

# Waiguru, her deputy supporters clash

**Page 2** Political tensions between the two county bosses boil over a day after motion to impeach governor was tabled in Assembly



Anne Waiguru

COVID-19 HOTLINES

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# This disease is not a joke!

**Coronavirus:** Angry Health CS Mutahi Kagwe warns Kenyans trivialising recovery of two patients and government efforts to tame deadly virus as two more die, 29 cases are confirmed bringing the total to 110 **PAGES 4,5,6,7,8,9,12,13 & 14**

HEALTH CS MUTAHI KAGWE

**I do not want to scare you, but with the figures I have just read to you, the number is likely to rise... we must change our behaviour and attitude if we have to cut the transmission of the virus.**



## Some key measures

- **Boda Boda riders** and their passengers must wear protective masks.
- **Port Health** Teams embark on disinfecting Jomo Kenyatta International Airport.
- **County governments** to scale up precautionary measures through random screening at their borders, among other measures.
- **Tuk tuk and matatu** crew and passengers also advised to wear face masks.

## UPDATE BY NUMBERS

# 980,519

people have been diagnosed with virus worldwide, 206,264 have recovered and total death toll is 50,239 people.

# 110

Total cases confirmed in Kenya.

**29** new people tested positive for Covid-19 in the last 24 hours.

13 Males



16 Females



Recovered

3

Dead



Police officers keep keen eye on passengers boarding the ferry at Likoni Channel, Mombasa county, yesterday. The government has threatened to suspend ferry services citing crowding and failure by the users to adhere to social distancing as it steps up efforts to tame the coronavirus spread. PD/  
BONFACE MSANGI



## POINTERS



NEWS BEAT PAGE 14

**Cop with golden heart in time of global despair**



WORLD PAGE 19

**Israel minister tests positive, Netanyahu quarantined again**

## WEATHER TODAY

Nairobi	26°	Nyeri	26°
Mombasa	33°	Kitui	29°
Kisumu	32°	Wajir	37°

## Meeting to address Ethiopia border tiffs

Security agencies in Marsabit county will meet today in Moyale to address conflict at the Kenya-Ethiopia border.

The meeting, which will be chaired by County Commissioner Evans Achoki and the Marsabit Police Commander Steve Oloo, is aimed at reaching out to Ethiopian authorities for talks.

The move comes a day after heavy exchange of fire in Heilu Mawe in Moyale between security officers from the two countries. Achoki (below) said Ethiopian soldiers opened fire at the border where trenches aimed at preventing smuggling of contraband goods are being dug.

"It seems they are not happy (Ethiopian soldiers) with our move and that's why they are responding by shooting," said Oloo.

—Michael Kwena



## Assembly picks city accounting officer

The Nairobi County Assembly has appointed Enosh Momanyi, the Deputy Director General of Nairobi Metropolitan Services (NMS), as the accounting officer.

According to the Speaker of the Nairobi County Assembly Beatrice Elachi, Momanyi will authorise the expenditure for services transferred from county to the national government.

"The approval will enable the NMS to draw its funds from both the Consolidated Fund and the County Revenue Fund as provided in the Deed of Transfer of Functions and begin its functions forth-with," said Speaker.

According to Elachi, with the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2020, approved, the NMS will have at least 90 per cent of the budget, with huge chunk slashed from the Office of the Governor.

—Bernard Gitau

# Waiguru, deputy supporters clash over impeachment bid

On Wednesday, Mutira MCA David Kinyua tabled a motion to oust governor over alleged corruption

by Githinji Mwangi  
@PeopleDailyKe

The fallout between Kirinyaga Governor Anne Waiguru and her deputy Peter Ndambiri escalated yesterday when their supporters clashed, a day after a motion to impeach the county boss was filed in the County Assembly.

Trouble started when rowdy youths believed to be allied to Ndambiri disrupted a press conference of a pro-Waiguru group at Defatha village in Mwaa constituency.

The governor's supporters had called the press conference to denounce the impeachment motion.

But as they addressed the press, a group of youths, who were armed with whips and sticks, stormed the venue and dispersed the pro-Waiguru group.

They accused the governor of undermining her deputy through sponsored demonstrations.

"Enough is enough. The governor has been undermining the deputy governor for long. We hear she has ordered his office to be closed. Let her know that Ndambiri too has supporters," said Michael Chomba, who was speaking for the pro-Ndambiri youth.

### Sleeping on job

They asked Waiguru to prepare to defend herself at the County Assembly and the Senate instead of trying to intimidate her perceived enemies.

"Let the rule of law take its course.

We fully support the impeachment motion and if the governor is found guilty, she should carry her own cross," they said.

Addressing the media earlier,

Waiguru's supporters accused the Assembly of failing in their responsibility and sleeping on the job.



A group of youth, who disrupted a press conference by Kirinyaga Governor Anne Waiguru supporters at Defatha village Mwaa. The youth are believed to be supporters of Deputy Governor Peter Ndambiri.

PD/ GITHINJI MWANGI

Governor Anne Waiguru.  
PD/FILE.



Led by Michael Gitari, a political activist and a staunch Waiguru ally, the supporters defended the governor and termed the accusations leveled against her as politically instigated.

The political tension between the two county leaders, which has been simmering for months, came out in the open last week when the governor reportedly ordered that her deputy's office be locked.

Waiguru's supporters have been holding demonstrations in various towns in the county to denounce Ndambiri, who they are accusing of being behind the motion to throw out his boss so he can replace her as governor.

On Wednesday, Mutira Ward representative David Kinyua tabled a motion in the County Assembly to impeach Waiguru.

In the petition signed by 30 of the 33 members of the County Assembly, the MCA have accused the governor of abetting graft and heading a "criminal enterprise" whose sole mission is to siphon millions from the county coffers.

But on Tuesday, Waiguru defended herself and dismissed the MCAs as petty.

She asked the Ward reps, who she claimed are being used by her political rivals, to drop the motion and help her in efforts to stop the coronavirus from spreading into the county.

## Terror victims remembered in low-key event

by Kinyungu Kithendu  
@PeopleDailyKe

The marking of the fifth anniversary of Garissa University's April 2, 2015 al Shabaab attack was a low-key ceremony because of the ban on gatherings to stem the spread of coronavirus.

Yesterday's event was attended by handful of staff, students and clergy.

This was in contrast to previous years when hundreds of students, survivors and government officials converged to remember the 148 people, most of them students, who died in the terror attack.

Vice Chancellor Ahmed Warfa said the prevailing circumstances could not allow a big gathering at the institution.

"Our country and the world is fighting the coronavirus. We have been told to

keep social distancing, something that could not be achieved had we gathered in large numbers," he said.

Since the attack, the university, which now has a population of 1,200 student, has taken several measures to beef up security.

They include the building of a perimeter wall around the college and establishment of a police post in the campus.







# When people make weird, time wasting emergency calls for trivial reasons

The number 999 or 911 is a life saver— and whenever it beeps at the police and fire station, it prompts immediate response to a distress. But some individuals out of misplaced paranoia will dial it to assuage personal anxieties such as over missing mobile phone or even some phobia of insects...

## US cops arrest Kenyan for dialing 911 nine times over a beer theft row

Trust the typical Kenyan to export their end-less mischief even away from home! In December, a 51-year-old Phillip Chege was arrested by Daytona Beach police for calling 911 repeatedly, even after officers arrived and told him to stop, according to ClickOrlando.com.

Chege told police that J Food Store had accused him of stealing a beer. The station reported that operators hung up on Chege several times for "abusive and degrading comments toward them."

He said he was accused of stealing a \$1 (Sh106) beer from a convenience store, so police said he called 911 to complain. Nine times!

When cops arrived, they told Chege 911 was for emergencies only. Then before the police could leave the parking lot, they said he walked around the building and dialed 911 once more. When police found him again, he was still on the phone. The angry cops immediately arrested Chege for his troubles.



## 'Hello... Hellooo... My sandwich has tomatoes!' yells angry caller

This call annoyed Peel Regional Police in Canada, that they had to go on Twitter to educate members of the public what is emergency and what is not after a hungry and angry man called to complain that a restaurant had incorrectly put tomatoes on his sandwich, when he had asked them not to. "Police, Police. I just want to talk to someone because I've been threatened by an owner," the caller said. When the 911 operator asks what the owner said, the customer reported, "I ordered a chicken sandwich and basically the owner, I told him right before I ordered I can't eat tomatoes, because I'm allergic." The dispatcher then interrupts the caller and tells him that he should not have called 911. "Please don't call 911 in the future for fried chicken mishaps," she said. Speaking to CTV News Toronto, Peel Region 911 Dispatcher Matt Correia warned that these calls could get in the way of reporting actual emergencies. "It's just important when calling 911 to make sure: Do I have an actual life-threatening emergency? Is my life on the line here? And if so, then yes, absolutely give us a call, but unfortunately, we're getting tied up with non-emergency situations," police advised.



## Woman seeks help for funny sounds from neighbour's house

Probably, this woman should have obeyed the adage, mind your own business! A Canadian woman dialled 911 after hearing funny yelling and shouting coming from her neighbour's apartment. When panicked police arrived, they pounded on the door until the occupant finally opened. That's when they discovered that the man was in no danger. He'd just been having a rough time on the toilet. A not amused contingent of police left shaking their heads at the comical turn of events.

## Covid-19 distressed residents calling 911 over toilet paper shortage warned

As coronavirus pandemic grips the world with, no one really can fathom why Europeans and Americans are more worried and obsessed with toilet paper running out than foodstuff or essential drugs! Also alarmed, the Oregon police department in US is dealing with an odd emergency of its own kind on this time of coronavirus pandemic: too many people are calling 911 because they've run out of toilet paper! The Newport Police Department reminded residents that there are more urgent issues than being short on toilet paper. "It's hard to believe that we even have to post this," the department wrote on its Facebook page. "Do not call 911 just because you ran out of toilet paper. You will survive without our assistance."

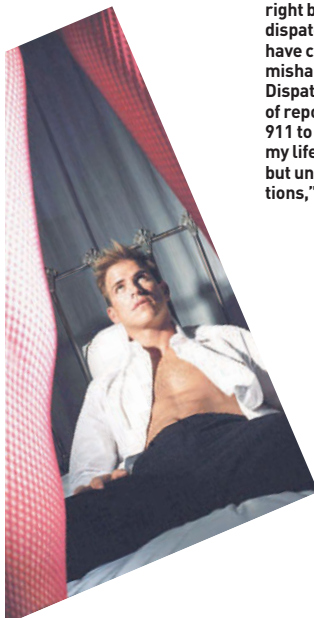
## Burglar butt-dials police while stealing!

How he regrets he should have left that damn phone at home! A burglar in Shelby County, Ohio, was caught by police after he accidentally butt-dialed 911 while breaking into a home. To make matters worse, the crook hid in a closet, but was rattled out by his phone yet again when the low battery alarm went off. Not only was the thief swiftly arrested, one of the laws enforcing officers could not hold a comment that the burglar was one of the dumbest criminals in the country. The above burglary incidence reminds WhackyWorld about a similar funny one in Romania. A man called police to report hearing a strange noise in the house he happened to be burgling. Police arrived and arrested the man, who, as it turned out, was the only one in the house, aside from the home-owner's noisy cat!



## Man calls to complain about ugly pleasure girl for his date

Maybe he should have asked for a prior WhatsApp picture of her photo before striking a date deal! In June 2013, a man in UK was given an official warning for wasting police time after he dialled 999 to complain that a prostitute he had arranged to meet was too ugly. The man made the 999 call after meeting the prostitute in the car park of a hotel in Solihull, in the West Midlands. He told the police he wanted to report the woman for breaching the Sale of Goods Act, but the operator warned him that soliciting for sex is illegal, and the woman had committed no offence!





## CORONA CRISIS

# Government orders counties to hire 5,000 health staff

by Alvin Mwangi  
@PeopleDailyKe

The government has directed all county governments to hire 5,000 skilled health workers in seven days to ensure the country has enough medical personnel to fight Covid-19.

This came as the Council of Governors on Wednesday said they would recruit an additional 6,556 health workers.

In his daily address yesterday, Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe directed that all counties, which have submitted their requirements for the jobs and have advertised for the same should complete the process by next week.

"The government has instructed with immediate effect the hiring of 5,000 skilled health workers across the counties beginning immediately with the aim of finalising hiring in seven days," said Kagwe and directed all hospitals, which have given their requirements to continue hiring an additional 1,000



health workers.

All county commissioners and head teachers in boarding facilities were asked to ensure the facilities are ready for patients.

"We would like to see depending on the population of the county an additional 1,000 bed-capacity as quarantine facilities in boarding schools," said Kagwe.

Early this week, Deputy President William Ruto (pictured) said the government had asked the Education ministry and counties to identify at least 20 boarding schools per county that can be converted into health facilities.

As of yesterday, Kenya had confirmed 110 positive cases and two more deaths.



Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe (right) with Government Spokesperson Cyrus Oguna (centre) and acting Director General of Health Patrick Amoth addresses the media at Afya House in Nairobi, yesterday. PD/GERALD ITHANA

## Corona is no joke, says Kagwe as cases hit 110

Minister sounds the alarm that virus cases will rise, government could impose more restrictive measures

by Anthony Mwangi  
@PeopleDailyKe

Kenyans should brace themselves for tough times ahead, Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe warned yesterday as the number of people infected with coronavirus surged past 100 while two more patients succumbed to the disease.

In his most candid admission yet of the grim situation the country is facing because of the rapid spread of the disease, the minister painted a worrisome picture in the coming days, sounding the alarm that coronavirus cases were going to rise, a situation that could force the government to impose more stringent restrictive measures.

"This number is going to rise and will do so exponentially. The virus is moved by you and I, therefore we need to change behaviour if we are to limit transmissions. Please do not wait to hear of death near you, for you to realise that this disease is not a joke," said Kagwe.

The statistics, he added, are now showing that at least a third of the infections were local, given that 40 of those who were tested yesterday had not travelled outside the country. By yesterday 110 people had tested positive.

"The situation is getting worse. It is high time that we as a people take the directives given by the government seriously, maintain hygiene by sanitising and keeping social distance," said the CS.

The minister, who appeared angry with the carefree attitude that Kenyans were displaying towards the pandemic with some mocking the recovering cases and branding the government's efforts as mere public relations (PR) stunts, warned that those using social media to belittle the State's efforts would be arrested.

"Why would the government conspire with the World Health Organisation (WHO) to stage a PR stunt out of the current pandemic?" the CS posed.

He was alluding to adverse social media comments over the recovery of the first Corona patient Brenda Cherutich, who had a video chat with President Uhuru Kenyatta

on Wednesday.

In a no-holds-barred address at Afya House yesterday where he updated the country on the status of the pandemic, the CS warned those who claim that the spread of the disease is not as serious as the government is making it sound.

"Part of the disappointment is those who claim that they do not know anybody in their area, who has either died or been tested positive of the disease. This is precisely the effort we are trying to make so that we do not hear of death or a positive case," the apparently frustrated CS said.

The minister said the controversial mandatory quarantine was paying off going by yesterday's developments. All the additional 29 cases were of individuals who were on forced into isolation in Nairobi.

### Prevent interaction

Out of the new cases, three were quarantined at the Aga Khan University Hospital, 11 at Crowne Plaza Hotel at the airport, one each at Nairobi Hospital and Pride Inn Hotel while six were in other isolation facilities. The net effect is that their isolation had prevented interaction with the public and relatives.

"These are the people who would have travelled to their villages to stay with their next of kin, friends and even the aged," Kagwe said.

Acting Director of Health Patrick Amoth, said 40 of those who have tested positive contracted the disease locally.

"This is a confirmation that the virus is here with us," Amoth said even as it emerged that a 16-year-old was among the newly-infected.

### THE HIGHLIGHTS

● The Government is currently undertaking a mass testing of 2,050 people in various quarantine facilities.

● By yesterday, the disease had claimed more than 47,000 people across the world, while 937,130 others had been infected by Thursday.

Studies have indicated that elderly people and patients with existing medical conditions were the most vulnerable to the respiratory disease that has forced the government to impose a dawn-to-dusk curfew in the country.

The two patients who succumbed to the disease to bring the Corona toll to three were from Nairobi and Mombasa. One of the deceased was a Kenya Airways (KQ) pilot, Major (rtd) David Kibati, while the other worked at Kenya Ports Authority (KPA), Ursula Buluma.

And in a mixture of fortunes, the CS announced that Kilifi Deputy Governor Gideon Saburi, who had to be put on forced quarantine two weeks ago after failing to isolate himself, had recovered fully from the disease. The politician will be charged in court for allegedly failing to take precautions despite knowing his potential to infect others.

Saburi has been criticised for failing to adhere to a directive on 14-day self-quarantine after he returned from a trip to Germany and went ahead to attend public functions in the country.

"The Kilifi Deputy Governor has fully recovered after testing negative for the mandatory test three times... however, he will still be charged under the Public Health Act," Kagwe said.

Those in quarantine were warned to adhere to social distancing with the CS cautioning some of them who are said to be loitering out of the isolation centres before the expiry of the mandatory 14 days that they were risking infection if they are negative.

The government also announced stiffer measures to deal with the disease, include observing high standards of hygiene.

Kagwe urged Kenyans to avoid mass movement from Nairobi to upcountry destinations, saying by so doing they would be endangering lives of those in the rural parts. "The only people who should be allowed to travel are those transporting food stuff," Kagwe said.

It will also be mandatory for commuters using matatus, tuk tuk and boda bodas to wear masks at all times. The CS said the government had made arrangements for mass production of masks, which will be affordable to Kenyans.



## Mombasa set to begin mass testing for virus

by Harrison Kivisu  
@PeopleDailyKe

Mombasa County government will begin Tuesday, next week, embark on mass testing of members of public for Covid-19, Governor Hassan Joho has announced.

Joho said the exercise will target about 600 persons per day and will be done in collaboration with the Ministry of Health.

He added that the testing will be part of efforts by the government to cushion the public from the spread of the pandemic.

The Governor spoke during a media briefing at his office before commissioning 10 ventilators donated by a well-wisher Ahmed Al-Falasi from the Middle East.

"We shall be having the capacity to test about 600 people in a day, and we

are in consultation with the ministry to see how we can effect this. We urge our people when we knock on your door or when we stop you on the streets you must comply and take a test," said Joho (pictured).

Some of the county health facilities that have isolation centres are Tudor and Mvita hospitals.

Joho said the county has trained 24 health personnel to handle any case of Covid-19 in Mombasa.

He added that the county government is collecting data of vulnerable families to ensure they are factored in the distribution of relief food.

At the same time, County commissioner Gilbert Kitiyo has asked members of the public to remain calm and support all government efforts towards reducing the spread of Covid-19.



# Arrest rogue netizens, CS tells police

Health Minister lashes out at social media users for mocking two patients who recovered from Covid-19 disease and came out to share their experiences

by Noah Cheploen  
@cheploennaoh

In a dramatic turn of events, Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe has asked police to arrest social media users—commonly known as keyboard warriors—for allegedly trivialising the fight against Coronavirus.

Kagwe, who has enjoyed popular support among Kenyans and netizens in particular since he was appointed on February 28, was yesterday on the warpath; incensed by attacks directed at Covid-19 survivor Brenda Cherotich.

A visibly angry Kagwe warned social media users, during his daily brief, to stop making fun of efforts to contain the spread of the disease terming some of the claims as outlandish and unpalatable.

"It is archaic and retrogressive for anybody to trivialise the lives of Kenyans. And, I condemn in the strongest terms any person who attempts to do so," he said, adding: "I appeal to our enforcement agencies to arrest social media users; it is wrong and should never happen."

The Cabinet Secretary dismissed claims that the government was playing

public relations gimmicks by presenting the two recovered patients in a live TV show.

"A PR exercise? Really? Why would a government in collaboration with the World Health Organisation and other inter-governmental organisations decide to make a PR exercise with two innocent Kenyans?" he posed.

On Wednesday, Kagwe presented Brenda and Brian Orinda to Kenyans having fully recovered from Coronavirus following three weeks of treatment at Mbagathi District Hospital in Nairobi. The two were later addressed by President Uhuru Kenyatta via a video link that was beamed live by TV and radio stations.

## Crosshead

Brenda, 26, said she might have contracted the virus while travelling back from US where she attended her brother's graduation. She landed at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport on March 5.

"I went to the US on December 19 and when I finished my stay I travelled to Cleveland and then to Chicago where I had a 10-hour layover. I then went to London and this is where I think I may have contracted the virus or on the plane while coming back home," said Brenda.

A former beauty pageant who clinched Miss Tourism (Kericho) in 2018, Brenda said she developed symptoms similar to those associated with Coronavirus shortly after she arrived in the country.

"I voluntarily went to Mbagathi Hospital as a responsible Kenyan and was confirmed positive and I have since been



## ● Pandemic:

Globally, the Covid-19 death toll has surpassed the 45,000 mark with over 900,000 confirmed cases.

## ● No let up:

Kagwe on Thursday announced 29 new Covid-19 cases, pushing the total number of patients past the 100 mark to 110.

## ● Social distancing:

The CS said Kenyans should get used to staying where they currently are.

**A Ndaragwa health official checks temperature of a passenger and her child near Wiyumiririe trading centre, on Nyahururu-Nyeri highway yesterday. Brenda urged Kenyans to strictly adhere to directives issued by the government.**

PD/ DAVID MACHARIA

treated and discharged after 23 days in isolation," she said.

The Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) and Multimedia University of Kenya Informa-

tion and Telecommunication Engineering graduate also urged Kenyans to strictly adhere to directives issued by the government.

She said the only way to beat the virus is by maintaining social distancing, hand wash, and staying at home. But a few hours later, social media was abuzz with claims that she had lied but she brushed them off.

"Twitter DCI, use the same energy you are digging on me to sensitise people on physical distancing and personal hygiene, which will go a long way in combating #COVID19Pandemic #WeShallOvercomeCorona," she tweeted.

## Crosshead

She said that she was wrongly being targeted by "haters" and vowed it would not stop her from enlightening Kenyans on the dangers posed by Covid-19 and how to avoid it.

The move by Kagwe to call for the arrest of social media users attacking Brenda and spreading lies about the coronavirus further generated heated debate online.

"BRAVO, CS Kagwe! Remember what Mzee Kibaki taught us: "...In every MARKET PLACE, there is a MAD Man". The MAD Men have LEFT the MARKET Place and bought REAL-ESTATE in social media. Attacking Brenda will not change the FACT that she RECOVERED from COVID-19. Her attackers MAY NOT!" renowned political analyst Mutahi Ngunyi tweeted.

"CS Kagwe has picked a battle with social media users that he is guaranteed to lose..." said human rights activist Boniface Mwangi.

