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• 100% Polyester
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each

SAVE 725



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2 FOR

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• Dry boil protection
• 2000W
• 12 Month guarantee
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24000

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Pot Set
• Heat resistant
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pans
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safe
• Dishwasher safe
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2400

per set
SAVE 495

game

14378 | Deals Valid : 26 March - 8 April 2020 | See back page for T's and C's.

2

People Daily

Curfew kicks in

UPDATES
28 cases
confirmed in Kenya.
At least 446,946
people have been
diagnosed with virus
worldwide, 112,058
have recovered
while 19,811 have
died.

COVID-19 HOTLINES
>719
>0800721316
>0729471414
>0732353535

Corona crisis: President falls short of declaring a total lockdown to combat spread of virus, whose toll in the country hit 28 yesterday, after Kenyans violate Health ministry rules even as he announces a raft of measures to cushion the poor, protect jobs from impact of pandemic **PG 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12 & 13**



News Beat PG 3

Uhuru unveils taxation relief measures to cushion poor

EASING CORONA PAIN



Cushion for the elderly

Appropriation of an additional Sh10 billion to the elderly, orphans and other vulnerable members of our society through cash transfers by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, to ease them from the adverse economic effects of the Covid-19 pandemic



VAT reduction

The National Treasury to immediately reduce the VAT from 16 to 14 per cent, effective April 1, to bring down cost of goods and services



Tax Relief

100 per cent Tax Relief for persons earning gross monthly income of up to Sh24,000. Reduction of Income Tax Rate (Pay-As-You-Earn) from 30 per cent to 25 per cent.



CRB suspension

Temporary halt to Credit Reference Bureaus (CRBs) listing for individuals, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and corporates over loan arrears.



Affordable credit

Lowering of Central Bank Rate (CBR) to 7.25 from 8.25 per cent to prompt banks to reduce interest rates to their borrowers and unlock the affordable credit to MSMEs.

CORONA CRISIS

Hospitals start discharging patients to decongest wards

Doctors concerned health institutions may become avenues for spread of coronavirus

by People Team
@PeopleDailyKe

Hospitals were yesterday asked to discharge hundreds of patients in their wards in an effort to decongest the institutions and prevent the spread of coronavirus.

Some hospitals have also scaled down the provision of key services with the referral institutions opting to release "stable" patients while retaining only those in a critical condition.

This means hundreds of patients could be left in the care of relatives at home with some hospitals indicating that they may not admit more patients.

At Nairobi Hospital, chief executive Allan Pamba announced the cancellation of elective surgical procedures in the hospital theatres with the exception of birth-related cases.

Pamba said the outpatient clinic will be closed but will attend to patients in obstetric, family health, vaccination and baby clinics, which will be strictly on appointment.

"These measures will decongest the hospital and help to reduce transmission risks to both staff and the public," he said in a statement.

The hospital also announced the closure of all doctors' clinics within the institution and advised patients to consult with them on phone and prescriptions sent to the pharmacy via email or WhatsApp.

Non-emergencies

At the Aga Khan hospital, patients will be expected to take a photo of their prescriptions and send them to the pharmacy via WhatsApp through a number that will be provided by the hospital.

Nairobi-based Apple and Sense Hospital said it had suspended all non-emergency appointments and treatments until next week and this may be subject to further changes.

"If you have a medical emergency and require an appointment for our services, please call the hospital. Please do not walk in, call ahead," the hospital said in a statement.

Public hospitals are also discharging patients to create room in the anticipation of a surge in coronavirus cases.



Nairobi Hospital yesterday said it had suspended all elective surgical procedures with exception of birth-related cases.
PD/FILE

Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Teaching and Referral Hospital chief executive Peter Okoth said they were releasing patients in stable condition but in a responsible manner.

"The whole country is in a state of preparedness and we are simply creating room by discharging patients that have been treated and are on the recovery path and we feel they can safely complete the process at sub-county hospitals," he said.

Okoth said emergencies will be attended to and no patient will be turned away.

"We have also limited public visits to patients in wards to just one every day. Health workers must be safe from the pandemic. Every one walking into this hospital is screened. This instills confidence in health workers. We don't want them abandoning patients," he added.

The medic, however, said there was a shortage of protective gear and urged the ministry to distribute supplies that come into the country to all regions.

Serious cases

In Kilifi, 234 patients had been discharged by yesterday afternoon. County Secretary Mkare Jefwa said patients, who were given a clean bill of health by doctors, were discharged from Kilifi, Malindi, Mariakani, Bamba and Mtwapa health facilities.

"Only patients who need close monitoring by doctors are being retained. We want to decongest the facilities so that hospitals do not become another means of spreading the virus," he said yesterday.

The county Secretary said no further admissions were encouraged unless in serious cases.

In Kiambu, Gatundu, Thika, and Kiambu level five facilities discharged 55 patients whose bills were waived by Governor James Nyoro last week.

More exposed

The county is also planning to discharge less-critical patients in all major hospitals to reduce overcrowding.

In Nakuru's Level Five Hospital, the Medical Superintendent Joseph Mburu said they had reduced the number of visitors to one per patient.

"Only one family member is allowed to visit a patient in the facility. We expect full compliance to avoid overcrowding," said Mburu.

At the Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital, patients who have been recuperating are being discharged over fears of coronavirus spread.

People Daily also learnt that some relatives were demanding the discharge of patients because of concern that they were more exposed to Covid-19 at the hospital.

"A doctor advised me that she should be discharged because she was out of danger," said a relative of a patient. In Mombasa, medical personnel were in a state of panic with reports of some of them sending away patients with symptoms similar to those of Covid-19.

The medics said they were ill-prepared to deal with the virus due to lack of protective gear and adequate training.



Mudavadi: China should help Kenya to confront virus

by irene Githinji
@PeopleDailyKe

Amani National Congress (ANC) party leader Musalia Mudavadi yesterday asked China to take a moral responsibility by helping Kenya to cushion against the economic woes afflicting the East African nation in the wake of the coronavirus disease.

Mudavadi said China has a moral obligation to have a fresh look at Kenya's debt portfolio adding that an engagement with Kenya's Treasury would be of greatest essence.

"Reflecting on the genesis and spread of the virus, it is morally sound to acknowledge that Covid-19 began from China, to the very best of everyone's knowledge. It is also true that as we face debt repayment challenges as a nation, our largest creditor is China," he said.

In a press statement, the former Finance Minister stated: "China has a moral obligation to accede to a fresh look at Kenya's debt portfolio. Some of these repayments are now either due, or are soon falling due. China must open up avenues for interest waivers, debt restructuring and deferring of some of the loan repayments."

Mudavadi also asked the Kenya Government to consider a measured shutdown to cushion the country from further effects of coronavirus pandemic.

He said the best way ahead was for President Uhuru Kenyatta to call for a periodised shutdown, given the fact that Kenyans treated government directives to contain the disease, frivolously.

"This will most likely wake us up to the harsh realities of mortal dangers that our conduct is exposing us to. As ANC, we will not only support the possibility of a measured shutdown of the country but also urge the government to consider this option. But as we contemplate the possibility of this severe final resort, we must begin looking for answers to the economic and social challenges," the one time Vice-President said. Going by the turn of the scourge thus far, Mudavadi told the government to enhance a stable social and economic stability towards cushioning the country against effects of coronavirus pandemic.

Even as the focus is made towards addressing the disease, Mudavadi said, there were equally important concerns affecting Kenyans' wellbeing against the backdrop of the pandemic slowly crippling the economy.

He said Kenya must be ready to address coronavirus on its own, which should include economic survival and stability.

Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) party leader, Raila Odinga separately urged Kenyans to obey directives repeatedly issued by the Government regarding the disease.

"I feel obligated to address on the threat of coronavirus. Corona is real and a threat to humanity. It has already claimed 16,000 lives worldwide," said Raila.

Raila outlined seven points for Kenyans to adopt in om the fight against the disease, among them washing hands with water and soap, use sanitisers, staying away from funerals.

POINTERS



PAGE 15

CoB, finance boss on the spot over Sh280m bills



PEOPLE PLUS PAGE 24

In wood, I have found my life's purpose, says Catherine Soi

WEATHER TODAY

Nairobi	25°	Nyeri	24°
Mombasa	33°	Kitui	24°
Kisumu	28°	Wajir	34°

Uhuru declares dusk to dawn curfew to fight Corona spread

President also rolls out a raft of measures to cushion Kenyans from economic impact of the pandemic

by Eric Wainaina
@EWainaina

Life is bound to drastically change for Kenyans after President Uhuru Kenyatta yesterday imposed a dusk to dawn curfew in the war against the spread of coronavirus, even as he warned of more extreme measures if the ones already in place prove in adequate.

Uhuru, who spelt out a raft of new measures aimed at cushioning Kenyans against adverse economic effects of the virus, also revealed that the country had recorded three new cases, bringing the total to 28.

He, however, said one patient had fully recovered while other numerous suspected cases had tested negative. He said this was "a clear indication that we can and we will beat the virus".

Besides the curfew, which will be between 7pm and 5am starting tomorrow, the President directed measures that will see tax relief for workers and businesses as well as cash transfer to the elderly who are the most prone to Covid-19.

Essential services

Addressing the nation from State House, Nairobi, Uhuru said the National Security Council invoked the Public Order Number One on Coronavirus Pandemic to restrict movement of people because Kenyans had been reluctant to adhere to the behavioural protocols by the Health ministry to combat the spread of the virus.

"A daily curfew from 7pm to 5am shall be in effect in the territory of the Republic

of Kenya, with all movement by persons not authorised to do so or not being medical professionals, health workers, critical and essential services providers, being prohibited between those hours," he declared.

He added: "These measures have been taken as a result of Kenyans failing to heed to the advice. Let us not find ourselves being forced to take even sterner actions."

This will be the first national curfew in the country since 1982 when a section of the military attempted to overturn then President Daniel arap Moi's government.

The curfew will, however, not apply to workers offering essential services including police, media, food, medicine and petrol suppliers, mobile service providers, fire brigade and emergency services.

The others include Kenya Power and supermarkets.

Uhuru criticised irresponsible behaviour of Kenyans and singled out political and religious leaders, who he said, had contributed to the spread of the disease and warned that he would not hesitate to announce more drastic measures to protect Kenyans from the pandemic.

"If the measures are deemed to be inadequate, we shall, without hesitation take even further and more drastic measures to ensure that the cardinal duty of the

DIRECTIVES

- The President has directed radical measures that will see tax relief for workers and businesses as well as cash transfer to the elderly.
- Kenyans, he says, should be prepared to have their lives affected by the behavioural protocols imposed by the government.
- The President has zero-rated income tax payment for workers earning Sh24,000 and below while those earning beyond that got a five per cent waiver.



government and of the state which is the protection of life and property is assured," said Uhuru.

Kenyans, he said, should be prepared to have their lives affected by the behavioural protocols imposed by the government until the nation conquers the pandemic, saying social distancing is now the new norm.

"The most effective way to limit the spread of the virus is through basic changes in individual behaviour and hygiene," he said.

Due to the economic impact of coronavirus, Uhuru zero-rated income tax for workers earning below Sh24,000 and a five per cent reduction for the rest.

The turnover tax rate was reduced from 3 per cent to one per cent for all Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

Tougher measures

Further to step up the fight against the pandemic, the President directed that Sh1 billion from the Universal Health Coverage be allocated for the recruitment of additional health workers.

"I further direct the Ministry of Health,

the County Governments and the Public Service Commission to expedite the recruitment process," he said.

The pandemic, which has claimed 19,784 globally and infected 441,187, has thrown the world into a spin with several countries declaring lockdowns and imposing other tough restrictions to combat it.

Also, the government set aside additional Sh10 billion which will be distributed to the annual cash transfers through the Ministry of Labour and social protection, to cushion the elderly, orphans and vulnerable groups during the hard economic times.

"This fund will cushion them from the adverse economic effects of the Covid-19 pandemic," he said.

And following concerns that Kenya Ferry Services in Mombasa was the weak link in curbing the spread of Covid-19 because users continue to crowd, the President placed its management under the police and the provincial administration.

"The management of the Kenya Ferry Services is vested in the National Police Service, the Coast Guard and the National Government Administration Officers," he said.

General Service Unit officers patrol the streets of Nairobi yesterday.
PD/KENNA CLAUDE

State injects Sh10 billion to cushion elderly, vulnerable in crisis

by Bernard Gitau
@PeopleDailyKe

The government has set aside an additional Sh10 billion to cushion the elderly, orphans and vulnerable groups against the economic effects of coronavirus.

Addressing the nation yesterday, President Uhuru Kenyatta said the fund would be distributed to the annual cash transfers kitty through the Ministry of Labour and social protection.

"This fund will cushion them from the adverse economic effects of the Covid-19 pandemic," he said.

According to the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, by February this year there

were a total of 1,094,045 beneficiaries.

The number of elderly beneficiaries is 764,644 while orphans vulnerable children is 295,307.

The Ministry in January released a total of Sh4.37 billion for November-December payment. Each beneficiary usually collect Sh2000 a month.

Uhuru also stated the number of coronavirus cases has increased to 28 after three more patients tested positive while one patient has recovered.

With the huge number of coronavirus patients across the globe being elderly that also correspond to the deaths, the move is timely to protect the country's senior citizens.

World Health Organisation (WHO) said old-



er adults and people with underlying health conditions are vulnerable and may become more anxious, agitated and withdrawn during the outbreak.

"Engage their family and other support networks" to provide information and help them

practice prevention measures, including handwashing, the UN health agency said.

WHO added that, when in isolation, they should stay connected and maintain daily routines, as much as possible.

Elderly people do not have a strong immune system so they are more vulnerable to infectious disease.

They're also more likely to have conditions such as heart disease, lung disease, diabetes or kidney disease, which weaken their body's ability to fight infectious disease.

To protect the elderly in the civil service, the President ordered and directed that all State and Public Officers with pre-existing medical conditions and/or aged 58 years and above to go on leave.

CORONA CRISIS

Uhuru orders tax reliefs to cushion poor Kenyans

Directive meant to inject more cash into an economy that has been jolted by the coronavirus pandemic

by Fred Aminga
@faminga

President Uhuru Kenyatta yesterday announced far-reaching measures to cushion the poor and protect job losses by ordering the National Treasury to implement various reliefs.

The move is meant to inject more money into an economy that has been jolted by the coronavirus pandemic.

Addressing the nation, the Head of State said stringent measures, including limited movement and self-quarantine to tame the spread of the coronavirus, have had a huge impact on socio-economic status of the country.

In a move to stave off a likely depression, the Head of State ordered for 100 per cent tax relief for persons earning gross monthly income of Sh24,000. He also ordered for the reduction of Income Tax Rate (Pay-As-You-Earn) from 30 to 25 per cent. Resident Income Tax (Corporation Tax) was also reduced from 30 to 25 per cent.

The National Treasury has also been directed to reduce value added tax (VAT) from 16 to 14 per cent, effective April 1.

Cash transfers

Turnover tax rate was reduced from the current three to one per cent for all micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). An additional Sh10 billion has been set aside for the elderly, orphans and other vulnerable members of the society through cash transfers by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, to cushion them from the adverse economic effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Listing with Credit Reference Bureaus (CRB) has been suspended for any person, MSMEs and corporate entities whose loan account fall overdue or is in arrears, effective April 1.

"All Ministries and departments shall cause the payment of at least of Sh13 billion of the verified pending bills, within three weeks from the date hereof," Uhuru

said.

Similarly, and to improve liquidity in the economy and ensure businesses remain afloat by enhancing their cash flows, the private sector was asked to clear all outstanding payments among themselves within three weeks.

Kenya Revenue Authority is also expected to expedite payment of all verified VAT refund claims amounting to Sh10 billion within three weeks, or in the alternative, allow for offsetting of Withholding VAT, in order to improve cash flows for businesses.

"Sh1 billion from the Universal Health Coverage kitty, be immediately appropriated strictly towards the recruitment of additional health workers to support in the management of the spread of Covid-19," said Uhuru.

Salary reduction

The President further urged all arms of government to take pay cuts and offered a voluntary reduction in the salaries of the senior ranks of the National Executive, with the President and his deputy taking an 80 per cent salary cut.

Cabinet Secretaries will go home with a 30 per cent salary cut, Chief Administrative Secretaries (30 per cent) and Principal Secretaries (20 per cent).

"I hereby order and direct that all State



TOP: Traders at Maasai Market off Kijabe Street in Nairobi wait for customers on Tuesday. Business is low as more Kenyans heed directive to stay home. BELOW: Police officers pass by closed stalls in Nakuru town, yesterday. PD/DAVID NDOLLO and RAPHAEL MUNGE



and public officers with pre-existing medical conditions and/or aged 58 years and above, serving in Job Group S and below or their equivalents, take leave or forthwith work from home, excluding personnel in the security sector and other essential services as outlined in the circular issued to the Public Service on March 16, 2020," he said.

The Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) has lowered the Central Bank Rate (CBR) to 7.25 per cent from 8.25 per cent to prompt commercial banks to lower the interest rates to their borrowers, availing the much needed and affordable credit to MSMEs across the country.

Lowering the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) to 4.25 per cent from 5.25 per cent should provide additional liquidity of Sh35 billion to commercial banks to directly support borrowers that are distressed as a result of the economic effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Positive measure

CBK will provide flexibility to banks with regard to requirements for loan classification and provisioning for loans that were performing as at March 2, and whose repayment period was extended or were restructured due to the pandemic.

Dr Samwel Nyandemo, economics lecturer at Nairobi University, said the measures are a positive measure for the economy, but quickly added that he expected more from the President.

"We should be more concerned with critical sectors of the economy such as medical care. I expected zero rating of incoming medical appliances. Medics are complaining of lack of specialised equipment," he said.

he added.

The President also announced the re-organisation of the ordinary calendar of Cabinet, its committees and key State Agencies so as to apply a whole-of-government response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and to foster enhanced responses to the same.

"We have further introduced close co-ordination and collaboration with the county governments; in addition to the establishment of sectoral working groups to more effectively and expeditiously implement action-points," he said.

"I expected the President to come up with measures like tax holidays, say for like five months to encourage enterprise to soldier on," he added.

Nyandemo said he also expected to hear of a stimulus fund to those offering essential services, adding that the curfew might not work despite all efforts.

A partner and tax expert at PKF Consultants, Michael Mburugu, called exemptions of those earning below Sh24,000 a big joke, wondering what employers will be thinking about as they offset the taxes for these people.

"The best thing could be to sack them," he said. "The government should differ PAYE, VAT and taxes for six months. But it might take longer," he added.

On the 7pm-5am effective Friday, Mburugu said: "Is coronavirus only spread at night? This declaration is implying a false assumption by the office."

Use Sh1b UHC funds to hire more medics, ministry told

by George Kebaso
@Morarak

President Uhuru Kenyatta has directed the Health ministry to appropriate Sh1 billion from the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) kitty to recruit additional health workers.

He ordered ministry, the County governments and the Public Service Commission (PSC) to expedite the recruitment process to tame further spread of the coronavirus in the country.

"On behalf of a grateful nation, I extend our eternal gratitude to our medical professionals and health workers for their exemplary work

that is the backbone of our continuing successes in limiting Covid-19 within our borders," the President said in his address to the nation yesterday.

The recruitment would be additional effort towards the recent sensitisation of more than 600 health workers at the points of entry in the country on how to deal with suspected cases.

Honour medics

The government has also deployed more health workers at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport to help in the screening and isolation of suspected cases.

The Head of State said to honour the health workers, it is incumbent on every Kenyan to support their efforts by limiting movement and congregating in large groups.

He reiterated that the most effective way to limit the spread of the virus is through basic changes in individual behaviour and hygiene.

"I, therefore, once more call on everyone to wash hands frequently...cover our nose and mouth when coughing and sneezing," said the President.

"By following these measures, it will allow our healthcare system and our first responders to most effectively deal with the pandemic,"

WORLD UPDATE

- 1 Most to be released are those serving sentences for minor crimes.
- 2 Soyinka hits out at Nigerian preachers over virus
- 3 Boko Haram kill 92 Chadian soldiers in 'deadliest attack'
- 4 South Africans panic buying ahead of lockdown as cases rise to 709
- 5 Rwandan who breached lockdown 'killed by crocodile'
- 6 Zambia borders to remain open despite coronavirus
- 7 Nigeria's vice-president in self-isolation
- 8 DR Congo's capital Kinshasa going into isolation.
- 9 Kenya to screen ferry commuters for symptoms.
- 10 Conflict-torn Libya confirms first coronavirus case.
- 11 Sudan's defence minister dies in South Sudan.
- 12 Malian singer Rokia Traoré awaits extradition ruling.

Uhuru, Ruto take pay cuts, urge others to follow suit

President announces reduction in his salary, deputy's and other senior government officials

by **bylrene Githinji**
@PeopleDailyKe

President Uhuru Kenyatta and his deputy William Ruto yesterday took pay cut of up to 80 percent and rallied other senior government officials to follow suit as part of the country's efforts to address the hard economic times arising from the coronavirus pandemic.

Apart from the two, who took a voluntary reduction in salaries, others include Cabinet Secretaries and Chief Administrative Secretaries (CASs) who are to take a 30 percent pay cut while Principal Secretaries will take a 20 percent reduction.

"In sharing the burden occasioned by the present global health pandemic, over the duration of the global crisis and commencing immediately, my administration has offered a voluntary reduction in the salaries of the senior ranks of the National Executive," said the President in his address.

The Salaries and Remuneration Commission (SRC) set the President's monthly basic salary to about Sh1.65 million while that of Ruto is about Sh1.4 million, the amount excluding allowances.

"I call on the other arms of government



and tiers of government to join us in this national endeavour, by making similar voluntary reductions; which will free-up monies to combat this pandemic," the President said.

President Uhuru also said all ministries and departments should cause the payment of at least of Sh13 billion of the verified pending bills, within three weeks from yesterday.

And to improve liquidity in the economy and ensure businesses remain afloat by enhancing their cash flows, Uhuru said the private sector is encouraged to clear all outstanding payments among themselves

Interior Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang'i addresses the media alongside other members of the Cabinet at a past event at the Office of the President. Cabinet Secretaries have also been affected by the directive.

PD/SAMUEL KARIUKI

within three weeks.

The Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) was directed to expedite payment of all verified Value Added Tax (VAT) refund claims amounting to Sh10 billion within three weeks or in the alternative, allow for offsetting of withholding VAT, in order to improve cash flows for businesses.

Further to guidelines issued encouraging State agencies to establish and implement frameworks for staff to work from home, the President directed that all State and public officers with pre-existing medical conditions and/or aged 58 years and above, serving in Job Group S and below

STATE OF NATION ADDRESS

● The Salaries and Remuneration Commission (SRC) set the President's monthly basic salary to about Sh1.65 million while that of Ruto is about Sh1.4 million

● The Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) was directed to expedite payment of all verified Value Added Tax (VAT) refund claims amounting to Sh10 billion within three weeks

or their equivalents, take leave or forthwith work from home.

However, this excludes excluding personnel in the security sector and other essential services as outlined in the circular issued to the Public Service on March 16.

He assured that the government, at both the national and county levels, are implementing strict evaluation and monitoring protocol, designed to proactively seek out and test persons who may be carriers of this virus.

"I recognise the anxiety that this pandemic has caused millions of Kenyan families; fearful of what the future may hold for them and their children. And the possibility of job losses and loss of income weighing heavily on their minds," he said.

The National Treasury is expected to implement immediate reliefs and increase disposable income Kenyans.

The President also re-organised the ordinary calendar of Cabinet, its committees and key State agencies so as to apply a whole-of-government approach to the coronavirus pandemic and to foster enhanced responses to the same.

"We have further introduced close coordination and collaboration with the counties in addition to the establishment of sectoral working groups to more effectively and expeditiously implement action-points," the President said.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

CAUTION AGAINST LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS (LPG) PRICE HIKE

The Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA) has received reports that a section of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) traders are arbitrarily hiking prices at retail points.

EPRA requires all LPG traders to behave responsibly and not result to any actions that will be construed as exploitative to consumers in the wake of **Corona Virus (COVID-19)** outbreak in Kenya. Accordingly, and in order to ensure transparency in retail prices of LPG, traders are required to issue receipts for all LPG transactions in compliance with Regulation 19(7) of the Petroleum (Liquefied Petroleum Gas) Regulations of 2019.

The receipt should clearly indicate the name, address and telephone number of the retailer, the name and telephone number of the consumer. In addition, the following details should also be included - the date of the transaction, the cylinder brand, the serial number of the cylinder, the net weight of the cylinder in kilograms, the unit price and the total price of the LPG sold. Handling of cylinders and issuance of receipts by LPG retailers should follow the strict guidelines given by the Ministry of Health as a measure to prevent the spread of **COVID-19**.

Consumers are urged to immediately report any cases of price hikes or non-compliance with the above mentioned guidelines through our hotline numbers **0708 444 000** or **0709 336 000** or through emails to compliance@epra.go.ke. EPRA shall not hesitate to take stern action including revocation of licenses for traders who will not adhere to these guidelines.

Director General
The Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority
1st Floor, Eagle Africa Centre, Longonot Road, Upper Hill
P.O. Box 42681 - 00100 GPO, Nairobi, Kenya
Telephone: +254-020-2847000/200 Fax: +254-20-2717603
Website: <http://www.epra.go.ke>

www.epra.go.ke EPRA Kenya @EPRA_Ke

BRIEFLY



Ferry users to cross Likoni aboard matatu, CS directs

TRANSPORT: The government has suspended the use of ferries by pedestrians at the busy Likoni crossing channel as part of measures to prevent spread of Covid-19. Transport Cabinet Secretary James Macharia in a letter dated March 24 addressed to the Kenya Ferry Services (KFS) managing director Bakari Gowa, directed that only passenger services vehicles will be allowed to ferry passengers

onboard the vessels for the next 30 days. Macharia said yesterday that the directive, which had not been implemented 24 hours after it was issued, still stands. However, Gowa said he had not received the letter. "We are just seeing it on the social media..." said Gowa via phone. On Tuesday, KFS directed all commuters to procure protective facial masks.

