESEARCH

Whether we realise it or not, a key reason why we go on holiday is that a change in environment is a cure for tedium

DECEPTIVE STRATEGY

Tobacco harm reduction: Why not just eliminate?



A man smokes an e-cigarette /COURTESY

EMMA WANYONYI AND ELIZABETH MBUGUA/ Tobacco use remains the greatest preventable cause of death globally, killing up to half of all its users. It is known for being the leading risk factor for most noncommunicable diseases, including heart disease and cancer.

There are over 7,000 chemicals present in tobacco smoke and among these, at least 250 are known to be harmful and at least 69 are known to be carcinogenic (World Health Organisation). Nicotine, one of these chemicals, is the addictive substance in tobacco and has hooked over 1.1 billion smokers globally among which 80 per cent live in low- and middle-income countries.

Given that tobacco kills up to half of its users, it does not come as a surprise when WHO estimates (July 2019) that about 8 million people die globally every year due to tobacco consumption.

Tobacco control has for the longest time fought the prevalence of tobacco use and exposure to second-hand smoking through prevention and treatment. These efforts have, however, been frustrated repeatedly by the tobacco industry, which continues to come up with new and innovative ways to prevail in the market, the latest of which is the introduction of the so-called “harm reduction” products. A leading cigarette manufacturer in Kenya has announced plans to build a Sh2.5 billion plant to manufacture nicotine pouches, one such product.

“Harm reduction” is not a new strategy. Industry actors argue that cigarette filters and filter perforations are designed so as to block out chemicals such as tar and nicotine. However, the impact is insignificant as smokers draw harder from the cigarettes and cover the holes to compensate. Nicotine-based products are now common in the form of pouches and Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (Ends), also known as e-cigarettes.

Following intense industry marketing, these products are now popular around the world. For instance, in the US, e-cigarettes were used by over 3.6 million middle

and high school children in the year 2018. This prompted a raft of regulatory measures, including a ban of use in indoor and public spaces, disclosure of ingredients, packaging and their marketing. Even with these measures, deaths were reported after an outbreak of a lung illness associated with vaping/ e-cigarette use.

There are still mixed feelings about Tobacco Harm Reduction (THR), with one school of thought supporting it on the grounds that smokers hold a right to choose to use ‘less harmful’ forms of nicotine and no ban should be imposed upon these products. On the other hand, those opposing argue that use of the ‘less harmful’ forms of nicotine may deter people willing to stop smoking from quitting, while exposing them to other unintended harm healthwise.

In Africa, smoking prevalence is growing and effects on public health is dire. “Harm reduction” products, such as e-cigarettes, are becoming increasingly popular with our youth, thanks to the power of social media advertising. More often than not, they serve as a gateway to cigarette/tobacco use and not as a safer alternative. Our regulatory systems are weak and unable to contain these products strictly as prescribed drugs (as is the case in the West). We need to be worried.

The WHO advises that there is still no consensus on the effectiveness of “harm reduction” strategies. More research is, therefore, needed from independent, public health-driven sources. Industry-driven “harm reduction” strategies have a narrow approach and are meant to drive the interest of the industry to make profits through the sale of alternative products (including nicotine pouches and e-cigarettes) in the wake of tightening regulation on tobacco products around the world.

Rather than call for “harm reduction”, we should be arguing for “harm elimination”, which is possible through effective implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, our Tobacco Control Act 2007.

International Institute for Legislative Affairs

NEWS BUSINESS

LOW BUSINESS

Coronavirus slows down Easter sales

SUSAN NYAWIRA / It was business unusual for small scale traders during the Easter season due to the social and economic disruption from the novel coronavirus.

Rose Kanini who sells broiler chicken in Syokimau area had been gearing up for the Easter holiday when she enjoys bumper sales but things were different.

She sold less than 50 of the chicken despite reducing the price from Sh450 to Sh300.

"Biashara ni mbaya (business is bad). I have had to reduce my prices and even go at a loss but I still did not manage the customers I used to get during this season," said Kanini.

Most clients would buy chicken to celebrate Easter but most remained

indoors as advised by health officials.

"Let's pray this disease dies down so that things can go back to normal as my chicken business is my only source of income," said Kanini

Streets are usually filled with people selling balloons, face painting for kids and other activities to celebrate the season but this was not the case.

The tourism industry has been the hardest hit with the suspension of flights into the country and cessation of movement to and from Nairobi, Mombasa, Kilifi and Kwale.

There was no Easter celebration this year as more than 90 per cent of facilities at the Coast and the entire country remained closed, as Kenyans stayed at home.

VIDEO CONFERENCING

KRA takes tax dispute resolution online

LAURA CHEPTARUS / Kenya Revenue Authority has shifted to conducting its tax disputes online.

Individuals and business owners can now access Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) sessions with KRA digitally. Taxpayers and their agents can connect with the KRA from their offices or homes via video/teleconferencing technology applications such as Zoom, Skype or Google hangouts, a move aimed at ensuring business continuity.

"We encourage parties with tax disputes, such as assessing Commissioners and taxpayers together with their agents to continue engaging virtually under the ADR framework," KRA Deputy Commissioner for Tax Dispute

Resolution Rispah Simiyu said.

This offers a platform for disputes to be heard without physically attending ADR sessions. The online session is cost-effective and convenient to taxpayers since it covers a larger geographical area with the option of multiple individuals at different locations dialing in.

ADR was rolled out in June 2015 to complement litigation by providing timely settlement of tax disputes. The ADR process takes the form of facilitated mediation moderated by a member of the KRA's Corporate Tax Dispute Resolution Department.

During the 2018/2019 financial year, there were 502 applications where 237 cases valued at Sh8.1 billion were successfully resolved.

THE DATA

105.91

The indicative value of the shilling to the dollar

The Kenyan shilling was under pressure on Tuesday due to dollar demand from the energy sector and merchandise importers amid little foreign exchange inflows to offer support

FINANCIAL MARKET

FOREX EXCHANGE RATES

Currency	Buy	Sell	Mean
US DOLLAR	105.8088	106.0088	105.9088
STG POUND	131.4024	131.6865	131.5444
SA RAND	5.8661	5.8853	5.8757
KES / USHS	35.6574	35.8193	35.7384
KES / TSHS	21.7718	21.9074	21.8396
JPY (100)	98.2258	98.4206	98.3232
IND RUPEE	1.3864	1.3891	1.3877
EURO	115.2394	115.4853	115.3624
CHINESE YUAN	15.0145	15.0459	15.0302
AE DIRHAM	28.8033	28.8632	28.8332

NSE BIGGEST WINNERS

	Price	Change (%)
TOTAL	23.90	8.64
FLAME TREE GROUP	1.14	8.57
UCHUMI	0.30	7.14
EABL	152.75	5.34
ABSA BANK KENYA	10.35	4.97

NSE BIGGEST LOSERS

	Price	Change (%)
KENYA AIRWAYS	1.16	7.20
DIAMOND TRUST BANK	80.25	6.14
CIC INSURANCE GROUP	2.14	5.31
EVEREADY EAST AFRICA	0.82	3.53
SASINI	16.00	3.03

RELIEF

Major drop in April-May fuel cost

Petrol, kerosene prices have dropped by Sh18 and Sh18.18 while diesel dropped Sh4.09



A worker fills diesel in a car at Shell fuel station Out-erring road Westland on April 14 /MERCY MUMO

organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and allies, collectively known as OPEC+ on Sunday, agreed to cut overall crude-oil production by 9.7 million barrels a day starting on May 1 through June 30 of this year.

This as global oil prices have been under pressure, with reduced demand as a result of coronavirus-driven economic shutdowns.

As a result, the average landed cost of imported super petrol dropped 34.61 per cent from \$472.59 per cubic metre in February to \$309.03 per cubic metre in March.

Diesel decreased by 9.89 per cent from \$480.21 per cubic metre to \$432.70 per cubic metre while kerosene decreased by 37.7 per cent from \$421.24 per cubic metre to \$262.44 per cubic metre. Over the same period, the shilling weakened against the dollar, depreciating by 2.75 per cent to Sh104.05 in March compared to Sh101.27 the previous month.

A summary by EPRA shows for every Sh92.87 consumers will pay for a litre of petrol this month Sh45.07 will go to the government in form of taxes and levies, higher than the Sh32.22 cost of the product.

Distribution and storage get Sh3.19 from the litre while oil marketers and distributors are allowed a margin of Sh12.39. For a litre of diesel costing Sh97.56 at the pump, Sh36.74 will go to the government with the product costing Sh45.41. Margins for the commodity are valued at Sh12.36 while distribution and storage cost Sh3.05.

For every Sh77.28 paid for a litre of diesel, Sh34.36 goes to the state as taxes and levies while the product's actual cost is Sh27.56.

While introducing measures aimed at cushioning Kenyans from the impact of the coronavirus last month, the President left out measures to reduce the cost of fuel, with social distancing measures forcing public transport to charge commuters double the fares.

This means in Nairobi, a litre of super petrol will retail at Sh92.87, diesel at Sh97.56 and Kerosene at Sh77.28 for the next month. In February 2015, Super Petrol retailed at Sh84 in Nairobi while diesel and kerosene sold at Sh75 and Sh52 per litre.

"It is worth noting that the diesel cargoes used in the computation of this month's prices were procured in February 2020 when the crude oil price was relatively high," EPRA director-general Pavel Oimeke said.

This means, the recent crash in crude oil prices will not be reflected in this month's diesel pump prices but will be felt in the coming months.

The country is now benefiting from an ongoing oil production spat between Russia and Saudi Arabia that has seen global crude prices drop by nearly 50 per cent to \$31 per barrel yesterday from an average \$56.1 per barrel in February.

This even after members of the Or-

CYNTHIA ILAKO
@LadyKanyali



Kenyans will from this morning pay the lowest petrol and kerosene prices at the pump since 2015.

In the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority's monthly review, petrol and kerosene prices have dropped by Sh18 and Sh18.18 while a litre of diesel will cost Sh4.09 less.



TIP OF THE DAY

MAKE SURE YOUR REMOTE TEAM COMMUNICATES SENSITIVE INFORMATION SAFELY

With more and more employees working remotely, leaders need to set clear guidelines around how to communicate sensitive company information. Remind employees to use even more care than they would if they were in the office. Make clear that personal email should not be used for any company business, and that employees need to keep track of what they are printing at home. If a printed document would be subject to shredding in the office, take care to do the same from home — or refrain from printing it in the first place. And of course, ask your employees to use company-issued devices when working; using personal devices creates problems around document preservation and increases risk. Finally, be sure you have up-to-date emergency contacts for all employees — a cell phone number or another way to contact them outside of company systems. This way, should your company fall victim to a cyber attack, you'll be able to communicate with everyone. Taking these steps will help ensure your team's security while it adjusts to the virtual work environment.

NEWS BUSINESS

DEBT RELIEF

Kenya misses out on IMF's debt service relief for 25 poor nations

The country's debt repayment is set to rise given the depreciation of the shilling against the dollar



IMF managing director Kristalina Georgieva speaks during a conference hosted by the Vatican on economic solidarity on February 5 / FILE

CYNTHIA ILAKO
@LadyKanyali



resources towards vital emergency medical and other relief efforts," IMF managing director Kristalina Georgieva said.

She said the CCRT can currently provide about \$500 million (Sh53 billion) in grant-based debt service relief, including \$185 million (Sh19.6 billion) pledge by the U.K. and \$100 million (Sh10.6 billion) provided by Japan as immediately available resources.

"Others, including China and the Netherlands, are also stepping forward with important contributions," Georgieva added.

The global lender urged other donors to help chip into the Trust's resources and further boost IMF's ability to provide additional debt service relief for a full two years to the poorest member countries.

The countries that will receive debt

service relief include Afghanistan, Benin, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad and Comoros

Others are, the Democratic Republic of Congo, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Tajikistan, Togo, and Yemen

Kenya's public debt currently stands at Sh6.15 trillion, half of it owed to international lenders, amid low revenue collection.

The country's debt repayment is set to increase given the ongoing depreciation of the shilling against the dollar, driven by global shocks due to the spread of coronavirus.

Switzerland based financial expert Kasiva Mutisya told the Star the country's debt is likely to get more expensive if the shilling continues to



KASIVA MUTISYA

It will be more expensive for Kenya to service its debt as Treasury will have to spend more units of the shilling to acquire dollars to repay debt

tumble against the greenback.

"It will be more expensive for Kenya as Treasury will have to spend more units of the shilling to acquire dollars to repay debt," Mutisya tweeted.

According to Focus Economics Kenya is ranked at position 17 among the world's poorest countries with a Gross Domestic Product Per Capita of \$1960.5 (Sh207,636.55).

The country is expected to fall further to position 15 over the next three years, despite GDP per capita growing to \$2357.12 (Sh249,642.58).

Kenya has also been named among 76 world's poorest nations that are eligible to receive the World Bank's International Development Association (IDA) funding.

IMF did not, however, leave Kenya completely in the dark doubling the country's reserve of foreign currency to Sh75 billion.

Treasury Cabinet Secretary Ukur Yatani told a local daily additional cash would go towards the balance of payments including importing critical commodities such as medical supplies, oil, and fertiliser, as well as paying external loans.

THE DATA

500M

Amount in US dollars

IMF's grant-based debt service relief targets the poorest and most vulnerable members to cover their IMF debt obligations for an initial phase over the next six months



ONLINE SHOPPING

Amazon to hire more staff to meet increased orders

BBC / Online retailing giant Amazon has urged US workers who've lost jobs because of the coronavirus slowdown to apply for as many as 75,000 jobs it is offering.

The company also said it would ease its temporary curbs on non-essential goods being sold on its platforms. Last month, Amazon took on 100,000 extra US staff to fill priority online orders for food and medical equipment for existing customers. But it still has a waiting list for new customers.

Amazon said it would now allow more non-essential items from third-party sellers, who make up the majority of sales on its site.

"Products will be limited by quantity to enable us to continue prioritising products and protecting employees, while also ensuring most selling partners can ship goods into our facilities," Amazon said in a statement to the Financial Times.

Amazon did not immediately respond to a BBC request for comment. Millions of Americans have lost their jobs because of the coronavirus.



BRANDS AND CULTURE

CHRIS HARRISON

Lead differently during difficulty

Many local CEOs are making efforts to lead their companies differently in the present

crisis. Some, whose Emotional Quotient doesn't always shine through, are surprising their employees by prioritising humanity. One grizzled Alpha male tells me he spent an entire day 'just talking to my people, making sure they are OK.' He's worked out that employee loyalty is driven by emotion, and that's what will sustain and strengthen his business in the coming months.

So what can we all do to reshape our leadership behaviours in a more positive way - both for now and for the future? Well, first we can make more of an effort to communicate with everyone. With so much uncertainty, it falls to each of us (in our families, communities, and busines-

ses) to try to project the calm voice of reason. This is not about pretending everything is fine when it's not. To pick up on a theme I raised two weeks ago, being clear is being kind. So let's work on being concise, unambiguous and timely.

Communication helps to build trust, and that should lead to more effective collaboration. Which we need right now because every day we face new situations for which the old remedies will be ineffective. The more your people feel you genuinely have their best interests at heart, the more they will offer solutions and help. In normal times we called this discretionary effort, and it's never more relevant than today. A crisis

obliterates boundaries and tests us to see how quickly we can discard "the way we've always done things".

Even though you may already champion a more collaborative style of leadership, times like these demand you be more open and adaptable. And here women have an advantage. Joan Michelson, writing for Forbes Women, reminds us of the McKinsey studies that show women in leadership positions are very much better at developing their people, setting clear expectations and fair reward systems, and being visible role models. Women are also slightly better than men at inspiring others and encouraging participative decision making. Fellow men, I think we should

take that as a challenge!