# State orders matatu, boda boda passengers to wear face masks

by Zaddock Angira  
@PeopleDailyKe

In new tougher measures announced by government yesterday to curb the spread of Covid-19 disease, all public transport users will now be required to wear face masks when travelling. Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe said the mass production of masks commenced yesterday and they would be distributed to counties through county governments, boda boda and Matatu organisations.

"As I directed this week that boda boda drivers and their passengers should wear face masks, all tuk tuk drivers, matatu drivers and passengers are advised to adhere to this directive masks. We will distribute them," said Kagwe during the daily briefing on Covid-19 interventions yesterday.

Kagwe warned that not all masks met the government specifications for safety.

Director General of Health Dr. Patrick Amoth said the approved masks were three-layered and would be manufactured locally.

"The outer layer is hydrophobic and thus water repellent. The outer layer is to repel spillage including water or blood.

The middle layer has a filter that is designed to pick any bac-



**A nursing graduate from Kabarak University Solomon Kanyi distributes free face masks to boda boda riders in Nyahururu town yesterday. He said he has decided to empower the community to fight spread of coronavirus.** PD/DAVID MACHARIA

teria or particulate matter and stop the wearer from inhaling such matters.

The inner layer is designed to absorb sweat, spit or any secretion from the wearer.

He added that the Ministry has come up with guidelines to help health care workers and members of the families of the deceased persons on how to safely bury the bodies.

"One of the bodies has thoroughly been disinfected and put in a body bag. We are in discussion with the family and once they clear with the hospital bills will liaise with Trans Nzoia county on how best to dispose of the body," Amoth said.

Meanwhile, at least 4.3 million Nairobi residents will be supplied with masks, gloves, and sanitisers after the County Assembly approved Sh1.1 billion for combating Covid-19.

With Nairobi having the highest cases of Coronavirus cases out of the 110 confirmed by the Ministry of Health, it has been marked as the epicentre of the Covid-19.

## Buy sanitisers

The fund was approved during the County Assembly Special Sitting yesterday, which debated and passed the Nairobi City County Supplementary Appropriations Bill, 2020.

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## CORONA CRISIS

# Experts advocate lockdown to stop virus explosion

They warn surge in Covid-19 infections could overwhelm Kenya's weak health system, risking lives of Kenyans

by Zaddock Angira  
@PeopleDailyKe

Experts have warned that a surge in coronavirus cases in the country could overwhelm the weak health system, risking the lives of many Kenyans.

Consequently, they called on the government to take drastic action in the coming 30 days to contain the spread of the deadly virus and save lives. Infections in the country stood at 110 yesterday after Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe announced 29 more confirmed cases. The ministry projects that by the end of the month, the number will have risen to 10,000 if the spread is not slowed.

Dr Mazaher Jaffer, a lecturer at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine who also heads the Infectious Diseases Clinic at Nairobi's MP Shah hospital, said with the virus at the second stage of community transmissions, the government should consider radical steps, including a total lockdown.

He proposed five key measures that the government should take to slow the Covid-19 spread—a 14-day lockdown, aggressive mass testing, strict enforcement of guidelines with stiffer penalties, public awareness campaign on the need for behaviour change and scaled up tracing of all people who may be in contact with positive cases.

"In its early stages, Covid-19 in Italy looked nothing like a crisis. And like in the Kenyan case, numbers started growing drastically leading to the current catastrophe that has left more than 11,000 dead," said Dr Jaffer, who is also a World Health Organisation consultant.

"We're being told to stay at home and lock the doors but unless the government makes it mandatory with stiffer penalties for those who don't do it, I don't think we'll get there."

On his part, Dr. Nichodemus Nyandiko, an expert in disaster management and a lecturer at Masinde Muliro University of

Science and Technology, the shortage of health officers in public hospitals poses a challenge to the efforts to contain the virus.

"A serious shortage of medical resources was one of the main challenges which China had to overcome to stabilise the Covid-19 outbreak in Wuhan," he said.

The don proposed that the government puts in place tougher measures to arrest the virus, especially in areas already facing natural disasters such as floods.

"The government is yet to tell us how it is planning to deal with situations such as Nyando in Kisumu and Budalang'i in Busia, where hundreds of people have been displaced (by floods). How are movements of such people and crowding restricted, for example?" he asked.

## Negative pressure

For Dr Willy Akhwale, a Nairobi-based medic and a specialist in malaria control, the situation will get worse.

"The weeks ahead are going to be difficult for everyone in the country. Hard decisions must be enforced to save lives," he said. He noted that patients need to be isolated in negative pressure rooms to avoid cross-contamination. The negative pressure, which is lower than the surroundings, ensures that contaminated air does not escape.

Apart from the widely known preventive measures of keeping a social distance, hand washing and sanitising, Jaffer says the country needs to embark on an aggressive testing of symptoms and asymptomatic cases early enough.

"Proactive tracing of potential positive persons is very necessary. If a person

## 5 PROPOSED MEASURES

- A 14-day lockdown.
- Aggressive mass testing.
- Strict enforcement of guidelines with stiffer penalties.
- Public awareness campaign on behaviour change.
- Scaled up tracing of contacts.
- Total ban of travel from hotspot areas.



tests positive, everyone in that patient's home as well as their neighbours must be tested. If testing kits are not available," he observed.

He cited South Korea as a country where the number of new Covid-19 infections has been on the decline thanks to massive testing.

"The country has 50 drive-through screening clinics where people can get a sample taken in just 10 minutes. Health workers are processing up to 15,000 tests every day," Jaffer notes.

Other measures that he proposes to the National and County governments are closure of all open markets, aggressive fumigation of public places and buildings and total ban of travel from hotspot urban areas such as Nairobi.

CS Kagwe has, in his daily briefings, been reiterating the need to tame the spread of the virus as an explosion could stretch hospitals thin. The country lacks adequate Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds to accommodate patients who may develop severe Covid-19 symptoms.

Out of the 518 ICU beds, over 87 per cent are occupied by other patients. Consequently, the government has directed that surgeries that require patients to be put in ICU be suspended. Only 24 counties have functional ICU facilities, 14 of them having benefited under the MES project.

**A trader sells tomatoes to a motorist in Kisumu town, yesterday. Traders have been forced to hawk their wares after Governor Anyang' Nyong'o closed all open-air markets to reduce the spread of Covid-19.** PD/VIOLA KOSOME

## Adhere to State orders, Kemri scientists now tell Kenyans

by George Kebaso  
@Morarak

The coronavirus crisis can be handled in a short time if Kenyans adhere to all government directives, scientists at the Kenya Medical Research Institute (Kemri) have said.

The experts, who are part of a team conducting Covid-19 tests, said the novel virus is not as complicated as other viruses they have dealt with in the past.

Prof Matilu Mwau, who is leading the team at Kemri laboratories, exuded confidence that in due course, they will come up with treatment procedures to handle the respiratory disease.

"We are asking Kenyans not to panic, but to do the right thing by strictly observing hygiene and social distancing protocols. In fact, up to 80 per cent of Kenyans who test positive for the virus will recover," Mwau (pictured) told the *People Daily* yesterday.

He revealed that the agency is awaiting the arrival of about 120,000 reagents from Roche, a global pharmaceutical company.

"We will be able to test close to 30,000 samples or more in a day," he said.

But to completely vanquish the virus, he said there is need for co-operation from the public "who must be obedient. Do as you are told," he said.

The scientists have ordered extraction kits from the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) to be used in separating the virus at the lab.

"We are curious to see whether we are capable of making test kits for the virus here. We similarly want to know whether it is agreeable to make a vaccine here," said Mwau.



## Nakuru cops interdicted for assaulting locals in curfew enforcement

by Roy Lumbe  
@PeopleDailyKe

Four police officers who brutalised Kenyans in Nakuru while enforcing the dusk-to-dawn curfew on Wednesday evening have been interdicted.

In a joint press conference, Rift Valley Regional Commissioner George Ntembeya and Regional Police Commander Marcus Ochola yesterday condemned the use of excessive force on residents.

Ntembeya (pictured) said the Likia OCS and Officer Commanding Police Post have also been transferred for their failure to contain the situa-

tion which saw three civilians sustain serious injuries from the brutality.

Ntembeya asked police officers enforcing government directives to tame the spread of coronavirus to be humane. He said officers who brutalise locals will be prosecuted.

"All the officers who were involved in brutalising locals during the enforcement of the curfew are now under disciplinary action and they will also be taken to court to face charges," said Ntembeya.

He said the aim of the security operation is not to harm the members of the public but to ensure their safety.

He, however, appealed to resi-



dents in the region to government guidelines to avoid conflict with law enforcers.

"We shall do all we can to ensure safety of the locals. But let us also stop the confrontation between the police and locals," he said.

He regretted that most Rift Valley residents are yet to embrace the social distancing directive, saying most were still crowding in markets and markets and bus termini.

"The curfew is not a punishment but for the best interests of our health. Those trying to hang around town during curfew time should know that coronavirus has no respect for anyone," he warned.

Ochola said one of the police brutality victims was receiving treatment at the Nakuru Provincial General Hospital.

He reiterated that officers are only expected to arrest curfew violators and open charges, not assault them.

"I am handling six cases of police brutality in Nakuru, four of whom have been interdicted," he said.

Meanwhile, the Law Society of Kenya has raised concern over what it termed increase in cases of human rights violations by police officers while enforcing the curfew.

"We call on members of the public to report incidents through email," said LSK Secretary Mercy Wambua.



Patients queue at the Busia County Referral Hospital on Tuesday. Most of them ignored the social distancing directive. KNA



A police officer sanitises door handles of a matatu at Wiyumiririe trading centre on Nyahururu-Nyeri road yesterday. PD/ DAVID MACHARIA



A Mombasa resident carries a water tank after disembarking from a Likoni ferry. PSVs have been banned from picking up and dropping off passengers here. PD/ BONFACE MSANGI



Children at Kibera slums play in raw sewage. Most youths in informal settlements spend most of their time playing outdoors following the closure of schools. PD/JOHN OCHIENG



Parklands MCA Jayendra Malde (second right) donates food to Mariam Wanjera. The donations targeted less privileged families in the Deep Sea slums. PD/JOHN OCHIENG

## WORLD UPDATE

- 1 Weekly US unemployment claims hit a record high of 6.6 million as the effects of the pandemic bite.
- 2 Earlier there was record jump in the number of people applying for unemployment benefits in Spain.
- 3 The sudden increase in those signing up is powerful evidence that the coronavirus crisis is an economic emergency.
- 4 A total of 2,921 people have now died from coronavirus in the UK, according to the Department of Health and Social Care.
- 5 Health Secretary Matt Hancock is expected to outline how the government hopes to achieve "a significant increase" in testing.
- 6 The number of infections globally will reach a million within days, the head of the World Health Organisation says.
- 7 There is growing concern in several countries about supplies of protection equipment for medical workers.



A man washes hands next to a newspaper stand in Nyeri town where vendor, James Mwangi (left), said sales had dropped as most customers now stay home. PD/ JOSEPH KING'ORI



Lucy Kabura, a teacher at Gitura Secondary School, Ruiru, has taken to crocheting to pass time and earn extra money as the coronavirus crisis persists. PD/ALICE MBURU



A hawker sells sugarcane at Githurai Market. The buyers don't seem to bother about hygiene requirements even as the coronavirus disease spreads. PD/ ALICE MBURU



## CORONA VIRUS

## BRIEFLY

## Nairobi Hospital suspends operations at satellite clinics

**NAIROBI:** The Nairobi Hospital has suspended operations at all its six satellite clinics to contain the spread of the Coronavirus pandemic. "With acceleration in the number of new cases being reported, the battle with Covid-19 now moves into the inpatient space. We are recalling all staff from our satellite and other clinics to the main hospital to support inpatient management," the hospital's Chief Executive Officer Dr Allan Pamba said yesterday. Dr Pamba also said the hospital had also established a 100 plus bed capacity residence for

healthcare staff who may be required to stay at the main hospital to manage disease. The move, he said, was aimed at moving human capital and resources to the main hospital for purposes of consolidating the hospital's Covid-19 inpatient management infrastructure. The Anderson specialty clinics at the main hospital, as a result, will no longer accept walk-ins. "High risk obstetrics, vaccination clinic and Family Health clinic will be seen on appointment basis only," the CEO directed.

- Zadock Angira

## Laikipia extends deadline for rate payments to June

**LAIKIPIA:** The Laikipia County Government has extended the deadline for payment of rates and charges by two months. The move is aimed at cushioning the business community from tough economic times occasioned by Covid-19 pandemic. This is contained in a notice signed by Laikipia County Executive Committee Member (CECM), in charge of Finance, economic planning and County Development, Boniface Murungi Ndai (pictured). "This is to notify all our esteemed citizens that the County Government of Laikipia has extended the



payment of single Business permit and land rates which was due on 31st March 2020 to 31st May 2020," the notice dated March 31 reads. Ndai has encouraged the business community across the County to make their payments in installments to ensure they met the extended deadline.

- KNA

## Pastor returns negative test after forced quarantine

**NAROK:** A pastor who had been put into forced quarantine in Narok County for 14 days after arriving from Sweden has tested negative of coronavirus. The family of Florence Solonka of Free Pentecost church could not hide their joy after the pastor who was quarantined at Narok County and Referral Hospital was given a clean bill of health. Solonka backed by her husband said she had travelled from Sweden on March 18 where she

had been invited to preach for 13 days. "I was picked by my husband at the airport but when I arrived at my home, I was surprised to meet a group of women who had prepared me a surprise welcome whom I easily mingled with," said the pastor. "I was trusting God that all will be okay. I thank my husband who stood with me through all the drama I underwent when the police forcefully took me from my house to the hospital," she said. - KNA



A fully equipped isolation ward. Mombasa county health officer at the Covid-19 unit which has a 19-bed capacity isolation rooms at Coast General Hospital. Mombasa Governor Ali Joho has urged residents to obey government directives on Covid-19. PD/BONFACE MSANGI

# Panic as KPA employee succumbs to Covid-19, 56 isolation centres open

Facilities spread across all constituencies in Nairobi to be manned by qualified personnel

by Harrison Kivisu and Anthony Mwangi  
@PeopleDailyKe

Panic gripped Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) after it emerged that an employee of the institution was among two patients who succumbed to the Covid-19.

Ursula Buluma, 58, died on Wednesday night at a private hospital in Mombasa and was buried at the Mbaraki Cemetery in line with Muslim traditions in a highly protected ceremony conducted by health officials while members of the family watched from far.

The second patient was Major (Rtd) Daudi Kibati a former Kenya Air Force pilot. He had piloted the last Kenya Airways Dreamliner a week ago before he tested positive of Covid-19. He died on Tuesday at the Nairobi Hospital.

Last week KPA manager of operations, Captain William Ruto confirmed that the deceased had been admitted at the Mombasa hospital after testing positive for Covid-19 while others have been quarantined for interacting with the patient.

According to Ruto, Buluma left the office on March 20, for her normal medication but upon arrival at the hospital she tested positive for the virus. An official

from KPA told *People Daily* that the deceased worked in the sporting department.

"It's so unfortunate that we have lost her, she was one of us in the administration, since then a lot of people who interacted with her have been put on quarantine," said an official who is not authorised to speak to the media.

Yesterday, while addressing a media briefing Mombasa governor Hassan Joho said the hospital which was treating the patient needed to be investigated to establish whether the right procedures were followed.

Meanwhile, Ministry of Health has set up 56 isolation centres in different parts of Nairobi County as quarantine facilities.

The centres are staggered in at least all the constituencies and medical doctors, who are the team leaders will man each centre.

Others deployed to the centres are

public health officers, clinical officers, nurses and psychologists.

Yesterday, all the team leaders refused give any information concerning the matter saying their have been given strict instructions that all information must come for the Health CS.

"Please understand, we have been told not to talk to the media. All the information on coronavirus management should come for the CS, please bear with me," said Dr Nelly Pato who is in charge of four centres.

The centres include Mbagathi Hospital KNH, in Kibra, Moi Girls Nairobi (Kibra), Cooperative University (Langata), Corat Africa, Karen and KCB Leadership Centre (Langata).

Others are Long Suites Karen (Langata), KMTC (Langata), The Stand Leisure Hotel Nairobi (West), (Langata), Kenya Water Institute, South C' (Langata), Boma Hotel (Langata) and West Wood Hotel Upper Hill also in Langata.

The ministry has also set up centres at Waridi Paradise, Hurlingham (Dagoretti North), St Georges Girls, (Dagoretti North). Others are Lenana School, PC Kinyanjui Technincal, Mash Park Hotel, and Jamhuri, Kenya High School, University of Nairobi (Soweto, Block A-D, Stella Awinja, and Box all in Dagoretti South

In Dagoretti North there are more centres at Olive Gardens Hotel, Batiappeak Serviced Apartments, Four Points by Sheraton, Monarch Hotel, Hill Park Hotel, Eastlands Upperhill Hotel, Eastlands Hotel, Swiss Lenana Hotel, Hadassah Hotel, Comfort Hotel and Ufungamano House.

### ISOLATION WARDS

- Centres are staggered in at least all the constituencies and medical doctors, who are the team leaders will man each centre
- Ministry has set up 56 isolation centres in different parts of Nairobi County as quarantine facilities
- Others working at the centres are public health officers, clinical officers, nurses and psychologists

# Knut dismisses calls to postpone this year's national examinations

by Alvin Mwangi  
@PeopleDailyKe

Kenya National Union of Teachers (KNUT) has dismissed calls to have this year's national examinations postponed saying such action will disadvantage Kenyan children who have registered for the exam.

In a statement sent to newsrooms, KNUT Secretary General Wilson Sossion (right) advised the government

to come with new measures that will see the pandemic contained to ensure the academic calendar has not been affected.

"It is unprofessional, unethical and wrong and too early to contemplate the postponement and rescheduling of the national exams. The government should not entertain such imaginations but work towards resumption of normal business in the country," said Sossion.



Sossion further pleaded with the government to immediately stop using boarding school facilities in treating coronavirus patients due to post-corona stigma that may arise later.

Early this week, DP William Ruto announced that the government had directed the education ministry to work with county governments to identify at least 20 boarding schools per county that can be converted into health facilities and isolation centres,

if the need arises.

However, Kuppet secretary Akelo Misori called for the postponement of the national exams asserting the anxiety in the school system will not allow learners to sit for their exams, scheduled for November.

"The Ministry of Education and the Kenya National Examinations Council (Kneec) must postpone the national examinations immediately, said," Misori said. KNUT further urged President



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## QUOTED TODAY



**JOSEPH OLE LENKU**

I have directed the Department of Finance to waive all taxes and levies for April to June 2020. We need businesses to thrive so that our people can have affordable food.



**ALFRED MUTUA**

We need to think beyond social distancing and washing hands, even though they are vital. We have to think and work towards a permanent solution.



**BILL GATES**

Shutdown anywhere means shutdown everywhere. Until the case numbers start to go down across America — which could take 10 weeks or more — no one can continue business as usual or relax the shutdown.

## Together we can win war against Corona

Amid anxiety, uncertainty and fear, the confirmation on Wednesday that the first two coronavirus patients—Brenda Cherotich and Brian Orinda—had fully recovered, was not just another news item on the deadly respiratory flu.

It provided a glimmer of hope that this virus—that has tossed the whole world and humanity into unprecedented spin yet to be seen since the 1918 Spanish flu—can be conquered.

The deadliest influenza in human history infected 500 million people and claimed an estimated 25 million.

Experts are warning that unless the Covid-19, which has infected close to a million people and so far claimed 50,000 lives, is controlled, its global fatality numbers could hit 20 million.

This is alarming. It is a battle that every individual is called upon to take personal responsibility and fight with passion and conviction.

The virus must not just be stopped but defeated. This is why Kenyans—led by President Uhuru Kenyatta and the medical fraternity—celebrated Brenda and Brian recovery. They now join, the more than 195,000 people who have beaten the disease.

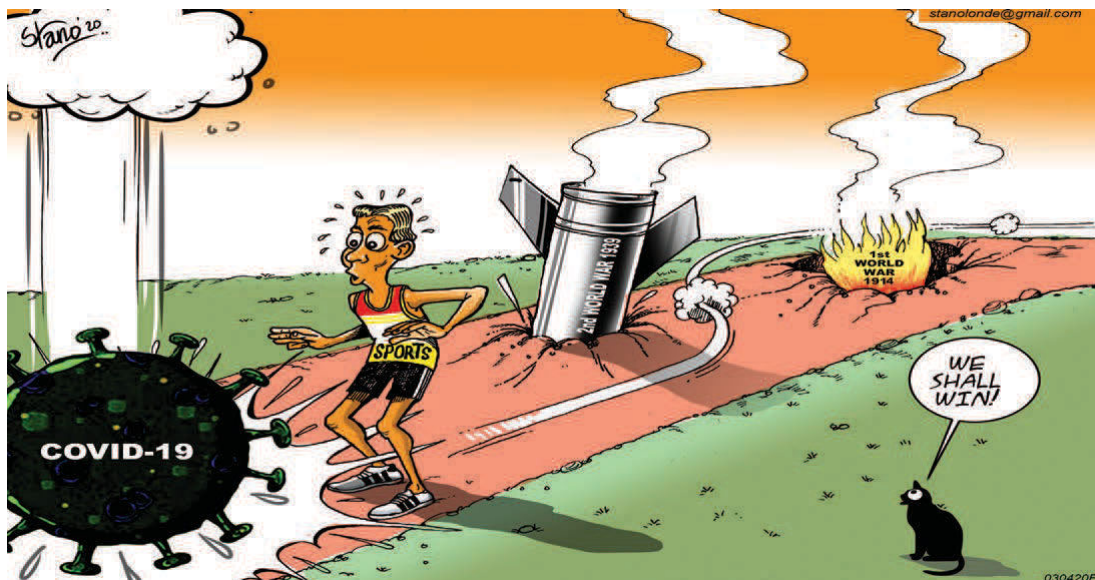
We laud the measures, including enhanced screening and testing, the dusk-to-dawn curfew and safety information being sent out to the public, that the government has put in place to stem spread of the virus.

The media, too, has done a commendable job in keeping the public informed and updated on how to keep safe.

Unfortunately, for some members of the public, the gravity of what confronts us is yet to sink. There are too many people, who are flouting social distancing and stay home guidelines, which are said to be most effective tools to stop the Covid-19.

For the doubting Thomases—and the ignorant—they need to watch the devastation the virus is causing in countries such as Italy, the United States, United Kingdom and Spain, which have established health systems and technology.

And the fact the disease is moving to counties with weak health systems, large population of elderly people and cultural practices that are inimical to social distancing, is even more worrying. With the current trajectory in confirmed cases, the next 30 days will be a make or break.