-Harrison Kivisu



Kinyanjui bans boda boda operations, closes markets

NAKURU: Nakuru County government has ordered all boda boda riders out of the central business district to prevent congestion as the devolved unit spelt out more measures to stem the spread of coronavirus. The County Emergency Response Committee, led by county commissioner Erastus Mbui and Governor Lee Kinyanjui, also ordered the closure of all markets in the county until further notice to allow fumigation. The traders were redistributed to Afraha Stadium, Rhonda, Githima and Afraha Annex

areas in the county. In a statement, Mbui said the move was aimed at easing congestion in the town, adding that the market and bus terminus had been singled out as weakest links in the spread of the disease. "Passengers are encouraged to walk into town and avoid the use of motorbikes to town once they alight; also only matatus and their operators will be allowed at the stage and should sit in their respective vehicles. Touting is hereby banned," said Mbui.

-Roy Lumbe

Police stations now suspend services to curb virus spread

NAIROBI: Police stations have substantially decongested their cells following the directive by the Chief Justice David Maraga that no prisoners or remandees will be presented to court in the next few days. As a result, some of the critical services offered by the police including the issuance of the police clearance certificate, have been suspended for some time. Police have been directed to avoid arbitrary arrests and unnecessary detention of suspects, for minor offences such as loitering and

causing disturbance. National Police Service Spokesman Charles Owino yesterday said station commanders had the discretion to release petty offenders on affordable and reasonable cash bail terms or free bonds to ensure that the cells are not congested. "The position is very clear that petty offenders will be offered bail or free bond at the discretion of the OCS. Station commanders are advised to be consulting their senior while making such decisions," he said.

-Zadock Angira



Diplomats follow proceedings at a past event. Most embassies are working on how to airlift their nationals back home. PD/ KENNA CLAUDE

Foreigners leave Nairobi as flights ban takes effect

Embassies organise departure of their citizens amid rising coronavirus cases, queries on healthcare capacity

by Eric Wainaina
@EWainaina

Foreign embassies yesterday began evacuating their citizens to prevent them from being stuck in Nairobi as the government ban on international flights took effect at midnight.

Since the announcement by Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe on foreign travel on Sunday, a number of embassies have been working with the Kenya Civil Aviation Authority (KCAA) and other government agencies and airlines to facilitate travel of their citizens back home.

Further, some embassies, according to sources, fear that with the apparent reluctance by Kenyans to observe strict measures outlined by the government to prevent the spread of the virus, the situation could easily get out of control and their nationals might be caught up in the mix.

There is also concern that Kenya's hospitals were not in a position to treat large numbers of infected people in case of a major spread.

Yesterday, KCAA director-general Gilbert Kibe declined to give the specific number of flights moving out foreigners, but confirmed that most embassies had contacted the authority to organise special flights, including privately chartered flights for their nationals.

"Most embassies have been reaching out to us to organise how to ferry their nationals back home. Some are arranging for the ordinary planes while others are chartering private ones," Kibe told the *People Daily*, suggesting that there has been a marked departure of foreigners in the last few days.

Countries that are actively evacuating their nationals include the United States of America, United Kingdom, Germany, Norway, Netherlands and Switzerland.

There was a flurry of activities at the

Jomo Kenyatta International Airport yesterday as hundreds of passengers whose flights had not been affected by the directive and those who had managed to organise special flights through their embassies left Nairobi before the deadline.

Kenya Airways chief executive officer Allan Kilavuka told the *People Daily* in a telephone interview that the airline had organised extra outward flights following requests by some embassies.

For instance, Kilavuka said, the airline yesterday worked on three direct flights to US, UK and Europe after they were approved by the government on request by the embassies.

Last direct flight

On Sunday, when eight more cases were confirmed, Health CS Mutahi told countries wishing to evacuate their nationals to make arrangements to do so within this period after it turned out that most coronavirus cases had penetrated Nairobi through the airport.

For instance, out of the nine new cases reported on Wednesday, seven are Kenyans and three of the seven contracted the disease through close contact with those already positive while the remaining four acquired it from foreign countries affected.

Yesterday, the US embassy in Nairobi rallied its nationals who want to leave Nairobi to take advantage of the last direct

MOVING OUT

● Yesterday, KCAA director-general Gilbert Kibe declined to give the specific number of flights moving out foreigners.

● He, however, confirmed that most embassies had contacted the authority to organise special flights, including privately chartered flights for their nationals.

flight by Kenya Airways that was scheduled to leave JKIA for John F Kennedy International Airport in New York at 9pm.

"Kenyan Airways has indicated it will offer a flight for US citizens and US Lawful Permanent Residents departing JKIA on Wednesday, March 25, 2020, at 2100 hours, provided it can sell all the seats on this flight," the embassy told its nationals.

Tony Markiewicz, a US national living in Thika, said while the cost of the ticket was high, it was a good opportunity for Americans who want to fly home.

"I am a US citizen staying here. For most of us, those prices are extremely high. However, I'm glad they are making the opportunity available. I also understand that they are flying back empty. So, sure enough, the cost will be higher," said Markiewicz. The cost of an economy class ticket on this flight was placed at about Sh335,000 per person one way, while a business class ticket was going for Sh400,000.

Fly back home

For Germany, hundreds of its nationals registered in their embassy in Nairobi in the past two days, asking for travel options out of Nairobi.

Ambassador Annett Günther yesterday said several flights were required to evacuate the high number of people who needed to fly back home.

"We get a lot of questions from troubled travellers on how you can get back to Germany. You can be sure that we are working flat out and in discussion with the Kenyan government to organise flights for you," said the Ambassador.

Norway, which is in Europe, chartered flights for its nationals ahead of the deadline owing to difficulties to reschedule flights by those who had planned to fly after last night.

"After it became known that Kenya will close its airports from midnight on Wednesday March 25, work is now underway to look into the possibilities of setting up chartered extra flights to Europe," read a statement by the Ambassador Elin Rognlie-led embassy released on Tuesday.

The Danish Ambassador Frans Makken said the country, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Dutch Association of Insurers and travel industry organisation embarked on helping its nationals who would have otherwise got stuck due to the travel ban to leave Nairobi.

Yesterday, Kenya Airways organised an extra flight from Nairobi to Amsterdam, which left JKIA at 10pm, and Makken had rallied Dutch nationals in Nairobi who wished to use it to book the flight at their own expense.



Audited financial results of the Group and Bank for the year ended 31st December 2019

I STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION		BANK		COMPANY		GROUP	
	31st Dec, 2019 Audited Shs '000	31st Dec, 2018 Audited Shs '000	31st Dec, 2019 Audited Shs '000	31st Dec, 2018 Audited Shs '000	31st Dec, 2019 Audited Shs '000	31st Dec, 2018 Audited Shs '000	
A ASSETS							
1 Cash (both Local & Foreign)	9,183,499	5,411,026	-	-	10,851,729	6,467,840	
2 Balances due from Central Banks	23,683,685	10,001,738	-	-	26,358,325	12,020,460	
3 Kenyan Government securities held for dealing purposes	-	-	-	-	-	-	
4 Financial assets at fair value through profit & loss	708,122	499,684	-	-	1,097,844	499,684	
5 Investment Securities:							
a) Held to Maturity							
i. Kenya Government securities	79,507,225	45,671,551	-	-	79,507,225	45,671,551	
ii. Other securities	8,183,003	3,336,301	-	-	12,979,477	6,027,772	
b) Available for sale:							
i. Kenya Government securities	49,500,824	14,505,166	-	-	49,500,824	14,505,166	
ii. Other securities	68,663	64,423	-	-	3,033,922	2,357,320	
6 Deposits and balances due from local banking institutions	4,783,674	3,836,830	-	-	5,617,504	5,760,941	
7 Deposits and balances due from banking institutions abroad	16,839,936	11,343,836	-	-	19,951,625	12,720,371	
8 Tax recoverable	-	-	-	19,232	268,080	70,075	
9 Loans and advances to customers (net)	227,868,480	110,736,012	-	-	249,355,409	121,503,411	
10 Balances due from banking institutions in the group	3,238,061	3,289,057	519,697	337,455	-	-	
11 Investments in associates	2,701,492	2,701,492	-	-	3,768,955	3,724,975	
12 Investments in subsidiary companies	8,554,544	8,241,574	62,420,446	29,568,705	-	-	
13 Investments in joint ventures	-	-	-	-	-	-	
14 Investment properties	-	-	-	-	-	-	
15 Property and equipment	3,394,351	1,828,213	-	-	3,844,075	2,303,483	
16 Prepaid lease rentals	6,500	-	-	-	522,500	-	
17 Intangible assets	6,766,497	3,282,443	-	-	7,008,902	3,332,803	
18 Deferred tax asset	6,792,702	2,227,404	15,984	-	7,085,373	3,670,382	
19 Retirement benefit asset	-	-	-	-	-	-	
20 Other assets	13,109,427	5,340,369	-	500	14,091,632	4,470,658	
21 TOTAL ASSETS	464,890,685	232,317,119	62,956,127	29,925,892	494,843,401	245,106,892	
B LIABILITIES							
22 Balances due to Central Banks	-	-	-	-	-	-	
23 Customer deposits	353,618,522	184,004,664	-	-	378,237,043	196,527,724	
24 Deposits and balances due to local banking institutions	549,701	57,188	-	-	3,570,901	4,957,049	
25 Deposits and balances due to foreign banking institutions	6,136,598	3,291,778	-	-	7,322,009	489,361	
26 Other money market deposits	-	-	-	-	-	-	
27 Borrowed funds	22,081,244	7,962,958	-	-	22,081,244	7,962,958	
28 Balances due to banking institutions in the group	283,905	142,369	-	-	-	-	
29 Tax payable	283,425	59,499	5,623	-	13,027	-	
30 Dividends payable	-	-	37,819	42,986	37,819	-	
31 Deferred tax liability	-	-	-	-	21,340	21,271	
32 Retirement benefit liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	
33 Other liabilities	12,521,035	3,023,745	119,921	64,299	16,300,193	4,540,718	
34 TOTAL LIABILITIES	395,474,430	198,542,201	163,363	107,285	427,583,576	214,499,081	
SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS							
35 Paid up /Assigned capital	10,859,384	5,755,468	7,488,725	3,519,701	7,488,725	3,519,701	
36 Share Premium	33,406,022	5,036,649	22,179,426	2,373,994	22,179,426	2,373,994	
37 Revaluation reserves	-	-	-	-	-	-	
38 Retained earnings	22,280,987	20,684,604	30,877,995	23,044,987	35,962,429	23,215,651	
39 Statutory loan reserves	-	656,295	-	-	199,378	829,290	
40 Other reserves	(330,138)	(23,578)	-	-	(1,083,969)	(996,305)	
41 Proposed dividends	3,200,000	1,665,480	2,246,618	879,925	2,246,618	1,665,480	
42 Capital grants	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	69,416,255	33,774,918	62,792,764	29,818,607	66,992,607	30,607,811	
43 Non-controlling interests	-	-	-	-	267,218	-	
44 TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS	69,416,255	33,774,918	62,792,764	29,818,607	67,259,825	30,607,811	
45 TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS	464,890,685	232,317,119	62,956,127	29,925,892	494,843,401	245,106,892	
II STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME							
1 INTEREST INCOME							
1.1 Loans and advances	13,667,871	9,815,814	-	-	15,703,106	11,556,752	
1.2 Government securities	8,597,721	6,859,747	-	-	9,174,993	7,386,562	
1.3 Deposits and placements with banking institutions	432,322	355,193	38,109	59,124	536,279	369,593	
1.4 Other interest income	99,453	130,650	-	-	99,453	130,650	
1.5 TOTAL INTEREST INCOME	22,796,857	17,161,404	38,109	59,124	25,513,831	19,443,557	
2 INTEREST EXPENSES							
2.1 Customer deposits	9,653,133	7,777,038	-	-	10,580,382	8,521,652	
2.2 Deposits and placement from banking institutions	146,605	206,122	-	-	293,135	318,606	
2.3 Other interest expenses	1,289,735	900,047	-	-	1,302,421	900,047	
2.4 TOTAL INTEREST EXPENSE	11,089,473	8,883,207	-	-	12,175,938	9,740,305	
3 NET INTEREST INCOME	11,707,384	8,278,197	38,109	59,124	13,337,893	9,703,252	
4 NON-INTEREST INCOME							
4.1 Fees and commissions on loans and advances	8,585,854	6,066,299	-	-	9,392,394	6,693,583	
4.2 Other fees and commissions	217,957	1,658,748	-	-	2,504,248	1,902,711	
4.3 Foreign exchange trading income	2,652,455	2,313,606	-	-	2,842,327	2,439,582	
4.4 Dividend income	139,900	423,002	1,300,000	200,000	-	-	
4.5 Other income	972,024	164,191	9,275,046	145,811	5,582,864	461,443	
4.6 TOTAL NON-INTEREST INCOME	14,525,190	10,625,854	10,575,046	345,811	20,321,833	11,497,319	
5 TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	26,232,574	18,904,051	10,613,155	404,935	33,659,726	21,200,571	
6 OPERATING EXPENSES							
6.1 Loan loss provision	5,984,982	2,110,910	-	-	6,250,273	3,709,228	
6.2 Staff costs	4,384,528	2,999,948	121,106	103,449	5,582,121	3,936,344	
6.3 Directors' emoluments	323,364	145,409	104,619	97,183	426,873	194,714	
6.4 Rental charges	819,518	517,041	1,286	1,543	895,895	785,202	
6.5 Depreciation charge on property and equipment	380,845	323,044	-	-	642,948	502,094	
6.6 Amortisation charges	615,950	546,935	-	-	644,133	573,317	
6.7 Other operating expenses	4,433,507	4,308,353	32,322	29,754	5,915,085	5,049,467	
6.8 TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	16,942,694	10,951,640	259,333	231,929	20,357,328	14,750,362	
7 Profit before tax and exceptional items	9,289,880	7,952,411	10,353,822	173,006	13,302,398	6,450,209	
8 Exceptional items	(1,176,313)	-	(62,771)	-	(2,132,719)	-	
9 PROFIT AFTER EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS	8,113,567	7,952,411	10,291,051	173,006	11,169,679	6,450,209	
10 Share of associate profit	-	-	-	-	143,880	283,979	
11 PROFIT/(LOSS) BEFORE TAX	8,113,567	7,952,411	10,291,051	173,006	11,313,559	6,734,188	
12 Current tax	(2,850,954)	(1,594,646)	(51,425)	(31,812)	(2,846,770)	(2,228,705)	
13 Deferred tax	827,086	(295,590)	15,984	-	(625,013)	497,836	
14 PROFIT AFTER TAX AND EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS	6,089,699	6,062,175	10,255,610	141,194	7,841,776	5,003,319	
15 OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME:							
15.1 Exchange differences on translation of foreign operations	-	-	-	-	282,035	(281,062)	
15.2 Fair value changes in available-for-sale financial assets	(306,560)	191,016	-	-	(369,698)	193,692	
15.3 Revaluation surplus on property, plant and equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	
15.4 Share of comprehensive income of associates	-	-	-	-	-	-	
15.5 Income tax relating to components of other comprehensive income	-	-	-	-	-	-	
16 OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR	(306,560)	191,016	-	-	(87,663)	(87,370)	
17 TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR	5,783,139	6,253,191	10,255,610	141,194	7,754,113	4,915,949	
EARNINGS PER SHARE - BASIC & DILUTED (Shs)	17.32	21.07	11.36	0.20	8.69	7.11	
INTERIM DIVIDEND PER SHARE - DECLARED (Shs)	4.88	4.75	0.25	-	0.25	-	
FINAL DIVIDEND PER SHARE - DECLARED (Shs)	5.89	5.79	1.50	1.25	1.50	1.25	

Regulated by the Central Bank of Kenya

III OTHER DISCLOSURES	BANK		COMPANY		GROUP	
	31st Dec, 2019 Audited Shs '000	31st Dec, 2018 Audited Shs '000	31st Dec, 2019 Audited Shs '000	31st Dec, 2018 Audited Shs '000	31st Dec, 2019 Audited Shs '000	31st Dec, 2018 Audited Shs '000
1 NON-PERFORMING LOANS AND ADVANCES						
(a) Gross Non-performing loans and advances	30,515,948	9,271,261	-	-	33,658,667	12,040,867
(b) Less Interest in Suspense	6,207,777	2,122,623	-	-	6,697,150	2,351,210
(c) TOTAL NON-PERFORMING LOANS AND ADVANCES (a-b)	24,308,171	7,148,638	-	-	26,961,517	9,689,657
(d) Less Loan Loss Provision	10,318,641	5,411,943	-	-	12,147,62	6,886,776
(e) NET NON-PERFORMING LOANS AND ADVANCES(c-d)	13,989,530	1,736,695	-	-	14,846,755	2,802,881
(f) Discounted Value of Securities	13,989,530	1,736,695	-	-	14,846,755	2,802,881
(g) NET NPLS EXPOSURE (e-f)	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 INSIDER LOANS AND ADVANCES						
(a) Directors, shareholders and associates	14,211,932	5,480,306	-	-	14,371,749	5,480,306
(b) Employees	2,750,274	2,728,439	-	-	5,487,678	3,098,860
(c) TOTAL INSIDER LOANS AND ADVANCES AND OTHER FACILITIES	19,362,206	8,208,745	-	-	19,859,427	8,579,166
3 OFF-BALANCE SHEET ITEMS						
(a) Letters of credit, guarantees, acceptances	49,607,900	22,435,906	-	-	54,413,720	25,497,546
(b) Forwards, Swaps and options	5,003,287	9,343,024	-	-	5,003,287	9,444,994
(c) Other contingent liabilities	-	-	-	-	-	-
(d)TOTAL CONTINGENT LIABILITIES	54,611,187	31,778,930	-	-	59,417,007	34,942,540
4 CAPITAL STRENGTH						
(a) Core capital	62,561,322	25,276,163	-	-	63,835,814	23,968,683
(b) Minimum statutory capital	1,000,000	1,000,000	-	-	1,000,000	1,000,000
(c) Excess (a-b)	61,561,322	24,276,163	-	-	62,835,814	22,968,683
(d) Supplementary capital	2,620,795	3,456,295	-	-	2,820,173	3,629,290
(e) TOTAL CAPITAL (a+d)	65,182,117	28,732,458	-	-	66,655,987	27,597,973
(f)TOTAL RISK WEIGHTED ASSETS	350,879,900	160,962,878	-	-	384,348,562	175,439,078
(g) Core capital / Total deposits liabilities	17.69%	13.80%	-	-	16.88%	12.20%
(h) Minimum statutory ratio	8.00%	8.00%	-	-	8.00%	8.00%
(i) Excess (g-h)	9.69%	5.80%	-	-	8.88%	4.20%
(j) Core capital / Total risk weighted assets	17.83%	15.70%	-	-	16.61%	13.66%
(k) Minimum statutory ratio	10.50%	10.50%	-	-	10.50%	10.50%
(l) Excess (j-k)	7.33%	5.20%	-	-	6.11%	3.16%
(m) Total capital / Total risk weighted assets	18.58%	17.85%	-	-	17.34%	15.73%
(n) Minimum statutory ratio	14.50%	14.50%	-	-	14.50%	14.50%
(o) Excess (m-n)	4.08%	3.35%	-	-	2.84%	1.23%
(p) Adjusted core capital / Total deposits liabilities*	18.55%	13.80%	-	-	17.66%	12.20%
(q) Adjusted core capital / Total risk weighted assets*	18.69%	15.70%	-	-	17.47%	13.70%
(r) Adjusted total capital / Total risk weighted assets*	19.44%	18.00%	-	-	18.21%	15.90%
5 LIQUIDITY						
(a) Liquidity ratio	50.95%	47.46%	-	-	51.83%	47.46%
(b) Minimum statutory ratio	20.00%	20.00%	-	-	20.00%	20.00%
(c) Excess (a-b)	30.95%	27.46%	-	-	31.83%	27.46%

CORONA CRISIS



Kisii Governor James Ongwae hands Nominated MCA Josephine Ombati civic education materials on coronavirus, published in Ekegusii, to help in public awareness on the deadly virus. PD/ROBERT OCHORO



Deserted stalls in Nyeri town yesterday. Most traders did not open following directives from the county government aimed at decongesting the town in a bid to curb the virus spread. PD/JOSEPH KING'ORI

Boats grounded at Dunga Beach as the fishing industry started feeling the heat of coronavirus. Authorities yesterday moved to impose a partial lockdown in the lakeside town to ward off the virus' spread. PD/VIOLETA KOSOME



Central regional commissioner Wilfred Nyagwanga (right) in Kiungwachi town on the Karatina-Nairobi highway on Tuesday when he banned hawking of foodstuff to motorists and travellers. He said only those operating in stalls will do business. PD/JOSEPH KING'ORI



Likoni ferry users put on face masks yesterday to reduce the spread of coronavirus. Kenya Ferry Service made it a mandatory requirement for users of the busy Likoni Crossing Channel to use masks and wash hands before boarding the ferry. PD/BONFACE MSANGI



Staff of Kibos Sugar and Allied Industries provides free fumigation on the streets of Kisumu. PD/VIOLETA KOSOME



Wendy Wambui, a resident of Bamburi in Mombasa helps her son Shawn Lukano to revise after closure of schools to avoid spread of the virus. PD/ BONFACE MSANGI

WORLD UPDATES

- 1 India's 1.3 billion people went into lockdown at midnight, with a "total ban" on leaving homes.
- 2 Prince Charles - heir to the British throne - tests positive for virus with "mild symptoms", palace says.
- 3 UK PM Boris Johnson answers questions in Parliament, which was expected to go into recess on yesterday evening.
- 4 A quarter of the world's population is now living under some form of lockdown.
- 5 About 170,000 people volunteer in the UK to help the NHS cope with vulnerable people.
- 6 The death toll in Spain has overtaken China, rising by 738 to 3,434.
- 7 US lawmakers agree a near-\$2 trillion stimulus package, details yet to be released.
- 8 Global cases exceed 400,000 with deaths approaching 20,000 and more than 100,000 recovered.



Travellers at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport await to board a bus to various designated hotels and government facilities for the mandatory 14-day quarantine before they can be allowed to mingle with other people. PD/JOHN OCHIENG

State closes down defiant traders outlets

Failure to observe social distancing leads to crackdown on barbers, salons, vendors in counties

by People Daily Team
@PeopleDailyKe

The government was forced to shut down businesses in major towns across the country to cushion traders from contracting and spreading the deadly coronavirus after traders defied the directive on social distancing.

Areas affected include Mombasa, Kiambu, Nakuru and Migori counties where respective regional governments with the backup of police yesterday intervened after the owners refused to voluntarily comply.

Mombasa began enforcing an order by the county Emergency Response Committee on Covid-19 on the closure of hair salons and barber shops.

The committee resolved to close down all hair salons and barbershops with immediate effect while all private hospitals must set aside some beds for Covid-19 patients.

Fred Omondi, a barber in Jomvu area, said they would not shut down their shops as they had already complied with given preventive measures.

"We are not opposed to the directive, but shutting down this *kinyozi* means I will stay idle in the house without food. We



urge the county to be considerate of those who have already complied with the safety precautions," said Omondi.

Maureen Killian, a salonist, said she has no other means of earning a living and shutting down her business would deal a blow to her. The Mother of two termed the directive punitive and discriminatory to those working in the informal sector.

"Police and county *askaris* came in the morning and ordered us to shut down failure to which we would be arrested. I had

Traders at the Nakuru Wakulima market remove their wares from the facility after the government closed all markets within the county's central business district, yesterday.

PD/RAPHAEL MUNGE

no option but to order my staff to go home. The big problem is that we have no any other source of livelihood," she said.

In Kilifi, the county government has banned boda boda riders from operating, claiming they are a recipe for the spread of Covid-19.

The move was sharply opposed by operators who asked the county administration to rescind the decision.

"We cannot stay at home without work. This is where we get our daily bread," said

MEASURES TAKEN

● **Order:** The County Government of Mombasa began enforcing an order by the county Emergency Response Committee on Covid-19 on the closure of hair salons and barber shops.

● **Closure:** In Kiambu, Governor James Nyoro announced the immediate closure of all the main markets in the county.

Kaingu Kombe, a boda boda rider who operates in Mtwapa.

Kiambu Governor James Nyoro announced the immediate closure of all the main markets in the county.

Among the facilities which were ordered closed is the popular fresh farm produce Soko Mjinga alongside Makongeni market in Thika, Wangige market in Kabete and the Limuru market.

Githurai, Ruiru and Madaraka markets in Ruiru and Thika respectively that fetch the lion's share of county's market revenue will also not be accessible to the public until mid April.

Other affected markets are Gatukuyu, Gakoe and Kamwangi markets in Gatundu North constituency.

Meanwhile, Rongo Sub-County commissioner Joseph Satia has lauded Migori residents for their positive response to measures meant to curb spread of coronavirus, including handwashing at strategic points and avoiding gatherings.

37 quarantined in Makeni after interacting with nun from Spain

Some 37 people in Mukaa Sub-county, Makeni, have been quarantined after interacting with a Catholic nun who arrived in Kenya from Spain on March 18 and defied the 14-day self-quarantine directive.

Makeni Health Executive Dr Andrew Mulwa said the 37 were traced after coming in contact with the nun and will be required to self-quarantine for 14 days in their homes.

"They will stay in their homes for the 14 days and if any of them exhibits symptoms of Covid-19, necessary action will be taken," said Mulwa.

Remain vigilant

The nun was forced to self-isolate after residents complained to the authorities. She is said to have been picked from the airport by her parents and two sisters.

Mulwa also disclosed that seven other people in the county, who recently jetted-in from abroad trips and refused to self-quarantine have been forcibly isolated.

He said the cases were reported in Malili, Sultan Hamud, Kathonzwani, Nziu, Mbumbuni, Kikumbulyu and Wote. The affected had travelled from several countries including Uganda, Spain, and



South Africa.

"In collaboration with Machakos county, we are currently doing contact-tracing for the case in Nziu because she used a matatu," said Mulwa.

Also being quarantined is a boda boda operator in Mbumbuni who ferried a Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) employee with flu-like symptoms.

Briefing the press yesterday in Wote, the Health Executive urged residents to remain vigilant, saying Kenya was in a position to contain the spread

of the disease without going into a complete lockdown.