Finally, now that you have restructured for remote working, it's time to adjust the norms of the working day. Isolation puts the most pressure on your most reliable people: parents. Juggling the stress of confinement with the pressures of homeschooling, feeding the family, and entertaining the young. Marriages are tested: note the global rise in domestic violence. Even dealing with an 'atmosphere' at home will impair productivity. As a leader, watch for those signs and cut your people some slack.

Chris Harrison leads The Brand Inside
www.thebrandinsideafrica.com

NEWS WORLD



Worker in southern Spain on April 13
/REUTERS

LIFE AS WE KNEW IT

Spain and Austria allow partial return to work, normalcy

REUTERS/ Spain and Austria allowed partial returns to work after the Easter holiday yesterday but Britain, France and India extended their lockdowns to try to rein in the coronavirus, the most serious world pandemic in a century.

Nearly 2 million people globally have been infected and more than 119,200 have died, according to a Reuters tally of official figures. The epicentre has moved from China, where the virus first emerged in December, to the US which now has the highest death toll at 23,568.

World leaders, in considering easing curbs on movement, have to balance the risks to health and the economy, as the lockdowns strangled supply lines, especially in China, and brought economic activity to a virtual halt.

THE DATA

1M

Supplies WHO has provided to Africa

The masks, goggles, gloves, gowns and other protective gear for health workers, as well as ventilators for patients, will be supplied to Djibouti, Sudan, Eritrea, Somalia and Tanzania.

RADIATION RISK

Forest fire around defunct Chernobyl nuclear plant put out

REUTERS/A huge blaze that tore through forests around the defunct Chernobyl nuclear plant has been put out, Ukrainian officials said on Tuesday, saying hundreds of emergency workers had used planes and helicopters to douse the flames.

Environmental activists had warned on Monday that the fire, near the site of the world's worst nuclear disaster in 1986, posed a radiation risk.

Chernobyl tour operator Yaroslav Yemelianenko, writing on Facebook, had described the situation as critical, saying the fire had reached the abandoned city of Pripyat, two kilometres from where "the most highly active radiation waste of the whole Chernobyl zone is located".

IN THAILAND

World's biggest water fight cancelled

REUTERS/ Thais will have to find another way to cool off this year after the government called off the annual water festival that celebrates the Buddhist New Year to curb the outbreak of the new coronavirus.

Thailand usually celebrates its traditional new year or Songkran from April 13 to 15, when crowds pack the streets in a boisterous festival, spraying water guns and hurling water off pick-up trucks in a free-for-all water fight.

Thailand has reported 2,579 confirmed cases and 40 fatalities since the outbreak began in January, with over half the cases in Bangkok, a spokesman of the government's Center for Covid-19 Situation Administration, Taweessin

Wisanyuyothin said on Monday.

Forty-year-old Ratikorn Cheunsuksombook lamented being unable to celebrate the water festival.

"I have to stay home, can't go anywhere. I want to see my friends, but none of them want to see me," the office worker said.

Last week, the government announced a ban on the sale of alcohol to limit social gatherings and urged the public to refrain from Songkran activities, travelling back to home towns and pouring water for blessings with older family members.

Malls in Bangkok have been ordered to close except for restaurants for delivery and a nationwide curfew from 10pm to 4am has been instated.

COUNTRIES IN VIRTUAL LOCKDOWN

117m children may miss measles shots

REUTERS/ More than 117 million children could miss out on immunisation against measles as the Covid-19 pandemic forces social distancing and piles pressure on health services, United Nations health agencies warned yesterday.

Measles immunisation campaigns in 24 countries have already been delayed, and more will be postponed, potentially putting children in 37 countries at risk, according to the Measles & Rubella Initiative, which is backed by WHO, the UN children's fund Unicef and others.

"If the difficult choice to pause vaccination is made due to the spread of Covid-19, we urge leaders to intensify efforts to track unvaccinated children, so that the most vulnerable

populations can be provided with measles vaccines as soon as it becomes possible to do so," the group said in a statement.

"While we know there will be many demands on health systems and frontline workers during and beyond the threat of Covid-19, delivering all immunisation services, including measles vaccines, is essential to saving lives."

The respiratory disease Covid-19 has killed more than 113,000 people and left countries around the world in virtual lockdown as they try to halt the spread of the novel coronavirus that causes it.

But in its shadow, a surge in measles outbreaks poses another major global health threat.

NERVE-WRACKING

Lonely times to be a new mum as lockdown halts normal life

There's no one to visit or help after delivery; pregnant women categorised as being at increased risk from Covid-19, told to self-isolate but also attend antenatal appointments

REUTERS/ Kimberley Hutton went to hospital to have a baby in the middle of March, stayed for a week, and returned to a world completely changed.

While the 26-year-old single mother was on the maternity ward, Britain had entered lockdown to limit the spread of the new coronavirus.

"We left and there were no cars on the road. There was no one walking on the street. It was really, really bizarre," she told Reuters in an interview.

Hutton came home with her newborn son and no one could come and visit her to help out.

"It's been really hard. I'm very lonely.

"Every time there's something I think isn't quite right, I can't just pop him down to see the doctor, because I'm worried that he might be at risk of getting the coronavirus."

As the virus sweeps across the country, the lockdown has changed all aspects of Britons' lives, with social distancing rules enforceable by the police and hospitals pushed to the brink.

A new mother in Britain is usually assigned a health visitor, who comes to the home to offer advice and support as she recovers from the birth and learns how to care for her baby. Hutton said this had been replaced by phone calls.

The British government has cat-

VIRUS-IMPOSED RESTRICTIONS ON WARDS WHERE WOMEN STAY AFTER DELIVERY MEAN FATHERS MAY MISS OUT ON THE FIRST HOURS WITH THEIR CHILD



Ines Prandini, 85, helps her great-granddaughter Bianca Toniolo, two, back inside their home in San Fiorano, one of the original 'red zone' towns in northern Italy that have been on lockdown since February./MARZIO TONIOLO/VIA REUTERS

egorised pregnant women as being at increased risk from Covid-19, meaning that they are advised to self-isolate most of the time.

In these nerve-wracking times, they are nevertheless still advised to attend antenatal appointments. Any fewer than five of those would put a baby's health at risk, according to the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, a professional body.

Currently, birthing partners are allowed to be there during the birth itself, but there are coronavirus-imposed restrictions on the

wards where women stay afterwards, meaning that fathers may miss out on the first hours with their child.

Stephanie Bowers is eight months pregnant and worried that she won't be able to have her husband with her during the birth.

"As a soon-to-be first-time mother, everything about it is so unknown," Bowers said.

Her husband has made playlists for her and recorded himself saying encouraging things in case he is not allowed to accompany her in person.

But with everything from meetings to lessons and birthday parties

to pub quizzes taking place over video call, even preparation for childbirth can be done virtually.

The National Childbirth Trust (NCT) has moved its antenatal classes online, with parents making use of whatever they have to hand, practising putting nappies on cuddly toys for example.

"This is a time of great uncertainty when everyone's feeling really challenged and vulnerable," said Val Wilcox, an NCT course leader. "The resourcefulness of parents at the moment, of everybody, is extraordinary."

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DEPOSIT **KSh 500,000**

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LETTERS

Send your views to letters@the-star.co.ke

Jubilee Party fight contemptuous of Kenyans' plight

We are at our worst times ever: people have been laid off with many more staring at job losses. Others have had to do with half a salary.

The Covid-19 pandemic has caused panic and uncertainty to people who were already in economic doldrums, thanks to unworkable policies and a government of doublespeak. It will now be so difficult to assess the success of the Jubilee government.

President Uhuru Kenyatta has dedicated his second term in office to fighting his deputy but disguising it as fighting corruption and bringing people together. Many discerning Kenyans know better. Those two concepts are so easy to understand and one needs not to take a whole year trying to make people understand and own them.

The reason the majority are not attuned is that what is given by the right hand is taken by the left. Government officials are engaging the populace in long lectures, even wondering why people don't see things their way, but exhibiting hollow rants with incurably unimplementable strands. One may be excused to conclude that some of the directives they give are never meant to see the light of day or at best meant to hoodwink the masses.

In the midst of this global pandemic, Jubilee is now engaged in a power struggle on which faction should control the ruling party.

An agreement deposited with the Registrar of Political Parties says Jubilee was to hold its elections latest March this year. Many party members, especially those allied to Deputy President William Ruto had voiced their readiness in going into these polls as early as last year.

An election is not an event but a process that must have begun much earlier, probably to culminate into the vote at the stipulated time. But those close to the President were

nonchalant about the whole idea, more so given that it was a process their prospects were dimming day by day.

So they hatched a plot to frustrate it by not calling the meeting of crucial party organs to kickstart the process. But as if they don't care anymore, they have clandestinely unilaterally appointed their own lackeys to the party management committee to replace those appointed in government in utter disregard to the party leadership in its entirety.

Only the President and his allies knew what was going on. And that's what they call leadership. Now the problem may not be that per se but the timing of such nefarious action by a wing of Jubilee that has never found it necessary to call party elections. It's the height of dictatorship and flies on the face of all the things the President has been talking about attaining his legacy. To do such things when the country is facing a health crisis is to be contemptuous of the Kenyans' plight.

ODHIAMBO JAMWA

Economic and political analyst.

Provide counselling services during Covid-19 pandemic

It is one month now since the first case of coronavirus was reported in the country. The lifestyle of many Kenyans have changed. Some people have been forced to close down their businesses, others have been forced to work from home, whereas others have been sent home on unpaid leave and others fired not knowing what to do next given the uncertainty. In this environment, Kenyans and by extension global citizens are in psychological distress. It is, therefore, important to introduce public counselling in various public places. The counselling programme should also continue after Covid-19.

JOSEPH MACHARIA
Nairobi

Protect, women and girls against gender violence

Covid-19 pandemic has had a further impact, especially on women and girls.

An increase in domestic and intimate partner violence has been reported as people tend to take out their anger and frustrations on those close to them because of increased stress and depression. [Chief Justice David Maraga on April 2 revealed that the offenses constitute 35 per cent of criminal matters reported during the past two weeks. UN chief António Guterres the following week called for measures to address a "horrifying global surge in domestic violence" directed towards women and girls, linked to lockdowns imposed by governments responding to the Covid-19 pandemic.] This may be due to job loss and financial difficulties. In the prevailing circumstances, thinking about leaving the abusive relationship may feel and be impossible. Victims will have to endure the pain.

With the already strained health system, contraceptives can also be hard to access, especially where there is limiting in-person visits. This includes access to safe abortion, especially if the services are not readily available. This means girls and women are left with no option than seek backstreet procedures in the pharmacies.

The government should take into account provision for childcare and in-person community engagement activities. We should consult children and adolescents in order to understand their concerns, fears and needs at this time of the pandemic.

We should advocate family friendly workplace so that parents can take better care of their children. We should also provide support with people living with disabilities, HIV-Aids and the marginalised.

PURITY NTHIANA
Naya Kenya

VOX POP

COMPILED BY FAITH MATETE

Do you think the Siaya man should be reburied with dignity?



Yes: The man deserves respect as it's no one's choice to contract coronavirus or even to succumb to it.

OTIENO JUNE YVETTE
Kisumu



Yes: The deceased has to be buried with dignity. What transpired was inhuman and barbaric, more so as it was done in front of his grieving family.

SAMSON OYOMBE
Businessman



No: Let the dead man rest in peace. Desperate times call for desperate measures.

WYCLIFE ODHIAMBO
IT consultant



Yes: Just like the government says, people should be given between 24-48 hours to bury Covid-19 victims. The family should be allowed to do so.

DANIEL OKOTH
Graphic producer



★ WORD IS...

WORDIS@THE-STAR.CO.KE

MULAMWAH QUILTS COMEDY AFTER LOSING UNBORN BABY

ELIZABETH NGIGI@TheStarKenya/ Comedian Mulamwah, real name David Oyando, has quit comedy over cyberbullying and losing his unborn child.

On Monday, an emotional Mulamwah burnt his signature shirt, announcing he had decided to take a back seat in the comedy industry, following constant trolls on social media.

He then revealed his girlfriend Carrol Sonie had lost their three-month-old unborn baby, following stress caused by online trolls.

Part of his message read, "What was to make me happy makes me sadder, more enemies than friends, too much negativity, trolls. I wasn't here for fame and bad blood but fun," he wrote.

He went on to thank his fans for the support and all who made it a success. "To those who always wished the worst for me, I hope y'all happy now, the stage is all yours."

"My prayer is that no one else goes through the same again. I once posted Carrol Sonie (girlfriend) while in a hospital bed. We had just lost our baby at three months following stress after being trolled online."

Mulamwah added that he has not been the same. "For all who looked up to me, especially the kids, I have failed you, but keep your heads up," he said.

However, Mulamwah's announcement was objected by many celebrities, who advised him not to allow critics to kill his comedy career.

MC Jessie asked him to keep on doing what he knows best.

Dr Ofweneke wrote, "Small bro,

BLAMES GIRLFRIEND'S MISCARRIAGE ON TROLLS



Mulamwah / COURTESY

no one promised you it was going to be easy, but nobody says you can't overcome it as well.

"A man was made to talk, whether it's positive or negative. God is the author of your destiny and many great stories are made out of people like you. You must wake up."

This is not the first time Mulamwah has gotten depressed.

The other time was after a popu-

lar comedian stole his content and passed it off as his.

"I even deleted all my social media accounts and stopped doing comedy anymore," Mulamwah told Word Is in an earlier interview.

"It was so hurting, especially because I could watch the person on TV sharing my content. That was the lowest moment in the comedy industry."

Using child to hurt co-parent wrong, says Terryanne



ELIZABETH NGIGI/ Media personality Terryanne Chebet admits she once played the game some angry ex-spouses are hell-bent on playing, which is using your child to manipulate the ex.

Terryanne Chebet / COURTESY

On her YouTube channel, Terryanne addressed a question from a fan who wanted to know how she made co-parenting work successfully.

She first admitted it wasn't easy at the beginning over what perhaps were deep issues between her and the ex.

"Try to be in a place where you respect each other, so you have to get there first," she said.

"Respect takes a long time to grow, especially after trust has been broken or there are feelings of distress that have caused problems."

The mother of two advised that fighting fire with fire only puts children in the middle and makes them victims of a dispute between their parents.

"It's easy to co-parent, but I don't think it's 100 per cent easy. But it had to get to a place where we put the child first. I always say you don't have

to be best friends with your co-parent," she said.

"Have a cordial relationship that they can call and talk to the child or pick the child."

She also shares other tips on managing the situation and confesses how she had a hard time in the beginning.

"Make sure you both understand the child is more important than what you are going through," she said.

"I have seen women use the child to revenge on the man. I have done that because you're upset with the father, but with time and maturity and wisdom, and speaking to older people who have been there, the advice they gave me is that it's not you who will suffer in the end by denying the child access to the father."

"So let's put our egos aside and focus on what is best for the child."

SOCIALBYTE
WITH ELIZABETH NGIGI
@TheStarKenya



Diana Marua / COURTESY

Over the last couple of days, there have been rumours that Diana Marua stole handbags from a 'friend'.

Diana claimed the woman is a former schoolmate who reached out to her from Nigeria. She invited the woman to her house. The woman's forgot her suitcase in the residence.

Two weeks later, the woman turned up to claim the suitcase and alleged some handbags were missing. She accused Diana of stealing.

Addressing the matter on their YouTube channel, Bahati said, "One thing you should learn to do is be careful with who you engage with, who you want to help because I warned you about strangers, now you see?"

Jegade: Lockdown only fix for corona



ELIZABETH NGIGI/ Jackson Rakama, alias Jegede, says the only solution to the spread of the coronavirus is a 21-day total lockdown.

