



PD

People Daily

Uhuru's race against time

Corona: Government mulls difficult options — countrywide or targeted lockdown — to tame the fast-spreading deadly virus as eight new cases are confirmed bringing total to 50 **PAGES 2,4,5,6,7,8,9,12**

COVID-19 Hot Lines
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News Beat **PG 4**

Nairobi has 74 per cent of Covid-19 cases, says CS



Health CS Mutahi Kagwe and CAS Mercy Mwangangi

THE SHAME OF A NATION!



Nairobi residents stare in shock at the vandalised water points put up by the Health ministry for handwashing at Uhuru Park, Nairobi, as one of the measures to contain spread of coronavirus in the city now leading the country with cases that have tested positive. The destruction tell a tale of unforgivable levels of ignorance and greed. PD/GERALD ITHANA

UPDATE BY NUMBERS

50 confirmed cases in Kenya in 6 out of 47 counties.

At least 734,931 people have been diagnosed with virus worldwide, 154,673 have recovered while 34,830 have died.

President orders Treasury to set up fund for pandemic

Page 4 Head of State picks Kenya Breweries MD Jane Karuku to head 10-member team of top executives



POINTERS



BUSINESS PAGE 14

State to ring-fence Covid-19 funds in April mini-budget



YOU PAGE 24

Why finding true love is hard today

WEATHER TODAY

Nairobi	26°	Nyeri	24°
Mombasa	33°	Kitui	28°
Kisumu	30°	Wajir	36°

LSK wants court to extend curfew start time to 10pm

Lawyers' body also wants the IG prohibited from using unreasonable force in enforcing the order

by Nancy Gitonga
@PeopleDailyKe

The Law Society of Kenya (LSK) has petitioned the High Court to adjust the start time of the countrywide dusk-to-dawn curfew to 10pm.

Through lawyers Omwanza Omwati and Wakesho Kililo, LSK wants the court to issue a conservatory order extending the time the curfew starts by three hours.

The curfew order, aimed at reducing movement and hence the spread of coronavirus, came in to effect last Friday.

According to the court papers, LSK also wants the court to compel Inspector General of Police Hillary Mutyambai to publish in the newspapers and file in court security guidelines on the conduct of police officers enforcing the curfew order within 24 hours.

The society further wants the Inspector General prohibited from using unreasonable force in enforcing the curfew order and holding him personally liable for unreasonable use of force in enforcement of the curfew against members of the public.

Audio proceedings

LSK also wants police barred from interfering with media on the coverage of the curfew and including the justice system and legal representation in the list of essential service providers.

The body is seeking that Chief Justice David Maraga appoint judges and magistrates to hear urgent matters.

"Pending hearing and determination of the application and petition, the Chief Justice be ordered to issue practice directions and issue directions that proceedings are to be conducted wholly as video or audio proceedings and where it is not practicable for the hearing to be broadcast in

LSK



The police violently assaulted vulnerable persons like pregnant women...

Nairobi residents queue to board public transport vehicles on Latema Road in the city centre, yesterday, to beat the 7pm curfew deadline. PD/
GERALD ITHANA



a court building, the court may direct that the hearing take place in private where is necessary to do so to secure the proper administration of justice," says LSK in its court papers.

LSK further seeks that Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe exercise his powers under section 36 of the Public Health Act and all relevant legislation and issue proper guidelines for the curfew, quarantine or containment of Covid-19 patients.

Monitor movement

The lawyers' umbrella body moved to court to challenge the curfew that took effect on March 27 saying it was abused by the police as they launched a campaign of terror and violence against members of the public.

"The police violently assaulted vulnerable persons like pregnant women, the sick and elderly. They also bludgeoned

providers of exempted essential services such as watchmen, supermarket workers, food trucks drivers and medical personnel on their way to work or from work," says LSK.

The body further argues that police also recklessly kept large crowds on the ground contrary to WHO advice on social distancing.

LSK also accused the police of stopping the media from monitoring their movement and assaulted journalists covering the curfew process.

"Many Kenyans live from hand to mouth and have to work until 5pm to 6pm. Kenya does not have an essential public transport system and it is impracticable. This is exacerbated by the recent reduction in passenger numbers. It is therefore impracticable for these Kenyan to shop for essential goods, find transport and get home by 7pm," says LSK.

Kitui textile centre to make face masks

As Covid-19 continues to impact communities worldwide, Kitui County Textile Centre (Kicotec) has started producing face masks to curb its spread. The facility is making sample facemasks and other preventive gear as the government steps up measures to fight the rising number of infections. The samples will be presented to the Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe and Kenya Medical Supplies Authority (Kems) for approval and subsequent orders. Yesterday, Kitui Governor Charity Ngilu (*below*) said Kicotec has the capacity to make thousands of masks per day. She said the lack of masks, gowns, among other protective gear was hampering the ability of medical workers to fight coronavirus and putting their own lives at risk.

- KNA



Hotel workers in Naivasha sent home

More than 1,000 hotel workers in Naivasha have been sent home in the last two weeks and tens of hotels temporarily closed due to coronavirus pandemic. This comes a few weeks to Easter when hotels expect booming business in the town popular for conferences and tourism. Five major hotels—Enashipai Spa, Panorama, Sopa Lodges, Lake Naivasha Resort, Heritage and Crayfish have suspended operations. Naivasha Professional Association chair Eskimos Kobia said Naivasha was one of the hardest hit towns in the country by the pandemic. "Already nearly all the flower farms in Naivasha have sent their workers home and hoteliers have followed suit and this will have far-reaching implications to this town," he said.

- Kirera Mwit



Panic at KPA as staff tests positive for virus

by Murimi Mutiga
@murimimutiga

Panic has gripped Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) headquarters at the Port of Mombasa after one employee tested positive for Covid-19 while 15 others were put on forced quarantine.

The patient is admitted at Mombasa hospital while another employee with

symptoms similar to those of coronavirus is at Pandya Memorial Hospital awaiting test results.

Full adherence

Yesterday, there was panic at the institution after a cleaner, who claimed to have had contact with the first case at the offices, was taken ill.

A source at KPA said Ministry of Health

officials had visited them and asked 15 workers to go on self-quarantine.

KPA manager in charge of operations Cpt William Ruto said the employee who has tested positive was last in the office on March 20, and has been in hospital since then. He said there is no cause for alarm and urged all employees at the facility to ensure full adherence to the set safety requirements.



When governments are desperate for revenue...

State introduces window fee

The window tax was one of the weirdest and most hated taxes in England. Introduced in 1696, it was initially payable only by landlords of houses with 10 or more windows. While the exemption was intended to protect the poor, it only helped the poor who lived in personal small houses in the villages. The poor in the cities lived in big rented apartment buildings with more than 10 windows. The landlords paid the taxes on the windows and increased rents in response. To avoid these payments, some landlords bricked up the windows of their existing houses and built new houses with insufficient windows.

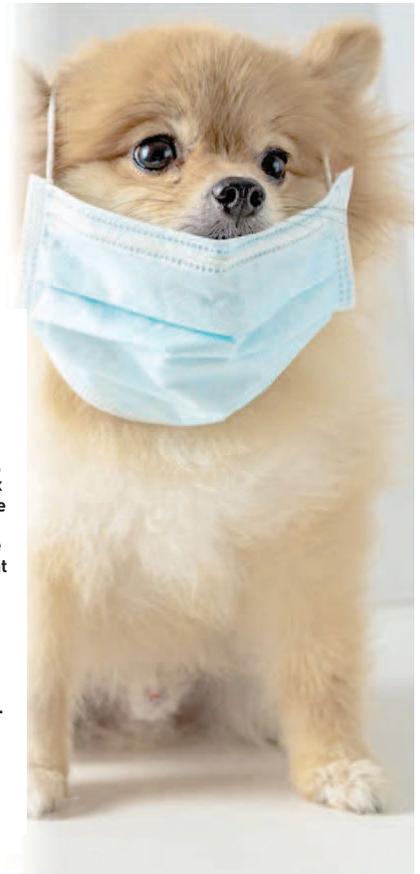
The tax was very unpopular, and people soon started speaking up against it. Doctors blamed the poorly ventilated homes for the increasing cases of diseases like cholera and smallpox. The tax was finally repealed in 1851, after decades of protests and public backlash.



...they tax even the most unexpected things

Residents pay special dog tax

Believe it or not, there is a time people paid taxes to keep dogs. Between 1797 and 1798, Scotland introduced a fixed tax of five shillings on all dogs. The tax caused a controversy soon after it was introduced. People against the tax complained that dogs were being considered objects and not living creatures. Supporters argued that dogs ate food and used other amenities that would have been used by humans, so they should be considered luxuries. The money raised from the tax was intended to be used in helping the poor.



Mandatory beards levy

The first beard tax was introduced by King Henry VIII of England in 1535. King Henry VIII had nothing against beards, and he didn't really need the money. In fact, he kept a beard himself. He was only interested in turning beards into status symbols. The amount to be paid was dependent on the status of the bearded person. The higher the status, the larger the tax. King Henry VIII later abandoned his beard tax, but Queen Elizabeth I reintroduced it when she became queen. She imposed a tax on any beard that was left to grow past two weeks. Everyone who paid the tax was issued a special silver or copper coin called a beard token. They were required to have the token with them at all times. Men who did not have the token or refused to pay the tax would have their beards shaven in public. The tax was repealed in 1772.



Pay for your hats or face the law

Britain introduced a tax on hats in 1784. Every hatmaker within London paid two pounds a year, while hatmakers outside London paid five pounds. These hatmakers were required to have the statement "Dealer in Hats by Retail" above their doors so that the taxman would easily recognize their shops. Hatmakers who paid the tax were issued some stamps that they were to affix to their hats. Anyone who bought or sold a hat without these stamps could be arrested. Some hatmakers tried gaming the system by forging their own stamps. A man named John Collins who was caught red-handed forging hat stamps received the death sentence.



Earn a date with taxman for your clocks, watches

In July 1797, the British government passed an act requiring everyone to pay a special tax on their clocks and watches. Clocks were taxed at a flat rate of five shillings, gold watches were taxed at 10 shillings, and other watches were taxed at two shillings and sixpence. Any clock that cost below one pound was excluded from the tax. The tax was very unpopular and most people just hid their clocks and watches instead of

declaring them as required by the government. People with gold watches also changed their cases to avoid paying the high taxes on gold watches. The government repealed the tax in March 1798, less than a year after it was passed.

When you need to pay to own fireplace

Between 1662 and 1689, a special tax was imposed on all fireplaces in England and Wales. Each fireplace was taxed at one shilling for

six months. The tax was introduced to cover the annual expenses of the royal family led by King Charles II. Nevertheless, the tax was very controversial and hated. First, while every household was expected to report the number of fireplaces they had, local tax collectors would always enter the homes to confirm it.

The tax itself was a failure and did not raise the expected funds and hence, it was repealed.

CORONA CRISIS

Do not travel upcountry, Nairobians told

CS Kagwe says limited movement to protect elderly from coronavirus as Kenya's cases rise to 50

by Anthony Mwangi and Hillary Mageka
@PeopleDailyKe

Nairobi county is emerging as the epicentre of the coronavirus pandemic in the country, with 37 out of 50 confirmed cases.

Consequently, Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe yesterday appeared to restrict travel into and out of the city as the government works around the clock to tame the spread of the deadly virus.

"The virus is now here with us. To avert the spread, Nairobi residents should avoid travelling upcountry and those in upcountry to avoid coming into the city," he advised.

Speaking during his daily briefing on the coronavirus, Kagwe said eight more cases had been confirmed in the last 24 hours, bringing the tally to 50 up from 42 on Sunday evening.

The CS said the pandemic is no longer being imported but is spread from within the country, a trend that signals the grave risk of community transmission by locals exposed to the virus, especially in densely populated urban centres and rural areas.

Elderly vulnerable

Given that a majority of the older population, who are the most vulnerable to the coronavirus, reside upcountry, the minister raised alarm that rapid travel by people from the cities to villages could expose the elderly to the respiratory disease.

"Statistics show majority of older people live upcountry and they are likely to get exposed," he said.

Kagwe said the government was putting in place additional measures, including guidelines on boda boda operators, to stem the spread. He noted that the industry is seen as a weak link in efforts to stop coronavirus spread.

"To protect boda boda operators, we have directed that each rider ferries one passenger at a time and both must wear masks," he said.

Though ferrying one passenger per trip has been the requirement under the Traffic Act, most boda boda operators have been violating it with reckless abandon.



Health CS Mutahi Kagwe (right) with Director General Patrick Amoth (centre) and Government Spokesperson Cyrus Oguna addresses a press briefing at Afya House in Nairobi, yesterday. PD GERALD ITHANA



He said distribution of masks would kick off in all the counties starting next week, and asked the leadership of the boda boda associations to enforce the directive.

Acting Director General of Health Dr. Patrick Amoth said although a majority of Kenya's population is composed of the youths who are not as vulnerable as the elderly, a heavy burden of communicable diseases and weak health systems remain a challenge in the fight against the virus.

To paint the task ahead, Amoth projected that Kenya would hit 1,000 cases mark by the first week of April, 5,000 by its middle and potentially 10,000 by the end of the same month.

"The fact that we have a youthful popu-

lation will be an advantage when it comes to the spread of the virus, but we will be disadvantaged by the burden of communicable diseases and weak health systems," said Amoth.

Responding to queries over the availability of adequate equipment in health facilities to address the pandemic, Kagwe disclosed that Kenya has over 20,000 test kits and that additional 2,000 were set to be delivered yesterday.

He also stated that counties had been asked to set aside 20 secondary boarding schools each to cater for virus patients should the need arise.

"We have asked counties to identify at least 20 secondary boarding schools to cater for the estimated 300,000 patients in the event the numbers spiral out of control," said the CS.

Tracing of contacts

On testing, Mutahi said results he announced were from the 2,050 people in mandatory quarantine. The ministry had in the last 24 hours tested 172 samples, 84 of which had been analysed and results received. One person tested positive for coronavirus from the 84.

Nairobi leads with 37 confirmed coronavirus cases followed by Kilifi (6), Mombasa (3) while Kajiado, Kwale and Kitui have registered one each.

The Minister said 88 samples were tested from close contacts of the previous 42

GLOBAL NUMBERS

● Last evening, global coronavirus cases stood at 741,724, according to Johns Hopkins University. Some 35,305 people have succumbed to the virus.

● Italy leads with 10,799 deaths, followed by Spain (7,340) and China (3,186). In terms of cases, the US leads with 144,146, followed by Italy (97,689), Spain (85,195) and China 82,198.

● A total of 156,841 have recovered from the virus.

confirmed cases, out of which six were found to have contracted the virus.

One of the confirmed cases is a patient at the Aga Khan Hospital, Nairobi.

Kagwe noted that tracing of contacts of the 50 patients is ongoing and the total number of close contacts of cases now stands at 1,474.

"Out of this, 231 have been discharged after completing mandatory 14-day isolation," CS Kagwe said, adding that teams are now monitoring 1,211 contacts.

He said 1,005 people had so far been tested for coronavirus.

"This means the virus is now being spread through community transmission and it calls for more personal responsibility," Kagwe added.

The Minister asked Kenyans to raise their level of awareness and adherence to social distancing guidelines as well as hygiene.

"From the above data it is evident that the virus is being spread through community transmission; which means that the disease is not being imported but being transmitted within ourselves," he said.

He reiterated his appeal to employers to release their employees by 4pm to enable them make travel arrangements before the 7pm curfew kicks in.

"People have not been stopped from working, be it day or night shifts. Employers should not withhold people's salaries and wages because of the existing situation," said Kagwe. He noted that despite the suspension of international flights, cargo flights are still allowed into the country to cushion the economy from the effects of the pandemic.

"The flights are bringing in medicine and things needed in the country and are not bringing in passengers. There will, however, be two planes landing to evacuate Germans in Mombasa," he said.

Five committees formed to co-ordinate virus response

by Zadock Angira
@PeopleDailyKe

Five committees have been formed to co-ordinate the containment of the coronavirus disease in the country and come up with preparedness strategies.

The committees are also expected to, among other things, guide the President on the effectiveness of the national curfew and the possibility of declaring a national emergency and lockdown.

"The committee is expected to develop a comprehensive package of financial, technical and logistical resources,"

the Terms of Reference states.

The main committee, the National Co-ordination Committee on the Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic, which consists Cabinet Secretaries of Interior, Health, National Treasury, Defence and Agriculture will provide a national framework to coordinate and harmonise the committees.

According to documents seen by the *People Daily*, other members of the main committee are the Head of Public Service and Council of Governors chair, among others. This main committee is backed by four other teams.

Uhuru sets up Covid-19 emergency fund

by Hillary Mageka
@hillarymageka

President Uhuru Kenyatta yesterday directed the National Treasury to set up an emergency fund for the coronavirus pandemic.

At the same time, he appointed the chairperson and members of the yet to be formed to be fund.

Kenya Breweries Ltd managing director Jane Karuku was appointed chairperson of the fund.

Several corporate chief executives, including Michael Joseph (Safaricom), James Mwangi (Equity Bank), Narendra Raval (found-

er, Devki Group of Companies), Joshua Oigara (KCB Bank), Jeremy Awori (ABSA bank) and Wachira Waruru (Royal Media Services) will serve as members. Others are Mohammed Hersi (Pollmans Tours and Safaris), Phyllis Wakiaga (Kenya Association of Manufacturers) and Kennedy Kihara (Principal Administrative Secretary at the Office of the President).

The President further designated Interior Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang'i and Council of Governors Wycliffe Oparanya as the joint representatives of the government in the fund.

"The government calls upon all Kenyans, corporate entities both domestic and multinational, as well as our international development partners to support the national initiative," read a statement by State House Spokesperson Kanze Dena-Mararo.

She said the fund will mobilise resources for emergency response towards containing the spread, effects and impact of Covid-19 pandemic. The fund's seed capital will be drawn from the Exchequer, including the voluntary salary-cuts undertaken by the senior State officials as well as donations.

Sacco halts group loans in wake of coronavirus

by Robert Ochoro
@PeopleDailyKe

Wakenya Pamoja Sacco has suspended loans to groups as the effects of Covid-19 continue to bite, chief executive Isaac Omwenga has said.

He said the groups have to wait till the pandemic is contained and urged those with loans to contact the management to negotiate on the period of repayment to comply with the Central Bank Governor Patrick Njoroge's directive to financial institutions.

He said the Sacco has resorted to serving members through mobile phones to reduce the number of customers flocking banking halls in its branches to reduce interaction and spread of the disease.

"Our customers can deposit money through their phones. We are working on a system to enhance withdraws to reduce risks" said Omwenga, adding the Sacco has started registering customers to access the service.

The Officer urged customers who seek services at the sacco's branches to embrace social distance and ensure they wash and sanitise their hands before and after the service as per the government's directive.

Corona infections 'could hit 10,000 by end of April'

Ministry official says cases may increase next month as CS Kagwe indicates the country is at community transmission stage

by Hillary Mageka
@PeopleDailyKe

The Ministry of Health warned yesterday that coronavirus disease cases are projected to rise to 10,000 by the end of April, if no action is taken to control the spread.

Addressing a press conference at Afya House, Ministry of Health Director General (DG) Patrick Amoth said though the virus is not following a trend, the ministry's modelling shows there could be more than 1,000 cases by the first week of April, 5,000 by mid-April and potentially 10,000 by the end of that month.

"Those are the figures we are working to protect ourselves and preposition our personal protective equipment, our test kits, human resource and isolation and quarantine facilities," the DG said.

Amoth raised a red flag on a possible rapid increase on persons who will have

contracted Covid-19 thanks to the country's weak health system and disease burden especially HIV/Aids.

He added: "Though, nature sometimes does not observe but we believe if works along that way, then the actions we will take will ensure we are in control.

However, he said, one thing that will work to our advantage is that our population is youthful, potentially, it is possible they will catch the virus but will pass on as mild illness.

On the contrary, he held, what will work against us is our weak health system and disease burden especially HIV/Aids, especially when we have quick community transmission.

Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe on Monday indicated that the virus is being spread in communities and is no longer imported from the outside the country.

"Those who are not adhering to medicine will be at risk because of lack of viral suppression, therefore putting them at risk," Amoth advised.

While the youthful population will work to our advantage, he held, our higher burden of communicable diseases will disrupt that advantage.

Nevertheless, in consultation with the technical team, Amoth disclosed that the



LURKING DANGER

Health ministry's modeling shows that their could be more than 1,000 cases by the first week of April, 5,000 by mid-April and potentially 10,000 by the end of that month.

Ministry is working very hard to make sure Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital (MTRH) will be able to provide additional testing capacity.

Director of Health Patrick Amoth at Afya House in Nairobi, yesterday. PD/GERALD ITHANA

ministry had agreed to only test those in quarantine after day eight.

"Yesterday (Sunday), we managed to test about 114, half of the population came from people in quarantine so as we go ahead we are going to increase the number of those going to be tested," he noted.

However, he revealed, the ministry was working very hard to make sure Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital (MTRH) will be able to provide additional testing capacity.

The current country's laboratory testing capacity allows for only 300 samples in 24 hours.



Interior CS Fred Matiang'i at a past function. PD/FILE

Non-essential sectors' employees to leave workplace early to beat curfew

by Zaddock Angira
@PeopleDailyKe

Workers who are not designated as critical or essential service providers will have to leave their work places not later than 4pm after Interior Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang'i issues a legal notice.

The Inter-governmental Consultative meeting on the National Response to the Coronavirus pandemic yesterday came up with a raft of measures aimed at containing the spread of the virus.

Matiang'i and the chairperson of the Council of Governors yesterday co-chaired the consultative meeting between the National De-

velopment Implementation and Communication Cabinet Committee (NDICCC) and the Executive Committee (EXCO) of the Council of Governors.

"In order to facilitate compliance with the nationwide curfew, the CS Interior shall cause the issuance a corrigendum to the Legal Notice that put the curfew in place; requiring all employers to ensure that their staff who are not designated as critical or essential services providers leave the workplace not later than 4pm," the meeting resolved.

The meeting also resolved that all County Governments will immediately waive cess

levies on all food items, in order to facilitate the efficient movement of food, guarantee affordability of food items, essential household goods and critical supplies as Kenya combats the pandemic.

"Both tiers of Government shall fully support the ongoing engagement of local industry in mass production of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)," they said.

They also agreed that protocols for the management of food supply chains, markets, enhanced transport logistics, augmentation of sanitation and the operation of County Health Facilities be immediately implemented.

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CORONA CRISIS

State mulls lockdown as spread picks momentum

Health Cabinet Secretary Kagwe warns pandemic had reached communal transmission stage

by Murimi Mutiga
@murimimutiga

The government was last evening considering difficult options to deal with the fast-spreading coronavirus that has now reached a dangerous level of being transmitted communally.

On a day that Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe admitted the virus is now being spread through community transmission, the government was toying with the idea of either locking down the entire country or the four counties of Nairobi, Mombasa, Kilifi and Kwale that have been declared hotspots.

"The disease is no longer being imported from outside but is here with us and spreading among ourselves," Kagwe told a press conference at Afya House, Nairobi, yesterday.

