

**People Daily**

News Beat **PG 4**

## Covid-19: State now seals off Mandera

Health CS Kagwe says decision follows similar move in Nairobi, Mombasa, Kilifi and Kwale counties to arrest escalating infections at community level

More stories on Pages 4,5,6,8,9,12,13,14&15



**303**

confirmed cases

74 recovered  
14 deaths

**7**

tested positive  
in the last 24  
hours.

**15,124**

samples tested  
since the first case  
was reported in  
Kenya

News Beat **PG 6**



## Exams to go on as planned, assures President

# Ruto loses Ruai sewerage land

**Political woes:** State repossesses 1,600 acres from firm associated with Deputy President in move likely to pile pressure on besieged leader **PG 2**



DP William Ruto



Police officers keep vigil when the government yesterday reclaimed part of the Ruai sewerage treatment plant, which was said to have been irregularly allocated to politicians and private developers, among them Deputy President William Ruto and former Cabinet minister Cyrus Jirongo in 1990s. PD/DAVID NDOLLO

News Beat **PG 17**

## Governor Sonko threatens to dump deal on functions transfer to National government



## POINTERS



WORLD PAGE 21

**WFP: World on brink of 'biblical proportions' famine**



FEATURE PAGE 25

**Meet Kelitu, the zebra that birthed a donkey**

## WEATHER TODAY

Nairobi	22°	Nyeri	22°
Mombasa	29°	Baringo	28°
Kisumu	26°	Wajir	31°

# State repossesses 1,600-acre land in Ruai linked to Ruto

The owners, Renton company, were allocated the land by then Local Government minister William Ole Ntimama

by People Reporter  
@PeopleDailyKe

The government yesterday moved to repossess a 1,600-acre land in Ruai which has long been associated with Deputy President William Ruto.

The prime land on Kangundo Road in Nairobi, is one of two parcels that has been taken back by the State for the expansion of Nairobi's main sewerage plant.

"The government today embarked on an operation to repossess over 3,000 acres of the Dandora Estate Waste Sewerage Treatment Plant, located in Ruai, which has been grabbed by private entities," said a joint statement by Lands and Physical Planning Principal Secretary Nicholas Muraguri, and his Water, Sanitation and Irrigation counterpart Joseph Irungu.

The PSs named the affected parcels as LR 28706, measuring 1,605 acres, which is owned by Renton Company Limited. The other parcel is LR 28707, measuring 999 acres. Renton company, which was registered in 1995, was allocated the land by William Ole Ntimama, the then Local Government minister.

The firm is associated with Ruto, the son of an influential former Kenya Power and Lighting Company top official, and a prominent city lawyer from the Rift Valley. The second parcel is registered under Off-shore Trading Company Limited, which is owned by former Lugari MP Cyrus Jirongo.

Both Ruto and Jirongo were prominent members of the infamous Youth for Kanu 92 lobby group which was formed to campaign for the re-election of President Daniel Moi in the 1992 multiparty elections.

First commissioned in 1978, the Ruai sewerage plant, which sits on LR 12979/1/1, measuring approximately 1,637.31 acres, is in dire need of expansion. "However, over the years, some groups of people have continued to illegally encroach into the above land taking up most

PSs



Over the years, some groups of people have continued to illegally encroach into the above land

A view of the expansive land in Ruai which the government has repossessed. PD/  
DAVID NDOLO



of the land that was meant for the expansion of the treatment works," said the statement by the PSs.

It added: "It is estimated that currently out of a total of approximately 4,240 acres of this land, only 1,637 acres is utilised for sewerage. Sadly, even the land in use has been encroached." The statement further said the government has acquired a loan of Sh20 billion from the African Development Bank and the French Agency for Development for implementation of sewerage projects in Nairobi City.

People Daily understands that Renton's lawyer, senior counsel Tom Ojienda, yesterday rushed to court under a certificate of urgency to try and stop the takeover of the land. Sources said trucks and earth movers from the Nairobi Water and Sewerage Company first moved into the site on Tuesday afternoon to dig trenches. A big contingent of police officers supervised the demolition and takeover.

Renton had constructed godowns on part of the land while bits of it was being farmed. The godowns had been leased by a Chinese company. The furthest end of the property which overlooks Kilimambogo hills in Machakos was being used as

a shooting range. Sources told the People Daily the property has been charged to a local bank for a loan whose correct figure we could not establish.

On Jirongo's parcel, we established the title deed is being held by the Kenya Deposit Insurance Corporation since 1993, over a Sh1 billion loan the former MP took from Postbank Credit Limited, which is in liquidation. The loan has since risen to close to Sh20 billion due to interest.

The Ruai takeover is the latest move by government agencies to repossess properties allegedly fraudulently acquired by the DP during his early years in politics. In 2018, the Kenya Civil Aviation Authority laid claim to a 1.7 acre land where the DP's Weston Hotel sits on Langata Road. The National Land Commission found the land had been unprocedurally allocated to the DP and asked him to pay the current market value for the property. The latest development will only serve to put further pressure on Ruto after the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) re-opened investigations into a case where the DP was accused, but acquitted, of receiving more than Sh220 million from Kenya Pipeline Company for Ngong Forest land in 2002.

## Nyakundi arrest order suspended

A Nairobi court has suspended a warrant of arrest for controversial blogger Cyprian Nyakundi after he presented himself in court yesterday. Nyakundi (below) accompanied by his lawyers led by Ochiel Dudley appeared before Milimani principal magistrate Caroline Muthoni. Dudley accused investigating officer Isaac Tenai of DCI Central of lying to court, saying Nyakundi was not informed about coming to court to take plea in the case. He told the magistrate that on April 17, the court directed that Nyakundi take plea on May 14 and not on April 21 as claimed by the investigating officer. Nyakundi pleaded not guilty to the charge of publishing a false information that a senior KRA official had died of coronavirus and was released on cash bail of Sh50,000. The case will be mentioned on May 14.

— Alphonce Mung'ahu



## Ex-Kisumu staff sues Nyong'o for contempt

Former Kisumu County government Attorney Amos Omollo has sued Governor Anyang' Nyong'o for contempt of court after he failed to reinstate him and pay his salaries and benefits. Omollo wants the governor, the county Secretary Godfrey Kigochi and Babu Karani, chairman of county public service board committed to civil jail for acting in contempt of Employment and Labour Relations Court order issued on October 11, 2019 and April 9, 2020 reinstating him as the county attorney. The petitioner maintains he is still an employee of the county government after Justice Mathews Nduma issued a temporary injunction compelling the respondents to reinstate forthwith his salary and benefits.

— KNA

## Calls for speedy probe into Walibora's death

by David Musundi  
@PeopleDailyKe

Sombre mood engulfed Huruma village, in Cherangany, in Trans Nzoia county when the casket carrying the remains of the renowned writer and journalist Prof Ken Walibora arrived at his home for burial at 2.30pm, yesterday.

The church service led by Jehovah's Wit-

nesses Pioneer Ken Lujiri took a record 20 minutes with the church asking the government to bring Walibora's killers to book.

The professor's elder brother Patrick Lumumba said Walibora's demise is not only a big blow to the family but also the entire nation. He said Walibora was a humble, caring and loving man with deep insight on issues with discerning power of

empathising with the less fortunate.

Walibora is reported to have met his death through a road accident on landhies' road in Nairobi even as his relatives demand proper investigations.

Cherangany MP Joshua Kutuny eulogised Walibora as a pragmatic team leader who motivated many talents and said he had lost a great friend. The MP called for speedy investigations into the death.







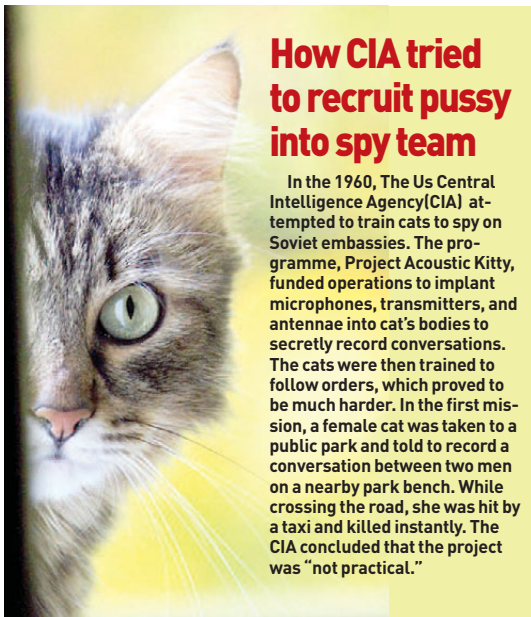
# Who said cats can't find meaningful employment!

Take a break from all the chaos around the world with these hilarious tales of felines with odd day jobs



## Meet musical cat who worked as composer and performer

In 1996, Rabbi Moshe Cotel, a famous pianist, was sitting at his grand piano when a cat jumped onto the keyboard. She landed on the treble and walked down toward the bass. Cotel grabbed a pencil and transcribed the notes. That is how the cat got itself a job as his composer. A year later, Cotel entered a short composition by the cat titled "Piece for Piano: Four Paws" at the Paris New Music Review and it was awarded an honourable mention by the judges. The cat went on to make many compositions, which were famously performed at the Museum of the City of New York.



## How CIA tried to recruit pussy into spy team

In the 1960, The US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) attempted to train cats to spy on Soviet embassies. The programme, Project Acoustic Kitty, funded operations to implant microphones, transmitters, and antennae into cat's bodies to secretly record conversations. The cats were then trained to follow orders, which proved to be much harder. In the first mission, a female cat was taken to a public park and told to record a conversation between two men on a nearby park bench. While crossing the road, she was hit by a taxi and killed instantly. The CIA concluded that the project was "not practical."



## Feline customs officer gets assassinated by vicious Russian drug trafficker

In 2002, a Siamese cat wandered into a customs checkpoint in Stavropol, Russia. He was named Rusik and adopted by the Immigration office and soon took on the duty of searching vehicles for illegally smuggled drugs. No matter how ingenious a hiding spot the smugglers (often mafia) created, Rusik could sniff them out. After he spent less than a year on the job and put the sniffer dogs out of work, it was clear that the cat was a formidable weapon against smuggling. In 2003, he was run over by a car that he had previously busted for smuggling caviar—a move police said was a mafia-ordered contract killing.



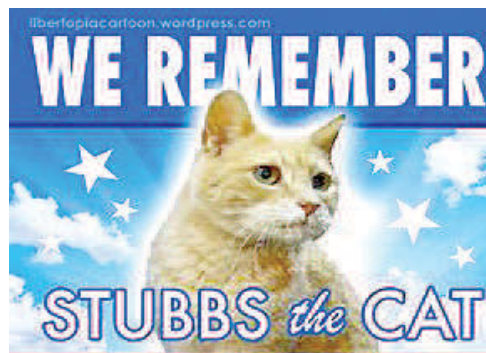
## Meowing astronaut on mission to the space...

In 1961, the French space programme began a project to send cats to space. Fourteen feline candidates were selected for training, which involved a compression chamber, spinning in a high g-force centrifuge, and exposure to rocket noises. During a 10-hour surgery, electrodes were implanted in the selected cat's brain so the crew could measure its biological responses during the flight. On October 18, 1963, a tuxedo cat named Felicette was launched in the nose cone of a Veronique AG1. She flew almost 161 kilometre above the Earth, briefly experienced weightlessness, and safely returned via parachute. She is the only cat to survive a space flight.



## Mousers that hold prestigious positions in the British Cabinet

Chief Mouser to the Cabinet Office is a very prestigious position at 10 Downing Street, the official residence of Britain's Prime Minister. The Chief Mouser title is currently held by Larry, who even has an entry on the official British government website. The position began during the reign of Henry VIII, but records only exist from 1929 onward. The cat that held the title the longest was Wilberforce, who served under Prime Ministers Edward Heath, Harold Wilson, Jim Callaghan, and Margaret Thatcher.



## Mice catcher ruled as mayor of US town

Talkeetna, a small town of about 900 people in US, had a very unusual mayor: Stubbs, a cat. He came to power in 1998. As the town is a historic district, the role is more symbolic than functional. His mayoral duties included patrolling the town, drinking catnip-infused water every afternoon at West Rib Cafe & Pub, and taking visitors in his "office" at Nagley's General Store. The town famously tried using the cat's positive press to make a failed bid for the feline in the 2014 Alaska Senate race. He died peacefully of old age at his home in 2017.



## CORONA CRISIS

# Mandera sealed off for three weeks over rising infections

Matiang'i bans movement in and out of county as part of measures to tame spread of coronavirus

by Reuben Mwambingu  
@reubenmwambingu

The government yesterday sealed off Mandera county for the next 21 days after it emerged the region could turn into an epicentre of the coronavirus, whose infections yesterday surged past the 300 mark nationally.

Interior Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang'i banned movement into and out of the county both by air and road as part of the measures to avert the transfer of infections from the area after eight cases were reported.

Yesterday, Matiang'i said the decision to seal off Mandera was arrived at a special session of the National Security Advisory Committee which established there was escalation of community-based infections and further classification of county as an infected area.

"The President has directed the National Command Centre on the Coronavirus Pandemic to immediately review the enforcement of public health measures rolled out to stem the growing rate of infection in the counties of Mombasa, Kwale and Kilifi with a view to introducing more stringent measures to enhance the enforcement of the same. The results of this review will be announced in the next 48 hours," he said.

Mandera joins Nairobi metropolitan area, Kilifi, Kwale, and Mombasa which have been described as the frontier counties after they recorded the highest number of infections.

This came even as it emerged that National Emergency Response Committee (Nerc) has been asked to review the cases of Nairobi, Mombasa and Kilifi either to issue other stringent measures or extend the curfew by few more days due to the increasing number of cases.

Kwale on the other hand was spared because the county has not reported any new case since the government announced cessation of movement in the three coastal counties.

There is likelihood that the government could announce stiffer measures with possibility of a lockdown for Nairobi and Mombasa



Interior CS Fred Matiang'i. He announced the partial lockdown of Mandera county yesterday. PD/FILE

going by the surging cases in the two counties even after they were put under cessation of movement.

On Tuesday Interior Principle Secretary Karanja Kibicho, told the *People Daily* that the government was considering imposing more stringent measures because of the spike in the number of cases.

He said the government was concerned about the high number of people blatantly breaking rules, which include wearing face masks while in public places and social distancing.

## Travel restrictions

Of the seven new cases announced by Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe in the daily updates yesterday, six were from Mombasa and one from Nairobi.

This means that Mombasa has now recorded 20 cases within just three days after recording seven separate cases on Monday and Tuesday. This brings its total infections to 67 while Nairobi is still leading with 207 out of the country's 301.

And in his daily briefing Kagwe expressed alarm about the unfolding situation in Mandera, saying being a corner county sandwiched between two countries, Somalia and Ethiopia, which are also battling the pandemic, the county is at high

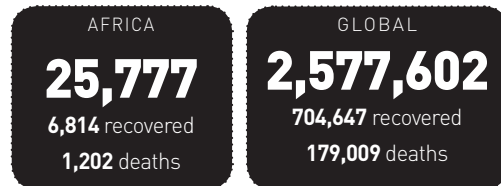
risk of getting more cases.

"Today, we have looked at the unfolding situation in Mandera county. So far the county has eight cases, the latest being two cases of urban refugees. As part of the containment measure, the government has directed restriction of movement into and out of Mandera," he said.

The CS warned that the World Health Organisation (WHO) warning that cases in Africa could surge from just thousands to 10 million within three to six months could be a reality, especially going by multiplication of cases in neighbouring countries of Somalia and Tanzania within this past week alone.

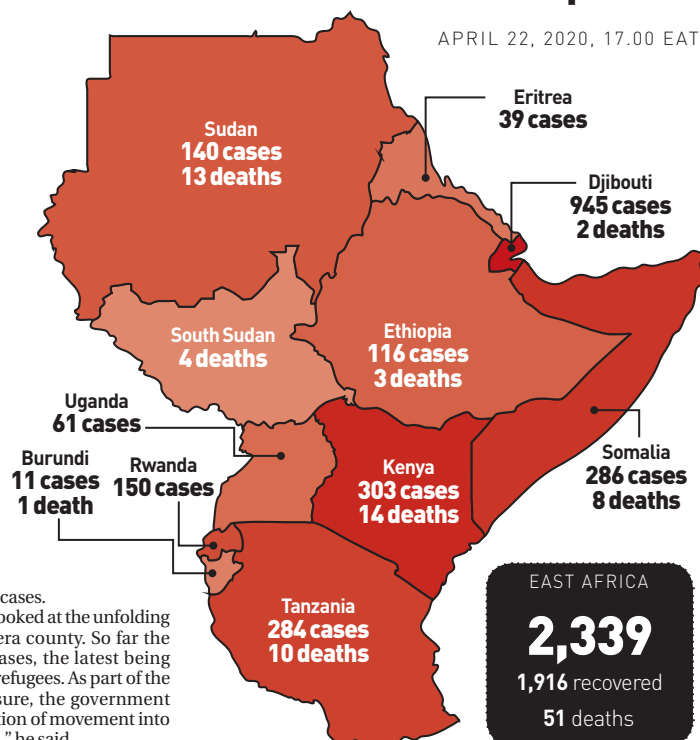
"While this is a projection, it might just as well be the reality in the coming days. Consider that within this past week alone, we have seen significant changes of infections in our own neighbourhood where the Covid-19 cases in Somalia have multiplied nine-fold in a single week from 26 cases on April 13, to 237 by yesterday.

In our neighbouring Tanzania the numbers have swollen sevenfold from 32 cases to 254 within the same period," said Kagwe, adding: "These developments should concern us. They might translate into a frightening reality for the Horn of Africa."



## East Africa Covid-19 updates

APRIL 22, 2020, 17.00 EAT



Source: Ministry of Health, [www.worldometers.com](http://www.worldometers.com)  
Graphic: Michael Mosota

## Leading cases in African countries

Country	Cases	Deaths	Recovered	Tested
Egypt	3,490	264	870	55,000
South Africa	3,465	58	1,055	126,937
Morocco	3,377	149	398	18,946
Algeria	2,811	392	1,152	6,500
Cameroon	1,163	43	331	
Ghana	1,154	9	99	68,591
Djibouti	945	2	112	8,955
Côte d'Ivoire	916	13	287	
Tunisia	901	38	170	18,165
Nigeria	782	25	197	8,003

## MATIANG'I

So far the county has eight cases, the latest being two cases of urban refugees



## You can run...but not hide, State tells quarantine escapees

by Irene Githinji and Barry Silah  
@PeopleDailyKe

The government has ordered people who escaped from quarantine to return to the isolation centres before they are arrested.

Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe (pictured) yesterday said Mandera was the first to report cases of individuals who had escaped from quarantine even before the recent Kenya Medical Training College (KMTTC) incident.

This came even as the government directed that Mandera be added to the list of counties under cessation,

owing to escalation of community-based infections.

"Those people should surrender themselves back to the quarantine facilities failure to which they could even be mopped out and taken back, so they should not expose themselves to such possibility," said Kagwe in his daily update on coronavirus, yesterday.

President Uhuru Kenyatta also yesterday said those who escaped from KMTTC will be arrested and forced to complete their isolation days.

"For those that escaped, we will get them and they must finish their quarantine period. We know you and we

will find you, do not think you have won," said the President during a live radio interview from State House.

Kagwe asked Kenyans to report any individual who was in quarantine and suspected to have escaped, failure to which it could end up a very costly affair.

## More recoveries

On the 41st day since coronavirus disease was reported, 707 samples were tested out of which seven tested positive bringing the total number to 303 of confirmed cases.

All seven are Kenyans, six from Mombasa and one from Nairobi and

did not have a recent history of travel. Six were from the targeted mass testing and one picked by surveillance teams. Nine patients have recovered and discharged, to bring the total to 83 the number of recoveries.

Kagwe said WHO has warned that despite the seemingly slow pace of infections in Africa, the number of cases could surge from thousands to 10 million within three to six months. In Tanzania, the numbers have swollen seven-fold from 32 to 254 within the same period.

Kenyans have been urged to call 1199 if in need of counselling or psychological care.



# MPs seek Sh74b expenditure cuts

Health ministry to get Sh1b while Sh2.6b will go to Covid-19 response in supplementary budget

by Zachary Ochuodho  
@PeopleDailyKe

National Assembly's Finance and National Planning Committee yesterday tabled the Supplementary Budget II in Parliament proposing a Sh74.39 billion reduction in expenditure amid claims that critical areas were allocated low funds.

The report presented to Parliament noted that national health institutions at the forefront of the pandemic response such as the referral hospitals and Kenya Medical Research Institute (Kemri) have been allocated very little additional resources.

The supplementary budget proposed Sh74.39 billion dip in spending saw the development budget go down by Sh98.73 billion.

Presenting the report before the house, Budget and Appropriations Committee chair Kimani Ichung'wa said some health facilities may soon require further funding.

"The facilities may be over stretched and will certainly require additional budgetary support in the next two months," he said.

Ichung'wa also said one would have expected more significant support from the government to manufacturing especially as local industries endeavour to produce face masks, personal protective equip-

ment (PPE) kits and other requisite materials.

According to the report, the bulk of the expenditure increment in the supplementary budget was apparently aimed at addressing the shortfall in personnel emoluments on account of job evaluation and collective bargaining agreements (CBAs) as well as for settling of pending bills.

"Speaker, it should be noted that in order to mitigate adverse impacts of the pandemic on the economy, the President pronounced a wide range of measures to stimulate economic activity; some of them relating to areas of taxation entailing reduced rates in the income tax, value-added tax and turnover tax," he said.

## Recruit workers

The committee noted that the implementation of the measures will deny the government approximately Sh122 billion leading to even lower revenue collection. It, therefore, urged the national government to adjust its expenditure in order to reflect this new economic reality.

According to the supplementary budget II, the Ministry of Health has been allocated Sh1 billion for the recruitment of additional health workers while Sh2.6 billion external funding will go to Kenya Covid-19 emergency response project.

Another Sh9.994 billion will go to the Cash Transfer to Older Persons and the Orphans and Vulnerable Children project to cushion them against any impact of the coronavirus.

The report said the number of the older persons (over 70 years) supported is ex-



Budget and Appropriations Committee chair Kimani Ichung'wa.  
PD/FILE

pected to rise from 833,000 to one million persons whereas the number of vulnerable children to be supported has been reduced from 393,000 to 390,500.

The committee noted that the expenditure adjustments in the supplementary budget II have resulted in a policy shift from the Big Four plan. About Sh1.85 billion meant for the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) programme has been deducted and reallocated towards recruitment of

additional health workers and enhanced social safety nets, among other needs.

Other funds chopped were from the seed money for the National Housing Development Fund.

"Indeed, resources allocated to Big Four projects under the State Department for Public Works have been slashed substantially," the report said.

## Slow growth

The committee noted that despite the austerity measures, it was critical for the policy agenda of the budget to continue being reflected otherwise the budgeting process might lose credibility.

The team said following the supplementary budget II figures, the 2019/20 budget will close with a fiscal deficit (including grants) of Sh835.9 billion - which comes against a background of the low revenue shortfall occasioned by the slow economic growth, including the negative impact of Covid-19 pandemic.

"Mr Speaker, a review of the estimates proposed in the Supplementary Estimates II indicates that some of the expenditures could have been budgeted for in the 2010/21 budget while others could have been part of the 2019/20 budget estimates," the report said.

The team said they noted that some of the allocations for the programmes on the supplementary budget have changes of more than 10 per cent which contravenes the PFM Act, 2012 Section 43 (2) (c) and Section 40(9) of the Public Finance Management Regulations, 2015.

# Lawmakers reject Treasury move to impose VAT on essential goods

by Anthony Mwangi  
@PeopleDailyKe

Parliament last evening rejected a move by the National Treasury to impose Value Added Tax (VAT) on essential items protesting that doing so this time will be burdening the already over taxed Kenyans.

Members of the National Assembly dropped some of the amendments introduced by the Treasury in the Tax (Amendment) Bill 2020, proposed by President Uhuru Kenyatta to cushion Kenyans against the coronavirus pandemic.

Led by the Majority leader Aden Duale (pictured), the MPs said introducing VAT to basic commodities will take away the gains made in the reduced VAT rates from 16 to 14 per cent.

"What Treasury is doing is taking away what it has given Wanjiku through the VAT reductions. We are giving with one hand and taking away with the other," said Duale as members debated the motion yesterday.

The Finance Committee had voted against the proposed taxes levied on basic commodities such as milk, bread, pharmaceuticals, agricultural and pest control products.



The committee recommended that the products be zero-rated as this will cushion the common Kenyan during this period when most of them have been rendered jobless as a result of the effects of the pandemic.

## Raise prices

The committee chairman Joseph Limo said Parliament will be seen to be insensitive if members approved the proposal introducing taxes to essentials such as bread, milk, agricultural inputs and medicines.

Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) which was zero-rated

has also been slapped with VAT which will push its price higher.

"Imposing VAT on essential items as proposed by the Treasury will cause more problems to the already hard-hit Kenyans," Limo said while moving the motion.

Limo said even as members support the government efforts to raise money to fund its programmes during these hard times, they had an obligation to protect the rights of the common man as their representatives.

"Even as we support efforts being made by the government to raise funds, we also need to address the needs of the common Kenyan," added Limo.

He said his committee has also rejected the amendment seeking to impose VAT on fertilisers and farm implements which were zero-rated.

Minority leader John Mbadi hit out at the Treasury for taxing Kenyans who had lost their jobs and others facing pay cuts.

Treasury had in the Tax Laws (Amendment) Bill proposed the imposition of 14 per cent VAT for bread, milk, cream, cooking gas, fuel, mosquito nets, vaccines and a horde of medical products.



COMMUNICATIONS  
AUTHORITY OF KENYA

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### SCAM ON SIM CARD REGISTRATION AND OWNERSHIP

It has come to our attention that some unscrupulous persons are sending messages to mobile subscribers and on social media platforms purportedly to caution recipients that they have exceeded the maximum number of SIM cards allowed per subscriber.

The messages are crafted to appear as originating from the Communications Commission of Kenya (CCK), the predecessor to the Communications Authority of Kenya (CA). A telephone number is also provided purportedly to enable recipients secure further assistance.

We wish to urge the public to ignore these messages, as they do not emanate from CA but from criminals, who are out to trick recipients into divulging personal information, including ID card numbers and other important details for fraudulent purposes.

This type of scam is referred to as Smishing where fraudsters send SMS texts purporting to originate from a reputable company with the express purpose of tricking subscribers into revealing personal information. The criminals use the information so obtained, including ID, usernames, passwords, PIN, and credit card details, to steal money from the recipient.

It is important for the public to note that mobile operators (or their agents) are the only entities authorized to register SIM cards. As the ICT sector regulatory agency, CA, therefore, would have no business seeking personal information from mobile subscribers for purposes of registration.

In light of the foregoing, we urge the public to exercise caution and refrain from following the instructions in the messages including clicking on links provided on social media platforms.

To report similar cases, members of the public are hereby advised to contact the National KE-CIRT/CC via incidents@ke-cirt.go.ke or through the following hotlines - +254 703 042700 and +254 730-172700.

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# Exams will go on as scheduled, Uhuru assures

Head of State says closure of schools will not affect tests, Education ministry to guide on way forward soon

by Irene Githinji  
@igitshee

President Uhuru Kenyatta yesterday allayed fears about postponement of this year's national examinations — the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) and Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) — saying they will be administered as scheduled.

The assurance, though a big relief for learners and parents, who had expressed concern the exams could be delayed due to closure of schools to tame the spread of Covid-19 pandemic, will beg the question on preparation of the candidates and completion of the syllabus. The President ordered closure of schools on March 16, three weeks ahead of schedule, as the government rolled out measures to contain the spread of coronavirus.

Speaking during a live radio interview at State House, Nairobi, yesterday, the President said the Education ministry was working on modalities to ensure the national exams are undertaken and will communicate a comprehensive schedule in due course.

"The biggest responsibility we have right now is to ensure that candidates will sit the exams and we are exploring a framework to make sure this happens. The Ministry of Education is exploring modalities which should be put in place especially after the pandemic is addressed," he said.

"As at now exams must proceed as planned but we must know how to catch up on lost time, when and how they will be done when the right time comes we will elaborate in more details and ensure all goes as planned," he added.

About two million students are expected to sit KCPE and KCSE exams at the end of the year.

The Kenya National Examinations Council (Kneec) timetable indicates that KCPE is scheduled between October 27 and 29 while KCSE is to start on November 2 and end on November 25.

The council has been holding meetings with other stakeholders in the education sector on the exam matter. Teacher unions, however, have been raising questions on the viability of e-learning and radio programmes that are supposed to ensure learning is not interrupted by the closure of schools. They say the digital programmes disadvantage most children, especially in rural areas with neither electricity nor internet connections.

Normally, schools would have reopened for second term early May.

## Education programmes

But yesterday, Uhuru assured that the government will soon issue guidelines on systematic re-opening of schools.

"Very soon we will issue a schedule on how children will slowly start going back to schools, especially for candidates and modalities put in place by the ministry because we are most concerned about the candidates, how they will do the exams and cover for the lost time," he said.

The President also commended radio and TV stations which have been airing



education programmes for learners.

His remarks come against the backdrop of growing panic and confusion over status of education, given the uncertainty over how long it will take for coronavirus disease to be contained, as numbers of those infected keep rising.

The government has constantly assured that the situation is being keenly monitored to ensure children are safe at home until the disease is dealt with.

Similarly, a majority of learners are sceptical about sitting their exams after spending time away from their teachers and subsequently covering the syllabus.

However, Magoha has stated that there is still no cause for alarm because the government is working to ensure all emerging issues are addressed.

He said a committee of six Cabinet Secretaries will meet this week to deliberate on the effect of the coronavirus disease in the various sectors of the society.

"Up to this moment, nobody has thought of postponing the national examinations and to the best of government's ability, children are getting online learning. The ministry is working on the various scenarios and not all of them involve the dooms day situation," said the CS.

Magoha said he will not be guided by the fear mongers to the extent of the preparedness of Competence Based Curriculum.

He said the ministry has slowed down on preparing materials for Grade 5, which

**Favored Kibunjia, a Grade Four pupil at Eagle Apex Hill School in Subukia, Nakuru county does an assignment sent by his teacher via phone. The digital learning is meant to lessen the effects of closure of schools.**

PD/RAPHAEL MUNGE

is scheduled to be rolled out next year.

"We have slowed down on preparing materials that will be used for Grade 5 next year but in some of those scenarios we have given options, which still means we shall still launch it next year," he assured.

"I would like to request the public to listen to one voice. I also want to tell parents they should not be told by anyone to congregate their children to learn together. They must remain in their homes where they are safe, stay home and teach them."

## Resume normalcy

Kenya National Union of Teachers (Knut) secretary general, Wilson Sossion has indicated that e-learning cannot work saying major focus at the moment should be to control the virus.

He also said it is too early to even think about postponing the national exams.

"Once the virus is controlled, we can resume normalcy then we will be able to plan effectively for how to resume proper learning in schools or whether to recall examination classes first," he said.

Educationist Amos Kaburu said there was no cause for alarm, noting that there is still time to get things done as expected.

Optimistic that the coronavirus curve will soon be flattened, Kaburu cited a situation whereby teachers' strikes have gone on for months on ends in the past but still the education sector has still been on course.

## LEARNING DISRUPTED

● The government ordered closure of schools on March 16 to tame the spread of coronavirus. Parents and learners have been voicing fears that the closures of schools will affect the national examinations.

● The Kenya National Examinations Council (Kneec) timetable indicates that KCPE is scheduled for between October 27 and 29 while KCSE is to start on November 2 and end on November 25.

● The President has assured that nothing will change in terms of exam schedule.

# Ministry unveils Sh16b budget plan to avert Covid-19 effects on education



Education Cabinet Secretary George Magoha at a past event. The ministry plans to source Sh16 billion to address the disruption of school calendar. PD/FILE

by Irene Githinji  
@igitshee

The Education ministry has drawn a Sh16 billion emergency response budget to avert the effects of disruption of the school calendar occasioned by the coronavirus pandemic.

The kitty is expected to be funded through support from local education partners, Global Partnerships for Education, the government and other interested parties.

The response plan indicates that interruption of learning processes is likely to increase anxiety and uncertainty regarding national examinations as well as increased psychological trauma among learners, teachers and

parents. It further points to inequity in the ongoing online programmes as majority of learners do not have access to digital platforms due to lack of devices and internet connectivity at home; different levels of parental knowledge and attitude given that parents are supposed to support children in learning.

"Prolonged closure of schools could lead to child labour, school drop outs, child pregnancies and early marriages, loss of jobs and income for some non-teaching staff. There is likelihood to be discrimination and stigmatization of learners who would be affected and or infected," reads the ministry's plan.

"With measures to prevent

the spread of Covid-19 hugely reliant on information campaigns on hand washing and social distancing, messaging targeted for consumption by children is scarce if not downright non-existent," it adds.

## Home-based learning

The ministry acknowledges that schools play an important role in protection of children especially girls in poor, vulnerable and marginalised communities.

Over 32,000 schools have been closed, with over 18 million pre-primaries, primary and secondary school learners and over 150,000 refugees now confined at home and require home-based learning.

Similarly, over 300,000

teachers are at home and require support to help learners to remotely learn and ensure continuity of learning process.

Justifying the Covid-19 emergency plan, the Ministry states that some of the severe effects could be rise in dropout rates, with young and adolescent girls being twice as likely to be out of school in crisis situations and face greater barriers to education and vulnerabilities such as domestic/gender-based violence when not in school.

The Ministry has since stated the need for seamless learning to ensure children do not lose out on essential learning times that could have an impact on their developmental milestones.





World Health  
Organization



WASH YOUR HANDS WITH SOAP



RUB THOROUGHLY THE INSIDES OF YOUR FINGERS



CLEAN YOUR KNUCKLES



AND THE BACK OF YOUR HANDS



AND DON'T FORGET THE WRISTS





## CORONA CRISIS



A resident of Gilgil tries out an automated hand-washing station yesterday constructed by Giltec fabricators. Automated hand-washing machines reduce contact with surfaces that could be contaminated. PD/KIRERA MWITI



Health workers counsel two people treated and cured of Covid-19 before being released from the Nakuru County Level 5 Hospital yesterday. The duo were on treatment for Covid-19 symptoms for the last three weeks and have since tested negative twice. PD/RAPHAEL MUNGE

## WORLD UPDATE

- 1 Parliament in Spain is debating whether to extend its lockdown by another two weeks  
Spain has been one of the countries hardest hit by the coronavirus pandemic
- 2 The mid-western state of Missouri files a civil lawsuit in a US court, accusing China of deception
- 3 In Canberra, the Chinese embassy accuses Australian politicians of anti-China attacks
- 4 UK denies that not taking part in EU medical equipment scheme was a "political decision"
- 5 Singapore extends its "lockdown" until 1 June and tightens restrictions
- 6 The World Food Programme says the virus could cause "biblical" famines  
New customers for Netflix almost double in the first quarter of the year

Journalists and health workers at the Coast General Hospital in Mombasa clap yesterday in appreciation of medics tackling Covid-19. The #SAA 6 campaign encourages everyone to pause at midday to celebrate frontline workers in the war against Covid-19. PD/BONFACE MSANGI



A Kiambu county worker fumigates Ruaka town yesterday to tame the spread of coronavirus. Area MP Paul Koinange has urged residents to adhere to the government directives. The area has seven confirmed cases. PD/MARTIN MUKANGU



Waithera Maruru (left), a well-wisher, teaches children urban farming in Chania, Nyeri town, yesterday. Learners have been at home following closure of schools. PD/JOSEPH KING'ORI



Sarah Ogwel, a fishmonger in Kisumu prepares her stock for sale yesterday. She says lack of imports from China and closure of hotels had led to low business. PD/VIOLA KOSOME



An elderly maize roaster waits for customers at Wakulima market in Nairobi, yesterday, without a face mask despite the danger of contracting coronavirus. PD/PHILIP KAMAKYA



# KPC dispatches 20,000 litres of sanitisers to northern Kenya

by George Kebaso  
@PeopleDailyKe

Kenya Pipeline Company (KPC) has dispatched over 20,000 litres of free hand sanitisers to several counties in northern Kenya in enhanced government efforts to counter the spread of coronavirus in rural areas.

Managing Director Macharia Irungu said the government had turned the spotlight on far flung counties to help arrest the rate of spread of coronavirus, while still focused on hot spots, mainly in Nairobi, Mombasa and other counties.

The disease also commonly referred to as Covid-19 has claimed 14 people in Kenya so far, and over 170,000 across the world and also affected more than 2.5 million people globally.

"For us to beat this virus, national and county governments must collaborate. We are happy to announce that even far flung counties of Wajir, Mandera, Isiolo, Marsabit and Garissa have already cumu-

latively received over 20,000 litres of government sanitisers through their governors and county commissioners," Irungu told journalists at Polysynthetic East Africa Limited in Industrial Area, Nairobi.

Speaking to journalists after receiving over 40,000 litres of hand sanitisers from Diversey EA, he said the counties will be receiving more of these products in the coming days.

KPC, which is spearheading the national government's efforts to take the war against coronavirus to the grassroots, welcomed Diversey East Africa which has joined a growing list of corporate entities that are supporting government in the war against Covid-19.

"Today is a historic day as we welcome Diversey EA into this noble initiative. KPC is also eternally grateful for other partners like Kenya Wines Agency (KWAL) and KRA for ensuring that we have sufficient amounts of ethanol to produce these sanitisers for Kenyans," he said.

Diversey is in the process of manufac-

turing more litres of hand sanitisers that will also go to the counties, Irungu said.

Diversey Inc. Africa & Middle East Vice President, Boniface Kariuki said: "Our core business is making sanitisers to protect our people. So when KPC approached us to assist in making some to be given out to needy Kenyans for free during this crisis period, we quickly welcomed the idea and we are ready to continue supporting this initiative until Kenya becomes coronavirus free."

KWAL donated 105,000 litres of ethanol towards mass production and distribution of hand sanitisers. Chairman, Kuria Muchiru said the firm is extending its support in a bid to boost efforts to manage the situation and fight against the spread of Covid-19.

"Our donation will go towards mass production of hand sanitisers which will contribute to enhancing hygiene and sanitisation efforts for Kenyans, particularly those facing water shortages," he said in Nairobi.



KWAL chairman Kuria Muchiru hands over alcohol-based hand sanitisers to Diversey vice president-Food & Beverage Boniface Kariuki and KPC managing director Francis Irungu before being released to the counties. PD/PHILIP KAMAKYA

## Report: Six have died in police hands

Human Rights Watch says police have attacked Kenyans under the cover of enforcing curfew

by Hillary Mageka  
@PeopleDailyKe

At least six people died from police brutality during the first 10 days of Kenya's dusk-to-dawn curfew to contain the spread of Covid-19, a human rights watchdog claims.

In a report, Human Rights Watch (HRW) has accused the officers of using excessive force and brutalising Kenyans for failure to observe the curfew.

Police officers are also accused of breaking into homes and shops, extorting money from residents or looting food at various towns and markets across the country.

"It is shocking that people are losing their lives and livelihoods while supposedly being protected from infection," said Otsieno Namwaya, senior Africa researcher at Human Rights Watch.

"Police brutality isn't just unlawful; it is also counterproductive in fighting the spread of the coronavirus," Namwaya added.

The research was carried between March 29 and April 14 involving phone interviews with 26 witnesses, relatives, and victims of abuses related to the curfew in Nairobi, Mombasa, Kwale, Busia, Kakamega, Mandera, and Homa Bay counties.

The lobby has lamented Kenya's long-held history of police use of excessive force during law enforcement operations, either in informal settlements or in response to demonstrations, often resulting in deaths.

For instance, in February, the human rights watchdog documented eight cases of police killings, six of them during peaceful protests.

One was in Majengo against the police killing of a 24-year-old man and another in Kasarani against the poor condition of roads in Nairobi's low-income neighbourhoods of Majengo, Kasarani, and Mathare.

"There was apparently no justification for these killings," HRW held.

Although many killings by the police have been well documented by both state institutions and rights organisations, the security officers have rarely been held to account.

In addition, those responsible for investigations appear to focus only on one or two cases that have elicited public outrage and ignore the rest.

HRW has urged the Inspector General Hillary Mutyambai and IPOA to intervene.

### BRUTE FORCE

● Six people died from police brutality during the first 10 days of Kenya's dusk-to-dawn curfew to contain the spread of Covid-19 on.

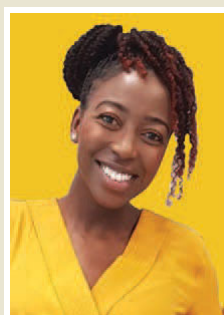
● Police accused of breaking into homes and shops extorting money from residents

## K24 THIS MORNING IS BACK

You can stay away from your social circles, but you can't stay away from the social circus. We bring you the best moche in the juiced up segment, E-nteractive.



JEFF MOTE



SHIKO KAITANY



MUNG'ALA MBUVI

K24 THIS MORNING  
SOCIAL DISTANCING EDITION  
THIS FRIDAY AT 8AM





**EDITORIAL**

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## Protect economy, the poor from virus

The coronavirus pandemic has thrust humanity into unprecedented times and mitigating its impact calls for unprecedented decisions, policies and actions.

It is beyond what it should have been—a health concern. Since its outbreak in the Chinese city of Wuhan, it has morphed into a monster that has crashed the global socio-economic fabric for now and foreseeable future.

Though Kenya and Africa, have yet to suffer the level of devastation witnessed in Italy, UK and US, the impact of the slowed economic activities has hit the most vulnerable populations.

The challenge for fragile economies is enacting measures to stop the spread of the virus while at the same time ensuring testing, treating, tracing and isolating of those infected.

For instance, the government is under pressure to engage its debtors on suspension and waivers of debt to ensure fiscal relief as Covid-19 digs into the soul of the economy.

If the country manages to bag these deals, it will not only get the money for the life-saving stimulus package for the economy that is sliding deeper into depression, but also buy time for people-centric policies rollout.

A lot of sectors are hardly making ends meet, with manufacturing, hospitality and agriculture sectors hit hardest, leading to massive job cuts.

Whatever the government does, its focus must be on how to cushion the economy and the vulnerable. This calls for a realistic marshal plan to not only protect jobs, but create more besides ensuring food security.

The State must ensure there is more money in circulation, settle pending bills and negotiate for cheaper credit for small and medium scale enterprises. Other measures, include interventions to ensure utilities such as water, power, oil, gas, and paraffin are available and affordable.

It is commendable that the government has set aside funds for transfer to vulnerable groups—the elderly, people living with disabilities and orphans. Selected households in Nairobi are receiving a weekly stipend on pilot scheme.

But the challenge is the honesty and transparency in the programmes. Already, there are concerns that the intended beneficiaries are either not getting the funds or are being blackmailed by crooked officials to part with some of the money. We urge the government to probe the claims and punish those involved in such schemes that could derail the noble programme.

### THOUGHT OF THE DAY

IRVING BERLIN

**The toughest thing about success is that you've got to keep on being a success.**

## QUOTED TODAY



AYUB SAVULA

**The government should step in and block the importation of sugar from Uganda. It is illegal that they are importing the commodity from Brazil and cleverly sneaking it into the country.**



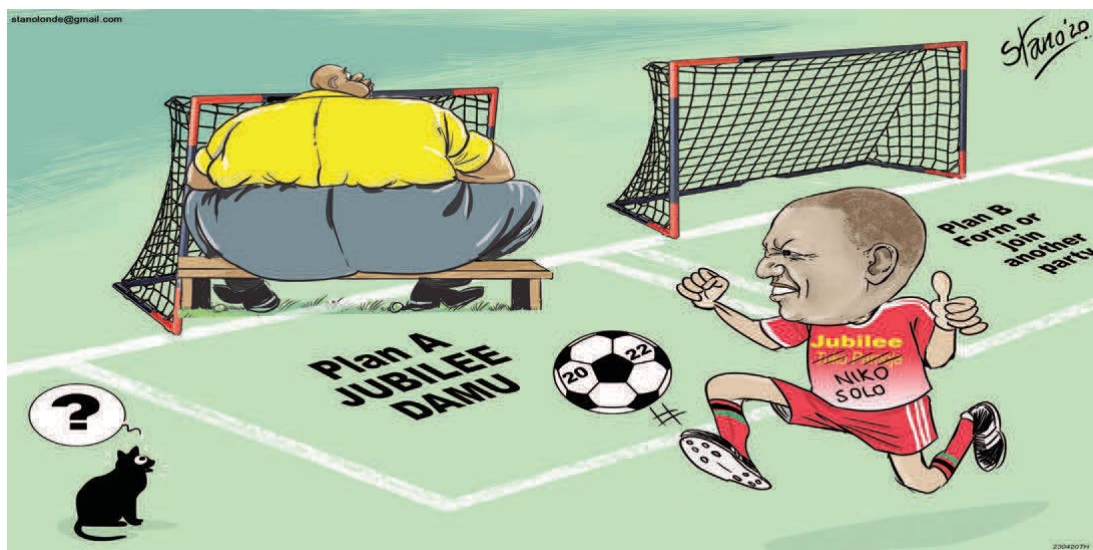
MICHAEL OLE TIALAL

**We have been depending on partners to deal with Covid-19 because funds meant to enhance preparedness and facilitate sensitisation campaigns are not yet with us.**



ANTONIO GUTERRES

**Where taxpayers' money is used to rescue businesses, it needs to be tied to achieving green jobs and sustainable growth. Public funds should be used to invest in the future.**



## Let's act now to save planet from destruction

Yesterday was Earth Day. It was an occasion to take stock of the massive challenges facing this fragile planet, the perils that face our future, and how we can overcome them before they overwhelm us.

The day was first celebrated in 1970, and today encompasses 193 countries. It is reportedly the largest civic-focused day in the world. People march, sign petitions, meet elected officials, plant trees and clean up towns and roads.

Most significantly, on Earth Day 2016, United States, China and 120 other countries signed the landmark Paris Agreement aimed at enforcing the historic United Nations Climate Change Conference, which had been drafted in the same city.

The theme for Earth Day 2020 is "climate action". Climate change represents the biggest challenge to the future of humanity and the life-support systems that make our world habitable.

Moreover, the emergence of the Covid-19 pandemic has shown us another side of life that we did not want to admit. That is, we are the ones who are damaging the earth through our destructive activities.

Videos from around the world show clean air and clean water channels where it was all smog and silt. With the lockdown, industries have shut down and people have parked their vehicles.

Human beings are not all over the place polluting the environment, which has been exacerbating global warming. Indeed, cit-



STEPHEN NDEGWA

**Climate change is one of the biggest dangers facing mankind.**

ies are key players both in the generation of greenhouse gases and in strategies to reduce this generation, especially in reducing our dependence on carbon-based fuels. Cities also concentrate a large proportion of those most at risk from the effects of climate change.

Climate change remains one of the biggest dangers facing mankind's existence. According to environmentalists, the lives and livelihoods of hundreds of millions of people will be affected by what is done (or not done) in cities with regard to climate change over the next decade.

The world is now all agreed that we must act to reduce vulnerability to climate change. We are back in time to the place where it all started. Let's act now and save the planet from burning down!

\*\*\*\*\*

The Covid-19 chronicles continue. As they say, there is never a dull moment in Kenya. As usual during times of heightened crisis, the so called KoT community does not disappoint. There are several jokes doing the rounds on

the pandemic. According to one version, this is the best time to do a wedding. Due to various rules governing the quarantining measures by the government, you do not need the headache of a budget to cater for the hundreds of people who would ordinarily attend your wedding. Fifteen pax, pap!

In another version, a policeman stops a motorist for a traffic offence. He then informs the motorist that he is reeking of alcohol. The motorist responds that the reason why the officer can smell liquor in his breathe is because the latter is not adhering to social distancing rules.

But the one that took the day is where Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni says, "God has protected us, we do not have any deaths in Uganda up to now. But God is busy also. He has got the whole world to look after. He cannot be here just in Uganda looking after idiots."

Seriously, though, things might never be the same again. We will have to revise our social lives, especially our penchant for crowding in events like weddings and funerals. But you may see the silver lining. We will be saving the billions of money and countless man hours needlessly spent on these events every year.

Just have a small group of people who matter most in your life and spare everyone the bother and expense of contributing to the cost of their attendance.

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

# We shouldn't let counter-terrorism guard down

A few days ago, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned that Covid-19 pandemic poses a great risk to global peace and security and called for "heightened solidarity" to defeat the crisis and prevent it from "potentially leading to an increase in social unrest and violence that would greatly undermine our ability to fight the disease."

Guterres cautioned that as the international community focuses on battling the pandemic, terrorist groups could see "a window of opportunity to strike." He painted a grim scenario of violent extremists potentially taking advantage of unpreparedness of many countries to respond to coronavirus to unleash "bio-terrorism" attacks.

As the world focuses on Covid-19, there is a real risk of terrorists exploiting the prevailing crisis to launch attacks against nations and communities considered soft targets.

Violent extremists are also likely to take advantage of the fact that many countries' resources are stretched. And considering the harsh socio-economic impact of the pandemic on vulnerable communities, extremists may exploit local grievances to recruit and radicalise new members.

Already, terror groups such as al-Qaeda, Islamic State (IS) and Taliban



EDWARD MWACHINGA

**As the world focuses on Covid-19, there is a risk of terrorists exploiting the crisis to attack**

have publicly avowed the coronavirus pandemic as an opportunity to further their extremist agenda.