"Japan has contained the spread of Covid-19 without a lockdown because the people heeded to the precautionary measures given, we can also do the same if we adhere to the guidelines," he added.

Hike fares

Makeni county commissioner Maalim Mohamed (pictured) said Thwake multipurpose dam construction site may be put under lockdown if the contractor does not adhere to safety measures.

He also warned public transport operators against hiking fares and carrying excess passengers.

Fares have doubled forcing passengers to dig deeper into their pockets.

Matatus plying the Nairobi-Wote route are now charging Sh1,000 up from Sh400 while fare to Makindu from Wote is up from Sh250 to Sh400.

Maalim said two vehicles have been impounded for flouting the stringent measures on carrying capacity. "One belongs to Semaka Sacco and another to Sema Sacco, we will have their licenses revoked," he said.

-KNA

This is drama that you're not ready for...

KIZAAZAA

STARTING MONDAY 30TH

7.30PM, ONLY ON

EDITORIAL

A PUBLICATION OF MEDIAMAX NETWORK LIMITED

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People Daily is published by MEDIAMAX NETWORK LIMITED at DSM Place, Kijabe Street, P.O. Box 24943, 00100 - Nairobi,

Tel: 0730144100; 0709824000; 0204944100

E-mail: editor.people@mediamax.co.ke

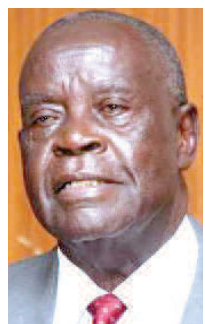
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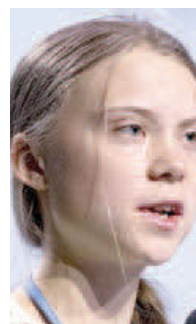
JAMES NYORO

“We have information that some bars are yet to close with others selling alcohol behind closed doors. The county security committee has instructed that such law breakers be arrested with immediate effect.”



NOAH WEKESA

“Our stores have nil stock. We sold our stock of four million bags last year and we have not bought more maize because the current market price for the cereal is beyond government's reach.”



GRETA THUNBERG

“We who don't belong to a risk group (for the deadly coronavirus) have an enormous responsibility, our actions can be the difference between life and death for many others.”

Only national efforts can defeat Covid-19

The government has spelled out a raft of measures to prevent the spread of coronavirus. The country is sitting on the edge placing its faith on health professionals who have been thrust in the deep end in the battle against the disease.

Kenya is confronted with a serious situation. Kenyans, and indeed the world, have not experienced a public health crisis of such magnitude in the recent history. That is why Kenyans must pull together in the war that demands greater personal and government responsibility.

With the number of cases in the country rising daily, energies are now directed at prevention of further spread of the disease with a particular attention to the most vulnerable especially the rural poor, mainly the elderly.

To say the behaviour of some senior public officials and clergymen has been most irresponsible is an understatement. The country is horrified by accounts that some cleric and politicians had refused to self-quarantine having travelled into the country from countries hit by the pandemic.

On coming home, they interacted with the most vulnerable groups in rural villages, putting their lives in danger. This was in defiance of a government advisory for mandatory self-isolation by those coming into the country.

It is worrisome that some of the officials from whom we expected more responsibility have tested positive of the respiratory disease.

Some of the measures spelt out by the government include travel bans, forced quarantine, an emphasis on social distancing, closure of public learning institutions, markets and stringent regulations in the public transport sector.

Nairobi, Kilifi, Kwale, Siaya and Mombasa counties have already been identified as the regions most exposed to the virus, demanding more stringent intervention measures.

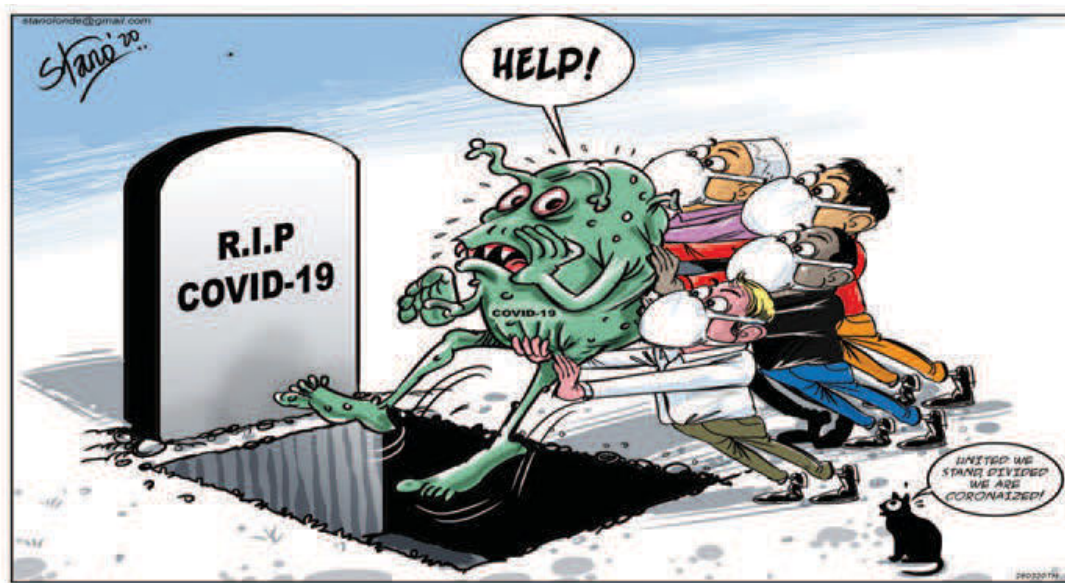
We are, however, alarmed by the discharge of what authorities say are “stable” patients from hospitals to address the challenge of congestion in health institutions. In Kilifi, for instance, the county government has ordered the discharge all patients whose conditions can be managed at home. Hospitals in other parts of the country have issued similar directives.

We understand the need for social distancing but extra caution must be exercised to ensure lives are not put into greater danger by reckless discharge of patients.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

“How poor are they that have not patience! What wound did ever heal but by degrees?”



Kenyans need government now more than ever

A couple of weeks after the COVID-19 pandemic became a global phenomenon, I gave kudos to our government for handling the matter in a level headed manner, rather than through creating fear and despondency.

Several weeks later, it is widely agreed that the team, led by the Health Ministry newbie, Mutahi Kagwe, has made Kenyans proud. Barring a few loose ends caused by over-confidence, the team is helping Kenyans into a seamless lockdown!

But that is just half the story. As people desert both work and public places, millions of Kenyans are being rendered jobless, or finding themselves under extreme financial duress, due to diminished means in their normal ways of eking out a living.

It is all good for the government to request certain critical sectors, particularly transport and hospitality, to pick up the tabs from losses accrued due to the raft of mitigation measures against the epidemic.

Contrariwise, in the developed world, governments are mobilising billions of dollars to oil the engines of their economies, with US President Donald Trump promising to write USD 1,000 checks for his fellow countrymen.

It was all good for Telkom Kenya to get into a 4G deal with Google. But how many people in Kenya care about this during such crisis? The move is akin to telling the poor to eat cake, if they cannot afford bread.

Even an archetypal middle class like me is currently living from hand-to-mouth, as people



STEPHEN NDEGWA

“The gravity of the matter has still not caught the imagination of a section of Kenyans”

ple who owe me peanuts can't pay, won't pay. Indeed, can all the thieves of public funds now see the grave inhumanity they have exposed their fellow human beings to?

Meanwhile, the gravity of the matter has still not caught the imagination of a section of Kenyans, with some still insisting on conducting their socio-economic business as usual.

I believe Interior Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang'i is just doing press up exercises behind the scenes, watching and waiting for the time when he might be compelled to crack the whip, and ensure that we are all under lock and key.

In the ongoing crisis, Kenyans did not know what to make of photos trending online showing motor vehicle accident survivor, Jubilee Party Secretary-General Raphael Tuju joyously hosting ODM's Raila Odinga and his political nemesis, Deputy President William Ruto.

A few weeks ago, Ruto cried “system”, claiming that there was a cabal of invisible people

hell bent on stopping his reggae dance to the country's presidency.

Now, that Deputy President William Ruto is a man under siege is self-evident. Of late, the stress seems to be catching up with him, and he is increasingly losing his cool.

Citizens cannot tell the truth or otherwise of the grave allegations against the DP. What is for sure, however, is that any leader worth his salt must undergo extreme tribulations, similar to the polishing of gold and diamond before refinement.

Moreover, Ruto understands the words of John 12:24 that say, “Truly, truly, I say unto you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit”.

Nature, or God, cannot allow true leaders to be cry-babies. A look at President Uhuru Kenyatta and his predecessors, from founding father Jomo Kenyatta, Daniel arap Moi to Mwai Kibaki, the journey to alpha male status is ridden with blood and tears.

Of course, I am not in any way insinuating that Ruto should step aside, or give in to pressure by his political foes. If he really believes he has a vision, and the high moral ground to boot, let him fight to the bitter end.

And even if he flops in 2022, he may want to ask octogenarian Kibaki and Raila the secret of never giving up.

— The writer is a communication expert, and public policy analyst
—ndegwasmf@gmail.com

With new developments, we'll remain ahead of the curve

Fellow citizens,

The coronavirus disease (Covid-19) pandemic is an unprecedented global health crisis that has so far manifested in more than 184 countries and territories. Globally, over 400,000 cases of the virus have been reported.

Here in Kenya, it has been 12 days since the first case was confirmed.

Our nation's response has been comprehensive and multi-faceted; with the Ministry of Health leading the charge by announcing policy measures and behavioural protocols, geared towards limiting the spread of this disease.

These policy measures and behavioural protocols continue to dramatically change our way of life. Additionally, various state agencies and private sector entities have complemented our efforts by implementing further measures, which we appreciate and applaud.

Yesterday (Tuesday), Kenya had 25 confirmed cases of the coronavirus. Today, we have received confirmation of additional three cases, bringing the national tally to 28.

Amidst this trend, I am pleased to announce that numerous other suspected cases have been found to be negative after rigorous testing. More importantly, we have today registered one recovery of the patients. This is a clear indication that we can and we will beat the virus.

Many more persons remain under close monitoring under either self-quarantine or compulsory-quarantine; measures which we have taken to ensure the safety of all our people.

As a government, at both the national and county levels, we are implementing strict evaluation and monitoring protocol, designed to proactively seek out and test persons who may be carriers of this virus.

Also, we are continuously enhancing our testing and quarantine capacity on a day-to-day basis, as supported by our development partners and international organisations. We are grateful to Kenya's friends such as Jack Ma, who yesterday donated testing kits and other equipment's.

We are and we will remain ahead of the curve.

In recognition of the extra-ordinary nature of this global tragedy and its enormous local effects, and conscious of the solemn duty of the government to guarantee the enjoyment of social, civil and economic rights; my administration has made and will continue to make targeted state interventions to cushion every Kenyan from shocks arising from Covid-19.

I recognise the anxiety this pandemic has caused millions of Kenyans; fearful of what the future may

hold for them. And the possibility of job losses and loss of income weighing heavily on their minds.

To protect jobs for our people and to provide some certainty for both employees and employers, I, as your President, order and direct as follows:

1. That the National Treasury implements the following immediate reliefs and increase disposable income to the people of Kenya, through:
 - a) 100 per cent Tax Relief for persons earning gross monthly income of up to Sh24,000.
 - b) reduction of Income Tax Rate (Pay-As-You-Earn) from 30 to 25 per cent.
 - c) reduction of Resident Income Tax (Corporation Tax) from 30 to 25 per cent.
 - d) reduction of the turnover tax rate from the current three to one per cent for all Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises;
 - e) appropriation of an additional Sh10 billion to the elderly, orphans and other vulnerable members of our society through cash-transfers by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, to cushion them from adverse economic effects of the Covid-19;
 - f) temporary suspension of the listing with Credit Reference Bureaus of any person, MSMEs and corporate entities whose loan account fall overdue or is in arrears, effective April 1.
2. The National Treasury shall cause immediate reduction of the VAT from 16 to 14 per cent, effective April 1;
3. That all ministries and departments shall cause the payment of at least of Sh13 billion of the verified pending bills, within three weeks from the date hereof. Similarly, and to improve liquidity in the economy and ensure businesses remain afloat by enhancing their cash flows, the private sector is also encouraged to clear outstanding payments within three weeks from the date hereof.
4. That the KRA shall expedite the payment of all verified VAT refund claims amounting to Sh10 billion within three weeks; or in the alternative, allow for offsetting of Withholding VAT, to improve cash flows for businesses.
5. That Sh1 billion from the Universal Health Coverage kitty, be immediately appropriated strictly towards the recruitment of additional health workers to support in the management of the spread of Covid-19. In that regard, I further direct the ministry of Health, the County governments and the Public Service Com-



UHURU KENYATTA

Every time we have been faced with adversity Kenyans have coalesced together and pulled each other out of the situation. We can and shall defeat the coronavirus

mission to expedite the recruitment process.

In sharing the burden occasioned by the present global health pandemic, over the duration of the global crisis and commencing immediately, my Administration has offered a voluntary reduction in the salaries of the senior ranks of the National Executive, as follows: The President & Deputy President 80 per cent; Cabinet Secretaries as well as Chief Administrative Secretaries (30 per cent); and Principal Secretaries (20 per cent).

I call on the other arms of government and tiers of government to join us in this national endeavour, by making similar voluntary reductions; which will free-up monies to combat this pandemic.

Further to the guidelines issued encouraging state agencies to establish and implement frameworks for staff to work from home I hereby order and direct that all State and Public Officers with pre-existing medical conditions and/or aged 58 years and above, serving in Job Group S and below or their equivalents, take leave or forthwith work from home, excluding personnel in the security sector and other essential services as outlined in the circular issued to the Public Service on March 6.

The Central Bank has additionally rolled out the following Measures:

- The lowering of the Central Bank Rate (CBR) to 7.25 from 8.25 per cent which will prompt commercial banks to lower the interest rates to their borrowers, availing the much

needed and affordable credit to MSMEs.

- The lowering of the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) to 4.25 from 5.25 per cent will provide additional liquidity of Sh35 billion to commercial banks to directly support borrowers that are distressed as a result of the economic effects of the Covid-19.
- The CBK shall provide flexibility to banks with regard to requirements for loan classification and provisioning for loans that were performing as at March 2, and whose repayment period was extended or restructured due to the pandemic.

I have re-organised the ordinary calendar of Cabinet, its committees and key state agencies so as to apply a whole-of-government approach to the Covid-19 pandemic, and to foster enhanced responses to the same.

We have further introduced close co-ordination and collaboration with the County governments; in addition to the establishment of sectoral working groups to more effectively and expeditiously implement action-points.

On behalf of a grateful nation, I extend our heartfelt and eternal gratitude to medical professionals and health workers, for exemplary work that is the backbone of our continuing successes in limiting Covid-19 within our borders. I also wish to recognise and thank all Kenyans serving in critical and essential service sectors, for their excellent efforts which have ensured the continuity of our supply-chains and the provision of critical and essential services.

To honour their hard work and sacrifice, it is incumbent on everyone to support the efforts by reducing movement and congregating in large groups. To that end, the National Security Council has sanctioned and caused the issuance of a Public Order No.1 on the pandemic, with the following key aspects:

- a) That effective Friday, a daily curfew from 7pm to 5am shall be in effect, with all movement by persons not authorised to do so or not being medical professionals, health workers, critical and essential services providers, being prohibited between those hours; and
- b) That with immediate effect, the management of the Kenya Ferry Services is vested in the National Police Service, the Coast Guard and the National Government Administration Officers.

Social Distancing is now our new norm, it is our new way of life. The most effective way to limit the spread of the virus is through basic changes in individual behaviour and hygiene. We have recently experienced cases where transmission was from our political and religious leaders who unfortunately did not heed the guidance by the Ministry of Health on self-quarantine and social distancing.

Once more call on everyone to wash hands frequently with hand sanitisers or soap and water for at least 20 seconds; cover nose and mouth when coughing and sneezing with tissue or flexed elbow; and avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms.

These measures will slow the spread and ease the effects of Covid-19 and allow our healthcare system and first responders to most effectively deal with the pandemic.

Our nation has always overcome and emerged from seemingly insurmountable challenges stronger and better. Defeating this pandemic demands cooperation, collaboration and common action. More than that, it calls for unity and shared understanding, strict adherence to the protocols issued by the relevant agencies, and the adoption of measures that will contain the spread of the virus.

Every time we have been faced with adversity Kenyans have coalesced together and pulled each other out of the situation. Together we shall be victorious. We can and we shall defeat the coronavirus.

God Bless each and every one of us, and God Bless Kenya.

— The status update on coronavirus pandemic by the President of Kenya Uhuru Kenyatta on Wednesday, March 25.

#TWEETS TO THE EDITOR



As coronavirus ravages the world, it is dawning on Kenyans that their elected leaders have abandoned them.

@AngawaEA: Once COVID-19 is over, and our now silent politicians come back loudly with sermons about how BBI will solve all of Kenya's problems, I pray Wanjiku shall remember their silence and

call out their BS.

@_ItsShark: Politicians are now silent and I hope Wanjiku is noting. I know when all this is over, they will come back and try to fool us again with BBI politics.

@ngurepeterwanjo: The silence from our politicians is alarming. If they loved

/// @PeopleDailyKe /// f People Daily

us as they usually claim, they should be sending videos on how we should be safe during this corona period. But wapi! Hakuna anayejali Wanjiku.

@lamElvisMvoi: Kenya has 42 individuals who are worth more than Sh3 billion, but they can't even donate a shilling to Wanjiku.



TRUTH IS: The way of obedience is the way off blessing.

CORONA CRISIS

Journalists who covered Kingi press briefing in self-isolation

by Harrison Kivisu
@PeopleDailyKe

Journalists who attended a media briefing by Governor Amason Kingi, who is on self-quarantine after interacting with his deputy Gideon Saburi, who has tested positive for the virus, are on self-isolation.

"None of us reporters had close contact or covered any event that the deputy governor attended. The only event we attended is the media briefing by Governor Amason Kingi," said one of the reporters who sought anonymity.

He said some of the journalists who covered the governor's briefing have been tested and found negative.

Saburi visited Germany and returned to Kenya through the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, but failed to heed the government's directive to self-quarantine for 14 days.

"We are working from home since the reports came out. Some of us are afraid because we covered the International Women's Day celebrations and some politicians from Kilifi who have tested positive attended," said a Malindi-based journalist.

We've lost Sh15m, say livestock traders

by Peter Leshan
@PeopleDailyKe

Livestock traders in Narok county say they have incurred Sh15 million losses owing to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus.

Speaking yesterday in Narok town, livestock traders said meat demand had gone down as markets closed and people forced to stay indoors while others have moved to rural homes.

"We have lost about Sh15 million. We are stuck with animals we cannot sell," said Joseph Nkuruna, the secretary of Narok



Livestock Traders Association.

The county is one of the biggest sources of meat for Nairobi.

Markets in Narok closed several months ago because of the outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease which led the county government to impose a quarantine. The traders depend on the Nairobi market.

"Since closure of Suswa, Ewaso Nyiro, Mulot and Ngoswani markets, we have only been relying on Nairobi. Now that Dagoretti and other markets in the city are either closed or operating below capacity, we are stuck with hundreds of cows, goats and sheep," he said.

He added: "Although the Central Bank of Kenya has directed commercial banks to delay recalling of loans for a year because of the pandemic, it will take long before markets stabilise to enable us service our loans," said Nkuruna.

Maize reserve stores empty, says Wekesa

SFR boss Wekesa says country facing serious staple food shortage amid lockdown caused by ravaging coronavirus crisis

by Bernard Gitau
@benagitau

Kenya is facing a crippling food shortage, the Strategic Food Reserve (SFR) chairman Dr. Noah Wekesa warned yesterday.

"Our stores have nil stock. We sold our stock of four million bags last year and we have not purchased a new stock because the market price is beyond government reach," Wekesa told *People Daily*.

Reeling from the effects of the locusts invasion, a struggling economy and now the coronavirus crisis which has virtually shut down the country, the situation could even get worse.

Wekesa's warning comes amid the government's stringent measures, including the shutdown of markets across the country to tame the spread of Covid-19.

Were the country to go into total lockdown, the situation could be dire for a population which faces perennial food shortages.

Wekesa said the board, which offered Sh2,800 per 90kg bag, was unable to buy maize from farmers for stocking because millers and other traders were buying for between Sh3,000 and Sh3,200.

"We are in a fix right now with no reserves in our stores. The Ministry of Agriculture must take urgent action to protect Kenyans from starving," said Wekesa.

Hand to mouth

He revealed that two months ago, the board asked the ministry to fast-track the re-stocking of the national reserves but it is yet to get a response.

Wekesa said the ministry should use money from the Strategic Food Reserve Fund, which was primarily established for a time of crises like the current one, to buy enough food to last for at least one month.

On Tuesday, former Cabinet minister Martha Karua urged the government to

come up with a hunger rescue plan in the face of the Covid-19 crisis.

With a majority of the population living from hand to mouth, she said it was important to cushion Kenyans from suffering.

"We have two countries we can get GMO free maize: Ethiopia and Mexico," she said.

But Wekesa said Mexico is the only country that Kenya can obtain maize from because Ethiopia is also battling the coronavirus crisis like Kenya.

"If we get the go-ahead to purchase maize from Mexico immediately, the stock will be available latest in May," he said.

He said Kenya would not allow maize from Uganda and Tanzania, saying it is of poor quality and has aflatoxin.

Wekesa said the shortage of food had been worsened by high post-harvest losses as a result of heavy off-season rains.

"We have come out of a harvesting period but we recorded a high post-harvest losses of about 30 to 35 per cent because of excess rainfall," he said.

Wekesa said the country had expected to harvest 40 million bags of maize, but less than 30 million bags were realised.

Empty stores

"If we have the Covid-19 in the next two to three months and we have only stock for a month, the crisis we are staring at is unimaginable," he warned.

Wekesa also revealed farmers have exhausted their stock, with only a few large-scale farmers hoarding maize in anticipation of better prices.

"We have been receiving calls from millers and traders saying they are running out of stock," he said.

Wekesa said the government should use Sh10 billion in the board's account to buy at least three million bags at the cost of Sh3,000 per bag.

Agriculture Cabinet Secretary Peter Munya is reported to have declined the request to buy maize, saying an audit has to be carried out first.

Munya's stand rekindles memories of last year's supremacy wars between the Agriculture Ministry and SFR.

Wekesa urged the government not to allow traders to import maize, saying they would inflict more suffering on Kenyans by inflating the cost of flour.



Strategic Food Reserve board chair Noah Wekesa during an interview in Nairobi, yesterday. PD/BERNARD MALONZA

LOOMING HUNGER

● Kenya is facing serious food shortages owing to locust invasion, coronavirus lockdown and bad weather conditions.

● The Strategic Food Reserve says it sold all its stock but is yet to restock because the board has not given a go-ahead to buy maize.

● SFR chairman Dr. Noah Wekesa says the country had expected to harvest 40 million bags of maize, but less than 30 million bags were realised last season.

"If they are allowed to do so, SFR must be involved to supervise the quality and other standards," he added.

Stakeholders warn that in the event of a total lockdown, demand for food would skyrocket and push up prices.

But Tegemeo Institute of Agricultural Policy and Development of Egerton University has allayed fears that the country will be hit by a food crisis.

Timothy Njagi, a senior research fellow with the institute, said farmers have enough maize and called on the government to discourage panic buying.

In the past one week consumers have been buying food and other essentials in large quantities, leading to increase in food prices in some market segments.

"Panic buying can cause food wastage especially if the outbreak of the virus is contained in the short term. The country food situation is stable at the moment there is no need for panic," said Njagi.

He, however, agreed that in the long run, there is need to allow imports to stabilise the market as the next harvest is not expected until July.

100 linked to Italy-based priest with coronavirus

by Eric Juma
@PeopleDailyKe

More than 100 people who came into contact with Rome-based priest Richard Oduor, who has tested positive for Covid-19, presented themselves for testing at various health centres in Siaya county yesterday.

The hundred include people who interacted with five priests who met with Oduor, Migori and Siaya-based nuns, 14 members of the priest's immediate family, 20 members of the family of the nun whose mother's funeral the priest presided over in Ambira village in Siaya county and 16 neighbours of the nun's family.

Consequently, the specimens of seven people were taken to the Kemri/CDC centre for detailed analysis.

Siaya Governor Cornel Rasanga appealed to anyone who may have interacted with the priests to call the toll free number for assistance.

"As we wait for test results of the seven people, we want to plead with those who came into contact with the priests not to panic but to call a hotline number provided to ease contact tracing and get necessary health reviews," said Rasanga.

Takeaway services

"We would like to join the national government in enforcing bans that aim at mitigating spread of coronavirus," said Rasanga.

He added that restaurants will remain open but will only be allowed to offer takeaway services while all public facilities must adhere to the directive on the number of passengers.

"We have medical staff who are equipped to handle patients affected by virus and so far, Bondo KMTC structures, hospital serve as quarantine centres," said the governor.

Yesterday, County Police Commandant Francis Kooli led police in enforcing the government's directives in Siaya town and its environs.

Boda-boda stages were allowed only four riders every two hours while market traders were doing their businesses in shifts.

Families adopt new burial rites to check virus spread

Decades of tradition put aside as funerals attended by 15 people, last 45 minutes as officers watch

by Wangari Njuguna,
James Magayi and Robert Ochoro
@PeopleDailyKe

The coronavirus pandemic has dramatically changed how families are burying their loved ones.

This follows the government's directive against huge gatherings and limiting the attendance of funerals to only nuclear family members.

Further, no food is to be served in funerals. No vigils. No requiem masses. No viewing of the body. No burial services. No communal digging and filling up of graves and no speeches. Only 45 minutes are allowed for the interment and under the supervision of the provincial administration.

"It is a wrong time to die," said Roseline Wangui from Kirinyaga, during the burial of her grandmother.

"We were not even given time to mourn. This is not the best time to die. Budget was low and we were given only 45 minutes to conduct the burial. The chief ensured we sat one metre apart. The worst was having to fill up the grave on our own because the chief and police allowed only family members to attend the funeral," she said.