## Ignore anti-pandemic protocols at your peril

There is a reason to believe the government was slow in starting the campaign against coronavirus.

For a while it did not seem as if anything was going on, and when Cabinet Secretaries were asked to appear before parliamentary committees, they either did not show up or did not appear to have the facts.

Then came the secret filming of a Chinese plane arriving in the country that angered the nation. It happened just as the government reorganisation brought in former Nyeri Senator Mutahi Kagwe as the new Health Cabinet Secretary. Since then, the flow of information has never been the same.

What we have not asked is what Kenyans are doing with the information they are getting from the Ministry of Health's daily updates. From these briefings, together with what is available on other communication platforms, there is certainly saturation of information. But what are the people doing with that knowledge?

The protective measures are clear: wash your hands with soap and water or use a sanitizer. Keep physical distance. Isolate yourself when necessary and generally observe hygiene. Should you sense symptoms of the disease, contact the relevant authorities. But people's behaviour is not changing.

John-Bell Okoye is a post graduate student at the School of Communication at Daystar University. He has been investigating whether there is change in behaviour in the light of the



**LEVI OBONYO**

There is a lot of information. But what are people doing with that knowledge?

information that people have.

He set his observation booth outside the main market in Ongata Rongai to assess compliance with the government's directives. The day after the confirmation of the first corona case, the market authorities provided a water dispenser and soap. They even had someone to ensure that people washed their hands before entering the market. Okoye has been at the observation booth every day for the last two weeks, spending an average of two hours daily, and recording his observations.

His findings are astounding. The guard has been pushing back anyone who tries to ignore the directive to wash their hands. On that score, there has been 100 per cent compliance. But most people wash their hands grudgingly. Both WHO and the Ministry of Health have recommended that hand washing should last at least 20 seconds.

So Okoye has been observing how long Kenyans are taking washing their hands. So far the person who took the shortest time lasted two seconds. Only one person in the last 15

days lasted the recommended time of 20 seconds. The average time people took washing hands is seven seconds. This is way below the recommended 20 seconds.

At the beginning, the market provided water and soap. But as time passed, even the market authorities relaxed. The first to go was soap. When Okoye investigated why this was so, he was told the market was now supplying soapy water, thus no need for soap.

There was no evidence that the water had soap. When Okoye sought to know what soap was in the water, the attendant said the name was scientific and too long for him to remember. It was only after the researcher volunteered and provided some soap that the authorities brought back soap.

This lack of compliance is not isolated. Similar reluctance has been observed in the general population. Families in Western Kenya still struggle to define nuclear family when it comes to funeral participation. Defining who is a member of this inner circle family is a big challenge where one has four wives, several children and grandchildren yet the government is limiting the number to 15.

It is too early in Okoye's study to report why there is lack of compliance. But it is this second part of concern, compliance, that the government needs to focus attention and scholars help the nation to explore. That is how we will reduce this pandemic.

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

### THOUGHT OF THE DAY

SAINT AUGUSTINE

In the absence of justice, what is sovereignty but organized robbery?



# Arresting misinformation in wake of Covid-19 crisis

"Coronavirus is treatable!" This was the message from Brenda, Kenya's first Covid-19 patient who has recovered after successful treatment during a 23-day quarantine period. Her experience with coronavirus has given hope to many Kenyans that hitherto, have been living with fear for their health. Indeed, her sense of responsibility and patriotism will be remembered.

The country went into frenzy when Brenda's case was reported in the media. Being the first case in Kenya, speculation was rife about her identity and movements within the country. This uncertainty eventually led to misinformation, disinformation and even the stigmatisation of certain individuals suspected to have contracted the virus.

Notably, governments and medical institutions across the world are doing all they can to provide citizens with timely and accurate information on the disease. Regrettably, their efforts are constantly challenged by the avid spread of falsehoods and half-truths about the virus, its impact and its possible cures.

In particular, medical misinformation is being created and shared across platforms with little regard to the impact that it might have on its recipients. Those creating such alternative information are as varied as those affected by it. From herbal-



SANDRA OCHOLA

**It is necessary to teach people how to be smart consumers of information**

ists, religious leaders to politicians, every one seems to have an instant cure, if not a fact sheet on the global and local effects of the virus. The consequence of such abandon is that those receiving the message will either panic, become complacent or apathetic about the virus and its impact.

The spread of misinformation about coronavirus has become so perverse that world leaders are now calling on the masses to exercise caution in their conversations about the pandemic. Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar this week, for instance, used his Twitter handle to urge everyone to "please stop sharing unverified info on WhatsApp groups." "These messages are scaring and confusing people and causing real damage. Please get your info from official, trusted sources," he said.

Social media is especially problematic and it gets even complicated with platforms such as WhatsApp that have end-to-end encryptions. Under such circumstances, it becomes impossible to hold the plat-

forms accountable or for third party fact-checkers to detect the source and path of information.

Policing can only go so far, however, in addressing the issue at hand. While not all information that is created is intended to deceive and cause harm, it is probable that there are groups and individuals that will take advantage of the situation to breed disorder. Regardless, it is important that the masses are empowered with the right skills to detect and deal with medical misinformation.

Public education about the virus tops this list of interventions. It is generally agreed that when you are proactive with timely and accurate information, you leave little room for misinterpretation and falsehoods. Governments and medical institutions have consequently made it a priority to build public trust in the nature and extent of information that they provide. Official information about corona has been simplified into local languages to meet that demand and there is constant communication between these entities and the masses.

It has also helped that those put in charge of communicating about the virus are trusted faces—believable even when there is little to say.

Beyond this, it is necessary to teach people how to be smart consumers of information. Many institutions continue to invest in fake news 'classes' in anticipation of occurrences such as Covid-19. However, in instances where such classes do not exist, self-verification of information must be emphasised.

Self-verification demands that an individual fact-checks the information they are presented with. In the age of the Internet and social media, searching and browsing through official websites or social media handles work best. This is especially important in times of crisis and uncertainty.

Agreeably, an individual's ability to recognise false information on any platform will be affected by their levels of education, income, Internet skills and personal attitude towards verification of information.

It must be remembered, however, that when lies reach a person who practices self-verification then that lie ceases to grow. The opposite entails when that falsehood gets to someone who is unwilling or unable to examine its authenticity.

—The writer is an Advocate of the High Court

## STREET TALK

### Minister, connected PS in supremacy battle

A supremacy battle between a Cabinet Secretary and a Principal Secretary has escalated, owing to a close relationship the latter enjoys with a powerful individual. Our mole intimates the minister fears the well-connected PS could instigate her demotion given that the PS's powerful contacts are close to the appointing authority! The CS has, however, been stamping her authority at the ministry, which the PS does not take kindly.

### Quarantine exposes woman 'call-girl' job

Mandatory quarantine for those travelling to Kenya from abroad has messed up a woman who has been lying to her family she was in an overseas college on a fully-paid scholarship. Truth is, the woman has been working as a call girl abroad and her mother only got to find out after the girls left her phone behind when she went into isolation. The mother saw the inappropriate pictures that her daughter had sent to her various "clients" and is still coming to terms with the reality.

### Revellers resist arrest, turn against policemen

Two police officers who sought to arrest revellers who had locked themselves inside a bar were forced to scamper for safety when the patrons turned against them. The officers, who were off duty and, therefore, not armed, were overwhelmed by the more than 50 revellers who attempted to strip them naked. By the time the officers called for reinforcement, the drunkards had already left and the bar locked. It was a bad day for the officers who had plotted to make a quick buck from the arrests, given the government has ordered bars closed to stop the spread of coronavirus.

### Con men on the prowl with quarantine threats

Some con men have been taking advantage of Kenyans who recently came back home from abroad. The fraudsters target those who travelled home when the government was allowing people to self-quarantine on arrival. They storm their homes armed with fake police IDs and demand cash, failure to which they threaten to take the individuals into forced quarantine. Those who are not conversant with the quarantine protocols willingly bribe the "officers" to be allowed to stay at home.

# We mustn't let 10,000 cases projection become reality

It is slightly more than two weeks since the first coronavirus case was reported in Kenya and a lot has happened since. The highlight has probably been the recovery of two patients who had been isolated at Mbagathi hospital.

The coming out of the two offers hope at this time to a population that has been overwhelmed with messages of a ravaging virus, with infections and deaths surging across the globe.

You see, in times of crisis, the public turns to the media, not just for information but to learn how they can mitigate the crisis. This is why the media remains critical. They offer credible information at a time when propaganda, conspiracy theories and fear messages are flooding their inbox and timelines on social media platforms.

The news of recoveries was, therefore, a welcome relief and reminder that Covid-19 is not necessarily a



HESBON OWILLA

**We must learn from the pain that the two recovered Covid-19 patients have gone through**

death sentence. Ideally, we would want to celebrate the recoveries and romanticise the triumph over the virus, but the reality is that the war is not over and we must learn from the pain that these two patients have gone through and commit not to that route.

The infections in Kenya stood at 81 as at Wednesday and the Health ministry has projected that the figure could grow up to 10,000 by the end of the month if Kenyans do not adhere to government directives to tame the spread of the virus.

But it should not get to that. Our resolve now should be to follow the government guidelines to combat the

coronavirus. Stay home and maintain hygiene and physical distance.

You see, the corona virus only gets to be active when it secures a residence in our bodies, and when we follow the social distancing guidelines to the hilt and behave as if we either have it or the person next to us has it, our bodies will no longer be the conduits to help it spread.

Our objective now should be to not to the 10,000 projection by end of April. Kenyans have a big role to play and an achievement to look forward to. We already know so much about the virus and thanks to both the mainstream and social media, Kenyans are updated on the virus

toll, infections and recoveries across the world.

We know how the situation is in hard hit countries such as Italy, Spain and the US and we even know how they got where they are. We are thus informed on what not to do.

It is important to expose yourself to messages that provide pathways to behaviour change that will stop the spread. No need to forward or share that scary message that instil fear. What we need is to only focus on messages that will help us stop the virus from finding residence in our bodies because that way we cannot pass it on, and if all of us stopped it, then it will die.

Kenyans are a very resilient and caring people and we unleash our best when our backs are up against the wall. We will beat this COVID-19 and we need to start by making the 10,000 projection not happen.

—The writer is a PhD candidate in political communication

## #TWEETS TO THE EDITOR



**Kenyans were commemorating the Garissa University terror attack that claimed 147 lives.**

**@BravinYuri:** On a day like this, April 2, 2015, we lost 147 students of Garissa University. These innocent Kenyans will always remain in our hearts. 147 isn't just a number.

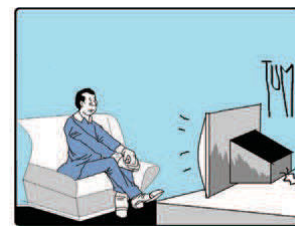
**@RealWanjikuKE:** April 2nd 2015: Blood thirst criminals massacred innocent, & brilliant young Kenyans. The dreams of bright Kenyans were halted by criminals. We may not bring them back to life, but we will never forget them!

**@ProfCymOhAFC:** A day like today, we lost 147 comrades from terror attack in

/// @PeopleDailyKe /// f People Daily

Garissa University. Kenya remembers, may their souls rest in peace.

**@kalonjelli:** I stand with our fallen comrades who succumbed to the Garissa University terror attack. You shall forever live in our hearts. I stand with the survivors, God loves you and have a purpose for your lives. Search for it and follow it.



**TRUTH IS:** The good news of Christ is the best news in the world.



## CORONA CRISIS

## BRIEFLY



## MCAs set up Sh20m coronavirus kitty

Kirinyaga MCAs have stepped up the fight against coronavirus by setting up a Sh20 million kitty and an ad hoc committee to co-ordinate mitigation measures. The kitty will help the county government buy medical supplies, sanitisers, water tanks, and soap. A fortnight ago, the Assembly had appropriated Sh4 million in the Supplementary Budget for the pandemic.

- KNA



## Exempt trucks from curfew, State urged

Slaughterhouses in Nakuru county want the government to allow trucks transporting livestock exempted from the curfew, saying their businesses have been greatly affected by the travel restrictions. Speaking in Gilgil yesterday, the traders, led by John Olegesho, said the purpose of the curfew is to limit social contact and not cripple businesses.

- Roy Lumbe



## Residents demand closure of brew dens

Residents of Bungoma county have expressed fears that illicit brew dens will contribute to the spread of Covid-19 in the area as people tend to overcrowd in them. Led by former West Nalondo MCA James Nyongesa, the residents want police and provincial administration in the county to ensure that the brew business is stopped immediately.

- Yusuf Masibo



## Oparanya: Migration to hurt war on virus

by Douglas Dindi  
@PeopleDailyKe

Kakamega Governor Wycliffe Oparanya has said the outflow of Nairobi dwellers and those of other major towns to the villages could hurt the fight against the spread of coronavirus in the country.

In his address to the media yesterday, Oparanya (pictured) said there has been an increase in urban to rural migration in the

past week, which could exacerbate the spread of the virus to the vulnerable, elderly members of the population who mostly live in rural areas.

"I know because of the closure of factories and some government operations, many people will opt to travel back home until the situation improves," he said, adding that the migration was likely to worsen the health crisis in the counties.

# Inmates freed in fight against deadly Corona

Some 3,837 prisoners released to decongest facilities, Ogalo optimistic they will not re-offend

by Zaddock Angira  
@PeopleDailyKe

The Kenya Prisons Service yesterday released 3,837 inmates, following a directive from the Judiciary.

"In efforts to decongest correctional institutions with a view to protecting the prison population against coronavirus, the Kenya Prisons Service has released 3,837 prisoners and remandees in concurrence with the National Council on the Administration of Justice (NCAJ)," Commissioner-General of Prisons Wycliffe Ogalo said in a statement.

Of the released inmates, 898 had already served the entirety of their respective jail terms while another 2,267 had their sentences revised by the High Court across the country. A total of 627 other inmates were released after the magistrates courts reviewed their bail or bond terms.

"All the inmates in our facilities have been brought through the administration of the justice system. We only keep them. They will be released immediately and this will go a long way in decongesting the prisons," he said.

The prisons boss said the service was not worried about cases of recidivism, where convicted criminals tend to re-offend, as he believed most of the petty offenders had been rehabilitated.

"Our main mandate is to rehabilitate and we are convinced that those released will reintegrate in the society," Ogalo said.

On Wednesday, Chief Justice David Maraga said over 4,800 inmates serving jail sentences less than six months would be released from prison, as part of the measures the government has adopted to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

Maraga also directed that any crime in-

volving defiance of national orders regarding control of Covid-19 will be considered serious crime and courts will convene to hear such cases.

The CJ had, immediately the first coronavirus case was confirmed in Kenya, directed that no prisoners or remandees will be presented to court, and that the courts will only handle serious cases. The move was aimed at decongesting the prisons.

Maraga said the High Court had in the last two weeks received files of inmates, who are petty offenders jailed for less than six months and others whose remaining period is less than six months, which were subjected to review.

"The files were presented to the High Court for review. This has resulted in the release of 4,800 inmates significantly helping to decongest the prisons. The exercise is continuing," Maraga said.

## Implement directives

He added: "Serious crimes including defiance of national orders regarding control of Covid-19 will continue to be presented in court for plea taking. In consultation with the police and the DPP courts will convene at short notice and handle such cases."

On Tuesday, the NCAJ members conducted a virtual meeting attended by the



Commissioner-General of Prisons Wycliffe Ogalo. PD/FILE



## IN SUMMARY

● On Wednesday, Chief Justice David Maraga said over 4,800 inmates serving jail sentences less than six months would be released from prison.

● The above is part of the measures the government has adopted to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

Inspector General of Police Hillary Mutiyambai and DDP Noordin Haji at a past event. They have issued various directives to curb the spread of coronavirus. PD/FILE

DDP Noordin Haji, EACC chief executive Twalib Mbarak, the Inspector General of Police Hillary Mutiyambai, the Commissioner-General of Prisons Wycliffe Ogalo and the President of the Law Society of Kenya Nelson Havi.

Maraga also said that the NCAJ had resolved that petty and traffic offenders should never be held by police for more than 24 hours.

"They should be released on bond or cash bail. The OCS is under strict instructions to implement these directives," he said.

"For the sake of transparency, all police stations will have centralised records showing the number arrested and the terms of their release. The ODPP will monitor the exercise periodically," he added.

## Deliver rulings

Immediately the first coronavirus case was confirmed in Kenya, the CJ directed that police avoid arbitrary arrests and unnecessary detention of suspects, for minor offences.

"The Judiciary and the rest of the public sector has not closed shop. The sector continues to render services and the NCAJ is determined to ensure that the wheels of justice do not grind to a halt," Maraga said.

He added: "This communiqué supersedes all the others that had been given earlier on."

Maraga regretted that there had been a significant spike in sexual offences in the last two weeks, about 35.8 per cent of the criminal matters recorded during that period.

As a result, the CJ said depending on the individual facts of each case upon application by the DPP the courts will be available to give early hearing dates.

Other measures announced by the CJ include the isolation of new inmates and prison labour also be reduced to a bare minimum.

The CJ said the judges are executing their duties albeit from home, and more courts will deliver judgments electronically.

In the next two weeks the Supreme Court will deliver 10 rulings. The Court of Appeal will deliver more than 45 judgements and rulings on appeals today, April 3. The High Court, on the other hand, will deliver 367 judgements while the Environment court will deliver 269, among other rulings.

Also suspended until further notice, is the execution of warrants of arrests, court decrees and orders made prior to March 15.

The ODPP has said they would only prosecute serious cases of murder, robbery with violence, terrorism, and trafficking.

In a communication to the staff, DPP said other new arrests apart from those mentioned above, will be dealt with at the police stations in accordance with guidelines to be issued by the IG.



# World grapples with biggest humanity crisis in a century

Total infection cases nearing a million as pandemic spreads across the four continents

by Noah Chepleon  
@PeopleDailyKe

With more than 900,000 confirmed cases in over 200 countries, the Covid-19 pandemic has united the human race, proving—once again—that the world is a global village.

At no time in recent history has humanity been bound in fear and uncertainty: rich and poor and the high and mighty are for the first time facing one common problem and the solution seems to have eluded everybody.

Although the deadly virus originated from Wuhan in China, it has become a global issue with countries such as United Kingdom, Italy, France and Spain facing a lockdown.

US leads the table with more infections in a table that offers a grim reality of the situation as it is. More than 200,000 confirmed cases with most of it recorded in the last five days followed by Italy and Spain. China which reported the first case of the epidemic is fourth in the list.

By yesterday, with more than 48,000 deaths reported with US, slowly turning to be the epicentre of the virus has seen 5,112 deaths surpassing China.

Globally, more than 195,000 people are known to have recovered from the disease whose symptoms include fever, cough, tiredness and difficulty in breathing, in severe cases.

Despite fear, panic and gloom, the Covid-19 has brought out the positive aspects of people with Chinese richest man Jack Ma leading the way in terms of donations to various countries ravaged by the virus.

## Donations

Jack Ma has also extended his hand by making donations worth millions of dollars to African countries and other nations across the globe. Jack Ma is also supporting the US and Europe which is worst hit globally.

The billionaire donated 5.4 million masks, 1.08 million testing kits, 40,000 protective suits and 60,000 protective masks to help Africa combat Covid-19. A plane carrying the donation landed in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia last Sunday.

The cargo was from the Jack Ma Foundation after the Chinese offered to support all the 54 African countries manage the crisis that has led to most countries declaring lockdown to prevent the spread of the pandemic that is in more than 25 countries on the continent.

"The virus started in China, but the pandemic can no longer be resolved by any individual country," Jack Ma said.

The Chinese government has also dispatched specialist doctors and nurses to Italy after taming the virus back home.

During his state of the nation address last week, President Uhuru Kenyatta described Covid-19 as an unprecedented global health crisis while Health CS Mutahi Kagwe, in his Sunday briefing, underscored the fact that the virus has put all nations in a dilemma.

President Kenyatta has cautioned that the greatest enemy in the fight against Covid-19 is not the virus itself, but "fears,



Kenya received 100,000 face masks from the Jack Ma Foundation. Kenya has benefited from the donation from the Chinese billionaire and Alibaba co-founder Jack Ma. The masks, together with 20,000 test kits and 1,000 protective gear landed at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport on March 24 and received by Ethiopia's Ambassador to Kenya Meles Alem (left), KAA Staff Alex Gitari (centre) and the Director of Public Health Dr Patrick Amoth (right). PD/KENNA CLAUDE

**900,000**  
Confirmed cases in over 200 countries, the covid-19 pandemic has united the human race

rumours and stigma".

"Focus should shift to sensitisation campaigns at the grassroots including in ward levels and villages to ensure residents understand how to prevent this coronavirus spread," said Kenyatta.

"The US has said that it is facing a shortage of essential materials and UK is facing the same challenges. In fact, no country in the world is currently in a position to handle the disease. Therefore, there is a likelihood that it can and could overrun our facilities here and we must be prepared..." said Kagwe.

Locally, more than 100 people have so far tested positive for Covid-19 with the government announcing mass testing of 2,050 persons who have been quarantined at the 14 designated centres. The government has warned of more stringent measures if Kenyans continue flouting curfew imposed one week ago.

## Heir to the Throne

From Prince Charles, the heir to the British throne, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson to Oscar winner Tom Hanks and his wife, actress and singer Rita Wilson—both 63—to Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta, coronavirus has brought both the rich and the poor together.

Although Arteta has fully recovered, Turkey football legend and 2002 World Cup hero, Rustu Recber was yesterday battling for his life in hospital with doctors describing his condition as "critical period". Other celebrities that have tested positive for coronavirus include British actor Idris Elba, famous opera singer Plácido Domingo, 79, and four-time ward winning playwright Terrence McNally who died from Covid-19 complications last week aged 81.

The virus also claimed the life of former Real Madrid president Lorenzo Sanz who died last week at 76 years. Cameroon music icon and saxophonist Manu Dibango, 86, also succumbed to the deadly virus in Paris, France last week.

The global death toll for the deadly virus

## WORLD'S BIGGEST CRISIS

- Humanity facing one common problem for a solution that seems to have eluded everybody
- US, slowly turning to be the epicentre of the virus has seen 5,112 deaths surpassing China
- Chinese billionaire Jack Ma leads the way in humanitarian and logistical donations to various countries ravaged by the virus
- Chinese government has also dispatched specialist doctors and nurses to Italy after taming the virus back home
- Humanitarian organisations and financial institutions such as World Health Organization (WHO) and World Bank are working round the clock to stem the spread

which originated from Wuhan, China yesterday stood at 34,000 with Italy and Spain leading at 10,779 and 6,803 respectively. At the same time, US is now leading with over 143,000 confirmed cases followed by Italy at 97,689.

