



BIG FOUR AGENDA
PANDEMIC RUINS
UHURU'S LEGACY
PROJECTS AS FUNDS
ARE REALLOCATED

PG 4-5

AMBITIOUS TARGET KEMRI TEAM HOPES TO HAVE PROTOTYPE IN SIX MONTHS, NEEDS SH500M FOR THE PROJECT

7 Kenyans join race to find Covid-19 vaccine

Kenya has reported 15 new coronavirus cases, bringing the country's total number to 296 PG 2, 6



CORONAVIRUS DISABILITY GROUPS AND RISK

- People who have trouble understanding information or practising preventive measures
- People who have limited mobility or who cannot avoid coming into close contact with others who may be infected
- People who may not be able to communicate symptoms of illness



STAR-ILLUSTRATED

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

- Plan what you will do if you or your direct support provider gets sick
- Create a contact list of people who can provide support in case you or your direct support provider fall ill
- Plan ways of communicating from home and work that can be used rapidly in an emergency (eg landline phone, cell phone, text-messaging, email)

HELP FOR THE DISABLED



SIGN LANGUAGE



BRAILLE



ANIMAL GUIDE



WHITE CANE

LEARNING FROM THE WEST

What we are doing wrong in corona war, 3 students speak

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ALTERNATIVE TEACHING

Teacher unions fight online learning, say method is unfair

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OUTSIDE COURTROOM

Stylish High Court judge with royal blood and loves dogs

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VOICES

PATRICK NJORGE

How new rules will work for you

PAGE 21

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2020

ESCAPED AT NIGHT

50 rebels scale walls, flee forced corona quarantine

Sources say they had complained about paying Sh2,000 daily



Health CAS Mercy Mwangangi during a press conference on Covid-19 at Afya House yesterday
/EZEKIEL AMING'A

MAGDALINE SAYA
@TheStarKenya



The government is pursuing 50 individuals believed to have escaped from quarantine at KMTC in Nairobi.

The 50 had been arrested for failure to adhere to curfew regulations.

They are believed to have escaped on Monday night, taking advantage of the heavy rains to scale the walls.

Their absence was realised yesterday morning when their colleagues went for breakfast.

Sources said they had been overheard complaining about the high rates they were expected to pay for the 14 days they would be at the facility.

Those at KMTC are supposed to pay Sh2,000 per day.

Last week, 32 people were reported to have escaped from quarantine in Mandera county in unexplained circumstances.

Accusing fingers, however, pointed at police officers suspected to have colluded with the individuals to aid their escape.

"We have received reports from KMTC and we have activated channels through the Ministry of Interior who are following up on this issue and we will be able to update you once all the information is collected and the investigations are undertaken," Health CAS Mercy Mwangangi said Tuesday.

BREAKING CURFEW

The CAS has warned the youth who are breaking curfew regulations on false belief that they cannot contract the disease. She said young people are as susceptible to the disease as any other.

Cases of violation of the curfew and health restrictions imposed by the government to stop the spread of coronavirus have been reported in many parts of the country.

As of yesterday, the global Covid-19 cases had surpassed 2.5 million with approximately 653,000 recoveries and 170,000 deaths.

"Here at home, the numbers have been rising everyday. Even in this time we still have cynical Kenyans who hold the view that this disease is not real. This is very disturbing particularly in light of the growing numbers of people who are infected," Mwangangi said.

She added: "As we continue this fight we note that there are some of us who continue to disobey the regulations and measures announced by the government. I would like to remind you that we are in a war situation against an enemy that is not a respecter of age, status gender, race and religion."

Health CS Mutahi Kagwe during the Monday briefing emphasised that anyone found out during curfew hours would be assumed to have been exposed and will be taken to quarantine sites for 14 days at their cost.

More than 455 individuals were

being held on Monday.

The number of positive cases in the country now stands at 296 after 15 more were confirmed positive yesterday. These were from 545 samples tested. The total number of tests conducted in the country was 14,417 by yesterday.

Seven out of the 15 new cases were recorded in Mombasa, six in Nairobi and two in Mandera.

Six of the cases are from quarantine facilities while nine were picked by surveillance teams from various parts of the country.

The individuals are 11 Kenyans and four foreigners with no recent history of travel. Seven are men and eight women aged between 19 and 75 years.

The number of recoveries stands at 74 after five more people were discharged from hospital.

As per yesterday, 2,851 contacts had been traced by the surveillance teams out of which 2,121 have been released after completing the 14 days follow-up period. Another 730 were still being monitored.

INCREASE IN MOMBASA

"We have seen an increase in the cases in Mombasa. This is exactly pointing out to the fact that we have established local transmission of this virus and therefore communities do need to take charge," the CAS said.

"Some of the measures we have been putting in place may not be well adhered to by members of the public and the only way we can flatten this curve is when we each take personal responsibility in doing the right thing."

Mwangangi said the curfew was imposed not to punish Kenyans but as a mechanism for containing the virus. "And for those who are flaunting the rules it is important you understand even by the very nature of you flaunting the rules you are putting your own life at risk, that of your family and the police who are here to assist us in this response," she said.

ONE HEALTH APPROACH

Vets seek essential service permits to battle Covid-19

STAR REPORTER/Veterinarians have demanded to be listed as essential services providers in the war against Covid-19.

They plan to audit farms countrywide to minimise the risk of human to animal transmission of diseases.

Kenya Veterinary Association says the country needs to apply the WHO-recommended 'one health approach' to combat coronavirus.

The approach looks at the interaction between humans, animals and the environment to address diseases, particularly the ones that spread from animals to people.

KVA chairman Samuel Kahariri told the Star vets will be auditing farms across the country to sensitise people.

In some farms, animal keepers dangerously sleep in the same rooms with animals like sheep, goats, calves, chickens, piglets and even adult cows.

"Animals are known sources of coronavirus secreted from their nostrils or in their faeces. The latter can contaminate human food of any kind and even water and precipitate human infections," Kahariri said.

He said that although the Ministry of Health had brought in veterinary epidemiologists and vet doctors, they still face police harassment.

"Some of us have letters that enable us to move freely but the process of getting them is long and we're dealing with emergencies," he said. The list of essential services should include veterinary services, he said.

GLOBAL SOLIDARITY

Denmark gives Sh513 million to support war on coronavirus

ELIDU KIBII/Kenya's war on Covid-19 has received Sh513 million emergency support from the government of Denmark.

Part of the donation, Sh356.5 million, will enhance health systems in level 2 and 3 hospitals in the counties while the balance, about Sh155 million, will be used to support water and sanitation interventions in potential Covid-19 hotspots. This will be implemented through the Water Sector Trust Fund.

Some of the identified hotspots are Nairobi, Mombasa, Kwale and Kilifi counties.

Danish Ambassador Mette Knudsen said the coronavirus pandemic was a global challenge that called for global solidarity.

"Even if the pandemic rages in Denmark, we have decided to provide another contribution of DKK33 million (Sh513 million) to the people of Kenya during these challenging times. It is our ambition that the funding will benefit the poor and vulnerable populations the most," Knudsen said in a statement on Tuesday.

As at April 21, Denmark had 7,515 positive cases, 364 deaths and 4,312 recoveries. The ambassador said the intervention will focus on the vulnerable and highly populated settlements to curb transmission.

Health CS Mutahi Kagwe has said the virus is now being spread through community transmission and called for more personal responsibility among Kenyans.

The Parliament of Denmark on Thursday approved a global Covid-19 emergency support package of Sh10.1 billion, with Sh513 million being earmarked for bilateral interventions in Kenya.

Since 2016, Denmark has contributed Sh2.5 billion to the universal health coverage in Kenya.



Danish Ambassador Mette Knudsen /COURTESY



STAR SURVEY

TODAY'S QUESTION

Should Jubilee's wrangles be postponed until corona ends?

YESTERDAY'S QUESTION

Are you at risk of flooding during the ongoing rains?

YES 48%



NO 52%





Kamidumbi villagers wade through floodwaters as they move to safe ground after their belongings were swept away
/DANIEL OGENDO

MATRIMONIAL PROPERTY

Husband ordered to buy ex-wife's Nairobi ticket

She challenged dissolution of the marriage at the High Court in Nairobi

ANNETTE WAMBULWA
@TheStarKenya

A husband has been ordered to pay for a return ticket from Switzerland for his ex-wife to attend their matrimonial property case.

She says she cannot afford a ticket as she is unemployed and he has refused to pay for her upkeep.

The couple married in December 1987 under Islamic law but got divorced in 2016 in a Kadhi's Court. They have three children.

However, the woman filed an appeal at the Nairobi High Court challenging dissolution of the marriage.

Justice Aggrey Muchelule ruled on April 8 (later available electronically) the man should pay for his ex-wife's ticket so she can participate in the case in person, instead of through written submissions.

The two were not identified by name in court papers, only by

initials. He ruled that the dispute shall be heard through hearing and cross-examination on a date convenient to the former wife.

"The applicant shall pay for a return economy ticket to enable her to come for the hearing of the case," the judge ordered.

The man has been blocked from evicting the woman from their matrimonial home in Geneva when she travels to Nairobi for the hearing.

The matrimonial property case was filed by the husband who wants the matrimonial property shared out.

In the course of their marriage, they acquired six plots in Kwale, plots in Mountain View (Nairobi), Kitale, Ngong and their matrimonial home in Geneva, Switzerland.

The former wife opposed the distribution on the grounds that the appeal in the High Court should first be completed.

She has submitted, in court papers, evidence that she said shows how she contributed substantively to the acquisition and development of the property they own.

The woman claimed the application for distribution had been made in bad faith since she lives in Geneva and is unable to travel to Nairobi for the case.

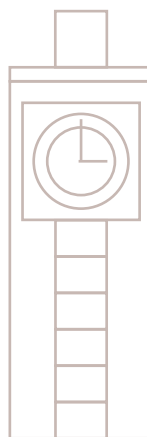
She does not have travel papers and lacks a residence permit for which she has applied; she is awaiting a response.

"If I must travel to Kenya, I would need to ask the Swiss Government to issue me with written permission to do so and this would occasion me undue hardship. It would take a long time, thus impeding timely disposal of this matter," she argued.

She claims he wants her to travel to Kenya and then take over the Geneva home.

WOMAN
TOLD THE
COURT SHE
WAS UNABLE
TO TRAVEL
BECAUSE
SHE CANNOT
AFFORD A
TICKET

CORRIDORS OF POWER



POLITICAL GOSSIP

Who is doing what and where in the world of politics



★ **IS A SENIOR** government official breaching the coronavirus movement restrictions? The official, who resides within Clay City along the Thika Superhighway, has been hosting guests at his posh home late into the night. Last weekend the official, who is usually chauffeured in a state vehicle, hosted more than 10 visitors. A goat was slaughtered for them. The government has issued guidelines on movement, curfew and social distancing, but some of his visitors arrived in a fully packed Range Rover. Sound like impunity? How they managed to drive away at 9pm despite the curfew remains a mystery. But it also puts the security apparatus under the IG leadership of Police IG **Hillary Mutyambai** (pictured) on the spot.

★ **IN A SIMILAR** case, a senior national government official from the Mt Kenya region is said to have bought his freedom allegedly after being caught drinking in a bar beyond the 7pm curfew hour. Our little bird in the region has chirped to Corridors that the official was among people arrested on Friday last week at a guest house in Nyeri town. He was drinking and making merry. But as those arrested alongside the official, including an MCA, were being taken to court on Monday, the official's name was not on the charge sheet. Though our source from the National Police Service said the official's name had been on the list, it is unclear how he managed to get off the hook. What could he possibly have done to get his name expunged?

★ **A GOVERNOR AND** his wife are on the radar of anti-corruption detectives. Reason? A source tells Corridors the main supplier of the goods used in the county such as water containers for handwashing and hand sanitiser, among others, is none other than the wife of the vocal governor. In public, he projects the image of a man beyond reproach. But in private ... Such flagrant actions and conflict of interest have also caught the attention of residents.

★ **A FORMER NAIROBI** city county official is said to be back, this time installed through the backdoor by cartels of vicious bootleggers. The cartels are hellbent on scuttling the newly formed Nairobi Metropolitan Services (NMS). The former official was at the weekend overheard boasting that he will sacrifice and part with whatever it takes to defeat the authority of the House on the Hill in its bid to give NMS a backbone. Central to the war on NMS is the fight for revenue collection, for which the cartels have lined up a complicit company.

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

CARTOON



PANDEMIC TREASURY CS UKUR YATANI HAS BEEN FORCED TO SLASH MOST DEVELOPMENT BUDGETS

Uhuru legacy projects as funds reallocated to

MOSES ODHIAMBO
@TheStarKenya



The Covid-19 pandemic has forced President Uhuru Kenyatta to abandon some of his key legacy projects better known as the Big Four Agenda.

The outbreak has forced the President to shift budgetary allocations from development priorities to emergency services.

The legacy projects are now at the risk of stalling, accumulating pending bills which earn interest, or worse, being abandoned.

The President had listed food security, affordable housing and healthcare and industrialisation as part of the Big Four Agenda to be achieved before he exits State House.

However, the countrywide roll-out of Universal Health Coverage, the National Housing Development Fund and the Nairobi Commuter Railway project have been stopped indefinitely.

Also stopped is a venture to boost electricity supply through high voltage transmission lines and substations, water and ICT connectivity projects.

According to the latest supplementary budget, the Sh3.6 billion that was set aside for the railway line connecting Nairobi's estates has been dropped.

At least Sh4.7 billion set aside for the Housing Fund has also been dropped, scuttling the President's plan for 500,000 affordable units in the Big Four plan.

Mombasa Port development is set for a Sh2.4 billion funding cut with another Sh225.8 million to be deducted in allocations for transport sector support programmes.

Development expenditure is to reduce by Sh91 billion if the estimates — to raise funds for Covid-19 emergency response, are adopted by the Parliament.

Records show that the National Treasury will also not disburse Sh5.8 billion in Equalisation funds for the current financial year.

The estimates drawn by Cabinet Secretary Ukur Yatani further show that CDF allocation has reduced by Sh10 billion.

The countrywide roll-out of the Universal Health Coverage has been affected by cuts amounting to Sh9.4 billion.

A further Sh500 million to support the project has been dropped. UHC was piloted in Kisumu, Isiolo, Machakos and Nyeri counties.

Treasury said the monies will be used for hiring more front-line health workers and purchase of equipment for use in Covid-19 emergency response. Ventilators and personal protective equipment



for health workers will be prioritised.

The government has also postponed plans for a health management information system (HMIS) which had been allocated Sh2.6 billion.

Expansion works at Wajir Level 4 Hospital has run short of Sh72 million with another Sh400 million to be drawn from the East Africa Centres of Excellence.

Sh113 million for projects on clinical waste disposal will also not be disbursed. Another Sh250 million for a cancer centre at Kisii Level 5 hospital has been cut.

The Treasury seeks to allocate — from the savings, Sh1.4 billion for setting up imaging equipment and Sh2.6 billion for Covid-19 emergency response projects.

But Yatani seeks to deduct allocations from Global Fund proceeds for malaria (Sh395 million), TB (Sh306 million), and HIV (Sh400 million).

ICT connectivity to Konza Data Centre and Smart City will not take off with the Sh1.8 billion deduction.

Also affected is connectivity to

Dongo Kundu SEZ (Sh7.9 billion), Kenanie Leather Park (Sh10 million), Naivasha SEZ Textile Park (Sh10 million), and health facilities (Sh459 million).

Projects in primary and secondary schools are also headed for uncertain times following the proposed cuts amounting to Sh3.84 billion.

Of this, Sh2.2 billion was meant for secondary school laboratories, dormitories, administration blocks and other projects.

A proposed Sh657 million cut will affect primary schools. Some Sh150 million for upgrading national schools and Sh659 million for secondary schools infrastructure improvement will also be slashed.

Yatani wants the budget for ICT integration in secondary schools slashed by Sh31 million, Sh102 million for construction of county directors offices and Sh10 million for computer labs.

Several construction contracts at public universities are also likely to stall amid the proposed Sh2.5 billion cuts in development spending.

Allocations for projects have been reduced at TUK (Sh28 million), Egerton (Sh62 million), Jkuat (Sh138 million), Moi (Sh306 million), and Tom Mboya (Sh144 million).

Others are Laikipia whose development budget has reduced by Sh162 million, Meru (Sh89 million), Multimedia (Sh92 million),

“

The Treasury seeks to allocate — from the savings, Sh1.4 billion for setting up imaging equipment and Sh2.6 billion for Covid-19 emergency response projects



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GETS BECAUSE OF CORONAVIRUS

Abandoned Covid-19



President Uhuru Kenyatta views a model of houses to be constructed at Park Road Estate in Ngara under the Affordable Housing pillar of the Big Four agenda /FILE

Machakos (Sh119 million), Kirinyaga (Sh60 million) and Dedan Kimathi (Sh107 million) among others.

The Commission on University Education is tipped to shed Sh272 million of its development cash, monies to be channelled to the Covid-19 Emergency Response Fund account.

For foreign affairs, the construction and renovations in Mogadishu, Washington, London, Dar-es-Salaam, Kinshasha, Addis Ababa, New York, Lusaka and Brussels have run short of Sh807 million.

Plans to purchase a chancery and residence at Geneva will also not continue this year in the face of the proposed Sh409 million budget

PRESIDENT UHURU KENYATTA'S ELECTRIFICATION INITIATIVE, DUBBED THE LAST MILE CONNECTIVITY, WILL ALSO BE HAMPERED BY THE PROPOSED SH1.2 BILLION FUNDING CUT

cut.

In the energy sector, cuts involve Sh3.4 billion set aside for electrification of economic zones, food processing plants (Sh353.7 million) and government housing schemes (Sh126.4 million).

Part of the Sh21 billion to be deducted from the energy budget are Sh250 million meant for street lighting projects and Sh2.8 billion for works at Olkaria I and IV.

The Olkaria - Lessos - Kisumu high voltage line will be subjected to constraints of a Sh450 million funding; Turkwell-Ortum (Sh110 million) and Menengai Geothermal (Sh633 million).

President Uhuru Kenyatta's electrification initiative, dubbed the Last Mile Connectivity, will also be hampered by the proposed Sh1.2 billion funding cut.

Customers seeking new electricity connections will likely pay more with the proposed Sh332 million funding cut for connectivity subsidies.

Sh375 million which was set aside for the installation of transformers in constituencies is also to be slashed as well as Sh500 million which was for off-grid solar projects.

At least Sh250 million of funds allocated for substations will also be cut as well as Sh350 million for electrification of healthcare facilities in counties' Level 3 and Level 4 hospitals.

Sh2.5 billion set aside for Nairobi 220kV ring has been dropped as well as Sh6.7 billion for the Eastern Electricity Highway Project (Ethiopia-Kenya Interconnection).

Water projects affected by the cuts are Kaimenu II Dam (Sh1.1 billion), Homa Bay supply improvement (Sh100 million), water harvesting (Sh300 million) and cross-county bulk water services (Sh500 million).

Yatani, however, has proposed Sh200 million for drilling boreholes and installation of water tanks in Nairobi and Sh1.2 billion for water pans in arid areas. The Malka Galla water project is to get Sh40 million.

Development budgets for the presidency have increased Sh1.2 billion and Infrastructure at Sh48 billion amid fears of deficiencies in donor funding.

Budgets for Lands increased by Sh917 million, Crop Development (Sh2.8 billion), Cooperatives (Sh1 billion), Trade (Sh660 million), Youth (Sh2 billion), Northern Corridor (Sh700 million), Parliamentary Service Commission (Sh513 million), and DOJ (Sh46 million).

About Sh250 million for the refurbishment of seven regional stadiums will not be disbursed, neither will Sh100 million for the Kenya Academy of Sports.

ALLOCATIONS TO PROJECTS BEFORE CUTS

Sh4.6BN

Nairobi Commuter Railway

Sh21.4BN

Universal Health Coverage

Sh5BN

Housing Fund

Sh41BN

CDF

Sh2.5BN

Nairobi 220kV high voltage line

Sh2.6BN

Health MIS

Sh5.8BN

Equalisation Fund

Sh1.8BN

Konza ICT Connectivity

Sh7.2BN

Second Container Terminal Phase II

Sh3BN

Karimenu II Dam

Sh2.2BN

Last Mile Connectivity

Sh430M

Kisii Cancer Centre

STAR ILLUSTRATED



EXPERT COMMENT
CHARLES KIPKULEI

Coronavirus has devastated economy

The Big 4 Agenda is the most significant policy intervention by President Kenyatta and has the capacity to, significantly, uplift livelihoods and transform Kenya's economic outlook for many years to come.

However, this is dependent on its full realisation, which is now threatened by the Covid-19 pandemic that has caused global uncertainty and has had a very disruptive effect on economies across the world.

Economies cannot thrive in conditions of instability and Covid-19 shall depress the Kenyan economy, thus necessitating a reorganisation of our national development priorities from Kenyatta's legacy projects to economic recovery after the end of the coronavirus crisis.

This also comes at a time when Kenya's national priorities had already increased from the Big Four to include the BBI, where we saw the massive allocation of resources and a redirecting of national attention from economic development to large-scale political mobilisation.

This weakened the all hands on deck strategy that had been deployed to aid in the realisation of the Big Four as other priorities emerged and shifted national attention.

It is imperative that once this pandemic is cleared, the country should embark on massive development expenditure devoid of politics. We are almost two years to the next general election, the post Covid-19 projects should be people oriented and those that can be felt within the shortest time possible.

These could be in agriculture and a stimulus package that can resuscitate SMEs that have been slowed down by the effects of the virus. SMEs are the key areas in our economy that employ youth who are a majority in this country.

It will not augur well, once we bounce back to normalcy, to see massive resources being spent on non-core projects. The country will also embark on boundary review then within a short time, start budgeting for 2022 general election. These are the pitfalls we need to avoid.

Notwithstanding the challenges facing the realisation of the Big Four in the remaining two years, it is worth noting that significant progress has already been realised in the Big Four rollout, especially in the housing and manufacturing pillars.

The governance and policy expert spoke to the Star

NEWS GENERAL

PROTOTYPE WITHIN SIX MONTHS

Seven Kenyan scientists join race to find Covid-19 vaccine

Developing several candidates before narrowing down to the most promising

LUKE AWICH AND JOHN MUCHANGI
@TheStarKenya

Kenya has joined the race to find a vaccine for Covid-19, with a prototype expected within six months.

Seven scientists at the Kenya Medical Research Institute on Tuesday said they were developing several vaccine candidates but will narrow down to the most promising.

One hundred and fifteen projects are currently in the race for a vaccine against the Covid-19 disease.

Five of them have now entered the clinical phase. But how long before the first vaccine becomes available to the public remains unclear.

There is, however, consensus among experts that the earliest one could be made available for public deployment is between 12 to 18 months from now. This would certainly be unprecedented.

In a virtual meeting with a parliamentary committee yesterday, Kemri Director General Prof Veri Kombe and a team of scientists said the final prototypes will undergo further tests before a clinical trial.

"Basically it takes a process and time. For us to identify a candidate vaccine prototype and putting all variables constant, we might get this in the next six months," Kemri principal research scientists Dr Muuo Nzou said.

Nzou said Kemri scientists began by full genome sequencing of the SARS-CoV-2 in 28 Kenyans who had tested positive.

Nzou said they are analysing the results to determine if Kenya has a different strain of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19.

Kenya has conducted the second-highest number of full genome sequences in Africa.

As of Tuesday, DR Congo had conducted 42, Kenya 28, Senegal 23, Ghana 15, South Africa six, Algeria three and Nigeria one.

The high number of tests in DR Congo are attributed to the development of laboratories in the country due to the Ebola outbreak.

Dr Nzou said it is not possible to determine when Kenya might have a locally developed vaccine if the candidates in Kemri are successful.

He said the candidate prototypes will be run through several laboratory tests before they move to the clinical level where they are tested on animals then humans.

"Also clinical trials move from Phase I to Phase III before approval," he said.

"We are hoping that very soon, within six months, we can start saying we have this thing that can be used for the vaccine."

Prototypes can elicit an immune response against infections, but they must be trialled in animals and people to confirm their safety and efficacy.



Two people cured of Covid-19 are counselled before being released from the Nakuru County Level 5 Hospital yesterday. The two have been on treatment for three weeks /BEN NDONGA

cy. The Kemri team appeared before the Senate Ad-hoc Committee on the Covid-19 Situation in the country.

The committee's vice-chairperson Sylvia Kasanga had sought clarification on the institute's timeline in coming up with the vaccine.