He added: "This calls for a lot of personal responsibility among Kenyans in the fight against the disease."

Experts warn that the virus is entering the most dangerous stage, where it is spread fast and to a greater number of people.

And with Nairobi leading the pack with 37 cases so far confirmed, Kagwe implored residents not to travel upcountry as they risked transmitting the virus to rural residents, many of whom are elderly.

And the government appeared to paint a grim picture of what to expect in the next 14 days, with the Director General in the Ministry of Health Patrick Amoth warning that preliminary modelling data showed that coronavirus cases could hit 5,000 by mid-April, and rise to 10,000 by end of April unless the government comes up with drastic intervention measures.

Various options

"However, in view of the recent directives on social distancing, travel restrictions and mandatory quarantine as well as other public health measures, there may be a delay in reaching the first 1,000 cases," Amoth said.

Yesterday, Kagwe disclosed that eight more people had tested positive for the virus over the last 24 hours. Of the eight, one was under mandatory quarantine at a government facility, six were close contacts of the 42 cases reported while the last one was reported at the Aga Khan Hospital.

According to sources, the government is in a dilemma on whether to declare a national lockdown to curb the spread of the disease.

Should that happen, it could lead to a unprecedented economic crisis never witnessed in the country.

President Uhuru Kenyatta (pictured) is said to have yesterday morning chaired a meeting bringing together members of the National Emergency Response Committee on the Coronavirus and the National Security Council where various options were discussed.

Immediately after the State House meeting, Interior Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiangi chaired another meeting of the Intergovernmental Consultative Meet-

CORONAVIRUS: RACE AGAINST TIME

Option 1

● Declaring a lockdown has been a headache for the government as it would mean locking Kenyans at their homes at a time when the economy is suffering from excessive borrowing that has seen Kenya's external debt hit the ceiling.

● Many Kenyans live on less than Sh100 a day and have to struggle to get their daily bread. Thus the government would be forced to provide them with food and other necessities for them to stay in their houses.

Option 2

● Letting Kenyans to go on with their economic activities could be costly to Kenyans as it might lead to many deaths as the country does not have the financial, human resource capacity and medical equipment and facilities to deal with a big number of infections.

Option 3

● "Localised lockdown" targeting the five counties which have reported cases of the Covid-19. These are Nairobi which has 37 infections, Kilifi (six), Mombasa (four), Kwale (one), Kitui (one) and Kajiado (one).

● A source at the Health ministry said a shutdown in the five counties would involve stopping all movement of people in and out of the counties, a mandatory stay at home order to stop what medical experts call the community phase of spread of an outbreak. This would result in a near economic shutdown of the country because Nairobi is the centre of commerce.

ing on the Coronavirus Pandemic, which, among other issues, resolved to fully incorporate county governments in the government strategy.

"Both tiers of government shall fully support the ongoing engagement of local industry in mass production of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)," a statement jointly signed by Matiangi and Kakamega Governor Wycliffe Oparanya, the chairman of the Council of Governors, said.

With confirmed Covid-19 cases now standing at 50, the virus seems to be spreading wider, with disease control experts warning that the country should prepare for the worst.

Daily bread

As it stands now, the government has to decide whether to shut down all activities which would see the economy grind to a halt or put on a brave face against a disease that even countries with functional healthcare systems such as the United States, France, the UK and China, are finding insurmountable.

The first option of declaring a lockdown has been a headache for the government as it would mean locking Kenyans at their homes at a time when the economy is suffering from excessive borrowing that has seen Kenya's external debt hit the ceiling.

Many Kenyans live on less than Sh100 a day and have to struggle to get their daily bread. Thus the government would be forced to provide them with food and other necessities for them to stay in their houses.

Currently the government does not have money and has asked the World Bank for financial assistance.

The second option of letting Kenyans to go on with their economic activities could be costly as it might lead to many deaths as the country does not have the financial,

human resource capacity and medical equipment and facilities to deal with a big number of infections.

Uhuru is also said to be considering the third option of "localised lockdown" targeting the five counties which have reported cases of the Covid-19. These are Nairobi which has 37 infections, Kilifi (six), Mombasa (four), Kwale (one), Kitui (one) and Kajiado (one).

Limit movement

A source at the Health ministry said a shutdown in the five counties would involve stopping all movement of people in and out of the counties, a mandatory stay at home order to stop what medical experts call the community phase of spread of an outbreak. This would result in a near economic shutdown of the country because Nairobi is the centre of commerce.

The first phase of the disease spread involved transmission from people arriving from foreign countries, while the second stage comprises people who come into contact with those from foreign countries which had reported cases of Covid-19.

Nairobi is the administrative capital and economic hub of the East African region while Mombasa is the gateway for all imports. Most traders in the region get their goods from the two cities.

Another possibility that the government is exploring is stopping all people from leaving and entering the city to stop the spread of the virus.

"We are in a stage where nothing should be left to chance. I think with the current trend, the government should consider locking down Nairobi and limiting movement of people coming in and leaving," said Dr Felix Riunga, an infectious disease expert at Aga Khan University hospital.



Riunga warns that the government must be prepared to take difficult options during this stage.

"This is the most dangerous stage and in the event of the absence of drastic interventions, we are likely to enter a crisis level with many confirmed cases, deaths and many more people in quarantine," he warned.

On Sunday, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development Secretary-General Mukhisa Kituyi said Kenya and other developing countries cannot on their own effectively cushion their people from the coronavirus and a lockdown could send the country into recession.

Speaking on our sister station K24's Punctline programme, Kituyi asked the President to seek a debt moratorium.

"First of all, I don't think any developing country on its own has all the right tools to cushion its people properly... The President is well-respected internationally. He can be one of the leaders of an African campaigning for a moratorium on the repayment of multilateral and bilateral debts. Let China postpone the servicing of the SGR debt for example," Kituyi said.

Job losses

Already companies have started sending workers home and the private sector has asked the government to provide incentives to help companies remain afloat and stop imminent job losses.

Kenya Association of Manufacturers has proposed tax cuts for small and medium enterprises (SMEs), reduction of corporate taxes from 30 per cent to 15 per cent for the next six months and zero-rating VAT on essentials goods.

The government's last option, which is also proving difficult, is imposing a lockdown in Nairobi where majority of the coronavirus cases have been reported.

There has been reported cases of panic movements to upcountry by families living in Nairobi and Mombasa and this could further spread the virus.

Dr Willis Akhwale, the former head of Disease Control at the Ministry of Health, says that a total lockdown of either the entire country or the four counties is inevitable.

"We are in uncharted territory, we must move fast to contain the disease from getting into the community phase by starting random tests and within areas where cases of infections have been reported," he said.

MUTAH KAGWE



The disease is no longer being imported from outside but is here with us and spreading among ourselves.

DR RIUNGA



We are in a stage where nothing should be left to chance. The government should consider locking down Nairobi.

CORONA CRISIS



Street children at the Ziwani ground in Nakuru, yesterday. Most street families are unable to adhere to the set anti-coronavirus guidelines such as proper hygiene. PD/RAPHAEL MUNGE



Defying the curfew? This shop in Kawangare, Nairobi, remained opened long past the curfew deadline on Sunday evening. PD/KENNA CLAUDE

Traders in Nyeri town market have embraced cashless payment to reduce the chances of contracting the virus. PD/JOSEPH KING'ORI



Mombasa residents and tourists alight from a ferry at the Likoni channel yesterday. Ferry users are taking precautionary measures such as wearing masks to keep the virus at bay. PD/NDEGWA GATHUNGU



Shree Visa Oshwal Community members, led by Bindi Shah (centre), donate foodstuff to Joshua Kimemia, director of Mind Your Community lobby, yesterday for distribution to street families in Nairobi. PD/ALEX MBURU



Thika Road, known for heavy traffic during rush hours, was yesterday morning marked by light traffic as many city dwellers opted to work from home. PD/ALICE MBURU



Safety and business go hand-in-hand for this hawkker spotted selling masks and hand sanitizers on Uhuru Highway, Nairobi, yesterday. PD/SAMUEL KARIUKI

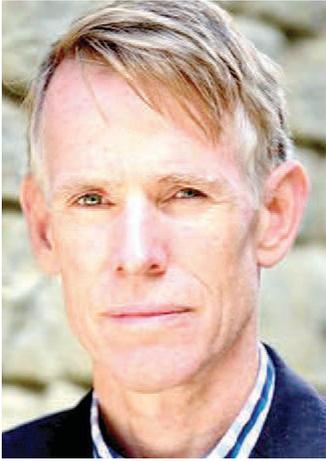


Trans Nzoia Deputy Governor Stanley Tarus leads the county health team in fumigating streets and premises in Kitale town, on Saturday. PD/DAVID MUSUNDI

WORLD UPDATES

- 1 Spain has reported 812 new deaths, taking the national total to 7,340.
- 2 But the country's foreign minister says the upward rise in cases appears to be flattening out.
- 3 Some 20,000 former NHS staff have returned to work in the UK.
- 4 A breathing aid that can help keep patients out of intensive care has been created in days.
- 5 Confirmed cases in Germany jump up 4,751 to over 57,000.
- 6 US guidelines on social distancing will be extended until at least April 30.
- 7 Meanwhile, India's PM asked for forgiveness over its sweeping lockdown.
- 8 There are now more than 730,000 infections globally and almost 35,000 deaths.

Doctor's diary: We know a coronavirus tsunami is coming



by John Wright

We know from what's been happening in Italy how Covid-19 is likely to affect us in Bradford (Institute for Health Research). Multi-generational households are common in Italy and also here - particularly among Pakistanis, who make up under a third of the population and are genetically predisposed to heart disease and diabetes, the very underlying health conditions that can make Covid-19 particularly deadly.

There are poor areas in Bradford, and some white people have high levels of lung disease from smoking. We know there is a tsunami coming.

At present there are 16 intensive care beds in the hospital and that's usually enough, but it's been projected that we could be treating 500 people at the peak of the epidemic,

so we need to ramp up very quickly. A disused ward has been fitted with ventilators and other wards are being reconfigured.

Dr Debbie Horner, in charge of Covid-19 intensive care planning, says accepting the scale of what's happening has been like going through the stages of bereavement.

We have also been taking steps to obtain more personal protective equipment. Our stocks of surgical masks are good, but supplies of more effective PPE masks and eye-protection visors were running low. So a consultant, Dr Tom Lawton, went to Screwfix to buy industrial masks - and then found a way of attaching medical filters to them, using a 3D printer he keeps in his garage. Another went to a builders' merchants and bought 2,000 pairs of goggles.

Consultant anaesthetist Dr Michael McCooe, meanwhile, started

looking into ways of sterilising masks, so they could be re-used, and called Whittaker's gin distillery in the Yorkshire Dales. Mr Whittaker himself answered the phone, and said that his 96 per cent proof gin could be diluted for the purpose.

"He was very happy to donate to us," Dr McCooe told me.

Seasonal viruses

But in the last week or so, both Horner and McCooe have gone into isolation. Debbie called me on 20 March, just before we were going to run our Covid-19 case rehearsals, to say that she had some mild symptoms and was going to go home, just to be on the safe side. We haven't yet started testing staff for the virus, but given how important she was, we felt that we needed to make an exception

- and so we arranged for a surreptitious visit to Accident and Emergency on Saturday to swab for Covid-19 and other more likely seasonal viruses.

Then, on Monday, our microbiologist rang to drop the bombshell: the swab had come back positive.

A day later the clinical director of urgent care, Dr Sam Khan, started to feel unwell. And then Dr McCooe was forced to self-isolate because his partner, another anaesthetist at the hospital, was ill. It seems likely that we were infecting one another as we planned our response to coronavirus.

If we lose many more of our senior clinical leaders at this early stage of the campaign it would be a disaster.

We have a rapidly increasing number of cases, but it still feels like the calm before the storm. And the eye of the storm will be in our Intensive Care Unit. —BBC

38 legislators who met Rabai MP told to self-quarantine

Kamoti, who has tested positive for Covid-19, attended joint sitting of two National Assembly committees

by Anthony Mwangi and Hillary Mageka
@PeopleDailyKe

At least 38 MPs and a number of Parliamentary Service Commission employees have been asked to self-isolate because they came in contact with Rabai MP Kamoti Mwamkale who has tested positive for coronavirus disease.

Yesterday, the Clerk of the National Assembly Michael Sialai, who last week submitted the MPs' names to the Health ministry for testing, said they should be quarantined for 14 days.

"We asked all the Members, especially Members of the Justice and Legal Affairs Committee and the Delegated Legislation Committee, who interacted with Hon Kamoti to go for self-isolation," he said.

The MP is said to have attended meetings of the two committees. Sialai, however, said none of the MPs had shown any symptoms of Covid-19.

At the same time, MPs who attended the burial of Msambweni MP Suleiman Dori on March 9 have been asked to go for testing.

The MPs are said to have come into close contact with Kilifi Deputy Governor Gideon Saburi who is undergoing treatment for the disease.

Precautionary measure

As of yesterday, Kenya had 50 confirmed cases of Covid-19 and one death.

Some Members of Parliament were two weeks ago directed to go on self-quarantine after traveling to countries that had been affected by the pandemic.

Funyula MP Wilberforce Oudo, a Mem-

ber of the Delegated Legislation committee, confirmed that he had been on self-quarantine as a precautionary measure following reports that one of their colleagues had tested positive.

"I have been on self-isolation since March 17, today marks the 14th day. I have not developed any symptoms of the coronavirus. I am well," Oudo told *People Daily* on phone yesterday.

He, however, said he did not attend the meeting which Kamoti is said to have been present but had decided to follow the Ministry of Health safety protocols.

The two committees with a combined membership of 38, held a joint sitting on March 17 in the presence of Kamote, who is a member of the Justice and Legal Affairs team.

Social distancing

Makueni MP Dan Maanzo, who is a Member of the Delegated Legislation Committee, confirmed that he had been called by officials of the Ministry of Health who asked him to self-isolate.

"Fortunately I did not attend that particular meeting. I responded to all the questions concerning my health but told them I did not interact with Kamoti," said Maanzo.

Another Member of the Delegated Legislation Committee, Waihenya Ndirangu (Roysambu) said he did not self-isolate because he did not attend the meeting in question.

Ndirangu said the situation could have been worse had Kamoti sat through the

JOHN MBADI

I am OK unless you are telling those who interacted with Kamoti to be isolated forever.



National Assembly's Justice and Legal Affairs committee chair William Cheptumo and vice-chair Alice Wahome during a past committee sitting. PD/SAMUEL KARIUKI

meeting. "Luckily Kamoti came in late and found Members winding up. Again the Speaker had on the previous day cautioned Members to practice social distancing and so Members adhered to that," he said. Support staff assigned to the two committees have also undergone tests and 14 days quarantine.

Baringo North MP William Cheptumo chairs the Justice and Legal Affairs Committee while Uasin Gishu Woman Rep Gladys Shollei leads the Delegated Legislation one.

It is believed Kamoti, who is the first lawmaker to test positive, contracted the disease after interacting with Kilifi Deputy Governor Saburi.

Facing charges

Saburi also interacted with Kilifi Governor Amason Kingi who has tested negative but opted for the 14-day self-quarantine.

The Deputy Governor is among those who will be charged for ignoring a government directive of 14 days self-quarantine upon arrival from a country that has cases of coronavirus. Saburi had returned from Germany.

Yesterday, a PSC commissioner who did not want to be named, said the MPs who will be tested are those who interacted with the Rabai MP during a joint sitting of the two committees.

"As a matter of caution, we have advised the ministry and other govern-

ment agencies, to trace and subject the persons the Rabai MP interacted with on the March 17 to a test," the official told *People Daily*.

"We have also advised all those who attended the burial of Msambweni MP Suleiman Dori to also be tested," he added.

Among legislators who attended Dori's burial are Senators Mohammed Faki (Mombasa), Issa Juma Boy (Kwale), MPs Ali Mbogo (Kisumu), Omar Mwinyi (Changamwe), Khatib Mwashedani (Lunga Lungu), Benjamin Tayari (Kinango) and Kassim Tandaza (Matuga).

Others are National Assembly Leader of Minority John Mbadi and ODM secretary General Edwin Sifuna.

Mbadi said although he attended Dori's burial, he had not been asked to self-isolate.

"It is now 21 days and none of the Members who attended has been asked to self-isolate. I am OK unless you are telling those who interacted with Kamoti to be isolated forever," said Mbadi on phone.

Kamoti tested positive for coronavirus at Premier Hospital, in Nyalii Mombasa where he had been forced to quarantine after coming into contact with Saburi who is at Mbagathi Hospital in Nairobi.

Other MPs of the two committees, the ministry is also tracing other MPs who may have interacted with Kamoti.

JUSTICE AND LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

● Kipkiror, William Cheptumo: Vice Chairperson

● Wahome, Alice Muthoni

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

● Mutai, Japheth Kiplangat

● Kipyegon, Johana Ngeno

● Murugara, George Gitonga

● Shollei, Gladys Jepkosgei-Boss

● Shamalla, Jennifer

● Wambugu, John Munene

● Kiai, Anthony Githiaka

● Tuya, Roselinda Soipan

● Yussuf, Adan Haji

● Waweru, John Kiarie

● Hassan, Zuleikha Juma

● Kaluma, George Peter Opondo

● Gimose, Charles Gumini

● Mwamkale, William Kamoti

● Momanyi, Ben George Orori

● Adagala, Beatrice Kahai

● Oluoch, Anthony Tom

NAKURU

Clergy call for counselling in isolation centres

Church leaders in Nakuru have called on the government to introduce counselling programmes in Covid-19 quarantine and isolation wards throughout the country to avert more suicide cases. This comes after a 27-year-old South African woman allegedly committed suicide in her quarantine ward at Kenya Industrial Training Institute in Nakuru while undergoing check-up for the Covid-19 last week. The clerics say seclusion is a major contributor to depression calling on the State to send a counsellor to each of the wards. **- Roy Lumbe**

NAKURU

Hairdressers in Rift Valley told to close shop

Barbershops and salons operating in Rift Valley region have been ordered to close with immediate effect after being cited as the weakest link to the spread of Covid-19. Rift Valley Regional Commissioner George Natembeya said the businesses do not meet the recommended social distance rules and guidelines set by the Ministry of Health especially when attending to customers. Natembeya said the businesses should remain closed for at least 30 days as the government reviews progress on the spread of the disease. Operators must obey the directives, he warned. **- Roy Lumbe**

NAIROBI

Party leader calls for total lockdown

Justice and Freedom Party leader Justus Juma has urged President Uhuru Kenyatta to impose a total lockdown to curb the Covid-19 spread. He said although a number of measures have been rolled out by the government, more needs to be done to ensure citizens observe social and thus tougher methods should be introduced. "We would like the President to effect a lockdown which will be pre-planned and logistically effective plus legal in its very nature. It is clear the steps put up by the Ministry of Health are not working," he said. **- Barry Silah**



Court delivers rulings via Skype to inmates at Shimo la Tewa

by Monica Kagia @PeopleDailyKe

At least 20 security officers, including a senior police officer, have been arrested across the country for contravening curfew orders in the last two days.

Another General Service Unit constable who was interdicted over disciplinary issues was also arrested in Ruaraka after they were found 'enforcing' curfew orders.

In Nairobi, a Kenya Prisons Service warder and an Administration Police (AP) officer attached to the Critical

Infrastructure Unit (CIPU) are some of the officers who were arrested for contravening the orders.

"Some of them were found in drinking joints while others were found in churches. They will not be taken to court but will be dealt with departmentally," the Nairobi Police Commander Philip Ndolo said yesterday.

Police headquarters also said that the Segla Police Post commander Inspector Hussein Abdulahi was arrested after he turned rowdy when he was found drinking in a bar around 8.30pm.

The officer who is believed

to have been drunk drew his pistol forcing the team to retreat.

Ukwala OCS Chief Inspector Timothy Kwemoi then joined the team and managed to disarm, and then arrested him.

"Inspector Abdulahi attempted to draw his pistol again but the officers acted swiftly and disarmed him.

During the arrest, he assaulted the OCS and injured him on the head," a report from the police headquarters reads. Inspector Abdulahi was also injured on the head and the left and left hand, according to the report.

Insecurity threat after rogue officers flout curfew rules

Countrywide arrests confirm nightmare faced by public in face of errant policemen committing crime under restriction order

by Zadock Angira @PeopleDailyKe

At least 20 security officers, including a senior police officer, have been arrested across the country for contravening curfew orders in the last two days.

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In another case in Ruaraka, po-

POLICE BREAKING LAW

● Security officers including a senior police officer have been arrested across the country for contravening curfew orders

● In Ruaraka, police officers on patrol stopped three men riding on a motorcycle

● Found with a police communication set, a pair of police handcuffs serial number KP/IE/000217, and a whip

lice officers on patrol stopped three men riding on a motorcycle. They were searched and found with a police communication set, a pair of police handcuffs serial number KP/IE/000217, and a whip. They identified themselves as officers from the GSU headquarters and senior officers at the headquarters were contacted.

"The gang is said to have been extorting from members of the public while posing as police officers," a senior officer told the *People Daily*.

It was then established that one of them was indeed a former GSU officer but had been interdicted for having been involved in criminal activities. The two other members of the public were identified as Pascal Etyang and Titus Ndirangu Kimani.

Concerns have been raised on the conduct of some police officers especially those enforcing the curfew orders amidst reports that they were using unjustified and brutal force in dealing with members of the public.

Several human rights organizations and the police oversight body, the independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA) have launched investigations into the reports.

NDOLO

The gang is said to have been extorting from members of the public while posing as police officers

Men are from Mars. Women are from Venus. Watch what happens when they all come to earth.

TUJUANE X EVERY TUESDAY AT 10PM

24 it's what's on

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QUOTED TODAY



BEATRICE ELACHI
 The House Business Committee will meet and come up with the agenda for the sitting. We want to show our support for (Nairobi Metropolitan Service head Mohammed) Badi and his team.



EKURU AUKOT
 While we appreciate that our police are out there, the intention appears not to enforce the curfew but to unleash, without any justifiable cause, violence on already suffering Kenyans.



ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEAF
 It is clear that lapses were made in the initial response to the virus, from Asia to Europe, to the Americas. Cues were missed. Time was wasted. Information was hidden, minimised and manipulated.

State's affordable food plan laudable

The government's move to set up a programme to provide affordable food to Kenyans caught up in the coronavirus crisis is timely step in the right direction.

That the measures to tame the spread of the deadly respiratory disease have adversely affected the economy and left majority of Kenyans in a more vulnerable position cannot be gainsaid.

Thousands of people working in sectors such as the hospitality and service industries, which have been grounded by the global travel restrictions and lockdowns, have either been sent home with half or no pay.

It is, therefore, encouraging that the ministry of Agriculture is taking stock of the food reserves across the country with the intention of buying and selling to the needy at an affordable price.

However, as the government mobilises resources to embark on this noble cause, it has to remain alive to the machinations of cartels that often distort the food chain to make a killing when food shortage strikes.

There is need for transparency in identifying households that are genuinely in need and avoid taking the programme in the route affirmative initiatives, such as Kazi Kwa Vijana, took. The latter aimed at addressing youth employment but ended up being a cash cow for unscrupulous public officials.