Speaking to Word Is, Jegede said most Kenyans still do not take the virus seriously.

"The more we say we are looking for a contact person, we are interfering with the economy even worse. The government needs to shut down everything for at least 21 days, and then we have another two weeks of curfew for it to be a month," he said.

Jegade said Kenyans may suffer but after that, all will be well. "We all want our normal life back," he said.

He urged his fans to follow the guidelines issued by the government. "I watch the news and see what is happening in the US, in Italy, and I kind of know the threat coronavirus is," Jegede said.



For more Word Is stories scan the QR code above.

VOICES

EDITORIAL

Assist butterfly farmers of Arabuko Sokoke forest

The plight of butterfly farmers around Gedi and the Arabuko Sokoke forest shows the extent of the suffering caused by Covid-19.

Thousands of small farmers around the Arabuko forest earn up to Sh10,000 per week growing butterflies for export to Europe.

In March the butterfly export business collapsed when airlines were stopped from flying to Kenya. At the same time, buyers in the UK cancelled their orders.

Now the former butterfly farmers are invading the forest to collect firewood but also to get involved in illegal logging.

This is a double tragedy after their loss of livelihood. Arabuko Sokoke is the largest remaining piece of coastal forest in East Africa with many endemic species. It must be protected, not just for ecological reasons but also as a source of tourist income.

The Kilifi county government needs to urgently collaborate with the KFS and KWS to increase ranger patrols around the forest to prevent illegal logging.

And the county government needs to explore ways to provide a temporary basic income to the butterfly farmers so they can survive without destroying the precious natural resource of Arabuko Sokoke forest.

HISTORICAL QUOTE

“Either Africa or death.”

SAINT DANIELE COMBONI

The Italian missionary was born on April 15, 1831.

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COMMENT

OKECH KENDO

Communications consultant and university lecturer



When the worst of the pandemic is gone, Covid-19 will have created new parameters of leadership. Post-pandemic leaders will be those who stood with the people in a time of dire need



COVID-19 DEFINES WORTHY LEADERS

Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe has earned a place in the public psyche. This is a politician whose governor candidature Nyeri voters rejected during the 2017 general election. Kagwe's daily briefs and directives give hope to the citizenry of life beyond coronavirus. The message is, there are soaring infections, hospital admissions, and deaths. But there are also recoveries, and possibility of reconstruction if the people behave responsibly.

Kagwe's niche won't change even as revisionists claim the CS gets his briefs from Afya House professionals, and other coronavirus task force delegates. Other CSs also have reporting experts, but some have not excelled. They are riding on patronage.

President Uhuru Kenyatta, too, has offered national leadership, with Kagwe cascading Nairobi thinking to largely indifferent governors. This contrasts with the US, where State governors, like New York's Andrew Cuomo, are pleading for leadership from President Trump. Trump is pre-occupied with November elections.

Mombasa Governor Hassan Joho, Kitui's Charity Ngilu and Kakamega's Wycliffe Oparanya are showing leadership during the crisis. But others are keeping themselves safe for 2022 elections. Some are locked in Nairobi – a good excuse for no-show in the counties.

Within weeks of the first reported infections, Joho had acquired 30 more ventilators, and a low temperature sterilizer for Coast General Teaching and Referral Hospital. He also acquired respiratory support appliances. The county government further enhanced the capacity of the referral hospital, with additional medical equipment worth Sh64 million.

Mombasa has procured face masks for free distribution to people in congested areas such as matatu termini, and at the ferry. Automated disinfectants have been installed at the Likoni Ferry and Nyali Bridge.

Ninety-five trainee nurses have been hired for Mombasa under the public service paid internship programme. They are to augment medical services and response to the Covid-19 crisis. Joho has created a rapid response team that includes his political rival Suleiman Shahbal, for a cause that transcends partisan boundaries. The Joho Foundation, the Suleiman Foundation, and other networks have set aside Sh700

million for food to feed 227,402 needy families.

Homa Bay set up a public fundraising account, with the devolved unit putting in Sh2 million without a publicised needs assessment.

Kirinyaga, under Governor Anne Waiguru, joins the queue with practical steps to prevent infections. The county has established 700 handwashing points, with regular supplies of water and soap in markets, matatu and boda boda termini.

Within a week of the first reported cases of infection, Kirinyaga set up an isolation unit with a 14-bed capacity, handed out personal protective equipment, face masks, and hand sanitiser to healthcare workers.

Kirinyaga has marked out parking lots as markets for traders to ensure social distancing. The county has expanded open air markets to open fields to enforce

social distancing. This means business continues, while taking precaution.

The county is also identifying groups that may need relief food and other essentials. Timelines for payment of taxes have been extended for two months, and waivers given to vulnerable businesses.

Meanwhile Homa Bay, Kisumu, Siaya, and Busia, among other counties, shall be importing face masks from Kitui, where Governor Charity Ngilu opened a production line within a week of local infections.

Homa Bay has tailors and can produce more cotton than it needs to make face masks. Here, people have been asked to buy masks, wash hands and taught new sneezing and coughing skills. They have also been asked to stock food in the face of closed businesses and massive job losses. Kakamega is giving incentive payments to health workers, soap, water dispensers, detergents and disinfectants.

When the worst of the pandemic is gone, Covid-19 will have created new parameters of leadership. Post-pandemic leaders will be those who stood with the people during a time of dire need.

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@chihaoyo

Minister Chen and chief officers of #Taiwan's CECC (central epidemic command) all wearing pink masks today. Boys you be brave. Wear all the colors you want.

VOICES

COMMENT

LEYLA ABDULLAHI

Research and policy analyst, African Institute for Development Policy



Taiwan, Singapore took quick drastic measures to curb virus due to experience with SARS

EVIDENCE NEEDED IN VIRUS RESPONSE

Africa has been lucky to have a delayed onset of the spread of Covid-19. The continent has had the benefit of time to learn from measures and contingencies that are working in other countries.

Globally, many countries have adopted lockdowns with majority of citizens advised to stay home and prepare for what could be months of isolation and social distancing. However, some of the measures are not practical in the African setting.

Experts are worried about Covid-19 rapidly spreading in Africa and numbers rising to those recorded in countries such as China and Italy. WHO is supporting African governments with early detection by providing Covid-19 testing kits, training health workers, and strengthening surveillance in communities. Forty-seven out of 54 countries in the WHO African region can now test for Covid-19.

A major concern is the fragile health systems in most African countries that often suffer from minimal or no medical supplies and equipment, inadequate funding, shortage of adequately trained healthcare personnel, and inefficient data transmission and use. These weak healthcare systems are currently overburdened by diseases such as malaria, HIV, TB, cholera, cancer, diabetes, and maternal and child health issues. Clearly, these systems currently have no capacity to deal with Covid-19. Experts therefore fear that the pandemic could be difficult to manage in Africa, and could cause huge numbers of deaths and grave economic problems if it spreads widely.

In the last three years, Africa has had significant experience having dealt with epidemics such as Ebola, polio and cholera. Hence, drawing lessons learnt on preparedness and response to previous epidemics is crucial in enabling African countries develop effective strategies to curb the spread of Covid-19.

For example, there is undocumented evidence that Taiwan and Singapore took quick drastic measures to curb Covid-19 due to their experience with SARS. Active surveillance network, among other measures, helped to control and prevent massive spread of the disease in their countries. Documenting evidence on the lessons from African countries that experienced and addressed Ebola could also be valuable in designing country responses to Covid-19.

Certainly African leaders need evidence from African contexts and other similar contexts to provide practical policies and programmatic solutions to Covid-19. This context-sensitive evidence needs to inform the adaptation of global solutions to Covid-19 so that these are more responsive to Africa's unique context.

In most African countries, however, the institutional systems and structures that can readily provide such locally relevant evidence are either weak or missing altogether. In some cases, governments are also not reaching out to local scholars and institutions to provide the evidence they need to adapt global solutions to Africa's contexts.

The African Institute for Development Policy is currently contributing to addressing the weak institutional capacities for readily access to evidence by ministries of health in Kenya and Malawi.

This work, initiated in September 2019, hopes to support the two ministries to strengthen their existing structures for research and knowledge gathering, synthesis, and sharing in order to readily access and use evidence as and when needs arise.



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COMMENT

JOE NYAGAH

Former Cooperatives minister



Corruption can bring a country to its knees. Had we not got graft to the level it is today, and had stolen funds been returned, Kenya would be rich, to the point of giving aid to other countries



POST-CORONA LESSONS FOR AFRICA

The new coronavirus has caught many countries unprepared, especially in Africa. Huge resources are required to deal with the problem but our medical facilities in terms of numbers and equipment are wanting. We do not have enough qualified medical workers.

Our unmanageable external and internal debts have left us with almost no shock absorbers. We are in this position mainly because of mismanagement of our economies and high-level corruption.

We stopped paying serious attention to manufacturing a long time ago and have become comfortable with importing. Kenya is a bit better because it has a basic industrial base and has been able to quickly start production of some of these requirements even if in small quantities.

This will not be the last health crisis we face and we must be better prepared from now on. Africa has a relatively young population of about one billion people—15 per cent of the world's population. It is also estimated that we have about 25 per cent of the world's sick people. Our leaders must start planning and implementing so as to be better prepared next time.

One, universal healthcare must now stop being a politically correct statement but a reality. This means putting up more hospitals that are properly equipped to deal with the entire range of medical requirements. There is no need of equipping them with machines we cannot operate and maintain. We must invest heavily in technicians to operate and manage these equipment.

Our universities are producing far too few doctors annually. We must mass produce them as we did with lawyers some years ago. The same goes for nurses and other related professionals.

Two, we must seriously invest in health research and development. The continent holds about 0.1 per cent of all pharmaceutical patents. We have far too few research facilities and these are very dependent on foreign funding. I recall as a former ambassador to the EU that much research funding came from Brussels. Our internal budget must be used, if for no other issue, for national strategic reasons.

Three, and very closely related to two above, is that our countries must invest heavily in laboratory capacity. These should be government-owned and supplemented by as many private sector ones as possible. These should be spread in all corners of the country for easy accessibility.

One of the major problem we face at present is our inability to test more than a few people per day. At the rate that we are going today, it will take years to test all Kenyans. In a crisis such as this, we must get to the point that we can test tens of thousands every day if we are going to cover a substantial number within our population of forty eight million people. By quickly being able to undertake the tests, we shall be better prepared to stop its spread.

Four, our manufacturing facilities must always be on the warpath, meaning that they should be able to swiftly change from what they currently produce to what the country needs urgently. This has happened in other countries during times of war. I like what I have seen here with some factories quickly changing their normal production to items such as masks and sanitiser.

Five, the government must never again put the country in a position where our debt levels become unmanageable. This is because in times such as these we require all the financial resources that we can marshal internally even before we start approaching our friends abroad. Outside assistance in times such as this may not be forthcoming quickly enough. Our development partners are in a similar situation and paying more attention to their citizens than to us.

Six, I pray that we have learnt that corruption can bring a country to its knees. This is what has happened to our country, leaving us in a position without funds. Much of the money that should be in government coffers is in senior people's accounts here and abroad. Had we not got corruption to the level it is today, and had stolen funds been returned, Kenya would be rich, to the point of giving aid to other countries. These are just a few of the things that we need to address in order to avoid acting in a panicky manner in future.

OUR UNIVERSITIES ARE PRODUCING FAR TOO FEW DOCTORS ANNUALLY. WE MUST MASS PRODUCE THEM AS WE DID WITH LAWYERS SOME YEARS AGO

CEOs OF NSSF, AHADI KENYA DONATE TO COPS, IMMIGRATION

NSSF chief executive **Anthony Omerikwa** and his Ahadi Kenya Trust counterpart **Stanely Kamau** on Saturday made a generous donation of sanitiser, face masks and water to Immigration and the National Police Service.

The two services are on the front line of the war on the coronavirus, and the support will go a long way in giving confidence to the officers in their daily operations, which are in support of the Ministry of Health.



1. Ahadi Kenya Trust CEO Stanely Kamau sanitises the hands of IG Hillary Mutyambai as NSSF chief executive Anthony Omerikwa looks on

2. Kamau, Immigration Services DG Alexander Muteshi and Omerikwa

3. Muteshi gives brief remarks

4. Mutyambai salutes as he arrives at Nyayo House

5. Kamau sanitises the hands of Muteshi

6. Kamau and Mutyambai at Nyayo House Immigration department

7. Senior officials observe social distancing at Nyayo House

/CHARLENE MALWA

COUNTIES NAIROBI

PHOTO STORY



Meat traders at the City Market wear gloves, face masks and clean up yesterday. They are among traders who have decried the low number of customers following the Ministry of Health's stay-at-home directive to curb the spread of Covid-19 /**CHARLENE MALWA**

REPRIEVE FOR RESIDENTS

Langata gets three boreholes to improve area water supply

MP Nixon Korir says it's a relief as constituency has experienced scarcity for years

MAUREEN KINYANJUI
@MissKinyanjuiMo



Lang'ata residents can hope for a steadier supply of water after the Nairobi Water and Sewerage Company started sinking boreholes in their area.

One borehole is being sunk at Undugu in Highrise ward while another will be drilled at Kijiji in Mugumooni ward.

Lang'ata MP Nixon Korir told the Star that water from the boreholes will be equitably distributed to the estates in the subcounty.

"Water is one of the weapons that must be available in combating the coronavirus. Langata has been home to water challenges for years and it is a relief to see that a mid-term solution has been found," he said.

In addition to the two, another borehole at the Langata police station has been rehabilitated.

The borehole produces 15,000 litres of water per hour and serves the police station population of about 900 people.

Korir said plans are underway to ensure that connections will be made to the nearby estates including Barrack estate.

"The important thing is that residents have a source of water supply. Water being a basic need, our people will be able to utilise it for domestic use as well as prevent the spread of coronavirus," he said.

Water from the boreholes will also be used to ensure that water points

at various places in the subcounty have an adequate supply.

"We have water points at markets, bus stops and strategic places where people are fond of meeting," Korir said.

The Nairobi Water Company has revised its rationing programme in efforts to help the fight against the coronavirus.

Early this month, the company announced that residents in Kibera, Mathare and Mukuru kwa Njenga will receive water five times a week.

The company said it had drilled 20 boreholes throughout the county to ensure water is redistributed.

The fresh supply will enable residents to wash their hands to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. Last year, Nawasco boss Nahashan Muguna said Lang'ata was not getting enough supply because their pipeline passes through Kibera where cartels divert water to sell.

He said that they would reconnect all the pipes leading to Kibera and disconnect them from the main pipeline.

"This will allow us to control water between Kibera and Lang'ata areas without any violence," Muguna said.

Lang'ata gets its water through the Sasumua-Kabete water pipeline from Aberdare Forest.

Other areas served by the pipeline are Waiyaki Way, Naivasha Road, Kangemi, Lavington, Westlands, Parklands, MP Shah and Aga Khan Hospitals, Upper Hill and Kilimani.

City Hall last year reported it had shut down 483 illegal water connection points.



A borehole at Langata police station yesterday /**MAUREEN KINYANJUI**



COUNTIES CENTRAL

TURNAROUND

Soil testing, fertiliser use boost rice yields

Poor harvests had been blamed on acidifying fertilisers

AGATHA NGOTHO
@TheStarKenya



Soil testing and production of well-balanced fertilisers have revolutionised rice farming in Mwea, Kirinyaga county.

Farmers had been applying acidifying fertilisers, mainly Sulfate of Ammonia, DAP and Urea, which were expensive, required mixing at the farm and continued to acidify the soils and lower production to below 1,800kg an acre.

Now things have changed. Thanks to Yara's YaraMila Power fertiliser and Amidas for top-dressing, farmers now harvest more than 2,600kg of rice an acre. Yara fertiliser increases production by 30 per cent compared to the conventional one and an additional income of Sh30,000 per acre.

