

# Tulow woes threaten to scuttle Kenya's dream to join oil league **PG 18**

COVID-19 HOTLINES

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Friday, April 24, 2020

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News Beat **PG 2**

## DP Ruto's insatiable love for land returns to haunt him

# Quarantine uproar

**Weakest link:** Government fights back accusations of endangering Kenyans' lives by locking up people arrested for contravening coronavirus rules in isolation centres and exposing them to the vile disease. **PAGES 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 12, 13 & 14**



ACTING DG PATRICK AMOTH

The assumption is that those who break curfew are treated as special cases for us but we are not at all intent on criminalising cases.

**320**  
confirmed cases  
17 new cases  
89 recovered  
14 deaths

**15,792**  
samples tested since the first case was reported in Kenya on March 12, 2020.

One of the isolation centres that are now under sharp scrutiny amid claims of poor living conditions, prohibitive residential costs and poor management with many Kenyans warning they could turn out to be the weakest link in the fight to contain Covid-19 pandemic.  
PHOTO/COURTESY



News Beat **PG 5**

## Joho asks State to put Mombasa in lockdown

## POINTERS



COUNTY NEWS PAGE 14

**Githurai locals in forefront of fighting pandemic**


SPORT PAGE 28

**IOC deletes Abe comment regarding Olympics cost**

## WEATHER TODAY

Nairobi	24°	Nyeri	22°
Mombasa	31°	Kitui	28°
Kisumu	28°	Wajir	34°

# Will Ruto's land troubles be his Waterloo in 2022 polls?

Seizure of 1,600 acres in Ruai associated with DP has been dismissed by his supporters as politically-motivated move

by **Emeka-Mayaka Gekara**  
And **Eric Wainana**  
@PeopleDailyKe

Deputy President William Ruto's appetite for land, some parcels of which have been repossessed while others are subject of court cases, could become his Achilles heel in 2022 presidential election.

This even as his supporters yesterday described the Wednesday seizure of 1,600 acres of land associated with him in Nairobi's Ruai area as politically-motivated.

Political observers who spoke to People Daily indicated that the takeover of the Ruai land could herald a determination by the State to seize more of his controversial properties, including Weston Hotel which sits on government land.

But Soy MP Caleb Kositany yesterday described the repossession as illegal.

"The owners of the land in Ruai had titles which are government documents," said the MP, a strong Ruto ally.

Ruto has lately been fighting to regain control of the governing Jubilee Party which he co-founded with President Uhuru Kenyatta. He was jolted into action after officials close to Uhuru made leadership changes at the secretariat without involving him.

Political scientist Obuya Bagaka says the repossession of the Ruai land could just be one of the many plots to silence Ruto.

## Weston Hotel

"The Ruai land seizure was Episode One. If he fights back, there will be Episode Two where the matter will be taken to court where he will be forced to defend himself which I doubt he will be keen on. I will not be shocked if the next stop will be Weston Hotel," he said.

On Wednesday, the government said it had repossessed the 1,600-acre which is meant for the expansion of the city's sewerage plant.

"The government has today embarked on



an operation to repossess over 3,000 acres of the Dandora Estate Waste Sewerage Treatment plant located in Ruai which have been grabbed by private entities," the government said in a statement.

A close associate of the DP, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the DP had tasked him to protest the move in court.

"Who doesn't know that Ruto is a clever businessman? Mheshimiwa's former allies have turned against him dragging along his businesses to paint him as corrupt in order to prevent him from inheriting State House in 2022," said the businessman.

But Ruto is not new to controversy on matters land. Already, the State has re-opened investigations into circumstances under which a company associated with him acquired a 1,000-acre farm owned by late former Vice-President Joseph Murumbi in Narok county.

This follows another decision by the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) to re-open investigations into the sale of Ngong Forest land worth Sh272 million involving Ruto in 2001. The case saw Ruto and other high-ranking officials in the Daniel arap Moi regime charged in court and

**Police officers keep vigil when the government on Wednesday seized land allegedly grabbed by a private developer in Ruai, Nairobi.** PD/ PHILIP KAMAKYA

later set free when the case collapsed.

Ruto and his co-accused, Joshua Kulei and Sammy Mwaita, were acquitted in 2011 with the court blaming the prosecution for failing to prove that Ruto had indeed been paid by Kenya Pipeline Company for the land.

"The prosecution failed to produce in court the then Finance manager Hellen Njue to give her evidence on how she paid out the money," said the court.

Ruto had in July 2009 appointed Njue, a key witness in the case, to the board of trustees of the Coffee Development Fund when he was the Agriculture minister.

Controversy over the Weston Hotel on Nairobi's Lang'ata Road has been going on for some time.

In January last year, the National Land Commission established that the hotel is built on land owned by the Kenya Aviation Authority and recommended that Ruto be compelled to pay "to the people of Kenya" for the 0.773ha plot opposite Wilson Airport at the current market rate. The matter is subject of a court case.

In his defence, Ruto argues that he bought the property from an individual who had acquired it illegally, and he was, therefore, not to blame.

## LAND CONTROVERSIES

● The land on which Weston Hotel in Lang'ata Nairobi, which is associated, with Deputy President William Ruto has been a subject of controversy for years.

● The DCI has re-opened investigations into the sale of Ngong Forest land worth Sh272 million involving Ruto.

In the Narok case, North Mugor Holdings acquired about 1,000 acres from the slightly more than 2,000 acres of the land from the Agricultural Finance Corporation in 2015.

The land was seized from the Murumbi family after it failed to service a Sh8.6 million loan borrowed on September 16, 1985.

## Election violence

Although Ruto is not enlisted as a director of North Mugor, a civil society group last year linked him to the purchase.

Trusted Society of Human Rights last year wrote to the DCI George Kinoti demanding a probe into how the land changed hands.

The group accused AFC of colluding with the company to acquire the land which was also claimed by rival factions at a throwaway price.

The lobby accuses AFC of offering to sell the subject property to North Mugor Holdings at Sh63,440,000 which translates to Sh65,000 per acre.

Moreover, DP was in August 2013 ordered to surrender land which he was accused of grabbing from Adrian Muteshi, who had sued him for grabbing during the 2007/08 post-election violence.

Justice Rose Ugo ordered Ruto to vacate the land and further pay Muteshi Sh5 million.

According to Bagaka, the image of a Deputy President constantly fighting corruption allegations could provide ammunition for his opponents in the 2022 presidential contest.

"These allegations can be used by the Kileweke team to injure the DP more by saying 'You see, the person is associated with megascandals, can we really entrust him with the party?'" he posed.

But Bahati MP Kimani Ngunjiri has defended Ruto accusing the State of harassing him by resurrecting old matters with the intention of frustrating his presidential ambitions.

"The State machinery has been turned against him by officials who are not elected as the President keeps quiet. The plan will not succeed," he said.

Dagoretti North MP Simba Arati, however, reckons that the DP's obsession with property and attendant cases might return to haunt him.

# South C, Akiba residents protest grabbing of nursery school land

by **PD Reporter**  
@PeopleDailyKe

Residents of Nairobi's Akiba and South C estates are up in arms over alleged grabbing of two pieces of land earmarked for a playground and a nursery school.

The residents have appealed to Lands Cabinet Secretary Farida

Karoney and Nairobi governor Mike Sonko to intervene and save the plots from a private developer.

The developer has already started construction works on the two plots, L.R No. 209/8524/129, that was designated for a public nursery school, and L.R No. 209/8524/130 that had been earmarked for a public playground.

BHARAJ

**The grabbing scheme could involve high ranking government officials**

According to Ranjana Bharaj, the chairman of South C Residents Association, the residents have agreed to contribute money to engage the services of a lawyer to take legal action against the developer.

"Having tried all avenues to protect the playground, to no avail, we are left with only one option, which is to file a case in court," Bharaj said.

The residents have been joined by the Greenbelt Movement in their efforts to protect the pieces of land.

"Files containing details of the two parcels of land cannot be traced at the Ministry of Lands Registry, leaving most of us wondering whether the grabbing scheme involves high ranking government officials," said Bharaj.





# Are these the world's most merciless, meanest landlords?

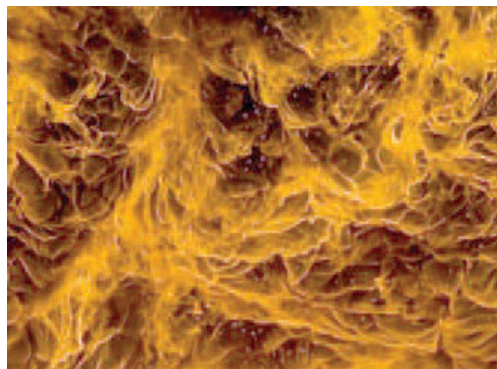
World over, there are countless, horrendous tales of landlords subjecting tenants to untold suffering for defaulting on rent; mean house owners who will not repair leaking roofs, who spy on tenants, demolish houses while tenants are inside without prior warning—and even kill and maim. Sample a few diabolical ones...

## Man called Notice set building ablaze with tenants inside

The love for money can make some people go to extreme extents. In 1993, Esmay Notice of Hartford, Connecticut, was most displeased that her tenants, Duane Wilson and Lori Mercer, withheld their rent to force her to make repairs on the house. Notice went to the couple, threatened them, and told them to move out.

Notice was impatient for the couple to leave, and she decided to get rid of the ten-

ants by eliminating the building. She wanted the house "burned to the ground" so that she could collect on a \$200,000 (Sh 21 Million) insurance policy. Notice tried to hire an acquaintance, Donnie Burton, to start the fire, but Burton refused when he realised the house was occupied. Notice told her husband, Lloyd Satchwell, that Burton had refused to help them, and Satchwell decided to start the fire himself.



## Kawangware man kills tenant over Sh2,500 rent arrears

Who would have expected a landlord to take law onto his own hands and take someone's life over Sh 2,500? In February this year, a landlord in Kawangware killed his tenant over Sh2,500 rent arrears. Ngangá Gitau, is said to have stabbed to death 26-year-old Warren Jirongo after he failed to pay rent for January. Residents who described Jirongo as honest and hardworking man stormed the landlord's compound and set his *mabati* houses on fire. The angry residents later took to the streets with weapons demanding justice for the Jirongo. According to his neighbours, Jirongo, an orphan, struggled to make ends meet as he worked as a garbage collector in Kariobangi.

## This one installed hidden cameras in bedroom to spy on couple

Wondering why on earth a mentally stable landlord should care about what happens inside his tenant's bedrooms to the extent of installing secret cameras for distant surveillance?

An Australian called Masaaki Imaeda placed hidden cameras around one his house before he rented the home to a couple. The wife was browsing the Internet when she found a Japanese website which warned that Imaeda often installed hidden cameras in the bedroom.

When her husband came home, she asked him to check their room and to their utter surprise, found a camera in the light fitting. The couple called the police, who discovered several more cameras.



Imaeda pleaded guilty to recording without consent in 2016, and he was sentenced to 17 months in jail.



## Irate house owner removes tenants' doors over late rent

This tenant from Witeithie, Juja, has taken rent collection ruthlessness to a new level! We are used to a second padlock on the doors of tenants who defaults paying rent but removing door is unheard of! But not to Francis Kamau who recently was in the news after annoyed tenants went to social media with images of their rented houses minus doors after the landlord carted them away. The landlord with a heart of concrete also disconnected water and power supply at Limpopo apartments that he rents for Sh 3000 a single room, a month. Ambrose Ondero, said

he was taken aback by the landlord's actions, "I came on Monday evening only to find my single-roomed house broken into. I called the landlord, but he has never picked my phone since. The deadline for payment of rent is date 10th and we are not yet there. This is outright inhumanity." The tenants have stopped leaving their houses for fear of thieves and most are using improvised shukas and curtains at in place of doors. Listen to the landlord: "I broke into their houses so that they can leave my premises completely."

## Apartment owner who poured ammonia on tenants

But horrible tales of landlords from hell are not just in Kenya. Let's cross oceans to America. In 2005, a couple called Kip and Nicole Macy bought an apartment building in San Francisco. Their plan was to kick out the tenants, renovate the building, and sell the apartment units for a profit. After they bought the building, the couple realised they could not legally evict the residents.

The Macys decided to force the tenants out by any means necessary, and they spent the next 17 months terrorising them.

The Macys threatened their tenants, stole from them, poured ammonia on their belongings, changed locks, boarded up windows, cut telephone lines, and shut off gas and power. The renters refused to leave, and they hired lawyers. Nicole Macy impersonated tenant Scott Morrow, firing his lawyer by e-mail. Then, still impersonating Morrow by e-mail, she threatened to kidnap and dismember the children of one of her own attorneys: "One day you are going to come home [...] and find [your three children] missing. Then each day a package will arrive with a piece of them. You are f—ing with the wrong person."

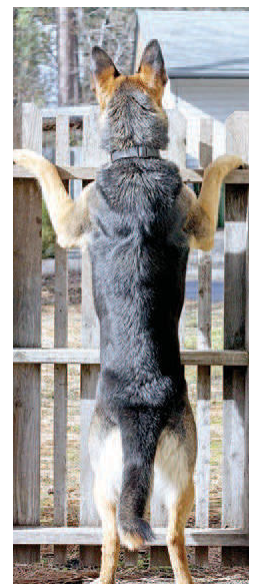
Morrow refused to leave.

## Jilted landlord unleashes hunting dogs on woman

Sometimes, landlords want more from their tenants than rent. This nasty incidence in Pakistan is just one of those occasions.

A woman was seriously injured and slipped into coma after her landlord unleashed his hunting dogs on her. Not for rent defaulting or arrears...but for rejecting his marriage proposal!

Pir Buksh unleashed a pack of his dogs on Aliya Bibi. The ferocious attack by the dogs left the woman with severe wounds on her neck and chest. He was irked that his proposal was rejected by the woman's father as well...





# State accused of endangering lives wide forced quarantines

Individuals confined in the centres have complained of deplorable conditions as a result of mismanagement

by Barry Sila, Alvin Mwangi and Monica Kagia  
@PeopleDailyKe

The government was yesterday fighting back accusations of endangering Kenyans' lives by locking up people arrested for contravening coronavirus rules in quarantine centres and exposing them to the disease.

Persons who have been confined in the centres complained of deplorable living conditions as a result of mismanagement, raising fears that the centres could become the weakest link in the fight against Covid-19.

Other than wanting conditions, which are exposing those arrested for flouting curfew and social gathering protocols to possible infection, victims are protesting high quarantine costs even as it emerged that police had turned the centres into detention camps for people who fail to bribe them after arrest.

From poor, shared washrooms and congested beds, mostly at the Kenya Medical Training Colleges (KMTTC) across the country, the conditions defeat the purpose of isolation and social distancing.

The fear that quarantine centres could lead to further spread of the disease has attracted the attention of the Ministry of Health which yesterday announced it was rethinking the quarantine strategy.

"The assumption is that those who break the curfew are treated as special cases for us but we are not at all intent on criminalising cases. We have tried to improve our facilities of quarantine in terms of hygiene and so there will be changes," acting Director General Patrick Amoth said yesterday.

Hundreds of people found drinking in closed bars, moving around past curfew hours as well as those found without masks have been arrested, with the latest case being that of 30 tipsy youths found taking selfies in Nakuru county. They

were quarantined at the local KMTTC facility. Another case involves 39 women who were on Sunday arrested in Nasra area of Komarock estate, Nairobi, while attending a friend's wedding ceremony. They have been isolated for 14 days at their own cost at KMTTC, Nairobi.

But of great concern is the police cruelty which has turned what was mainly a public health campaign into a criminal clamp-down and avenue for extortion.

Yesterday, Health Chief Administrative Secretary Dr. Mercy Mwangangi urged police to be reasonable while enforcing the health protocols to ensure they do not put Kenyans' lives at risk.

"I want to appeal to our security personnel and those charged with law enforcement responsibility, as well as our healthcare workers to exercise great caution and high level of understanding, when dealing with those in quarantine facilities. We must work very hard to ensure that we do not lose any lives as a result of this pandemic," said Mwangangi.

Alleged police brutality and the manner in which arrested people are being handled in the quarantine centres has already attracted a law suit.

Muslims for Human Rights (Muhuri) has sued Health Cabinet secretary Mutahi Kagwe, Inspector General of Police Hilary Mutumbai and the Attorney General, seeking orders to stop forced quarantine and use of force by law enforcement agents.

## Arbitrary arrests

The NGO wants the court to stop security and law enforcement agencies from carrying out arbitrary arrests or arbitrary and unjustified mandatory quarantine of persons not suspected of being suffering from or being carriers of Covid-19.

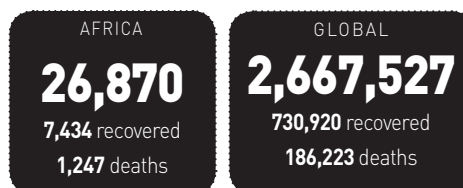
The case of gospel singer Eko Dydda who was arrested while looking for medicine for his sick wife, illustrates the agony and the grave danger those arrested and thrown into the unsanitised and crowded facilities are being exposed to.

"It was around my neighbourhood in Utawala but unfortunately I had an issue with my car and by that time around 10 minutes to close of curfew, I was carted away by police. I was taken to Kilimani police station," said the musician.

The following day, after a tiff with the police over Sh10,000 bond, which he had paid, he was put forced into quarantine at KMTTC next to Kenyatta National Hospital where he interacted with other people who had been rounded up from Nairobi estates, placing him in danger of contracting the flu.

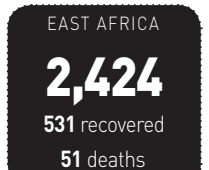
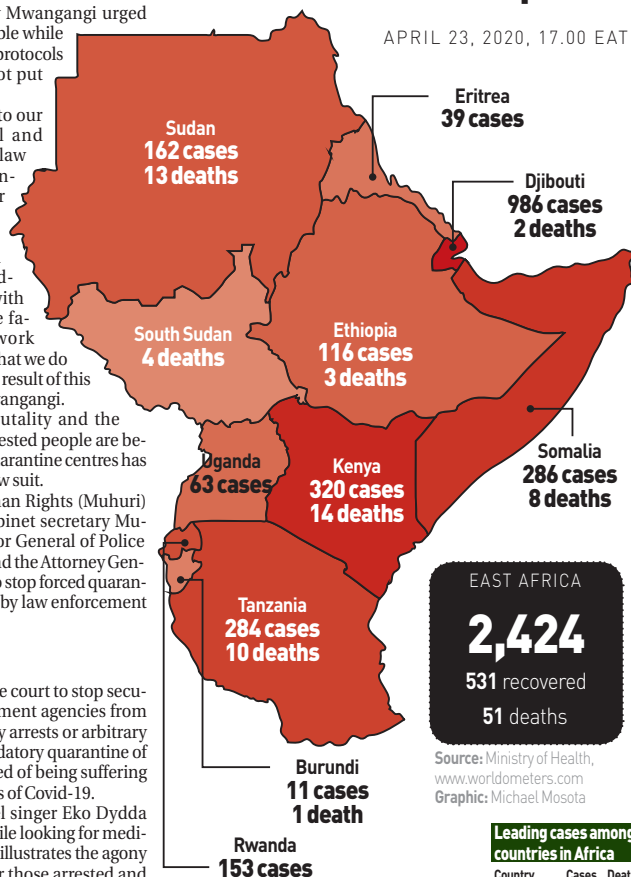
He was, however, freed from the quarantine facility, where a group scaled up the perimeter wall and escaped to run away from the high cost and poor conditions, despite paying with Sh2,000 daily.

Kenya National Union of Nurses official Seth Panyako said yesterday that the manner in which the quarantine directive is implemented poses a threat and could aid in spreading the disease.



## East Africa Covid-19 updates

APRIL 23, 2020, 17.00 EAT



Source: Ministry of Health,  
www.worldometers.com  
Graphic: Michael Mosola

## Leading cases among countries in Africa

Country	Cases	Deaths
Egypt	3,659	276
South Africa	3,635	65
Morocco	3,537	149
Algeria	2,910	402
Cameroon	1,143	43
Ghana	1,154	9
Djibouti	986	2
Côte d'Ivoire	952	14
Tunisia	909	38
Nigeria	873	28

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Health Chief Administrative Secretary Dr. Mercy Mwangangi. PD/KENNA CLAUDE

## MoH to issue guidelines on cessation order at Sunday brief

by Irene Githinji  
@igitshee

The government yesterday said it will on Sunday make a decision as to whether to impose more restrictions on the counties affected by the Covid-19 pandemic following the increased number of confirmed cases in the country.

Health Chief Administrative Secretary Dr. Mercy Mwangangi said the National Emergency Response Committee (NERC) will meet on Sunday to determine whether to relax or tighten cessation of movement orders issued to some of the counties earlier in the month.

Nairobi Metropolis 21-day cessation order took effect on April 6 and is expected to end on Sunday.

"We have a team that is reviewing the impact of measures that have been in place. We are looking at the impact of the current hand washing measures, social distancing, having 60 per cent occupancy in the transport industry, having take away services on our hotels," said Mwangangi during the daily coronavirus briefing.

Five counties are currently under cessation, with Mombasa, Kwale and Kilifi, whose 21-day order took effect on April 8.

## Disease spread

Mwangangi said the ministry has developed a matrix of all the measures put in place to stop the spread of the disease and will be evaluated on Sunday during the NERC meeting and decisions will then be made as to whether the containment measures need to be tightened or loosened and will be communicated by the end of the week.

In the last 24 hours, 17 new positive cases were confirmed for the coronavirus out of the 668 samples tested, bringing the total to 320. All 17 are Kenyans, 12 of whom are from Mombasa and five from Nairobi.

However, an additional six patients have recovered and discharged, bringing the total recoveries to 89. "Other than two cases who are in the Intensive Care Unit, the rest are mild cases and will hopefully be discharged in proper order of time," said Dr. Mwangangi.

As far as costs and billing for those in quarantine, the CAS said the ministry is preparing a database and negotiating on the rates with the players both in the public and private hospitals to have a defined mechanism.

"We are in negotiations and engagements with different players to be able to define a mechanism that would be adequate in ensuring that Kenyans who may not be able to meet these bill would have those taken care of," she said.

Mwangangi also appealed to security personnel and healthcare workers to exercise caution and high level of understanding while dealing with those in quarantine facilities.



Acting Director General of health Patrick Amoth. PD/KENNA CLAUDE



# Governor Joho: A total lockdown will save our city

Call follows emerging infections' trend, making Mombasa a hotspot for coronavirus transmissions

by **Murimi Mutiga and Reuben Mwamungu**  
@PeopleDailyKe

As Mombasa continues to record an exponential growth in Covid-19 infections, Governor Hassan Joho yesterday asked President Uhuru Kenyatta to put the country on a complete lockdown.

Joho's call comes against the backdrop of the Port of Mombasa being marked as the "ground zero" for the explosion of coronavirus with 22 of the 79 confirmed infections in the county, being the authority's staff.

Speaking yesterday when he launched a 300-bed capacity Covid-19 hospital and four ICU ambulances at the Technical University of Mombasa's Engineering department, he decried a worrying rate of infections in the county, saying the only way to stop the trend is through total lockdown.

"The results we are getting from mass

testing at KPA are worrying. This is not a joke. This is almost 10 per cent. These people live among us. They interact with us and as a result the virus is spreading," he said.

"It is time we discussed total lockdown. There are no two ways about it. And I have heard so many stories challenging the idea with most people citing economic challenges as reasons why we should not have a lockdown in Mombasa. But honestly, Kenyan population is very vibrant, we can recover economically but we may not recover healthwise. So, we need to be alive for us to recover economically."

## Unprecedented spike

He spoke as Health Chief Administrative Secretary Mercy Mwangangi said yesterday during the daily Covid-19 briefing that 12 people had tested positive for the virus in Mombasa out of the 17 cases reported countrywide. "Fifteen of the new cases were picked by our surveillance teams while two are from quarantine facilities."

This means Mombasa now has 79 cases while Nairobi has 212.

Joho expressed fears of unprecedented spike in the cases in the next few weeks even as the County Emergency Response



## HOTSPOT...

● Mombasa has 79 cases out of the country's 320. Nairobi has 212.