In his latest address, US President Donald Trump conceded that deaths could reach 100,000 in his country adding that if it can stay below that number "we would have done a very good job"—signaling the gravity of the matter.

## Humanitarian organisations

The virus has shown that it knows no borders and it is because of this reason that world leaders, humanitarian organisations and financial institutions such as World Health Organisation (WHO) and World Bank are working round the clock to stem the spread of the disease and its effects on the economy.

The World Bank has given the Kenyan government Sh6.1 billion to help combat the Covid-19 pandemic. It has also set aside 150 billion dollars to help developing countries fight and recovers from the coronavirus pandemic.

## BRIEFLY

### Nyandarua acquires more protective gear

Nyandarua county government has procured medical supplies and medical personnel's protective gear worth Sh14 million as it intensified its fight against coronavirus. County Executive Committee member for Health Dr John Mungai (pictured) said the move was aimed at bettering medical services and ensuring safety of medical workers dealing with the global pandemic Covid-19 within Nyandarua County. "We have procured these items through the Kenya Medical Supplies Agency (KEMSA) at a cost of over Sh3 million. They include over 300 pieces of PPEs, gloves, surgical and protective masks and other protective clothing designed to keep medical and non-medical staff working in the health facilities safe from contracting the virus, while handling patients," he said. - KNA



### Officers returning from leave to isolate

Police officers returning from their annual leave in Bomet have been ordered to take a mandatory 14-day self quarantine following the outbreak of coronavirus in the country. In a signal to all the five sub county police commanders, County commander Naomi Ichami said the move was in line with the government's measures of helping avert a possible spread of the pandemic in the county. The communication comes days after an order from the inspector general of police suspending the annual leave of all security officers across the country. "Please inform all the officers who are resuming from leave to quarantine themselves for 14 days before embarking on their normal duties," read the signal dated April 1. The police boss further informed the sub county heads to liaise with officials from the ministry of health. - Philip Yegon

### Kitui fumigates town in coronavirus fight

The Kitui County government on Wednesday night fumigated all public places in Kitui town to curb the spread of coronavirus. Governor Charity Ngilu said the fumigation initiative is one of the key measures by the county in the fight against spread of the highly infectious virus. "To this effect, the activity commencing today will extend to other key public places in the county," said Governor Ngilu. She disclosed that a cross section of health workers have received required training on handling the Covid-19 cases to ensure safety in the county's health facilities. Governor Ngilu said that public places including factories, supermarkets, banks, restaurants and slaughterhouses among others must avail water for handwashing. - KNA





## Joho hires 95 trainee nurses to help fight Corona

by Harrison Kivisu  
@harriskivisu

Following rising cases of coronavirus in the country, Mombasa county government has kicked off recruitment of 95 trainee nurses, through a public service internship programme, to boost the capacity of health centre in the area.

Through an advertisement published in local dailies, the county public service board and the Health ministry want qualified applicants to fill the vacant positions.

"The public service internship programme is a government initiative designed to offer the opportunity for col-

lege graduates to acquire and develop valuable technical and professional skills while gaining work experience and certify the requirement for registration by various professional bodies," read the notice.

The plan comes as cases of Covid-19 continue to surge in the country with Mombasa registering 7 out of the 110 cases countrywide.

### Unveil package

Some of the county health facilities that have isolation centres are Tudor and Mvita hospitals.

The county also has a 19-bed capacity private isolation wing at the Coast Pro-

vincial General Hospital.

Governor Hassan Joho (pictured) says so far the county has also trained 24 health personnel to handle any case of Covid-19 in Mombasa.

Last week, in a bid to calm residents who expressed fears of food and water scarcity, Joho unveiled a relief package to cushion the most vulnerable in the county against hunger.

The Governor issued a stern warning to food wholesalers, who may see the crisis as a business opportunity and hike commodity prices. He said all stakeholders should rally together to defeat the pandemic.

## Cop with golden heart in times of global despair

Amina wows Kenyans for helping mother and child navigate way home on day one of the ongoing curfew

by Harriet James  
@harriet86jim

Everyday, Amina Mutio Ramadhan, wakes up at 4.30am and begins her day by saying her *dua* (prayer).

She then bids her children bye and sets off to work. As a traffic police officer based at the Embakasi Police Station, her work entails arresting traffic offenders and ensuring free flow of traffic.

Sometimes she checks roadworthiness of vehicles and directs those that are not roadworthy to the station.

However, on one particular tense night, she was going about her duties trying to enforce the 7pm-5am nationwide curfew announced by President Uhuru Kenyatta in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, when she came across a woman with her baby alighting from a bus. It was already 7pm and she knew the woman and her child were in trouble.

"She was scared because people were running helter-skelter trying to get home and were also running away from the police. When she saw the chaos, she ran with her child towards the road leaving her luggage behind. What moved me was the child and I was running towards her to assist her not to arrest her," Amina says.

Amina finally caught up with the woman, helped her get her luggage back and together, they called the woman's husband to come and pick her up.

Little did Amina know that someone had noted her act of kindness and had taken her photo and shared it on Facebook. The photo went viral in the midst of cases of police brutality that took place that night.

"The instinct of a mother made me not even think about the social distancing directive. I didn't do it for the fame. All I wanted to do was to assist the woman and her baby get home safely," says the single mother of two.

Amina admits she helped a lot of women in need get to their homes that first curfew night. One had just been discharged from hospital and there was no taxi operator willing to take her home because of the directive so she helped them out.

This was not the only photo of her which has gone viral. In another incident that took place in 2017, Amina is pictured helping an old woman. The photo was taken by one of her colleagues who saved it in his phone. When the co-worker saw the latest one trending, he posted the 2017 photo to affirm that Amina has been consistently kind-hearted during the 17 years she has been in the police service.

"I was not aware that there was someone even taking the photo. *Ilikuwa tu tendo la utu* (it was an act of kindness). I am a mother and sometimes my job makes me empathise with the people I meet and serve," she says

### Spark interest

From the time she was a young, Amina had always desired to be a police officer. She was raised in Nguluni area of Machakos county and went to Nguluni Township Primary School before proceeding to Matungulu Girls Secondary School.

She says she would meet police officers in uniform and that sparked her interest in the job. Amina joined the service in 2003 when she was 20 years old. She later underwent GSU training at the Embakasi Training School.

She served as a GSU officer until 2007 before moving to the police service.

The officer attributes her kind heart to her mother, who she watched loving and



Police officer Amina Mutio Ramadhan (right) helps a woman and her child on March 27, the first day of the nationwide 7pm-5am curfew. COURTESY

helping those in need all her life.

Though her mother knew much later in life of her career as a woman in blue, she is proud of her and is aware of Amina's desire of one day being the Inspector General of Police.

"Being an extrovert I love interacting with people, learning what they are going through and seeing ways through which I can assist them. I'm grateful that being a police officer enables me to do that," she says.

Being a social person, she says, one thing that has been tough on her is not shaking hands during the coronavirus period. In addition, the season has also added a bit of pressure at workplace since she has to get home late after ensuring adherence with the curfew deadline.

When she's not working, Amina loves spending time with her children. She also visits the sick during her free time.

She hopes that her story will enable Kenyans change their perception of the police and understand that there are some in the force who are kind-hearted and work to protect the public.

"The public should stop having a negative attitude towards the police..." she concludes.

## Marsabit closes all abattoirs

Residents of Marsabit county will find it hard to access meat for the next two weeks following the closure of all slaughterhouses in the area by the government to control the spread of coronavirus.

A notice signed by the Marsabit director of veterinary services Dr Boku Bodha and copied to the county Agriculture director, Public Health officer and police commander, among others, says the department of veterinary services opted to suspended operations of all slaughterhouses for 14 days.

The notice further said the veterinary personnel who work at the slaughter houses in the county lacked the necessary personal protection equipment to protect themselves from the risk of contracting the virus.

Meanwhile, the Strathmore University student who was isolated at the Moyale Level Four Hospital following suspicions that she could be suffering from Covid-19, has been declared free of the virus.

### Wash hands

Governor Mohamud Ali, while speaking to the press on phone, confirmed that after the blood samples were taken to Nairobi for testing the results turned out negative.

The governor appealed to the residents to practise high levels of hygiene.

"We are not yet out of the woods and need to take the necessary precautions of washing hands and self-distancing.

"I am appealing to all residents that when one develops any symptoms related to the virus, they should report to the nearest government health facility. We should not say that it is over until the government declares all to be well," he said.

Ali also urged residents to avoid unnecessary travel.

An eight-bed isolation ward has been established at the Moyale hospital as part of contingency measures.

Further, Moyale being an entry point, surveillance and security patrols have been enhanced along the common border of Kenya and Ethiopia.

-KNA

### IN OWN WORDS

● "I didn't do it for the fame. All I wanted to do was to assist the woman and her baby get home safely" -Police officer Amina Mutio Ramadhan.

● "I was not aware that there was someone even taking the photo. *Ilikuwa tu tendo la utu* (it was an act of kindness). I am a mother and sometimes my job makes me empathise with the people I meet and serve" -she says.

● "The public should stop having a negative attitude towards the police" - she adds.



## 800,000 animals set for vaccination

The ongoing mass livestock vaccination campaign targeting more than 800,000 animals in Garissa county will proceed uninterrupted despite the threat posed by the Coronavirus.

Addressing the press in Duiji, Balambala sub-county when he launched phase II of the campaign, Agriculture Executive Mohamed Shale (pictured) said stopping the exercise midway could be catastrophic to the sector that is the mainstay of the area. More than 80 per cent of residents in North Eastern are pas-

toralists and livestock is their major economic mainstay.

"We want to stop the further spread of the livestock diseases and outbreaks to protect pastoral livelihoods. It's a source of livelihood of a huge population," Shale said.

"While we respect all rules that have been outlined by the national government and the Ministry of Health, we don't want to be left out. We shall observe all the rules in place including social distancing," he added.

The minister said during the ex-

ercise, more than 300,000 goats and sheep will be vaccinated against the Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia. Also, to be vaccinated are 500,000 head of cattle against lumpy skin disease and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia.

Shale said alongside the vaccination, all the animals will also be dewormed and sprayed to control pests and ticks saying the exercise will be mostly confined in 10 wards of the six sub counties of Lagdera, Dadaab, Balambala, Fafi, Holugho and Ijara.

-KNA



## Teacher, two daughters held over caretaker killing in Siaya

A teacher and her two daughters were yesterday arrested in connection with the killing of a man in Ukwala Township in Siaya county.

The 37-year-old primary school teacher and her daughters are locked up at Ukwala Police Station after the body of the deceased, said to be the caretaker of a plot neighbouring the teacher's house, was found on a footpath.

Ugenya sub-county police commander Willy Simba, who confirmed the incident, identified the deceased as Davine Otieno Ogunja.

Simba said a member of the public called the police with information that a person had been beaten to death by three women.

"The officers visited the scene and found the body which had no visible injuries," said the police boss.

He said that preliminary investigations have revealed that the deceased had a quarrel with the family after he objected to one of the daughters hanging clothes on the fence of a plot where he works as a caretaker.

Simba said that a bitter argument ensued between one of the teacher's daughters and the caretaker, attracting the attention of her mother and another of her daughters who all pounced on Ogunja.

Ogunja was overpowered by the trio who beat him senseless before retreating to their house.

The police commander said that the body of the deceased was taken to Ukwala sub-county hospital mortuary to await post mortem examination, adding that the suspects will be arraigned once investigations were complete.

-KNA

# Crisis at Thika hospital as staff down tools over pay

Medics decline to treat patients while those in wards sent home demanding their dues

by Mathew Ndung'u  
@PeopleDailyKe

Operations at Thika Nursing Home in Kiambu county were yesterday paralysed after medics' boycotted work, demanding their salaries.

The nurses, clinical officers, pharmacists and subordinate staff were protesting over unpaid dues for the last four months.

Led by Dr Jackline Lumire, a medical officer at the facility, the more than 80 workers claimed their employer has been taking them in circles every time they ask for their dues.

"We are frustrated. Calling the press is actually our last resort because we have not been paid for the last four months. We have tried our best to wait but the most painful thing is that there is no communication from the management," said Lumire.

The medics declined to admit and attend to patients forcing the admitted patients to be discharged.

"All services have stopped because honestly, you are telling someone to continue working without pay. As other Kenyans stock for a possible total lockdown, we have been left to wallow in poverty. It's sad," she said.



### ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

● **Operations paralysed:** The nurses, clinical officers, pharmacists and subordinate staff were asking to be paid their December, January, February and March salaries.

● **Protective gear:** They accused the hospital management of failing to provide them with protective gear and sanitisers to prevent them from contracting Covid-19.

Some Thika Nursing Home medical staff address journalists outside the facility in Thika town, yesterday. PD/ MATHEW NDUNG'U

Addressing journalists outside the facility, the medics also accused the hospital management of failing to provide them with protective gear and sanitisers to protect them from contracting Covid-19 disease.

### Service loans

Jenerica Wanjohi, who has served at the facility for over a year, said she has never experienced such difficulties in her over 40 years in the medical profession.

"We are tired of borrowing and frustra-

tions every time we ask what is rightfully ours. Right now I am unable to service loans and my creditors are on my neck. We don't know what to do," she said.

The staff said they won't resume duty until they get all their dues.

Efforts to reach the hospital management for a comment were initially futile as journalists were barred from meeting the administrator.

Later, the management called journalists and said they would pay all the staff by close of business today.

## Kilifi agrovet dealers accused of selling expired farm inputs

Some farmers in Kilifi North and Kaloleni sub-counties have urged authorities to investigate some agrovet shops reportedly selling expired seeds and chemicals.

Led by Kazungu Katana, a farmer, they claimed they purchased several packets of spinach, sukuma wiki and tomatoes seeds in the shops two weeks ago but was shocked that none germinated and suspected they could have expired.

"We urge police County department of agriculture and veterinary services to intervene by inspecting and remov-

ing expired farm inputs from the shops to save farmers from unnecessary losses," said Kazungu.

There are more than 20 agrovet shops in Kilifi North and Kaloleni sub-counties. Over 10, 000 farmers rely on these outlets to buy farm inputs.

Agriculture executive Margaret Jefwa and her Veterinary counterpart Cosmas Malenga asked farmers who purchased suspected expired goods from the agrovet shops to take the samples to their Kilifi and Kaloleni offices for investigations.

-KNA

## Grief as boy drowns while swimming

Sorrow has engulfed Majengo Estate in Narok town after a 13-year-old boy drowned while swimming in a seasonal river on Wednesday.

The boy's parents said their son failed to return home, sparking anxiety in the family which forced them to go searching for him among his peers in vain.

According to a close family friend, David Omondi, other villagers joined in the search for the boy yesterday, only to discover his lifeless body floating in a deep valley.

"Luckily, I am a professional diver. When I was told about the



incident, I led a group of other swimmers to the river where we discovered the body floating in the seasonal river," said Omondi, adding that the boy's parents had just enrolled him at Engaroni Secondary School and had high hopes that he would one day pursue a degree in engineering as that was his childhood dream.

Following the incident, Pastor George Lemain, of the Light Christian Fellowship Church, asked parents to monitor their children's whereabouts, especially during this period when all learning institutions are closed to avert the spread of Coronavirus.

"Every parent should be watchful of their children during this time they are at home when the heavy rains are being experienced. The parents should take advantage of the time to discover their children's talents and bond with them," said Lemain.

-KNA





Trade of any kind would decline due to closure of international borders

# Businesshub

## Recession inevitable as coronavirus affects trade

Analysts predict that economic effects could be felt five years after pandemic is contained

by Lewis Njoka  
@LewisNjoka

Investment and financial specialists are warning of a global recession as supply chain shocks hit investments, household consumption and international trade, on the back of the Covid-19 scourge.

According to a report by the Institute of Certified Investment and Financial Analysts (Icifa), analysts say Kenya's supply chain will bear the highest impact, followed by declining company revenues.

The report, which paints a gloomy picture of economies, further notes that uncertainties over the virus, decline of stock prices, weakening of domestic currency, sectoral decline of demand for products and volatility of interest rates are also shaking the outlook.

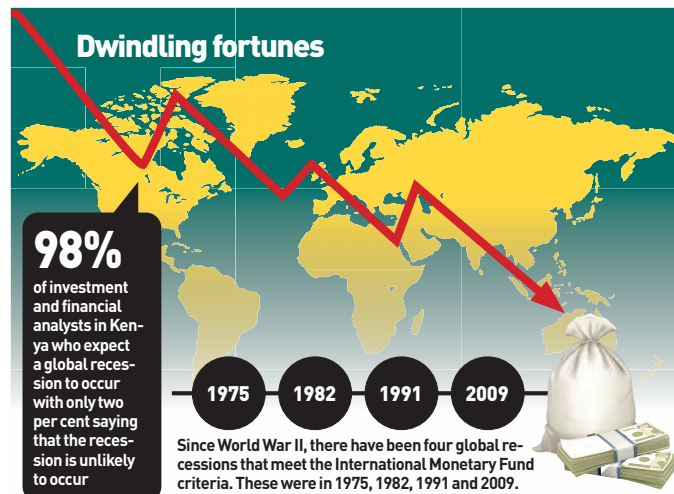
"From the respondents' views, there was a general concern on the supply chain disruptions that may be occasioned by the Covid-19 crisis. The concerns raised pointed to a state where trade of any kind would decline due to closure of international borders thereby causing traders not to be able to access supplies or export their produce," the report reads in part.

### Trade relations

In a world which is highly interconnected, with countries forced into lockdowns, closed factories, cancelled flights, and closed borders, the global supply chains will never be the same again hence affecting businesses. Kenya's close trade relations with China come into focus.

Most of the analysts in the country feel that a global recession will occur after the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Icifa report shows that 98 per cent of investment and financial analysts in the country expect a global recession to occur with only two per cent saying that the recession is unlikely to occur.



A global recession is an extended period of economic decline around the world characterised by factors such as reduced gross domestic products (GDPs), lower employment rates and reduced purchasing power among others.

Of those who feel it will occur, 29 per cent rate the possibility at normal likelihood while 69 per cent said there was a high likelihood.

About 86 per cent of the respondents believe the global recession will last less than two years while 12 per cent said it would last more than five years.

"More than half of the respondents (53.7 per cent) estimated that the recovery pe-

riod from the global recession would last less than one year while 31.7 per cent of the respondents estimated a period of between one and two years. Only two per cent of the respondents estimated that the recovery period would take three to four years, which was the least ranked period," says the Icifa report.

Since World War II, there have been four global recessions that meet the International Monetary Fund criteria. These were in 1975, 1982, 1991 and 2009.

### Global economies

Unlike the upcoming recession, which analysts attribute to the effect of Covid-19 pandemic on global economies, the last one (2009) was brought about by deregulation in the financial industry.

The Icifa study was carried out in March and involved 93 respondents, all members of the institute.

Of these, 55 per cent were from private sector, 31 per cent from public sector, while the remaining 14 per cent came from other sectors such as commercial, non-profit, education and others.

**There was a general concern on the supply chain disruptions that may be occasioned by the crisis**

### BRIEFLY



### Airtel Kenya to extend 2 per cent discount to clients

**TELCO:** Airtel Kenya will give two per cent bonus airtime to all its prepaid customers for all recharges following the government's announcement on reduction of Value Added Tax (VAT) from 16 per cent to 14 per cent.

Prepaid customers can use the bonus to purchase airtime for voice, data or SMS while postpaid customers will enjoy a two per

cent bonus on their monthly bills.

The bonus will automatically reflect on customer accounts upon every recharge from the various options.

Airtel Kenya chief executive Prasanta Das Sarma assured customers that Airtel will keep offering products and services to help reduce their burdens during this unpredictable period.

— Barry Silah

### Eastmatt supermarket to sell sanitiser at factory price

**CSR:** Eastmatt supermarket will, for the next one week, sell sanitisers at factory price to encourage more Kenyans to heed to the call for proper sanitation.

Speaking during the announcement, Eastmatt managing director Joseph Kamau said the retailer will forgo its profit margins in that category for a one-week period starting April 3 to 10.

"The pandemic has shown us that we cannot depend on the big corporates alone to play an active role. Everyone in the society has to help. While the pandemic has had a profound negative impact on businesses as a whole, we can still make an impact in whichever way we can. We have, therefore, come to the decision that we will, for one week, sell sa-



nitisers at the price we buy from manufacturers. We will be stocking approximately 40,000 pieces of assorted sanitiser brands across our eight branches to reach as many people as possible," said Kamau.

However, to ensure the campaign reaches masses, Kamau said the supermarket will only allow purchase of two sanitisers for every customer.

— William Murigi

## Millers cry foul over 14pc maize importation duty

by Nicholas Waitathu  
@PeopleDailyKe

Flour and animal feeds manufacturers faulted the announced duty on imported maize, arguing the initiative will not change the current situation in the market.

The millers insist that the reduction of the import duty from 50 to 14 per cent for white maize and 10 per cent for animal feeds will not push

prices downward as majority of consumers could have expected.

Agriculture Cabinet Secretary Peter Munya said at a press briefing in Nairobi that the government will be allowing millers to import four million bags of maize to feed the country for the next three months.

The millers, however, welcomed the government's move to approve importation of more maize for flour and animal feed production.

But the government has maintained that reduction of the importation levy is meant to stabilise the market.

"As part of the wider strategy by the government to protect the consumers against the effects of the corona virus, our idea is to ensure there is stability in the market," Prof Hamadi Boga, Agriculture Principal Secretary, said in a phone interview.

Ken Nyaga, chairman of the Unit-

ed Grain Millers Association, said as part of taming the effects of the Covid-19, the government ought to have removed the duty and equally increased the imports to eight million bags.

Munya had said there is enough maize in the custody of farmers, millers, traders and institutions that can last the country up to May, two months ahead of the start of the harvest from early crop in South Rift.

**50pc**

Initial importation duty for white maize which has been brought down to 14 maize for this year's round of importation.





# Why property sector faces grim future

Pandemic is worsening a weakened sector that was already bearing the brunt of repeal of loan caps

by Steve Umidha  
@PeopleDailyKe

Kenya's real estate sector is now staring at a bleak few months as the coronavirus pandemic continues to ravage global financial markets.

Even as Kenyans sit at home watching the value of their investments crater, experts say players in the sector were always sitting on the edge and the unforgiving wave of Covid-19 has just added salt to an already festering wound.

Industry experts say real estate sector was somewhat expected to get a hit this year on the back of two critical factors, key among them, being last year's radical move by the State and organic market forces. "The deadly virus only rubbed salt in that wound," they add.