Water and Irrigation CAS Andrew Tuimur said Yara has calibrated suitable fertiliser programmes for different soil types, regions and crops, hence ensuring sustainable and optimal crop productivity that gives the farmers higher income and broadly contributes to food sufficiency in line with the government's Big Four pillar on food security.

"The rice yield increase resulting from the application of Yara fertiliser is 30 per cent higher productivity as compared to conventional fertiliser regimes and additional income of Sh30,000 per acre for the farmer," Tuimur said.

"The big impact is now being felt in the local economy and this will translate into an additional injection of \$7 million (Sh700 million) into the local economy and generating employment directly and indirectly for aggregators, inputs suppliers, financiers, and transporters."

Yara East Africa Country Manager William Ngeno said in line with its mission to feed the world and protect the planet, the organisation seeks to provide the right fertiliser to farmers, to help boost crop yields in various regions.

"We calibrated an affordable fertiliser programme based on a compound NPK (YaraMila Power) and top-dressing of Amidas that supplies all key nutrients to the crop, is affordable and farmers achieve more than 2,600kg per acre. If farmers use quality fertiliser, they will get good returns," Ngeno said.

The average use of fertiliser in Kenya, according to Yara East Africa, is 600,000 tonnes. Tanzania comes second at 250,000 tonnes, with Uganda at 60,000, Rwanda at 40,000 and Burundi 30,000.

Ngeno said Yara thrives to ensure availability of fertilisers to farmers within a radius of five kilometres. The stockists have been mapped

out into regions and Yara now has real-time data of farmers' access to its products from specific villages across regions.

"This ensures farmers get a good price and the right quality of fertiliser at the right time because when the seasons start, we don't want the farmers to walk far and wide in search."

John Kesuna, a farmer, said he has been registering huge wheat, maize and potato harvest since he started using Yara three years ago. While he used to harvest 20 bags of maize per acre when he used conventional fertiliser, he now harvests 50 bags, thanks to Yara.

Kesuna said he had abandoned his land because of acidity, but it is now under potatoes courtesy of Yara fertiliser.

To ensure improved crop nutrition, Ngeno encouraged farmers to wean off the traditional fertilisers such as DAP, Urea and the Sulphate of Ammonia as they only provide a maximum of two nutrients.

"Instead, use the granular compound fertilisers when planting as they provide up to five nutrients – nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, magnesium and sulphur. In our factories, we have calibrated that the soils of Kenya need this. We sell compounds that are not acidifying. If you continue to invest in the old fertilisers, then you need to invest in lime because you need to net back the acidifying effect," Ngeno said.

Yara workers stock the Market Storage Warehouse ahead of the planting season /COURTESY



HOTBED OF CRIME

Community revamps run-down police post

Twenty-nine more officers deployed to the facility

STANLEY NJENGA
@TheStarKenya



Ndumberi police post before and after its refurbishment /STANLEY NJENGA

A group of 29 businesspeople in Ndumberi village, Kiambu town, has refurbished a dilapidated police post to boost officers' morale.

County commissioner Wilson Wanyanga yesterday said it was a great initiative for the community to come together for such a worthy cause as the post has been in a bad state for decades.

"I thank the community for going out of their way to refurbish the post so that the police can be able to do their job with ease," he said during the handing over of the post.

Resident Thomas Kimari said they came together and thought of ways of giving back to the community. He said the post had no cells and its toilets and houses were in bad shape.

"Our police also need better working environment and we came together and wrote a proposal to refurbish the post as a community as it will also boost in improving security," Kimari said.

Kimani Kiruga said the village had for a long time been a hotbed of crime and the police had been overwhelmed. He said the initiative will go a long way in helping the police in their work.

"There is a lot of crime, especially petty ones, and with a dilapidated post you find the police are unable to hold people in the cell," Kiruga said.

County police commander Ali Nuno said at first, he was hesitant about the proposal for renovation but after consultation, the community was allowed to go ahead.

"We have now boosted the post with 29 more officers and the post already has an OCS and some of the crimes reported to Kiambu police station can be solved within the post to ease congestion of cases especially petty ones in the main stations," Nuno said.

The officer said the proposal to have the post be gazetted as a police station due to its workload will be revisited because of the proximity of Kiambu police station – five kilometres away.

Residents in Ndumberi, Turitu, Ngegu, Njunu, Kanunga and Tinganga villages in Kiambu subcounty have been complaining of a gang breaking into their homes during the curfew.

But the police said no formal complaint has been lodged.

The residents have now formed vigilante groups to pounce on the gang when it strikes.

Last year, two notorious thugs on the police radar were lynched by a mob in Ndumberi and Tinganga villages. Residents accused the two of stealing from them and raping women.

Nuno warned residents against taking the law into their own hands and urged them to provide relevant information on crime to the authorities.

COUNTIES COAST

ALLOWANCES VS RISK

SRC pushing medics to the brink of despair, says Shahbal

BRIAN OTIENO/The Salaries and Remuneration Commission's rigid compensation policy may derail the fight against the coronavirus, Kenya Trade Network Agency has cautioned.

The agency, through chairman Suleiman Shahbal yesterday said the SRC could push Kenyan health workers to other countries if it is not careful.

"There is a huge demand for doctors and nurses and we should not take the risk that our doctors and nurses could be poached from Kenya at such difficult times," Shahbal told

the Star by phone. The KenTrade boss said the country's health workers are the most important weapons Kenya has in the fight against the novel coronavirus at the moment.

He acknowledged that SRC is right in their statement that they should be consulted, but noted that these are extraordinary times that need things to move much faster.

"Yes, they are a constitutional body that should be consulted, but we are in a state of war. In a war, you don't have time to call committees. You decide and act."

The SRC took reservations in Machakos Governor Alfred Mutua awarding the county's health workers allowances ranging from Sh5,000 to Sh20,000 per month during the pandemic.

However, SRC chairperson Lyn Mengich said such award is not only unlawful but may also cause inequality in remuneration across the health sector, which, she said, may lead to instability.



Passengers are screened at Mtwapa bridge, which links Mombasa and Kilifi counties, before continuing with their journey yesterday
JOHN CHESOLI



Vincent Sidai and Yobesh Oyaro / COURTESY



'TRIAL JUDGE ERRED'

Man convicted of defiling teen, 16, he cohabited with freed

FAITH NYASUGUTA/ The High Court in Garsen has freed a man convicted of defiling a 16-year-old girl he lived with for three months as husband and wife.

Jamleck Gitari was charged with defiling the school dropout and committing an indecent act with her on diverse dates between May 25 and June 10, 2017, in Lamu county. He denied the charges.

When taking the plea, Gitari said he did not know the complainant was a minor.

"I looked at her and thought she was older. I never asked her age," he said.

In her testimony, Angie (not her real name) revealed that Gitari, 20, was her husband and that they were married in April 2017. She moved into his house from April till June 2017 living as a couple and that they engaged in consensual sexual intercourse regularly. Angie added that she had stopped going to school due to lack of school fees and to marry the man she loved.

"The complainant said her parents were not happy with Gitari as he had not asked them for permission to marry her though on her part, she had met his parents," court papers read. Her father's testimony was that Angie left home on March 3, 2017, to an unknown place prompting him to report to the police.

After interrogating his daughter, he noticed that she was married, a move he disapproved since she was still too young and he wanted her to go back to school.

After testimonies of four witnesses, Gitari was convicted and sentenced to 15 years imprisonment.

Aggrieved by the conviction and sentence, Gitari appealed, claiming the magistrate erred in the trial as he was never provided with witness statements before trial.

Gitari sought to have the conviction and sentence quashed, a move the prosecution opposed saying the sentence was fair. He further sought forgiveness from the complainant's father for eloping with his daughter.

While making her ruling to set the convict free, Justice Roseline Lagat considered the existence of a 'marriage' and his remorseful nature.

"I have come to the conclusion that it would be unjust to incarcerate the appellant for 15 years for what appears to have been an ill-informed budding romance and moral indiscretion on the part of both the appellant and the complainant," she said.

“

JUSTICE ROSELINE LAGAT

It would be unjust to incarcerate the appellant for 15 years for what appears to have been an ill-informed budding romance and moral indiscretion on the part of both the appellant and the complainant

SINCE 1979, THE POSITION HAS BEEN HELD BY 15 PEOPLE, SALIM BEING THE LATEST IN AN ACTING CAPACITY

NINE DAYS TO DEADLINE

Two insiders in the race to replace Manduku at KPA

KPA board chairman Joseph Kibwana says all applications should be in by April 24

MAUREEN MUDI
@Maureenmudi



Two insiders are among the applicants for the post of Kenya Ports Authority managing director to replace Daniel Manduku.

They are Yobesh Oyaro, a long-serving senior manager in the procurement department who was moved to Kisumu in a major reshuffle in 2018, and Vincent Sidai, the GM infrastructural development.

There are only nine days left before the deadline for applications.

Yesterday, KPA board chairman Joseph Kibwana said all applications should be in by April 24.

"We shall continue receiving applications and since it is online, there is nothing we can do until that day," Kibwana told the Star, adding that several other individuals had expressed interest.

The seat fell vacant after Manduku resigned on March 26 through a letter to Transport CS James Macharia. His resignation takes effect from June 1. He is on terminal leave until

then. Manduku became the MD in May 2018, taking over from Catherine Mturi. The board advertised for the position on April 6.

Joseph Atonga, a retired general manager Engineering Services at KPA, is also said to have applied for the position.

Rashid Salim, a long-serving KPA engineer, is the MD.

Sources said Salim, who has been with KPA for 38 years, is not keen due to either his age (he has a year to serve before retirement) or the pressure that comes with the job.

There have been reports that he was being fronted for the seat due to his vast experience.

And as a shift from tradition, the MD recruitment will be overseen by the board, rather than the leading consulting firm, Deloitte Kenya.

In the past, the firm advertised on KPA's behalf, shortlisted, called for interviews, vetted and forwarded names to the Transport Ministry.

After Manduku's resignation, KPA said it would recruit an individual with a high degree of integrity and professionalism, impeccable administrative capabilities and strategic

orientation. "The person should be a holder of a bachelor's and master's degree in either Port Management, Maritime and Shipping Logistics, Engineering, Business, Social Sciences, Public Policy or Science and Technology from a recognised institution."

The candidate is expected to have at least a year of relevant work experience and must have served for not less than eight years in a managerial or leadership role in a large organisation.

Candidates who have an understanding of the port industry and naval operations will have an added advantage.

"An attractive remuneration package and benefits determined in line with prevailing public sector guidelines awaits the successful candidate," Kibwana said.

The appointment is contractual for an initial period of three years and renewable for another term based on performance and business.

The position has in the past seen several MDs fired, resign or unceremoniously leave before the end of their term.

COUNTIES EASTERN



Meru Governor Kiraitu Murungi distributes sanitiser and water tanks to Kariene Market traders after fumigation of the centre in Imenti Central /PHOEBE OKALL

TRIAL COURT DECISION QUASHED

Bribery charges against education officer reinstated

SUSAN MUHINDI/ The High Court has reinstated corruption-related charges levelled against a senior education officer in Marsabit county.

Justice John Onyiego set aside the decision of the trial court in Isiolo and directed the case to proceed from where it had reached.

"It is my finding that the trial court improperly and incorrectly acquitted Salesa Adano Abudo. I hereby direct the original file be returned to the trial court for mention and further directions as soon as possible. The hearing of the case should be expedited without further delay," he ruled on April 8.

The case had been terminated by Isiolo chief magistrate Samuel Mungai. It will now be handled by another magistrate at the Isiolo law courts.

Salesa was in July 2017 arraigned in Isiolo with two related counts of corruption. It is alleged that he gave Justus Nzomo, the IEBC coordinator for Saku constituency in Marsabit county, Sh200,000 as an inducement.

The money was to cause Nzomo to pick persons who Salesa preferred to be appointed as presiding officers during the general election.

Salesa pleaded denied the charges and was released on a personal bond of Sh300,000.

But before the matter could take off, Salesa's lawyer complained that he had not been supplied with witness statements and exhibits. He subsequently applied to have his client discharged or acquitted.

The prosecution indicated that they had not received the file from then-Director of Public Prosecutions Keriako Tobiko. They requested for one more month to comply with the court's directions. An adjournment was granted to enable them to report on the position of exhibits and fix the hearing date.

When the matter was mentioned again a month later, the prosecution applied for another adjournment. They claimed consent had been delayed following the elevation of the DPP to the position of Cabinet Secretary.

The same was opposed by Salesa and in a short ruling, the trial court on February 12 dismissed the prosecution's application and discharged the accused.

Aggrieved by that decision, the DPP and the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission sought a review.

The anti-graft agency claimed they forwarded a preliminary report to the DPP who concurred with the investigations and recommended for Salesa to be charged. "We subsequently embarked on preparation and submission of a final report which we forwarded to the DPP for review but the same could not be acted upon as the DPP had vacated the office following his appointment," the EACC said.

But Onyiego said that on the day the matter was terminated, there was no hearing scheduled only a mention to confirm compliance of court directives. He said the court had no power to apply section 210 of the Criminal Procedure Code to make final orders as it did.

IT'S A RIP-OFF

Meru residents cry foul over fake masks, sanitiser

Some traders exploit the coronavirus crisis to rip off customers

GERALD MUTETHIA
@TheStarKenya

Substandard sanitiser and face masks are on sale in Meru, according to residents.

Some of the masks, they say, cause breathing problems while others make them sweat.

Several of them told the Star that the masks and disinfectants do not meet the quality standards recommended by the Health ministry.

County Health executive Misheck Mutuma shared similar concerns especially about the sanitiser. He accused some unscrupulous traders of taking advantage of the coronavirus to exploit residents.

"I don't trust sanitiser and the best way to kill the virus is washing hands with water and soap. Traders are selling funny things. Before you buy sanitiser, think twice. Some

are taking advantage of the Covid-19 pandemic to exploit residents. I trust water and soap," he said.

Mutuma, however, said the face masks are of high quality. He said all face masks are uncomfortable when one is not used to wearing them.

The standard face masks must have three layers to filter and reduce the spread of germs, he said noting that air circulates slowly and those not used to the masks will complain for a few days.

"They are all that way and you will be uncomfortable. They all have the same problem, but you get used to them. The NC95 is the worst, but doctors are used to it. No way will one be comfortable. When one breathes, the masks warm and temperatures rise - one either sweats or feels discomfort," he said.

Mutuma cautioned residents against purchasing sanitiser,

warning that some traders' thirst for money will aid the spread of Covid-19.

The Star has established some traders Dettol detergent with either substandard surgical spirit or Jik to make sanitiser.

Mutuma was confident that the country will win the war against the virus contagion.

"It may not have the same impact in terms of spread and deaths in Africa like in Europe and other countries," he said optimistically.

The Health executive urged Meru residents to strictly follow government directives and be disciplined to avoid run-ins with the authorities.

"Don't behave like children. It's upon you to care about your health, not the police. The handwashing call is succeeding but people are not keeping social distance in towns and markets. Stay at home," he urged.

'I DON'T TRUST SANITISER AND THE BEST WAY TO KILL THE VIRUS IS WASHING HANDS WITH WATER AND SOAP'

OVER CARING FOR AGEING MUM

Couple nursing machete injuries inflicted by kin

GERALD MUTETHIA/A man and his wife from Kithangene in Igembe Central, Meru, are nursing injuries allegedly inflicted by relatives using a panga and a jembe.

Patrick Kailemia and his wife Kaari were assaulted by the husband's youngest brother and his wife on Sunday after a dispute on who should take care of their ageing and blind mother.

