



CORONAVIRUS
KENYATTA
HINTS AT
PARTIAL SCHOOL
REOPENING

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CRISIS MANAGEMENT



Treasury CS Ukur Yatani / FILE

Treasury has spent Sh40bn on Covid-19, says Yatani

Treasury has spent Sh40 billion in its response to the coronavirus outbreak since the first patient was reported on March 12. This means that over the past 40 days, the government has been spending on average of Sh1 billion per day. Of these, Sh33.4 billion has gone to operations and Sh6.9 billion to development and other capital investments to support the Covid-19 fight.

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FLOODS

Close to twenty people killed as rain pounds nation

At least 15 people may have been killed by floods since the rain intensified last week. Some 12 people died in a mudslide at the border of West Pokot and Elgeyo Marakwet counties on Saturday night.

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VOICES

WYCLIFFE MUGA

Major events shaped far away

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REALITY CHECK CITY BOSS CLAIMS HE'S BEING FRUSTRATED AND EMBARRASSED

Governor Sonko: I don't know what I signed with Uhuru

County chief threatens to end City Hall deal with State House PG 4-5



CORONAVIRUS

PREGNANT WOMEN TO TAKE EXTRA PRECAUTION

Pregnant women have a higher risk of severe illness when infected with viruses from the same family as Covid-19 and other viral respiratory infections, such as influenza



BREASTFEEDING IF YOU HAVE COVID-19

- Wear a face mask and wash your hands before each feeding
- Wash hands before touching any pump or bottle parts
- Express breast milk to establish and maintain milk supply



CLOSED ON MARCH 15

Uhuru hints at partial reopening of schools

Dismisses speculation that KCPE, KCSE exams could be cancelled

LEWIS NYAUNDI
@TheStarKenya

President Uhuru Kenyatta yesterday hinted at a partial reopening of schools and dismissed speculation that the KCPE and KCSE exams could be cancelled.

Speaking during a live radio interview from State House, Nairobi, the President said the Education ministry will look at measures to enable candidates to sit the exams.

Since schools were closed on March 15, the future of the candidates has been a subject of debate, with divergent opinions causing anxiety. But in the absence of more specific national guidance, Education expert Janet Muthoni says there is a need to work out the intricacies of what the school day will look like when they reopen.

"If we want to get kids back in the fall, we need to talk about what that's going to look like today."

Her worry is "the fear of what a disease outbreak could mean in schools if the government takes that path".

While children who contract the virus appear less likely to become sick, scientists believe they can pass the infection along to other people, hence causing widespread infection among staff and families.

Educators have asked whether Education CS George Magoha plans to conduct an audit of the necessary materials and supply chain for cleaning, disinfecting and preventing the spread of the disease should children return to school.

The Kenya Union of Post-Primary Education teachers, in a memorandum to the Education ministry, demanded the school calendar rescheduled and exams postponed.

In view of the foregoing, President Kenyatta said the government will release a schedule on how learners will return to schools, especially those who are to sit the



President Uhuru Kenyatta during a live radio interview yesterday /PSCU

national exams. "We need to know when it will be done and how it will be done. When that time comes, we will elaborate details of how we will make sure all this is taken care of," he said.

The Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) exam was scheduled to start on November 2 and end on November 3, while the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) exam was to start on November 4 and end on November 30.

RECOVERING LOST TIME

Already, three weeks of the school calendar have been lost. Although its impact on school activities cannot be underestimated, headteachers say it is easily recoverable. They argue that if normalcy returns and schools are opened before June, then it is possible to recover the time lost.

Schools were scheduled to reopen on May 4 but the coronavirus crisis could well eat into part of the second term.

The Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development requires schools to have fully covered the syllabus by the end of September.

In calling for partial reopening, sector players and educationists

say it is conceivable to have some schools open fully, some partially and others to remain closed. In the proposal, headteachers want candidates to report first.

Headteachers say this will avert a transition crisis as already most secondary schools are grappling with congestion. The Kenya Secondary School Heads Association has recommended that the government foregoes the second term midterm and reduces the August holiday to recover the time lost.

"By the end of June, schools will have lost 10 weeks. This is longer than the third term of the school calendar [nine weeks]," chairman Kahi Indimuli told the Star.

"If we get into July with schools shut, then the calendar as it is will be fatigued. With less than 28 weeks, preparing students for examinations will exert pressure on the entire system."

The principals argue that if the spread is put to "bearable" levels, then KCPE exam candidates, Form 3 and 4 students, could go to school under stringent safety measures.

Another proposal by education advisers is to have schools in counties with no Covid-19 cases resume lessons. This will, however, depend on how the virus spreads.



A police roadblock at Athi River on April 11 /ANDREW KASUKU

NO CURFEW EASING FOR RAMADHAN

Experts to decide on partial lockdown

LUKE AWICH/ Health experts will decide whether to lift or extend the partial lockdown and restricted movement, President Uhuru Kenyatta said yesterday.

Uhuru on April 6 ordered cessation of movement in and out of the four counties for 21 days to curb the spread of the coronavirus. Yesterday, Mandera joined the list of partial lockdown counties. The three weeks end on Monday next week.

The country was also put in under an indefinite dusk-to-dawn curfew to limit people's movement to contain the spread of the virus.

Speaking during an interview with local radio stations, Uhuru said feedback on the measures taken so far will also help the government arrive at a way forward.

"I cannot say today whether we will extend or lift, it depends on the results we will get," Uhuru said.

"When the time comes, we will tell Kenyans what to do based on advice from our experts."

The President ruled out the relaxation of curfew for Muslims during the month of Ramadan beginning Thursday.

Some Muslim leaders have asked that the curfew be reduced so it starts at 9pm instead of 7pm to allow more prayer time. It ends at 5am.

He said Muslims should not expect special treatment during the holy month but acknowledged that Ramadhan and Easter celebrations were very important events in both Muslims and Christians' calendars.

Christians were a week ago forced to pray at home to mark Easter as the government banned gatherings and stressed the need for social distancing to curb the spread of coronavirus.

"Same to what we told Christians during Easter, this year is a special year. Everyone to celebrate at home. Muslims should follow suit and know that this is a special year," Uhuru said.

"Let us agree that this year we will not do things normally. Easter and Ramadan are major events to both Christians and Muslims."

Muslims will start observing the holy month from today April 23 through May 23.



STAR SURVEY

TODAY'S QUESTION

Do you still trust Governor Mike Sonko?

YESTERDAY'S QUESTION

Should Jubilee's wrangles be postponed until the Covid-19 crisis ends?

YES 63%

NO 37%

ENTERS THE RED ZONE

Mandera latest county put on partial lockdown

MAGDALINE SAYA/ Mandera has joined four other counties on partial lockdown.

The government on Wednesday ordered cessation of movement in and out of the county. President Uhuru Kenyatta on April 6 ordered cessation of movement in and out of Nairobi, Mombasa, Kilifi and Kwale to curb the spread of coronavirus.

The counties have the highest number of confirmed cases and are considered hotspots. Interior Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang'i said Mandera was added to the list because it was witnessing a

rapid community transmission of the virus. It means there will be no movement into and out of the county either by air or road for 21 days effective April 22.

The county has eight confirmed positive cases of Covid-19. Mandera has also been on the spot for defying health regulations to curb the spread of the virus. Last week, 32 people escaped from quarantine in unclear circumstances.

"Further, the President has directed the national command centre on the coronavirus pandemic to immediately review the enforcement of public health measures



Health CS Mutahi Kagwe during a press conference at Afya House, Nairobi, yesterday /ZEKIEL AMINGA

rolled out to stem the growing rate of infection in Mombasa, Kwale and Kilifi with a view to introducing more stringent measures to enhance the enforcement of the same. The results of this review will be announced in the next 24 hours," Matiang'i said.

Health CS Mutahi Kagwe yesterday said the government plans to test at least 250,000 people by the end of June. Seven more positive cases were confirmed yesterday from 707 samples tested bringing the total of Covid-19 cases to 303.

UNGLAMOROUS BUT ESSENTIAL

18 vultures are poisoned in Laikipia, KWS on the prowl

Information indicates they ate camels' carcasses after a lion killed them

GILBERT KOECH
@TheStarKenya

The Kenya Wildlife Service is investigating the mass poisoning of 18 birds of prey in Laikipia county.

Preliminary investigations indicate the vultures probably died after eating carcasses of two camels that had been poisoned after a lion killed them. He was not identified.

"The two camels that had been missing from a boma for four days were killed by a lion whose paw-prints were identified in the vicinity," KWS spokesman Paul Udoto said on Wednesday.

The birds probably died after eating the carcasses, he said. It is an offence to kill an endangered animal.

The dead birds included 11 Rufus vultures, seven tawny eagles and one silver jackal, all endangered

Udoto said KWS is working with the local administration and DCI to determine the source of the poison and the guilty person or persons.

Villagers sometimes poison carcasses of animals killed by predators in hopes the predators themselves will return and be poisoned. Vultures can be collateral damage when they feed on the poisoned carcass.

Or they can be deliberately poisoned by poachers so no one is alerted by circling vultures that an animal has been killed, such as an elephant for its tusks.

KWS dispatched a team to investigate the deaths of the scavengers. Udoto said samples have been taken to the Government Chemist for analysis.



The vultures said to have been poisoned in Laikipia county /COURTESY

"The vulture carcasses have been disposed of to prevent the possible spread of disease," he said.

The deaths caused an uproar in conservation circles after photos of the dead endangered African vultures surfaced online.

On February 6 last year, 20 endangered vultures died at Masai Mara National Reserve after poisoning. They had fed on a poisoned spotted hyena carcass.

Five others that were critically ill, treated and released.

Last year, BirdLife International warned that the African vultures could soon be wiped out as a result of this type of poisoning.

It condemned the Laikipia poisoning, following the recent poisoning of 537 highly endangered vultures by elephant poachers in Botswana.

The June 20 incident resulted in Botswana's highest recorded death of vultures in a single poisoning incident. It is one of the worst killings on the continent.

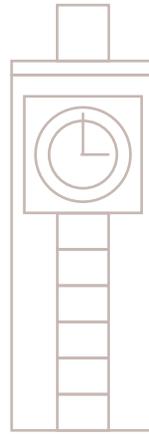
It rivalled a similar incident in the Caprivi area of Namibia in 2013 when 400 to 600 vultures were poisoned.

BirdLife said the "catastrophic vulture mortality" continues to occur because of poisoning by poachers.

"Poachers poison vultures lest they be sentinels to crime. Targeted and non-targeted poisoning of vultures are escalating at an alarming rate across the continent," it said.

Vultures are invaluable to the ecosystem and human health. By eating rotting carcasses, they prevent the spread of diseases such as tuberculosis, rabies and anthrax.

CORRIDORS OF POWER



POLITICAL GOSSIP

Who is doing what and where in the world of politics

★ **AS WRANGLES CONTINUE** to rock the Jubilee Party, it appears former officials of defunct parties that merged to form JP are desperately trying to get the attention of President **Uhuru Kenyatta** (pictured). The officials, who mostly held peripheral positions, have not missed any opportunity to hammer Deputy President **William Ruto**. Sources within Jubilee say some of the individuals were expecting to be given direct nominations to Parliament after the 2017 polls while others were to be appointed to government positions. Since that did not happen, they have blamed Ruto for frustrating their careers.

★ **A SENIOR GOVERNMENT** official whose love for social media is well known could be in trouble. Sources whisper to Corridors the man, who pretends to be holier than thou, is facing accusations of sexual abuse and major corruption. He is also said to be earning illegal salaries and operating with impunity. Staff who question his wayward ways are kicked out without regard to civil service procedure. Yet the man still wants to convince everyone that he is heaven-sent.

★ **A SUBCHIEF IN** a South Rift county has become a nightmare to residents. The young administrator has crafted a new way of milking constituents dry. A mole tells Corridors that he uses brokers to look for petty offenders and people with money in the village. Not only that, but it is also said he recently allowed young girls to undergo FGM after collecting Sh6,000 to Sh12,000 per girl. If any man then wanted to marry a girl, he is required to part with a fixed fee of Sh5,000. And if a man gets a schoolgirl pregnant, the cost to bypass jail is Sh8,000. Who will save the residents from the claws of this man meant to be a protector of the people?

★ **A GOVERNOR FROM** the Mt Kenya region is a troubled man. Why? It is said that corporates, companies and individuals, among others, have been reluctant to give donations to his county through his office. This is after the county chief was recently scorned by the wananchi for using Covid-19 donations to campaign. Several donors are said to have donations but refuse to channel them through the county boss for fear he may politicise the donations and take credit for the aid. Despite the governor imploring them to channel the donations through his office, they are adamant that they will look for other channels of giving out donations to the needy, including through churches and other institutions.

If you have any tips send them to Tips@the-star.co.ke

CARTOON



REALITY CHECK CITY BOSS CLAIMS HE IS BEING FRUSTRATED AND EMBARRASSED



Governor Sonko: I don't know what I signed with Uhuru

A boda boda rider uses the newly installed public sanitation booth at Kencom, Nairobi, which was launched by Nairobi Governor Mike Sonko on April 20 /DOUGLAS OKIDDY



JULIUS OTIENO AND
MAUREEN KINYANJUI
@TheStarKenya

Nairobi Governor Mike Sonko has threatened to halt the transfer of the county's key functions to the national government in a bitter fallout with top state officials in President Uhuru Kenyatta's circle.

Sonko claims he was hoodwinked into signing the transfer of functions agreement, saying he did not know its contents when he signed.

He has vowed not to allow "cartels" to take charge of the city.

In a clear signal that things were quickly falling apart between City Hall and the state, Sonko on his Facebook Page claimed he never saw the draft transfer of functions deed before appending his signature.

The governor however said he went ahead and signed the document out of his 'love for the great

people of Nairobi' after he was told the transfer will enhance service delivery to the city residents.

"I was not given sufficient time to even read the draft. I was just told it is a good thing on service delivery to the Great people of Nairobi (sic) as I deal with my court cases," Sonko said.

He claimed that since signing the agreement, he has never been furnished with a copy of the deed of transfer that he signed with Devolution CS Eugene Wamalwa.

He accused some 'greedy' officers of hijacking the process to "embarrass and frustrate me."

"Please forgive (me). I will never repeat that mistake again. In fact, I'm starting the process of terminating the deed of transfer just like any other ordinary contract. I will now personally go to court to have it terminated," Sonko said.

Section 9 of the Deed of Transfer provides the duration and termination of the agreement. It states that





Nairobi Governor Mike Sonko passes through a fumigation tent at Kencom on April 19
/EZEKIEL AMING'A

the deed shall be effective for 24 months and may only be terminated by the mutual written consent of both parties expressed in a common document.

The governor's Tuesday outburst was ignited by the police destruction of sanitisation booths erected by Sonko Rescue Team (SRT), an NGO run by the governor.

SRT had erected the booths in several areas including informal settlements to aid in the fight against Covid-19.

But they were destroyed by the police, an act the governor said was part of a wider scheme to embarrass and frustrate him.

The Star has established that the outburst was the culmination of the tension that had been simmering between the county boss and some state officers among them those charged with managing the transferred functions.

The parties clashed soon after the deed of transfer was signed and Kenya Revenue Authority took over the collection of all county revenues on March 16.

"There are people who have chosen to hijack the process. He (governor) is not happy with the way they are managing the process and he is contemplating going to court," the governor's spokesman Ben Mulwa told the Star

Sonko signed the transfer of four county functions at an event presided over by President Uhuru Kenyatta and witnessed by Senate Speaker Kenneth Lusaka and his Nairobi assembly counterpart Beatrice Elachi on February 25.

Sonko transferred health, transport, panning and public works and auxiliary services to the state.

KRA was appointed the principal agent for overall revenue collection for the county government and the move was actualised on March 16.

Soon after the taxman took over, it closed the initial four revenue accounts operated by City Hall and opened two new accounts; National Bank 01071225251100 and Cooperative Bank 01141709410000 which will be under the authority's control.

The county government was locked out the new accounts.

Initially, the county operated NBK 010602171997400 and Cooperative Bank 011412323966000 - main collection, 01141232396900 - liquor license which was managed by the Liquor Board, and 01141232396606 for garbage and waste disposal.

It is not clear whether these accounts have been closed.

Yesterday, Mulwa argued that KRA breached the law by opening two new accounts without the involvement of the county.

"The Public Finance Management Act is very clear on the procedure of opening accounts for county funds and the role of the county. KRA is just like any other agent but they took over going against the deed of transfer," Mulwa said.

Sonko is not happy with the slashing of at least Sh203 million from his office's budget for the newly created Nairobi Metropolitan Services which will manage the transferred functions.

He has accused the NMS led by Mohamed Badi and the state offi-



MIKE SONKO

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cers of colluding with county assembly speaker Elachi to allocate the authority Sh15 billion. Sonko rejected the budget but Elachi returned the bill to the governor unchanged.

The Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2020 allocated Sh15 billion to Nairobi Metropolitan Services.

Several sectors including the governor's office suffered budget cuts to finance NMS.

"What we witnessed on the special sitting last week is the speaker reading out a ruling to the house, rejecting the memorandum and yet she is an ex-officio member. We have MCAs telling us they never got a copy of the memorandum, what does that tell you?" Mulwa posed.

Citing Section 24 of the County Government Act, Mulwa said that the Governor's memorandum cannot be ignored but the assembly can debate and pass it wholly without any amendments or if there are any amendments then this can be done by two thirds of the members of the house.

But Elachi has firmly maintained

that the memorandum raised constitutional issues and she could not commit it to any committee of the house for discussion.

"If the governor is raising a question of constitutionality over the ancillary services then we cannot debate the memorandum. This can only be done by the courts and not the assembly," she said

According to Elachi and some MCAs, the appropriation bill will become law on Friday 4:04 pm whether Sonko assents to it or not.

At the same time, Sonko, MCAs and a section of senators believe the governor's memorandum is still 'alive' and the bill cannot be passed to law.

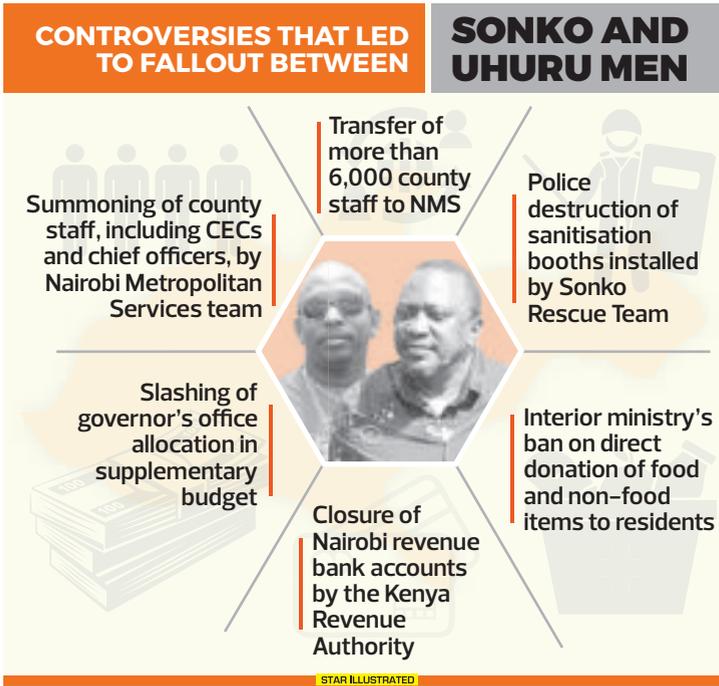
Sonko also raised concerns with the manner of transfer of more than 6,000 City Hall staff to NMS by the Public Service Commission last month.

On April 3, the Public Service Commission chairman Stephen Kirogo through a notice announced that 6,052 county staff should report to the Kenyatta International Convention Center for collection of letters of secondment.

According to Sonko, PSC has no powers over the management of county employees.

"As it stands, the responsibility still remains with the Nairobi County Public Service Board to notify its employees of the purported secondment. The Public Service Commission, on the other hand, should operate within its mandate, and can only second national government officers to the NMS," he said.

'WHAT WE WITNESSED ON THE SPECIAL SITTING LAST WEEK IS THE SPEAKER READING OUT A RULING TO THE HOUSE, REJECTING THE MEMORANDUM AND YET SHE IS AN EX-OFFICIO MEMBER. WE HAVE MCAS TELLING US THEY NEVER GOT A COPY OF THE MEMORANDUM, WHAT DOES THAT TELL YOU?'



EXPERT COMMENT
BOBBY MWANGI

MCAs did not debate the takeover

I think there are scenarios that can necessitate either party to the deed to seek the intervention of a court.

As to whether the entire transfer of the functions could have been defective, I think we have crossed that bridge.

There were some interested parties who moved to court about this matter and if the court pronounces itself that the entire transfer was a nullity then the deed can be brought to a close.

The governor, as one of the parties to the deed, is at liberty to move to court any time to challenge the deed if he has reason to believe that the deed was either defective or illegally signed.

When this matter is contested in court, both parties will make submissions and canvass the issue before a court of law which will then make a determination.

The courts can rule that the whole transfer of the functions was a nullity and send the parties back to square one or rule that the deeds were signed in accordance with the law.

There could be an argument that what one party plans to achieve or execute is way beyond the agreed deed.