● Yesterday, 12 people tested positive for the virus in Mombasa out of the 17 cases reported countrywide

● Of the 79 infections reported in Mombasa, 22 are Kenya Ports Authority staff.

● For a week now KPA is undertaking mass testing.

**Mombasa Governor Hassan Joho with county medical team inspect an isolation centre, yesterday. PD/NDEGWA GATHUNGU**

on Covid-19 Committee ordered immediate closure of a supermarket after one of its staff tested positive for coronavirus.

This comes at a time when President Uhuru Kenyatta has directed the National Command Centre on the Coronavirus Pandemic to review the enforcement of public health measures rolled out to stem the growing rate of infection in Mombasa, Kwale and Kilifi with a view to introducing more stringent measures to enhance the enforcement of the same.

In a statement on Wednesday, Interior CS Fred Matiang'i said results of the review were to be announced within 48 hours which will elapse today (Friday).

And from the targeted mass testing, KPA now stands out as the institution with the highest number of the Covid-19 in the country. According to records, 11 of the 22

cases at the port are from the Conventional Cargo department where one of the staff succumbed to the virus.

Out of the those who tested positive at KPA, 13 cases were picked during mass testing which began on Friday last week.

KPA said some 633 employees have received results for the tests while those who were tested yesterday will get theirs today.

A senior official told *People Daily* that out of 72 cases tested on Sunday, five turned positive while on Monday there were five more cases from 204 tests. On Tuesday, 200 tests were undertaken, out of which three tested positive.

## The affected

He said all of those who have tested positive have been admitted at the Mombasa county Covid-19 isolation centre. "None of those who have tested positive had signs of illness. They are asymptomatic. The target is to reach 1,000 staff as per the test kits given by the government."

The National Emergency Response on Covid-19 Committee has identified KPA as one of the risky transmission points for the virus and the ministry of Health has dispatched 1,000 testing kits for the ongoing mass testing.

KPA has about 6,000 staff and other employees from contracted companies who visit the port of Mombasa on daily basis. Vessels carrying hundreds of ships crew also dock at the port daily. Those already infected are KPA employees and contracted workers among them cleaners working at the port headquarters.

This high concentration of people in the facility could be the reason for the spike.

KPA general manager operations Captain William Ruto, however, said so far no crew of any ship calling at the port has tested positive and, therefore, the cases reported at port are local transmissions.


**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

[WWW.WHO.INT](http://WWW.WHO.INT)



## CORONA VIRUS

# Local innovators lauded for novelty in corona war

Since first Covid-19 case was reported, a series of innovations have been witnessed countrywide

by Reuben Mwambu  
@PeopleDailyKe

The government has applauded local innovators who have stepped up efforts with various innovative ideas to combat Covid-19.

Since the first case of coronavirus was reported in the country over days ago, a series of innovations to counter the pandemic have been witnessed locally.

The most outstanding one was that of Students at Kenyatta University, who developed a ventilator prototype for use in local hospitals.

The innovative bug has not escaped the attention of President Uhuru Kenyatta, who last week praised Kenyans for making remarkable progress in the local manufacture of medical technologies in equipment to support of our medical and public support that have risen as a result of the pandemic.

## Wonderful innovations

Yesterday, during Ministry of Health's daily updates Health Chief Administrative Secretary (CAS) Dr. Mercy Mwangangi said the government is glad that Kenyans are taking hygienic measures seriously, a move she said has been complimented by "very wonderful innovations with regard to hand washing facilities."

She cited Step Osha hand-washing machine which was one such innovations by Kenyans she said has been utilised by members of the ministry of health and forms of one the containment measure that various institutions to put in place.

"We are glad that Kenyans are taking basic hygiene measures seriously. Towards this end, we are seeing wonderful innovations with regards to hand washing facilities, for instance, the step-osha that we have here.

"The Step Osha that we have here has actually been utilised by members of the ministry of health and actually forms one of the containment measure that we are



Innovators of the step wash machine Martin Muturi (left) and Kenneth Wambua test the machine at the ministry of health headquarters in Nairobi. PD/KENNA CLAUDE



(From left-right) Mutsimoto Motor Company Head of Engineering William Agutu (left), Software Developer Job Mathenge, KAM Automotive Sector Chair Ashit Shah and Electronic Engineer Steve Kimanathi at the production room to perfect the locally manufactured ventilator before mass production in Nairobi yesterday. PD/GERALD ITHANA

advocating for different institutions to put in place," Dr Mwangangi said.

"Today we are celebrating our local innovators who have put in place all these devices to ensure that our containment measures are useful in flattening the curve."

While encouraging Kenyans to utilise the innovations Dr. Mwangangi also reckoned there is a worrying over reliance on sanitisers.

She note while sanitisers are effective, soap and running water is the best for fighting this disease.

## THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX

● A series of innovations to counter the pandemic have been witnessed local

● Step-osha hand washing machine which was one search innovations by Kenyans she said has been utilised by members of the ministry of health



Amisom spokesman Lt-Col Charles Imbiakha chats with children at Dhobley town. ABOVE: Garell Abdi Ali, with her, Abdi Dekow Aden, receive treatment at the Amisom's Level II Hospital within the KDF camp. PD/ZADOCK ANGIRA

Residents of Gilgil try out an automated hand-washing machine, which has been constructed by Giltec Fabricators. The machine automatically releases water and soap as part of the measures to contain the spread of Covid-19. PD/KIRERA MWITI

"People must therefore, start prioritizing washing of hands and only sanitize in exceptional circumstances. While at this, we want our industries to focus on producing quality sanitizer products, so that we do not end up creating newer problems, while solving the Covid-19 problem," she said.

## Mama Ngina Kenyatta donates food to 12 children homes in Gatundu

Nyokabi Kenyatta (left), Gender CS advisor Jane Wangui (second right), Former Kiambu Women Rep Ann Gathecha (right) with Gatundu South DCC Stanley Kamande make donations worth Sh20m of assorted foodstuff on behalf of Mama Ngina Kenyatta to benefit over 1,500 children in orphanages in Gatundu South and Nairobi. PD/CORRESPONDENT



by Matthew Ndungu  
@PeopleDailyKe

Former First Lady Mama Ngina Kenyatta yesterday made food donations worth Sh20 million to distributed to 12 children homes in Gatundu South, Kiambu County.

Daughter Nyokabi Kenyatta and former Kiambu Women Representative Ann Gathecha graced the occasion on behalf of the former first lady.

Nyokabi said the initiative from the First Lady was to cushion the vulnerable over effects of Covid-19.

Over 1,500 children, elderly and those living with disability will

benefit from the assorted food stuff including 13 tonnes of Soya, seven tonnes of Uji mix, 950 litres of cooking oil, 750 kilos of Green Grams, 2.5 tonnes of rice, 1,500kg of beans and 100 bales of maize flour from Kabansora and Kapu Africa.

Gathecha called on unity and appealed for more donations from other well-wishers.

The former women representative warned that the virus was not a respecter of race, gender, status in the society or wealth of a person and urged Kenyans to work towards being safe from infections.

"Even as we embark to support our people, it is my plea that every

Kenyan follows the government directives to the latter. We cannot afford to lose lives due to our ignorance," said Gathecha.

Gatundu South DCC Stanley Kamande received the food rations for logistical purposes and distribution to the beneficiaries.

Kamande thanked the well-wishers for coming to the aid of neglected and sometimes abandoned children who live by the mercies of philanthropists.

"We are urging all well-wishers to donate their food items through the provincial administration to avoid overcrowding that could precipitate possible infections," he said.



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## CORONA CRISIS

## BUSIA

## Assembly approves Sh100 million budget

Busia county Assembly has approved an emergency budget of Sh103 million for the Ministry of Health and Sanitation to curb the spread of coronavirus pandemic. The Assembly unanimously adopted the report of the Budget and Appropriations Committee on the second Supplementary Budget estimates of revenue and expenditure for 2019/2020 Financial Year. Speaker Bernard Wamalwa (pictured) cleared only 17 members to debate on the document on behalf of 36 other colleagues according to the health directive of people adhering to the one-metre distancing. The committee chairman Linus Asiba who moved the motion said there was need for the county government to take extra measures to combat Covid-19 which has become a global disaster.

-Henry Andanje



## TRANS NZOIA

## ACK bishop calls for psychosocial support

The Anglican Church Diocese of Trans Nzoia has launched a counselling exercise to curb the effects of mental illness that might be brought about by anxiety related to coronavirus pandemic. Diocesan Bishop Dr. Emmanuel Chemengich says the government needs to set aside funds from the pandemic kitty to offer psychosocial support to Kenyans who are facing challenges. "As a Church, we have realised that the fear factor has affected many owing to the trend of infections and the economic slowdown," he said. Speaking in his office in Kitale, Chemengich expressed concern that cases of mental illness might increase in the post-coronavirus era if proper counselling mechanisms are not put in place owing to loss of lives and jobs.

-David Musundi

## NYANDARUA

## Police among eight in forced quarantine

The number of people placed under forced quarantine in Nyandarua has risen to 17 after eight more, among them two police officers, were arrested for violating curfew and ban on drinking in bars. County Commissioner Boaz Cherutich yesterday said the eight were found drinking at a bar in Mailli Kumi trading centre in Ndaragwa. The two officers are based at Mailli Kumi patrol base. They were found locked in a bar where they were drinking, according to the County Commissioner. The eight now join nine others arrested earlier in Mirangine sub county last week. The 17 are quarantined at the Nyandarua Boys High school in Nyandarua Central sub county.

-David Macharia

## Nakuru governor launches Sh100m outpatient complex

Kinyanjui breaks ground for construction of the facility in Molo set to be in operation in six months

Provision of health care services in Nakuru county has received a major boost after Governor Lee Kinyanjui launched construction of the fifth Sh100 million state-of-the-art outpatient unit at the Molo Level 4 Sub-County Hospital.

The stand-alone complex will have a pharmacy, X-ray machines and modern laboratories and is expected to be in operation within six months. The facility will house an imaging centre and surgical theatres among other essential services.

Speaking during the groundbreaking ceremony, Kinyanjui said the outpatient complex will also offer the highest standard of medical training and specialised healthcare services.

The hospital also caters for accident patients received from the notorious Sobea-Salgaa-Sachangwan-Mau Summit-Makutano black spot along the Nakuru-Eldoret highway.

Initially, congestion affected service delivery, forcing most patients, especially accident victims, to be referred to the Nakuru Level Five Hospital.

"The facility will have trauma/accident and emergency, obstetrics, gynecology, ophthalmology, pharmacy, radiology and radiotherapy and minor surgery theatres among other departments.

## Medical services

"For the last three years, my administration has laid emphasis on provision of quality and affordable medical services to all residents. The facility will supplement the 90 per cent complete Sh600 million outpatient facility at the Nakuru Level 5 Hospital and the Sh40 million centre of excellence for mental health care under construction at the Gilgil Sub-County Hospital. The latter will be operational in less than six months," said Kinyanjui.

Molo Level 4 Sub-County Hospital which serves patients from Molo, Kuresoi, Njoro and parts of Rongai constituency, has previously been on the spot for poor services and congestion among other challenges, a situation the governor says is set to become a thing of the past.

Kinyanjui said investment in modern outpatient units across the region was part of his administration's efforts to revamp the county's health sector and improve



An artist's impression of the outpatient complex at Molo Level 4 Sub-County Hospital whose construction Nakuru governor launched yesterday. COURTESY

## KINYANJUI

My administration has laid emphasis on provision of quality and affordable medical services to all residents

efficiency in emergency response.

The County administration, he said was keen on decongesting the Nakuru Level 5 Teaching and Referral Hospital by modernising all Sub-county hospitals.

The Level 5 hospital serves more than eight counties in the South Rift region including Bomet, Kericho, Samburu, Baringo, Nyandarua, and Laikipia where 2,000 patients are treated daily, 750 of them being in-patients.

Kinyanjui noted malaria, diseases of the respiratory system, skin diseases, diarrhoea, and intestinal parasites were major challenges at outpatient facilities around the county. The new facility he noted would provide easily accessible health services for Kenyans in the county and beyond.

## Increase allocation

Huge investment in outpatient health facilities is still needed to improve health services across the county. We are looking at avenues towards increasing budgetary allocation and looking for donor support.

There is need to realise that frequent health problems including injuries, urinary tract infections, eye infections, rheumatism, and other infections are handled by outpatient facilities. Combined, these 10 leading conditions account for nearly four-fifths of the total outpatient cases reported," said the governor.

According to the county Health department, the outpatient wing will also offer diagnostic tests, dental health care and dermatology among other critical services.

"We are experiencing an increased influx of referrals from other hospitals and health centres within the larger Rift Valley. Our strategy is not only to cope with the numbers but mainly to offer quality and affordable disease diagnostic, management and treatment services.

The laboratories, pharmacy and X-ray facilities within the standalone facility will be purely for the out-patients and it will ensure faster and more efficient process of laboratory tests, X-ray services and dispensing of drugs. Initially, both the in-patients and the out-patients have been competing for the same facilities," said Health Executive Dr Zachary Gichuki Kariuki.

Last week, construction works kicked off at the modern Sh330 million outpatient complex at the Naivasha Sub-County Referral Hospital expected to be operational within the next 18 months.

Dr Gichuki said the project is a joint-partnership by the County and National governments and Kenya Electricity Generating Company (KenGen).

The county runs 184 health facilities including dispensaries, health centres, level four hospitals and the Nakuru Level Five Hospital.

-KNA



Capwell Industries Limited head of food quality John Bosco packs food donations at the company on Thursday. PD/ MATHEW NDUNG'U

## Private firms donate to Corona fund

by Mathew Ndung'u and Eric Juma  
@PeopleDailyKe

A food and beverage processing company has donated maize meal worth Sh20 million to the Covid-19 Emergency Response Fund to support the vulnerable.

Capwell Industries Limited, based in Thika targets to feed over 85,000 Kenyans across the country, whose incomes and livelihoods have been disrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic, with the donation packaged in its popular

Soko Maize meal flour.

Each family will be receiving two packets of 2kg of Soko maize meal.

"Times such as these call for individuals, communities, public and private sector to rally and support each other. As a responsible corporate citizen and an indigenous Kenyan company, we have always been at the forefront and unwavering in standing with Kenyans for better or for worse, and this is one such moment," the company chief executive Rajan Shah said during the release. Meanwhile in Siaya, stakehold-

ers yesterday made donations to the county government as part of their efforts to help deal with coronavirus.

Private entities PATH, Smart Start and Lake Agro Limited of West Kenya Sugar Company donated hand-sanitisers, surgical masks, hand washing units, porridge flour for children and other protective gears.

The donated items worth Sh1.172 million were received by Emergency Response Committee co-chair Governor Cornel Rasanga who lauded the firms for the support.



# Physically disabled apprehensive over government attention on Covid-19

by George Kebaso  
@PeopleDailyKe

Over 2,000 persons with disability could be suffering silently as all the attention by government and partners is focused on coronavirus, and the number is growing on daily, Association for the Physically Disabled of Kenya (APDK) has said.

This, according to APDK, could be a double impact on a population that is already fragile, so vulnerable and requiring close attention.

Between January and last month, only 2,912 have sought services at the APDK facilities, about 2,227 short of the number of persons with disability (PWDs) who APDK attended

to in the same period last year.

Acting Chief Executive Officer, APDK, Benson Kiptum yesterday expressed concern that the number of clients who sought services at the organisation's facilities before the advent of the disease had declined considerably.

"When Covid-19 was not there, we used to receive a high number of clients per day. In Nairobi alone, we used to attend to between 30-50 clients daily, majority coming for assessment; fitting, while others came for repairs of the assistive devices and follow-up, but this number has gone down to around 10-15 clients per day," he said attributing the situation to multiple challenges facing the

community of PWDs.

He said challenges in the transport sector due to the advent of Covid-19 had paralysed movement of PWDs; their caregivers including organisations such as APDK that conducted outreach programmes.

This, Kiptum said, had resulted in a growing group of silent PWDs across the country who require support for essential services such as therapy; assistive devices and psychosocial services.

"In January to March 2019, we attended to 5,139 clients being walk-in wall-out clients. This means that we were seeing between 30-40 clients per day.

"This year however, we have only

been able to attend to between 10-15 clients per day, and this is besides the outreach programmes," he told *People Daily* at the non-governmental organisation's offices in Westlands, Nairobi.

The organisation was forced to reopen after a week of closure of services – to attend to concerns and anxiety from the community of PWDs – following the rising momentum of Covid-19 which resulted in anxiety among its employees.

However, after realising that many of their clients were suffering, the organisation had resume services but remotely giving priority to the essential ones.



Association for the Physically Disabled of Kenya (APDK) CEO Benson Kiptum.  
PD/JOHN OCHIENG

## BRIEFLY

### Bomet MCAs pass budget on Corona

Bomet County Assembly has set aside Sh289 million out of the Sh7.3 billion supplementary budget to tackle coronavirus. Out of the funds, the ward representatives set Sh155 million for emergency and response measures while Sh5 million will go towards production of face masks locally at two identified technical institutes of Konoin and Siwot. About Sh16 million from the kitty will be used as stipend for health workers at all the health facilities charged with the responsibility of handling the pandemic while Sh8 million will be diverted towards recruitment of 82 medical personnel. The approval gave way for the executive to access the funds meant for crucial services as health. Budget and appropriation committee chairperson Haron Kirui said the bill was exempt of normal procedures. - Felix Yegon



### Officers accused of harassing traders

Nakuru County Enforcement Officers are on the spot for allegedly harassing market traders in Free Area food market under the guise of enforcing the health guidelines on social distancing and proper hand sanitation. Traders complained that their produce was destroyed on claims that they were violating the ministry of health regulations. According to the traders, they had incurred huge losses as county askaris, with total disregard of the law, took advantage of the situation to even solicit bribes. Rahab Nyambura, a trader at the market, said despite being constant taxpayers to the local administration their rights to engage in business had been violated. Another trader Willy Belami accused the county of neglect saying despite committing monies to the fight Covid-19 none there was no real impact of the same.

- Roy Lumbe

# Stakeholders raise concerns about efficacy of e-learning

Infrastructure challenges, mobile network coverage and teething issues cast aspersions over system

by Irene Githinji, Evelyn Makana and Roy Lumbe  
@PeopleDailyKe

Despite government assurances that digital learning is well on course, concerns are being raised not only over its efficiency but also coverage across the country.

Opinion is divided on whether children are benefitting from virtual learning, given the different geographical conditions for some households.

Given the low levels of access to internet and high levels of illiteracy in mostly rural areas, there are concerns that children from poor backgrounds might not benefit from e-learning.

Kenya National Union of Teachers (KNUT) secretary general Wilson Sossion said it was difficult for digital learning to work and most households can hardly cope with its dynamics of the moment.

Several weeks into e-learning and Sossion said not more than 10 percent have been reached and questioned how the remaining population will be accommodated.

"Look at the lap top project in this country, it failed and means we cannot even talk of moving close to e-learning. Whatever has been aired through various media channels is not effective at all. We must sustain equity in this process," Sossion said.

He said that as the country sought to embrace e-learning, the only way to make it work is to prioritise it as a project of the future by government providing adequate infrastructure.

Sossion termed the current situation as "more wishful thinking".

"The best we can do is to continue supporting Government with the effort they have put in place and it should not fear biting the bullet and even institute tougher measure to fight coronavirus disease so that we can take a shorter time to flatten the curve," he added.

On his part, Knut Bomet executive secretary Molel Lang'at said the belief that learning is going on in different digital platforms was far-fetched as many learners in rural Kenya could not afford the luxury of virtual schooling.

"Many homes are yet to be connected to



From L-R: Mercy Omobe (Asumbi Girls), Esther Kasondi (St Kitie), Aaron Irene (Amb Pamela Mboya Girls) and Sheryl Atieno (Mary Hill High) all in Form Four, study at home at Imara Daima Estate. They have urged Education CS George Magoha to allow candidates to sit their final examinations. PD/DAVID NDOLLO

## E-LEARNING QUESTION

● Opinion is divided on whether or not children are benefitting from virtual learning, given the different geographical conditions for some of the households

● Low levels of access to internet and high levels of illiteracy in mostly rural areas, there are concerns that children from poor backgrounds might not benefit from e-learning

the national electricity network and even if they were; many may not afford to pay the bills amid coronavirus disease restrictions," said Lang'at.

"That digital learning is working does not necessarily reflect the actual situation in most parts of the country. This is not happening at all in some of the places... In rural areas the online learning is unimaginable," said a teacher, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The teacher said the Ministry of Education should work out a strategy to cater for all families in the wake of harsh economic times occasioned by the coronavirus pandemic.

A number of parents say they were facing challenges in accessing digital learning resources provided by government while schools are closed due to coronavirus disease. The few with smartphones say they do not have resources to purchase internet bundles to ensure children can access online resources.

Lucy Mwithia, a parent in Mbeere South, Embu County said yesterday she had not managed to access online content. The mother of three children in Classes 8, 6 and Grade 2 said she is especially worried about what will happen to the candidate.

"I used to sell fruits and clothes in Nairobi. But now with the current circumstances, I have been forced to close the business

and stay home," she says.

Lucy has resorted to borrowing past examination papers from schools to help them with revision. "The few attempts I have made to tune into KBC radio to help my children listen to online lessons have failed because my radio is not picking the frequency," she adds.

On Sunday, Education CS Prof George Magoha said the Government was seeking to address e-learning challenges for children who could not easily access digital learning. He said parents with smartphones should allow their children access information from the various education channels, to keep them learning.

The Kenya Primary School Heads Association (KEPSHA) Nicholas Gathemia, however, said though some children were disadvantaged, digital learning was well on course in some places. "KICD may not be able to give the entire content in digital learning at the moment but at it has ensured that the most essential ones have been disseminated," said Gathemia.

Indeed, at Eagle Apex Hill School in Subukia, Nakuru County it is learning as usual as the institution has turned to the Internet for pupils to attend classes. After completing the assignment, the learner sends in the work in picture form for the teachers to mark before the results can be sent to the parent for monitoring and supervision.



# EDITORIAL

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**KEN NGARUIYA:**  
Acting Chief Executive Officer

**ERIC OBINO:**  
Group Editor-in-Chief, Print

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## QUOTED TODAY



**SARAH SEREM**

None that we know of slept in the streets and none that we know of was evacuated from their houses. The Embassy intervened in some cases where landlords had threatened Kenyans.



**EMMANUEL CHEMENGICH**

The fact that people are adapting to a new way of life has affected them psychologically. An example is the hurried way of burying the dead which is not the norm in Africa.



**TEDROS GHEBREYESUS**

Make no mistake: we have a long way to go. This virus will be with us for a long time. Most countries are in the early stages of their epidemics. And some that were affected early are starting to see a resurgence in cases.

## Journalists role in war on Covid-19 laudable

Chinua Achebe in his novel, *Things Fall Apart*, tells the story of a town crier, who ventures out into the dark, cold and silent night to announce an emergency meeting in the market place to discuss the killing of an Umoofian woman in a neighbouring village.

Once the meeting is convened, nobody even remembers about him. His job is done and he matters no more; dead or alive.

Today, that town crier is the journalist; the informer, educator, entertainer, watchdog and sounding boards for public conscience. As harbingers of good and bad news, journalists put their lives and reputation on the line. But it is the most thankless job around.

In a world ravaged by Covid-19, the media are at the heart of the battle against the disease. The Kenyan media have done their bit.

They have stayed in the frontline to not only inform the public, but partnered with the government in spreading awareness and safety information, not just as a job but also as a patriotic duty.

Journalists have gone out of their way to follow stories in the riskiest of environments without fretting about their personal safety.