Kailemia told journalists that he was alerted by screams from his wife who was being beaten by his brother's wife and when he tried to intervene, she overpowered them both. He said she cut him with a jembe and broke his hand.

"She struck me with the jembe in the head and I fainted. She continued hitting me until she broke my hand," he said.

He said his wife was also cut with a jembe. Kilemia said his brother (who was not identified) also attacked them with a panga.

Their eldest sibling David Baariu said their brother has been threatening them with a panga whenever they visit their mother. The mother stays in her house but they take care of her.

"He is our last born. He has become a nuisance and he has barred us from visiting our mother. I have reported the matter at Nkinyang'a police," Baariu said.

He said the injured were taken to Muthara Hospital before they were referred to another hospital.

Kailemia's sister Sarah Makena told the Star she ran away from home a decade ago due to wrangles and constant assault.



Patrick Kailemia and his wife Kaari who were assaulted by their blood brother after family feuds on Sunday /GERALD MUTETHIA

COUNTIES NORTHEASTERN

THREE PEOPLE SHOT DEAD

We survived attack by luck – bus driver

Mutura drove on flat rims after raid in Mandera, parked by the roadside for passengers to disappear into forest

STEPHEN ASTARIKO
@TheStarKenya



Peter Karungu Mutura heard a loud bang as he drove past Banissa on his way from Moyale to Nairobi through Mandera on February 19.

At first, he thought the bus had hit a stone. He was wrong. The sound persisted.

"I saw a bullet fly past the steering wheel and quickly realised we were under attack," Mutura told the Star as he opened up on the terror attack for the first time during an interview on Monday.

On that Wednesday morning, Mutura began his 900-plus-kilometre journey with prayer as usual. But less than 200km into the voyage, his Moyale Raha bus came under heavy attack by al Shabaab militants.

He was ordered to stop but opted to ignore and drive on. The tyres were deflated by the hail of bullets. All the six had been shot at because the militants wanted to render the vehicle stationary

so they could kill all the 60 passengers.

"I drove on with all those difficulties until the steering hardened and I could not drive anymore. We were being chased by the attackers who were on motorbikes. I parked the bus on the roadside and all the passengers disembarked and ran into the forest for their dear lives," Mutura recalls.

The area around Guba in Banissa constituency is heavily forested. Mutura says the terrorists caught up with none of the passengers.

The only casualties of the attack were six people shot while inside the bus as the vehicle came under attack. Three of them died on the spot. The driver was among the three other casualties.

While the attack happened two months ago, Mutura has sworn never to return to Mandera. There has been no other attack on a bus on the route for the last two months.

"I will never go back there again. I was lucky to survive and I won't take any risks again," Mutura said.

Officers from the nearby Banissa police station arrived at the scene hours later, Mutura said. They took the three



The Moyale Raha bus that was attacked by Shabaab militants in Banissa on its way to Nairobi from Moyale /STEPHEN ASTARIKO



Peter Karungu Mutura, the driver of the bus /STEPHEN ASTARIKO

who had been injured to hospital and the others were encouraged to come out of their hideouts and escorted to the police station.

The bodies of the other three were taken to the mortuary.

They were all taken to the police station. Mutura said the owners of the bus company have since sacked him with no benefits.

"I was asked to pay for the deflated tyres and stop asking for the February

salary," the driver said.

The company has a fleet of buses plying the Nairobi-Moyale route.

On Friday last week, Northeastern regional commissioner Nicodemus Ndalana said the region has not recorded any terror attacks for weeks.

He spoke during a media briefing on the measures the government had taken to contain the spread of coronavirus.

Ndalana said though the country was focussed on the fight against

Covid-19, residents must not forget about security measures.

"The focus currently in the entire world is how to contain the Covid-19. But even as we do that, we need to remember that the security of our people remains top on our list. We cannot over concentrate on one issue and forget about the other (security). Securing our borders against al Shabaab militants and all the others criminal groupings is of utmost importance," Ndalana said.

IMPACTS OF COVID-19

Halt licences renewal until virus contained, traders tell Korane

STEPHEN ASTARIKO
@TheStarKenya

Community leaders in Garissa on Tuesday urged the county government to halt the renewal of business licenses for small scale traders until the coronavirus pandemic is contained.

Luo community leader Jacob Olweny said small scale traders were going through tough times owing to new restrictions to contain the spread of Covid-19. The Garissa-based businessman said many enterprises were hanging in the balance with the future looking bleak.

"We can't predict the future of our business as we speak. Many customers have lost their sources of livelihoods and their purchasing power is at its lowest," Olweny said.

"I want to call on Governor Ali Korane to personally take up this matter and direct his officers to stop the renewal of business licenses until the situation stabilises."

He urged Garissa residents to adhere to the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health including keeping social distance and sanitising and washing hands with soap and running water.

"We should stop ignoring these directives because it's for our own good. These directives are not in any way meant to punish Kenyans but to avoid a disaster as has been witnessed in other parts of the world," Olweny said.

Kamba community leader Kitheka Mwenda said they will continue educating their communities on the need to follow and respect government directives.

Kitheka asked Korane to ensure all communities in Garissa town receive equal treatment when foodstuff and other benefits are being distributed to vulnerable groups.

Boda boda rider Bernard Katana said Garissa is among the counties listed as high risk and urged residents to be vigilant.



Small-scale traders in Garissa town /COURTESY

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COUNTIES WESTERN



Kanduyi MP Wafula Wamunyinyi and Teso North's Oku Kaunya during the burial of Kaunya's mother / EMOJONG OSERE

AWARENESS DRIVE

Busia pastors to preach coronavirus control measures

GILBERT OCHIENG / A team of pastors from Budalang'i is to begin a drive to sensitise the public on measures to stop the spread of the coronavirus.

Led by William Musumba of Seed of Abraham Christian Centre in Ruambwa and Salvation of Spirit Ministry's Patrick Ojanji, the team said they want to support efforts by county and national governments.

Speaking to the Star on Sunday, the pastors said they plan to reach residents of Bunyala South, Bunyala West, Bunyala Central and Bunyala North in three weeks.

"As pastors from churches in Bunyala subcounty, we have resolved to go to the grassroots and sensitise the public on the coronavirus," Musumba said.

Musumba said they will emphasise the need to strictly follow the directives of the Ministry of Health to contain the spread of the virus.

The clerics said they will extend their outreach programme to the neighbouring Samia subcounty in Funyula constituency.

Ojanji called on their counterparts from five other subcounties namely Matayos, Butula, Nambale, Teso South and Teso North to follow suit.

"Fellow pastors from the remaining five subcounties should take this up to ensure the public is well informed," Ojanji said.

BLAMES DETRACTORS

Kaunya to sue over viral video alleging he donated condoms

Says shooting and subsequent sharing of the clip on social media was an act of political propaganda to tarnish his image but will not be distracted from his agenda

EMOJONG OSERE
@TheStarKenya

Teso North MP Oku Kaunya has threatened to sue over a video footage whose contents claim he gave boda boda riders condoms instead of face masks.

He wants to take legal action against those who appeared in the video and those who shared the footage.

In a statement read by constituency manager Ronald Ochal on Sunday, Kaunya said the shooting and subsequent sharing of the video on social media was an act of political propaganda to tarnish his image.

He, however, said he will not be intimidated and would carry on with the implementation of his development agenda in the constituency.

Last week on Tuesday, Kaunya launched the distribution of face masks, water tanks, sanitisers and soap to help Teso North residents in the fight against the spread of Covid-19.

But a day after the launch, boda boda riders in Malaba town held demonstrations alleging that officers from the MP's office gave them condoms instead of face masks and hand sanitisers.

In the video, boda boda riders at Roadblock Stage in Malaba town are seen protesting while condemning the MP for distributing condoms instead of face masks at a time every Kenyan is busy fighting to contain the spread of the coronavirus.

The protesters are seen carrying packets of condoms telling the MP to stop undermining the commercial motorcyclists. "If condoms are

all the help we can get from our leaders, we still appreciate them and will use them," one of the motorcyclists is heard saying in the video that went viral last week.

Another one asked, "Are these the sanitisers we are supposed to receive?"

But the MP said those behind the shooting of the video will be held responsible for their actions.

"We at no time held any function at Malaba Roadblock to give out condoms. I condemn the persons appearing on the video in the strongest terms possible," the MP said.

"We have reported this matter to the police. A statement has been recorded by one of our officers to ensure that those who were involved in this propaganda can be held responsible for such propaganda."

The statement he issued is copied to Teso North deputy county commissioner Justus Musau and OCPD Wilson Muraya.

Kaunya, a first time MP also warned a local radio station that ran the boda boda protests' story without seeking for comment from him or his office.

“

MP OKU KAUNYA

We have reported this matter to the police

THE DATA

4

Wards Busia pastors intend to sensitise about coronavirus

They are set to create awareness for three weeks and have asked clerics from other subcounties to follow suit. The clergymen will stress the importance of adhering to health guidelines.

WANT POLICE ACTION

Budalang'i traders worried about rising robberies

GILBERT OCHIENG / Traders in Budalang'i have raised concerns over increased cases of robbery in the area since the government imposed a dusk-to-dawn curfew.

They said criminals use huge stones to break into shops at Budalang'i trading centre in Bunyala North ward.

Pastor Samson Midi Wanyama and Caleb Otieno said on Sunday traders have lost goods worth thousands of shillings in the robberies.

Midi urged the law enforcement officers in Budalang'i to step up their patrols and arrest the perpetrators who are terrorising residents.

FOR FOOD RELIEF

Transfer travel cash to Covid fund, says Malala

HILTON OTENYO / Monies allocated for travel and seminars by the Kakamega assembly should be diverted to the fight against the coronavirus, Senator Cleophas Malala has said.

Malala told the county assembly to reconvene and channel the monies mopped up from the activities to emergency response including humanitarian support.

The assembly was forced to recess following the outbreak of the virus on March 13 and subsequent measures to contain its spread. MCAs resume on April 28. "This money should be recalled through a

supplementary budget to be used for the purchase of food supplies and other social support in the event of a lockdown," he said. The senator said that Kenyans were going through a trying moment and all leaders should sacrifice to cushion them.

He asked the assembly to consider an economic stimulus package as a priority in the budget-making process. "Since we are in the next financial year's budget-making process and the assembly has not approved the budget outlook policy, they should avoid approving new projects and vote on undertakings that will put money in the pockets of the people," he said.

The lawmaker said that more money should be pumped into small and medium enterprises because the county economy is taking a beating.

The suspension of key revenue generation activities by both the business community and the county government have hurt the SMEs, he said.



Senator Cleophas Malala / FILE

COUNTIES NYANZA

CONTACT TRACING

Driver placed under quarantine after suspected contact with virus patient

Police trace man to Migori following reports he came into contact with Covid-19 case

ROBERT OMOLLO
@robertomollo3



Homa Bay security officers have put a truck driver in compulsory self-quarantine for allegedly being in contact with a Covid-19 positive person.

The driver who works at Sukari Industry in Ndihiwa constituency was held by officers on suspicion that he came into contact with a person who tested positive for coronavirus in Siaya.

The suspect whose name was withheld is under mandatory self-quarantine at a facility in Homa Bay.

Homa Bay officers traced and found him at Opapo weighbridge in Rongo constituency, Migori county, while undertaking his normal duties.

Speaking to journalists on Monday, Homa Bay county commissioner Yatich Kipkemei said the driver

underwent medical tests including screening before he was taken to quarantine.

"Security and health officers responded swiftly after we got information about the driver's whereabouts. We're still looking for other suspects," Kipkemei said.

The administrator urged residents who might have come into contact with the suspects to voluntarily reach health officers for tests and medication to avoid possible spread of the disease.

He called for concerted efforts in the fight against the deadly disease. "There is a need for all of us to cooperate in combating coronavirus. There is no harm in contracting the virus, hence suspects should boldly come out for assistance," he added.

The specimen of the driver was taken for lab testing at Kenya Medical and Research Institute in Kisumu. Homa Bay has not had any coronavirus cases since the first case was announced in Kenya last month.



Homa Bay director of medical services Gordon Okomo dresses a health worker in personal protective gear on Monday /ROBERT OMOLLO

The county government called on residents not to panic and adhere to the laid down procedures to prevent possible spread of the virus. "Let residents keep social distance, regularly wash their hands with soap and running water to keep away the

disease," Kipkemei said.

Last week, Kipkemei led in distributing alcohol based sanitiser to boda boda riders in Homa Bay town. The more than 250 sanitation facilities were donations from national government.

MENSTRUAL HYGIENE

Kuria group offers sanitary towels to girls outside school

MANUEL ODENY/Activists in the Kuria community are offering free sanitary towels and support to girls outside school during the fight against coronavirus.

Natalie Robi of Msichana Empowerment Kuria alongside other colleagues in Kenya and Spain have set up a menstrual care bank where more than 100 girls and women have benefitted since the coronavirus scourge was confirmed in Kenya.

"Menstruation doesn't stop during this period. With the curfew and slowing of the economy it has been hard for women and girls from vulnerable backgrounds to manage their menstruation during the crisis," Robi told the Star.

From their headquarters in Ikerege in Kuria West constituency, the organisation has also been on high alert regarding cases of gender based violence, which Robi said have been on the rise since schools were closed.

Robi said most girls used to get their supplies from schools, which are now closed. "We are setting up a food bank of dry food like rice, beans and maize after mapping out 100 vulnerable families," she said.

UNDIGNIFIED BURIAL

Government accused of stoking Covid-19 stigma

STAR REPORTER/The government should not stigmatise Covid-19 patients to help in the fight against the virus, a legislator and a lawyer have said.

Speaking to the Star over the phone on Tuesday, Awendo MP Walter Owino and former Nairobi county legal officer Gad Awuonda said stigma associated with the virus will affect Kenyans' support in the fight.

The two said brutal force used by police to enforce government measures against Covid-19, complaints from Kenyans in quarantine and the undignified burial of a Siaya victim will bring stigma.

"We need government to know that to fight coronavirus we don't need stigma. Patients and victims should be treated with dignity," Owino said.

He said the stigma that was brought by HIV/Aids when it was first reported in the country took time, billions of shillings and much concerted effort from several partners to erode.

"As a community, changing perceptions of mind over a disease is expensive, which is why any stigma associated with coronavirus virus should be fought at the earliest time possible," Owino said.

He said so far several leaders and people had donated their time and resources to fight the spread of the virus. Awendo NG-CDF distributed over 10,000 face masks.

Awuonda said with reports of people recovering from coronavi-

rus, the fight will be won. "We need dignity and humane treatment of Kenyans and patients to be key, since everybody is a potential candidate of infection," Awuonda said. He said dignity of victims will be key in fighting the virus.

He said the action taken by Siaya Governor Cornel Rasanga to investigate the burial of the victim was right.

James Oyugi Onyango's body was hurriedly buried at night by county officials without a coffin despite the family's plea to allow them time to have a coffin and to bury him during the day.

A video emerged on social media showing county officials in white protective gear casually throwing the body into a shallow hole, sparking outrage.



The body of James Oyugi Onyango, who was hurriedly buried in the wee hours of Sunday morning in Kamalung village, Siaya county /COURTESY



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COUNTIES RIFT VALLEY

SOUGHT SH3M FOR SACKING

Haji's 'farm manager' loses wrongful dismissal case

ANNETTE WAMBULWA/The man who alleged to have worked as a farm manager for Garissa Senator Yusuf Haji has lost a bid to get Sh3 million for unfair dismissal.

In his suit, Paul Okibero said he had worked for the lawmaker for 19 years, rising to be his farm manager in Tikosh, Kajjado. However, Labour Court judge Byrum Ongaya dismissed the case, saying there was no evidence that Okibero ever worked at the farm.