Extremist groups operating in various parts of Africa have in fact escalated attacks on security and civilian targets. In the last month alone, Boko Haram killed 92 soldiers in Chad; an extremist group linked to IS raided a port in Mozambique, while an Al-Qaeda affiliate killed 29 soldiers in Mali.

This is a warning that the perceived lull in terror attacks since the onset of Covid 19 outbreak should not lead us into a false sense of security. Extremists are known to be calculating, always waiting to strike at an opportune moment.

We, therefore, need to be vigilant and step up efforts in preventing and countering violent extremism (PCVE) as part of the general response to Covid-19. Having borne the brunt of terrorism over the years, our focus as a country should not be limited to preventing direct attacks, but also taming radicalisation.

According to Foundation for Dialogue, a Kenyan NGO engaged in PCVE, while preventive measures against Covid-19 have led to less crowding thus dissuading terrorists from launching direct attacks, restrictions on religious worship and other social activities could motivate extremists to radicalise vulnerable youth. Experts also caution that extremists could capitalise on the prevailing socioeconomic impacts of Covid-19 and create narratives denouncing the secular state order as ineffective in addressing the needs of vulnerable communities.

Hence, the need for enhanced vigilance to suppress violent extremism by cutting off the oxygen of grievances that feeds it at community level. Various studies have shown that among factors that make people most susceptible to radicalisation are perceptions of social injustice.

Organisations and groups involved in PCVE should, therefore, focus their efforts on community

awareness and sensitisation on violent extremism to target narratives directed at vulnerable groups, particularly those seeking to prey on the latter's sense of despondency in this time of uncertainty.

Additionally, PCVE agenda should be integrated into Covid-19 national response framework, first with in the National Strategy to Countering Violent Extremism and second, at the county level, integration with County Action Plans on PCVE.

In identifying Covid-19 response parameters, counties should also map out risk factors that violent extremists may exploit to push their agenda. Priority should be accorded to efforts that prevent social unrest from perceived exclusion taking root in our communities.

However, we must always bear in mind that ultimately, all prevention strategies must begin with the individual. As we adhere to laid down guidelines on Covid-19 prevention, we should all be alive to the fact that the agents and sympathisers of terrorism lurk in our midst.

We should always be guided by the words of the great American statesman Thomas Jefferson: "Let the eyes of vigilance never be closed."

—The writer is an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya

## STREET TALK

### Governor hires bloggers to sanitise name online

A governor from Central Kenya has been on the receiving end, with his detractors saying he cannot transform the county for good. Rather than improve the services and put in place systems that can deliver, the governor has chosen the easier route to ward off the detractors. He has hired 30 keyboard warriors to scream online how competent he is. Genius. The governor, who has been criticised for his lacklustre response to Covid-19 pandemic, has some residents thinking his predecessor was a better option.

### Maasai market traders decry park takeover

Some Maasai market traders who sell their wares inside the Michuki Memorial Park off Nairobi's Kijabe Street are up in arms after they were kicked out on Tuesday. There seems to be a new "sheriff" in the park, who is overseeing its face-lift. The traders have accused the government of stifling their business at a time when the coronavirus pandemic has hit them hard.

### Nyamweya entry stirs football body elections

Administrators of the national football governing body are contending with a fresh headache after former federation boss Sam Nyamweya declared his candidature for the top post. His entry into the race was well-received across the country, sending many of the current officials into a panic mode. Even more disconcerting is that some influential branch and clubs' officials in Kenya are backing the return of Nyamweya, who is revered and loathed in equal measure.

### Sonko, NMS rivalry plays out in the open

The tiff pitting Nairobi County Executive and newly-formed Nairobi Metropolitan Services (NMS) has spilled to other departments. NMS faced resistance when it attempted to flatten stalls illegally erected along Ronald Ngala Street in the CBD, with both MCAs and senior county officials blocking the move. The stalls allegedly belong to a senior county official but NMS insists they must be removed as no one is above the law.

# Firms should prioritise staff welfare in wake of Covid-19

As the coronavirus pandemic turns the world upside down, businesses in Africa and across the globe are finding themselves in a catch-22 situation. On one hand, the disruption occasioned by the disease is already painting a bleak economic outlook, with pay cuts and layoffs being considered to slash business running costs and stay afloat. On the other hand, these companies have to take into consideration welfare of staff, who derive livelihoods from it and would be impacted by layoffs and pay cuts.

It does not help that this unprecedented pandemic remains largely uncertain. No one can say for sure when the coast will be finally clear for business to roar back to life. In addition to this, even when business resumes, the future is blurred with risk of a lull kicking in initially or snowballing into the forecasted full-blown economic recession on a global scale.

With every additional confirmed infection and death, the noose tightens around neck of executives to pull the plug to maintain the business as a going concern. Productivity is at



LUCY NDEGWA

**Striking a delicate balance to ensure interests of employees and stakeholder is critical**

bare minimum, revenues are dwindling or totally drying up, with no reprieve in sight, yet there is payroll, alongside other fixed costs. Besides, the pandemic has introduced some new budget lines to cater for personal protective equipment, sanitiser, face masks, among others, in addition to the pressure to demonstrate good corporate citizenship by supporting causes against the virus.

While many businesses are increasingly being left with no option but to close shop, or enforce a pay cut, others are rethinking their strategy to ensure business continuity. This has been the case with Kitui County Textiles Centre that has taken up production of face masks to meet surging demand and keep staff in jobs. This has helped it evade inevitable austerity measures as has been the case globally. Many Kenyan flower firms that were amongst the

first to be hit by the travel restriction froze pay and sent workers home.

In the midst of all this, some firms have taken the bold decision to publicly declare that no member of staff will be negatively impacted by the prevailing pandemic. One such is Swiss firm Philip Morris International that is promising employment security and financial stability to its staff. It argues that support to staff is an integral part of its efforts to address impact of the pandemic on communities. In an announcement, the firm indicated that there will be no termination of employment during the crisis.

On its part, Unilever has committed to protect its workforce from "sudden drops in pay, as a result of market disruption or being unable to perform their role, for up to three months". The firm has undertaken to cover "employees, contractors and

others who we manage or who work on our sites, on a full or part-time basis". This is in addition to supplying all staff with a weekly supply of safety hamper to keep the virus at bay.

MTN Group, on the other hand, has opted to raise a Sh225 million Global Staff Emergency Fund from directors, management and staff to support those amongst them worst affected by the pandemic.

The bulk of enterprises, however, have had to rely on measures by governments to cushion them from effects of the pandemic. So far, some of the worst affected industries have been aviation and hospitality, which play an important economic role, with restricted movement grounding operations.

This is a difficult time for corporate leaders, striking a delicate balance to ensure long term interests of employees, alongside other stakeholder groups are taken into consideration. It is also a good time for firms to demonstrate that they really care about the welfare of staff, in their times of desperation.

—The writer is HR Consultant and Managing Partner, Myers Group

## #TWEETS TO THE EDITOR



**President Uhuru Kenyatta yesterday took to radio stations to address Kenyans on Covid-19. #KOT reacted.**

**@AmedoShair:** Wanjiku wants President Uhuru to address the following: 1. Rent 2. Food security 3. Police brutality 4. Pay cut for MPs and Governors 5. Economy recession.

**@CrazyLuoepan:** #UhuruSpeaks with courage but does he know that there are Kenyans who sleep without even eating anything? Does he know situation of Kenyans in China?

**@marambaLuckson:** To the ever complaining Kenyans, @UhuruKenyatta has failed us; what a you doing in your capac-

ity? Covid19 will not listen to your noises.

**@BosireEdwin:** I'd wish President Uhuru Kenyatta would walk the talk and promptly ensure there is mass testing of at least 1% of our population which is a sample population of 535,211 persons #UhuruSpeaks.



**TRUTHIS:** Dedication to God's word is not a one time choice... it is a daily challenge.



# Mass testing key in war on Corona, say health experts



Health Cabinet Secretary Kagwe warns Kenyans against celebrating the low virus cases recorded so far since only mass testing would help country establish its true north, scientist says Kemri ready to carry out mass testing

by Noah Cheploen, Barry Silah and George Kebaso  
@PeopleDailyKe

As the country enters the most crucial stage in the fight against coronavirus, the government has sounded the alarm that the number of infections could rise exponentially in coming days.

One of the biggest challenges in the fight against Covid-19 has been the country's limited testing capacity because of shortage of equipment.

By yesterday morning, only 14,417 samples had been tested. The number of tests per day reduced drastically on Tuesday to 545 from 1,339 samples collected on Sunday.

By yesterday afternoon the number of positive cases was at 303.

However, the situation is likely to change dramatically after Kenya received hundreds of thousands of testing kits, with experts saying besides social distancing, mass testing could be the game changer in the fight against the pandemic.

Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe, who has warned Kenyans against celebrating the low coronavirus cases recorded so far, says mass testing will help the country establish its true north, the accurate figures in the virus spread, by either revealing an exponential growth or successful containment, and help the government take appropriate action.

Addressing the media yesterday, President Uhuru Kenyatta said testing kits were a challenge, but expressed optimism that the country will scale up testing in target areas.

He said Kenya expects to be testing as many as 2,000 people a day by this weekend.

"We are expanding our testing capaci-

ties. We started testing 10, 20 people. Now, we have gone to as many as 1,000 people in 24 hours. And we are going to keep increasing these numbers," said the President, adding: "We will do targeted testing based on estates where we have reported many cases. We will also do one for our health workers. We have just done one at the Kenya Ports Authority. What we need to do now is scale up."

Uhuru's remarks came as health experts say getting the correct picture of the country's pandemic status is crucial in guiding decision-making by the government.

## Devolve testing

And briefing the press on Wednesday, Health Chief Administrative Secretary (CAS) Dr Mercy Mwangangi warned of an emerging trend showing that the infections are growing in communities with Mombasa again recording seven out of the 15 new cases reported that day.

Already, Kagwe has announced that the first phase of mass testing is already underway, targeting high-risk groups such as health workers, specific institutions, regions and hot spots such as slums, quarantine and isolation centres.

In his briefing on Tuesday, Kagwe announced that plans are at an advanced stage to ensure that testing is devolved to the counties. He said every county will have

a certified laboratory to test Covid-19 soon. He added that testing has been slowed down in the last two days because of the global shortage of one of the components.

An expert in infectious diseases, Paul Yonga, concurs saying mass testing will ensure a more accurate and apt response to stem spread of the deadly respiratory flu that has infected over 2.5 million and killed more than 171,000 globally.

"It's certainly the only way we can be able to address this worrying trend in a more accurate and responsible manner. As it is, some might be happy that numbers are not as high but since the disease is symptomatic, we would be able to come up with more figures that can help the authorities narrow down on answers," said Yonga.

"It will be an important exit strategy for the lockdown which does not exactly solve the problem but once we map out hotspots and testing strategies are clear, we will be getting to solutions," he told *People Daily*.

On the relatively low infection numbers, Kagwe has warned that countries such as Italy and Spain reported similar numbers within the first one-and-a-half months of the pandemic only for the cases to rise dramatically.

"Let me send out a word of caution; we are not out of danger yet. A comparative review of countries now being overrun by the virus shows that they were reporting similar figures as we are now," he said.

## Test staff

"You will note that our 4.6 per cent death rate is within the global range of 6.3 per cent. Our figures should, therefore, not delude or deceive you into dropping the ball," said Kagwe at one of his briefing sessions.

Studies in Italy, Spain, the US and UK have shown that cases of coronavirus follow a similar pattern where they peak at around the 40th day from the detection of the first case and start dropping steadily from the 70th day.

Kenya Medical Research Institute scientist Matilu Mwau says mass testing is one of the four critical pillars being used successfully to help address Covid-19.

## NEED FOR MORE TESTING

● One of the biggest challenges in the fight against Covid-19 has been the country's limited testing capacity because of shortage of equipment.

● Addressing the media yesterday, President Uhuru Kenyatta said testing kits were a challenge, but expressed optimism that the country will scale up testing in target areas.

● Uhuru's remarks come as health experts say getting the correct picture of the country's pandemic status is crucial in guiding decision-making by the government.

● Already, Health CS Mutahi Kagwe has announced that

the first phase of mass testing is already underway, targeting high-risk groups such as health workers, specific institutions, regions and hot spots such as slums, quarantine and isolation centres.

● An expert in infectious diseases, Paul Yonga, concurs saying mass testing will ensure a more accurate and apt response to stem spread of the deadly respiratory flu that has infected over 2.5 million and killed more than 171,000 globally.

● Studies in Italy, Spain, US and UK have shown that cases of coronavirus follow a similar pattern where they peak at around the 40th day from the detection of first case.

## UHURU

**We are expanding our testing capacities. We started testing 10, 20 people. Now, we have gone to as many as 1,000 people in 24 hours.**

"Mass testing, which has shown success in countries such as South Korea and Thailand, ranks together with the other three pillars; quarantine, isolation and contact tracing.

"Therefore, this pillar is used to identify possible pockets of infections and truncate them. In Kenya, for instance, we would want to focus on KPA, where we would like to test all staff and people who visit the facility; healthcare workers dealing with patients, and even go to villages such as in Siaya where something has happened," he said.

The Health ministry has so far sent more than 1,000 testing kits to the Port of Mombasa.

Mwau said the government is also likely to target certain apartment blocks "in order to pull out suspected Covid-19 cases to curb further spread".

He said there would also be need to decontaminate targeted estates.

On preparedness, Mwau said Kemri was ready to carry out mass testing.

"I feel that now we are more flexible to carry out mass testing with the reagents that have arrived in the country. In fact, we are capable of doing up to 6,800 tests from just one reagent. The testing gap is closing significantly," he added.

Yonga has called for enhanced capacity in existing facilities so that any anticipated increase can be well handled.

"At the moment, we are heavily relying on Kenyatta National Hospital and Mbagathi Hospital which is not adequate. Ideally, with a good run, we should have done 100,000 tests but now with a testing capacity of 20 per cent," he said.

In Nakuru, Health Executive Kariuki Gichuki said mass testing will give the real situation in the country.

"We welcome it because at the moment only those with symptoms are being test-



Expert in infectious diseases, Paul Yonga. PD/FILE





President Uhuru Kenyatta in a foot-shake with journalist Chris Wambuno of Milele FM after an interview with some Swahili radio stations at State House, Nairobi, yesterday. **PSCU**

ed," he said.

Gichuki said the numbers are likely to rise because there might be many people out there who are asymptomatic.

"It is like HIV, you might be having it but if you're not sick you cannot tell until you're tested," he said.

But Baringo county Health chief officer Gideon Toromo, a former deputy director of medical services, said though a welcome measure, the country might not have the capacity for mass testing.

"It is not going to be easy. What I think they are going to do is to test people in specific areas that are considered hotspots," he said.

He, however, warned that the numbers will rise in the coming days. "It doesn't look good especially seeing what is happening in other countries," he said.

So far, there are only four laboratories approved to test Covid-19 in the country: they are located in Nairobi, Kisumu, Kilifi and Mombasa. Moi Referral and Teaching Hospital in Eldoret is expected to start testing, too.

#### Follow guidelines

Addressing the nation on April 16, one month after the first case was reported, President Uhuru said the deadly virus has spread through almost half of Kenya's 47 counties.

"Our measures are slowing the rate at which the disease is spreading, but we must be honest and say that there are still infections underway in nearly half of our counties," said the President.

The number of coronavirus patients has been increasing steadily over the past close to one- and-half months with infections now being reported within communities, an indication that it is taking an alarming curve unless Kenyans begin to adhere to the ministry's guidelines and other protocols to curb the spread.

Nairobi leads with 73 per cent of cases detected so far followed by Mombasa, Kilifi and Mandera according to figures released three days ago.

Other counties affected by the highly contagious disease include Homa Bay, Kajiado, Kakamega, Kitui, Mandera, Nakuru, Siaya, Uasin Gishu and Kwale.

In Nairobi, for instance, the cases are spread in almost all estates, Kagwe said. Some of the estates cited are Kilimani, Pipeline, Karen, South C, Kawangware, Tassia, Utawala, Kitisuru, Parklands, Buru Buru and Kibra.

"Almost every other city estate has reported at least one case- Donholm, Eastleigh, Hurlingham, Lavington, Runda, Ngara, Madaraka, Kasarani- and many more," CS Kagwe said.

As the number of cases rises, President Uhuru yesterday said: "Those that think this disease does not exist: for the safety of your family, and your loved ones, do that is necessary to protect them. Stay away. Do not put people at risk because you do not think it is serious."

He reiterated that many Kenyans are "deliberately taking lightly the threat of Covid-19", adding that those who recently escaped quarantine at KMTC will be arrested and forced to complete the mandatory isolation period.

"What we have said is that those breaking the regulations we have given, no need to take them to the police station. Let them be taken to mandatory quarantine. If they break those rules again, take them back. We cannot have a few people erode the efforts we have made," he said yesterday.

"For those that escaped, we will get them and they must finish their quarantine period. We know you and we will find you. You can't be a burden on law abiding Kenyans if you were found violating curfew measures to tame Covid-19," he said.

# State to begin truck drivers' assessment

Aman says exercise crucial in combating the spread of coronavirus in high-risk border counties where truck drivers mingle with residents easily

by Henry Andanje  
@PeopleDailyKe

Chief Administrative Secretary for Health Dr Rashid Aman has said Kenya will start mass testing of long distance truck drivers, who are among high risk groups in the fight against coronavirus.

Aman said the exercise is crucial in combating the spread of the virus in high-risk border counties where truck drivers mingle with residents easily before proceeding with their journeys.

He made the remarks yesterday while addressing the Malaba One Stop Border Post Border committee, county and National government officials in Malaba town.

"Uganda is already undertaking mass testing of truck drivers which is appropriate, there is need for Kenya to expand its testing to include truck drivers," he said.

#### Take samples

The CAS said they are also planning to start testing high risk groups including frontline workers and all health workers.

He added that Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital and Kemri Alupe and Kisumu facilities will be used as testing centres in the region to avoid traffic pile ups in Malaba which is currently experiencing a 30-km snarl up while Busia is experiencing a 5km one.

Dr Aman said the government will negotiate with Uganda to have Kenya take samples of truck drivers 30km inside Uganda while Uganda should do likewise inside Kenya, to boost the testing efforts.

Transport and Infrastructure CAS Chris Obure said the 30km traffic pile-up in Malaba is unacceptable, adding that the congestion has serious implications on truck owners in terms of lost revenue and dangers posed to communities living along the Bungoma-

Malaba Highway.

"Covid-19 should not be a reason to defeat the objective of the East African Community, thus the need to find an urgent solution to the pandemic," said Obure.

Busia Deputy Governor Moses Mulomi urged the National government to intervene in implementation of infrastructure development in Busia and Malaba borders which has taken too long.

Mulomi also said there is need for the government to speed up expansion of the Busia-Korinda highway and construction of trailer parks in Busia and Malaba to reduce congestion of trucks at the border town.

Interior CAS Hussein Dhado said plans are in the offing to install non-intrusive cargo scanners in Busia and Malaba aimed at enhancing trade and security.

Chief of Staff Sebastian Okiring and Malaba Central MCA Bernard Papa appealed to the Transport CAS to consider construction of dykes along rivers Malaba and Malakisi, failure of which water borne diseases will be inevitable once the Malaba sewerage project is complete.

Planned testing of the drivers comes even as experts have warned that only mass testing can help the State tell the true extent of infections and which measures to take to stop the spread.

AMAN



Uganda is already undertaking mass testing of truck drivers which is appropriate...

#### THE HIGHLIGHTS

- Chief Administrative Secretary for Health Dr Rashid Aman says Kenya will start mass testing of all long distance truck drivers.
- The CAS says they are also planning to start testing high risk groups including frontline workers and all health workers.
- He says the government will liaise with Uganda authorities to boost testing along border areas.

## Credit Bank donates Sh3m to coronavirus kitty



by George Kebaso  
@Morarak

Credit Bank has donated Sh3 million to the national emergency response fund created by President Uhuru Kenyatta recently to respond to the negative social and economic impact occasioned by the coronavirus pandemic.

The bank's chief executive Betty Korir (pictured) said the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) pandemic is a health crisis that has far-reaching economic disruptions.

"This disease is disrupting millions of people's livelihoods, impacting on households and small and informal businesses. It is, therefore, important for us as a bank to be part of the private sector and development institutions that are expanding efforts to safeguard economies, livelihoods and health needs across Kenya," she said when handing

over the cheque.

Kenya Covid-19 Emergency Response Project was set up recently to gather resources towards fighting the spread and impact of the virus.

"We are honoured to support the government's efforts in the supply of medical facilities, equipment and provision of basic needs towards vulnerable communities through the fund," she added.

#### Bank's responsibility

Already the bank has launched a Clearing Solution for its Corporate Clients due to restricted movements, which enables them to bank cheques at their own premises hence meeting their banking needs on demand.

Korir said this move is part of the institution's obligations to respond to the social distancing guidelines announced in March by the Head of State.



## CORONA CRISIS

## NEWS IN BRIEF...

## Lawyers laud open court sessions ban

Lawyers in Malindi have welcomed the decision by Chief Justice David Maraga (pictured) to extend the ban on open court sessions to curb Covid-19 spread. They said the decision by the National Council on the Administration of Justice, which Maraga chairs, was in the best interest of legal professionals. Lawyer Samson Gekanana said the Judiciary should embrace use of technology to deliver justice to Kenyans "The use of technology is the way to go since it reduces the costs of transporting suspects from prisons to the courts," he said. Speaking at the Malindi Law Courts, Gekanana asked legal professionals to embrace the changing world. He said with the use of technology such as Skype in delivery of court judgement and rulings, judges have been able to decongest the Malindi GK prison in a big way.

—Monica Kagia



## Water tanks plan to benefit eight counties

Eight counties are set to benefit from hand-washing water tanks distribution programme by the Central Rift Development Agency. The agency's chief executive Hosea Wendot said the tanks are to be distributed in urban centres within the targeted counties to enable people maintain high hygiene standards by washing their hands with soap and running water to curb spread of the disease. The counties to benefit, according to Wendot, are Laikipia, Nyandarua, Narok, Nakuru, Elgeyo Marakwet, Baringo, West Pokot and Turkana. Wendot was speaking when the agency handed over 40 tanks of 1,500 litres capacity to Nyandarua County Commissioner, Boaz Cherutich on Tuesday.

—David Macharia

## MPs want residents given free masks

Emuhaya MP Omboko Milemba and Kakamega Woman Rep Elsie Muhanda have asked the national government to distribute free face masks to poor Kenyans to protect them from coronavirus and arrests by police. Speaking separately, the two legislators said many Kenyans who cannot afford masks have been left at the mercy of police officers who arrest them. Muhanda said she was on Monday forced to rescue over 50 residents of Kabras arrested for failing to wear masks. Milemba on the other hand promised to table a motion in the National Assembly to compel the State to provide free face masks to residents. He said the government should use funds set aside to fight coronavirus to supply free masks to residents.

—Enock Amukhale

## Ongoing electoral processes, reforms impacted by coronavirus pandemic

As Kenya grapples with the disruptions occasioned by measures taken to contain the spread of the coronavirus, the desired electoral reforms that the country had been trying to put in place have not been spared.

Electoral reforms had begun in earnest through Parliament, institutional reforms and processes like the Building Bridges Initiative (BBI), the Dialogue Reference Group (DRG) and Punguza Mizigo Initiative (PMI).

BBI was working on the completion of the public validation process and was set to develop a Constitutional Amendment Bill that would have been taken to Parliament for deliberation.

The DRG had equally developed and published its reform proposals and was engaged in a similar process leading to the development of a reform bill. However, since these processes involved some form of public engagement, they had to be halted because of Covid-19.

The Elections Observation Group (ELOG) has been monitoring the reform process and it is clear that the pandemic will have a significant effect on the timeliness of electoral reforms. If the current processes are not concluded in time for the next elections, the country may be underprepared to conduct them effectively.

## Health issues

As the National and the County governments continue to deal with the health issues, ELOG proposes that both Parliament and the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) take a leadership role in reviewing the initial plans based on the current situation in order to guide the country on a revised calendar of electoral activities. Under the prevailing circumstances, innovative ways of engaging the public and other stakeholders as well as concluding the wider electoral reform issues, should be devised.

Parliament should use the opportunity to discuss and enact the necessary legislations before them to facilitate upcoming processes. During this electoral cycle the country also needs to address itself to other related electoral processes that include the proposed boundaries review, continuous voter registration and education, by-elections and political party processes without neglecting the momentum it had already established before the advent of the pandemic.