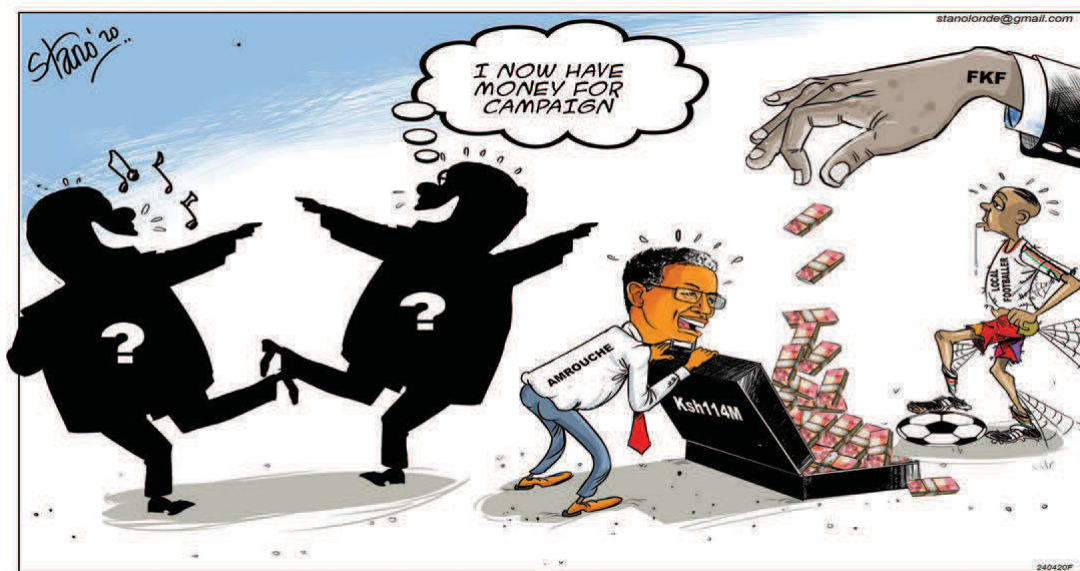
And like many other heroes — doctors, nurses, caregivers, security officers and those in the National Emergency Response Committee on Coronavirus — journalists have forsaken the comfort of their homes and families for the frontline.

Media companies are going through tough times, struggling like all businesses; but the difference is that individual journalists are personally exposed and stressed financially, emotionally and psychologically. In their state, they have nowhere and nobody to turn to; not the employer, government and public — even family.

This is not plea for empathy because, as the Fourth estate, our life is in the trenches where we tough it out, endure all manner of adversities and remain standing whatever the circumstances.

But even as we are supposed *kufu kijeshi* (die like soldiers), we too are human and have been hit by impact of the virus. We have not been spared the harsh economic realities of the pandemic, including pay cuts and job losses.

Hopefully, at the end of this coronavirus nightmare, there will be a heart out there not writing an elegy for the dead walking messengers, but think of their difficult existence.



## How media feeds our obsession with politics

We are a strange, incurably political people. It is aided by our media. The world is engaged in the Covid 19 battle. Across the globe, governments are daily briefing their citizens on their progress.

In the United States of America, the briefing battle has pitted the governor of New York against president Donald Trump. Trump hates to be upstaged and particularly in the media and so was not going to take it from the governor.

He has been giving marathon press briefings lasting over two hours each aimed to appeal to his base. But Trump can be forgiven because their elections are in November.

In the UK where Covid 19 temporarily took out the prime minister Boris Johnson, his stand-in Dominic Raab has been doing the duty, updating the British people on the progress made in the war against the virus.

But back home, while the virus matches on without let yet, one can almost cut through the impatience of our politicians to return to politics as normal. The itch to get back on the trail where the music stopped is irresistible.

Over the last week, a national newspaper has led with stories on Jubilee Party politics. It seems the party warriors could not wait to go at each other.

That opportunity came in the form of some changes in the party management structure. Political parties can make their changes as



**LEVI OBONYO**

Coronavirus gives us an opportunity in the Kenyan media to change course.

they deem fit without the matter consuming the entire society. But not in Kenya.

One section of the party went up in arms. Strong words were bandied around, and protests launched. One would have thought that a coup at the national level was in effect. While the world's attention is on the coronavirus, ours is trained on some nondescript officials being replaced.

The rains have caused havoc in some parts of the country. But the urgency with which the changing of the officials has been met makes the floods that have now killed more than a dozen people look like a child's play.

If it was not for coronavirus and the ban on public gatherings, we probably might have been witnessing rallies throughout the country to condemn the furtive hand that has sneaked into Jubilee to spoil the party.

Kenya's obsession with politics is not just a function of the politicians but actually of the media. It takes the media to amplify an event,

to make the event count for something in the public estimation. If the media were to ignore the event then it would almost be relegated to a footnote. It would not be a subject of discussion.

Why does the media focus so much on politics? Let me hazard guess. First is because political stories are easy to write. It is simply a question of one character accusing the other and vice versa.

Second is the corruption in the media. Covering politicians comes with its own exposure and opportunities for rent seeking. Third reason could be laziness. A phone call would easily generate a story. But further consideration could be related to the emotive nature of Kenyan politics, although this may have been driven by media in the first place.

There is a perception in Kenya that politics sells. But that needs to be empirically tested particularly at a time such as this. When all that the media provide is politics, the public is left with no choice and the self-fulfilling prophecy holds.

Coronavirus gives us an opportunity in the Kenyan media to change course. It is not that we should ignore politics altogether but to acknowledge that there is more to life than politics.

— The writer is the dean, School of Communication, Daystar University

### THOUGHT OF THE DAY

OSCAR WILDE

By giving us the opinions of the uneducated, journalism keeps us in touch with the ignorance of the community.



# Fear of Covid-19 unknown taking a toll on citizens

The public plays an important role in the failure or success of any national initiative. Its cooperation can bolster well laid plans in the same measure that its skepticism frustrates its leaders. This is becoming increasingly clear as the country grapples with the complexities of the coronavirus pandemic.

In particular, the fear and stigmatisation that once characterised the disease is slowly being replaced by skepticism and restlessness. Some local newspapers that hitherto heaped praise on government initiatives are slowly changing their narratives perhaps to reflect the mood of their consumers.

A recent study by research firm Infotrak gives a glimpse into this development. The findings revealed that while citizens are now more aware of the virus, they have also become cognisant of its dangers and ensuing socio-economic challenges. That a friend or family member can be asymptomatic not only increases anxiety levels, but also presents the reality that the virus has likely affected many of us and is also likely to stay with us much longer.

The 75 per cent of the respondents that were worried about Covid-19 also speak of how much their liveli-



SANDRA OCHOLA

**Patience, solidarity and communication will see us through these tough moments**

hoods continue to be affected. Their personal finances are diminishing even as the government tries its best to keep the economy afloat. Majority are worried that they will not be able to make ends meet if the current situation persists.

Psychologically, the study indicates that many Kenyans are lonely, stressed, confused and are having a hard time sleeping. Some 72 per cent follow the news intently for updates on the virus even while feeling trapped and confined by the existing curfew and travel restrictions.

It is apparent, however, that there is a vacuum. This necessitated not by a lack of communication, but by the existence of the unknown as far as our day-to-day interactions are concerns. Already, citizens have made varied concessions on their daily routines, including on their social movements and professional interactions. Yet, this unknown is not unique to Kenya. There are raging debates across the world, as to

whether or not we should go back to our normal routines. Parents are wondering when their children will go back to school as those in the private sector worry about their enterprises. On the other hand, there is fear of increased infections and deaths if we breach State protocols.

The unfortunate reality though, is that no one has a straight answer to this unknown. Some countries are taking risks with the virus and easing their way back to normality with mixed results. There are also those that are staying the course of extended curfews and lockdowns while dealing with the ensuing socio-economic and psychological challenges. Indeed, it is a matter of two extremes that is unlikely to yield win-win solutions within this realm of the unknown.

Nevertheless, we must attempt to fill that vacuum the best way we can. It is a gap that must be filled with strategies, master plans and clear communication regarding the now

and tomorrow.

It is, therefore, encouraging that majority of citizens believe that the President, the Health ministry and medics are doing a good job during this pandemic. The existing initiatives have indeed, gone a long way in cushioning many Kenyans as majority hasten to meet their basic needs.

According to the survey, citizens would like social safety nets widened to include more vulnerable groups. Indeed, 50 per cent would prefer a weekly or monthly stipend to cushion the most vulnerable amongst them. Another 39 per cent would like increased access to affordable healthcare. This is especially because 70 per cent of those interviewed are worried the country lacks capacity to deal with a large scale pandemic. Some 32 per cent want the vulnerable to be exempted from paying rent. Also, there is a majority that is willing to bear the storm of the pandemic if they are assured that they will not lose their jobs.

It is indeed, a long wish list that is justified by our current dilemma. Patience, solidarity and communication will nevertheless, see us through these tough moments.

—The writer is an Advocate of the High Court

## STREET TALK

### Powerful PS 'plotting' governor's downfall

A powerful Principal Secretary who is eyeing a governor's seat in a Central county is working round the clock to undermine a governor he seeks to dislodge in 2022. *Street Talk* has learned that the PS has been holding secret night meetings with some MCAs to scheme the embattled governor's Waterloo. The MCAs and MPs supporting his mission do not come cheap, however. The PS, who boasts of having the ear of a powerful government official, is spending millions of shillings to buy off his troops, most of who pledge allegiance to a politician he does not get along with.

### Alcoholic CS delegates duties to cheat system

A Cabinet Secretary who was recently transferred to a new ministry in a shuffle has devised a sly way to cheat the system. Unable to concentrate on official duties thanks to his love for the bottle, the minister has been delegating most of his duties to her PS, who is very knowledgeable on matters touching on the docket. The CS is yet to meet any delegation or hold a press conference since she was posted to the ministry almost two and half months later, raising queries over her competence.

### Agency CEO fight for job as juniors push her out

A CEO an energy parastatal is fighting a vicious war after employees started pushing for her removal when documents leaked showing how she has been engaging in dubious deals that have cost the taxpayers massive losses. To fight for her job, the embattled CEO has now sought the services of two high-profile lawyers to clear her name and ensure her contract, which expires soon, is renewed. Her juniors, on the other hand, have vowed to fight to the end to oust her.

### Walibora death exposes laxity to enforce orders

Laxity by the police and City administrators to enforce an order barring touts and street urchins from Landhies Road has come back to haunt the force following the death of journalist and Swahili novelist Ken Walibora. The national government and Nairobi county are faced with many questions after allowing the unruly urchins, usually hired by businessmen and politicians to do dirty jobs for them, to remain in the area.

# Why Parliament, Executive are strange bedfellows

It is never a dull moment in Kenya. Even as Kenyans are overwhelmed by the effects of the coronavirus pandemic, it seems not to bother our politicians, who have seemingly decided we can walk and chew gum at the same time.

From the pronouncements by a senior leader that Parliament is dead to the infighting in Jubilee and politics grabbing (no pun intended) space of our newspapers' front pages, all indications are that we are back to default setting—high-octane politics. I mean, if we have to talk about politics at this time then it better be serious discourse that illuminates the political dispensation with honest brutality.

A lot has been said about separation of power and how the 2010 Constitution has given Parliament autonomy from the Executive. That is an indisputable fact. But our political culture gives the relationship between the two a nuanced colouration. You see, when a top leader in the Senate says Parliament is dead, he is right because dead or alive is a question of either public interest



HESBON OWILLA

**The august House is dead to those who are not supportive of the President**

or selfish interests.

When the Jubilee Party was campaigning ahead of the 2017 General Election, it was pursuing two things: the presidency and to have majority members in both the Senate and National Assembly. They got both.

This nuanced colouration means the high numbers in Parliament ought to be providing a legislative framework to anchor the implementation of the Jubilee manifesto and the Big Four Agenda. While they may do it purely for party interests, the MPs owe it Kenyans to fast-track development blueprints that their party promised.

Therefore, it is incumbent upon the very MPs and senators who went round asking us to vote for Jubilee to facilitate the realisation of the ruling party's manifesto, the Big Four and the President's quest to unite Ke-

nyans and rid the country of graft.

It is a no-brainer that achieving this requires an inclusive and consultative approach between the Jubilee leadership in the Executive and Parliament. President Uhuru Kenyatta seems to have led from the front by reaching out to Opposition chief Raila Odinga. That seems to have changed the colourations of the Jubilee formation and perhaps informs why misplaced pronouncements of death of Parliament holds some convenient truth depending on where you sit or stand.

The august House is dead to those who are not supportive of the President agenda because it frustrates their political ambitions. As Kenyans what we need to situate broadly is whether the President's agenda and the support he gets from Parliament is addressing our interests.

There are two things that legislators can do to pursue the interests of Kenyans as they are mandated to.

One, perform their oversight role with diligence and expose any action or lack, thereof, by the Executive that has not worked in the interest of the public. They can start with the fight against corruption and explain to Kenyans what is not right in fighting a vice that has been endemic, especially now that in the history of our country a serious commitment to end the vice has seen top leaders arraigned in court and charged.

In fact, money recovered from economic crimes has now come in as a critical resource in the fight against Covid-19.

Second, those claiming that Parliament is dead should present the groundbreaking bills they have come up with that have been crushed by the Executive in Parliament. The public today is a lot more informed and such a presentation by these MPs would help their cause, especially if these bills are pro-citizenry.

—The writer is a PhD candidate in political communication

## #TWEETS TO THE EDITOR



**#KOT tore apart the digital learning as schools remain shut to combat Covid-19.**

**@bojakversion:** This is not time for exams, we are in a middle of a pandemic. Exams can wait, but a pandemic cannot wait. Let's first tackle the elephant in the house before we focus on other matters. #StudyAtHomeCrap.

**@Paulthedon12:** Online education is a scam to the young generation. Many young people are on media for enjoyment. The media policy of child protection is a scam also.

**@ltskibicho1:** Because they live in Lavington where there is WiFi, they think their neighbours who live across the

/// @PeopleDailyKe /// f People Daily

fence (slum) can access it.

**@Kiwia\_dan:** Who will even supervise the kids study, the parents are busy working... And as a matter of fact, once the kids gets the smart phone they'll be interest in video games and funny clips...

**@Waniku:** Wake up and smell the coffee.



TRUTH IS: Nothing is so strong as gentleness.

# Workers, firms set eyes on Uhuru to sign tax relief bill

Experts say the tax cuts will increase household earnings, boost business demand by increasing firms' after-tax cash flow

by Seth Onyango  
@PeopleDailyKe

President Uhuru Kenyatta is expected to sign into law the tax relief bill before the week end as part of his three-pronged economic buffer against shocks of Covid-19.

Once signed into law, the tax relief bill will pave the way for employees to enjoy tax breaks, including a 100 per cent waiver to those earning less than Sh24,000.

This comes after Parliament approved the Tax Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2020 to cushion employees, businesses and consumers against coronavirus shocks, with Kenyans now eager to tap the relief.

The Clerk of the National Assembly Michael Sialai yesterday said they expect to forward the bill to the President by tomorrow once the Attorney General Paul Kihara advises on the matter.

"We are currently in the process of preparing the vellum (a document prepared by Parliament clearly incorporating all amendments as adopted by the House on the floor) and then we take it to Attorney General's office for advice and once we get a nod we will take it to the President for assent. We hope to conclude this matter by Saturday," he said.

But on Wednesday, Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) told employers the old rates will wait for the law to run its course.

"Use the old rates until such a time as when Parliament will pass the bill into Law," KRA advised.

The sweeping tax cuts which were announced by Uhuru come a few days to the end of the month meaning most companies have already prepared payrolls with some employees already paid.

Uhuru's tax stimulus package had targeted low-income earners, and included cuts in Pay as You Earn (PAYE), value-added tax (VAT), turnover tax (TOT) and corporate tax.

It included 100 per cent tax relief for those earning up to Sh24,000, offering

workers in that bracket an additional disposable income of between Sh1,000 and Sh1,400.

Employees earning over Sh47,000 will enjoy 5 per cent payroll tax cut, from 30 per cent to 25 per cent, injecting additional fluid cash of Sh4,241 monthly for those earnings Sh50,000 and Sh7,229 for workers earning Sh100,000.

Those earning more than Sh150,000 and over Sh500,000 will take home an additional 9,717 and 27,229, respectively, meaning high net individuals will benefit more.

Experts say the fresh wave of tax cuts will increase household earnings and boost business demand by increasing firms' after-tax cash flow.

## Shield employees

Francis Kamau, a partner at Ernst & Young says the corporate relief can, for example, be used to pay dividends and shield employees from layoffs.

"These tax reliefs are huge... for companies, it will offer them a nine per cent shield in the event Covid-19 creates an unprecedented shrink in the coming months," he said.

But there is a caveat. Kamau said it could be weeks before this is implemented.

"It was a presidential decree, but this is a democracy, meaning Treasury needs to prepare a bill and send it to Parliament. It will be debated before it is passed and implemented," he said.

Data from Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) from 2018 shows the country has 2.6 million salaried employees. Of those, employees in the bottom-wage bracket stood at 1.9 million at the



Clerk of the National Assembly Michael Sialai. PD/FILE

end of 2017, including those earning below Sh20,000 a month mainly made up of minimum wage workers such as messengers, house servants, drivers, secretaries and low-ranking teachers and police officers.

KNBS further revealed that of the employees, those paid between Sh20,000 and Sh29,999 per month, stood at 964,943 or 36 per cent.

Those in the lower cadre also includes the 749,344 with incomes of between Sh30,000 and Sh49,999 otherwise known as lower middle-class.

Recent moves by the government have also brought interest rates down and spurred borrowing. With this, and a payroll tax relief for employers announced by the President, economists are confident Kenyans have a fighting chance.

KRA deputy commissioner for Tax and Policy Caxton Masudi recently told K24 TV, our sister station, that those who will not receive the reliefs could still benefit if the law is applied retrospectively.

## EMPLOYEES IN FIGURES

● According to Francis Kamau, a partner at Ernst & Young, the corporate relief can, for example, be used to pay dividends and shield employees from layoffs.

● Data from Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) from 2018 shows the country has 2.6 million salaried employees.

● KNBS further revealed that of the employees, those paid between Sh20,000 and Sh29,999 per month, stood at 964,943 or 36 per cent.

## CS vows to clear prison pending bills

by George Kebaso  
@Morarak

Interior Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang'i has promised suppliers of the Kenya Prison Service (KPS) that the government will clear the Sh6.2 billion owed to them before the end of this financial year.

He said yesterday that once this amount is cleared, the government will never again entertain pending bills.

Speaking at KPS headquarters where he received and flagged off building and plumbing materials valued at Sh12 million donated by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS), the CS said all suppliers and the prison service management will be required to stick strictly to the systems of accountability and transparency approved by the government.

Matiang'i said after dealing with the current amount owed to suppliers, all those who want to do business with KPS will follow the right procedures of procurement and will be paid according to the rules and laws in place.

"There are those systems that we have agreed we are going to put in place..." he added.

The CS called on the KPS and officers at the ministry to focus their energies, going forward, to working with ICRC and KRCS, to make sure that the country's prison service is the cleanest in the world, and has all the sanitation facilities required.

Matiang'i announced that so far 8,000 inmates whose sentences had lapsed and petty offenders whose jail terms the Judiciary had revoked had been released from prisons across the country.

KRCS Secretary General, Asha Mohamed, said the donation which comprises cement, iron sheets, timber, pipes and tools such as hammers would be shared among 129 prisons for men, women and juveniles.

She said the supplies were meant to improve the general living conditions in prisons, including infrastructure in a bid to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

"While the impact of this pandemic is global and does not discriminate, we know that there are groups that are more vulnerable..." she said.

## Ministry to give 0.5m vulnerable learners scholarships

by Irene Githinji  
@gitshee

The Ministry of Education is seeking to provide at least 500,000 scholarships for learners from vulnerable households, as part of disaster response in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic.

The ministry has said gender equity in education has substantial proven effects on many other Sustainable Development Goals, including economic growth, health, nutrition, agricultural productivity and reduced inequality.

"As part of disaster response, there will be need to improve learning opportunities and outcomes for about 500,000 of the country's boys and girls mostly from vulnerable households, which include children from previously marginalised communities, urban slums, pockets of poverty, informal settlements including those in refugee camps," said the ministry in a basic educa-

tion sector Covid-19 emergency response it has drawn.

Further, the ministry also seeks to strengthen management of scholarships in the education sector since there are multiple organisations, government agencies and individuals that provide such to learners.

This is aimed at reducing duplication of effort and wastage of resources. Planned interventions include mapping all scholarship sources, establishing and operationalising a scholarship coordination structure as well as developing regulations and management framework.

## Conduct mentorship

Under the scholarship provision, the proposed interventions advanced by the Education ministry include conducting mentorship and psychosocial programmes for boys and girls and survivors of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and com-

munity mobilisation and lobbying for support of girls' education

In addition, the ministry also seeks to develop a database and support for disabled girls, organised remedial classes—targeting low achieving girls—distribution of solar lamps, sanitary towels, uniforms and other school essentials.

"The ministry will liaise with the Department of Social Protection to provide additional assistance to beneficiaries of Cash Transfer for Orphans and Vulnerable children and scale up the transfers to beneficiaries not already being covered for sustainability," states the plan.

Other measures include developing content on Covid-19 psychological support awareness and safety measures, sensitising learners, teachers and education managers on its response and building the capacity of teachers in life skills, guidance and counselling to effectively respond to changes in social behavior.





## Kingi aids woman stuck in hospital with quadruplets

by Monica Kagia  
@PeopleDailyKe

Kilifi Governor Amason Kingi (*pictured*) has come to the aid of a woman who is stuck in hospital after giving birth to quadruplets a month ago.

Mishi Kitsao from Kaloleni Sub-County is currently at the county hospital's High Dependence Unit (HDU) where her babies had been incubated after they were born unusually small.

"I am going to build her a two-roomed house and will also give her some money to start a business once she is out of hospital, for now she will continue being in hospital for at least one week as the house is being con-

structed," he said, adding that the family will be incorporated in the county emergency relief programme.

Mwanamvua Boga, the nurse in charge of HDU at the hospital said the children were brought to the facility on March 17, weighing 1.29kg, 1.01kg, 0.93kg and 0.97kg each. They are all girls.

Kitsao's house was swept away by floods in December last year. The housewife has three other children aged between seven and 10 years. Her husband is a casual labourer in Mom-basa.

Medics had expressed fears that if the babies stay for long at the hospital, they could get nosocomial infections.



## Nurses 'sidelined' in talks, issue 7-day strike notice

by Alvin Mwangi  
@PeopleDailyKe

The ongoing war against Covid-19 could face a major paralysis after nurses issued a seven-day strike notice over alleged sidelining by the Ministry of Health.

The nurses accused the ministry of making key decisions without involving them.

While issuing the notice yesterday, they alleged that since President Uhuru Kenyatta ordered for a welfare package to be drafted, the ministry has never called them to deliberate on what exactly should be included.

"We are not going to sit and watch again, after seven working days, we will engage them in the best way they know—boycotting labour."

"Our unions have been left out of the planning for Covid-19 mitigation, making us unaware of plans by the government to protect and motivate their members," said Seth Panyako, the secretary general of Kenya National Union of Nurses.

"Afya House is not telling Kenyans the truth."

"The CS should come out boldly and tell Kenyans that it is not a walk in the park for our officers," he added.

## Ministries get Sh18b cash to fight virus

Yatani says funds now disbursed for various interventions such as health and cash transfers

by PD Reporter  
@PeopleDailyKe

The National Treasury has already disbursed Sh18 billion to ministries and government departments to deal with coronavirus pandemic and the adverse economic effects it has caused, even as Parliament approved Sh40 billion for the same.

Yesterday, Treasury Cabinet Secretary Ukur Yatani said more money would be released starting today after the National Assembly on Wednesday evening approved his request for allocation of funds to help alleviate the situation through a Supplementary Budget.

### Recruit workers

"National Treasury's response to Covid-19 pandemic cuts across all sectors. Health, water, etc. So far, Sh18 billion has been disbursed for various interventions (health, boreholes within slums, cash transfers etc (sic)," the CS said.

"More resources to be released from Friday..." (today) Yatani added.

According to the Supplementary Budget, Sh33.4 billion will be spent on recurrent expenditure and Sh6.9 billion on development and the aim, according to the CS, is to mitigate against the impacts of the

pandemic, which has drastically affected the economic and social lives of Kenyans.

Treasury, which is also to pay pending bills as part of the measures to cushion citizens, and the State Department of Social Protection under the Labour ministry have been allocated Sh20 billion and Sh10 billion respectively.