"On the vaccine that you are actually beginning to look at the process of creation, I want to know the timeline if at all you are proceeding with this?" The nominated senator asked.

But the scientists said the process of vaccine development is expensive and will require partnering with other interested organisations or persons.

Making vaccines is so cost-intensive and high risk that most pharmaceutical firms do not do it anymore.

Today, the global vaccine business is dominated by just four companies: Pfizer, Merck, GlaxoSmithKline, and Sanofi.

"The total cost of production from the start to the end cannot be less than \$500 million. It is not cheap. Once we reach a point of candidate vaccine we must have a way of partnering with a company or some interested people," Prof Kombe said.

Kenya enters the race for vaccines after it began a few months ago.

According to the World Health Organisation, there are already 76 successful Covid-19 vaccine prototypes, most by China.

WHO says five of these candidates are already in the clinical trials, meaning they are being tested in people, in China and the United States.

The remaining 71 are in the exploratory or preclinical stage, the WHO said on Monday.

None of these is developed by a research institution in Africa.

GENOME SEQUENCING

Scientists say it is important for Africa to join genome sequencing and the vaccine race to avoid the 'Rotaviruses Vaccine Problem'.

This refers to the variations in the efficacy of vaccines in different regions.

For instance, the rotavirus vaccines - to prevent severe diarrhoea in young children - were effective in Europe and North America but less effective in Africa, because they were mainly based on rotavirus strains predominantly found in Europe and North America.

According to US biotechnology company Moderna, which began human trials for Covid-19 vaccine in Seattle last month, the world could have the first Covid-19 vaccine in October.

Such a vaccine would first be available for use first by health workers, while the public would have to wait until early next year.

SECOND COP

Police officer injured in West Pokot landslide dies

MARYANN CHAI/ The West Pokot landslide has claimed another police officer, bringing to two the number of cops killed since the Saturday tragedy.

The officer was among four airlifted to Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital in Eldoret after the tragedy. Another police officer was admitted to Ortum Mission Hospital.

The body of the first officer confirmed dead was recovered on Monday morning.

Central Pokot sub-county commander Simiyu Were told the Star by phone that the officer died while undergoing treatment. Were asked residents living in the escarpment to leave as heavier rains were anticipated.

The Saturday evening landslide had by Monday claimed the lives of 12 people. Scores of others were injured. Many were rendered homeless.

The flash floods washed away a police post, schools, market and homes. More than 4,500 people were displaced in West Pokot and Elgeyo Marakwet counties.

Jane Nguratum said the rains began lightly and she did not expect that it would be too heavy and cost such huge losses.

Nguratum said they received calls from Marakwet residents asking them to move out of the centre because flash floods were coming.

"Immediately I received the call, I left my business and rushed home. I went with some people and police officers since my home is near the centre," she said. She visited the market the following day and found everything flattened.

"I could not believe my eyes. I had a cereal store and I can't even trace where the building was because the whole market centre is flat," she said.

"I thank God that none of my family members lost their lives. I have lost property worth thousands of shillings."

'UNFAIR DISBURSEMENT'

Munya on the spot over Sh1.5 billion coffee fund

ALLAN KISIA/ Agriculture Cabinet Secretary Peter Munya is on the spot over 'unfair' disbursement of Sh1.5 billion World Bank funding to improve the production of specialty coffee.

Bungoma Senator Moses Wetang'ula said beneficiaries of the fund are counties from one region while those from other coffee-growing areas have been left out.

"The Cabinet secretary should explain the criteria used in determining the counties to benefit from the fund," Wetang'ula said.

The senator was seeking a statement from the CS through the Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries. He said Bungoma, Nyamira, Kisii, Trans Nzoia and Vihiga counties have been left out.

"Why would the CS take resources and allocate them to one region?" he asked.

Munya had indicated that the first phase of allocations would cover Murang'a, Kiambu, Meru, Tharaka Nithi, Machakos, Kirinyaga and Nyeri counties.

He said the World Bank project would later be rolled out to other counties in September.

The Ministry of Agriculture had announced that the funds would initially be disbursed to counties that account for more than 70 per cent of the national coffee production.

The funds would also be used to finance co-operatives in efforts aimed at enhancing efficiency along the crop's value chain.



Agriculture CS Peter Munya /DOUGLAS OKIDDY

KENYA HAS CONDUCTED 28 FULL GENOME SEQUENCES OF SARS-COV-2, THE SECOND HIGHEST NUMBER IN AFRICA.

NEWS GENERAL



PHOTO STORY

A vendor sells chickens along the Eastern Bypass in Nairobi yesterday. The price of chicken has skyrocketed due to the restriction of movement in and out of the city. Most vendors get chicken from Machakos
/FREDRICK OMONDI

REPATRIATION

KQ to make one-off flight to London to bring Kenyans home

KEVIN CHERUIYOT/Kenyans stranded in the United Kingdom and willing to pay to return home have a chance to do so as Kenya Airways plans a flight on Saturday.

The decision was reached following a discussion between the Kenyan government and the British High Commission. KQ will operate a direct commercial flight from Nairobi to Heathrow, London, on April 24 before planning for a direct flight to Kenya on the following day.

Only those going to London will board the flight on Friday while those to be on board to JKIA must be Kenyan citizens.

On its way to the UK, the flight will be carrying Britons who were stranded following the suspension of commercial flights on March 25 after the novel coronavirus outbreak. The KQ management said those who have booked the flight to return home should adhere to the measures set by the Ministry of Health.

INTERNAL WARS

Six Jubilee affiliates support President in party wrangles

Officials accuse Ruto allies of staging rebellion to jeopardise the President's agenda

JAMES MBAKA
@TheStarKenya



Officials of six parties dissolved to form Jubilee have accused Deputy President William Ruto's allies of staging a rebellion.

The leaders, who are part of the Jubilee National Advisory Council, yesterday said the DP troops were undermining President Uhuru Kenyatta's agenda.

They threw their weight behind Uhuru, saying he is the de facto leader of the ruling party according to the Jubilee constitution.

"It is at the discretion of the party leader to decide the kind of leaders he wants to work with to help him

deliver on the Jubilee manifesto," they said in a joint statement.

The leaders maintained that the party constitution stipulates that secretary general Raphael Tuju is the Jubilee spokesperson.

"We can't have two centres of power within the ruling party. Communication must emanate from one authority," they said.

The statement was signed by Albert Nyaundi (Ford People), Hassan Osman (UDF), Benjamin Muema (New Ford Kenya), Said Ali (Republican Congress Party), Petkay Miriti (Unity Patriotic Party of Kenya) and Kalembe Ndile of Tip Tip.

The leaders warned DP's allies against fuelling wars in the ruling party.

"The leadership of the Jubilee rests

squarely in the hands of President Uhuru Kenyatta who is the undisputed party leader. The party leader should be given space to steer the party," the statement read in part.

Nyaundi said, "What we are seeing are sponsored machinations aimed at undermining the leadership of the President. When we merged, we all agreed that the President would be the de facto leader."

He asked Ruto's allies to come clean on their real intentions.

"The President has a vision for the party. All of us serving under him must work tirelessly to support the realisation of his agenda," the official said.

Osman said the DP must stop his theatrics and take up his job as deputy party leader instead of us-

ing henchmen to undermine the President.

"The Jubilee Party constitution is clear that the party leader would offer leadership to realise the vision of the party. No one should try to undermine the direction of the party leader," he told the Star.

Osman said the 'sponsored' wrangles in the ruling party are unfortunate.

"All over the world, political parties are as strong as the leaders. You cannot isolate the President from the leadership of the party," he said.

Jubilee has been roiled by wrangles following a move to change the leadership of the party's National Management Committee, a critical organ with sweeping powers to oversee internal affairs.

DILEMMA

Political parties' activities disrupted by the pandemic



ODM leader Raila Odinga on November 10 last year /ANDREW KASUKU

JAMES MBAKA/Political parties' activities — including compliance with strict legal requirements — have been hit hard by the coronavirus outbreak.

Recruitment of members, aggressive popularisation campaigns and grassroots and national elections have all been halted.

Coronavirus control rules such as a ban on crowds, social distancing, a 7pm to 5am curfew are not favourable to party plans.

The Star has established that parties are closely monitoring the health and safety situation and would contemplate seeking the Registrar of Political Parties' approval to delay compliance with some statutes and timelines. They would argue the situation is exceptional.

The Political Parties Act requires parties to comply with legal provisions including the election of officials in line with their constitutions.

If they fail to comply, the Registrar has the power to impose tough sanctions that may lead to deregistration if not remedied.

However, parties facing compliance problems can write to the Office of the Registrar of Political

Parties for permission.

The virus control measures affect the Jubilee Party, Raila Odinga's ODM, Moses Wetang'ula's Ford Kenya, Musalia Mudavadi's ANC and Kalonzo Musyoka's Wiper Party, among others.

The Jubilee Party was the first one to write to parties' registrar Ann Nderitu seeking permission to postpone its elections that had been scheduled for March.

She agreed to allow interim officials to stay in office legally until elections can be conveniently held. The move has triggered infighting.

On Tuesday, ODM secretary general Edwin Sifuna said while the party has until December 2020 to hold internal elections, it is studying the Covid-19 situation.

"If we get to a point where we feel that given the circumstances we may not be able to conduct elections within the year because of the pandemic, then we will inform the Registrar of Political Parties," Sifuna said.

He admitted, however, the pandemic would disrupt a lot of party activities if not contained within the shortest possible time.

PARENTS ESCAPED

Landslide death toll rises as two more children found

SONU TANU/The number of deaths in Tuesday's landslide at Kipkelion West has reached four after two more bodies were retrieved from houses that were washed away.

In the initial stages of the rescue team, bodies of two children were retrieved from the house they were sleeping in.

They died on the spot after their house was washed away by mud that slid from Kunyak slopes after the downpour between 2am and 3am.

The two are Standard 4 and 8 pupils at Victory Academy in Lelu village, Kericho county. Their parents escaped with minor injuries and were taken to Lelu dispensary.

ONE INJURED

Quarry collapses, kills two workers in Baringo county

JOSEPH KANGOGO/Two people died on Monday after a quarry they were working in collapsed at Kwa Chepsat in Baringo county.

Perkera assistant chief Sheila Torokwo said Petero Kadja, 34, and Alex Miroya, 28, died on the spot during the 2pm incident. A colleague escaped with injuries.

"The survivor, only identified as Joram was rushed to Eldama-Ravine nursing home where he is receiving treatment. Doctors say he is in stable condition," Torokwo said on Tuesday.

She said the three were casuals working in the quarry. "Residents and police officers rushed to the scene to rescue the victims but unfortunately the two died," Torokwo said.

NEWS GENERAL

Online learning in Kenya is wishful thinking, says Knut

Not effective and would not work in Kenya or in other developing countries

ALLAN KISIA

@TheStarKenya



Criticism is piling on the Ministry of Education for its decision that pupils learn from home using online platforms as schools remain closed because of Covid-19.

Kenya National Union of Teachers secretary general Wilson Sossion said online learning was not effective and would not work in Kenya or in other developing countries.

"What is being aired through the media is not effective at all as it reaches about 10 per cent of learners. It is mere wishful thinking," he stated.

Kenya National Association of Parents, however, said online learning for Kenyan pupils was possible to some extent. KNAP chairperson Nicholas Maiyo said a good number of learners could access radio and television.

"Access to internet is the main challenge. Very few learners have computers and can access the internet," he said.

George Omondi, a professor of human resources at the University of Nairobi, said there infrastructure was inadequate to support online learning. Omondi noted that unequal internet access in the country would lead to discrimination should institutions go the online way.

"It is something we are not prepared for. Another critical issue is students who need to conduct practicals. How do they go about it online?" he said.

Primary and secondary schools were scheduled to close by April 10. Second term was scheduled to begin on May 4 and end on August 7 while third term was scheduled to start on August 31 and end on October 30.

On March 18, Education CS George Magoha announced that radio, TV, Youtube and the Kenya Education Cloud would be used to deliver the school curriculum to the



Knut secretary general Wilson Sossion during a press conference in Parliament on January 16
/EZEKIEL AMING'A

over 15 million learners who were sent home. A section of Ukamani leaders led by Mwingi Central MP Gideon Mulyiungi called a press conference on Monday to talk about the challenges of online education but the event never took place.

Sossion said lessons being aired were not effective as it is not known how many pupils and students were being targeted by each platform and how many were reached.

"Online learning can only reach 10 per cent. What is happening with the rest 90 per cent?" he posed.

Speaking during an interview with a local television station, he said online learning may not work at all for children from ordinary households.

"Let us look at the ordinary household in Kenya. Do they have a radio and television and even if they do, how do we ensure connectivity and interactive learning?" he wondered.

Sossion said the laptop project failed, which means that the country cannot talk of moving close to

online learning. "The best we can do now is to support government interventions to stop the spread of the Covid-19. Magoha must listen to us and must consider our suggestions," he explained.

Sossion added that the government should not hesitate to put in place tougher measures, including lockdowns in hotspots, so that the country can take a shorter time to slow the spread of the disease.

"Government should direct resources to specific areas of combating the disease to flatten the curve. The best way is to control the virus then we will be able to plan on when to resume learning," he said.

The Ministry of Education has partnered with the Kenya Broadcasting Corporation to broadcast radio programmes from Monday to Friday through Radio Taifa and English Service.

For television learning, lessons are transmitted through the Kenya Institute and Curriculum Development (KICD) Edu-Channel TV.

OVERSIGHT

Parliament to audit all donations towards the war on Covid-19, says Gilgil MP Wangari

GEORGE MURAGE/ Every coin donated towards the fight against Covid-19 will be audited by Parliament, an MP has said.

Gilgil legislator Martha Wangari said parliament will play its oversight role in making sure the funds are well utilised and the intended parties benefit. She said no cash should be sent to individuals. Affected persons should instead get food rations from both the national and county governments.

"We shall audit every penny donated towards fighting this pandemic as there are fears that some persons

might embezzle these funds," she said.

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

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

Speaking in Gilgil after attending the subcounty disaster management meeting, Wangari noted that the constituency faced a major

food shortage since the coronavirus outbreak.

Flower farm workers, IDPs and youths working in quarries were the most affected in Gilgil and needed support.

Wangari said they were working closely with MCAs to make sure those who benefited from the county did not again get food rations from the national government.

"We have embarked on the process of identifying all the affected families and we support ongoing mitigation measures by the government including mass testing," she said.

APPEASING PREDECESSOR'S SUPPORTERS

Barchok nominates Laboso relative to gender position

FELIX KIPKEMOI/ Bomet Governor Hillary Barchok has nominated Jane Sigilai as chief officer for gender, culture and social services.

Sigilai, who has been acting in the position, is a cousin of the late Governor Joyce Laboso. She was the late governor's chief of staff. Her nomination comes in the wake of interviews conducted by the public service board last month. In what was seen as a reward to his loyalists and doing away with his opponents, Barchok sent packing some CECs and other staff who held senior positions in the county and brought in new faces.

INSECURITY

Vihiga trader losses Sh100K goods during night robbery

MARTIN OMBIMA/ A businessman in Mudete market, Vihiga county, lost goods worth Sh100,000 in a night robbery.

Fanuel Sajide who runs Paradase Shop in the market said security agencies within the county have failed in their work. "In this curfew we don't expect to be robbed at all, unless the police officers are colluding with those thieves," Sajide told reporters.

He said by 6:30pm there is no one in the town except police officers enforcing the curfew. County police commander Hassan Barua while confirming the incident said the shop was broken into at night when it was heavily raining.



The illegal 12 tonnes of dry fish are burnt in Hindi grounds, Lamu West /CHETI PRAXIDES

ILLEGAL BUSINESS

Lamu cops destroy Sh5m Somali fish

CHETI PRAXIDES/ An illegal consignment of dry fish worth Sh5 million from Somalia was Tuesday destroyed by Lamu police.

It was destined to Mombasa via Lamu. The 761 bags of dry fish estimated to weigh 12 tonnes were netted by a multi-agency security team shortly after it arrived at the Mokowe jetty in Lamu West from Mogadishu and Kismayu through Kiunga border point.

The bags were being loaded from the transporting boat to a Mombasa-bound bus. Seven people are in police custody awaiting prosecution. The Kenya-Somalia border has been closed since June last year owing to security concerns and to stop illegal trade.

Any business transactions between Lamu and Somalia are illegal until. The bags of dry fish were set ablaze at the Hindi grounds under the supervision of county commissioner Irungu Macharia. The destruction was witnessed by hundreds of members of the public and officials from the Kenya Maritime Authority, Kenya Ports Authority and those from the departments of Immigration and Fisheries.

WE'LL AUDIT EVERY PENNY DONATED TOWARDS FIGHTING THIS PANDEMIC AS THERE'RE FEARS THAT SOME PEOPLE MIGHT EMBEZZLE THESE FUNDS'

NEWS JUDICIARY

PETITION

Masks protect the poor from Covid-19, LSK told

ANNETTE WAMBULWA/ The government has said rules to stop the spread of the coronavirus — including wearing of face masks — are for the safety of Kenyans.

The Law Society challenged mandatory wearing of face masks among other rules but the Attorney General said it will protect the vulnerable. The LSK wants the court to suspend the mandatory wearing of face masks in public or order the government to supply them for free.

But through state counsel Emmanuel Bitta the AG said directives given by Health CS Mutahi Kagwe are preventive for Covid-19.

“It is the poor who would suffer

more as opposed to other citizens if exposed to the highly infectious disease,” Bitta said.

According to the state, the regulations do not provide that face masks must be purchased. “The regulations apply irrespective of race, sex, marital status, health status, ethnic origin, age, religion, conscience, belief, culture or social status hence not discriminatory,” read court papers.

On the issue of public participation, the AG said that the outbreak did not allow for effectively engaging the public.

“The current public health emergency does not permit for effective and meaningful public participa-



Security officers and private guards during the burial of Archbishop Ndingi Mwana'a Nzeki at the Holy Family Basilica, Nairobi, on April 7 /FREDRICK OMONDI

tion in the formation and implementation of urgent precautionary measures to protect lives which may irredeemable lost in the interim,” Bitta says.

Bitta said the LSK did not establish any socio-economic right that has been or is likely to be infringed by the application of the rules.

According to the AG, the new-

ly-elected LSK team is yet to assume office and the case filed should be struck out. The state claimed that LSK admitted that the rules were published on April 6 and 10 in the Daily Nation contradicting allegations that the public was unaware.

“They make bare averments with no factual basis and nexus to any socio-economic right,” the AG claims.



PHOTO STORY

Abysinia Iron and Still Ltd general manager Naresh Parmar and Kisumu Governor Anyang' Nyong'o when the company donated 30 beds to Lumumba Hospital yesterday. Governor Nyong'o said the donations will go towards the fight against Covid-19 /DANIEL OGENDO

‘WE HAVE A BABY’

Couple allowed to adopt after 3 childless years

Couple unable to conceive because of medical complications

SUSAN MUHINDI
@suu_muhindi



A couple has been allowed to adopt a child after three years of trying to conceive.

DNM, 42, and MIC, 34, contracted their marriage under Gusii customary law. They solemnised their marriage at the registrar of marriages on August 2, 2017. The husband is a nurse at Kenyatta National Hospital. His wife operates a hair parlour.

The couple, according to the court records, has not been able to have a child of their own owing to medical

complications of the man.

Judge John Onyiego, in determining their suitability, said they are both Kenyan citizens aged between 25 and 65, the mandatory age bracket for adoptive parents in compliance with section 158 of the Children's Act.

“They have understood the consequences of adoption and that it is permanent in nature. They have fully bonded with the child who fondly refers to them as dad and mum and they are also financially stable, hence the ability to provide for the basic requirements,” Onyiego said.

The child was born on March 16, 2017. Four days later, the mother

gave it up for adoption, saying she was doing it due to financial constraints, lack of a permanent place to stay, unemployment and that she had another child under the care of her mother.

The minor was subsequently declared free for adoption by the Kenyan-to-Kenyan peace Initiative Adoption Society Care committee.

The child is now three years old. Onyiego said technically, the birth mother surrendered her parental responsibility relating to the child when she expressed her inability to look after it. “People in society have various capacities and abilities to do certain things. In this case, the child

was exposed to social and economic challenges which would affect his growth and development.”

The judge said that the baby, in the hands of the applicants, is assured of basic provisions such as education, food, clothing, medical care and shelter. “It is in his interest that I rule the adoption be allowed,” Justice Onyiego said.

“

JOHN ONYIEGO

They have understood the consequences of adoption and that it's permanent in nature. They have fully bonded with the child

INVESTIGATIONS UNDERWAY

Ex-Olomide backup singer detained over death of lover

CORAZON WAFULA/ Former Koffi Olomide's backup singer has been held in police custody over the death of his 44-year-old lover.

Mwanza Ukadidi Didier, alias Cobe, was detained at the Embakasi police station as a suspect in the murder of Catherine Mwove. The DCI is investigating. Ukadidi is accused of assaulting Mwove at his residential room on the night of April 8 on Pipeline estate, Nairobi, after they had a brief quarrel. He allegedly assaulted her again on April 9 at a hotel.

She sustained serious abdominal and body injuries and proceeded to her house in Syokimau. On April 12, she was found dead in her bedroom.

Corporal Joseph Kibet, a DCI officer, said Mwove was found dead inside her house in Syokimau on April 12 after she succumbed to her injuries. “The injuries are indicative of an organised act of commission,” said Kibet in an affidavit filed at the Makadara law courts where he obtained custodial orders.

On April 14, a postmortem was done at Umash Funeral Home by a government pathologist and it indicated that the woman died from internal bleeding due to “multiple injuries on the chest, head and ribs consistent to the assault”.

Kibet sought 14 days to detain the suspect, pending completion of investigations.

OR A YEAR IN JAIL

Bus radiator thief fined Sh500,000 by Kibera court

CLAUSE MASIKA/ A court has fined a mechanic Sh500,000 for stealing a radiator and other items worth Sh1.4 million from a bus he was repairing.

If he cannot pay up, Simon Manderera will serve a one-year sentence.

Kibera senior resident magistrate Renee Kitagwa said the prosecution had proved the case against him.

Court documents say Manderera committed the offence between July 10 and November 12, 2018, in Madaraka Estate in Lang'ata subcounty.

Other items he stole were an inter-cooler DIMS 1 turbocharger, a control box, a gear lever and a motor vehicle water pump. Complainant Jairus Muaka told the court he took the bus to the garage for repairs.

“It had a problem with pressure which affected the brakes and the bus needed painting,” he said.

The mechanical problem was resolved but the painting was not done and items went missing. “All through this period the accused continued to play games on me in the form of plans to return the items,” he said.

Investigating officer F.Odhiambo from the Directorate of Criminal Investigation presented photo evidence in court. Ronald Mwangi, a mechanic at the garage, said a colleague alerted him that the accused had taken away a radiator from the bus KBY874G.

NEWS GENERAL



PHOTO STORY

OCS James Mwanza sets ablaze miraa worth more than Sh400,000 outside Voi police station on Thursday. The county government imposed a ban on muguka and miraa in Taita Taveta county to curb spread of coronavirus /SOLOMON MUINGI

BATTLING LOCUST INVASION

200 tonnes of pesticides now locally available

FAO has warned of a 400-fold locusts increase in EA by June

AGATHA NGOTHO/Pesticides for controlling desert locusts are now locally available, the Agrochemicals Association of Kenya announced on Tuesday.

CEO Eric Kimungui said pesticides to spray the locust that have invaded tens of counties are now in local stores and can be bought by the government.

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization has warned of a 400-fold increase in the number of locusts in the East Africa region by June if spraying does not continue.

The Desert Locusts Watch said the eggs laid by swarms were hatching, generating increasingly large numbers of locust hoppers.

Agriculture CS Peter Munya has admitted locust control efforts in the country have been slowed down due to inadequate chemicals attributed to reduced air cargo, which has prevented the arrival of pesticides.

However, Kenya still has incoming cargo capacity but is instead held by government decisions on how to proceed with procurement.

In a statement, Kimungui said one of Africa's largest agricultural exporters, Kenya has cargo-only flights most of which are still flying.

"These have traditionally arrived in Kenya nearly empty and left full. Thus, even with our total air cargo down to a tenth of its normal capacity, it is offering more than 400 tonnes a week of incoming cargo capacity, which has allowed our industry to bring in far more than the 100 tonnes needed for the next rounds of swarm spraying," Kimungui said.

He said Kenya had concluded the process of identifying suitable pesticides for use against the locusts.