This is the situation across the country as families have been forced to lock out close relatives and friends from attending funerals of individuals who had a great impact on their lives.

The limitation of attendance to funerals has painted a grim reality of the pandemic to communities that have traditionally been accustomed to elaborate sendoffs for their loved ones, often punctuated by huge gatherings and colourful tributes by friends, family members and colleagues.

In Murang'a, county commissioner Mohammed Bare ordered a group of mourners who were headed to a funeral in Kigumo go back home.

"We said the maximum number of people who should attend a funeral is 15 and this would only include immediate family members," he said.

"If we get 50 people or 60 people coming for a funeral, we shall turn them away regardless of where they shall have come from," he added.

On Saturday, another group of mourners



IN SUMMARY

● **Change:** The coronavirus pandemic has dramatically changed how families are burying their loved ones.

● **Lockout:** This is the situation across the country as families have been forced to lock out close relatives and friends from attending funerals of individuals who had a great impact on their lives.

Grandchildren of veteran teacher Samwel Nyakeyo Ayega, 77, lay wreaths on his grave yesterday at Bokeire village in Kisii. PD/ROBERT OCHORO

in Maragua, lower Murang'a, was turned away with the family being given less than 30 minutes to conduct the funeral service.

A similar situation was witnessed in Mukuyu where hundreds of mourners had turned up to bid farewell to a renowned businessman. The mourners were not allowed to view the body at the mortuary and hoped they would get a chance to attend the service but this, too, was not allowed.

Virtual meetings

In Kisii, friends and family members of veteran teacher Samwel Nyakeyo Ayega in Bokeira village, Bonchari, were also not able to mourn their mentor "properly".

Only 15 family members were allowed to witness the final farewell of a man who touched thousands of lives throughout his teaching career.

Philp Ayega, Nyakeyo's brother, said they were aware of the government directive that only 15 family members are allowed to inter their kin.

He told *People Daily* they had informed relatives about the directive and some were disappointed since they wanted to have a chance to speak during the funeral. The immediate family of the deceased was forced to close the gate to ensure the chosen few washed and sanitised their hands to pre-

vent the spread of the virus.

Nyakeyo, 77, taught at Kisii School and served as principal of Nyakeiri High School before he was promoted as a senior principal at Kisii National Polytechnic where he worked until 2000 when he retired.

Deputy County Commissioner Moses Ndiema and the area police boss Peter Machani were at the funeral to ensure that the family complied with the directive.

In Kisumu, the tribulations of the family and friends of veteran football coach Henry Omino, who passed on last Friday aged 71, typifies the disruptions communities have to contend with to keep the virus at bay.

At his age, Omino was a respected elder in the Luo community yet funeral arrangements are uncharacteristically low key.

Evening meetings ahead of the burial have been substituted with virtual meetings and fundraisers on social media sites Facebook and Whatsapp.

The family of deceased legendary Kisumu teacher Hezekiah Owiny Awange is facing similar circumstances. His first born, Dr George Owiny, who works in the UK and his two daughters cannot travel for the burial.

"In our traditions, the grave does not disappear. I will give my father the deserved respect when I come back home," said Jackline Akoth, a daughter of the deceased.

BRIEFLY

Lobby wants aged informed on Corona

The State Department for Labour and Social Protection has been urged to work with the Ministry of Health to develop, consolidate and disseminate information and key messages relating to Covid-19 to the elderly in society. HelpAge International Kenya country programme coordinator Erastus Maina said older people have weaker immune systems and an increased vulnerability to communicable disease, thus the need for them to be provided with adequate information to protect themselves from coronavirus. "This age group has higher likelihood of having other underlying health conditions such as diabetes, high blood pressure and heart diseases, making them the most at-risk population," said Maina in a press statement on Wednesday. — KNA



Keep children at home, parents told

Parents who have failed to keep their children at home following directives from the Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe to stop the spread of coronavirus will be arrested. Vihiga county commissioner Ocholo Oyugi said the government will take action against those who have disobeyed the directives of quarantining their children. He asked parents to ensure their children stay at home and avoid unnecessary movement in villages and towns. Oyugi also asked residents to remain vigilant and report people who have returned from foreign countries but have failed to self-quarantine. Vihiga county has not reported any confirmed case of coronavirus but suspected cases have been reported to the authorities.

— Enock Amukhale

China lockdown ups cost of drugs

Kenyans will have to dig deeper into their pockets to get essential drugs from chemists during the Covid-19 pandemic period, some Siaya drug sellers have warned. Speaking yesterday, Dr Calisto Singing of Lupita chemist, said the pandemic had led to closure of China and India drug manufacturing companies that were cheaply exporting essential drugs to the country. Singing said pain reliever drugs such as paracetamol are now selling at Sh850 per tin and Sh10 per 10 tablets. "Previously paracetamol cost Sh10 per 30 tablets," he said. However, prices of malaria and pressure drugs have not changed. "We are now sourcing our drugs from private sectors in the country, and it's expensive," said Jasonga chemist proprietor Stephen Omollo. — Eric Juma

Thika firms unite to combat pandemic

by Mathew Nding'u
@PeopleDailyKe

Business organisations in Thika, Kiambu county, have combined efforts to enhance hygiene practices among residents and keep coronavirus at bay.

Giant manufacturer of consumer goods Bidco Africa, bread maker Broadway Bakery Limited, Chania Travellers Sacco, Mama Millers and Equity Bank have partnered with Thika Water and Sewerage Company (Thiwasco) to provide enough hand washing units for all residents.

In a Covid-19 handwashing programme unveiled yesterday, Bidco provided 100 mobile handwashing units which will be placed at strategic high traffic areas within Thika and its environs alongside facilitating volunteers who will teach residents how to observe high hygiene standards.

Broadways donated 10, 300-litre tanks for the initiative.

Thiwasco managing director Moses Kinya lauded the firms, and said Kenyans must remain on high alert and if possible stay at home.

Kinya, however, maintained that

water rationing in Thika town and its environs will continue as the company cannot go beyond their 36,000 cubic metres daily production capacity.

While assuring that water would be supplied equitably to all areas, the MD urged water users to use the commodity sparingly.

Thika deputy county commissioner Douglas Mutai who attended the ceremony, said authorities will continue to enforce Ministry of Health directives in hotels, bars and other joints without fear to ensure that all residents are safe.



Thiwasco Board chair Joseph Wa Kimani during the launch of a handwashing initiative, on Tuesday. PD/JAMES WAKAHU

BRIEFLY

Judge Muya objects imminent removal

Embattled High Court judge Martin Muya has objected his imminent removal from the Bench for alleged gross misconduct. The judge is aggrieved by the recommendation by a seven-member tribunal to President Uhuru Kenyatta to show him the door for offending the judicial code of conduct. Yesterday, lawyer Philip Nyachoti, for the judge, formally filed the mandatory notice of Appeal in the Supreme Court registry in Nairobi. Nyachoti is expected to file an urgent application to the highest court in the land to forestall the sacking of the Judge before the appeal is heard and determined. The tribunal chaired by retired Appellate judge Alnashir Visram which handed its report and recommendation to the Head of State at State House Nairobi pronounced the adverse findings against the Judge on March 17.

- Alphonse Mungahu



Food security team to alleviate crisis

The government has set up a sub-committee on food security to ensure that the agricultural sector continues being afloat and provides food for all Kenyans following the invasion of the desert locust and emergence of coronavirus in the country. Consequently the government also said it will set up systems and structures for monitoring food prices to mitigate arbitrary price increases following the recent panic buying by Kenyans. Agriculture CS Peter Munya regretted that the threat by coronavirus and desert locust had made it impossible for Kenyans to earn their livelihoods hence difficulty in affording food. "The committee will also guarantee accessible, affordable and safe food for all Kenyans. Government is identifying and mapping the food vulnerable citizens," he said.

- Bernard Gitau

KRA takeover of parking succesful

Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) has already taken up revenue collection at car parking slots in Nairobi County following a directive by President Kenyatta last week. The county administration has confirmed the transition has been seamless and that they are looking forward to improved service delivery. The directive sees KRA take over the sector for 24 months under the newly formed Nairobi Metropolitan Services (NMS) under Major General Mohammed Abdalla Badi assisted by Enosh Onyango Momanyi. County Director of Parking Tom Tinega has dubbed the entry of KRA into revenue fray of Nairobi City as a godsend. "Indeed we anticipate things will be back to order given KRA have the expertise in that department. Working closely with other agencies," Tinega said.

- Barry Silah

Gunmen shoot dead police officer, steal firearm in Suswa



by Zaddock Angira
@PeopleDailyKe

The gunmen who shot dead a Police Constable on Tuesday morning before stealing his rifle at Suswa Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) station, Section 9 had earlier communicated on mobile phones with some of the staff.

Preliminary investigations by a team of detectives from the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) has revealed that it was an inside job.

Though the three went to great lengths including killing the officer on guard and changing the number plate of the getaway car, they only stole a cash box and left the scene without realising that it was empty.

The Commandant Railways Police Unit Rono Bunei said the robbers targeted some money that had been delivered to the station

by G4S Security Services just a day earlier, on Monday.

"The robbers specifically asked for the cash box that contained the cash which was brought to the station by the G4S Security Services staff on Monday. We believe the robbery was an inside job," Bunei said.

According to the Police headquarters, the gunmen, who were driving in a white Toyota Fielder then proceeded to the cash office where they stole an empty cash box, thinking it had money.

"We have obtained all the phone number of the staff and the G4S staff and are now doing an analysis," said a senior detective who sought anonymity.

The in-charge of the SGR Station Section 9 Inspector Joseph Gethi reported that they heard some gunshots from the main gate and when they went to check what was happening.

At the scene, they found Constable Jona Too lying unconscious with a gunshot wound on the head. His firearm was also missing.

"We can also confirm that the robbers stole the firearm that the officer had been issued with," Bunei said.

He was then rushed to Olubwani Medical clinic at Suswa but was confirmed dead by the medical officers.

Eye witnesses said the three gunmen, all armed with pistols drove to the gate and shot the unsuspecting officer before they proceeded to the cash office.

The cash was for payment of some tenders, casuals and general office administration. Detectives led by the Commandant Railways Bunei and his DCI counterpart visited the scene and recovered three spent cartridges of 9mm calibre and the stolen AK47s sling.

CoB, county finance boss on the spot after paying Sh280m

Nairobi Assembly minority, majority leaders put executive to task over payments to suppliers, contractors

by Bernard Gitau and Irene Githinji
@PeopleDailyKe

The Controller of Budget and Nairobi County Executive Member for Finance Alan Igambi were yesterday hard pressed to explain claims that more than Sh280 million was lost through payments of irregular pending bills.

Consequently, the Nairobi County Assembly Majority and Minority leaders Charles Thuo and David Mberia respectively were also put to task to prove that money may have been lost through massive payments to suppliers, service providers and contractors.

Appearing before a special sitting convened by the County Assembly Public Account Committee yesterday, Thuo was under pressure to provide details of how the payments were made after he told the committee chaired by Wilfred Odalo that millions of shillings could have been lost this month through irregular payment of garbage collection tenders.

"The fund alleged to have been released to environment department was supposed to pay 28 companies dealing with construction amounting to Sh208 million," Thuo said and asked the committee to conduct special audit in the next 14 days.

However Thuo was unable to table the documents to support his claims, prompting the members to further summon the CoB and the finance minister next week.

The PAC chairman said: "They should furnish the committee with documents in relation to the payments made between March 17 to 25 of this month."

On Tuesday, in a rejoinder, Sonko accused Mberia and Thuo of ignorance saying the county is fully functional and properly constituted as a County under the Constitution, the recent transfer of some



Nairobi MCAs Wilfred Odalo (Matopeni) consults with Clerk of the PAC Committee Sammy Kiplimo Kiptoo, yesterday. PD/DAVID NDOLU

functions notwithstanding.

He urged the two to also desist from invoking names just for purposes of remaining relevant.

Sonko saidinance and economic planning is not one of the functions transferred to the National Government and as such, all past, present and future obligations remain the responsibility of the Nairobi City County Government until it is established otherwise by law.

He also claimed the the are cartels that frustrated the reorganisation of the Finance and Economic Planning Department since December 2019, until only last Friday, March 20 when the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) effected the new changes upon the advisory of the Office of the Attorney General through the Solicitor General.

"The two MCAs are emerging as a part and parcel of cartels that frustrated reorganisation of finance and economic planning department since December last year, until only last week when the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) effected the new changes upon the advisory of the Office of the Attorney General through the Solicitor General," Sonko stated.

Through that period of confusion spanning four months, Sonko said the two were among the people who benefited from illicit and criminal payments made by officers who had long ceased to work for the Nairobi City County Government, a matter currently under investigation by DCI and the Banking Fraud Investigations Unit (BFI).

"It is unfortunate that these two have chosen to become the voice of the cartels who either got paid illegally, or who had their fake claims lined up for payment. What we are witnessing today are cries of a bitter and cornered lot who collected money from suppliers and contractors with promises of facilitating their payments, and now they are stranded since the changes of signatory mandates at the CBK," Sonko said.

Adding: "I urge the two MCAs to desist from invoking names just for purpose of sounding juicy and attractive, including that of Abdalla. As it stands, the transition is going on smoothly and we have a cordial working relationship with Abdalla and do not require disruption of idlers struggling to resuscitate their near-dead political careers."

CHARLES THUO

The fund alleged to have been released to environment department was supposed to pay 28 companies

Suspect in Nairobi West ATM heist felled in police gunfire

Death comes amid reports indicating that the tendency of criminals to re-offend is a major challenge faced by police in their line of duty

by Zaddock Angira
@PeopleDailyKe

A suspect behind the September Sh74 million Standard Chartered Bank heist was on Tuesday night shot dead by police during a botched robbery in Kayole, Nairobi.

The incident and some other latest incidents are just the tip of the iceberg with reports indicating that recidivism—the tendency of criminals to re-offend—is one of the challenges faced by the law enforcers.

Wycliffe Vincent Oduor is said to have been robbing members of the public at the Kayole junction while accompanied by two other men.

A team of detectives from Kayole Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) who responded to a distress call shot Oduor, popularly known as 'Vinni', dead as the others escaped on a motorcycle.

Nairobi Region Police commander Philip Ndolo said the gang had been terrorising members of the public in Kayole, Obama and Ruai.

"The gang defied orders to surrender, engaging the officers in a fire exchange which left the said suspect dead. We recovered a pistol and a knife," he said.

He added: "We already have adequate information about the two other suspects who escaped. We are tracking them down."

Oduor was among the suspects charged with the Standard Chartered heist and was released on a cash bail of Sh500,000 by Chief Magistrate Francis Andayi.

They were accused of robbery with violence after they allegedly robbed G4S staff of the Sh74 million and 38 cassettes, 13 purge bins and 13 canvas bags, totalling Sh75.9 million.

They were also charged with malicious damage to property after destroying property belonging to G4S valued at Sh1,267,000 in Thogoto Forest, Kiambu.

Reports from the police headquarters however indicate that criminals and some rogue officers previously accused criminal activities do relapse into criminal activities.



A police officer walks by a G4S car that was abandoned at Upperhill during a past incident.
INSET: Wycliffe Vincent Oduor.
PD/FILE

"The latest arrests and prosecutions have not been entirely deterrent. Some of these suspects get involved in other criminal activities even when the previous cases are still pending in court," said a senior officer.

The Police Service is said to lack capacity to monitor rogue officers who were dismissed or interdicted from the service due to criminal activities.

A number of officers who have either been dismissed or interdicted, or with cases pending before courts have been arrested after they were found involved in crime.

In December last year, two police officers who were seized following a botched robbery, where they arrested a man and forced him to go and withdraw cash from the KCB NHIF branch, were found to be having another case of robbery and kidnapping before Kibera Law Courts.

Constable Job Moracha Anyona, Constable Oliva Jumba, an Administration Police officer, a Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) soldier and two other suspects had earlier been arrested in a botched-up ransom demand after kidnapping a boy in Langata.

The suspects held a boy hostage and demanded Sh5 million from the parents.

STANCHART BANK HEIST

● Oduor was among the suspects charged with the Standard Chartered heist and was released on a cash bail of Sh500,000 by Chief Magistrate Francis Andayi

● In December last year, two police officers who were arrested following a botched robbery, were found to be having another case of robbery and kidnapping before Kibera Law Courts.

● The extent of involvement of police in criminal and corrupt activities can however not be established as most of these cases go unreported as most of the vic-

They were later charged in a Kibera court with robbery and kidnapping and as a result Constable Anyona and the two other officers were interdicted.

The extent of involvement of police in criminal and corrupt activities can however not be established as most of these cases go unreported as most of the victims fear for their lives or also criminals who would not want to expose themselves.

Company opposes registrar's suspension

by Alphonse Mung'ahu
@PeopleDailyKe

A company with ongoing contracts worth Sh8 million has moved to court seeking to stay a decision of the Registrar of Companies that suspended its operations.

Patrick Musili Mbangula the director of Precise Valuers Ltd says in an application filed at the Milimani High Court the decision to suspend the operations of his company is illegal and constitutes abuse of power.

Through lawyer Kevin Katisya, Musili says he has been trading with Precise since 2015. He said he has ongoing contracts worth Sh8 million with Athi River Mining Company for valuation of structures. The company also has ongoing contracts worth Sh2 million with both Cooperative Bank and Rafiki Bank.

"Precise was about to be pre-qualified by Equity Bank for a contract of about Sh5 million when the company was suspended," said Musili.

The company and its director claim they stand to suffer irreparable loss should the company continue being suspended by Registrar of Companies.

"It is therefore imperative that the court does restrain the business registration service, registrar of companies and the Attorney General (respondents) from taking any action towards actualising the suspension until hearing and determination of the suit," says Musili.

According to the court documents, the respondents in letters dated February 27, wrote to Musili demanding that he change the name of the company within 30 days as there exists another company with similar name.

Musili says the respondents without following a proper procedure, illegally and unreasonably suspended the account of his company.

He now wants the court to stay that decision.

"It is unreasonable for the respondents to suspend our accounts without any notification and without giving us an opportunity to be heard," he says.

72m

Amount of money reportedly lost in the early morning robbery as G4S personnel were loading ATM machines at Nairobi West Shopping Centre

Concern as hippos kill eight in Lake Naivasha

by Kirera Mwiti
@PeopleDailyKe

The number of people killed by hippos around Lake Naivasha since the beginning of the year has hit eight as stakeholders around the water body expressed their concern over the rise in the attacks. In the latest incident, a middle aged man was attacked while illegally fishing in the shores of the lake last week by a hippo that dragged him into the deep waters. For four days later, the body

that had started to decompose was found on Monday morning near Karagita landing beach by fishermen setting their nets. During the incident, the lone hippo attacked the foot-fisherman and in the process he got stuck in its jaws with the animal fleeing into the lake with the body as members of the public watched in horror. According to David Kilo from Naivasha boat operators association, the number of hippo attacks around the lake was on the increase.



Displaced land owners accuse county of ignoring NLC ruling

by Clement Kamau
@PeopleDailyKe

Squatters allegedly evicted in the 1970s have accused the Kiambu County government of ignoring a directive by the National Land Commission (NLC) to resurvey and determine public land occupied by Del Monte.

The commission gave the orders last year to determine the unused land by the food processing company.

Upon the re-surveying, the surplus land shall be shared by the Kiambu County government and an association called the Kandara Residents Association headed by Philip Njuguna alias PMG Kamau.

According to the directive, the residents' association will share 70 per cent of the same

while 30 per cent will go to the county government for publication use.

The American-owned company owns more than 22,000 acres of land that straddles Kiambu and Murang'a counties but the property has numerous title deeds.

The association's Kiambu Chapter presented a petition to the Kiambu County Assembly committee on Planning and Urbanisation headed by Elijah Njoroge last week where it accused the company of occupying huge chunks of land illegally.

Kamau claimed that the company had not used 7,500 acres from the time they occupied the prime land out of which 2,100 are in Kiambu County. NLC recommended the lease should not be renewed if the surplus land will not be enough to resettle the over 5,000 people.

Businesshub

The government has cautioned dealers in second hand clothes to abide by set standards

State suspends secondhand clothes imports over Corona

...as sources intimate the government may soon shut Gikomba 'mitumba' market

by Seth Onyango
@PeopleDailyKe

Kenya has suspended the importation of secondhand clothes from countries plagued by coronavirus to contain the pandemic.

This makes the multi-billion-shilling industry the latest casualty of the pandemic as the government fights to break the chain of transmission especially through markets.

Yesterday, Trade CS Betty Maina warned against the importation of secondhand clothes (*mitumba*) from countries plagued by the virus. "We have, in a meeting with *mitumba* traders, agreed the standard does not permit imports from countries experiencing epidemics and infectious diseases," she told *Business Hub*.

There is hardly sufficient evidence, however, the virus spreads through clothes contact as main cases are attributed to person-to-person transmission.

Maina's move shatters much of the European, Chinese and American source markets since all have recorded high rates of Corona infections and deaths. Sources have also told *Business Hub* the government plans to close down the Gikomba market which is the arterial supply hub of *mitumba* to limit the contagion.

Yesterday, *mitumba* stakeholders among them wholesalers, distributors and retailers, called for closure of all businesses to prevent the spread of Covid-19. "We call forth our members to support and stand with the government to contain any further infections by closing our businesses for the next one week beginning March 25," read their statement in part.

It followed a meeting between them and Maina where a decision was made to halt business operations for one week to monitor the spread of the virus. They included the Nairobi Importers and Small Traders Association (NISTA), Importers



Traders in Gikomba market in Nairobi. The government has suspended importation of secondhand clothes from countries plagued by coronavirus. PD/KENNA CLAUDE

and Small Traders Association of Kenya (Ista) and Kenya World Wide Importers and Traders Association (Kwita)

Maina urged them to consider alternative markets to source the goods. However, all Kenya's source markets are affected.

"The government has cautioned dealers in second-hand clothes to abide by set standards and avoid importing them from pandemic hit countries," her Ministry tweeted.

Tax breaks

Maina encouraged *mitumba* dealers to strike partnerships and source goods from local manufacturers. Stakeholders have also urged the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) to initiate tax breaks to SMEs and fasten value added tax refunds.

Kenya imports more than 100,000 tonnes of second-hand apparel each year, constituting more than 50 per cent of all East African imports.

In the first half of 2019, Kenya splurged Sh11.96 billion on importation of second-hand clothes and footwear. The Sh1.77 billion or 17.31 per cent growth was despite

renewed focus on incentivising struggling domestic leather and textiles industries under the Big Four economic blueprint.

The import bill for second-hand clothes rose by Sh1.04 billion or 13.36 per cent in the January to June period to hit Sh8.86 billion compared with Sh7.82 billion in the same period of 2018.

In 2018, the trade of *mitumba* items surged significantly, with traders importing 177,160 tonnes of clothes valued at about Sh17 billion up from 135, 868 tonnes in 2017 and 106,974 in 2014, according to data from Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS).

According to USAID, the industry employs more than 355,000 people in East Africa and supports the livelihoods of 1.4 million people, a big proportion of them being Kenyans.

"The second-hand items business in Kenya is soaring because of three things; first is stifled incomes, second it is offering thousands of jobs and third the items are of good quality fuelling demand," said Ernest Manuyo, an economics lecturer at the University of Nairobi.

REVENUE FIGURES

● At Mombasa port, customs agents collect duties of Sh1.2 million or more per container, officials and traders say. Although officials did not have total revenue figures, the state statistics agency said imports amounted to 100,000 tonnes worth about \$90 million (Sh9 billion) in 2013 alone.

● This would mean at least 4,000 containers and potential duties amounting to Sh5.4 billion annually could be lost, according to a Reuters estimate.

BANKING



CBK says it will not drastically cut loan rates

BORROWERS: Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) has downplayed calls for a slash in interest rates on the back of the novel coronavirus pandemic, saying the country opts for measured steps in guiding the financial sector.

Yesterday, the banking sector regulator announced a set of additional measures that will facilitate lending to borrowers adversely impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic. Expected to enhance liquidity management by banks, CBK is banking on these to strengthen the resilience of the sector. This as it operationalises measures announced by the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) on Tuesday, but in whose aftermath CBK Governor Patrick Njoroge (pictured) denounced any significant dip in interest rates.

The MPC lowered the Central Bank Rate (CBR) to 7.25 per cent, signaling commercial banks to lower their lending and deposit rates, at a time borrowers were hoping for a significant plunge on the back of Covid-19 pandemic shocks.

Earlier, banks gave relief to borrowers and SMEs by extending loan terms to offer a safety net to those who may be distressed during the impending depression.

This came as the US Federal Reserve cut in its key interest rate to near zero, in a dramatic move not seen since the depths of the 2008 financial crisis. However, the Fed's move was made in coordination with efforts to buttress the global economy by Bank of England and Bank of Japan.

"I do not think lowering rates drastically is what we would like to do," said Njoroge, adding: We have seen what it has done to developed economies particularly if it (pandemic) goes on for a long time."

—Fred Aminga

Kenya's financial markets feel coronavirus fear, loses Sh650b in three months

by Zachary Ochuodho
and agencies
@PeopleDailyKe

Kenya's financial market yesterday continued its downward spiral, losing ShSh650 billion in three months since January even as other stock markets across the world showed mixed performance.

According to +Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE) data, the stock market yesterday slid downwards to Sh1.9 – the lowest in the recent history of the Kenya's bourse, down from Sh2.6 trillion. Key counters which

have been performing well such as East Africa Breweries Ltd (EABL) declined to Sh140, Jubilee slid to Sh250 while Safaricom share price declined to Sh24.60 per share.

Analysis of the NSE statistics indicates that only four counters namely KCB Group share price increased by 3.05 per cent to Sh35.5 per share, Bamburi increased by 6.8 per cent to hit Sh48 per share, Centum increased by 9.9 per cent to hit Sh23 per share and Standard group increased by 2.33 per cent to Sh22.00 per share.

In January the market cap stood at Sh2.549 trillion before declining

to Sh1.899 trillion. But as the prices of shares continue to fall in the stock market, the shilling was also under pressure exchanging to Sh106 to the US dollar.