On the boundary review process, the commission publicly announced that it



Politicians, led by ODM chief Raila Odinga (second, left) during a BBI rally at Mama Ngina Drive in Mombasa earlier this year. PD/FILE

## REGINA OPONDO AND MULLE MUSAU

**ELOG has noted the need to conduct by-elections in number of elective positions occasioned by different factors. As a result of Covid-19, the by-elections that were scheduled in these places were deferred to a later undisclosed date.**

## POLLS

● **Legislation:** Parliament should use the opportunity to discuss and enact the necessary legislations before them to facilitate upcoming processes

● **Boundary review:** During this electoral cycle the country also needs to address itself to other related electoral processes that include the proposed boundaries review

had prepared the Boundaries Review Operations Plan (BROP), to provide a roadmap for the exercise.

However, there were concerns that this crucial process was likely not to proceed as had been planned since the commission lacked both the required funds and the official census data from the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS). Furthermore, a crucial legal instrument, the Independent Electoral and Boundaries (Amendment) Bill, 2020 to operationalise the process was yet to be enacted by Parliament.

In this regard, therefore, it is imperative that the KNBS urgently shares the official census data with the commission so as to assist with planning and if necessary, the execution of the boundary review process. The National Assembly should on their part move with speed to enact the Amendment Bill and work closely with the commission so as to enable it to get the required funds for the exercise. However, and bearing in mind the present circumstances and the above reflections ELOG urges the IEBC to reconsider undertaking the review process until after the 2022 elections since it will still be within the mandated timelines.

ELOG has also noted the need to conduct by-elections in number of elective positions occasioned by different factors. These electoral areas include: Msambweni constituency, Wundanyi Mbale ward in Taita Taveta county, Kahawa Wendani ward in Kiambu county, Dabaso Ward in Kilifi county and Kisumu North ward. As a result of the Covid-19, the by-elections that were scheduled in these places were deferred to a later undisclosed date.

ELOG recognises that in conducting these elections, large meetings/gatherings would be inevitable during nominations, campaigns and actual polling day processes thus exposing people to dangers of contracting/and or spreading the disease. Unfortunately, these areas remain un-rep-

resented, a violation of the voters' rights to political representation. ELOG urges that political rights as outlined in the Constitution be protected, promoted and fulfilled at all times even in the face of Covid-19.

In this regard, the IEBC and stakeholders need to start thinking of alternative ways of having the interest of those constituents represented and heard when such circumstances as the Covid-19 strike.

The IEBC also needs to start imagining ways of voting besides the usual voting vide physical presence in a polling station. These measures would allow voting to take place remotely. They include electronic voting and postal voting.

## Voter registration

The IEBC is mandated to conduct continuous voter registration and education. Noting that the impact of the current pandemic has also scaled down such activities, the IEBC ought to regularly share information with the public on the status of the registration as well as the education including considering alternative ways of conducting the same.

Political parties play a critical role in the electoral processes. Prior to the Covid-19 outbreak, a number of political parties had scheduled internal elections. The Jubilee and Maendeleo Chap Chap parties had indicated intentions to hold their party elections in the first half of the year. It is therefore, critical that these political parties share with the members and the public a communication on what is happening, their plans and possible revised time frames for their activities.

The Covid-19 hence presents both a serious challenge to the electoral timelines and an opportunity. As indicated above, the challenges are to the effect that a number of processes will be delayed. For this, new timelines will have to be determined and developed. It also presents to the country an opportunity to review the responsiveness of its systems and structures for conducting electoral activities during emergencies.

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Thirdway Alliance leader Ekuu Aukot addresses the press at a past event. The party launched a process to amend the Constitution through the Punguza Mizigo Initiative PD/FILE



## Covid-19: When will we have a drug for it?

More than 150,000 people have died with Covid-19, but there are still no drugs proven to help doctors treat the disease. Here are some points of concern...

### So how far are we from these life-saving medicines?

More than 150 different drugs are being researched around the world. Most are existing drugs being trialled against the virus. WHO has launched the Solidarity trial aimed at assessing the most promising treatments

### What types of drugs might work?

There are three broad approaches being investigated: Antiviral drugs that directly affect the coronavirus's ability to thrive inside the body. Drugs that can calm the immune system, patients become seriously ill when their immune system overreacts. Antibodies, either from survivors' blood or made in a lab, that can attack the virus

### What is the most promising drug?

Dr Bruce Aylward, from the World Health Organization, said remdesivir was the only drug that showed any signs of effectiveness, after he visited China. The antiviral drug was originally designed to treat Ebola, but other options proved more effective. It has since been shown to be effective at treating other coronaviruses in animal studies, leading to hopes it would be effective against the Covid-19.

### Can HIV drugs treat corona?

There has been much talk, but little evidence, that a pair of HIV drugs—lopinavir and ritonavir—might be effective at treating coronavirus. There has been some evidence they can work in the laboratory, but studies in people have been disappointing.

### Can malaria drugs stop virus?

Malaria drugs are part of both the Solidarity and Recovery trials. Chloroquine, and a related derivative, hydroxychloroquine, may have antiviral and immune-calming properties. But there is still scant evidence on their effectiveness.

### How long until we have a cure?

It is too soon to know when we might have a drug that can treat the coronavirus. However, we should start to get the results of trials in the next few months. This is much earlier than we will know if a vaccine (which protects against infection rather than treat it) is effective.

### Why do we need a treatment?

The most obvious reason is it will save lives, but it could also allow some lockdown measures to be lifted. Having an effective treatment would make coronavirus a milder disease.

### How are doctors treating patients now?

If you are infected by coronavirus, then for most people it would be mild and can be treated at home with bed rest, paracetamol and plenty of fluids. But some people need intensive hospital treatment, which involves oxygen support such as ventilation. -BBC

# I touched death, coronavirus survivor recounts her ordeal

Elizabeth says seeing patients in her ward succumb to the virus hit her hard but is lucky to be alive

Elizabeth, 49, knows she is lucky to be alive. After falling seriously ill with Covid-19, she was admitted to hospital last month. This is her story, which she chose to tell partly to thank the hospital staff who treated her.

The first hint I had that something wasn't right was on a Friday. I felt tired than normal and by the time I went to bed I was exhausted.

On Monday, I started getting pains in my legs, which became excruciating. I thought it was a trapped nerve and took some paracetamol but the doctors later told me the virus had gone directly into my muscles. I had a cough but it wasn't persistent, which people think is always the sign. I was bed-bound for over a week but one day when got out and went to the local petrol station to get some provisions, that was when it hit me.

I got back home feeling freezing cold and shivering. At one point I had four hot water bottles on the sofa and two blankets and I just could not get warm. Then the fever set in.

It felt like my body was on fire, and I was getting splitting headaches. I couldn't eat anything, I was vomiting and absolutely wringing wet with sweat, and then my breathing started to get more difficult.

I'm asthmatic and that really worried me, but I still thought I could ride this out at home. Within a few more days I was slipping in and out of consciousness and I have vague recollections of my 15-year-old son telling me he had called 111 (the NHS non-emergency helpline) for me. The paramedics arrived and I remember hearing on radio the ambulance driver outside saying: "She's doing very poorly, we need to bring her in." He put an oxygen mask on me and carried me out to the vehicle.

### Off load patients

When we arrived at hospital, we were in a queue of ambulances just waiting to off-load patients at A&E. I was lying there for about three hours until it was our turn. They put me in a wheelchair and I remember them saying they had no cubicles, they were full to capacity.

I sat there with my eyes closed listening to everything—people rushing around, phones ringing, general commotion.

The nurse said: "I have to swab you for Covid-19." He stuck the swab stick so far down the back of my throat that I was retching, and then just as I was recovering, he said: "Now I have to do it up your nostrils." That was followed by a raft of blood tests and a chest X-Ray.

I felt pummelled. All I could think was "What the hell's going on?" I felt like passing out. I remember another nurse coming over and telling me: "Just to let you know, your X-Ray results have come back, you've got pneumonia in the lungs and you'll have to be on oxygen 24/7."

At one point, I felt the most almighty pain in my chest, like I was being compressed with slabs of concrete. They told me it was the pneumonia attacking my lungs and they gave me a shot of morphine. That was followed by terrible stabbing pains in my stomach, as bad as



Elizabeth faces a recovery period of up to six months - but feels she has been given a second chance.

BBC

labour contractions. By the time the pains subsided, I was almost delirious.

There were only four beds in my bay, and everyone in there had tested positive for Covid-19 and had an underlying health issue. I don't remember much of the first few days, just nurses coming in and out all the time, and cleaners coming in to disinfect everything. I was watching the nurses—they were all working a minimum of 12-hour shifts.

One night, I saw a man in what was meant to be our all-female ward. I rang the bell and the nurse came and explained he was the son of the woman in the bed opposite mine and that she was an "end-of-life" patient. I felt dreadfully sad for them but at the same time was thinking: "So I've got somebody who's about six feet from me who's basically waiting to die and I'm going to hear it."

That was when I started hallucinating. I was getting flashbacks of conversations I had had in my life and people I'd met. At one point I thought: "Am I alive or dead? Do these flashbacks mean I'm transitioning to death? Is this what people mean when they talk about your life passing before you when you die?" Then all of a sudden—it was the early hours—I heard a male nurse outside the door say: "She's gone." The poor woman opposite me had died.

I waited for them to come in and remove her body, but nothing happened. That lady's body was there for what seemed like hours before they eventually came in. They were cleaning it and then they wrapped it in plastic-like packaging. Then I heard them put her in a body bag, zip it up and say: "On the count of three... one... two... three." The noise of that body coming into contact with a metal trolley—that's a sound you don't forget.

Someone started cleaning where the woman had been and sprayed lemon scent to try to freshen up the smell. By daytime I was just looking at an empty bed. The day before, I'd been looking at somebody and now the bed was empty. That thought really affected me.

I started watching the woman in the bed diagonal to me. She slipped into a coma, and I watched her daughter come and say desperately: "Mum, it's me! Mum, it's me!", and it was pitiful because the woman was already "gone". The woman next to me was getting better and she commented that we

were in a bay where 50 per cent had died and 50 per cent had lived and that we were on the lucky side of the room.

I had fought to stay alive. After being almost ready to give up at the start, I had told myself: "No, I've got to carry on, I'm not going yet. I'm 49, I'm not ready to die, not just for me but for my children and my family and friends." It was April 8 and I remember seeing the full moon and thinking to myself that this was the start of a new lunar cycle and I'm going to take this as a sign I'm on the road to recovery. Unfortunately the comatose woman died after two days and again I heard the same process. The plastic, the zipping, the trolley and the cleaning.

What saved my life perhaps was one male nurse who said to me: "If the doctors say you're medically fit to go home, go! Don't make the mistake of staying in hospital because you feel a bit weak. Believe me, I've seen it on this ward - every patient who's been told by doctors 'you can go home' and have argued saying they don't feel 100 per cent and just want one more night in hospital, every one of them has contracted a secondary illness, because this is a high-risk Covid ward."

That same day, they tested my blood oxygen saturation levels and I scraped by. The doctor said: "You've just made it. I'm happy to discharge you". I was so excited—I was going home. I was freezing outside. I only had a hospital gown and flip flops on, but I could feel the air on my face and I was elated. I don't know the name of the female ambulance driver but she was an angel, she had started her shift at 06:00, and she was picking me up at 00:20 - she'd done an 18-hour day.

This is what these people are doing. It's not just the nurses and doctors. It's the people who are driving the ambulances. It's the paramedic crews. It's the woman at the desk doing the administration work. It's the man coming in cleaning up after a dead body. It's the porter taking it down to the morgue.

I'm bed-bound for the next few weeks and the doctors said it could take three to six months to get over the pneumonia. Since leaving hospital, my mother has been my lifeline, leaving me food parcels on my doorstep. I touched death and I'm very lucky to be alive. What I'm now looking forward to is appreciating nature. You realise material things don't matter. -BBC

### NURSE



Just to let you know, your X-Ray results have come back, you've got pneumonia in the lungs and you'll have to be on oxygen 24/7.



# Uganda accused of sneaking sugar from Brazil into Kenya

Importers accused of abusing Comesa Rules of Origin, government urged to stop importation of the commodity from Brazil

by Mercy Mwai  
@PeopleDailyKe

Uganda is on the spot for allegedly facilitating illegal exportation of sugar to Kenya against the Rules of Origin and a treaty by Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (Comesa) member countries.

Western Kenya millers and farmers, with the backing of their leaders, have complained that sugar was imported into Uganda from Brazil and later sneaked into Kenya by unscrupulous importers.

Lugari lawmaker Ayub Savula described the circumstances under which sugar was being imported as abuse of the Rules of Origin because "it's against Comesa treaty for neighbouring countries to dump sugar from non-member states."

"The government should step in and block the importation of sugar from Uganda. It's illegal that they are importing the commodity from Brazil and cleverly sneaking it into the country. This has led to sugar glut and thereby occasioning drop of sugar prices and the primary producers have been hurt," Savula said.

The Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA) is also in the spotlight over failure to report illegal importation of sugar from Uganda before the custom window was opened last Friday.

## Corona advantage

Yesterday, Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA) Director General Anthony Muriithi said they have already engaged their Ugandan counterparts over the matter as part of measures to cushion the country's economy from exploitation.

Muriithi said that unscrupulous businessmen may have taken advantage of the coronavirus pandemic disruption to smuggle sugar into the country.

Unscrupulous importers have been flooding the country with illegal sugar for



Harvesting time at Chemelil Sugar Factory last year. PD/FILE

months without security apparatus and agencies, raising the alarm

Kakamega County Deputy Speaker Leonard Kasaya said most of the industries in the region had been affected by the illegal importation of cheap sugar from Uganda, placing them at the risk of collapse.

According to Kasaya local sugar companies owe farmers huge debts and are unable to settle them because their product is lying in stores while cheap sugar imports have flooded the market. "Some of the sugar is being repackaged and rebranded as local sugar," Kasaya said yesterday.

The leaders said the sugar belt has a capacity to produce enough sugar for the country, while warning that cheap imports from neighbouring countries will kill the local industry.

Illegal sugar has already flooded the market in Western and Nyanza regions at Bungoma, Mukanya, Masbrago, New Adatia, Mahdhav, Kiminini, Wananchi Stores, Super Store Minimax, Misikhu, Kitale, Charang'any and Jaralam.

Revelations of the imports have sparked uproar among sugarcane stakeholders, including farmers, millers, saying the illegal importation would kill local production and collapse the economy, which is already hard hit by the coronavirus pandemic.

The taskforce that was formed by President Uhuru Kenyatta, under the chairmanship of Bungoma Governor Wycliffe Wan-

gamati to look into the sugar crisis in the country recommended that local millers be barred from importing sugar from Comesa members.

Wangamati said the illegal imports coupled with opening of the importation window will have a negative impact on farmers' income as prices will fall.

"This simply means that local farmers will lose significantly. We need to engage the Agriculture Cabinet Secretary over this crisis," said Wangamati.

The sugar report pointed out that a sizable amount of unlicensed sugar is smuggled into the country through the cracks porous borders. Wangamati called on Agriculture CS Peter Munya to intervene so as to cushion farmers from incurring losses.

Nzoia Sugar Company chairman Joash Wamang'oli censured the importers of sugar for killing local industries.

"We won't have money to pay farmers. We are calling upon AFA to protect farmers. The sugar report by the Sugar Task Force formed by President Uhuru Kenyatta last year should be implemented," he said.

Kenya National Alliance of Sugarcane Farmers through chairman Saulo Busolo said the industry is on the brink of collapse because of the effects of coronavirus.

"The effects of the pandemic will completely collapse the sugar sector. Why then can't the government protect its very own farmers and the local industries?" he asked.

## BITTER SWEET

● Millers and farmers, with the backing of their leaders have complained that sugar was being imported through Uganda

● Agriculture and Food Authority is also in the spotlight over failure to report illegal importation of sugar from Uganda

● Illegal sugar has already flooded the market in Western and Nyanza regions

## BUNGOMA

### Ford Kenya leaders wrangles persist

Ford Kenya party has dismissed claims of infighting between its leader Moses Wetang'ula and Bungoma Governor Wycliffe Wangamati. The party's Bungoma branch secretary Christinus Wachana defended Wetang'ula's recent criticism of the governor over alleged corruption saying the senator was only playing his oversight role. Wetang'ula (*below*) has been accusing Wangamati for failing to tame corruption in his government. Previously strong political allies, the relationship between the two has been increasingly acidic. The Ford Kenya boss has criticised the governor for allegedly buying 600, 20-litre jerricans at inflated price of Sh10,000. The statement has angered Wangamati's supporters who accuse the senator of fighting the county chief.

- Yusuf Masibo



## NYAMIRA

### Residents link cops to robberies in Kisii

Residents of Nyamira County have linked police to a wave of robberies which has hit parts of the county, particularly at night, in recent weeks. Leaders from the affected areas led by Bomwagamo MCA Charles Barongo said the police should be held responsible for the robberies because residents, including criminals, were not operating at night due to the curfew imposed by President Uhuru Kenyatta. Barongo said armed gangs on Tuesday night raided business premises at Mabariiri and Nyamaiya Market centres where they robbed them money and other goods worth thousands of shillings during this time of the curfew. He said that more disappointing police stationed at the market centres were immediately informed about the incident but never responded.

- Robert Ochero

## Black rhino gives birth to fourth calf

Nairobi, Wednesday  
@PeopleDailyKe

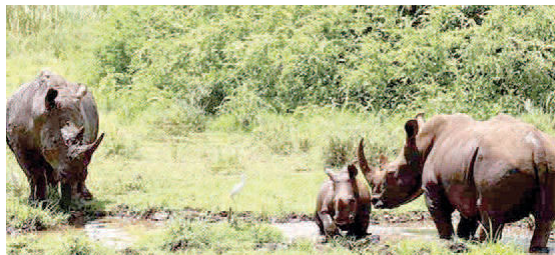
A black rhino has given birth to a calf at the Meru National Park in central Kenya, a government official confirmed on Tuesday.

Black rhino is classified as critically endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.

Tourism and Wildlife Cabinet Secretary Najib Balala said the black rhino, known as Akinyi, gave birth to her fourth calf five days ago.

"We are happy to report a newborn black rhino in Meru National Park. Mother's name — Akinyi. Akinyi has had four calves including the new birth," Balala said.

He said Akinyi's first three are males and her latest newborn has



not been sexed yet.

"The age of her newborn calf is estimated to be five days old," Balala said.

The conservationists say the Meru Rhino Sanctuary has become a bastion of Kenya's rhinos and a beacon of hope for the species as each new birth will be confirmed.

Sheldrick Wildlife Trust says March was a month for great celebration within Meru Rhino Sanctuary, as its population grew by three perfect babies.

Kenya is now home to just over 760 black rhinos and 620 southern white rhinos, according to conservationists.

- XINHUA

## Donkeys go missing in South Rift

Donkey welfare groups and farmers in the South-rift region are up in arms following a spate of disappearances of their animals despite the government banning the slaughter of donkeys in the country. The farmers, who called on the government to crackdown on the business, said the stolen donkeys are being illegally transported to abattoirs and slaughter houses later exported outside the country as cargo. They noted that Goldox Kenya Limited in Mogotio in Baringo and Star Brilliant Abattoir in Maraigushu, Nakuru are fully operational despite the ban by the Ministry of Agriculture on slaughter of donkeys.

- Roy Lumbe

## KWALE

### Mangrove farmers want log ban lifted

Farmers engaged in mangrove harvesting in Kwale County have called for the lifting of ban on logging saying that this has affected their livelihood. The farmers from about 80 villages in Msambweni and Lungalunga said they cannot feed their families because they have lost employment. Led by Thabit Mohamed, the residents said since the ban was imposed three years ago, their families have been suffering because they have no any other way of earning their daily bread. "The government lifted the ban in Lamu last year, we want the same in Kwale county, mangrove harvesting businesses is our livelihood. We are suffering because we don't have other means of survival," said Thabit.

- Carol Katana



# Sonko threatens to trash functions transfer deed

The rants of Nairobi Governor on social media leaves questions begging as to whether NMS will finish its work

by Eric Wainaina  
@PeopleDailyKe

The haste of signing of a deed transferring key services to the national government by Nairobi Governor Mike Sonko in the face of an impeachment threat that could have paralysed operations at City Hall has returned to haunt him.

Sonko, who signed away the key functions in January, has confessed that he inked the transfer deal under duress and having not understood its content and implications, which include reducing him to a mere figurehead.

The county chief, who is now considering a withdrawal from the agreement which was witnessed by President Uhuru Kenyatta also revealed that his action was driven by a Sh357 million theft case which saw him barred from accessing office.

"I had to accept (signing) without even going through the documents thoroughly. I didn't know it will turn against you (people of Nairobi)," said Sonko, whose impeachment course was, however, shelved by the County Assembly.

Sonko has, in a dramatic turn of events, threatened to initiate the termination of the Deed of Transfer of functions, even before the ink dries up on the agreement papers.

"I will not sign, in fact this is the time to terminate the transfer of Deed. To date, I have not been furnished with a copy of the Deed. I was not given sufficient time to even read the draft. I was just told it is a good thing on service delivery to the great people of Nairobi as I deal with my court cases," Sonko ranted on Facebook.

The county chief's rant came just hours after he met Deputy President William Ruto, who is equally besieged by the onslaught from Uhuru's key men, who have left him almost severely politically wounded.

Ruto and Sonko are said to have met on Tuesday evening at the DP's official residence in Karen and the meet-



Mike Sonko addresses the public at a past function. PD/FILE

## SONKO CRY

● Sonko now considers withdrawing from the agreement which was witnessed by President Uhuru Kenyatta revealed that his action was driven by a Sh357 million theft case which saw him barred from accessing office

● Sonko was frustrated after the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) opted to open new revenue account without consulting the county

ing lasted about two hours.

Sources said the county chief arrived in the company of Kapseret MP Oscar Sudi, an unflinching trooper of Ruto. Sudi and Sonko, were driven in the same vehicle from Sonko's private office in Nairobi's Upper Hill area. Yesterday, Sudi could not be reached for comment.

It is not clear if Sonko was going to consult Ruto over his latest tribulations, which he links to the Interior ministry. Yesterday, Sonko declined to give details of the meeting that started about 5pm, only saying as an elected leader, he can meet other politicians, including the President, Deputy President or even Opposition leader Raila Odinga.

"As an elected leader, I meet all other leaders, including the President, Deputy, MPs, Senators, MCAs and even Opposition leaders like Raila Odinga and Kalonzo Musyoka. So there is nothing out of the ordinary to meet the Deputy President of the Republic. However, we never discussed anything about my issue with NMS," he said.

Pressed further, Sonko said Ruto had nothing to do with his latest statement, as he had already decided to change his mind on the transfer of functions by rejecting the Supplementary Appropriations Bill that he declined to sign last week.

But his close associates said he started developing cold feet when he went to attend a meeting with NMS boss Major-General Mohamed Abdalla Badi, only to meet suspended county secretary Peter Kariuki playing a key

role in the meeting.

Equally, Sonko was frustrated after the Kenya Revenue Authority opted to open new revenue accounts without consulting the county.

Lawyer Ndegwa Njiru said Sonko has an option of terminating the deal "if it was done in violation of the law," by failing to undertake public participation, noting the Senate and the County Assembly who are the representatives of the people were never involved.

"The governor is not under any obligation to implement an agreement that was signed in violation of the Constitution. He can just refuse to implement it or move to court to seek redress and that will crash the whole deal but he this could have political implications on him," the lawyer told the People Daily yesterday.

Further, Njiru said if he is able to prove that he was pushed to sign the agreement under duress, it would be a defence of his side, adding even his personal signature in Nairobi people cannot be punished for his mistakes.

Sonko surrendered health, transport, public works, utilities and ancillary services and planning and development, and early this month, nearly all county staff was seconded to the national government.

Currently, there is a brewing standoff at City Hall after Speaker Beatrice Elachi faulted Sonko's refusal to sign the budget and backed MMS authority, which the county chief sought to deny cash.

## Rains leave destruction trail in Nyanza, Central and Rift Valley counties

by People Team  
@PeopleDailyKe

Two more bodies, including that of an in-born baby, were yesterday recovered from the scene of the Chesogon Trading Centre mudslide tragedy taking the toll of lives that have perished to 15, Rift Valley Regional Coordinator George Ntembeya disclosed yesterday.

The recovery happened even as thousands other people were uprooted from their homes due to heavy rains in various parts of the country.

Addressing the press at the scene of the incident, Ntembeya said that at least 22 people including primary and secondary learners were still missing after the Saturday night catastrophe that also left more than 4,000 families homeless after their houses were swept away by the floods.

Ntembeya said recovery teams on the ground have intensified efforts to recover missing bodies reportedly trapped in the mud along Chesogon River. Also still missing are eight guns and 1,200 rounds of ammunition after Chesogon Police Post was washed away by raging floods.

In Kisumu, flooding displaced 32,000 people from homes and destroyed crops in an approximated area of 80 acres.