Last month, the Pest Control Products Board announced a list of 64 insecticides suitable for use on locusts, which have met safety standards.

PCPB has however emphasised the need to use varied insecticides to prevent any build up in resistance by locusts against a particular product. The scientists must also select the best product for eggs and hoppers. The initially approved list was only meant for mature swarms.

"With these recommended products announced, the industry now has in place 200 tonnes of these pesticides suitable for use against desert locusts. It is now a case of selection and moving to spraying," Kimungui said.

"We may just need to see some bold decisions about choosing the right products from the list, and about now starting the spraying of beds and hoppers, if we are to preempt new swarms."

Locust expert Dr Christian Kooyman told the Star that the situation remains very serious.

DEATH TRAPS

Beware of open quarries as rains intensify — watchdog

Many are filled with water and pose a danger to people and animals

GILBERT KOECH
@TheStarKenya



An environmental watchdog has warned that Kenyans near unattended quarries risk death as rains continue pounding the country.

The National Environment Complaints Committee told the Star on Tuesday that there were many quarries left unattended.

"There are several quarries following the extraction of building materials across the country posing serious risks," NECC secretary John Chumo said.

The Meteorological Department says the rains will intensify on Thursday and reduce on Saturday in Western and Central Kenya.

"The heavy rainfall is expected to reduce across the country on Saturday," Met director Stella Aura said.

NECC's mandate is to investigate

environmental mismanagement and degradation in Kenya. It also undertakes public interest litigation on behalf of citizens on environmental matters.

Chumo said when quarries and mines collect water they pose serious danger not only to people but also to animals.

There has been increased degradation of the environment in the country due to quarrying and mineral extraction.

"We have quarries and mining sites in various parts of the country such as Coast, Migori and Kakamega," he said.

The environmental impacts of quarrying and mining activities include disturbances of flora and fauna, visual squalor, noise pollution, dust and vibrations causing negative human health impacts and destruction of property.

Chumo said mining also affects the hydrological functions and com-

petes with ecologically protected zones such as national reserves, game parks and gazetted forests.

Quarrying is a major industry in Kenya, which supports the local construction industry, creates many employment opportunities and is a major contributor to the national economy.

However, the manner in which it is undertaken is of concern.

"Authorities concerned must ensure that such sites are rehabilitated once such activities have been completed," Chumo said.

His concerns come at a time when heavy rains have left a trail of destruction in the country.

On Monday, the government urged residents of Tana River and Garissa to move to safer grounds because Masinga, Kindaruma and Kiambere dams are all full and could spill over anytime.

Eight counties in danger of flooding have already been mapped.

THE COUNTRY HAS MANY QUARRIES FOLLOWING EXTRACTION OF BUILDING MATERIALS

FURY OF NATURE

Families in the cold after Naivasha floods

GEORGE MURAGE/Families living along River Karati in Naivasha have been ordered to move to higher grounds after the river burst its banks and flooded farms, shopping centers and tens of homes.

Manera village, parts of Naivasha town, Delamere shopping centre and farms around Karati location experienced the worst flooding.

The river burst its banks on Monday following heavy rains the area in the last one week. The nearby Nyondia Dam has also overflowed, worsening the situation.

Various roads and estates in Naivasha town were flooded for the better part of Tuesday morning, adversely affecting the flow of traffic.

Karati chief Samuel Ng'ang'a said all families living along the river had been warned to move to higher

grounds. "The major problem is Nyondia Dam, which was not completed and due to the heavy rains, water is spilling on one side leading to flooding downstream," Ng'ang'a told the Star on the phone.

Joseph Maina from Manera village said tens of houses and latrines had been flooded raising fears of disease outbreak.

He called for the construction of dykes along the river to prevent flooding.

"This is a double tragedy as we have been forced to stay at home to curb the spread of coronavirus and now floods are forcing us out of our homes," Maina said.

Monica Wambui said they had lost property worth thousands of shillings. "We were woken up around 2am by water flowing into our homes," she said.



A resident of Manera village in Naivasha walks past flooded farms and homes following heavy rain on Monday night /GEORGE MURAGE

NEWS GENERAL

UN FUND

Sh4.2 billion to curb food crisis in rural areas

Fund to support farmers

AGATHA NGOTHO/The UN-International Fund for Agricultural Development agency has launched a fund to cushion rural communities from a food crisis in the wake of Covid-19.

IFAD has committed Sh4 billion and launched an urgent appeal for additional funds to support farmers and rural communities to continue growing and selling food.

IFAD president Gilbert Houngbo said in a statement on Tuesday that the new multi-donor fund will mitigate the effects of the pandemic on food production, market access and rural employment.

“As part of the broader UN socio-economic response framework, the fund will ensure that farmers in the most vulnerable countries have timely access to inputs, information, markets and liquidity. On top of its own contribution, IFAD aims to raise at least Sh21.3 billion more from member states, foundations and the private sector,” he said.

Houngbo said the fallout from Covid-19 may push rural families even deeper into poverty, hunger and desperation, which is a real threat to global prosperity and stability.

“We need to act now to stop this health crisis from transforming into a food crisis. With immediate action, we can provide rural people with the tools to adapt and ensure a quicker recovery, averting an even bigger humanitarian crisis,” Houngbo said.

The UN agency confirmed that with movements restricted to contain further spread of the virus, many small-scale farmers are unable to access markets to sell produce or to buy inputs, such as seeds or fertiliser.

Houngbo said closures of major transport routes and export bans are also likely to hurt food systems, disrupting the entire production chain, leading to unemployment.

A recent United Nations study warned that in a worst-case scenario, the economic impact of the pandemic could push a further half-billion people into poverty. About 80 per cent of the world’s poorest and most food-insecure people live in rural areas. Even before the outbreak, more than 820 million people were going hungry every day.

Houngbo said the pandemic is threatening the gains made in reducing poverty over the past years.

“To avoid serious disruption to rural economies, it is essential to ensure agriculture, food chains, markets and trade continue to function. A timely response to the pandemic is an opportunity to rebuild the world’s food systems along more sustainable and inclusive lines and build the resilience of rural populations to a crisis, whether related to health, climate or conflict,” he said.



MUSICAL TOO

This judge has royal blood, loves dogs and is stylish

Sings soul with Judiciary colleagues in a group called Papa Olao and the Queens

Judge Mary Oundo
/COURTESY

JILLO KADIDA
@TheStarKenya

She is royalty and stylish.

She sings karaoke and is a lover of dogs.

Meet Nyandarua Environment Court chief judge Mary Clausina Oundo whose grandmother was a queen in the Nabongo kingdom.

Though the kingdom is long gone, the judge inherited her sense of style from her grandmother, Queen Veronica Ayieko Narotso.

When she isn’t wearing dark court robes, she could be twirling in an Africa-print skirt and singing soul.

“I am stylish and my sense of fashion is an inborn thing,” she told the Star in a recent phone interview. She fancies both African style and the classical English look.

“My grandmother used to be very stylish. I hear when she went to the market and saw anyone in an outfit like hers, she would go home immediately and remove it and that would be the end of that outfit. She never wore it again,” judge Oundo said.

Her grandmother Queen Narotso died in 1946. King Nabongo was Narotso’s grandfather.

The 51-year-old judge loves singing soul music and rumba. Sometimes she sings for Judiciary colleagues together with fellow judges Boaz Olao, Winfrida Okwany and Teresia Matheka. Their stage name is Papa Olao and the Queens.

When opportunity presents itself, she sings at family gatherings too. She used to sing karaoke before she became a judge. She was a prosecutor for 17 years before she was appointed a judge.

“I sang in Nakuru where I lived

in Nairobi,” she said. Like fashion, singing runs in the family.

Her father, who was a civil servant, used to sing in a band called Bombax that used to perform in the 1960s in Nakuru and Nairobi.

Judge Oundo also plays the piano and her only child, a son, also plays piano and drums.

She swims for fun and for fitness.

The down-to-earth judge keeps five small and fluffy Japanese Spitz dogs. “I love dogs, they are easily trainable and are good company,” she said.

The judge added, “Dogs have a way of knowing even when one is sad and they are loyal as opposed to cats. We had a cat and it walked out on us, leaving my son depressed.”

Judge Oundo, like many judicial staff members, has been working from home to ensure justice is dispensed despite the coronavirus outbreak that has left courtrooms empty.

There’s some virtual work.

They are supposed to be returning to court this week, however.

Judge Oundo is enjoying working from home despite its challenges.

“I don’t really mind working from home. If there are any issues I can easily be found and respond easily. But if there’s a need for me to search

for a file left at the office, it becomes difficult,” she said.

For example, she says one of the downsides of working from home is having to contend with the constant interruption of one’s flow of thought. Her other problem is how to cut down on the trips to the fridge to find something to nibble as she works.

Working from home has in many ways slowed the administration of justice as cases are piling up and once the usual court sessions resume, judges will face a huge backlog.

Through this season she has learnt that one should be willing to trade their freedoms for their own health.

FOLLOW DIRECTIVES

Justice Oundo called upon young people to adhere to the government directives to limit the spread of the coronavirus. She said mostly, they don’t realise the gravity of Covid-19, the disease caused by the virus, so they keep disobeying directives.

“They are always not adhering to rules of the government and end up putting their lives and those of their loved ones at risk,” the judge said. “They should just stay indoors and if for any reason they need to go out, they should put on a mask and practice social distancing,” she said.

Justice Oundo was appointed Lands and Environment judge for the Nyandarua court in 2017. She heads the court.

She was among the nine judges nominated by the Judicial Service Commission in 2016. Before joining the Judiciary, she headed the Anti-Money Unit from 2014 to 2016 in the office of the Director of Prosecutions.



Farmers sow seeds at the scheme
/FILE

“

I am stylish and my sense of fashion is an inborn thing

BIG READ / LEARNING FROM THE WEST

A boda boda operator in Kibra breaches the rule to carry just one passenger and wear a mask to stop the spread of coronavirus, on April 13
/WILFRED NYANGARESI



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WHAT ARE KENYANS DOING WITH THREE STUDENTS IN GERMANY

Wearing the same mask repeatedly, queuing without social distancing, and police arresting people and squeezing them into one place

MAGDALINE SAYA
@TheStarKenya



Moses Githinji went to Germany as a volunteer in 2012 but later joined university to study Mechanical Engineering. He is currently a postgraduate student pursuing the same course.

Githinji says the rising cases of the coronavirus in Germany has hurt their way of living, especially the international students, who have been depending directly on jobs.

"It was a matter of time until it reached us Kenyans who live here. Examples of these jobs are waiters and waitresses," Githinji told the Star.

Even though he has not contracted the virus, his two colleagues have.

Francis Ajevi is one of the students who have been confirmed to be having the virus. Ajevi, who will

be turning 22 in July, is currently residing in Mainz.

"I started experiencing symptoms on March 23, such as headaches (which I took a pain killer for), slight fever, and I had caught a cold (I only took lemon water regularly for that)," he says.

Two days later, his friend, with whom he had physical contact, showed similar symptoms, only that his were more severe.

"Only the cold and headaches were recurring symptoms for me. Though I developed general body weakness later but only for two days. Until then, neither I nor my friend suspected we had contracted the virus," Ajevi said.

"We mainly thought of it as maybe spring allergies or body reactions due to change of weather, given that we experienced fluctuating temperatures of between -1 to 11."

After he was informed of his status, he was asked to stay at home

since he lives alone, but the doctor did check-up calls on him every two days.

The doctor never prescribed any medication to him since the virus

“

MOSES GITHINJI

It was a matter of time until it reached us Kenyans who live here. Examples of these jobs are waiters and waitresses

isn't curable (but the symptoms are), and he had no complications whatsoever, like in breathing.

As of April 12, he was no longer in quarantine, but he still stayed home because he had to test negative twice before being given a clean bill of health.

"I had to inform my close friends and neighbours of my situation for their safety and for their help in case I needed shopping, medication or anything," Ajevi said.

"They came in very handy with what I needed, and we heeded the regulations set to curb the situation. They left whatever I needed at my doorstep and I'd refund the cost via online banking."

FOCUS ON HEALTH

Ajevi said it has never been clear to him when, how and from whom he contracted the virus, given he was in supermarkets, ATMs and trains.

His advice to Kenyans is they

should get fewer negative updates about the pandemic and instead concentrate on their health to get better.

He said situations vary from one individual to another and patients react differently to the infection. One may or may not experience the same or different symptoms or even none (hence being just a carrier).

"Not everyone's case gets critical. It's not as fatal as it seems or is thought of," he said.

Kevin Wanjala, 21, tested positive for Covid-19 on April 2. He started experiencing symptoms on March 25: a fever, sore throat and headache, as well as a cold at some point.

He thought it was because of the weather, which was at -1 degrees Celsius, hence decided to dress warmly.

"That same evening, I went to Ajevi's house and I could not feel any scent of the air freshener that was on and it always had a strong scent. I measured my temperature and it was at 37.2 degrees Celsius.

Wanjala says despite feeling energetic the following day, he was still experiencing the symptoms.

He took his temperature and it was at 38.1, so he decided to go

Boda boda riders positioned close to each other instead of at least 1.5 metres apart amid the coronavirus pandemic, outside Muthurwa Market on April 20 /MERCY MUMO



WRONG? SPEAK

to the doctor the following day on Friday.

He called a doctor and explained the symptoms to him. At that time he was experiencing neck and back pain as well.

"The doctor prescribed some medicine to help relieve the back and neck pains. I was to report back to him in case any symptoms persist. Since I had the same symptoms, I decided to do the corona test on April 1," he said.

The doctor inserted a special cotton swab in his throat and took a sample of his saliva. His friend, who happened to be around at that time, also decided to do a test since he also felt like he had a slight fever and a headache.

The following day, the friend was called by the doctor at around 4pm and informed that he was positive.

"I had my thoughts and also concluded that if he tested positive, then I am also positive. I decided not to leave the house until affirmed that I am negative," Wanjala said.

At around 10pm the same day, Wanjala received a call from the doctor, informing him that he had also been found to be positive.

He said he was not shocked since he was expecting the news.

"The doctor told me everything would be okay since I was young and energetic. He asked if I had any other underlying health issue, such as asthma, diabetes or any lung problem. Luckily, I have no health issues since I dedicate most of my free time to sports," Wanjala said.

"I was calm but the people I informed were getting afraid and they told me they will start taking the precautions seriously and they will keep me in their daily prayers", Kevin Wanjala.

SLOW RECOVERY

The doctor told him measures to take to prevent Covid-19 from getting worse.

He was told to stay at home for 14 days and avoid contact with anybody. He would always be contacted by the doctor daily to check on his progress and was advised to make a call in case he experienced any issue, irrespective of the time.

"After the call, I was worried for a minute because of the news I had heard about the virus. A deadly

virus. I got the courage to clear my mind from those thoughts and got back to being myself, always jovial," Wanjala said.

He then informed his family and friends and assured them that all was going to be fine, while at the same time advising them to take care and spread prevention regulations with friends.

He said most people were asking if he had any difficulties in breathing or if his fever was high, with some thinking the virus might kill him.

"I was calm but the people I informed were getting afraid and they told me they will start taking the precautions seriously and they will keep me in their daily prayers," Wanjala said.

He said fear is a factor that should be avoided when one hears about the virus because it can make someone be depressed, and with depression, the health deteriorates, lowering chances of survival.

At some point, he felt as if he was breathing in hot air. Even though he was not sure what that was, he

did not raise any alarm since he was not experiencing difficulties in breathing.

Despite the fact that he is fine now, he has lost his sense of smell.

"Most of the time I am tired and experience some mild headaches. In case I need shopping, a friend of mine does that for me and delivers it to my doorstep. I have not seen anyone or been outside since April 2," he said.

The good thing is that the doctor contacts him daily to note down any new symptom that might have appeared or any that have disappeared.

Just like his friend Ajevi, Wanjala has no idea how he contracted the virus.

LESSONS FOR KENYA

Even though the Covid-19 pandemic hit Germany hard, the percentage of fatal cases has been remarkably low compared to its neighbours.

Below are some of the explanations the Kenyan students have on what Germany did differently that Kenya can learn from.

Wanjala, Ajevi and Githinji say as people who have had first-hand experience, their advice to Kenyans is to always sanitise their hands, avoid unnecessary contact with people, observe general hygiene and above all, pray.

They said it is not easy to tell when you have the virus since it exhibits differently from one person to another.

They didn't have any severe complications, so it would have been easy to ignore and take it for a normal cold.

They advise that Kenyans should not take any chances. If anyone suspects themselves, they should stay at home or alone in their room if they live with a family. In case of anything weird, it is important to contact a health care provider.

In addition, they advise that people desist from developing fear, saying what you have seen happening to other people in the news will not necessarily happen to you.

"What I think is a mistake we are doing, in my country Kenya, is how we are handling the people," Wanjala said.

"The rule of having a mask is okay, but you have to remember most of the people will wear the same mask on a regular basis. An appropriate mask only prevents saliva from spitting, but it can also carry the virus."

The students said that for police to arrest people and squeeze them into one place is another mistake, adding that the police should be notified that by doing so, they can also contract the virus.

They said in Germany, in any open office or counter desk, for example, a cashier at the supermarket, glass barriers have been placed on the counter desk since it traps saliva.

Any queues should also be a metre apart from person to person, regardless of the place, failing which a fine is charged.

"At this time, everybody is trying to help each other, but it is also better if we start by helping ourselves by avoiding any unnecessary contacts and helping to spread the message," Wanjala said.

The students emphasised the importance of self-discipline, noting that as citizens, it is important to make the work of the government easy by abiding by the rules.

Wanjala said as a patient, he was taking hot drinks, especially with lemon. Neither did he use any medications, such as painkillers, but he managed to beat the virus by following the rules.

"We only need common sense to beat this virus," Wanjala said.

He treated the virus as a normal cough. He has always avoided watching any discouraging news about coronavirus deaths.

On the matter of racial discrimination in China, the trio said it is their prayer and hope that the government will take action.

They said in Germany, no Kenyan or African has been discriminated against because of Covid-19.

In addition, they urged the government to help Kenyan students financially, even as the German government tries to work on the consequences of the pandemic.

They said most international students, including Kenyans, are facing financial problems. Due to the closing of the entire economic sector, many of them lost their jobs.



Francis King Ajevi



Kevin Wanjala



Moses Githinji

NEWS BUSINESS



Workers at Olkalou dairy cooling plant pour down milk due to oversupply /FILE

CONTROL

State to regulate producer milk prices if Parliament clears Bill

Says new regulations to protect the investment interests of both buyers and sellers

BENJAMIN IMENDE

@The Star Kenya



The government will be involved in setting the producer price of milk if proposals in a new bill are passed by Parliament.

Currently, the price of raw milk is solely left to producers who decide what to pay farmers depending on supply and demand.

The Dairy Industry Act (Pricing of Raw Milk) regulations developed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries is meant to establish a pricing mechanism for dairy products.

It empowers the Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Cabinet Secretary to prescribe minimum raw milk prices as well as the Kenya Dairy Board to audit farmers' and buyers' financial records.

"The Cabinet Secretary on the ad-

vice of the board may from time to time—based on different seasons or circumstances prescribe minimum prices be paid to primary producers by a purchaser of raw milk through an order published in the gazette," the proposal says.

It further states: "The objects of these regulations are to ensure minimum price made to the primary producer (farmer) by a purchaser of raw milk."

The government says that the new regulations are meant to protect the investment interests of both buyers and sellers of raw milk.

"A dairy inspector may inspect any records relating to any payout made by purchaser or farm gate price paid out to primary producer and may require the purchaser to provide additional information relating to the payout made by the purchaser," the bill says.

It adds that the selling price will be determined by incorporating

the values for cost of production, profit margin, transport cost, cost of chilling, compensation for quality and statutory deductions.

Milk aggregators or purchasers will be required to keep up to date records of milk purchases from primary producers or aggregators.

“

NEW BILL

A dairy inspector may inspect any records relating to any payout made

"A purchaser of raw milk shall make full disclosure of the payout terms to the primary producer including the payout conditions, terms of purchase and amount paid out for a kilogram or any quantity of raw milk purchased," says the bill.

The dairy inspector will audit records relating to any payout made by the purchaser or farm gate price paid out to the farmer.

He or she may also require the purchaser to provide additional information relating to the payout they have made.

Those who fail to comply with the law and the new regulations will pay a ten thousand shillings fine or face a two-year jail term.

"A purchaser who contravenes any provisions of this regulation and is convicted for a second instance shall have their licenses revoked by the board," the new bill says.

THE DATA

106.8824

The indicative value of the shilling to the dollar

The Kenyan shilling has been losing its strength due to weak dollar inflows from offshore investors and diaspora remittances caused by the coronavirus economic slowdown, traders said.

FINANCIAL MARKET

FOREX EXCHANGE RATES

Currency	Buy	Sell	Mean
US DOLLAR	106.7824	106.9824	106.8824
STG POUND	132.8635	133.1553	133.0094
SA RAND	5.6995	5.7129	5.7062
KES / USHS	35.1927	35.3523	35.2725
KES / TSHS	21.5830	21.7171	21.6500
JPY (100)	99.1111	99.3244	99.2178
IND RUPEE	1.3950	1.3977	1.3964
EURO	115.9629	116.2153	116.0891
CHINESE YUAN	15.0944	15.1287	15.1115
AE DIRHAM	29.0683	29.1283	29.0983

NSE BIGGEST WINNERS

	Price	Change (%)
SAMEER AFRICA	2.20	10.00
CAR AND GENERAL	23.50	6.82
KENYA-REINSURANCE	2.70	5.06
FAHARI REIT	8.90	4.71
LONGHORN	4.88	4.50

NSE BIGGEST LOSERS

	Price	Change (%)
EVEREADY	0.80	6.98
TCL E.A SERENA	1.61	5.29
BRITAM HOLDINGS	6.64	3.77
KENYA AIRWAYS	1.04	3.70
HF GROUP	4.00	2.91



TIP OF THE DAY

ESTABLISH A CULTURE OF LEARNING FOR YOUR REMOTE TEAM

Working remotely in the midst of a crisis makes it more challenging than ever to focus on your team's development. But learning doesn't have to stop in this new environment; you just need to find ways to adapt. For example, it may be more practical to use microlearning techniques to help people more easily digest new information. Focus on sharing short lessons on a single topic in five- to 10-minute intervals. These might cover a specific tool, behavior, or skill. Make these lessons available to the whole team, and let people identify their own areas for training. Use a buddy system or assign peer coaches to check in with each other for support. You may even ask team members to lead short discussions about what they've learned. Reinforcing a culture of learning will keep your team engaged and growing while they're working from home.

CORNER OFFICE

Tullow Oil appoints Delonex chief Dhir as company CEO

Tullow Oil appoints Delonex chief Dhir as CEO

REUTERS/ Tullow Oil said on Tuesday it had appointed Rahul Dhir, who currently leads smaller Africa-focused oil and gas producer Delonex, as chief executive.

Rahul will take the helm at

Tullow at a time when it is slashing its headcount by a third and trying to raise \$1 billion from selling at least part of its East African assets amid a pandemic that has slashed oil demand and prices.

Tullow shares listed on the London Stock Exchange's main market have plunged about 93 per cent since April 2019, shrinking its market capitalisation to around 250 million pounds (\$310 million) while its debt stands at \$2.8 billion.

Dhir, a petroleum engineer who has also worked at Cairn India and banks Morgan Stanley and Merrill Lynch, will take over on July 1, Tullow said.

Tullow has been under the interim leadership of Executive Chairman Dorothy Thompson since previous CEO Paul McDade resigned in December after the group failed to

hit production targets at flagship fields in Ghana.

The company has also suffered from delays in getting its Kenyan and Ugandan projects onstream and lower-than-hoped-for oil quality in Guyana.

"The company has high-quality assets and great people. It also has a unique position in Africa... I am looking forward to working with the team and the Board to re-build an exceptional business," Dhir said in a statement.

Delonex is active in Ethiopia, Kenya and Chad, according to its website.

NEWS BUSINESS

TUMBLE

Global oil price turmoil set to continue amid oversupply

Demand has declined in wake of coronavirus

BBC / The price of US oil – which slumped to minus \$37 at one point – was produced by a trading deadline and is now back close to a positive figure.

The UK oil price has been hit too, but the price of a barrel of Brent crude is now at about \$23.

“Yesterday’s price action is best understood as a quirk or peculiarity of futures trading,” said analyst James Trafford of Fidelity International.

He reckons the unprecedented price movement confirms that near-term demand is very weak.