The strength of a nation lies in how it supports its weakest at a time like this, when the socio-economic order has been disrupted by a virus which has infected more than 730,000 people globally and claimed close to 35,000 lives. In Kenya, the infection figure stands at 50 with one death and one recovery reported so far.

And one of the forgotten groups is the street families and the homeless in urban centres. For them, the call to stay at home and ensure social distancing rings hollow. They have no home in the first place and are badly exposed to the vagaries of the weather and other afflictions.

These are the kind of people we must think about and come up with programmes to provide them with food, shelter and other essentials. Unless this happens, they will be the weakest link in the efforts to stop the spread of Covid-19.

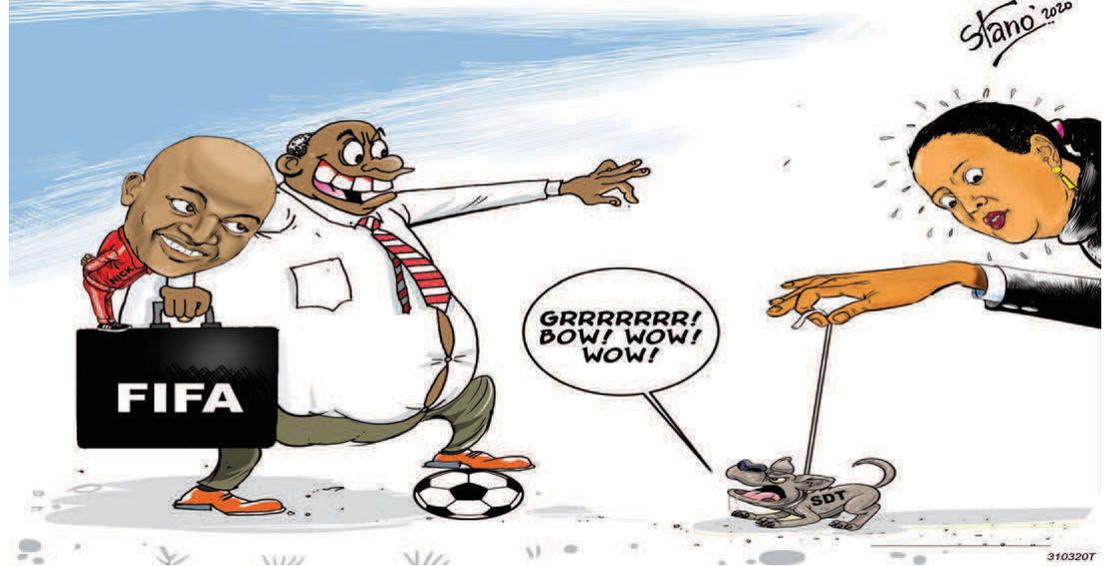
There are many lessons to borrow from other countries in managing vulnerable citizens. We need to act now.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

PEARL BUCK

The test of a civilization is in the way that it cares for its helpless members.

stanolonde@gmail.com



Sound leadership, media key in beating Corona

The coronavirus pandemic has been the most humbling and numbing experience in my long career as a journalist.

It has also underscored the vital role that the media can play in promoting life-saving behavioural changes in society.

To manage the challenging response strategies to this pandemic that has shaken humanity to the core, a strong and consistent political will is required at all levels of governance.

The global and national response to coronavirus is being viewed real time, on 24-hour news channels, radio stations, print media and social media platforms, with tweets and Facebook posts trending at rapid speed across the country and the world.

There is a lot of misleading information on social media that gives false confidence or causes unnecessary alarm, thus undermining efforts to combat the spread of the disease.

Coronavirus reminds us we need effective leadership in the health sector; we need a system and people who can inspire public confidence. This is war and we are all in the frontline. President Uhuru Kenyatta cannot be everywhere to lead the fight.

The Commander-in-Chief needs commanders to lead troops against the enemy, not the type who unleash terror on hapless wanjani, in the name of enforcing a curfew.

Such police officers deserve nothing short of banishment from a service expected to



ALBERTO LENY

The chain of command and the direction of the war must be clear

protect and serve the people. Their actions are grossly inhumane, regardless of whether they are enforcing lawful orders during a humanitarian crisis.

We need effective generals with compassionate understanding of this unprecedented situation such as Ministry of Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe, Chief Administrative Secretary Mercy Mwangangi and acting Director General Patrick Amoth.

Global health experts say the critical messages the media should disseminate now is that managing this pandemic requires political will, people engagement, contingency planning, effective programmes and strategic partnerships.

This means having a timely and effective surveillance and response strategy in place, mobilising and educating the people, motivating frontline health workers and supporting the required services to deal with the virus.

With the poor investment in health security and weak health infrastructure, we are ex-

posed to the virus on a massive scale.

Could the curfews and lockdowns, social distancing, closing borders and imposing travel restrictions and quarantines be the right action that came a little too late?

How about the demand for testing kits, isolation facilities, essential drugs, human resources and safe human corridors to deliver needed resources? Do we have enough facilities, should, God forbid, the caseload rise to thousands?

The chain of command and the direction of the war must be clear. With decentralisation and devolution, coordination at the counties level is crucial, in collaboration with partners, faith-based organisations and private practitioners.

Directives are difficult tasks to implement. The challenge of epidemiology is disseminating effective, real time, credible information to the public. The media cannot abdicate its vital responsibility in this war of the century.

The coronavirus pandemic prompts us to revisit the design and implementation of universal health coverage along its three pillars of equitable access to health services, financial risk protection of the most vulnerable and quality of care.

It is an opportunity to rebuild the health-care system which provides affordable primary services, with appropriate interventions and full participation of the people.

— albertoleny@igmmail.com

Kenya must seal her global spot in war on Covid-19

The coronavirus disease is now at our doorsteps. Some 42 people had by Sunday, already tested positive for the virus in Kenya. Globally 732,153 people have been infected and over 34,000 dead.

The existential threat of Covid-19 to humanity is real and in the end, there may be no nation that will be spared the vagaries of the pandemic and its impact on the political, economic and social order. Kenya has put in place tough measures to tame the spread of the virus. These be effectively enforced until the pandemic is fully contained.

The government should be commended for enforcing stringent public health measures designed to curb the potential escalation of the crisis within our borders. The directives are mainly intended to limit person-to-person interactions, seen as a powerful catalyst of the virus transmission.

Additionally, travel restrictions including a lockdown of the country's airspace are already in effect, with travelers into the country put under a mandatory 14-day self-quarantine.

But even as the measures are implemented, many Kenyans are seemingly yet to take the threat posed by the virus seriously. Social distancing remains complacent

PETER MURUMBA

Several eminent Kenyan scientists have been enlisted in the global search for a vaccine

as evidenced by crowding in some public spaces. Worse, some people continue to defy government directives on self-quarantine even when suspected of harbouring the virus.

Such reckless behavior is seriously endangering lives and could likely trigger an explosion of the disease in the country. This is why we must all religiously adhere to social distancing and other precautions to arrest the disease before it consumes us. Those who fail to obey government directives should be made to suffer the full wrath of the law regardless of their social status.

Tracking of those who may have come into contact with infected persons must be diligently done to minimise the risk of community spread, identified as the next wave of the pandemic. All persons must stay indoors except for essential movement which again should be kept to a minimum.

However, much as the prognosis of the pandemic may be bleak, it is notable that Kenya has scored some

positive milestones that catapult her to the forefront of the global fight against coronavirus. Some of the milestones have immediate benefit to Kenyans and the world while others will significantly boost the country's ability to tackle other pandemics in future.

First, Kenya was recently chosen by the World Health Organisation and the African Union to host the African Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC), effectively transforming the country into a future regional hub of medical research and disease control. This will not only strengthen Kenya's capacity to combat pandemics, but also benefit from transfer of knowledge.

Second, Kenya last week became the first country in Africa to unveil a telemedicine technology hub for detection of coronavirus. This will boost her ability to respond to a contagious disease that is spreading across the world like a bushfire.

The latter underscores Kenya's march at the forefront of innova-

tion in diverse fields. The country was ranked second most innovative country in sub-Saharan Africa in the World Intellectual Property Organisation's Global Innovation Index 2019, and number 29 globally.

Third, several eminent Kenyan scientists have been enlisted in the global search for a vaccine for the coronavirus. They include respected virologists and epidemiologists based at the University of Nairobi's Kenya Aids Vaccine Institute and at the Kenya Medical Research Institute. Their role includes identifying suitable candidates for vaccine trials as well as research into coronavirus management strategies.

Again, this gives the local scientific community exposure to global best practice and expertise in medical research and innovation. It also further raises Kenya's international profile in the global scientific circles.

The above demonstrate Kenya's unique position to champion the global fight against the pandemic. This is a rare moment that Kenyans must not squander through laxity. We must remain extra vigilant against the enemy by embracing social distancing and other State directives.

—The writer is the managing director, Impulso Kenya Ltd

STREET TALK

Corona exposes church leader's second wife

The coronavirus pandemic has put families under pressure, having to adapt to new lifestyles. And as if that is not hard enough, a popular church leader, who is under quarantine, is in trouble after his wife discovered the 'man of God' has another (secret) family. Trouble began when the cleric, suspected of having contracted coronavirus, was ordered to self-quarantine as well as everyone he had come into close contact with. The man was forced to reveal all the places he had been to, only for the wife to learn she has a co-wife, who has been married to her husband for 14 years. She has two children with the cleric.

MP 'Photoshopped' governor's pictures

A governor and an MP from the county cannot see eye to eye after the latter allegedly conspired with a county employee to 'Photoshop' (manipulate) images of the governor in a comprising position with a woman. The employee confessed the legislator paid him for the job aimed at embarrassing the governor after the original photo was traced to his laptop. Now the Director of Criminal Investigations (DCI) is hunting for the MP who has since gone into hiding.

Media man deactivates FB account after blunder

A senior staff in a leading media house was recently forced to deactivate his Facebook account after he accidentally sent out inappropriate messages to several women at his workplace. The quiet man who hardly interacts with his colleagues, was sending the message to his girlfriend while working from home when he accidentally sent out the message to three female colleagues he was instead supposed to invite to an online meeting. While he has explained to them it was an accident, he is yet to recover from embarrassment.

Tough time for politico with no time for family

A politician who rarely stays with his family is having a difficult self-isolating at home. The man recently called his friend to confess he is forced to lock himself up in his bedroom for hours because his teenage children do not want anything to do with the absentee father. His effort to strike a conversation with his children and reconnect with them is proving hard. One of them is said to have told him to his face he has no right to discipline him because he is never around.

Kenya-US cooperation in anti-terrorism war timely

Since the 1998 bombing of the US Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya has suffered numerous terrorist attacks, leaving hundreds dead, thousands maimed and property damaged. In the last two decades, terrorism has emerged as perhaps the single biggest threat to Kenya's security and economic stability.

As a survivor of one of a terror attack, I have deeply reflected on the war on terrorism particularly how Kenya can boost her capability to fight and defeat this enemy. The news of the signing, last month, of a historic counter-terrorism partnership between Kenya and the United States couldn't be more timely. The deal will see the creation of a Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF), the first of its kind involving Americans to be established outside of the US.

The joint taskforce, spearheaded by the Kenyan government in collaboration with US State Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) will be based in Nairobi. It will significantly boost Kenya's ability to combat terrorism.

According to the US Embassy in



EDWARD MWACHINGA

The taskforce (JTTF) heralds a new phase in Kenya's war on terrorism

Kenya, the overall objective of the JTTF is to promote terrorism investigations and prosecution, enhance the country's ability to respond to terror crises as well as boost border security.

To achieve this, an initial team of 12 Kenyan counter-terrorism experts will undergo specialised training at the FBI Academy in the US. As a multi-agency force, JTTF will also focus on managing counter-terrorism intelligence, which is crucial to building stronger surveillance and deterrence capacity.

The setting up of the JTTF comes in the wake of the Global Terrorism Index 2019 which ranked Kenya number 21 among countries most impacted by terrorism. This is evident in key sectors of the economy such as tourism, which has suffered the disruptive effects of terrorism

resulting in loss of jobs.

Terrorists have also triggered insecurity in several parts of the country, notably Northeastern Kenya, where al-Shabaab is blamed for a spate of attacks on schools, shopping, infrastructure, quarries and security installations leading to many fatalities. In the coastal region, the islamists staged an attack on a military base on Manda Island in January, killing three American military personnel and contractors.

Although through military intervention has hit the al-Shabaab hard, the group remains a threat. There is, therefore, value in concerted effort by Kenya and her international partners in the war in terrorism in combating terror groups. More importantly, we need to move as a country from a reactive to proactive approach to counter-terrorism. This

is crucial in identifying, disrupting and defeating terrorist elements and their criminal networks.

The JTTF, therefore, heralds a new phase in Kenya's war on terrorism by providing a platform for collaboration with a strong ally while building local capacity to tackle the threat posed by global terror networks.

Kenya will also benefit immensely by strengthening local capacity in investigation and prosecution of terrorism cases under the JTTF framework. This is a vital cog in the delivery of justice to victims of terrorism and their families. Inadequate capacity to handle terrorism cases has always been cited as a missing link in the justice system, with suspects walking scot-free due to bungled investigations and prosecutions.

In a nutshell, the JTTF lends considerable impetus to Kenya's quest to eventually eliminate terrorism as a security and economic threat. Neutralising the enemy before it strikes is the ultimate weapon in this war.

—The writer is an advocate of the High Court of Kenya. emwachinga@yahoo.co.uk

#TWEETS TO THE EDITOR



#KOT continued imploring on Kenyans to Stay at home to stop coronavirus.

@AquinasNzomo: A big shout out to our health workers and the sane police men and women putting their lives on the line for the rest of us. #StayHomekenya

@LinusKaikai: BILLIONAIRES world over

- Jack Ma et al have acted on #Covid_19 . What are Kenyan counterparts waiting for? To print ELECTION CAMPAIGN T-shirts?#StayHomekenya

@MissKwegah1: #StayHomekenya is working. Ask your friends and relatives to do so too. And if you can't avoid staying home, then exercise abundant caution.

/// @PeopleDailyKe /// f People Daily

@mxurih: #StayHomekenya The GOK should direct that it is against curfew rules to step out in public without an absorbent cloth covering the mouth and nose. Simple but effective.

@AminaAdam_s: #StayHomeKenya Lets purpose to stay at home, we are the ones offering the virus free transport.



TRUTHIS: The weaker we feel, the harder we lean on God.

CORONA CRISIS

Only 28 senators will sit per session

Speaker says committee has recommended reduced number of lawmakers at any given time to maintain prescribed social distancing

by Hillary Mageka
@PeopleDailyKe

Senate resumes sittings today after a two-week break over the Covid-19 pandemic.

Following the Covid-19 outbreak in the country, the lawmakers altered their calendar to proceed on recess to check the spread of the virus, which has wreaked havoc across the world.

The action was part of the government's efforts to contain the spread of the virus though some MPs have expressed concern this will prevent the government from being held to account for its decisions.

The number of people in Kenya who have tested positive for the Covid-19 disease has risen to 50 by yesterday.

Globally, there are 638,146 confirmed cases of Covid-19 with 30,039 deaths.

In an unprecedented move, the legislators' troop to the House this afternoon amid stringent measures including social distancing that will see members attending the session in shifts.

In a bid to tame the Covid-19 disease, only 28 members will be allowed in the chamber at any one time.

In an interview with *People Daily*, Senate Speaker Kenneth Lusaka confirmed that in consultation with the ministry of Health, the House Business Committee has recommended that only 28 senators will be allowed at any given time.

However, senators who are aged above 58 years have been urged to stay away from the Parliament precincts. "It is all system go, we have labelled the seats and the sitting arrangements is in place ready for tomorrow," Lusaka said in a phone interview, adding: "The chambers have also been fumigated accordingly," he added.

Lusaka said, the House will be considering the Division of Revenue Bill, 2020, which has received from the National Assembly and the same is set for introduction in the senate for First Reading. The House will consider formation of adhoc committee that will consider and make recommendations on the effects and preparedness of counties on Covid-19 pandemic.

"We want to prepare the counties adequately on how to handle this pandemic by recommending appropriate measures on combating the virus because the talk right now is only concentrate at the national level," he said. "We don't want to look like a talk show, the committee will be tasked to table their recommendations in seven days if approved tomorrow," he said.

LUSAKA

We want to prepare the counties adequately on how to handle this pandemic



SENATORS BACK TO WORK

● Lawmakers altered their calendar, to proceed to a recess to tame the spread of the virus.

● The legislators' troop to the House Tuesday afternoon amid stringent measures including social distancing.

● Senators who are aged above 58 years have been urged to stay away from the Parliament precincts.

Senate Speaker Kenneth Lusaka at a past press conference. PD/
SAMUEL KARIUKI

BRIEFLY

Taita Taveta hit by shortage of meat as abattoirs shut

Taita Taveta county is reeling from an unprecedented shortage of beef and meat products after slaughterhouses in the region were shut down as part of measures taken to combat the spread of Coronavirus.

Hardest hit are hundreds of butcheries in Voi, Wundanyi and Mwatate town who rely on meat supply from the licenced slaughterhouses.

To stay afloat, some traders have started ordering meat from slaughterhouses in Mar-

iakani and Makindu in Kilifi and Makueni counties respectively. "Things are bad. We really have to improvise to survive because we can't get any supply," said Peter Mwambi, a butcher in Birikani in Voi. Despite the shortage, the traders have not hiked the prices with a kilo of beef still going for 380 shillings.

Mwambi, however, said the situation might change due to the high costs of transporting meat over such long distances.

-KNA

Officials warn parents on home tuition

Education officials in Kisii county have urged parents and guardians to stop sending their children for tuition, saying they risk contracting Covid-19.

Education Executive Amos Andama and County Kenya Secondary School Heads Association (Kessha) chairman Jairus Onchoke said they have information some parents were engaging teachers to teach their children at home.

Onchoke said some parents and guardians were hiring private teachers, adding they

are being monitored and will be arrested and prosecuted. Speaking to *People Daily* separately, they said the children were out of school because of the pandemic, stressing it was wrong for parents to endanger lives of pupils. "Children are not on holiday. They are at home due to the disease. I expect parents and parents to protect them," Andama said.

He urged parents to make use of the television and radio education programmes, availed by the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) to keep their children busy. "Parents should not subject the children to child labour," he said and urged parents to sensitise their children on the disease and ensure they embrace hygiene.

- Robert Ochoro

How press card saved me during Lamu curfew

by Jane Wangechi
@PeopleDailyKe

Working as a journalist in the times of a curfew is no walk in the park.

When a curfew was imposed on Lamu in 2014 after the Mpeketoni attack, I was thrown into confusion. Al Shabaab militants had killed at least 48 people.

Among those killed were fans watching a World Cup match at a local hotel. The country was coming to terms with the brutal attack when the then Interior minister Joseph Nkaissery announced the curfew. At the time the dusk-to-dawn curfew order was issued, I was in Majembeni village interviewing families of palm wine harvesters who had reportedly been shot dead.

On arriving at Mpeketoni past 6.30pm, I was shocked to find the town full of soldiers. I was flagged down by a Kenya De-



fence Forces soldier, who wanted to know where I was going. I produced my press badge and that saved me from immediate arrest. The curfew lasted for 90 days—from July to September 2014.

By 7pm, the town would be a ghost place. Another curfew was imposed in June 2017 after 10 people were killed in Jima-poromoko in Lamu county.

The then Lamu County Commissioner

Gilbert Kitiyo, issued the curfew that did not spare even journalists. The curfew was reinforced by KDF. More killings would be witnessed in selected villages that were difficult to access for fear of being attacked. One such attack was at Hindi village that left four people dead.

And on January 2, three passengers were shot dead by hooded men prompting the security team to issue a travel ban on all vehicles from 10pm to 5am. On January 5, terrorists attacked the US-Kenya military camp at Manda Bay that left three soldiers dead.

This prompted a travel ban to be imposed by county commissioner Irungu Macharia. On several occasions, I found myself at crossroads with the security agents at night. On more than one occasion, I was forced to seek accommodation in hotel rooms for fear of violating the curfew directives.

Outa, Nyong'o tiff rages as former accuses latter of working alone

by Barry Sila
@PeopleDailyKe

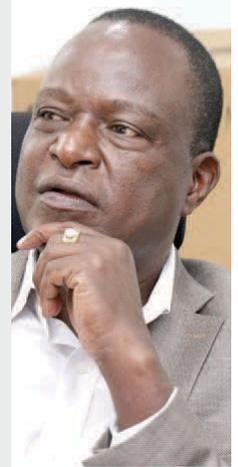
The war between Kisumu Governor Anyan'g Nyong'o and Senator Fred Outa (pictured) has escalated with the latter accusing the county chief of working as a lone-ranger.

The decision by Nyong'o to assign himself the role of County health minister in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic has angered Outa who has accused the governor of doing little to ensure that Kisumu citizens are protected from the respiratory disease.

According to Outa, Nyong'o has not come up with any emergency strategy to fight the virus. "It is my take and feeling from my interactions with the people on the ground that

County Government of Kisumu is unprepared for any eventuality. This deadly disease is here with us; at the moment we are unaffected but I can tell you that if it reaches our shores, we will suffer heavily," said the senator.

However in a stern rejoinder, County Director of Communications Alloys Ager accused Outa of ignorance and gross disrespect. He warned the senator to concentrate on constructive criticism instead of engaging in sideshows. "Senator Outa is a leader yet he behaves in a manner suggesting otherwise. He must be out of touch with reality with current affairs because as a County we are prepared enough and doing the necessary sensitisation drives on coronavirus as directed by Ministry of Health," he said.



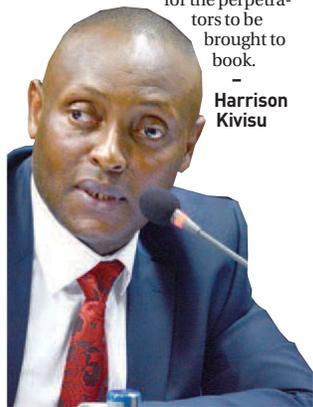
BRIEFLY

Beware of con men, traders cautioned

Taita Taveta Governor Granton Samboja has warned local traders against falling prey to conmen purporting to be acting on behalf of his office. This follows complaints from liquor distributors who claim to have lost money to the fraudsters. Samboja (*below*) said on March 29, a local liquor distributor only identified as Kinyua reported to have paid money to officials from the governor's office but it was later established that he had fallen victim to a criminal enterprise. The county chief urged members of public who might have been conned to record statements with the police

for the perpetrators to be brought to book.

- Harrison Kivisu



Thousands crammed in camps over floods amid Corona fears

Kisumu county government has recalled staff from key departments to resolve the displacement crisis

by James Magayi and KNA
@PeopleDailyKe

Heavy rainfall in Kisumu over the past week has caused massive floods and displacement of more than 2,000 people.

Those affected by the floods in Muhoroni, Nyando and Nyakach sub-counties are crammed in five camps with women and children making up the largest population.

Overcrowding in the camps has heightened the risk of contracting coronavirus. This has prompted the county government to deploy staff from key departments such as engineering and public works to coordinate the provision of water and ablution equipment to the camps.