This is because the deed stipulates the transferred functions between the two levels of governments and sets the parameters.

It is only within the law if both the parties stick to the parameters agreed on regarding the transferred functions so that either party is satisfied that the operations are within the law.

One of the issues I have seen is the aspect of the casual involvement of the County Assembly in the process of the transfer of the functions between the county government of Nairobi and the National government.

The county assembly must be consulted and allowed to debate and appreciate the issue.

The Assembly must be allowed to give its verdict because it is the one that represents mwananchi and oversees the county executive.

The county assembly cannot be an institution that is just informed of such matters that are so weighty as to the surrender of functions.

This is an aspect that should be looked into and the law amended to give the county assemblies mandate.



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The lawyer spoke to the Star

NEWS GENERAL

SPECIAL MEETING TUESDAY

Governors' forum to approve extra Covid-19 measures

MATHEWS NDANYI AND JESSICAH NYABOKE/ Governors will meet on Tuesday next week to discuss the fight against Covid-19 and review measures put in place.

Council of Governors chairman Wycliffe Oparanya said the county chiefs have had five weeks to oversee current measures and could give extra guidelines.

"We will approve more measures or actions which we want the government to take in the fight against the virus," Oparanya said.

He gave the CoG's weekly briefing in Eldoret after attending a meeting of the North Rift Economic Bloc at the Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital.

Governors Jackson Mandago (Uasin Gishu), Alex Tolgos (Elgeyo Marakwet), Patrick Khaemba (Trans Nzoia), Josphat Nanok (Turkana), Stanley Kiptis (Baringo) were present. MTRH boss Dr Wilson Aruasa also attended the meeting.

Oparanya said the counties will use Sh5 billion given by the national government to boost their capacity to fight the spread of the coronavirus.

The Kakamega county chief welcomed the increase of testing centres to 10, including the MTRH.

He said the counties are finding it difficult to manage and maintain quarantine centres where those defying curfew orders are detained.

Oparanya said they also want a protocol to be established on how counties with international borders should respond to the virus.

The governors asked the national government to quickly deal with the fresh emergence of insecurity in parts of Baringo.

STRAINING STATE COFFERS

Sh40bn spent on corona response, says CS Yatani

Funds provided for entities responding to the pandemic

MOSES ODHIAMBO

@AliwaMoses



The Treasury has spent Sh40 billion in its response to the coronavirus outbreak since the first patient was reported on March 12.

This means that over the past 40 days, the government has been spending on average of Sh1 billion per day. Of these, Sh33.4 billion has gone to operations and Sh6.9 billion on development and other capital investments to support Covid-19 fight.

The Treasury has disbursed Sh3.9 billion towards the related health response to contain the virus' spread. Cabinet Secretary Ukur Yatani told MPs that the Sh1 billion for hiring health workers has also been provided.

Treasury has also disbursed Sh200 million to the Interior ministry to tighten security operations to enforce curfew and containment directives. Another Sh200 million has been provided for the Prisons department to mitigate the spread of the corona-



Social distancing is a challenge in Turkana. Turkana residents queue at KCB Lodwar branch to receive hunger safety programme cash /HESBORN ETYANG

virus in jails. Residents of arid and semi-arid areas received Sh400 million in relief food and non-food commodities for insecure communities.

Treasury also says it has provided Sh10 billion in tax refund and another Sh10 billion for the cash transfers for the elderly and vulnerable persons. The National Intelligence Service has also been given a Sh1.5 billion boost for their operations, to help in con-

tact and case tracing.

Yatani further reveals that the Sh13 billion for SMEs support and payment of pending bills has been disbursed.

But the pandemic has presented expenses which were unforeseen during the budget-making process, eating up additional Sh385 billion.

These include requests for recurrent amounts of Sh152.9 billion and Sh233 billion for devel-

opment, including Sh30 billion for donor-funded projects.

Of these additional requests, Yatani said they have recommended additional Sh62 billion for recurrent expenditure and Sh92 billion for development.

However, the Budget and Appropriations Committee approved a reduction in development allocation by Sh83 billion and Sh31 billion in additional recurrent expenditure.



AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2019

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

	31st December 2019	31st December 2018
	Audited Kshs	Audited Kshs
Income		
Brokerage commissions	113,546,357	79,293,164
Advisory/consultancy fees	8,125,000	6,950,000
Interest income	2,784,010	3,754,206
Dividend income	637,000	2,369,900
Other Income	7,000,000	-
Realised loss/gain on investments	3,600,226	(6,157,365)
Unrealised loss on investments	(1,690,466)	(11,883,370)
Total Income	134,002,127	74,326,535
Expenses		
Direct expenses	28,595,097	34,580,265
Professional fees	1,307,077	626,000
Employee costs	36,331,503	38,590,911
Directors emoluments	14,307,045	12,633,488
Operational and Administrative expenses	25,976,959	34,059,307
Depreciation expense	2,941,463	3,310,178
Total expenses	109,459,144	123,800,149
Operating loss/profit	24,542,983	(49,473,614)
Finance costs	2,755,315	3,549,396
Profit/Loss before tax	21,787,668	(53,023,010)
Tax	3,259,225	3,326,630
Profit/Loss after tax	25,046,893	(49,696,380)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	31st December 2019	31st December 2018
	Audited Kshs	Audited Kshs
Non Current Assets		
Property plant and equipment	52,781,206	55,284,520
Motor Vehicles	180,844	241,125
Deposit with CDS	27,625,663	22,779,989
Investment in unquoted securities	6,834,000	6,834,000
Intangible assets	25,000,000	25,000,000
Total non current assets	112,421,713	110,139,634
Current assets		
Clients debtors	115,784,164	209,560,267
Prepayments	165,512,217	68,758,047
Investment in quoted securities	32,196,260	34,827,505
Clients cash and bank balance	157,322,480	22,380,477
Office cash and bank balances	137,338,369	106,708,892
Deferred tax	2,872,047	-
Tax recoverable	888,657	700,678
Total Current Assets	611,914,194	442,935,866

Total current assets

	724,335,907	553,075,500
TOTAL ASSETS		
Share capital and reserves		
Paid up ordinary share capital	250,000,000	250,000,000
Revenue reserves	45,329,018	20,461,126
Revaluation/capital reserves	128,465,182	128,465,182
Others (NSE network fund)	35,242	40,277
Total shareholders' funds	423,829,442	398,966,585
Non current liabilities		
Financial Liability	8,851,080	14,669,931
Deferred tax	-	1,413,481
Shareholders loans	9,000,000	9,000,000
Total non current liabilities	17,851,080	25,083,412
Current liabilities		
Client creditors	262,557,767	109,203,613
Accrued expenses	11,609,682	11,333,954
Financial liability	8,487,936	8,487,936
Total Current Liabilities	282,655,385	129,025,503
Total equity and liabilities	724,335,907	553,075,500

OTHER DISCLOSURES

1. Capital strength	250,000,000	250,000,000
Paid up capital	250,000,000	250,000,000
Minimum capital required	-	-
Excess/(Deficiency)	-	-
2. Shareholders funds	423,829,442	398,966,585
Total shareholders funds	423,829,442	398,966,585
Minimum shareholders funds required	250,000,000	250,000,000
Excess/(Deficiency)	173,829,442	148,966,585
3. Liquidity		
Liquid capital	79,854,296	112,686,203
Minimum working capital required	30,000,000	30,000,000
Excess/(Deficiency)	49,854,296	82,686,203
4. Clients funds		
Total clients' creditors including the amounts payable to stockbrokers	262,557,767	109,203,613
Total clients' cash and bank balances including amounts due from stockbrokers	157,322,480	22,380,477
Excess/(Deficiency)	(105,235,287)	(86,823,136)

SIGNED BY:-

Bob Karina
CHAIRMAN

Lucas Otieno
DIRECTOR

VOLUNTARY TESTING

No MP found coronavirus positive during tests – Muturi

ALLAN KISIA/ No legislator or parliamentary staffer was found positive for coronavirus during voluntary testing in early April.

Speaker Justin Muturi, in a note to members, said the results of those tested from the National Assembly and Senate and members of staff, came back negative. "Let me sound a word of caution. We should not relent and we must continue to uphold the sanitisation measures including wearing of face masks at all times, hand-washing or use of hand sanitisers and observing strict social distancing, amongst other measures," he advised.

Voluntary testing for MPs and staff was carried out between 2nd and 4th April within the precincts of Parliament. The House had asked legislators and members of staff to undergo voluntary Covid-19 testing as part of early measures to combat the disease.

Reports in the local dailies had indicated that 17 MPs had tested positive for the disease.

Parliament had asked MPs and members of staff to undergo voluntary Covid-19 testing.

Muturi said the National Assembly continues to implement response measures and targeted interventions to mitigate the spread and transmission of the disease within the precincts of Parliament.

He said the measures are in line with guidance and advice by the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organisation. He said the Parliamentary Service Commission is in the process of organising another testing exercise. "This exercise, which will be voluntary, is targeted at all Members of Parliament and all members of staff. Further, the staff of contracted cleaning companies working in Parliament will also be required to be tested."

NEWS GENERAL



UHURU NOMINEES

House fights to save rejected TSC names

Majority leader moves notice of motion to reverse the recommendations of the Education committee

MOSES ODHIAMBO
@AliwaMoses



Lawmakers yesterday put up a spirited fight to save two nominees to the Teachers Service Commission rejected by the Education committee.

In a plenary debate, MPs said the decision Tinderet MP Paul Melly-led committee was against the Constitution. They voted to oppose the report rejecting the nomination of Mbage Njuguna and Leila Abdi to the TSC.

The Education Committee had said that the two did meet the cut to fill vacant posts at the teachers' employer. Mbage was dropped on account his appointment would lock out youths from being represented at the TSC.

In the case of Leila, MPs cited inconsistencies in her employment history in her curriculum vitae.

"The nominee is also in the same age group and therefore the commission would lack representation of the youth," the vetting report signed by committee vice-chair Amos Kimunya read.

The team said they were unable to determine whether Leila had at least 10 years' experience in education,

governance, management or law.

But MPs led by Majority Leader Aden Duale dismissed the assertions, saying the members violated the provisions of the law. Duale said the report rejecting the nominees was against the Constitution, the TSC Act, and the Parliamentary Approvals and Appointments Act.

"There are also a number of contradictions in their observations and recommendations," the Garissa Township MP said.

Duale cited a section of the report which states that Ng'ang'a has required academic qualification and management capabilities related to the TSC role. "This matter of age that the committee used as grounds to reject the nominee is not in the Constitution, TSC Act, and Parliamentary Approval Act."

The Constitution and the TSC Act do not prescribe age limit for a commissioner. Duale said the committee violated provisions of Article 27 of the Constitution which prohibits discrimination on basis of age.

On Leila, the plenary concluded that the TSC Act has no express provision saying that a nominee must come from such a region but "members must reflect the diversity of the country".

National Assembly Majority leader Aden Duale claps for anti-Covid-19 frontline workers at Parliament yesterday /EZEKIEL AMING'A

EDUCATION COMMITTEE HAD SAID THAT THE TWO DID MEET THE CUT TO FILL VACANT POSTS



Victim Amos Komen, 24, in Kabarnet hospital yesterday /JOSEPH KANGOGO

TO BE CHARGED

Police officer injures two in Kabarnet curfew operation

JOSEPH KANGOGO/ A police officer shot and injured two people during curfew operation in Kabarnet town, Baringo county, on Tuesday night.

Baringo Central police commander Francis Gachoki said the officer identified as Bazilian Opicho was arrested and locked up awaiting arraignment.

"The officer is out of order. What he did is totally against our police service regulations and he must be charged. No one is above the law," Gachoki said.

He however said investigations were ongoing to ascertain the cause of the shooting.

KPC DISPATCHES 20,000 LITRES

Asal counties get free hand sanitiser

STAR CORRESPONDENT
@TheStarKenya

Kenya Pipeline Company has dispatched more than 20,000 litres of free hand sanitiser to several counties in northern Kenya to counter the spread of Covid-19 in the rural areas.

KPC, which is spearheading the national government's efforts to take the war on coronavirus to the grassroots, announced this yesterday when they welcomed Diversey East Africa, which has joined the growing list of corporates supporting the government in the fight.

Speaking to journalists after receiving more than 40,000 litres of hand sanitiser from Diversey EA, KPC managing director Macharia Irungu said the government is also focusing on far-flung counties to help tackle the spread of the virus, which has claimed more than 170,000 lives and left more than 2.5 million people infected globally.

"For us to beat this virus, national and county governments must collaborate. We're happy to announce that even far-flung counties of Wajir, Mandera, Isiolo, Marsabit and Garissa have cumulatively received over 20,000 litres of government sanitiser through their governors and county commissioners," Dr Irungu said, adding that the counties will receive more in the weeks to come.

"We welcome Diversey EA into this noble initiative. KPC is also eternally grateful for other partners like Kenya Wines Agency and KRA for ensuring that we have sufficient amounts of ethanol to produce sanitiser for Kenyans," he said.

Additional litres of sanitiser from Diversey will also go to the counties.

Diversey EA vice president Boniface Kariuki said they are happy to be associated with the fight against the virus because their cardinal mission as a company is to protect people's lives at all times.

GOVERNMENT IS ALSO FOCUSING ON FAR-FLUNG COUNTIES TO HELP TACKLE THE SPREAD OF THE VIRUS

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

Clerk's Chambers
Off Narok - Sotik Road
P.O. Box 590 - 20400
BOMET.



email: info@bometassembly.go.ke
website: www.bometassembly.go.ke
Cell: 0727 887146

BOMET COUNTY ASSEMBLY OFFICE OF THE CLERK

INVITATION TO THE VETTING PROCESS

The relevant Sectoral Committees of the County Assembly are mandated to consider, for approval by the County Assembly, appointments under Section 45 (1) (b) of the County Governments Act, 2012.

Pursuant to Section 7 of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act No 5 of 2017, Bomet County Assembly having received from His Excellency, the Governor of the County Government of Bomet the names of nominees proposed for appointment for different positions and hereby invites the nominees to appear before the different House and Sectoral Committees at the County Assembly Chambers on the dates as per the table below:

TUESDAY, 28th April 2020

NAME	ID	POSITION	TIME
Alice Cherotich Kirui	2422127	CECM, Gender, Social Services and Culture	9am-11am
Peter Kipkirui Tonui	-	CECM, Water, Sanitation and Environment.	11:15 am-1:15 am
Peter Kiprono Bii	21953651	CEO, County Public Service Board	2pm-4pm

WEDNESDAY, 29th April 2020

NAME	ID	POSITION	TIME
Jayne Chelangat Chebelyon Sigilai	92277208	Chief Officer, Gender, Social Services and Culture	9am-11am
Ms Stella Chepkoech Langat	P/No.1997035923	County Secretary	11am-1pm
Dr. Joyce Chepngeno Tonui	11433159	Chief Officer, Medical Services and Health.	2pm- 4pm

THURSDAY, 30th April 2020- BOMET MUNICIPAL BOARD

NAME	ID	POSITION	TIME
Joseph A. Koech	0494910	Chairperson	9am-10am
Milcah Chepngeno	25405864	Member	11am-12pm
Rev. Philex Korir	9232304	Member	1pm-2pm
Cherono Kosgey	22522790	Member	3pm-4pm
Flavian Chepkirui Kenduiywo	25001513	Member	4pm-5pm

I.K. KITUR
CLERK OF THE ASSEMBLY

NEWS GENERAL

INVESTIGATIONS INTO SOURCES OF WEALTH

Former Nyandarua official loses case against EACC

STAR REPORTER
@TheStarKenya

A former Nyandarua official has suffered a major setback after the High Court dismissed a case in which he sought to stop the anti-graft agency from summoning him to explain sources of his wealth.

Former Finance officer Michael Kuria and his company Gachomba Properties Limited filed the case in August last year, claiming that the EACC illegally summoned him to explain how he acquired property and cash totalling to Sh286 million without following proper procedure. He accused the EACC of improv-

erly obtaining details of his bank accounts over suspicions he was engaged in corruption.

Justice Mumbi Ngugi said there was no violation of his rights because the law allows the commission to move to court and obtain orders to investigate suspect accounts.

According to the evidence on record, the commission had summoned him on August 13 to explain how he obtained his source of wealth, failing which it would begin proceedings to have the assets forfeited to the state. The commission said it was impossible for Kuria who earned a salary of Sh120,000 to purchase properties worth Sh186 million.

HE ACCUSED THE EACC OF IMPROPERLY OBTAINING DETAILS OF HIS BANK ACCOUNTS



PHOTO STORY

Mugirango South MP Sylvanus Osoro and National Assembly Minority leader John Mbadi clap for the Covid-19 frontline workers in Parliament yesterday

/EZEKIEL AMING'A

KISUMU COUNTY ASSEMBLY



THE SECOND ASSEMBLY
FOURTH SESSION

NOTIFICATION OF NOMINEE TO THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE MEMBER

In the matter of consideration before the County Assembly of Kisumu on the nominee to the office of County Executive Member; Health and Sanitation -Kisumu County.

Pursuant to the Provisions of Article 179(2)(b) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, County Government Act, 2012, Section 35, 87 and Section 8(1)(a) of the Public Appointments (County Assembly Approval) and Standing Order No. 187 of the Kisumu County Assembly Standing Orders; we wish to notify the General Public that the Governor of Kisumu County has submitted to the County Assembly of Kisumu, the following under listed person nominated for appointment as County Executive Committee Member for Health and Sanitation.

Date: 30th April, 2020

Venue: County Assembly Hall

No.	Name of Nominee	Position	Time
1.	Prof. Boaz Otieno Nyunya	CEC Member; Health and Sanitation	9.30am-11.30am

The above listed nominee is hereby invited to appear before the County Assembly Committee on Appointment at the venue, date and time indicated above.

The nominee is asked to collect a questionnaire from the office of the Clerk of the County Assembly during official working hours and is required to return 14 copies of the filled questionnaire to the office of the Clerk of the County Assembly at the County Assembly Building next to Kisumu Regional Police Headquarters (Central Police Station) not later than 29th April, 2020 at 2.00pm. The Nominee should ensure that certified copies of academic certificates/testimonials and copies of clearance certificates from the following bodies are submitted:

1. National Police Service (Certificate of Good Conduct)
2. Higher Education Loans Board
3. Credit Reference Bureau
4. Kenya Revenue Authority
5. Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission

Note:

1. Nominee with foreign degree must obtain accreditation from the Commission for University Education of Kenya.
2. Nominee should ensure that his academic certificates /testimonials are certified by the Educational Institutions which issued /awarded them.
3. The originals of the aforementioned should be availed to the Committee during the approval hearing.
4. Due to the current situation, members of the public can submit any information or comments on the suitability or otherwise of any of the nominee for appointment to the position nominated by way of sworn statements or affidavits.
5. Submission may be sent or hand delivered to the following address/email so as to be received by Wednesday, 29th April, 2020 at 2.00pm.

The Clerk
County Assembly of Kisumu
P.O Box 86-40100
Kisumu
Email: kisumuassembly@gmail.com
Website: www.kisumuassembly.go.ke

COUNTERPRODUCTIVE

MPs reject tax on bread, milk, unga

Say it will make basics too costly for most Kenyans

MOSES ODHIAMBO
@AliwaMoses

MPs yesterday rejected the government's bid to raise taxes to increase funding to fight Covid-19.

The lawmakers saved citizens from higher prices on bread, milk, flour and other foodstuff that the Treasury wanted to tax.

The Tax Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2020 sought to move elements of producing ordinary bread to tax-exempt from the zero rate regime.

"Bread is an essential commodity and any attempt to increase its price will make it costly for most Kenyans," the Finance Committee of the National Assembly said.

In its report to the House, the Finance Committee chaired by Kipkelion East MP Joseph Limo also saved farmers from costly fertilisers.

Fishermen also got a respite in the reasoning that taxes on nets would discourage the growth of the industry and make fish more expensive.

The legislators further want exemptions from payment of turnover tax - Uzalendo, to extend to businesses earning less than Sh1 million.

Members said this will put more money in the pockets of enterprises even as they rejected the proposal to tax mosquito nets.

Treasury's intention to tax equipment used in making clean energy stoves has equally been rejected as discouraging investment in green energy.

Limo's committee has further resolved that taxing any income from capital expenditure will discourage foreign direct investment.

They further reasoned that taxing contractors building schools and other amenities for public use will discourage the development of social infrastructure.

MPs said taxing mortgages will discourage savings for investments in the housing sector, which contradicts the Big Four agenda.

Treasury was also denied the chance to raise money from taxes on interest earned from Post Bank savings.

"The bank caters for small income earners, especially in the remote parts of the country. Post Bank does not offer credit services, hence has a small profit margin."

THE MPs DECLINED TO GIVE TREASURY POWERS TO CONSIDER A PERSONAL HOUSE AN INVESTMENT, MEANING RAISING CAPITAL GAINS TAX

MINIMISE IMPACT

Mudavadi calls for framework on nation's economic recovery

ALLAN KISIA/ANC leader Musalia Mudavadi has asked President Uhuru Kenyatta to come up with a national framework for economic recovery.