“But it isn’t cataclysmic,” he said. “We don’t see negative oil prices as a new normal, going forward.”

Oil prices have weakened sharply because of a combination of oversupply and a collapse in global demand due to the decline in economic activity caused by coronavirus lockdown measures.

The price of oil that we see reported is actually the future price of oil. Futures are essentially contracts to deliver the physical commodity at a later date. So when we look at oil prices, we are actually seeing the market price for future months.

As the delivery date approaches, these contracts need to be rolled over to the subsequent period.

The price of a barrel of West Texas Intermediate (WTI), the benchmark



A general view of Mexican state oil firm Pemex's Cadereyta refinery, in Cadereyta, on the outskirts of Monterrey, Mexico April 20, 2020 /REUTERS

for US oil, fell into negative territory for the first time in history on Monday. But that only related to the May contract, which was about to expire.

Traders holding the contract were unable to find buyers, because no one with the ability to take delivery wanted it.

“Nobody wants to take delivery of oil next month because there’s no

where to store it, so the price dropped below zero,” explained Rachel Winter, associate investment director at Killik & Co.

“Oil prices and associated equities in the sector will remain broadly weak over the near term,” predicted James Trafford. He said the supply cuts agreed by the Opec were not likely to be sufficient.

DELAY

Number plate hitch hits Kenya

NTSA has scaled down collection of new number plates, logbooks, PSV badges and other services

MAUREEN MUDI AND MARTIN MWITA/

Importers and buyers of imported vehicles have been forced to park various units for lack of new motor vehicle number plates. This is despite having paid all the requisite duties.

The slow down in the registration of motor vehicles follows the scaling down of operations by the National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA) in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

NTSA has suspended collection of number plates, logbooks, PSV badges, smart driver’s licence, driver testing and motor vehicle inspection, which were previously done physically.

Hundreds of imported units now remain parked, as owners cannot drive them on the roads without proper registration.

Most affected are private vehicle importers, imports for commercial use and Public Service Vehicles such as matatus and taxis.

“The vehicles will not be registered until an inspection is done and that is not happening currently. It means the vehicle stays in a yard,” Car Importers Association of Kenya (CIAK) national chairman, Peter Otieno, told the Star yesterday.

“Or the purchaser risks by getting a handwritten number plate, that would see them run into trouble with the police for using an unregistered vehicle,” he added.

Dealers are also suffering as millions lie in banks, which can only release the monies after the exchange of logbooks.

More than 9,000 vehicles (cars and trucks) have landed at Mombasa in the past three weeks. A total of 8,467 vehicles came into the country between March 5 and April 8, KPA data shows.

“There has been a challenge, of course, NTSA has to take precaution on the virus but we have set a committee to address the problem,”



Some of the imported cars in one of the yards in Mombasa county yesterday / **JOHN CHESOLI**

Kenya International Freight and Warehousing Association national chairman Roy Mwanthi told the Star.

Eight vessels carrying motor vehicles are expected at the port between tomorrow and April 30, where owners will be forced to wait longer before using their vehicles, a move that comes with storage charges.

On average, yards in Mombasa charge Sh2,000 per unit per day inclusive of VAT. Container Freight Stations charge between Sh300 and Sh1,000 depending on the size of a vehicle.

Car owners also pay \$0.25 (Sh20) per cubic meter as customs fee, with a minimum of 10 cubic meters. A saloon car, which averages 10 cubic meters, will pay Sh260 on top of the CFS charge.

NTSA on April 8, wrote to Interi-

or PS Karanja Kibichio, indicating it had also withdrawn its services from Container Freight Stations where its staff has been issuing physical motor-vehicle number plates and stickers after registration.

It, however, proposed that KRA should authorise the release of duly registered motor vehicles from CFSs pending issuance of physical plates.

This will not only help to reduce demurrage costs to vehicle owners but also employees’ physical interaction with motor vehicle dealers and importers, hence protecting the employees from exposure, NTSA director-general George Njau said.

“The vehicles will, however, be parked at owners and dealers yards until issuance of physical plates at a later date,” he said in the letter.

The country imports up to 12,000

units a month, mainly second-hand cars, with annual imports standing at about 13,000 where used cars enjoy 85 per cent market share.

An estimated Sh60 billion is spent on these units annually. The Economic Survey 2019 shows new registration of motor vehicles increased to 102,036 units in 2018 from 91,071 units in 2017.

CIAK has now appealed to the NTSA to allow vehicles with proper paper work on the road as they await inspection.

“NTSA should devise a way to ensure vehicle inspection continues to avert a crisis post the coronavirus,” Otieno said,

He said units can be delivered at NTSA facilities with all required documents where they can be sprayed, inspected, then collected later.



BRANDS AND CULTURE

CHRIS HARRISON

Remain upbeat despite coronavirus

As we soldier on through the current situation, it’s interesting to contrast the attitudes I see in the different businesses I engage. You may be surprised to hear that overall they are positive, as good people and well-run companies seek dividends from COVID-19.

I do see, in some traditional companies, a tendency to report the downside without looking for the upside. I sat in an executive video meeting last week and felt I was on the deck of the Titanic, with the ship’s officers only reporting the inexorable rate of sinking. That did nobody any good, so I’m now coaching them to look for and share positive news as well. And there is plenty of it, coming from so many sectors that I have to conclude we should take heart. Our leadership programme www.amalgamleadership.com (now meeting on video bi-monthly) makes a point of beginning with a good news round up. Here are the themes that emerged last week. Family & fitness. Everyone is enjoying more home time. Families are tighter. Parents are supporting online schooling efforts. More importantly, they are enjoying playing and talking with their kids. Most are sleeping better and taking time to exercise and eat sensibly.

Essentialism. We are making do with less. Realising what is important, and where costs can be cut. Identifying gaps in products and services; staff behaviours and procedures. Many reported that remote working seems more efficient, with more project close-offs than usual. Business activity. To contrast my Titanic experience, a number of sectors report business continuing at normal or slightly reduced levels. That came from manufacturing and, surprising, floriculture. The latter report that though demand is lower, prices are higher.

Future focus. Businesses that have acted to protect staff, liquidity and capacity are now moving into the ‘Plan Ahead’ phase. Much involving fast-tracking automation and digitisation – supported by customers who are now prepared to take up new initiatives. But I’m encouraged to see that the human dimension is firmly on the agenda. Tackling failings in customer experience that have been allowed to remain ‘the way we do things around here’. Adjusting to a future of remote and shift working that will improve work-life balance and (I hope) reduce future rush-hour jams.

Engaging staff in a more genuine way (noting how well staff have reacted to current changes, and benefits coming from open collaboration with labour unions). Companies who discuss the ‘glass half-full, rather than half-empty’ are more likely to prosper after COVID-19. Because business is a collaborative human activity. And human beings are way more emotional than they are rational.

Chris Harrison leads The Brand Inside
www.thebrandinsideafrica.com

NEWS WORLD

ORIGINATED FROM BATS

Virus likely of animal origin, no sign of lab manipulation

US trying to determine whether the virus emanated from a Wuhan lab

REUTERS/ The World Health Organization said yesterday that all available evidence suggests that the novel coronavirus originated in bats in China late last year and it was not manipulated or constructed in a laboratory.

US President Donald Trump said last week that his government was trying to determine whether the virus emanated from a lab in Wuhan in central China.

"All available evidence suggests the virus has an animal origin and is not manipulated or constructed virus in a lab or somewhere else," WHO spokeswoman Fadela Chaib told a Geneva news briefing.

"It is probable, likely that the virus is of animal origin."

It was not clear how the virus had jumped the species barrier to humans but there had "certainly" been an intermediate animal host, she added.

Meanwhile, WHO warned yesterday that any lifting of lockdowns to contain the spread of the novel coronavirus must be gradual, and if restrictions were to be relaxed too soon, there would be a resurgence of infections.

Lockdown measures have proved effective, and people must be ready for a new way of living to allow society to function while the coronavirus is being kept in check, said Takeshi Kasai, WHO Regional Director for the Western Pacific.

We must adapt our lives and health systems along with the epidemic, Kasai told an online press conference.

"At least until a vaccine, or a very effective treatment, is found, this process will need to become our new normal."

Governments considering lifting lockdown measures should do so carefully and in stages, and continue to monitor the epidemic situation,



he said. So long as the coronavirus is circulating, no country is safe from a potentially overwhelming outbreak, he said.

"Individuals and society need to be ready for a new way of living," he said.

While the Western Pacific has in recent weeks been much less hard hit by the epidemic than the United States or Europe, there has been an increase in cases in Japan and Singapore, among other countries.

Kasai also warned that the epi-

demic must not disrupt vaccination programmes against other diseases like polio, measles and rubella. Otherwise the Western Pacific could face a new crisis when health systems are already strained, he said.

'SO LONG AS THE CORONAVIRUS IS CIRCULATING, NO COUNTRY IS SAFE FROM A POTENTIALLY OVERWHELMING OUTBREAK'

People talk to a policeman during a demonstration of conspiracy theorists as others protest against the lockdown imposed to slow the spread of Covid-19, in Berlin, Germany, on April 18
/REUTERS

UNHELPFUL GOOD DEED

Mexican president tells gangs to stop donating food, end crime instead

REUTERS/ Mexico's president chastised drug gangs on Monday, telling them to end violence instead of distributing food, after several reports across the country in recent days showed armed narcos handing out care packages stamped with cartel logos.

Imploring criminals to behave better, President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador declared that the care packages filled with basic foodstuffs and cleaning supplies are not helpful.

"These criminal organisations that have been seen distributing the packages, this isn't helpful. What helps is them stopping their bad deeds," he told reporters at a news conference.

The leftist president, who has advocated a less confrontational approach than his predecessors to taming raging cartel violence, said gang members should refrain from harming others and instead think of the suffering they cause to their own families and the mothers of their victims.

Mexico notched a homicide record of 34,582 dead during Lopez Obrador's first full year in office in 2019, as the president advocated for more social spending to address the root causes of crime.

Last week, reports first circulated of several Mexican cartels deploying members to dole out aid packages to help cash-strapped residents ride out the coronavirus pandemic.

A daughter of jailed drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman was among those spotted handing out the packages stamped with her own company's "El Chapo 701" logo, which includes the image of her infamous father.

NATIONAL EMERGENCY GOVERNMENT

Netanyahu and rival Gantz clinch power-sharing deal

REUTERS/ Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his centrist election rival Benny Gantz signed a deal on Monday to form a national emergency government, ending a year of unprecedented political deadlock.

The power sharing agreement clinched after weeks of negotiations gave a clear end-date for the premiership of Netanyahu, Israel's longest-serving leader, who has become for many the face of the nation.

Netanyahu, who is under criminal indictment in three corruption cases, will remain prime minister for 18 months after which Gantz will replace him, according to the agreement signed by both men.

Netanyahu's trial on charges that include bribery, fraud and breach of trust is due to begin on May 24. He denies any wrongdoing.

SAVING THE PLANET

Priest puts up giant solar cross in climate fight

REUTERS/ By night, the 40-foot-tall cross on the Catholic church in central Poland offers a neon light show of blue, red or purple. By day, the cross produces the electricity to power the church's lighting, heating and air conditioning.

The cross, made of 18 solar photovoltaic panels, is the brainchild of Krzysztof Guzialek, the ecologically minded priest at Our Lady of Czeszochowa church. He said he arrived at the parish in the summer of 2018 and wondered how he was going to cope with such huge electricity bills.

He decided he would install solar panels, and had a flash of inspiration: They would be placed in the

shape of a cross. "To describe it in a somewhat playful way, for me as a man of God and a parish priest, I managed to get a 'two in one,' a bit of economic gain and a bit of salvation for myself and other people," said Guzialek, 57, who footed the 32,000-zloty (\$817,072) bill out of his own pocket last fall.

He said he was moved by an encyclical by Pope Francis five years ago in which the Catholic leader called on his followers to work together to save the planet, saying Mother Earth "cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her."

The issue of climate change has put coal-reliant and staunchly Catholic Poland at odds with the European Union and the Vatican. In an interview with a Polish TV network late last year, the archbishop of Krakow said that "ecologism is a very dangerous phenomenon."

Guzialek believes people must care for the planet.

"We don't have indefinite amounts of coal," he said. "We don't have enough raw materials in the ground to last for many generations.... We must use what God has given us: the wind, the sun."

The priest has even inspired others to follow suit.



Father Krzysztof Guzialek in front of the church where he installed a 12-metre tall crucifix made from solar panels, in Pleszew, Poland **/REUTERS**



THE FACT UP TRUTH

THE MORNING KISS
WEEKDAYS FROM 6 – 10AM

KISS KENYA'S
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VOICES



Acting NHIF head of registration and compliance Robert Otom, Mvita MP Abdulswamad Nassir and NG-CDF acting CEO Yusuf Mbuno receive a cheque for medical coverage of 2,000 families in Mvita yesterday
/ZEKIEL AMING'A

LETTERS

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

Drunk and reckless youngsters reflect our poor parenting

Kenyans continue to condemn the recent misuse of an ambulance in which inebriated teenagers were ferried from a night party, in complete disregard of the curfew. Whereas the youngsters are guilty of underage drinking and violation of the curfew, the accessories to these offences, who were obviously adults, broke countless regulations – both moral and legal.

There is no school for parenting. It all depends on one's level moral intelligence. What you tell your children, how you treat them – especially when on the wrong – and how you treat outsiders all offer lessons to your children. It is a pity that those caught up in emergencies are left to die by the roadside simply because they are unknown, while vehicles meant for such are diverted to ferry revelers.

We have parents who rose from rags to riches and so will never have their children lack anything. We equally have those born with silver spoons in their mouths; they always wonder how their neighbours push through on meagre resources. For these rich idiots, their children mean the world to them. The majority of culprits are the middle class.

In these hard times, many people are going without basic needs. Responsible and humane parents would have channeled their surplus fortune to charity instead of sponsoring their children for binge drinking.

There is a sense in which children can be brought up, whether rich or poor. Every society has minimum standards of human conduct which ought to be taught to all youngsters. The worst a parent can do is abetting their children in criminal activities. Then, they lose any moral authority to counsel the children and lay a foundation for future violations.

WYCLIFFE OSABWA
Alupe University College, Busia

Pandemic: Let's observe health rules and pray

The Covid-19 pandemic is the trending story in the news everyday. The pandemic has robbed us of the freedom of gathering and fellowship. We are confined to our homes. No more handshakes or hugs. There is mounting anxiety in every home, religion and government. Many employees have been retrenched and some sent away on unpaid leave with no idea of how to get an income. Businesses are collapsing. As we grapple with this pandemic, let's learn to trust in God and pray more besides adhering to health regulations.

SILAS AYAKO
Health writer

Covid-19 should teach Africans home is best

Covid-19 has exposed many unknown truths. Africa is a continent full of brilliant minds but some people leave their homes for good to start new lives elsewhere. Imagine how competitive and productive Africa would be if its daughters and sons came back home to set up companies.

Unfortunately, we discourage each other from embracing our originality. What is the explanation for our beautiful black women bleaching their skin? What do we have to say about aping foreign cultures? Today, we have our black sons and daughters suffering in China because of their skin colour. We have made it okay for our children to leave home for good. Let's teach our children home is beautiful. May this pandemic open up our eyes.

CECILIA LUBANGA
Butere

Air pollution weakens fight against the virus

Reports from Harvard University School of Public Health have sparked a debate about the tentative connection between air pollution and Covid-19 deaths. According to researchers at the institution, higher levels of particulate matter with diameters of less than 2.5 micrometer in the air were associated with higher infectious fatality rate (IFR) from Covid-19 in the U.S.

The research indicates that someone who has lived for decades in a country with high levels of air pollution is 15 per cent more likely to die from Covid-19 than someone who lives in a region that has just one unit less of such pollution.

Air pollution occurs in two forms: outdoor and indoor. Outdoor air pollution is one of the world's largest health problems, killing an estimated 3.4 million people per year. Indoor pollution is a leading risk death factor particularly in countries with low socio-development index, having killed an estimated 1.6 million people in 2017 alone. That is three per cent of global deaths and six per cent of deaths in developing countries.

Indoor air pollution is caused by increasing use of solid fuel sources such as firewood. As we know, poor households are more likely to use unclean sources of energy compared to rich ones. Burning solid fuel produces particulate matter that causes or exacerbates respiratory diseases. Available data show that death rates from indoor air pollution is greater than 100 deaths per 100,000 people in Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and Asia and below 0.1 deaths per 100,000 people in North America. While we have put up measures to reduce cases of new infections, what are we going to do to ensure our IFR doesn't rise like in the US?

JOHN OUMA
Journalism student, MMU, Nairobi

VOX POP

COMPILED BY ROBERT OMOLLO

Are you at risk of flooding due to the ongoing rain?



No: My home area is on raised ground and cannot be flooded. I, however, appeal to people who may be affected to move to safer ground.

JOASH MBOYA
Homa Bay



No: We were once frequently affected but we moved to a raised area. Floods interfere with the economic activities of people.

TOM OMOLLO
Homa Bay



Yes: We are already experiencing floods in some parts of Kochia. Crops and houses are waterlogged. We're likely to face famine in the coming days.

BENEDICT ADIPO
Homa Bay



Yes: Floodwaters get into many people's houses and shambas. The government should have a plan of assisting people who get affected by floods perennially.

TOBIAS OBUNGA
Homa Bay



★ WORD IS...

WORDIS@THE-STAR.CO.KE

RUTH MATETE QUIZZED FOR 3 HOURS OVER HUSBAND'S DEATH

IMENDE BENJAMIN/ Gospel artiste Ruth Matete spent three hours yesterday at the DCI headquarters on Kiambu Road, as investigators probe the death of her husband.

Matete, 34, popularly known for the song 'Eloi Eloi', presented herself to the detectives at 8am, moments before her lawyer walked in.

The 2012 Tusker Project Fame winner was interrogated by the DCI-based homicide unit following the death of her husband John Apewajoye.

"We are waiting for the postmortem and then decide what next," an officer privy to the investigations told the Star.

"The postmortem is supposed to be today [Tuesday]."

Matete had said Apewajoye, a Nigerian, succumbed to burns he sustained in their house at Wall Gardens Estate in Athi River on April 11.

A close family member and DCI officials told the Star Matete was interrogated for two hours before she was asked to record a statement.

The gospel singer, who is two months pregnant, last week confirmed the news of her Nigerian husband's death via social media.

She said John died while undergoing treatment for burns at a Nairobi-based health facility.

"My Husband Beloved John Apewajoye has gone to be with the Lord...I humbly ask for your prayers during this difficult time," she wrote on Facebook.

Pastor John succumbed to injuries after he was burnt while in the kitchen a few minutes after fixing a gas cylinder.

Matete's friend and YouTuber Milly Chebby later gave an account of



the incident.

"Last week on Monday, Ruth and her husband John changed their gas cylinder and when they got to the house, he went to the kitchen to fix

it," Chebby said.

"He noticed it was excess and he took the cylinder to the balcony and tried releasing some so that it would be okay to use."

John Apewajoye and Ruth Matete after their wedding in November 2019 / COURTESY

SOCIALBYTE

WITH WORD IS
@TheStarKenya



Arrow Bwoy /COURTESY

Nadia Mukami has been speaking about her secret relationship with singer Arrow Bwoy.

Nadia had previously denied dating the artiste after rumours emerged following the release of their song 'Radio Love', then admitted it.

"He's an amazing friend. We tried dating but it didn't work," she said.

Arrow Bwoy responded in a recent interview. "I'll give some advice to Nadia Mukami. She is one of the vibrant female artistes in East Africa," he said.

"She has so much potential in raising our Kenyan flag high. However, she can only reach these heights once she channels all her energy into her craft.

"Aachane na hizo sidoshow, hazileti shangwe yaani. Because the Nadia I know is the one I did a collabo with and I love the fact that she is a go-getter. Piga tu kazi. I'm your fan."

Peter Beard found dead 19 days later



Photographer Peter Beard /COURTESY

ELIZABETH NGIGI/ Iconic East End photographer, artist and diarist Peter Beard, 82, has been found dead after 19 days of search since he went missing in New York.

He was found near his home in Montauk, East Hampton Town.

In a statement, his family said, "We are all heartbroken by the confirmation of our beloved Peter's death. He died where he lived: in nature."

Adding, "He lived life to the fullest; he squeezed every drop out of every day."

According to the police, a hunter found his remains over the weekend in a remote wooded area of a state park in Long Island, east of New York City.

Beard received a special dispensation from President Jomo Kenyatta to purchase a tract he called Hog Ranch with the mandate in 1960, and in October 2017, his silver gelatin print collage of orphaned cheetah cubs near Nyeri, Kenya, sold for \$672,500.

Tedd Josiah blasts Ethic for 'killing music industry'



ELIZABETH NGIGI @nyambs_liz/ Ethic Entertainment is trending once again and this time, not for the right reasons.

Ethic / COURTESY

They have previously been in the bad books of Kenyans because of lyrics such as "I nut without permission", which was slammed as encouraging rape.

None the wiser, they have composed a song, 'Soko', with lyrics deemed to be promoting paedophilia and rape.

Music producer Tedd Josiah is among the many Kenyans who have called out the group for chasing views the wrong way.

Speaking as a father of a little girl and a producer, he said they are killing an industry that has genuine good music.

"Rape culture is a huge NO! You 2-bit silly Gengetone artistes and producers, I want u to sit ur punk asses down right now and listen! You're killing an industry called the music industry of Kenya when

it's already on its knees!" Tedd said in a video.

"Why y'all wanna start talking about raping little infants in your tracks? Why y'all wanna make ladies, our beautiful Kenyan ladies, think sex is a man's right and if u don't give it, then u ain't nothing?"

"Why y'all messing things up for yourselves and all those talented kids trying to come up without stupid music or scandalous stories! Use ur talent not scandals, sex, drugs and all that nonsense. You can do much better."

The song has been pulled down on YouTube and Ethic have offered an apology.

Their other hit songs, 'Pandana' and 'Tarimbo', have lyrics that glorify sex in controversial ways. The song 'Tarimbo' was banned but found its way back to YouTube.



For more Word Is stories, scan the QR code above.

VOICES

EDITORIAL

Mandatory face masks necessary to save lives

The Law Society of Kenya has filed a case seeking to block the mandatory wearing of face masks or, alternatively, to get government to distribute free face masks (See P9).

In response, government states that public health measures are already helping to protect the poor and vulnerable in society.

The LSK has adopted an extreme binary position – either masks for all, or none at all. This is unrealistic, especially at a time when there is a global shortage of face masks.

Public awareness of the coronavirus has been rapidly evolving. Some silly socialites and young people still want to party but most Kenyans now realise that the best way to protect yourself is to socially distance yourself and to regularly wash your hands. And to wear a mask.

If you don't have a mask, you can use a bandana or strip of cloth. The police and Health ministry accept that as an effective substitute.

So it is not difficult for everyone to use a mask or bandana. It can't do any harm to wear one, and at best it may save lives – including your own!

HISTORICAL QUOTE

“Making the simple complicated is commonplace; making the complicated simple, that's creativity.”

CHARLES MINGUS

The American jazz musician was born on April 22, 1922.

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COMMENT

OKECH KENDO

Communications consultant and university lecturer



It offers a context for a Lincoln kind of leadership. Yet it is that kind of leadership that is massively wanting. Suspicions, insecurities, greed and ego rank above the national interest



COVID CALLS FOR LEADERS LIKE LINCOLN

Abraham Lincoln, the 16th president of the United States, lived two centuries ahead of his time. Local politicians are still below the lowest point of a man who had an unflattering reception when he won the Republican presidential nomination during the party National Convention in Chicago.

“The New York Herald” of May 19, 1860, berated the party for promoting mediocrity. Leo Tolstoy, the acclaimed Russian writer, recognised Lincoln: “The greatness of Napoleon, Caesar or Washington is only moonlight by the sun of Lincoln.”

It was Lincoln's magnanimity that inspired President Barack Obama. Obama was the first black swan to invade the American Establishment. He enlisted Hillary Clinton, his rival during the rancorous Democratic party nomination campaigns, as Secretary of State. The rivals made a team modelled on the Lincoln precedent.

Lincoln needed a cross-pollination of ideas to confront the challenges of his generation. A civil war that could have led to secession of the slave riders of the South, from the urbane North, was looming. Doris Goodwins captures the political genius of Lincoln in *Team of Rivals*, which is described as ‘The book that inspired Barack Obama’. Lincoln's rivals for the Republican party ticket became key pillars of his administration. America was then fragile, hugely unequal, massively racist, and segregated.