The Sh10 billion has been itemised as "tax refund" which is monies that will be reimbursed to people who have paid excess tax to the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA).

On March 25, Uhuru asked KRA to expedite payment of all verified VAT refund claims amounting to Sh10 billion, "or allow for offsetting of withholding VAT" to improve cash flows for businesses.

Further, the President directed an appropriation of an additional Sh10 billion to the elderly, orphans and other vulnerable members of society through cash-transfers.

The Health ministry has been allocated Sh4.9 billion, of which Sh3.9 billion was allocated to Covid-19 health response measures" and Sh1 billion for recruiting health workers.

### IN SUMMARY

● Yesterday, Treasury Cabinet Secretary Ukur Yatani said more money would be released starting today.

● This is after the National Assembly on Wednesday evening approved his request for allocation of funds.

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Peris Wakarura disinfects a bus in Githurai 45, yesterday. PD/MATHEW NDUNG'U

## Githurai locals in forefront of fighting pandemic spread

by Mathew Ndung'u  
@PeopleDailyKe

Residents of the populous Githurai 45 estate in Ruiru, Kiambu county, are leaving nothing to chance to stay safe following the announcement that the constituency had recorded three Covid-19 cases.

Since the announcement on Monday, residents have intensified protection measures to avert further spread of the virus.

The larger Githurai area, Ndongoro, Thindigua, Tinganga, Waithaka and Wataalam villages in Kiambu are

among areas that Health minister Mutahi Kagwe has called on residents to exercise caution in their day-to-day activities after they reported one coronavirus case each.

Some residents led by 45-year-old Peris Wakarura have taken it upon themselves to fumigate motorbikes, PSVs and *tuktuk* cycles before they leave the stage to ferry passengers.

The single mother of six has also rallied four men who have been sensitising residents on the need for social distancing, wearing masks, and washing hands regularly, among other measures recommended by

the Ministry of Health.

"We have also been fumigating where the street urchins spend their night because we don't want to lose even a single life," said the woman, who has put aside her pastoral duties to keep locals safe.

Their efforts are complemented by PSVs and boda boda operators who are heeding government directives of ferrying less passengers and sanitising them.

Patrick Mwaniki, the chairman Githurai Tuktuks Association, said since CS Kagwe announced the area had been hit by the virus, all their ve-

hicles are fumigated daily.

Richard Chege, a boda boda rider, however, regretted that since the dawn of the virus in the area, their customers have started stigmatising them as possible carriers.

"It's not easy. Customers think since we have been ferrying strangers from left to right we could be infected," he said.

To complement the residents' efforts, Simon Ng'ang'a King'ara Foundation, a philanthropic group based at Ruiru, has also been giving out free soap, water tanks and masks while educating locals to keep safe.

### End of 40 days?

Members of the public frogmarch a man accused of stealing a laptop along Kenyatta Avenue in Kisumu, yesterday, before taking him to Central Police Station. Many areas across the country have recorded increased crimes during this Corona period.

PD/VIOLEA KOSOME



## Kenyan Math tutor dies of Coronavirus in New York

by Zaddock Angira  
@PeopleDailyKe

Dr Maurice Ojwang from Kisumu county, who recently celebrated his 30 years' stay in America, succumbed to coronavirus on Tuesday in New York, after being hospitalised for two weeks at the Riverside Hospital.

Ojwang (*below*), a father of two, holds a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Computer Science from City University of New York, and a Doctorate degree in Management Information Systems from K-Western University.

Dr Ojwang's elder brother Tobias Ojwang yesterday mourned the deceased, saying the community had lost an elder and educationist.

"My world is gone. I have lost a son, a biological brother, a scientist, an elder, an international evangelist, an educationist and philanthropic par excellence," he said.

By yesterday, details of Ojwang's burial had not been finalised.

Early last month, Dr Ojwang - a resident of Yonkers, New York - took to Facebook to reminisce when he left Kenya for the US some 30 years ago.

"I could barely raise airfare, not to mention the school fees to study abroad. I was going by faith in the God I had served. I was determined," he wrote.

Ojwang got infected on April 2 in the course of duty and texted a friend in Kenya: "I caught the Covid-19 and I'm only holding onto God's hands. Please pray that I survive it."

The staunch Seventh Day Adventist was also an adjunct professor of Math and Computer Science at New Rochelle College in New York. He was also a director at the Tender Hearts Foundation US and the proprietor of Maurice Ojwang Unique Academy in Nyakach, Kisumu. He last visited Kenya twice last year.



## Virus bares plight of industries

KAM boss says the coronavirus pandemic presents a challenge to the government to help in building local industries

by Eric Wainaina  
@EWainaina

Joseph Kaguai supervises four employees at his toothpicks manufacturing plant in Thika town as they race against time to meet an order placed by one of his few remaining clients.

Most clients have gone silent as coronavirus pandemic effects persist.

Kaguai, who is among the few people practising toothpick manufacturing locally says before the pandemic hit the country in March, his Jasenka Industries struggled to build a client base since most buyers rely on importers.

"We had only managed to get few hotels and wholesale buyers. Local dealers had engagements with importers from China, and convincing them to switch to our products was not easy," says Kaguai, who opened the firm in September last year.

However, since stoppage of importation, mostly from China, the commodity, whose demand has plummeted due to closure of hotels, has been scarce.

The situation exposes the danger of the country's over-reliance on imports and local manufacturers potential to produce enough for the nation if supported by government.

President Uhuru Kenyatta has placed manufacturing among his main areas of focus under the Big Four agenda as a way



Jasenka Industries proprietor Joseph Kaguai. PD/TABITHA MBATIA

of creating employment but the impact of this is yet to be felt.

### Fill gap

"This should be a wake-up call that government should support manufacturing as a matter of priority by discouraging importation of items which can be produced locally... We have the manpower, skills and needed raw materials," Kaguai told *People Daily*.

Kenya imports heavily from China, with most traders in textiles and electronics around the city shipping nearly all of their

wares from the Asian economic giant.

The annual import bill stands at about Sh1.76 trillion, of which Sh370 billion or about 21 per cent of Kenya's total imports are sourced from China.

Phyllis Wakiaga, the chief executive of Kenya Association of Manufacturers says the pandemic presents a challenge to the government to help in building local industries.

The government, she said, needs to fast-track finalisation of Local Content Guidelines, approval of Local Content Policy and expanding the scope of Local Content Bill to feature all sectors in manufacturing. Implementation of the measures, she said, will not only ensure sustainable local value chain integration but also reduce industrial and trade risks from external shocks.

"Although Covid-19 has demonstrated Kenya's unity, it has also brought to light the dangers of over-relying on imports at the expense of building resilient industries," Wakiaga said.

While import inflows have reduced, some manufacturers have had to change their production lines to produce masks and hand sanitisers to fill the gap.

These efforts are reflected for example by the Kitui County Textile Company (Kicotec) and the National Youth Service which are producing face-masks while Shona EPZ Limited and Bedi Investments Limited in Nakuru are manufacturing Personal Protection Equipment (PPEs).

Kitui Governor Charity Ngilu, in an interview with the *Washington Post* about Kicotec recently, said it was economically unhealthy to continue relying on importation.

### 21pc

The annual import bill stands at about Sh1.76 trillion, of which Sh370 billion or about 21 per cent of Kenya's total imports are sourced from China.





Houses in Kipawa area in Kamulu are marooned by floods following heavy rains that pounded most parts of Nairobi the better part of Wednesday night. PD/JAMES WAINDI

# Thousands flee homes as rains wreak havoc

KDF takes over recovery mission in Chesogon, where 15 bodies have been found, 22 people missing

by People Daily Team  
@PeopleDailyKe

The ongoing heavy rains continue to leave a trail of destruction, damaging property and rendering thousands of families homeless in various parts of the country.

From Chesogon in the North Rift where 15 people were killed by mudslide five days ago and dozens still missing, to Kamulu in Nairobi where estates are marooned and Kiharu in Murang'a and Nyando in Kisumu, the rains have left in their wake pain and despair among Kenyans.

The Kenya Defence Forces yesterday took over search operation at Chesogon village on the border of West Pokot and Elgeyo-Marakwet counties, where some 22 people are still missing. Hopes of finding survivors were dimmed by the tough terrain and ongoing heavy rainfall.

Fifteen bodies, among them that of a police officer, have so far been recovered from last week's tragedy that displaced more than 4,000 families, flattened business premises as well as government infrastructure.

Elgeyo Marakwet County Commissioner Ahmed Omar, who is overseeing the recovery operation, said the rains are hampering the recovery mission.

"It will take time before we access the scene where more bodies of mudslide could be trapped because of bad weather and pounding rains in Kerio Valley," he said.

He, however, asked the relatives and friends of the missing people whose bodies are feared trapped in the debris and boulders to be patient, noting all efforts have been put in place to make the rescue and recovery mission success.

The heavy rainfall continued to wreak

more havoc in Kerio Valley, where most roads were rendered impassable and crops destroyed. Hundreds of families who have sought refuge at Sambalat and Chepkul primary schools are spending the nights on cold floors after their houses were destroyed by the landslide.

In Kamulu, floods barred some residents returning from work from accessing their homes, with some forced to spend Wednesday night at petrol stations and shops nearby.

Other families fled their homes and moved to higher grounds in Kipawa and Ngundu areas within Kamulu after their houses were flooded, destroying furniture and other valuables.

## Integrate in community

In Nyando, Kisumu, government officers had a busy day yesterday supplying food to those displaced, as the number continued growing. It is estimated that about 18,000 people living in the area have been affected so far.

Deputy county commissioner Kihara Rufus said the displaced people have been evacuated to various centres as efforts to supply foodstuff and other items are underway. Those displaced are camping at Ombaka primary school, Ombaka Catholic Church, Okanja primary school and Lela secondary school.

## NATURE'S FURY

● In Siaya, close to 100 families have been displaced by floods in Bondo.

● In Naivasha, families living near the shores of Lake Naivasha have been advised to move to safer zones.

● Roads have been cut off and estates and villages marooned as rains continue to pound the country.

● Across the globe, floods are getting worse because of the climate crisis, decisions to populate high-risk areas and land sinkage from the overuse of groundwater.



A matatu driver jumps over muddy water at the Milimani terminus in Nakuru town. The terminus is flooded due to the ongoing heavy rains. PD/ RAPHAEL MUNGE



"Going forward, we encourage people displaced by the floods to integrate in the community by temporarily staying with relatives and friends to help us tame the spread of the virus," said Kihara.

In the neighbouring Muhoroni sub-county, about 8,000 people have been affected by the floods after River Nyando burst its banks.

And in Matithi and Mirira in lower Kiha-

**Kisumu Governor Anyang' Nyong'o (right) when he flagged off food donations for affected families as well as those affected by Covid-19.**

PD/ VIOLA KOSOME

ru, tens of farmers were yesterday counting losses after floods swept away their crops. This happened after River Maragua burst its banks on Wednesday evening.

Though the extent of damage has not been evaluated, the residents claim it could be running into millions of shillings collectively, sparking fears of food security.

## Crops swept away

Catherine Wairimu, a horticulture farmer in the area said her land has been submerged in floods.

"I had planted vegetables, but they have all been swept away by the floods," she said.

The situation is no different in Nyatike, Migori county, where crops were swept away and several homes marooned by floods following heavy rains. River Kuja which empties into Lake Victoria burst its banks, compounding the situation.

Red Cross Society officials have camped in the region to offer temporary solution as disaster management team ensures adequate supply of basic needs to the flood victims.

In Sirwa, Baringo county, villagers were also counting losses after several homes were destroyed and livestock killed on Tuesday night. They are now calling on the government to help them, saying they lost livelihoods.

Reporting: Wangari Njuguna, Winstone Chiseremi, Tom Rachunonyo and Noven Owiti.



# Trans Nzoia twilight girls want 'adult consensual sex' decriminalised



by David Musundi  
@PeopleDailyKe

Commercial sex workers in Trans Nzoia County now want immediate decriminalisation of adult voluntary and consensual sex.

The sex workers said criminalisation of the said act was a violation of their rights as they were unable to fend for their families.

They said sex workers were currently the most hurt as families had retreated to their homes due to the

embargo on most businesses because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Majority of the sex workers, drawn from different market centres in the expansive county, said they fully support decriminalisation of consensual adult sex work and asked members of Kenya's Bicameral Parliament to pass a bill in their support.

Beatrice Akinyi (not her real name), who chairs the County Commercial Sex Workers Forum in Trans Nzoia, says criminalising adult, voluntary, and consensual sex – includ-

ing the commercial exchange of sexual services is incompatible with the human right to personal autonomy and privacy.

"The government should not be seen as barring consenting adults on who they can have sexual relations with and on what terms. We are asking our Members of Parliament some of who are our customers to pass legislation in parliament to decriminalise our trade," Akinyi said.

She said criminalisation of their trade has exposed her members to

abuse and exploitation by law enforcement officials, such as police officers.

Akinyi added that in criminalised environments, police officers have been harassing sex workers, extorting bribes, and physically and verbally abusing them, or even raping or coercing sex from them.

Restoration of Human Rights and democracy Trans Nzoia Executive Director Kefa Were said criminalisation makes sex workers more vulnerable.

# Shining hope for girls in science and technology

As the world marked the International Girls in ICT Day yesterday, Ruth Kaveke, co-founder and Executive Director of Pwani Teknowgalz, is mentoring young girls to venture into Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), a field dominated by men.

by Lilian Kaivilu  
@LilianKaivilu

While growing up, Ruth Kaveke could only access a computer from a cyber café. Brought up in Nyamaharaga village by a single mother who struggled to make ends meet, Kaveke says a computer was considered a luxury.

From a young age, Kaveke knew she had to work hard to pay school fees in case her mother couldn't afford. "My mother sold second hand clothes. I remember her telling me to learn and fill the gap in the level of education that she was not able to complete," says Kaveke.

Kaveke's life would take a turn when her mother took a loan to buy her a laptop when she joined university.

This propelled the then young Kaveke to study harder in a bid to build a foundation for her career in technology. She would later join Asumbi Girls High School where computer studies was a subject.

She joined the class and was the best student throughout her four years in high school.

She attributes her success to one of her teachers, Anne Oduor, who supported and advised her to consider pursuing a course in information technology in the university.

Kaveke, 29, would later join Technical University of Mombasa for a degree in Information Communication Technology (ICT). But out of 60 students in her class, only six were girls.

"The low number of girls in ICT courses, and especially in my class made me work hard and remain in technology so that I could be a role model and mentor other girls to pursue technology," she says.

Through her organisation, Pwani Teknowgalz, Kaveke has impacted the lives of more than 5,000 girls in Mombasa

with practical skills in STEM through programmes such as STEM Cafe Kenya, Africa Code Week Girls workshop, Technovation, CodeHack and Coding classes. Through the programmes Pwani Teknowgalz has supported girls and young women from marginalised communities in Mombasa to acquire employable coding skills that have assisted them create jobs for themselves, get employment and contribute to the digital economy. The organisation offers free courses to all their learners except the coding classes.

"We also use community leaders to get young women from marginalised communities into our programmes," she says.

To the 2020 Zuri Awards winner in the STEM category, seeing disadvantaged girls shine in technology-related subjects is a dream come true. Latifa Noor is one of the mentees at Pwani Teknowgalz. A former student under the Mombasa Girls in STEM project, Noor has gained skills on basic use of computers, Python Programming language and now she is undertaking Cisco classes. She is also a website developer.

Kaveke urges more girls to embrace STEM subjects while still in high school to have a good foundation in the industry. She also calls on fellow women in STEM to come out and mentor girls who are passionate about this field.

"It is hard for someone to join a career that they do not have someone to relate to, by women mentoring and being role models, I am confident more girls



Ruth Kaveke (left) mentors girls in ICT at the Pwani Teknowgalz. PHOTO/LILIAN KAIVILU

will pursue STEM careers if they have mentors," she advises.

Besides, she has published her first book, She is a Techie, to inspire girls and women to pursue a STEM career and also shared tips on starting and running a successful women in technology organisation.

To inspire the next generation of women in ICT, she opines, is a collective responsibility of the community and parents to inspire and motivate girls that ICT is not difficult anyone can do it. Kaveke also won the Women Add Value Recognition Award in 2019.



Ruth Kaveke receives an award during Zuri Awards in March this year. PHOTO/LILIAN KAIVILU



Kaveke with a section of the girls she mentored during a computer lesson. PHOTO/LILIAN KAIVILU

## PWANI TEKNOGWALZ

● Pwani Teknowgalz, Kaveke has impacted the lives of more than 5,000 girls in Mombasa with practical skills in STEM

● Latifa Noor is one of the mentees at Pwani Teknowgalz. A former student under the Mombasa Girls in STEM project, Noor has gained skills on basic use of computers





by Githinji Mwangi  
@PeopleDailyKe

The troubled political chemistry between Kirinyaga Governor Anne Waiguru and her deputy Peter Ndambiri reached a new high after the latter yesterday launched a scathing attack on his boss.

Ndambiri (*pictured*), who has in the recent past been cautious when commenting on his differences with Waiguru, described the governor as an “incompetent” leader who has failed the people of Kirinyaga. He also accused her of misusing public resources.

Ndambiri denied claims he plotted the down of Waiguru who he says

is being misled and will “regret her mistake when it’s too late”.

“I pity our governor. She has decided to believe in lies instead of trying to find the truth but I know she will come to realise that when it’s too late,” Ndambiri told mourners during the burial of Kirinyaga Kanu treasurer James Gachibiri at Kimandi village in Kirinyaga Central.

#### Impeachment scuttled

Waiguru and her deputy have been on a collision path after she accused him of being behind an impeachment motion against her in the County Assembly.

The impeachment bid was scuttled after the Jubilee Party dismissed

Assembly Majority Leader James Murang’o, who was pushing for her ouster. Waiguru is accused of gross violation of the Constitution, abuse of office and gross misconduct. But she rubbished the allegations, terming them a witch-hunt.

Ndambiri said yesterday the governor was surrounded by political “witches, con-men and back-stabbers” whose objective was to allegedly create a wedge between them.

“What is saddening is that the governor has agreed to be misled to believe that I’m fighting her. Why should I fight my governor? But I have forgiven them all,” he said.

The impeachment motion accuses Waiguru of heading a criminal enter-

prise aimed at defrauding the county coffers.

She is further accused of paying fictitious companies millions of shillings for no work done. She is also in spotlight for allegedly pocketing Sh10 million in impost for no travel.

Waiguru has laughed off the graft accusations as pedestrian and accused the MCAs, who she said had been sponsored by Ndambiri and some national government officials, of playing petty politics.

The court suspended the impeachment trial of Waiguru on grounds that it would violate her rights to a fair hearing and would also hamper her efforts to tame the spread of coronavirus in the country.

## BRIEFLY

### Parties ordered to exchange documents

A judge has directed parties to exchange documents in a case in which Kitui Assembly Speaker George Ndoto (*below*) has been sued for failure to convene an emergency sitting of the county assembly to vet and approve names of Public Service Board nominees. Justice Onesmus Makau of Employment and Labour Relations Court in Nairobi gave the direction after certifying an urgent application by Kitui county Government seeking to compel the Speaker to table the names of nominees in the county assembly special sitting for vetting and approval. Lawyer Leonard Mbuvi says the county urgently needs to employ more medical personnel but has no members of the Public Service Board which is tasked with hiring.

— by Alphonse Mung’ahu



### Locals burn illicit brewer's house

Irate residents in Gekonge, Nyamira county set an illicit brewer's house ablaze claiming he is responsible for the death of her neighbour who went to her house on a drinking spree. Gekonge Assistant Chief Heron Ali said the deceased, Elijah Makari, 57, was found lying 50 metres from his house on Wednesday morning by one of his family members who informed the administrator. The brewer, Nancy Aloice, whom residents accused of intoxicating Makari to death when he went to drink in her homestead, fled after residents threatened to lynch her. Police are now hunting for Aloice who will be charged with, among others, trading in illicit brew and contravening Ministry of Health rules on Covid-19.

— by KNA

# Murder charges for nine officers after Ipoa probe

Haji allows the prosecution of law enforcers linked to civilians' killings in Laikipia, North Horr and Mlolongo

by George Kebaso  
@Morarak

Nine police officers will be charged with murder after the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA) completed investigations into various killings linked to the law enforcers.

IPOA forwarded the files to the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) Noordin Haji, who recommended that the security agents be charged.

The suspects include former Kabete OCS, who was feted for bravery during the 2013 Westgate Mall terror attack, another officer currently on trial over the killing of lawyer Willie Kimani, his client and a taxi driver in 2016.

IPOA's chairperson Ann Makori, handed the files of the nine officers to Haji containing killings in Mlolongo, North Horr and Laikipia.

Chief Inspector Stephen Lelei, then OCS Mlolongo and Sergeant Fredrick Leliman are accused of shooting dead Elizabeth Nduku and Jacob Mwenda Mbatia at Mlolongo and proceeded to report that they were responding to a planned robbery.

“Upon independent review of IPOA findings, the ODPP wrote to the Authority and gave the greenlight to charge the following officers with murder,” Makori said.

#### Another case

Both Lelei and Leliman are also to face additional charges of unlawful use of firearm, contrary to section 26A (1) of the Firearms Act. Leliman is also a suspect in the murder case of lawyer Kimani, his client and a taxi driver.

Others are six General Service Unit (GSU) officers, who will be charged with the murder of Mary Chepkorir Kiprotich. The officers from Muhotetu are said to have assaulted the deceased at her Laikipia home in March 2020. The woman was

#### POLICE BRUTALITY

● IPOA has been protesting excessive use of force against civilians by police officers.

● President Uhuru Kenyatta recently warned police officers against brutalising Kenyans when enforcing the dusk-to-dawn curfew meant to tame the spread of coronavirus.

● IPOA yesterday forwarded the files of nine officers to the Director of Public Prosecutions Noordin Haji, who recommended the prosecution of the officers linked to killings.

taken to a nearby health centre where she died hours later. IPOA probe revealed that the assault was deliberate and without any lawful cause.

The officers have been identified as Inspector Harrison Mwa, Corporal John Kimweli Musau, and Constables Linus Terer, Joseph Mureithi, David Kipkemoi and Magdalene Nachapai.

“The officers had accompanied the area chief in conducting an operation against sale of illegal alcohol, during which the woman died,” Makori said.

Haji also directed that Constable Bernard Gachau, who was attached to North Horr police station be arrested and arraigned after investigations revealed he brutally assaulted a Kenyatta University graduate, Ali Sora Bonaya, leading to his death in 2017. The post-mortem revealed that Bonaya had a ruptured spleen and broken rib.

After the assault, the student had reported to the police station but Sgt James Mulwa refused to record his statement. The DPP recommended that Mulwa be charged with neglect of duty contrary to Section 128 the Penal Code.

“IPOA supports officers in maintaining law and order but will not hesitate to take action, in accordance with its mandate, on the few bad elements that break the same laws they are expected to enforce,” Makori added.

In a statement signed by Makori, IPOA promised commitment to address the plight of officers but has called on them to avoid using excessive force.



### In the dock

Dennis Okwaro Khapele at Milimani Law Courts where he was charged with the murder of Faith Ouma Okuku alias Sharon on April 6 at Nairobi's Huruma estate. He was denied bail and was remanded.

PD/CHARLES MATHAI.O.



# Businesshub

**Kenya is not Uganda... if Tullow decides to sell its stake, we will still have National Oil which will continue**

## Kenya's oil dream rattled as Tullow sells Ugandan stake

Following sale of entire stake by British explorer, experts warn Kenya's oil hopes sit on quick sand

by Seth Onyango  
@PeopleDailyKe

Tullow Oil has sold its entire stake to French oil company Total in their joint onshore oil fields in Uganda for \$575 million (Sh61 billion) fuelling fears it also plans to exit the Kenyan market soon.

The troubled British petroleum explorer sold its shares as part of efforts to raise \$1 billion to settle its \$2.8 billion debt pile that has pushed away prospective investors.

Following the move, experts warn that Kenya's oil dream now sits on quick sand due to geopolitical dynamics in the oil industry, coupled with Tullow's debt and leadership woes.