Mudavadi said Uhuru should bring experts on board to advise how the country could minimise the impact of the pandemic on the economy and restore growth.

He said the Kenyan economy would be battered immensely should the country go into total lockdown. "We are in a periodical shutdown. Let us heed the government directives. A total 24-hour lockdown will severely hurt Kenyans," he pointed out.

Mudavadi said Kenyans would struggle to put a simple meal on the table in case of total lockdown.



Musalia Mudavadi /DOUGLAS OKIDY

NEWS HEAVY DOWNPOUR

FLOODS DISASTER

Close to 20 killed as rain pounds nation

President says Kenya Defence Forces to assist residents of affected areas with food and other supplies

**AGATHA NGOTHO
AND JOHN MUCHANGI**
@TheStarKenya

At least 15 people may have been killed by floods since the rains intensified last week.

Some 12 people died in a mudslide at the border of West Pokot and Elgeyo Marakwet counties on Saturday night.

About 20 others are still missing, with some of them presumed dead, according to Rift Valley regional commissioner George Natembeya.

According to the Meteorological Department, the rains will intensify on Thursday and reduce on Saturday in Western and Central.

"The heavy rainfall is expected to reduce across the country on Saturday," Met director Stella Aura said.

In an interview aired on Radio Jambo on Wednesday, President Uhuru Kenyatta said the government was working with the county governments affected by the heavy rains and the Kenya Defence Forces to assist those affected with food and other basic items.

"Kenyans should be ready because we do not know what other disaster will befall us due to the heavy rains," Uhuru said.

He warned those in landslide prone areas like in Murang'a county to move to higher grounds and those near rivers and dams such as Masinga dam, Kitui and Tana River areas where the water may start spilling over to move to safer places.

"I urge Kenyans to adhere to the early warnings because we do not want to lose lives. We are in a difficult time of disasters and what has happened in West Pokot can happen in other places, so people should be on the alert and go to safe areas to avert more problems," he said.

According to a status report shared by Kenya Red Cross, above normal rainfall was experienced in Kisumu, Baringo, Kericho, Samburu, Nandi leading to flash floods and landslides in some counties since last weekend. However, Nairobi and Kisii received normal rainfall with no effects reported.

A collapsed quarry was reported at Simotwe village in Eldama Ravine, Baringo county, on Monday. Two people died and one is at Ravine Subcounty Hospital.

Red Cross said in Kisumu county, River Nyando is reported to have burst its banks affecting Ahero subcounty and its environs.

"Several villages were affected by flash floods. The following villages are affected Maembe, Ahero school, Kamidumbi and Oketha. Some of the displaced are camping at the District Officers office. KRCS Kisumu and multi-agency team conducting assessment to determine number of households affected," says the report.

In Kericho county, there were reports of separate landslide incidents at Kuniyak area in Kipkelion West, Kericho and in Tinderet, Nandi. Several families were affected.



Residents of Kamidumbi village, Nyando, wade through floodwaters after River Nyando broke its banks / DANIEL OGENDO



A man from Kamidumbi carries his son after floods swept away their belongings / DANIEL OGENDO



Abandoned residential houses in Osodo village, Karachuonyo / ROBERT OMOLLO



Residents stranded at Ahero bridge / DANIEL OGENDO



Residents rescue a cow trapped in mud / MARYANNE CHAI



A woman crosses a flooded section of the Gilgil open-air market on a cart / GEORGE MURAGE



Flood victims from Ziواني put up a makeshift structure at the Garissa Farmers Training Centre IDP camp after heavy rains left them homeless / STEPHEN ASTARIKO



A boda boda drives on flooded Kasarani-Mwiki road on Monday / VICTOR IMBOTO

NEWS JUDICIARY

SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE

Five ex-G4S workers awarded Sh558,000 terminal benefits

CAROLYNE KUBWA/ Five former G4S Company employees have been awarded Sh558,024 terminal benefits.

Employment and Labour Relations Court judge Mathews Nderi Nduma ruled that the security company did not pay them terminal benefits carried over from Armor Group, their previous employer after taking it over. The five are Julius Abura, Dennis Mwaniki, Douglas Gisembe, Enock Bogonko and Maritinus Masoka.

"The court is satisfied that sufficient evidence was

adduced to prove on a balance of probabilities that the five claimants were owed the specific terminal benefits set out in the statement of claim and the filed list of documents," Nderi said.

Witness Joseph Kamau, for the claimants, produced documents showing the specific dates each of the claimants was employed and the date of termination.

The court, however, dismissed the claimants' application for unfair dismissal, as they did not prove that their termination of employment

was wrongful and unfair. "This aspect of the claimants' case lacks merit and is dismissed. The claimants are not entitled to any compensation," the judge said.

Kamau testified that the claimants were employed by Armor Group which was acquired by G4S in May 2008. He said the claimants were assured they would be taken over by G4S in a memo dated June 12, 2008, and which was produced in court. The memo said "All staff have a job" and that there will be no change of employment terms.



Judge Mathews Nduma /FILE



PHOTO STORY

Children clean utensils in Kariokor, Nairobi. Schools were closed nationwide following the Covid-19 crisis

/VICTOR IMBOTO

but they have to meet to review the education of the child, its medical needs, upkeep and so on," he ruled.

Muchelule further said the two have to decide which school the child will go, and which hospital the child will visit.

"If the entire decree of the lower court is stayed, what happens to the orders therein in relation to the child?" he posed.

He said he is prepared to take the earliest dates available to hear the parties and determine the case.

In May last year, the children's court ruled that the father was to have access to the child on alternative weekends and half of the school holidays. The orders of the court were that both the mother and the father to personally pick and drop the child, a decision the woman has contested.

She complained that the order that she and her ex-husband personally drop and pick the child would bring the two into contact, yet they had divorced. She added that there could be occasions that she is not personally available.

The mother is aggrieved by some of the orders, especially paying more towards the upkeep and maintenance of the child, instead of equal responsibility.

The father was to cater for the school transport of 27,000 per year and provide Sh10,000 monthly for food, while the mother was to pay the child's fees, provide clothing, rent and food.

The man, however, opposed her appeal and stated that he is a responsible parent and had done nothing to warrant the stay of the judgment.

According to him, despite the orders of the lower court, his ex-wife had denied him access to the child. He further claimed that he was unemployed but had complied with the rest of the orders on upkeep.

CITES POLICE HARASSMENT

Rape suspect charged with escaping from city police detention

CLAUSE MASIKA/ A man accused of raping a German woman at City Park, Nairobi, was also charged yesterday with escaping from police custody.

Dennis Wekesa admitted that he escaped from Parklands Police Station, but Kibera senior principal magistrate Boaz Ombewa entered a "not guilty" plea after hearing the particulars of the case.

Wekesa said he escaped because of police harassment and pressure from his wife who told him by phone that their child was sick.

"I was experiencing a lot of harassment at Parklands Police Station. I also received a call from my wife informing me that my child was sick and being the bread winner, I decided to run away," Wekesa told court.

He denied that he dug a tunnel from the cells as alleged by the police.

"Where would I have got the tools to dig the hole for me to escape?" he asked, prompting the magistrate to enter the "not guilty" plea.

According to the charge sheet, Wekesa escaped from the police cells on April 16.

Prosecutor Kirimi Kajuju said Wekesa had been remanded at the station following Kibera chief magistrate Joyce Gandani's order after he denied rape charges.

She said the escape was discovered by constable Faith Waithe and a colleague during a normal night patrol of the cells.

"After a search, the officers realised that the accused had dug a hole in the toilet wall and successfully left."

WANTED ORDERS SUSPENDED

Woman's child custody application dismissed

Faults earlier ruling, says she doesn't want to see her ex-husband

ANNETTE WAMBULWA
@WambulwaAnnette

A Nairobi court has dismissed an application by a woman who does not want to see her ex-husband even though they have shared custody of their son.

The woman, who got divorced from her husband in March 2019, wanted the High Court to suspend

the judgment of a lower court that gave both parents legal custody. The couple married in June 2008.

Even though the court gave her the actual custody, care and control, she is aggrieved that the father was given more access.

In his ruling, Justice Aggrey Muchelule declined to suspend the judgment of the lower court until he hears the appeal in full.

"In this instant case, the appellant and the respondents have divorced and the appellant does not want to see the respondent," he noted.

The judge added, however, that the two are in a permanent relationship after getting a child during the marriage and the law imposes on them the obligation of bringing up the child.

"They may not like each other

RESCUED BY GOOD SAMARITAN

Childless couple allowed to adopt girl abandoned 7 years ago

SUSAN MUHINDI/ A 12-year-old child abandoned has been given a new name and a new home after attempts to locate her biological parents were unsuccessful.

The minor identified as GKN was found abandoned in Kibera on May 6, 2013. She was rescued by a good Samaritan who reported the matter to Kilimani police station. The child was thereafter admitted to Nairobi Children's Home for care and protection.

Yesterday, Justice Lydia Achode allowed FW and JW to adopt the

child after 29 years of being childless. FW is a pastor in the Kahawa West area of Nairobi while the wife is an employee of the Teachers Service Commission. They reside in a two bed-roomed apartment in Kahawa West.

The judge said she was convinced that the couple meets the social parameters that are considered relevant to their taking on parental responsibility and custody of the child on a permanent basis.

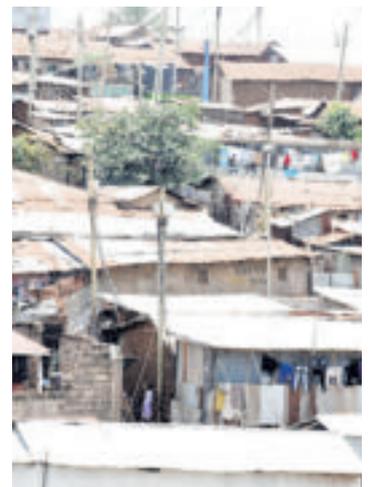
She considered that the consent of the biological parents was dis-

pensed with since the child was abandoned and the parents could not be traced. The court said that a brother to the pastor and his wife consented to be appointed as legal guardians in the event that they are incapacitated and cannot care for the child.

Court records show that on May 7, 2015, the in-charge at Kilimani police station issued a final letter confirming that no one had come forward to claim the child. It was also reported that attempts to trace her kin had proved futile.

Four years later, the couple took the child into foster care with a view of adopting her. An officer from the office of the director of children services conducted home visits and established that the applicants are financially, physically and emotionally capable of providing for her upkeep and education.

She subsequently prepared and filed a report dated September 23, 2019, recommending the adoption for reasons that the child stands to gain from the opportunities provided by becoming their daughter.



Kibera /MERCY MUMO

NEWS GENERAL

COVID-19 DISRUPTION

Tutors' dilemma: Teach online or quit

Prof Ndemo says people will realise they have to adapt or be surplus to requirements

LEWIS NYAUNDI/ The disruption to university teaching and learning caused by the coronavirus outbreak has brought a new headache for lecturers.

They have to switch gears to online teaching or be declared redundant by their institutions.

Universities shut down on March 15 and have now lost five weeks of the first semester. Online learning attempts have been hampered by a lack of proper infrastructure.

University of Nairobi professor and technology consultant Bitange Ndemo says it is time institutions realised "there is a new normal".

The former ICT principal secretary says he has consulted with top ministry officials on possible scenarios to limit the damage on teaching and learning in universities.

Ndemo says his proposal banks heavily on a proper provision of online learning.

"We are in the fourth industrial revolution and there are pockets of resistance but eventually people will realise they have to adapt or go home," Bitange told the Star on Tuesday.

He argues that if taken for granted, online learning will wipe off those rigid to the system — students and academic staff alike.

"We have been thrown into the deep end and we need to swim or drown. For example, if the pandemic runs for 18 months, will we continue sitting and waiting?" Bitange asked.

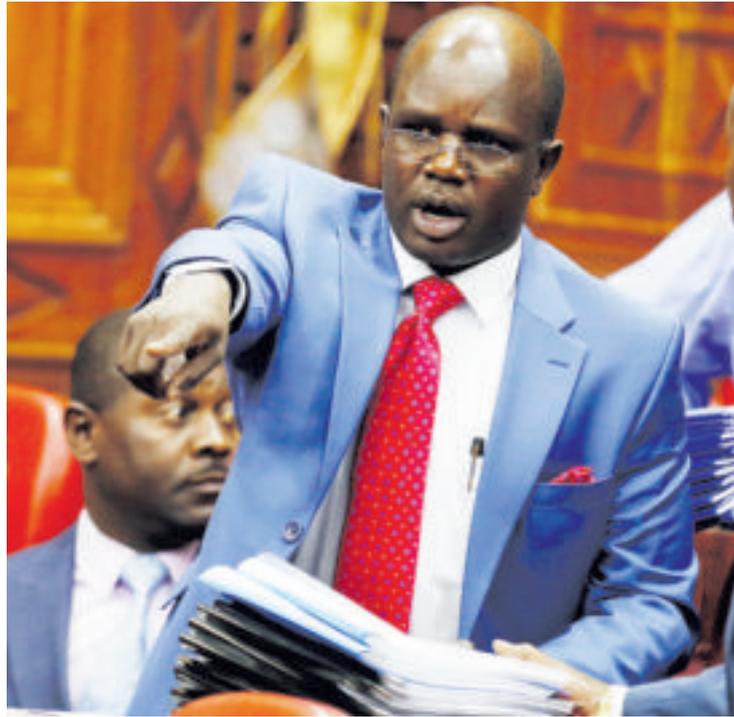
In the short term, he says, the government will need to train lecturers to take up the change.

In the medium term, the government must consider duty exemptions on laptops and tablets and provide reliable bandwidth to keep teaching and learning going.

"Nothing is perfect on the first day. We will need to address the underlying problems but the comfort with the status quo should stop," he said.

It is an argument that does not hold for the academic staff union leaders.

University and Academic Staff Union secretary general Constantine Wasonga said while technical assistance is important, it cannot fit the educators' job descriptions.



Uasu secretary general Constantine Wasonga during a meeting with the Parliamentary Committee on Education on April 12, 2018 /JACK OWUOR

SHORTAGE

We're doing our best to supply water – NWSC

GILBERT KOECH/ No areas of the city will be hit by serious water shortage amid the coronavirus outbreak, the Nairobi Water and Sewerage Company has said.

Acting director Nahason Muguna said a lot is being done to enhance the supply of water in the city.

"We are putting up 20 boreholes in collaboration with the ministry and Athi Waterworks Development Agency," Muguna said on the phone.

He said five boreholes are almost ready in Mukuru. In Kibra, another five boreholes are nearly operational.

Five boreholes will also be sunk in Mathare and Matopeni.

The NWSC boss said water points for handwashing have been provided, especially in open markets.

Ablution blocks in informal settlements have been provided with 1,200 handwashing water points. "We are still putting up more," Muguna said.

He said Ndakaini Dam — the main water supply for Nairobi — is still overflowing. However, the NWSC can only supply what the installed capacity produces. Ndakaini Dam can store 70,000,000 cubic metres at full capacity.

GENDER VIOLENCE

Tell neighbours and police of violence at home, urges LSK

Keep evidence of attack. State Department of Gender hotline is 1195 and Childline Kenya 116

NJERI MBUGUA
@TheStarKenya



If you are experiencing any physical or sexual gender-based violence at home, seek immediate refuge with neighbours.

The Law Society of Kenya also advises that a police station or a nearby justice centre could help.

Further, women should preserve the evidence of an attack by retaining soiled clothes in the case of rape or defilement, taking pictures of injuries and record videos with witnesses.

They can also keep tattered clothing, damaged property for example broken furniture or phone in cases of physical violence.

"As soon as possible, head to the nearest police station and seek assistance at the Gender Desk, keep the OB number and record your statement clearly then seek medical attention at any nearby facility," the law society said.

In a circular shared on social media, survivors of gender-based violence were also advised to alert trusted family members, friends or relatives for support.

"Reach out to organisations listed below for legal, medical and psychosocial support," the lawyers

said. The State Department of Gender hotline, which operates 24-7 is 1195. Fida Kenya can be reached on 080072150, Gender Violence Recovery Centre 0719638006, and Childline Kenya 116.

Data from the government shows 45 per cent of women and girls across Kenya aged 15-49 have suffered physical violence, while 14 per cent have experienced sexual violence.

However, the numbers could be higher due to high instances of non-reporting to authorities and few women choosing to seek medical attention or pursue justice.

Last year, 118 women were killed through acts of physical and sexual violence with data showing that at least eight women were killed each month.

February was the worst month for women, with a record of 17 deaths.

According to data from Counting Dead Women Kenya, between January and April this year, 21 women have been killed through acts of physical and sexual violence.

Last Tuesday, Health CAS Mercy Mwangangi said data from the Gender Violence Recovery Centre and the National Council on Administration of Justice showed cases of physical and sexual violence had increased during Covid-19 partial lockdown period.

DATA SHOWS CASES OF PHYSICAL AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE HAD INCREASED DURING COVID-19 PARTIAL LOCKDOWN PERIOD

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KISUMU

100% WAIVER OF INTEREST AND PENALTIES ON LAND RATES

His Excellency The Governor of Kisumu County, Prof. Peter Anyang' Nyong'o is pleased to announce to all property owners a 100% waiver on all outstanding interest and penalties on land rates to cushion them from the effect of Corona Virus pandemic.

All property owners are advised to take advantage of this waiver period to clear all outstanding arrears, failure to which the original amount owed will be reinstated and legal redress shall be instituted.

Payment should be made to:-

1. Kisumu County Revenue Account: No. 01141766976600 at Cooperative Bank of Kenya.
2. Kisumu County Revenue Account: No. 1141991705 at Kenya Commercial Bank, and;

Deposit slips to be presented to respective Sub-County revenue offices for database update.

Due to movement restrictions, you are kindly asked to liaise with the respective Principal Revenue Officers for Demand Notices, which will be sent via WhatsApp App.

- Kisumu City PRO - 0721615020
- Nyakach Revenue Officer - 0727864000
- Muhoroni Revenue Officer - 0716818560
- Nyando Revenue Officer - 0720111287
- Kisumu West/Seme Revenue Officer - 0723731767

Take advantage of the waiver and avoid further penalties. The waiver is valid from 24th April to 31st May 2020.

COUNTY SECRETARY
COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KISUMU
P.O BOX 2738 - 40100 - KISUMU

BIG READ / COVID-19 SUPPORT



GATES FOUNDATION EYEING FAST VACCINE SEARCH IN HISTORY – C

It is working with the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations to accelerate the process, which normally takes five or six years to complete

JOHN MUCHANGI
@TheStarKenya



Mark Suzman, a South African-born former journalist, is the CEO of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. He spoke with the Star's John Muchangi in a teleconference with select African media houses.

This comes in the wake of an interview Bill Gates gave the BBC last week, in which he said it normally takes five or six years to develop a vaccine, but he believes it will take 18 months to develop a coronavirus vaccine, adding that "it shouldn't be limited by money".

The Star: The foundation has just announced an additional \$150 million funding to support response to Covid-19. Tell us about this in depth.

Mark Suzman: Yes, we've just made an announcement as the Gates Foundation we will be bringing an additional \$150 million (Sh15 billion) in grants towards addressing the Covid-19 crisis globally, and that's on top of an initial \$100 mil-

lion (Sh10 billion) dollar announcement we made at the end of January.

And as with the first tranche, a very big portion of that is going to be focused on the search and acceleration for effective diagnostics – rapid testing kits and therapeutics. Therapeutics are treatments, basically, things that could actually prevent the disease from happening or help you get better very quickly if you're sick.

And last but definitely not least, a new vaccine. For vaccine, we've been at the forefront, working with the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (Cepi), an organisation we helped set up three years ago after the Ebola crisis. It is actually some of the experiences that have taken place in Africa that are informing how the world is now responding to this Covid crisis, to help accelerate the search for a vaccine.

In addition to that, there is a range of direct support we're providing across Africa, continuing our long track record. We've been working as the Gates Foundation in sub-Saharan Africa for our entire lifetime – we're 20 years old this year.

Who are you working with in Africa?

We have deepened strong partnerships across the continent, both with regional organisations like WHO-Afro, the African Union and Nepad, and with many individual countries. "One of the risks with the current race for the vaccine is that often, rich countries can just use their buying power to purchase large amounts of these and make it very difficult to access for poorer countries", Gates Foundation CEO Mark Suzman.

We work in essentially every country across sub-Saharan Africa, and we've traditionally done so in areas like polio, in HIV-Aids and tuberculosis, as well as some broad areas like agricultural development and financial services.

You may be aware that our very first grant around Covid, which we made way back in January, when it was still seen as largely a Chinese problem and not yet even a European or North American one, was to the African Centres for Disease Control and Prevention. This was to boost the capacity of countries across the continent to get testing



Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation CEO Mark Suzman /COURTESY



Mark Suzman in a past visit to Africa /COURTESY

EST EO

and related capacity.

We've also supported again the WHO Afro region, that's the World Health Organisation's African region. And some of you may be aware, we're actually the largest funders of the WHO Africa region.

Is there assurance that the vaccine and drugs the foundation is funding will be available here?

As a condition, when we invest in anything, whether therapeutics or vaccines, all our investments must be made globally available to all people and all countries across the world, and ideally at an affordable, accessible price.