Massive destruction of property and infrastructure also left the county government disaster unit grappling with so much to do to miti-

gate suffering while observing set criteria to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

Governor Anyang' Nyong'o described the situation as unprecedented. "Never before have we had to deal with multiple disasters at the same time with far reaching effects on populations as we do today. Indeed this is unprecedented," he said Wednesday evening.

The heavy rains have caused rivers such as Nyando to break their banks causing massive flooding in areas that have not experienced flooding in many decades. Over 6,500 households have vacated their households in Nyando sub county, parts of Muhoroni, Nyakach, Kisumu East, parts of Seme and Kisumu central sub counties.

The county is appealing for help from well wishers to help settle the affected. The governor said "The situation is calling for an immediate intervention through urgent provision of relief food, mattresses and blankets, mosquito nets, clean drinking water, purification chemicals, masks, sanitizers and medical equipment."

In Central Kenya, the Muranga County meteorological department has cautioned local residents that heavy rainfall is expected to pound the area in coming days.

It is feared the rains might trigger landslides in some parts of the county and the local disaster management committee has been put on high alert to help in case of a disaster.



Members of the public pass through a flooded section of Gilgil open-market due to ongoing rains in various parts of the country. PD/KIRERA MWITI

## BRIEFLY

### Kakamega hospital detains body over bill

**KAKAMEGA:** Kakamega General Hospital has detained the body of a three-year-old, in defiance of a government directive over a hospital bill of Sh23,000. Viona Shantel from Sibanga village in Namundera, Navakholo sub-county was supposed to be buried yesterday in conformity with the government directive on deaths during the coronavirus pandemic period. She reportedly died on Tuesday morning at the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) while being treated for pneumonia and kidney problems, according to her father Simon Mukhwana. - Douglas Dindi



### Fear haunts village after woman raped

**NYERI:** Fear has gripped Olathenge Village in Othaya Constituency after armed gangsters raided a home and gang-raped a 21-year-old woman as her parents watched yesterday morning. The thugs also raided several shops at the local trading centre and stole goods worth thousands of shillings. This is despite assurance from police officers to patrol the areas as they enforce the curfew. The distraught victim said that she was asleep when the thugs gained entry - Seth Mwaniki



### Girl, 13, rescued in four-month search

**KWALE:** Police in Kwale County have rescued a 13-year-old girl who has been missing for the last four months. The Standard Four girl was found in the house of a neighbour who allegedly exploited her sexually. A man and his wife have been arrested in connection with the alleged kidnapping and sexual assault. The minor's father said the girl vanished from their Mwangulu Village home in Lungu sub-county in December 2019 until Monday. - Carol Katana





...It was noted that it is not viable for the institution to operate the Kenya Utalii hotel

# Businesshub

## End of an era as prestigious Utalii Hotel closes its doors

Tourism ministry says decision taken because hotel has become a liability as it does not generate revenue

by PD Reporter  
@PeopleDailyKe

The prestigious Utalii hotel has been closed indefinitely due to its economic non-viability. The hotel, long used for tourism and hospitality training, will remain closed until the Kenya Utalii College board and management, in consultation with the Ministry of Tourism, come up with a sustainable and profitable management and operational plan.

A letter by Tourism and Principal secretary Safina Kwekwe Tsungu dated April 20, says the government took the decision because the hotel had become a liability as it does not generate revenue.

Kwekwe said the decision followed a meeting between top ministry leadership and the Utalii College governance body on April 17, this year with the college's Principal Hashim Mohamed showing reservations on the economic viability of the hotel.

"Following the submissions made by your office, it was noted that it is not viable for the institution to operate the Kenya Utalii hotel as it does not generate revenue and yet depletes the institution's resource in covering overhead costs," Kwekwe said in her letter to Mohamed.

Kwekwe directed the Utalii college management transfer all the guest currently staying at the hotel to other hotels or venues.

Also to suffer a similar fate are the two Utalii College satellite campuses in Kisumu and Mombasa which Kwekwe says are not sustainable due to low student enrolment. "The satellite Campuses in Kisumu and Mombasa are expensive to run yet we do not have enough students to sustain their operations," she states.

Following the closure of the campuses, students will complete all their pending programmes via online learning.

The closure of the hotel and the two



Kenya Utalii College, renowned for providing world class training in the Hospitality and Tourism industry both locally and internationally, has closed its doors owing to business non-viability. PD/FILE

### TOP-NOTCH GRADUATES

● Set up in 1975, the college, has been known for producing top-notch graduates in the hospitality sector. Every year, the college churns out approximately 50,000 graduates in the hotel, aviation and tourism industry in East Africa and the rest of the world.

● In 2016, Utalii College was ranked the fourth best tourism institution in the world, according to the Young Chef Olympiad, an event that was held in Kolkata, India. The college has been using the hotels for its training purposes.

satellite campuses comes after years of closure recommendations by the Auditor General due to their economic unsustainability. In 2017 for example, the then Auditor General Edward Ouko raised the alarm, saying Utalii College was broke after posting a Sh410.5 million loss. "The college is technically insolvent and its continued existence as a going concern is dependent on financial support from the government and its creditors," Ouko said in a report tabled in Parliament.

### Current liability

Ouko then said the college had reported a deficit of Sh410.6 million down from Sh452.6 million that it recorded in 2016. According to Ouko, the current liabilities balance of Sh3.4 billion at the time had exceeded current assets figure of Sh537.1 million thus resulting in negative working capital of Sh2.8 billion as at June 30, 2017. Ouko cited the management for failing to comply with the loan agreement signed between the college and the government of Kenya for a loan of Sh140 million.

The loan was advanced to the college in February 1996 to refurbish the Ke-

nya Utalii Hotel. Payments for the loan amounted to Sh13 million as at June 30, 2017 and the accumulated interest amounts to Sh2.9 billion.

"Further, and although the previous year's financial statements indicated that the college had entered into negotiations with the government to have the loan together with accumulated interest written off, no meaningful progress in this regard had been recorded," said Ouko in a qualified audit opinion dated August 17, 2018.

Ouko had then cautioned that the operations at the college could come to a stop unless the government issues funds to support the institution.

"The college is therefore, technically insolvent and its continued existence as a going concern is dependent on financial support from the Government and its creditors," Ouko's report read in part.

According to the 2015/16 Financial Year report tabled in the National Assembly, the institution recorded an accumulated fund deficit of Sh658.73 million in the past two years, while its current liabilities stand at Sh3.1 billion. The college is, however, yet to issue formal communication on the matter.

### BANKING



## Oil plunges for second day on gloomy outlook

**PRICE:** The UK benchmark for oil has slumped 10 per cent to around \$16 (Sh) a barrel in another day of declines. It comes after the price of West Texas Intermediate (WTI), the benchmark for US oil, fell below zero for the first time ever earlier this week. The falls are a striking illustration of just how much economic activity has slowed around the world. Prices have weakened sharply because of a combination of events triggered by a collapse in global demand. The knock-on effect has been a supply glut and a worldwide shortage of storage space for oil. On Tuesday energy ministers from the Opec and other major oil-producing countries held an unscheduled conference call to discuss the collapse but did not agree any new measures to cut supplies.

- BBC

## Insurer's Sh30m Corona war chest

**DONATION:** Jubilee Insurance has announced major donations towards health supplies and equipment valued at Sh30 million that will go towards supporting efforts in fighting the Coronavirus pandemic. The equipment and supplies to be channelled through Ministry of Health include 100,000 re-useable masks, 10,000 nasal swabs, 2,500 Virus Test sets. In addition, Jubilee Insurance will be donating beds & other facilities to enable the setting up of 40 of the 160 bed Field Hospital facility recently commissioned by Aga Khan University Hospital. Jubilee Holdings Chairman Nizar Juma said the action was in response to the call by the President Uhuru Kenyatta for individuals as well as corporate drivers to join hands and alleviate the effects of this pandemic.

- Barry Silah

## Nakuru companies switch gears, produce masks to fight Covid-19

by Roy Lumbe  
@PeopleDailyKe

Manufacturers within Nakuru town have shifted their normal operations to produce masks and Personal Protection Equipment (PPEs) as they seek to complement local production within the country.

The companies which include textiles giant Bedi Investments that primarily produced garments for ex-

ports to Western countries have temporarily halted all their operations to focus on combating the virus.

Jaswinder Bedi, the firm's CEO said the factory has since received approval from the government to produce Personal Protection Equipment with mass production in progress.

"We have temporarily halted production of garments for exports and focused on manufacturing of PPEs. We must equip our medics for them

to give their best," he said.

Bedi added that they had to engage in-depth research and consultation with global experts to ensure the PPEs they produce are of the right quality set by the bureau of standards, saying they are 5,000 sets.

### Local community

After the production, he said that the company will make a donation of masks to the local community and

ensure the residents access them at subsidised costs. Governor Lee Kimanjui lauded the company, adding that the county will support the local manufacturers by procuring the products from them.

"The national government has approved the products from the factory. The county shall procure its next batch from the company to promote local industries during the tough economic time," he said.





## Facebook buys Sh611b stake in Indian mobile network Jio in key deal

**INVESTMENT:** Facebook has said it is investing \$5.7 billion (Sh611.3b) in cut-price Indian mobile internet company Reliance Jio, which is owned by the country's richest person Mukesh Ambani.

The deal makes the social network the largest minority shareholder in the telecoms unit of Reliance Industries, with a 9.99 per cent stake.

It gives Facebook a major foothold in India, where its WhatsApp chat service has 400 million users and is about to launch a payments service. "This investment underscores our commitment to India, and our excitement for the dramatic transformation that Jio has spurred in the country," Facebook said in a statement.

Facebook also said it plans to focus on the collaboration between WhatsApp and Reliance's e-commerce venture JioMart to enable people to connect with businesses, shops and purchase products. In February this year WhatsApp Pay was granted permission by Indian authorities to start a phased roll-out, two years after the start of a trial version of the service.

In a separate statement Reliance Jio said the agreement will be good for both the company and the country as a whole: "This partnership will

### DIGITAL BUSINESS

● Ambani has confirmed that Jio Mart will collaborate with WhatsApp in the near future to help "mom and pop" shops transact digitally with customers in the neighbourhood.

● The deal comes as Indian market has become difficult for American firms to get into, as the government has imposed new restrictions

accelerate India's all-round development, fulfilling the needs of Indian people and the Indian economy."

Reliance Jio is the most valued subsidiary of Reliance Industries, the oil-to-telecoms conglomerate. The company has been able to upend India's telecoms market in this short span by offering very low data prices, which has allowed it to keep competition at bay.

With a presence across a suite of services such as mobile telephony, live TV, music streaming and payments, Facebook will be looking to drive synergies across services and further consolidate its position in India.

This deal also comes in at a particularly opportune time for Ambani, who has been making a concerted effort to reduce the debt on his books.

— BBC



# State asked to suspend statutory contributions

Actuaries say this will provide relief to employers, prevent retrenchments and salary cuts

by Zachary Ochuodho  
@zachuocho

The government has been asked to suspend various statutory payments for six months in a bid to cushion Kenyans from tough economic times following the coronavirus outbreak.

The Actuarial Society of Kenya (TASK) said statutory contributions such as National Social Security Fund (NSSF) and National Hospital Insurance Funds (NHIF) should be suspended to reduce the strain caused by the pandemic.

The move, it said would provide relief to employers and mitigate retrenchments and salary cuts, ease financial pressure on consumers of pension products as well as ease the financial pressure on the public and industries.

### Raft of measures

Task chairman Moses Mutuli said the society, through its Covid-19 taskforce, has made a raft of measures which if implemented would provide a relief and cushion Kenyans from the impact of coronavirus.

Mutuli said there is also need for the government to relax Retirement Benefits Authority (RBA) Act to enable members of funds to access cash-backed loan of up to 25 per cent of the funds in their retirement account subject to a maximum of Sh500,000.

"Freeze on interest payments on pensions assets for a period of one to two years will unlock Sh120 billion for the government in two years which can



### ACTIONS

## Sh120 billion

Amount experts say would be unlocked for the government in two years if interest payments on pensions assets is frozen for a period of one to two years, which can then be deployed for food and income security or enhancing medical infrastructure.

## 25 per cent

Risk management professionals want government to relax Retirement Benefits Authority Act to enable members of funds to access cash-backed loan of up to 25 per cent of the funds in their retirement account subject to a maximum of Sh500,000.

then be deployed for food and income security or enhancing medical infrastructure," he said. TASK argues that NSSF should offer the government a soft loan in excess of Sh25 billion repayable over an agreed period of time.

Mutuli, who also doubles as the chairman of TASK, said landlords should also be notified not to distress tenants (both commercial and residential) for a period of three

Cotu youth brigade march at Uhuru Park during a past Labour Day celebration. The Actuarial Society of Kenya, through its Covid-19 taskforce, has suggested measures to cushion Kenyans against the impact of coronavirus. PD/FILE

months and be open to renegotiation of leases.

He said although in developed countries the vulnerable are provided with significant fiscal and monetary incentives in the fight against Covid-19, however, in the absence of the fiscal ability, home-grown solutions be found in tackling the crisis.

### Immediate financing

According to TASK, a solution to the issue in Kenya can only be found if industries such as pensions and insurance were tapped or mobilised to provide some of the immediate financing needed. They also proposed that medical insurers (both pri-

vate and public) have relatively high exposure to the Covid-19 pandemic due to the expected cost of medical claims due to inpatient and outpatient cases.

"Actuarial Society of Kenya will utilise the 'official model' currently in place by the Ministry of Health for purposes of projecting the expected infections, admission and mortality in medical institutions," Mutuli said. He said the Covid-19 pandemic has some far-reaching impacts on the local economy and should the pandemic persist for the months ahead the country is likely to experience a recession. The government has already laid out a raft of measures to protect the public against the economic impacts of the outbreak.

### BRIEFLY

## Airtel gifts customers, introduces new income-generating package

**REVENUE:** Airtel Kenya has introduced a simple method in which customers can be community champions as part of its continued efforts to make customers have a source of income while accessing its products and services during these uncertain economic times.

Customers will get five per cent cashback as airtime via MyAirtel App and USSD options whenever they buy airtime for themselves or their friends and families.

This extra airtime can also

be sold to others through Me2U thus allowing customers to earn more money. The service is open to all current Airtel prepaid customers and even new customers who join the network.

Airtel's managing director Prasanta Das Sarma said: "With the prevailing circumstances, we are happy to offer more to our customers by giving them extra airtime while they make purchases for others and also to earn more money through selling of airtime." — Barry Silah

## Loon dispatches additional balloons to Kenya for further testing



**PROJECT:** A larger fleet of Loon balloons, which have been successfully launched from Puerto Rico this week, is heading to Kenya. The balloons will join eight others that are already active and part of a network integration exercise in Kenyan airspace.

Mugo Kibati, Telkom Kenya's chief executive officer, said the larger fleet of balloons will continue network integration testing with its local partner, Telkom Kenya, in preparation to begin serving users as quickly as possible.

He said the balloons will gradually begin arriving

above Kenya, in the coming few weeks. The Loon service, will seek to use its 4G/LTE Internet solution to connect unserved and under-served communities in Kenya.

The first areas covered include Nairobi, Machakos, Nyeri, Nakuru, Kitui, Nanyuki, Narok and into Kisii. Kibati said these balloons will be used to expedite integration testing of this pioneer LTE service.

"We will glean off insights from those tests to fast-track integration of all other balloons that have been dispatched from Loon Inc.'s launch sites and are

to arrive in Kenya over the coming few weeks," he says.

Once the balloons are in place, this new technology will complement Telkom's ongoing strategy to further widen its network coverage, confirming the Telco as Kenya's preferred data network.

Loon's CEO Alastair Westgarth said, "We're extremely excited to be sending additional balloons to Kenya for further testing with Telkom, and we look forward to beginning to provide service in the near future." He said the firm is grateful for the support of the government. — Zachary Ochuodho



# Airlines call for bailout over Corona

African carriers seek financial help as sector reels from impact of Covid-19 pandemic

by Barry Silah  
@obel\_barry



With lockdowns impeding travel industry globally, African Airlines Association (AFRAA) is calling for bailouts from governments and the financial sector to help various carriers.

In an online industry meeting of members, the lobby group called for urgent and consistent actions for the survival of the industry.

Secretary General Abderahmane Berthe said as the world experiences the adverse impact of coronavirus, aviation industry had emerged as one the worst affected.

"African Airlines Association is in solidarity with the rest of the world in collaborative efforts to support the airline industry during these difficult times," he said during a webinar meeting.

## Posting profits

The association has estimated that the African Aviation Industry will lose more than \$4 billion (Sh429 billion) as a result of the pandemic and with only Ethiopian Airlines posting profits in recent times on the continent, many of the industry players are in survival mode even before this pandemic.

This is coming following a difficult year for the continental air players which have lost in excess of Sh472 billion with airlines like South African Airlines bearing most of the brunt.

Kenya Airways said it recorded a loss of Sh858 million in revenues after the suspension of its Nairobi-Guangzhou route, amid the coronavirus outbreak.

The airline sent some of its workers on an unpaid leave with effect from April 1, with the management team taking a 75 per cent pay cut, and the CEO getting an 80 per cent pay cut. Berthe said that for African economies to recover, a vibrant aviation industry will be critical given the sector's significant role in economic and social development.

A number of subject matter experts made presentations on how African airlines can create and implement their recovery plans in areas such as fleet and network repositioning, finance and cash flow issues, fuel trends and fuel efficiency measures among others.

## RECOVERY PLAN

● A recovery plan that outlines a framework of actions to be taken by AFRAA and other stakeholders was one of the key outcomes of the online industry meeting.

● Since the onset of the crisis, the AFRAA has taken various initiatives to date and is working closely with key air transport institutions and partners to find workable solutions to ensure the sector's resilience to the pandemic and for post recovery efforts.

## NAIROBI SECURITIES EXCHANGE

HIGH	LOW	SECTOR	AGRICULTURAL	VWAP	PREVIOUS	TOTAL
17.40	9.90	Eagagals Ltd Ord 1.25		10.00		
448.00	290.00	Kakui Pic Ord 5.00		310.00	301.00	100
100.00	57.00	Kapchorua Tea Kenya Pic Ord 5.00AAA		71.00	71.00	100
605.00	405.00	The Limuru Tea Co. Pic Ord 20.00A			475.00	
22.70	14.00	Sasini Pic Ord 1.00			16.50	
178.00	92.00	Williamson Tea Kenya Pic Ord 5.00		115.00	115.00	800
<b>AUTOMOBILES &amp; ACCESSORIES</b>						
27.00	20.00	Car & General (K) Ltd Ord 5.00		23.50	23.50	200
<b>BANKING</b>						
13.85	9.30	ABSA Bank Kenya Pic Ord 0.50		10.35	10.25	84,100
31.00	22.40	BK Group Pic Ord 0.80			22.40	
166.00	76.50	Diamond Trust Bank Kenya Ltd Ord 4.00		87.25	86.00	1,600
55.50	32.15	Equity Group Holdings Pic Ord 0.50		35.75	34.85	3,040,200
7.90	3.38	HE Group Pic Ord 0.50		4.02	4.00	11,000
126.00	42.50	I&M Holdings Pic Ord 1.00		52.75	52.00	100
55.50	33.75	KCB Group Pic Ord 1.00		36.75	37.00	907,400
4.50	2.22	National Bank of Kenya Ltd Ord 5.00			4.12	
41.00	24.90	NCSA Group Pic Ord 0.50		28.75	29.05	437,200
117.75	83.00	Stanbic Holdings Pic Ord 0.50		90.50	97.00	3,600
225.00	168.00	Standard Chartered Bank Kenya Ltd Ord 5.00		196.00	195.00	2,700
17.00	10.05	The Co-operative Bank of Kenya Ltd Ord 1.00		12.25	12.25	640,000
<b>COMMERCIAL AND SERVICES</b>						
5.10	0.45	Deacons (East Africa) Pic Ord 2.50A		0.45		
3.00	0.77	Eveready East Africa Ltd Ord 1.00		0.80	0.80	59,800
8.50	4.95	Express Kenya Pic Ord 5.00A		5.40	5.40	200
9.50	0.94	Kenya Airways Ltd Ord 1.00		0.98	1.04	629,900
8.80	4.26	Langham Publishers Pic Ord 1.00A		4.53	4.88	7,500
1.20	0.54	Nairobi Business Ventures Ltd Ord 1.00AAA		0.60	0.60	100
71.00	22.00	Nation Media Group Pic Ord 2.50		23.40	23.40	14,800
4.70	1.72	Sameer Africa Pic Ord 5.00			2.20	
33.00	19.50	Standard Group Pic Ord 0.50			19.80	
35.15	11.50	TPS Eastern Africa Ltd Ord 1.00		15.40	15.00	200
0.95	0.23	Uchumi Supermarket Pic Ord 5.00		0.28	0.30	25,700
22.00	9.90	WPP Scangroup Pic Ord 1.00		17.00	16.05	300
<b>CONSTRUCTION &amp; ALLIED</b>						
8.35	2.40	ARM Cement Pic Ord 1.00			5.55	
145.75	45.00	Bamburi Cement Ltd Ord 2.50		48.50	48.00	400
92.00	53.00	Crown Paints Kenya Pic Ord 5.00			53.00	
3.98	1.44	E.A. Cables Ltd Ord 0.50		1.80	1.81	300
20.50	12.95	E.A. Portland Cement Co. Ltd Ord 500			14.25	
<b>ENERGY &amp; PETROLEUM</b>						
7.40	4.00	KenGen Co. Pic Ord 2.50		4.90	4.90	147,800
5.50	1.63	Kenya Power & Lighting Pic Ord 2.50		2.17	2.19	160,700
5.50	5.00	Kenya Power & Lighting Pic 4% Pref 20.00			5.00	
6.00	6.00	Kenya Power & Lighting Pic 7% Pref 20.00			6.00	
33.00	22.00	Total Kenya Ltd Ord 5.00		2175	23.45	500
8.70	5.00	Umenne Ltd Ord 0.50		6.88	6.90	8,300
<b>INSURANCE</b>						
10.50	5.70	Britania Holdings Pic Ord 0.10		6.90	6.64	36,400
4.35	2.00	OC Insurance Group Ltd Ord 1.00		2.25	2.30	47,400
442.00	250.00	Jubilee Holdings Ltd Ord 5.00		280.00	280.00	2,300
16.30	2.10	Kenya Reinsurance Corporation Ltd Ord 2.50		2.52	2.70	105,500
13.00	6.80	Liberty Kenya Holdings Ltd Ord 1.00			8.50	
26.00	13.80	Sanlam Kenya Pic Ord 5.00			15.00	
<b>INVESTMENT</b>						
37.40	19.60	Centum Investment Co Pic Ord 0.50		23.15	23.40	2,400
0.77	0.30	Home Africa Ltd Ord 1.00		0.41	0.41	23,100
1,500.00	1,500.00	Kurwitu Ventures Ltd Ord 100.00AAA			1,500.00	
3.39	2.00	Olympia Capital Holdings Ltd Ord 5.00		2.30	2.30	300
4.50	1.60	Trans-Century Pic Ord 0.50		1.61	1.61	22,400
<b>INVESTMENT SERVICES</b>						
16.00	8.24	Nairobi Securities Exchange Pic Ord 4.00		9.00	9.30	4,900
<b>MANUFACTURING &amp; ALLIED</b>						
87.00	52.25	B.O.C. Kenya Pic Ord 5.00		65.25	70.25	2,000
700.00	350.00	British American Tobacco Kenya Pic Ord 10.00		351.25	340.00	10,400
10.80	7.10	Carlsberg Investments Pic Ord 1.00		9.00	9.00	100
230.00	135.00	East African Breweries Ltd Ord 2.00		148.00	148.75	680,400
3.15	0.87	Flame Tree Group Holdings Ltd Ord 0.825mm		0.90	0.95	86,800
14.00	12.25	Kenya Orchards Ltd Ord 5.00mm			12.25	
0.70	0.25	Muntias Sugar Co. Ltd Ord 2.00			0.27	
42.00	26.10	Unga Group Ltd Ord 5.00		29.00	29.00	1,800
<b>TELECOMMUNICATION</b>						
33.50	20.10	Safaricom Pic Ord 0.05		27.95	28.40	10,969,800
<b>REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST</b>						
11.00	6.88	STANLIB FAHARI 1 REIT Ord 20.00		8.84	8.90	200
<b>EXCHANGE TRADED FUNDS</b>						
1740.00	1235.00	ABSA New Gold ETF		1740.00	1615.00	15,300

NSE ALL SHARE INDEX: DOWN 1.18 points to close at 137.07

NSE 20-SHARE INDEX: DOWN 9.10 points to close at 1985.76

NSE 25-SHARE INDEX: DOWN 14.18 points to close at 3104.41

## MARKET WATCH

### TREASURY BONDS CLOSURE OF REGISTERS

ISSUE NO.	PAYMENT DATE	PERIOD OF CLOSURE	PAYMENT TYPE	APPLICABLE INTEREST RATE (%)	REFERENCE INTEREST RATE (%)
PXD3/2007/015	11-05-2020	07-05-2020 to 11-05-2020	Interest	12.5	Fixed
PXD2/2019/005	11-05-2020	07-05-2020 to 11-05-2020	Interest	10.874	Fixed
PXD2/2019/015	11-05-2020	07-05-2020 to 11-05-2020	Interest	12.734	Fixed
PXD1/2013/020	18-05-2020	14-05-2020 to 18-05-2020	Interest	10	Fixed
PXD1/2012/020	18-05-2020	14-05-2020 to 18-05-2020	Interest	12	Fixed
IFB1/2016/009	18-05-2020	14-05-2020 to 18-05-2020	Interest	12.5	Fixed
IFB1/2018/020	18-05-2020	14-05-2020 to 18-05-2020	Interest	11.95	Fixed
IFB2/2009/012	25-05-2020	21-05-2020 to 25-05-2020	Interest	12	Fixed
PXD2/2015/005	25-05-2020	21-05-2020 to 25-05-2020	Interest	13.92	Fixed
IFB1/2017/007	25-05-2020	21-05-2020 to 25-05-2020	Interest	12.5	Fixed
PXD1/2018/015	25-05-2020	21-05-2020 to 25-05-2020	Interest	12.65	Fixed
PXD4/2019/010	25-05-2020	21-05-2020 to 25-05-2020	Interest	12.28	Fixed
PXD2/2007/015	08-06-2020	04-06-2020 to 08-06-2020	Interest	13.5	Fixed
IFB1/2015/009	08-06-2020	04-06-2020 to 08-06-2020	Interest	11	Fixed
PXD2/2018/015	15-06-2020	11-06-2020 to 15-06-2020	Interest	9	Fixed
PXD1/2010/025	15-06-2020	11-06-2020 to 15-06-2020	Interest	11.25	Fixed
PXD1/2008/020	15-06-2020	11-06-2020 to 15-06-2020	Interest	13.75	Fixed
PXD1/2012/010	15-06-2020	11-06-2020 to 15-06-2020	Interest	12.705	Fixed
PXD2/2018/010	15-06-2020	11-06-2020 to 15-06-2020	Interest	12.502	Fixed
PXD3/2019/005	15-06-2020	11-06-2020 to 15-06-2020	Interest	11.492	Fixed
PXD1/2013/010	22-06-2020	18-06-2020 to 22-06-2020	Interest	12.371	Fixed
PXD1/2015/005	22-06-2020	18-06-2020 to 22-06-2020	Interest	13.193	Fixed
PXD1/2018/025	22-06-2020	18-06-2020 to 22-06-2020	Interest	13.4	Fixed

PREPARED BY: VINCENT K. LANGAT

CHECKED BY: JOHN K. NJAU

AUTHORISED BY: JEREMIAH K. TOMBO

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The impact of coronavirus requires an extraordinary budget.