Economist and Investment analyst Aly Khan Satchu said after the sale of its Ugandan stake to Total in a deal which includes the East African Crude Oil Pipeline, Kenya's Turkana oil fields could be next.

"Tullow will either announce a Kenya sale to Total imminently, or Total has skipped the opportunity, which would be a negative signal for Kenya's oil dream. Clearly, Kenya is not sustainable on a 'stand alone' basis, especially in the new normal of oil prices," he told *Business Hub*.

This comes at a time oil prices have plummeted globally amid a crash which saw the commodity trading below \$10 in the US as low travel and manufacturing have reduced demand for the commodity due to lockdowns.

### Exploration acreage

Further, reports by Reuters say that to reach its divestment target, Tullow is also trying to sell stakes in undrilled exploration acreage and part or all of its stake in Kenya, where it also partners with Total.

However, that Total, the immediate prospective buyer had indicated in January it was seeking to reduce its Kenyan stake, signalling tougher times ahead in Kenya's bid to become a commercial oil exporter by 2023. But speaking to *Business Hub* yesterday Petroleum Principal Secretary Andrew Kamau insisted that the Turkana oil project is still on course.

"Kenya is not Uganda... if Tullow decides to sell its stake, we will still have National Oil which will continue," he said.

National Oil is an integrated State corporation involved in all aspects of the petroleum supply chain covering the upstream oil and gas.

But Tullow's exit would also mean that oil project will not have in its ranks a company with proven exploration and drilling capacity hence attracting investors for the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) will be difficult.

Yesterday, Satchu said as it currently



Tullow Oil has sold its entire stake to French oil company Total in their joint onshore oil fields in Uganda. (INSET) Petroleum Principal Secretary Andrew Kamau PD/FILE

stands and given the viscosity of East African Crude and expense involved in a heated pipeline, oil in the region is mothballed for the foreseeable future.

"Global demand with typically 100 million barrels per day has cratered by 35 million barrels a day. African Oil is now peripheral and cannot be given away. Total probably bought Uganda as an option," he said.

Satchu maintained that dreams of oil riches via Turkana and in the wider East African region are now defunct and it is a question of pronouncing the last rites.

"There is no one I know who is insane enough to continue with these projects. Tullow Oil is no longer a going concern. Of course, the positive flip side is that our oil import bill will crater. And this will be singularly helpful at this time."

The discovery of oil in Kenya's Turkana region in 2012 sparked excitement among the local population and raised hopes of newfound oil wealth.

But a series of events, financial constraints and now coronavirus have de-

railed the project and now its prospects hang by a thread.

Exploration activities are slowing as budget-conscious oil investors have taken a back seat. In 2012, crude oil was trading at over \$100 a barrel, but over the last year prices have declined sharply to below \$50 last year and now below \$20 on the back of coronavirus outbreak.

With the fortunes of Turkana oil dwindling so too is the future of the Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia-Transport (Lapsset) corridor project.

A huge part of Lapsset was the Lokichar to Lamu Crude Oil Pipeline (LLCOP) which is being developed by a consortium of the government and international oil companies developing the oil resources in the South Lokichar basin in Turkana.

### Land users

The LLCOP will transport crude oil from South Lokichar to the coast at Lamu for export. The pipeline will be buried to minimise disruption to land users and wildlife.

The British oil explorer announced Thursday that it would transfer its entire interests in Blocks 1, 1A, 2 and 3A in western Uganda and the proposed East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) System for cash consideration of \$575 million plus potential contingent payments after first oil.

Dorothy Thompson, Tullow executive chairperson said deal was important for Tullow and forms the first step of our programme of portfolio management.

"It represents an excellent start towards our previously announced target of raising in excess of \$1 billion (Sh107 billion) to strengthen the balance sheet and secure a more conservative capital structure," she said

### MAIDEN EXPORT

● Tullow and Africa Oil first discovered crude oil in the Lokichar basin, Turkana in 2012, which Tullow Oil estimates contains an estimated 560 million barrels in proven and probable reserves. It said this would translate to 60,000 to 100,000 barrels per day of gross production.

● Kenya has formally started exporting her first oil to the international market last year in what President Uhuru Kenyatta described as a major milestone in the country's transformation when he flagged off 200,000 barrels from the coastal city of Mombasa. The maiden export was bought by Chemchina, a Chinese company.

### TRADE



## Choppies loses Sh173m dispute with taxman

**DISPUTE:** The High Court has dismissed a case filed by Choppies Enterprises Ltd seeking to unfreeze their accounts pending resolution of an ongoing tax dispute.

Choppies Supermarket had filed an application under a Certificate of Urgency seeking orders to unfreeze their accounts pending completion of an ongoing tax dispute with Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA)

Mr Justice David Majanja, however, dismissed the application saying KRA was right to freeze Choppies bank accounts over Sh173.4 million to secure the taxes in dispute.

KRA's move was informed by the fact that Choppies, a supermarket which took over Ukwala Supermarkets Limited, was winding up business in Kenya.

The court found that Choppies had already sold its branches, assets and stocks to Tusker Mattresses Supermarkets, Chandarana Super-

markets Limited, Quickmart Supermarkets Limited and Appmatt Limited without informing the authority in spite of the ongoing tax dispute.

It further held that KRA had provided undisputed evidence that Choppies had commenced disposing off its assets and winding up business in Kenya.

The judge faulted Choppies for not disclosing its financial position; they did not disclose how much was held in their accounts and what would be realised from the sale of their assets.

The court said because the supermarket retailer had already sold its assets, Choppies should provide security for taxes payable to KRA in view of the fact that they are closing shop in the country.

However, the court gave Choppies and KRA fourteen (14) days to explore an amicable settlement of the tax dispute

— Zachary Ochuodho

## Fewer German firms anxious about Corona

**PANDEMIC:** Fewer German companies were concerned about Covid-19 than last month, according to a follow-up survey by auditing and consulting services company PwC Germany published on Wednesday.

Only 56 per cent of chief financial officers (CFOs) of German companies said that Covid-19 had the potential for "significant impact" to their business operations, according to the survey. In March, the figure had been significantly higher at 79 per cent. Overall, German CFOs were "sharing positive indicators, showing that they are starting to work on pragmatic moving forward strategies where possible," PwC Germany noted.

More than one in four German CFOs described

Covid-19 as an "isolated challenge" and not greatly impacting their company's current business activities, according to the survey sent to *Xinhua*. The survey found that, with 72 per cent, the most common concern about Covid-19 were negative financial impacts to business results, liquidity and capital resources.

Many German companies, or 69 per cent, were worried about a "potential global recession," followed by 44 per cent that were concerned about supply chain issues, according to the survey. As a result of Covid-19, German companies were "most likely to be deferring or cancelling planned investments," PwC Germany noted.

— Xinhua



# Poor countries likely to be hit hard by Corona, experts caution

Developing economies that were already in distress are facing falling commodity prices and international trade and investments

The world is experiencing a sharp deterioration in economic performance, due to the continuing coronavirus pandemic. Developing countries are certain to be hit hard by what the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and others, warn will be the worst downturn since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

Almost every country on the planet is being affected. The IMF expects 170 nations - rich and poor - to experience a decline in economic activity per person this year. That means falling average living standards.

Developing economies are being hit in distinctive ways by the pandemic:

## Commodity prices

Many are exporters of commodities used by industry. The shutdown of many factories around the world means there is less demand for those commodities, so their prices have fallen, sharply in some cases. Oil is the starkest example.

The loss of demand has been especially severe, as the crisis has led to a massive reduction in demand for transport fuels, more than 90 per cent of which are made from crude oil.

The situation was exacerbated for a period by what was in effect a price war between the two biggest exporters, Russia and Saudi Arabia. There has been an extraordinary situation where some oil prices have been below zero.

It is not a general feature of the oil market, but it does highlight the huge imbalance between supply and demand.

Other commodities have also seen sharp

price falls, although not generally on the scale of oil. Copper, for example, is now about 18 per cent cheaper than it was in mid-January, and zinc's price is more than 20 per cent lower.

These price falls are hitting businesses and government revenues in countries that export these commodities.

## International investment

Developing countries have also had to contend with international investors pulling money out. The IMF's chief economist Gita Gopinath says the appetite for risk among international investors has waned. This means they are more inclined to sell investments seen as relatively risky, including bonds and shares in emerging markets, and pull money back to what they regard as safer bets, such as the US, Europe or Japan. She says the result has been "unprecedented reversals in capital flows".

In a blog published by the Brussels think tank Bruegel, Marek Dombrowski and Marta Domínguez-Jiménez set out a number of financial indicators showing the strains that have built rapidly in some emerging economies.

They show how the difference between bond yields - which are a measure of borrowing costs in financial markets - in the US and in developing nations has widened in many cases.

This is often a sign that investors believe there is an increased risk of borrowers, including governments, defaulting on their debts.

Another sign of this is the increased cost of getting insurance against a default (that is, the price of financial instruments called credit default swaps).

And then there have been sharp declines in currency values for many countries. That is another sign of investors wanting to get their money out.

## Foreign debt

That also raises another issue - foreign debt. A decline in the value of a national



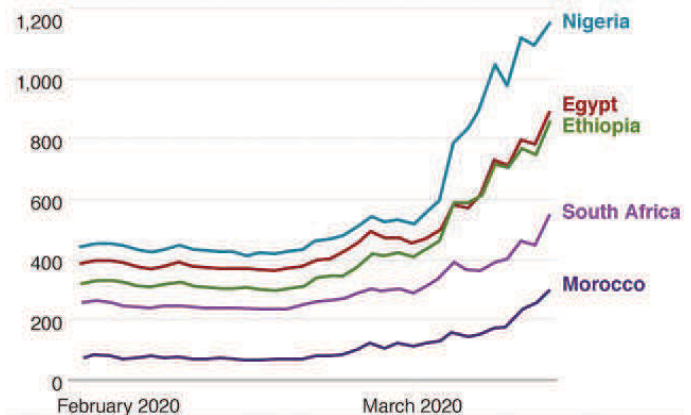
Customers at a supermarket. The IMF warns of falling average living standards as a result of over coronavirus. COURTESY

GOPINATH

**The appetite for risk among international investors has waned. This means they are more inclined to sell investments seen as relatively risky.**

## Spread in African countries

Spread between 10Y dollar-denominated sovereign bonds and US Treasury Notes, basis points, 1st February - 20th March 2020



Source: Bloomberg

BBC

currency makes it more expensive to repay, or pay interest on, debts in other currencies.

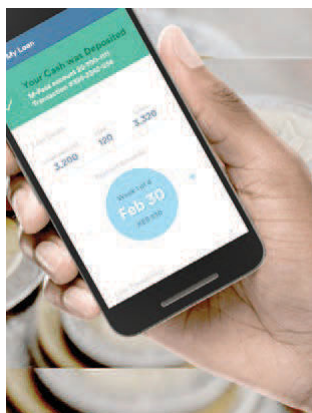
At a time when developing country government budgets are under pressure to deal with the health crisis and its economic consequences, debt payments could be a serious diversion of scarce resources. So there is a vigorous campaign to address developing countries' debt problems.

The IMF and the world's leading economies have taken some steps to ease this burden, by providing relief from the burden of debt interest and repayments over

the next few months. The IMF agreed to cover the payments due from 25 countries, mostly in Africa, over the next six months, from a trust fund financed by donations from member countries, including a recent pledge of \$185 million by the UK.

In effect those payments have been cancelled. The G20 leading economic powers agreed to defer - not cancel - debt payments from May to the end of the year for a larger group of the poorest nations. This decision covers debt payments to G20 governments from a total of 77 countries.

-BBC



Mobile lending products have grown in popularity in the country. PD/FIL

## Pandemic hands digital lenders a chance to redeem reputation

**LOANS:** The ongoing coronavirus pandemic has opened mobile loan lenders a rare opportunity to not only prove their worth, but also redeem their tarnished reputation.

This is owing to the fact that such platforms have struggled to convince investors that they are the future of small business lending.

## Public opinion

Analysts now say that the behaviour of digital lenders will be a litmus test of public opinion during this time as more poor Kenyans continue to knock on their doors for financial assistance.

With conventional banks reluctant to put money in the hands

of small businesses due to non-payments by small-scale borrowers, one executive of a non-bank facility, already feels this will limit mobile lenders' ability to withstand the mounting loan demands.

"With slow payments, liquidity has been affected and profitability has certainly shrunk for us," said Phillip Kisabit, the CEO of Microcap, a local micro enterprise service, adding that the move will also affect banks who he says may resort to unsecured lending practices or stick with previous borrowers.

But another executive with an online lending institution disagrees. "We are adequately prepared for the expected surge in the

number of borrowers now walking through our doors," said Peter Macharia, the CEO of Jijenge Credit.

"I believe there is the ability to service the demand, however, with the difficult times, this may lead to stricter restrictions on the loans as entities try and ensure that their customers maintaining good standing and are not overburdened with loans," said TALA's General manager for EA Ivan Mbowa.

## Mobile loans

Also likely to be put to test is the mobile loans' ability to continue lending to businesses that are either struggling or have shut down due to the pandemic with also critical tool

of measuring a potential borrowers' creditworthiness also taken away from them by the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK).

CBK Governor Patrick Njoroge last week barred 64 mobile-based lenders from using credit reference bureaus (CRBs) and subsequently withdrew the approvals granted to unregulated credit-only lenders as third party credit information providers to CRBs.

He said this is in response to numerous public complaints over misuse of the credit Information System by the unregulated digital and credit-only lenders, and particularly their poor responsiveness to customer complaints. - Steve Umidha





## Battling Covid-19

Kenya Wine Agencies Ltd chairman Kuria Muchiru (left) hands over alcohol-based hand sanitiser to Diversy Vice President-Food and Beverage Boniface Kariuki at Poly-synthetics East Africa Ltd in Industrial Area, Nairobi before being released to the counties. With them are Kenya Pipeline Company managing director Macharia Irungu and Rosemary Mureithi, Embakasi ICD chief manager.

PD/ PHILIP KAMAKYA

# SMEs brace for tougher times ahead

New study shows income of informal sector workers fell by 51.2pc in first 30 days of coronavirus case in country

by Lewis Njoka  
@LewisNjoka

Workers in the informal sector are staring at tough times ahead, having lost over half of their weekly income due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

This revelation comes at a time when studies show that micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), the main source of income for people working in the informal sector, will be the hardest hit by the pandemic.

A report by United States International University-Africa (USIU-Africa) and Network of Impact Evaluation (Niera) shows that incomes of informal sector workers reduced by 51.2 per cent in the first 30 days since the first Covid-19 case was announced in the country.

### Weekly income

Overall average weekly income has decreased from Sh2,380 before the crisis to Sh1,220 during the crisis, according to the report.

The report also shows that a majority of the people working in the informal sector (92 per cent) did not take any measures to cushion themselves against the effects of the pandemic on their sources of

income. "Thirty days after the occurrence of the crisis, incomes of the workers reduced by 51.2 per cent greatly affecting those in peri-urban counties and those aged more than 53 years. Over the same period, 22 per cent of the respondents have already borrowed money, 13 per cent have lost jobs, and 18 per cent are spending the money meant for other priorities including business for domestic consumption. Others have already moved from urban to rural areas in the hope that life is bearable in the rural areas," reads the report in part.

Despite the significant reduction in income, most of the people working in the informal sector (83 per cent) are yet to receive any help. Thus, most of the workers are finding themselves having to choose between buying food and paying for healthcare.

"To the workers, the main worry if the crisis persists is food (36 per cent), health (19 per cent) and inability to pay bills (15 per cent)," says the report.

### RESTRICTIONS

● **Businesses negatively affected by mitigation measures such as restricting geographical mobility, dusk to dawn curfew and the insistence that people work from home.**

● **Kenya's informal sector employs about 15 million workers and creates about nine in every 10 new jobs in the country. The study involved 447 respondents of whom 60 per cent were male and 69 per cent female.**

## NAIROBI SECURITIES EXCHANGE

HIGH	LOW	SECTOR	VPAP	PREVIOUS	TOTAL
		AGRICULTURAL	PRICES		SHARES
17.40	9.90	Eaagads Ltd Ord 1.25	10.00	10.00	400
448.00	290.00	Kakusi Pld Ord 5.00		310.00	
100.00	57.00	Kapcharua Tea Kenya Pld Ord 5.00		71.00	
405.00	495.00	The Limuru Tea Co. Pld Ord 20.00		475.00	
22.70	14.00	Sasini Pld Ord 1.00	17.00	16.50	400
178.00	92.00	Williamson Tea Kenya Pld Ord 5.00	112.75	115.00	2,000
<b>AUTOMOBILES &amp; ACCESSORIES</b>					
27.00	20.00	Car & General (K) Ltd Ord 5.00		23.50	
<b>BANKING</b>					
13.85	9.30	ABSA Bank Kenya Pld Ord 0.50	10.70	10.35	96,800
31.00	22.40	BK Group Pld Ord 0.80		22.40	
166.00	76.50	Diamond Trust Bank Kenya Ltd Ord 4.00	86.00	87.25	1,100
55.50	32.15	Equity Group Holdings Pld Ord 0.50	34.95	35.75	2,472,800
7.90	3.30	HC Group Pld Ord 5.00	4.00	4.02	21,600
126.00	42.50	IBM Holdings Pld Ord 1.00	60.00	52.75	2,800
55.50	33.75	KCB Group Pld Ord 1.00	36.65	36.75	1,014,500
6.50	3.22	National Bank of Kenya Ltd Ord 5.00		4.12	
41.00	24.90	NCBA Group Pld Ord 5.00	28.75	28.75	1,238,300
117.75	83.00	Stanbic Holdings Pld Ord 5.00	94.50	90.50	800
225.00	168.00	Standard Chartered Bank Kenya Ltd Ord 5.00	194.75	196.00	3,544,800
17.00	10.05	The Co-operative Bank of Kenya Ltd Ord 1.00	12.40	12.25	82,200
<b>COMMERCIAL AND SERVICES</b>					
5.10	0.45	Deacons (East Africa) Pld Ord 2.50		0.45	
1.30	0.77	Eveready East Africa Ltd Ord 1.00	0.86	0.80	700
8.50	4.95	Express Kenya Pld Ord 5.00		5.80	
9.50	0.89	Kenya Airways Ltd Ord 1.00	0.96	0.98	1,042,300
8.80	4.26	Longhorn Publishers Pld Ord 1.00	4.90	4.53	1,200
1.20	0.54	Nairobi Business Ventures Ltd Ord 1.00	0.60	0.60	1,000
71.00	22.00	Nation Media Group Pld Ord 2.50	23.45	23.60	27,100
4.70	1.72	Somer Africa Pld Ord 5.00	2.11	2.20	2,000
33.00	19.50	Standard Group Pld Ord 5.00	20.00	19.50	200
25.15	11.50	TPS Eastern Africa Ltd Ord 1.00	15.00	15.40	400
0.95	0.23	Uchumi Supermarket Pld Ord 5.00	0.30	0.28	400
22.00	9.90	WPP Scangroup Pld Ord 1.00	16.00	17.00	18,400
<b>CONSTRUCTION &amp; ALLIED</b>					
8.35	2.40	ARM Cement Pld Ord 1.00		5.55	
145.75	45.00	Bamburi Cement Ltd Ord 5.00	48.00	48.50	10,200
92.00	53.00	Crown Paints Kenya Pld Ord 5.00		53.00	
3.98	1.44	E.A. Cables Ltd Ord 0.50	1.80	1.80	14,600
20.50	12.95	E.A. Portland Cement Co. Ltd Ord 5.00		14.25	
<b>ENERGY &amp; PETROLEUM</b>					
7.40	4.00	KenGen Co. Pld Ord 2.50	4.94	4.90	104,600
5.50	1.63	Kenya Power & Lighting Co Pld Ord 2.50	2.13	2.17	300,200
5.50	5.00	Kenya Power & Lighting Pld 4% Pref 20.00		5.00	
6.00	6.00	Kenya Power & Lighting Pld 7% Pref 20.00		6.00	
33.00	22.00	Total Kenya Ltd Ord 5.00	23.85	23.75	900
8.70	5.00	Umeme Ltd Ord 0.50	6.88	6.88	2,300
<b>INSURANCE</b>					
10.50	5.70	Britannia Holdings Pld Ord 0.10	6.62	6.90	56,900
4.85	2.00	CIC Insurance Group Ltd Ord 1.00	2.17	2.25	60,000
442.00	250.00	Jubilee Holdings Ltd Ord 5.00		280.00	
16.30	2.10	Kenya Reinsurance Corporation Ltd Ord 2.50	2.49	2.52	23,800
13.00	6.80	Liberty Kenya Holdings Pld Ord 1.00		8.50	
26.00	13.80	Sanlam Kenya Pld Ord 5.00	15.00	15.00	100
<b>INVESTMENT</b>					
37.40	19.60	Centum Investment Co Pld Ord 0.50	23.30	23.15	188,300
8.77	0.30	Home Africa Ltd Ord 1.00	0.42	0.41	3,400
1500.00	1,500.00	Kurwitu Ventures Ltd Ord 100.00		1,500.00	
3.39	2.00	Olympia Capital Holdings Ltd Ord 5.00		2.30	
4.50	1.60	Trans-Century Pld Ord 0.50	1.70	1.61	100
<b>INVESTMENT SERVICES</b>					
16.00	8.24	Nairobi Securities Exchange Pld Ord 4.00	8.84	9.00	32,200
<b>MANUFACTURING &amp; ALLIED</b>					
87.00	52.25	B.O.C Kenya Pld Ord 5.00		45.25	
700.00	350.00	British American Tobacco Kenya Pld Ord 10.00	350.75	351.25	3,500
10.80	7.10	Carbolic Investments Pld Ord 1.00	8.90	9.00	1,300
230.00	135.00	East African Breweries Ltd Ord 2.00	149.00	148.00	17,100
3.15	0.87	Flame Tree Group Holdings Ltd Ord 0.825mm	0.97	0.90	300
14.00	12.25	Kenya Orchards Ltd Ord 5.00mm		12.25	
0.70	0.25	Murnias Sugar Co. Ltd Ord 2.00		0.27	
42.00	26.10	Unga Group Ltd Ord 5.00	29.00	29.00	100
<b>TELECOMMUNICATION</b>					
33.50	20.10	Safaricom Pld Ord 0.05	28.20	27.95	5,791,100
<b>REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST</b>					
11.00	6.88	STANLII FAHARI - REIT Ord 20.00		8.84	
<b>EXCHANGE TRADED FUNDS</b>					
1785.00	1235.00	ABSA New Gold ETF	1785.00	1740.00	7,000

NSE ALL SHARE INDEX: UP 0.49 points to close at 137.56  
NSE 20-SHARE INDEX: DOWN 14.97 points to close at 1970.79  
NSE 25-SHARE INDEX: UP 1.54 points to close at 3195.95

## MARKET WATCH

### TREASURY BONDS CLOSURE OF REGISTERS

ISSUE NO.	PAYMENT DATE	PERIOD OF CLOSURE	PAYMENT TYPE	APPLICABLE INTEREST RATE (%)	REFERENCE
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
PXD1/2011/020	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
PXD2/2010/015	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
PXD1/2013/005	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. TOMONO

### CBK KEY RATES

Central Bank Rate	7.25%	23/03/2020
Inter-Bank Rate	5.74%	22/04/2020
CBK Discount Window	13.25%	23/03/2020
91-Day T-Bill	7.01%	20/04/2020
REPO	6.90%	16/08/2019
Inflation Rate	6.06%	March, 2020
Lending Rate	12.19%	February, 2020
Savings Rate	4.2%	February, 2020
Deposit Rate	7.06%	February, 2020
KBRR	8.9%	27/07/2016

### KEY CBK INDICATIVE EXCHANGE RATES 23/4/2020

CURRENCY	MEAN	BUY	SELL
US DOLLAR	107.1412	107.0412	107.2412
SW KRONER	10.6382	10.6266	10.6497
STG POUND	132.4224	132.2829	132.5618
SINGAPORE DOLLAR	75.1183	75.0271	75.2095
SAUDI RIAL	28.4553	28.4230	28.4875
SA RAND	5.6997	5.6931	5.7063
S FRANC	110.6316	110.4998	110.7635
NOR KRONER	9.9726	9.9619	9.9833
KES / US\$	35.3273	35.2477	35.4069
KES / T\$H	21.5977	21.5309	21.6646
KES / RWF	8.8905	8.8125	8.9685
KES / BIF	17.6466	17.5851	17.7081
JPY (100)	99.5320	99.4344	99.6295
IND RUPEE	1.4009	1.3996	1.4023
HONGKONG DOLLAR	13.8254	13.8125	13.8383
EURO	116.3944	116.2682	116.5206
DAN KRONER	15.6123	15.5973	15.6274
CHINESE YUAN	15.1279	15.1126	15.1432
CAN \$	75.7449	75.6635	75.8263
AUSTRALIAN \$	67.7722	67.6928	67.8515
AE DIRHAM	29.1687	29.1387	29.1988

## Tea prices defy pandemic to post 8.5pc rise

by Nicholas Waitathu  
@PeopleDailyKe

Despite a global lockdown, on the back of the Covid-19 pandemic, average prices at Mombasa tea auction registered an 8.5 per cent growth in the last one month.