The county is also mulling providing the displaced with food aid if the rains persist. Governor Anyang' Nyong'o yesterday urged farmers to plant fast maturing crops to avert a possible crisis in the county as Covid-19 fears continue to cause major disruptions in the food supply chain.

"These camps crammed with displaced people are potential centres for the spread



Residents mill around the flooded Ayweyo bridge on River Nyando in Kisumu. PD/VIOLA KOSOME

of Covid-19..." Nyong'o said.

In Siaya, some 100 residents of West Ugenya location have been displaced after river Nzoia burst its banks.

Support victims

Hundreds of acres of farms have also been submerged, with residents fearing that starvation was imminent, as the seeds they had planted would not germinate.

Ugenya deputy county commissioner Pamela Otieno said the worst affected areas were Mudondo and Lunga villages within Mahawa scheme.

She said some of the families have already moved to Lunga Primary School for temporary shelter.

Over the weekend, Siaya Governor Cornel Rasanga called on the national government and donors to support the flood victims. He said that with the pandemic that requires proper hygiene, the victims may be exposed to the virus unless quick action is taken to cushion them.

"The floods have come at a time when most of our resources have been channelled towards tackling coronavirus and we appeal for support," he said.

IN SUMMARY

● Heavy rainfall in Kisumu county over the past week has caused massive flooding and displacement of more than 2,000 people.

● In Siaya county, some 100 residents of West Ugenya location have been displaced after river Nzoia burst its banks.

Police investigate attack on Eldoret street families

Police in Eldoret have launched investigations into an incident in which Uasin Gishu county enforcement officers and night guards reportedly unleashed terror on street families on Sunday night, leaving three of them seriously injured. The street families stormed the Central Police Station yesterday morning demanding the arrest and prosecution of the county personnel and night guards linked to the attack. County police commander Johnstone Ipara assured the injured that action will be taken against the personnel.

- Winstone Chiseremi



Adjusting to change

Cattle 'demand the right of way' on the Shadrack Kimalel Road in Nakuru, where public service vehicles were relocated recently, in a bid to curb the spread of coronavirus. PSV operators want the county government to remove livestock from the new stage and provide water and sanitation facilities.

PD/RAPHAEL MUNGE

State to carry on with aerial spraying of desert locusts

The government is set to carry on with aerial spraying in 27 counties infested with desert locusts.

State Department of Crops administration secretary Kello Harsama said eight aeroplanes and 500 National Youth Service officers have been deployed to tackle the locust menace in the counties.

He added that 10 vehicles mounted with chemical spraying machines would be used by the officers in Marsabit, Isiolo, Meru, Samburu, Laikipia and Nakuru while four would be on standby.

Harsama said the Food and Agriculture Organisation (Fao) has donated 10 vehicles and chemicals, which have been in use in the northern region.

He said Wajir, Mandera and Garissa counties are free from the locust invasion but still have two months before they are declared fully locust-free zones.

Harsama said county governments should recruit their residents to fight the locust menace instead of fully depending on the national government.

-KNA

MCA's halt payments for hospital supplies

by Brian Musyoka
@PeopleDailyKe

The County Assembly of Embu has suspended all payments for non-pharmaceutical supplies and food commodities at the county level five hospital on suspicion of fraud.

Deputy Speaker Steve Simba said the ward reps had unearthed a scheme involving massive inflation of purchase prices of basic items needed at the referral health facility.

He claimed the scam had been orchestrated by unscrupulous



businessmen seeking to profiteer from the sick, with the aid of the hospital's head of procurement department. A tough talking Runyenjes Central MCA said Governor Martin Wambora must, with immediate effect, sack the officer suspected to be corrupt and replace him with a person whose

integrity is beyond reproach.

Simba (*pictured*) disclosed that, for instance, the hospital had been purchasing one kilogramme of maize flour at more than Sh340 as opposed to the market price of Sh75.

The Deputy Speaker asked the Finance and Economic Planning Executive to submit a list of the county's verified pending bills as gazetted by the Office of the Auditor General. He claimed efforts by the Assembly's Liaison Committee to obtain the list had always hit a snag as the said Executive strives to keep it secret.

MANUFACTURING



Brookside to buy milk at Sh36 per litre

AGRICULTURE: Farmers who sell milk to Brookside Dairy have a reason to smile after the company announced it would start buying a litre of raw milk at Sh36 beginning April 1 up from the current Sh35. The firm says the move is meant to cushion farmers from the adverse effects of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

Last month, the Ruiru-based milk processor, which controls about 40 per cent of Kenya's raw milk market, increased its buying price by Sh7 to Sh35 per litre to maintain an edge over competition.

Prior to the increment, the company used to buy milk at Sh28 per litre.

The increase was in response to an earlier directive by President Uhuru Kenyatta where he ordered Treasury to release Sh500 million to New KCC to enable them buy milk from farmers at the improved price of Sh33 per litre.

Farm-gate prices

"As the country implements far-reaching measures to contain the coronavirus and its threats on the economy, and especially agriculture, we decided to increase farm-gate prices of milk. That will not only boost the dairy farming businesses but also help minimise the negative financial impacts of pandemic, which is also affecting the dairy farming community," Brookside director of milk procurement and manufacturing John Gethi (pictured) said in a statement.

"The new prices are also an incentive to our farmers to invest in climate-smart dairy practices," he added. — Lewis Njoka

State to ring-fence Covid-19 funds in April mini-budget

As economy continues to take a hit, National Treasury says it will factor in financial impact of novel virus

by Zachary Ochuodho and Lewis Njoka
@PeopleDailyKe

No economist saw it coming and what started as a global travel and health scare has now hit every sector of the local economy, threatening to slash growth by more than 50 per cent.

In their forecasts, the National Treasury mandarins and Bretton Woods institutions were concerned of the weather and locust invasion as the main underlying issues. Therefore, as Treasury prepares the second supplementary Budget, draining already stressed pockets to help the government deal with the impact of the virus is the only recourse.

"The supplementary Budget will take into consideration the health pandemic as well as its financial and economic impact," said Treasury Principal Secretary Julius Muia.

Dwindling fortunes

Muia says the Budget will be tabled at the National Assembly and Senate for consideration in April 2020. The exchequer is expected to ring fence cash to target the coronavirus pandemic amid dwindling economic fortunes.

Central Bank of Kenya last week cut its 2020 economic growth forecast from 6.2 per cent to 3.4 per cent which is the lowest rate of growth since 2008, when a global financial crisis and the post-election violence plagued Kenya's economy.

Analysts now admit that whereas these measures will negatively affect



Hawkers sell second-hand clothes, bags and shoes at the Globe Roundabout in Nairobi, yesterday, ignoring the social distancing safety measure. Businesses have been suffering since the first coronavirus case was reported in Kenya, thereby affecting the country's economy. PD/ALICE MBURU

the economy in the short run, a full-blown outbreak could cripple the economy and lead to massive loss of life. It will also take some time to go back to normalcy despite hope from the 2008 crisis.

"It is still too early to tell what the actual impact of the virus will be, but it is expected to reduce economic growth and lower consumer purchasing power," said Stephen Ngugi, AIB Capital investment manager.

Ngugi says coronavirus shocks and actions taken to limit its spread are likely to affect the economy in ways people would never imagine.

"All sectors will be affected negatively except the telecommunication

sector which is likely to benefit," said Ngugi.

According to Ngugi, although it is still too early to tell the full extent of covid-19 shocks, the spillover effects from countries badly hit by the virus have started manifesting in the tourism, manufacturing and agricultural sectors.

Foreign exchange

"Agricultural production is likely to weather the storm. However, foreign exchange earnings are likely to decline due to stricter border control," a study by AIB capital shows.

The cut flowers sub-sector is likely to experience adverse fallout.

Already flower farms have sent employees' home.

Manufacturing activity is subdued, as the effect of restricted movement of people and supply chain disruptions, characterise the sector. The high dependence of the sector on intermediate goods from China has affected output.

Real estate and construction will experience a further decline. The construction industry's slowdown will persist on account of the reduced movement of people and fewer project approvals from the government. The real estate sector may also be affected by slower economic growth and lower demand.

Private sector lobby to empower health essential manufacturers

by Lewis Njoka
@LewisNjoka

Kenya Private Sector Alliance (Kepsa) has identified health, economy and food as the three focus areas in its plan to mitigate the impact of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic on the nation.

At the same time Kepsa, the apex body for Kenya's private sector, has rolled out a 24-hour call centre and a Covid-19 information portal aimed at enabling businesses receive information on business and health as well as strengthen supply chains during the

pandemic.

The Action Plan outlines measures to support new manufacturing businesses to fill emerging gaps in global supply chains, encourage domestic production of essential items that were previously imported and accelerate the adoption of innovative business models and technologies required during the crisis.

Under health, Kepsa plans to ensure that local businesses are manufacturing as many health essentials as needed to contain the spread of Coronavirus.

These include masks, sanitisers,

disinfectants and medical products. In addition, members have formed initiatives to acquire ventilators to complement government efforts.

Stimulus package

"Under the economic category, Kepsa is engaging the government on various issues, including an economic stimulus package, to ensure minimal job losses, cushion SMEs and to produce the needed health essentials and financial packages to mitigate the threat Covid-19 poses to food production," said Kepsa chief executive Carole Karuga (pictured) in

a statement. According to Kepsa, several of its members are undertaking different initiatives to tackle unemployment risks.

These include flower farms giving away flowers to maintain farm jobs and Export Processing Zones selling clothes to local dealers as opposed to exporting.

Several Kepsa members have launched initiatives to feed their employees, while other members are rolling out innovative feeding programmes in the informal settlements in major urban centres across the country.



Coast grapples with curfew-induced food supply constraints

The Coast region continues to face challenges that threaten its existence with some traders having to close shop while others adopt a wait-and-see approach in the wake of the impact of Covid-19.

The situation, worsened by the dusk-to-dawn curfew, has triggered a sharp decline in the supply of goods and services, leading to a spike in costs of essential com-

modities.

If the situation continues, Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry official Rukia Rashid says residents will not access essential commodities.

"Agribusiness is the most affected. Since the Coast region depends on agricultural produce from other parts of the country, supply chain disruptions, occasioned by the cur-

few, will affect access to food," said Rashid.

In Kongowea market, traders who normally sell wares outside the market are no where to be seen, having run short of food commodities such as vegetables to sell.

Drivers who deliver agricultural produce have halted night travel for fear of being brutalised by police in the ongoing curfew.

The region depends on commodities transported overnight from upcountry, but since the curfew was imposed, the supply has gone down prompting them to increase prices of the little that's supplied.

Price of vegetables has doubled with a cabbage going for about Sh100 while a tomato goes for Sh20 up from Sh5.

- Harrison Kivisu



BRIEFLY



Prudential to cushion clients diagnosed with coronavirus

INSURANCE: Medicare Group Prudential will offer its clients cash benefits as well as what is covered by their existing policies should they be diagnosed with Covid-19.

Prudential Kenya chief executive Raxit Soni said they have taken the unprecedented step to ensure the company remains a partner in its clients' time of need.

"We care deeply about the well-being of our customers and in line with our philosophy of being the Right People for Life, we are providing these extra benefits at no ad-

ditional cost," he added.

Soni said as Kenya goes through this period of uncertainty due to the coronavirus pandemic, the company remains committed to providing support and comfort to its customers.

Under the arrangement, customers who test positive for Covid-19, will be entitled to a lump sum cash payment of Sh10,000. In addition, if a customer is placed under mandatory quarantine in an approved government facility, they will be eligible for a daily cash benefit of Sh2,500.

- Barry Silah



South Africa businesses brace for nationwide total lockdown

MONEY: South African businesses braced for a nationwide lockdown and panicky buyers stockpiled food and other essentials on Tuesday as the number of confirmed coronavirus cases jumped to 554 from 402 a day earlier.

President Cyril Ramaphosa announced the 21-day lockdown from midnight on Thursday in an address to the nation on Monday, saying Africa's most advanced economy needed to escalate its response to curb the spread of the respiratory pandemic.

Unlike developed econo-

mies, South Africa hasn't promised massive fiscal stimulus to cushion the blow from the coronavirus, partly because it has limited room for new spending as it battles to preserve its last investment-grade credit rating.

The lockdown will pile added pressure on an economy that is already in recession and where roughly 30% of the population is unemployed. Many business owners are worried, despite a handful of support measures like tax subsidies announced by Ramaphosa.

- Reuters

Sacco members divided over dividends directive

While some say the move is illegal, others maintain it will cushion them against Covid-19 financial shocks

by Lewis Njoka
@LewisNjoka

A recent directive by the government instructing Saccos to issue dividends before the proposed figures are approved by members has elicited heated debate among stakeholders with some supporting and others opposing the move.

Ordinarily, dividend proposals must be approved by members in an annual general meeting (AGM) before being paid as per the law.

Many Saccos were unable to conduct AGMs this year after the commissioner for co-operatives suspended all meetings in a March 16 circular in line with an earlier presidential directive requiring all Kenyans to observe social distancing as a way of combating Covid-19.

In a second circular dated March 26, the acting commissioner for co-operatives Geoffrey Njang'ombe directed Saccos, whose statements have already been audited, to pay dividends and interests awaiting ratification in the next AGM.

Office holders

He further directed that all Sacco leaders, whose term was to expire before the just suspended AGMs, to continue holding office until the crucial meeting is held. The law requires Saccos to have held their AGMs on or before April 30.

"Sacco societies are hereby allowed to pay dividends and interests on deposits as long as their financial statements have been audited and submitted to the commissioner as per section 25(7) of the Cooperative Societies Act," says Njang'ombe in a statement.

"Dividends and interests paid will eventually require ratification of the members in the next annual general meeting. It should also be noted that those officials whose term of being in office expires before the AGMs are held should continue to hold office till the next AGM," he adds.

Pandemic mitigation

Freeze on AGMs

Following President Uhuru Kenyatta's directive on social distancing, the commissioner for cooperatives suspended Sacco's annual general meetings in a March 16 circular

Audited accounts

In a second circular, dated March 26, the commissioner asked Saccos, whose accounts had been audited, to pay dividends and interest to Sacco members

Legal basis

The commissioner based his decision on Cap 490 of the Cooperative Societies Act which gives him the right to allow Saccos to pay dividends without approval from members during an AGM



OTOTO

We are in an unprecedented situation. People need liquid cash so that they do not suffer

Members' opinion is divided on whether the move by the commissioner is legal and suitable for the co-operative movement considering that there exists mistrust between some Sacco leaders and members.

"The directive is against the law. Dividends must be approved through an AGM," said Harran Githae, a social media user.

Fighting coronavirus

"Dividends must be approved through the AGM, huyu Njang'ombe alete uluhu ingine (Njang'ombe should provide an alternative solution)," said Titus Kipngetch, also a social media user.

"We know the politics in Saccos, we would rather have an AGM first," said another social media user identified as Ythera Ythera.

Some, however, feel the move was helpful and justified considering that the world is at war with the Covid-19 pandemic.

"We see companies paying interim dividends, hence, Saccos can also pay interim dividends that will be ratified later," said Wakake Unyadoho.

Even as the debate rages on, some Saccos have gone ahead to comply with the commissioner's directive.

"The board had proposed to pay dividends to members at the rate of 15 per cent and interest on deposits at 8.15 per cent. We shall proceed to make payments to members in line with the above circular," reads a statement sent by Mhasibu Sacco to its members.

Saccos' umbrella union supported the commissioner's directive saying it would help ensure members with low income can afford basic necessities during the pandemic.

Kenya Union of Savings and Credit Cooperatives (Kuscco) chief executive George Ototo called on Saccos with audited statements to issue dividends and ratify them later as instructed by the commissioner.

"I see no problem with the directive. We are in an unprecedented situation. People need liquid cash so that they do not suffer," said Ototo.

He said while the law requires dividends and honoraria to be approved in an AGM, interests can be distributed prior.

Kenya Re posts Sh4b earnings before tax

Firm says profits driven by a 18 per cent growth in gross written premiums and 10 per cent growth in investment income

by Barry Silah
@obel_barry

Kenya Reinsurance Corporation (Kenya Re) posted profit before tax of Sh4.18 billion during the period ended December 31, compared to Sh3.10 billion in the same period in 2018.

The reinsurer described the 35 per cent jump in profit as a commendable financial performance given the turbulent and difficult business environment experienced last year.

It attributed the profit leap largely to an 18 per cent growth in gross written premiums and 10 per cent growth in investment income.

Kenya Re managing director Jadhah Mwarania (pictured) said the corporation managed to produce outstanding financial results including significant growth in shareholders' funds despite the challenges it faced as a business.

"In the face of a challenging operating and macro environment encountered in 2019, the Corporation achieved impressive growth in the gross written premiums, investment income, profit before tax and profit after tax," he said after releasing the results.

Net premiums

Gross written premiums grew by 18 per cent to Sh17.52 billion in 2019 from Sh14.84 billion the previous year.

Net earned premiums rose by nine per cent from Sh14.21 billion in 2018 to Sh15.53 billion in the reporting period while investment income grew by 10 per cent from Sh3.39 billion to Sh3.71 billion due to the corporation's investment strategy.

The corporation's cedant acquisition costs increased by five per cent from Sh3.89 billion to Sh4.09 billion while the increase in gross premium written was 18 per cent.

Shareholders' funds grew by Sh3.58 billion, an increase of 13 per cent, from Sh28.37 billion in 2018 to Sh31.95 billion in 2019.

Financial results show that net incurred claims grew by 25 per cent to Sh11.06 billion from Sh8.83 billion in 2018 while operating expenses increased by a

mere one per cent from Sh2.02 billion as at December 31, 2018 to Sh2.04 billion as at December 31, 2019.

The results come hot on the heels of the corporation's Financial and Credit Rating by Global Credit Rating Agency (GCR) upgrading from AA to AA+ with a stable outlook.

It also attained ISO 27001:2013 certification marking it as the 6th organisation in the country to receive the accreditation. The certification will help it to manage information risks.

Key challenges

The reinsurer identified some of the key challenges faced during the financial year as reinsurance business domestication in many of its markets, premium rate undercutting, increased retention capacity by pedants and change in structure of reinsurance treaties.

Others were regulatory changes, competition, capping of interest rates, bearish market trends in quoted equities and oversupply of rental space and limited investment vehicles.

SUPPORTING FINANCIALS

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NAIROBI SECURITIES EXCHANGE

HIGH	LOW	SECTOR	AGRICULTURAL	VWAP	PREVIOUS	TOTAL
			PRICES			SHARES
17.60	9.90	Esagels Ltd Ord 1.25			11.00	
448.00	290.00	Kakuzi Plc Ord 5.00			300.00	
100.00	57.00	Kapcharua Tea Kenya Plc Ord 5.00			65.00	
605.00	405.00	The Limuru Tea Co. Plc Ord 20.00			475.00	
22.70	14.00	Sasini Plc Ord 1.00		15.50	15.50	1,400
178.00	92.00	Williamson Tea Kenya Plc Ord 5.00		96.75	94.75	500
AUTOMOBILES & ACCESSORIES						
27.00	20.00	Car & General (K) Ltd Ord 5.00				24.00
BANKING						
13.85	9.30	ABSA Bank Kenya Plc Ord 0.50		10.15	9.82	215,000
31.00	22.40	BK Group Plc Ord 0.80		22.40	22.40	100
166.00	76.50	Diamond Trust Bank Kenya Ltd Ord 4.00		80.00	81.75	4,500
55.50	32.15	Equity Group Holdings Plc Ord 0.50		34.00	33.20	150,800
7.90	3.38	HE Group Plc Ord 5.00		4.18	4.16	48,700
126.00	42.50	I&M Holdings Plc Ord 1.00			49.80	
55.50	33.75	KCB Group Plc Ord 1.00		35.00	35.00	3,028,800
6.50	3.22	National Bank of Kenya Ltd Ord 5.00			3.12	
41.00	24.90	NCSA Group Plc Ord 5.00		28.05	26.40	24,300
117.75	83.00	Stanbic Holdings Plc Ord 5.00		92.00	92.00	1,145,300
225.00	168.00	Standard Chartered Bank Kenya Ltd Ord 5.00		178.75	178.25	16,000
17.00	10.05	The Co-operative Bank of Kenya Ltd Ord 1.00		12.85	12.10	101,800
COMMERCIAL AND SERVICES						
5.10	0.45	Deacons (East Africa) Plc Ord 2.50			0.45	
1.30	0.81	Eveready East Africa Ltd Ord 1.00		0.84	0.90	9,500
8.50	5.00	Express Kenya Plc Ord 5.00			5.82	
9.50	1.28	Kenya Airways Ltd Ord 1.00		1.30	1.40	245,200
8.80	4.24	Longhorn Publishers Plc Ord 1.00		5.14	4.94	4,600
1.20	0.60	Nairobi Business Ventures Ltd Ord 1.00		0.60	0.60	1,000
71.00	22.00	Nation Media Group Plc Ord 2.50		24.60	24.25	6,300
4.70	1.72	Sameer Africa Plc Ord 5.00			2.29	
33.00	19.50	Standard Group Plc Ord 5.00			22.00	
25.15	11.50	TPS Eastern Africa Ltd Ord 1.00		11.50	12.00	5,200
0.95	0.23	Uchumi Supermarket Plc Ord 5.00		0.29	0.27	91,200
22.00	9.90	WPP Scangroup Plc Ord 1.00		16.00	15.10	200
CONSTRUCTION & ALLIED						
8.35	2.40	ARM Cement Plc Ord 1.00			5.55	
145.75	45.00	Bamburi Cement Ltd Ord 5.00		45.40	50.00	5,100
92.00	58.00	Crown Paints Kenya Plc Ord 5.00		58.00	59.00	600
3.98	1.48	E.A. Cables Ltd Ord 0.50		1.70	1.64	2,300
20.50	12.95	E.A. Portland Cement Co. Ltd Ord 600			14.25	
ENERGY & PETROLEUM						
7.40	4.00	KenGen Co. Plc Ord 2.50		4.71	4.89	84,300
5.50	1.63	Kenya Power & Lighting Co Plc Ord 2.50		1.75	1.77	499,700
5.50	5.00	Kenya Power & Lighting Co Plc Ord 2.50			5.00	
6.00	6.00	Kenya Power & Lighting Co Plc Ord 2.50			6.00	
33.00	22.00	Total Kenya Ltd Ord 5.00		22.90	24.05	1,900
8.70	5.00	Umeme Ltd Ord 0.50		6.06	6.50	44,400
INSURANCE						
10.50	5.70	Britania Holdings Plc Ord 0.10		6.50	6.48	20,300
4.95	2.00	CIC Insurance Group Ltd Ord 1.00		2.19	2.29	67,800
483.00	250.00	Jubilee Holdings Plc Ord 5.00			250.00	
16.30	2.10	Kenya Re Insurance Corporation Ltd Ord 2.50		2.39	2.23	96,500
13.00	6.80	Liberty Kenya Holdings Ltd Ord 1.00		8.44	8.44	400
26.00	13.80	Sanlam Kenya Plc Ord 5.00		13.90	13.85	200
INVESTMENT						
37.40	19.60	Centum Investment Co Plc Ord 0.50		23.20	22.65	3,500
0.77	0.30	Home Africa Ltd Ord 1.00		0.31	0.33	318,800
1500.00	1,500.00	Kurwitu Ventures Ltd Ord 100.00			1,500.00	
3.39	2.00	Olympia Capital Holdings Ltd Ord 5.00			2.00	
4.50	1.90	Trans-Century Plc Ord 5.00		1.85	2.00	2,000
INVESTMENT SERVICES						
16.00	8.24	Nairobi Securities Exchange Plc Ord 4.00		8.84	9.06	7,400
MANUFACTURING & ALLIED						
87.00	52.25	B.O.C Kenya Plc Ord 5.00			62.00	
790.00	360.00	British American Tobacco Kenya Plc Ord 10.00		360.00	360.00	4,600
10.80	7.10	Carbacid Investments Plc Ord 1.00		8.58	8.20	400
230.00	135.00	East African Breweries Ltd Ord 2.00		139.00	135.25	10,500
3.15	0.90	Flame Tree Group Holdings Ltd Ord 0.825x		1.06	1.01	29,100
14.00	12.25	Kenya Orchards Ltd Ord 5.00 ws			12.25	
0.70	0.25	Mumias Sugar Co. Ltd Ord 2.00			0.27	
42.00	28.75	Unga Group Ltd Ord 5.00			29.00	
TELECOMMUNICATION						
33.50	20.10	Safaricom Plc Ord 0.05		26.00	25.35	4,439,600
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST						
11.00	6.88	STANLIB FAHARI I-REIT Ord 20.00		8.00	8.02	1,000
EXCHANGE TRADED FUNDS						
1650.00	1235.00	ABSA New Gold ETF		14251	1425.00	

NSE ALL SHARE INDEX: UP 2.42 points to close at 129.72
NSE 20-SHARE INDEX: UP 13.08 points to close at 1930.75
NSE 25-SHARE INDEX: UP 62.44 points to close at 3058.30

Hemingways closes hotels, retains staff

by Barry Silah
@obel_barry

Hotel chain Hemingways Collection has suspended operations of its Ol Seki Mara and Hemingways Nairobi due to the coronavirus pandemic but will retain all 400 employees.