So one of the risks, obviously, with the current race for the vaccine, as we've seen with some of the challenges around trying to source medical equipment like ventilators and PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) and masks and screening tests — is that in a race, often rich countries can just use their buying power to purchase large amounts of these and make it very difficult to access for poorer countries.

So what we do is ensure there will be global agreements to make sure there is equitable access to any of the resulting products.

What is the Gates Foundation view

Melinda Gates, the co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and First Lady Margaret Kenyatta at State House, Nairobi, on June 28, 2016 /PSCU



of the announcement by US President Donald Trump that the US will suspend payments to the World Health Organisation?

Actually, it's often not understood but I think it's important for African audiences to be aware we're actually the second-largest funders of the WHO after the United States.

And we've had a long track record working closely with the United States on many initiatives that are incredibly helpful for global health in Africa. We partner with them on the PEPFAR efforts, which is US government effort around HIV treatment, but also on the Global Fund to Fight HIV, TB and Malaria, where the US is the largest funder.

We work with the Gavi Vaccine Alliance, as well as with the WHO. So from our perspective, the United States has been a long-standing and strong global health partner in all things, including with the WHO. We certainly believe that needs to continue because we need a global effort that includes the US to tackle these global challenges.

And so in that context, we have been disturbed to see the calls by the US government to potentially withhold direct funding from the WHO. This is not the right time to do that. And we hope that does not take place because we think the WHO needs all the resources it can get at this key moment because of the important global leadership role it's playing in fighting the coronavirus.

African countries are already experiencing challenges in accessing ventilators and other resources.

Most African countries have fewer ventilators than almost any other part of the world.

But you know, sadly, by the time anyone's put on a ventilator, the majority of those people are already so sick, the current data seems to show they're very likely to die.

And so, while a ventilator is important, I think the wider challenge is the full set of equipment. You know, the personal protective gear, those oxygen facilities, diagnostics and swabs.

You know, many individual hospitals in rich cities like New York actually have more ventilators than some African countries. We work with the WHO and Unicef to see if we can do some collective procurement on behalf of African countries, and then we can have equitable distribution of the necessary equipment.

We have strong examples of that already. That's what the Global Fund does when it procures bednets for malaria or anti-retrovirals for HIV. That's what the Gavi Vaccine Alliance does, it pools resources on behalf of African and other low-income countries and purchases vaccines at low cost and makes them available to those in need.

And so we're looking to see if there are equivalents we can do on Covid-related supplies.

In Kenya, some universities are trying to make ventilators locally because of constrained global supply. Will the new fund consider buying essential supplies like these and masks locally in affected countries?

This is a global challenge right now. And you know, here I am in Seattle, in the US, which is the wealthiest country on the planet, and everyone is making their own masks to go out

on the streets of Seattle.

In some ways, it shows how unprepared the world was, including many rich countries, for something like this, that we can have those massive shortages of ventilators. And yes, that procurement has worked at Global Fund for things like bednets, produced in facilities on the African continent.

We work with partners, like WHO and Unicef, on potential procurement operations. The idea would be, procure them wherever they're available first, but if there are efforts and abilities to help source and build production capacity in African countries, we'll be supportive of that. But again, we wouldn't be doing that directly as the foundation. We would be doing that through our partners, even though our resources would be helping underwrite it.

There has been a lot of information going around on social media regarding the foundation and introduction of vaccines in Africa. What's the foundation's stance on vaccines in Africa?

Let me take that in a couple of ways because there was misinformation about what the Gates Foundation may or may not be looking at in terms of vaccine trials in Africa.

And that has gotten mixed up with some of those extremely outrageous and offensive comments that came from the French doctors and others about potentially using Africa as a sort of guinea pig for vaccines, which is something that we actually reject.

And actually, Africa understands vaccines better than most because Africa still faces many of the most deadly diseases that vaccines help prevent. The truth is, vaccines work. Vaccines are a miraculous invention of modern science that actually allow and save millions upon millions of lives.

And that's why we've worked so hard and made it a central priority from our founding, to make sure that all the vaccines that are available to people in rich countries are available to those in poor countries. This has been one of the great success stories of modern health over the last 20 years. That is actually the single largest contributor to the halving of child mortality in sub-Saharan Africa over the last 20 years that we've seen.

And so in that context, we as the foundation remain huge supporters of the search for vaccines and often, we're the largest funders in this area.

So, for example, the search for a malaria vaccine that big western pharmaceutical companies do not feel incentivised to research on because malaria is no longer endemic in rich countries.

They're more likely to put their money in, you know, cancer treatment or the next Viagra, whatever it might be, because they're looking for profits. But malaria still kills many more people than most other diseases, especially in Africa.

So an organisation like the Gates Foundation can step in, and help and we have been the largest funders of the search for a malaria vaccine, for example, and similarly, with TB. So we believe very strongly in vaccines, and we believe as part of the Covid response that until we have a safe, effective vaccine, there will be no return to the global normal.

NEWS BUSINESS

RESCHEDULED

CBK moves its MPC meeting by two days

The MPC usually sits every two months

VICTOR AMADALA/ Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) has pushed the upcoming Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting by two days to Wednesday next week.

The apex bank made the announcement on its website late

Tuesday without giving reasons.

“The next meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) will be held on Wednesday, April 29, 2020 and not April 27 as earlier stated,” CBK said.

This will be an extraordinary

meeting, coming just a month after the one held late March. MPC usually sits every two months.

The country is waiting to see which new monetary policy measures will be introduced by the regulator to cushion the economy from negative effects of coronavirus, that has since caught up with almost 300 people in the country.

In the last MPC, it lowered the base lending rate to 7.25 per cent from 8.25 per cent to offset the negative effects of the coronavirus spread.

The decision was aimed at minimising the economic and financial impact of the Covid-19 pandemic

on businesses as well as individuals. “While the extent of the adverse effects of the pandemic on the Kenyan economy is still evolving, it is already evident that the impact may be severe,” CBK Governor Patrick Njoroge said during the last post MPC briefing. The apex bank projected the virus to slash economic growth this year, from an estimated 6.2 per cent, to 3.4 per cent. The meeting also reduced the Cash Reserve Ratio to 4.25 per cent from 5.25 per cent, releasing Sh35.2 billion to banks for onward lending to borrowers, especially those distressed by the coronavirus.



A KQ passenger aircraft loading fresh produce at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport for export / REUTERS

RIVALRY

Competition shifts to cargo as airlines strive to survive

Airlines are converting passenger planes into cargo carriers

MARTIN MWITA
@MwitaMartin



Competition among airlines has now shifted to the cargo business which many have taken up following cessation of passenger flights across the globe.

Airlines are converting their passenger planes into cargo carriers to keep aircraft running and earn some revenue.

Kenya Airways which has joined the fray could be forced to re-adjust its freight charges to survive the high competition in the cargo business.

The carrier is currently charging \$3 (about Sh321) per kilo of cargo, according to fresh produce exporters, which is high compared to some competitors such as Ethiopian Air-

lines and Qatar Airways who are charging \$2 (about Sh214).

“KQ is expensive compared to competitors,” notes Edward Mureu, the proprietor of Naivasha based Rubi ranch.

According to the East African Business Council (EABC) airfreight charges to the European Union and other markets in the last few weeks have ranged from \$3 and \$7(Sh749) per kilo up from an average of \$1.50(Sh160)–\$2.50(Sh267) per kg.

“The high air freight charges can be attributed to a combination of factors. These include higher operating costs, fewer scheduled or chartered flights, and a supply and demand imbalance,” EABC chief executive Peter Mathuki said.

In Kenya, for example, the volume of fresh produce out of Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) has

reduced from a weekly 5,000 tonnes to 1,300, a 75 per cent decline with similar trends reported across the region. This has left few volumes up for grabs by carriers. Costs, however, continue to ease with more scheduled capacity provided by KLM, Qatar and Ethiopian Airlines.

KQ, as it is known by its international code, has converted four of its passenger aircraft into cargo carriers, a measure to lessen the impact of Covid-19, which has seen a cut on international travel, with the airline grounding its fleet.

Last Thursday, the airline flew a Boeing 787 Dreamliner to London with 40 tonnes of fresh produce consisting of vegetables and flowers.

It has been depending on two-Boeing 737-300 cargo aircrafts for haulage.

“We are exploring different options

to keep the lights on in the organization. Cargo is one of those areas,” CEO Allan Kilavuka said.

This week, Air France KLM Martinair Cargo launched two cargo flights a week between Nairobi and Amsterdam. The Tuesday and Sunday flights will see the carrier export 45–50 tonnes of cargo from Kenya.

This is in addition to existing full freighter flights Air France KLM Martinair is regularly operating.

The move adds pressure on airlines at JKIA– KQ’s hub, which accommodates over 40 passenger airlines and 25 cargo airlines.

Other cargo operators include Lufthansa Cargo,Emirate Sky cargo,Cargolux, Ethiopian airlines,–Saudia Airlines,Etihad Crystal Cargo and Egypt Air. Others are Singapore Airlines,Qatar Airlines,Turkish Cargo,MK Airline and Swiss WorldCargo.

THE DATA

106.9941

The indicative value of the shilling to the dollar

The Kenyan shilling was stable on Wednesday as market activity remained subdued by the COVID-19 pandemic, traders said.

FINANCIAL MARKET

FOREX EXCHANGE RATES

Currency	Buy	Sell	Mean
US DOLLAR	106.8941	107.0941	106.9941
STG POUND	131.4594	131.7329	131.5962
SA RAND	5.6130	5.6306	5.6218
KES / USHS	35.2774	35.4369	35.3572
KES / TSHS	21.5605	21.6944	21.6274
JPY (100)	99.3347	99.5298	99.4323
IND RUPEE	1.3925	1.3953	1.3939
EURO	115.7765	116.0200	115.8982
CHINESE YUAN	15.0884	15.1186	15.1035
AE DIRHAM	29.0987	29.1587	29.1287

NSE BIGGEST WINNERS

	Price	Change (%)
BARCLAYS NEW GOLD	1,740.00	7.74
SCAN GROUP	17.00	5.92
EXPRESS	5.80	5.84
BRITAM HOLDINGS	6.90	3.92
KAKUZI	310.00	2.99

NSE BIGGEST LOSERS

	Price	Change (%)
LONGORN PUBLISHERS	4.53	7.17
BOC KENYA	65.25	7.12
STANBIC HOLDINGS	90.50	6.70
UCHUMI	0.28	6.67
KENYA-REINSURANCE	2.52	6.67



TIP OF THE DAY

REMOTE MEETINGS DON'T HAVE TO FEEL REMOTE

Virtual meetings can often feel impersonal, awkward, and isolating, but there are ways to make them feel more intimate. For starters, if you're the host, arrive a bit early to the video conference so you can greet people as they pop up on your screen and engage in a bit of friendly small talk. Encourage attendees to turn on their video — let them know ahead of time if it's a requirement so they have time to prepare. Use people's names and invite them to participate, if they feel comfortable doing so. Create warmth by eye contact. And make sure that the camera angle is at a comfortable level for others to see you — you don't want your audience to have a great view of your nostrils! Remember to smile, insert an occasional laugh, and convey a friendly, engaging tone. It might feel awkward at first, but it doesn't have to feel phony. You're creating an inviting atmosphere and helping people feel present and connected during a trying time for all.

NEWS BUSINESS

ACCOLADE

KCB most attractive Kenyan bank—report

The lender has a strong franchise value

SUSAN NYAWIRA
@nyawira_s



They compare metrics for efficiency, asset quality, diversification, growth, and profitability, among other metrics.

I&M Holdings took the second position but emerged top in franchise ranking due to high-efficiency levels as evidenced by a low cost to income ratio which stood at 42.4 per cent against an industry average of 57 per cent.

“Continued revenue diversification drive by banks through growing the Non-Funded Income (NFI) segment saw the average revenue mix of Funded to NFI for listed banks in FY’19 coming in at 63:37 compared to 67:33 recorded in FY’2018,” said Maryanne Ng’ang’a, Investment Analyst at Cytonn Investments.

Cooperative Bank took third place while Equity Group was fourth with non-funded income of 35.4 per cent and 40.6 per cent respectively. Diamond Trust Bank Kenya took the top position from a future growth



A KCB Bank branch in Nairobi, Kenya /FILE

opportunity perspective; however, it had a weak franchise score moving it to position 5 on the weighted score.

Recently rebranded Absa bank took seventh place with a potential return of 38.7 per cent while merged NCBA took the eighth position with a potential return of 47.2 per cent.

HF Group came in tenth on the back of weak franchise rankings scores as well as a non-promising future growth opportunity perspective as a result of a lack of proper cost-efficiency structure.

The franchise score measures the broad and comprehensive business strength of a bank across 13 different metrics, while the intrinsic score measures the investment return potential.

The report noted that the banking sector witnessed a number of consolidation activities in FY’2019 as players in the sector were either acquired or merged.

“Kenya remains overbanked as the number of banks remains relatively high compared to the population.”

FRAIL

Weak shilling to deny Kenyans full cheap oil benefits

VICTOR AMADALA / The weakening Kenya shilling might eat into the benefits of cheap oil in the international market even as Brent oil prices dropped to a 20-year low yesterday.

The international oil market fell as much as 17 per cent in Asia trade to \$15.98 a barrel — its lowest point since mid-1999 — before recovering slightly to around \$17 as markets opened in Europe. Prices are down by about 40 per cent this week.

On Monday, US oil prices traded below zero for the first time in history ever, meaning producers or traders were paying other market participants to take the oil off their hands, sending shock waves in the global oil sector.

Global oil prices have been plummeting since late February, thanks to Russia and Saudi Arabia price wars.

The drop has been escalated further by Coronavirus fear that has shuttered almost every social-economic sector, cutting down fuel demand by almost 40 per cent.

Even though the global oil prices have dropped significantly, the impact will not be fully felt in Kenya with the shilling sliding against the dollar, pushing up import costs.

On Monday, the shilling dropped to an all-time low of 107.25 against the dollar, forcing importers to spend more to bring in goods, eventually passing the high import cost to consumers.

Last week, the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA) significantly lowered fuel prices relieving the financial burden from many Kenyans feeling the financial impact of COVID-19. In its monthly fuel review, the regulator saved motorists Sh18 on super petrol budget per litre. Kerosene, which is used by many households, was reduced by Sh18.8 per litre while Diesel was reduced by Sh4.09 per litre.

The changes in this month's prices were because of the average landed cost of imported Super Petrol decreasing by 34.61 per cent from \$472.59 per cubic metre in February to \$309.03 per cubic metre in March.

Diesel decreased by 9.89 per cent from \$480.21 per cubic metre to \$432.70 per cubic metre and Kerosene decreasing by 37.70 per cent from \$421.24 per cubic metre to \$262.44 per cubic metre.

Although fuel prices are expected to drop further as the current global crisis persists, economic experts are of opinion that the weak currency may deny locals full benefits.

Terry Miheso, an oil markets analyst based in Dubai told the Star that the shilling which is likely to hit 108 against the dollar by end month, will push up prices for June and not May.

“I expect May rates to drop slightly. The shilling was in the margin of 105 three weeks ago, when imports for the coming month were made. The impact of the recent drop to 107 against the dollar will be felt in June,” Miheso said in a message.

His sentiments are echoed by Reginald Kadzitu, chief economic officer at Zamara Asset Managers.

OUTCRY

Cargo vetting fees costly—KAM

KPA is taking \$80 and \$120 as verification fee for 20ft and 40ft containers

MARTIN MWITA
@MwitaMartin



Manufacturers are warning that the re-introduction of cargo verification fee will push up the cost of doing business at a time when firms are already struggling to stay afloat.

Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) on Tuesday commenced charging 80 (about Sh8,500) as a verification fee for a 20-foot container while a 40-foot container now attracts a \$120 (about Sh12,800) fee.

It has contracted Mercantile Cargo Terminal Operations Limited to provide container-stripping services during verification, mainly done on the call of the Kenya Revenue Authority and the Kenya Bureau of Standards to curb tax cheats and contrabands.

Yesterday, the Kenya Association of Manufacturers joined the Kenya International Freight and Warehousing Association (KIFWA) and the Shippers Council of Eastern Africa (SCEA) in protesting the charges, whose implementation now enters the third day.

“We have since written to the KPA managing director to register our concerns on the introduced fee, which will undoubtedly increase the logistics costs and cost of doing business in the country,” KAM chief executive Phyllis Wakiaga said.

According to KAM, the introduction of the verification fee plus VAT is



Drums of imported Ethanol recently nabbed by the KRA at the Port of Mombasa. They had been misdeclared as 1000 bags of cement /ANDREW KASUKU

“high and impractical” to implement since KPA requires all payments to be made prior to the exercise.

“Whilst the proposed verification fee shall be used to pay personnel hired by KPA on behalf of Keba and KRA to offer verification services, it should not be passed on to the importer, but rather, should be catered for by the institution requesting for it,” Wakiaga said.

The associations’ members are heavy importers of raw material for the manufacture of key products

such as plastic, foodstuff, furniture, paints, agro-processing, and textile.

There has been an outcry by Kifwa and SCEA to defer the charges since February when KPA first attempted to introduce the fee. The two have maintained that the fees be met by state agencies calling for verification. They also insist KPA tariffs on container handling should cater for the same. Clearing agents at the Inland Container Depot-Nairobi (ICDN) in February grounded tools causing a cargo clearing backlog at the facility,

which currently handles almost 50 per cent of cargo coming through the Port of Mombasa.

KPA was forced to withdraw the charges before re-introducing them this week.

Yesterday, Kifwa renewed its call on KPA to reconsider its position saying importers are already incurring numerous port charges, even as business remains affected by coronavirus.

“While institutions are giving reliefs, KPA is increasing costs,” Kifwa national chairman Roy Mwanthi said.

NEWS WORLD

EARTH DAY

Calls grow to treat shock of corona with 'green recovery'

Environmental considerations have surfaced in some preliminary stimulus, bailout talks

REUTERS/ As the world marked the 50th anniversary of Earth Day yesterday, calls were growing for governments to treat the shock of the coronavirus with "green recovery" packages to spur a shift to a low-carbon future.

Although many countries remain on a pandemic emergency footing, some investors, politicians and companies see the longer-term economic response as a chance to address the more profound risks posed by climate change.

"There's a lot of pressure for those fiscal stimulus packages, when they come, to be low-carbon, climate-smart," Peter Betts, a former lead climate negotiator for Britain and the European Union, told Reuters Television.

"A risk, clearly, is that for some governments around the world there will be a huge premium on getting the economy moving, getting people back into jobs," said Betts, now an associate fellow at the Chatham House think-tank in London.

With a major UN climate summit initially scheduled to take place in Glasgow in November postponed to next year because of the virus, Betts said the slot could be used instead to convene finance ministers to coordinate green recovery plans.

"With something like climate change we know that it's coming and know that there are ways we can prepare for it that would be relatively low cost," he said.

"And what we're seeing with this pandemic is that if you wait



People are seen walking between bluebells in Epping Forest, Wanstead, as the spread of Covid-19 continues, London, Britain, on April 18 /REUTERS

until the crisis hits, the costs are much greater."

So far, the United States, China, Japan, India and European and other governments have focused on staunching the damage to industry, preserving jobs or trying to avoid corporate failures.

Nevertheless, ministers from Germany, France and other EU members and some other governments have begun to signal their support for aligning subsequent

interventions with climate goals, a theme taken up by campaign groups around the world.

Yesterday, hundreds of climate activists, scientists, singers, and actors began a three-day Earth-DayLive2020 <https://www.earth-daylive2020.org> livestream, which will feature webinars on what a fair and climate-friendly recovery could look like.

Although no major economies have yet embraced anything like

the rapid decarbonisation that scientists say is needed to stabilise the Earth's climate, environmental considerations have surfaced in some preliminary stimulus and bailout discussions.

On Tuesday, the European Union's chief climate official, Frans Timmermans, said green conditions could be tied to any car scrappage schemes set up by the bloc to revive vehicle demand.

114,000 PRISONERS

Fear of Covid-19 haunts Egypt's cramped prisons

Country gives no sign prisoners will be freed



A police officer stands near Tahrir square in Cairo on March 25 /REUTERS

REUTERS/ Last April, medical student Mohamed Amashah stood on Cairo's Tahrir Square and held up a sign saying "Freedom for prisoners". He was detained.

Now awaiting trial for more than a year on charges of misusing social media and helping a terrorist group, the Egyptian-American fears the spread of the coronavirus in Egypt's crowded jails.

Last month Amashah, who suffers from an autoimmune disease and asthma, started a hunger strike to draw attention to his plight, his parents said. He is one of 114,000 prisoners in Egypt, according to a recent UN estimate.

Egypt, which has a population of 100 million, has reported 3,490 cases of the new coronavirus, including 264 deaths.

Top officials have expressed confidence they can contain the outbreak through measures including quarantine, a night curfew in place since March 25, and public information campaigns.

But since the country's first case on February 14, relatives and rights groups have called for the release of detainees, including political prisoners swept up in a crackdown on dissent under President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi.

Some rights groups, lawyers, and current and former prisoners say inmates are often kept in cramped, dirty cells and lack running water, adequate ventilation and healthcare: conditions ripe for the rapid transmission of disease.