Reduced inflows

Analysts said the volatility of the shilling was due to reduced inflows from lockdowns in export destinations and increased dollar demand which led to sharp depreciation of the shilling. John Kirimi, a director at the Sterling Capital, said the fall of the shilling against the US dollar

is caused by the current coronavirus which has triggered unprecedented panic across the world thereby raising the demand for the dollar.

"In a crisis such as this, countries and even companies who have secured loans denominated in dollar currency tends to purchase more dollars to be on the safe side of history, thereby causing unprecedented demand," he said.

On the global scene, only stock markets in US and Asia Pacific showed slight improvement after sliding down in what many analysts attributed to the fear of corona.



Comesa to investigate Shoprite for competition law breach

by Lewis Njoka
@LewisNjoka

The Comesa Competition Commission (CCC) is investigating a Kenyan barcodes issuer and a Ugandan retailer over allegations of violating Comesa regulations on competition.

In a statement, the commission said it is investigating GS1 Kenya and Shoprite Uganda over an alleged agreement where Shoprite suppliers are forced to obtain their barcodes from GS1 Kenya for them to be allowed to merchandise their goods in the former's stores.

If true, this amounts to anti-competitive conduct and violates article

16 of the Common Market regulations, according to CCC.

The commission says it is investigating whether the agreement between GS1 and Shoprite exists, if it distorts competition as per the Common Market regulations and whether Shoprite acted unilaterally in the market in violation of article 18 of the regulations.

Their products

"The commission received a complaint alleging that Shoprite and GS1 Kenya had entered into an agreement in terms of which suppliers who wish to merchandise their products in Shoprite super-

markets in Uganda must obtain their barcodes from GS1 Kenya," says the Comesa Commission in a statement. "It is alleged that since February 2019, Shoprite has refused to receive products which do not have GS1 barcodes and has further directed its suppliers to obtain barcodes from GS1 Kenya," it adds.

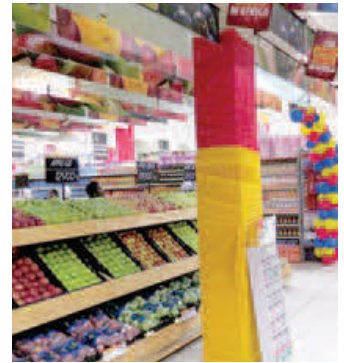
The commission, however, cautioned that the investigation should not be taken to mean that the two organisations are guilty unless the inquiry concludes so.

The investigations began on November 8, last year. Shoprite Supermarkets has 113 outlets within the Comesa region including four in Ke-

nya and five in Uganda. It is mostly concentrated in Zambia and Swazini (formerly Swaziland) where it has 49 and 37 outlets respectively.

GS1 Kenya is a not-for-profit organisation offering globally acceptable numbers for Barcodes and RFID tags supporting supply chains.

It was formed in 1998 to implement the GS1 Standards in the region. The standards are designed to improve the efficiency, safety and visibility of supply chains across physical and digital channels in 25 sectors. They form a business language that identifies, captures and shares key information about products, locations, assets and more.



Comesa Competition Commission says it is investigating whether the agreement between GS1 and Shoprite exists. PD/FILE

BRIEFLY

Firm unveils new recruitment tool

BrighterMonday has unveiled a new recruitment technology that will ease the hiring process. The new assessment tool tests an applicants' abilities beyond what is captured on their CVs. Emmanuel Mutuma, chief executive officer said BrighterMonday's proficiency assessment tool tests for core competencies and hard skills required for a specific role. "The tests are industry-specific and have been curated by experts making them excellent predictors of a candidate's cognitive ability to perform the tasks required for a role, therefore allowing employers to pick the most suitable candidates with ease," he said. Mutuma said the assessments are linked to a job listing and therefore becomes part of the job application process.

— Barry Silah



Station launched on safe hand washing

A local entrepreneur has designed a contact-less hand washing station to reduce interaction with potentially contaminated taps.

The washing station may come in handy at a time efforts to contain the spread of the covid-19, whose virus is spread through among other means, hand contact, is a priority all over the world. "With today's current health crisis, the cost and availability of hygiene essentials including sanitisers remains out of reach for many Kenyans and hand washing is a more affordable solution for most households," said Blink Electronics chief executive Peter Mbari in reference to the motivation behind the innovation.

He said the dispenser can be used in restaurants, pubs and homes adding that he has already begun production of a foot-operated mechanical hand washing station.

— Noel Wandera

Trader mints cash as online shopping, deliveries pick up

e-commerce firms scaling up operations to meet the growing demand for door-to-door deliveries due to the effect of coronavirus

by Murimi Mutiga
@murimimutiga

As traders across the country worry over the future of their businesses in the wake of disruptions occasioned by the outbreak of Coronavirus, a boutique owner in Malindi area of Kilifi county is cashing in on e-commerce to remain afloat.

Winnie Njoki, the owner of "Top Wear Collection" does not have to wait for customers to come into his shop to buy clothes or shoes, instead she has put her business on social media.

Using "Top Wear Collection" Facebook account, Njoki is doing lucrative business online and earn handsomely.

She says despite the partial lockdown which has hit Kilifi County after Deputy Governor Gideon Saburi tested positive for Covid-19, her business has remained afloat. Through the online business, the entrepreneur has embraced the social distancing requirement to curb the spread of coronavirus.

Many employees

"Shoppers don't need to come to the shop. I don't need to have many employees in my shop. I have released some of them to stay home so that we minimise person-to-person contact," she said.

Malindi, a traditionally a tourist resort, is one of the towns worst hit by the effect of Covid-19 after the government cancelled all international flights from Italy. The town also referred to as a small town in Italy is dominated by tourists from the European country.

With the fears of Covid-19 pandemic the number of clients getting into the shop to buy her collection has significantly dropped.

At any given time, Njoki is busy on her laptop either posting new arrivals or responding to inquiries from clients inside her business premise located along the Malindi-Mombasa highway.

"For the last few days, I have been getting very few customers coming to phys-



cally shop for wear, but because I had already established my online presence, the number of client has surged," she said.

"I sell wears for men, ladies and children. I have been in this business for the last four years. The online business is doing well right now, sometimes I make up to Sh20,000 per day. I have to keep on engaging the customer," she said.

But how did Njoki start her online business?

"Before opening my physical shop, I used to admire how other people were using Facebook and Instagram to reach customers, so I also decided to try and it is working wonders for me," Njoki added.

Her social media page displays different kinds of products, prices and contacts for potential customers to reach her.

"I deliver clothes to my client as far as Nairobi, Eldoret, Kitui, Lamu and Mombasa. When they send the money and size of the wear they have chosen. I send them using public transport so as to minimise on cost of transport," she said.

"The online presence has helped me, I never thought there is day when movement of people would be restricted. I am able to work from the comfort of my room even if no one walks in the shop to buy," Njoki said.

"I had to start small. Personally I have over 50,000 followers on my personal page so I invited all of them to like the Top Wear Collection page and they responded

Malindi entrepreneur Winnie Njoki at her Top Wear Collection boutique in the coastal town. PD/BONFACE MSANGI

INCREASED ORDERS

● As global companies scale down operations due to the effect of coronavirus, the e-commerce industry players are busy keeping up with the increased orders growing day by day.

● Globally big e-commerce companies are scaling up their operations with Amazon announcing it will hire 100,000 warehouse and delivery workers in the US to deal with a surge in online orders.

quite positively," she added.

Njoki said one of the advantages of the online business is that she just requires a smart phone or a computer, internet and the products.

She, however, cautions that online business is very delicate as it can be destroyed easily if trust is lost.

"The moment they order I deliver to them because I am in Malindi and someone is maybe in Eldoret I don't tell them that I will deliver the products on the same day but within 24 hours," she said.

"My clients pay before delivery and I give the clients assurance that if they are not satisfied, they return the product and I refund the money," Njoki said. In case of a lockdown due to the corona, the entrepreneur says she is prepared for the worst.

Quality service

"Price does not matter in online business but quality service and product matters a lot. Customers look for high quality products regardless of the costs," she added.

Some clients, she said, see the products online and decide to walk in to select on their own.

During his address to the nation in the wake of Covid 19, President Uhuru Kenyatta advised Kenyans to embrace digital business to prevent the spread of the virus.

NCBA Group net earnings jump 16pc to Sh7.8 billion

Group continued to register impressive growth in advances and deposit over the last two quarters

by Zachary Ochuodho
@zachuocho

The NCBA Group wants to scale-up its retail banking, deepen its corporate banking and asset finance as well as propel its digital transformation to boost its growth this year, the group said yesterday.

It revealed the strategy at an investor briefing on its financial results for the year ended December 31, 2019.

The group, formed after Commercial Bank of Africa (CBA) Group merged with NIC Group recorded a net profit of Sh7.8 billion for the year under review, compared to Sh6.7 billion, a 16.4 per cent jump from what is reported in a similar period in 2018.

"Our operating income in the fourth quarter totalled Sh11.6 billion. We have continued to register very impressive growth in advances and deposit over the last two quarters despite being in a merger process," said John Gachora (pictured), group MD.

This was the first financial report the group is reporting since the two merged in October 2019.

Operating income

Similarly, the profit before tax increased from Sh6.7 billion in 2018 to Sh11.3 billion up to the period ended December 31, 2019. Gachora said the total operating income for the year was Sh33.7 billion and profit after tax was Sh7.8 billion. He said the successful completion of the merger was due to the hard work of its colleagues with superb guidance from the board adding that its integration and execution efforts continue in earnest.

Gachora said the exceptional items of Sh2.1 billion comprised merger costs, amortisation of intangibles and goodwill write off on consolidation, while Sh1.2 billion was classified as de-recognition of deferred tax assets in subsidiary entities.

The group made loan loss provisions of Sh6.2 billion. The ratio of non-performing loans

to the total loan book stands at 12.0 per cent, in line with the industry average.

"Impairment provisions at the bank rose to Sh5.9 billion from Sh2.1 billion. The increase in provisions is driven by asset quality deterioration particularly in the transport and manufacturing sectors and on the mobile loan portfolio," he said.

The net assets reflected have been adjusted to fair value and intangible assets identified as part of the purchase price allocation exercise incorporated in the consolidated financial statements according to International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS 3).

Costs incurred

Gachora said the merger-related costs incurred in 2019 included in the comprehensive income statements and disclosed as exceptional items totalled Sh1.1 billion covering integration, advisory and legal expenses among others.

"Following the merger, the Group saw its asset base close the year under review at Sh495 billion while the customer base stood at 50.1 million. Deposits stood at Sh378 billion while the net loan book closed at Sh249 billion," he added.

DIVIDEND PAYMENT

● The board wants shareholders to approve a final dividend for the year of Sh1.50 per ordinary share, bringing the total dividend paid for the year to Sh1.75 per ordinary share compared to Sh1.25 in 2018.

● Upon approval by the shareholders, the dividend will be payable to the shareholders registered on the NCBA Group company register at the close of business on April 23.



NAIROBI SECURITIES EXCHANGE

HIGH	LOW	SECTOR	AGRICULTURAL	VWAP	PREVIOUS	TOTAL
				PRICES		SHARES
17.60	9.90	Eaagads Ltd Ord 1.25			11.00	
480.00	290.00	Kakim Pld Ord 5.00			300.00	
100.00	57.00	Kapcharua Tea Kenya Pld Ord		6500	62.00	200
405.00	405.00	The Limuru Tea Co. Pld Ord 20.00			475.00	
22.70	14.00	Sasini Pld Ord 1.00			16.50	
178.00	92.00	Williamson Tea Kenya Pld Ord		92.00	93.00	100
AUTOMOBILES & ACCESSORIES						
27.00	20.00	Car & General (K) Ltd Ord 5.00			24.00	
BANKING						
13.85	9.30	ABSA Bank Kenya Pld Ord 0.50		9.44	9.74	2,033,500
31.00	22.40	BK Group Pld Ord 0.80			22.40	
166.00	76.50	Diamond Trust Bank Kenya Ltd Ord 4.00		78.50	78.25	8,100
55.50	32.15	Equity Group Holdings Pld Ord 0.50		32.85	32.55	2,343,900
7.90	3.38	HE Group Pld Ord 5.00		4.14	4.25	7,100
126.00	42.50	ICM Holdings Pld Ord 1.00		46.15	45.95	6,700
55.50	33.75	KCB Group Pld Ord 1.00		35.05	33.90	3,890,600
6.50	3.22	National Bank of Kenya Ltd Ord 5.00			4.12	
41.00	24.90	NCBA Group Pld Ord 5.00		25.20	25.10	108,400
117.75	83.00	Stanbic Holdings Pld Ord 5.00		94.25	95.00	700
225.00	168.00	Standard Chartered Bank Kenya Ltd Ord 5.00		175.50	179.25	13,300
17.00	10.05	The Co-operative Bank of Kenya Ltd Ord 1.00		11.85	12.10	1,154,700
COMMERCIAL AND SERVICES						
5.10	0.45	Descom (East Africa) Pld Ord 2.50			0.85	
130	0.81	Eveready East Africa Ltd Ord 1.00		0.83	0.87	600
8.50	5.00	Express Kenya Pld Ord 5.00			5.82	
9.50	1.34	Kenya Airways Ltd Ord 1.00		1.42	1.48	73,500
8.80	4.26	Longhorn Publishers Pld Ord		4.57	4.35	1,100
1.20	0.60	Nairobi Business Ventures Ltd Ord 1.00		0.60	0.60	6,700
71.00	22.00	Nation Media Group Pld Ord 2.50		23.95	24.45	2,800
4.70	1.72	Samuel Group Pld Ord 5.00			2.52	
33.00	19.50	Standard Group Pld Ord 5.00		22.00	22.30	400
25.15	12.50	TSPS Eastern Africa Ltd Ord 1.00		13.10	12.85	1,500
0.95	0.23	Uchumi Supermarket Pld Ord 5.00		0.25	0.25	121,300
22.00	9.90	WPP Scangroup Pld Ord 1.00		13.60	14.55	21,200
CONSTRUCTION & ALLIED						
8.35	2.40	ARM Cement Pld Ord 1.00			5.55	
145.75	45.00	Bamburi Cement Ltd Ord 5.00		49.75	49.15	800
92.00	58.00	Crown Paints Kenya Pld Ord 5.00			59.00	
3.98	1.54	E.A. Cable Ltd Ord 0.50		1.65	1.64	16,000
20.50	12.95	E.A. Portland Cement Co. Ltd Ord 5.00			14.25	
ENERGY & PETROLEUM						
7.40	4.00	KenGen Co. Pld Ord 2.50		4.15	4.14	204,200
5.50	1.63	Kenya Power & Lighting Co Pld Ord 2.50		1.78	1.69	196,000
5.50	5.00	Kenya Power & Lighting Pld 4% Pref 20.00			5.00	
6.00	6.00	Kenya Power & Lighting Pld 7% Pref 20.00			6.00	
33.00	22.25	Total Kenya Ltd Ord 5.00		24.00	23.95	900
8.70	5.50	Uneme Ltd Ord 0.50		6.78	6.78	6,200
INSURANCE						
10.50	5.70	British Holdings Pld Ord 1.00		6.00	6.12	37,400
4.85	2.00	CIC Insurance Group Ltd Ord 1.00		2.04	2.07	89,100
442.00	250.00	Jubilee Holdings Ltd Ord 5.00		250.00	250.00	1,100
16.30	2.10	Kenya Re Insurance Corporation Ltd Ord 2.50		2.20	2.19	95,600
13.00	6.80	Liberty Kenya Holdings Ltd Ord 1.00		7.90	8.12	900
26.00	13.80	Sanlam Kenya Pld Ord 5.00		14.90	15.00	15,000
INVESTMENT						
37.40	19.60	Centum Investment Co Pld Ord 0.50		23.10	22.25	15,000
0.77	0.34	Home Africa Ltd Ord 1.00		0.35	0.35	49,100
1500.00	1,500.00	Kenwall Ventures Ltd Ord 100.00			1,500.00	
3.39	2.00	Olympia Capital Holdings Ltd Ord 5.00		2.00	2.10	1,400
4.50	1.80	Trans-County Pld Ord 0.50		1.84	2.00	6,000
INVESTMENT SERVICES						
16.00	8.50	Nairobi Securities Exchange Pld Ord 4.00		9.02	9.32	7,700
MANUFACTURING & ALLIED						
87.00	52.25	B.O.C Kenya Pld Ord 5.00		62.00	63.00	200
700.00	375.00	British American Tobacco Kenya Pld Ord 10.00			378.00	
10.80	7.10	Caribac Investments Pld Ord 1.00		7.72	7.77	12,200
230.00	127.75	East African Breweries Ltd Ord 2.00		139.75	147.00	870,800
3.15	0.97	Flame Tree Group Holdings Ltd Ord 0.825		1.02	1.07	30,000
14.00	12.25	Kenya Orchards Ltd Ord 5.00		12.25	12.50	200
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 Pld Ord 0.05		24.50	24.45	9,737,200
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST						
11.00	6.88	STANLIB FAHARI I-REIT, Ord 20.00		8.18	7.92	1,800
EXCHANGE TRADED FUNDS						
1650.00	1235.00	ABSA New Gold ETF		1650.00	1490.00	300

NSE ALL SHARE INDEX: DOWN 0.24 points to close at 124.30

NSE 20-SHARE INDEX: DOWN 13.70 points to close at 1873.47

NSE 50-SHARE INDEX: DOWN 13.17 points to close at 2943.60

MARKET WATCH

COMMODITY PRICES IN DIFFERENT COUNTIES (23/3/2020)

COMMODITY	Weight	Nairobi	Nakuru	Mombasa	Kisii	Isiolo
Dry Maize	90	2800	2700	2750	3200	
Green Maize	115	2100	2000			1500
Finger Millet	90	8600	5400	5000	8000	6000
Sorghum	90	5300	2700	3500		3300
Wheat	90					4000
Beans Canadian	90	8200	8000			
Beans Rosecoco	90	8600	8000	9000	8000	7000
Beans Mwittemania	90	7200	5400	6500		6000
Mwezi Moja	90	5400	5000			
Dolichos (Njahi)	90	13200		13000		13500
Green Gram	90	11100	7200	7000		6500
Cowpeas	90	7400	8100	3500		5000
Fresh Peas	51	3000	2500	4080		6120
Groundnuts	110	13800	15000	15000	10400	10800
Red Irish Potatoes	50			3200	3600	2200
White Irish Potatoes	50	2900	2800	3000		2400
Cassava - Fresh	99	2450		1700		1500
Sweet Potatoes	98	4000	3000	6000	4000	2000
Cabbages	126	1400	800	2750	2500	
Cooking Bananas	22	600	350	675	250	480
Ripe Bananas	14	600	750	600		600
Carrots	138	3300	2800	3300	4000	2500
Tomatoes	64	6000	5000	5000	7200	6000
Onions Dry	13	1000	850	1300	1700	1040
Spring Onions	142	2900	3000	2500	4500	
Chillies	38	2850	2660	1750		4500
Cucumbers	50	2400		1500		
Capsicums	50	2500	3000	2750		4000
Brinjals	44	1540	1660			
Cauliflower	39	2950	2350	3120		
Lettuce	51	1400		2000		
Passion Fruits	57	4300	4500	3135		2600
Oranges	93	3500	3000		3500	3500
Lemons	95	2600	2400	2200	3600	1800
Mangoes Local	126	2300	3000	2200		1000
Mangoes Ngowe	25	1300		1300		800
Limes	13	2600		3000		
Pineapples	13	960	960	1040	800	1200
Pawpaw	54	2000	2000	2000	700	1600
Avocado	90	2700	2500	3750	1600	
Kales	50	1200	500	1200	1000	1250
Eggs	320	280	330	330	360	

COMMERCIAL BANKS' AVERAGE FOR MAJOR CURRENCIES (OPENING MARKET) - 1/1/2020

CURRENCY	MEAN	BUY	SELL
US DOLLAR	106.4206	106.3176	106.5235
SW KRONER	10.4006	10.3890	10.4121
STG POUND	125.3638	125.2229	125.5047
SINGAPORE DOLLAR	73.5178	73.4289	73.6066
SAUDI RIAL	28.3335	28.3023	28.3647
SAR RAND	6.0606	6.0527	6.0685
S FRANC	108.7367	108.6093	108.8641
NOR KRONER	9.6010	9.5904	9.6116
KES / USHS	36.8351	36.7524	36.9177
KES / TSHS	21.6688	21.6009	21.7367
KES / RWF	8.7371	8.6488	8.8254
KES / BIF	17.8058	17.6711	17.9405
JPY (100)	95.8571	95.7558	95.9585
IND RUPEE	1.4011	1.3997	1.4025
HONGKONG DOLLAR	13.7223	13.7090	13.7356
EURO	114.8474	114.7212	114.9735
DAN KRONER	15.3933	15.3774	15.4092
CHINESE YUAN	15.0721	15.0557	15.0885
CAN \$	73.5304	73.4492	73.6117
AUSTRALIAN \$	62.9584	62.8869	63.0300
AE DIRHAM	28.9738	28.9426	29.0049

Kenya joins UNWTO 'Travel Tomorrow' campaign

by Noel Wandera
@PeopleDailyKe

Kenya has joined the United Nations World Tourism Organisation's (UNWTO) campaign to sensitise travellers about the importance of staying at home for now while planning to travel later.

The Campaign, dubbed "Travel Tomorrow", is anchored on the need to put people's health and safety at the forefront in the wake of the Coronavirus disease (Covid-19), by asking discerning travellers to first put on hold travel plans for now.

With governments around

the world putting in place stringent travel restrictions to curb the spread of Covid-19, Kenya has taken the bold, but necessary, step to stop international flights coming to the country as a precaution against the spread of the pandemic. To enhance awareness,

The country is joining the rest of the world in putting people first.

Kenya Tourism Board (KTB) is locally running an awareness campaign dubbed "Tujilinde Leo, Tusafiri Kesho", targeting domestic tourists while on the international front, it continues to enhance the Travel Tomorrow message.

People first

KTB chief executive Betty Radier said the country is joining the rest of the world in putting people first and sensitising the tourism sector to ensure the necessary precautionary protocols are observed to curb Corona spread. "We join the rest of the des-

tinuations in putting people first and taking all precautions to flatten the Covid-19 curve.

Like the rest of the world, the key measures remain washing hands, social distancing and self-quarantine for those who have recently arrived into the country or been in contact with infected persons," she said.

Kenyan tourism private sector, Radier added, has been in the frontline in securing both the safety of visitors and staff alike.

She said after overcoming the Covid-19 challenge, the industry will be happy to welcome the world back to Kenya.



To save India, every street, every neighbourhood is being put under lockdown

India's 1.3b people on Corona lockdown

...as Spain's coronavirus deaths surpass that of China, with global cases surging to 436,159

New Delhi, Wednesday

More than one billion Indians went into lockdown Wednesday, leaving a third of the planet now under orders to stay at home, as the United States vowed to spend \$2 trillion to counter the economic harm of the coronavirus.

Europe remains at the heart of the epidemic, with first Italy and now Spain's death toll overtaking that of China, while Britain's Prince Charles became the latest prominent figure to test positive for the Covid-19 disease. Spain now has more fatalities than China with 3,434, as well as having 47,610 infections and 5,367 recoveries. The surging number of deaths came as Spain entered the 11th day of an unprecedented lockdown.

Global virus death toll on Wednesday stood at 19,648, with 436,159 cases and 111,847 having recovered, according to Johns Hopkins University.

Coronavirus cases are also spreading in the Middle East, where Iran's death toll topped 2,000 on Wednesday, and in Africa, where Mali joined all seven of its neigh-

bours in declaring its first cases—two nationals who arrived home from France.

Government policies and the capacity for virus testing vary widely around the world, so the true extent of the pandemic is difficult to estimate.

The economic damage of the virus—and associated lockdowns—could also be devastating, with fears of a worldwide recession. But financial markets soared as the US Senate and the White House agreed a stimulus package worth roughly 10 per cent of the entire American economy, an injection Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said represented a "wartime level of investment".

Stifle spread

President Donald Trump voiced hope that the United States will be "raring to go" by mid-April, but his optimism appeared to stand almost alone among world leaders, who were ratcheting up the movement restrictions to stifle the spread of the disease.

India ordered its 1.3 billion people—the world's second-biggest population—to stay at home for three weeks. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "total lockdown" call doubled the number of people around the globe under some form of movement restriction to more than 2.6 billion people.

"To save India, to save its every citizen, you, your family... every street, every neighbourhood is being put under lockdown,"



A man wearing a face mask in a commuter train in Bangkok, yesterday. A third of the world population is on lockdown.

AFP

Modi said in a televised address.

In China, where the new virus emerged last year, authorities loosened tough rules on the 50 million people in Hubei province on Wednesday after a month-long lockdown as the country reported no new domestic cases.

The provincial capital Wuhan—the ground zero of the outbreak after it was initially detected in December—will allow residents to leave from April 8.

The pandemic has cut a swathe through the world's sporting and cultural events, and on Tuesday claimed the biggest of them all: the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, postponed until 2021.

Meanwhile, nearly 130 million Americans, or 40 per cent of the population, are under or will soon come under some lockdown order.

Elsewhere, South Africa reported that its number of confirmed cases of the novel coronavirus jumped to 709 on Wednesday from 554 the previous day, an increase of 28 per cent. South Africa, which now has the highest numbers of infections on the continent, has ordered a 21-day lockdown which rolls into action at midnight on Thursday.

In Europe, Nine EU countries, including

WOLE SOYINKA SPEAKS...

● Nigerian Nobel laureate Wole Soyinka criticised the response of the Nigerian government and religious leaders to Covid-19.

● Over the weekend some preachers ignored government directives about social distancing and went ahead with Sunday services attended by thousands.

● "They have been treated with kid gloves for too long... I think there is too much political correctness going on."

France and Spain, on Wednesday called for eurozone countries to jointly issue debt in order to fight the devastating impact of the coronavirus outbreak.

France, Spain and Italy have long called for a some kind of Eurobond, that is in effect joint borrowing by the 19 members of the euro single currency.