In November last year, President Uhuru Kenyatta signed into law the Finance Bill 2019 after the bid to remove a cap on commercial lending rates was passed in Parliament in the same month following a quorum hitch, and potentially boosting the flow of credit to the economy and return of expensive credit.

As a result, high-risk borrowers like individuals and small businesses were expected to face an increase in loan rates of up to three percentage points following the removal of the legal cap on commercial lending charges.

Following that decision, property market observers reckoned that the decision was bound to create uncertain environment for local investors even though the banks had vowed not to raise loan rates arbitrary as a result of the nod.

Property developer Lordship Africa, for instance, believes the move would be very decisive for market trends in the coming months.

Its Chief executive Anuj Kale said it would likely continue into the near future – albeit in a short term and that we should expect a "wait-and-see" attitude from the market.

"The way the equity and debt markets behave affect developers directly – but that said it is a very unpredictable animal, until the banks and capital markets decide for themselves what the market will bear," he said in an interview with *Business Hub*.

"So, Yes, the interest cap is lifted but the banks have not gone into the practice of lending without the cap yet – until we see what their competitive nature is, perhaps how that drives capital markets, it's best to wait and see what happens in the near future," he added.

## Post-cap era

Kale cautioned that acting on a prediction and conjecture now could be a major mistake. But Covid-19 came a little early even before the banks could monitor lending patterns in the post-cap era.

Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) last week began negotiations with the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) for financial rescue package, targeted at cushioning Kenya's economy from the vagaries of COVID-19 pandemic.

This coupled with the ongoing virus pandemic is further expected to affect lending patterns in the coming weeks or perhaps months.

Tim Kipchumba, another property developer at Questworks concurs, believes that the long-term impact would be dependent on government's appetite for borrowing.

"In the short-term I believe the market will panic but in the long-term it will entirely depend on government's pattern of borrowing locally, provided it doesn't borrow much from local lenders, I believe the market will be under no pressure – provided there's enough money in circulation and working capital in the market, local banks will compete effectively," he said.

Kenyan property developers, homeowners and landlords have been benefiting from the property boom and buoyant housing market in recent years – even after the introduction of interest rate cap in 2016, but that time could now be mired by the growing uncertainty in the sector at least in the next four to six months, according to Kipchumba who is Questworks Chief finance officer.

In early 2016, legislators passed the law imposing a cap on commercial lending

## RATES

● Experts say interest rates, especially, the rates on interbank exchanges and Treasury bills, have a profound effect on the value of income-producing real estate as on any investment vehicle.

● Interest rates can significantly affect the cost of financing and mortgage rates, which in turn affect property-level costs

rates at four per cent points above the Central Bank (CBK) benchmark rate to cushion Kenyans against prohibitive cost of loans.

Commercial banks have since then been pushing to have the law repealed, and they had their way at last.

Experts say interest rates, especially the rates on interbank exchanges and Treasury bills, have a profound effect on the value of income-producing real estate as on any investment vehicle.

## Local borrowing

"Because their influence on an individual's ability to purchase residential properties (by increasing or decreasing the cost of mortgage capital) is so weighty, many people incorrectly assume that the only deciding factor in real estate valuation is the current mortgage rate," they say.

Interest rates can significantly affect the cost of financing and mortgage rates, which in turn affects property-level costs and thus influences values.

However, supply and demand for capi-

tal and competing investments have the greatest impact on investment values.

These changes in capital flows can also have a direct impact on the supply and demand dynamics for property.

The cost of capital and capital availability for instance, affect supply by providing additional capital for property development; as they also influence the population of potential purchasers seeking deals. These two factors, he says work together to determine property values.

"Anyone investing is going to be affected by capital markets reaction. It is a good thing because it triggers change. But unpredictability of it makes it a bit of a concern but until we see a regular practice under the new freedom from the banks, it's going to be tough in making these decisions," he says.

To invest in real estate, one needs high capital and favourable interest rates when borrowing money since banks use stringent guidelines during vetting process before granting loans for investments.



A real estate development in Nairobi. The coronavirus pandemic will negatively affect a sector that was already suffering from repeal of interest rate caps.

## BRIEFLY

### Chamber urges State to subsidise energy costs

by Noel Wandera  
@NoelWandera5

The private sector wants the government to subsidise electricity costs to manufacturing firms and waive taxes on food and other essential items in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

Speaking during a video conference meeting with the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry national delegates council, chamber president Richard Ngatia (pictured) also urged county governments to shore up sensitisation drives through civic education to



shore up awareness.

"Prices of basic commodities have gone up, insecurity has worsened, there is a delay in supply of goods and services and reduction in production of products and closure of businesses in the wake of the pandemic," said Ngatia.



### Narok farmers call for tax reduction on diesel, inputs

by Peter Leshan  
@PeopleDailyKe

Farmers in South and North Rift want the government to lower tax on diesel, fertilisers, pesticides, fungicides and other farm inputs to boost production.

The tax, they said yesterday, drives up the cost of fuel and important farm inputs,

adding that their reduction would help the country tackle the looming food shortage as the novel coronavirus pandemic takes its toll on all sectors of the economy. "Tax on diesel, which is the main driver of the agriculture sector, should be reduced," said Narok Farmers Union secretary Erisha Kuluo.

### Covid-19 mitigation measures force businesses to close shop

Measures aimed at slowing the spread of the novel coronavirus are hitting small businesses hard with a number of traders in Nakuru opting to close shop.

With traders and small businesses being ordered to either close down or relocate out of the central business district by the county government, a lot of sectors have been greatly punctured.

Customers are shunning the few open small enterprises with coffee shops and lunch joints saying business is down by as much as 80 per cent as office workers, who are their main customers, stay home.

According to James Mu-

rimu, a manager at Santra Fast Foods, many other businesses including restaurants have reported that their sales declined between 30 and 40 per cent last week with some announcing they will close for a couple of weeks.

He called on the government to relax some of the orders saying the latest order by the regional commissioner to close down essential services providers in Nakuru will have a negative effect on SMEs.

Last week, market traders, matatus and boda boda operators were ordered out of the town's CBD as they were cited as the greatest weak links in the spread of Covid-19.

— by Roy Lumbe



# Will Covid-19 end culture of working from office?

Employers keen to entrench new home-based model once pandemic is over to cut rental and transport costs

by Lewis Njoka  
@LewisNjoka

The current workplace setup where most employees work from the office may be headed for a radical shift following the global outbreak of coronavirus pandemic.

Most employers have hinted at plans to continue with the work-from-home culture even after the pandemic is over.

Meanwhile, most bosses are uncomfortable with their juniors working from home during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, a survey by human resources consultancy, Corporate Staffing, has shown.

The survey found that managers consider trust issues between workers and their bosses and lack of supervision as the main impediments to remote working and feel that employees are less productive while working from home.

## Reduced supervision

Employers, the study adds, also feel that due to reduced supervision, staff working off-site could hand in poorly done work necessitating repetition of tasks.

"There is mistrust by some employers. Some supervisors, perhaps because they feel they must be in control or don't trust their workers, are uncomfortable having employees work offsite," the survey says.

But employers are to blame too. The findings reveal that most of them never prepare their staff for such an eventuality hence employees lack the right training and capacity to fulfill their duties effectively.

Employees also lack of essential tools such as laptops and reliable internet connection which would enable them work smoothly from home. The survey states that lack of internet is the biggest challenge for employees working from home (23.4 per cent) while distraction from family members comes second at 22.6 per cent.

Despite the challenges, nearly three quarters of the employers said they would like to

entrench the work-from-home culture in their organisations once the pandemic is over.

A majority (71.1 per cent) of the employers said they would wish remote working to continue and be entrenched in their organisation after the pandemic is over while 28.9 per cent said they will not entrench it.

More than half (54 per cent) of the employees wish that working remotely would continue even after the pandemic is over while the rest (46 per cent) would want it terminated.

## Proper training

"Whichever way you look at it, Covid-19 has disrupted the workplace. There is need for proper training not only on the technical part, but also skills such as discipline. There's also need to ensure that there is infrastructure to support the employee," said Corporate Staffing Services managing partner Perminus Wainaina.

Samson Osero, a HR consultant, concurs with the survey that the working-from-office setup is on the verge of experiencing a paradigm shift.

"With the technology advancements we have, the future of the office is threatened especially when people can work from home for certain professions. The shift to working from home is going to be gradual since employers need to be convinced to make work flexible," says Osero.

The survey involved a total of 1,830 employees and 258 employers from various sectors in the country.



## PRESIDENT'S DIRECTIVE

● A majority of employed Kenyans are currently working from home following a presidential directive issued March 15 ordering employers to allow their employees to work from home

● According to the survey, 65.5 per cent of the employers have complied with the presidential directive while 34.5 per cent are yet to.

## NAIROBI SECURITIES EXCHANGE

HIGH	LOW	SECTOR	VMAP	PREVIOUS	TOTAL
		AGRICULTURAL	PRICES		SHARES
17.60	9.90	Eaagads Ltd Ord 1.25		11.00	
440.00	290.00	Kakusi Plc Ord 5.00		300.00	
100.00	57.00	Kapcharua Tea Kenya Plc Ord 5.00		65.00	
605.00	405.00	The Limuru Tea Co. Plc Ord 20.00		475.00	
22.70	14.00	Sasini Plc Ord 1.00		16.50	
178.00	92.00	Williamson Tea Kenya Plc Ord 5.00	106.25	100.00	500
AUTOMOBILES & ACCESSORIES					
27.00	20.00	Car & General (K) Ltd Ord 5.00		24.00	
BANKING					
13.85	9.30	ABSA Bank Kenya Plc Ord 0.50	10.00	9.98	429,800
31.00	22.40	BK Group Plc Ord 0.80		22.40	
166.00	76.50	Diamond Trust Bank Kenya Ltd Ord 4.00	85.50	86.75	17,400
55.50	32.15	Equity Group Holdings Plc Ord 0.50	33.85	33.90	3,080,900
7.90	3.38	HC Group Plc Ord 5.00	4.19	4.19	10,100
126.00	42.50	8M Holdings Plc Ord 1.00	48.50	50.25	200
55.50	33.75	KCB Group Plc Ord 1.00	34.25	34.90	1,357,900
6.50	3.22	National Bank of Kenya Ltd Ord 5.00		4.12	
41.00	24.90	NCBA Group Plc Ord 5.00	28.50	28.35	165,600
117.75	83.00	Stanbic Holdings Plc Ord 5.00		95.00	
225.00	168.00	Standard Chartered Bank Kenya Ltd Ord 5.00	180.75	176.00	1,100
17.00	10.05	The Co-operative Bank of Kenya Ltd Ord 1.00	12.85	12.95	226,400
COMMERCIAL AND SERVICES					
5.10	0.45	Deacons (East Africa) Plc Ord 2.50		0.45	
1.30	0.81	Eveready East Africa Ltd Ord 1.00	0.85	0.84	300
8.50	5.00	Express Kenya Plc Ord 5.00	5.50		
9.50	1.28	Kenya Airways Ltd Ord 1.00	1.40	1.34	499,700
8.80	4.24	Longhorn Publishers Plc Ord 1.00	5.24	5.24	1,000
1.20	0.60	Nairobi Business Ventures Ltd Ord 1.00		0.60	
71.00	22.00	Nation Media Group Plc Ord 2.50	24.00	24.55	143,700
4.70	1.22	Somera Africa Plc Ord 5.00	2.32	2.29	800
33.00	19.50	Standard Group Plc Ord 5.00		22.00	
25.15	11.50	TPS Eastern Africa Ltd Ord 1.00	13.15	12.60	6,000
0.95	0.23	Uchumi Supermarket Plc Ord 5.00	0.29	0.30	31,100
22.00	9.90	WPP Scangroup Plc Ord 1.00		15.15	
CONSTRUCTION & ALLIED					
8.35	2.40	ARM Cement Plc Ord 1.00		5.55	
145.75	45.00	Bamburi Cement Ltd Ord 5.00		48.00	
92.00	58.00	Crown Paints Kenya Plc Ord 5.00		58.00	
9.98	1.44	E.A. Cobles Ltd Ord 0.50	1.52	1.48	9,500
20.50	12.95	E.A. Portland Cement Co. Ltd Ord 5.00		14.25	
ENERGY & PETROLEUM					
7.40	4.00	KenGen Co. Plc Ord 2.50	4.99	4.93	207,800
5.50	1.63	Kenya Power & Lighting Co Plc Ord 2.50	1.80	1.78	50,500
5.50	5.00	Kenya Power & Lighting Plc 4% Pref 20.00		5.00	
6.00	6.00	Kenya Power & Lighting Plc 7% Pref 20.00		6.00	
33.00	22.00	Total Kenya Ltd Ord 5.00	24.95	24.95	1,000
8.70	5.00	Umeme Ltd Ord 0.50	6.20	6.20	158,300
INSURANCE					
10.50	5.70	Britania Holdings Plc Ord 0.10	6.56	6.52	13,500
4.85	2.00	CIC Insurance Group Ltd Ord 1.00	2.30	2.30	137,600
442.00	250.00	Jubilee Holdings Ltd Ord 5.00	275.00	275.00	1,000
16.30	2.10	Kenya Re Insurance Corporation Ltd Ord 2.50	2.77	2.53	2,300
13.00	6.80	Liberty Kenya Holdings Ltd Ord 1.00	8.48	8.74	3,200
26.00	13.80	Sanlam Kenya Plc Ord 5.00		15.00	
INVESTMENT					
37.40	19.60	Centum Investment Co Plc Ord 0.50	23.00	23.05	26,000
0.77	0.30	Home Africa Ltd Ord 1.00	0.35	0.34	57,200
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		2.31	
4.50	1.80	Trans-Century Plc Ord 0.50	1.80	2.00	12,700
INVESTMENT SERVICES					
16.00	8.24	Nairobi Securities Exchange Plc Ord 4.00	9.00	9.02	16,600
MANUFACTURING & ALLIED					
87.00	52.25	B.O.C Kenya Plc Ord 5.00	61.75	62.00	6,200
700.00	360.00	British American Tobacco Kenya Plc Ord 10.00		378.25	
10.80	7.10	Carlsberg Investments Plc Ord 1.00	8.50	8.50	14,900
230.00	135.00	East African Breweries Ltd Ord 2.00	149.00	149.25	318,500
3.15	0.90	Flame Tree Group Holdings Ltd Ord 0.825		1.05	
14.00	12.25	Kenya Orchards Ltd Ord 5.00		12.25	
0.70	0.25	Mumias Sugar Co. Ltd Ord 2.00		0.27	
42.00	28.75	Unga Group Ltd Ord 5.00		29.00	
TELECOMMUNICATION					
33.50	20.10	Safaricom Plc Ord 0.05	28.25	26.50	9,152,600
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST					
11.00	6.88	STANLUB FAHARI I-REIT Ord 20.00	8.16	8.20	6,100
EXCHANGE TRADED FUNDS					
1450.00	1235.00	ABSA New Gold ETF	1415.00	1415.00	

NSE ALL SHARE INDEX: UP 3.43 points to close at 136.68  
NSE 20-SHARE INDEX: UP 17.34 points to close at 1985.27  
NSE 25-SHARE INDEX: UP 36.29 points to close at 3162.82

## MARKET WATCH

### COMMODITY PRICES IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES (26/3/2020)

VARIETY	COMMODITY	Weight	Nairobi	Malindi
CEREALS	Dry Maize	90	2700	3200
	Green Maize	115	2100	3400
	Finger Millet	90	8600	7200
	Sorghum	90	5300	6300
	Wheat	90		6300
LEGUMES	Beans Canadian	90	7800	9000
	Beans Rosecoco	90	8400	
	Beans Mwittemania	90	7200	9000
	Mwezi Moja	90	5400	9000
	Dolichos (Njahi)	90	12000	9000
ROOTS & TUBERS	Green Gram	90	10200	9000
	Cowpeas	90	6600	7200
	French Peas	51	3000	5300
	Groundnuts	110	14300	18700
	Red Irish Potatoes	50		
HORTICULTURE	White Irish Potatoes	50	2900	6050
	Cassava - Fresh	99	2450	3000
	Sweet Potatoes	98	4000	5850
	Cabbages	126	1800	4500
	Cooking Bananas	22	600	480
OTHERS	Ripe Bananas	14	600	420
	Carrots	138	3800	6600
	Tomatoes	64	6000	7680
	Onions Dry	13	1060	1900
	Spring Onions	142	2900	
OTHERS	Chillies	38	2450	3800
	Cucumber	50	2400	2500
	Capsicums	50	2500	5000
	Brinjals	44	1540	2200
	Cauliflower	39	2950	3900
OTHERS	Lettuce	51	1400	8000
	Passion Fruits	57	4100	6000
	Oranges	93	3500	1500
	Lemons	95	2600	2850
	Mangoes Local	126	2300	2100
OTHERS	Mangoes Ngowe	25	1300	450
	Limes	13	2600	1040
	Pineapples	13	800	650
	Pawpaw	54	2000	2250
	Avocado	90	2600	3200
OTHERS	Kales	50	900	2000
	Eggs	300	370	

### COMMERCIAL BANKS' AVERAGE FOR MAJOR CURRENCIES (OPENING MARKET) - 2/4/2020

CURRENCY	MEAN	BUY	SELL
US DOLLAR	105.1882	105.0853	105.2912
SW KRONER	10.4715	10.4597	10.4833
STG POUND	130.5315	130.3894	130.6735
SINGAPORE DOLLAR	73.3147	73.3202	73.3992
SAUDI RYAL	27.9607	27.9319	27.9896
SA RAND	5.8524	5.8442	5.8606
S FRANC	108.8117	108.6602	108.9632
NOR KRONER	10.2120	10.2005	10.2234
KES / USHS	36.0783	35.9954	36.1611
KES / TSHS	21.9987	21.9297	22.0678
KES / RWF	9.0536	8.9719	9.1354
KES / BIF	17.9638	17.8899	18.0377
JPY (100)	98.1325	98.0273	98.2377
IND RUPEE	1.3963	1.3944	1.3981
HONGKONG DOLLAR	13.5685	13.5552	13.5818
EURO	115.0882	114.9659	115.2106
DAN KRONER	15.3991	15.3829	15.4153
CHINESE YUAN	14.8111	14.7872	14.8350
CAN \$	74.2671	74.1813	74.3529
AUSTRALIAN \$	63.7862	63.7132	63.8591
AE DIRHAM	28.6371	28.6063	28.6678

## BAT in process of developing coronavirus vaccine

by Noel Wandera  
@NoelWandera5

BAT's American bio-tech subsidiary, Kentucky BioProcessing (KBP), is developing a potential vaccine for Covid-19 and is now in pre-clinical testing.

If testing goes well, BAT is hopeful that, with the right partners and support from government agencies, between one and three million doses of the vaccine could be manufactured per week, beginning in June.

While KBP remains a commercial operation, the intention is that its work around



DAVID O'REILLY

We are seeking guidance on next steps

the Covid-19 vaccine project will be carried out on a not for profit basis.

The vaccine in development uses BAT's proprietary, fast-growing tobacco plant technology which has several advantages over conventional vaccine production technology.

## Tobacco plants

In a statement to global media houses, David O'Reilly (pictured), the US-based firm director of scientific research said the vaccine is potentially safer since tobacco plants do not host pathogens, which cause human disease.

O'Reilly said the potential vaccine is faster because the elements accumulate in tobacco plants much more quickly—six weeks in tobacco plants versus several months using conventional methods.

"We are engaged with the US Food and Drug Administration and are seeking guidance on next steps. We have also engaged with the UK's Department for Health and Social Care, and Bara in the US, to offer our support and access to our research with the aim of trying to expedite the development of a vaccine for Covid-19," said O'Reilly.





If you do not have a mask, use a scarf or any other face covering.

## BRIEFLY



### Israel minister tests positive, Netanyahu quarantined again

**JERUSALEM, THURSDAY:** Israeli Health Minister Yaakov Litzman on Thursday tested positive for COVID-19, forcing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to re-enter precautionary quarantine.

Netanyahu's previous quarantine, imposed earlier this week after one of his staffers tested positive for the novel coronavirus, had ended Wednesday night. The premier's new seven-day self-isolation was imposed

following his contacts with the 71-year-old Litzman, the prime minister's office said. "Litzman and his wife feel well, are receiving treatment and will be quarantined and supervised," a health ministry statement said.

Netanyahu also told Israelis to wear face masks in public. "If you do not have a mask, use a scarf or any other face covering that will reduce the spread of the virus to others," he said. **-AFP**

### Zoom vows to address privacy, safety issues after complaints

**NEW YORK, THURSDAY:** Videoconferencing group Zoom pledged to step up privacy and safety controls after a series of complaints about the application which has surged in popularity during the coronavirus pandemic.

In a statement late Wednesday, Zoom founder and chief executive Eric Yuan said the company would be "shifting all our engineering resources to focus on our biggest trust, safety, and privacy issues."

The move came after the FBI highlighted the problem of "Zoombombing" by hackers or uninvited guests who



harass Zoom video conferences with hate speech or pornography.

Yuan said he was "deeply sorry" for the incidents and pledged to fix the problems.

Zoom had 200 million free and paid users in March as a result of surge in usage around the world as people work from home to tame virus spread. **-AFP**

### Chinese city bans trade, consumption of cats, dogs

**SHENZHEN, THURSDAY:** Shenzhen on Thursday became the first Chinese city to ban the sale and consumption of dog and cat meat.

It comes after the coronavirus outbreak was linked to wildlife meat, prompting Chinese authorities to ban the trade and consumption of wild animals. Shenzhen went a step further, extending the ban to dogs and cats. The new law will take effect on May 1.

Thirty million dogs a year are killed across Asia for meat, says Humane Society International (HSI). However, the practice of eating dog meat

in China is not that common - the majority of Chinese people have never done so and say don't want to.

"This ban also responds to the demand and spirit of human civilisation," Shenzhen city government said, according to a media report.

Animal advocacy organisation HSI praised the move.

However, at the same time as this ruling, China approved the use of bear bile to treat coronavirus patients. Bear bile—a fluid drained from living bears—has long been used in traditional Chinese medicine. **-BBC**

## Record deaths in Spain, US as Covid-19 cases hit million

Deaths surpass 48,000 despite half of the planet population being subjected to some form of lockdown

### Madrid, Thursday

Confirmed coronavirus cases approached a million around the world on Thursday as Europe reeled from the pandemic and the US prepared for what President Donald Trump warned would be "horrific" days ahead.

The virus claimed thousands more lives in its relentless march across the globe, including nearly more than 1,000 deaths in the US and some 950 in Spain in a 24-hour period, according to a Johns Hopkins University database. The deaths occur despite more than half of the planet being subjected to some form of lockdown.