While countries including Iran, Germany and Canada have freed prisoners in an effort to contain the coronavirus epidemic, Egypt has given no public sign it will do so.

The government press centre

forwarded to Reuters an Interior ministry statement on Thursday saying it was taking all necessary preventative and protective measures for prison staff, ensuring cleaning, healthcare and testing inside places of detention.

The government also suspended family visits to prisons on March 10 to limit risk of infection, though some families say the measure makes it harder for them to deliver supplies including soap and medicine.

The interior ministry said it allowed for prisoners' belongings to be brought in, and the exchange of messages.

In November, authorities organised tightly supervised tours of Cairo's sprawling Tora prison complex, where former President Mohamed Mursi collapsed and died in a prison courtroom last year, and where Amashah is held.

The tours followed a report by UN experts that said that poor prison conditions may have led directly to Mursi's death and was putting thousands more at severe risk.

ANSWERS NEEDED

Australia, US leaders discuss investigation into virus pandemic

REUTERS/ Australian PM Scott Morrison has sought support for an international investigation into the coronavirus pandemic in phone calls with US President Donald Trump, and the German and French leaders overnight, the government said yesterday.

Australia's push for an independent review of the origins and spread of the pandemic, including the response of the WHO, has drawn sharp criticism from China, which has accused Australian lawmakers of taking instructions from the United States.

The new coronavirus, believed to have emerged in a market in the central Chinese city of Wuhan, was first reported by China to the WHO on December 31. WHO officials arrived in Wuhan on January 20, after the virus had spread to three other countries.

It has since infected some 2.3 million people globally and killed nearly 160,000, according to Reuters calculations.

Morrison said on Twitter on Wednesday he had "a very constructive discussion" with Trump on the two nation's health responses to Covid-19 and the need to get economies up and running.

Morrison also spoke to German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron by phone about the role of the WHO, his office said.

IN POOR HEALTH?

North Korea media silent on leader Kim's whereabouts

REUTERS/ North Korean state media yesterday made no mention of leader Kim Jong Un's health or whereabouts, a day after intense international speculation over his health was sparked by media reports he was gravely ill after a cardiovascular procedure.

North Korean media presented a business as usual image, carrying routine reporting of Kim's achievements and publishing some of his older, or undated, comments on issues like the economy.

South Korean and Chinese officials and sources familiar with US intelligence have cast doubt on media reports that he was seriously sick, while the White House said it was closely monitoring the matter.

President Donald Trump, who held unprecedented summits with Kim in 2018 and 2019 in an attempt to persuade him to give up his nuclear weapons, said the reports had not been confirmed and he did not put much credence in them.

"We'll see how he does," Trump told a White House news conference on Tuesday. "We don't know if the reports are true."

Speculation about Kim's health first arose due to his absence from the anniversary of the birthday of North Korea's founding father and Kim's grandfather, Kim Il Sung, on April 15.

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DEPOSIT **KSh 1,500,000**

CENTRAL

Nyeri, Karatina, Othaya, Timau, Isiolo, Kerugoya, Mathira, Tetu, Kieni, Mukurweni, Marsabit, Embu, Manyatta, Runyenjes, Mbeere North, Mbeere South, Mwea, Ishiara, Chuka, Gachoka, Nembure, Siakago, Kiritiri, Meru, Mau, Nkubu, Chogoria, Makutano, Kaaga, Muthara, Isiolo, Makutano, Juja, Thika, Kilima Mbogo, Muranga, Garissa, Kenol, Makuyu, Kangari, Mangu, Gachanga, Gatanga, Kandara, Kigumo, Kiharu, Maragua, Kangema and Mathioya.

DEPOSIT **KSh 1,500,000**

MOMBASA - A

Ukunda, South Coast, Ferry, Lunga Lunga, Diani, Likoni, Voi, Taita Taveta, Mwatate and Changamwe.

DEPOSIT **KSh 500,000**

MOMBASA - B

North Coast, Bamburi, Kongowea, Shanzu, Bombolulu, Kisauni, Nyali, Mtwapa, Kilifi, Gede, Malindi, Tana River, Lamu, Mpeketoni and Garsen.

DEPOSIT **KSh 2,000,000**



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Baba Dogo resident John Otieno carries away items donated by Chandaria Industries to help vulnerable families during the Covid-19 crisis /COURTESY

LETTERS

Send your views to letters@the-star.co.ke

Northeastern still lags behind in Covid-19 efforts

The daily updates on the rising number of positive cases of Covid-19 leave me in a cheerless mood. But my perturbation worsens the moment I start pondering on what the situation would be in North Eastern if there was an explosion of the pandemic, given the extremely deficient state of medical resources as well as the poor level of preparedness and adherence to prevention measures as leaders and residents largely continue to act "normal" in the face of this colossal crisis.

There is a substantial deficit in the region's medical capacity to handle a rapid permeation of the virus due to the thin resources available. Particularly, there is lack of manpower, healthcare equipment, infrastructure and medicine. Even with the four positive cases last reported in Mandera county, local help was not enough as medical support came in from Nairobi.

This huge deficiency in health resources in the region can be traced to historical neglect of the region by the past regimes and poor local leadership that thrives in self-interest, deception and internal. In the recent times, terrorism-related insecurity has hemorrhaged health services.

There is little general preparedness in the region. Save for Mandera county, which has promised to launch a food programme for vulnerable residents, Garissa and Wajir are yet to consider humanitarian intervention. The level of discipline of residents in adhering to prevention measures is pathetic. For example, that 32 people in Mandera escaped from quarantine. Most local leaders have been feeding the masses with self-promotional speeches. Since the threat of coronavirus is real, North Eastern should step up measures to stop the spread.

HASSAN MOHAMED
Commentator, Garissa county

Donate food as you give out masks to vulnerable people

During election campaigns voters are given branded t-shirts, caps and lessos. Some people even get money. But with the Covid-19 disease, where are the politicians to donate food? Why do they are they all over during elections but are nowhere now? Recently, some people donated masks and other supplies but not food. How are those people going to survive without food, and some are poor while others don't have jobs? Let the government use chiefs, churches and mosques to distribute food. Many rich people and famous politicians are missing in action.

VERONICA ONJORO
Mombasa

Parents, help curb teen pregnancies during pandemic

Covid 19 will complicate the efforts of reducing teen pregnancies in the country. With learning suspended in schools religious meetings cancelled and youth programmes on hold, adolescents have a lot of time to engage in irresponsible behaviour. Many young people get information from churches as well as schools because in some societies it is a taboo to talk about sex. Despite the government curfew, young people will still engage in sexual activity because of idleness and easy access to mobile phones. The pandemic could negatively impact on the production of contraceptives. In this period of staying at home, parents have enough time to talk to their teenagers about sex. Encourage youths to take responsibility for their sexuality and make the right decisions.

PURITY NTHIANA
NAYA, Nairobi

Corona measures are for our good, let's observe them

The other day I went to the supermarket and as we were waiting in a queue to be allowed in, a man with two children picked an argument with a guard who had denied him entry because the man had insisted on going in with them. The guard stood his ground and, cursing, the man went back to his car packed across the road and drove off.

First, I wondered whether the government communication about staying home and appeal that only the very necessary trips should be made registered in the minds of Kenyans especially those with money to spend. This, together with the recent brazen breach where an ambulance was being used as a moving drinking party, proves that nothing about safety measures is registering in Kenyans' minds. Many more incidences are daily reported all over the country.

How about those using vehicles carrying cargo to beat the government travel ban from in and out of the most affected counties? What of the secret weddings, partying, strolling the streets at night to steal and casual approaches adopted by the majority regarding the stringent measures put in place to curb the corona wave?

For a while the Covid-19 cases were restricted to just a few counties. Today it's spread across the breadth and length of our borders. We don't have the luxury of choosing whether to heed or continue with our usual anything-goes attitude.

But government communication and practices must also people-centred, not top-down fiat. The people must be made to understand that, although inconvenient, such temporary measures are far better than dealing with the consequences of our inertia. This truth must sink.

ODHIAMBO JAMWA
Economic and political analyst

VOX POP

COMPILED BY CORAZON WAFULA

Should JP's wrangles be postponed until coronavirus ends?



Yes: The wrangles are misplaced. We do not have the luxury of engaging in party politics as the health crisis is what is important now.

REV LYDIA CHESOSI
Trans Nzoia



Yes: Let them postpone their infighting. This is not the time for politicking and fighting. We have a crucial matter at hand—one of life and death.

MILLICENT NASIMIYU
Trans Nzoia



Yes: Their wrangles can be put aside for now. Let them use that energy to fight the coronavirus pandemic instead.

BENSILLA WANYAKHA
Trans Nzoia



Yes: Jubilee being the ruling party should be setting a good example by reaching a consensus amicably, especially in light of everything else that's going on.

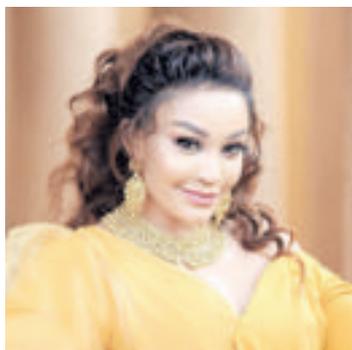
AMOS JAKAIT
Trans Nzoia



★ WORD IS...

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SOCIALBYTE
WITH ELIZABETH NGIGI
@nyambs_liz



Zari Hassan /COURTESY

Diamond's ex Zari Hassan is busy throwing shade at slay queens who used to take photos in posh hotels that are now closed over corona pandemic.

She launched an attack on slay queens for always accusing her of faking her lifestyle, yet they can't even afford to take photos in their own houses during this quarantine period.

"Mahotel yange fungua, we miss some slay queens. Kwani am-uruhusiwi kupiga picture kwenu. Wakitoka apo Zari anafeki maisha. See your Life. God bless you too. Me I'm already blessed," said Zari on Instagram.

The mother of five has been showing off all corners of her house in a number of photos and videos on social media at a time South Africa is in total lockdown to help curb the spread of the coronavirus.

My fame has cost my wife – Bahati



Bahati and wife Diana Marua /COURTESY

ELIZABETH NGIGI/ Bahati says his fame has made his wife Diana always trend for the wrong reasons.

Announcing he was closing down EMB, Bahati said his enemies have gone beyond that by trolling his wife.

"Right now Diana is in the public eye because of me. She has been abused because of me. She is hitting a million followers for the wrong stories," he said.

Many a time, Diana Marua has been trolled by many who claim she is older than Bahati. She recently recounted just how hard the adjustment from a nobody party girl to dating one of Kenya's biggest celebrities was and what a culture shock she faced in her own country.

"I remember sometime back negativity used to get to me. You know cyberbullying, people who say trash about you and I remember it got to a point when I used to cry myself to sleep," she said.

AVRIL THOUGHT OF QUITTING AFTER FATHER PASSED AWAY

'HE WASN'T OLD AS HE HAD JUST CLOCKED 50 YEARS AND HE HAD A FULL LIFE AHEAD OF HIM'



ELIZABETH NGIGI @nyambs_liz/ Singer Avril says the death of her father has affected her music career several times.

Speaking in a recent interview with Adelle Onyango on her podcast Legally Clueless, Avril said she has often thought of quitting music.

Avril /ELIZABETH NGIGI

"Music is a jealous lover, or the entertainment industry is jealous. I have wanted so many times to say you know what, I am ending this, and in so many ways, I feel I am in that space," she said.

How this started was after the death of her dad. She realised the only sure thing about life is death, and thus she started questioning everything about life.

"My dad questioned a lot while he was sick and it made us question a lot," Avril said.

"I got into that zombie state of questioning so much. You never know what life is going to be but you know there is an end to it. My life started becoming a bit more conscious and awakened from the time my dad passed on."

Avril's dad died after suffering two heart attacks. "He just had a heart attack and we thought he was going to be okay, then all of a sudden he was not okay and he had a second heart attack, which was a bit more severe," she said.

She says her dad's heart was already too weakened to survive another heart attack, and so he died.

"He wasn't old as he had just clocked 50 years and he had a full life ahead of him," she said.

Avril has had a conversation with her management, who she says has been her drive.

"Sometimes you get to a space where you feel like you want someone to drive you, unlike when you are starting," the singer said.

She now feels like her interest has shifted a bit when it comes to music as she now feels she sings.

Avril has been in the industry for more than a decade.



ELIZABETH NGIGI @nyambs_liz/ Death took literary icon Ken Walibora at the peak of his career, fellow writer Tony Mochama, alias Smitta Smitten, has said. The icon died on April

Author and journalist Tony Mochama /COURTESY

Ken Walibora never rested, says writer Tony Mochama

10. Tony, a veteran journalist and poet, on Tuesday paid him tribute via Facebook Live.

"Ken was never supposed to die in that manner. It breaks my heart to learn he died while interacting with the common mwananchi," he said.

Tony described his friend as humble, saying he kept himself in the shoe of a common man.

"His fame could not go to his mind. His humility was seen in the way he spoke to people," he said.

Tony's fondest memory of Ken was his utter mastery of the Kiswahili language.

"Because I am not good in the language, when we met, Ken used

to chide me every time we met about his book, 'Kidagaa Kimemwozea'. And I would tell him, 'Kiswahili kiliniozea, usijali ndugu, there is hope for you'," Tony said.

What inspires Tony the most about Ken is he never rested but kept writing.

"He has left us with a body of work that will be read for decades. He was never distracted by awards or achievements," he said.

The author was involved in an accident on Friday, when a mata-tu ran over him on Landhies Road.

According to government pathologist Dr Johansen Oduor, the postmortem found that Walibora's body had facial injuries and a deep knife wound on his right arm.



For more Word Is stories scan the QR code above.

VOICES

EDITORIAL

Nairobi Governor Sonko should resign

On February 25, Governor Mike Sonko signed a deed of transfer with Devolution CS Eugene Wamalwa at State House. He transferred responsibility for transport, health, public works, and planning to the new Nairobi Metropolitan Services authority.

Now Sonko is crying foul. He claims that President Uhuru Kenyatta began the process with good intentions but that it was hijacked by “greedy officers” (see P2). He wants the transfer deed reversed.

What triggered Sonko's change of heart? Was it that he was upset when KRA took over revenue collection for Nairobi county or that 6,000 county staff were transferred to the Public Service Commission?

In any case, it has now dawned on Sonko that the position of Nairobi Governor is much less powerful and controls far fewer funds than before.

This was inevitable after the creation of the NMS and his signing of the deed of transfer.

That he did not know what he was doing is the clearest indication that Sonko is out of his depth as a governor. It is time for him to go. He should either resign or be impeached by Nairobi MCAs.

HISTORICAL QUOTE

“What is the city but the people?”

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

The English playwright died on April 23, 1616.

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COMMENT

WYCLIFFE MUGA

@mugawycliffe



As always, the things which end up truly shaking our country invariably have their roots in events in places so far away, that you would hardly think they had any power to ever touch our shores



MAJOR EVENTS SHAPED FAR AWAY

With every major crisis in Kenya, new voices tend to come to the fore, and thereafter continue as media commentators even beyond the crisis. So here is a question for all those who currently aspire to some kind of long-term punditry:

When was the last time that an event which took place in a country thousands of miles from Kenya, had as powerful effect on us, as this coronavirus pandemic?

There may well be more than one answer to this question. But what I have in mind is a political earthquake, not a public health crisis.

It started with the Falklands War between the UK and Argentina, waged in mid-1982.

What the two countries fought over was a couple of tiny islands just off the Argentinian coast, which Argentina asserted it was “reclaiming”. But Britain, which had possessed these islands as a “crown colony” for over 100 years, considered this to be an “invasion” of its sovereign territory.

After Britain won this war, the military junta that had ruled Argentina for about a decade was compelled to give way to a democratic election, which brought their rule to an end. During this period of military rule, as one source puts it, “an estimated 30,000 people were abducted from their homes, blindfolded, taken to detention centres, and were never seen again. These people are known as the ‘disappeared’.”

With the military junta out of power, Argentina embarked on a “trial of the juntas” seeking justice for the families of “the disappeared”. And during these trials, a young Argentinian prosecutor called Luis Moreno Ocampo made his mark, leading to his eventual appointment as the first prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, established in 2002 at The Hague.

When the 2008 post-election violence erupted in Kenya, and as the evidence mounted of prior planning for this violence both in the initial massacres and in the revenge killings, the ICC took note.

By any standard, it was a much darker time than anything we have seen during this coronavirus crisis. Currently, 14 days of compulsory quarantine is the worst that can happen to you if you are caught at the wrong place at the wrong time. That is – of course – apart from falling seriously ill or dying, if you catch the infection.

In 2008, over 1,000 Kenyans lost their lives to machete-wielding assailants; or to security forces apparently operating under a shoot-to-kill order.

I have read analyses which argue persuasively that Ocampo knew all along that he was unlikely to get enough evidence to sustain a conviction of the people who were finally indicted. Those who became known here in Kenya as “The Ocampo Six”.

You could almost say the whole drama was a contrived political gesture, intended to send a message.

All the same in 2011, the head of the civil service; the Deputy Prime Minister; the national police chief; a prominent journalist; and two cabinet ministers; all turned up at the ICC as defendants, having first “stepped aside” from their positions.

Thereafter, many Kenyans could hardly get any routine work done.

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME THAT AN EVENT WHICH TOOK PLACE IN A COUNTRY THOUSANDS OF MILES FROM KENYA, HAD AS POWERFUL EFFECT ON US, AS THIS CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC?

Their focus was entirely on the live streaming of the court proceedings at The Hague. This drama was like nothing that we had ever seen, and beyond anything we could ever have anticipated.

But as every Kenyan knows, none of these men were ever convicted.

And two of them were to rise to even higher office: Uhuru Kenyatta who was then Deputy Prime Minister is now president; and William Ruto who was a Minister for Agriculture back then, is now the Deputy President.

It all began in Argentina. Likewise, turning to our present time, we find that the butchering of bats and pangolins in a Chinese “wet market” for exotic animals, is what set in motion the tide of the coronavirus pandemic that has made us all familiar with terms like “lockdown”, “quarantine”, “social distancing” and “curfew”.

It is part of an established pattern.

As always, the things which end up truly shaking our country invariably have their roots in events in places so far away, that you would hardly think they had any power to ever touch our shores.

VOICES

COMMENT

EDWARD GAKUYA
Social commentator



When we erect walls, ostensibly to protect ourselves, all we do is expose our deepest anxieties

WALLS AND THOSE WHO PUT THEM UP

I couldn't tell you why I was thinking about walls, or why we're about to take a look at walls in this article. I suppose, if I was to guess, I'd say it has something to do with my feeling walled in on account of coronavirus' forced stay home, don't congregate, and don't meet up with friends and acquaintances.

So walls it is, and the first thing to say about walls is they're everywhere. Wherever you look, wherever you go, you will find a wall; a rising wall, a wall already standing or the rubble remains of a wall.

Throughout human civilisation we have built walls, they are part of who we are. In the past we erected them to stop invading armies and rival nations. Today we build walls and barriers to stop terrorists and illegal immigrants, and in our homes and gated communities we put up walls and fences to keep out criminals, vandals and pestering sales people.

But there's something else about walls other than protection, another function to walls that goes unacknowledged. And that is they create divisions and distinctions, giving rise to an 'us vs them' that serves to maintain a separation between people.

In this way, walls are not built for those who live outside them, threatening though they may be, but for those who put them up and dwell within. In other words what a wall satisfies is not so much physical protection against armies, criminals, and sales people but protection against anxieties and fears.

'A wall is fear in three dimensions.' - Jane Loeffler, architectural historian.

When we erect walls, ostensibly to protect ourselves from terrible people and terrible things out there, what we manage to do instead is expose our deepest fears and anxieties. This makes walls in a certain sense not a barrier as such, but a state of mind. It makes the walls we erect not just imposing physical structures but a representation of our emotions.

Those who build walls mean to project strength and pride, perhaps even determination but what walls say about the builder; his state of mind at least, is 'I am afraid'.

And when these fearful individuals don't find walls in the real world, the physical world, they invent the walls.

A good example of an invented wall is racism. Recently the Chinese city of Guangzhou made the headlines with reports of black people being blamed for coronavirus and therefore harassed, targeted, refused entry into restaurants, blocked from hotels and evicted from their homes to spend their nights in the cold. I'm also thinking of racism in football, the upsurge in racially charged abuse and chants, especially at black players, all because of the colour of their skin.

Why is racism still even a thing, considering all the information out there, the science saying there is no such thing as a superior or inferior race? Isn't racism just a wall meant to create divisions and distinction?

Could it even be that racists don't believe their assertions and their false understanding of race, and that their chants, the abuse, the harassment are but the bricks needed to build this racism wall?

What is it these builders of this wall fear? I wonder.