Then New York Senator William H Seward, Ohio Governor Salmon P Chase and Missouri's elder statesman Edward Bates, among others, were the men of superior intellect and experience Lincoln recruited. Lincoln, who rode on local reputation from Springfield, Illinois, appointed Seward Secretary of State, Chase secretary of the treasury and Bates attorney general. This, in Kenyan political parlance, was the kitchen cabinet.

A leader needs profound self-confidence, innate greatness, a high calling, refined patriotism, and a forgiving ego to board the Lincoln train. This example came two centuries before Robert Greene wrote *The 48 Laws of Power*, a premier for political shrewdness

and strategy. Robert's Law 2, ‘Never Put Too Much Trust in Friends, Learn How To Use Enemies’ is a strategic gem, especially during times of crisis when incestuous counsel of friends – even of the queen to the king – can escalate a crisis.

Covid-19, the nimble germ that is wrecking economies, raiding palaces and mansions, offers a context for a Lincoln kind of leadership. Yet it is that kind of leadership that is massively wanting. Suspicions, insecurities, greed and ego rank above the national interest.

The Deputy President is keeping safe, as co-President Uhuru Kenyatta and others rally the country for a cause larger than individual egos, ambitions, fears and hopes.

Elected leaders and their 2017 poll rivals, or those eying their seats in the 2022 general election, are operating at cross-purposes.

Incumbents treat the ambitious as saboteurs, muddling their show. They don't want to build teams to work on practical ways of preventing further coronavirus infections. Incumbents are mistaking health intensive care units for their exclusive intensive corruption units.

Beleaguered Nairobi Governor Mike Sonko's failed attempt to appoint trumpish Miguna Miguna as his deputy in 2018 was an aborted parody of the Lincoln model. This was bound to fail, what with Sonkosian insecurity, and Migunain snobbery!

But a practical slice of building a team of rivals for a superior cause has been seen in the partnership of Mombasa Governor Hassan Joho and Suleiman Shahbal, his rival for the seat in 2017.

The handshake between President Uhuru Kenyatta and his 2017 rival, Raila Odinga, echoes the Lincoln model. The two are acquainted with *The 48 Laws of Power*. Their partnership for a national cause has sent the DP sulking and seething with the of a lover spurned.

Team of Rivals—Lincoln and the Eminent Four, Obama and Clinton, Raila and Uhuru, Joho and Shahbal— and Covid-19 should teach us to shelve personal fears and ambitions when national duty calls. kendowuonkendo@gmail.com

A LEADER NEEDS PROFOUND SELF-CONFIDENCE, INNATE GREATNESS, HIGH CALLING, REFINED PATRIOTISM, AND A FORGIVING EGO TO BOARD THE LINCOLN TRAIN



@robbystarbuck

CNN: “Kim Jong Un is gravely ill”
NBC: “Kim Jong Un is brain dead”
Reuters: “Kim Jong Un is fine”

It would be really nice to be able to trust our media right about now but they really make it impossible.

VOICES

COMMENT

NOELLAH MUSUNDI

Communications expert with a focus on humanitarian affairs

Good early warnings save lives. People can act fast to protect themselves and reduce losses

WE NEED TO PREPARE TO FACE DISASTERS

The burden of recovering from disasters is a living hell for vulnerable populations whose resilience elasticity is already weak. Recurring disasters continue to destroy communities, impacting severely the family unit. Of great loss is the fact that most families barely have time to recover between the disasters. Remember these are Kenyans already trapped in poverty.

As Kenya battles Covid-19, some areas are dealing with the double tragedy of the pandemic and flooding, which has disrupted livelihoods. We should not forget the predicted second wave of desert locusts that will be more destructive than the first swarm.

It is a catastrophe as affected households have to deal with multiple losses—loss of livelihoods, death of loved ones and disease burden just to mention a few. This despite the availability of early warning information from reputable institutions such as the World Health Organization, Kenya Meteorological Department, Igad's Climate Prediction and Applications Centre, Famine Early Warning Systems Network and the National Disaster Management Authority.

Good early warnings save lives. People can act fast to protect themselves from infection, injury, death, and reduce economic losses. Sadly, the voiceless and most vulnerable are the most affected. These most at risk populations have little peace and joy. Theirs is a life of survival and strands of hope, but is it a case of negligence, self-interest or inhumanity on the side of those tasked to spearhead disaster preparedness and response?

Another big concern is coordination mechanisms. A typical case of the right hand not knowing what the left hand is doing. It has led to duplication of response, some needy pockets being overlooked, creation of looting opportunities and sub-standard responses.

We often refer to the sustainable development goals, Sendai framework and our own Vision 2030 that detail disaster risk reduction plans. But how can we build resilient communities when we are failing at the basics, like knowing who is doing what, where and how.

As it has been commonly said, swift emergency response can be the difference between life and death, stability and loss, that is if we pause the reggae and value human life and wellbeing. The nation must expand and intensify its programmes on preparedness and response. It needs to value the prediction systems and the need to protect communities. A natural disaster will be sudden; recovery and reconstruction may take years and even decades.

Mutual public-private partnership will enhance dissemination of warnings and response. Cell phone alerts, radio and television broadcasts are particularly effective in issuing warnings. More crucial is investing in community based disaster response units to effectively act as first responders.

Through the county governments, local administration and sector leaders, villages need to have disaster response teams comprising professionals such as medical workers and new members trained in key skills. This will be the Golden Hour response team.

Uniting every local jurisdiction and business toward disaster risk reduction will not only save lives and property but build long-term resilience; invest for response, recovery, and reconstruction with comprehensive coordination and communication. If we do this, maybe not everything would be lost next time disaster strikes.



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COMMENT

PATRICK NJOROGI

Governor, Central Bank of Kenya

Further, more than 5 million unique borrowers comprising more than one-third of the borrowers in CRBs who were 'blacklisted' for amounts less than Sh1,000 will be 'delisted'



HOW NEW RULES WILL WORK FOR YOU

On April, 8, 2020, new regulations came into force for Credit Reference Bureaus and Kenya's Credit Information Sharing system, refreshing the framework that has been in place since 2013. The Regulations provide for the licensing and supervision of CRBs by CBK, and importantly, a framework for the exchange of borrowers' credit information between lenders and CRBs.

The CIS mechanism aims to bridge the information gap about borrowers' creditworthiness, by taking into account the borrower's credit history and allowing credit to be priced accordingly. A good credit record resulting from a good repayment history demonstrates the borrower's higher creditworthiness and should lead to a lower cost of credit. It is therefore an important tool in ensuring that the banking sector works for and with Kenyans, as was outlined in the Banking Sector Charter launched in February 2019 by CBK.

The CIS system has not worked as expected, requiring a refresh. For instance, it was seen as a punitive "blacklisting" tool that bars Kenyans from getting loans, instead of helping borrowers take advantage of their credit history to get better pricing of loans. There are 378 million records in CRBs, of which 42 million are blacklisted. Of these, 13 million are being blacklisted for amounts less than Sh1,000.

Customers have also complained about slowness in updating CRB records after payment arrears have been cleared; delays in correcting errors by lenders who mistakenly "blacklisted" compliant borrowers; and the cost of clearance reports for youth entering the employment market. Unregulated digital (mobile-based) and credit-only lenders were seen as particularly outrageous in using CRB listing and other measures to harass delinquent borrowers.

The improvements in the CIS are to be seen against a backdrop of two important pillars to strengthen the behaviour of banks. Banks are now required to adopt a risk-based pricing approach that takes into account borrowers' credit reports in the pricing of loans. CRBs are required to generate borrowers' credit score that lenders can use to assess their creditworthiness. Banks are also required to be customer centric, including by promptly resolving customer complaints including

those relating to CRBs. These pillars will go a long way in addressing some of the underlying concerns. However, unregulated digital lenders and credit-only institutions have been removed from the CIS mechanism as they lack effective customer complaints and redress mechanisms.

The refresh of the Regulations improves the CIS framework for the benefit of borrowers and lenders alike. The key elements include:

First, the new regulations set a minimum threshold of Sh1,000 for negative credit information that is submitted to CRBs by lenders. Thus, borrower's information regarding non-performing loans below that threshold will not be submitted to CRBs. Further, more than 5 million unique borrowers comprising more than one-third of the borrowers in CRBs who

were "blacklisted" for amounts less than Sh1,000 will be "delisted."

Second, first-time CRB clearance certificates will now be provided by CRBs at no charge.

Third, sacco regulated by the Saccos Regulatory Authority will now provide and access information from CRBs, similar to commercial and microfinance banks. Saccos are major players in Kenya's financial sector and

a significant number of Micro, Medium and Small Enterprises borrow from saccos. It is therefore important that the credit history with saccos be included in assessing a borrower's creditworthiness.

Four, the regulations strengthen the supervision of CRBs in accordance with global best practices. In particular, they enhance the governance of CRBs by requiring a diversified board composition, and empower CBK to set minimum capital requirements to ensure CRBs are financially sound.

An important development was the suspension of the sharing of negative information for a period of six months from April 1 to September 30, 2020, to lessen the economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Loans that were performing but have become non-performing during that period would not lead to a "blacklisting" of the borrowers.

**FIRST-TIME
CRB CLEARANCE
CERTIFICATES
WILL NOW BE
PROVIDED BY
CRBs AT NO
CHARGE**

GROUP DONATES FOOD TO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

Kibra Vision Achievers led by **John Kyalo** on Sunday donated food to people in Kibera.

The donations were meant to help disabled people and people in extreme poverty. The team gets donations from well-wishers. Anyone willing to join the team can do so.

The team's target was to distribute food to 100 households. They reached at least 70.

Their aim is to distribute food donations every Sunday until the coronavirus pandemic ends.



1



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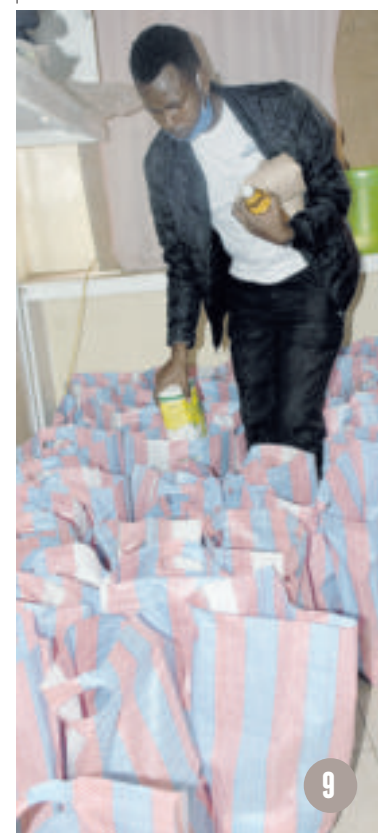
4



5



6



9



7



8



10

1. Agnes Njeri hands food to Jilani Yawa and his brother
2. Njeri gives a donation to Peter Ndolo, Diana Mwangangi and their two blind daughters
3. Mwangi hands a package to Catherine Ngina and her daughter
4. Facilitator Susan Mwangi, member Njeri, volunteers Nando Ngandu and Maurine Peter, Kibera Vision Achievers founder John Kyalo and Stephen Orengo
5. Maurine donates food to Emmanuel Daudi and his son Frenky Daudi
6. Sylvia Wangui and her siblings unpack their bag
7. Mary Muthoni and a volunteer
8. Debra Mueni
9. Kyalo packs food for distribution
10. Ngandu carries food packs

/MERCY MUMO

COUNTIES NAIROBI

SONKO, ELACHI STANDOFF

Budget bill to become law on its own, say ODM ward reps

MAUREEN KINYANJUI/ The controversial Sh15 billion Nairobi Supplementary Budget Appropriation Bill will automatically become law on Friday regardless of whether Governor Mike Sonko assents.

ODM ward representatives say Sonko has until Friday 4:04pm to assent to the bill or it will become law on its own.

County assembly Minority Whip Peter Imwatok says the bill has only seven days from the moment the governor received communication from the county assembly to become law.

That time elapses on Friday 4:04pm according to the Makongeni MCA.

Sonko last week rejected the bill that wants Sh15 billion allocated to the Nairobi Metropolitan Service that has taken over the management of health, transport, planning and development and public works.

But Speaker Beatrice Elachi swift-

ly sent back the bill to the governor without the assembly effecting the amendments Sonko wanted after a special sitting last Friday.

Imwatok on Monday said the speaker based her ruling on Standing Order 146 (4) which provides that when a governor's memorandum on any bill raises a question of constitutionality, the speaker is free to give a determination.

Standing Order 145 states that when the governor sends a memorandum, the assembly can either amend or pass it as it is by a two-thirds majority.

"As things stand, at the expiration of the seven days from when the governor received communication from the assembly, the bill shall become law whether he (Sonko) assents to it and only the courts can overturn such a law," Imwatok said.

He said the speaker has the power to publish laws passed by the assembly as long as it is after the pres-



Minority whip Peter Imwatok in his office on January 27 /EZEKIEL AMING'A

cribed period lapses.

Imwatok told off Sonko and said the speaker is not subject to the governor. "Sonko should know that the speaker of an assembly and the governor are two centres of power.

The office of the speaker is independent and shall not be intimidated by a governor who handed over his county due to incompetency," the Makongeni MCA said.

Imwatok rubbished claims that the governor's memorandum was not circulated to MCAs as required in the Standing Order.

He said that upon receipt of the memorandum, the former leader of the Majority Charles Thuo, via a memo dated April 15, requested the speaker to convene a special sitting on Friday April 17 to consider the memorandum.

"The speaker had received several objections in form of petitions from members, both from Jubilee Party and the Nasa coalition against the memorandum. There are records to this effect. These objections partly informed how the speaker guided the house," Imwatok said.

He said the speaker's ruling is the final decision from the assembly.

"The speaker's ruling binds all members and becomes the decision of the assembly.

On this matter, therefore, the ruling of the speaker is the decision of the assembly as far as the memorandum by the governor is concerned. They should not expect any communication from the assembly."

WATER SUPPLY STILL LOW

Dry Eastlands taps hurting fight against Covid-19 as cases rise

Water scarcity means residents cannot regularly wash their hands as recommended

MAUREEN KINYANJUI
@MissKinyanjuiMo



Complaints about water scarcity in most city estates persist despite Nairobi Water and Sewerage Company's pledge to boost supply to enable adequate hand washing to curb coronavirus spread.

Residents of several estates in Eastlands have lamented that water was still scarce in their neighbourhoods, posing a serious challenge to the call to constantly wash hands with soap and water.

Washing and sanitising of hands is one of the hygiene measures to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

Nairobi Water and Sewerage Company had last month announced it would revise the city water rationing programme to increase supply in estates, especially informal settlements.

Mukuru Kwa Njenga, Kibera and Mathare were among those listed to receive water supply five days a week in the revised rationing.

NWSC board chairperson Beryl Okumu said the demand for water in the central business district had declined since many businesses have closed due to coronavirus. As such, more water was to be channelled to the estates.

She said demand for water at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport had also declined.



Water is distributed to Huruma residents courtesy of the county government on Saturday /VICTOR IMBOTO

However, residents from of Inner-core which is partly shared between Umoja One and Umoja Two wards are yet to get the increased water supply.

They said they were still buying water from vendors because taps were dry.

"We really don't know how we are going to defeat the coronavirus if we don't get water supply to observe hygiene. Don't forget we still have domestic usage of water," Rosemary Wangui said.

"Some water vendors have increased their prices by Sh10 due to the Covid-19. Now we have to choose between buying water for household

or business purposes and for washing hands frequently to fight coronavirus," barber Alex Wanjohi said.

Umoja One MCA Mark Mugambi, however, said the NWSC had increased its supply and distribution.

"There are ongoing plans and pipelines are being constructed from Tena area which will help in distribution of water in Umoja One," Mugambi said.

He added, "Let us acknowledge efforts that at least there is water supply weekly on selective days. Water can never be enough for the whole of Nairobi due to its rapid population growth."

The Athi River Water Works De-

velopment Agency on Monday announced that water vendors using bowsers within the Nairobi metropolis will have to apply for registration.

The move was informed by the need to get rid of cartels that infringed the water sector leaving Nairobi residents with dry taps.

They have until May 15 to register. ARWWDA chief executive officer said through these guidelines, they will be able to track where the water is coming from and even the consumers.

Water vending has become a booming business in Pipeline, Tasia and Kayole estates which have a history of dry taps.



COUNTIES CENTRAL

TO FIGHT VIRUS

Man makes automatic handwashing gadget

ALICE WAITHERA/ A Murang'a IT graduate has turned his nifty idea into an automatic handwashing machine to help residents fight the coronavirus.

James Nyakera from Mioro in Mathioya fit an ultrasonic sensor onto a frame on which a tank is mounted to dispense soap and

water. When you put a hand underneath the outlet pipe, the sensor activates a pump that releases liquid soap for three seconds. It then disconnects the soap and dispenses water for 20 seconds that experts have recommended to eradicate the virus from hands. The 26-year-old man came up with the innovation weeks after the outbreak hit the country.

He told the Star that it took him about two weeks to code the control box fitted in a water tank and connected to the machine. The

machine gets its commands from the control box. Nyakera said he came with the idea after realising that the public handwashing points may end up spreading the virus.

Most handwashing points consist of a tank with a tap which users have to open and close. Infected people can leave the virus on the taps and pass it on to other people.

"While these handwashing points established in public places are used by hundreds of people in a day, the taps remain unsanitised and could spread the virus to many," he said.

James Nyakera demonstrates how his automatic handwashing machine works in Kairo shopping centre, Murang'a
/ALICE WAITHERA



RESTRICTION? NO PROBLEM

How Kenyans use boda bodas to circumvent Nairobi travel ban

Traders and other travellers pay on average Sh550 to cross over into or from Nakuru

GEORGE MUGO
@TheStarKenya



Kenyans seeking to travel into and out of Nairobi have resorted to back routes and boda bodas to reach their destinations.

President Uhuru Kenyatta imposed a travel ban into and out of the Nairobi metropolitan region on April 6 to control the spread of the coronavirus. But many traders are still moving in and out of the city, paying on average Sh550 to cross over into or from Nakuru county.

Two police roadblocks at Kamandura and Chungu Mali along the Nairobi-Nakuru highway are easily evaded on motorbikes.

Travellers from Nakuru and Naivasha alight from matatus at Kwambira area in Limuru subcounty, about two kilometres to Kamandura. They take boda bodas through Kamirithu, Tharuni, Kiroe, Kerwa and end up at Zambezi area in Kikuyu or Kikuyu town where they board vehicles to the city.

"We charge them between Sh500 to Sh600 to Kikuyu and bring back other passengers to Kwambira where matatus pick them up," rider Simon Njoroge said.

Njoroge said most of the travellers normally have items for sale. Women at Tharuni village in Limuru subcounty



Boda boda riders ferry travellers to Kikuyu town where they can catch Nairobi-bound buses /GEORGE MUGO

have asked the government to tighten the enforcement of the travel ban.

They said the riders might be infected by the customers and spread the coronavirus to their families.

"It makes us afraid when we notice riders carrying people they do not even know. These are the people who will bring the disease to innocent people who were forced to stay at home," Nancy Wangari said.

Wangari asked Limuru deputy county commissioner Charles Mukele to track the boda boda riders' movements. The government has set up a roadblock at Mutatawa along the Nairobi-Maai Mahiu road.

The roadblocks at Kamandura and Chungu Mali are now supervised by General Service Unit officers. GSU officers at the roadblocks decline to speak to the Star because none was

authorised to talk to journalists.

Bishop James Njenga has urged the President to impose a countrywide lockdown since Kenyans have misbehaved for personal gain.

"We have witnessed bar owners locking customers inside their bars to sell without considering the social distance, these travellers don't consider why the cessation was imposed," he said.

WARNS AGAINST VANDALISM

Njomo to table bill to curb theft of street lamps

STANLEY NJENGA/ Only Kenya Power and the Rural Electrification Authority will be allowed to erect or repair street lights under a proposed law.

Kiambu MP Jude Njomo (pictured) has said the bill he is to table in Parliament will curtail theft of street lights erected through NG-CDF. He spoke at Kiambu police station on Monday after officers caught a man on an electric pole trying to vandalise and remove a street light.

"We've been installing street lights in the villages but they are stolen, hence undergoing huge losses to reconnect them," Njomo said.

The legislator said there were reports that the street lights were being stolen and then reinstalled through the county government street-lighting programme.

"There are some allegations that unscrupulous contractors contracted by the county government hire electricians to steal the street lights to fulfil their contracts," Njomo said.

The police said they have a suspect who can lead them to where they sell the lights after stealing. Njomo commended Ndumburi chief and police officers who have been following up on culprits. Residents have been angered by increased burglaries, especially in areas where street lights had been vandalised.

"We're on a rainy season and the street lights installed by our MP have been stolen. When it's raining, the police don't patrol, especially past 2am. That's when the thieves break into our homes," said John Muhia, a resident.

NG-CDF chairman Stephen Mwaura said 104 street lights in Kanunga and Ndumburi villages are missing. "We are experiencing loss of street lights despite efforts to light our villages. We need a solution to keep thieves at bay," Mwaura said.



WANTS THE NEEDY SUPPORTED

MP Mwathi urges Limuru residents to minimise movement

GEORGE MUGO/ An MP from Kiambu has urged residents to obey government directives to avoid contracting to the coronavirus.

Peter Mwathi of Limuru constituency yesterday urged residents to reduce movement and make themselves busy at home to minimise exposure to the virus.

Confirmed cases have been on the rise and the Ministry of Health has called for behaviour change if Kenya is to win the fight against the virus.

Of the 11 confirmed cases announced on Monday, six were from Kiambu county — one each from Ruiru, Githurai 45, Thindigua, Waithaka, Ndongoro and Ting'ang'a.

In line with the foregoing, Mwathi said it would be improper to allow the disease to spread, as it is no one's wish to get infected.

He appealed to Kiambu leaders to provide face masks, sanitiser and handwashing soap. His office has been supplying sanitiser, water

tanks, face masks and soap in marketplaces.

Mwathi pleaded with the government to fast-track its food and relief programme to the needy, adding that many people need urgent help.

"We are sure there are no casual jobs, so many people are not hiring casuals, while many businesses have been closed down," he said.

"I'm sure some leaders have extended their generosity to ensure hygiene is observed, I included.

This is not enough. Hygiene is part of human life and people should observe it every minute. People's role is ensuring they obey the instructions of observing hygiene."

Health CS Mutahi Kagwe urged people to be vigilant and treat every individual they come across as an infected person so the country can protect itself.

And emphasising Kagwe's statement, Mwathi appealed to residents to exercise extra caution to combat the disease.

COUNTIES COAST

16 OF THEM

Relatives of Mombasa medics in quarantine

MAUREEN MUDI/ Sixteen relatives of at least two medics in Mombasa are under quarantine after the health workers interacted with a colleague whose loved one died of Covid-19.

Mombasa county commissioner Gilbert Kitiyo and Governor Hassan Joho confirmed that the 16 were quarantined on Monday.

The response team is tracing

those who came into contact with the medics, two of whom have lost a relative each in two weeks.

The county government announced that private and public hospitals will have separate sections for Covid-19 patients.

This comes in the wake of a high number of infections reported in Mombasa, mostly at home and

workplaces, according to health officials.

By Tuesday, Mombasa had reported 66 cases and five deaths.

Health executive Hazel Koitaba said anyone who comes into contact with Covid-19 patients for more than 15 minutes will be quarantined and tested.

"There are people who are positive but are interacting with their family members and workmates. This increases the infection rates," she said.

The county will today (Wednesday), launch the first Covid-19 centre at the Technical University of Mombasa.

TUM's engineering block has been set aside for Covid-19 patients.



Mombasa county commissioner Gilbert Kitiyo / **JOHN CHESOLI**

TARGETS 50,000 FAMILIES IN PHASE ONE

Joho distributes food to poor families

Package contains maize and wheat flour, green grams, rice, sugar, salt, cooking oil, sanitary pads and soap



Mombasa county commissioner Gilbert Kitiyo and Governor Hassan Joho flag off the first consignment of relief food targeting 50,000 vulnerable families on Monday at the Kipevu ICD / **JOHN CHESOLI**

BRIAN OTIENO

@Yobramos4



The Mombasa government has started distributing food to needy families.

The exercise, launched on Monday, targets 50,000 households in the first phase, but will reach 227,000 families.