Chairman Dicky Evans said following the temporary closure of the two hotels, the group's first priority during this crisis is to look after its staff and as such, Hemingways Collection will not declare any redundancies. Evans

noted that permanent staff will receive reduced salaries for the next three months.

"As a group, we have prioritised the retention of staff and their well-being with all permanent employees being retained with reduced salaries for three months," he said.

Pandemic challenge

"We are humbled by the massive support from our staff following the decision amid this evolving Covid-19 challenge. Everyone is making huge sacrifices to sur-

MARKET WATCH

COMMODITY PRICES IN DIFFERENT COUNTIES (26/3/2020)

VARIETY	COMMODITY	Weight	Nairobi	Malindi
CEREALS				
	Dry Maize	90	2700	3200
	Green Maize	115	2100	3400
	Finger Millet	90	8600	7200
	Sorghum	90	5300	6300
	Wheat	90		6300
LEGUMES				
	Beans Canadian	90	7800	9000
	Beans Rosecoco	90	8400	
	Beans Mwittemania	90	7200	9000
	Mwezi Moja	90	5400	9000
	Dolichos (Njahi)	90	12000	9000
	Green Gram	90	10200	9000
	Cowpeas	90	6600	7200
	Fresh Peas	51	3000	5300
	Groundnuts	110	14300	18700
ROOTS & TUBERS				
	Red Irish Potatoes	50		6050
	White Irish Potatoes	50	2900	6050
	Cassava - Fresh	99	2450	3000
	Sweet Potatoes	98	4000	5880
HORTICULTURE				
	Cabbages	126	1800	4500
	Cooking Bananas	22	600	480
	Ripe Bananas	14	600	420
	Carrots	138	3800	6600
	Tomatoes	64	6000	7680
	Onions Dry	13	1060	1900
	Spring Onions	142	2900	
	Chillies	38	2450	3800
	Cucumber	50	2400	2500
	Capsicums	50	2500	5000
	Brinjals	44	1540	2200
	Cauliflower	39	2950	3900
	Lettuce	51	1400	8000
	Passion Fruits	57	4100	6000
	Oranges	93	3500	1500
	Lemons	95	2600	2850
	Mangoes Local	126	2300	2100
	Mangoes Ngowe	25	1300	450
	Limes	13	2600	1040
	Pineapples	13	800	650
	Pawpaw	54	2000	2250
	Avocado	90	2600	3200
	Kales	50	900	2000
OTHERS				
	Eggs	300	370	

COMMERCIAL BANKS' AVERAGE FOR MAJOR CURRENCIES (OPENING MARKET) - 30/3/2020

CURRENCY	MEAN	BUY	SELL
US DOLLAR	104.4474	104.3447	104.5500
SW KRONER	10.3785	10.3668	10.3903
STG POUND	127.6950	127.5441	127.8459
SINGAPORE DOLLAR	72.7679	72.6786	72.8571
SAUDI RYIAL	27.8044	27.7734	27.8355
SA RAND	5.9496	5.9421	5.9572
S FRANC	108.2356	108.1068	108.3644
NOR KRONER	9.8333	9.8218	9.8448
KES / USHS	36.3342	36.2506	36.4178
KES / TSHS	22.1165	22.0469	22.1861
KES / RWFS	9.1171	9.0339	9.2003
KES / BIF	18.0877	18.0096	18.1658
JPY (100)	95.9950	95.8874	96.1026
IND RUPEE	1.3838	1.3824	1.3852
HONGKONG DOLLAR	13.4741	13.4609	13.4874
EURO	114.5579	114.4318	114.6841
DAN KRONER	15.3424	15.3266	15.3583
CHINESE YUAN	14.7191	14.7024	14.7357
CAN \$	74.0814	73.9981	74.1647
AUSTRALIAN \$	63.0967	63.0242	63.1691
AE DIRHAM	28.4354	28.4047	28.4660

400

Number of employees under the Hemingways Collection whose jobs are safe despite pandemic

DICKY EVANS

As a group, we have prioritised the retention of staff and their well-being

vive these unprecedented times and we are truly grateful to them all," he added.

Given the spread of Covid-19 pandemic in the country, Evans said it was only prudent that the group closes Ol Seki Mara and Nairobi properties in helping keep its staff and guests safe.

"They will both be closed until May 31 as we assess the stretch of the pandemic," he said.

However, Hemingways Collection Watamu property will remain open and operate within government protocols.

World News

DONALD TRUMP



Nothing would be worse than declaring victory before victory is won.

Trump extends federal social distancing rules until April 30

Global coronavirus death toll rises to 34,686 as infection cases approach 800,000 with Europe being the worst hit

■ **Washington, Monday**

President Donald Trump has said federal coronavirus guidelines such as social distancing will be extended across the US until at least April 30.

He had previously suggested that they could be relaxed as early as Easter, which falls in mid-April. "The highest point of the death rate is likely to hit in two weeks," Trump had said. He appeared to be referring to peak infection rates that experts fear could overwhelm hospitals.

In Europe, the coronavirus pandemic has killed more than 25,000 people. Spain confirmed another 812 deaths in 24 hours from the coronavirus on Monday, a slight decline on the previous day's toll, bringing the total number of deaths to 7,340.

The growth in the number of new confirmed cases also slowed, posting a one-day rise of eight per cent to 85,195, according to the health ministry, compared to a 20-per cent rise on Wednesday.

However, Spain has now joined the US and Italy in having more cases than China, where the virus first appeared in December and which had confirmed 81,439 cases as of Sunday evening.

In Italy, there was some encouraging news as the daily death toll—at 756 in the last 24 hours—fell for the third day running.

A prominent Italian scientist said on Monday that the country's measures to halt coronavirus contagion do not seem to be working and it should change its strategy by setting up centers to separate people with suspected symptoms from their families.

Italy, which has suffered the world's high-



Medical staff push a coronavirus patient on a stretcher towards a French army medical helicopter in Strasbourg, on March 30, 2020, to be evacuated to a German hospital, yesterday. AFP

est death toll from coronavirus, has been in nationwide lockdown for about three weeks, but in the last three days new infections have continued. Andrea Crisanti, professor of microbiology at Padua University, said many of these new cases are probably people who are being infected by fellow family members at home.

Rouhani's response

Iran's official coronavirus death toll reached 2,757 on Monday and the number of infections crossed 40,000, as President Hassan Rouhani's political opponents slammed his response to the outbreak.

Iran has been scrambling to contain Covid-19's spread since it reported its first cases on February 19.

In the US, White House medical adviser Dr Anthony Fauci had earlier warned that

the virus could kill up to 200,000 Americans. He said it was "entirely conceivable" that millions of Americans could eventually be infected. The US now has more than 140,000 confirmed cases.

As of Sunday evening, 2,493 deaths had been recorded in the country in relation to Covid-19, according to figures collated by Johns Hopkins University.

Speaking during a Coronavirus Task Force press briefing at the White House late Sunday, Trump said measures such as social distancing were "the way you win", adding that the US "will be well on our way to recovery" by June. Suggesting that the "peak" of death rates in the US was likely to hit in two weeks, Trump said that "nothing would be worse than declaring victory before victory is won."

-AFP and BBC

NETANYAHU IN ISOLATION

● Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his close aides have been placed under precautionary quarantine after a staffer within his office tested positive for Covid-19.

● Netanyahu's office said the quarantine decision was precautionary. Israel has more than 4,000 confirmed Covid-19 cases.



Zimbabwe, Ghana cities on lockdown

■ **Harare, Monday**

Zimbabwe went into full coronavirus lockdown for three weeks on Monday, coming 10 days after confirming its first case.

Police on Sunday mounted roadblocks and the government said the military will step in, if necessary, to enforce the stay-at-home order.

Zimbabweans may face up to one year imprisonment for violating the order and up to 20 years for false reports about the lockdown.

In Ghana, authorities started a two-week lockdown on Monday of three cities—Accra, Tema and Kumasi—that were identified as hotspots for the spread of coronavirus. President Nana Akufo-Addo announced the order on Friday to prevent the spread of the virus and help with being able to trace people who've been in contact with positive cases.

Meanwhile, Nigeria president Muhammadu Buhari announced a lockdown in the cities of Lagos and Abuja in an effort to contain the spread of Covid-19. The restrictions, which started Monday night, will also apply to Ogun state, which borders Lagos.

The lockdown will take effect for an initial period of 14 days.

-BBC

BRIEFLY



US won't pay for Harry and Meghan security

President Donald Trump said Sunday that the US would not pay security costs for Prince Harry and his wife Meghan, appearing to confirm that the royal couple have moved to live in California. "The US will not pay for their security protection. They must pay" Trump tweeted. But a spokeswoman for the couple said the two had no intention of soliciting help from Washington. -AFP



Taliban kill dozens of Afghan forces in raids

The Taliban have killed about two dozen Afghan police and pro-government fighters, officials said Monday in two attacks. In one of the incidents late Sunday, the insurgents killed six soldiers and 13 police and pro-government militiamen. The latest bloodshed comes during diplomatic efforts to kickstart talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban. -AFP



Ban on pregnant girls schooling scrapped

The government of Sierra Leone on Monday overturned a ban on pregnant girls from attending school. The ministry of education said it was committed to ensuring all children had the right to go to school, regardless of their status. In December, the West African regional bloc's court ruled that the ban was unlawful as it infringed on human rights. The measure was introduced in 2015. -BBC

Prince Charles now out of self-isolation

■ **London, Monday**

Prince Charles, 71, is now out of self-isolation, following his diagnosis of coronavirus.

The Prince of Wales spent seven days self-isolating in Scotland after testing positive and displaying mild symptoms.

His wife Camilla, 72, was tested and did not have the virus, but will self-isolate until the end of the week.

A Palace official said the prince was in good

health and was following the government's restrictions.

"Clarence House has confirmed today that, having consulted with his doctor, the Prince of Wales is now out of self-isolation," a spokesman said.

According to government guidelines, anyone with symptoms should self-isolate for seven days, while everyone living in their household should self-isolate for two weeks. -BBC

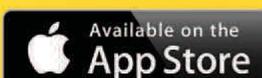




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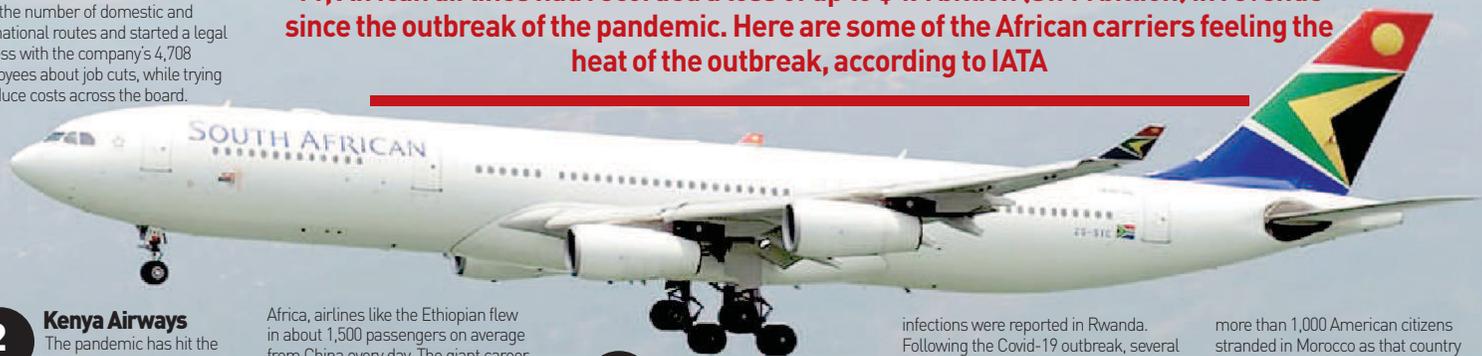
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Ten... African airlines hit hard by coronavirus

Multiple flights have been cancelled or suspended across Africa as airlines struggle to cope with falling demand following the outbreak of coronavirus disease (Covid-19). International Air Transport Association (IATA) data shows as of March 11, African airlines had recorded a loss of up to \$4.4 billion (Sh44 billion) in revenue since the outbreak of the pandemic. Here are some of the African carriers feeling the heat of the outbreak, according to IATA

1 South African Airways

As of last Wednesday, the South African national carrier, announced that it had cancelled up to 162 international and regional flights due to restrictions and low demand following the spread of coronavirus. SAA has racked up 26 billion rand (Sh160 billion) of losses over the past six years and was placed in a local form of bankruptcy protection in December to end a damaging cycle of government bailouts. The administrators have cut back the number of domestic and international routes and started a legal process with the company's 4,708 employees about job cuts, while trying to reduce costs across the board.



2 Kenya Airways

The pandemic has hit the local aviation industry hard following the government ban on airlines flying in from countries that have reported coronavirus cases and the national carrier is no exception. Already in what is seen to be aimed at helping the cash-strapped airline stay afloat, the airline's Chief Executive Allan Kilavuka taking a 35 per cent pay cut and board members also agreeing to forego their monthly fees and sitting allowances. KQ, as the airline is commonly known has already cancelled a number of flights to major hubs including Guangzhou, China, where small traders go to buy manufactured goods that can be flown in cargo planes. China is where the virus was first reported. The airline also suspended flights on the Rome-Geneva route on March 12 as Italy continues to bear the brunt of the pandemic. Other routes that have been suspended include Geneva, Bangkok, Djibouti and Khartoum. The cancellations are likely to aggravate the carrier's cash flow problems.

3 Ethiopian Airlines

Ethiopian Airlines Group has lost over \$190 million (Sh19 billion) as the impact of the coronavirus on global travel hurts Africa's only consistently profitable airline. The Beijing-Addis Ababa route is worst hit due to significant numbers reduction. According to a report by QZ

Africa, airlines like the Ethiopian flew in about 1,500 passengers on average from China every day. The giant carrier which has for years been the envy of rivals across the country has currently suspended flights to 30 destinations pending assessment of Covid-19 status even as demand clearly drops. Prime Minister Abiy Mohamed has admitted that under the current situation, the airline is facing huge challenges which will also affect the economy at large. Earlier this month, chief executive Tewolde Gebremariam told a gathering at the fifth Africa Aviation conference in Addis Ababa the number of passengers have reduced by 20 per cent.

4 Nigeria Airways

According to IATA, Nigeria Airlines risk losing 853,000 in passenger volume as a result of the spreading Covid-19. Currently in Nigeria, travellers from countries with more than 1,000 reported cases of coronavirus are barred from entering the country. Indeed there are now threats of job losses in the Nigerian Aviation sector. Nigeria is restricting entry into the country for travellers from 13 countries including the US and UK which are its key markets. Issuance of visa on arrival for the said countries is likely to complicate matters for the airline sector which has in the recent past struggled in financial mismanagement.

5 Egypt Air

Egypt has halted all air traffic from its airports until end of this month due to the ravaging Coronavirus pandemic. The country has one of the highest cases of Covid-19 in the continent, according to World Health Organisation (WHO) statistics. Local firms in the aviation sector would suffer losses of 2.25 billion Egyptian pounds (Sh14.3 billion) due to the latest measures. Tourism is a key sector for the populous Arab country. Tourism revenue rose to a record high of \$12.57 billion (Sh1.3 trillion) in the last financial year. Egypt's economy relies heavily on foreign tourism, and in February alone hosted more than 900,000 tourists.

6 RwandaAir

The International Air Transport Association has estimated that Rwanda's aviation sector is likely to lose out on 79,000 passengers for the remainder of this year as a result of coronavirus. Rwanda has already suspended all arriving and departing commercial passenger flights for 30 days. The suspension also affects national carrier RwandAir, but it will not affect cargo and emergency flights. The decision to suspend air travel comes after Rwanda confirmed an additional three coronavirus cases. Initially, RwandAir had suspended flights to and from China—the first country to be hit by Covid-19—Israel and India, a decision that was taken few days before

infections were reported in Rwanda. Following the Covid-19 outbreak, several tourists cancelled bookings, leaving tour operators and other stakeholders counting losses. Rwanda Convention Bureau, which promotes the country as a preferred destination, says about 20 meetings, which had been scheduled for March and April, was indefinitely postponed as a result of the flights ban.

7 Air Mauritius

Mauritius is a very small country far away from China – and yet greatly affected by the coronavirus. The sector feeling the impacts first is tourism. About 44,000 visitors from China were expected this year, staying an average of 10 days and spending a total amount worth the equivalent of € 25 million (Sh3.087 billion). It will be difficult for hotels to attract more tourists from other destinations to make up for the losses. Air Mauritius, the state-owned airline, cancelled all flights to mainland China and Hong Kong for the foreseeable future. Those flights normally add up to five per cent of its total seats capacity. Part of the air travel is tourism, but business relations, academic exchange and others are compromised, too.

8 Morocco Airlines

Morocco has also suspended all international flights from its airports. The impact of Covid-19 has been massive and job cuts could be looming for the aviation sector in the Maghreb nation. More than 12 million tourists visit Morocco every year, according to 2018 figures from the United Nations World Tourism Organisation, including 305,000 Americans, making it Africa's most popular destination. Only recently Morocco's tourism ministry announced it had authorised 100 exceptional flights to allow the repatriation of tourists to their countries. Mission Morocco is supporting the repatriation via chartered flight of

more than 1,000 American citizens stranded in Morocco as that country halted its air, land and maritime links to slow the virus's spread.

9 Ghana Airlines

Ghana Aviation sector has been hit by the current ravaging coronavirus pandemic. Ghana Airways has through a recent statement okayed suspension of operations. The suspension is due to various moves to protect customers and staff from contracting the Covid-19. Top operators such as Emirates Airlines, Delta Airlines and Brussels Air have stopped operating to Ghana. Ghana's Minister of Information, Kojo Oppong Nkrumah last week issued a travel advisory which discourages all travels to the country until further notice. The government has also instructed airlines not to allow persons from affected countries to disembark; and also urged border posts not permit such travellers into their jurisdiction.

10 Ugandan Airlines

Uganda Airlines has announced planned suspension of flights to Mogadishu, Kilimanjaro, Mombasa, Zanzibar and Nairobi due to the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic. President Yoweri Museveni also announced a travel ban to and through high-risk countries including Italy, San Marino, Iran, South Korea, France, China, Germany, Spain, Belgium, USA, United Kingdom, Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, Austria, and Malaysia which are among its key markets. With no flights heading to Guangzhou and Shanghai – the leading sources of Uganda's imports from China – because they have all been cancelled, orders have been pushed for months. At the same time, stocks are also tumbling.



Agri biz ▶ Smart Way to Grow Money

Mixed fortunes for farmers as virus impacts on agriculture



Crop exports in crisis, local markets closed, but growers can't lose hope as Kenyans must continue to eat

by Mwangi Mumero
@PeopleDailyKe

With increased closure of flower farms in Naivasha and other parts of the country as well as reduced movement on the country's roads, agricultural activities are suffering from the coronavirus scourge.

County governments have closed local markets while the national government's imposition of a 7pm to 5am curfew has hampered delivery of fresh produce to urban markets such as Nairobi and Mombasa.

Halting of international flights by the State and lockdowns in European Union (EU) markets due to the Covid-19 has dealt a blow on flower exports. Kenyan flower commands over 40 per cent of all cut flower sales in the EU. Large volumes also leave Nairobi for the Middle East, Japan and China, making Kenya a key source of global flower produce.

The Kenya Flower Council (KFC) says only 50 per cent of the cut flower production was reaching the EU market before the halting of international passenger flights by the government last week. With the flights grounded, sales have plunged to 35 per cent of normal season sales and the sector's 150,000 workers are witnessing layoffs. "Uncertain markets has forced our farms to cancel orders or even stop shipping," says KFC CEO Clement Tulezi.

Old stocks

Suspension of direct flights to China has hampered avocado exports, which had gained traction recently. More fresh produce is exported in the belly of passenger aircraft than by cargo freighters. Lockdowns in Europe to curb Covid-19 has kept buyers at home.

Demand for farm produce by hotels, restaurants and cafes has also plummeted. Tourism arrivals have ground to a halt and there are no local conferences going on.

"We have seen orders for potatoes, cabbages and onions drop sharply in Nairobi. Hotels have reduced activity with people shying away from town," said James Mwangi, a potato transporter from Nyahururu who makes three trips to Nairobi weekly.

At Wangige market in Nairobi, vendors last week opted to dispose old stocks of vegetables following an order by the Kiambu county government to close all markets last weekend for fumigation and implementation of other



Joseph Lagat, a tea farmer in Nandi county is happy the Mombasa Tea Auction is going on. PD/TIMOTHY NJENGA



Agriculture Chief Administrative Secretary Kello Harsama demonstrates the use of protective gear at Kilimo House's entry points in an effort to contain the virus. COURTESY

SECTOR DEMANDS ON STATE

Proposed short-term mitigation strategies by Agriculture Sector Network (ASNET) include;

- Removal of PVOC (Pre-export Verification of Conformity) to standards requirement for seeds, animal health products and live plants.
- Fast-tracking payment of VAT refunds owed to agribusiness firms as well as Zero-rating of VAT on farm inputs.
- Government facilitation of free movement of food and products for both local and export markets
- Set-up an agriculture and food security recovery fund alongside a recovery strategy.