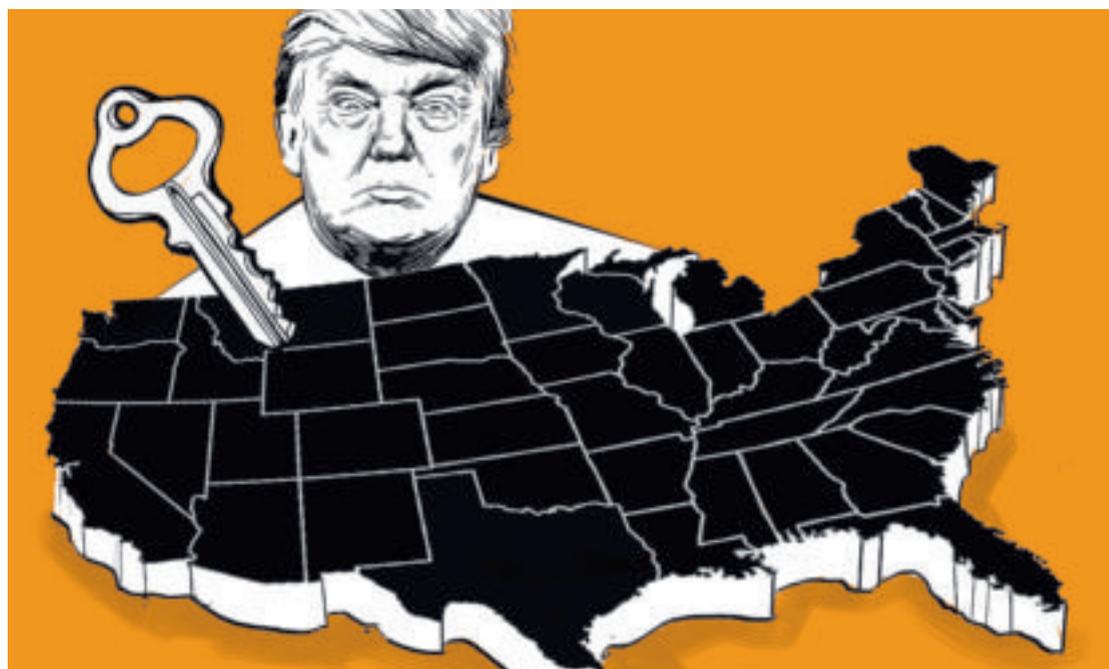
COMMENT

GWYNNE DYER

His new book is 'Growing Pains: The Future of Democracy (and Work)'



Any countries with their infection rate down and their testing and tracing teams ready can start reopening economies, although there'll be a continuing low but steady toll of deaths until a vaccine is found



LOCKDOWN: LIVES vs LIVELIHOODS

Wuhan, the Chinese city where it all started, was locked down for 79 days before the restrictions on movement were finally lifted last week. A bit over-cautious, perhaps, but in China the coronavirus does really seem to be under control - not totally eradicated, but controllable without extreme measures.

If Donald Trump "reopens" the US at the end of this month, then California and a few other states will have been under lockdown for only half that many days, and some states for much less time or even none. Far from being under control, the Covid-19 virus is killing huge numbers of Americans and the number is still rising.

These two giants define the extremes of the 'lives vs. livelihoods' debate, but almost every other country is having it too. Everybody knows that you can't shut the economy down indefinitely, but nobody wants to risk a second wave of infections by moving too soon.

Well, almost nobody. The toddler-in-chief in the White House is frantic to reopen the economy because he has an election coming up in six months, and he will lose it if the economy has not recovered by then.

Dr Anthony Fauci has doubtless explained that lifting the restrictions on movement on May 1 will cause a second wave of deaths and a second lockdown before November, but Trump doesn't retain that sort of information for long. His attention span is not only short but selective: he forgets unwelcome information very quickly.

Trump might actually order the country to reopen on May 1, as he believes that "When somebody is the president of the United States, the authority is total." But most states wouldn't obey his command: as New York Governor Andrew Cuomo said: "We have a constitution ... we don't have a king ... the president doesn't have total authority."

Elsewhere, some countries are cautiously reopening their economies a bit at a time, but they either had a very high death rate early and have now wrestled it down again - China, Italy and Spain - or responded

hard and early and never had a high infection rate, like Germany, Denmark, Austria, the Czech Republic, and New Zealand.

We should also note two countries that never closed their economies down at all, because they could test, identify the infected, and trace their contacts fast enough to break the chains of infection and keep deaths low: Taiwan and South Korea. All three of these groups have one vital thing in common.

They have the ability to "test, test, test", as the World Health Organisation's Director General, Tedros Ghebreyesus, put it a month ago, warning countries that they "cannot fight a fire blindfolded." And they can follow up the tests with contact-tracing teams and apps so that not just the individual who tested positive but the whole cluster of other people who had contact with him or her can be isolated.

Any countries that have their infection rate down and have their testing and tracing teams ready can start reopening their economies, although there will be a continuing low but steady toll of deaths until a vaccine is found. France, Canada and Australia can probably do it next month.

As for the US and the UK, they both reacted very late to the threat, which guarantees that their casualties would be considerably above the rich-country average. Worse, they do not have the testing and tracking resources in place that would make reopening the economy a relatively safe proposition.

On 3 April the British Health Secretary, Matt Hancock, pledged 100,000 coronavirus tests per day by the end of the month. Half the month is gone, and the maximum number of tests carried out on a single day has been under 15,000.

The US situation is harder to judge, since there is not a unified healthcare system but a highly fragmented 'healthcare sector'. However, nobody has spotted evidence of nationwide preparations for extensive testing and tracking once everybody goes back to work, so a second wave of deaths later in the year is practically guaranteed. Finis Trump, perhaps, but at a high price.



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★ SOCIETY

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NEEDY FAMILIES IN MOMBASA GET FOOD TO LAST THEM A MONTH

The Mombasa government on Monday began a food distribution programme targeting 227,000 vulnerable families.

The plan, launched by Mombasa Governor **Hassan Joho** and county commissioner **Gilbert Kitiyo**, targets 50,000 households in the first phase.

Each package contains 10kg of maize and wheat flour, 7kg of green grams, 6kg of rice, 2kg of sugar, 1kg of salt, 2ltr of cooking oil, sanitary pads and paracetamol tablets.

Joho said each package is enough to feed a family of five for 30 days. In attendance were Mombasa speaker **Harub Khatri**, Senator **Mohamed Faki**, woman representative **Asha Hussein** and Changamwe MP **Omar Mwinyi**.



1. Mombasa Senator Mohamed Faki
 2. Some of the donations collected for distribution
 3. Mombasa woman representative Asha Hussein
 4. Sacks of rice to be distributed in Mombasa
 5. Casual labourers carry sacks of rice
 6. Packages that will be handed out to the families /JOHN CHESOLI



(+) PLAN INTERNATIONAL, INUA DADA DISTRIBUTE SANITARY PADS IN KIBRA

More than 200 young mothers in Kibra on Tuesday assembled at AIC training centre in Kibra to receive donations of care packs. These included sanitary towels, diapers, flour, cooking oil, Lifebuoy, face masks and toilet paper.

The items were distributed by Plan International Kenya in partnership with Inua Dada Foundation. Their aim was to supplement the government's efforts to create safe spaces for women and girls vulnerable to sexual, economic and physical violence during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Inua Dada founder **Janet Mbugua** said menstrual hygiene is vital to all women and adolescent girls in accessing sexual and reproductive health services. It is also important for well-wishers to offer socioeconomic support to disadvantaged households who do not have any other means of survival, especially with the coronavirus isolation.



1. Plan International girl advocate Cynthia Tsisiche (R) distributes sanitary towels 2. Mother-of-one Hamza Mariam, 21, receives a care package 3. Girls Advocacy Alliance mentees from Plan International line up for care packages 4. Inua Dada founder Janet Mbugua (C) hands care packages to Plan International project manager Nancy Okoth (2nd L) 5. Okoth (R) speaks to the young mothers 6. Plan International project officer Michael Gitere hands a care package to Diana Ombete and her baby Jardena Johari 7. Jessica Bolo (L) joins fellow young mothers to receive care packages /JACK OWUOR

COUNTIES NAIROBI

NO GATHERING TO RAISE FUNDS

Family in agony as son's body held over Sh9.6m medical bill

They have raised Sh4 million from a loan and donations but the hospital has declined

MAGDALINE SAYA
@TheStarKenya

A city family is in agony after the Nairobi Hospital declined to release the body of their son over a Sh9.4 million bill.

University student Isaac Odhiambo, 23, died on March 26 from what doctors attributed to reduced levels of blood.

His father Frankline Ochieng said they had hoped to pay part of the bill and strike a deal with the hospital to clear the arrears after Odhiambo is buried.

"We thought that when we pay part of it, the hospital would give us the body for burial, so somebody gave us a soft loan of Sh3 million and we have managed to raise another Sh1 million from public donations via M-Pesa. We paid the Sh4 million but they (hospital) refused and demanded that we look for the remaining balance," Ochieng said.

Now the family does not know where to start. The coronavirus pandemic has waded into the mix and complicated plans.

They thought they would be able to organise a fundraising but with health directives on social distancing there cannot be any gatherings. "Coronavirus has been our greatest undoing. So coming together for a harambee is impossible. The hospital wants us to have sureties and a payment plan in three months. But how do you pay such a figure in three months?" Ochieng said.

The man traces his family's problems to December when his son started experiencing tiredness.

The last born among five children, Odhiambo was a final-year Bachelor of Commerce student at the Dedan Kimathi University in Nyeri. So he would occasionally get painkillers while in college or from the Metropolitan Hospital in Buruburu. The family lives in Utawala.

"It went on like that and you know he was a footballer so when he felt tired he would go out and play football," Ochieng told said on Monday.

In January, Odhiambo's situation worsened. He could not eat and spent most of his time sleeping.

On January 11, he was taken to Metropolitan Hospital where he was admitted after doctors found he was short on blood platelets. He was discharged after four days.

"He was actually okay and went back to school. As a finalist, he was going to defend his project. He was in school for about 10 days before we received a call from his roommate that he was not doing well," Ochieng said.

The family went to Nyeri and picked their son and returned to the Metropolitan Hospital where he was again admitted for six days.

Doctors had noticed something wrong with his blood. They consulted a haematologist at the Aga Khan University Hospital.

At home, Odhiambo's situation quickly deteriorated. He lost appetite and suffered chills. He was rushed back to Metropolitan hospital after 10 days and was referred to the Kenyatta National Hospital.

"At that time they could not tell where the problem was. They were just seeing reduced levels of blood and fluids in the body," Ochieng said.

That was February 10. The family proceeded to KNH. "We were told there was no free bed. We were shown a list of 40 people waiting for a bed yet our patient was in critical condition. They told us to try elsewhere or wait for another three to four days."

Given the condition of his son, Ochieng decided to go to the nearby Coptic Hospital.

After looking at tests from the Metropolitan Hospital, medics at



Isaac Odhiambo whose body is detained at the Nairobi Hospital / COURTESY

Coptic suggested that the patient be taken to either Aga Khan University Hospital or The Nairobi Hospital.

"We went to Nairobi Hospital because it is nearer to Coptic. Doctors assessed him and said his platelets were low and decided to put him in isolation because, with low platelets, the immunity also goes down so he could easily contract opportunistic diseases," Ochieng said.

The next day, he found his son had been transferred to the ICU, where he was until March 26 when he passed on.

Almost a month later, the body

remains detained at Nairobi Hospital over uncleared Sh9.6 million bill.

Ochieng said another Sh300,000 bill was accrued at the Metropolitan Hospital but it was cleared by a medical insurer.

He said they have since written to Nairobi Hospital authorities twice with no response. The hospital wants the bill cleared or sureties given on how the arrears will be paid in three months.

Contacted, the hospital declined to comment on the matter, saying they don't discuss matters related to patients.

IT IS STILL NOT CLEAR WHAT KILLED THE FINAL-YEAR DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY STUDENT

Children in Kamukunji, Kibera slum, wash their hands with water and soap as one way of containing coronavirus yesterday /WILFRED NYANGARESII



NO LONGER AT EASE

Slum residents at last wake up to reality of Covid-19

STAR REPORTER/ Initially, they believed the government was lying about Covid-19 to get money from donors, but their perception has now changed.

"They came clad in white clothes from head to toe in an ambulance and took him away because he was a coronavirus suspect," Kawangware resident Mary Barasa told the Star.

She had only seen the health workers on TV and when they arrived at the Delta area and everyone was afraid. "It was shocking. They came here and took him. We

don't know the people he could have interacted with before he was identified," Barasa said.

Initially, like other residents, she thought coronavirus was not in the country but now she believes it is.

"It's true the government was not lying. The virus is here with us. I had initially thought that the virus was not here but now I believe," she said.

Kawangware has already recorded three cases of Covid-19, according to the Ministry of Health. Pipeline had six cases and Kibera two. There is fear that residents of slums may be worse hit by the virus due to poor hygiene and lack of social distancing.

In Kibera, some residents now wear face masks as a precautionary measure but they are asking leaders to do more to save their lives.

Some were shocked by Health CS Mutahi Kagwe's announcement that two people had tested positive for the disease in the area. "I cannot walk from my house because the virus is now outside here. We are afraid and we don't know what to do," Irene Achieng told the Star.



COUNTIES CENTRAL

FOOD SELF-RELIANCE

Nyeri youth train kids on sack gardening to keep them busy

It will also be a competition where those who tend to their gardens well will be awarded

EUTYCAS MUCHIRI
@TheStarKenya

It is early morning at Chania Kwa Rwamba area in Nyeri town when the group of about 15 children converge in the yard outside their homes.

The aftermath of Tuesday's rain has made it a chilly day — the children have come in blue, red and pink sweaters. Some wear gumboots but others have their everyday sandals.

They are home because of the coronavirus, but today they have to try their hands at farming using sacks.

To teach them are a group of youths led by Eric Makara, Emily Mwangi and Millicent Waithira.

First, they fill sacks with soil mixed with well-decomposed farmyard or compost manure.

As they do that, they place sizeable stones at the centre of the sack from the bottom to the top.

The pebbles enable water to drain from the top to the bottom of the sack distributing it evenly.

Second, they get vegetable seedlings — some sukuma wiki, onions and spinach — and plant them at the top and through holes bored on the sides. This method enables them to grow a lot of vegetables using limited resources.

When they finish for the task by watering, Makara and his team help the children put the sack gardens in a safe and conducive place where they can thrive.

Then they make way to a table laid out with cups of porridge.

The youths came up with the initiative to ensure the children are



Millicent Waithira demonstrates to children how to plant vegetables on a sack garden at Chania Kwa Rwamba in Nyeri town on Tuesday /EUTYCAS MUCHIRI

busy and at least get a meal.

They also brought books so that the children could learn at home because school was disrupted and it is unclear when it will reopen.

"We could not afford to provide them food, so we thought a cup of porridge a day would do," Waithira said on Tuesday.

The farming venture will also be a competition for children as those who can tend to their gardens well will be awarded.

The performance of the gardens will be evaluated every two weeks and presents given to the first five whose vegetables will be flourishing. "They will be getting shopping vouchers or any other small token to motivate them," she says.

The initiative will provide needy families with food to supplement whatever their meagre stock as earnings have become non-existent.

The children will also learn about hard work, get a sense of responsibility

and be acquainted with farming activities.

"We have provided them with the requirements which are sacks and seedlings for planting to start them off. About 20 different families with young children below the age of 11 have benefitted in the first phase of the project," Waithira said.

Makara, a member of the group and a resident of the area says the gardens are set up using available materials.

BEVERAGES

Kevian donates Sh5m drinks to police officers

Keep them hydrated, energised and refreshed



Thika subcounty police boss Beatrice Kiraguli and Kevian Kenya CEO Kimani Rugendo with the beverages on Tuesday /JOHN KAMAU

JOHN KAMAU/ Kevian Kenya Limited has donated Sh5 million beverages to police officers in Kiambu.

Every police officer in Kiambu county will receive water, fruit juice and energy drinks daily until the Covid-19 pandemic is suppressed.

Kevian Kenya is the producer of Afia and Pick 'N' Peel juice brands. The beverages will be distributed to all police stations and police posts across the county.

Speaking at the factory premises in Thika town on Tuesday, factory manager Njenga Kariuki said the company will supply beverages until the country is declared free of the coronavirus.

He said the company will give officers its products, which include Mt Kenyan water, Afia fruit juice and Afia energy drinks. "Every police officer who's working within Kiambu county, including those manning the 24 roadblocks that have been erected in the county to restrict movement, will be receiving one litre of water, one litre of Afia juice and 500 ml of Afia energy drink daily until the pandemic is contained," Njenga said.

"We want our officers to stay well-hydrated, energised and refreshed as

they enforce the government directives, including the dusk-to-dawn curfew as well as manning movement barriers and maintaining law and order in our county during this difficult time."

The company owned by business mogul Kimani Rugendo also donated 50 handwashing units to be distributed to all road barriers within the county.

"Even our officers need to maintain their hygiene in their line of duty and that's why we have dispatched the handwashing units. We will be providing them with soap. The number of donations will increase," Njenga said.

Thika subcounty police commander Beatrice Kiraguli, who received the donation on behalf of county police bosses, hailed the company for the gesture saying it will motivate the police officers.

"This is a rare and noble gesture, and we appreciate it. Our officers will be energized and motivated to work around the clock to ensure that all government directives are adhered to," Kiraguli said.

Kiambu assistant director of Public Health Samuel Gichimu said the donation will help the county in the fight against the coronavirus.

ENCROACHMENT

Nyeri to survey and fence hill to prevent forest destruction

EUTYCAS MUCHIRI/The Nyeri government is planning to put up a perimeter fence around Karima Hill in Othaya to prevent wanton destruction of the forest.

Environment executive Beth Karimi told the Star on Tuesday that the devolved unit is undertaking a survey of the hill land to determine its boundaries before fencing it.

There has been a dispute between the county government and the local community over the ownership of the hill and its boundaries, with some community members claiming the hill is part of their land.

There is also the encroachment of people living near the hill on the land, Karimi said. Loggers are suspected to be people neighbouring the hill.

After surveying, she said, the county will be able to fence what belongs to the county government before enhancing surveillance.

"This is why the county needs to ascertain, through survey, what belongs to the hill and what belongs to the community," she said.

"We want to get into a partnership with the KFS because from our end we only have two enforcement officers so that they are able to help us with their rangers. This will enhance enforcement."

The fencing of the hill is also in the Nyeri County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) Karimi said.

REPRIEVE

Gitau distributes food to 5,000 Nyandarua locals

NDICHU WAINAINA/ Vulnerable Nyandarua families will get food donations from Nyandarua Woman Representative Faith Gitau.

Gitau said Tuesday that 5,000 people — the old, those with disabilities and laid-off casuals — will be targeted.

Boda boda riders and police officers will also get donations.

The package comprises unga and cooking oil but next week residents will get cereals including beans and green grams.

Gitau said the foodstuffs will be delivered at the doorsteps of the beneficiaries in collaboration with the local administration.

The delivery method is to avoid violation of government directive on social gatherings.

"We have the data of all the people living with disability and other vulnerable groups including the elderly people in Nyandarua," she said.

The office received Sh522,000 from the national government to fight Covid-19 but Gitau also got donations from well-wishers, she said.

Other commodities being distributed are soaps, sanitiser, gumboots, gloves and face masks.

The sanitiser will be distributed to offices while soaps will be distributed to handwashing points across the county.

COUNTIES COAST

BOARD TO PICK MANDUKU SUCCESSOR

Hiring of new KPA boss to be aboveboard, says Obure

Assurance comes amid fears among applicants of vested interests

BRIAN OTIENO
@Yobramos4

The government has sought to assure applicants for the KPA boss position that the recruitment will be aboveboard.

Those interested in the job have until Friday to apply. The seat fell vacant after Daniel Manduku resigned on March 26 through a letter to Transport CS James Macharia. Manduku's resignation takes effect on June 1. He is on terminal leave until then. Manduku became MD in May 2018, taking over from Catherine Mturi.

Transport Chief Administrative Secretary Chris Obure said the government has full confidence in the KPA board of directors to do an honest job. "We will ensure the exercise is open and transparent to the satisfaction of the stakeholders and the government," he said.

Obure said only the deserving candidate will be recommended by the board to the Transport CS. "No name that does not deserve will be forwarded to the CS for appointment. That will never happen.

"The KPA board has the moral and professional capacity to receive, vet, shortlist and call the deserving candidates to an interview and then recommend the best candidate for the job to the CS," he said.

Obure's assurance comes amid fear among applicants that the board may have vested interests, thus skew the recruitment in favour of some individuals. The board this time decided to do the recruitment, unlike in previous years when it gave the job to an independent consulting firm — Deloitte Kenya.

As a shift from the norm, the board advertised the position on April 6. All applications are to be done online and the deadline is Friday, April 24.

Insiders Yobesh Oyaro and Vincent Sidai are among the applicants.



Transport CAS Chris Obure washes hands as Kwale county commissioner Karuku Ngumo looks on at the Lunga Lunga border in Kwale county on Tuesday
/BRIAN OTIENO

Oyaro is a long-serving senior manager in the procurement department. He was moved to Kisumu in a major reshuffle in 2018. Sidai is the general manager of infrastructural development.

On Tuesday, Obure allayed fears of conflict of interest, saying the Joseph Kibwana-led board took the oath of honesty and transparency.

"No conflict of interest, the board of directors decided to do that job. The duty is theirs according to the law, to do the interviews and identify the new MD," he said.

He spoke at the Lunga Lunga border in Kwale county where he accompanied his counterparts Hussein Dado (Interior) and Rashid Abdi (Health).