"Taking the claimant's evidence into account, the court

finds that the claimant has failed to show that the respondent employed him as was pleaded in the statement of claim and that the respondent terminated the alleged contract of service as was alleged," the judge said.

The court also declined to award Okibero 30 sheep that he alleged were left at the senator's farm.

"The claimant offered no evidence of the existence of the sheep in issue and the basis of the alleged price per sheep," Ongaya ruled.

Okibero had claimed that Haji employed him in 1996 to work as a gardener in his homes, including those on Lavington, Kileleshwa, Mountain View, Riverside, and Fedha estates.

He also told the court that he worked there until 2010 when he was sent to Tikosh Farm as a manager. He said the farm had nothing at the time.

Uasin Gishu police commander Johnstone Ipara at Eldoret police station / **MATHEWS NDANYI**



Enock Rong'uno, a victim of bandit attacks in Baringo North, at Baringo Referral Hospital in Kabarnet town on Monday / **JOSEPH KANGOGO**

RESERVIST INJURED

End banditry attacks or we'll all die, Baringo victims plead

Armed cattle rustlers raided Ng'aratuko village in Baringo North on Monday

JOSEPH KANGOGO
@TheStarKenya



Victims of Banditry attacks in Baringo have warned that they might be finished off if the government does not intervene.

This comes after armed cattle rustlers from Tiaty subcounty raided Ng'aratuko village in Baringo North on Monday. They shot and injured police reservist Enock Rong'uno, 28.

"I was helping repulse the bandits who were fully armed with Ak-47 guns with my simple improvised sticks-made bow and arrows before I was shot," Rong'uno said.

Rong'uno was admitted to the county referral hospital in Kabarnet town. A bullet was lodged in his right thigh. Doctors say he is stable.

The victims are blaming the resurgence on untimely withdrawal and disarmament of 3,000 National Police Reservists from the county late last year.

"The government should carry all the blame for these frequent attacks for the deliberate withdrawal of the NPR officers who used to help repulse the aggressors," Bartawa MCA Reuben Chepsongol said.

He said the state should respond quickly before the deadly bandits kill more people. He was backed by his Saimo-Soi counterpart Richard Chesem.

The attackers also fled with 230 goats during the 3am incident, but the police and residents recovered all of them.

The attack happened barely three days after another 30-year-old former police reservist Kenneth Argut was shot dead by suspected bandits at Shakanin in Bartabwa division on Friday. The body was taken to Kabarnet Hospital mortuary.

Retaliatory attacks have intensified after agitated Tugen youths raided Ng'inyang in Tiaty and injured a Pokot herder before fleeing with some 60 goats early this month.

Prior to that, Pokot bandits ambushed and killed boda boda rider Chepkok Napol in Kamachakwa along Loruk-Yatya road on April 2. Another group of bandits attacked Ng'aratuko village, shot and injured a Standard 6 boy before stealing a number of animals.

On February 21, the bandits ambushed and killed three Tugen police reservists on Mairo hills along Mochongoi-Chemorongion-Marigat road, Baringo South.

MCA Chepsongol urged the government to disarm the bandits or consider rearming the reservists. "There is no need of watching bandits kill a harmless population," he said.

They blamed Rift Valley regional coordinator George Natembeya for approving the disarmament of the NPR officers last year saying it has given the bandits freedom to attack unarmed residents at will.

"Natembeya should also tell us if he has a hidden agenda with the lives of the people of Baringo because he has kept silent while bandits kill people freely and steal their livestock," Chepsongol said.

They also lashed out at county commissioner Henry Wafula and his Baringo North deputy Popwocha Obwocha for keeping mum.

Tension is high in the volatile parts of Kagir, Yatya, Chemoe, Barketiew and Kosile. More than 800 residents have fled their homes since Friday last week. They are now camping in the bush at Rormoch, Karimo, Rondinin, Chapin, Barbarchuch, Sibilo, Chebarsiat and Akoroyan.

Yesterday, Chemoe resident Richard Chepchemei said the bandits had warned that they would follow them to the camps, "to shoot and steal our animals".

STRICT ENFORCEMENT

Curfew reduces North Rift night crime by 80%

Police reports show drops in Uasin Gishu, Nandi, West Pokot, Turkana

MATHEWS NDANYI/The ongoing dusk-to-dawn curfew has helped reduce crime in the North Rift by more than 80 per cent, besides boosting the war on Covid-19.

A senior police officer at the regional police headquarters in Nakuru said the daily reports they receive showed an 80 per cent drop in criminal activities in counties in the North Rift including Uasin Gishu, Nandi, West Pokot, Turkana and Trans Nzoia counties.

Uasin Gishu county commissioner Abdirisack Jaldesa says the curfew has achieved 100 per cent compliance in most areas, with residents ensuring they are indoors by 7pm.

Very few incidents of crime have been reported since the curfew started. "We have tightened security in all areas to ensure Kenyans in this region are at home by 7pm and ensure that they are safe while in their houses," Jaldesa said.

So far, about 100 people have been arrested for defying curfew orders in the region and their cases have been handled by the police.

County police commander Johnstone Ipara says they have recorded very few criminal incidents since the curfew started and security personnel had been deployed in parts of Kiplombe areas where gangs terrorised residents two weeks ago.

Elgeyo Marakwet county commissioner Omar Ahmed said the enforcement of the curfew is going on well, with very incidents of crime recorded.

"Everyone must be at home by 7pm. Only security officers operate after that and we have recorded very minimal cases of crime in the last two weeks," Ahmed said.

Human rights groups have demanded tough action against some police officers who brutalise, injure and kill Kenyans during the curfew.

The Centre Against Torture (CAT), through its programmes officer Kimutai Kirui, says some officers overreacted unnecessarily, thus violating the rights of innocent people who had delayed on their way home.

Kirui said brutal and rogue police officers who misbehaved should not be allowed to remain in the police service. "Police officers should enforce the curfew or the law while at the same time protecting Kenyans but not to brutalise in a manner that even leads to death," he said.

Meanwhile, the body of a street boy who drowned in River Sosiani in Eldoret town while running away from police officers enforcing the curfew has been recovered. Two other boys who are also suspected to have fallen into the same river while escaping are still missing.

The street families have accused the police and county enforcement officers in Eldoret of torturing them during curfew hours, yet they have no homes.

Turbo OCPD Eliud Maiyo says they are investigating the incident. He directed police officers in the town to help the street families instead of harassing them.

'THE STATE SHOULD CARRY ALL THE BLAME FOR THESE FREQUENT ATTACKS FOR THE DELIBERATE WITHDRAWAL OF THE NPR OFFICERS'

COFFEE BREAK

CROSSWORD



DOWN

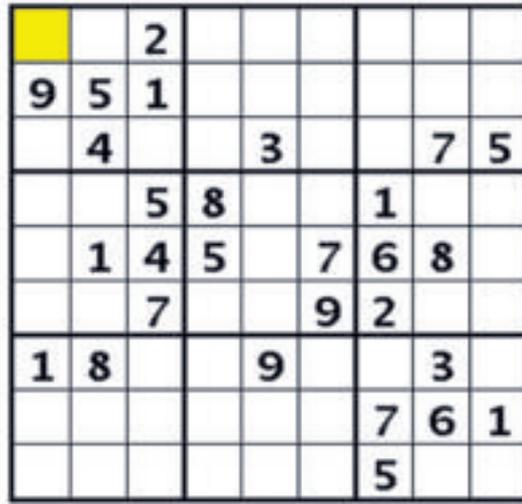
2. The sense organ for hearing and equilibrium (3)
3. An extension at the end and at right angles to the main building (3)
4. A member of a Mayan people of southwestern Guatemala (3)
5. A kind of literary or artistic work (5)
6. Jubilee Party's Munyaka Victor Kioko's political backyard (12)
7. Spend money, time, or energy on something, especially for some benefit or purpose (6)
8. A painful injury to a joint caused by a sudden wrenching of its ligaments (6)
11. Governor Muthomi Njuki's political backyard (12)
12. The last 24th letter of the Greek alphabet (5)
14. Unwillingness to do something contrary to your custom (4)
18. A toothed wheel that engages another toothed mechanism in order to change the speed or direction of transmitted motion (4)
21. A set of rules, principles or laws (4)
22. A trial of something to see if or how it works (4)
23. A mark to indicate a direction or relation (5)
24. An involuntary vibration as if from illness or fear (6)
25. Jubilee Party member of Parliament for Kajiado South constituency (6)
27. Toxin secreted by animals (5)
31. Short for Rio de Janeiro (3)
32. Gone by; or in the past (3)
33. An inflated feeling of pride in your

superiority to others (3)

ACROSS

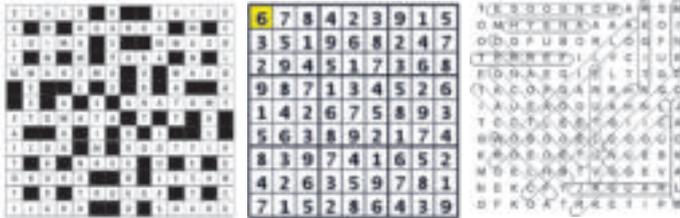
1. ODM member of Parliament for Nyatike constituency (5)
4. Jubilee Party member of Parliament for Buuri constituency (7)
9. A unit of length of thread or yarn (3)
10. A detachment used for security or reconnaissance (6)
13. Of a polynomial whose leading coefficient is one (5)
15. The quality of a color as determined by its dominant wavelength (3)
16. An impure form of quartz consisting of banded chalcidony (5)
17. ODM member of Parliament from Kisii County (6)
19. A case for containing a set of articles (3)
20. ODM's Owuor Joshua Aduma's political backyard (7)
22. Make a passage or journey from one place to another (7)
25. Extinct flightless bird of New Zealand (3)
26. Printed and bound books that are extended works of fiction (6)
28. A major French river (6)
29. For relating to Thailand (3)
30. A black or colored powder used in a printer (5)
32. ODM's Owino John Walter's political backyard (6)
34. Inspector general of government abbr (3)
35. ODM member of Parliament for Funyula constituency (7)
36. ODM member of Parliament for Kibra constituency (5)

SUDOKU / SIMPLE



Fill the grid with digits so that each column, each row, and each of the sub-grids that compose the grid all contain all of the numbers from 1 to 9 one time.

Weekend's Solutions



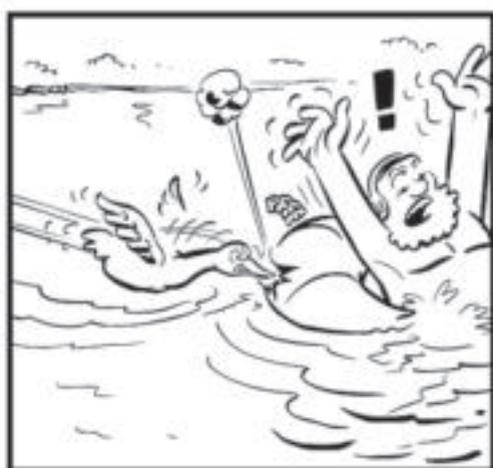
WORD SEARCH

Find and mark all the words hidden inside the box. The words may be placed horizontally, vertically, or diagonally.



Kingo

By James Gayo



ODDLY ENOUGH

Builder transforms staircase into wine cellar in a week

DAILY MAIL/ Wine enthusiasts are marvelling over a builder's unique wine cellar design that incorporates drawers into the steps of a staircase.

Australian builder Murray Berrill, owner of Murray Berrill Constructions, said the cellar can hold 156 bottles of wine and only took a week and a half to make.

"I hate dead space when renovating a house, as you're essentially paying for nothing. So we thought of putting the wine in drawers in the

staircase rather than behind it," Murray told FEMAIL.

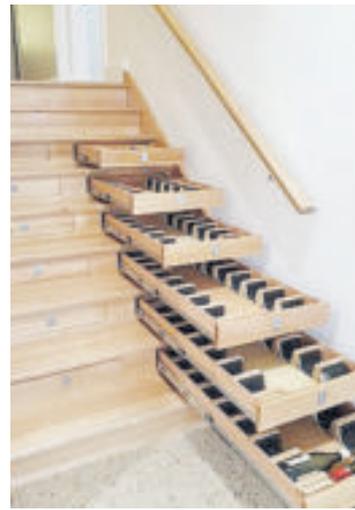
The independent Victorian business shared images of the result on their Facebook page, which received a lot of attention from impressed social media users.

The price of the entire wine cellar staircase is estimated at \$5,000.

The inventive design amazed others on social media – one woman also shared the post to the Bunnings Mums Australia Facebook group, which has more than 115,000 members.

"Impressive work you are obviously a very skilled tradesman. More than one headache in there," one woman said.

The unique wine cellar design incorporates drawers into the steps of a staircase
/ DAILY MAIL



ALL IN THE STARS



ARIES

March 21 – April 20

You will be erratic and quite likely to make personal mistakes. Deception may cause disputes you can do without.

Taurus

April 21 – May 21

Do not lend money to friends. Being unappreciated by your boss could make it hard to do your work effectively.

GEMINI

May 22 – June 21

Be prepared to overcome frustrations and obstacles at work. You can make money if you work on personal investments.

CANCER

June 22 – July 22

You may have a hidden adversary who would love to prove you wrong. Help others solve their dilemmas.

LEO

July 23 – August 22

Be tactful if you see flaws in someone else's work. Overindulgence will mean poor health.

VIRGO

August 23 – September 23

Lay your cards on the table regarding your personal direction. Put your efforts into moneymaking ventures.

LIBRA

September 24 – October 23

Pay attention to small but important details. You will be well looked upon due to your compassionate and giving nature.

SCORPIO

October 24 – November 22

Opportunities will come through long term investments. Get together with people who stimulate you mentally.

SAGITTARIUS

November 23 – December 21

Arguments with relatives may lead to a split in the family. Get involved in fitness programs that will bring you new friends.

CAPRICORN

December 22 – January 20

Friends may not understand your situation. Do not let lovers cost you money or take advantage of you.

AQUARIUS

January 21 – February 19

Accept the inevitable, and opportunities for advancement will follow. You need to do something energetic and different.

PISCES

February 20 – March 20

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SPORTS PROFILE

Why Eagles can

How young Wings navigated tricky continental waters to make history

DAN OWERRE Seven years after putting Kenya on the continental map, multiple national champions Eagles Wings are now a pale shadow of their former self.

Eagles came into the Kenyan scene in 2007, won the national title two years later and in only their third outing on the continental front, made history by bagging the country's first-ever bronze medal.

However, that now remains just a piece of history as they continue to struggle on all fronts, from finances, to the kit, to logistics, to recruitment, name it!

Not much help is coming their way either, from wellwishers like it used to be before. Recruiting new talents is not easy either but coach Everlyne Kedogo and team manager Nellie Odera are determined to soldier on. It has not been easy.

A lot of players moved to other teams but some are still sticking around, Odera says, adding: "Every player in our team used to make it to the national team."

They include Samba Mjomba, Natalie Akinyi, Rose Ouma, Rebecca Sarange, Evelyne Sande, Linda Nyikuli, Annerose Mandela, Janet Okoth, Bridigit Nanzala, Shilalei Shani, Velma Owino and Eleanor Musundi.

Among the players won the Africa club championship bronze medal for Kenya in Meknes, Morocco, only Sarange is still actively involved with the team.

The reason why Eagles story is quite unique is that, for more than a decade, Kenyan teams had participated at the Africa women's Club Championships but none came close to what the self-supporting side achieved.

Kenya's participation in this show was started in 1999 by national champions Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) during the eighth edition in Dakar, Senegal.

In their debut season, KPA wound up last in a five-team event. They would make more trips to this show in 2006 in Gabon, in Mozambique in 2007, in 2008 in Nairobi and Benin in 2009 but still posted similar results—No top-three finish.