TOP: Traders in Nakuru's Wakulima market remove wares after the county government closed all markets in the town centre last week. ABOVE: Packing of flowers for export at Emirates skycargo, Nairobi. PD/RAPHAEL MUNGE and COURTESY

health measures. "There was no fresh produce today and prices are rising," complained Alice Nyabuto, resident of Mwimuto village.

Food prices are rising in border regions as imports cease with closure of borders. For instance, the closure of Kenya-Uganda border has witnessed shortage of *omera* and bananas imported from Uganda.

Tea auction operational

Falling remittances from foreign countries to Kenya is also expected to impact negatively on agriculture. A chunk of Diaspora remittances is used in the planting season where farmers purchase seeds and farm inputs. The cost of inputs is bound to rise in the coming days due to reduced shipping from overseas.

However, it's not all gloom. Joseph Lagat, tea farmer in Nandi Jills, says tea plucking is going on. "We are using scheme plucking where pickers are allocated five lines of bushes for social distancing. All farm workers have to sanitise their hands regularly," he says.

"We are happy that the tea auction in Mombasa is still going on, albeit with fewer personnel. Had it closed down completely, it would have forced us to stop plucking too," he adds.

Kenyans, especially in urban areas are panic buying as they stock up in case of a full lockdown. Already local markets and super-

BRIEFLY

International flower show rescheduled to October

by William Murigi
@millymur1

The annual International Flower Trade Exhibition (Iftex) that was scheduled for June 3 to 5, 2020 in Nairobi has been moved to October 12 to 14 this year. This is due to the coronavirus pandemic that has restricted global travel, large gatherings and general human interaction.

Kenya's international flower show is held annually and is in its eighth year. It brings to Nairobi the international flower fraternity from all over the world as buyers come to see the amazing assortment of varieties, colours and designs and to book supplies of best and newest varieties.

"More than 3,000 visitors and around 200 exhibitors were expected at the show. Due to the big numbers, it is inevitable that the event is postponed to a later date as the world grapples with the fast-spreading Covid-19 in conformity with the WHO and country-specific guidelines to contain and minimise spread," said Dick Van Raamsdonk, Director General HPP Exhibitions, which manages Iftex.

Kenya is the largest supplier of flowers to the European Union, with a 40 per cent market lead and is the third biggest exporter of flowers globally. The country's flower industry is globally recognised, with many foreign investors having a big stake in the sector.



Dick Van Raamsdonk, Director General HPP Exhibitions, the organisers of Iftex, says the expo has been postponed to October. COURTESY

markets have been experienced increased sales as people purchase rice, potatoes, onions, vegetables and other food items.

"We have witnessed increased purchase of bigger chunks of meat mainly for refrigeration. We have to increase our slaughtered animals to meet demand," said Joash Makau, a butcher in Kitengela town.

In a recent meeting with government ministries following the outbreak, the newly formed sector lobby group, Agriculture Sector Network (ASNET) called for increased surveillance, testing and preventive measures to avoid spread of the virus.

Agriculture Cabinet Secretary Peter Munya has since assured Kenyans that the Ministry will ensure that all necessary facilitation and support is provided to farmers to enable farming activities to continue for food and nutrition security, keeping in mind the safety and health of the farmers.



Titus Masila loads bananas on a motorbike at Soko ya Ndizi open-air market in Taveta town.

FACT FILE

- Last year, the value of Kenya's fruit exports stood at Sh13.2 billion, up from Sh12.8 billion in 2018, a 2.8 per cent increase according to a report by the Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA).
- Similarly, fruit production rose from 75,500 tonnes to 81,800 tonnes in 2019.
- The increase was attributed to an increase in pineapple exports from a value of Sh29 million to Sh850 million. Avocado remains the single highest exported fruit taking 80 per cent of the value at Sh10.6 billion in 2019.

Banana joins list of Kenya's major agricultural exports

Many farmers across the country have now embraced the crop and are growing it as one of their main cash crops

by Lewis Njoka
@LewisNjoka

Bananas have for a long time been viewed as a mere food crop, with little or no monetary value attached to it. This view is, however, changing fast, with many farmers across the country growing it as one of their main cash crops. Many farmers have now embraced the crop and are earning big from the crop, especially in Meru, Tharaka Nithi, Embu, Kirinyaga and Kisii counties.

Gone are the days when banana suckers used to sprout haphazardly and mature untended, with landowners only interested in harvesting the semi-ripe fruits for their families.

Nowadays, banana farming is a meticulously planned activity. Inputs, budgets, timelines and expected yields are estimated beforehand with the help of professional agronomists.

Better still, more farmers are turning to banana farming raising hopes that those already in the occupation could soon benefit from economies of scale. While some are drawn to the occupation by its good returns, others are seeking a soft landing after suffering frustration with cash crops such as tea and coffee.

Fleciah Wambui Kinyua, a banana farmer from Mukinduri in Kerugoya sub-county, Kirinyaga county, can attest to the socio-economic benefits of the once scorned food crop now turned into a revered moneymaker.

When the former civil servant was re-trenched in 2000, she was unsure of her next move since she had never imagined retiring at a young age. She opted for agribusiness to grow bananas, coffee and French beans on her

five-acre farm with the help of extension officers from the Ministry of Agriculture.

Prior to the year 2000, Kinyua, just like most of her neighbours, had been practicing subsistence farming growing a few banana stems for consumption. Today, she has about 1,000 banana trees from which she harvests about 1,000 kg a month in low seasons and 3,000 kg in peak seasons.

The farmer makes between Sh12 and Sh20 per kilogramme, with each stem producing an average of 30kg. This is a tidy sum coming from a crop that has for a long time been viewed as worth little or no money. "As long as you have a small piece of land, you are good to go. This crop has better returns than many other horticultural crops. If you take good care of your farm you will make money," says Kinyua.

She began with only 200 seedlings planted on a half-an-acre plot, but increased this to an acre after realising that the venture was lucrative. To boost yields and her earnings, she has abandoned traditional banana suckers for tissue culture ones, specialising in the *Grand Nain* variety.

Other tissue culture varieties commonly grown in Kenya include Giant Cavendish, Valery, William's hybrid, Chinese dwarf, Gold finger and sweet bananas. Tissue culture refers to a technology via which cells, tissues



Fleciah Wambui Kinyua, a banana farmer in Mukinduri, Kirinyaga county. PD/LEWIS NJOKA

or organs are cultivated and multiplied in specially formulated nutrient media enabling the production of disease free, high quality planting materials and a rapid multiplication of many uniform plants.

Kinyua purchases her seedlings from Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, (JKUAT) at prices ranging between Sh100 and Sh120 per seedling.

Water challenges

She has a contract with a local company to buy her fruits at a pre-agreed price, which cushions her from market price fluctuations that affect other farmers during times of glut. "At first I used to sell my bananas to brokers, but stopped when I realised that contracted farming gave better returns," says Kinyua.

Water scarcity is her main hurdle. Kinyua has sunk a borehole, which she uses to water all the three crops. Luckily for her, Grand Nain variety does well even in fairly dry conditions.

Her other challenge is pests, especially banana thrips. She advises that for a commercially viable banana-farming venture, one should plant at least 700 suckers on roughly one acre of land.

"Harvest after every three months. This should give you approximately two tonnes per harvest. You need about five suckers per every



three square foot hole," she says.

"Banana farming is good. Every time I harvest, I get good amounts of money to cater for my day-to-day needs. We grow several crops, but bananas are our main income earner," she adds.

Banana seedlings take about 14 months to mature after which one harvests a fruit cluster from the same hole every three months. The plants require low-cost maintenance, which involves laying mulch once a year, weeding on a need-be basis and applying organic manure every six months. "We practise pure organic farming as it produces tastier fruits compact and mid-sized fruits as opposed to the extra large ones produced when you use inorganic fertiliser," says Kinyua.

Farmers' Awards winner

To broaden her skills, Kinyua regularly attends seminars, trade fairs and calls in government extension officers whenever she needs assistance from a specialist. She is particularly thankful to Agricultural Sector Development Support Programme (ASDSP) for sponsoring and facilitating her trainings.

In 2014, she emerged the best farmer, women category in the Elgon Kenya National Farmers Awards. She has also joined hands with like-minded farmers to promote banana farming in the county by forming Kirinyaga County Banana Growers Association where she is the treasurer.

Last year, the value of Kenya's fruit exports stood at Sh13.2 billion, up from Sh12.8 billion in 2018, a 2.8 per cent increase according to a report by the Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA). Similarly, fruit production rose from 75,500 tonnes in 2018 to 81,800 tonnes in 2019.

"The increase was attributed to an increase in pineapple exports from a value of Sh29 million to Sh850 million. Avocado remains the single highest exported fruit taking 80 per cent of the value at Sh10.6 billion in 2019, with a slight reduction from Sh10.8 billion in 2018," says the report.

As a whole, Kenya's horticulture export earnings for 2019 reduced by Sh11 billion compared to 2018. The sector comprising flowers, fruits and vegetable sub-sectors, earned Sh142.7 billion in exports, down from Sh153.7 billion in 2018, a 17 per cent decline in earnings.

The total horticulture production volume for the year also declined from 335.1 million kilos in 2018 to 328.3 million kilos last year.

The Uhuru Kenya administration and its various partners have been at the forefront promoting the mainstreaming of banana farming with processing plants and training centres set up in various counties across Kenya.

Last year, for instance, the European Union in collaboration with the county government of Taita Taveta began the construction of a Sh116 million processing plant within the county expected to benefit more than 500 farmers.

Farmers in Kisii, a region traditionally associated with the product, are already benefiting from tissue culture training offered at the Kisii Agriculture Training Centre.

All these efforts are in line with the food security pillar of the government's Big Four Agenda initiative, which seeks to make the nation food-secure in the near future.

Spice

Flavour your day

5MINSWITH CHARLIE KARUMI [@Virgie_wambui](#)

CHARLIE KARUMI wears many hats. He is an actor, vlogger as well as radio and TV presenter. He chats with **WAMBUI VIRGINIA** about his experiences and aspirations as a creative

THE PRODIGY



MOVIE REVIEW

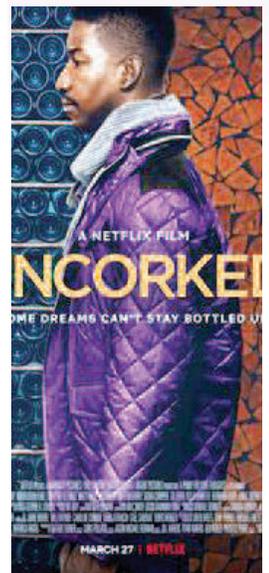
[@yaa_grace](#)

UNCORKED

Two days ago, Netflix released *Uncorked*, a movie that paints a picture of what it feels like to have to choose between following your dream and a generational family business, which is a somewhat a cliché plot.

That was the spot Elijah (acclaimed actor Mamoudou Athie) found himself in after working his family's Memphis barbeque business with a deep-seeded dream to become a sommelier as the title suggests. In the drama film, he takes us through the notions of balancing work, a new relationship and his studies as he forges his name as an expert at wine; something that his family does not take lightly. His family that prides itself in their black heritage does not see why he would throw them aside and charter waters never heard of.

The 104 minutes are nothing but absolutely entertaining and are worth your every second. You will get to appreciate black culture as well as go through the feels of anger, disappointment and fear and even get to laugh a little as Prentice Pence, the writer of the TV series *Insecure*, made sure to include witty humour in the script. Some parts of the plot would have delved deeper, but all the same, it is a great movie to pass time on, especially at these moments of staying at home. Rating: 7.5/10



P/D: JOHN OCHIENG

You've got tonnes of acting experience. Give us a brief rundown.

My acting started way back while at Alliance High School between 2005 and 2008. I was an active member of the drama club, so after school I'd find myself going to the Phoenix Players theatre just to look for any acting gig. My parents were a bit skeptical over the direction I was taking, but while pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Business and Information Technology at the Strathmore University between 2009 and 2013, I still found myself compelled to do acting over the long holidays.

So, when was your first role?

While at Phoenix I was featured on small roles on TV shows such as *Changez*, which was my first ever role. Others I've taken part in are *Lies that Bind*, *Higher Learning*, *Noose of Gold* and *Rush*. My first big role was on *Jane and Abel* in 2014 where I starred alongside, Brian Ogola, Lizz Njagah and Sarah Hassan. In 2015, I starred alongside Gerald Langiri on *Fundi-Mentals*, a role that won me the 2015 Kalasha Award for Best Supporting Actor.

When did you venture into TV presenting?

I ventured into TV hosting in 2015, taking part in a show called *The Presenter Season 2* finishing in the final 10. A year later, I successfully auditioned for and took part in TLC's Africa wide talent search *Next Great Presenter*. I emerged second runners-up. In 2017, that's when I got an opportunity to host the entertainment magazine show *Arena 254* on K24 TV for about four months before I got a role in South Africa's upcoming TV series *Liberty*; a screen adaptation of Jakob Ejersbo's book. The same year I was part of the *Watu Wote* short film project that was nominated for the Oscars.

Tell us about that specific nomination. How was the experience?

This was an interestingly good story. When I

first told my friends to watch the trailer, most of them didn't see me in the movie (laughs). I was so much in character that I couldn't be recognised. Now the movie premiered here in Kenya to coincide with the Oscar nomination. Unfortunately, I was not in the country. I received the news at an airport in Copenhagen. I got wild and danced at the airport.

How was your experience in Hollywood?

So, after the nomination we needed to get to Hollywood. We had like a month to prepare and to get there, I needed air ticket and accommodation. So, I put up a bubbly one-minute video on my social pages asking any able individual or company to sponsor me to go to the Oscars. The video went viral and that's when I got a call from Safaricom asking if I was still interested in my trip. And at the snap of a finger, I got an all-paid trip to Hollywood to showcase and represent Kenya at one of the world's most prestigious events.

The Hollywood experience was surreal. Having to walk the same red carpet with most of the Hollywood stars and even taking pictures with them was an opportunity that I'll forever be grateful for. Unfortunately, *Watu Wote* didn't win, but we were still winners for having being recognised on such a platform.

How have you sustained your creative endeavors?

Acting was my primary sustenance, but with it also came a lot of opportunities both on radio and TV. Acting involves reacting. Without listening, an actor cannot effectively react to the situation. Being in this creative field has allowed me to interact with different characters and leaders in the industry all of which I have gained knowledge of their crafts and sometimes themselves. Without listening and learning from their experiences it wouldn't have been possible to enrich and spread my tentacles on this creative space.

Which role elevated your presence on TV and film?

I would say *Jane and Abel* in 2014. It was one of my biggest roles in TV. Also, my role on *Watu Wote* pushed my limits as an actor.

Have you ever auditioned for acting roles and failed to get them?

In this industry, it's never a good idea to be hopeful about these roles. You can put all your effort and still get disappointed. One big role I ever auditioned for was for *Shuga Kenya*. I feel like my age played a role in not getting the part because I did audition just straight from high school and at that time I looked like a 12-year-old.

Let's talk about your vlogging.

I started vlogging back in 2016 and my channel back then was called 'Chromeys'. It was more of a comedy channel, then slowly I would share my travel experiences like the Hollywood experience and the feedback was so positive and since then travels have become a staple for the channel. My vlogging is not commercial. I feel like my content resonates with a particular audience.

How do you keep up with social media?

Poorly. I have different accounts, but I log out as soon as I log in. My most active is Instagram, but still I would never spend like an hour browsing. I just post, respond to some comments and I am out.

Clique & Clicks ▶ Get Spotted

AUGMENTED REALITY

by Faith Kyoumukama

East African Breweries Ltd (Eabl), through its Scotch whiskey brand, Johnnie Walker, recently held an event dubbed Johnnie Walker Immersion in Nairobi. It was tailor-made for the guests to savour the drink and have an interactive experience to bring to life the Augmented Reality feature of the limited editions of the Johnnie Walker 'Song of Ice' and 'Song of Fire'. The two versions of the whiskey originate from the Home Box Office chart-topper series *Game of Thrones*.

PD/FAITH KYOUMUKAMA



Social media influencer Stephen Mwangi, media personality Alex Kyalo, social media strategist Stephanie Mulinge and radio presenter Brian Mbunde.



Hello gorgeous! Kenya Breweries Ltd media planner Njeri Mukira.



Social media strategists Muchatha Mitchell and Patrick Kimanzi.



Brian Mbunde, Stephen Mwangi and Glory Nyarui.



Redhouse Bartendar Ezekiel Mutua with Diageo trainer Willie Manga.



Digital content creator and social media guru Brian Mutinda with Karen Waitera of MediaEdge PR.

You ▶ It's all about Life & Style

Should you dress up to work from home?

How dishevelled do you look while working from home? Do you stay in your pajamas all day? Do you even shower? As more people adjust to working from home, in a bid to slow the spread of coronavirus, style experts and psychologists speak on how the clothes you wear influence your mood

by **Wambui Virginia**
@PeopleDailyKE

As the spread of coronavirus continues to threaten, companies are sending employees home to work remotely.

So, while most people no longer have to endure the city's traffic every rush hour, they are finding themselves facing daily existential questions such as: "How do I stop myself from snacking from the fridge literally all day?" and "If I'm not actually leaving the house, do I have to leave my bed?"

Too many questions. And of course deciding what to wear being one of those questions. Why bother to put on make up or official clothes if you will not be leaving the house?

Since most employers won't care what you are wearing as you work from home, it can be tempting to just stay in your pajamas all day. It comes, especially as a relief to people who struggle to dress up for work every morning.

Now, is the season when most women are going make-up free, no manicure and ditching the bras (it's the first thing they

want to do when they walk through the door at the end of the day anyway). The men on the other hand are making the shower their newest enemy; 'why should I shower and I haven't stepped out that door all day?' they would ask.

"Typically my job requires me to look presentable, so I wouldn't go to work without getting my make-up, hair and nails done. However, I don't see the point of doing all that when I am social distancing and working from my living room," says Esther Muchai, a banker.

Renee Gathoni is glad that she doesn't have to go through the agony of having to scour her wardrobe looking for an outfit for the day. "Most people would not understand, but for most women, it's an extreme sport. My fashion statement at the moment are hoodies and sweatpants all day," she chuckles.

Kasio Mutua, an academic writer, who has worked from home for close to 10 years alludes that nothing has changed for him. But unlike people who stay in their pajama while working, he insists on looking his office-best.

"I have seen people struggling to work in the current situation, because of children

and other distractions. Mine is business as usual. I try to maintain a routine including dressing up for online meetings," he says.

Wangechi Muchiri, a stylist and vlogger, reiterates that people are more productive when they put effort into how they dress to work from home rather than just rolling out of bed to the desktop or laptop in your shorts or pyjamas. "Before I start pecking away at my keyboard or do any work related activity at home, I dress decently and put on some mak-up. That is my office and I have to respect it," she offers.

Logan Mutwiri agrees. He says it is difficult to concentrate if you are dressed in lazy home clothes. Being dressed up complete with shined shoes and combed hair automatically drives you to focus on the work at hand. "For those of us who compartmentalise everything, working from home is absolutely awful. My productivity has been slim to none. I am used to a routine of going to the barber shop, getting my shoes done and importantly a dedicated space outside my home to concentrate and accomplish work goals. All of this have not been forthcoming with children around, and noise, which mostly disrupts my video calls and meetings. I have not been able to draw the line," he admits.

Mental preparation

The Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has told people it's important to keep up their routines to ease anxiety during the corona virus pandemic.

In agreement is psychologist James Mbugua. He says fashion in general has become increasingly casual over the past few decades, however, even in a casual work environment, there's a limit.

"It's all about mental preparation, if this helps somebody to mentally prepare and to go through that habit [of getting dressed], don't change that," he advises.

Working from home is flexible and you don't have to commute, but what is important is your psychological state.

He recommends that if a person is working from home in his or her pajamas and feels like they "should" be dressing up, they need to look at where that inner voice is coming from.

"It's important to maintain a routine. If you work out early in the morning, do so and shower the same time you normally do. Maintaining good workplace etiquette is important by checking calendars before scheduling meetings. Five in the evening should be 'home time' at home. That would ease up on the anxiety and stress and minimise overworking," he offers.

HOW TO DRESS

● You don't have to dress in designer clothes, but what you see in the mirror matters. If you don't look ready to get into business, it can affect your productivity.

● Since your normal routine is interrupted when you work from home, it can help you feel more at ease to wear something a bit closer to what you'd normally wear at the office,

● As with most things, figuring out your ideal work from home style is all about balance and the most important thing is to establish a regular routine.



LOVE & LAST
WITH WAITHERA OTIENO



Why finding true love is hard today

Today, we love with caution. We want to stay on the shallow end, only revealing snippets of ourselves to impress or to manipulate. We are too strategic about love. We have one foot in, and the other out. The grass is constantly greener on the other side.

Since going digital, we communicate our emotions, not with words or facial expressions, but with animation and symbols. We share with strangers, information meant for intimate lovers.

We text constantly, sometimes with three or four people, without intending to meet them. And whatever excitement we get out of these exchanges, we make up stories in our head to fill in the gaps. We imagine that this is love.

On dating apps, we swipe right or left in seconds. How would you judge the true worth of a person without ever meeting them?

Appearances are deceptive and most things that glitter are not gold. Gold is rare and sometimes, you may have to dust something to test it, to see its true worth. Most of the updates you see on social media are like marketing. Marketing is about creating illusions.

Because we are afraid of love, we run and hide at the first sign of discomfort. We ghost people, we chase superficial bonding experiences and we never show our true selves.

And yet, true love is about being real about yourself. Love is about honesty and vulnerability. For real love, don't treat people like objects. Communicate, be respectful, be kind. Even if your date doesn't meet your standards, be nice. They are a fellow human being, after all.

Real love can get messy. Sometimes it comes with insecurities, tears, confusion and misunderstanding. To find gold in love, choose a partner and hold them, come rain, come sunshine.



FAMILY FABRIC WITH JOSEPH HELLON

To those struggling to let go of past hurts, seek help

When a person is born in a family that's angry and vindictive, they develop certain defence mechanisms that they think can help them cope. These defence mechanisms are geared towards securing them from pain and rejection. The trouble is that they end up in greater pain and rejection. A person is bound to what they hate in their parent, guardian or authority. They hate it, but they end up like it. This brings fear and frustrations in people's lives as they feel helpless in the face of a behavioural pattern they have no control of.

I've heard people helplessly say, "Look at

me acting just like my guardian. I vowed never to hurt my children and now, I'm doing the exact thing I never wanted to do!" This is a typical example of a person bound to their painful past. One way of dealing with this dilemma is to acknowledge that it exists in the first place. Knowing that a problem exists is the very first step towards solving it. Looking for help is a very powerful way of dealing with this kind of a problem. The one who seeks help activates possibilities and will very often get that help.

What stops most people from getting help is shame. Most people think that they are the

only ones suffering in a certain way and feel that they will be a spectacle of embarrassment if they open up and seek help. This is retrogressive and can only cause the problem to get worse and worse.