The virus continued to wreak havoc on the global economy, with Spain reporting its biggest monthly increase in jobless claims on record. In the US, the number of people filing new claims for unemployment benefit surged to a record 6.65 million Thursday.

The actual figure is believed to be even higher as many people have reported jammed phone lines and difficulties with

filing their claims online.

Since emerging in China in nearly a million people—including at least 500,000 in Europe—and claimed more than 48,320 lives across the globe, World Health Organization head Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said there had been a "near exponential growth" in new cases over the past five weeks and a doubling of deaths in the past week alone.

### Downward trend

Britain and France both reported their highest daily death tolls on Wednesday, but infection rates in Italy and Spain—the two countries hardest hit—were slowing.

Spain suffered a record 950 deaths in 24 hours, bringing the total number of fatalities to 10,003. The number of confirmed cases in the country passed the 110,000

### US JOBLESS CLAIMS HIT RECORD 6.6M

● Another 6.65 million US workers filed for unemployment benefits last week, the most ever recorded. In the same week of last year, only 211,000 people requested benefits for the first time.

● The result far surpassed even the highest of estimates by economists, and reflected the growing damage to the US economy by coronavirus impact.

mark, the government said, although the rates of both new infections and deaths continued a downward trend.

In the US, some 216,722 confirmed cases while its death toll surpassed saw its death toll surpassed 5,000 as at Thursday. Among the latest US fatalities was a six-week-old baby who was taken to a Connecticut hospital late last week.

More than three-quarters of Americans are under lockdown, including tens of thousands of prisoners, who were told Wednesday they would be confined to their cells for two weeks.

US President Donald Trump cast doubt on the accuracy of official Chinese figures on its coronavirus outbreak after US lawmakers, citing an intelligence report, accused Beijing of a cover-up.

"How do we know" if they are accurate, Trump asked at a press conference. "Their numbers seem to be a little bit on the light side."

In the UK, British Airways is expected to announce it will suspend around 36,000 staff. The airline, which grounded much of its fleet due to the coronavirus crisis, has been negotiating with the Unite union for more than a week.

Putin on Thursday extended non-working period to end of April in measure against coronavirus.

**-AFP and BBC**



Paramedics disinfect a stretcher outside the Burgos Hospital in Burgos in northern Spain, yesterday. The coronavirus death toll in Spain surged past 10,000. **AFP**

## Rwanda extends lockdown as Africa acts

### Kigali, Thursday

Rwanda has extended a national lockdown for another two weeks in a bid to curb the spread of coronavirus.

Rwanda was among the first nations in Africa to impose a lockdown, banning all "unnecessary movements" outside the home, shutting down schools, shops, and public transport.

Eritrea began a nationwide lockdown for 21 days on Thursday. The announce-

ment came after the health ministry reported three new cases of the virus, putting the total number of infected individuals at 18.

### Blocked trucks

African governments continue to roll out stringent measures to prevent the spread of coronavirus which has taken the lives of more than 200 people across the continent.

Burundi has blocked cargo trucks from

Kenya and Uganda via Rwanda, even after the various governments agreed to facilitate free movement of goods in the region.

South Africa's Health Minister Dr Zweli Mkhize has raised concerns about increasing numbers of coronavirus local transmission cases in the country.

The government has now stepped up door to door testing and screening, with the country's national health laboratory service deploying mobile sampling units across the country. **-BBC**



# Spice Flavour your day @sparkleMine

**Covid-19 has dealt a huge blow to all sectors of the economy, and the creative industry has not been spared either. The sector could be bleeding, but there's still a gleam of hope as JASMINE ATIENO writes**

## DOWN BUT NOT OUT

**T**he coronavirus pandemic continues to wreak havoc across the globe. In Kenya, the measures taken to contain the deadly virus have had a direct impact on the production, enjoyment and exchange of creative sector goods, services and experiences. With this, there has been a massive slow down, postponement and cancellation of activities, which has had devastating effects on the sector.

All public arenas have been on a total lockdown, in a bid to curb the spread of the virus. The cancellation or postponement of all the gigs and concerts has drove the creative almost to the end of the rope. Most of our creatives depend on concerts and performances in public places for a living, and the lockdown has left a majority of them grappling with loss of income and staring at an uncertain future.

Top benga artiste Makadem has involuntarily become a coronavirus 'refugee' in Denmark, after all his gigs and flight back to Kenya were cancelled.

"I am literally a refugee here in Denmark. I received an email from KLM Royal Dutch Airlines on the cancellation of my flight. There will be communication on the next available dates when I can travel. Here though, the artistes have virtual concerts on social media, which I am currently also doing. Where there is a number for mobile pay so then the Danes can pay if they like. Money is not a problem for them here; they have it in plenty," the *Kisumu Bound Bus* singer told *Spice* from Denmark.

### Businesses on halt

For rapper and singer Fena Gitu, her major loss is on the cancelled events, although she is also trying to make the most out of the time. "The lockdown has affected everyone, no one is exempted and it's majorly on the events for me. And there is no formula on how to deal with it, so we are just taking it by the day and safety comes first. Meanwhile, I am making the most on online live performance platforms to keep up with the time," says the *Save The World* hitmaker.

Nairobi-based reggae artiste Binti Afrika also intimates that the lockdown has been really been bad for business, as now most of her works and releases are on pending. She says, "Personally, most of my projects are just pending now.

Cancelled shows are equally hurting the pocket. I had songs to finish in studio, collaboration with Tanzanian artiste Magzee, but sadly it's now on hold. New releases will have to be pushed to a later date. What's left now is a matter of doing a lot of creative digital marketing on music that's already out there because royalties from downloads and airplay will come in handy in place of shows and event fees. Other than that, it has given me time to meditate and reflect. My album is on hold, while at the same time I have been approached by some creative sponsors, so it's not all a loss. I now have adequate time to weigh my options well."

Despite the current lockdown on concerts, rapper and singer Nyashinski is readying himself to treat his fans to a live gig on April 8. It will provide a sneak peek into his upcoming solo album titled *Lucky You*. The concert will be streamed live via his digital pages from 9.30pm.

"This album will be a dedication to my fans all over the world. So, I am inviting them to tune in to the live stream on my digital pages as we also do our part to stay #TogetherApart during this time," he says.

Gospel spinmaster DJ Sadic, who also runs a deejaying academy and music production house, says the coronavirus has been immensely bad for his business. "All my events have been cancelled. My deejay school has also been closed just like all other learning institutions. The studio too had to close down too, so there are no recording sessions going on right now. It's really bad for business. But at the same time, it's not all bad. It has given me the time to create new beats and mixes, which I send to the artistes I work with, so they can work on them while we are waiting for normalcy. Meanwhile I am able to create enough content for social media where I am going live," says Sadic.

### No more laughter

Comedian MC Jessy intimates the lockdown has greatly affected things for him as a performer and businessman. Jessy, the CEO of Brandface Media advertising agency, says his clients that include Coca-Cola have indefinitely stopped campaigns. Being a live audience performer, he says, he depends wholly on live gatherings. Nine of his events that were spread across two months have been put on hold until fur-



Binti Afrika

ther notice, but he chooses to stay positive.

"The break is a time to plan ahead, for when the pandemic ends, we must have things running again. As an agency, we are utilising digital advertising and we've lowered the rates, to ease the cost burden for our customers. We are also assisting the government to push awareness on Covid-19 as responsible parts of the society and I have even developed a new hobby, cooking! I just realised I actually love cooking; it's not all that good, I but I am eating it," says Jessy.

Reggae artist Mtapaa Taa is not just an artiste but also the owner of Tapa Wear clothline and a dreadlocks salon in Nairobi. For him, business has screeched to a halt. "Nobody is buying the clothes anymore because times are hard and everybody is trying to save as much as

Nyashinski

DJ Sadic

DJ Bunduki





Vivian

possible. At the same time, no one is coming to the salon and I've been left with no option, but to close the doors. On the brighter side though, despite the fact that gigs and events have been cancelled, this is an opportunity to push my music, especially on radio and TV. People are finally home and this increases number of viewers and listeners. I am also recording new music, so that the time does not go to waste," says Mtapa.

DJ Bunduki also shares that the disease outbreak has greatly dented his pocket, as many of his sponsored shows are international. All his shows in Europe have been cancelled and he is left with nothing much to do right now. "Honestly, I am confused and stuck. I think President Uhuru Kenyatta needs to address the issue pertaining the creatives. What's the plan? There are many of us crying; artistes, deejays and others in the entertainment industry," Bunduki told *Spice*.

#### Creatives in limbo

Afro-fusion and pop artiste Ayrosh says the cancelled shows have greatly affected him as he solely depends on music for a living. At the same time he says he is planning to still make the most of the period to put out more works and be creative to survive the lockdown. He says, "Well, we are planning on releasing new music that we had recorded earlier. For example, we just released a new song titled *Kuzitoka* with Kris Erroh. The remaining time is to practise and try to adjust and figure out ways of making a living."

As much as the 'quarantine' period will call for extra creativity for the, this time might be transition moment for many people in all areas of business. Time to



Apesi

work on the self and hopefully in relation to others around you.

"It's time to learn how to do some chores too. For instance, I know a lot of people who can't cook as they are used to eating out. Now they have to cook. Also, it has a positive side because it is levelling things so that people can learn to value each other more. And in life whatever you give has a way of coming back to you. Also if you can save up, do it. Not everybody can do that, but if you can, it's really good to. Other than that, musically I am just working on new collaborations, which will be out soon," says singer Vivian.

Mombasa based hip-hop artiste Ohms Law Montana's shows were cancelled all through to June. He shares that Covid-19 is more depressing as he fully depends on his music for income. "I had just signed some work contracts, but I am just following the government rules about staying safe. The period at the same time is giving me an opportunity to be available physically for my family at home; they miss me a lot as I am always on the move. I am also creating more work while at home. I am working on a new album, so when this is done, we are back on a full swing," shares Montana.

Music promoter and artiste manager Vincent Kras says the lockdown has been really bad on his business. "We had to call off two shows for artiste Frankie Dee in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) and Qatar. Also we are unable to complete some of our projects since it's not advisable to travel. On the positive side, we have a best of Frankie Dee mixtape out on YouTube to keep our fans going. We'll be dropping a new audio next week as we network more since most industry players atleast have the time to give you an ear," he says.

Kisumu-based performer Apesi says the government might have to step in to help artistes and performers. "I am a



Ohms Law Montana

live performer, so the lockdown means no gigs for me. I am also a music teacher, but then, no lessons ongoing. So, I am now just feeding myself on the little I had saved. I think the government needs to come in and help us out because artistes from all backgrounds have been greatly affected. Good side though, the studios are no longer jammed, so my album work is ongoing without a hitch," says Apesi.

So, it's not all gloomy in the creative sector, despite the pinch brought about by the coronavirus disease. However, just like any other industry, the sector is calling for some bail out in order to lessen the effects of the global pandemic.



Fena Gitu



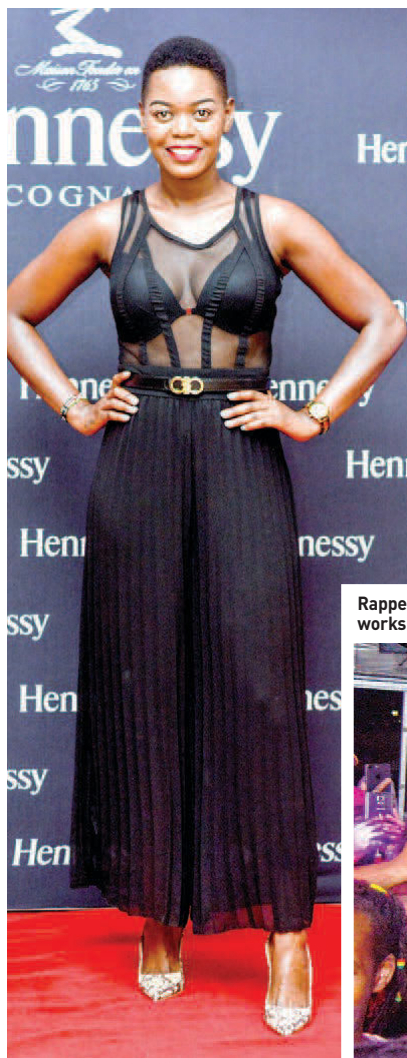
# Clique & Clicks ▶ Get Spotted

## THE PRIME PARTY

by Faith Kyoumukama

Just before the Covid-19 forced everyone to run for cover, cognac brand Hennessy hosted hundreds of revellers to a party at the Blend Club and Lounge in Nairobi. The bash, aptly dubbed Prime Wednesday was to mark the second anniversary of the entertainment spot. The celebrity-studded affair saw rapper Khaligraph Jones rocking the party with his hits.

PD/ FAITH KYOUMUKAMA



The prime reveller! Chepkorir Kenduiywo looks the part.



It's a full house as hundreds of party lovers celebrate the Blend clocking two years in service.

Rapper Khaligraph Jones works up the crowd.



Party goes, the Marettes — Esther and Rhoda.



A horde of Hennessy brand ambassadors showcase what is on their night's platter.



Bashka Haji fashionably arrives for the party.





# You ▶ It's all about Life & Style

## How much do looks matter?

It's widely believed that looks don't matter and that a person's character should be measured by what they do, however, researches have proved attractiveness comes with unquestionable benefits, and not just getting free drinks at the bar, even scaling the career ladder

by Ann Nyathira

@PeopleDailyKe

With the iconic TV shows *Blind Date* and the recently released series, *Love is Blind* gracing our screens, have you ever wondered how much physical appearance influence our every day decisions?

On *Blind Date*, people go on a date blindfolded literally with people they have never met before, and on *Love is Blind*, 30 singles try to find a match without ever setting eyes on each other as emotional connection is put to test as to whether it is much more critical in the establishment of solid relationships compared to physical attraction. They date in pods separated by a thin wall and eventually propose to persons they experience a deeper emotional connection with. The two shows bring to question whether falling in love with someone without the filters of perceptions or first impression can lead to romantic connections.

They are a clear shift from modern dating where people are programmed to think of looks first, before knowing about the people they are interacting with. Thus, when it comes to landing a date with a beautiful woman, the average Tom, Dick and Harrys don't stand much of a chance against a handsome dude.

The preference for physical attractiveness, experts allude go deeper than just romance. Even where looks shouldn't count



such as the bank hall, the doctor's office or the courts, the good looking person is treated better than everyone else?

Nelly Lang'at remembers with bitterness how a decade ago, she was denied a detergent marketing job based on her looks. "The recruiting panel did not say directly to me I was not fit for the job, but I learnt later through my referral they needed someone presentable. Apparently, they said they needed someone taller, lighter with longer hair among other things. It totally killed my esteem," she says, adding, "I wondered what my marketing skills had to do with my physic," she recounts.

Although she has moved on from the ordeal and now runs her own marketing firm, she says nobody should ever go through what she underwent.

### Surgery to change looks

Marie Kigotho's experience is different from Nelly's. An extreme judgment on her looks made her consider surgery. At 16, she lost her friends, and her crush because she had small breasts, which they referred to as 'man breasts'. "Women's looks are scrutinised more, compared to their male counterparts. We are judged for everything; our nose, mouth, teeth, ears, hair, neck, breasts, belly, legs, you name it," narrates the 27-year-old.

Judgement on her looks was so bad that when her parents sent her to the United States in 2014 for her undergraduate studies, at the age of 21, she went on to have breast implants. The surgery cost her Sh280,000, which she had saved over a period of two years of working two part time jobs, at a café and a supermarket. After the surgery, Marie reports that everyone exclaimed at how 'beautiful she looked,



Gladys Nyachieo, sociologist.  
PD/ ANN NYATHIRA.

without necessarily pinpointing her fuller boobs. "They would look at me and say I looked gorgeous. It became easier making friends, even with strangers!" she exclaims.

In the dating world, sociologist Linus Okul agrees that looks shouldn't matter, and a person's character should be measured by what they do. However, this does not always happen even with people with the best intentions. Generally, Okul says attractive people date fellow attractive people and in the rare instances where an attractive person is romantically involved with an unattractive person, people will poke fun wondering how the unattractive individual managed to get on with someone so good-looking. "We have all, at some point, wondered how different life would be if we were just a little better looking," he quips.

He says quickly sizing people up based on how they look is crucial to the way we function, even when those judgments are wrong.

### Superficial world

Gladys Nyachieo, a sociologist explains that naturally and socially, people prefer better-looking things. In companies, for example, those with attractive characteristics are more preferred since it is perceived that they will better represent their organisation.

For those who opt for cosmetic surgery to alter their looks, she cautions that that is not the answer, noting that today's superficial world and culture encourages healthy women to do so much to their body unnecessarily.

She says younger women like Marie, are interested in cosmetic surgery because of the visual culture. "More pressure is put on women to look a particular way. Today if you do not have the ideal body type you are considered as lacking," she explains.

Research over time has associated physical attractiveness with several positive outcomes, including employment benefits such as hiring, wages, and promotion, and is correlated with social and personal rewards such as work satisfaction, positive perceptions of others, and higher self-esteem.

All these are bound to change though, according to Linus, "Modern society, with its awareness of historic prejudices and unprecedented ability to introduce so many different types of people to one another, may dilute or even neutralise some preconceived notions."

## BEST&WORST WITH FAITH KYOUMUKAMA

### BLACK CINDERELLA

Model/Actress/Reality Tv personality

**Best moment in my career is...** Going through critics, bullies, body shaming, failed auditions and managing to get a spot in 'Nairobi Diaries' that airs on K24. All these keep me going.

**Worst public experience.** Recently, I got assaulted by an obsessed male fan who couldn't take 'No' for an answer within five minutes of greetings. He thought we were already an item (laughs).

**Best hobby** is definitely singing, doing karaoke. I believe I am quite a songbird, but I can't do music just yet.

**Worst habit** is that I never know how to let go and be the bigger person. I really don't know how to just let bygones be bygones. In fact, you can never win an argument with me.

**Best thing about being Kenyan** is that I get to proudly explain to foreign friends and fans that I am one of the beautiful ladies they heard about.

**Best high school experience.** My Ugandan principal got a spiritual revelation I had sneaked out of school the previous night. That was hilarious.

**Worst memory growing up...** When I was 15, I was outsmarted by a taxi driver in Eldoret... he raped me! The trauma is still on, 11 years later.

**Best food.** Egusi and yellow eba (a Nigerian meal made of dried, grated cassava flour) ...also ugali and beef.

**Worst advice you ever received.** Once someone told me that if I didn't have human hair wigs or good make-up, that I should just quit TV! Who does that? If I would have taken it seriously, I won't be where I am today.

**Best thing about being on reality TV.** I love that I bring out that tough single mother on the cameras, such an inspiration to the rest of the 'outcasts' in the society.

**Lowest moment this year** is definitely the coronavirus pandemic. It's crazy. The whole world is trying to remain alive and breath. Nothing matters any more, but staying safe.





# Boma

Home of Property & Leisure



**Most public land in Thika has been grabbed and either turned into private use or sold off as commercial plots to unsuspecting buyers**

## Perennial land grabbing hampers Thika town growth

by Mathew Ndung'u  
@PeopleDailyKe

There is little space available for public development projects in Thika town, Kiambu county, following a high demand for land. Perennial grabbing of land and theft of public utilities in the busy town has seen residents suffer from lack of major construction projects. Completion of the 40km Thika Road in 2012 was seen as the new dawn for establishment of factories, schools, churches, hospitals, police stations and recreational facilities, among other institutions, for public use.

This has, however, remained a daydream for residents in the formerly industrious town once called 'the Birmingham of Kenya' due to its many factories, due to land grabbing. While leaders have been trumpeting against the vice, the daring grabbers have made a niche in the seemingly well-orchestrated plot to deny the public a good life. The grabbers work in cahoots

with land registry and other civil servants, police officers, land brokers and surveyors.

Most affected is Ngingwa, a modern housing estate in the outskirts of Thika town. The village has one public primary school — Kisiwa Primary — which also lacks space for expansion. The estate has no secondary school, forcing learners to travel far in search of education. More than 60-acres of public land meant for construction of a secondary school and a police station has been grabbed. Thika town MCA, Andrew Kimani, says planners are to blame for the widespread theft of public land at the village.

"More than 60 acres meant for construction of a hospital, a market and public schools has been lost. I sued the grabbers and in liaison with National Lands Commission (NLC), we have managed to repossess 40 acres, which we are expecting will be titled soonest," he said.

At Thika Water and Sewerage Company (Thiwasco), five-acres meant for expansion of water reservoirs to cushion residents from water scarcity is also reported to have been grabbed. Already, beacons have been put in place while

the 'owners' have allegedly commenced construction in some parts of the compound.

"The water provider, which serves over 300,000 residents daily, has been unable to meet water demands courtesy of lack of land for expansion," said Kimani.

The company's managing director Joshua Kenya says on-going water rationing in Thika town will continue until new water storage and distribution facilities are constructed. "Grab-

**LEFT: Angry locals at a demolished house in Thika's Kisii estate over a land ownership dispute attributed to fraudsters.**

**BELOW: Thika MP Patrick Wainaina addressing journalists outside his office.** PD/ MATHEW NDUNG'U

### AT A GLANCE

● There's no available land for construction of schools, markets, churches, police stations or hospitals.

● Grabbers said to be working with well-connected officers at the land registry to forge fake title deeds, which are used to lure unsuspecting land buyers.

● More than 60 acres meant for construction of a hospital, a market and public schools has been lost.

bers have caused us enough suffering, but we will not allow them to pass the vice to new generations," Kimani, threatening to mobilise Thika town residents to fence the entire Thiwasco compound and force out the grabbers.

Speaking during a water clinic in the town recently, Kiambu County Assembly chairman for Water, Sanitation and Natural Resources Lawrence Gitau and Witeithie MCA Julius Macharia said all public land in the hands of fraudsters must be returned to pave way water structures.

"We will pursue zero tolerance in theft of public land. We must improve water capacities to caution Thika residents from recurrent water rationing now that population of this town continues to rise," said Gitau.

He said that whereas the county has increased the county's water budget from Sh525 million to Sh1 billion shillings, development of water storage and treatment structures will be impossible without enough land for expansion.

More alarming to residents of Thika is that the grabbers still possess hundreds of illegal title deeds, which they process and later use them to hoodwink gullible land buyers. Failure to expunge the illegal ownership documents means the grabbers can dispose plots to third parties. Worse, a complacent government regime could later regularise the documents in future, denying residents vital public services.

According to Thika MP Patrick Wainaina, the constituency has written to the Ministry of Lands and Physical Planning to establish a land clinic in the area to clean that rot that has seen hundreds conned, others killed, houses demolished in constant theft of public land.