But when Eagles stepped onto the scene, the tide changed. They arrived in the North African city as underdogs, late by a day, had their opening game pushed ahead by hours and went straight to work by whipping home girls IR Tangier 60-37.

But nothing went right in their next two matches. They lost a closely fought encounter, going down 71-69 to 1st Deepwater of Nigeria and also lost 69-41 to favourites and eventual winners Inter Clube of Angola.

Despite posting only one win, Wings booked a ticket to the quarterfinals where they were pitted against compatriots and high-riding United States International University (USIU), then Kenyan champions in a faraway land.

Wings easily extinguished the Flames' with an 83-65 triumph in the all-Kenyan affair and booked themselves a ticket to the semi-finals.

Again, they met the Angolan powerhouse who stopped them from making it to the finals with a 76-50 victory.

Next came their second meeting against the Nigerian side 1st Deepwater who stood between them and history.

This time around, Wings were determined to turn the tables on their opponents, who had squeezed a one basket victory in their earlier meeting.

At the end of this epic duel, it was Wings who prevailed 67-64 as the final horn sounded. The Kenyan side wrote a piece of history in the continental scene, something that remains unmatched to date.

How did Wings navigate the tricky continental waters? The then team assistant coach Kedogo points out that after the girls were placed ninth in their first away outing in Ivory Coast, they knew what awaited them and prepared thoroughly for it.

"We trained hard every day for nearly two hours. The girls knew what to expect and they knew what they wanted after the previous tournament.

We set our eyes to achieve something," she notes.

"We retained most of the players from Abidjan. We had a good squad with every position covered and we also had two utility players. Our work was easy," she said.

Kedogo worked closely with the late coach Thomas Smatts Olumbo to build the team. She learnt his ways of training and tactics and gained a lot from one of the country's master tacticians.

"Our most memorable fixture was against compatriots USIU. They had beaten us at home in the playoff semi-finals a few days earlier and we wanted to send a



Anne Rose Atieno formerly of Eagle Wings, stumbles under pressure from Mennonites' Marryann Wanjiru in past league match

/ COURTESY

strong message to them and to our fans," says Kedogo.

"We were bruised and battered and we had to react. In that match, we did not even use our starting five and this surprise move completely disorientated them." Odera said the players wanted to badly do it for coach Smatts, who travelled with them to the tournament despite being unwell.

"The fact that he made the trip despite not feeling well was a motivating factor.

The girls played their hearts out for him. When we came back in December, the players did not see him only to learn in February that the coach had left us," Odera recalls.

Assistant team manager in charge of finances, Agina Wesa, looks back at the historic feat. "We prepared well for that championship," he recalls. "But we were not sure of travelling until the government of Kenya, Nairobi Governor Mike Sonko,

Equity Bank and a few individuals stepped in to save the day."

"And despite their achievements, the team returned home quietly. What surprised us was that, after such an achievement, all we got was a nomination at the Soya Awards and that is as far as it got," Agina says.

"How do you explain a situation where a self-supporting side participates in a continental tournament, bag the first-ever bronze medal and still does not even become number three in the Soya Award?" Kedogo chips in.

"Here we are at the airport and there was nobody to receive us on our return.

Not even federation officials and yet we had achieved what no institutional side before us had done. The players were so heartbroken," she added.

"This in my mind is where the team started going down. Wings started their continental campaign at home in 2008 and



...n't soar anymore?



LEFT: Eagle Wings' duo of Dora Ouko and Nelly Odera tries to stop Mennonites Marryann Wanjiru in a previous KBF league / COURTESY



Samja Njomba during her days at Eagle Wings / COURTESY

together with KPA, flew the nation's flag in a well-attended 12-team championship played at the Nyayo Stadium."

It was the first and only final tour hosted by Kenya but nothing went right for the home teams in this Nairobi festival. Wings faced some of the toughest teams in Africa.

They crushed 65-53 to ABC of Ivory Coast in their Pool 'A' opener. Other losses were: 82-60 to Djoliba of Mali, 94-75 to First Bank of Nigeria, 99-44 to Primeiro de Agosto and 72-61 to Radi of DR Congo.

The dismal showing continued in the next phase, falling 75-55 to Radi before beating another Congolese side, Victoria 49-37 in a low-scoring encounter.

The win ensured Eagle Wings finished 10th, two positions behind KPA.

But due to financial constraints, Wings missed the next trip to Tunisia in 2010 following their win

at the Fiba Africa Zone Five show in Bujumbura, Burundi. Odera would later term the inability to travel extremely heartbreaking to the team but it never dampened the girls' spirits.

Unperturbed, they planned on their next appearance in 2012 in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. The government again came to their rescue by providing the tickets and some money.

They supplemented this by reaching out to a few friends. The team found the going tough to place ninth in the tournament.

They lost 64-47 to Sfaxiense of Tunisia, 62-48 to Inter Clube, 79-45 to 1st Deepwater and 66-46 to homegirls ABC. They did manage to beat Ndela of Gabon 59-51, their only win.

So how was Eagle Wings started in the first place?

Odera states that they brought together some players from the disbanded Telkom team.

They wrestled the national

league title from KPA, beating them 54-52 in the best-of-three-game series 2-1.

The young Anastacia Njeri, now based in the USA, bagged the MVP honours. With the late Olumbo at the helm, they soared higher and higher and never looked back, cementing their position as one of the country's all-time greats.

Eagle Wings had many admirers both at home and abroad and who contributed whenever they were called.

"We had many uniforms which we never bought, says Odera. They were all donations from friends in the USA, Qatar and Nairobi." Wesonga adds:

"The players we had were a very committed and dedicated lot. All of them were aware of our financial status. The little we had, we shared equally amongst ourselves and they were happy."

SPORTS LOCAL



Joel Djiro of City Stars (R) shields the ball from Gedeon Were of FC Talanta during their National Super League match at Camp Toyoyo / FILE

FOOTBALL

City Stars' boss wants KPL season finalised

MESHACK KISENGE / As the debate to have the 2019–2020 season cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic gathers steam, National Super League side and promotion hopefuls Nairobi City Stars are calling on relevant bodies to ensure the competitions run to the last match.

The season, the first after Football Kenya Federation synchronized their calendar with that of Caf and Fifa is set to expire next month and City Stars who are on the verge of returning to the top flight after four years want the league to complete in the interest of fairness.

With ten matches to go, Stars sit at the top of the table with 64 points—10 ahead of second-placed Bidco United and argue that calling off the season will work against the spirit of fairness and sportsmanship.

The club's chief executive officer, Patrick Korir, challenged the league body to consider squeezing the remaining rounds in a period not exceeding two months to fairly determine the champions, promotion candidates as well as relegation-bound sides. "The situation we are

facing at the moment is beyond our control and I don't see the need to make hurried decisions. We have ten matches remaining and once normalcy returns, we can play them in one and a half months. Last season, we used to play almost three matches in a week and we can replicate the same in a bid to complete the season," said Korir.

He added: "Cancelling the season will draw varied reactions from teams in different cadres and some will feel shortchanged should we take that decision. To ensure fairness to all the season should be completed. It will also be unfair to various sponsors and individuals who have invested heavily in teams."

In the meantime, Korir suggested that in the event of a prolonged break which will warrant the voiding of the season, article 2.6 of the FKF statutes should be applied to determine winners, promotion and relegation.

"We have played at least 73 per cent of the matches hence the only option we have is to use the first leg results to put the matter to rest," added Korir.

ATHLETICS

How home-made gym keeps me busy—Moraa

World U-18 silver medallist optimistic despite virus mess

EMMANUEL SABUNI/As the coronavirus pandemic makes it impossible for athletes to attend normal training, most of them have turned to innovative ways of keeping fit with the hope that normal activities will resume soon.

In coping with such demands, World Under 18 400m silver medallist Mary Moraa has constructed a 'homemade gym' to ensure that she remains fit and prevent herself from being caught off-guard when the pandemic ends. Reigning Africa under 20 400m champion is using a 30kg weight lift after filling two cans with cement.

"I use home-made weights in the evening to keep fit because there is no gym around to train. In the morning, I train at Karura Forest after the National Youth Service (NYS) training ground was condoned. In Karura, the rule remains that there is no group training," said Moraa.

"I paid someone Sh2,700 to make weights for me and I love them. This is the best way to keep myself fit during this COVID-19 break. I had good plans for this year including making a debut in the Diamond League but that is now a dream," said Moraa. She said the postponement of sporting activities is 'double tragedy' for her.

First, she wanted to compete at the World U20 Championships at the venue, where she won a silver medal three years ago in the U18 Championships at Moi Stadium, Kasarani and secondly, she was set to debut in the Diamond League in Doha but this is now a lost course.

"Missing Diamond League and



Mary Moraa with her home-made weights during training

/EMMANUEL SABUNI

the World Under 20 is a big blow not only to me but to other athletes as well. As runners, this is the only way we make a living," she said.

With all these, the disappointed Moraa is optimistic that God has his own plans and all that remains is for her to ensure she is ready for competitions when things return to normal.

Moraa, who recently started her training for 800m, said: "I was to compete in both the 400m and

800m at the WU20 but t's sad that my dream is over."

The World Under 20 championships was to be held between July 7 and 12 in Nairobi but has been postponed 'until further notice'.

Moraa will not be eligible if the event is not held this year and therefore will not have a chance to redeem herself after a fourth-place at the previous championships in Tampere, Finland.

WOMEN FOOTBALL

Starlets told to use foreign-based stars in next assignment

EVANS ANAKUR/Oserian Ladies coach Hudson Odari wants players plying their trade outside the country to be considered for the next national team assignment to avoid further slump.

Starlets won a single match in four encounters during the Turkish Women's Gold Cup tourney last month in the absence of the overseas players. Their unavailability was heavily felt and Odari, 35, wants them to be part and parcel of the next assignment.

"Starlets performed dismally and the reason is well known. The team was without experienced players and stakeholders need to rethink their decision before the next assignment," said the former Oserian FC men's team player who retired in 2008 after suffering a serious knee injury.

"A player like Corazon Acquino is an asset both at the club and national team level yet she was missing in the Turkey assignment.

"Striker Marjolin Wekesa, who is a currently on a sports scholarship in the United States, also deserves a call-up. "Others are Anneth Kundu, Ruth Ingosi and Cynthia Shilwatso, who are attached to European clubs," said Wekesa.

At the same time, Odari wants the federation to assist players to secure passports. "Some players have in the past been dropped due to lack of travel documents. There's no need of calling a player and dropping him at the eleventh hour over passports," recounted the youthful tactician who has been with Oserian for 14 years.

Meanwhile, Odari reckons that playing friendly matches with quality teams will not only help the coach gauge the ability of his charges but also regenerate self-belief in the team.

"It's one thing to play test matches but the quality of the opponent must be considered. Training without friendlies again is useless and every team must strive to engage teams above them for ideal preparations."

Harambee Starlets' Cynthia Shilwatso (R) charges past Dorcas Shikobe and Wincate Kaari during a training session at Camp Toyoyo /FILE



SPORTS INTERNATIONAL



LA LIGA

Barca ring changes

Calatans restructure board after resignation of top officials

BARCELONA /Barcelona have moved to restructure their board after six directors resigned last week in protest at the way the club is being run, the Spanish side have said.

Two of the club's four vice presidents, Emili Rousaud and Enrique Tombas, were among those to announce their resignation in a letter to fans published in Spanish media last week.

They were joined by directors Silvio Elias, Josep Pont, Jordi Calsamiglia and Maria Texidor.

The departing directors had criticised the club's handling of a social media scandal and expressed doubts about the board's ability to handle the implications

FC Barcelona coach Quique Setien poses for a photograph with president Josep Maria Bartomeu and sports director Eric Abidal
/REUTERS

of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has led to a 70 per cent players' pay cut. Barcelona said the board had approved the appointments of Jordi Moix as vice president for economic and equity, Pau Vilanova as institutional vice president, Oriol Tomas as vice president of the commercial area, Marta Plana as board secretary, and David Bellver as treasurer.

"Javier Bordas will be the manager responsible for the football first team, while Xavier Vilajoana will be in charge of Barca B, the youth teams and women's football," Barcelona said.

The club added they would take legal action against Rousaud for allegations that "seriously damage the institution's image". Joan

Blade, who is responsible for the club's basketball teams, would also now manage Barcelona's control and transparency committee, the club added.

The outgoing directors had asked president Josep Maria Bartomeu to call presidential elections and voiced "displeasure" over the club's hiring of a third party, I3 Ventures, earlier this year to monitor social media coverage of Barca.

Bartomeu has denied accusations the company created social media accounts to smear future presidential candidates and former and current players but rescinded the club's contract with the firm anyway.

I3 Venture has also denied any wrongdoing.

PRIMEIRA LIGA

France considering Ligue 1 restart in next two months

LISBON / France is considering restarting Ligue 1 on June 3 or June 17, with the latter date more likely, according to sports daily L'Equipe, who cited a document from league organisers (LFP).

Soccer in France was suspended indefinitely last month due to the COVID-19 pandemic. On Monday French President Emmanuel Macron extended the lockdown in the country to May 11.

The L'Equipe report said that if the season resumed on June 17 teams would have to play every three days so the regular campaign could end by July 25, leaving time for relegation and promotion playoffs to be completed by August 2.

L'Equipe also said LFP members had voted on Friday to push back the start of next season by two weeks to August 23, but that the decision would have to be confirmed by France's Football Federation (FFF).

The French Cup final between Paris St Germain and St Etienne has been scheduled for June 27, according to the document, while the League Cup final between PSG and Olympique Lyonnais had been pencilled in for July 11.

PREMIER LEAGUE

Chicharito to headline MLS e-sports tourney

NEW YORK / Major League Soccer is kicking off a five-week esports tournament on Sunday featuring players such as new LA Galaxy striker Javier 'Chicharito' Hernandez, as the sporting world adapts to life indoors amid the coronavirus outbreak.

The eMLS Tournament Special will pair MLS players with their esports counterparts in a single-elimination competition benefiting relief efforts for those impacted in North America by the pandemic.

The first day of competition in the Fifa 20 tournament will feature Chicago Fire versus FC Cincinnati before LAFC take on rivals LA Galaxy.

The announcement comes days after the Football's Staying Home Cup kicked off on Friday, featuring some of England's top players, as the world of soccer aims to bring the spirit of competition into the digital realm and away from the pitch.

The eMLS Tournament Special kicks off on Sunday at 7 pm on FS1.



Javier Hernandez /COURTESY



Flamengo coach Jorge Jesus talks with his players during the match played behind closed doors as the number of coronavirus cases grows worldwide /REUTERS

BRASIL SÉRIE A LEAGUE

Brazilian football not likely to restart any time soon

RIO DE JANEIRO / The chance of Brazilian football restarting in May is more of a hope than an expectation, the secretary-general of the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) said.

Brazilian football was suspended last month because of the spread of the new coronavirus and Walter Feldman told Reuters a quick restart was unlikely. "There is hope," Feldman said in a phone call from his home in Rio where he is in self-isolation. "Is May possible? I'd say it's a hope but we can't say it is

an expectation."

Feldman said the CBF had not yet considered scrapping this year's national championship, which is scheduled to kick off in early May and end in December.

The fate of the traditionally important state championships, which were halted in March and have still to be completed, still hang in the balance. The autonomous state federations could restart their tournaments without the green light from the CBF but Feldman said he expected any decision will only

be made after consultation with the health ministry.

"We don't think anyone can return to action until the health authorities advise them so," he said. "Their voice is decisive in any decision."

Brazil has reported a total of 23,430 cases and 1,328 deaths from COVID-19 as of Monday, although a study released the same day suggested the South American nation likely has 12 times more cases than are being officially reported by the government.