Market data by the East African Tea Trade Association (Eatta), that manages the auction, shows that the market has been buoyant despite an increase in the number of people who have contracted coronavirus in the country.

"For the last one month, average tea prices have been on an increase. There is still high

interest in tea being offered for sale at the Mombasa tea auction. Despite an economic scare globally due to the Covid-19 pandemic, average prices in April increased by 8.5 per cent from Sh207.8 to Sh227 for Sale 13 and Sale 16 conducted," said Eatta man-

aging director Mudibo.

But since the start of the trade year in the second week of January and Sale 16 conducted this week regular tea prices recorded a decline of 4.9 per cent.

Mudibo said that indicates that during Sale 16 undertaken this week, prices decreased to Sh227 compared to Sh238.8 registered during the first auction conducted during the second week of January.

This week, average prices increased to Sh227 for Sale 16 compared to Sh219.6, Sh209.9 and Sh207.8 recorded during Sales 15, 14 and 13 respectively. "The total volume trad-

ed for this week decreased to 1.6 million kilogrammes compared to 1.7 million kilos traded during Sale 15. Out of the total 181,917 packages equivalent to 12.1 million kgs, 170,167 packages equal to 11.3 million kgs, were sold and only 6.46 per cent did not attract any buyer," said Mudibo. He said that during this week auction, packers from Egypt and Pakistan showed increased and robust interest.

"There was more and useful activity from Yemen and other Middle East countries with useful enquiry from Kazakhstan, other CIS states, Sudan and Russia," he added.

For the last one month, average tea prices have been on an increase.





We will be with this coronavirus for a long time

## Trump signs executive order to suspend green card approval

President says move is designed to protect American workers' jobs in an economy pummelled by coronavirus

■ Washington, Thursday

US President Donald Trump has signed an executive order to temporarily suspend the approval of some green cards.

The measure, which contains a number of exemptions, is to last for 60 days and then could be extended, he said.

Trump says the order is designed to protect American workers' jobs in an economy pummelled by the coronavirus.

Critics have accused him of using the pandemic as cover to ram through long-sought headline immigration policies in an election year.

"This will ensure that unemployed Americans of all backgrounds will be first in line for jobs as our economy reopens," Trump said during Wednesday's coronavirus briefing at the White House.

### Chain migration

The measure is expected to stop the practice of green card holders sponsoring their extended families for permanent US residency, which the president calls chain migration. But it makes an exception for American citizens' spouses and unmarried children under the age of 21. The order also suspends the Diversity Visa Lottery, which issues about 50,000 green cards annually.

Also exempt are the hundreds of thousands of green card applicants already living and working in the US, and those seeking entry to work as doctors, nurses or other healthcare professionals.

Another exception is the hundreds of thousands of temporary guest visas issued each year to such applicants as farm



US President Donald Trump speaks during a meeting with healthcare executives in the Cabinet Room of the White House in Washington, last week. The president has signed an order to temporarily suspend the approval of some green cards. AFP

labourers and skilled workers in the H-1B visa programme.

The pandemic has blunted the immediate effect of the order because almost all visa processing by the state department has been halted for weeks with consulates closed. Nevertheless, according to the Washington-based Migration Policy Institute, Trump's order could block more than 20,000 applicants per month from obtaining a green card.

Omar Jadwat, director of the American Civil Liberties Union's Immigrants' Rights Project, said the policy "will cause real pain for families and employers across the country". The president's move is likely to face legal challenges. Like many other nations, the US has imposed sweeping travel restrictions to contain the pandemic.

The Trump administration has limited

visitors from China and most of Europe, while closing its borders to all but "essential" travel from Mexico and Canada.

The president has also invoked a 1944 law aimed at preventing the spread of communicable diseases to turn away asylum seekers at US borders.

More than 20 million Americans have lost their jobs amid the coronavirus outbreak, and the president has said the government had a "solemn duty" to ensure they regain work.

Trump, a Republican, came into office partly because of his headline stance on immigration, and has made the issue central to his presidency. In November's election, he is expected to be challenged by former Vice-President Joe Biden, a Democrat who is much more in favour of immigration.

-BBC

### ABOUT GREEN CARDS

● They give immigrants legal permanent residence and opportunity to apply for American citizenship

● In a typical year, nearly one million green cards are issued in the US

● For employment-based green cards, a common form of the residency status, roughly 80% are issued to those already in the country



## Virus crisis beginning, says Merkel

■ Berlin, Thursday

German Chancellor Angela Merkel says her country must remain "clever and cautious" in handling the coronavirus crisis, as "it's not the end phase but still just the beginning".

"We will be with it for a long time," she warned parliament, ahead of an EU video summit on the crisis.

She stressed the need for European cohesion in fighting the virus.

Merkel (pictured) said Germany should be ready to "make very different, meaning much higher contributions to the EU budget".

The extra funding should be provided "in a spirit of solidarity" and for a limited time, she said.

Italy, at the epicentre of the pandemic in Europe, has been especially vocal in urging its EU partners to jointly guarantee debt, as part of a huge rescue package.

But Germany, the Netherlands and Austria oppose any mutualisation of debt, in the form of so-called "coronabonds". Under current EU rules countries cannot be made liable for each other's debts.

On Thursday German officials said coronavirus cases nationally had risen to 148,046, and the number of deaths linked to Covid-19 had risen by 215 to 5,094.

-BBC

### BRIEFLY



### West African States recognises Embaló as president

West African nations on Thursday recognised Umaro Embaló as president of Guinea-Bissau, after four months of dispute over whether his election was fraudulent. The heads of state of Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) also called for constitutional reform to be put to a referendum within six months. -AFP



### Hit song Pata Pata re-recorded to help fight corona

The 1960s hit song *Pata Pata* by South Africa artist Miriam Makeba has been re-released with new lyrics aimed at beating coronavirus spread. Singer Angélique Kidjo sings the new version encouraging hand-washing and social distance. The UN children's agency, which organised the release, says it will be played across Africa. -BBC



### Twelve people drown as DRC boat capsizes

Twelve fishermen drowned when their overloaded wooden canoe sank in Lake Albert in the northeast of the Democratic Republic of Congo, a local official said Thursday. Five people survived the accident. Adel Alingi, the administrator of Djugu town, blamed the sinking on poor state of the boat and overloading. -AFP

## Journalist reappears after Wuhan chase

■ Beijing, Thursday

A Chinese journalist who was chased and then detained in Wuhan has reappeared after almost two months. Li Zehua broadcast the chase and his detention by police on February 26, and had not been seen publicly since. On Wednesday he published a video saying he spent two weeks in "quarantine" in Wuhan, followed by more quarantine in his home town. He was told the quarantine was needed as he'd been to "sensitive areas". Li Zehua

went to Wuhan in February, after another journalist, Chen Qiushi, went missing. In his first video from Wuhan he explained why he was there. "The local media can only report the good news about the patients' recovery and so on. Of course, it remains uncertain whether that's true." His stories included an alleged cover-up of infections, and a busy crematorium. They were watched millions of times on Chinese platforms, YouTube, and Twitter. -BBC

### PUBLIC NOTICE

THE PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING 2019  
REGULARIZATION OF A CHANGE OF USE

The registered owners of parcel no.s Karali/Gikambura/0486 located at Gikambura in Kikuyu Sub County, proposes to regularize the change of use from Agricultural to Multi-dwelling residential (Flats), subject to approval by the Kikuyu Sub-County. Individuals, institutions, Members of the public etc. with any comments and/or objections to the proposed should forward them within 14 days of this notice to: COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER LAND HOUSING AND PHYSICAL PLANNING KIAMBU COUNTY P.O. BOX 2344 KIAMBU

# Spice

► Flavour your day

@chebetkorir



Nyashinski



Azzadi Nasenya



DeeJay Nruff

## THE VIRTUAL

The Internet has played a major role in the entertainment scene during the Covid-19 pandemic. Entertainers are virtually reaching their fans through online platforms following the blanket ban on gatherings, writes CHEBET KORIR

As with many sectors across the economic board, the entertainment industry has been heavily impacted by the global coronavirus pandemic. A whole year of musical events and local tours has been thrown into great disarray, as the world almost screeches to a standstill.

However, all is not lost, as Kenyan entertainers have been on their toes to do what they know best, entertain. And they will have their online presence to thank for the constant engagement they have maintained with their fans across the world. The Internet has played a major role in the entertainment scene as many showbiz celebrities have embraced different online tactics; some might be considered bizarre and funny, while others are inspiring, engaging and absolutely thrilling.

Take for example the rise of TikTok, a social media app that allows users to post short videos on different aspects of life. People have been seen lip-synching to music, doing make-up tutorials, performing synchronised dances or indulging in comical skits.

"TikTok was created to bring joy and inspiration to our community. That idea has come to life through the playfulness of our creators who've brought dance challenges, funny performances, creative memes and delightfully unique moments. It's been largely about having fun," says TikTok president Alex Zhu.

### Keeping up enthusiasm

Kenyans have since found ways to beat the boredom by participating in the quarantine-related challenge dubbed #BoredAtHome, which definitely helped pass the time in a much more fun way. The challenge attracted over 8.5 billion views and a few favourite local celebrities including Sauti Sol's Willis Chimano and Shiv Simani participated.

Sauti Sol's first post on TikTok featured lead singer Bien in bursting dance moves to the group's latest hit song *Suzanna*. The post immediately attracted more than 105,000 views in a matter of days and more than 10,700 likes.

In the US, for instance, the video-sharing social networking service has so far donated more than US\$2 million (Sh200 million)

to The Actors Fund Covid-19 Emergency Financial Assistance programme. This is to provide critical financial assistance to those in the entertainment and performing arts with immediate need.

"Covid-19 is giving all of us a new perspective, and in the face of this unprecedented crisis, we are collectively seeking moments of joy and inspiration. Sometimes that means dancing and having fun where we can. Sometimes that means experiencing the comfort and warmth that comes through simple human connection in the face of adversity. The TikTok community is uplifting one another, caring for one another, and lending a hand to one another," added Alex.

Online comedian and TikTok ambassador Javier Aranzalez aka Kama, has been an active user of the app for two years now. He says having more musicians on TikTok brings more visibility to those who create African relatable content.

"The sudden rise of more celebrities on TikTok is a good thing because they post it back on Instagram, which diverts to more traffic back on TikTok. During this period, I have been able to grow my following from 100,000 to 130,000 meaning there is more engagement," he says.

### Adding to the fun

Azzadi Nasenya can be described as an overnight celebrity as she gained her popularity through her TikTok video, where she displayed her dancing skills as she lip-synched to Femi One and Meja's viral song *Utawezana*. This led netizens to start the

#UtawezanaDanceChallenge where people posted short videos imitating her as they danced to the video.

She says the TikTok video was made out of fun and she never expected it to trend. "I was trolled on twitter, but the hashtag #standwithazzadi played a big role in my life and I realised that I should continue creating more content through the platform," she says.

Meja says the song was already doing well, but Azzadi's effort boosted the views, for which he was grateful.

Deejays have also been quite busy. While most of us would think that this would be their perfect time to take a breather, they have been busy entertaining the masses. Rodney Afande aka DeeJay Nruff has been in the music industry for more than a decade now. He teamed up five of his friends and created a Facebook group known as '254 Diaspora DJs Live Mix', as a platform to entertain people online.

"We never expected it would be a favourite to many, but as per now, we have more than 70,000 interactive members both locally and internationally, which is a good thing," he tells *Spice*, adding that the internet has played a major role in bringing people together and uniting DJs all over the world.

A fortnight ago, DJ Sunny Sistuki from Raleigh, North Carolina in USA, went live on the platform and dedicated that night's show to Kenyan gospel singer Gerriey Wainaina's medical fund, saying that all the proceeds collected would go to support the fund. Wainaina, now based in Seattle,





Xtian Ndela



Arrow Bwoy



Bien-Aimé Baraza

# ENTERTAINERS



TikTok president Alex Zhu.

Washington, has been fighting stage five renal kidney disease since 2018 and has been on the transplant list with no success yet. He has been undergoing peritoneal dialysis, four times every day for the past two years.

"We all came together for Gerriey Wainaina and it was beautiful. We were able to raise US\$6,634 (Sh664,000)," Sunny said in a Facebook post.

DJ Kriss Darlin also raised more than Sh250,000 while entertaining on his social site and used the funds to purchase food and sanitisers for residents of Kibra in Nairobi.

## Streaming it live

As more festivals, performances and concerts are cancelled due to the coronavirus shutdown, musicians are taking to social and streaming platforms to play live for their fans. Rapper Octopizzo, known for hits such *Kanye* and *Noma Ni*, held his first virtual YouTube concert that attracted more than 20,000 viewers.

"It was quite interactive and I appreciated how Kenyans supported me. The second virtual show will be dropping soon, so they better be on the lookout," said Octopizzo.

Recently, fellow rapper and singer Nyasinski also treated his fans to a thrilling live concert, which provided a peek into his much-anticipated album *Lucky You*. During the 1.5-hour show with the 4Count Band that had more than 30,000 viewers, he debuted *Glory*, the first single from the upcoming 12-track debut solo album.

April has also experienced a lot of new music that has been seemingly doing

well. Last week, more than 10 songs were released, including two acoustic songs by Bensoul titled *Forget You* and *No Kisses*, *Dunda* by Sailors, *Roll With You* by Khali-graph Jones, *Cece* by Kristoff ft Gabu and *Toto* by Arrow Bwoy.

## Keeping the party going

According to Arrow Bwoy, the Internet has boosted his viewership during this period. "I thought that it would not be received well, but more fans are now online and have supported me the best way they can." He adds that he tries as much to promote his art during this time by sharing in most of his social media pages and engaging through live shows both on Instagram and Facebook.

Kenyan online sensation Xtian Dela has also kept many of his followers wide-awake with his Instagram live show dubbed Club Covid. His concept is quite simple; he sits on a chair with a tumbler on his right hand as he plays songs awaiting for women who he can 'wild out'. The catch is, the best dancer goes home with a cash prize to help them push on through the hard times.

His online presence has interaction of more than 25,000 viewers per show. Efforts to reach him for a comment were in vain, but he seems not to stop anytime soon. He has followed in the Tory Lanez' footsteps—a Canadian rapper, singer, composer and record producer—who has also kept his worldwide viewers glued on his Instagram live with his much-publicised Quarantine Radio, with women aggressively joining in to show off their dancing skills.

**SWEET SOUR** @ElijahGitau @Manuel\_Ntoyai

## Homicide probing Ruth Matete hubby's death

The homicide department of the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) is investigating the circumstances under which gospel artiste Ruth Matete's husband John Apewajowe died. This week, the *Msaada Wangu* singer was grilled at the DCI headquarters on Kiambu Road, where sleuths questioned her over an alleged gas explosion incident in their Athi River home on March 30, 2020, that later allegedly claimed John's life. This was the second time she has been grilled by the

investigators, the first being on April 16 at the Athi River DCI headquarters. According to her lawyer Robert Odanga, the post-mortem on John's body was set for yesterday. "Homicide has taken over the matter and that's what we wanted. We want the investigations to end soon, which will be a great relief to the family. The postmortem will be done on Thursday. Ruth is not well, but she's coping. She has recorded all her statements with the DCI and everything is going alright," he told *Spice* on Wednesday.



## The new duo touted as 'new Kelele Takatifu'

Gospel singer Devaq Situma aka Sattu has formed a music duo with Steve Homes in what pundits are calling the 'rebirth of Kelele Takatifu'. Speaking to *Spice*, Sattu confirmed about the duo working together, saying their coming together was a step up in filling the gap in the gospel music. "Because of the emptiness being felt currently in the gospel industry in Kenya, we've stepped in to fill the gap. We have already done one song titled *Hubadiliki* with Mercy Talantah and it's in our YouTube channel Sattu Nation and we have release another one this week with Homes titled *Higher*," he said.





# Boma ▶ Home of Property & Leisure

## Kenya Railway's Sh28 billion city project on course

In the Master Plan, the corporation proposes to redesign and construct a massive transport hub on part of the 273-acre railway headquarters land with flyover links to

by Wahinya Henry  
@PeopleDailyKe

About 172 hectares of land have been gazetted as a first step towards implementation of the Sh27.9 billion Nairobi Railway Station City Project. The gazettement in effect prohibits any other development in the area bound by Haile Selassie Avenue, Uhuru Highway, Bunyala Road, Commercial Street and Landhies Road, to pave way for the Railway City project.

Encroachment on railway land had threatened implementation of the project before Kenya Railways (KR) in February this year started reclaiming grabbed land reserves. The grabbers include private individuals, businesses and institutions to facilitate the planned construction of the Nairobi mass transit railway.

Newly appointed Kenya Railways Managing Director Philip Mainga ordered people who have encroached on railway reserve land within Nairobi and its environs to give way for implementation of the Nairobi Railway master plan.

He said demolition of illegal structures is underway, targeting prime parcels of land within Nairobi metropolitan areas, which that have been identified for use in the rail master plan. "As per the notice issued on September, 2019, we inform members of the public that reclamation of illegally acquired railway land and property [houses] is currently ongoing," he said.

### Illegal title deeds

In the master plan, Kenya Railways proposes to redesign and construct a massive transport hub on part of the 273-acre railway headquarters land as well as flyover links to major roads across Nairobi. The recovered land will mainly be used in construction of the required flyovers.

The Kenya Railways MD also put on notice any holders of "illegal" title deeds asking them to surrender the invalid documents for revocation. He said a whistle-blowers' alert platform



An artists' impression of the proposed Nairobi Railway Station City Project. PD/ WAHINYA HENRY

had been set up to enable the public to provide information about land grabbers. The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) is helping the parastatal to execute the recovery and prosecute the culprits.

The corporation is also in the process of rehabilitating the Thika-Nanyuki railway line, part of the old Metre Gauge Railway (MGR). The line traverses six counties namely: Nairobi, Kiambu, Murang'a, Kirinyaga, Nyeri, and Laikipia.

Full implementation of the railway project is expected to take 20 years and is divided into three phases. Phase One involves developing basic infrastructure (2020-2030) while Phase Two is for activation of the city's economy (2030-2035). Finally, Phase Three will allow for spontaneous property development following planning and development guidelines.

Nairobi County Lands and Urban Planning Executive Charles Kerich published the gazette notice last month, issuing a one-year moratorium on development within the 425-acre area, subject to extension. He said the Railway master plan will complement Nairobi's CBD and transform the existing railway station and its environs into a world-class, efficient urban hub.

The project will be a complementary functional, architectural and urban centerpiece to Nairobi's growing global reputation. Kenya Railways proposes to redesign and construct a massive transport hub on part of the 273-acre railway headquarters land as well as flyover links to major roads across Nairobi. "The com-

### Transport hub, fly-overs to be constructed

Traffic jams in Nairobi CBD are expected to ease once the projects by Kenya Railways are completed. PD/ JOHN OCHIENG

mittee approved the request for the preparation of a budget to meet part of the cost of preparing the development plan," said Nairobi county Governor Mike Sonko.

This CBD railway project is closely linked to the implementation of a related master plan, the Embakasi Station Area Redevelopment Master Plan around Syokimau Railway Station. This project presents an opportunity for the zone to be transformed into a business hub and a gateway to the city of Nairobi.

### Airport city

A major aim of the Syokimau Airport City plan is to ease the dreaded traffic jams along Mombasa road. A direct road bridge link will connect the SGR terminus with the airport while residential area are disconnected from the main road network or separated by green buffer zones to enhance life quality.

Location for the proposed city is divided into two zones that comprise the broader area and core area measuring 10,500 hectares and 1,500 hectares respectively. According to the Permanent Secretary for Housing and Urban Development, Charles Hinga Mwaura, the establishment of The Airport City will be undertaken under the Embakasi Railway Station Area Redevelopment master plan.

### BRIEFLY

## New technology to boost ailing construction industry

by Reuben Mwambingu  
@PeopleDailyKe

Kenya's ailing construction industry has been handed a major lifeline after a Turkish firm, Eurofix partnered with National Industrial Training Authority (NITA) and National Construction Authority (NCA) to equip over 20,000 workforce in the sector with modern skills and technology.

Eurofix General Manager Patrick Taranu said over the years, Kenya's construction industry had been choked by inefficiencies resulting from reliance on unskilled workforce. The programme intends to address such shortfalls.

The partnership is especially planned to address and improve skills in tiling, masonry works, interior and exterior decoration, plastering, interior and exterior modern skills to meet international acceptable standards.

"Currently we cannot export skilled labour in construction outside Kenya because we don't have the right skills that meet internationally acceptable standards. We believe that this is the platform to upgrade our youths by equipping them with skills so that they can go out there confidently and compete in the job market," he said.

Taranu said the skill upgrade and technology will focus on usage of proper materials and right equipment, which are cost effective and offer quality. "For example, you will realise that most masons still use cement in almost every part of their construction and this is why most structures don't last long," he said.

"This is why we have cases of building collapse and tiles debonding. Under the new technology, trainees will be introduced to use of adhesive for attaching dry-wall, tile, moulding, and fixtures to walls, ceilings, and floors. This is cost-effective since it is cheaper than use of cement," he said.

The first batch of over 200 trainee masons kicked off the skill upgrade training at the NITA institute in Mombasa in February, targeting over 1,000 beneficiaries in Mombasa alone.

"This is our initial training here in Mombasa and we have brought on board Twyford company, one of the biggest tile manufacturers who are also our partners in this programme," Taranu said.

After Mombasa, the training will extend to Nairobi, Kwale, Kisumu, Nakuru, Marsabit, Kitui, Meru, Eldoret, Machakos, Kisii, Nyeri, among other towns to achieve the 20,000 workforce.

Nita Industrial Training Officer Eric Abok said the training will be a game changer in the construction industry. The partnership was initiated by the former Labour Cabinet Secretary (now Treasury CS) Ukur Yatani as part of Nita upgrade aimed at churning out efficient, productive trainees attractive to the job market.





## THE LOUNGE

Homeowners are usually unwilling to pay unlike organisations, says George Karani, President, Interior Designers Association

by Harriet James  
@harriet86jim

**What inspired you to start your own interior design firm?**

It's what I studied in campus before working in several interior design firms. When I got the experience, I felt a need for self-growth and thus decided to venture into business of interior design.

I would see many people who call themselves interior designers are doing things wrongly. Most people think interior design is interior decoration, which is not true. To rectify that I had to be first an example. What I needed was an army to bring about a different understanding of what interior design really is. The only way to bring up this new crop is thinkers was to train, thus Harvard Design Academy.

**So what training did you want the future designers to undergo?**

With a PhD in Interior Design, I know the practice is about people and that goes beyond aesthetics. It is concerned with functionality, safety and the well being of users of a space. We spend over 98 per cent of our day in an interior space and that's how much interior design affects our lives. Interior design is universal; it accommodates everyone in society. Design as if you are that person on a wheelchair, amputee, deaf, blind, on crutches or the elderly. You don't build first then look for interior designers.