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday postponed the public vote on his constitutional reforms due to the coronavirus pandemic, and declared next week a public holiday. "I believe the voting must be postponed to a later date," Putin said of the April 22 plebiscite in a rare televised address in which he also announced that Russians would not work next week "to slow the speed" of the infection.

-AFP

Prince Charles tests positive

Rome, Wednesday

United Kingdom's Prince Charles, the eldest son and heir to Queen Elizabeth II, has tested positive for coronavirus, Clarence House announced yesterday.

The 71-year-old is displaying mild symptoms "but otherwise remains in good health", a spokesman said. Charles is self-isolating at Balmoral in Scotland with his wife Camilla, who was also tested but does not have Covid-19.

Buckingham Palace said the Queen last saw her son March 12, but

the monarch was "in good health".

The palace said the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Philip, was not present at that meeting, and that the Queen was now "following all the appropriate advice with regard to her welfare".

"The tests (for Charles) were carried out by the NHS in Aberdeenshire, where they met the criteria required for testing." "It is not possible to ascertain from whom the prince caught the virus owing to the high number of engagements he carried out in his public role during recent weeks."

-BBC



BRIEFLY

Ethiopia to free 4,000 inmates to tame virus

Addis Ababa, Wednesday

More than 4,000 prisoners will be released in Ethiopia as the government continues to take measures to control the spread of coronavirus.

Ethiopia's attorney general said on Wednesday that prisoners convicted of minor offences and women with babies were among those who would be freed. Foreigners charged with involvement in with smuggling and drug trafficking would also be released and deported to their countries of origin. Among



those to be released is journalist Fekadu Mahtemwork.

In Libya, the government announced the country's first confirmed case of coronavirus. There are concerns the health-care system in Libya is under-prepared for the pandemic, as conflict continues unabated.

-BBC

Netanyahu ally resigns as parliament Speaker

Israel's parliamentary speaker, an ally of Benjamin Netanyahu, resigned Wednesday, clearing the way for a vote that could see him replaced by an opponent of the embattled premier. Yuli Edelstein, a member of Netanyahu's Likud party, had refused to schedule a speakership vote until a new government was formed, but stood down after the Supreme Court set a Wednesday deadline for the vote to take place. "I won't allow Israel to descend into anarchy. I won't lend a hand to civil war," he said as the court's deadline approached. "I thereby resign from my position as speaker." -AFP



20 Saudis prosecuted over Khashoggi murder

Turkish prosecutors have charged 20 suspects including two former top aides to Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman over the 2018 murder of Riyadh critic Jamal Khashoggi. Prosecutors accuse Saudi Arabia's deputy intelligence chief Ahmed al-Assiri and the royal court's media czar Saud al-Qahtani of leading the operation against Khashoggi and giving orders to a Saudi hit team. Khashoggi, 59, a commentator who wrote for *The Washington Post*, was killed after he entered the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, Turkey, on October 2, 2018.

-AFP

Clique & Clicks ▶ Get Spotted

IPA-Kenya members during the tree planting exercise.



IPA-Kenya members Daniel Kamau, Ali Said and Murtaza Asgerali.



IPA-Kenya Coast region chairman Jimmy Askar (second left) leads other members in the tree planting.



WE CARE

■ by Ndegwa Gathungu

Members of the International Police Association (IPA)-Kenya recently held a tree-planting exercise at the Coast Region Police headquarters in Mombasa. IPA-Kenya Coast chairman Jimmy Askar said tree-planting should be a routine for all people to achieve environment conservation and restoration. He added that the exercise would be extended to other Coast counties.

PD/ NDEGWA GATHUNGU



Manpreet Singh attends to his noble civic duty.



Susan Njoki and Farida Karimi get their hands dirty for a worthy cause.



What a balancing act! Rafik Rauf does some heavy lifting.



IPA-Kenya member Omar Awadh.

Jimmy Askar has to do what has to be done.



Car enthusiasts George Bett and Denno Spinner.



Enthusiastic fans follow through the moments.



Amref staff Caroline Thiong'o, Ann Chege and Irene Karaba.



Racing fans Sharleen Njoroge, Ivy Njoroge, Lynn Vivian and Mitchelle Osiri.



Racer Prashil Vekaria in action with his Mitsubishi Evo.

Engines roar to life

■ by Adalla Allan

Motorsports faithful thronged the Whistling Morans circuit in Athi River for this year's debut edition of the Time Attack contest. Organised by the Kenya Tarmac Championship, the racers put up a pulsating show, as engines roared past enthusiastic crowds in neck-break speeds. Umang Soni

of Racers Edge clinched the first position in his Mitsubishi Evolution 9, followed by Autoart Racing's George Nickolas with his Subaru WRX STi and Salman Muhammed (Subaru Impreza) in second and third positions respectively. Professional drifter Jin Lu's electrifying drifting display ended the show in style.

PD/ ADALLA ALLAN



George Nickolas, Umang Soni and Salman Muhammed show off their trophies.

Ten...

The country is now facing its own serious Covid-19 spread, and while we have heard of what measures to take to prevent us from contracting the virus, little information is available on what to do when you actually test positive for the virus. There is still no drug to treat the virus yet. So if you have confirmed Corona symptoms, **BETTY MUINDI** compiled tips from the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention and other sources on how to manage the condition at home

Ways to care for yourself if you have coronavirus



1

Seek medical help

If you have a fever or a dry cough or any other symptoms of the coronavirus, call 719 or text *719# which is a toll-free number provided by the Government of Kenya. If you are older or have underlying medical conditions, it's even more important to call your doctor, even if you have only mild symptoms. Before you go to your doctor's office, call ahead so that medical staff can wear the appropriate protective gear and be ready to help take care of you without exposing others.

6

Don't share room

As much as possible, stay in a specific room and away from other people at home. Also, you should use a separate bathroom, if available. If you need to be around other people in or outside of the home, wear a facemask. If the whole household shares one bathroom, ensure you thoroughly clean or sanitise all surfaces you touch in the bathroom like counters and doorknobs. Clean surfaces in your isolation area every day; let a caregiver clean and disinfect common areas and high touch surfaces in other areas of the home, but not your room.

2

Stay home

Stay home from work and away from other public places. If you must go out, avoid using any kind of public transportation, sharing rides, or taxis. Also, monitor your symptoms carefully and if your symptoms get worse, call your healthcare provider immediately. People who are mildly ill with Covid-19 are able to recover at home. Do not leave, except to get medical care.

7

Clean hands often

Wash your hands even more often if you have the virus, with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. This is, especially important after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser with at least 60 per cent alcohol, covering all surfaces of your hands and rubbing them together until they feel dry. Soap and water are the best option, especially if hands are visibly dirty. Then avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

3

Get rest and stay hydrated

Get plenty of rest and drink a lot of water to help your nose by maintaining the mucous membrane and decreasing irritation when coughing, sneezing and even just breathing.



8

Don't share personal items

Do not share dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, towels, or bedding with other people in your home. And after using these items, wash them thoroughly with soap and water.

4

Watch out for emergency warnings

If you develop emergency warning signs for Covid-19, get medical attention immediately. Emergency warning signs include trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion or inability to rise up from a sitting or lying position and any other symptoms that are severe or concerning.

9

Stay informed and beware of misleading information

Initially, the World Health Organisation cautioned against people with Covid-19 taking anti-inflammatory drugs like ibuprofen, over concerns the drugs could worsen the effects of the infection. But it then retracted the statement, and other health experts and the European Medicines Agency have said there's a lack of scientific evidence establishing this. A number of myths on what is and is not the cure of the virus have been peddled on the internet, and some of those remedies could worsen or prolong infections. Experts advise that patients should check with their doctor regarding which pain reliever is right for them to use.

5

Cover mouth when you cough, sneeze

Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitiser that contains at least 60 per cent alcohol. Most preferably, use disposable tissues that you can throw right away in a lined trash can.

10

Care for the sick

Help the patient follow their healthcare provider's instructions for medications and care. If you must clean and disinfect a sick person's bedroom or bathroom, do so on an as-needed basis. Wear a mask and wait as long as possible after the sick person has used the bathroom. Regularly clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces such as phones, remote controls, counters, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, keyboards, tablets, and bedside tables. Prohibit visitors who do not have an essential need to be home.



Travel Wise ▶ Get set... go!

Aviation industry glides to a halt

Frustrations mount in global, local travel industry as deadly Covid-19 wreaks havoc

by Harriet James and Peter Leshan
@PeopleDailyKE

The travel industry is facing a crippling shutdown thanks to the global coronavirus spread threat. Most airlines are grounding fleets as more countries introduce travel bans and tough 14-day isolation requirements for all arriving passengers. By last week, Kenya Airways (KQ) was operating only 35 per cent of its fleet following travel restrictions in several African countries, UAE and India. "This has greatly reduced our revenues," acting CEO Allan Kilavuka said in a communication to staff last weekend.

The carrier is the main delivery arm of the country's international tourist market. Last weekend, President Uhuru Kenyatta closed Kenya's airspace to all international passenger flights effective this morning. KQ has now temporarily suspended most operations.

"We will have to place 50 per cent of our aircraft on long-term storage while the rest will undergo maintenance," said Kilavuka.

KQ's sister airline, low-cost carrier Jambojet, which flies on both domestic and international routes, on Monday suspended flights on the Kigali and Entebbe routes over the Covid-19 spread, which the airlines said has resulted in a decline in the number of passenger bookings. This will also further dent the group's revenues.

However, flights on local destinations, including Malindi, Ukunda, Mombasa, Kisumu as well as Eldoret will continue to operate as usual though there has been a massive reduction in the daily frequencies. "All affected passengers have been contacted and updates to their flight schedule communicated," the airline said in a statement.

"We encourage passengers to adhere to essential travel during this period as relevant agencies work towards containing the spread of the virus," it stated.

Safarilink Aviation has lost 75 per cent forward bookings since the first case of

coronavirus was reported in the country almost two weeks ago. Chief executive Alex Avedi said the business loss was severe, adding that from last night when all international passenger flights to the country were to be stopped, the situation would be worse. "Since Kenya reported the first case of Covid-19, we have every day continued to receive cancellations which now stands at 75 per cent —by all standards a huge drop in business," said Avedi.

He added: "These are challenging times; cancellations of flights, especially by foreign tourist who use the airlines to connect to destinations such as Masai Mara, has been on the rise. The airline will not send home its workers during this low-season, but will ask them to take unpaid leave if necessary."

Avedi estimates the loss to millions of shillings. Most of the 13 aircraft the carrier owns and operates are grounded. "We have stopped daily international flights to Kilimanjaro Airport in Tanzania and the island of Zanzibar. We now have only two small aircraft that flies five days in a week to Lodwar, Kitale, Vipingo, Lamu and Kisumu," he said.

Avedi said this year's tourism peak seasons in Masai Mara Game Reserve and the Coast will be affected because Kenya's source markets in Europe and East Asia have been hard hit by coronavirus. The State's decision to have its citizens stay indoors will also affect visits by Kenyans to game parks and reserves for wildlife viewing.

"The decision to cut links with source markets through stopping international flights and insisting that people stay in their homes will definitely affect businesses for hotels and tour companies, leading to closures and redundancies," he said.

Flights suspended

He spoke as management of lodges and camps in Masai Mara have started laying off workers due to lack of business. "We are sending home most of our workers. If the situation gets dire, we will close until the virus is contained or eliminated," said Ben Kipeno, proprietor of Siria Mara Game Camp, which mainly draws its clients from South America.

Kenya's travel industry has witnessed earnings reducing to Sh3 billion or six per cent of last year's revenue. This is because more travellers are cancelling their holiday or travel plans over corona virus fears.

Recently, the Kenya's Coronavirus Nation-

MAIN: Emirates and (inset) Kenya Airways passenger jumbo jets. RIGHT: KQ acting chief executive Allan Kilavuka addresses the press at a past event. PD/JOHN OCHIENG AND COURTESY



Safarilink Chief Executive Officer, Alex Avedi says the virus has cost his airline 75 per cent of its bookings. PD/PETER LESHAN



al Emergency Response Committee halted flights from Italy's northern cities of Verona and Milan, which had direct flights to Mombasa. The committee has also banned flights between Kenya and Iran.

In just one month, KQ has recorded \$8 million (Sh850 million) loss in revenue since it suspended flights to Guangzhou, China. "This is both passenger and cargo revenue. However, various initiatives are in place to increase passenger and cargo revenues on other routes to minimize this impact," he said.

Recently, the US expanded its travel ban in Europe to include the UK and Ireland. Other countries have also introduced self-isolation for 14 days for their arriving citizens.

Regional airlines such as Air Tanzania and RwandAir have also cancelled flights. South African Airways (SAA) has suspended all international operations until May 31 in response to a government travel ban aimed at stopping the transmission of Covid-19.

"In addition, the increasing risks to our crew of contracting the virus including the possibility of being trapped in foreign destinations as a consequence of increasing travel bans cannot be ignored," said SAA acting chief executive, Zuko Ramasia.

SAA operates in three markets that form part of countries listed in the travel ban as high-risk areas. These are the US (Washington DC and New York, JFK), UK (London, Heathrow) and Germany (Frankfurt and Munich). In addition, SAA flies to Australia

(Perth) and Brazil (São Paulo), which have not yet been declared high-risk, but all of flights have been cancelled.

"We also recognise the fluidity in the conditions we operate in and the need to respond to these changes with speed, to this end we commit to keep all our stakeholders abreast of any changes on an ongoing basis" said Ramasia.

Dubai carrier Emirates (EK) reversed on Sunday its decision to suspend all passenger flights, shortly after it said it would halt operations from March 25 amid the novel coronavirus outbreak. EK said it had received requests from governments and customers to support the repatriation of travellers and will continue to operate passenger flights to 13 destinations, down from its usual 159.

Emirates will continue to fly to the UK, Switzerland, Hong Kong, Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, Australia, South Africa, the US and Canada. To cushion passengers from the impact, the airline has introduced a waiver policy for all booked tickets issued from 7 March until 31 March 2020, allowing customers across its network the choice of changing their travel dates without change and reissue-ance fees.

Global losses

Customers can change their booking to any date for travel within an 11-month date range in the same booking class without change penalties across the Emirates network. "The situation remains dynamic and we will continue to look at ways to provide flexibility, convenience and peace of mind for our customers," said Adnan Kazim, Chief Commercial Officer, Emirates Airlines.

Globally, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) forecast the aviation industry would lose \$29 billion (Sh3.1 trillion) worth of passenger revenues this year, of which \$40 million (Sh4.24 billion) will be from African carriers. Global traffic is forecast to drop, causing the first overall decline in demand since the Global Financial crisis of 2008-2009. "This will be a very tough year for airlines," said Alexandre de Juniac, IATA's director general and chief executive.

"It is clear the airlines are struggling. Our initial analysis suggests that we are facing a 4.7 per cent hit on global demand. That could more than eliminate the 4.1 per cent growth we forecast for 2020 in December."

Globally, Air France, Virgin Atlantic, Germany's Lufthansa as well as KLM SA have also suspended their flights. Brussels Airlines has also suspend their operations.



LEFT: Few local and regional flights are flying out of Wilson Airport, Nairobi. RIGHT: A Safarilink aircraft carrying tourists taxiing to take off at Samburu Oryx Airstrip in the past. PD/BERNARD MALONZA AND CHRIS MBURU

Trying times for tourism sector as virus bites

From the Coast to Masai Mara, curio dealers, beach boys and other operators have thrown in the towel as government announces measures to contain coronavirus spread

by Harrison Kivisu and Peter Leshan
@PeopleDailyKe

Traders who sell artefacts on the shores of Indian Ocean in the Coast region and in the Masai Mara Game Reserve are closing shop rendering hundreds jobless and desperate.

Beach boys and attendants, who provide various services at the beaches since the closure of all public beaches by the regional governments, they, too, have been forced to close their businesses.

The situation has been worsened by cancellation of inbound flights that has seen the decrease in the number of tourists to the region decrease. The situation has also been compounded by the ban crowding, which is common on beaches to tame coronavirus spread.

According to Peter Ngwaga Ziro, a boat attendant, who offers boats for hire at the Mombasa beach, his business has been grounded by the shutdown of the beaches. "For the past one week, there are no customers as nobody is allowed to tour the beaches or swim," he said.

The popular public beaches include Jomo Kenyatta, Mombasa, Nyali and Shelly. At Jomo Kenyatta beach, photographers, curio dealers, hawkers, and beach boys have been chased away by Mombasa county inspectorate officers deployed to keep out visitors. "I sell food stuff to beach goers. Normally I attend to over 200 people per day, but lately, we only sell to fishermen," said Christine Sanda Changamwa.

Domestic tourists from upcountry have opted to stay away, while international guests have been barred from travelling into the country after the government banned inbound travels of guests from countries mostly hit by the pandemic.

On March 4, the government suspended direct flights from northern Italy, over the outbreak of the new corona virus affecting 90 per cent of tourism economy in Northern parts of Kenyan Coast. Tourism sector players at the Coast have appealed to the government to consider tax exemption on hotels and holiday homes in the region to enable them stay afloat as they continue to

bear the brunt of Covid-19 pandemic.

The sector is recording low revenues after cancellation of tourism conferences and charter flights to coast destination and now key sector players say a tax waiver and a creation of tourism sustainability fund would support the sector during these hard economic times.

Masai Mara Game Reserve, which has been a world famous safari destination since 1958 when it was established has for the first time grounded to a halt because of the novel coronavirus pandemic.

The few domestic flights that have in the last two weeks — when the first case was reported in the country — been flying tourists, mainly locals, to and from the reserve slowly stopped on Tuesday as lodges and camps started laying off workers.

250,000 jobless

At Keekorok, Serena, Olkiombo and Musiara airstrips, which serves more than 80 tented camps and lodges inside and outside the park, only three flights landed on Tuesday to take senior hotel managers and some workers to Nairobi as winding up of businesses for an uncertain period of time entered top gear.

"It is the first time since the reserve was set aside exclusively for wildlife that activities have grounded to a halt. Even during turbulent times the country has faced, it has never been like this," said Joseph Kayoni, a former Narok county council clerk who is a shareholder in Sarova Mara Game Camp.

Kayoni, who witnessed members of the Maasai Purko clan donate 3,150 hectares of land for the establishment of the park, said even during low seasons or in times of skirmishes such as the 2007-2008 post election violence or even during terror attacks, the Mara has always

TOP: So many swim suits to sell, but not a customer in sight: That's the plight of this lonely trader on Mombasa north beach on Tuesday. BELOW: Workers clean an empty swimming pool at Travellers Beach Resort, Mombasa. PD/BONIFACE MSANGI

WADDINGTON

Only two cleaners and a chef have been retained at our exclusive 20-bed capacity Osero Camp in the Mara

had some tourism activities.

Major tour operators said more than 250,000 people who directly or indirectly depend on travel will lose livelihoods now that all international passenger flights have been stopped and Kenyans told to stay indoors to beat Covid-19.

Lockdown impact

"Most of us started sending even our core workers on unpaid leave when Chinese tourists stopped coming to Kenya because of the viral disease in January. We will now close business until it is eliminated. However, even if it is wiped out, it will still take long before tourists start coming," said Patrick Wanjohi, the CEO of Into Africa Eco Travel Company.

The pandemic has instilled fear, which will take a long time to peter out, said Lily Waddington, team leader at UK Magical Safaris and also the proprietor of Osero Camp in Mara and Magical Resort Beach in Mombasa. Only two cleaners and a chef are being retained at her exclusive 20-bed capacity establishment in Mara, adding that others including those in the accounts department are at home.

"All travel has been cancelled. We are going to wait indefinitely for things to normalise. Mara is for the first time hard hit. Our business at the Coast has been on and off because of terrorism since 2014," she told *Travelwise*.

Masai women who have been a common feature at Sekenani, Ololaimutia and Musiara gates, selling beads and other bead work designs were absent as the effects of the 'stay at home' directive started to be felt.

Several curio shops and outlets outside Mai Mahiu, Narok and Ewaso Nyiro trading centres have closed as tourists and other visitor excursions in cultural villages (*manyattas*) along the Narok-Sekenani Gate road stopped.

"Business has been low since January when coronavirus spiralled out of China. During low seasons, we depend on tourists from China and other countries in Asia. Now that the virus has spread to all parts of the world, we have been forced to close down," said Geoffrey Kimani, secretary, Mara Curio Dealers Association.

Though recalling of business from commercial banks have been delayed for a year because of the viral disease, he said it would be difficult for curio dealers to repay them because of the long period it would take for tourism to rebound.

TRAVELNEWS

BY ROY LUMBE

@lumbe_roy

Tourist hotels, tour operators close shop in Nakuru county

Tour and travel companies within Nakuru county have closed shop after reporting up to an 80 per cent reduction in the number of customers due to travel restrictions by the government in a bid to contain the spread of Covid-19.

A spot check in Nakuru town has revealed that many operators have opted to shut their business and send staff home to minimise losses. Some employees have gone home without pay until the pandemic is contained.

Nakuru Tourism Association chairman David Mwangi said although Nakuru is a Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) centre, the sector is reeling from an economic meltdown after local and international guests cancelled bookings.

Mwangi said most major hotels within the county are closing, with Sarova Woodlands and Kongoni Resort in Naivasha leading the way due to the tough economic times. "Only five per cent of hotels are in operation," he said.

At the beginning of the year, the county government of Nakuru had embarked on an ambitious programme to promote tourism to improve revenue collections and to create jobs for the residents.

"Over the years, we have enjoyed tremendous growth in the tourism sector. However, at the moment we have lost 70 per cent of the industry; hotels are recording nose-diving losses," he

Tom Kimanzi of Wild Rangers Tours and Travel agency said they have received massive cancellations from local and international tourists. Speaking on phoni, he said despite being a new entrant in the sector, they were expecting a boom in April before the virus struck.

"Everything is now uncertain as we await further State directives. I appeal to our customers and all Kenyans to stay at home so that we can stop the spread of the virus," said Kimanzi.

Tourism players in Nakuru now fear that the multi-billion-shilling sector may not recover quickly even after the pandemic ends. Some are mulling staff retrenchments due to lack of business.

Mwangi said hotels are closing down to cut costs since without revenue, one cannot implement some of the stringent directives by the government. "Some of our members have resolved to renovate their premises, but the future remains uncertain," he said.



Foreigners tour Lake Nakuru National Park during happier days. PD/FILE



People Plus ▶ Tell your Story

In wood, I have found my life's purpose

Taking a plunge into male-dominated career, CATHERINE SOI has weathered social biases and is living her passion

by Clifford Akumu
@PeopleDailyKE

With a twang that borders between a mixture of urban and rural upbringing, Catherine Soi, 35, would pass as your normal banker or a model. But she is neither: she uses wood pallets to make an array of elegant furniture. The young entrepreneur is the owner of Soi Pallet Design—a novel outfit birthed in 2018 that is making in-roads in the overcrowded arena.

Wood pallets have been around for decades as mechanisms for shipping and storing larger items. However, few saw their value and so were thrown or used as firewood. But now, Soi has found a new use for them.

With two workshops in Kisumu and Nairobi and more than 10 employees, the pallet design company has set sight on penetrating the corporate furniture scene and expanding across Eastern Africa.

She is an entrepreneur who wears many hats; if she is not designing elegant furniture, she is checking on a family she fully supports from Kiboswa area, Kisumu county. She learned about the family's predicament two years ago from a social media group called "Kisumu Mum". The mother had abandoned her family.

With her savings and well-wishers contributions, Soi was able to build the family a decent home. Four months after the house was complete, Soi tried to convince the woman to return home and take care of her three children, but her interventions were futile. The woman eventually switched off her phone.

Long line of artists

The father would then do the unthinkable; he sexually abused the daughter, an act that would later land him in Kodiaga Prison. After seeing all these forms of abuse, Soi later decided to place two boys at Ebenezer Rehabilitation Centre and their sister at Familia, a non-governmental organisation in the county.

She understood the struggles and decided to stick with them, "I had a rough childhood and at some point I used to live like that. I will support them till the end," she explains.

Making a name in a male-dominated field for Soi, has not been a walk in the park. After several false starts and numerous discouragement from her peers, she finally found her passion: wood pallets, which she gets from godowns in Nairobi.

She chuckles as she recalls a situation in which one of her clients almost backed out of an offer after realising she was a woman.

"That week I had not sold anything, so when the client inquired about a particular design, I was jubilant. After meeting him, he



kept asking whether the carpenter was still on his way coming. I told him I am the carpenter. He didn't believe me, until I started showing him some designs," she says.

Soi has tried farming, boutique business, but always come back to wood, she narrates, "It has taken me several years to realise that is my purpose in life. I have dipped my hands in farming, opened a boutique, but I always return to using pallets."

As a designer, Soi is always trying new things. At six in the morning, the single mother of four wakes up, says a prayer, checks her social media pages and email, where she interacts with clients before heading to the workshop in Lolwe estate, Kisumu county.

At 8am, she gives her employees instructions on new orders and checks progress of other designs, before heading out for meetings or social media marketing. Digital marketing and referrals, she notes, is what makes her enterprise soar. In a good sale, she pockets between Sh10,000 and Sh30,000 for a three-seater household pallet sofa depending on the design and material used.

But finding her passion in wood pallets traces its way several years ago. Despite coming from a line of artists, Soi never dreamed of becoming a carpenter and even excelling in the trade.

She recalls one incident in 1982 with her grandfather, a revered carpenter then in Makimenyi village, Bomet county, who fore-casted her later years as an entrepreneur.

"At age three, I occasionally visited my grandfather's workshop. On this particular day, he was working on a table. I was so disruptive, so he gave me a hammer and some nails to keep me busy. And true to his 'prophecy', I was so engrossed in the process that he managed to complete working on the table," she laughs.

He was preparing me for something big, unknowingly, she explains. Her sister is in interior design and her uncle, a carpenter, currently works for her.

Interestingly, it is an entrepreneurial path she bumped into, albeit, accidentally, but

CATHERINE SOI

It has taken me several years to realise that is my purpose in life. I have dipped my hands in farming, opened a boutique, but I always return to using pallets



Catherine Soi in her workshop. LEFT/ BELOW: She showcases different types of furniture made out of wooden pallets. PD/ CLIFFORD AKUMU



her steel determination to make her mark in Kenya's furniture scene is eminent in her designs.