Wainaina said the clinic could also be used to sort out Thika resident's land while addressing multiple allocations, fraud and disputes associated with rogue land buying companies.

In the letter seen by Boma, Wainaina says Thika has had an upsurge of land-related ownership disputes that have led to unending conflicts. "We believe the proposed land clinic will assist to assess the ownership status of diverse parcels of land with disputes, especially in populous estates," says the MP.

There has been increasing complaints from members of public on grabbing of public land in many parts of constituency neighbourhoods such as township area, Kisi, Kiganjo and Kiang'ombe," Wainaina says in the letter, adding that members of the public have also been complaining of green cards at Thika Lands registry leading to delay in land searches.

Residents of Thika have been calling on the CS in charge of Lands, Farida Karoney, to expedite re-profiling of land buying companies to audit their operations as most of them have been connected with the land grabbing menace.

Launching a land clinic in Ruiru last year, Karoney ordered re-profiling of all land buying and selling firms in the entire Kiambu County to weed out fraudsters who have been defrauding residents.



PropertyNews WITH WANGARI NJUGUNA @PeopleDailyKe



Uplands Blue Valley town, Sweden, municipal board members (seated) with the Murang'a Municipal Board team during a visit to Mukuruwe Wa Nyagathanga shrine. PD/WANGARI NJUGUNA

## Municipal board mulls Murang'a, Maragua joint city plan

The Murang'a municipality board is seeking the extension of the town's boundaries for it to cover a wider area and more population.

Board chairman Benson Githinji said they have made the submission on the proposal and are awaiting ratification by the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission. "Given the town's boundaries, the municipality cannot meet the population threshold of 100,000 people," he said.

In its proposal, the board is seeking

to have its territory extended to Mukuruwe Wa Nyagathanga in Gatari and also capture part of Maragua location up to Maragua town.

This will enable more people to benefit from the capitulation given by the State as well as improve services from the board. "We were named a municipality because the town hosts the county government headoffice, but we are working on other parameters," he added.

Githinji said the town has established a partnership with Uplands

Blue Municipal in Sweden as the two seek to leverage on each other. The project dubbed *Twinning of Cities* under the International Centre for Local Democracy pairs similar towns, where they establish common projects as they learn from each other.

Judy Makira, the board's vice chair, said they are planning to establish projects revolving around leisure, culture and sports to harmonise the people living around the town. "Last year we paid a visit to

the Upland Blue town and their municipal board has also paid us a visit so that we can get a common ground to start our projects," she said.

Makira said once they establish the projects to undertake they shall apply for funding by the ICLD. "We are looking forward to have a developed town, which matches to the international standards," she said.

She said despite the town being the county headquarters it has been realising slow growth, especially in hospitality sectors.



## THE LOUNGE

**Why GRACE ATIENO ODHIAMBO, lead designer at Cubes and Containers Design Kenya, prefers using recycled materials**

by Harriet James  
@harriet86jim

**What attracted you to the interior design world?**

Architecture was my first love, but after a bit of research, I figured I would be happier being an interior designer. I have been an arts student from primary school, but construction came in a bit later.

**What are the misconceptions that people have about interior designers in Kenya?**

Interior designers are often mistaken for interior decorators. We make spaces functional for the purpose it was intended. It is through this that the beauty of the space is seen. Our firm, which started in 2018, offers an alternative solution to building and generally creation of functional spaces. We use shipping containers that would otherwise be used only for transiting goods or storage, to create utility spaces such as extra housing units, toilets and bathrooms, classrooms, clinics, roadshows and portable kitchens just to name a few. We also create more uses for tiny spaces that are often ignored. By designing furniture pieces from recycled materials such as tyres, pallets and cable spool. In short, we are a green designs company.

**Are green designs a popular trend locally?**

It is picking up fast in the last few years and this is a good thing. There is a whole movement around tiny living, sustainable living and alternative building. This has touched architecture and interior design; it perfects the whole practice. We see more of space

# Using locally available materials for modern design ideas



Grace Atieno Odhiambo, lead designer at Cubes and Containers Design Kenya. PD/ HARRIET JAMES

saving and multipurpose furniture as well as more eco-friendly materials being used to fit out spaces. This trend has seen designers going beyond building codes to improve performance of spaces as well as minimise both environmental impact and costs.

**How will such a trend benefit in the real estate world?**

As designers, we have a responsibility to make the world a better place. Giving quality spaces in turn gives quality lives to the users of this space. We don't have to destroy our environment to make our spaces better. I think it's more creative to use the environment, as it makes our

designs better. Being a tiny space enthusiast, I would love to see multiple use of a small space as opposed to more space for every single use. It's a bigger design challenge. Everyone can work with a big space, but how many can work with a small one? Maybe if we manage to increase usage of space and minimising these spaces, then we will be able to create affordable living space and solve the current housing problem we are yet to get a conclusive sustainable solution to.

**What simple designs apply for eco-friendly homes?**

Reuse-Repurpose-Recycle. Work with what you have before buying something new or imported. If your seats are in perfect condition, but you no longer love the fabric, re-upholster them instead of buying new seats. Get that old wall unit from your parents, paint it the way you like it. Get those vintage doors and windows as an addition on to your next construction. Just try to give a new life to something before throwing it out. You'd be amazed

at how rich old pieces can make your spaces if restored correctly. If all this sounds impossible to do by yourself, consult a designer. It will save you a lot of headache and time.

**How are you coping with the coronavirus?**

As things are now, there isn't much we can do at work and on sites. It is better to be safe than sorry. We take a break from site works until this cloud passes. We now work from home on container house designs. We take this time to also offer online consultancy for clients who prefer to do a bit of design projects on their own. Designers never miss personal projects; I take this time too to finish a few projects of mine. I have my container house sketches to complete and a few cushion covers to sew.

**What challenges do you face?**

The biggest problem has always been capital and expertise. Setting up an outfit of this nature is capital intensive. We also lack professionalism and expertise in container conversion industry and so we are constantly re-searching and training. It is a constant process as we learn something new about shipping containers every day.

Our role in the built environment is yet to be fully understood. This means the value we bring on board is not often recognised. Interior design is wide and we have different experts in different disciplines. There are many challenges, but I am happy that our group, Interior Designers Association of Kenya, has helped us deal with some of these challenges.

**Future trends?**

More use of containers. I hope to see introduction of multi-storied container hotels and hostels in Kenya. More of container classrooms replacing *mabati* classrooms.

## PROPERTY NEWS



Simon Mordue, EU ambassador to Kenya says the project will boost women's land rights defenders in the country. PD/TIMOTHY NJENGA

## Women's land rights project launched

by William Murigi  
@amillymur1

A new project with an aim of contributing towards increased access to women's land rights has been launched in Kenya.

Dubbed *Ardhi Kwa Kina Mama* (Ak-kima), the project was initiated by We Effect in partnership with Groots Kenya and Pamoja Trust, all non-governmental organisations.

It is funded by European Union and will be piloted in four counties — Nairobi, Mombasa, Kakamega and Busia in the next three years. It advocates for safe spaces for women land rights defenders in Kenya.

Launching the project, George Onyango, Regional Director, We Effect Regional Office Eastern Africa said despite constitution guarantees to equitable access to land rights, efficient, productive and sustainable use of land by all, lack of gender policy in the land sector to guide implementation of the legal frameworks in the country.

"It is sad that 25 years after the Beijing Conference and as much as we appreciate a lot of noticeable progress in terms of reducing gender disparity, we are still not doing enough to protect women human rights defenders, especially on land rights," he said.

Onyango said there is need to transform norms and practices that hinder women's access and control over land, which is why the organisations have come up with the initiative.

He called for efforts beyond legislation and administration where governments take responsibility for working actively to transform practices at all institutional and administrative levels to affirm the right of women to own and control land.

"We hope that through strong movements of grassroots women and land rights' defenders operating in a safe environment and having a big proportion of women exercising their rights to land will result to an increased access to women land rights by the end of project period," he said.

Simon Mordue, Ambassador of the EU delegation to Kenya said the project will improve responsiveness of duty bearers to land right defenders and women's land rights violation at the national level and in the four counties.

## DÉCOR WITH NAILANTEI NORARI @ArtNorari



### Minimalist décor

If you love interior décor, chances are that you will invariably go ham and buy so many decorative pieces that your space may end up looking cluttered. This can be easily dealt with by trying out minimalist décor. Minimalism is the new trend where people try to make do with the least number of clothes, items, emotional baggage and just about anything. It was popularised by Marie Kondo (a Japanese consultant in how to get organised, author and TV show host) and encourages people to do away with things that they do not need. Here are a few tips;

1. Make sure your light fixtures are stylish, too. They should also complement the colours of the space they are in.
2. Stick to one colour palette with a few pieces to add colour and texture to the room. Here, the throw pillow and potted plant add colour and contrast.
3. You can have one colour base and then have accents of colour to liven up the space. Here, the throw pillows, curtains and flowers add colour and life to the gray space.







- 5.00 Inuka
- 6.00 K24 This Morning
- 9.00 The Daily Brief
- 12.30 Inside Business
- 13.00 News Cut
- 13.30 Sports Hub Live
- 14.00 Bongo Movie
- 15.00 Sweetest Love
- 16.00 K24 Mashinani
- 16.30 Jus Kids
- 17.00 Beatbox
- 18.00 Hollywood Movie
- 19.00 K24 Saa Moja
- 19.30 Jane And Abel
- 20.00 A Carnival Affair
- 21.00 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 Thinika 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 Deustche 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!

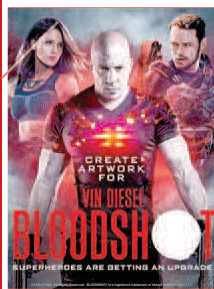


17.00pm BEATBOX



::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



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

## SUDOKU

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

## 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.

### ACROSS

- 7. Fictional (4,2)
- 8. Servile (6)
- 9. Bark of a dog (4)
- 10. Ate (8)
- 11. Defective (7)
- 13. Organic compound (5)
- 15. Annoyed (5)
- 16. All together (2,5)

- 18. Person who rebels (8)
- 19. Nets (anag) (4)
- 21. Reserved and coy (6)
- 22. Growls (6)

### DOWN

- 1. Roman censor (4)
- 2. Aware of yourself (4-9)
- 3. Leaving gaps; padding (7)

## HOROSCOPES



### ARIES (MAR. 21- APRIL 20)

You can bet officials will be waiting for you when you do. Don't hesitate to visit someone who hasn't been well. Go after your goals.

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

Stubborn about making changes around your home. Kick your shoes off and relax. You're in the mood to spend time with your lover.

### GEMINI (MAY 22-JUNE 21)

Be aware of deception when it comes to your position, and be sure not to jump to conclusions. Don't let relatives get the better of you. You'll find you're detail oriented today.

### CANCER (JUNE 22-JULY 22)

Lovers will be less than accommodating, and decisions regarding personal direction a necessity. Do the necessary chores and then do things that please you.

### LEO (JULY 23-AUG 22)

Lovers will be less than accommodating, and decisions regarding personal direction a necessity. Do the necessary chores and then do things that please you.

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

Your high energy will enable you to enlist the help of those in a position to back you. Do things you enjoy instead of being a chameleon.

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

Don't make a move; your confusion has caused this dilemma and you are best to back away and reassess the situation.

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

Travel in pursuit of pleasure and knowledge. Concentrate on spending quality time with children.

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

You can make reasonable bids on real estate or large items for your home. Do your work at home, if you can.

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

Try to visit friends or relatives you don't get to see often. Difficulties will result if you have to deal with controversial groups today.

### AQUARIUS (JAN. 21- FEB. 19)

Don't let relatives get the better of you. Your communication skills may win you points. Try to bend but by no means should you give in completely.

### PISCES (FEB. 20-MAR. 20)

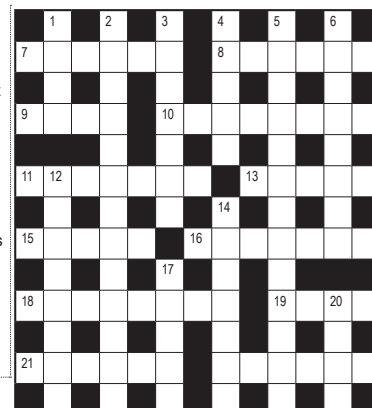
Deception and doubts may surround your involvement with friends and relatives. Try to channel your energy into professional endeavors.



- 5.00 BBC
- 5.30 Gear Up
- 6.00 Good Morning Kenya
- 9.00 Lay'd Back
- 9.30 Classic Tales
- 10.00 Dully and Pals
- 10.30 Mtaani
- 11.00 Beautiful Ceci
- 12.00 Afrusion
- 1.00 Lunch Time News
- 1.30 Business Defined
- 2.00 Kwa Raha
- 2.30 Zangu
- 2.30 Ukumbi Wa Kisumu
- 4.00 Club 1
- 6.30 The Great Debaters
- 7.00 Taarifa
- 7.30 Attitude
- 8.00 First Lady
- 9.00 Channel 1 News
- 10.00 Top Mashariki
- 11.00 CCTV News
- 12.00 Lay'd Back
- BBC



- 5.00 Password Plus
- 6.00 Am Live
- 8.00 Better Living
- 9.00 On The Wings Of Love
- 10.00 Wild Skin
- 11.00 Ntv Today
- 1.00 NTV At 1
- 1.30 NTV Sasa
- 3.00 China Wings
- 3.30 Gina D's Kids Club
- 4.00 NTV At 4
- 4.15 Password
- 5.00 The Beat
- 6.00 Be Careful With My Heart
- 7.00 NTV Jioni
- 7.30 Wicked Edition
- 8.00 Wild Skin
- 9.00 NTV Tonight
- 10.00 Lit 360
- 11.00 World Cup Daily Highlights
- 12.00 CNN



### YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

#### ACROSS

- 1. Deck
- 3. Cassette
- 9. Tempora
- 10. Lobes
- 11. Belligerence
- 13. Sashay
- 15. Uproar
- 17. Diversionary
- 20. Lumps
- 21. Average
- 22. Decently
- 23. Alps

#### DOWN

- 1. Database
- 2. Camel
- 4. Amazed
- 5. Self-employed
- 6. Tobacco
- 7. Easy
- 8. Delicacies
- 12. Greyness
- 14. Seismic
- 16. Israel
- 18. Avail
- 19. Glad



# BRITAIN'S GOT TALENT

## SEASON 10

Laughter, tears, talent and everything in between...  
Catch the breathtaking excitement this Sunday.



EVERY SUNDAY  
AT 8PM



**MUCH WILLIAMS INVESTMENTS AUCTIONEERS**  
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Nguru Road, Opposite Mosque before Simba Coll Motors,  
Spark, Mombasa, Mobile: 0712121205

**PUBLIC AUCTION - PUBLIC AUCTION!**  
Under instructions received from our principals, we shall sell by  
public auction the under mentioned Motor Vehicles on Tuesday  
14<sup>th</sup> April 2020 as from 10.30 am at our offices situated at Faisal  
Building, Swaleh Nguru Road Opposite Spark Motors before  
Simba Coll Motors, Mombasa.

**IN THE MATTER OF REPOSSESSION**

1. MOTOR VEHICLE DEALER = VS = BENARD ODHAMBO  
OTIENO  
Motor vehicle Reg. No. KCV 519L TOYOTA NOAH BLACK
2. MOTOR VEHICLE DEALER = VS = LUCY WANJIRA  
NYAGA  
Motor vehicle Reg. No. KCJ 140Y TOYOTA ESTIMA PEARL  
WHITE
3. MOTOR VEHICLE DEALER = VS = SAMMY NJAGA  
MUTHUNGU  
Motor vehicle Reg. No. KCT 983R NISSAN NOTE GREY

**CONDITION OF SALE**  
Cash at the fall of hammer.  
All are welcome!!!!!!!!!!!!

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YOUR  
ADVERT  
BE SEEN  
HERE...



... visit us at DSM Place, Ground, 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Floors, Kijabe Street,  
Nairobi, Email us on:  
[peopleads@mediamax.co.ke](mailto:peopleads@mediamax.co.ke)





**McLaren drivers take pay cut amid cost-cutting measures due to virus**



Ariel Okal poses in his US Setif jersey in Algiers recently.  
PHOTO: COURTESY.

## It feels like solitary jail, says Kenyan basketball star Okal stuck in Algeria due to coronavirus lockdown

■ **Nairobi, Thursday**  
@PeopleDailyKe

Kenya national basketball team power forward Ariel Okal has told BBC Sport Africa that being caught up by the coronavirus pandemic in a foreign country "feels like being in a solitary jail".

The Kenyan international had only arrived in Algeria late in January after joining top league side US Setif.

But having only just started with the team, the league - and indeed the country - went into lockdown. Okal was unable to return to Kenya, so was, and remains, trapped in a country he did not know.

Setif is among the regions of Algeria where the government has imposed an

0700 to 1900 curfew with limited movements during the day and gatherings of more than two people banned.

"I live alone and it gets really lonely here," Okal told BBC Sport Africa.

"The internet is the my only companion here - it's my everything. When I moved in here I was welcomed with cake by my neighbours; now I do not even see them."

"I am stuck in the house 24/7 and that can be depressing. My club arranges for my supplies to be delivered but I really miss eating out."

Okal had strong individual performances in his first games - he bagged 18 points in his debut match, a 69-50 defeat to TRA Draria - but Algeria's Youth and Sports minister suspended all sport in the country

from 16 March, when Okal had only played four times.

With Okal on an initial six-month contract, he fears he might have already played his last game for the team. "It's scary to think I might have played my last game at the beginning of my last match," he said.

"I hope that the club and myself will reach an amicable solution. I still have unfinished business here."

He added he has not had any discussions with his club about his contract, but that he had not been asked to take a pay cut.

"There is still hope that maybe there is a little chance that play might resume before July, but I think the situation in Algeria is getting worse by the day," he said.

- BBC

## Flying where the eagles dare

CK chairperson struggles to put sport where it belongs in tumultuous reign

■ **by Barry Silah**  
@PeopleDailyKe

Jackie Janmohammed cuts the figure of a frustrated loan officer sometimes; however for all intents and purposes she proves an administrator of steel that takes no prisoners.

The 56-year-old Cricket Kenya (CK) chairperson has now had two consecutive stints at the helm of the troubled body and even though fire and brimstone is thrown her way, she remains unmoved.

A lot of noises have been raised especially on the eligibility of her office, constitution status of CK and the general management of the sporting organisation, which for long has been associated with dirty politics and infighting. However the seasoned lawyer believes that those who are on her case are insincere and just want to sabotage her office.

"I have been in this business for long and know what cricket entails here in Kenya but quite honestly the level of dirt being thrown around is despicable. There are people who thrive on name smearing to the point that I am not surprised anymore.

"After all cricket is not my life entirely because I have other things I can do. I am a volunteer in a sport I love and it is my intention to provide guidance and direction however small. I know I can be tough but it is for the better; one thing I cannot entertain is hypocrisy and everybody including my enemies know that," scoffed Janmohammed in an exclusive interview with *People Sport* earlier this week.

She challenges the busy bodies making noises to come to the fore and state their specific problem with her instead of dwelling on generalities.

For five years of her tenure, the Africa Cricket Association boss has had what she would describe as pain even as she attempts to sanitise the game, which has lost its glory days of the 90s.

Her critics accuse her of mis-managing ICC funds meant for development, bias and interference in national team selections amidst a slew of other issues but she dismisses the issues as nonsense.

"What we have are a thankless lot and I am not afraid to say it. Maybe because I am a woman they felt I would be a pushover but shock on them. I stand for truth and honest dialogue to develop the sport. Granted we

have had our challenges but I have worked my socks off in bringing some sanity. People accusing me of meddling in selection have no idea what they are on about since I do not sit on selectors' panel. Some say I am incompetent but everybody has a job to do and all of us must take responsibility," she stated adding that through her vast networks things have moved.

When all is said and done, Jackie has indicated that after the term of the interim committee ends in May and the draft Constitution is approved she may step aside.

Cricket Kenya (CK) chairperson Jackie Janmohammed during a past tournament at Nairobi Gymkhana.  
PD/ALEX NJUE



## From boys to men as Koyonzo turn school tables against rugby high-fliers

■ **by Frederick Likuyani**  
@PeopleDailyKe

With all sporting activities having been suspended indefinitely across the world Koyonzo Secondary and Mukumu Boy's rugby 7s who battled for the Kakamega county Term One championships are not taking any chances keeping a close watch over their players through WhatsApp platform in preparations for both regional and national events.

Koyonzo's head coach Eliud Okwemba who guided his side to overcome heavy weights St Peters before downing Mukumu 15-10 to win county title, revealed that before the suspension of the regional championships that were to be held in Busia, he had prepared his players and was looking forward for every good performance.

"Shortly after we were crowned county champions we did not go into celebrations but went back to the drawing board analyzing

our performance and fixing the loose ends in our team.

"The players had adopted well for the new approach and focusing on the regional event before everything was suspended but we however deployed a way of monitoring them through social media.

"We are interacting and also sharing some tactical skills through social media in one way of ensuring that every individual player remains fit and in good frame of mind before we resume our programmes.

"Things are not rosy especially at the regional and national levels where other new teams that we don't know well are also coming to compete so it requires some good preparations," he said.

His Mukumu Boys' counterpart Charles Anzaya revealing that riding on under dogs' tag has helped them so much as it has motivated his players to understand what is expected out of them.



Koyonzo Secondary School rugby 7s team before taking on Mukumu Boys in Mumias. PD/FREDERICK LIKUYANI



# WeshallriseupfromTokyoOlympicssetback,saysCheruiyot

by Amos Abuga  
@PeopleDailyKe

World 1,500m champion Timothy Cheruiyot says suggestions that 2020 was the year to give a shot at lowering the record will have to be brushed aside.

Cheruiyot who has a personal best of 3:28.41 set in Monaco in 2018 says it was no secret he contemplated shattering Moroccan Hicham El Guerrouj's record of 3:26.00 which has been hugely unchallenged for over two decades now. However, with the coronavirus pandemic continuing to affect

almost all sporting activities, Cheruiyot says the priority now is staying safe as opposed to chasing records.

An Olympic gold was something the Diamond League trophy winner thought of when the year started. That too, he says, can wait for now, after the Games were postponed to July 2021.

"When in good health you get a chance to try, but that can't be true if you're unwell. I believe we shall rise up from this setback," said Cheruiyot who last October won the world title in Doha, Qatar.

He says that moment was priceless

for him since he had played second fiddle to his training partner Elijah Manangoi, who was ruled out of the championships due to a hamstring injury.