**What challenges have you encountered?**

Both architects and clients can be a chal-



George Karani (in white and pictured below), with students from Harvard Design Academy, where he is consultant and part owner. Karani is also CEO, The Office Code Limited. PD/HARRIET JAMES

## Commercial interior works pay better than residential

### FACT FILE

● The role of designers is to ensure they improve on the quality of life of the users of any space.

● Secondly, interior design is universal — it should accommodate everyone in society.

● Interior design is not the last resort in construction; don't build first then look for designers.

● Design starts before architectural drawings begin.

lenge. Our culture is that the architect is often the boss, but things are changing and collaboration and teamwork is the way to go in the construction industry. Many specialist professions have come up and are taking their space in construction, including project managers. So, we meet and discuss a concept which they get to appreciate and see the sense. For instance, interior design informs door placement, window placement in any structure. Clients can be difficult too; some don't want to pay for services rendered.

**Why do you invest a lot in office designs?**



My strength is in interior architecture and with the current set up in residential construction, there's not much room to practice. My experience with homes is that most clients do not pay as agreed. For offices, you deal with corporates with proper structures and a desire for ideal office environments to improve on the productivity of employees. Payment comes on time and financial planning is easy.

**Any advice for anyone who desires to set up a home office in this era of coronavirus?**

The location in the house depends on the nature of our job. Some require quiet private spaces and other easy seating. One can convert a space in the house to be an office depending on the nature of their business. Some people have study rooms, which can be converted into an office. Others have family rooms and others have excellent balconies.

Those who hold meetings now require quiet places for teleconferencing; select the room that looks most private away from social spaces such as sitting or dining rooms. If you are too squeezed, consider multifunctional furniture — a bed during the night and a workspace during the day.

## PROPERTY NEWS

## Flamingo Tower tenants get three months rent relief

by William Murigi  
@PeopleDaily

Tenants who own private businesses at an office block located in Upper Hill, Nairobi will for the next three months get rent relief to cushion the businesses against the impact of Covid-19 pandemic.

Flamingo Tower, which is owned by real estate developer Fusion Capital, is offering 30 per cent rent relief to its tenants. The building's board of managers says they are monitoring the situation and are in talks with their tenants.

The board will also enforce the directive issued by the government to reduce VAT to 14 per cent on the above payments until further notice. "We hope that the discount on the rent will offer relief to our partners during these uncertain times," says Samuel Kimotho, Executive Director at Flamingo Towers.

He says the decision was reached upon realisation of the severity of the pandemic and the strain it has put on businesses across the country.

Fusion Capital's Chief Executive Officer Daniel Kamau regrets that they cannot manage a 100 per cent waiver because of overheads, which must be paid — staff salaries, security, water, electricity and maintenance. "Given the rent concession, we can achieve a win-win situation and ensure business continuity for all parties," said the CEO.

Flamingo Tower has 18 floors. The building offers leasing and purchase options for people looking for office space within the Upper Hill area.

Kamau urged other property owners to consider rent concessions especially for those into offices business considering that a lot of the retail and office occupiers are Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

"Landlords should play a role in getting them back to trading after the crisis. Property owners can support SMEs through rent concessions, it's in the landlord's interest that these businesses continue surviving and so sharing of rent risk will be important," adds Kamau.

He also urged the government to honour payment to its suppliers especially the SMEs to ensure there is cash in circulation. "Factories and supermarkets should also to improve their payment cycles."



## DÉCOR WITH NAILANTEI NORARI @ArtNorari

### HOUSE PLANTS AS CENTREPIECES

If you are looking for a quick way to brighten your space, houseplants could be your answer. From tiny potted plants for the kitchen to climbing plants for the balcony, one can manage to get a plant in their space if they so wish. The good news is that one does not need to have a green thumb to keep houseplants, as there are some plants, which need minimal care such as the aloe vera plant. Not only are plants great décor pieces, they also purify air. However, one should take care not to put large plants, or too many plants in the bedroom since you might end up competing with them for oxygen at night, especially if you keep all windows closed at night. Remember to keep your plants near light and to spray them with mist or wet the soil in their pots to ensure they light up your space for longer.



Bird of paradise plant makes a great living room centerpiece as a house plant.



A woven basket cover can house the potted plant to help it blend with the general décor in the house. Pictured is the snake plant, which requires minimal watering.



Ferns need minimal care and can, therefore, survive in the bathroom. They can either be put in a basket or hung.



# You ► It's all about Life & Style

## Single, stuck and unable to mingle

**Sure, working from home and doing your own thing can be nice and relaxing for the first few days, but one and a half months deep into social distancing due to Covid-19 pandemic, the gravity of the situation has hit. And no one likes feeling lonely. So, how are singles coping?**

by Grace Wachira  
@yaa\_grace

**D**avid Ombija's demanding job would make him go for weeks, even months without seeing his family. He lives in South B and his parents in Athi River and still couldn't make time for them. "I work

as an audit consultant and the past six months were the busiest since the financial year is about to wind up. For that reason alone, I couldn't see them," he explains.

Now, the 27-year-old has all the time in the world. "I moved back in with them because I had missed them and social distancing while living alone does not make sense if you have family living around," he says.

But David has lost track of time. "Every day is every day. I cannot tell a Friday from a Sunday or Tuesday; they are all the same. I wake up, go through my emails and work on some files then take breakfast as I catch up with Trevor Noah on *The Daily Show*. Nowadays, I have up to four meals a day because every hour presents an opportunity to snack, which I readily indulge in," he laughs.

You'll find David toggling between Twitter and Instagram as he binges on *Ozark* or *Omniscient* series on Netflix. "Online, IG posts are all throwbacks and the Insta stories are what entertain me. I use Twitter for humour and news," he says. His masters' degree programme is on hold so, later in the day, he catches up with his brother and together, they hone their play station skills. "Now we are spending so much quality time, even playing games with my folks. No one will complain that I hardly see them now after the Covid-19 wave passes," he chuckles.

### The haves and the have-nots

Under social distancing, the 'haves' are those who have children, partners, roommates or people like David who, even though he lives alone, could move back to live with his parents. Yes, they may be loud and exhausting and a pain at times, but a warm body is a warm body.

But to the 'have-nots', those who are isolated in their homes for days or weeks on end, this can seem like an incredible luxury. A phone or Skype call just isn't the same as physical company.

Unlike David who had the option of moving into his parent's house, there are those who are living the truest form of self-isolation, singletons, aka the live alones.

On a normal day, 23-year-old Jeremy Beggi, like many young people his age would be attending classes and spending time with friends, but now, the script has changed. "Our lecturers have been sending us assignments and online language classes have been keeping me going," says.

Jeremy has embraced a new schedule. "I wake up, go for a morning run, do some



TREVOR MAHIRI

**I wake up, shower and get work done. Have brunch at 2pm, lunch at 5pm and dinner past 12am. It's crazy what we have to do now, especially, if you are living alone. It's tough.**

yoga and then have breakfast," he says. He then gets to working on his assignments and in the afternoons, watches movies and chills. Currently, he is bingeing on the likes of *Elite* and *Letter to The King* on Netflix recommended by friends. He keeps in touch with friends via WhatsApp video calls and once in a while link up for a party



DAVID OMBIJA

**I moved back in with my parents because I had missed them, but social distancing and living alone does not make sense if you have family living around**

online. He had his phase with Tiktok and now, he is on House Party, a face to face social networking application that connects him to his friends. "I am more of a social drinker, I do not take booze home. When we would attend events such as Koroga, Cake Art and events at my school, I would have a good time, but now, I can only do so online," sighs the self-proclaimed movie expert.

Like Jeremy, Trevor Mahiri, a 23-year-old communication coordinator at B-Lab also links up with his buddies on the House Party app. "I enjoyed partying with friends before the pandemic on the weekends, but House Party has really come in handy. We have fun virtually with drinks, which we order online and play the online games," he explains. There are times though, he says, when feelings of loneliness and anxiety creep in, as is with everyone else, especially those struggling with mental issues.

### No real schedule

That said, to keep his mind occupied, he is beginning to develop a new culture. "I have taken up Brand Management classes and I am reading more books, and also binge watches movies on Netflix" he quips. And he has no real schedule. "I wake up and shower then get work done, I have brunch at 2pm, lunch at 5pm and dinner past 12am. It's crazy what we have to do now, especially, if you are living alone; it's tough," he admits.

Faith Ndaila, 28 says she writes, watches TV and movies, video-calls her friends and family, eats, exercises, cleans, cooks... she doesn't think her flat has ever been so tidy since she moved in. "I'm doing chores that I never normally do, like wiping the



JEREMY BEGGI

**The only way we can keep in touch is via WhatsApp video calls and once in a while, we link up for a party online**

ceiling, ironing bedsheets and unclogging the sink," she laughs. But admits to feeling 'achingly lonely' to the point of crying. Staying level when it comes to her mental health has been difficult. The anxiety and depression have been the toughest part of self-isolation. She has been struggling to sleep and nights are pretty hard.

Pius Mwenda, a counselling psychologist says humans aren't meant to be in isolation, we have always been social beings. While one may argue that those who have access to the internet, staying connected should not be a problem, these ways of socialising merely supplement our need for connection. They cannot replace a hug, a reassuring hand on your shoulder, or intimacy. He says people can find ways to interact with friends online like cook or watch something together. "Also, maintain a work-life balance even if you are working from home," he offers.

He asks people who live alone not to pressure themselves or others too much to utilise this time. "Normalise anxiety, fear and other concerns you and others might have. Sometimes, just being listened to is more important, and trying to provide solutions may alienate the other person," he concludes.





- 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
- 1.00 Weekend With Betty
- 22.00 Overdrive Fresh
- 00.00 DW Feed Live



- 5.00 Am Ime Ria Rucini
- 6.00 Rikiratha
- 11.00 Kurekereria Kodii
- 12.00 Mathaga Maitu
- 12.30 Thandi Cia Wendo
- 1.00 Mohoro Gitau
- 1.30 Thiririka Music Mix
- 3.45 Kameme Toonz
- 4.00 Ririmbuka Live
- 6.00 Tuika Wakwa
- 7.00 Kameme Maturaini
- 8.00 Njung'ua Ya Kihenjo
- 9.00 Mutamburuko Wa Mauhoru
- 10.00 Kigoco Music Mix
- 12.00 Deustsche Welle Tv



- 12.00 Football Review- Rpt
- 6.00 Morning Express
- 08.00 Life N' Style
- 12.00 Documentary
- 4.00 Mibu-Ya-Ktn
- 5.00 Baseline
- 6.00 Losing Heaven
- 7.00 KTN Leo
- 7.30 Just Kidding
- 8.00 Food Detectives
- 8.30 New Beginnings
- 9.00 KTN Friday Briefing
- 10.20 Movie

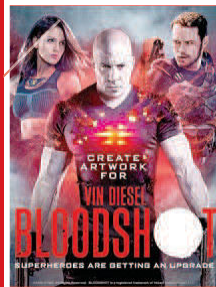
# TIME OUT!

**17.00pm BEATBOX**



**::IN THEATRES NOW::**

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

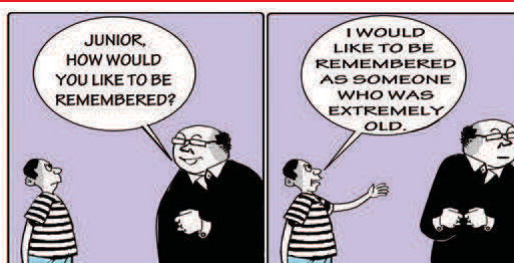


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3	6		2	1	5		
	1						
	4	6				1	3
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2	7			3	5		
						6	
	6	5	2	7	4		
	4	3	6	2	9		

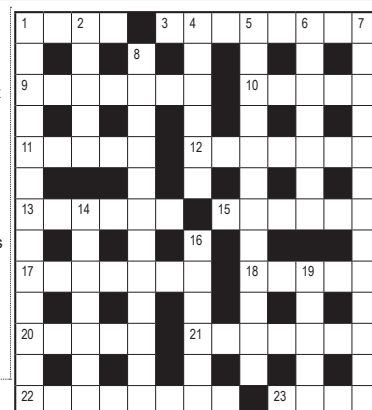
## SUDOKU

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

## LIFE'S LIKE THAT! | BY TUM



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.



### YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

#### ACROSS

1. Modelled
5. Gash
8. Civic
9. Packaging
10. Nucleus
12. Rotated
14. Beetles
16. Tracery
18. Recital
19. Route
20. Dado
21. Pyramids

#### DOWN

1. Mico
2. Dives
3. Lucrative
4. Expend
6. Abides
7. Highseas
11. Cafeteria
12. Restored
13. Danced
14. Byplay
15. Lazuli
17. Eels

#### ACROSS

1. Moist (4)
3. Representative example (8)
9. Wanderer (7)
10. Ribbons (5)
11. Financial gain (5)
12. Bodies of writing (7)
13. Spoof (6)
15. Beat as if with a flail (6)
17. Full of jealousy (7)

#### DOWN

18. Strong desires (5)
20. Spring flower (5)
21. Show (7)
22. Able to read and write (8)
23. Sums to gether (4)
1. Relating to growth (13)
2. Conjuring tricks (5)

## HOROSCOPES



### ARIES (MAR. 21- APRIL 20)

Make changes around your house and plan to do some entertaining. Don't expect anything for nothing and you won't be disappointed.

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

Stabilize your own position by locking up your savings. You will communicate with ease today. Don't overdo it. You need to enjoy yourself.

### GEMINI (MAY 22-JUNE 21)

Opportunities for romance may develop through dealing with groups that have a purpose. The only thing you'll accomplish is a bad reputation.

### CANCER (JUNE 22-JULY 22)

Your emotional reaction will be dependent upon your partner's responsiveness. Visit someone who hasn't been feeling well lately. Be sure to take advantage of the opportunities that exist.

### LEO (JULY 23-AUG 22)

Make plans to mix business with pleasure. Dinner with clients or business associates should be successful.

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

Don't be too quick to judge those you live with. Talk to your mate about a vacation and discuss the expectations of your relationship.

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

You will be well looked upon due to your compassionate and giving nature. Your fight for those less fortunate is not likely to end in sweet victory.

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

Things are looking up. You may as well work on projects that will allow you to make progress.

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

Don't forget that your budget is limited right now. Residential moves will be hectic and may be unsatisfactory. Finish up any correspondence by early afternoon.

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

A lot has changed and so have you. Get together with those you find mentally stimulating. Your ability to put a deal together will surprise others.

### AQUARIUS (JAN. 21- FEB. 19)

Your partner may be erratic today if you haven't paid enough attention to him or her. Romance may be better than you ever thought possible. Don't make excuses.

### PISCES (FEB. 20-MAR. 20)

Problems with financial investments could make you nervous. Social activities or travel should be in your plans.



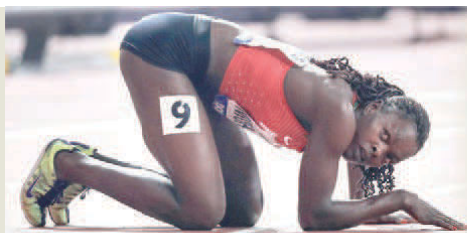


# Sport

► The one-stop Sport shop...

FOOTBALL

How Coronavirus has shattered Mary Moraa's 2020 big dreams—Pg31



## Federer, Nadal want ATP, WTA to be under one roof

**TENNIS:** WTA founder Billie Jean King expressed her support on Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal's call to merge the ATP and WTA on Wednesday. The 20 Grand Slam winner Federer first suggested the merger on his Twitter feed. "Just wondering. Am I the only one thinking that now is the time for men's and women's tennis to be united and come together as one?" Federer said. "I am not talking about merging competition

on the court, but merging the 2 governing bodies [ATP and WTA] that oversee the men's and women's professional tours." "I agree, and have been saying so since the early 1970s. One voice, women and men together, has long been my vision for tennis. The WTA on its own was always Plan B. I'm glad we are on the same page. Let's make it happen. #OneVoice," King tweeted in echoing Federer's proposal. —AFP

## IOC deletes Abe comment regarding Olympics costs

■ Tokyo, Thursday  
@PeopleDailyKe

International Olympic Committee (IOC) removed a comment from its website on Tuesday that referred to Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (pictured) when discussing the financial impact of postponing the Games, following objections from the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Organising Committee.

IOC and the Japanese government agreed last month to postpone the 2020 Olympics because of the global coronavirus outbreak.

The costs of re-arranging the Games and who will pay them have yet to be clarified by

either the IOC or the Japanese government. However, on Monday IOC published a Q&A on its website about the postponement and answered the question 'What will be the financial impact of postponing the Games?' Part of the answer referred to Abe and has become the bone of contention between the Olympics organising partners.

"Japanese Prime Minister Abe Shinzo agreed that Japan will continue to cover the costs it would have done under the terms of the existing agreement for 2020, and the IOC will continue to be responsible for its share of the costs," read the IOC's answer.

"For the IOC, it is already clear that this amounts to several hundred millions of dollars of additional costs." —Reuters



## No love lost

Kipchoge, Bekele dream of next challenge after London Marathon

■ Nairobi, Thursday  
@PeopleDailyKe

Olympic champion Eliud Kipchoge and Kenenisa Bekele, two of the world best marathon runners, were due to clash on Sunday in London but have been forced to shelve the plans with the event postponed due to the coronavirus.

Instead, the two will be at their homes in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and Eldoret, Kenya with their families. Kipchoge reminisces that it was this week seven years ago that he made his debut in a marathon in Hamburg, Germany, clocking an impressive

2:05:30. "On this day in 2013, I ran the very first marathon of my life. The memories of my debut in Hamburg are actually really good, I won this marathon in 2:05:30. It has been a beautiful journey so far," Kipchoge said on Wednesday. But with the prospect of the two clashing in London on Sunday now impossible, Kipchoge will focus on remaining fit for future competitions. London would have been their fifth time racing together in a marathon. Kipchoge has won all four previous encounters.

However, for Bekele (2:01:41), he believes a clash between the two would serve as the highlight of the track and field program, especially should the pair be included in their respective teams for the 2021 Tokyo Olympic Games. It's anticipated Kenenisa will return to the Olympics after his shock exclusion by the Ethiopian Athletics Fed-

eration for Rio 2016. Kipchoge has already secured his spot in the Kenya team and will do everything to defend his title.

"One year is not a long time," Bekele, 37, a three-time Olympic champion, albeit on the track, told the Olympic Channel regarding the Games postponement to July 2021. "I hope I can stay in good shape, disciplined, because one year is just tomorrow. The most important thing is to stay healthy and stay fit." Bekele, who has overcome an Achilles tendon injury, believes he can shave more than a minute off his personal best, and even lower the official world record to less than two hours. The current mark of 2:01.39 was set by Kipchoge in Berlin in 2018.

Only Kipchoge has run under two hours, albeit in closed conditions and with aids, at the Vienna course back in October, where he posted a time of 1:59.40.

"I'm sure, it's possible to run that time [two hours]," Bekele told the Olympic Channel. "I can run maybe faster than the world record, maybe close to two hours or something. It's down to the weather conditions and a good course." —Xinhua

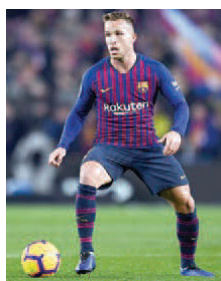
## Liaoning FC players to sue club over unpaid salaries

**FOOTBALL:** Several Liaoning Hongyun players vowed to take legal action against their club to get back unpaid salaries. The Shenyang-based second-tier club did not pay any salary to their players over the 2019 season, conceded Huang Yan, then chairman of Liaoning FC. "It is true that the club owes the players salaries for the whole 2019 year," he said. Some Liaoning players were shocked to find in the national tax system that the club had paid

tax for their remunerations of the first quarter of 2019. "The tax system showed that the club had paid us salaries, but we did not get a penny from that phantom money. It is outrageous though we have no idea why the club did that," a player said on condition of anonymity. "The only thing we can do is to take legal actions. Our lawyer is making preparations for it. It seems that only the law can help us get the our salaries back," he said. —Xinhua

## Spurs eyeing Barcelona's Brazilian midfielder Arthur

**FOOTBALL:** Barcelona's Brazilian midfielder Arthur Melo has attracted interest from both Tottenham Hotspur and Inter Milan, according to media reports in Brazil. Spurs are willing to make an all-cash offer or include a player in a deal for the 23-year-old during the European summer transfer window, Gazeta Esportiva reported on Wednesday. It added that Inter could pursue Arthur as a makeweight in a deal that would see Argentinian striker Lautaro Martinez move to the Camp Nou. After an impressive debut season with the Blaugrana, Arthur has endured a frustrating 2019-20 campaign with injuries and



inconsistent form limiting him to just 23 matches across all competitions. Earlier this week, the former Gremio player said he wanted to see out his Barcelona contract, which runs until June 2024. —Xinhua



# Covid-19 Lockdown: Best time to showcase our own Kenyan Premier League

by Hezbon Mogambi  
@PeopleDailyKe

In a commendable move, the Ministry of Sports has initiated a process to cushion footballers in the wake of Covid-19 as seen in a call for official contact information of footballers playing in key Kenyan leagues.

While it is not yet clear whether the players will get money transfers or food packages- the move by the Ministry is timely especially bearing in mind the financial struggles most football clubs have been through in recent times. The ministry however, can do more than just

handing fish to the sector.

While the fish is a welcome relief to thousands of players, many are at home bored, unfit and itching to get back to what they love most. A little support from the government can facilitate a smooth completion of the remaining fixtures especially in the Kenyan Premier League (KPL) during this partial lockdown.

In the beginning of April President Uhuru gave out a Sh100m to artists to entertain Kenyans during these tough times through TV, Radio and Internet- some artists have done well since the announcement. The source of the funds was the Sports, culture and heritage

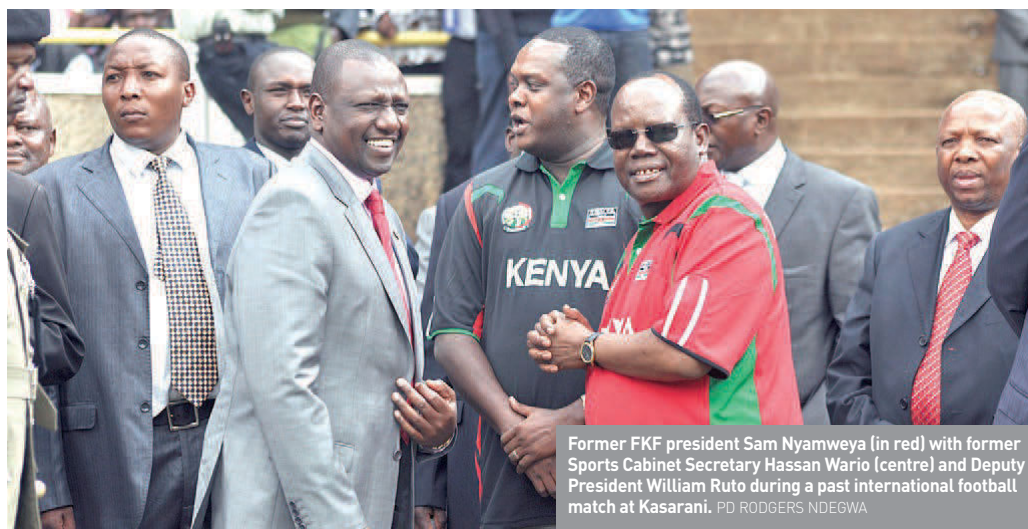
fund. Nobody can deny that sports and football in particular is a source of premium entertainment for millions of Kenyans.

## Cluster testing and Camping

With a TV production partner and a broadcast partner already, the KPL has an opportunity to reach millions of Kenyans during this period of staying at home and without the usual competition from other alternative leagues across the world. Both the corporate CEO and marketing guru who have been reading about the league off the sponsorship proposals and newspapers now are at home and have an op-

portunity to watch and evaluate the potential return on investment of our game to their business were they to invest in it.

Coronavirus is dangerous and anyone who downplays it does so at their own peril. But being a virus, it is a reality that the world has now moved on to learn how to live with and thrive - at least till a vaccine is discovered. While football is a contact sport and goes against the gospel of social distancing- cluster testing and disciplined self isolation through camping of Premier league players and such key stakeholders as referees, production crews can significantly minimize chances of infection.