Those who have overcome difficulties should openly talk about their victories so as to encourage others. If your relationship is functional after a tough time, tell others how you made it through your fights and disagreements. If you've reconciled with your spouse after a separation or a divorce, and your relationship is now sound and fulfilling, it

would help if you took time to talk about your challenges and victories. You might be helping another person who could be facing the same predicament.

What one could be suffering from could be another person's strength and glory. What's hard for one could be extremely easy for another. This is why we must develop social skills of interaction and sharing. Even in the face of the lockdown and the troubles facing the world as a result of corona virus, try your best to communicate and to interact with people on phone and online. Talk and seek help.

Take Off ▶ Green Agenda

BRIEFLY

World is better at conservation, study reveals

Researchers, using a kind of machine learning to assess the successes and failures of wildlife conservation over time, indicate that we're getting better at reintroducing species to the wild.

In the study, appearing March 19 in a data science journal, *Patterns*, researchers assessed abstracts of more than 4,000 studies of species reintroduction across four decades.

"We wanted to learn some lessons from the vast body of conservation biology literature on reintroduction programmes that we could use here in California as we try to put sea otters back into places they haven't roamed for decades. But what sat in front of us was millions of words and thousands of manuscripts. We wondered how we could extract data from them that we could actually analyse, and so we turned to natural language processing," says senior author Kyle Van Houtan, chief scientist at Monterey Bay Aquarium in California.

Natural language processing is a kind of machine learning that analyses strings of human language to extract useable information, essentially allowing a computer to read documents like a human. Sentiment Analysis, used in this paper, looks more specifically at a trained set of words assigned a positive or negative emotional value to assess the positivity or negativity of the text overall.

The trends suggested greater conservation success. "Over time, there's a lot less uncertainty in the assessment of sentiment in the studies, and we see reintroduction projects become more successful — and that's a big takeaway," he says. "Looking at thousands of studies, it seems like we're getting better at it, and that's encouraging."

"If we are going to maximise our conservation dollars, then we need to be able to quickly assess what works and what doesn't," says study co-author Lucas Joppa, Chief Environmental Officer at Microsoft.

-Science Daily



Environment still under threat with Covid-19

Stories of improved air and clean drinking water in countries on lockdown over coronavirus gives a glimpse of hope the environment will recover from toxic elements due to human actions. However, experts are quick to debunk this as MILLIAM MURIGI finds out



@amilymur1

The novel coronavirus is upending everything from transport to businesses and the economy. It is also having a big impact on the environment.

Nancy Githaiga, policy research and innovation manager at Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) Kenya, says impact of a compromised planetary health are no longer futuristic. They are already here with us and the lack of balance posed by our actions is causing real damage.

"There is nothing positive about the virus on the environment. Of course there will be reduction in emissions from controlled air travel, clampdown on economic activities globally and locally, small reductions in emissions from traffic as more and more people stay indoors, but this is short-lived," she says.

What is more alarming, she says, is that where there are higher instances of air pollution, citizen's health is often compromised by long-term exposure, making people more vulnerable and susceptible to diseases such as COVID-19, with urban population more exposed.

Underlying health damage to respiratory functions may as well create higher vulnerability on city dwellers and those exposed to toxic fumes than others.

"This pandemic needs to make companies and governments realise other threats to humanity such as climate change, could be just as devastating, and it is imperative to develop protective measures," she says.

Elizabeth Wathuti, an environmentalist and climate change activist, echoes Nancy's words, saying since social distancing and working from home were recommended as a protection measure, the environment has benefitted with improved air quality due to decreased driving and less coal burning.

Data from National Aeronautics and



LEFT: Nancy Githaiga, policy research and innovation manager at Worldwide Fund for Nature. TOP RIGHT: Elizabeth Wathuti, an environmentalist and climate change activist. COURTESY

Space Administration (NASA) and the European Space Agency shows since January 1st, air quality in China has significantly improved. Experts also say that between January 1st to March 12th concentrations of nitrogen dioxide produced by cars and power plants fell immensely, especially in Italy. However, researchers note that a measurable change in one pollutant does not necessarily mean air quality is suddenly healthy across the countries.

Apart from Nitrogen Dioxide falling immensely, greenhouse gas emissions in China has also gone down by 25 per cent as the country conducted a massive societal intervention to stop the spread of coronavirus.

Reduced water pollution

Wathuti also notes countries will also experience reduced water pollution, considering not all companies are operating normally, thus less effluent released to water bodies. Additionally, since movement of people from one point has been restricted, amount of waste, which ends up to our water sources has been minimised as well.

With fewer cars being used in different countries, there is reduced global demand for oil. This could make longer-term investments in clean energy more attractive for major energy players. And maybe certain



nations will respond to the economic crisis with stimulus efforts that pump money into clean energy and climate adaption.

However, this might also spike fossil fuel consumption as the global economy takes steps to recover, negatively impacting investment in renewable industry.

"I would urge our government to use this current situation to step up our climate ambitions and launch sustainable stimulus packages focused on clean energy technologies," says Wathuti.

She adds the biggest negative impact on the environment will be overuse of available water, considering proper hygiene and sanitation is the main preventive measures recommended to stop the spread of the virus.

"So far, we have seen people setting up community washing points or people washing their hands frequently. This will double or triple our water demand and of course nature will feel this heat," says Wathuti.

Mountain of waste

Apart from increased demand for water, there has been high demand for preventive gears such as face masks, hand sanitiser, hand wash and wet wipes. However, how these products are disposed of is quite worrying, and will be a major environment challenge that will have both short and long-term impact.

The discarded gears have also raised concerns about the spread of germs, which can end up in our water bodies. Worst, the products are made of non-degradable materials, increasing apprehension about their environmental impact.

And with the virus consuming everybody's attention, the climate change issue has been crowded off the agenda. Last week alone several United Nation meeting meant to tackle global warming and halt extinctions of plants and wildlife were postponed or cancelled outright in response to the pandemic. There is a possibility of postponing the COP26 talks scheduled for Glasgow in November, although a decision is yet to be taken. At the event, countries are supposed to come up with more stringent plans to curb greenhouse gas emissions since current plans under the Paris Agreement are inadequate.

"Meetings should be cancelled, but important decisions should not be delayed. The corona crisis cannot be allowed to slow down action to tackle climate and ecological crises," said Wathuti.

BENEFITS

- Air quality has improved in some countries due to lockdown over the coronavirus, according to NASA and European Space Agency.
- This is after reduction in concentration of nitrogen dioxide and greenhouse gases.
- Experts also note reduced water pollution thanks to low or zero capacity industries, reducing effluent into water bodies.
- Demand for oil has reduced.



- 5.00 Inuka
- 6.00 K24 This Morning
- 9.00 Daily Brief
- 12.30 Inside Business
- 13.00 News Cut
- 13.30 Sports Hub
- 14.00 Bongo Movie
- 15.00 Sweetest Love
- 16.00 K24 Mashinani
- 16.30 Jus Kidz
- 17.00 Beatbox
- 18.00 Hollywood Movie
- 19.00 K24 Saa Moja
- 19.30 Jane And Abel
- 20.00 A Carnival Affair
- 21.00 K24 Evening Edition
- 22.00 Tujwane X
- 23.00 Playlist 254 Rpt
- 00:00 DW Feed



- 5.00 Ime Ria Rucini
- 6.00 Rikiratha
- 11.00 Kurekeneria Kodii
- 12.00 Rimwe na Kuuna
- 1.00 Mohoro Gitau
- 1.30 Thirinka Music Mix
- 3.45 Kameme Toonz
- 4.00 Ririmbuka Live
- 6.00 Tuika Wakwa
- 7.00 Kameme Maturaini
- 8.00 Njungwa ya Muthee Kherjo
- 8:30 Gatimia Karogi
- 9.00 Mutamburuko Wa Mauhoro
- 10.00 Thenema cia Kameme
- 12.00 Deustsche Welle Tv



- 12.00 Football Review- Rpt
- 6.00 Morning Express
- 08:00 Life N' Style
- 12.00 Documentary
- 4.00 Mbiu-Ya-Ktn
- 5.00 Baseline
- 6.00 Losing Heaven
- 7.00 KTN Leo
- 7:30 Just Kidding
- 8.00 Great Bake Off
- 9.00 KTN Friday Briefing
- 10:20 Movie

TIME OUT!

22.00pm Tujwane X



::IN THEATRES NOW::

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



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



- 5.00 Password Plus
- 6.00 Am Live
- 8.00 Better Living
- 9.00 On The Wings Of Love
- 10.00 Wild Skin
- 11.00 NTV Today
- 1.00 NTV At1
- 1.30 NTV Sasa
- 3.00 China Wings
- 3.30 Gina D's Kids Club
- 4.00 NTV At 4
- 4.15 Password
- 5.00 The Beat
- 6.00 Be Careful With My Heart
- 7.00 NTV Jioni
- 8.00 Wild Skin
- 9.00 NTV Tonight
- 10.00 Li 360
- 11.00 World Cup Daily Highlights
- 12.00 CNN

HOROSCOPES



- ARIES (MAR. 21- APRIL 20)**
 You need to be around friends and family. It would be in your best interest to stay away from any intimate involvement with a client or coworker.
- TAURUS (APR. 21- MAY 21)**
 You will easily blow situations out of proportion. You may divulge private information without realizing it today.
- GEMINI (MAY 22-JUNE 21)**
 Put aside any decisions concerning your position at work. Discuss your objectives with partners or peers.
- CANCER (JUNE 22-JULY 22)**
 Try not to take everything so seriously. Real estate investments could be to your advantage. Don't bang your head against a wall.
- LEO (JULY 23-AUG 22)**
 Don't push your opinions on others today or you may find yourself in the doghouse. Don't make promises that you can't possibly keep.
- VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 23)**
 Ease the anguish by offering assistance. Organize your day well if you wish to accomplish all you set out to do.
- LIBRA (SEPT. 24-OCT. 23)**
 Make career changes that may increase your income. Try to make your lover understand that you need to do things with your friends.
- SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)**
 You will be able to communicate well today. You can expect to feel confused about your personal prospects.
- SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23-DEC. 21)**
 Travel will lead you in new directions. You might find that delays will cause setbacks and upset. Female members of your family may be difficult to deal with.
- CAPRICORN (DEC 22- JAN. 20)**
 Sudden romance could end just as quickly. Use discretion in your dealings and refrain from making verbal promises of any kind.
- AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 -FEB. 19)**
 Pleasure trips will be favorable and bring about possible romance. Only offer to do the things you have time for. Luxury items will cost you more than you can truly afford.
- PISCES (FEB. 20-MAR. 20)**
 Someone you work with may be withholding valuable information. Disappointments regarding partners will be subject to the way you react to their personal comments. You can spend a passionate evening with someone you cherish if you make your plans early.

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

SUDOKU

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

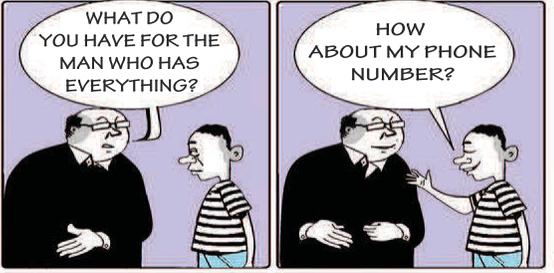
The aim is to fill the grid so that each row, column and every 3x3 shaded box contains only one of the digits 1-9. You need to reason out where to place the missing numbers by using the numbers given in the grid and a process of elimination. It is a game of logic not mathematical ability.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		8				
9				10		
11				12		
			13			
	14					
			15	16		
17						18
				20		
19						
21						22

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1. Crits | 2. Redgiants |
| 4. Smack | 3. Bets |
| 10. Auditor | 5. Midnight |
| 11. Ditto | 6. Cot |
| 12. Boil | 7. Jabber |
| 13. Assigned | 8. Crush |
| 16. Flinged | 9. Goad |
| 17. Whites | 14. Nutrition |
| 20. Castaway | 15. Detailed |
| 21. Lino | 18. Sponge |
| 23. Vigil | 19. Lames |
| 25. Bootling | 20. Cave |
| 26. Suds | 22. Boor |
| 27. Grand | 24. Got |

LIFE'S LIKE THAT! | BY TUM



- | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ACROSS | | |
| 1. Wild mountain goat (4) | 18. Antelope (3) | 5. Public official (5,7) |
| 3. Ranger of colours (8) | 19. Sandy fawn colour (5) | 6. More circular (7) |
| 9. Grottesque monster (7) | 20. Sweet icing (7) | 7. Where you were born (6,7) |
| 10. Jump over (5) | 21. Legal UK drinking age (8) | 8. Second part of the Bible (3,9) |
| 11. Born (3) | 22. Depend on (4) | 14. Sheets and blanket (7) |
| 12. Type of shell (5) | | 16. Nonsense (6) |
| 13. Tests (5) | DOWN | 18. Assess; rank (5) |
| 15. Come to a point (5) | 1. Unbelievable (13) | |
| 17. Russian spirit (5) | 2. Select class (5) | |
| | 4. Public square in Italy (6) | |

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Nyakua 10K Bonus kila ukishinda Ksh 20,000 au zaidi na Tatua3 mwezi huu. Zaidi ya Ksh 1,000,000 kushindaniwa!



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- 2** Pick your 3 lucky numbers. Enter them as the account name followed by PD eg 357 PD
- 3** Enter your Bet amount. Min Ksh10 Max Ksh1000
Match 3 numbers in sequence and win 300 times your bet. Match 2 numbers in sequence and win 10 times your bet.

Play with Ksh 70 and above to win Ksh 20,000 and qualify for the bonus.

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Covid-19 may prove virtual sports game changer

BETTING: With an unprecedented captive audience of three billion people in coronavirus lockdown, virtual sports events are wooing fans after traditional live sports were shut down and public gatherings banned in many countries. Horse-racing, boxing, cycling, football and motor-racing chiefs are desperate to maintain their fanbase and are scrambling to provide a fix and maintain revenues. With stadiums

closed and events such as the Tokyo Olympics and Euro 2020 postponed, organisers are generating advertising revenue by streaming virtual sports on YouTube, Facebook and Twitch or even broadcasting them on traditional television platforms. Sports is where the numbers are and fans denied real games are turning to live streaming, watching people play games, and taking part in those video games themselves. **-AFP**



Celtics guard Smart free of coronavirus 10 days later

BASKETBALL: Boston Celtics guard Marcus Smart (pictured), who tested positive for the new coronavirus 10 days ago, has been cleared by American health officials, he announced Sunday on Twitter. "Corona Free as of two days ago. Cleared by Mass (Massachusetts) Dept of Health," Smart wrote on social media. "Thanks for everyone's thoughts and prayers and I'm doing the same for everyone that's been effected by this. Stay safe and stay together-

apart! Much love!" So far at least 14 NBA team members have tested positive for COVID-19, including the Brooklyn Nets' Kevin Durant and Utah Jazz's Rudy Gobert and Donovan Mitchell. He joins France's Gobert and Mitchell and Detroit Piston's Christian Wood with all-clears after coming down with the illness. Earlier this month, league commissioner Adam Silver said NBA players should be considered "super spreaders" of the disease. **-AFP**



Australian rugby league rolls out rescue package

RUGBY: Australia's National Rugby League rolled out an emergency rescue package yesterday to ensure all 16 clubs can stay afloat during the coronavirus shutdown, with plans to resume the season on July 1. The NRL kicked off a fortnight ago, making it through just two rounds—one behind closed doors—before becoming one of the last profession-

al sports worldwide to succumb to the pandemic. There were concerns that some clubs would not survive the loss of revenue, with many already forced to send staff home, often without pay. But after lengthy talks, funding was agreed that will see each team get an extra Aus\$2.5 million (Sh150 million) to cover operational costs between April and October **-AFP**

How Maseno have remained on top



Maseno School and Hanna Mixed from Uganda during the final of the rugby 15s during the 2014 East Africa Games in Tanzania which they won. FILE

Kisumu-based school credits stability and desire to maintain rich legacy for their 22-year dominance in rugby 15s in the region

by Gibo Zachary
@PeopleDailyKe

Idowu Koyenikan, a Russian/Nigerian author, once said, "even though your time on the job is temporary, if you do a good enough job, your work there will last forever."

This statement perhaps best describes Nyanza secondary school games 15s rugby heavyweights Maseno School.

Maseno's prowess in 15s rugby in the region is akin to Brazil in football as the Samba Boys are the only national team to have graced all 22 FIFA World Cup tournaments since 1930.

The same goes for Maseno who have featured in all Nyanza regional games since 1998.

Maseno, the oldest formal education school in Kenya, was established in 1906 by the Church Missionary Society as an institution for children of African chiefs, and has an unmatched record in rugby 15s that no other secondary school in Nyanza has.

Most astounding is the fact that they have not only been featuring in these competitions but have also played in all finals since 1998, another unmatched fete.

Even though St Mary's Yala (12) have more titles than Maseno (10), the latter has finished runners-up 12 times and are hoping to continue that dominance this year when the games resume after the coronavirus pandemic.

So what is the secret? Nothing special, according to the school's games master Eric Awounda.

"We just train hard but it is all about the legacy and history of the school. The boys just want to maintain the history and defend the badge of this great institution. We don't do anything extra ordinary," says Awounda.

"In terms of facilities, we have all we need. The administration has been very supportive and gives us everything," adds Awounda.

However, while the students are not doing anything extra ordinary, Maseno have been reaping

the fruits of stability and continuity in their coaching department which could be the reason they keep excelling.

Maseno keep their coaches unchanged for long and whenever one retires or is transferred, they elevate his assistant. For instance, Kennedy Ojero was head coach for three years from 2010 assisted by Gilbert Onyango and when he left, the latter took over for five years, deputised by Paul Nyamita. Nyamita would take over in 2018 and has been in charge since, assisted by Steve Oluoch.

"It's our culture to keep and develop our coaches. In fact, this is one of the reasons we have always been doing well.

"The coaches know the philosophy of the school and the desire of the boys, the areas they need to improve. It's another reason for our consistency," says Awounda.

While they have not dominated nationally like in the region, Maseno have also not been pushovers in sevens rugby where they are six-time Nyanza region champions and twice winners at national level.

In East Africa, Maseno have featured three times, winning once in 2014 finishing runner's up in 2015 and third in 2012.

NYANZA SECONDARY SCHOOL RUGBY 15S WINNERS

2019: Maseno School
2018: St Mary's Yala
2017: St Mary's Yala
2016: Maseno School
2015: Maseno School
2014: Maseno School
2013: St Mary's Yala
2012: Maseno School
2011: St Mary's Yala
2010: Maseno School
2009: St Mary's Yala
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1999: St Mary's Yala
1998: St Mary's Yala



Former 800m world champion Eunice Sum after winning gold in the 2013 Worlds in Moscow, Russia. PD/FILE

Sum sums up life under lockdown

Former 800m world champion speaks of frustrations and challenges athletes are facing as virus disrupts sporting calendar

Nairobi, Monday
@PeopleDailyKe

Athletics stars from around the world are sharing insight into how they are coping during the coronavirus outbreak, which continues to cause great uncertainty and disruption to training and competition.

Here, 2013 world 800m champion Eunice Sum talks about her own situation.

"The priority now is for the world to be healthy again and virus free. My first race was to be the Doha Diamond League," says Sum, who won 800m gold at the 2013 world championships and 2014 Commonwealth Games.

"I was preparing for that but now of course it has been postponed. If the Diamond Leagues were postponed to autumn or even December that would be okay for me but the priority now is for the world to be healthy again and

virus free," she added.

"We are still training but trying as much as possible to follow what the government is saying," explains Sum, who lives in Eldoret.

"I am able to train but I cannot do any speed work on the track because all the stadiums are closed. So what I do is run on the road and try to do some pace variations on the road. I don't have my training mates with me, I'm just training alone."

"Staying motivated is a little bit difficult but I tell myself I must continue training because I don't know what is going to come out of all this. I just leave it to God because he is in control of everything."

The 31-year-old adds: "It is hard for all athletes. Some of my friends went to Europe, I think to Paris, for a half-marathon but couldn't run. That is hard."

"My friend Vivian (Cheruiyot), her two big races this year were to be the London Marathon and the Olympics, both off."

Life in Kenya

"I live in Eldoret and things are not really good here," says Sum. "Most of the shops are closed except supermarkets and chemists. All other businesses are locked."

"I shopped for food last week so I have not needed to shop this week so I just stay in the house. The only time I have been out of the house in the last week is to go training. And when you're out you must not speak to anyone!"

The Olympics

"I agree with the decision which was made (to delay the Games)," Sum says. "Athletes are not able to train well enough."

"I think postponing the Olympics for one year is better than cancelling because if we have to wait four years, you don't know whether you will still be in good form. Although we have been training hard for 2020, I think waiting one year will not make much difference."

"It is not ideal to have the Olympics and the world championships next year but it depends how they're going to decide on the schedule. It is so difficult to postpone events because they have been arranged for years but now everything is coming out in a different way."

"I wonder if they could do the Commonwealth Games earlier (in 2022) and the world championships in its usual place at the end of the 2022 season."

-AW Sports

BRIEFLY

World athletics championships moving to 2022

PARIS: The 2021 world athletics championships will be shifted to 2022 to accommodate the re-arranged Tokyo Olympics, World Athletics said yesterday. The announcement came immediately after Olympics organisers said the 2020 Tokyo Games—postponed because of the coronavirus pandemic—will now take place on July 23-August 8, 2021. That means the world

athletics championships that were scheduled to take place in Eugene, Oregon, on August 6-15, 2021 can no longer be held on those dates.

"We support the new 2021 dates for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games announced today by the Japanese organisers and the IOC," World Athletics said in a statement.

-AFP

Gebrselassie donates Sh5m to COVID-19 kitty

ADDIS ABABA: Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed launched the Covid-19 National Resource Mobilisation Committee to help fight the spread of coronavirus in the east African nation last week. The drive has seen bug names in the country contribute handsomely to the kitty with distance running legend Haile Gebrselassie giving nearly \$50,000 (Sh5 million)

"It's not time to profit but to save lives. We need to support the government at this crucial time and support one another," said Haile.

"This is a very different time we are in. Everything's locked down and sporting events have been cancelled all over the world, so we have to be able to support our community."

-World Athletics



Tokyo Olympics to open on July 23 next year

TOKYO: The Tokyo Olympics will begin on July 23 next year, organisers said yesterday, after the coronavirus forced the historic decision to postpone the Games until 2021. The announcement comes less than a week after the organisers were forced to delay the Games under heavy pressure from athletes and sports federations as the global outbreak

worsened. "The Olympics will be held from July 23 to August 8, 2021. The Paralympics will be held from August 24 to September 5," Tokyo 2020 chief Yoshiro Mori told reporters at a hastily arranged evening news conference.

Only hours earlier, Mori had said he expected a decision from the International Olympic Committee (IOC) during the course of the week.

-AFP



ATHLETICS

Athletes arrested, released in Iten

by Timothy Simwa
@PeopleDailyKe

Fifteen athletes were arrested and later released by police in Elgeyo Marakwet yesterday after they were found training in a group contrary to social distancing rules put in place to protect the public against the spread of Covid-19.