## BRIEFLY



### Militants kill 52 villagers in northern Mozambique

**MAPUTO, WEDNESDAY:** Islamist militants killed around 52 people in northern Mozambique, police said.

The police said the villagers in Cabo Delgado province were "massacred", with some beheaded, after some people refused to be recruited into the militant group. Hundreds have been killed and thousands displaced during the three-year insurgency in Cabo Delgado.

No group has said it was

behind the attack. A militant group calling itself al-Shabab operates in the area and last month briefly seized control of the town of Mocimboa de Praia. It is unclear whether it is linked to the significantly larger Somali movement of the same name.

The attack took place in the village of Xitaxi in Muidumbe district on April 7, but only came to light late on Tuesday.

-BBC

### Ethiopia vows to end Internet blackout as coronavirus bites

**BERLIN, WEDNESDAY:** Germany has authorised its first clinical test of a vaccine for the novel coronavirus, the country's regulatory body said Wednesday, green-lighting trials on human volunteers for an RNA vaccine developed by German firm Biontech and US giant Pfizer.

"The Paul-Ehrlich-Institut... has authorised the first clinical trial of a vaccine against COVID-19 in Germany," the regulatory body PEI said in a statement. The trial, which was only the fourth to have been authorised worldwide, was a "significant step" in making a

vaccine "available as soon as possible", the institute added.

It said that approval was the "result of a careful assessment of the potential risk/benefit profile of the vaccine candidate".

The trials will see "200 healthy volunteers aged between 18 and 55 years" vaccinated with variants of the RNA vaccine, while the second phase could see the inclusion of volunteers who belonged to high-risk groups. Neither PEI nor the developers specified when the trial will begin, though Biontech claimed it would be "soon".

-AFP

### Spanish mayor resigns after drink-driving, attack on cops

**BARCELONA, WEDNESDAY:** A Spanish mayor resigned on Wednesday just hours after being arrested for drink driving and attacking police who stopped him, a court and local media reported.

Nearly six weeks into one of the most restrictive coronavirus lockdowns in the world, Alex Pastor stepped down as Badalona mayor following reports he was caught driving under the influence and bit an officer who tried to give him a breathalyser test.

"Alex Pastor has resigned," said a statement from the Badalona town hall, a beach front town just north of Barcelona



that is home to 200,000 people. He was arrested in Barcelona Tuesday night and later charged with "a road safety violation and for attacking police", a court statement said.

He was arrested after showing symptoms of having drunk alcohol," Catalan regional interior minister Miquel Buch told local radio, without giving further details.

-AFP

## World on brink of 'biblical proportions' famine: WFP

Covid-19 crisis likely to push 250 million people to starvation as health experts warn of second wave in US

■ Washington, Wednesday

The world is at risk of widespread famines "of biblical proportions" caused by the coronavirus pandemic, the UN has warned. David Beasley, head of the World Food Programme (WFP), said urgent action was needed to avoid a catastrophe.

A report estimates that the number suffering from hunger could go from 135 million to more than 250 million.

The warning came as President Donald Trump vowed to sign Wednesday an order partially blocking immigration to the United States, as health experts warned a second US coronavirus wave could be even more destructive.

Trump said his action was being taken "to protect American workers" after 22 million people lost their jobs in the US alone in the devastating economic backlash sparked by unprecedented measures taken to halt the spread of the virus.

The US, with over 45,000 deaths and more than 800,000 infections, is the hardest-hit country. Nations around the world have been scrambling to fight the pandemic which has killed more than 178,000 people and infected more than

2.5 million worldwide.

Europe saw its death toll climb to another grim milestone of 110,000, with Spain reporting a slight increase for a second day running in the number of people who succumbed to the disease.

But Germany, which this week cautiously began allowing shops to reopen, offered another glimpse of hope when it approved the launch of trials on human volunteers for a vaccine.

The trial, which was only the fourth to have been authorised worldwide, was a "significant step" in making a vaccine "available as soon as possible", regulator the Paul Ehrlich Institut said.

But with months to go before a viable vaccine can be rolled out, more than half of humanity remains under some form of lockdown. Singapore extended its confinement for a month to June 1, as the

### HOPE FOR CURE?

● More than 150 different drugs are being researched around the world. Most are existing drugs that are being trialled against the virus.

● There are three broad approaches being investigated: Antiviral drugs that directly affect the coronavirus's ability to thrive inside the body; drugs that can calm the immune system and antibodies, either from survivors' blood or made in a lab, that can attack the virus

Asian city-state which managed to keep its outbreak in check early on is hit by the onslaught of second wave of infections.

The director of the US Centers for Disease Control also warned Americans to prepare for a more ferocious second wave. With businesses shuttered and millions of jobs lost, the world is facing its worst economic downturn since the Great Depression, and the WFP said it would hit the least privileged the hardest.

"I want to stress that we are not only facing a global health pandemic, but also a global humanitarian catastrophe," Beasley told the UN Security Council Tuesday.

"Millions of civilians living in conflict-scarred nations face being pushed to the brink of starvation."

Standing in line in Bangkok's historic quarter for food donations of rice, noodles, milk and curry packets, Chare Kunwong, a 46-year-old masseur said: "If I wait for the government's aid then I'll be dead first."

Those most at hunger risk are in 10 countries affected by conflict, economic crisis and climate change, the WFP says. In South Sudan, 61 per cent of the population was affected by food crisis last year, the report says. Even before the pandemic hit, parts of East Africa and South Asia were already facing severe food shortages caused by drought and the worst locust infestations for decades.

-AFP



Migrant labourers and families from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh states in India hold kitchen utensils as they protest against the government for the lack of food at a slum area during lockdown, yesterday. The WFP has warned of a hunger crisis. AFP

### SA deploys 70,000 extra lockdown troops

■ Jo'burg, Wednesday

More than 70,000 extra troops will be deployed in South Africa to help enforce a lockdown intended to stop the spread of coronavirus, national broadcaster SABC said Wednesday.

Initially, president Cyril Ramaphosa had approved the deployment of just under 3,000 soldiers to assist in the implementation

of a strict lockdown. There are 3,465 confirmed coronavirus case in South Africa and there have been 58 deaths.

In a letter to parliament, Ramaphosa announced his decision to deploy an additional 73,180 members of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) until June 26.

He also separately announced a \$26 billion re-

lief package to support the economy and the vulnerable during the coronavirus pandemic.

Meanwhile, this year's Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting that was scheduled to be held in Rwanda has been postponed because of the coronavirus pandemic.

-BBC

### PUBLIC NOTICE

PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING

ACT NO.13 (2019)

CHANGE OF USE

The owner of the Parcel Title No. Ruiru/Ruiru East Block 21/2609, located off Thika Superhighway, in Juba Sub-County (Hs Kalu area), Kiambu County, wishes to change the use of the plot currently under Agricultural to Commercial (Shops-Cum-Residential (F1A), subject to approval by the County Government of Kiambu. Individual(s), Organization(s) and Institution(s) etc. with objections or comments to the proposal should submit them in writing within fourteen (14) days from the date of this advert addressed to:

County Director of Physical Planning,  
County Government of Kiambu,  
P.O. Box 2344-00900,  
KIAMBU.



# Ten...

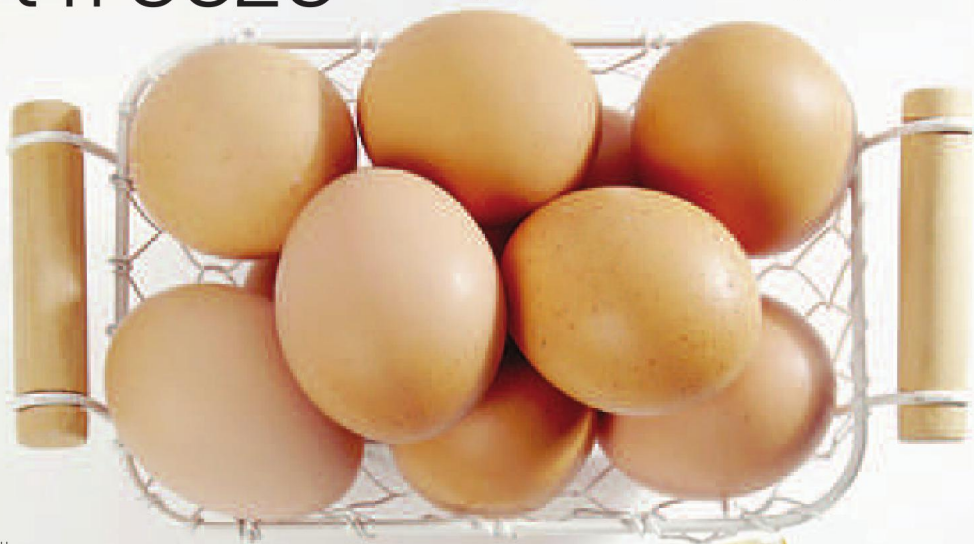
## Food items you should not freeze

The freezer is a great place to store food you want to save for later, especially in times like these, when Covid-19 and the resulting uncertainty are causing people to take fewer grocery trips and buy a lot of food at once. But not everything can be safely frozen, and in some cases, freezing something could ruin it rather than conveniently preserving it. FAITH KYOUMUKAMA lists things you shouldn't be storing in your freezer, even during a pandemic

1

### Uncooked shelled eggs

Don't freeze your shelled eggs. When frozen the content inside the egg expands, which could cause the shell to crack and automatically prone to bacteria. The best way to freeze your eggs would be to whisk and drain them in an airtight container.



2

### Raw vegetables and fruits

Any fruit or vegetable, that has high water concentration with examples of lettuce, cabbage cucumbers or celery will not survive the freezer because the water forms crystals. This means when it is time to cook them, you'll have messy and mushy produce. The best way to store vegetables would be to cook them then freeze and not all vegetables can be frozen such as kale, Spinach, asparagus to name but a few.



5

### Potatoes

Potatoes also have high water content and when put in the freezer, it forms crystals, which form when you put whole raw ones in the freezer. This only leaves you with mushy potato. The best way to store potatoes would be by air-drying them. If you must freeze, cook them first, but this too may result in mushiness.



8

### Soft cheeses

When properly stored hard cheese can last long in the fridge. But when you freeze, it changes texture turning it to be crumbly. This also applies to soft cheeses, freezing makes the moisture crystallise losing the fluffy texture.

3

### 3. Fried foods

Supermarkets have a few frozen items in their freezers. Your work would be to heat it up and eat. However, trying this at home is not typically practical. Freezing will leave them soggy when you try to reify, and also, the oil tends to seep throughout the food and generally changing the food flavour.



6

### Noodles and pasta

Noodles and pasta are quick meals that are a must-have in the household. However, if you decide to freeze them they will turn mushy after defrosting. And that's not the best way to enjoy them, is it?



9

### Stuffed and defrosted meat

When you stuff meat such as lamb pork and chicken with dressing, they only last a day in the fridge, which would be tempting to throw in the freezer. But when this is done the stuffing can grow bacteria during the cooling process.



4

### 4. Canned foods

Most people assume that it's okay to freeze food packaged in a can such as baked beans, chickpeas, meat and so on. When the liquid inside does freeze the can will expand and it's likely to explode.

7

### Herbs

We all love tasty flavourful food and that's where our herbs come in. We also would love to buy in bulk as opposed to buying fresh herbs everyday. However, when frozen they turn limp and brown in the long run. If you must freeze them, put them in an ice cube tray with olive oil.

10

### Condiments

Buying things like mayonnaise, tomato sauce mustard and the likes in bulk is not practical, so is freezing them. When you freeze them. The ingredients tend to separate creating something unappetising.



# People Plus ▶ Tell your Story

## Banker-turned-chef with love for Kenyan food

by Harriet James  
@harriet86jim

**A**t a young age, Pamellah Oduor was always curious, watching her mother Yuanita Okwafi prepare meals. She was a great cook and always loved to entertain people.

"As I grew up, I started cooking and it really warmed my heart to watch people enjoy my meals. I cooked at my siblings' and friends' houses when they hosted," she says.

As she grew older, she imagined a nation where Kenyans from all walks of life, rich or poor, would motivate each other to eat healthy foods. In 2013, she noticed increasing number of people with lifestyle diseases such as high blood pressure, diabetes and obesity. She attributed this to the fact that Kenyans stopped cooking and were eating from fast food joints and supermarket delis. This observation birthed a Facebook group dubbed, Let's Cook Kenyan Meals, to encourage people to go back to their kitchens.

"The group is a place where people who love cooking would meet, discuss and learn all about it. It is a fun carefree environment where people try different recipes and advise others on cooking," she says.

What began as a joke resulted in one of the largest cooking groups in the country with over a million members and it keeps growing. In 2014, having seen the impact the group had and after getting orders from a few clients to prepare food for them, she quit her banking career and start a catering business called Spice Land.

### A huge hit

"People started offering me money for my services so a business was born. I resigned as one of the operations managers at NIC Bank, now NCBA, where I worked for over 10 years," says Pamellah who now runs an initiative and training platform dubbed #cookmealiving.

"The first meal we ever shared was sausage stew and most people wondered whether they can create a stew out of a sausage. However, many tried it out and now it's a hit," she says.

One of the major challenges she faced was winning clients' trust, especially when she was still working. Secondly, just like in any other social media groups, regulating the members was an issue.

"We try as hard as we can to ensure every post is in line with our objectives. We, sometimes, find con men or fake caterers, products or others who are not genuine and we remove them," she says.

The number of those who wanted to learn how to cook grew and Pamellah saw an opportunity to earn a living from training people how to cook.

In 2018, Facebook global leaders came

### PAMELLAH ODUOR'S passion for local cuisine saw her quit her banking job to teach others how to cook

looking for her after she applied to be on a programme on people making an impact on social media. After a rigorous selection process that saw around 115 leaders selected from 46 nations, Pamellah was chosen for the Facebook Community Leadership Programme. It ran for a year and she learnt a lot.

"Each of us had to select a project we would work on during that period and I opted for #cookmealiving," says Pamellah.

### Cultural experience

In the project, Pamellah was to train 90 members in the food industry, but many more people wanted to be part of the group. This birthed another group, Caterers Hub, which has over 20,000 members in various businesses in the food industry.

"My best moments are when people see me as a mentor and from nothing they become chefs or learnt how to cook well. I have seen people from other parts of the world come and learn how to cook African meals and experience our culture too. I sometimes train for free and seeing them thrive makes me happy," she adds. She charges Sh2,000 per session, with training taking place on Tuesdays and Thursdays in Lang'ata.

In future, Pamellah wants more Kenyans to appreciate and learn how to cook their own meals. She also wants to see Kenyan cuisine become international.

"In future, I'd like to see more Kenyans go back to their kitchens and become fully engaged in learn-

### ABOUT PAMELLAH

● She worked for NIC Bank, now NCBA, for 10 years, but quit her position as an operations manager.

● She started off with a Facebook group on cooking that later set up a catering company called Spice Land.

**The first meal we ever shared was sausage stew and most people wondered whether they can create a stew out of a sausage**

ing about their meals. I also want to create employment for many Kenyans through cooking and matching them with skills and creating business networks and, above all, becoming self-sufficient," she says.

She has also set up income-generating projects such as soap making and practical catering courses across counties. She wants her company to become a one-stop shop, where every member is empowered not just in knowledge but financially.





# Travel Wise ▶ Get set... go!



LEFT: Maasai morans entertain delegates during the opening of Skal congress held in Mombasa in 2018. ABOVE: Crown Prince PLaza Nairobi Airport GM Barnabas Wamoto. PD/NDEGWA GATHUNGU, M KITHURE

## Time to plan for Kenya's tourism industry post Covid-19 pandemic

**Coronavirus is the biggest disrupter since World War Two, upending the local hospitality industry to an extent that the sector might take 12 to 18 months to recover**

by Mwingirwa Kithure  
@PeopleDailyKe

**T**he tourism industry has been the proverbial goose that lays the golden egg to Kenya's economy, with the country relying heavily on the sector as a source of foreign exchange and employment.

The sector directly employs more than a million people, with an estimated two million depending on it indirectly. Last year, the industry earned Sh163 billion and welcomed 2.05 million tourists.

Until the monster called coronavirus reared its ugly head, 2020 was expected to be the industry's best. Arrivals were projected to surpass 2.5 million due to tourism marketing efforts and countless international conferences lined up to take place in the country throughout the year.

When Meetings Events Conferences and Incentives (MICE) are the kingpin of a country's tourism industry strategy, then it's a boom business for all. Airlines, airports, taxi operators, hotels, restaurants, curio shops, museums, casinos, national parks, bars and even brothels reap.

But like a ghost from nowhere, Covid-19 struck hard starting February, stopping all lofty dreams, with those big sum revenue projections now a pipe dream. You can no longer sit down at your favourite restaurant and enjoy an exquisite gourmet because social distancing rules stipulates that you can only enjoy the delicacy as a take-away. Your aerobics and Spa moments must wait too.

### Skeleton staff

In a few days, the usual busy and charming porter was all forlorn in lonely lobbies. Likewise, the receptionist became idle, sheepishly smiling at the empty lobby, punctuating her wry smile with an occasional yawn.

Hotels are empty save for a skeleton staff working on rotational shifts. "The outbreak presents the tourism sector in Kenya and beyond with a major headache and a challenge that must be surmounted somehow," says Barnabas Wamoto, General Manager, Crown Plaza Nairobi Airport Hotel.

"The nosedive in tourism earnings this year means that there will be serious struggle in the hospitality industry for entities to



Roberto Simone, Villa Rosa Kempinski Nairobi General Manager.

stay afloat. Presently, institutions are implementing various fire-fighting strategies to mitigate the impact of Covid-19," he adds.

Wamoto says some decisions being taken are painful, but necessary to guarantee organisational survival during this crisis, but what matters are concrete actions that hotels and the hospitality industry in general are taking to ensure they are ready when leisure and business travellers resumes.

### Calls for resilience

He warns that even then, things will take long to return post 2020. "It will not be a nightfall fix. Tourists and international conferences will not return en-mass soon, since travel will not be a priority for most," he adds.

Roberto Simone, the Cluster General Manager of Villa Rosa Kempinski and Olare Mara Kempinski Camp, says Covid-19 is the



Panafric Hotel General Manager, David Gachuru. PD/MWINGIRWA KITHURE

biggest disrupter since World War Two and the Kenyan hospitality industry, just like in the rest of the world, has been hit hard and the effects will be felt for years to come.

"There is common industrial consensus that the 2019 output level will not be reached any time soon. Most likely, it will take 12 to 18 months," Roberto observes, adding that the peripheral economies of many countries will take two to three years to recover.

"Whilst among economists, there is consensus in predicting — for developed economies — a V or U shape demand recovery, driven by the household consumption, the effects on emerging, middle and poor countries will take additional time," says Roberto.

The GM who is in his current position for almost a year now argues that the Kenyan hospitality industry has to be resilient, keep alive and protect the business ventures and

prepare the new normal to come. "Post-Covid-19, most likely, will present challenges as new consumers patterns emerge, with changes in priorities during the selection decision-making process," says Roberto.

He says we are witnessing the death of "proximity business" propelled by 20 years of globalisation for "distance matter". Hospitality units need to be prepared to a more accustomed home space potential consumer than pre-Covid-19 era. This will change the approach in terms of service delivery and put great pressure digital marketing teams.

The GM notes that globally, the pandemic will accelerate de-globalisation. Most likely, the virus will also shape the world towards regional trade blocs, which will share same standards and policies.

### Permanent behaviour change

"Should the above happen, then this will be the first catalysis that will affect in first instance, the aviation industry and consequently, the entire hospitality industry. The concerning scenario is a serious call for Kenya hospitality industry to re-strategize its offers, look into more regional domestic feeder markets and as well, target new consumer patterns," says Roberto.

David Gachuru, General Manager at Sarova Panafric says the crisis is of unprecedented magnitude, but preaches hope and a rise from the doom. "Post-Covid-19 can better be looked at using a triangular approach: First, what will change permanently? Secondly what has changed, but will not be sustained and third, what further change can one influence?" says Gichuru.

The career hotelier with over 20-year experience says people's behaviour will change permanently. "People will be afraid of hygiene and their health. So, hoteliers must learn how to stay hygienic no matter what," he says.

The GM says going forward, social distance will be critical for a long time to come. Air travel will change drastically, with flying becoming expensive due to less seat capacity as social distance becomes the norm.

Regrettably as the cost of running business rises due to dwindling fortunes, Gachuru predicts that hotel staff numbers will fall. Sales and marketing personnel will be forced to change strategy and be more digital savvy, otherwise they will be rendered irrelevant.

Gachuru expects that what will not change much is socialisation. With time, locals will resume their normal lives amid heightened caution and hotel occupancies will recover.

He foresees a bad patch for hotels before things brighten up. "Still, hotels will remain. You don't sell a cow because you have no skills to milk it. Simply, you hand over to the milkman and retain the cow! he advises.



Skal International President Susanna Saari (left), Tourism CS Najib Balala (centre) and Kilifi Governor Amason Kingi during the opening of 79th Skal congress held in Mombasa in 2018. PD/NDEGWA GATHUNGU



WILDNEWS

When we visited the farmer in April last year in Kitui county, we found the mare nicknamed Kelitu grazing peacefully with donkeys

by Harriet James and Simon Nthusi  
@PeopleDailyKe

Standing tall and weighing nearly 300kg, the zebra nicknamed Kelitu (young girl in Kikamba) must have been intimidating at first to the young male donkeys in Masengo Malusi's farm in Kitui south.

Male donkeys (called jacks) on average weigh 180 to 225kg and stand 92 to 123cm high at the shoulders. In contrast, the common plains zebra stands 120 to 150cm at the shoulders and can weigh up to 350kg, with males being slightly bigger than females.