The items distributed include

10kg of maize and wheat flour, 7kg of green grams, 6kg of rice, 2kg of sugar, 1kg of salt, 2 litres of cooking oil, sanitary pads, paracetamol tablets and a bar of soap.

Governor Hassan Joho said each package is enough to feed a family of five for 30 days.

County commissioner Gilbert Kitiyo said the food will be delivered to homes by Kenya Red Cross Society and a team of 7,000 youths.

The officials were surprised that

residents are contravening anti-coronavirus rules.

"Boda boda riders carry four passengers and do not wear face masks. What more do you want us to say?" Joho said.

He warned that they will be left with no option but to ask the police to arrest such careless people. Kitiyo said Kisauni residents are the worst culprits.

Mombasa, as of Tuesday, had recorded 66 cases of Covid-19 out of

the 296 countrywide. He said Kisauni matatu operators continue to carry more than the required eight passengers, disregard the 7pm-5am curfew, and do not observe social distancing.

At least 25 people, including matatu operators, have been arrested and made to do community work as punishment.

"Some people do not believe coronavirus is real. It is not a joke, the

disease is among us. It will destroy our families if we are not careful," Joho said. He urged residents to avoid travel.

The food relief committee chairman Abdul Samji requested for more donations.

He thanked Mombasa Cement for their support but said the county needs more clean water.

Samji urged the private sector to help support poor families.



Casual labourer packs the food for distribution / **JOHN CHESOLI**



Dock Workers' Union vice chairman Gunda Kaneno and secretary general Simon Sang at the union's offices on April 14 / **JOHN CHESOLI**

GREATER GOOD

Silver lining as crisis unites dockers' union

BRIAN OTIENO/ Dock Workers' Union members have set aside their differences to fight coronavirus.

The unity was evident last Tuesday when secretary general Simon Sang, vice chairman Gunda Kaneno and treasurer Joseph Makero addressed a press conference on coronavirus control measures.

The union has since 2014 been locked in squabbles, sabotage and betrayal.

Kaneno was in chairman Mohammed Sheria's faction, which split from Sang's camp and opposed every pro-

posal the general secretary presented. Sang accused the splinter group of being used by the port management to fight him.

"It is interesting that coronavirus has come to unite us, and regardless of our differences, we are working together to eliminate it," Sang said.

He added that port workers were losing so much due to their internal and external divisions.

"The Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) human resource department had capitalised on these conflicts to set unfavourable policies. We shall not allow divisions to break us anymore," Sang said.

The union has negotiated with KPA about working conditions, compensation and staff who work till 11pm and cannot go home because of the curfew. They are drafting a report, as directed by the HR department, containing working schedules during the Covid-19 crisis.

COUNTIES EASTERN

CRACKDOWN

34 arrested in bars and lodgings in Makueni

PHILOMENA KILONZO / Thirty-four people, among them commercial sex workers, were on Monday night arrested in Emali town, Makueni county.

Thirty were arrested in two lodgings during a raid carried out by the Emali security multi-agency team. Four were found drinking alcohol inside a bar.

Of those found in lodgings were 26 were commercial sex workers conducting business as usual.

Nzaui subcounty police commander Josiah Okumu Dullo said 14 commercial sex workers were arrested in

Kilungu lodging while 16 were found inside the Under 18 bar.

Dullo said they received a tip-off from their intelligence team, leading to a successful crackdown.

All suspects have been taken into forced quarantine for 14 days.

The women will be taken to Mulala Girls' High School and the men to Matiliku Boys' High School.

"Plans are underway to transport all the arrested persons to the quarantine facilities," he said.

The suspects will be charged after quarantine.

The multi-agency team also arrested four other people in a bar. The suspects were arrested at a bar known as Kanini Kaseo in Emali town. Nzaui subcounty police commander Josiah Okumu Dullo said the four had locked themselves inside the bar. Among those arrested was the barmaid and three customers.



A police vehicle transports items seized at Kanini Kaseo bar in Makueni / **PHILOMENA KILONZO**

IN BAR, FAILING TO WEAR MASKS

15 held in Meru for violating directives to stop coronavirus

GERALD MUTETHIA / Fifteen people were arrested in Meru on Monday for violating directives put in place to curb the spread of Covid-19.

Seven were arrested in an entertainment joint drinking beer while eight mitumba traders were found without masks and were not observing social distancing.

The mitumba traders were arrested at Mikinduri market.

They were released on police bond. They will later be charged.

Meru county police commander Patrick Lumumba said they raided the pub after receiving a tip-off from members of the public.

Lumumba said it was unfortunate for people to disobey government directives by locking themselves inside a bar to drink.

Tigania Central deputy county commissioner Obed Mose urged traders to observe social distancing and wear masks.

HOMESCHOOLING

Online learning a mirage in rural areas, Magoha told

MUSEMBI NZENGU / Education CS George Magoha has been criticised over his assertion that learning is going on online and through radio and TV lessons.

Mwingi Central MP Gideon Mulyungi said on Monday the CS is out of touch with the reality on the ground since most students in rural areas are unable to access online learning materials. Others have no access to TVs.

The lawmaker said it was unfortunate for Magoha to appear on TV and insinuate that schoolchildren are studying online while at home.

"From the perspective of my constituency and the picture in most parts of the country, this is not happening and it is a lie," Mulyungi said. He said learners in rural areas and some urban areas cannot afford the luxury of online learning due to a myriad of reasons.

The legislator said the only place online learning could be taking place is in urban areas where learners have access to internet connectivity, smartphones, laptops, airtime and data bundles. He said in rural areas such facilities were unavailable.



Mwingi Central MP Gideon Mulyungi / **MUSEMBI NZENGU**



A cargo truck goes through a police roadblock barring vehicles from leaving or entering Nairobi Metropolitan area at Athi River on April 11 / **ANDREW KASUKU**

COVID-19

Mutua threatens to close borders to stop virus spread

Truck drivers transporting goods from Mombasa will be screened at all entry points

PHILOMENA KILONZO
@TheStarKenya

The Machakos government has threatened to close all entry points on its borders to stop the spread of the coronavirus.

"A time will come when we will need to close all the roads to and from our county since we don't have many cases," Governor Alfred Mutua said on Monday.

He spoke during the launch of mass screening and an isolation centre at Kenyatta Stadium.

Truck drivers transporting goods from Mombasa to Uganda and other countries will be tested and screened at all entry points and those who

test positive will be returned to their respective counties for quarantine.

There will be no stopping in Machakos county since we cannot ban them from transporting food and other goods to those countries, but there will have to be more than two drivers to make sure they don't sleep in Machakos county.

The county chief said they have put in place measures to curb the spread of the virus. The county will soon start door-to-door screening depending on the rate and the level of infections, he said.

Mutua said the laboratory at Machakos Level 5 Referral Hospital was assessed by medical officers from the Kenya Medical Research

“

GOVERNOR MUTUA

A time will come when we will need to close all the roads to and from our county since we don't have many cases

Institute and will soon be used to test Covid-19.

The county has trained 2,524 community health volunteers and 1,600 health workers on how to deal with the coronavirus pandemic.

Mutua said he would ensure that all isolation centres and quarantine units have the necessary amenities, equipment and provisions to ensure patients and those suspected of having contracted the disease are not held under harsh conditions.

The isolation facility has 60 beds, but the county government aims at increasing the number to 400 before the end of this month.

The county has 10 ventilators and is expecting 10 more this week.

COUNTIES NORTHEASTERN-EASTERN



TRAVEL BAN DEFIANCE

Garissa quarantines 31 seized from Nairobi bus

Health CEC warns of serious action against rule violation

KNA
@TheStarKenya

Thirty-one people who tried to enter Garissa town from Nairobi have been quarantined for 14 days.

Security officers acting on a tip-off arrested four of them in a car as they tried to enter the town on midnight Sunday. They were immediately quarantined.

On Monday evening, an Emirates bus was impounded at the Tana Bridge with 27 passengers on board. The passengers were allegedly picked from Mwingi after being dropped off by cars from Nairobi.

"I want to appeal to the people of Garissa that whatever measures the government is putting in place are for their own interest and that of the rest of the country," Garissa Health county executive Ahmednadir Omar said at the Tana Bridge screening centre.

He warned that serious action will be taken against anyone breaking the rules now in place against the spread

of coronavirus. "People should not try to beat the law. The hand of the government is long and its eyes see very far," Omar said.

The CEC said that anybody arriving from Nairobi, Kilifi, Kwale and Mombasa will be quarantined at his/her expense.

"They can use whatever measures to come here. They will be charged after the quarantine with trying to expose other people to the deadly virus," he said.

Garissa county commissioner Meru Mwangi said that the licence of Emirates bus company will be suspended.

He said punitive measures will be meted out on bus owners or individuals defying anti-coronavirus rules.

On April 6, President Uhuru Kenyatta restricted movement into and out of Nairobi, Mombasa, Kilifi and Kwale counties to limit the spread of the virus.

The country had 281 Covid-19 positive cases as of April 20.

Garissa Health executive Ahmednadir Omar and Dadaab subcounty medical superintendent Mohamed Noor at the refurbished maternity wing /FILE

AN EMIRATES BUS WAS IMPOUNDED AT THE TANA BRIDGE WITH 27 PASSENGERS ON BOARD

SUSPECT IN CUSTODY

Granny hacks husband in revenge after dinner dispute

REUBENGITHINJI/ An Embu woman hacked her drunken husband to death after he beat her up for failing to cook supper on time.

Wangari Njeru, 64, arrived with goats she had been herding Sunday evening and found her husband drunk at their home in Kirii sub-location, Embu North subcounty.

The husband, Njeru Njagi, 74, demanded supper, but Wangari said she had not yet prepared it.

Njagi pounced on her with punches. It is then that Wangari grabbed a panga and hacked Njagi several times in the head. He succumbed to his injuries.

Embu police boss Daniel Rukunga said the area assistant chief had informed him of the incident. Rukunga neighbours reported the matter to the assistant chief who in turn notified the police.

Wangari was arrested and detained at Siakago police station pending further investigations and prosecution.

Rukunga said the body of the man was moved to the Embu Level 5 Teaching and Referral Hospital mortuary.

He advised residents to avoid excessive drinking of alcohol and not to revenge when offended to avoid similar occurrences.

EQUIP MEDICS

Suspend levies to tackle Covid-19 crisis, Meru residents tell Kiraitu

GERALD MUTETHIA
@TheStarKenya

Meru residents have urged Governor Kiraitu Murungi to waive Sh50-Sh200 dispensary and hospital levies.

They also want levies paid by traders suspended to cushion the jobless and the vulnerable from the effects of the Covid-19 crisis. Those who spoke to the Star said they cannot afford the money because of the hard times occasioned by the virus.

Nchooro residents, who held demos despite Covid-19-related risks of crowding, claimed health workers abandon them at their hour of need.

They said the medics sometimes report to duty at 10am and leave by 2pm because there are no drugs and personal protective equipment.

Atanasio Nkubitu, a resident, said many of them have no face masks and urged area MP John Mutunga and MCA David Kaithia to supply them with protective gear.

"I used to earn daily wages. I no longer do. How will I afford Sh50

daily to buy a mask?" he posed.

Reached for comment, Kiraitu's communication officers said the governor would start distributing PPE today at the headquarters.

In Kalingene, Kunati, Gacibine and Igarii, the cry was the same. They said they are undergoing untold suffering. No doctor wants to attend to patients because they lack PPE, he said, adding that patients are asked to stay far away, more than two metres.

They urged Health Executive Misheck Mutuma, MCA Gervasio King'ori and area MP Gichunge Kabebea to equip health workers to aid the fight against the virus and other diseases. Ruth Karimi said Kalingene dispensary has only one medic and they are asked to choose between dying or "attending to the sick in other ways".

"I went to Kunati Hospital and the doctors ran away and told me they had no face masks, gloves and other PPE and can't touch or come close to my sick child. I was told to wash my hands and leave... We ask our health workers to be fully equipped."

NCHOORO RESIDENTS CLAIMED HEALTH WORKERS ABANDON THEM AT THEIR HOUR OF NEED

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COUNTIES WESTERN-NYANZA

COMBATING COVID-19

Kakamega to screen traders from neighbouring counties

Oparanya says markets provide potential ground for coronavirus to spread

HILTON OTENYO
@hiltonotenyoy

The Kakamega county Covid-19 Emergency Response Committee is now controlling inter-county trade with its neighbours to curb the possible spread of coronavirus.

Committee co-chairman and Kakamega Governor Wycliffe Oparanya on Monday said the free movement of people from neighbouring counties in and out of Kakamega increases interactions. These interactions are even more in markets providing a fertile ground for the virus to spread, he said.

"We have agreed to control inter-county trading as a measure aimed at limiting movements and interactions," Oparanya said.

The decision appeared to have been informed by the rising Covid-19 cases in neighbouring Siaya county recently. Siaya is one of the hotspots earmarked by the national government for mass testing in ramped up efforts to combat Covid-19.

The Kakamega committee also announced that roadblocks will be mounted on all entries and exit to the county immediately to facilitate mass screening.

"All people entering and leaving the county will be screened at the checkpoints and all public service vehicles checked to ascertain whether they keep passenger manifests of their clients. This will help in the event of contact tracing," Oparanya said.

The committee received a donation of 12,000 face masks from the Kakamega National Chambers of Commerce Industry branch for distribution to boda boda riders. The traders also donated 480 liters of sanitiser and soap for hand-washing. Oparanya said he will meet with all elected leaders from the county and the county assembly leadership to



agree on a formula on how to handle donations towards the Covid-19 virus.

Oparanya also varied his earlier order on closure of markets, instead announcing that the county government will buy one million face masks to distribute to traders. Out of the masks, 600,000 will be given to traders and other vulnerable groups while 400,000 will be issued to medics. Oparanya had initially said there would be no free face masks.

"We have realised that as much as we ask the traders to stay at home, they come to markets and when you

ask them they say they are looking for food. That's why we have decided to give them masks so that they put them on and maintain the social distance while doing their business," the governor said.

He said markets were potential areas for the spread of the virus and directed mandatory wearing of masks. He directed county askaris to enforce the order.

"Anybody who will be found without wearing masks at market centers will be arrested and taken to the quarantine at his or her own cost," Oparanya said.

Kakamega Governor Wycliffe Oparanya receives a jerrycan of hand sanitiser donated by Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry Kakamega branch chairman Wycliffe Kibisu on Monday
/HILTON OTENYO

'SECOND DEATH'

Allow Mumias Sugar to sell ethanol, Khalwale tells state

HILTON OTENYO/ Kenya Revenue Authority's decision to stop the indebted Mumias Sugar Company from selling ethanol will kill the miller, according to former Kakamega Senator Boni Khalwale.

Khalwale said on Tuesday ethanol production is currently the only revenue stream for the company and stopping its production raises questions on the government's commitment to revive the miller.

"The government should have seized the opportunity for the high demand for sanitiser in the war on coronavirus and allowed the miller to sell the products locally to raise funds for its operations," he told journalists in Kakamega town.

He appealed to President Uhuru Kenyatta to ensure the company does not collapse. KRA officials are said to have last Friday stopped lorries which had the factory on Friday from being loaded with a consignment of ethanol until the miller currently under receivership addresses the issue of the bond. The taxman wants the miller to deposit Sh100 million bond before it can continue selling ethanol produced at the factory.

KRA issued a notice to bankers last September restricting transactions on accounts of the cash-strapped miller to recover Sh10 billion in unpaid taxes.

The closure of the factory now puts some 300 jobs at stake. The planned restart of milling also hangs in the balance given the receiver manager was hoping to use the proceeds from ethanol sale to reactivate it.

On Tuesday, an insider said local manufacturers were expected to take advantage of the Covid-19 crisis to produce what can help the government fight the virus.

FLASH FLOODS

Five dead, houses on Lake Victoria beaches submerged

MANUEL ODENY/ Five people have died in Migori following downpours.

A woman from Aroso estate in Migori town and her two children aged two and nine died after a wall collapsed on them on Tuesday morning as it rained heavily. Their bodies were taken to St Joseph's Mission Hospital mortuary. "We had a downpour. The woman was found dead at dawn by neighbours. The wall collapsed at night. Her husband, a watchman, was on the night shift," village elder Walter Nyambati said.

A Form 2 student from Ngege Mixed Secondary was buried yesterday. He had been swept away as he bathed in River Migori on Friday. The same day, a woman from Migori town drowned while crossing river Onyinyo. The search for her body was still on. Floods have caused havoc in the region. Lake Victoria water levels have risen. On beaches in Nyatike and Misingo Island, families have been displaced after their houses were washed offshore. Muhuru Bay MCA Hevron Maira said piers, beach management offices, businesses and fish preservation centres were also left in ruins.

ALLEGEDLY STABBED COUSIN

Ahero rider faces murder charge over Sh50

STEVE WAKENGA/ A Kisumu county boda boda rider accused of stabbing his client to death will be arraigned and charged on May 4.

Stephen Onyango, who was based in Ahero township, allegedly murdered his cousin, Peter Owate, last Friday after dropping him home in Kobura village, Nyando. They were involved in a scuffle after failing to agree on the fare.

On Monday, Nyando resident magistrate Reuben Sang ordered the suspect to appear in court after two weeks, following a request by DCI officer Phillip Otieno, who needed more time to conclude in-

vestigations. The accused was held at Ahero police station.

Nyando OCPD Lawrence Matete said the rider ferried Owate, who paid Sh50 upon arrival at his home, but Onyango demanded another Sh50. Owate refused, prompting a fight. Onyango then grabbed a kitchen knife and stabbed him several times in the chest. Onyango also suffered stab wounds.

Owate was pronounced dead upon arrival at Ahero Subcounty Hospital. His body was transferred to the mortuary at the same facility.

Matete condemned the incident and urged residents to resolve their

disputes amicably or seek help from judicial facilities, instead of resorting to unlawful measures.

"What the suspect did was out of the law. He should have involved the police. I appeal to the public to mediate their disputes," he said.

Onyango was rushed by some villagers to a private clinic in Ahero as an irate mob bayed for his blood.

Dr Felix Orwa said he was unconscious and was bleeding from stab wounds. "He was brought in the evening in an unstable condition. We managed to stitch the wounds to limit and stop the bleeding, after which he stabilised," he said.



Crime scene /FILE

COUNTIES NYANZA

DANGEROUS WATER LEVELS

Death and destruction rage as Lake Victoria rises, climate change blamed

Many residents and businesses have been hit hard, including hotel owners and beach operators



Roseline Auma tries to keep floodwaters out of her house in Kisumu yesterday. She has lived in the area for 10 years and says she has never seen such flooding

/DANIEL OGENDO



Residential houses flooded at Kapuoth in Kisumu

/DANIEL OGENDO

VILLAGERS SAY THE LAST TIME THEY WITNESSED SUCH RISE IN WATER LEVELS WAS IN 1963

FAITH MATETE AND MAURICE ALAL
@TheStarKenya

The heavy rain pounding Nyanza since last October, leading to backflow of water from Lake Victoria, has caused deaths, displacement and destruction of property in the region.

The rain has led to a historic rise of water levels in the lake, causing floods. Scientists attribute the phenomenon to climate change.

Many residents and business owners have been hit hard, including beach and hotel operators who have been forced to relocate or close their businesses.

The downpour has saturated the region, sweeping away crops, homes

and animals. In Kisumu, more than 2,000 people have been affected by floods in Nyando, Nyakach and Murooni.

Some families are still living in rescue camps from last year's floods.

On Tuesday, River Nyando broke its banks. Families woke up in the morning to find their houses filled with water.

They scrambled to rescue their property and move to higher ground for safety.

Families have been forced to always stay alert during this period as water from the lake hits villages at night.

John Otieno from Kabonyo, Kadhiambo village, said they were

using boats to access some areas.

The continued rainfall and backflow from the lake will displace people from the area.

"For the past few months, we have seen and experienced the worst. For the 20 years I have been married in this area, we have had floods once in a while, but never witnessed such backflow from the lake," Wilkister Aonya from Ombaka village said.

LAST TIME

The villagers say the last time they witnessed such an incident was in 1963, which they never understood because no explanation was given on what was happening.

This week, Lake Victoria Basin Commission executive secretary

Ally-Said Matano warned that the rising water levels will continue and strongly recommended that people living in lowlands vacate to avoid a disaster.

Matano stated in a statement that the current rise of water level was the highest witnessed since 1964. He said between 1960 and 1964, the water level rose 2.5 metres.

He stated that the rising water level was premised on the water balance, which is largely determined by the inflow and outflow.

The inflow into the lake, he said, was primarily from rainfall, which accounts for more than 80 per cent, and the remaining 20 per cent was from drainage systems into the lake.

Outflow, on the other hand, is primarily from evaporation, which accounts for 76 per cent, and outflow into the Nile, which accounts for 24 per cent.

From this analysis, it is apparent that rainfall plays a great role in determining the water level in Lake Victoria.

"At the moment, the level in Jinja, Uganda, is at 1135.8 metres above mean sea level while in Mwanza, Tanzania, it's at 1134.28metres. In Kisumu, it's at 1132.11 metres above mean sea level. These elevations are very important because they provide a snapshot of where a specific area is below or above the lake level," Matano said.

In Migori county, five people were reported dead due to floods. More than 400 families in Migingo island and Muhuru Bay, Lwanda Komhango and Kibro are camping in schools after their homes were submerged following the rising level of water.

Kisumu Environment executive

Salmon Orimba said the ever-increasing backflow of Lake Victoria was beyond the county capacity to control. The East African Community should find a solution, he said.

"As a county, we are currently ensuring that our people are safe and at the same time advising them to move to higher grounds," he said.

He when the current Covid-19 is done away with, the lake will be dredged upon completion of the ongoing rehabilitation of Kisumu Port.

Magnam Environmental Network chairman Michael Nyaguti said environmental degradation, especially on the hilltops around the Lake Victoria basin, was a contributor to the increased water level.

"Trees which usually prevent soil erosion have been cut down, allowing massive run off of the water with soil into the nearby rivers and lake leading to siltation," he said.

Nyaguti said deposition of soil into rivers and lake makes them shallow thereby, increasing the water level which causes backflow.

This, he noted, can be solved through dredging of the lake to remove the mud deposits.

The activist also attributed siltation to agricultural activities along the river banks and lakeshore.

Nyaguti said river mouths, especially River Nyando, had been blocked due to huge deposits of soil following heavy rainfall in Nandi Hills thereby blocking water entry into the lake. That causes backflow into villages.

"People in Kakola and Ombaka areas are affected by the backflow of water due to the blockage on water entry points into Lake Victoria," he added.

RISING TEMPERATURES

The rising temperature because of the increased carbon emission has affected the ozone layer, leading to the warming of water thereby increasing the volume in oceans and lakes.

"When the ozone layer is affected the sun penetrates easily and heats water directly causing warming and increase in volume," the activist added.

To mitigate the problem, he advised massive planting of trees on the hilltops and adoption of modern farming methods especially along the river banks and lake to prevent siltation.

He also called for multisectoral efforts to control water pollution, especially direct discharge of raw effluent and other waste into rivers and lakes.

Nyaguti discouraged widespread sand harvesting on river and lakeshores in the region and instead proposed dredging of rivers and the lake to increase depth.

COUNTIES RIFT VALLEY

HEAVY RAINS CONTINUE

11,000 people ordered to vacate areas prone to mudslide, floods

More than 4,000 people have been displaced by mudslides and flooding in West Pokot

MATHEWS NDANYI
@TheStarKenya



More than 11,000 people in areas prone to mudslides and flooding have been ordered to move to higher ground in West Pokot, Elgeyo Marakwet, Nandi and parts of Baringo counties.

Rift Valley regional coordinator George Ntembeya and county commissioners said families in the risky areas should move immediately or they would be moved forcibly to avert disasters such as the one in West Pokot.

The confirmed death toll is 12 but it is expected to rise. More than 25 people are missing. Search and rescue teams are combing through the rubble. Two policemen died.

More than 4,000 people have been displaced by mudslides and flooding in West Pokot.

Governors in the North Rift Economic Bloc have teamed up with the national government to help those displaced in West Pokot and evacuate others.

"We urge those in areas prone to flooding and mudslides throughout the region to move away as quickly as possible. We are mobilising resources to help more than 4,000 people affected in the West Pokot and Elgeyo Marakwet," Uasin Gishu Governor Jackson Mandago said. He is the Noreb chairman.

The mudslides swept away Chegong Market and villages along the border of West Pokot and Elgeyo Marakwet counties.

"We have sent out geologists and



Police officers and residents rescue one of the people injured in West Pokot floods /MARYANN CHAI

other experts to assess all areas especially those that are hilly and have escarpments. People there should move out," Ntembeya said.