Elgeyo Marakwet county police commander John Mwinzi confirmed the incident as he warned members of the public and athletes against breaching the set rules to mitigate the spread of corona virus in the country.

"Our officers in conjunction with county health officials were alerted of a group of athletes who were training in one of the camps around contrary to earlier directives curtailing mobility and social distancing. We moved to arrest them," said Mwinzi.

According to Mwinzi, the group consists of both local and foreign athletes who have been in the country since the outbreak and there was no cause for alarm.

The athletes were held for more than three hours at the Iten police station before being released on a free bond. It is believed that after training, the athletes retreated to rest in a group before the police pounced on them.

"We have reminded them of the rules they should strictly follow in the course of their training and we are not about to relent in making sure these guidelines are followed to the letter," added Mwinzi.

A fortnight ago, the county government

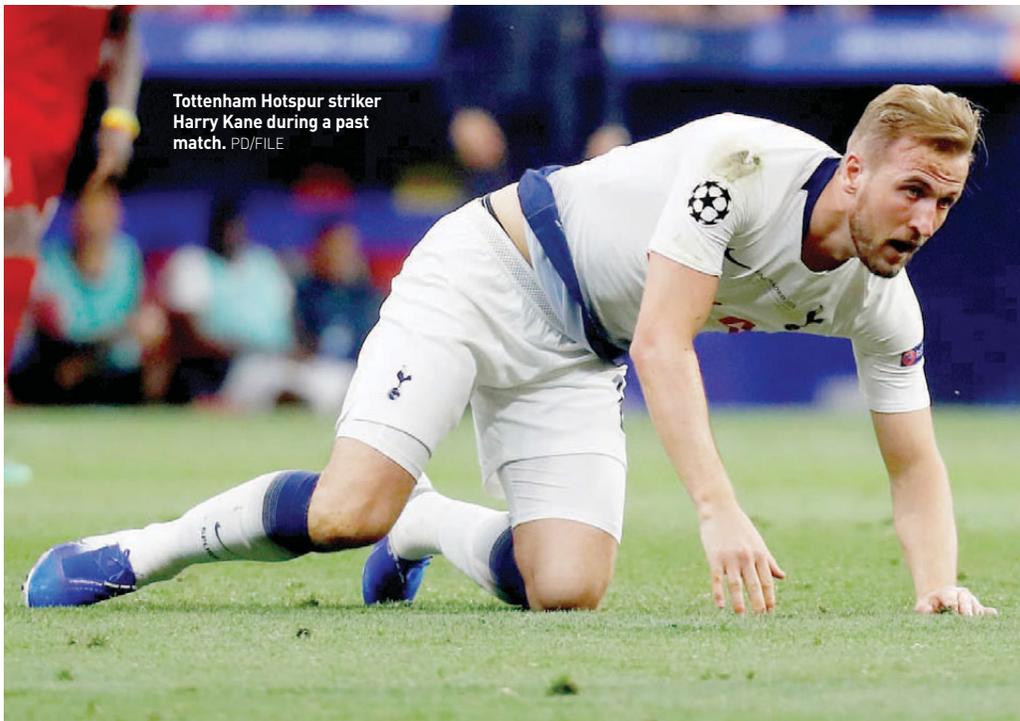


Athletes take off during a past race at Kasarani Stadium. PD/FILE

of Elgeyo Marakwet through governor Alex Tolgos moved to close all training camps in the area that attracts athletes from all over the world.

The county's altitude is the most preferable for most athletes which has seen Iten host both local and international sports personalities throughout the year until the outbreak of coronavirus in the country on March 13. His counterparts in Uasin Gishu and Nandi followed suit and equally closed training camps in their counties.

Currently, athletes are only allowed to train for a few hours in a maximum of five while observing the laid rules of social-distancing after which they are required to retreat to their homes.



Tottenham Hotspur striker Harry Kane during a past match. PD/FILE

Kane riles Liverpool fans

Tottenham striker wants season scrapped if it can't be finished by end of June

London, Monday
@PeopleDailyKe

England captain Harry Kane said on Sunday the Premier League season should be cancelled if it cannot be completed by the end of June because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The English top-flight is currently suspended until at least April 30 due to the COVID-19 outbreak, with a likely further delay to be announced soon.

There is no clear idea about when or if football will be able to resume, but Euro 2020 has been cancelled, which opens a window to bring do-

mestic seasons to a conclusion in the summer. But Tottenham striker Kane does not want Premier League chiefs to let the current campaign go past June or even the start of what would be the 2020-21 season in August, as has been suggested in some quarters.

"I know the Premier League will do everything they can to finish the season, and that they are looking at every option possible," Kane said in an Instagram Live conversation with former Liverpool star Jamie Redknapp.

"I think, for me, we do need to try to finish the season. But there needs to be a point where enough is enough."

"Playing into July or August and pushing next season back I don't see too much benefit in that. But obviously I don't know too much about behind the scenes and financially."

"Probably the limit for me is the end of June. If the season's not completed by the end of June we need to look at the options and just look forward to

next season."

Premier League matches could potentially be staged behind closed doors in a bid to complete this campaign once the current lockdown in Britain is over.

Kane does not think dragging out the season will help anyone though, especially if it delays the next term.

"The further this season is pushed on, it would have such a big knock-on effect for next season, with the Euros in 2021, and even World Cup 2022. But that's just my opinion," he said.

"Football is secondary at the moment. I know there still have to be plans in place, and I'm sure everyone is trying to do that."

"All that is out of my hands though, there's nothing I can do personally, so from my point of view we've just got to wait and see what happens. Hopefully this clears up as soon as possible, and we can try to get back to normal."

-AFP

Local coaches warn of consequences if Fifa is not respected

by Webster Nyandika
@PeopleDailyKe

Five coaches have warned against advocating for a Fifa ban on the country, insisting that such a move will be detrimental to the development of the sport.

The five, who include three Fifa accredited instructors, told off those advocating for such a move insisting that it will roll back many gains achieved in the last four years.

According to Nick Yakhama, the assistant coach of the national Under-20 team, a Fifa ban will bring to a halt all football activities in the country and anyone advocating for such a move must be out of their mind.

"It will stop us in our tracks as it will affect all our teams from the under-13 and under-15 national teams. Considering this is where most of our talents are, it will be a major setback for the country. Fur-

thermore, no local players will be free to go and play in the professional ranks," said Yakhama.

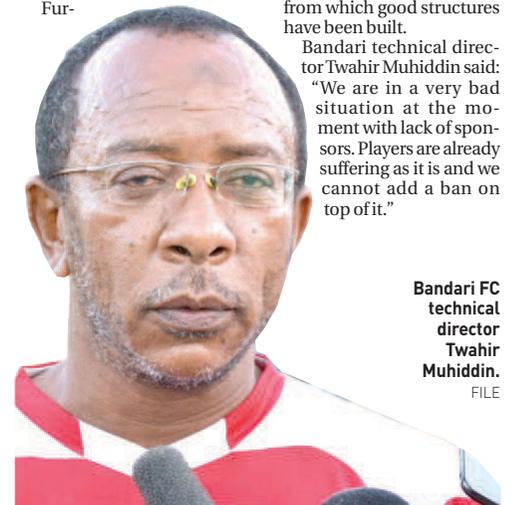
Former Northern Wanderers coach Nordin Tube also warned of dire consequences should the country be banned by Fifa.

"All leagues will be suspended immediately, leading to massive unemployment which will hit players, coaches, managers and stadia. Our national team will also miss out on major tournaments like the World Cup, Africa Cup of Nations and other Fifa-recognised events," he said.

Three Fifa accredited instructors have expressed concern that the country is on the verge of a ban from international football a move they say will roll back gains made over the last four years.

They pointed out that the current Football Kenya Federation (FFK) led by Nick Mwendwa has managed to bring harmony in the sport from which good structures have been built.

Bandari technical director Twahir Muhiddin said: "We are in a very bad situation at the moment with lack of sponsors. Players are already suffering as it is and we cannot add a ban on top of it."



Bandari FC technical director Twahir Muhiddin. FILE

BRIEFLY

Man City ace Gundogan says Liverpool deserve to be EPL champions

LONDON: Liverpool should be awarded the Premier League title if the season cannot be completed due to the coronavirus pandemic, says Manchester City midfielder Ilkay Gundogan. Jurgen Klopp's men were a tantalising two wins away from their first league crown since 1990 when the season was suspended earlier this month. The



shutdown is currently due to last until April 30. Premier League chiefs are due to meet on Friday, with no indications of when football will resume. Gundogan, whose side trail Liverpool by 25 points, told German broadcaster ZDF that if the season could not be finished, Klopp's side deserved the title. "It would be OK for me. As a sportsman you have to be fair," he said. -AFP

Benzema deepens rift by ridiculing 'go-kart' Giroud

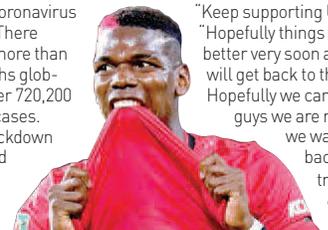
MADRID: Real Madrid's Karim Benzema has mocked France striker Olivier Giroud by likening himself to a Formula One car and Giroud a go-kart. Benzema has not played for France since 2015 and watched from afar as Giroud spearheaded the team's World Cup triumph in Russia two years ago. With over 500 appearances for Real Madrid and in his 11th season with the Spanish giants, no questions remain over

Benzema's playing skills. Asked about the Chelsea forward during a question and answer session on Instagram on Sunday night, Benzema said: "You can't confuse a Formula One car with a go-kart, and I'm being kind. I know I'm a Formula One car." "It works because he's there, that's it. It's not going to be spectacular. Griezmann and Mbappe get seen more while he rolls his sleeves up and does the dirty work." -AFP

Pogba aiming to win trophies with Man United after coronavirus

MANCHESTER: Manchester United star Paul Pogba said the Red Devils want to get back to playing and winning trophies. The Premier League and sport across the world have been brought to a standstill due to the coronavirus pandemic. There have been more than 33,900 deaths globally, with over 720,200 confirmed cases. Amid the lockdown in the United Kingdom, Pogba—who has

been linked to former club Juventus and La Liga giants Real Madrid—had a message for United fans. "Stay at home, stay safe," Pogba said in a video call with team-mate Jesse Lingard via the club's official website. "Keep supporting United." "Hopefully things will get better very soon and we will get back to the game. Hopefully we can show you guys we are ready and we will go back to win trophies." -GOAL



Kenya to field two teams at World School Games

by Lynette Matheka
@PeopleDailyKe

Kenya is set to field two teams, basketball and athletics, in their debut at the World School Games scheduled from October 17 to 24 in Jinjiang, China, if no changes are effected due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

In an International Schools Federation (ISF) general assembly held in Serbia in early this month, Kenya Secondary Schools Sports Association (KSSSA) was allocated the slots to the games that will see students compete in more than 22 disciplines. "Owing to the outbreak of the virus worldwide, ISF is monitoring the situation and will advise, after consultations

with member associations, on whether the games will go on as planned or not based on the containment of the virus' spread globally," said KSSSA secretary general David Ngugi, who was also elected as an executive member in the ISF during their general assembly.

He added: "Kenya was to field a boys' basketball team and five participants in athletics. However, things could change depending on how this situation puns out so we will wait for official communication from ISF. With the games scheduled for October, KSSSA was to meet to make a decision on the selection process, whether to use the 2019 or 2020 winners to the games, but that was also put on hold."

Kenya has never participated in the biennial

championship since its inception in 1974 owing to lack of sponsorship. However, the 2020 edition's hosts, China, pledged to cater for accommodation as well as 80 per cent of all travel costs for African teams thus handing Kenyan teams a lifeline to feature for the first time.

This year's edition of the KSSSA term one games, which include basketball, handball, hockey, rugby sevens and 15s, racquet games, swimming and athletics were put on hold two weeks ago when the first case of Covid-19 was reported in the country.

The national term one games were slated for next month at Kapsabet while term two national and this year's East Africa competitions were set to be held in western Kenya.



Malava players attempt to block a spike from a Kitende player during a past East Africa Secondary School Games match in Tanzania. FILE



Lawyers Elvis Majani and Victor Omwebu representing FKF president Nick Mwendwa (right) and CEO Barry Otieno (centre) at the Sports Disputes Tribunal last month. PD/DAVID NDOLO

Experts feel stalemate could hurt FKF's coffers

Sports marketing professionals feel sponsors could back off federation if current impasse persists

by Barry Silah
@PeopleDailyKe

Football Kenya Federation (FKF) risks losing big-money sponsorship if the current electoral stalemate continues.

FKF were due to hold elections last December but that has been quashed twice by the Sports Disputes Tribunal (SDT), the latest decision made on March 17 where the John Ohaga-led team proposed a normalisation committee from Fifa to run things while until a new team is placed.

However, Fifa quashed all that last week, saying they do not recognise the SDT while setting up a meeting between FKF, the tribunal and Sports Cabinet Secretary Amina Mohamed to solve the issue next month.

It is still not clear, however, whether the meeting will be fruitful, leading to uncertainty in Kenyan football.

It is this scenario that has sports management experts warning that the federation could lose what they have or not attract more should the situation persist.

"Any sponsor worth his salt would be rattled under the circumstances and would want to hold back. Shareholders are a very wary lot and might not want to be associated with bad press. Elections are supposed to be a structured process that does not damage interests because any sponsor out there is selfish," said Sports Business Consultant Cynthia Mumbo.

"Football, like any other sport, is about the growth of the game and things like politics should be secondary. What we have with FKF currently is negative vibe and sometimes this is hurtful to the overall picture. However, key on this issue will be about contract clauses and since the federation signed long-term deals, it would be beneficial in that sense," she added.

Sports Advocate Elvis Majani has a different view, arguing that most

of the FKF's sponsors currently, and especially the betting firms, were coerced by circumstances.

"We all know the political push and pull that has been witnessed by betting firms and the government because of taxes. This made some firms pull out while the ones that remained had to play ball. The pressure was on them to go into what could pull numbers and add value to their bottom-line," said Majani.

He went on: "Besides, they have full-proof contracts which now shield them. However, in the future some of the clauses will demand great scrutiny especially in the event of exiting. Both parties are wary not to breach contract terms because it is not about individuals. A brand like Safaricom would be more wary and obviously will be following the issue keenly because they have a name to protect at all costs."

"I think the headache would most likely be if the argument was based on financial misappropriation, then the legal implications would prompt a rethink in their partnerships," said Majani.

Betika introduces new lucky-dip virtual jackpot

by Gibo Zachary
@PeopleDailyKe

With all major football leagues suspended due to the COVID-19, there are a lot of unanswered questions for the lovers of the game.

Will Liverpool get to lift that trophy after waiting for so many years? When will we get to watch the beautiful game again?

Punters also found themselves in limbo as the lack of matches affected their favourite pass time activity. Some of the local betting firms have, however, got their customers covered with a wide variety

of virtual and casino games to fill the gap. One of these firms is Betika.

A lot of punters have now discovered Betika's virtual and casino games with some saying that its even easier to win than actual sports betting. Betika has one of the best and most interactive virtual games in the market.

To make it even better for their customers, Betika have now launched a virtual jackpot where customers do not have to place an actual jackpot bet to win.

By playing the available virtual games, customers automatically stand a chance to win up to Sh1 million.



Homeboyz stars braced for massive pay cut

by Fred Likuyani
@PeopleDailyKe

As the effects of the Covid-19 begins to bite, Kenyan Premier League side Kakamega Homeboyz, sponsored by Kakamega County government, have been told to tighten their belts as tough times are coming.

Speaking after meeting the players at the weekend, Homeboyz patron Cleophas 'Toto' Shimanyula revealed that an agreement has been reached with the sponsor and the playing unit to slice their pay by half if the coronavirus pandemic persists.

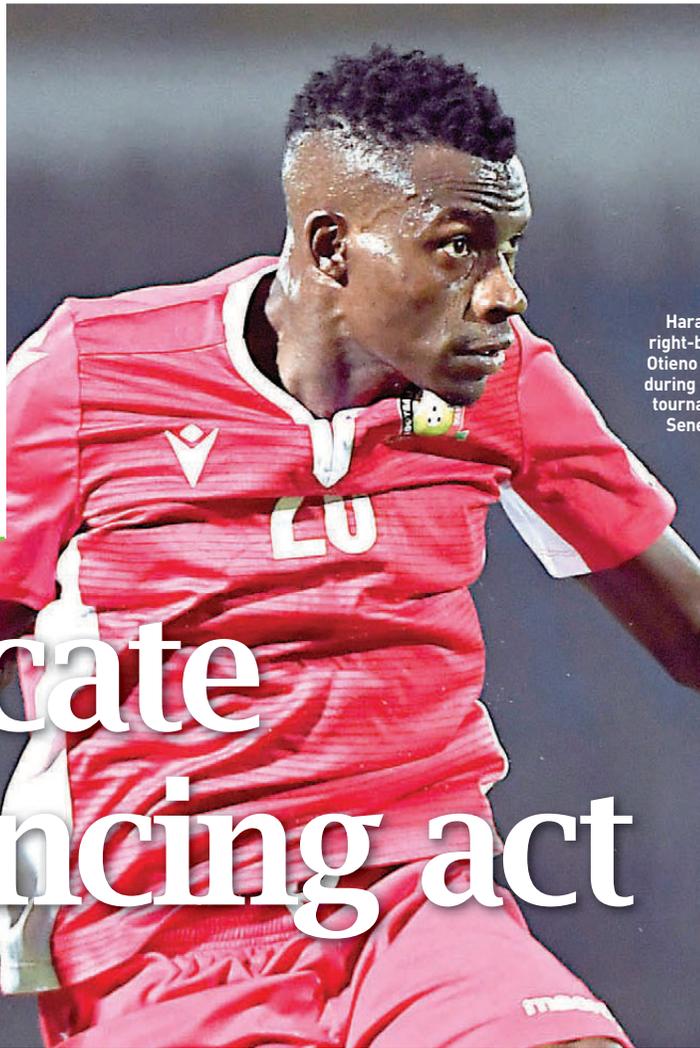
"We want to make it clear that the payment for the month of March will remain intact as we assess

the situation and if things will not change, then we will have no other option but effect the pay cut," says Shimanyula.

"The current situation is not encouraging. Economically, things are getting tough each day and we have therefore advised our players and the rest of the staff to tighten their belts starting from April as we closely monitor the situation," he added.

"I am also taking this opportunity to warn those mandated with the management of football in the country to reconsider their approach of running the game so that we end wrangles and avoid a potential Fifa ban," he said.

PD SPORT



Harambee Stars right-back Philemon Otieno heads the ball during the 2019 Afcon tournament against Senegal. PD/FILE



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Delicate balancing act

African football date-juggling looms amid coronavirus pandemic

Johannesburg, Monday
@PeopleSports11

The May semi-finals and finals of the two annual African club competitions are likely to fall victim to the coronavirus pandemic sweeping the continent.

After two-leg semi-finals in the competitions between May 1 and 10, the Champions League final is set for May 29 in Douala, five days after Rabat hosts the Confederation Cup title decider.

But the postponement of both competitions seems inevitable as the full impact of the COVID-19 disease has still to be felt in the continent with the most fragile public health systems.

Already, two rounds of 2021 Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers and the African Nations Championship in Cameroon have been postponed due to the killer COVID-19 disease.

Here, AFP Sport considers the date-juggling options in the major African national team and club competitions:

World Cup

Home and away preliminary round ties last September reduced the number of contenders from 54 to 40 for five places

at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

Next comes 10 six-matchday groups between October 5, 2020, and October 12, 2021, with the table-toppers paired in five two-leg showdowns to decide who represents Africa.

Group dates this October and November may have to accommodate delayed 2021 Cup of Nations qualifiers instead, but there are sufficient international windows next year to catch up.

Africa Cup of Nations

Qualifiers for the 24-nation tournament in Cameroon from January 9 to February 6 2021 have fallen two rounds behind after fixtures scheduled for this month were cancelled.

It is hard to imagine the single round set for June 1-9 taking place and there must also be doubts about matches planned for August 31-September 8.

CAF will hope they can stage double matchdays between October 5-13 and November 9-17, dates currently allocated to World Cup group games, and complete qualifying.

African Nations Championship

The April 4-25 tournament in Cameroon, which is restricted to footballers playing in their country of birth, has been postponed due to the coronavirus.

With no foreign-based stars involved, the tournament does not have to fit into a FIFA international window, creating flexibility when it comes to finding new dates.

Apart from the football, the Nations

Championship offers Cameroon an opportunity to test whether they are ready for a much more demanding task, staging the 2021 Cup of Nations.

CAF Champions League

The semi-finals pit Casablanca clubs Raja and Wydad against Cairo outfits Zamalek and AlAhly respectively, raising the possibility of a first final between clubs from the same country.

While a May 29 conclusion seems unlikely, the matches can be staged until September 6, with the last-32 first legs of the 2020/2021 season scheduled to kick off five days later.

The competition could also be shortened by turning the semi-finals into single matches in Douala, the Cameroon port city chosen to host the final.

CAF Confederation Cup

The semi-finals in the African equivalent of the UEFA Europa League will see Pyramids of Egypt meet Horoya of Guinea and Renaissance Berkane face fellow Moroccans Hassania Agadir.

Like the Champions League, the semi-finals are due to be home-and-away affairs, followed by a single-match final in Rabat, giving Berkane or Agadir a distinct advantage.

CAF will likely seek new dates, and possibly reduce the semi-finals to single matches, between June and September 6, five days before the 2000/2021 season gets into full swing.

-AFP

BRIEFLY

KEFWA wants quick end to FKF elections impasse

NAIROBI: Kenya Footballers Welfare Association (KEFWA) wants an end to the current elections stalemate within Football Kenya Federation (FKF) for the good of the world football governing body Fifa banned the country, it is the players who would feel it the most. "We call upon the warring parties to put their political interests and differences aside and spare a minute for the Kenyan player and the country at large. We urge them to work with Fifa and the Ministry of Sports with a view to finding a common solution and to create a healthy environment for professional football," said KEFWA Secretary General Jerry Santo (pictured) in a statement yesterday.

-Barry Sitah



'Pamzo' joins opponents of early end to Kenyan Premier League season

NAIROBI: Posta Rangers coach Sammy "Pamzo" Omollo has derided those calling for the Kenyan Premier League to be ended prematurely due to the coronavirus pandemic. Football Kenya Federation CEO Barry Otieno had hinted at an early end to the season to comply with continental body CAF's calendar if the situation stayed for long but Pamzo has now joined those opposed to that scenario. The former Tusker FC coach says it would be unfortunate to subject certain teams to an unfair situation when the season was still wide open. "We need to wait for directions from government and then make some of these pronouncements. With 12 matches left, a lot can happen and especially the teams fighting relegation that have a chance of survival. Adjustments to the calendar can be done for fairness' sake," said the former Kenyan international. Pamzo, whose team is 11th on the 17-team table, joins Tusker coach Robert Matano, Kakamega Homeboyz Nicholas Muyoti and AFC Leopards' Anthony Kimani in opposing an early end. -Barry Sitah