Former FKF president Sam Nyamweya (in red) with former Sports Cabinet Secretary Hassan Wario (centre) and Deputy President William Ruto during a past international football match at Kasarani. PD RODGERS NDEGWA

# Nyamweya return was matter of when, not if

Even after stepping down on election day in 2016, all indications were that the veteran football administrator would one day seek to make a comeback into management

by Mukalo Kwayera  
@PeopleDailyKe

His bounce back is not surprising; it has always been coming. Since relinquishing the presidency of Football Kenya Federation (FKF) in 2016 to incumbent Nick Mwendwa, former football administrator Sam Keengu Nyamweya has remained hyper active on matters relating to both local and international soccer.

Thus, his announcement last Sunday that he would be seeking to unseat Mwendwa in the impending controversy-ridden national soccer elections was not a surprise to those who have followed his moves and utterances in the past two years. His body language, political darts and antics have consistently pointed to a situation in which it was only a matter of when, not if, he would be taking the gauntlet to tough it out with his youthful successor.

Nyamweya's word and deed have continually raised eyebrows within the sporting fraternity, with soaring speculation that he planned for a return to soccer management, with keen observers and stakeholders alike linking

him to a simmering contest for FKF's management.

## Withdrawal from race

The former FKF chief did not defend his seat four years ago, instead opting to pull out of the race only minutes before the polls kicked off at the Moi Sports Complex, Kasarani in Nairobi. His withdrawal - which is strongly believed to have been engineered by powerful establishment figures through then Sports CS Hassan Wario who deemed him as not politically correct - took many by surprise at the time, though few would doubt his desire to come back as he has.

Way back in June 2018, at a time when the FIFA World Cup was going on in Russia, Nyamweya released a subtle press statement in which he expressed his frustrations at the exit of all the five African representatives at the global soccer bonanza, a development he termed as "nerve-wracking and heart breaking."

In the statement, he took issue with the use of technology-based Video Assistant Referee (VAR) in the football fiesta in Russia, attributing its appli-

cation to the exit of two of the African teams from the World Cup.

"While qualification to the knockout phase, just like every other competition is based on merit, Africa is left with a bitter taste of group stage proceedings in Russia because of the manner in which some of our teams ended up exiting the tournament. Nigeria and Senegal come into mind, while Morocco's is a case of having a decision against them when they were already eliminated from the tournament," said Nyamweya.

"Further, it is unfortunate that the tie-breaking regulations would come down to the number of yellow cards as was applied in the case of Senegal after tying with Japan," he added.

At the nascent stage of the World Cup tournament, Nyamweya went public to strongly support the move by FIFA Congress to award North America - the United States and Canada - the rights to host the 2026 event and went further to urge African countries to take cue from the winners and form blocks through which they can bid to host future competitions. Mwendwa had voted for the losing Morocco during the FIFA Congress, later explaining that his decision was based on the fact that Morocco is an African country just like Kenya and it would have been an act of betrayal for him to stand by the North Americans.

## NYAMWEYA

Further, it is unfortunate that the tie-breaking regulations would come down to the number of yellow cards as was applied in the case of Senegal after tying with Japan.

# Eyes on SDT boss Ohaga as he makes precedent ruling

by Barry Silah  
@PeopleDailyKe

In a few hours, the Sports Disputes Tribunal (SDT) will be pronouncing itself on a sensitive matter that would very well determine the future of Kenya football.

The contest which has dragged FIFA into the fore has largely got to do with matters of electoral procedure and criteria of registration in a matter that has put Football Kenya Federation (FKF) in the heat.

FKF has been accused of a flurry of cases from multiple petitioners over what they claimed was a scheme to frustrate them from partaking from elections that were subsequently cancelled last month in what the SDT described as inadequacies of procedure. The SDT is now in a battle to flex muscle and preserve integrity of office in the midst of a standoff.

Today, all eyes and ears will be on SDT chairman John Ohaga (pictured) as he is expected to deliver an electronic ruling to the numerous parties in presented petitions. He will be taking into consideration among many submissions from interested parties who were orally heard in a mention case on Tuesday as to the status of the March 17 ruling and if orders given therein had been dealt with by FKF as applicants.

The biggest tiff that has emerged afterwards has been flared after a response letter

a week later by FIFA Chief Member Associations Officer Veron Mosengo-Omba to FKF CEO Barry Otieno to the effect that it did not recognise the SDT as an independent arbiter in football related disputes and further stating that the National Executive Committee were still legally in office despite SDT stating otherwise.

Lawyer Gradus Oluoch has however argued that the dispute at hand is entirely about jurisdiction and that SDT must be alive to that fact to protect their integrity.

"What we have is a conflict that is of operational status and such are normal in sporting contests. The dispute is essentially a two pronged issue; Territorial versus International Jurisdiction but the bottom-line is that the SDT is governed and was created by our national laws. SDT is basically mandated constitutionally to determine sporting cases locally. With that said, I would expect the Tribunal to expressly confine itself to laws that govern sports in Kenya because what happens domestically is within their jurisdiction. I feel FIFA is just engaging in politics in this matter but it is not healthy in the long run. National legislation will always take precedence and in any case the ruling made last month was very clear on the way forward so FIFA is at fault for not obeying rules," he told *People Sport* on phone.







Patrick Muriuki when he won the Muester Marathon in Germany in 2010. RIGHT: Muriuki (left) and James Karuri jog in between the KMTC hostels where they are currently quarantined. PD/FILE

## Athletics duo in forced isolation

Nyahururu's two runners now quarantined in Nairobi express fears of dip in form owing to lack of training

by David Macharia  
@PeopleDailyKe

A Nyahururu-based international athlete who is quarantined at Kenyatta National Hospital's Kenya Medical Training College (KMTC) in Nairobi believes that his continued stay at the facility may make his form dip.

Patrick Muriuki told *People Sport* that he had spent about one month collectively in quarantine in both Korea and Kenya and now fears his top form could plummet to zero.

Muriuki and his colleague, James Karuri

are spending their 30th day under quarantine in Kenya since they were put at the mandatory 14 days observation on March 25 when they arrived from Korea, just days before the government banned international flight.

The stay at the KMTC was extended by another 14 days after some of the people there tested positive for Covid-19 at the end of the first two weeks.

He and Karuri tried to do some training at the facility but found the space there too small for the exercise, thus putting them at high risk of contracting coronavirus.

"The risk of contracting Coronavirus is high here since over 100 people are quarantined here and are sharing toilets and bathrooms," Muriuki, the bronze medalist at the 2013 championships in Guangzhou, China said on phone.

He also finished third at the 2011 Mumbai marathon in India behind Ethiopians.

His best marathon performance was in the 2010 Muester marathon, Germany which he won.

After that he suffered injuries that saw him remain without competing until this year when he hoped to make a comeback.

He had travelled to Korea to take part in the Seoul Marathon which was set for March 22 but was cancelled because of Coronavirus outbreak.

"Our host just bought us air ticket to come back home but prior to taking a flight home, we were kept in a situation that resembled quarantine. We did not earn any money there since we did not run," he said in reference to the escalating charges they are expected to pay for stay at the KMTC.

Muriuki who was with another athlete, James Karuri said their movement in Seoul after the race was cancelled was restricted because at that time Korea was second in number of Covid-19 cases after China.

Cancellation of the marathon was a rude welcome to 25 year old Karuri who was to use the race to make his international debut.

Karuri is worried that the bill at the quarantine centre will be too much for him considering that he is not a big time athlete yet. The bill is Sh2,000 per day each person spends in the facility.

## German football outlines plan for May return of all leagues

Berlin, Thursday  
@PeopleDailyKe

The German football league was set to announce plans Thursday for the Bundesliga to restart without spectators in the first half of May, but a move hailed as a welcome return to normality by some is meeting opposition from some scientists and fans.

The Bundesliga would be the major European league to restart, potentially making it the focus of sports fans starved of action across the world.

Germany has been less affected by the coronavirus pandemic than other European countries, partly due to mass testing.

That situation has allowed the leaders of the powerful states of Bavaria home to reigning German champions Bayern Munich and the football hotbed state of North-Rhine Westphalia to back football's resumption, albeit in empty stadiums.

But the move to allow players back onto the pitch is being treated with caution.

Bavaria state leader Markus Soeder made it clear that football will not be given a "blank cheque" to continue at a time of competing funding priorities, and the situation will be constantly reviewed.

"I can imagine that things will develop from one match day to the next," he said.

The German league (DFL) will still need the green light from Angela Merkel's government and the heads of Germany's states to resume.

Germany's top 36 clubs, who make up the first and second divisions, were meeting via video conference Thursday to outline details of the restart.

According to the *Bild* daily, a leaked 41-page document states the goal is for matches to be played "with an acceptable medical risk".



Bayern Munich's Polish forward Robert Lewandowski (left) and his team-mate Kingsley Coman run during a training session at the team's training grounds in Munich, southern Germany, on April 22, 2020. AFP

## BRIEFLY

### Diamond League chiefs postpone June meetings

**PARIS:** The organisers of athletics' Diamond League on Thursday postponed meetings in the US city of Eugene and in Paris in June as the season is pushed further back by the coronavirus pandemic. The Eugene meeting had been due to take place on June 7 with Paris on June 13. "As with previous suspensions, this decision was reached in close consultation with all relevant parties and based on concerns over athlete safety as well as widespread travel restrictions which make it impossible to stage the competitions as planned," the organisers said in a statement. But the Bislett Games in Oslo, one of the longest-standing meetings on the international calendar, will take place on June 11, albeit in a different format from the Diamond League meeting originally planned on that date. -AFP

### Vanessa Bryant pays touching tribute to Kobe on wedding anniversary

**LOS ANGELES:** Vanessa Bryant celebrated the 19th anniversary of her wedding to her late husband Kobe Bryant on Saturday with a touching Instagram post. "My king, my heart, my best friend. Happy 19th wedding anniversary. I miss you so much. I wish you were here to hold me in your arms. I love you," she wrote, posting a picture of the couple. Five-time NBA champion Bryant and the couple's 13-year-old daughter, Gianna, were among nine people killed in a helicopter crash in Los Angeles on January 26. Gianna, along with her basketball teammates Payton Chester and Alyssa Altobelli, who also died in the crash, were honoured at Friday's WNBA draft as honorary selections. -AFP



### Woods and Mickelson could join Brady and Manning for May match

**LOS ANGELES:** Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson and NFL quarterback legends Tom Brady and Peyton Manning are planning a charity golf match for May, the US media reported on Wednesday. The event would be held without spectators in Florida, airing live on TV with the proceeds going to help battle the COVID-19 pandemic, American broadcaster ESPN reported. Turner Sports said one possible date is Memorial Day weekend May 23-25. Manning, now retired, told a Denver radio station on Wednesday that there had been talks about such an event anyway. "And now, to have a chance to have a major fundraising event for COVID-19 relief, almost like a telethon if you will... if that can take place, I'm all in for that." The Action Network reported that it is likely Woods and Manning will compete against Mickelson and Brady. -AFP





# European body to advance clubs 70 million euros in wake of financial hitches

A past league match between Chelsea and Manchester United early this year.  
PD/ FILE



■ Paris, Thursday  
@PeopleDailyKe

UEFA will immediately release almost 70 million euros (\$75.5m) in benefit payments to clubs struggling financially during the coronavirus crisis, European football's governing body announced on Thursday.

The money was originally put aside to be paid to clubs that had released players for international

matches after the completion of the European Championship qualifying play-offs.

Those matches were initially due to be played at the end of March but were postponed as football across the continent ground to a halt in the middle of last month due to the health crisis. They have since been postponed until further notice, with Euro 2020 postponed by 12 months.

Of the money, 50 million euros is

destined for clubs having released players for qualifiers to countries not involved in the play-offs, and 17.7 million euros to clubs whose players were set to be involved with national teams in the final play-off ties.

The money is part of a minimum pot of 200 million euros set aside as benefit payments for clubs who release players for the Euros.

UEFA said the payments would see a total of 676 clubs from all

across Europe receive amounts ranging from 3,200 euros to 630,000 euros, giving them "vital breathing room at a critical time".

Andrea Agnelli, Juventus chairman and also in charge of the powerful European Club Association (ECA) said: "This represents a much-needed liquidity injection into club finances and is a result of ECA's joint work with UEFA on safeguarding clubs at this time of existential threat." -AFP

# Missed fortunes

How coronavirus has shattered Mary Moraa's 2020 huge athletics dreams as she may never feature in an under-20 championships again

■ by Gibo Zachary  
@PeopleDailyKe

When the year 2020 begun, World Under-18 silver medallist and reigning Africa Under-20 400 metres champion, Mary Moraa, had her mind focused on the multiple events lined up in the World Athletics calendar.

Moraa, who came second in the same race at the 2017 World Athletics Under-18 Championships and fourth at the 2018 World Under-20 Championships, was lining up for a successful year before the coronavirus outbreak shelved her dreams.

"The outbreak of coronavirus has really destroyed my dreams of making it big in 2020. I had big plans and dreams to achieve this year but with the pandemic that has brought the entire sports events to a complete halt globally, has really devastated me," the 19-year old Moraa told People Sport.

"Athletics is my full time job because I don't have any other work that I do. It's my life, my profession, my career. So when such disturbing events occur, it affects us and even disorient some of us but all in all, we leave it to God as we keep praying for each other," added Moraa.

The impact of pandemic on Moraa's preparation for the five major races she had planned for this year, has obliterated her sporting calendar as she had planned to make headlines starting with races in Netherlands on Sunday and in Poland

on May 13. She was also scheduled to race in Spain on May 25 before heading to Algiers, Algeria in June for the Africa Senior Athletics Championships.

She was then supposed to head straight back home for the most anticipated World Under 20 championships in Nairobi from July 7 to 12, then wrap up with what she said could have been her biggest event of the year, the Tokyo Olympic Games that was scheduled for July 31 to August 9 in Japan.

## Big races cancelled

"The 22nd Africa Senior Athletics Championships in Algeria in June, the World Under 20 Championships here at home (Nairobi) in July and the Tokyo Olympic Games in Japan in August were my biggest races for the year where all my efforts, trainings and targets were focused on but now, they have all been cancelled," disappointed Moraa said.

Moraa, 19 is not sure if she will be able to compete again in the Under-20

Championship.

"Nobody knows when this disease will end and I feel it has dealt a big blow on me because I think I may not be able to take part in the championship anymore since this was my last event for the below 20 years bracket this year," she regrets.

However, Moraa who will forever be remembered for her magical kick that saw her, shaking off men's challenge in the 4x400m mixed relay during the World U-18 Championships in 2017 at Kasarani Stadium, leading Team Kenya to win the heat, has promised to return to action with a bang once the virus is contained.

"I promise my fellow Kenyans that once athletics return to its normal routine and races start, I will surprise them. So for now, let's pray God to shine on us and help us defeat this coronavirus thing," she said.

With public gatherings banned in the country to help guard against the spread of the Covid-19, Moraa who has publicly declared her desire to transition from 400m to 800m, said that the ban has affected training schedules but was working from home to ensure she does not lose out on her fitness.

"My main target was to focus on 800m," she said.

MORAA

**Nobody knows when this disease will end and I feel it has dealt a big blow on me because I think I may not be able to take part in the championship anymore since this was my last event for the below 20 years bracket this year.**



UEFA President Aleksander Ceferin as he chaired a meeting of Europe's governing body in Paris yesterday. AFP

# Premier League told to finish season or use play-offs for UCL slots

■ Paris, Thursday  
@PeopleDailyKe

English Premier League now faces the prospect of deciding Champions League positions and relegation spots in one-off ties - if the season is not able to successfully reach a conclusion this summer.

UEFA, following a meeting on Thursday, developed guidelines for clubs across the continent as the governing body look to formulate a plan to get 2019-20 seasons finished. All of Europe's top five leagues are currently suspended due to the global coronavirus pandemic and each of them remains incomplete, with league titles, Champions League spots and relegation positions all still to be decided.

UEFA announced that it is 'preferable that suspended domestic competitions would restart with a different format in a manner which would still facilitate clubs to qualify on sporting merit'.

Liverpool found themselves 25 points clear at the top of the Premier League at the time of the suspension. Chelsea are sat in fourth, in the final Champions League position, three points clear of Manchester United in fifth, with both teams still with nine games left to play.

Norwich are bottom of the table, six points off safety, while Aston Villa are two points adrift and Bour-

nemouth are in the relegation zone on goal difference.

With UK government lockdown measures recently extended by a further three weeks, it is believed that June 8 is the earliest possible restart date for the Premier League - but that remains a flexible date as football reacts to the state of the virus.

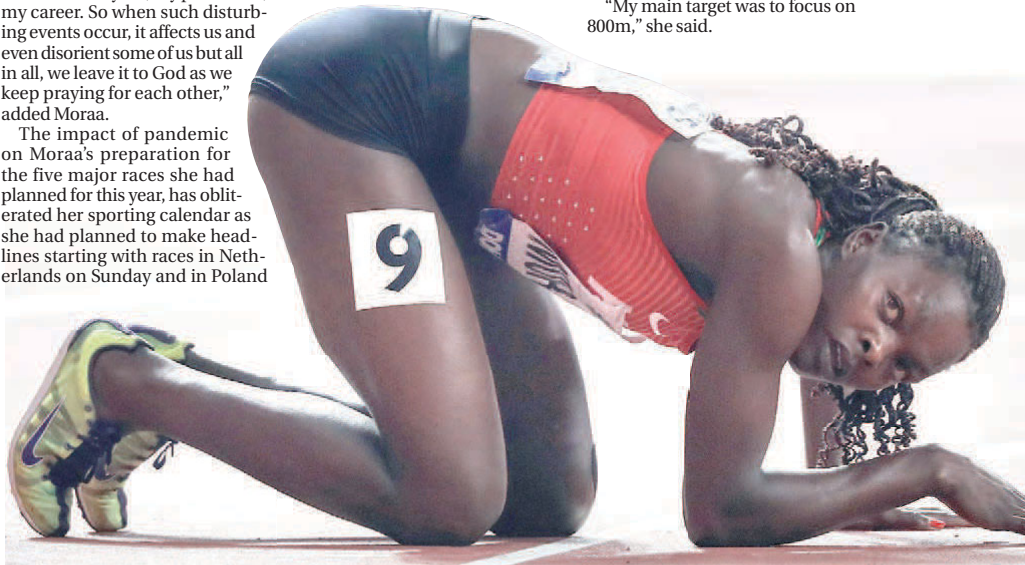
UEFA are keen to see domestic leagues concluded by the start of August at the latest, with that month slated to feature the conclusion of the Champions League.

Leagues that are unable to bring about a return to action will be advised to stage one-off play-off games to determine key positions in the table, which would directly affect sides like Chelsea, Manchester United and Sheffield United in the Champions League race.

As part of UEFA's determination from Thursday's meeting, they acknowledged that leagues could be prematurely canceled if 'there is an existence of an official order prohibiting sports events' by national government.

It was also determined that 'insurmountable economic problems which make finishing the season impossible because it would put at risk the long-term financial stability of the domestic competition and/or clubs' was another viable reason to terminate the season immediately, as has happened in countries such as Belgium.

-Daily Mail



Kenya's Mary Moraa reacts after the Women's 400m semi-final at the 2019 IAAF Athletics World Championship. PD/ FILE





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## Is Kenya facing World Cup expulsion?

**Fifa's deadline for FKF to pay former head coach Amrouches Sh114m expires today**

**Nairobi, Thursday**  
@PeopleDailyKe

Kenya look likely to be expelled from the 2022 Fifa World Cup qualifiers before a game is played, having told the BBC they do not have the funds to meet a payment deadline - the result of which will be their immediate exclusion from the competition.

Kenya's football federation, the FKF, have said they are unable to pay former coach Adel Amrouche a million dollars by Friday 24 April, as they were ordered to by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) last October.

They have been told by Fifa, world football's governing body, that if they

do not make this payment, the result will be exclusion from the World Cup qualifying campaign unless Amrouche agrees to an extension of the deadline. But Amrouche has already told the BBC that he will not agree to any extension.

### Crises

"It is not the end of the world to be out of the 2022 World Cup qualifiers," FKF President Nick Mwendwa said.

"We don't have money and with the Covid-19 situation we have players who are stuck right now who haven't been paid salaries.

"It's been deaf ears from government - which is understandable because there is a crisis."

The issue stems from the ruling by the CAS that Amrouche was wrongfully dismissed back in 2014 when he was sacked 18 months into a five-year tenure, following a 1-0 aggregate loss to Lesotho in a 2015 Africa Cup of Nations qualifier.

Amrouche initiated legal action that culminated in the million dollar award last October, to be paid by Friday 24 April 2020. But with that deadline approaching, the FKF asked Fifa for an extension - only to be told "they cannot do much unless the creditor (Adel Amrouche) accepts."

Amrouche, however, told the BBC that he is not open to the idea of any extension.

"Agreement on extension would lead to the closure of the disciplinary proceedings without payment being guaranteed," he said.

For his part, Mwendwa said the

FKF are "telling our people there's so much more football beyond the World Cup qualifiers that we can play."

### In the red

Kenya has never participated in the Fifa World Cup, but having featured at the 2019 Afcon there was optimism this group of players they could make it out of Group E, in which they are placed with Mali, Uganda and Rwanda.

28-year-old captain, former Spurs midfielder Victor Wanyama, would be the most high-profile of those to miss out.

Competing in a World Cup also comes with financial benefits - reaching the finals in Qatar alone comes with a \$9.5million reward before a ball is kicked, money that the FKF could certainly benefit from with its finances currently in the red. -BBC



Harambee Stars' forward Michael Olunga celebrates with team mate Eric Ouma after he scored a goal against Tanzania in the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations in Egypt. PD/FILE

## Simeone tipped to coach Argentina

**FOOTBALL:** Juan Sebastian Veron predicted Wednesday that his former Argentina international teammate Diego Simeone will one day be the Albiceleste's head coach. Simeone has earned a reputation as a fine motivator and tactician at Atletico Madrid and Veron is adamant the 49-year-old is perfectly suited to manage the South American team. "At some point he is going to be Argentina's coach," Veron said in an interview broadcast on Argentinian television. "For me, he's proved himself as one of the best managers in Europe." Simeone has guided Atletico to two Europa League trophies, one La Liga title, one Copa del Rey, one Spanish Super Cup, one UEFA Super Cup and two Champions League finals during almost a decade in charge of the Spanish club. -Xinhua



## Focused Neymar 'anxious' to return

**FOOTBALL:** Neymar has adopted a strict personal training regime as he seeks to be in peak condition when football returns from its coronavirus-enforced shutdown. The Brazil and Paris Saint-Germain forward has been following the orders of fitness coach Ricardo Rosa while observing a mandatory quarantine at his mansion in Mangaratiba, near Rio de Janeiro. Brazilian news service Globo Esporte posted a video on Wednesday showing Neymar training in his home with Palmeiras midfielder Lucas Lima, under the watchful eye of Rosa. "Not knowing when we are going to return is making me anxious," Neymar said. "I really miss playing, competing, the club environment and my PSG teammates. I really miss football. "I'm sure the fans also want to see the players back on the pitch as soon as possible," he said. -AFP

## Chelsea's Willian in talks with Liverpool

**FOOTBALL:** Chelsea winger Willian is reportedly in 'favourable negotiations' with Liverpool, according to reports in Spain. A report in Spanish publication Sport, via SportWitness, stated that, given Chelsea retain interest in Barcelona flop Philippe Coutinho, Willian could be departing - and for a top-six rival. Sport claim Willian, who has previously been linked with moves to both Arsenal and Tottenham, is currently 'in negotiations' over a transfer to Liverpool with his contract at Stamford Bridge due to expire on June 30. The report in Sport states that negotiations are 'very favourable' for the 31-year-old Brazilian as he seeks a lucrative deal if he enters free agency. Willian has settled in England and appears keen to extend his stay in the Premier League, with the rest of the top six likely to intensify interest if Willian is available following the expiry of his existing deal. -Daily Mail