SPORTS INTERNATIONAL



Burundi's Elvis Kamsoba and Gael Bigirimana battles Nigeria's Odion Ighalo in the last year's Africa Cup of Nations/FILE

AFRICA FOOTBALL

Burundi on spot

Election, not coronavirus, halts football in Bujumbura

BBC/Burundi, the last African country to allow football to continue through the coronavirus pandemic, suspended its league on Monday but made no reference to the stoppage being linked to the threat of the deadly virus.

Instead, Burundi Football Federation president Reverien Ndikuriyo told a press conference in Bujumbura the suspension was to allow the federation to re-assess venues for matches as some facilities might have to be used for upcoming election rallies.

A general election will be held in Burundi on May 20 to elect

both the president and the National Assembly.

The BFF's decision was taken at a meeting on Monday, and the federation said it was "re-arranging its fixture calendar" and was satisfied that the league and cup competitions were well on target for a May 30 completion date.

Ndikuriyo made no reference to the health risks of continuing to proceed with the league and cup matches, save to call on players, officials and spectators to observe preventative measure recommended by the government.

Spectators at matches in Bu-

rundi have had their temperatures taken and hands sprayed with disinfectant on the entrance to match venues in recent weeks.

A committee will decide on when the league and cup competitions will resume, the federation said in a statement.

Cup quarter-final matches were played at the weekend, while the league championship has only three rounds still to complete.

The small East African nation announced its first coronavirus cases on March 31, and its health ministry has since confirmed five cases of the virus.



Southampton's Shane Long celebrates with Dusan Tadic in a recent match /FILE

PREMIER LEAGUE

Saints took wage deferrals to help community – Ward-Prowse

LONDON/Southampton's players and senior staff wanted to protect the club and repay their community when they accepted wage deferrals and were not influenced by external pressure, vice-captain James Ward-Prowse has said.

The club were the first in the Premier League to announce that players and coaching staff would defer part of their salaries for April, May and June to help weather the shutdown brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Premier League has been suspended indefinitely due to the

FOOTBALL

Dalglish contracting COVID-19 was real shocker, says Klopp

LONDON /News that Liverpool great Kenny Dalglish had tested positive for COVID-19 came as a huge shock to the club's players and staff, manager Juergen Klopp has said.

Dalglish, 69, tested positive for the coronavirus last week after being admitted to hospital for an infection. He required intravenous antibiotics but was asymptomatic and returned home over the weekend.

"It was a real shock three days ago when I heard about it first.

The boys were sent a message in our WhatsApp group and everybody was like, 'wow'," Klopp said "What you feel at that moment is a massive difference if you know somebody who got the virus, or if you don't know.

"We all know this terrible disease is causing heartache all over the world, but this was the first time for many of us someone we have such a personal connection to was affected to this extent."

The Premier League has been suspended indefinitely due to the COVID-19 pandemic with the UK on lockdown to curb the spread of the virus. Liverpool held a 25-point lead at the top of the table when the season was halted.

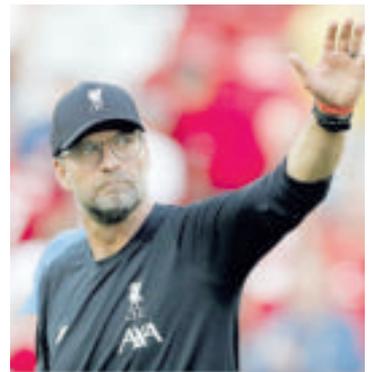
Klopp has been putting his players through their paces in online training sessions and said the social aspect

of the link-up, including birthday singalongs, was helping the squad deal with being stuck in isolation.

"When we have these training sessions, I could have never imagined I would enjoy it that much," he added. "The boys are all in good spirits.

"When we start at 10, the chat is open from 9.30 on and pretty much everybody is already in ... That's the best thing of having this situation in 2020 – we have this technical opportunity.

"Imagine if we would have had it in the '80s or something like that, it would have been really crazy. Not because of football, because of all the social contact and interaction we can have and use in the moment. That makes a big difference."



SERIE A

Italian health official casts doubt on quick Serie 'A' restart

LONDON /A leading Italian health official says he does not see how Serie A, which has been suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic, could resume in the next few weeks.

Italy Football Federation (FIGC) head Gabriele Gravina said on Saturday he hoped teams could begin training in May— provided players tested negative for the new coronavirus — with the first games possibly coming at the end of that month. However, Giovanni Rezza,

director of infectious diseases at the Italian National Institute of Health (ISS), disagreed.

"If I had to give a technical report, it would not be favourable," he told reporters. "Football is a contact sport with a risk of transmission. "They have proposed close monitoring of the players with almost daily tests, although, honestly, to me, that seems to be stretching things a little. And we are almost into May already."

However, at the end of the day it was not his call, he said.

"It will be the politicians who decide," added Rezza. "It's a difficult decision to take because of the health implications."

Serie A has been on hold since March 9, with players at several clubs testing positive for COVID-19, which has killed more than 113,000 people globally.

sure to accept wage cuts.

The players union, however, questioned the league's call for a 30% player wage reduction, saying it would reduce tax revenue for the National Health Service.

Liverpool and Tottenham Hotspur have both reversed decisions to furlough non-playing staff members after fierce criticism of the moves, while West Ham United followed Southampton by announcing wage deferrals for players.

Southampton were 14th in the Premier league table when it was suspended.

outbreak, with the UK on lockdown to curb the spread of the novel coronavirus.

"It was never about doing it quickly or facing any pressure," midfielder Ward-Prowse told the BBC "We wanted to make a good, mature, calculated decision on what was needed.

It wasn't done for a 'well done, you're the first club to do it'. It was done out of thinking ahead and thinking about what is best for the club and the community."

With the Premier League at a standstill, footballers are facing pres-

SPORTS INTERNATIONAL

WORLD CUP

Qatar denies US allegations

Prosecutors claim Fifa officials were bribed to swing votes in crucial hosting decisions

BY SIMON EVANS / The organisers of the 2022 World Cup in Qatar have strongly denied allegations from the U.S. Department of Justice that bribes were paid to secure votes for the hosting rights to the tournament.

Suspicion and rumours have long surrounded both the 2010 vote by Fifa's executive to hand the 2018 World Cup to Russia and the 2022 tournament to Qatar.

Yet on Monday, for the first time, prosecutors set direct, formal allegations regarding both tournaments down in an indictment.

According to the prosecutors, representatives working for Russia and Qatar bribed Fifa executive committee officials to swing votes in the crucial hosting decisions of world football's governing body. Qatar's Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy (SC), rejected the charges.

"They are part of a long-standing case, the subject of which is not the 2018/2022 Fifa World Cup bidding process.

"Despite years of false claims, evidence has never been produced to demonstrate that Qatar won the rights to host the Fifa World Cup 2022 unethically or by means that contravened Fifa's strict bidding rules.

"The SC maintains that it strictly adhered to all rules and regulations for the 2018/2022 Fifa World Cup bidding process and any claim to the contrary is baseless and will be fiercely contested."

Fifa said in a statement it supported all investigations into "alleged acts of criminal wrongdoing" and noted it had been accorded victim status in the U.S. criminal proceedings.

"The Fifa Ethics Committee has already imposed sanctions, including life bans, on football officials mentioned in this process," said a Fifa spokesman.

"So far as Fifa is concerned, should any acts of criminal wrongdoing by football officials be established, the individuals in question should be subject to penal sanctions.

"As the respective criminal cases are ongoing we are not in a position to comment further for the time being." Although Fifa has reacted



Workers walk towards the construction site of the Lusail stadium which will be build for the upcoming 2022 Fifa soccer World Cup during a stadium tour in Doha, Qatar, December 20, 2019. /REUTERS

to previous media allegations about the Qatar bid process by insisting the tournament will be unaffected, the U.S. allegations will lead to further questions over the hosting of the tournament, which is scheduled for November and December of 2022.

The indictment states that the three South American members of FIFA's 2010 executive - Brazil's Ricardo Teixeira, the late Nicolas Leoz of Paraguay and an unnamed co-conspirator - took bribes to vote for Qatar to host the 2022 tournament.

"Ricardo Teixeira, Nicolas Leoz and co-conspirator #1 were offered and received bribe payments in exchange for their votes in favour of Qatar to host the 2022 World Cup," reads the indictment.

Teixeira, the former son-in-law of long-time FIFA boss Joao Havelange and ex-head of the Brazilian soccer federation (CBF), was not immediately reachable for comment.

WARNER ALLEGATIONS

The DOJ also alleges that then

Fifa vice-president Jack Warner was paid \$5 million through various shell companies to vote for Russia to host the 2018 World Cup.

Warner has been accused of a number of crimes in the long-running U.S. probe and is fighting extradition from his homeland of Trinidad & Tobago. Warner, who was not immediately reachable for comment, has always denied any wrongdoing.

Alexei Sorokin, CEO of the local organising committee for Russia's 2018 World Cup, told the Interfax news agency: "This is only the opinion of lawyers. We have repeatedly said that our bid was transparent.

"At the time we answered all questions, including from the investigation branch of Fifa and from the media, we handed over all needed documents. We have nothing to add to this and we will not respond to attempts to cast a shadow on our bid."

Asked if the Kremlin was aware of the U.S. indictment, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said: "We read the media reports. We don't understand what they refer to.

"Russia received the right to host the World Cup completely legally. It is in no way linked to any bribes. We reject this. And Russia hosted the best soccer World Cup in history, which we are proud of."

The Qatar World Cup organisers have been fending off allegations of corruption ever since the tiny Gulf state was awarded the 2022 tournament.

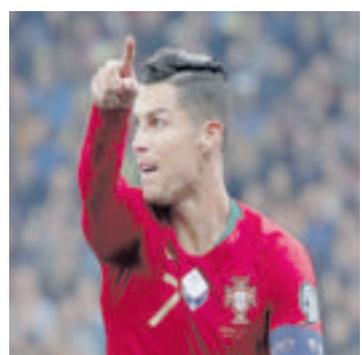
In 2014, Fifa, then under the control of former President Sepp Blatter, cleared Russia and Qatar of wrongdoing in their bids to host the World Cup after an investigation.

Blatter was banned from football by Fifa along with scores of other officials following internal ethics investigations, promoted by the arrests of seven Fifa officials on U.S. corruption charges in Zurich in May 2015.

Warner and Teixeira have been banned for life from football by Fifa while Leoz died last year under house arrest in his native Paraguay where he had been fighting extradition to the United States to face corruption charges.

"THE FIFA ETHICS COMMITTEE HAS ALREADY IMPOSED SANCTIONS, INCLUDING LIFE BANS, ON FOOTBALL OFFICIALS MENTIONED IN THIS PROCESS," -FIFA SPOKESMAN

FOOTBALL CHARITY



Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo gestures in past match /REUTERS

Portugal donate half of Euro 2020 qualifying prize money

LISBON / European champions Portugal will donate half of their prize money for qualifying for the now-postponed Euro 2020 championships to support amateur football amid the coronavirus outbreak, the team said on Monday.

The virus has shut down many countries and has wreaked havoc with the sporting calendar across the globe. "In this spirit of camaraderie between professional and

non-professional football, we have decided, as a team, to give up part of our Euro 2020 qualification prize money," the national team said in a statement.

"We have also decided because we have not forgotten our own paths and all those who have generously helped us to make progress in our careers, that these amounts will be added to the support fund already created by the FPF (Por-

tuguese federation) aimed mainly at players from non-professional competition clubs."

The team did not give any financial details of their qualification prize money.

The support fund is expected to share a total of 4.7 million euros (\$5.13 million) among regional associations and amateur clubs.

Most European leagues have been shut for more than a month

and clubs are edging towards severe financial trouble due to the revenue drought.

Portugal has reported almost 17,000 cases of coronavirus with some 535 deaths. The league has been suspended indefinitely since March 12.

On Sunday, Sporting became the first of the country's three major football clubs to announce a 40% salary cut amid coronavirus losses.



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BASKETBALL

HOW WINGS NAVIGATED TRICKY CONTINENTAL WATERS TO MAKE HISTORY

PAGES 34 – 35



SPORTS

FOOTBALL YANGA HAVE BEEN ON THE DUO'S TRAIL SINCE LAST YEAR

'Free to leave'

Sharks won't stand in Mwenda and Yidah's way for greener pastures



FOOTBALL

Yakhama wants stakeholders to invest in youth

CALISTUS LUCHETU/Soccer fraternity stakeholders have been urged to heavily invest in youth soccer programs as one way of developing football in the country.

The National Under-17 soccer team manager Nick Yakhama reiterated that it was only through well-structured youth programs that the country will remain on the football map and dominate the region and continent.

"We need to borrow a leaf from our brothers in West Africa who have dominated football in Africa for decades by establishing youth structures that are well managed by professionals.

"From my experience as the team manager of the national Under-17 team, I foresee a bright future, but we need to do more in our branches and clubs to establish these programs," Yakhama said.

Former Kenyan international and renowned coach adding that structures covering the age groups between under 10 and 23 will go a long way in serving local football.

"Most stars you see around are developed through such structures which help players build confidence and improve on their skills at early stages," he noted.

"I have reached out to some partners from Kakamega County who have shown interest in investing in youth soccer. We are only waiting for things to return to normalcy after the COVID-19 pandemic then we can roll out" Yakhama pointed out.

He singled out schools and other government institutions that are doing their best to develop many sporting talents within the age brackets, saying currently schools remain the only feeders to local clubs and the national team.

The Vihiga United technical director lauded Fred Ikana, who through his Ikana Maendeleo Initiative, has come out support youth programs in Kakamega County.

Schools like St. Peter's Mumias, St. Anthony (Kitale), Kisumu Day, Kakamega High and Kamkunji high among others remain the main source of players for the country.

FRANCIS WADEGU
@fwadegu198



Kariobangi Sharks' Yidah Sven challenges Tusker's Jackson Macharia
/ COURTESY

There will be no resistance from Kariobangi Sharks should a concrete offer be put on the table for the services of the experienced duo of Harrison Mwenda and Sven Yidah, club chairman Robert Maoga has assured.

The two have attracted interest from Tanzanian giants Yanga and Maoga reiterated that the club's policy of selling and grooming the next generation would be maintained.

"Sven and Harry are experienced players so they are free to pursue moves to other clubs. As Sharks, we want to see that our players are developing and I believe a move to Yanga would be an upward step in their careers as they will be playing in front of

bigger crowds regularly and that can only be good for their progression," Maoga stated.

Sven has emerged as one of the best midfielder in the country while Mwenda, meanwhile, has been a flying winger for a decade making his name with Mathare United.

The Sharks' chairman revealed that Sven and Mwenda first attracted the attention of Yanga during the SportPesa Super Cup, where the Kenyan club triumphed to earn a historic meeting with Everton, who eventually won on post-match penalties.

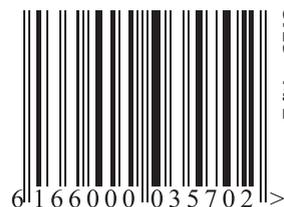
"Yanga have been on their trail since last year. They came to us and we gave them our demands but there was no concrete offer from them. For Harry, their pursuit continued up to January this year but they are yet to table an offer. But if they do, we will consider it in the

interest of the players," he said.

Maoga added that the departure of the two will not leave a dent in the current Sharks squad. "We are a versatile side capable of playing in different formations that do not necessarily rely on an individual output but overall teamwork. I think we are well capable of coping in their absence," he asserted.

Sharks have lost several key players since the start of the current season with Kenyan international Duke Abuya who left for Zambian side, Nkana their most prominent export.

"This is a policy that the club is determined to see work out for our mutual benefit. We will provide a platform for the players to showcase their talent and move on to greener pastures. We will not stand in the way of their growth and development as professionals," Maoga reiterated.



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