The government and the Red Cross society are distributing relief food, clothing and supplies to displaced people in West Pokot.

Elgeyo Marakwet county commissioner Ahmed Omar and his West Pokot counterpart Apollo Okello are leading efforts to help displaced fa-

milies camping at schools.

Residents suffered heavy losses from the destruction of their homes and market businesses.

"It's still raining quite heavily in most areas and people must move out quickly to avoid a disaster," Okello said.

Families camping in schools and other places will be assisted in controlling the spread of the coronavirus.

They are to be given soap and water and are encouraged to practice social distancing.

In Nandi county, more than 600 people in the Tinderet were told to move to safer grounds as mudslides hit Chepkaroi village. Many displaced families camped at Chepkaroi Primary School.

Nandi Governor Stephen Sang said the county was assessing the safety in flooding and mudslide areas.

NO MINGLING

Turkana bans movement of Kakuma camp refugees

Polygamous men told to stick with one wife



Turkana county commissioner Boniface Muthama with a health worker screening commuters along the Lodwar-Juba (South Sudan) road /HESBORN ETYANG

HESBORN ETYANG/Turkana county has banned the movement of Kakuma camp refugees to prevent their mingling with outsiders.

The aim is to control the spread of the coronavirus by limiting close contact.

Turkana county commissioner Boniface Muthama has ordered the refugees to stay in the camp. "We are in hard times. No refugee should leave or enter the Kakuma camp. If he or she travelled to other regions, they should not go back to the camp," he said.

If someone in the camp is sick and needs medical assistance from the Lodwar County Referral Hospital, county officials should be notified, he said.

The county boss also warned polygamous men with more than one family to stick to one wife and stay with her as a way of restricting virus spread.

Muthama said healthcare workers have been placed in all entries and exits of Turkana county and 151,000 have been screened.

In March, a 72-year-old Somali American was isolated together with his son, grandson and driver after they were stopped at a roadblock on the Kakuma

—Lodwar route. The four were screened by health officers and later taken to IRC Kakuma to be quarantined. The man had travelled from the US and his temperature was abnormally high. However, all tested negative for the virus.

Muthama also urged boda boda operators to wear a mask and not carry more than one passenger at a time.

He said lawbreakers would be arrested and charged with violating government directives.

Muthama said people have been breaking the law because they knew court proceedings had been suspended due to the coronavirus, however, courts have resumed operations.

“

No refugee should leave or enter the Kakuma camp

BAN ON LARGE GATHERINGS

Clerics want state support as churches empty, no offerings

MATHEWS NDANYI/Some bishops and pastors in Rift Valley complain they are suffering economic hardship following government orders to end church attendance to control the spread of the coronavirus.

Large gatherings everywhere are banned to observe social distancing and people are encouraged to pray at home.

That means no Sunday offerings and tithes in hard economic times.

The clergymen say many of them were directly employed by their churches and some even deployed away from their homes. The empty churches – and lack of offerings – have undermined their livelihoods.

"We are asking the government to set up a fund to help many church leaders who cannot make ends meet following the closure of churches," Bishop Wilson Kurui said. He is chairman of the Bishops and Pastors in the North Rift region.

Kenyans have been hurt economically by the virus and cannot afford to pay regular tithes or make Sunday offerings and give other support. These contributions fund church operations, including salaries for pastors and bishops.

"The government should help us because we are also Kenyans and with needs to meet. The government should not always call us for prayers when there is a need and then abandon us when we are in need," Bishop Kurui said.

RATIONS FOR TWO MONTHS

40,000 families in Laikipia set to receive food aid

ELIUD WAITHAKA/The Laikipia government yesterday started verifying the data of 40,000 households expected to receive relief food after coronavirus control measures slashed their income or left them penniless.

"We want to limit relief food to households that were vulnerable before the disease outbreak, those directly affected by the outbreak and those that have lost jobs," Governor Ndiritu Muriithi said.

He said data from last year's National Census and information from community health volunteers are being verified by chiefs, their assistants and village elders.

Last week, the governor announced the county will provide food rations for two months to about 40,000 households at a cost of Sh264.5 million.

Muriithi said vulnerable families will get a package worth Sh6,000 including maize flour, grains, wheat flour, beans, green grams, cabbages, cooking oil, soap, sanitiser, sanitary towels, salt, rice and onions.

The relief food is provided for in the county's supplementary budget of Sh742 million, expected to be approved by the assembly this week.

Beneficiaries will include those who were already poor.

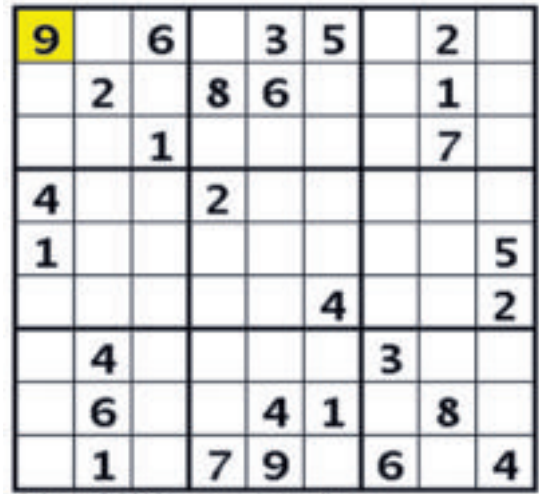
COFFEE BREAK

CROSSWORD



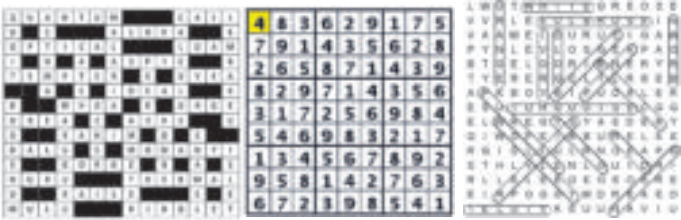
- DOWN**
 - finding or testing the truth of something (5)
 - Cells/hairs are set into stimulation producing nerve impulses in the auditory nerve (7)
 - Prepare oneself for a military confrontation (5)
 - In a photographic instrument, what is any opening through which light may pass (8)
 - The second series in the spectrum of hydrogen (6)
 - Member of Parliament for Kajiado East constituency (6)
 - Senator for Turkana County (5)
 - Member of Parliament for Naivasha constituency (5)
 - Element used in synthesis of proteins, formation of cell, tissues and structures (8)
 - Growths in the upper throat (7)
 - Member of Parliament for Kangema constituency (6)
 - Speak foolishly (6)
 - Member of Parliament for Gatundu North constituency (5)
 - Member of Parliament for Moiben constituency (5)
- ACROSS**
 - The fourth state of matter (6)
 - Lake in western Uganda (6)
 - Gather, as of natural products (4)
 - Cause to allow entrance or exit (4)
 - Young sheep (4)
 - A prism produces this from white light (8)
 - Inventory accounting in which the oldest items are assumed to be the first sold (4)
 - An uncharged particle having zero rest mass (8)
 - Nucleons and hyperons are examples of which family of sub-nuclear particles (6)
 - The hard white substance that forms the outer part of a tooth (6)
 - Member of Parliament for Kiambu Town constituency (8)
 - An opening that permits escape or release (4)
 - The erratic random motion of microscopic particles in a fluid (8)
 - Member of Parliament for women in Garissa County (4)
 - Member of Parliament for Rangwe constituency (4)
 - Other than what is under consideration or implied (4)
 - Surpass (6)

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.



- ALMOND
- BRAN
- BUTTERSCOTCH
- CHOCOLATE
- CINNAMON
- COCONUT
- GINGERBREAD
- MACAROONS
- MERINGUE
- MOLASSES
- OATMEAL
- PEANUT
- PECAN
- PEPPERMINT
- PUMPKIN
- RAISIN
- SHORTBREAD
- SUGAR

Kingo

By James Gayo



Wild pigs patrol Israeli city under closure

REUTERS/ While coronavirus closures are coaxing wildlife into the abandoned streets of many a metropolis, in one Israeli city the four-legged interlopers are assertive and, well, quite boorish.

Wild boars, some as bulky as Rottweilers and travelling in family packs, have been trotting through Haifa in increasing numbers. Their once-nocturnal visitations now take place throughout the day, as they root through refuse, spook domestic pets and even block roads.

The visitation, since nationwide lockdowns came into effect this month, has revived debate among residents of the hilly port city as to

policy regarding the pests. "We are scared to go out, even to throw out the garbage. I don't [know] which way the boars will come," Meirav Litani, a music instructor, said as a boar loomed in the distance.

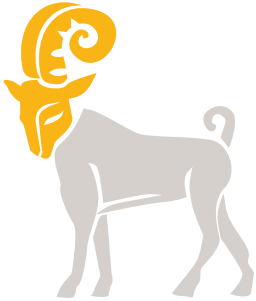
The municipality last year suspended culls of the boars, whose urban incursions, some experts say, are a response to human expansion into their natural habitat—the surrounding Carmel forest range, of biblical fame.

Less sympathetic city folk – especially religious Jews or Muslims who consider pigs ritually unclean – worry that the larger, tusked animals could turn violent.



Wild boars cross a road in a residential area after the government ordered residents to stay home to fight the spread of Covid-19, in Haifa, Israel, on April 16 /REUTERS

ALL IN THE STARS



ARIES

March 21 – April 20

Only offer to do the things you have time for. Luxury items will cost you more than you can truly afford.

TAURUS

April 21 – May 21

Make any necessary changes to your insurance policy. You will learn valuable information if you travel today.

GEMINI

May 22 – June 21

You will have a greater involvement in groups; however, they may not be to your advantage.

CANCER

June 22 – July 22

Try to deal with the problems of those less fortunate; however, don't allow them to make unreasonable demands.

LEO

July 23 – August 22

Investments that deal with property will pay off but could cause conflict with some family members.

VIRGO

August 23 – September 23

Be courteous if you wish to avoid major delays. You can expect changes in your living arrangements.

LIBRA

September 24 – October 23

Plan your day thoughtfully, but try not to rely on others. Take time to help a friend who hasn't been feeling well.

SCORPIO

October 24 – November 22

You can make a big difference to children if you are understanding of the difficulties they are experiencing.

SAGITTARIUS

November 23 – December 21

You must deal with an emotional problem with your loved one that you have been avoiding for some time now.

CAPRICORN

December 22 – January 20

Express your interest if you want the relationship to progress. Someone you care about may not be too pleased with you.

AQUARIUS

January 21 – February 19

You can expect opposition from family as well as colleagues. Sign up for courses that will bring you more skills.

PISCES

February 20 – March 20

Organize your house and be sure to include the whole family in the projects you have set out to do.

ODDLY ENOUGH



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This Rich Lady Wants A Good Man To Romance Her Life. 0723232330

Indian girl need life partner sms 0722115384

Indian m/f looking life partner Sms 0722115384

Wazungu, Big Booty Chics, Sponsors, Marriage Partners, Classic Sugar Ladies And Sugar Daddies. 0723232330

OMAR 39 years looking for a muslin girl 18-30 tall, brown, slim, devout n kind-hearted even with a girl ready to b second office call 0732939565

Omondi a Widower leaving and working Nairobi, Age 44 with 2 Kids looking for a Serious Love That Can lead to Marriage if you are interested send your Profile and contact to blancohygiene@gmail.com

Free Hook Up For Ladies. Text Your Name, Age, Tribe And Town And Get Connected Immediately. 0723232330

@550/= get White,Asian or Kenyan top & bottom gays, Sugar Mummies/Daddies, Lesbians & partners SMS/Whatsapp Harmony Services-0715584490 or www.eharmony.com

IM KENYAN MAN, very understanding ,smart,a christian n im looking 4 a serious lady4 marriage below 30yrs n without kids n serious,cal or send ur profile 0724249628

Ray from Kitale needs mom aged 45-50. Sms 0707415978.

Sponsors, Ladies Trapped In

Unhappy, Loveless Marriage, Classic Sugar Ladies And Sugar Daddies. 0723232330

JAMES, a teacher would like to meet a God-fearing lady for marriage. Sms 0708 496 915

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WE SOLVE these problems immediately:taza,libido,pre mature erection,penis enlargement,stop mpango wa kando,theft,protection,business.cal 0732555194

IF U CANT GET WATOTO try our herbal u get .we solve all prblms mpango wa kando,enlargement, cal 0732555194

WE CAN BRING BACK ua husband/wife or fiance who left u ki madharau in 24 hrs,lost libido,enlargement,kushika mimba etc.cal 0732555194

Rich Sugarladies Want Discreet Relationship With Young Strong Men 0723232330

LADIES Trapped In Unhappy Loveless, Romanceless And Boring Marriage, Who Need Discreet Affair To Cheer Them Up, 0723232330

Wealthy Sugar Moms And Sugar Dads, Ladies Trapped In Loveless Marriage, Big Booty Chics Etc 0723232330

WEALTHY SUGAR MOMS And Sugar Dads, Ladies Trapped In Loveless Marriage, Big Booty Chics Etc 0723232330

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Married but unhappy Ladies Want Someone To Romance Their Lives. 0723232330

ALICE, 21yrs, virgin grl, cute, luvly, biutiful n romantc. want a luvng stable man. sms0711689517

ABDUL FROM SOUTH C is looking for lady friend from nairobi. 0717054246

RAJESH, Single, smart, handsam, f stable, want a gud, faithful n romantk lady. sms 0712852468

SINGLE? lonely? divorced, widow, lonely rich hs/wfe, casual date, leisure luv, escort lovers, intrstd?sms0711689517

JOY, SINGLE, 31yrs, 3kids, need christian man, Godfearing,35-40 yrs,SMS0711689517

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Am kevin age 33 in nairobi. am looking 4a rich fncly-stbl sugar-mummy hiv-, who is tal, goodlo-

PUBLIC NOTICE
THE PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT NO 13 OF 2019 CHANGE OF USER
The owner of plot Title Number **KIAMBAA/RUAKA/6696**, Situated within Ruaka, off Limuru Road, Kiambaa Sub-County, Kiambu County proposes to undertake a Change of user of the property from **Agricultural to Residential (multi-dwelling apartments)** subject to approval by the Kiambu County Government. Any individual(s), institution(s) or organization(s) etc with comments or objections to the proposal are requested to forward the same in writing within (14) days of publication of this notice to;

The Director of Physical Planning
Kiambu County Government
P.O. Box 2344-00900
Kiambu

PUBLIC NOTICE
THE PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT NO 13 OF 2019 CHANGE OF USE
The registered owner(s) of Land Reference No's **TIGONI/TIGONI BLOCK 1/318** located at Kawaida area off Nazareth Road, Kiambaa Sub County intends to Change its Use from **Agricultural to Residential Multi-Dwelling Flats** subject to approval by Kiambu County Government. Individuals, institutions etc. with objection(s) to the proposal are requested to forward the same in writing within 14 (fourteen) days of this notice to:

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KIAMBU COUNTY GOVERNMENT,
P.O BOX 2344-00900,
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ALEX C. from Nairobi AYANI is looking for friends both \$My number is 0735112936 (30-40yrs)

Businessman aged 43yrs widowed and a father of 12yr old daughter. Am looking for a mature God fearing lady for lasting relationship leading to a happy marriage. SMS or call 0797918874

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Am Selina Miluki single 23yrs, graduate, frm Kitale, working with I&M Bank. I want a man. REG WITH US JUST 2k to get u connected. Cal auntie Ruth 0721861034

Lady 40yrs old needs a financially stable, mature man aged 45 to 55 n withn nrb.sms only 0735803040

Romantic hookups. get ur dream lady today. SMS mi ur desires and I WhatsApp you pic of ur lover to be first asap and hookup at last.

collins 35yrs old man wants a financially stable divorcee, widow for discreet romance between 30 to 55 yrs, sms or call 0705879356

Am a 26 yrs old young man living in mombasa looking for a mature lady for discreet romance affair 0772544229.

WE sell spy gadgets and do surveillance to catch mpango wa kando, we also provide photos S video showing them doing it live. call spymasters on 0788404275

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The "spring of love" for you. Get a sweet loving partner today. Sma name 0712852468

I am a kenyan born in 1950 and

would like to get in touch with any one whom has a king george one shilling of that very year. Call me on 0724405401 or 0736211045.

Beauties from the north. Marsabit, moyale, isiolo etc. Honest and reliable. For all types. Self. Delivery. Book now. 500 Only. 0721320421

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Want to make money at your business to be promoted at work place to be loved and make your lover faithful to you only call dr abdi now; 0701153677, instant.

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Romantic hookups. get ur dream lady today. SMS mi ur desires and I WhatsApp you pic of ur lover to be first asap and hookup at last.

Married But Unhappy Ladies Want Someone To Romance Their Lives. 0722114000

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V lonely!! Man! Need a loving lady frm gigiri, runda or righways. Sma name 0712852468

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SPORTS FEATURE

Omondi: Juggling sports and

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With football being a short-term career, players are always advised to either invest during their heydays or pursue education, both of which offer a fall-back plan upon retirement.

Some are those who follow while others disregard, only to find themselves struggling once they retire, despite the fame and glory that followed them on and off the pitch during their active days.

However, juggling between sport and studies is a tough choice to make as former Tusker player Zacheaus Omondi narrates.

Omondi, now a medical doctor in Ireland, says that pursuing his choice of academic led him to a path dominated by gruelling days, sleepless nights, and unrelenting pressure, sacrifices that are not easy to bear.

Add top-level football into the equation and the challenge becomes even greater, both mentally and physically.

But Omondi, who played for Kenya Breweries (now Tusker FC) for seven years until 1994, says his experience in sports did more than prepare him to become a doctor at a time when only few dared balance sports and education.

Omondi, who was part of the team that lost to DC Motema Pembe of DR Congo in the final of CAF Cup Winners' Cup at Nyayo Stadium in 1994, says it took him a lot of hard work to achieve his goal. The loss saw Breweries miss the chance to grab a first ever continental title, losing 5-2 on aggregate.

The Kenyan side had managed a 2-2 draw away 13 days earlier and were very confident of finishing the job at home. However, it was not to be as the visitors ran out 3-0 winners. This remains the last time a Kenyan club reached a continental final.

Omondi's rigorous training schedule prepared him for his next big challenge: balancing the demands of medical school at a time when little was known about the footballer's academic background.

"Student-athletes have hectic schedules," he explains. "Training becomes a full-time job. So, I was used to having a lot on my plate."

"The pre-med world can be cutthroat because it's all about the curve," Dr. Omondi, as he is fondly called in the medical field says, but recognises that success in both medical school and sports depends on teamwork.

As fans and players left Nyayo crestfallen, Omondi had to shift gears into his final exams where he 'satisfied the examiners' to join the small list of footballers who had qualified as medical doctors.

By graduating, he joined JJ Masiiga and William Obwaka, who were among the few medical doctors



1. Zacheaus Omondi (Standing 4th L) with his Tusker teammates before a match /COURTESY

How Ireland-based former Tusker midfielder Omondi balanced football and education to become a doctor

in football by then. Just like most of Kenyan footballers, Omondi's journey to top-flight football began at a young age where he had to contend with parents' objection to sports for the obvious fear of neglecting his academics. But unlike many, Omondi was able to balance the two.

"I encountered all the challenges that boys come across. My dad was strict. So much so that the thought of the punishment he would unleash made me toe the line. My mum was equally strict. My love for soccer was such that I would sacrifice many things to play. I recall my mum urging me to pass my CPE (Certificate of Primary Education) and I would thereafter play all the football I wanted. I passed but still had to study," he recalls.

He then went to Jamhuri High School for 'O' Levels before moving to Mangu High School for his 'A' Levels.

"I almost went on a tangent in high school, playing football at the slightest provocation and missing on my school work. Were it not for one of my teachers, Mr Danston Ondachi, who later became

my mentor, I would have missed the boat. Through him, I realised that I had to burn the midnight oil. I would ensure that I trained but had to sacrifice many hours deep into the night to ensure I completed and understood my homework in readiness for the next topic/day. This paid dividends as I passed my 'O' Level exams," he recalls.

Interestingly, it is his football prowess while at Jamhuri that earned him a scholarship at Mangu, which saw his parents go easy on him when it came to sports.

"I recall my inception into sporting activities as a young man growing up in Eastlands. I was lucky that these formative days shaped my journey in football which then got me a 'scholarship' at Mang'u. Learning at the Mang'u ensured that my path to do medicine was predetermined," he said.

He was an important member of the Jamhuri High School side where, during the 1986 finals of the nationals secondary school games, Omondi came up against players who would become his teammates at Tusker.

"Jamhuri was a team to con-

tend with. We were like a Nairobi XI, beating each and every team hands down. We put up a sterling show against Iterio High School which had some top players like Mike Okoth and Henry Motege, who eventually became my contemporaries in the Super League," Omondi said.

It's while at Mangu that Omondi was drafted into a Nairobi Division One side, Iqbal FC (Speedways) where he joined the likes of John 'Shoto' Lukoye, Zedekiah 'Zico' Otieno, Dan Ogada and Joseph Adach Osewe. Dan Shikanda was supposed to be part of the team but joined AFC Leopards.

"I used to leave school over the weekend to play in the Division One league that was competitive too," he said.

He played for Speedways for two years before the 'big boys' came calling.

"I finished my 'A' level exams in 1988 and scouts from Gor Mahia and Breweries came to our house. I chose Breweries and played through my medical school for five years. In 1994, we eventually won the league with Breweries after a



nd studies is possible



MY LOVE FOR SOCCER WAS SUCH THAT I WOULD SACRIFICE MANY THINGS TO PLAY – OMONDI



2. Former Tusker midfielder Zacheaus Omondi preps to attend to a patient / COURTESY

3. Zacheaus Omondi in his Personnel Protective Equipment as he helps fight coronavirus in Ireland /COURTESY



very long time,” he recalled.

He recalled the loss to DC Motema Pembe as if it happened yesterday, saying their opponents were a strong team on that day and deserved to win.

“Motema Pembe had a game plan. They played like they had two players to mark each one of us. They had the mindset of champions. They were geared up for the game. Two goals in quick succession; corner kick and a shot from outside the 18-yard box. I cannot even recall the way the third goal happened. We got disoriented and we did not have a game plan to recover,” Omondi recalled.

He says overconfidence cost his team what would have been his most memorable title.

“Even before the match started, ‘we were two goals down’. Still in dreamland thinking about the title. All the promises were like castles built in air.”

He added: “We won the match even before it began. A journalist accosted me along the streets of Nairobi and asked about our game plan. We didn’t have one. We believed that we were a superior team because we had drawn 2-2 in Kinshasa and we would roll over them at Nyayo.”

“Looking back now, it is very clear to me that we approached the game like novices. We believed in our ability rather than in fortifying our posi-

tions to counter a chess master. Having now watched the great teams all over the world, Omondi says he has realised that the team with better preparation, physically, emotionally and psychologically always wins the game. Never the better team,” he says.

The next season he moved to Gor Mahia, whom he barely played for.

“I hang my boots after one match. I realised that I couldn’t make an impact and decided to continue with my internship in Machakos,” he said.

“After losing to Motema Pembe, reality hit me. I had missed out on an elective term and I had to join my colleagues for the fifth year. A clinical year, and the final one in Med School. It was challenging, I was stressed up to the zenith. I had to contend with not knowing some basics that my colleagues were now at home with, thanks to their apprenticeship in this time in different hospitals,” he said.

After his internship, he joined Kangundo Sub-District hospital as a Medical Officer where he only worked for five months before switching gears.

“I worked for the government for only five months, after which I hurriedly resigned to join the private sector. This being one of the errors of my life. By resigning I had to sponsor my Master’s program and while my colleagues had two jobs – the government money and sponsorship from the government, I only had one job and had to pay for my education,” he said.

He worked at the Aga Khan University Hospital in the surgical department and had a two-year stint in the Neurosurgical Clinic. “A very exciting time in my surgical experience. I then worked in the Accident and Emergency, for more than six years,”

At the end of 2013, he joined his spouse and son in Ireland after having worked as a doctor in all the ‘private’ accident and emergency departments in Nairobi and later as a hospital surgeon for an Italian NGO in South Sudan.

“Moving to Ireland was a new beginning. I moved over with nothing, save for my medical knowledge. I had to sit exams once more. I failed the basic exams many times before I eventually passed. It took me five years to break through and start practicing as a Locum Doctor in General Practice. It is a journey,” Omondi said.

Omondi watches in pain as the standards of football in the country go down each day.