"I am happy Manangoi is back to running again because we push each other a lot in training. He is a top athlete; that is why I think when we get back to serious competition, we can achieve a lot," Cheruiyot told *People Sport* yesterday.

The Commonwealth silver medalist says with Diamond League races being postponed due to the coronavirus opportunities to try and post

better times have been limited.

"People break records when they run regularly and competitively at the highest level. So clearly from where we stand that is not going to be the case this year," he added.

Also not able to train from the Rongai Athletics Club under coach Benard Ouma is yet another obstacle for the world champion.

"The government is strongly discouraging gatherings therefore even we athletes cannot train together. For now I have to do long runs alone just to keep in shape," concluded the Inspector of Prisons.



Dominant Timothy Cheruiyot runs his way to 1500m gold at the World Athletics Championships in Doha. PD/FILE

# AK braces for changes

Massive adjustments inevitable after athletics season interrupted by coronavirus pandemic

by Amos Abuga  
@PeopleDailyKe

Enormous adjustments to Athletics Kenya's calendar as well as that of World Athletics programmes will have to be made, but that will be determined after the coronavirus pandemic has been arrested.

That was the assessment of AK senior vice-president Paul Mutwii who said while two major events, the 2020 Olympics has been moved to 2021 and World Athletics Championships which was due in Oregon, USA in 2021 has also been moved to 2022, several other events will suffer immensely due to the disease.

It is not the Olympics that has been affected, it is not clear whether the 2020 Diamond League season will take place at all as the world continues to face the Coronavirus challenge.

"First thing first; you know the AK calendar which is aligned with the one from the World Athletics and ours runs from November to October, and as we speak nothing much has happened. So locally we can say the 2019-2020 season never happened," Mutwii told *People Sport* on telephone yesterday.

"But, globally there are many downsides to that given that events have to be planned for fresh and new dates given. Making new dates will mean revising the calendar to accommodate events that will have been affected," he added.

Mutwii says Kenya stands to lose a lot should the global body fail to make fresh dates to accommodate the newly-launched Continental Tour which had initially been planned for May 2, as well as the World U20 Championships from July 7 to 12, with both competitions initially scheduled for Moi International Sports Centre, Kasarani.

"As you know, a lot of investment had been put towards having successful events. Both in kind and financially. The government had invested and ensured prospective junior athletes were put in camps to prepare for the junior Championships. Also, Kasarani stadium is undergoing a lot of renovations work and maintenance jobs purposely for the two events," added Mutwii.

There is no communication on whether the World Cross Country Championships slated for March 20 in Bathurst,

Australia will go on as planned given that the world indoors Games have since been postponed to around the same time next year. It's not clear whether the Africa Cross Country Championships will go on next year, the fate of the Africa Senior Championships which were to take place in Algiers, Algeria, in June will be rescheduled for next year.

"With world Athletics Championships having been moved from 2021 to 2022, it also means the Commonwealth Games which were planned for the summer of 2022 in Birmingham, England, will have to be changed. So, essentially you see the kind of changes that need to be effected," he said.



Peris Chepchirchir of Prisons leads a section of the Senior Women's Cross Country trials at Uhuru Garden. Chepchirchir came in second. PD/DAVID NDOLO

## ATHLETICS

# Champ Sawe aims to keep fit amid pandemic

by Lynette Matheka  
@PeopleDailyKe

African high jump champion Mathew Sawe says he has taken a break from his training as his season, like that of many athletes across the globe, was cut short by Covid-19.

Before the coronavirus global raid, the 31-year-old was just putting his disappointing 2019 World Athletics Championships outing behind him and had already started his season off with a 2.27 jump in Hustopece, Czech Republic on February 8 and had his ticket to Doha's Diamond League leg ready before the virus hit.

Sawe, who is currently in the country, was set to return to his training base in France early March but the virus' spread there saw him delay his travel plans. "Right now I am just keeping fit. I was to head to

Doha from France where I was set to return for more training. This situation is affecting everyone and, while I was in competition shape, I have to stay safe as we wait for this to be contained. I will be in Kenya until my safety in France is guaranteed," said Sawe. While acknowledging that the next two or three years will be busy for athletes, the national record holder has hinted at skipping the indoor competitions next year and concentrate on participating in outdoor ones.

"Training for indoor competitions is a bit different from my schedule for outdoor and having to switch between the two in short span of time can be taxing. I will consult with my coach immediately we are able to train again, but I am likely to skip the indoor competitions," added Sawe.



## ELDORET

# How poverty inspired paralympian to coach

by Emmanuel Masinde  
@PeopleDailyKe

Abject poverty motivated a paralympian to start a training camp to help young athletes prosper in life.

Retired paralympian Paul Kemei says he was forced to start a coaching career after being told he had less disability in Bangalore, India, after winning 10,000m.

Form Four-leaver Kemei said he was born with a disability, as his left hand does not have fingers.

"I was born amputated on my left hand but I am happy. I started running in 2001 when I was in primary school," says Kemei.

When he came back to Kenya from India after the games he reflected upon it by comparing himself with other opponents, he later realised he was better than his competitors.

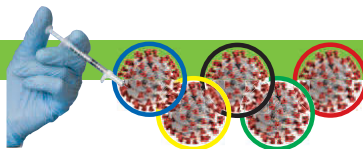
"I decided to go coaching after I was told am less disabled, which I did not take as a bad thing but positively," says Kemei who was selling charcoal to sustain his camp at Lemotit, Lodian sub-county.

He adds that there are many raw talents rotting in village which he decided to nurture. "Most of the talents are rotting in the village, so I decided to start rescue and develop, our aim is to nurture young talents," says Kemei in Lodian.



## BRIEFLY

## CORONAVIRUS CRISIS



## McLaren drivers take pay cut amid cost-cutting measures due to virus

**LONDON:** McLaren drivers Carlos Sainz and Lando Norris have taken voluntary pay cuts as part of a raft of cost-cutting measures to help the team survive the coronavirus crisis with Formula One in lockdown. The British-based team will also use the UK government's furlough scheme to guarantee 80 percent of salary for staff up to a maximum of £2,500 (\$3,000) a month. "The McLaren Group is temporarily furloughing a number of employees as part of wider cost-cutting measures due to the impact of the Covid-19



pandemic on its business," said an official spokesperson for McLaren. "These measures are focused on protecting jobs in the short-term to ensure our employees return to full-time work as the economy recovers."

-AFP

## French MotoGP postponed over coronavirus pandemic

**PARIS:** The French MotoGP, initially scheduled for May 15-17 in Le Mans, has been postponed because of the "ongoing coronavirus outbreak", organisers announced Thursday. "As the situation remains in a state of constant evolution, new dates for the French GP and the recently-postponed Gran Premio Red Bull de Espana cannot be confirmed until it

becomes clearer when exactly it will be possible to hold the events," the international motorcycling federation said. A revised calendar will be published as soon as available, it added. The French MotoGP is the latest sporting casualty of the coronavirus pandemic and follows the cancellation of the elite category season-opening MotoGP in Qatar.

-AFP

## Spurs' Son set for military training during virus shutdown, says report

**SEOUL:** Tottenham Hotspur's South Korean striker Son Heung-min will report to a marines boot camp later this month to fulfil military service duties, a report said yesterday. All able-bodied South Korean men are obliged to serve in the military for nearly two years, making up the bulk of Seoul's 600,000-strong forces who face off against North Korea's army of 1.3 million. But Son was spared a career-threatening stint as a conscript when South Korea took gold at the 2018 Asian Games in Indonesia,



earning the team an exemption. The Spurs star broke down in tears of joy after the 2-1 extra-time win over Japan, which meant he could fulfil his obligations with just three weeks' basic training and around 500 hours of community service.

-AFP



Guido Migliozzi (right) celebrates with his caddy after sinking his winning putt at the 18th Green of the Karen Country Club during the 2019 Kenya Open Golf Championships which is part of the European Challenge Tour.

PD/SPORTPICA

## What's next in line for possible coronavirus postponement

■ Paris, Thursday  
@PeopleDailyKe

The coronavirus pandemic has decimated the 2020 sporting calendar, with the Tokyo Olympics and football's European Championship the biggest events to be postponed, while Wimbledon was cancelled for the first time since World War II.

### Canadian Grand Prix

Scheduled date: June 14

The earliest the Formula One season can get underway is in Montreal on June 14 after the opening eight races of the campaign were all either postponed or cancelled.

A decision on a potential delay will be made by Easter weekend (April 11-12), according to race organisers.

Formula One and Silverstone chiefs also said they have until the end of April to decide whether to postpone the British Grand Prix, scheduled for July 19.

F1 chairman Chase Carey said last month that he still expects the season to start in the summer with a revised calendar of "15-18 races".

### US Open (golf)

Scheduled dates: June 18-21

The 120th US Open at Winged Foot is due to be the first men's major of the golf season after the postponements of both the Masters and the PGA Championship.

But American media reports earlier this week said that the tournament in Mar-a-Lago, New York, was likely to be put back until later in the summer.

The course was closed last week, since when the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the United States has passed 100,000, over 44,000 of them in New York state.

### Tour de France

Scheduled dates: June 27-July 19

The Tour de France is still scheduled to start in Nice on June 27, despite France having extended its lockdown until April 15.

Sports minister Roxana Maracineanu on Wednesday said that the world's most prestigious cycling race, which usually draws more than 10 million fans to the roadsides, could take place with no spectators. But she also admitted that all options, including cancellation, are being considered.

### British Open

Scheduled dates: July 16-19

British media reported on Friday said that the British Open at Royal St George's could be postponed within days.

Over 200,000 spectators are due to attend the tournament in Sandwich.

A delay could have a knock-on effect on the rest of the golf calendar, with space at a premium after the postponements of the PGA and the Masters.

It is highly unlikely that the 149th Open could be held later than September due to the weather, but a delay until next year would impact plans to hold the 150th edition at St Andrews. -AFP

# The forgotten lot

## Caddies in the rough as virus halts potential branding deals

■ London, Thursday  
@PeopleDailyKe

Caddies are golf's unsung heroes but they will never earn the riches made by some of the players and many will struggle during the European Tour suspension caused by the coronavirus pandemic, their chairman says.

The pandemic has also brought a halt to conversations that Sean Russell and his association were having with prospective sponsors after he negotiated a groundbreaking agreement with the European Tour.

"There is zero job security," Russell told AFP. "There is no contract. Some caddies have been sacked the week after a player has won a tournament. It is not like a normal job."

His members over 150 active professional caddies can from this season earn more money through branding on their caps or clothing and in other ways too.

Caddies are generally paid £1,000 (\$1,200) per week by the golfer, which can usually be topped up by 10 percent of the prize money earned in a tournament. Travel and hotel expenses then have to be deducted.

The schedule has been heavily disrupted with 12 European Tour tournaments including masters and World Golf Championship events postponed or cancelled.

Caddies are now eyeing the Trophee Hassan II, scheduled to be held in Rabat, Morocco from June 4-7, for a possible resumption of the season.

"At the moment with the stoppage those chaps who caddied for golfers who were successful last year and those who started the season well will be alright," said Russell, from his home in Newcastle, northeast England. "But for the others they still have

to pay the mortgages, put food on the table and there are bills to be paid.

He said the announcement by Britain's finance minister last week that the government will cover a percentage of self-employed people's earnings was good news "but it will still take a couple of months for those measures to come in".

Russell said members were having to find part-time jobs, even those who would normally earn extra money alongside their caddying by working at exclusive golf clubs. Those clubs are now closed because of the social distancing measures.

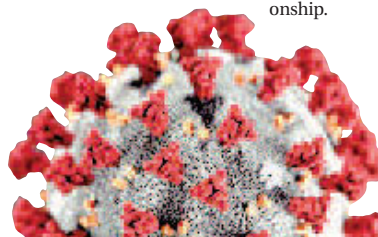
"Some are having to do jobs they would not normally be expecting to do at this time of year to make ends meet just about," he said.

"One lad I heard is delivering parcels."

"It is not unusual in the off-season for some caddies to work for Amazon or as taxi drivers."

"However, as we say, being a caddy is a 'lifestyle not a job'."

-AFP





# Fifa must stop politicking and respect Kenyan law, says Ole Magelo

by Barry Silah  
@PeopleDailyKe

Former AFC Leopards chairman Alex ole Magelo has accused world football governing body FIFA of having undue interests in Kenya's football electoral process which is against rules of impartiality. Magelo argues that the term of office for the current Football Kenya Federation (FKF) officials is over and therefore the occupants of the Goal Project offices should vacate forthwith. He claims FIFA is pushing an agenda that

seems mischievous.

"I have a problem with the way Fifa is handling the current stalemate in Kenyan football which they have literally helped create. It is now clear they are playing to someone's tune and we can only guess who. We want Fifa to tell us clearly on what basis they recognize the current office and what is the agenda of the stakeholders meeting proposed for Monday. That is why some of us are not comfortable with their recent pronouncements against the Sports Disputes Tribunal (SDT) which is a constitu-

tional body," said Magelo who told People Sport that he had written a protest letter to FIFA.

Magelo who also declared his interest in the FKF presidency, questioned the sincerity of the global body which through its Chief Officer for Member States Veron Mosengo-Omba last week gave a seal of approval to the current office bearers against the ruling and proposals of SDT.

"I think the argument by Mosengo-Omba is hypocritical and he needs to pronounce his intentions very clearly.



Alex Magelo during a past AFC Leopards elections exercise at Nyayo Stadium.  
PD/ RODGERS NDEGWA

## We need fresh blood

Former FKF NEC member Hussein Terry wants all former presidential candidates barred from taking part in football polls

by Webster Nyandika  
@PeopleDailyKe

Former Football Kenya Federation (FKF) National Executive Committee (NEC) member representing Coast Hussein Terry wants all former presidential candidates to be barred from taking place in the forth coming football elections.

Terry feels that they have already been tried and tested and that there is nothing new they would offer the country through football leadership.

If his wishes are granted, that will lock out former FKF president Sam Nyamweya who is so far the only former federation boss to have showed interest in the same position. Current president Nick Mwendwa may be safe because he is entitled to a maximum two terms and he has only served one.

"All former football bosses should be stopped from participating in the elections. They should pave way for others. There is a new generation of very good leaders who can actually take Kenyan football to the next level," Terry told People Sport yesterday.

However, going by the Kenyan Constitution, it may be difficult to bar interested candidates on those grounds.

Terry who has also been Harambee Stars Team Manager and recognised Fifa players' agent, said it is important to restore order in football by following both the Fifa statutes and the Kenya Constitution.

He argued that there was no way the government could be overlooked by Fifa, because FKF cannot survive without government support and whenever the government gives money, it always want it to be accounted for.

"There is no country in Africa that can survive without government support. Every time FKF is faced with lack of players' allowances for the national team they always rush to the government and not Fifa and the government will always demand accountability," he said.

He added: "So we have to get our acts right. We have to listen at what the government is saying and at the same time lend another ear to Fifa.

They are equal partners in Kenya's football."

Terry urged Kenyans not to fear a Fifa ban, if it is the only way of instilling sanity in the sport.

"Even Senegal was banned for two years in early 90s and when they came back they had proper youth structures like academies that saw them become African giants, by winning continental events and even qualifying for the Fifa World Cup competitions. They also exported their players to all the major leagues across the world," Terry said.

**TERRY**  
There is no country in Africa that can survive without government support. Every time FKF is faced with lack of players' allowances for the national team they always rush to the government, which in turn demand accountability.



Former FKF NEC member Hussein Terry when he presented his nomination papers to the Electoral Board in 2015. INSET: Terry with the Africa Cup of Nations trophy in Calabar, Nigeria in 2013. PD/ PHILLIP KAMAKYA

## Belgian football league declare season finished due to ongoing coronavirus pandemic

Brussels, Thursday  
@PeopleDailyKe

The Belgian football league has recommended that the current season be declared finished early due to the coronavirus pandemic with the present table accepted as final, it said on Thursday, becoming the first European league to take such a measure.

The decision is set to be formally validated at a General Assembly on April 15, meaning that Club Brugge would be declared champions as they currently sit 15 points clear of Gent at the top of the table.

In a statement, the Belgian Pro League said it was "very unlikely" to be able to hold matches in front of crowds before June 30 and that it had "unanimously decided that it was not desirable...to continue the competition" after that date.

Matches behind closed doors were "theoretically possible", but the league said it preferred not to put more pressure on health services and police in the circumstances. It therefore agreed not to restart the season and "accept the current league table as final".

Belgium whose national team top the FIFA world rankings would become the first European league to take such a measure due to the ongoing health crisis, which saw football across the continent grind to a complete halt in the middle of March.

The number of deaths attributed to coronavirus

in Belgium passed the 1,000 mark on Thursday, health officials said, with 15,348 of officially recorded cases.

The country has imposed a similar national lockdown to those in its European neighbours, with restaurants, bars and non-essential firms shut, school suspended and public events banned. Per capita Belgium is among the worst hit countries in Europe.

The Belgian season stopped with one round of games remaining in the 30-match regular season.

After that the league usually splits up, with the top six having their points totals halved and going on to play each other home and away to decide the title winners.

Former Liverpool goalkeeper and now with Belgium's Club Brugge, Simon Mignolet reacts after his team won a league match early this year. Club Brugge will be declared league winners after the season was declared finished yesterday.

-AFP





## **Three of Bayern players are irreplaceable, says Matthaus**

**WARSAW:** Legendary German player Lothar Matthaus believes Bayern Munich should keep their best players to achieve a success as "Robert Lewandowski, Joshua Kimmich and Manuel Neuer are irreplaceable" for "Die Roten". "In Bayern, as in every team, you can replace almost any player. In this case the exceptions are Robert Lewandowski, Joshua Kimmich and Manuel Neuer. In my eyes they are indispensable," said Matthaus in his Sky column on Wednesday. Neuer is in talks with Bayern to extend a contract but both sides have not found an agreement yet. "If I were in Bayern shoes, I wouldn't put a gun to his head. I can't and I don't want to imagine Manuel in a shirt of any other club, but if he thinks that he will be better somewhere else, then he should accept such an offer," Matthaus said. **-AFP**



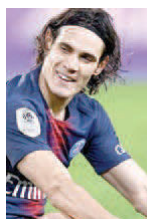
## **Athletics anti-doping programme severely disrupted, agency warns**

**PARIS:** The Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) has acknowledged that its anti-doping programme will be "severely disrupted" because of the coronavirus pandemic. The AIU, the independent anti-doping watchdog for track and field set up in 2017, operates testing procedures in more than 100 countries. "Under the current conditions of the global pandemic, many of these countries have social distancing restrictions or guidelines in place, these differ from country to country and in

turn are all changing very rapidly," it said. "As a result, there is no doubt that our anti-doping programme will be severely disrupted in the short term, however we will still conduct our priority testing missions in those places where it is feasible and safe to do so." The AIU added that it was reviewing its testing plans day by day "to ensure we are appropriately balancing considerations of public health and the health of athletes against the need to conduct anti-doping tests". **-AFP**

## **Boca Juniors rule out PSG's Cavani move**

**BUENOS AIRES:** Boca Juniors president Jorge Amor Ameal has ruled out signing Uruguayan striker Edinson Cavani for financial reasons. Cavani's contract with Paris Saint-Germain expires on June 30 and the 33-year-old is now free to join any club as a free agent. "We are proud that a player like Cavani says he wants to wear our shirt, but our economic reality doesn't match with his," Ameal told Argentina's Radio Splendid on Wednesday. He added that the club had recently hoped to sign Peru international captain Paolo Guerrero but could not meet the former Bayern Munich striker's wage demands. "We have to think more about our existing players and believe in them," Ameal said. "Of course no one is going to argue that Cavani is a great player." Boca Juniors claimed their 34th Argentinian first division title last month after a late strike from Carlos Tevez gave them a 1-0 victory over Gimnasia on the final weekend of the season. **-Xinhua**



## **Brescia to forfeit matches if Italian Serie A resumes**

**FOOTBALL:** Brescia president Massimo Cellino has hit out at his fellow Serie A chiefs who insist on resuming current Serie A campaign amid the coronavirus crisis. Italy is the worst affected country in the world by the outbreak, with 13,155 deaths so far and 110,574 cases recorded to date. UEFA announced on Wednesday that they have suspended the Champions League and Europa League indefinitely, with a view to helping European leagues reach a conclusion this season. No top flight across Europe has yet taken the decision to end their season, with leagues looking for solutions to finish campaigns in order to avoid heavy losses through broadcasting fulfillments. But in a fierce interview with Gazzetta dello Sport Cellino, who spent a colourful spell as Leeds owner between 2014 and 2017, lashed out against the possible re-starting of the championship. **-AFP**

Manangoi asks athletes to remain optimistic and focus on rescheduled season

**Nairobi, Thursday**  
@PeopleDailyKe

Former 1,500m world champion Elijah Manangoi (pictured) says he has accepted the lockdown situation imposed on the world to fight the novel coronavirus. However, he has called on fellow the sporting world to maintain health and fitness in order to return stronger whenever the situation improves and the medical assurance for all is given. A somber mood has swept Kenya's sports fraternity which had recorded two deaths and 110 cases of positive test to coronavirus as of yesterday. Training camps have been closed and athletes urged to train on their own.

Manangoi, who has recovered from a knee injury that denied him the chance to defend his title in Doha World Championships last year, said he was ready for the 2020 season when the virus broke. "I was ready to test myself at the Diamond League first meeting of the season in Doha, Qatar on April 17. I wanted to use it as part of my preparations for the Tokyo Olympic Games. But it was never to be. Like many other events, it was postponed and we have no idea when to return to action," Manangoi said in Nairobi on Wednesday.

Now, Manangoi is calling on his colleagues to accept the situation and plan well for the start of the new season when the global world will open up for sport again. "I have opted to look at the cancellation and postponement in sports activities with hope so as not to get depressed further. That is what is helping me continue with training. I believe there are few series in Diamond League that might be held later this year. I can still come up then and gauge myself to know where I am before Olympics in 2021," he added.

Already Athletics Kenya president Jack Tuwei has warned his charges to be on the watch and not to add on weight as the sports world will have a hive of activities once it's opened. With a crowded calendar, athletes will be forced to choose which events to run as many will be clogged together.

There will be back-to-back World Athletics Championships in 2022 and 2023, Olympics in 2021, World Indoor Games in Nanjing in 2021 and World Cross Country Championships. This is in addition to one-day meetings spread across the globe. "This is an unfortunate turn of events. It has affected the preparation calendar for these global events which is the most important time for any athlete. I call for athletes to keep fit and engage their coaches to train online," Tuwei said.

In addition to the global championships, continental and local events, city marathons and diamond leagues have also been affected.

"We will veto some events, but athletes will have to be careful not to burn out," Tuwei added.

# **Never give up**