Applicants who spoke to the Star on condition of anonymity expressed fear that the process may not be as transparent as it should.

"There is a lot of canvassing and vested interests in this. Some of us have applied but will not be surprised if we learn the MD has al-

ready been selected," said one of the applicants.

Another applicant said, "We have our fingers crossed, however. You never know. Maybe God may intervene and the process is transparent this time."

Their views were shared by the Commission for Human Rights and Justice, a lobby that has over the years been moving to court over the recruitment exercise. It wants the process televised live this time to make it transparent.

"We also want public participation. We want a mechanism where the candidates who will be interviewed are made to answer queries from the public because this is a public institution," CHRJ executive director Julius Ogogoh said.

Kibwana last week told the Star they are on top of the exercise and there will be no chance of interference. "We shall continue receiving applications and since it is online, there is nothing we can do until that (deadline) day," he said.

E-HEARING

Malindi lawyers welcome use of tech to handle cases

ALPHONCE GARI/ The Malindi law courts have adopted virtual sessions to improve efficiency.

In the wake of the coronavirus crisis, they have been using Skype. This followed emphasis by Chief Justice David Maraga on the need to use ICT to handle cases in a way that prevents the spread of the virus.

On Monday, Maraga ruled out open court sessions, citing the risk of Covid-19 transmission. Since last week, High Court Judge Reuben Nyakundi of Malindi has been handling civil and criminal cases and delivering judgments virtually. Parties attend sessions using Skype. Nyakundi and lawyers say it has been effective.

Nyakundi thanked the CJ for allowing them to use technology. He said Maraga is passionate about his work and seeks to transform the institution by reducing the time it takes to conclude cases.

"Every time he speaks about this issue, about delays, efficiency and expeditious delivery of justice. His lordship is committed into this," he said.

Advocate Samson Gekanana concurred, saying technology is the way to go as it reduces the cost of transporting suspects from prisons, among other expenses. Gekanana said judgments are delivered via a video link and the court has been able to decongest the Malindi GK prison in a big way since it started using technology.

"We've heard decongestion at Mtangani prison. Some have been retained there because their judgments could not be set aside by the High Court, especially those in the appeal, while others have had their rulings, which will be coming on May 4," he said.

RISK LIVES OF RESIDENTS

Kaloleni riders warned against violating movement restriction

ELIAS YAA/Kaloleni MP Paul Katana has warned boda boda riders against sneaking people into Mombasa and back to Kaloleni.

Katana said the act contravenes the law and puts the lives of the riders and the public at risk of contracting the coronavirus. Speaking to the Star yesterday, Katana called on the government to send riders and the pillion passengers into forced quarantine if found moving out of or into restricted counties.

"There are boda boda riders who sneak people into Kwale and Mombasa counties from Kaloleni and Rabai in Kilifi. What these riders fail to understand is that they are putting the lives of people in Kaloleni at risk. People are using panya routes to dodge security officers and travel to areas where movement has been restricted," he said.

The lawmaker said due to the nature of their work, boda boda riders can easily spread the virus.

"Mombasa has recorded a significant number of Covid-19 cases. The area is on red alert, so ferrying people to the county and back is suicidal."

HELP BUT FOLLOW RULES

Politicians flouting Covid-19 rules to be quarantined

CHETI PRAXIDES/ Anybody found violating Covid-19 guidelines claiming he/she is assisting residents will be forcefully quarantined, Coast regional coordinator John Elungata has said.

His warning followed complaints from health officials and the public that some Lamu politicians and philanthropists were recklessly moving around without observing social distancing and wearing masks.

Elungata said on Tuesday that inasmuch as it's okay to help, failure to follow guidelines meant to curb the spread of the coronavirus only wors-

ens the situation. He in particular fingered Lamu and Tana River politicians for "wandering and getting into direct contact" with vulnerable people like the elderly at a time the country is battling coronavirus.

Elungata said Lamu and Tana River are among the few lucky counties that had no Covid-19 cases, hence the need to remain vigilant and ensure no one is infected. He was concerned that the reckless politicians might be the weak link in the war against the virus.

His office is investigating MPs, senators and philanthropists shuttling between virus hotspots Nairobi,

Kilifi, Mombasa and Mandera and Lamu and Tana River. Those culpable will be arrested and forcefully quarantined for 14 days for testing.

"There is a clear directive on who should receive and organise the distribution of any kind of aid to the public at this time. These are governors and county commissioners.

"It's not just indiscipline but also risky for politicians and a few individuals to insist on doing it themselves without adhering to safety guidelines," the administrator said.

He said the culprits frequent Nairobi, Kilifi and Mombasa and come back to interact with locals.



Lamu philanthropist Francis Mugo distributes food and Covid-19 gear to an elderly person in Lamu /CHETI PRAXIDES

COUNTIES EASTERN



Meru Governor Kiraitu Murungi distributes face masks and water tanks at the county headquarters on Tuesday /GERALD MUTETHIA

TAKING ADVANTAGE

Stop politicising Covid-19 preventive steps – Kiraitu

GERALD MUTETHIA/Meru Governor Kiraitu Murungi has told off politicians he said were capitalising on the Covid-19 crisis to discredit their rivals and gain mileage.

He said some politicians were questioning measures put in place to prevent the spread of the disease to advance personal political agendas.

"Some leaders castigate Kiraitu, saying he stopped traders from selling mitumba and bananas. We have to balance between fear of death from Covid-19 and economic survival of our people. You can't sell when dead. Let us not play politics for political visibility and publicity," Kiraitu said.

He said the county was doing everything it could to deal with the disease. He warned that Covid-19 posed a

great danger to the people of Meru if allowed to spread. High numbers would easily overwhelm the county's capacity to contain the pandemic, he said.

"We must prepare for the worst case scenario," the governor said, warning against taking things casually.

"The county has no capacity to deal with coronavirus disease. The isolation and treatment facilities in public hospitals can only cater for 56 patients. Let us not be cheated that we are ready. If we get 100 cases in Meru, they will die. We are in a state of war. Things cannot be normal."

Kiraitu spoke at the county headquarters while distributing about 25,000 masks and 450 water tanks.

He urged residents to embrace washing hands regularly with water and soap, keep social distancing, sanitise and wear masks.

Deputy governor Titus Ntuchiu dismissed accusations that the county had misused Sh36 million meant to fight coronavirus. He said the government had purchased 80,000 masks at Sh2.4 million to be issued for free.

UNTIL END OF MAY

No distribution of any alcohol, Matua orders

Says residents hide in closed bars to drink

PHILOMENA KILONZO
@TheStarKenya

Machakos Governor Alfred Mutua on Tuesday banned distribution of alcohol in the county effective April 22 until the end of May.

Vehicles found ferrying alcohol will be impounded, he said.

"There will be no distribution of alcohol and alcohol products in Machakos county from tomorrow, Wednesday, April 22nd, 2020 until the end of May 2020," the governor said in a statement to media houses.

Mutua announced that trucks and lorries will not be allowed to park in Machakos county but only for 30 minutes for fueling in a bid to curb the spread of coronavirus.

Mutua said the decision was made by Machakos County Coronavirus

Emergency Committee.

"No transit trucks/ lorries will be allowed to stop in Machakos county. They can only stop to refuel and do it within 30 minutes," he said.

He observed that the decisions were meant to reduce chances of infection to Machakos people due to contravention of the curfew by drivers.

The county boss said the decisions were made after noticing rampant disregard of the regulations set up by the national government and the Ministry of Health.

"Bars are still open and people are drinking inside bars that are closed. They lock themselves in and they are also wandering around during the curfew hours. So we have decided it safer for our people if there is no more alcohol supply to these bars,"



Machakos Governor Alfred Mutua /COURTESY

Mutua said. He observed that trucks passing through Machakos come from areas with local transmission of Covid-19, exposing Machakos residents to infection.

"We have noticed that these drivers when they come around they don't stay indoors during the cur-

few hours. They always walk around visiting friends at night and its not safe for our people," the governor added.

Truck drivers transporting goods from Mombasa to Uganda and other countries will be screened at all entry points and those who test posi-

tive will be returned to their counties for quarantine.

"Since we cannot ban them from transporting food and other goods to those countries, there will have to be more than two drivers to make sure they don't sleep in Machakos county," Mutua said.

MP NZENGU'S DONATION

Mwingi North residents receive free coronavirus protective gear

LINAH MUSANGI/Residents of Mwingi North subcounty received sanitiser, face masks, soaps and water drums from area MP Paul Nzengu to combat the spread of Covid-19.

The main beneficiaries were boda boda riders who received sanitiser and hand washing water drums which were strategically placed in their sheds.

Market women also received the donations as they interact with many people in their day to day activities.

Other residents were issued with face masks during the exercise.

Nzengu told residents the disease

was real and they must adhere to the health measures to fight it.

"The challenge we are facing in Mwingi North is that there are no masks and I urge the government to use the money donated to provide free masks to Kenyans," Nzengu said.

The MP said the masks available were very expensive especially for boda boda riders.

He said the government should donate food to the worst hit members of the community.

Nzengu added that Kenya could not afford a lockdown as that would completely collapse the economy.

Boda chairman in Kamuwongo John Mumo Maketa lauded the donation, saying they were adhering to the government's directive of carrying a single passenger, keeping distance, washing hands and wearing a face mask.

Mumo said the masks go for Sh100, which is expensive as they have to buy for their customers too.

Mary Mawia from Kathumbini village in Kyuso was grateful for the equipment, saying in the villages the masks were expensive.

"Police have been on our case if they find us without masks yet the



Mwingi North MP Paul Nzengu distributes masks to boda bodas /LINAH MUSANGI

masks are too expensive for us," Mawia said.

David Mutemi Kilonzo, a boda boda rider, urged fellow riders to continue observing the measures issued by

the government to combat the viral disease. Zacharia Muriuki, a Kamuwongo resident, said the gesture was kind as people had no money to buy.

COUNTIES NORTHEASTERN

MITIGATING DISASTER EFFECTS

Floods coming, move to safer ground

Authorities say water levels in River Tana have exponentially increased and banks could burst anytime

STEPHEN ASTARIKO
@TheStarKenya

Garissa residents living in flood-prone areas have been asked to move to higher and safer grounds because of imminent flooding.

County commissioner Meru Mwangi on Wednesday said water levels in River Tana continue to rise and that the river could burst its banks anytime.

Flood-prone areas within Garissa town and its environment include Bula Punda, Bula Iftin, Bouralgy, Bula Sheikh, Mororo, Ziواني and Windsor where hundreds of houses were submerged last year.

"I want to urge all the residents who live in areas prone to floods to start moving to safer grounds because there are indications that River Tana could burst its banks anytime from now," Mwangi said in Garissa town.

"I am also calling on our partners like the county government, the Kenya Red Cross, UNICEF and other NGOs to start preparations to assist those that will be displaced."

Mwangi also called on residents of Bura, Mansabubu and Masalani to move. The areas also experience flooding.

As of Wednesday, the water levels in River Tana had sharply increased to 5.10 metres from 3.90 metres in the morning. The increase was attributed to heavy rainfall in several parts of the country.

The meteorological department has warned that the ongoing rains will increase, exposing Kenyans to flooding and landslides.

Met director Stella Aura said the long rains which began in March may continue until June. She advised Kenyans to heed routine updates from the department for their safety and that of their property.

Interior CS Fred Matiang'i has also asked Kenyans who live in flood-prone areas to move to higher grounds.

"Do not ignore these directives from your leaders and experts, heed the warning and move to safer, higher grounds," Matiang'i said yesterday.

Regions likely to be affected by



Residents of Windsor remove their property from flooded houses / **STEPHEN ASTARIKO**



A flood victim from Ziواني cooks at the Garissa Farmers Training Centre IDP camp / **STEPHEN ASTARIKO**

floods and landslides are parts of Murang'a, Taita Taveta, Elgeyo Marakwet, West Pokot and Kisumu counties.

Energy CS Charles Keter noted that those living near the dams especially

in Tana River and Garissa would experience increased water volumes in the next two days.

"The Eastern hydros are currently full and there is already spillage from

Masinga Dam. In the next two days, those living on the lower part of Garissa and Tana River counties will experience a lot of water and must move to the safest upper regions immediately."

AT THEIR OWN COSTS

15 more arrested, placed under forced quarantine in Garissa

STEPHEN ASTARIKO
@TheStarKenya

The number of those arrested and placed under forced quarantine in Garissa has risen to 46 after 15 more were nabbed yesterday.

Northeastern region commissioner Nicodemus Ndalana said a Nissan matatu from the Al-Wahim express shuttle was impounded at the Garissa-Mombasa junction with eight passengers who were en-route to different parts of Central and Rift Valley regions.

The driver said they were traveling from Lamu but Ndalana said it was not clear whether the passengers were from Lamu or may have come from either of the three counties of Mombasa, Kilifi and Kwale that are under containment.

President Uhuru Kenyatta on April 6 ordered a cessation of movement in and out of Nairobi, Mombasa, Kilifi and Kwale counties to contain the

spread of coronavirus. The four are seen as the hotspots.

Ndalana said another seven passengers were in two private cars suspected to have travelled from Nairobi to Garissa. They were arrested at the Tana Bridge.

The administrator said he was consulting with the National Transport and Safety Authority to suspend licenses of all PSV vehicles defying government guidelines.

Ndalana said those using unorthodox means to enter Garissa or any of the other two counties of Wajir and Mandera will fail. He said security officers were on high alert.

Authorities say many people are using tricks to sneak out of the contained counties to their rural homes.

On Tuesday, an Emirates bus was impounded at the Tana Bridge screening point with 27 passengers said to have been picked from Mwingi after they were dropped there by saloon cars from Nairobi.



Police after they intercepted a matatu ferrying eight passengers at the Tana Bridge in Garissa yesterday. The matatu had come from Malindi in Kilifi county / **STEPHEN ASTARIKO**





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COUNTIES WESTERN



Kakamega Governor Wycliffe Oparanya addresses the press at the county headquarters on Monday
/HILTON OTENYO

FINANCE CHIEF 'DEMOTED'

Oparanya shuffles officers over suspect use of Sh20m

Head of governor's press service Peter Atsiaya says the changes are normal but sources tell Star reshuffle will pave way for investigations

HILTON OTENYO
@TheStarKenya



Kakamega chief finance officer John Imbogo has been 'demoted' in a reshuffle by Governor Wycliffe Oparanya over the questionable use of Sh20 million.

Finance is one of the powerful dockets because its operations touch all other departments.

Imbogo has been moved to the Social Services, Youth and Sports docket as chief officer, replacing Vitalis Masakhwe who now moves to the Public Service and Administration in the same capacity.

Ambassador James Ochami, who has been the chief officer in charge of service delivery in the governor's office has taken charge as chief finance officer in an acting capacity.

Ochami's position has been taken

over by human resources director Dominic Muteshi in an acting capacity.

"I have today made the following changes that take effect immediately. Those affected should ensure a smooth handover," Oparanya said in a memo on Tuesday.

He did not disclose the reason for the changes.

Head of the governor's press service Peter Atsiaya said the changes "were normal and meant to ensure proper service delivery".

"Remember reshuffles can be done any time for purposes of reorganising the government to improve service. All government employees can serve in any position any time they are called upon," Atsiaya said.

However, multiple sources in his administration on Wednesday told the Star that they were meant to pave the way for investigations into the use of more than Sh20 million.

One source said the matter had

not been reported to police for investigations as a procedure. "They want to victimise small fry," he said.

Kakamega county has been hit by financial scandals recently.

Revenue officers who were sent on forced leave more than six months ago remain at home. The officers were accused of failing to meet targets.

Last year, more than Sh1 million was transferred to an account of an employee who had been struck off the payroll.

The money was meant for allowances for MCAs attending a workshop in Kisumu. No senior officer was fired or even arrested over the matter.

The county administration has set aside Sh20 million to address the plight of such groups during the war on Covid-19. The amount is part of Sh110 million the county government has set aside for the war against the spread of coronavirus.

ACTION DEMANDED

Kakamega MCAs raise red flag over illegally imported sugar

CALISTUS LUCHETU/ Some Kakamega MCAs have raised concerns over suspect importation of sugar from Uganda.

Led by deputy assembly speaker Leonard Kasaya, they claimed some people have taken advantage of the coronavirus crisis to bring in sugar illegally.

"We are very much concerned about the level of infiltration of illegal sugar that may be penetrating from our neighbouring country. It's a very sad affair that whereas we are fighting Covid 19, there are people who've taken advantage of the situation," he said.

TO BOOST TRADE

Bungoma-Malaba highway design works ready by June

EMOJONG OSERE/The Bungoma-Malaba highway will be expanded to ease traffic congestion.

The expansion will ensure smooth flow of long-distance trucks to Uganda, Transport and Infrastructure CAS Chris Obure said on Tuesday. Obure spoke in Malaba town where a snarl-up of cargo trucks stretches 30 kilometres from the Malaba One-Stop Border post.

"There is only one lane coming to the border. We want to do another lane to facilitate the movement of trucks. By end of June, design works will be complete," Obure said.



Bungoma Senator Moses Wetang'ula with former nominated MP Patrick Wangamati /FILE

PARTY DENIES INFIGHTING

End Ford-K feuds, Wetang'ula urged

JOHN NALIANYA/ Former Ford-K nominated MP Patrick Wangamati has told party leader Moses Wetang'ula to stop the feuds so it does not lose its popularity.

Wangamati, who is the father of Bungoma Governor Wycliffe Wangamati, accused Wetang'ula of ruling the party with an iron fist and failing to consult elders.

He made the remarks even as the party dismissed claims of infighting pitting Wetang'ula against Governor Wangamati. Wetang'ula has been at the forefront of criticising Wangamati for failing to tame corruption in his administration.

He recently took a swipe at the county chief "for purchasing 600 20-litre jerrycans for Sh10,000 each".

The governor has rejected the allegations that his officers inflated the cost of the jerrycans. He said they were donated by well-wishers. His supporters also defended him against the claims and accused the senator of fighting a governor from his party.

The senior Wangamati said Wetang'ula has to ensure leaders and members forge common ground to protect the party's popularity in the region.

"Wetang'ula has not consulted me and other elders so we can come up with an elaborate plan to revive the party. With the ongoing trend, we are losing it out to other parties, which will eventually outshine us," he said.

For his part, however, Bungoma branch secretary Chrispinus Wachana said the party leader has only been doing his oversight role as the Bungoma senator but not fighting the governor.

WHIFF OF SCANDAL

MCAs demand answers over Sh10,000 Bungoma jerrycans

JOHN NALIANYA / Some Bungoma MCAs have vowed to investigate the 'jerrican scandal' come what may.

They made the decision after riot police chased them away from the county assembly precincts where they planned to "carry out investigations".

The county administration has been accused of buying 600 twenty-litre jerrycans at Sh10,000 each in the war against Covid-19.

Governor Wycliffe Wangamati has dismissed the claims, maintaining that the containers were donated.

But the MCAs, among them Health committee chairman George Makari, want a probe.



Bungoma members of the county assembly /JOHN NALIANYA

KAKAMEGA COUNTY HAS BEEN HIT BY FINANCIAL SCANDALS RECENTLY

COUNTIES NYANZA

BOUNDARY DISPUTE

Nyamira, Kisii feud over Keroka

Nyamira county officials demolished kiosks deemed to be on the Kisii side of the town

ANGWENYI GICHANA

@TheStarKenya



A fresh row is brewing between Nyamira and Kisii counties over the boundaries of Keroka town.

On Sunday, Nyamira county officials demolished kiosks and other properties deemed to be on the Kisii side of the town.

Some people, including a police officer, were injured during the fracas, igniting tension between the two counties.

Nyaribari Masaba MP Ezekiel Machogu on Wednesday told Nyamira county to respect administrative and political boundaries.

"We all agree that 70 per cent of Keroka town is in Nyamira and the rest in Kisii. However, Nyamira should not interfere with Kisii county," the MP said.

Machogu who spoke to the Star on phone condemned the Sunday incident.

"We are currently fighting the coronavirus pandemic and all ener-

gies should be channelled there, not in solving boundary disputes," the MP said. He said they shall follow up on the issue after the coronavirus is contained.

On Tuesday, Machogu, Kisii Governor James Ongwae and the security team held a meeting at the Agriculture Training Center in Kisii. They appealed to locals to remain calm.

"The mood and focus of national and county governments are to fight Covid-19. Destruction of people's businesses and earning is wrong," Machogu said.

The MP said his CDF kitty would finance the construction of a police station on the Kisii side while the county government would give Sh5 million for other amenities.

"This is intended to restore order, protect properties and boundary," Machogu said.

But Nyamira Roads executive John Omanwa refuted claims of encroaching into Kisii.

"The issue of boundary dispute was resolved in 2014. Kisii county has not disowned the agreements that were arrived at and Nyamira will continue



Nyaribari Masaba MP Ezekiel Machogu (L), Kisii county commander Jebel Ngere (C) and Governor James Ongwae during a meeting /ANGWENYI GICHANA

to develop Keroka town.

"Governor John Nyagarama is keen on leaving a legacy and developing Keroka town is top on his agenda," Omanwa said.