But love has no bounds. After lodging 'illegally' in farmer Masengo's homestead for nearly two years, one of the jacks must have gained the courage and mated with Kelitu. We know because a zonkey (a cross between a zebra and a donkey) has been born at Chyulu Hills National Park, where Kelitu was transferred in May last year by KWS rangers.

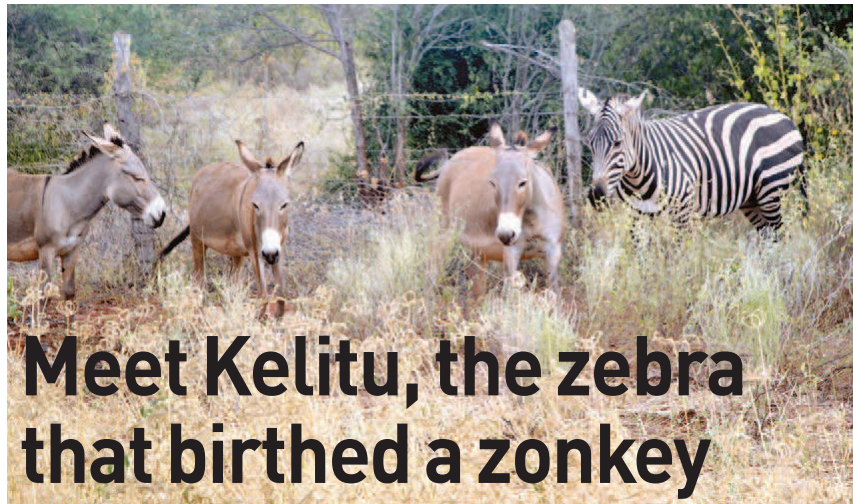
This was after the farmer complained the zebra ate too much fodder, drunk too much water and grazed in his neighbour's farms. Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, an animal rescue and rehabilitation organisation, which usually takes care of baby elephants, rhinos and sometimes-orphaned zebras and KWS transferred her to the park, where she gave birth.

Tsavo Park

The peculiar foal has stripes just like a zebra but they aren't dark and barely cover her body. She was discovered by the caregivers at the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, who examined the foal up close and discovered that it wasn't a zebra but a zonkey. "Working with wildlife, one learns to expect the unexpected. A seemingly straightforward story can eventually reveal its true stripes and end up surprising us all," the organisation said in a statement.

A zonkey combines the sturdy body of its donkey sire and the striped legs of its zebra mother, which makes for a striking creature. "While it should otherwise lead a normal life, zonkeys are mules, meaning that it will be unable to successfully breed once it reaches maturity," the Trust regretted.

The zebra strayed out of the Tsavo East National Park three years ago into the community where she settled in Masengo's boma. When we visited the farmer in April last year in



# Meet Kelitu, the zebra that birthed a zonkey

The zebra with donkeys at a farm in Kisioo village, Mutomo sub-county, before KWS wardens repossessed it in May last year. BELOW: The zebra gave birth to a zonkey at Chyulu Hills National Park. RIGHT: The polka, a baby zebra, pictured in the Maasai Mara Game Reserve last year.

PD/SIMON NTHUSI AND COURTESY



Kisioo village, Mutomo sub-county, at the foot of Yatta plateau along Kibwezi-Kitui highway 45km from Mombasa highway, we found the mare grazing peacefully with the asses.

"The zebra came running, but when it arrived where our three donkeys were tethered, it stopped and joined them. This was late 2017. We thought it was just passing by, but it stayed there, feeding with the donkeys till night fall," said Mwende, Masengo's wife.

At first it drew much attention from the neighbours and passers-by who termed it a ghost. "Then they stopped visiting us. I had no peace, people would gossip that we should be avoided. I lost many friends," she said.

The zebra was not friendly and drawing near it wasn't an easy thing, but with time, it learnt that the couple meant well. "At first it would bolt into the bush whenever we went near it only to return later at night. Today, she has learnt to tolerate us, although you can't tie it up like a cow. We just let it roam," she added.

Destructive animal

The family contacted KWS personnel and notified them of the zebra's presence at their home many times, but no action was taken. They only came and took pictures, she said.

To make money, the family sought KWS help in domesticating Kaitui further to attract tourists. They also considered using her to plough their *shamba* or to fetch water.

Interesting, the mare showed no signs of mating with the donkey then due to its huge size compared to the jacks. "We have paid thousands of shillings in compensation after Kelitu and my donkeys strayed to our neighbours' irrigated farms, destroying fences and eating crops," Masengo said.

Worse, the zebra left the entire village dry since no fence could deter it from crossing, it jumps off fences. "The mare is more destructive than cows or donkeys; it feeds all day long and drinks on average 20 litres of water daily," he regrets. Who will ever compensate him?



TRAVELNEWS

WITH HARRIET JAMES @harriet86jim

## The Kenya magic shows launched

The Kenya Tourism Board (KTB), the country's lead tourism marketing agency, has called on facilities and establishments in the parks and conservancies to showcase the various aspects of life at the parks through short videos under the campaign #TheMagicAwaits.

The parks that include Tsavo, Laikipia, Meru, Maasai Mara Game Reserve and Lake Nakuru National Parks are expected to send content, which will be showcased on KTB's Magical Kenya's online pages.

The effort is geared towards

sharing positive images and encouraging hope as the industry looks forward to post Covid-19.

The pandemic that originated from Wuhan, China in November 2019 has infected about 2.6 million people and claimed over 180,000 lives, a number that keeps rising.

To stem the spread of the virus, social distancing and high standards of hygiene have been encouraged. Air transport has been grounded globally and travel within regions restricted in Kenya.

Meanwhile, Emirates Airlines

has updated its Covid-19 travel waiver policies into a simplified approach for rebooking and refunds on tickets issued globally.

Adnan Kazim, Emirates' Chief Commercial Officer says the carrier is offering three options to customers affected by flight cancellations and travel restrictions. These are either keep your ticket, request a travel voucher or refunds. "We are seeking our customers' understanding that refunds will take time as we have a significant backlog to manage," Kazim said.



KTB CEO Betty Radier (left) and Public Relations Manager Wausi Walya at the Coast tourism stakeholders 2019 summit in Diani. PD/ BONFACE MSANGI.



INDUSTRY FOCUS  
WITH KITHURE MWINGIWA

## Will a resilient tourism industry rise from the ashes of coronavirus?

There is no doubt that when the sufferings visited on us by the strangulation of the coronavirus pandemic is over, the fragile tourism and aviation sectors will be the most hard hit.

Why? The tourism and civil aviation industries are like twin brothers with a deep affection for each other and an unbreakable symbiotic relationship. See, the tourism industry is heavily reliant on air transport for tourists and visitors who either transverse the globe for business, leisure and pleasure. With millions of flights currently grounded worldwide, it means zero business for hotels.

Consequently, tourism provides passengers with cozy accommodation, world-class cuisines, state-of-the-art conferencing, pampering and blissful relaxation in spas and related recreational amenities. With Covid-19, hotels, restaurants and spas are crippled from provision of these services, so the relationship between the two multi-billions industries are badly broken.

Out of business for weeks, hotels are struggling to stay afloat with many already having taken the only natural course. Operations have been suspended for now to cut costs and the little cash flowing in from some debtors. Others have sent their staff on either paid or unpaid leave as managers adopt a wait-and-see attitude, hoping for good news in the second half of 2020.

The question on the trembling lips of all concerned hospitality sector stakeholders is: What is the end game in all this imbroglio? Is there future for the more than Sh200 billion tourism industry after corona?

The answer is yes, it's not all doom. What matters presently is the recovery process and strategies that the Ministry of Tourism, travel, hospitality and related alliances implement to accelerate the momentum for recuperation when the pandemic ends.

Policy makers need to leverage on the current adversity to ensure that when we turn the corner, we still have passionate and qualified staff, product and service to transition the sector back to normal.

My point is... hotels, restaurants, bars and the entire industry need to retain and continuously motivate the current manpower by protecting their jobs by whatever means possible. When our guests come back to savour our beautiful parks, scenic beaches, flavourful cuisines and exquisite accommodation, we will have a standby army of pleased, passionate and enthusiastic teams to welcome them back.

The current challenge is massive, with recovery efforts expected to be painstakingly slow and mitigating measures painful. However, I am in no doubt that our resilient industry will rise again from the ruins of Covid-19. So, let all stakeholders tighten their belts for the arduous journey ahead.

The Writer is Director of Media, PR & Marketing-Villa Rosa Kempinski



## Kukimya haitahelp kitu

MANUSCRIPTS BY MANUEL NTOYAI

Hii wiki imekuwa ingine ya ajab. Tumeona mzee mzima Ezekiel Mutua wa Kenya Film and Classification Board akizushia Ethic juu ya ngoma yao inaitwa Soko yenye wameandika mistari ngori. So far, vijana wametuma apology kama zote na wakatoa ngoma kwa mneti after pressure ya mafans na serikali. Wasanii wamekuwa wakila moto juu ya hii ufala na itabidi wajite kamkutano. But pia hii ni reflection ya jamii coo hakuna msee amebambika na hii story ya pedophilia na vile society imezoa. Kumekuwa na cases kibao za rape na ni ujinga kuona msee akichora mistari zinasifu hiyo ufala, especially wasanii wenye walikuwa wamejenga CV.

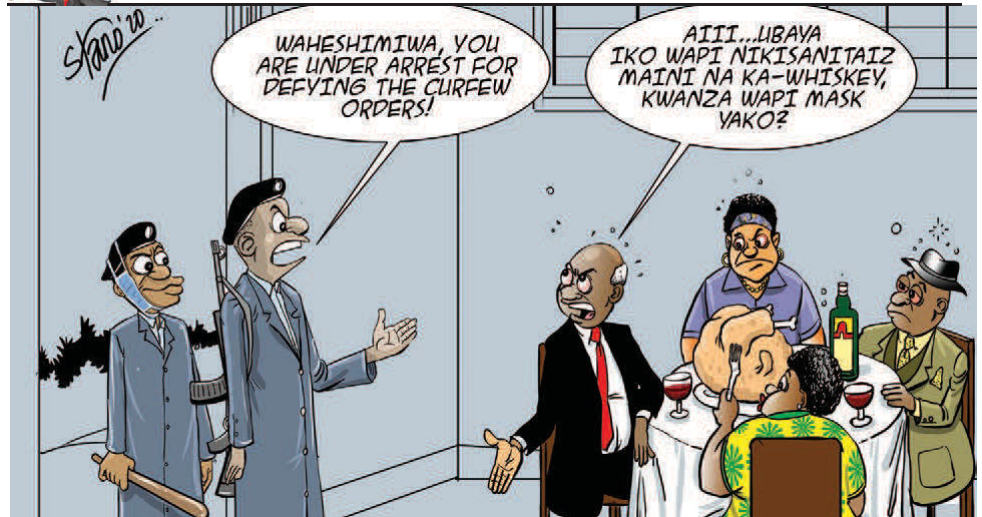
Hii story ilingia kwa ile WhatsApp group niliwashow tuliunda na Ras alituchapia vile kwa ploti yao, wame witness jango alichomwa na raia after kupatikana amerape mkidi wa miaka ngovo. So, wao walikuwa wanashangaa mbona matha wa huyo mto habongi, kumbe alitishiwa maisha akaambiwa atachinjwa akisema. But sasa vile noma ilitokea, after mzee wake kuonwa war na fire buon na raia na yeye alipeleka kutiko. Kama wewe ni mzazi na unawitish hizi ufala, jitokeze uokoe maisha ya ule mtoi.

## Tribe43 The Sheng Republic

@tribe43shengmag TRIBE 43- Sheng Republik



MULIKWA WITH MANUEL NTOYAI



## Wakenya tufuate sheria kiroho safi

**W**akenya ni wasee wa ajabu sana. Ukiwaambiwa wafanye kitu for their own good, bado wanafanya the opposite na bado wakifanya ngori, bado watajianika. Ndio maana Mombasa County Commissioner Gilbert Kiteyo alisema Wakenya hawana siri.

So, while gava imekuwa ikibonga kuhusu story za kukeep safe na curfew, bado tunaona viongozi ndio wanaongoza ku-break hizo rules. Tumeona MPs na MCAs wakishikwa wakiwa wamejiunga ati wako

sherehe, pia tunaona viongozi wengine wakibreak rules za lockdown na kutembea tu kama kawa.

Wananchi na sisi hatujaachwa nyuma; bado tunaongeza ukaidi. Tuliiona msee aki-tumana ambulance ibebe watoi wake ati wametei. Wengine huko Oyole bado wanafanya wedo usiku wakiwa wamejazana kwa keja. Pia kuna watoi walishikwa ati wameji-fungia kwa keja wakikata waba. Ufala tupu manze!

Pia raia sasa wanacomplain vile makarao wanazidisha harassment, na kuna vile wakikupata bila face mask ama nje

na ukatae kuwona za macho, unarushwa karantini kama punishment. Wadau wana-dai hii ni ngori inazidi mtaani, from ghetto hadi kwa mababi. Big up mzee mzima gava-na Joho 001, alipea mamwera face masks kibao wapatie mraia badala ya kuwashika ama kuwapea mabeating.

But pia kama taifa, ni poa tukuwe patriotic bana. Wenyewe makampuni na wao waache za ovyo kulay off wasee na kuwakata mshande. Malandlord nao itabidi wacheze kama wao na waache kuharass tenants juu ya kodi. Watu ni kujaliana hii period ya ngori za coronavirus.

### URADI By Nafsi Huru



**Leo tumeji quarantine na RISTO BSB, mcee kutoka Magongo, Mombasani. Ni founder wa BSB Movement na BSB Dreadlocks Clinic.**

**Kwa nini utiamua kufanya haya maswala?**  
Sikuamua nilijipata katika ile harakati ya kujitafuta na kuchafua usanii ile design niliamua kuseti dredi kama image yangu ya usanii. Nikijiseti watu wanakubali kuona nina mkono mzuri, wakaanza kujiteta niwaunde nikawa nafanya

bure nikijifunza ju bado sikua nimejiamini, lakini afia time wakaanza kutipa nikaona ni mzuka ndio nimechangamkia kwa nyundo nane sasa.

**Na umeachieve nini so far?**

Paka na sasa ndio hii janta inanisimamia maisha kutoka kula, kuva, kulea familia na hata projects zangu zengine. Pia nimeweza kufunza vijana kibao kuchangamkia hii maswala na sahii hawakosi msosi.

**Covid-19 imeaffect aje biz yako?**

Unajua hii biz customers wengi ni masistadu na some time ukiwa

mtu na familia kuna mitihani na changamoto, lakini tunakomaa kila siku. Covid-19 ilifanya tusiamishe kazi kwa wiki tatu, but two weeks ago gava ilikua lenient kiasi tumerudi kazi mradi tunatii sheria na kujikinga.

**Advise yako kwa youtman mwenye anadai kuwa kaa wewe?**

Chukulia hii kazi kama kazi nyengine yeyote, tia bidii na utaona mazao. Wasupa ndio wengi kwa hii field, usipokua na focus utaishia kua bogus kitandani sana sufuri kwa pochi.

### TAMBULIKA By Nafsi Huru

Felix Lukate aka FLOWHARRY ukipenda Uncle Luqs ni one of the finest rappers kutoka 254 akiwakilisha Eastlano mtaa ya Okongo.

Usanii ni kitu imekuwa kwa damu yake akichafua Luhya rap akichanganya na Sheng. Alianza journey yake kwa rende ilikuwa inajiita TBZ Makongeni, jeshi serious na hip-hop fraternity yote ilikua ime-watii.

Flowharry alikuwa anastandout na ilikua around 2015 wakichafua airwaves na hits kama *Barrier, Pah!*, *Suarez* na zengine kabla rende isambaratike, ndio Flowhar-

ry akaamua kupambana one man. Alivamia industry na singles kama *Saucer*, *Chekicheki*, *Amang'ondo* and *Tenje ft Omae Lion* na Swalleh Geffor.

This ndirau amecome through na bongela album inajiita *Suffocating Kuomoka*, ambayo ime-beba 13 tracks produced by Omae Lion pale Maefamm Entertainment.

Kila kitu kuhusu hii album ni fyamm kutoka cover art, concepts za ngoma na quality ya production zimeenda shule zika pass na flying colours.



FLOWHARRY

## KARUN

By Nafsi Huru

TOKAJIKONI



By Rodgers Ndegwa

By Rodgers Ndegwa



1. *I Feel You - Karun, Mazzi and Nafsi Huru*
2. *Kwa Nini - Kaa La Moto ft Masauti*
3. *I'm Offended - Smallz Lethal*
4. *Servant - King Kaka*
5. *Cheza Na Rieng - Kayvo K-Force ft Virusi Mbaya*
6. *Morio Anzenza - Oksyde*
7. *Doze Babu - G Black*
8. *Smoking - Zzero Sufuri and King Namba Nane*
9. *Ju Ya Dollary - Abujubuju*
10. *Maskini Mnono - Sugu Vudu*

Number ya maplayer wengi wa futa globally wanadai na anxiety na depression after Covid-19 kufanya almost all leagues in the world kukuwa suspended. Report ya global players' union FIFPro yenye ilitolewa early this week ndio ilished some light kuhusu noma wachezaji wengi wanapitia hii idhaa. After kupiga survey kwa more than 16 countries including England, Scotland, USA, Australia na France, na kusurvey 1,600 players, hii repoti ilidai 13 per cent ya maplayer maboy na 22 per cent ya makulungus wako under some form of stress ama depression juu hawako sure about future ya career zao. Maplayer wengi hawajazoea kukuwa kwa situation kama hii na hiyo inawapee anxiety vinoma. Tunasimama na athletes, tukiwaencourage hii ngori ya corona itapita tu!

1

**Nditni - Inside Origin - Mihang'o Example - Siku izi maboyz wanajipin na manyoi uko nditni wakiingia round.**

2

**Seti - To place Origin - Shauri Example - Ni ngumu kuseti maganji kwa ngithe vile kumesota round this.**





- 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 Kimchi Family
- 21.00 K24 Evening Edition
- 22.00 Riddim Vyb3 Reloaded
- 00.00 DW Live Feed



- 5.00 Ime Ria Rucini
- 6.00 Rikiratha
- 11.00 Kurekereria Kodii
- 12.00 Kwibanga-Rpt
- 1.00 Mohoro Gitau-Live
- 1.30 Kameme Iharonini-Live
- 2.00 Kayu Ka Murimi
- 3.00 Thirinka Mix
- 3.30 Satai
- 3.45 Kameme Toonz
- 4.00 Ririmbuka Live
- 6.00 Uruguri Wa Mwili Live
- 7.00 Kameme Maturaini
- 8.00 Njunga Ya Muthee Kihengo
- 8.30 Ndukariganira
- 9.00 Mutamburuko Wa Mohoro
- 10.00 Thenema Cia Kameme
- 11.00 Mutamburuko Wa Mohoro-Rpt
- 00.00 Ririmbuka
- 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

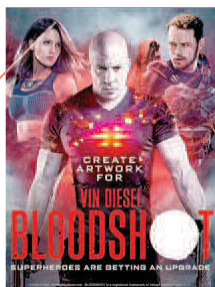
# TIME OUT!

20.00pm KIMCHI FAMILY



::IN THEATRES NOW::

ANGA MEGA KISUMU: 16:20: BLOODSHOT 2020  
 NYALI CINEMAX MOMBASA: 19:00: BLOODSHOT 2020  
 PRESTIGE CINEMA PRESTIGE PLAZA: 18:30, 20:10: BLOODSHOT 2020  
 ANGA MEGA KISUMU: 20:45: BAAGHI 3 2020  
 NYALI CINEMAX MOMBASA: 20:45: BAAGHI 3 2020



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

## SUDOKU

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

Someone you care about may not be too pleased with you. Pleasure trips should be on your agenda. Channel your energy into projects that will enhance your home.

### TAURUS (APR. 21- MAY 21)

Your hard work will payoff; advancement looks positive. You will have the setup and go to contribute a great deal to groups of interest.

### GEMINI (MAY 22-JUNE 21)

You may find that you can be the recipient of valuable information if you're willing to be a good listener. Exercise discipline when it comes to controlling bad habits.

### CANCER (JUNE 22-JULY 22)

You will have additional discipline that will aid you in your objectives. Problems on the home front might be a little disconcerting. Dream a little today.

### LEO (JULY 23-AUG 22)

Don't hesitate to voice your opinions when it comes to matters pertaining to work. Minor health problems may lower your vitality.

### VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 23)

Partnerships will be favorable and contracts can be signed. Try to put your money away for a rainy day. Don't be too quick to judge your loved ones.

### LIBRA (SEPT. 24-OCT. 23)

You can mesmerize anyone you meet with your cultured attitude and outlook. You may think gifts will win their heart, but it could add stress from lack of funds.

### SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)

Your charm will mesmerize members of the opposite sex today. You can enjoy your involvement in organizations that make charitable contributions.

### SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23-DEC. 21)

Be careful disclosing information. Don't bother retreating, just walk away. Uncertainties about your living arrangements may be unnerving.

### CAPRICORN (DEC 22- JAN. 20)

Don't try to twist things around so that they sound more enticing. You will find that social activities will be enjoyable and will promote new connections.

### AQUARIUS (JAN. 21- FEB. 19)

Take time to find out if anyone has a better suggestion before you make arrangements for the whole family.

### PISCES (FEB. 20-MAR. 20)

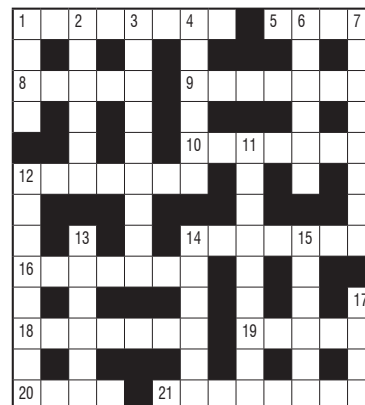
Most partner problems are a result of both people not living up to their promises. Don't hesitate to take short trips.



- 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
- 1:00 Experience
- 1:30 News Desk
- 2:00 Business Defined
- 2:30 Kenda Imani
- 3:00 Daytime Movie
- 3:30 Jesus Son Of God
- 5:30 Club 1
- 6:30 The Great D
- 7:00 eaters
- 7:30 Tairila
- 8:00 Road to Success
- 8:30 Charging Currents
- 9:00 Magical Scene
- 9:30 KBC Channel 1
- 10:30 News
- 11:00 Feature
- 12:00 GGTV
- 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. Unveil
- 8. Trumps
- 9. Plotted
- 10. Scooter
- 11. Scooter
- 13. Grail
- 15. Scuba
- 16. Passage
- 18. Improved
- 19. Torn
- 21. Veneer
- 22. Troops

### DOWN

- 1. Anon
- 2. Beastofburden
- 3. Sloat
- 4. Sloat
- 5. Authorisation
- 6. Spending
- 12. Cucumber
- 14. Mandate
- 17. Ivory
- 20. Rope

### ACROSS

- 1. Wore clothes on the catwalk (8)
- 5. Long deep cut (4)
- 8. Relating to a city (5)
- 9. Boxing up (7)
- 10. Central cell part (7)
- 12. Moved round an axis (7)
- 14. Insects with biting mouthparts (7)
- 16. Ornamental stone openwork (7)

- 18. Musical performance (7)
- 19. Path or road (5)
- 20. Plinth of a column (4)
- 21. Monumental Egyptian structures (8)

### DOWN

- 1. Small rodents (4)
- 2. Deprive of power (6)
- 3. Profitable (9)
- 4. Use up (6)

- 6. Dwells in (6)
- 7. International waters (4,4)
- 11. Type f restaurant (9)
- 12. Put back (8)
- 13. Moved rhythmically to music (6)
- 14. Incidental activity (6)
- 15. Lapis \_\_\_\_ blue gemstone (6)
- 17. Snake-like fish (4)





# Sport

► The one-stop Sport Shop...

## ATHLETICS

**Kipchoge's humble home life in rural Kenya behind remarkable athletic success, PG 30**



## Berlin marathon shelved from September date

**ATHLETICS:** The Berlin Marathon "will not be able to go ahead as planned" on September 27 after the local government ruled events with more than 5,000 people are banned until October 24. It's not known if the World Marathon Major (WMM) event, which last year had 62,444 participants across all events, will be canceled, postponed or held on the same date but with fewer than 5,000 people. "We will now deal with the consequences of the official prohibition of our events, coordinate the further steps and inform you as soon as we can," organizers said in a Tuesday statement. The Berlin Marathon is known as the world's fastest thanks to a pancake-flat course and, usually, optimal weather. The last seven times the men's world record fell, it came in Berlin. Most recently, when Kenyan Eliud Kipchoge lowered it to 2:01:39 in 2018.