“We were lucky that FKF (KFF then) was a unit and they at least tried to run football well despite the political influence. Politics and self-interest from officials has killed our football and sports in general in Kenya,” he observed.

He challenged young sportsmen to realise that sports have an early retirement and there is life after sports and one needs to develop a skill that they will utilise after the limelight.

“The easiest route in Africa is a sound education. Sporting activities in the western world are considered highly. Sports scholarship is a culture that is embraced in the west. Most of the high performers in studies were also top-end sports figures. The young sportsmen should have a laser-sharp focus on their education even as they engage in sporting activities,” Omondi added.

He said that a balance should be struck and a realisation of success in both should be the main objective.

As COVID-19 terrorises the world, Omondi is in the frontline in Ireland’s Primary Health Care attending to patients.

SPORTS LOCAL



Leonard Barsoton during one of his training sessions in Iten
/EMMANUEL SABUNI

ATHLETICS

Barsoton tells government, pros to support young runners

BY EMMANUEL SABUNI/ Former Africa cross country champion Leonard Barsoton wants senior athletes to guide their young counterparts navigate the waters during this difficult time when everything is at a standstill.

Barsoton said young runners are not only facing both financial and boredom crisis during this period, but they are also confused.

"This is dangerous especially to the inexperienced runners and they need guidance now than ever before. Otherwise, we risk losing them to social vices," he added.

Speaking at his Nandi home, Barsoton, who in February ran Kolkata 25km

in a course record of 63:05 — lowering Kenenisa Bekele's record of 63:45 — said the young runners used to get help from camp administration and fellow runners while in camps.

"The young runners are really suffering. Most depended heavily on training camps meaning they have nowhere to go and have nothing to do," said ago.

The former world cross country junior silver medallist said, unlike the upcoming stars, established and elite runners can still survive for long since they have invested their earnings.

"My main work as an athlete has always been running since childhood.

I wake up to run. Nothing much compared to what I am doing presently courtesy of coronavirus," he said.

"If the younger runners are not assisted, we risk losing them to other social young social vices. This generation can easily give up running and take up other things. Remember, they are young with a lot of energy," he added.

The 2015 Africa Games 10,000m silver medallist said he conducts individual training to remain fit as he looks forward to coronavirus to clear.

"Since there are no races, I just train in Iten to keep fit. I do some long runs like 20km and gym work," he said.

BASKETBALL

Owuor inspired

Morans coach happy with foreign players' progress ahead of Afro-Basketball

BY STEFFANY NDE I/ National team head coach Cliff Owuor is pleased with the progress being made by his diaspora players ahead of the Fiba AfroBasket qualifiers in November.

With the coronavirus pandemic gripping the global sporting activities, Owuor said self-discipline exhibited by the players will be key when the action finally resumes.

"Their discipline is important at the moment. They must all take care during their training and I will continue engaging them in as far as training is concerned," Owuor said. Diaspora players, he noted, remain key to Morans' qualification in the Fiba AfroBasket show slated for November at a venue yet to be announced.

Kenya face against Africa powerhouses Angola, Senegal and Mozambique according to the draws conducted earlier in the year and three teams will qualify from this group. Kenya will go into this tournament well aware of the fact that their last continental outing was at home in 1993.

Owuor, who guided the national side to their first podium finish earning a bronze medal during the inaugural Afro-Can show in Mali last year, is upbeat about their chances.

"If I get all my players who are based outside the country in good form, we should do well. That is why I am really interested in their progress during this time," he said. Rwanda-based Tom Wamukota and Ariel Okal, who plays in Algeria had their leagues cancelled but Owuor is following their daily training.

"Exposure is something good. If they are able to play out there; that will do a lot to their confidence. It will also boost the confidence of others who they play with," he added.

Yesterday, he revealed that in the last 24 hours, he has been in touch with USA-based forwards Ronny Gundo and Robert Nyakundi as well as guard Tyler Ongwae.



Morans' Tom Wamukota towers over a Somalia player during the Afro-Basket pre-qualifiers at Nyayo Stadium
/ERICK BARASA

"I am working out from home and only have access to an outdoor court. We can go out for runs and the likes," he added.

Ongwae said: "I am doing well. I started doing the hill work and I hope to be in good shape when we resume. I haven't touched a ball yet and all the gyms are closed."

Nyakundi noted: "I am ok. The courts are closed and everyone is

practising social distancing so all I can do is run or do body workouts."

Kenya qualified for the show in Nairobi in January, winning a six-team Zone Five event that included Burundi, Eritrea, South Sudan, Somalia and Tanzania. The winners from all the seven zones were then drawn to meet the 16 teams that qualified from the previous championship in Tunisia.

BOXING

Shaffi says Olympic Games delay is blessing in disguise

BY SAMSON ATEKA/ All Africa Games light flyweight silver medallist is not relenting on training as he aspires to rack up the maiden and elusive Olympic Games ticket.

Shaffi said the postponement of the 2020 Games to next year is a blessing in disguise as it hands aspiring boxers who failed to qualify more time and better prospects of making it to the games.

"Now we have ample time to recover lost ground as we await for world qualifiers dates to be officially announced. So it's a wait and see the situation as it's our hope and prayer that COVID-19 will be contained quite early and sports will be back to normal."

Bakari, a product of Mombasa coach Leamy Karibu 'Cobra' is currently back in his Kisauni backyard, where he trains for an hour a day.

"In the spirit of social distancing, I do try to jog then do an hour's workout in the evening. The essence is to keep fit and healthy. Once this pandemic is contained, we will all resume our usual heavy training as we await the new dates for qualifiers," said Shaffi, a former Kisauni Boxing Club member.

Shaffi who were affected by the new weight division rule which reduced men's Olympic weights from 10 to 8, prompting him to move a berth up to flyweight.

"I'm getting along really well in my new weight class though, at the international level, I tend to struggle quite a bit over my rivals who have the due advantage having started in the flyweight category."

Shaffi Bakari
/FILE



SPORTS LOCAL



FOOTBALL

Dangerous trend

There's sharp rise in players reporting depression symptoms, says FIFPRO

BERN/ The global players' union FIFPRO says there has been a sharp rise in the number of players reporting symptoms of depression or anxiety since the sport was brought to a standstill by the COVID-19 outbreak.

FIFPRO said that 22 per cent of women players and 13 per cent of men players who took part in a survey reported symptoms "consistent with a diagnosis of depression" such as lack of interest, lack of appetite, lack of energy and self-esteem.

This compared to 11 per cent and 6 per cent respectively in a similar survey conducted in December and January.

It said that 18 per cent of women players and 16 per cent of men reported symptoms of generalised anxiety such as worry or tension. There was some crossover with 11 per cent of women players and 7.5 per cent of men reporting both

England's Lucy Bronze celebrates with Karen Bardsley after the Women's World Cup quarter final against Norway last year /FILE

sets of symptoms, FIFPRO said. "In football, suddenly young men and women athletes are having to cope with social isolation, a suspension of their working lives and doubts about their future," said FIFPRO's chief medical officer Vincent Goutteborge.

"It is a time of huge uncertainty for the players and their families due to the insecurity of their future and social isolation."

FIFPRO said that the survey, conducted with the Amsterdam University Medical Centre, included 1,134 male players, with a mean age of 26, and 468 female players, with a mean age of 23, in 16 countries.

On a more positive note, Goutteborge said that nearly 80 per cent of players surveyed reported that they had access to sufficient resources and support for their mental health, often through their national player

associations. FIFPRO general secretary Jonas Baer-Hoffmann said they were not trying to make a special case for footballers.

"We are very conscious that this is a reflection of a problem in broader society than and there is no suggestion that it is more severe for our members," said Baer-Hoffmann.

"Footballers are more similar to average society than most people think, and that is simply because of the misconceptions about how players live."

He reiterated that many footballers lived a precarious financial existence at the best of times.

"The average contract length is under two years and the average income is close to that of the general public," he said. "Many are incredibly dependent on their footballing skills and are not prepared for what would come after."

FOOTBALL

Lokomotiv youth player dies during a solo training session

MOSCOW / Lokomotiv Moscow youth player Innokenty Samokhvalov has died aged 22 after suffering suspected heart failure during a solo training session on Monday, the Russian Premier League club said. With the club's players quarantined during the coronavirus pandemic, Samokhvalov was training on his own.

"On April 20, defender Innokenty Samokhvalov died. The footballer became ill during an individual training session. Details of the tragedy are being clarified," the club said in a statement. Samokhvalov arrived at Lokomotiv in 2015 but had not made any appearances in the Russian Premier League. He was playing for Lokomotiv's reserve team Kazanka in Russia's third tier.

"It's horrible. The doctors have told us the cause of death was heart failure," Kazanka coach Alexander Grishin told Russian news agency RIA Novos. "If the doctors allowed him to train then we must assume he did not have any problems."

Russia is in lockdown until April 30 while competitive football has been postponed until May 31.

"Samokhvalov left a wife and a son," added the club's statement.

UK defends allowing sports events just before lockdown

BERN/ The UK government was following scientific advice by allowing major sporting events such as the Liverpool-Atletico Madrid soccer match and Cheltenham horse racing festival to go ahead days before the coronavirus lockdown, a senior minister said.

"At every stage in this crisis we have been guided by the scientific advice and have been making the right decisions at the right time," finance minister Rishi Sunak said on Monday during the government's daily news conference.

"There is often a wrong time to put certain measures in place, thinking about sustainability and everything else. At all parts of this, we have been guided by that science, we have been guided by making the right decisions at the right time, and I stand by that."

The government's deputy chief scientific adviser Angela McLean said the suggestion, made by a reporter, that allowing the soccer game to go ahead in the north-west English city of Liverpool on March 11 contributed to the spread of the coronavirus was "certainly an interesting hypothesis".

LA LIGA

Valencia announce pay cut to cope with suspension of play

MADRID/ La Liga side Valencia have joined other top Spanish clubs in announcing a pay cut for players and coaches to help ease the financial impact caused by the suspension of play due to the coronavirus pandemic.

A statement from the club on Monday said many of its non-playing staff would be able to receive their full salary during the period of inactivity following an agreement with the players. Valencia did not give details of the pay cut agreements.

"First team and academy players and coaches, as well as the board of directors, have shown a huge commitment to help the club and guarantee its economic stability at a time of great difficulty and uncertainty for everyone," said the statement.

"Also, due to the club's commitment to protecting its most vulnerable workers in the face of the

uncertain development of this situation, Valencia will supplement the incomes of a large percentage of its employees.

"The club would like to show its gratitude to the first team players for showing solidarity by reducing their salaries in order to help the club to protect its workers and their families in such complicated circumstances."

Valencia were seventh in La Liga when football in Spain was indefinitely postponed last month with 11 games remaining. Barcelona lead the standings by two points over Real Madrid. Barcelona and Atletico Madrid had previously announced 70 per cent pay cuts agreed by players and coaches to ensure other employees would continue to receive their full salaries. Real Madrid's players and coaches have pledged to take an annual pay cut of between 10 and 20 per cent.



Valencia's Gabriel in action with Ajax Amsterdam's Noa Lang in Champions League match /FILE

SPORTS INTERNATIONAL

EURO 2020

Rashford says he planned to rush back from injury for Euro 2020

LONDON/England forward Marcus Rashford says he was prepared to rush back from injury to play at the European Championship this summer before the tournament was postponed to 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Manchester United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer had said in February that Rashford was a doubt for the Euros due to a stress fracture in his back.

Former England skipper Wayne Rooney, who rushed back from injury to play at the 2006 World Cup, has advised Rashford not to go to a major tournament unless 100 per

cent fit but the 22-year-old said it would be difficult to miss out. "I was probably going to go back (to training) mid or end of April," Rashford told the club's UTD podcast.

"That would have been a push because I didn't want to miss the summer, so I doubt I would have been 100 percent fit going into that tournament. Since then a lot has happened (but) for my body it's been good to give it its full duration to rest.

"I pay attention (to what Rooney says) but at the same time it's tough to say no to something where you could give it a good go. You want to try to play every game you can."

Manchester United's Marcus Rashford during a past match
/ REUTERS



Barcelona's Andres Iniesta during a past match
/ REUTERS



FOOTBALL

Delicate balance

Football secondary during coronavirus crisis, says Iniesta

REUTERS/ With Spain one of the country's hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, Barcelona great Andres Iniesta says he is finding it tough to watch events unfold in Europe from his new home in Japan.

Iniesta, who joined Vissel Kobe in 2018 after a trophy-laden career at Barcelona, told Reuters in an interview on Tuesday that while the importance of football was secondary during the health crisis it was frustrating not to be able to play.

Japan's domestic soccer season has been put on hold during the crisis, with Iniesta remaining in Kobe with his wife and three children.

The 35-year-old, one of the most technically gifted midfielders to play the game, said it was difficult to be away from his wider family and friends back in Spain.

"It is a very difficult situation because you are not there with them,

with your loved ones," he said through a translator. "You can't see what is happening on a daily life level so that is difficult but we keep talking on a daily basis, checking in with them and just hoping that the situation gets better."

The new coronavirus has infected more than 200,000 people in Spain and killed over 20,000. Japan has confirmed more than 11,000 infections of the virus with over 250 deaths. Having to stay home and being unable to train properly has been a challenge but he is savouring being able to spend more time with his family.

"Right now, I think football becomes a secondary thing," added Iniesta, who scored the winning goal for Spain in the 2010 World Cup final. "What is important right now is people's lives, people's jobs, trying to move society forward to

get out of this situation. Having said that, of course as a professional footballer it is difficult to not be able to play football, to not be able to share time with my fans, my team mates.

"I try to focus on the positive things — staying at home I get to spend much more time with my family and with my kids, which normally it is not that easy to do."

After a 16-year spell at Barcelona that saw him win nine La Liga and four Champions Leagues titles, Iniesta decided to take up a new challenge in the J.League. His storied career and that move to Japan are the subject of a documentary about his life: 'Andres Iniesta — The unexpected hero', which is to be released on Thursday.

Despite winning virtually everything there is to win in Europe, Iniesta has not come to Japan to slide quietly into retirement.

PREMIER LEAGUE

Arsenal announce 12.5 per cent pay cuts for players, coaching staff

LONDON/ Arsenal's players and coaching staff have agreed on a 12.5 per cent salary cut due to the COVID-19 pandemic, making the London-based club the first in the Premier League to announce such a measure.

Several Premier League clubs have furloughed employees since the new coronavirus outbreak while others, such as West Ham United and Southampton, have said their players have accepted wage deferrals.

League leaders Liverpool, Tottenham Hotspur and Bournemouth reversed decisions to furlough non-playing staff following criticism.

"We are pleased to announce that we have reached a voluntary agreement with our first-team players, head coach and core coaching staff to help support the club at this critical time," Arsenal said.

"Reductions of total annual earnings by 12.5 per cent will come into effect this month, with the contractual paperwork being completed in the coming days."

Arsenal added that "agreed amounts" would be repaid if specific targets primarily linked to success on the pitch were met in the seasons ahead.

The club said the agreement with players was based on the assumption of the 2019/20 season being completed and the club receiving its full share of broadcasting revenues. "The resulting savings will help cover some of the financial risks we have this season in relation to our match-day and commercial income," the club added.

Arsenal were ninth in the league table, eight points adrift of the fourth place which guarantees qualification to the lucrative Champions League, when soccer in England was suspended indefinitely last month due to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus.

Tottenham's Danny Rose in action with Arsenal's Shkodran Mustafi as Tottenham manager Mauricio Pochettino looks on
/ REUTERS



SPORTS INTERNATIONAL

FOOTBALL

‘We have to be creative’

Football must think innovatively in response to coronavirus, says Fleetwood chairman

BBC / Football in England must think creatively or risk dire consequences, including civil war within clubs, says Fleetwood chairman Andy Pilley.

With football suspended as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, there is concern about the ability of clubs, especially in the lower leagues, to survive financially.

“I don’t think anything is off the table. We have to evolve,” Pilley told BBC Radio 5 Live. “Football has to think creatively and be inventive here, otherwise we run a real risk.”

He added: “We are stuck in our ways and have become very traditional, be it with dates or certain rules continuing because they always have done. But what is important here? It is not who achieves sporting success this year but having a healthy, long-term sustainable football pyramid.”

“Our game is admired across the world and it is in a critical situation. We must find a way to save it. If it means pressing the reset button then that is what we must do because we don’t want to end up with another Bury or Macclesfield or Bolton situation.”

Pilley’s short-term hope is for a financial rescue package from either the Premier League, Professional Footballers’ Association or borrowed against future income. But his longer-term suggestions would prompt greater change to the structure of the English game.

“If there is to be a rescue package one of the knock-on effects is that there should be a covenant and within that there needs to be a salary cap so football becomes sustainable in the lower leagues so we can focus on football and not points deductions,” he continued. “It is worth considering a regionalised League One and League Two. Much as I like Gillingham, I don’t like going there on a Tuesday night, or Portsmouth on a Tuesday night. It makes no sense.”

Wage deferrals by players continues to be an issue during the coronavirus pandemic, with the

English Football League and Professional Footballers’ Association proposing that clubs defer up to 25% of players’ wages in April.

However, this is only a recommendation and Pilley believes it could spark a potential row within clubs.

“I don’t know if people understand the severity of the situation,” he said. “There is a standoff brewing between owners and players that is not good for the game. “Some owners I speak to are for not paying wages or significantly reduced ones and players will not like that. We don’t want civil war within our clubs, we want healthy completion that is the envy of the world.”

Like the Premier League, the English Football League is committed to finishing the campaign once it is safe to do so following the pandemic, and have said it will take them 56 days to complete the nine rounds of matches across their three divisions, plus play-offs.

Pilley is adamant that this season should be finished for financial and integrity reasons, even if that means playing games behind closed doors.

“For the greater good, we have to finish the season. We have signed up to a broadcasting and sponsorship deal and we don’t know the consequences if we break that deal. The prospect of that is hideous, not just for the EFL but for the PL as well. We also have to finish it for the integrity of the competition. There are clubs mid-table saying ‘why should we finish it?’.

“Well, the reason is that they have already received money to compete in this league and we might only have 20% back, but I’m sure they won’t be keen on giving that backup the PL or Sky if we didn’t finish. What disappoints me is there is an element of self-preservation and people having their own agenda. It is a pretty duff hand but we have to play the one we have been dealt.”

To offset the loss of match day revenue, Pilley feels streaming games is the answer.

“Streaming has got to come into play. Let’s face it, the content on television right now is somewhat exhausted. It will be somewhat surreal but these are extraordinary circumstances and if you love your football club you’ll tune in and watch. I think that will help.”

Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola with Ilkay Gundogan and Raheem Sterling /REUTERS



BUNDESLIGA

German clubs buoyed by potential mid-May season restart

Borussia Dortmund's Paco Alcacer and Jacob Bruun Larsen /FILE



BERLIN/German football clubs are hoping a return to action is on the horizon, even if it means playing in closed stadiums, after the country’s health minister and regional leaders said matches could potentially resume from May 9.

The Bundesliga has been suspended since mid-March due to the outbreak of the new coronavirus, which has infected more than 143,000 and killed over 4,500 in Germany.

Regional leaders in Bavaria and North-Rhine Westphalia said on Monday that any league resumption would be without fans and that there would be no action before May 9. “These are very positive signals for any resumption of the season,” said Bayern Munich CEO Karl-Heinz Rummenigge in a statement.

“It is important that we carefully

adhere to any legal and medical guidelines in order to minimise any health risk.”

Borussia Dortmund also welcomed the news, saying politicians had been convinced by the league’s plans and that it was now up to clubs to stick to it.

“This is a show of faith from politics if it means we can play again from May 9 onwards,” Dortmund CEO Hans-Joachim Watzke said.

“If the league did not have such a well-thought-out plan then politicians would have taken a different decision. We now have an obligation to deliver.”

German Health Minister Jens Spahn told Bild newspaper on Sunday that a resumption on May 9 would depend on the infection risk.

“What is crucial is that the infection risk is minimised,” Spahn said. “That

would be for millions of football fans from May 9 onwards a bit of normalcy even with empty stands.”

The German Football League will meet tomorrow to discuss the latest developments and consider a possible start date. Bayern are top of the Bundesliga, four points clear of Dortmund, with nine games left in the campaign.

The League has warned that many clubs in the first and second divisions faced an uncertain financial future and several would be in an “existence-threatening” situation if the play did not resume by June.

Some German shops opened for business again this week after a month of lockdown in an agreement with the leaders of Germany’s 16 states, all keen to start the long haul of pulling the economy out of recession.



FOOTBALL

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SPORTS

FOOTBALL LEOPARDS BOSS THREATENS LEGAL ACTION AGAINST EKHALIE

Trouble at Ingwe?

Shikanda tells members to invest in AFC Leopards Holdings at their own risk



HANDBALL

Follow procedures ahead of elections, Shisoka urges KHF

BY CALISTUS LUCHETU / Kenya Handball Federation (KHF) western branch secretary Akaka Shisoka wants proper procedures initiated in order to deliver free and fair elections following the ruling by Sports Disputes Tribunal asking them to hold polls.

Shisoka, who is a KHF presidential candidate, accused individuals in the federation of malice aimed at locking him out. "I'm not against the elections in any way as long as the process is democratic. I only want the due process followed," he noted.

He said he also wants an independent body to be put in place to oversee the elections in accordance with the Sports Act—something the federation has been reluctant to do for quite a long time.

"This is what has delayed the elections and not me as it is being alleged. In other words, the federation has failed to meet the standards and requirements set out by the government and this has seen them extend their stay in the office illegally since 2017," Shisoka reiterated.

He said he is against the same incumbent organising and overseeing elections in which they are also participants. "The federation's constitution must be amended to conform to the Sports Act 2013 and the Kenya Constitution 2010, which are both clear on what is required to comply," he said.

Shisoka also wants the stakeholders' meeting called before the elections to agree on several pertinent issues including the irreducible minimum requirements to enable the process to take off on a level playfield. Shisoka moved to the SDT seeking to stop the June 30, 2018 exercise.

His prayers to the SDT were to have the counties system adopted in line with the 2013 Sports Act as opposed to the branches system.

The current eight branches include Nairobi, Western, Coast, Rift Valley, Central, Eastern, Armed Forces and Nyanza.

The federation has never held elections since 2013 but with the ruling by the STD, various candidates are already preparing to contest for various seats later this year.

MESHACK KISENGE
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AFC Leopards chairman Dan Shikanda has sounded warning bells to the members against being duped to invest in the unsanctioned AFC Leopards Holdings, an idea championed by the former chief executive officer, Richard Ekhalie.

Shikanda pointed an accusing finger to Ekhalie for advancing his plan to modify the club to a limited company without the blessings of the Executive Committee and the members.

Shikanda said his office had not consented to the scheme and warned the members against investing in it. The former player blasted Ekhalie for using the idea for alleged selfish gains.

According to AFC Leopards Holdings twitter handle, the club's branches will transform into subsidiary companies.

AFC Leopards' Vincent Oburu vies for the ball with KCB's Badi Baraka during a KPL match at Afraha Stadium / **OLIVER MORGAN**

"The person behind the AFC Leopards Holdings train has been the club's CEO for two terms and did not achieve much during his tenure," claimed Shikanda.

"I want to warn our members against supporting his ideas for they stand to lose. He did not approach my office before launching it either have we endorsed it. His agenda is to destabilize and disfranchise the club but we will not accept that to happen."

Shikanda conceded that his office was keen to seek legal intervention and stop Ekhalie from minting millions from unsuspecting members who may be enticed to invest in the unapproved venture. He also accused the former administrator of using the club's name and brand for his own commercial gains.

"I can confirm that plans are underway to initiate legal measures against the guy. He is not an elected executive thus, he can not transact any business on behalf of the club.

It is unacceptable and against the laws to use the club's name and brand for selfish gains," said the former Kenyan international.

However, in a rejoinder, Ekhalie claimed that Shikanda was dishonest as he had shared the blueprint with his office. He, however, acknowledged that the latter did not give his proposal a clean bill of health, stating that it was the prerogative of the members to endorse it.

"Transforming the club from a society to a limited company is something I have been envisaging for quite some time. I will present the proposal to our members in June this year."

"This will help us mobilize money from the fans who will be our shareholders. I think Shikanda is being dishonest when he alleges that I did not approach and discuss the way forward with him. He said the plans were good but it will be upon the members to either endorse it or object it," he said.

**I WILL
PRESENT THE
PROPOSAL
TO OUR
MEMBERS IN
JUNE THIS
YEAR
— EKHALIE**



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