Support single mothers

In 2017, before venturing into carpentry, she worked for a mobile phone manufacturing company as a sales representative covering Western region. With tight schedules and an irritable manager, who used to violate their rights, Soi developed health problems.

"We used to work for long hours. And when you were found with a slight mistake; the manager, a foreigner, would subject women to 20 press ups and men 40 press ups as a form of punishment, so I had to endure the pain, since I really needed the job. And worse, the manager used to threaten us with a sack," says Soi.

And when she could not stomach it anymore, she quit. Life outside employment was rough. She moved to a new house, but did not have any furniture. With little cash, she had to be creative.

"I went to the shop and bought wood pal-

lets, which I used to make some few furniture for my new house," recalls Soi.

After some months, she got a job as a M-Pesa attendant, but she did not last long there, too. Then came the eureka moment, as she puts it. "I was feeling bored, so I decided to post seats I had made on my Instagram page under the topic 'Do It Yourself'. Within minutes, I started getting inquiries," says Soi.

I did the same on my Facebook page. "And the results were amazing. That day alone, I got four offers," she says, adding that she did not even know how she would deliver the furniture to her clients.

"I had to rely on my clients deposit to finish the job. Although they were not aware. My first orders turned out to be too lousy. I instantly became a carpenter. I used to learn from YouTube on pallet furniture making and new designs," she adds.

Soi has received several awards, including Blaze by Safaricom Award under the Production and Sales Category in 2018. She also attended a Start-up Accelerator Programme by Ygap, an impact entrepreneur investor from Australia that supports social entrepreneurs to impact persons living in poverty.

She started doing things differently after the trainings; sharpening her entrepreneurial and book keeping expertise.

Like any startup, access to capital still pulls her pallet-making business back from shooting to the league of big players.

"I do not have enough credit to grow. I am knocking on doors for capital to grow even bigger," she says, adding that she plans to pass her skills to single mothers unable to put food on the table.

For now, she is determined to pass her skills to the next generation of women and would not stop.

"I will only be satisfied when I pass my skills to other women, especially single mothers like me," she says.

Soi maintains her support for women in 'odd' jobs.

"As a woman entrepreneur, I will be celebrating empowerment. It is no longer weird for a woman to do odd jobs. Most women are out there getting and excelling at the once-perceived odd jobs" she concludes.

Tribe

The Sheng Republic



MULIKWA WITH NAFSI HURU

@tribe43shengmag TRIBE 43- Sheng Republik

Ni lazima tukule mbuku

Sio, wazazi wamekuwa wakicomplain juu ya the Competence-Based Curriculum (CBC), wakidai vile iko na kazi mob. Yaani, ulikuwa unaenda kwa mneti unakuta vile wanacomplain maisha imekuwa ngumu juu ya kufanya homework. Hii imefanya wengi watambue umuhimu ya walimu na ile role wao hucheza kwa wanafunzi.

So, vile kuna hii noma ya coronavirus na wasee wako mtaani, wanafunzi inabidi wakue busy kucatch na masomo, although wasee wengi wamekuwa walingoja kuona story ya e-learning itakuwaje.

Sasa, inabidi wanafunzi wenye wako kwa public schools kucheza kama wao wajisomee ama wajipange. But sasa noma ni, hata wazae wao wakitaka kuwasaidia, bado ni noma juu kuna wale matosti na wale hawanyiti kabisa mambo ya e-learning.

Apart from story ya masomo, pia hii story



ya quarantine imefanya wamatha wengi wa complain juu ya wazee wao. Ati kila dakika ni "mama nani, kuja tulale kidogo!" Kazi mbi ndio imekuwa kazi. Na kwa wale hawataki kuongeza hesabu ya watoi, inabidi waeke mpango ya uzazi karibu.

Anyway, ile kitu tunafaa kufanya ni kujua pia dunia inabadilika, so ni poa kila msee

akuwe rada ya story ya cashless payments, na pia hata shopping ya online, bado tukiangalia story ya home delivery. Already, Prezda Uhunye amechocha story ya 4G network yenye itakuwa allover kusaidia wanafunzi na wenye wanachapa wera zao from home. After all has been said and done, bado tuko na life ya kulive.

By Nafsi Huru

URADI

Leo tumejiqarantine na mzito SOBUKWE NONKWE, bazenga pale Genre Shoot wakali kwa mishe za photography na filmmaking akituchapia design hii fom iko na mkazu.

Ilikuajee ukaamua hii ndio uradi?
Toka nizaliwe napenda story telling na the best way to tell stories ni kupitia picha na video, so nilifata passion yangu tukashikana na arif kuanza Genre Shoot saa hii tunahesabu miaka nane kwa industry.

Unaaza sema umepata achievements gani ndani ya hizo nyundo nane?

Nimekua featured kwa Netflix international production inaitwa Sense 8, YouTube channel ya Genre Shoot imeweza kupata over 30 million views kwa kazi tumefanya local na international artistes na bado tunazidi.

Challenges kwa hii field ni kama gani?
Wasanii wamesota juu hawatengezi ya

kutosha, so kufika bei inakuwa problem plus kuimprove as a filmmaker ni ngumu juu kazi nyingi ni low budget films. Government regulations zingine sio zakutujenga ni makwere tu imekuwa expensive kufanya film in Kenya.

Ata Sense 8 crew walifanya shoot in eight countries of the world, lakini Kenya was the most expensive wakadai hawatawai fanya shoot tena hasapa. Nchi kama South Africa na Nigeria wanatuchapa juu ya drones na vile gava zao zimecushion film industry. Inafaa Uhunye ashughulikia hii maneno ipasavyo ndio tupate maziwa.

Una advise aje Kijana hapo nje anataka kukua ka Sobu?

Ujue sio kazi rahisi na ukifanya uichukulia kama kampuzi zengine ukue organized and make wise decisions. Kuna wasee utafanya kazi ya free lakini usikubali kutumika find value in all you do.



SPANKUNTA

SpanKunta ni mbogi ya mtu bee kutoka Eastland; jeshi imetambuli kuwafikisha Sheng kwa hip-hop culture bila kupima. Duo ina comprise mzee mzima Kunta akiwom kama rapper na producer mfyaa wakiwa na Span One zere la michano.

Inspiration yao walitoka kwa golden age of hip-hop siku za wazito kama Ukoo Flani Mau Mau, K-South na Black Duo. Wamekuwa kwa group tofauti ile design ya Red & Meth, lakini wamekuwa wakidunga works pamoja toka days za Wapi? pale British Council.

Walizanza hii mzuka wakiwa shule ma freestyle na kudunda pamoja kwa battles. Wakaja patana na MC Shu, K47 na Dira wakashikana kuchafua Revolutionary mixtape na machupa zakuzoza ikiwa na hits kama Touch The Sky featuring Juliani, Uwizi Ni Fashion na Biashara.

Makwanja yalipokelewa poa na hata mashow hapa kule design SpanKunta waliweza kushare stage na the legendary Craig G na Dead Prez idhaa walikuja Kenya. Walikuwa position wanachapa kazi na wasee waliwainspire juu ya mizani ya makamuzi.

SpanKunta wamekuwa studio wakiidisha wera na walishikana na DJ E&A pale Versatile DeeJays kuchafua bonge la mixtape yenye imeproduciwa na wazii kaa Shaky Mandugu Digital, Cedo, Kashule na Chai ya Zamani.

Latest project ilikuwa international na Brooklyn-based Chad Harper, mwenye ni bazenga HipHop Saves Live NGO, wakawa featured kwa album ya Welcome to My Hood pamoja na wasanii from nje. SpanKunta wame record EP mbichi BC Mpaka AD kitu more fayaa itabidi uwatichot fid is. Wanadai wera wanachapa vile inafaa.



Stuff imbo ziko kwa ndonyo

MANUSCRIPTS By Manue Ntoyai

Hii story ya corona inabidi tuzidi kuwa careful hata kama tuko mtaani. Ukicheki place mob, raia imetii story ya watu kuisolate, lakini bado kuna mafala. Cases mob zenye zinazidi kuongezeka ni ati kuna mafala wenye bado wanazidi kuzunguka wakisambaza ugonjwa. Sasa shida ni story ya mtaani pia kuna level ya wasee inabidi wakue radar ya akina landlord wenye pia wako na ufala ya kusumbua raia ati story ya rent.

So, juzi pale base kwa Vaite tulikuwa tunachapiana vile hii maisha imechange. Hapo ndio ule boyz mimi huwachapianaitwa Kamah alikuja kutuambia vile kwao landlord amewakatia rent nusu, lakini bado watalipa stima na waba. Issue kubwa ya Kamah ilikuwa mahustler wataenda wapi juu kuna hizi restrictions za movement. Unajua vile raia mob wao hurauka ngware kusaka chenye kitaiwa that day na family.

At the same time, story ya wasee kununua kila kitu kwa super ni ufala juu sasa kuna stuff perishable kama mboga, na bado ukienda kwa soko noma. Anyway, since ni time yenye ni noma, kila msee akae radar ya kwake na tusisahau kanawa mkono na soap na running water juu naskia kuna sanitiser imbo kwa ndonyo.



By Nafsi Huru

CANNIBAL

TOKAJIKONI



1. Juu ya Doh - Cannibal
2. Digida - Mama Lao & Kaa La Moto
3. Eskerit (Jeje Refix) - Ohms Law ft Diamond
4. Sight - Kingsko Lighi
5. Utaomoka - Rusty Gee
6. Sitaki Korona - Vinc on the beat ft Katapilla
7. One Mic From Heaven - Katoi ft Mitaa Kiasuni & K Mode
8. Mambichwa - Collonizzo
9. Kiireu - B Kay
10. Irie Sisters - Messiah

Due to the coronavirus outbreak dunia yote, the 2020 Olympics zitakuwa tricky kuendelea. Already countries kama Canada na Australia zilikuwa zishawithdraw kutake part kwa hizi prestigious competition na countries zingine mob zinakaa ku-follow hii trend.

Gava mob zinadaisha kuendelea kwa hizi games zinapose a lot of risks kwa athletes wao juu safety yao haiko guaranteed. Kenya ilikuwa imejoin countries kama USA kuplead na the International Olympics Committee (IOC) kumove hizi games hadi next year hivi.

IOC itigive-in on Tuesday na ikadai imepostpone hio event mpaka summer ya 2021. Safety ya athletes inafaa ikuje before everything else na hio move ilikuwa more than necessary.

By Rodgers Ndegwa #FORMZAGRAO

By Rodgers Ndegwa SHENGPEDIA

1

Kurekia-Go mad Origin-Banana.
Example- Si ajabu siku hizi kupata may-out wengi wamerekia juu ya madree na depression.

2

Adisia-Add Origin-Naks
Example-Wakenya watakaa mtaani kuprevent hii spread ya coronavirus, but lazima gava ijuwe itaadisia nini kumake sure watu wajadedi na njaa.

TAMBULIKA

By Nafsi Huru



- 5.00 Inuka
- 6.00 K24 This Morning
- 9.00 The Daily Brief
- 12.30 Inside Business
- 13.00 News Cut
- 13.30 Sports Hub Live
- 14.00 Bongo Movie
- 15.00 Sweetest Love
- 16.00 K24 Mashinani
- 16.30 Jus Kids
- 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 Riddim Vybz Reloaded
- 00.00 DW Live Feed



- 5.00 Ime Ria Rucini
- 6.00 Fikiratha
- 11.00 Kurekereria Kodii
- 12.00 Kwibanga-Rpt
- 1.00 Mohoro Gitau-Live
- 1.30 Kameme Iharoni-Live
- 2.00 Kayu Ka Murimi
- 3.00 Thirinka Mix
- 3.30 Satai
- 3.45 Kameme Toonz
- 4.00 Ririmuka Live
- 6.00 Uruguri Wa Mwili Live
- 7.00 Kameme Maturaini
- 8.00 Njunga Ya Muthee
- 8.30 Kihirjo
- 8.30 Ndukariganira
- 9.00 Mutamburuko Wa
- 10.00 Mohoro
- 10.00 Thenema Cia
- 10.00 Kameme
- 11.00 Mutamburuko Wa
- 11.00 Mohoro-Rpt
- 00.00 Ririmuka
- 2.00 Deutsche Welle



- 6.00 Morning-Express
- 8.00 Life-N-Style
- 9.00 Life N' Style
- 10.00 Losing-Heaven
- 12.00 The-Property-Show-Rpt
- 1.00 Mbulu-Ya-Ktn
- 4.00 News Highlights
- 4.30 Dinotroz
- 5.00 Maisha-Mzuqa
- 6.00 Losing-Heaven
- 7.00 KTN-Leo
- 7.30 Jamani
- 8.00 The-Entrepreneur
- 9.00 KTN
- 11.30 The-Diary

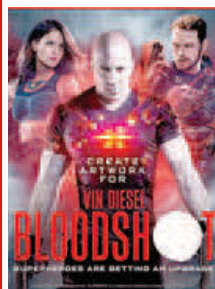
TIME OUT!

20.00pm A CARNIVAL AFFAIR



::IN THEATRES NOW::

ANGA DIAMOND PLAZA: 10:30, 15:10, 18:10, 20:45: **BLOODSHOT** 20:20
 ANGA IMAX CBD: 10:00, 12:00, 14:00, 16:00, 18:00, 20:00, 22:00: **BLOODSHOT** 20:20
 ANGA SKY CINEMA: 10:00, 13:00, 13:05, 14:00, 18:00, 20:00, 22:00: **BLOODSHOT** 20:20
 NYALI CINEMAX MOMBASA: 11:00, 16:15, 18:40, 21:00: **BLOODSHOT** 20:20
 PRESTIGE CINEMA PRESTIGE PLAZA: 15:40, 18:20, 20:50: **BLOODSHOT** 20:20
 ANGA DIAMOND PLAZA: 10:20, 13:30, 16:40, 19:45, 21:00, 22:50: **BAAGHI 3** 20:20



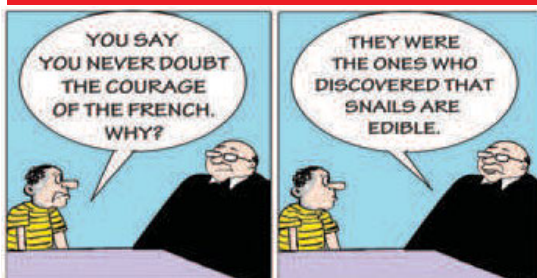
SUDOKU

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

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

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

LIFE'S LIKE THAT! | BY TUM



HOROSCOPES



ARIES (MAR. 21 - APRIL 20)

Luck is with you. Rest and relaxation may be required; minor health problems will prevail if you don't watch your diet.

TAURUS (APR. 21 - MAY 21)

Check your personal papers and make sure everything is in order. You will be subject to pushy individuals if you get involved in uncertain organizations.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

You can get a lot done if you get your hands on the right equipment. Exercise your talents and present your ideas to groups you think you can contribute to.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 22)

Don't lend to people who have given you negative vibes. Be careful not to get roped into uncertain joint financial deals. Self-deception is likely.

LEO (JULY 23 - AUG 22)

Your need to use emotional blackmail will only cause more conflict. This is probably causing upset and confusion on the home front. Take positive action.

VIRGO (AUG. 23 - SEPT. 23)

Make sure that new moves live up to your high standards. You will be able to make changes regarding your living arrangements.

LIBRA (SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)

You will have an inaccurate assessment of your status in society. Talk to your mate about a vacation and discuss the expectations of your relationship.

SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)

Advancement can be yours if you are assertive in your approach. You can form new partnerships, but don't move too quickly; things may not be as they appear.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 - DEC. 21)

You must be extremely careful not to let relatives or friends interfere in your personal life. You must avoid gossip and focus on what you have to do.

CAPRICORN (DEC 22 - JAN. 20)

Avoid getting involved with married individuals. Problems with in-laws may cause friction in your personal relationship.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)

Secret intrigues could get you into trouble. You will find the excitement gratifying. Your mate needs extra attention and is feeling rather insecure when you're not in sight.

PISCES (FEB. 20 - MAR. 20)

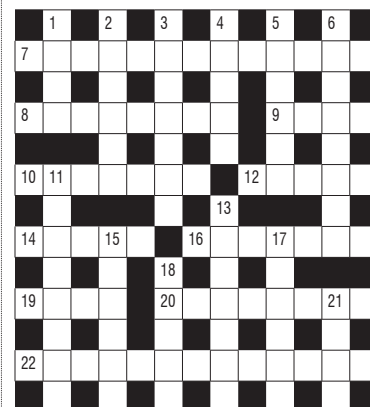
Don't bend to the pressure. Your positive attitude and intellectual outlook will draw others to you. You will be overly generous with children today.



- 5:00 BBC
- 5:30 Gear Up
- 6:00 Good Morning Kenya
- 9:00 Lay'd Back
- 10:00 Raggs
- 11:00 Spirou
- 12:00 Worship
- Experience
- 1:00 News Desk
- Business
- 1:30 Defined
- 2:00 Kenda Imani
- 2:30 Daytime Movie
- 3:00 Jesus Son Of God
- 5:30 Club 1
- 6:30 The Great D eaters
- 7:00 Taarifa
- 7:30 Road to Success
- 8:00 Charging Currents
- 8:30 Magical Scene
- 9:00 KBC Channel 1
- News
- 10:30 Feature
- 11:00 GGTV
- 12:00 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 at 1
- 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
- 7.30 Wicked Edition
- 8.00 Wild Skin
- 9.00 NTV Tonight
- 10.00 Road To Russia
- 11.00 The Beat
- 12.00 CNN



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

ACROSS

- 7. Blurry
- 8. Casino
- 10. Soprano
- 11. Chone
- 12. Tans
- 13. Debut
- 17. Tones
- 18. Cage
- 22. Hound
- 23. Tankard
- 24. Evaded
- 25. Trance

DOWN

- 1. Obesity
- 2. Bumping
- 3. Trail
- 4. Sanctum
- 5. Vior
- 6. Homes
- 9. Movements
- 14. Noodles
- 15. Lassagne
- 16. Meddler
- 19. Thief
- 20. Mural
- 21. Snarl

ACROSS

- 7. Supporting musical part (13)
- 8. Exceptional (8)
- 9. Cereal grains used as food (4)
- 10. Significance (7)
- 12. Vibrated (5)
- 14. Dizzy (5)
- 16. Aquatic creature with prominent barbels (7)
- 19. Extravagant publicity (4)

DOWN

- 1. Performs on stage (4)
- 2. Mithless (6)
- 3. Choices (7)
- 4. Standpoint (5)
- 5. Caress and kiss (6)

20.

- Dawlers (8)

22.

- Untiring (13)

6.

- Excessively smug (8)

11.

- Improving the mind; enlightening (8)

13.

- Spanish beverage (7)

15.

- Increase; extend (6)

17.

- Disorderly disturbance (6)

18.

- Outer garment (5)

21.

- Girls toy (4)

**THERE ARE
THOSE WHO
EAT, SLEEP AND
LIVE SPORTS.
AND FOR THESE
PEOPLE
NOTHING ELSE
MATTERS.**

#IamThePeople



Reading the People Daily every day, allows me a chance to interact with the sports that I love. There is something for everyone, every day. That's why I read the PD. I am the people. ”

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

THE PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING

ACT NO.13 OF 2019

CHANGE OF USE

The owner of Plot No. 119/4222, located off Kamiti Road, Nairobi County, intends to change use from Single Dwelling to Multi-dwelling, subject to approval of the County Government of Nairobi. Any individual(s), institution(s) or organization(s) etc., with comments or objections to the proposal are requested to forward the same in writing within fourteen (14) days of publication of this notice to:

The County Secretary
Nairobi County Government
P.O. Box 30075-00100
NAIROBI

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING

ACT NO.13 OF 2019

CHANGE OF USE

The owner of Plot No. RUIRU/EAST BLOCK 1/2036 RUIRU, located off Eastern Bypass, Kiambu County intends to change use from Single Dwelling to Multi-dwelling, subject to approval of the County Government of Kiambu. Any individual(s), institution(s) or organization(s) etc., with comments or objections to the proposal are requested to forward the same in writing within fourteen (14) days of publication of this notice to:

The County Secretary
Kiambu County
P.O. Box 2344 00500
KIAMBU



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

THE NATIONAL TREASURY AND PLANNING

NATIONAL SUB-COUNTY ACCOUNTANT

NYANDARUA NORTH SUB-COUNTY

TENDER NOTICE

The National Treasury Nyandarua North wishes to invite sealed tenders from eligible contractors for the following tender:

ITEM	TENDER NUMBER	TENDER NAME	ELIGIBILITY	CLOSING DATE
1	NYA/North/01/2019-2020	Proposed Construction and completion of National Sub County Treasury office Nyandarua North	Open	08/04/2020

Interested and eligible contractors may obtain tender documents with detailed specification from the Nyandarua North National Treasury Sub-County Offices, situated in Nyahururu DCC/S Office Rm 57 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of KShs.1,000 (One Thousand only) payable in cash at the Sub County Treasury Nyandarua North. Only bidders who meet the following requirements will be considered for further evaluation;

1. Certificate of incorporation
2. Valid Tax compliance certificate
3. Pin and Vat certificate
4. NCA 6 and above (building work)
5. Valid business permit
6. Minimum construction experience of 4 years for a value of equivalent amount
7. Proof of equipment and personnel to be used
8. Audited account for the last three financial years
9. Financial bank statements for the last six months
10. 2% Bid bond of the quoted amount
11. Litigation history signed by commissioner of oaths
12. Certified documents by Commissioner of Oaths

Completed tender documents in plain sealed envelope clearly marked "Tender No.:" should be addressed to:

THE DEPUTY COUNTY COMMISSIONER

PRIVATE BAG NYAHURURU

And be deposited in the tender box situated at the entrance of the Deputy County Commissioner's Office in Ndaragwa town, on or before 8th April, 2020 at 10.00 a.m. Tenders will be opened immediately thereafter in presence of bidders or their representatives who may wish to attend at the Deputy County Commissioner's Boardroom, 1st floor.

SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT OFFICER
NYANDARUA NORTH SUB-COUNTY

**LET YOUR
ADVERT
BE SEEN
HERE...**

... visit us at DSM Place,
Ground, 1st & 2nd Floors,
Kijabe Street, Nairobi

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peopleads@mediamax.co.ke





Sport

► The one-stop Sport show

ATHLETICS - PG32

Blow as government suspends World U/20 championships due to Corona pandemic



Back to square one

Tokyo begins Olympic task of reorganising Games

Tokyo, Wednesday
@PeopleDailyKe

Japan set about the unprecedented task of reorganising the Tokyo 2020 Olympics Wednesday after making the tough decision to postpone the Games by a year as the coronavirus pandemic locks down one third of the planet.

The dramatic step to shift the Olympics, never before seen in peacetime, upends every aspect of the organisation including venues, security, ticketing and accommodation.

In a move symbolic of the difficulties now facing Tokyo, Olympic countdown clocks in the city switched from displaying the number of days to go, instead simply showing today's date and the time.

"It's like taking seven years to build the world's biggest jigsaw puzzle and, with just one piece to go, having to start again but now with less time to finish," tweeted Craig Spence, spokesman for the International Paralympic Committee.

It is not even clear exactly when the rescheduled Games will take place, with the International Olympic Committee saying the new date would be "beyond 2020 but not later than summer 2021".

Japan has framed Tokyo 2020 as the "Recovery Games" a chance to show the world it has bounced back from the "triple disaster" in 2011 when a massive earthquake sparked a tsunami and the Fukushima nuclear meltdown.

The delayed event still to be called Tokyo 2020 will now be a "testament to mankind's defeat of the new virus", said

Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

He repeated that message in a Wednesday call with US President Donald Trump, in which the leaders agreed the Games would be "proof that humans have beaten the new coronavirus", a Japanese government spokesman said.

The Olympic flame "could become the light at the end of the tunnel in which the world finds itself at present", Japan and the IOC said in a joint statement.

The quadrennial Olympics, which has weathered boycotts, terrorist attacks and protests, is the highest-profile event affected by the virus that has killed thousands and postponed or cancelled sports competitions worldwide. The IOC had come under fire for appearing out of touch by sticking to its schedule, but it eventually bowed to the inevitable, citing the need to protect the health of athletes.

Bach said the postponement was "about protecting human life", with more than 11,000 athletes expected along with 90,000 volunteers, and hundreds of thousands of officials and spectators from all over the world.

US swimming star Ryan Lochte summed up the combination of disappointment and relief expressed by most athletes, after many had voiced anger at being asked to continue training during the pandemic.

"I was a little pissed off because I've been training my butt off and I've been feeling great," the 12-time Olympic medallist told the Los Angeles Times.

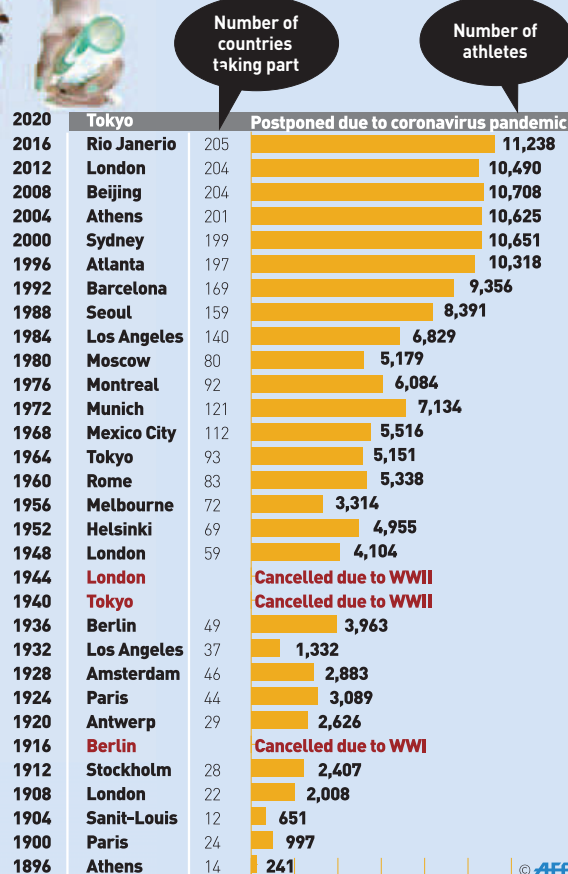
-AFP

History of Summer Olympics

TOKYO 2020

Jamaica's Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce competes at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.
PHOTO: OLIVIER MORIN

*First rescheduled to Helsinki, Finland, but ultimately cancelled due to the outbreak of WWII
SOURCE: IOC/BRITANNICA



Cancel them! Olympic opponents in Japan, a delay isn't enough

The Olympic flame is displayed at the Aquamarine Fukushima aquarium in Iwaki in Fukushima prefecture on March 25, 2020, a day after the historic decision to postpone the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games.