- AFP



## World Number One McIlroy against fanless Ryder Cup

**GOLF:** World number one Rory McIlroy on Tuesday added his voice to the chorus of players opposed to the idea of playing this year's Ryder Cup without spectators. With the global golf season in chaos due to the coronavirus pandemic, the game's administrators are running through a range of possible scenarios as they attempt to plot a path back to competition. For organizers of the Ryder Cup, which is due to take place at Whistling Straits, Wisconsin from September 25-27, that has included studying whether the tournament could be played without fans. PGA chief executive Seth Waugh revealed earlier this week that officials had looked at the possibility of creating a "virtual fan experience" for the fiercely competitive team clash between Europe and the United States.

- AFP

## BeIN calls on EPL to probe Saudi takeover of Newcastle

**FOOTBALL:** A key Premier League broadcast partner has called on club bosses to probe a Saudi Arabian bid to buy Newcastle United over piracy allegations, it said on Wednesday. The Magpies are on the verge of being sold to a Saudi-backed consortium that involves Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman for around £300 million (\$368 million, Sh36.8 billion). It was reported on Tuesday that a non-refundable deposit of £17 million has already been paid to current owner Mike Ashley as part of the deal. The Premier League must decide if the new owners meet the criteria in its owners and directors test. Qatar-based BeIN accuses Saudi of masterminding the pirate broadcast of BeIN output, which included EPL games, as part of a spat between Doha and Riyadh. Saudi denies the claims. - AFP

## Former Cecafta boss told to seek top FKF post

by Frederick Likuyani  
@PeopleDailyKe

A section of football stakeholders from western region are calling on former Cecafta secretary-general Nicholas Musonye (pictured) to contest for the Football Kenya Federation (FKF) top seat in the forthcoming elections slated for later this year.

The call comes days after former football chief Sam Nyamweya declared his interest, becoming the only candidate to oppose the incumbent Nick Mwendwa but others expected to probably join the fray.

Former Kakamega Homeboyz and Chemelil coach Alfred Imonje called on Musonye to go for the top seat terming him the right person to streamline and bring back Kenyan football to the right track.

"Going by the current worrying situation due to poor management by top FKF administrators we as the stake holders in football fraternity we implore and urge our brother Nicholas Musonye to go for the top seat.

"His record at regional level (Cecafta)

where he has really done great work by building a good network, that has even seen the event become one of the major attraction soccer tournament that has been recognised by Fifa.

"Through his leadership skills we have seen the wide gap that has been existing for decades between East Africa and West African teams having been narrowed and closed this has seen most teams compete in Caf organised tournaments.

"The state of football in the country is at the moment is at the lowest and if this trend will not be stopped it will come to affect our local football badly that will demoralize the players who are the key in the industry.

"We are shocked by the how fast the sponsors are walking away from football due lack of transparency, it will be difficult for Kenyan soccer we need to bring sponsors on board who can pump in money and restore faith of the other investors.

"We believe Musonye is the only person who can change and improve Kenya Soccer we want him to consider our call and respect football is equally a major and big



industry that requires his style of management.

Imonje was also supported by Fkf official from Kakamega Mr. Fred Lugalia who said that it high time for Musonye who has excellently done well at Cecafta that his needs to transfer at his native country as one way of completing his legacy in football.

## Cricket Kenya's ups and downs

Stakeholders offer varied reactions on draft constitution that seem to divide federation

by Barry Silah  
@PeopleDailyKe

Barely 48 hours after the Cricket Kenya draft constitution was released to the public and subsequently recalled, more questions than answers are unfolding.

Already voices of discord have emerged regarding the process and its end game.

It is now emerging that certain interests are being advanced for particular individuals to get seats at the Board of the age-old organisation lately fraught with drama. The document was meant to bring about sober and honest discussions of status of cricket going forward. However, the view of some insiders is the very opposite.

A source close to the workings and creation of the document intimates that even the Board is split down the middle especially on the clauses of elections and membership.

The source claimed that key individuals were pushing for some amendment to the draft even before the document is formally discussed and ratified.

"What we are witnessing is greed from the top and it is because some of us want permanent residence at the of-

fice. I am privy to information that some members in the Board want bigger roles when Elections are called so that they continue to have influence from within. This is unacceptable and ideally the concern should be how to drive the agenda of the sport. We have invested a lot of time and resources on experts who collected proposals all over beforehand. The Board itself is split down the middle on this matter," said the insider who spoke on condition of anonymity.

On March 29, a communiqué went out from Advocate Samuel Muthomi; Chairperson Cricket Kenya Constitution Review Committee to members of CK asking for reviews and comments of the Draft. It was meant to create a discussion on a clearer path on rebuilding the sport. The statement read in part; "The main mandate of my Committee was to align the draft constitution with the provisions of the Sports Act No. 25 of 2013 and the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 and ensure that we have a good foundation for the proper governance and development of the game of Cricket in Kenya. This requires simpler governance structures, ease of access to membership, diversity in representation, equal sharing of resources and more transparency and accountability.



Cricket Kenya's boss Jackie Janmohamed at a past function. PHOTO: ALEX NJUE



# Football on the precipice as sides dig in over SDT-Fifa stalemate

by Barry Silah

@PeopleDailyKe

The current stalemate pitting Sports Disputes Tribunal (SDT) and FIFA over the running of Kenyan football has caught the attention of legal experts who are chiding the latter over arrogance.

FIFA and SDT are at loggerheads especially after a recent response letter by FIFA Chief Member Associations Officer Veron Mosengo-Omba stirred controversy. Omba, in his response to Football Kenya Federation CEO Barry Otieno dated March 25, was categorical the National Executive Committee in its entirety was very much still in office; a

direct opposite stand from the SDT who on the March 17 ruling on the dispute pitting Sports Registrar and the FKF ruled that NEC term was over and they should vacate the office.

Amidst the brickbats and showmanship by the two organisations, lawyers are now sounding the alarm bells that any attempt to pit the two bodies against each other over jurisdiction and authority matters will create confusion.

According to Sarah Ochwada, a Sports Advocate with Centre for Sports Law, the warring must cease so that common ground is reached.

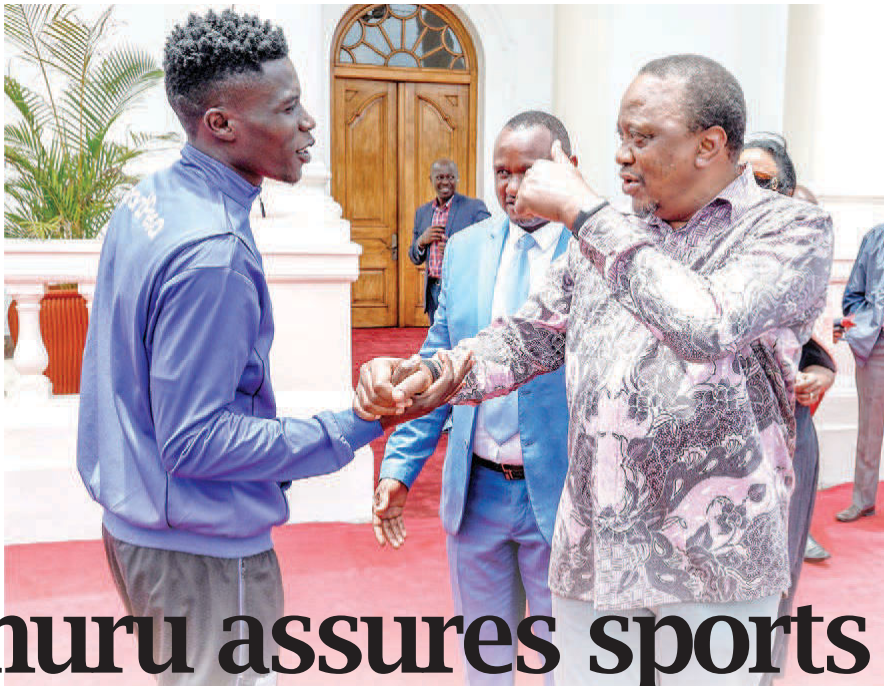
"It does not matter the contest; what is important is procedure and the law. Both

bodies have their limitations on operations which is very clear. SDT is a body created by Kenyan statutes and therefore protected by Kenyan law and operating under the Judiciary. On the other hand, FIFA does not recognise bodies which are out of their system and indeed Sport does not mix well with national law. However, football in this case cannot operate in a vacuum and it is important to note that the SDT is not an ordinary state court. The concern is that FIFA has a problem with the SDT approach which seems like interference as opposed to intervention. My view is that there should be concessions because FKF cannot operate in Kenya without the laws of the land."



SDT chairman John Ohaga.  
PD/ DAVID NDOLLO

President Uhuru Kenyatta (right) gives a thumbs up to AFC Leopards captain Robinson Kamura when the team visited State House last month.  
PD, FILE



## Uhuru assures sports

President promises to support sportsmen and women during coronavirus pandemic

by Gibo Zachary

@PeopleDailyKe

President Uhuru Kenyatta has assured all sportsmen and women the government will support them in all ways possible during the current lockdown.

In a public address to the nation yesterday, Kenyatta stated the government is trying to help, they are also working on ways to cushion the athletes until the Covid-19 pandemic is contained.

"I can assure you we have not forgotten our athletes," Kenyatta said. "We are looking at ways possible to help them because we know they are suffering now they don't go out to play."

"We have the National Sports Fund which we will use to get money and help support them at these difficult times. We have not ignored them, we are looking at every Kenyan who is suffering out there and we will help all of them until the pandemic is contained."

Economic hardships that

local footballers have been subjected to due to the effect of coronavirus could be eased up soon as government lays out plan to counter the situation on the suffering footballers.

On Tuesday, Football Kenya Federation (FKF) while addressing local clubs in the top three men's leagues (Kenya Premier League Clubs, National Super League Clubs, National Men Division One League Clubs as well as the top two women's leagues (Kenya Women Premier League Clubs, Kenya Women Division One League Clubs), revealed that the federation has held several meetings with the Ministry of Sports to discuss how best they can support players, clubs and leagues.

"In view of the aforementioned, the Ministry of Sports has requested that we (FKF) urgently furnish them with a list of 30 members; 25 players and five) officials of the clubs participating in the National Leagues i.e. Kenyan Premier League, Women Pre-

mier League, National Super League, FKF Division One Leagues for both Men and Women," a statement from the federation read in part.

FKF told the clubs that they had up to 10am yesterday to submit the required information as requested by the ministry.

"Kindly share with us on mail the above requested information for your club including the players' and officials' phone numbers latest tomorrow (yesterday), Wednesday 22 by 10am so as to allow us forward the same to the Ministry in good time," the statement read.

Upon receiving the news, local footballers have welcomed the move by government to cushion them from the bites of coronavirus, saying the financial support will go a long way in saving the clubs from collapsing.

"Under the economic conditions globally, I will say it is a welcome move if they indeed fall through. Every sector is affected and if it happens personally I will be grateful and thankful to the Government," said Shabana chairman Jared Nivaton.

FKF Division One clubs also welcomed the move, thanking the government for listening to their cry.

"It's a very good move for us as clubs. At least players will get something during this time that football activities have been shut down and with no any means of survival, it's not a big thing at all. We thank the federation and the government through the ministry of sports for remembering us," said Gusii coach Andrew Mark Ongwae.

However, some clubs felt that even though the move is good, they have been hard done by ministry's stand on taking only 25 players and yet some clubs have 30 players. But others said clubs could have more than 25 players, that they will exercise leadership skills, teamwork and sharing to ensure the goodwill of the government is not watered down.

Others also urged both the federation and the government not to forget the fourth tier, the FKF National Division Two teams and even branch leagues.

## VOLLEYBALL

# GSU looks forward to league after Covid-19

by Lynette Matheka

@PeopleDailyKe

General Service Unit (GSU) head coach Gideon Tarus is urging the Kenya Volleyball Federation (KVF) to exercise caution on resuming the league when the ban on gatherings is lifted.

KVF suspended the league due to the Covid 19 closures having just held one leg in Nyeri which was poorly attended. Only five league matches were played as some teams were a no-show.

"Even if the ban is to be lifted in a month or two, I would urge the federation and teams to exercise patience. Personally, I feel the current season should be done away with so we start a new season in October, assuming it will be safe to do so then. This will ensure everyone's safety in the league legs that bring together a lot of people," said Tarus.

The tactician says his charges have a programme that they are following to stay fit at this time when team training is impossible. In addition to physical fitness, they have also engaged the services of a nutritionist who is helping the squad stay healthy.

"While some are still expected to be at work at this time because of the nature of our job, they find time to go through the programme to stay fit. The nutritionist is working closely with some of the players who needed to add some weight to take advantage of this break, when they are not active, to achieve that while the rest avoid adding weight by eating healthy," he added.

He continued, "This is also a time to exercise self-discipline. We are not following up on the players to make sure they adhere to the programme. At the end of this, the level of fitness will tell you who took this seriously and that could translate to their commitment too."

GSU were yet to play a single league match before the virus hit. In the season opening



Naftali Chumba (left) and Cornelius Lagat (right) of GSU blocks Kenya Prison Elphas's Makuto spike during the Nakuru county Volleyball championship at Afraha Stadium in Nakuru. PD DAVID NDOLLO

Nyeri leg, the paramilitary side was scheduled to play Kenya Army and Vihiga County who did not attend. They were likely to miss the second league leg in Kisumu as they were preparing for the Africa Club Championship.

They began their season without the services of one of their key players Abiud Chirchir who was released for a professional stint with Club Olympique de Kélibia in Tunisia.

However, to try and fill the void left by Chirchir who was last season's Most Valuable Player (MVP), coach Tarus had acquired the signature of another youngster, Kelvin Omuse, from Equity Bank.

Omuse joined the holders from bankers. In 2018, he played for Kenya Defence Forces' side Ulinzi. He was also part of the national team squad that did duty during last year's Zone Five qualifiers to the Africa Games. The right attacker was impressive as Kenya picked a set against eventual winners Egypt.





Eliud Kipchoge acknowledges the fans after he ran the sub two hours in Vienna, Austria, last year October. PD/FILE

# Gentle giant

Kipchoge's humble home life in rural Kenya behind remarkable athletic success

■ Eldoret, Wednesday  
@PeopleDailyKe

In the lush green gardens of Eliud Kipchoge's training retreat in the Kenyan highlands, the greatest distance runner of all time is describing the dusty beginnings to his sparkling career.

Growing up, running for Kipchoge was functional. Schoolchildren in Kenya often run long distances without thinking anything about it, and he would run to school and back every day, also repeating the journey at lunch.

"You don't know you are running because it is a must," says Kipchoge.

But in 2002 at the age of 18 his life was changed forever when his now-coach Patrick Sang offered him a training plan to channel his obvious talent. The only problem? He didn't have a pen.

"I just got a stick and wrote the plan for 10 days down on my arm," Kipchoge says. "Then I just crammed it in my head, rushed home and got a pen and paper to write down what he had told me while it was fresh in my mind."

Eighteen years later, Kipchoge - now 35 and a multi-millionaire thanks to his in-

credible athletic success, the first person to run the marathon distance in under two hours - has unsurprisingly long since replaced the stick and arm method with a training journal.

But many things have remained the same. The life Kipchoge lives is a simple one, as free from distractions as possible. The setting is the remote Kenyan village of Kaptagat.

## What strikes first

The first thing that strikes you is the quiet. It's taken a 24-hour journey from the UK, with three plane rides and multiple taxis, to reach Kipchoge's camp. We're a long way from the hustle and bustle of city life.

The bright orange dust roads that surround the camp are bumpy and rutted. But inside the gates, the grass is lush, green and smooth. A host of people mill around - at any given time up to 30 athletes live and train here - but the atmosphere is slow and tranquil.

If it weren't for the rows and rows of £200 Nike Vaporfly shoes on racks outside the two dormitories (one for men, one for women) you could be forgiven for thinking you were in a Buddhist retreat.



Eliud Kipchoge's mother Janet Rotich holds his photo at her Nandi home. BELOW: Kipchoge washes his feet after a morning run in his Eldoret home. PD/FILE

Kipchoge's weekly routine is certainly monastic. From Monday to Saturday every week, running is a religion. Despite his wife and three children being only a short drive away in the family home, Kipchoge chooses to spend the week in a basic room in the dormitories here. There is one nod to his celebrity status - he has his own room while everyone else shares. But other than that life is spartan.

## Simple life

"Our life here is simple, very simple," he says. "Get up in the morning, go for a run, come back. If it is a day for cleaning, we do the cleaning, or we just relax. Then go for lunch, massage, the 4 o'clock run, evening tea, relax, go to sleep. As simple as that."

Kaptagat has performance benefits in terms of its altitude. It is 8,000 feet above sea level. But the back-to-basics attitude is its real secret weapon.

When Sang set it up in 2002, it was expected to serve as a base for juniors and

up-and-coming athletes - not become the permanent home for the greatest marathon runner of all time.

"It was in our mind that when somebody was established they would live outside, but then athletes said no, we want to stay," Valentijn Trouw - Kipchoge's long-time manager and confidant - has said.

A week's stay at camp Kipchoge is formulaic. The training diary is set in stone - two sessions a day, the most of importance of which come on Tuesdays (track), Thursdays (long run) and Saturdays (interval training). The second session of the day is the afternoon 10km run. It is known as a recovery run. It certainly didn't feel that way to me when I was invited along one afternoon.

A camp cook prepares the daily meals, which have a similarly rigid structure. Dinner, for example, is always at 7.30pm. And it always features ugali, the ubiquitous Kenyan maize flour porridge dish. The kitchen is tiny and basic, one stove with two hobs. There is meat slow-cooking in a battered pot when I put my head around the door. Adjacent is an equally basic dining room which has a bedraggled poster on the walls with the quote: "The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step."

It feels like a low-budget hostel. But as Geoffrey Kamworor, the half-marathon world record-holder who lives and trains alongside Kipchoge, explains, its minimalism is its allure.

## Benefits of a camp

"I think being in the camp is something good for us," he says. "We are away from our families so that brings one focus. It is only running."

"We value running as like our office. It's something we have to take care of, work for, have passion for and respect for."

That respect extends to the camp at large. They have a president, voted for by the 30 residents, and elect subcommittees to make key community decisions. "I don't think he has actually," is coach Sang's jovial response when asked whether Kipchoge has ever served as president.

Regardless, for everybody here, Kipchoge is the undisputed "boss man", even if he winces when asked about the nickname.

"They call me it but I always discourage them," he says. "When you become a boss, you don't think straight. It's better to be a leader than a boss. That is why I do my share of the cleaning. That is how to show the way to young people. I am trusting that I am leading them in a good way."

Kipchoge's ability to lead by example in competition is obvious.

The official marathon world record-holder, and since then the first man ever to run the distance under two hours, has a CV that includes a complete set of Olympic medals: from Athens 2004 (5,000m bronze), Beijing 2008 (5,000m silver) and Rio 2016 (marathon gold). He has won 11 of his 12 marathons since he switched to the road in 2013.

But spending time in Kaptagat - and in a rare interview with his wife Grace - you get a greater sense of who Kipchoge is away from racing.

He and Grace met through her brother Amos - one of Kipchoge's best friends. It was his "silent and humble" qualities that attracted her.

"At home he is fun and runs around the house playing with the children but he is always strict on time," says Grace, who also revealed that the family spend Sundays watching Formula 1 together.

"The children know that. And I also know that. I always keep time. It is very important, especially on Sundays around going to church. It starts at nine. But by 8.30 we leave the house. It is a lot of time because it is only a five-minute drive."

Kenyan athletics has seen a number of stories of highly successful athletes celebrating perhaps a little too much, or getting carried away by fame. Kipchoge is adamant



PD/FILE





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## Iranian female ref eager to officiate at World Cup

**TEHRAN:** Iranian female futsal referee Zari Fathi says she wants to officiate at the FIFA World Cup, Tasnim news agency reported on Tuesday. Fathi has previously officiated at the Asian Women's Championship. "When I started my career, my goals were small but now

I am looking forward to the big goals and want to officiate at the FIFA World Cup," she was quoted as saying. She said during the the coronavirus outbreak she "stay home and train to keep my readiness. Aerobic exercise can help the athletes to stay fit."

-Xinhua



## Netherlands football league likely to conclude season due to extended ban

**AMSTERDAM:** The Dutch football federation (KNVB) announced on Tuesday its intention to end the season after the government decided to extend a ban on mass gatherings until September due to the coronavirus pandemic. "The professional football committee intends to not continue playing the 2019/20 competition. The KNVB will consult UEFA, after which a decision will be taken," the federation said in a statement. "The KNVB has not yet

definitely cancelled competitions because of financial difficulties in the football industry due to the coronavirus crisis." "There will be no matches before September 1," the statement added. Clubs and other stakeholders will meet Friday to discuss the consequences of the decision. There are eight rounds of matches left in the Eredivisie, with defending champions Ajax ahead of AZ Alkmaar on goal difference.

-Xinhua

## Peru launches fund to back virus-hit clubs

**FOOTBALL:** Peru's football federation has said it will set up a million-dollar fund to help first and second division clubs counter the economic effects of the coronavirus pandemic. "We have received the green light from CONMEBOL to dedicate the funds it allocates as part of its Evolution 2020 program in support of our Liga 1 and Liga 2 clubs," the PFP said in a statement Tuesday. PFP president Agustin Lozano said that if the sport's regional governing body CONMEBOL and FIFA provided additional funds for Peruvian football, they would be intended for relaunching the first and second division championships. South American football chief Alejandro Dominguez earlier this month asked FIFA for an urgent meeting on setting up a global fund to help federations affected by the coronavirus pandemic. Peru's football boss also hopes that competitions can resume in July behind closed doors.

-AFP



## Bundesliga set May timeline for its return

**FOOTBALL:** German football authorities are set to announce plans on Thursday for Bundesliga matches to restart in empty stadiums on May 9, but the potential first return of a major European league in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic is meeting some opposition. Chancellor Angela Merkel's government is slowly easing nationwide restrictions and the resumption of the Bundesliga, which was halted on March 13, would boost morale in football-mad Germany. It would also make the Bundesliga the first top-flight European league to begin playing again. Large public events are banned in Germany until August 31, yet football could resume without spectators known as "ghost games" in a country that has more testing capacity than other in Europe and players could be tested regularly.

-AFP

FKF writes to Fifa requesting to pay Amrouche Sh114m after the Covid 19 pandemic, but the former Stars coach Amrouche says he wants the money now



### FACT BOX

- \*Sh 2.5m- Amount Amrouche was being paid per month
- \*He was being paid in cash since there are no payment records
- \*Sh 45m offered to Amrouche by FKF as payment for two and half years salary
- \*Harambee Stars job offered to Amrouche with a salary of Sh 1m per month in a new contract
- \*Sh 114m- Amount FKF should pay Amrouche by tomorrow of face Fifa wrath.
- \*Mwendwa says country would rather be banned from 2022 World Cup campaign than pay the amount to a foreign tactician for work he didn't do, yet local football players are languishing in poverty.

# Payment deadlock

by Webster Nyandika  
@PeopleDailyKe

On the eve of the deadline issued by world football governing body Fifa to Football Kenya Federation (FKF) to pay former national football team Harambee Stars head coach Adel Amrouche (pictured) Sh114m for wrongful dismissal in 2014, no middle ground seems to have been reached by the two parties.

The Belgian tactician who was in charge of the team for slightly more than one year refused to budge on requests that he gives the federation more time to foot the bill arguing that FKF had more than six years to come up with a path to

paying his dues, while on the other hand, FKF boss Nick Mwendwa says the priority currently is the welfare of local footballers in the wake of the Covid 19 pandemic and requested Fifa to push the deadline further due to the current situation.

"FKF has had six years to come up with a solution on this issue and I'm sorry I cannot extend the wait for my dues.

I met Mwendwa in Switzerland and told him to lay down a plan on how the federation would settle the money they owe me, but he decided to take the legal way," Amrouche told People Sport on telephone.

Amrouche was sacked in 2014 af-

ter being suspended by the Confederation of African Football (CAF) for a violent act during a qualifier against Comoros Island.

This was during a different regime, and according to Mwendwa who took the office in 2016, his National Executive Committee (NEC) decided to pay Amrouche a salary of two and half years to solve the issue, but he refused.

"I feel Amrouche is being unfair to Kenyans, I offered him Sh45m and make him Harambee Stars head coach with a salary of Sh1 million a month so that he drops the case, but he refused. We had decided as NEC that anything more than Sh 45m we were not going to

pay, because he could have been paid for four years of not working," Mwendwa told People Sport.

He added: "Our priority now is to look at the welfare of the local footballers during this tough time, if the deadline for paying him is pushed then we can engage the government in future to see if they can help, if it's not possible then we would rather forfeit the 2022 World Cup qualifiers."

Mwendwa also said there were no payment records for Amrouche's salary since he was being paid the Sh 2.5m in cash, "so this is someone who was not paying tax and why should we foot Sh100m for him at this tough times."