Tokyo, Wednesday
@PeopleDailyKe

For many in Japan, the postponement of the Olympics is a heartbreaking necessity. But for a small and motley crew opposed to the Games altogether, it doesn't go far enough.

"Damn it! We absolutely reject postponement. The Olympics should be cancelled and abolished," an umbrella group of anti-Games activists tweeted after the historic delay to the 2020 Olympics was announced. Just minutes before Tuesday's dramatic decision, triggered by the coronavirus pandemic, a handful of activists gathered

in central Tokyo holding one of their regular protests against the Games.

"We've been doing a monthly rally for various reasons. One of the things that most annoys me is the commercialism of the event," said 59-year-old Toshio Miyazaki, standing with protesters holding signs reading: "We are opposed to the Tokyo Olympics."

Miyazaki works for the Tokyo city government, a key partner in organising the 2020 Games, but he is vocal about his opposition to the event.

"The coronavirus situation is pushing them to postpone the Games, but I think Japanese people should think twice about whether it is really necessary to host the

Olympics," he told AFP.

The prospect of hosting the Olympics remains largely popular in Japan, with 4.5 million tickets already sold through an oversubscribed lottery system that was so popular it was expanded for an additional round. In domestic surveys, only around 10 percent of respondents think the Games should be cancelled, even with the global coronavirus pandemic stalking the globe.

And those who oppose the Games do so for a variety of reasons.

Kumiko Sudo, who was among the protesters out on Tuesday, said she was uncomfortable with the nationalist undertones she feels are associated with the Games.

-AFP

BRIEFLY

Hundreds of jobs at stake in full coronavirus effect

FOOTBALL: Even as the football season in Kenya has got into a lull because of the coronavirus pandemic, there are fears that some key personnel are likely to lose their jobs. Hundreds of temporary staff is usually hired albeit by clubs and the federation on match days. Host teams in particular have to contend with budgeting for match officials, stewards, security, paramedics and ball boys to ensure smooth running of games on weekend basis. However, with the temporary stoppages across all divisions in the country, some of these staffers who are hired on contract basis could well be without a job for the foreseeable future.

- Barry Silah



Kipchoge, colleagues laud Tokyo cancellation

ATHLETICS: World marathon record holder Eliud Kipchoge led other top Kenyan athletes to praise the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the Japanese Government for the bold decision to postpone the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games to 2021. The decision means the 35-year-old will also defer his bid to defend his Olympics title he won four years ago in Rio, at least in 2020 since the Games have been moved from July to a date that will be determined later due to fast spreading coronavirus pandemic. "All in all a very wise decision to postpone the Olympics until 2021," Kipchoge said.

- Amos Abuga



Fans appeal for help to boost Vihiga United fight

FOOTBALL: Vihiga United fans have appealed to the county government to rescue the team as they fight for the return to the Kenya Premier League next season. Through Cleopatra Minayo they warned that Vihiga county will be reduced to spectators if something is not done with all these gains being reversed very fast due to laxity lack of commitment. "It is surprising to see the players not having been received their salaries since November last year yet top county officials visited the team and promised to pay," Minayo said.

- Frederick Likuyani

Blessing in disguise

Brother Colm says postponement of this year's Olympics good for World and Olympic 800m champ Rudisha

by Amos Abuga
@PeopleDailyKe

Athletics coach Brother Colm O'Connell says the decision by the International Olympics Committee IOC and Japanese Government to postpone Tokyo Olympic Games to 2021 will be good and bad to different athletes.

While the common clarion call by everyone will be to laud the organisers for the bold decision on health grounds, Colm says the decision might be good and bad in equal measure for different athletes mostly depending on current form and shape.

For one, he says his most known students, world 800m record holder David Rudisha (pictured) might in the long run benefit from the postponement. The 30-year-old master of the two-lap race has not competed since May 2017 because of recurrent back and knee injuries.

"I stick to my words that Rudisha, a two-time consecutive Olympics Champion was not going to be realistically ready for Tokyo if the games were to be held from July 24 to August 9," Colm told *People Sport*.

Colm says the readiness factor does not only affect Rudisha but all the many other athletes who are out of shape, recovering from injuries, those he says might in the long run benefit greatly from the decision.

"I said gone are the days when Rudisha would be considered for a wildcard, it was no secret his only route to Tokyo is through the trials where he had to finish in the top three which looked unlikely because the trials were very close and he is not in his best shape or close to his standards," added Colm.

"And it is not only Rudisha, there are many athletes in his situation who are not going to admit it. Maybe next year will be a better season for them if their

current form is anything to go by," he added.

In the same breath the Irishman says other currently top athletes in the world might suffer greatly from delaying the Games for at least a year.

"Not only in Kenya but it's a global thing. There are several athletes who are in top form presently in their prime to be precise. Athletes who were expected to do well in their respective disciplines and they are known, one can't tell for certainty that will be the case next year or when the Games will be held," he said.

"At the end of the day the health of well being of athletes fans and officials has to come first. I am not saying the decision to postpone the Games is a bad one or bad faith, but there will be arising factors, maybe age factors might play a role, that I can't prove though," he added.

On Kenya's future in the long distance races, he says his other students like world 10,000m bronze medallist Rhonex Kipruto and African Games 5,000m champion Robert Kiprop stand to gain to from the postponement.

"These are very promising young athletes we are talking about. They have all the time ahead of them. As seen during the 2019 World championships in Doha, Kipruto will need more time to upset World champion Joshua Cheptegei of Uganda who is in top form. What a difference a year can do to a top athlete I can't tell for certain, what I can say is, my students have more time to prepare," he said.



Kenyan Marathoners Eliud Kipchoge (left) and Brigid Kosgei after they won the 2019 London Marathon races. They were part of the Kenya Marathon team for Olympics. PD/FILE

ATHLETICS

Marathon team likely to be changed after Tokyo cancellation

by Amos Abuga
@PeopleDailyKe

Athletics Kenya (AK) Senior vice president Paul Mutwii says Kenyan marathon teams to the now postponed 2020 Olympics Games might be subjected to changes.

Mutwii says a year is such a long period where injuries, drop in form or even other unforeseen factors might come into play implying the teams that were named early in the year might have to be changed slightly or even in a great way.

"We shall be monitoring the athletes that the selection committee settled on, but remember nothing is cast on stone. Changes will be injected where need arises," Mutwii told *People Sport* after the International Olympic Committee IOC and the Japanese Government agreed to move the Games to 2021 due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

In January, AK named a team of 10 marathoners me by record-holders Eliud Kip-

choge and Brigid Kosgei to headline the star-studded Kenyan marathon team for the Tokyo, Japan Games which were initially scheduled for July 24 and August 9.

Kipchoge, who is the first man to run the marathon in under two hours, was hugely tipped to defend the title he won in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil four years ago where he clocked 2:08:44.

The other members in the men team include Chicago Marathon champion Lawrence Cherono, world silver medallist Amos Kipruto, former world half marathon silver medallist Bedan Karoki, and African Games half marathon winner Titus Ekiru.

The duo of Karoki and Eki-ru were on stand by.

Kosgei was to lead the women's team which also feature world champion Ruth Chepngetich and former London Marathon champion Vivian Cheruiyot.

Sally Chepyego and Vallyary Aiyabei were on standby.

Starlets corona scare

Uncertainty grips national women team after official shows symptoms of deadly virus after Turkey trip

by Barry Silah
@PeopleDailyKe

Fear yesterday gripped staffers of Football Kenya Federation (FKF) after it emerged that a member of the Harambee Starlets technical bench could be have contacted the deadly coronavirus during the team's tour of Turkey where they took part in the eight-team annual Turkish Cup that took place in Instabul between March 4 and 10.

According to inside sources the official who returned with the rest of the team players and officials on March 12, went into self quarantine but took himself to Mbagathi Hospital on Friday after noticing some symptoms of the Covid-19. He was detained at the hospital before being transferred to Kenyatta National Hospital on Tuesday.

"He checked in at the Mbagathi infectious disease wing with Covid-19 symptoms on Friday as he had diarrhoea, fatigues muscles and mild headache. I have, however, learned that comprehensive tests will be undertaken tomorrow morning (yesterday) since kits had run out," the source told *People Sport*.

According to FKF president, the entire Starlets traveling squad was taken to Mbagathi Hospital for thorough tests directly from the airport when they returned to the country from Turkey on March 12. They all tested negative and were advised to go into self quarantine.

If it turns out that technical bench member tests positive, it would be alarming since he had been in contact with all the team members



including FKF vice president Dorris Petra who was part of the traveling party.

Petra who has been in self quarantine since returning from the trip, however, briefly broke the rules on March 17, when he joined FKF president Nick Mwendwa and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Barry Otieno in a press conference at the Safari Park Hotel to react on the ruling made by

the Sports Disputes Tribunal earlier on that day. Dorris could not be reached for comment yesterday, but she had written in her facebook page: "This quarantine is necessary but it's killing me before the virus. I thank all those who have called or sent SMS to check on me. I don't take it for granted. Am praying for all my friends, relatives and enemies."

A member of the Harambee Starlets technical bench Bruce Juma enjoys a light moment with a friend in Istanbul, Turkey three weeks ago during the Turkish Cup. RIGHT: FKF vice president Dorris Petra. PD/ COURTESY

BRIEFLY

Italy legend Maldini excited after recovering from coronavirus

MILAN: AC Milan legend Paolo Maldini has given an update after testing positive for coronavirus – saying that he believes he has passed through the worst of it. Maldini felt the first symptoms of the disease on March 5 and Milan revealed last week that both the former Italy international and his

son Daniel had tested positive for it. But the 51-year-old has now suggested that while he still has some of the symptoms, he is in a good position. He told Italian newspaper Corriere della Sera: 'I am feeling well, the worst has passed already. I still have a bit of a dry cough. I've lost my taste and

smell, hopefully I'll come back. 'It was like a slightly uglier flu. But it's not a normal flu. I know my body. An athlete knows himself. 'The pains are particularly strong.

And then it feels like a squeeze in your chest... it's a new virus. The body fights against an enemy it doesn't know.'

-AFP

'Coronavirus is like cancer, no one can hide from it', says frustrated UFC boss White

DUBLIN: UFC president Dana White has sensationally vented his frustration at the US government's handling of the coronavirus pandemic as he seeks a solution that will allow his sport to resume as soon as possible. COVID-19 continues to take its toll around the world with more than 375,000 people confirmed to have been infected. The result of this has led countries across the world to impose a lockdown – meaning the shutting down of businesses, such as the UFC. And while White has complied with the sanctions, having been forced to cancel three events – including one in London scheduled for last Saturday, the sport's chief appears to be getting impatient about their current predicament. 'How long are we going to stay in our houses and hide?'

-DailyMail



'Current Liverpool squad is better than Arsenal's Invincibles,' says Petit

LIVERPOOL: Arsenal's Invincibles will go down as one of the Premier League's greatest-ever sides, but for Emmanuel Petit, Jurgen Klopp's current Liverpool crop are 'more impressive'. Arsene Wenger's team for the 2003-04 campaign pulled off the incredible feat of going a full season unbeaten on their way to win the title. The opinion is made even more controversial given that it's coming from a former Gunner, who played alongside many of those that would go on to win the Premier League without losing a game. However, Petit insists that while he still respects his former team-mates achievements, there is just 'something special' about Liverpool.

-DailyMail



'Ronaldo is better than Messi, but I'm the best', says Pele

Sao Paulo, Wednesday
@PeopleDailyKe

In the never-ending debate surrounding Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi, the former has support from arguably football's greatest-ever player.

Brazil legend Pele (pictured) has added his opinion about who is the current world's best between Ronaldo and Messi – with the three-time World Cup winner plumping for Ronaldo.

Ronaldo and Messi have been regarded as the world's leading duo for more than a decade – sharing 11 Ballon d'Or awards between them.

But despite Messi edging that battle (six titles to five), Pele would rather have Ronaldo in his team.

'Today the best player in the world is Cristiano Ronaldo,' he told YouTube channel Pilhado.

'I think he's the best, because he's more consistent, but you can't forget about [Lionel] Messi, of course, but he's not a striker.'

Although, the 79-year-old was effusive in his praise of Ronaldo he did point out that there have been some legendary figures before him and Messi. And when comparing the duo to legendary names of yesterday



- there was no doubt in his mind who comes out on top... himself.

'It is a question that is difficult to answer,' he replied when asked who is the best to have played the beautiful game. 'We cannot forget about Zico, Ronaldinho and Ronaldo.'

'And in Europe, Franz Beckenbauer and Johan Cruyff.'

'Now, it's not my fault, but I think Pele was better than them all.' In the never-ending debate surrounding Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi, the former has support from arguably football's greatest-ever player.

-DailyMail

TBT with AMOS ABUGA



Then

Name: Eugene Ambuchi Asike**Age:** 26 Years**Nick Name:** Nasty**Sport:** Football**Club:** Kenya Pipeline**Position:** Defender**Accolades:** Runner up defender of the year 2012/2013; Defender of the year Sofapaka 2014 and Tusker 2016.

KPL champion 2016.

Hails from: Karen, Nairobi

Now



Doubts arise over Kenya hosting U20

Official fears the country might never get the chance to have an event of such magnitude

by Amos Abuga
@PeopleDailyKe

It is not clear whether Kenya will ever host the World Athletics U20 Championships which were on Tuesday night postponed due to the coronavirus outbreak, a member of the Local Organising Committee (LOC) has disclosed.

While the World Athletics said they are working to identify a mutually appropriate alternative date, there are worries that might not be the case.

"2021 already had its own sporting events the world championships to be held in USA for the first time ever the event of the year. But now we also have the Olympics, World Indoors Championships which were postponed from this year, there is the World Cross Country Championships just to name a few. I don't think the World Under 20 will be a priority," said a member of the LOC, who sought anonymity.

On Tuesday evening, a statement

from World Athletics read: "It is with regret that World Athletics, together with the Government of Kenya and Athletics Kenya, have made the decision to postpone the World Athletics U20 Championships Nairobi 2020, due to the ongoing challenges posed by the spread of the novel Covid-19 internationally."

"The current global situation would have seriously compromised the event at this time as many countries are restricting international travel, invoking necessary quarantines and advising citizens and event organisers to avoid mass gatherings."

"We had to consider the health and well-being of athletes, officials and spectators in making this call. We recognise the immense preparations that have gone into the event and wanted to give certainty to the athletes as early as possible as we collectively come to terms with the global impact and threats associated with Covid-19."

The postponement of the junior Championships which were due to

be held from July 7-12 at the Kasarani stadium came in the same day that it was announced that the Olympics and Paralympics Games would be moved to 2021.

LOC CEO Michael Rabar could not be reached for comment to ascertain the kind of loss Kenya is likely to feel following the postponement of the Championships as facilities close and qualification events are cancelled all over the world would be terrible if you've been training your whole life for this."

Wickenheiser added: "I think the IOC insisting this will move ahead, with such conviction, is insensitive and irresponsible given the state of humanity."

France's 110m hurdler Pascal Martinot-Lagarde, European champion and world bronze medallist who finished fourth at the Rio Games in 2016, told AFP a postponement was the only fair solution.

"We're not all in the same boat, there are countries which are less affected than others. In some countries athletes can train normally while we can't even access our training ground," he said.

Journalists briefing at Kasarani Stadium when World Athletics officials visited to inspect the facilities ahead of the postponed World Under 20 Championships. IN-SET: Sports CS Amina Mohamed speaks during the launch of Tokyo 2020 Olympics camp.

PD/RODGERS NDEGWA AND DAVID NDOLLO

Kasarani renovations to continue despite U20 postponement

by Lynette Matheka
@PeopleDailyKe

Renovations at the Moi International Sports Centre (MISC) Kasarani will continue as planned, despite World Athletics Under 20 Championships, slated for July 7-12, having been postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic that has affected sporting events globally.

Sections of the stadium were closed from March 16 to give way for renovations, budgeted to cost Sh 332 million, as the country prepared to host three international sporting events, among them the U20 World championship the World Athletics Continental Tour on May 2 and flagging off of the Safari Rally in July which would be making a comeback to the World Rally Championship (WRC) after an 18-year absence.

"World Athletics, together with the government of Kenya and Athletics Kenya (AK) have made the decision to postpone the World Athletics U20 Championship Nairobi 2020 (July 7-12) due to the ongoing challenges posed by the spread of the novel Coronavirus (Covid-19) internationally. The current global situation would have seriously compromised the event this time as many countries are restricting international travel, invoking necessary quarantines and advising citizens and event organisers to avoid mass gatherings," the joint statement, dated March 24,

reads in part.

It continues: "We had to consider the health and well-being of a 14 athletes, officials and spectators in making this call. We recognise the immense preparations that have gone into the event and wanted to give certainty to the athletes as early as possible as we collectively come to terms with the global impact and threat associated with Covid-19."

The Local Organising Committee (LOC) is set to continue with preparations.

The organisers of the U20 event have vowed to work together to identify a mutually appropriate alternative date convenient for the government of Kenya and elite competitors.

While the Continental Tour event set for May 2 is likely to be postponed as well, Sports Kenya Director General (DG) Pius Meto confirmed that renovations would continue, albeit at a slower pace given the social distancing and other precautionary measures taken to curb the spread of the coronavirus.

"The renovations will continue as we await new dates for the events. We expected to complete works at the end of April in time for the May 2 Tour, but now works will be slower since the manpower has to be reduced to avoid crowds. Some of the contractors are already on site and works at the warm up area began on Tuesday this week," said Meto.



Team Leader U20 United Kingdom, Trevor Painter inspects the track at Kasarani Stadium ahead of the postponed World Championship that were slated for the same venue.

PD/RODGERS NDEGWA

Fury-Wilder rematch postponed by virus pandemic

LOS ANGELES: The third fight in Tyson Fury and Deontay Wilder's heavyweight rivalry has been postponed as the coronavirus pandemic grips the United States and Britain, ESPN reported on Tuesday. Britain's Fury, who dethroned unbeaten WBC champion Wilder with a dominant victory in seven rounds last month, had been due to defend his crown in Las Vegas on July 18. But promoter Bob Arum told ESPN on Tuesday the rematch had now been rescheduled until October at the earliest because of the COVID-19 outbreak which has brought the sporting world to a standstill. With travel restrictions affecting both the US and Britain, and Las Vegas' casinos shuttered, Arum said a postponement was the only sensible option. **-AFP**

Man City boss Guardiola donates Sh115m to fight coronavirus in ravaged

MADRID: Manchester City coach Pep Guardiola has donated Sh 115 million (1m euros) to help buy medical supplies for the fight against the coronavirus pandemic in his native Spain. The former FC Barcelona boss gave the money to the Medical College of Barcelona to buy "medical equipment that is currently lacking in health centres in Catalonia," the body said in a statement. His donation will also be used to produce ventilators to treat patients and protective gear for health care workers in Guardiola's northeastern region of Spain. Meanwhile Barcelona's Hospital Clinic said it had received a donation from FC Barcelona captain Lionel Messi to help it fight the virus. "Thank you Leo, for your support and commitment," the hospital added in a tweet. While the hospital did not say how much money the player donated, Catalan sports daily Mundo Deportivo said it was one million euros. **-AFP**

Governor forcefully quarantines 14 athletes in Elgeyo Marakwet

SOCCER: Fourteen athletes, who returned into the country recently from various foreign countries have been quarantined in Elgeyo Marakwet county. The County's Deputy Governor Wesley Rotich said they have so far identified four athletes, who came back from Spain, another four from Morocco, two from Hungary and one each from USA, India, Saudi Arabia and Rwanda. Speaking in Iten yesterday, Rotich said all the athletes travelled to Iten and went to their villages using public transport thus running the risk of spreading the Covid-19 virus. He said the 14 were the only ones whose information they had received through their emergency response committee saying there were many others who are yet to be identified. All returning athletes are expected to sign forms before quarantining themselves for 14 days. **-KNA**

Mwendwa has the last laugh

Fifa dismisses SDT rulling, upholds FKF Electoral Code and says status quo remain until April 6 all inclusive meeting

by People Team
@PeopleDailyKe

Football Kenya Federation (FKF) president Nick Mwendwa (pictured) and Co will heave a sigh of relief after world football governing body Fifa yesterday appeared to trash decisions made by the Sports Disputes Tribunal (SDT) on March 17 and supported the current office bearers in the ongoing elections that have seen the local body nullify the exercise twice.

Fifa's Chief Officer in charge of Member Associations Veron Mosengo-Omba in a two-page letter addressed to FKF Chief Executive Officer Barry Otieno, exuded confidence in the manner the federation had conducted its polls and poured cold water on the landmark ruling which had, among other things, proposed the formation of a Normalisation Committee to take over the running of the sport and oversee fresh elections under a new Electoral Code, since the term of the current office bearers had expired on February 10, 2020.

Just as *People Sport* had reported in its *Wikendi* edition, the global body dismissed the thoughts of a Normalisation

Committee and reaffirmed that the current FKF Executive Committee members, including its president, shall remain in office.

"We acknowledge receipt of the decision of the SDT rendered on March 17, 2020, which challenges the eligibility criteria contained in the FKF Electoral Code adopted by the FKF General Assembly on January 25, 2020," said Mosengo-Omba.

He added: "We would like to highlight that the FKF statutes do not expressly recognise the jurisdiction of the SDT as being the ultimate arbitration forum at national level. Moreover, we note that the SDT is not a national arbitration tribunal in the sense of Fifa circular 1010 dated December 20, 2005. Despite all these, FKF surprisingly subjected to the SDT by its own initiative while it was not obliged to do so as per its statutes. Therefore, we wish to emphasise that the relevant SDT ruling has no legal effect on Fifa."

Fifa in the letter upheld the FKF Electoral Code and the Electoral Board, because they were approved and elected respectively by the FKF General Assembly at the beginning of the year and no FKF member opposed it during the meeting.

Mosengo-Omba revealed that Sports Minister Amina Mohamed had requested a meeting with Fifa officials in Zurich on January 30, to air concerns of the government and a section of football stakeholders, but she later cancelled it at her own request, following a meeting her office held with FKF to resolve the strained situation

which affects Kenyan football.

"In this context and for the sake of peace, Fifa is ready to meet as soon as possible with the FKF, the SDT representatives, the Minister of Sports and any other relevant stakeholders in order to find a way forward. In this respect, should the world health situation not evolve positively by April 6, 2020, we shall contact FKF to explore other possibilities including a meeting by video conference," he said.

QUICK READ:

Highlights of Fifa letter:

- *The relevant SDT ruling has no legal effect on Fifa.
- *Current FKF Executive Committee members including president shall remain in office.
- *FKF Statutes and Electoral Code as well as its Electoral Board were approved and elected respectively by the FKF General Assembly on January 25, 2020.
- *Electoral Code duly adopted by a valid convened General Assembly as underlined by the SDT decision itself.

Highlights of SDT ruling:

- *Ban entire FKF National Executive Committee (NEC) including president after their term expired on February 10, 2020
- *Form a normalisation committee to oversee the fresh elections
- *Formation of a new Electoral Code to act as a road map for the fresh elections, encompassing eligibility of members



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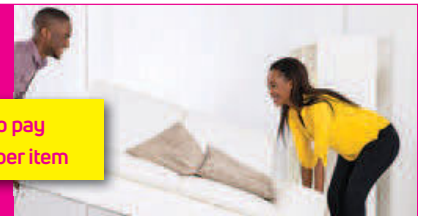
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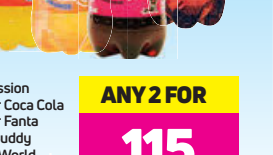
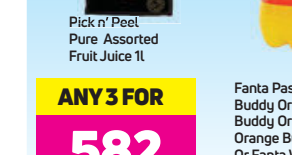
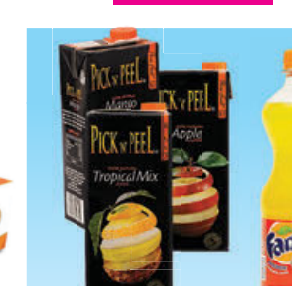
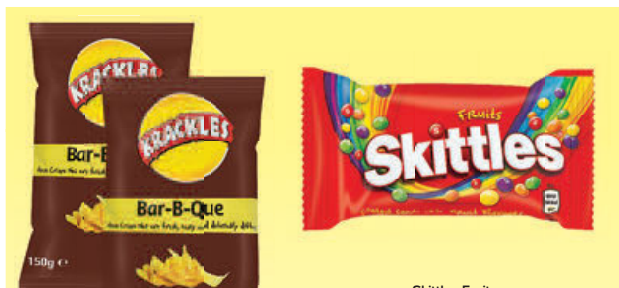
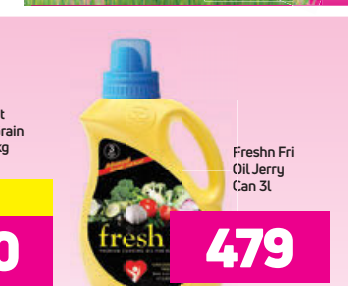
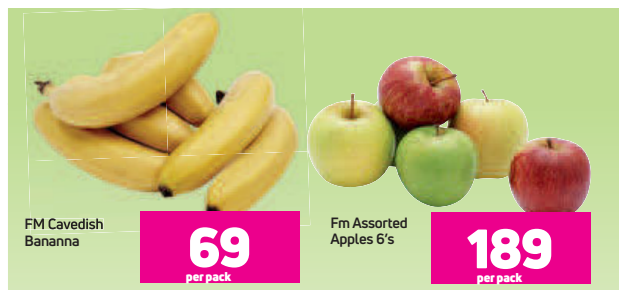
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