In 2014, the two counties agreed to jointly manage the town with Nyam-

ira appointing an administrator and Kisii a deputy administrator.

They also agreed to come up with a joint management committee comprising of a chairman, vice-chairman and five members. However, this was not implemented.

PANDEMIC

Covid-19 myths could worsen Siaya situation – trader

LAMECK BARAZA/ A Kisumu-based businessman has warned Siaya residents against peddling rumours and myths about the coronavirus.

Dan Nyibule dismissed claims that the government wants to use the Covid-19 outbreak to settle its debts.

Nyibule said such myths and misconceptions led to the massive death of residents to HIV and Aids.

He challenged Siaya leaders to sensitise residents on the outbreak to ensure that no one dies of the virus because of ignorance.

The businessman spoke in Ugunja on Tuesday while distributing water tanks, face masks and sanitiser to residents. Nyibule asked residents to observe the Ministry of Health guidelines and not rely on unverified information.

No one should wait for the pandemic to knock on their doors as they might not survive to tell tales. The virus has no cure, he said.

"It's only a mad man who will not see how the whole world has been brought to a standstill to start spreading rumours," Nyibule said. He took issue with the youths who are going on with their business with no regard to the health guidelines.

IMPEACHED BY MCAS

Lobby urges Nyong'o to sack ex-Finance CEC

MAURICE ALAL/A Kisumu lobby has asked Governor Anyang' Nyong'o to sack Energy executive Nerry Achar after a court upheld his impeachment in a previous role.

Ward reps impeached Achar on August 13, last year, when he was the Finance county executive.

They accused him of incompetence and gross violation of the Constitution. On March 9, Labour Court judge Nduma Nderi said Achar was given a fair hearing and dismissed his appeal.

Based on the ruling, Transform Empowerment for Action Initiative (TEAM) executive director George Owuor on Wednesday said Achar is illegally in office. He told Nyong'o to obey Justice Nderi's decision.

Owuor said residents and civil society groups are not aware of any appeal by Achar against the court's decision. But Achar said he has ap-

pealed the decision though he did not say when and whether in Kisumu or Nairobi.

Kisumu governor's press officer Alloys Ager said he was consulting with the county attorney for the administration's position on the matter.

Owuor asked why the governor was yet to act despite the court decision. "What contract did the two have that he cannot sack Achar? We want to know the details of their agreement," he said.

He asked Nyong'o to respect the Constitution that he swore to protect. "Nobody is above the law. The rule of law must be respected irrespective of your position," he said.

Owuor urged the county assembly to write to the SRC to ensure Achar refunds the pay he has been earning since the court upheld his impeachment.



Kisumu Deputy Governor Mathews Owili, Governor Anyang' Nyong'o and Energy executive Nerry Achar /FILE



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COUNTIES RIFT VALLEY

HAVE NO INTERNET

'Mulika mwizi don't support e-learning'

MATHEWS NDANYI / Parents in Rift Valley have criticised Education CS George Magoha for insisting that the majority of children can access learning programmes through mobile phones, TV and radio sets.

Parent Pamela Mwale said many homes did not have TVs or radios, while others had mobile phones popularly known as 'mulika mwizi' through which they could not access the internet. "Majority of parents are very poor and cannot afford to buy food let alone having smartphones. The claim that many of us can access learning material through mobile phones or electronic gadgets is just a theory," she said.

Kenya National Parents Association chairman Nicholas Maiyo said, "Parents should not be worried because CS Magoha and stakeholders are discussing easy ways to ensure our children are not left out in new education strategies."



Kenya National Parents Association chairman Nicholas Maiyo in Eldoret /**MATHEWS NDANYI**

NOT ENOUGH WATER

Shortage forces Turkana people to use dirty water

Washing with soap and clean water is necessary to prevent virus spread

HESBORN ETYANG
@TheStarKenya

Lake Zone residents in Turkana North have been forced to use dirty water from Lake Turkana to wash their hands due to a shortage of clean water.

Washing with soap and clean water is necessary to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

Residents of remote Todonyang, Lowarengak, Kataboi, Nachukui, Lomekwi and Katiko, including pastoralists, have deplored the shortage of clean water, forcing them to drink and wash with dirty lake water.

They said they are adhering to government directives to wash their hands regularly but it's futile with dirty water.

Kataboi resident Jacinta Akiru said for many years, the water problem has not been addressed, despite government funds for water.

She said they normally buy a 20-litre jerrican of water but most residents cannot afford to keep buying water to stave off the virus.

"Water shortage is a perennial issue in this region and most people depend on relief food for survival," she said. "They may not be able to raise money to buy water to wash their hands."

She urged the county to supply clean water by trucking it to them.



Residents also need soap, face masks, sanitiser and relief food or cash transfers, Akiru said.

FISHING SUSPENDED

John Logilae, a resident of Lowarengak, said they depend on fishing and relief food but due to the coronavirus crisis all fishing has been suspended, so they have no money to buy water.

Logilae too urged the county to provide plenty of clean water.

Ikal Angelei, the director of Friends of Lake Turkana (FoLT), urged the government to sensitise the public on handwashing, social distancing, avoiding gatherings and staying home for safety.

Angelei said people in remote regions haven't been properly sen-

sitised and are still attending large gatherings like weddings and dances.

"We have donated water tanks, face masks, soap and sanitiser to the community to protect themselves, he said.

"But last weekend in Namorutoot village everyone attended a traditional wedding and there was a big crowd."

Hellen Kuwom of Nangolpus in Turkana Central helps her child to wash hands to curb the spread of coronavirus /**HESBORN ETYANG**

COST OF DEFIANCE

300 quarantined in North Rift for defying directives

MATHEWS NDANYI/Counties in North Rift have tightened night curfew rules and imposed further measures to stop the spread of the coronavirus.

The number of those arrested in Eldoret, Kitale, Kapsabet and Iten for defying curfew orders and failing to comply with Covid-19 control measures increased to more than 300.

They include people found without masks, those involved in the sale of illicit liquor and those found drinking in locked bars.

Uasin Gishu Governor Jackson Mandago said they have launched a major crackdown on those undermining government's effort to control Covid-19. Those arrested in the county would be taken to forced quarantine in Kaplelach for 14 days at their own cost.

"We have been talking to people but now we will use the force of the law to ensure a few people do not take us backwards."

FINED SH500 EACH

23 are charged in Baringo for flouting health measures

JOSEPH KANGOGO/ More than 20 people were arrested and arraigned for violating the Covid-19 health regulations in Kabarnet town on Tuesday.

The suspects were found selling and buying goods in the market, walking and some hugging and talking close to each other mouth without face masks.

Authorities said they also violated social distancing rules.

"Our officers shall continue arresting anybody found violating the measures put by the government to control the spread of coronavirus" Baringo Central police boss Francis Gachoki said.

The arrests came just three days after Baringo county leaders led by Governor Stanley Kiptis mobbed-up crowds in Kabarnet town to demand the immediate transfer of county commissioner Henry Wafula over the arrest of Bartabwa MCA Reuben Chepsongol on Saturday.



Rivatex CEO Thomas Kipkurgat hands masks to Assistant Commissioner for Prisons Joseph Saitoti at Ngeria Prison on April 18 /**MATHEWS NDANYI**

WAR ON COVID-19

Governors opt for door-to-door campaigns to control virus

MATHEWS NDANYI/ Governors in the North Rift have opted for door-to-door public awareness, mobilisation and campaigns to curb the spread of Covid-19.

The counties, under North Rift Economic Bloc (Noreb), have identified gaps which hinder success in enforcement of the Covid-19 control measures.

They have deployed more than 8,000 community health workers to sensitise residents on how to prevent the spread and the importance of complying with government directives.

Uasin Gishu Health executive Evelyne Rotich said they have deployed 100 health workers to educate 300 households daily to help them comply with the

control measures. "We target to have more than 3,000 households sensitised in the next one week," she said.

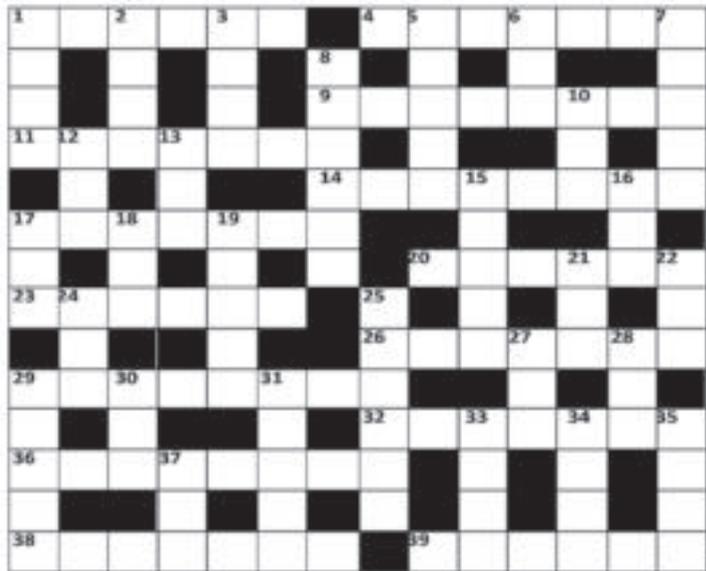
County commissioners have also directed chiefs to educate the public on the measures.

Rotich said health workers will educate residents on regular handwashing, social distancing and use of masks. Rivatex in Eldoret is currently producing 30,000 masks daily

Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital CEO Dr Wilson Aruasa said social distancing remains the main challenge in Kenya. "We have to keep on emphasising the need for our people to take seriously all the measures that have been put in place," he said.

COFFEE BREAK

CROSSWORD



DOWN

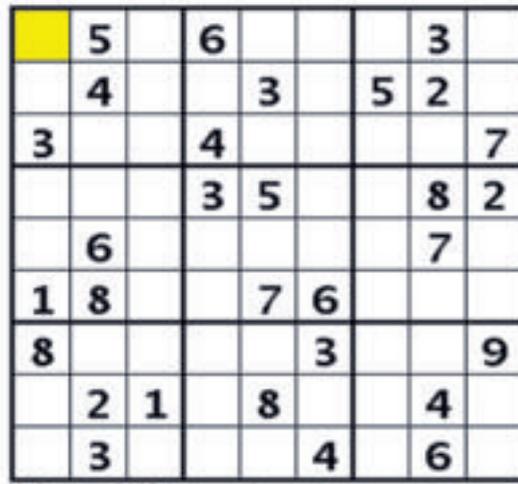
- 1 Which type of radiation consists of streams of electrons (4)
- 2 An area within a building enclosed by walls and floor and ceiling (4)
- 3 Expel (4)
- 5 One of Kenya's freedom fighters (5)
- 6 The small projection of a mammary gland (3)
- 7 Fabric of jeans (5)
- 8 Time taken for one complete oscillation (6)
- 10 Earlier in time than (3)
- 12 Destroy or injure severely (3)
- 13 East Africa Community (3)
- 15 The appropriate name of the largest moon on Saturn (5)
- 16 Flee (3)
- 17 Governor for Marsabit County (3)
- 18 The capital and largest city of Japan (3)
- 19 Senator for Turkana County (5)
- 21 Period of history (3)
- 22 External, outside (3)
- 24 A health resort near a spring or at the seaside (3)
- 25 Conclusion (6)
- 27 An udder, breast or teat (3)
- 28 And not (3)
- 29 Having two feet (5)

- 30 Floor covering consisting of a piece of thick heavy fabric (3)
- 31 An examination taken again (5)
- 33 A roster of names showing the order in which people should perform certain duties (4)
- 34 Former Governor for Marsabit County (4)
- 35 Senator for Mandera County (4)
- 37 Male possessive pronoun (3)

ACROSS

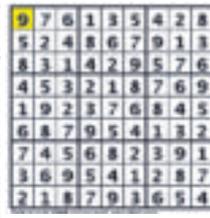
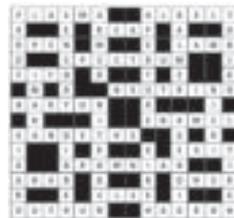
- 1 Not bearing offspring (6)
- 4 Blemished (7)
- 9 Developer of the theory of relativity (8)
- 11 Device used to measure an electrical current (7)
- 14 A line joining points of equal temperature (8)
- 17 Where in Puerto Rico would you find one of the biggest radio telescopes in the world (7)
- 20 Senator for Kisumu County (6)
- 23 A line joining points of equal pressure (6)
- 26 Hanging ornament (7)
- 29 Nearby star which exhibits the largest proper motion (8)
- 32 Senator for Marsabit County (7)
- 36 Senator for West Pokot County (8)
- 38 Ratio of mass to volume of a body (7)
- 39 Member of the class of elementary particles that interact by means of the strong force (6)

SUDOKU / SIMPLE



Fill the grid with digits so that each column, each row, and each of the sub-grids that compose the grid all contain all of the numbers from 1 to 9 one time.

Weekend's Solutions



WORD SEARCH

Find and mark all the words hidden inside the box. The words may be placed horizontally, vertically, or diagonally.



- MONDAY
- TUESDAY
- WEDNESDAY
- THURSDAY
- FRIDAY
- SATURDAY
- SUNDAY
- JANUARY
- FEBRUARY
- MARCH
- APRIL
- MAY
- JUNE
- JULY
- AUGUST
- SEPTEMBER
- OCTOBER
- NOVEMBER
- DECEMBER

ALL IN THE STARS



ARIES

March 21 – April 20

You can come up with future trends in creative fields. Be careful not to sign your time or your cash away.

TAURUS

April 21 – May 21

Don't avoid your true feelings. You can offer your mate a commitment or promise that will help stabilize your personal life.

GEMINI

May 22 – June 21

Education may be the answer. Things have been moving so quickly that you need to do something physical to release your tension.

CANCER

June 22 – July 22

You will have to face each issue separately and in person. Relationships may be hard to handle.

LEO

July 23 – August 22

You will have to be careful not to fall into traps set by jealous colleagues. Don't make any drastic changes or begin new projects today.

VIRGO

August 23 – September 23

Today is not the day to try to come people by giving them ultimatums. Get out and rub shoulders with people in high positions.

LIBRA

September 24 – October 23

Things aren't as they appear. Opportunities for new friendships are apparent. Sudden changes could result in estrangements.

SCORPIO

October 24 – November 22

Get down to business and do the work yourself. Finish overdue paperwork and catch up on letter writing and reading.

SAGITTARIUS

November 23 – December 21

Your personal life could have you tied up in knots. You will be able to contribute a great deal to organizations that you join.

CAPRICORN

December 22 – January 20

Opportunities to get ahead will be evident. You can be the recipient of valuable information if you're a good listener.

AQUARIUS

January 21 – February 19

Expect temper tantrums on the home front if you haven't been letting someone have their way.

PISCES

February 20 – March 20

Don't back down but don't ignite the situation. Don't hesitate to sign up for lectures or seminars that will enlighten you.



ODDLY ENOUGH

Pet owner panics as cat squeezes itself headfirst into vase

DAILY MAIL/ An owner's amusement at her cat's curiosity turned to panic when the puss managed to get itself stuck head-first in a glass vase.

A video filmed in Saransk in the Mordovia Republic in Russia shows the kitten exploring the inside of a glass vase with its owner chatting and giggling over the cat's playfulness.

The young cat is inquisitive about the inside of the vase as it smells and touches the bottom and sides with its rear end hilariously hanging out.

The brave kitten pushes itself up onto its front legs and rolls the rest of its body and back legs quickly and suddenly into the vase.

With only its tail hanging out the cat realises that there is no exit at the bottom of the vase and starts frantically turning itself in circles. Its owner's laugh turns into a worried yell just before she stops filming her cat.

Cats like to hide in places because their instincts make them want to be as invisible as they can from predators especially when they are unaware and sleeping for up to 20 hours a day.

The feline creatures contort themselves to fit into the smallest, warmest hiding-places because they like temperatures between 30C and 36C.

The cat's entire body is squished into the vase with its tail hanging out /DAILY MAIL



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BRANCH OFFICE (Kitengela)
Wandu House (Kilulu Uniforms)
Opp Eastmatt Store, 1st Flr, Rm 28
Tel: 0722536017, Nairobi.

PUBLIC AUCTION

Under instructions received from our Principals, we shall sell the under mentioned Property by Public Auction.

PRIME RESIDENTIAL VACANT PLOT IN MOMBASA CITY – TONONOKA AREA on Thursday 7th May, 2020 at 10:00am at our Mombasa office.

All that freed hold vacant piece / parcel of land known as **MOMBASA/BLOCK XVII/92** situated at the junction of Koinange Road and TANA Street in Tononoka Area of Mombasa Island. The property extends to zero decimal one one two three (0.1123) of Acre registered in the name of **AHMED ALI MOHAMED** and lies directly opposite Tononoka Methodist church and Kariba Bar and Restaurant.

Conditions of Sale.

1. All intending purchasers are requested to view the property and verify the details by themselves as these are not warranted by the auctioneers.
2. A deposit of 25% must be paid in cash or bankers cheque at the fall of the hammer and the balance will thereafter be payable within sixty (60) days.
3. Auctioneers deserve the right to decline any offer without assigning any reason thereof.

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ALONG MUMIAS ROAD.
P.O. Box 51839-00200 Nairobi
Phone no. 0721973704 / 0717819961

PUBLIC AUCTION

Duly instructed by our Principals, THE FINANCIERS, we shall sell by public auction the under mentioned REPOSSESSED MOTOR VEHICLES on:-

1. THURSDAY 30TH APRIL, 2020 AT S. K. DHAHABU AUCTION YARD along the NORTHERN BYPASS, NAIROBI, STARTING AT 11.00 A.M.

ITEM	REG. NO	MAKE AND MODEL	Y.O.M
1.	KCN 688R	TOYOTA AXIO	2010
2.	KCE 987R	TOYOTA AXIO	2008
3.	KCD 681Q	TOYOTA ALLION	2009
4.	KCN 900B	MERCEDES BENZ	2010
5.	KCD 250D	TOYOTA RUSH	2008
6.	KCK 320P	LANDCRUISER DISCOVERY 3	2009
7.	KCV 847Z	HONDA CRV	2006
8.	KBP 618N	TOYOTA MARK X	2001
9.	KCF 063H	TOYOTA MARK X	2008
10.	KCM 593K	HONDA INSIGHT	2010
11.	KAZ 488X	TOYOTA PRADO	2000
12.	KCF 555M	LAND CRUISER V8	T.B.A

CONDITIONS OF SALE:

1. Viewing can be done at THE RESPECTIVE YARDS to verify the details, as these are not warranted by the Auctioneer or our principals AS SALE IS "ON – AS – IS – WHERE – IS – BASIS".
2. Interested bidders are required to pay a refundable deposit of Kshs. 50,000 to obtain a bidding number.
3. The sale is strictly CASH AT THE FALL OF THE HAMMER.
4. Sale is subject to reasonable reserve prices.
5. Due to the ongoing pandemic bidders are advised to stay one meter away from each other and they should also have a mask on.

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT NO 13 OF 2019 CHANGE OF USER

The registered owner of the Plot **L.R No. Dagoretti/Kinoo/T.543**, located at Kinoo Township, Wishes to Change the use of the property from **Agricultural to Residential Multi Dwelling units (flats)** subject to approval by the Kiambu County Government. Any Individual(s), organization(s) and/or institution(s) with objections or comments to submit them in writing within 14 days of this publication to:

THE DIRECTOR OF PHYSICAL PLANNING, COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KIAMBU P.O. BOX 2344-00900 KIAMBU, KENYA

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT NO 13 OF 2019 CHANGE OF USER

The owner of Plot Title no. **L.R No. 8480/1960 (plot no.915)** Located in Mwiki proposes to Change the use of this parcel from **Residential (Single-dwelling) to Residential Multi-dwelling units(Flats)** subject to approval by Nairobi City County. Individuals, institutions, organizations etc. with objections/comments to the proposal are requested to forward them in writing within 14 days of this notice to:

The Director of Physical Planning Nairobi City County P.O Box 30075-00100 Nairobi

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT NO 13 OF 2019 CHANGE OF USER

The owner of Plot Title no. **L.R No. 1008/178** Located along Warais road in Karen proposes to Change the use of this parcel from **Residential (Single-dwelling) to Residential Multi-dwelling units(Two Town-houses)** subject to approval by Nairobi City County. Individuals, institutions, organizations etc. with objections/comments to the proposal are requested to forward them in writing within 14 days of this notice to:

The Director of Physical Planning Nairobi City County P.O Box 30075-00100 Nairobi

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT NO 13 OF 2019 CHANGE OF USE

The registered owner(s) of Land Reference No's **KIAMBU/MUNICIPALITY BLOCK 5(KIAMUMBI)/3318** located at Kiamumbi area off Kamiti Road, Kiambu Sub County intends to Change its Use from **Agricultural to Residential Multi-Dwelling Flats** subject to approval by Kiambu County Government. Individuals, institutions etc. with objection(s) to the proposal are requested to forward the same in writing within 14 (fourteen) days of this notice to:

THE DIRECTOR OF PHYSICAL PLANNING, KIAMBU COUNTY GOVERNMENT, P.O BOX 2344-00900, KIAMBU.

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SPORTS FEATURE

Another case of sibling rivalry

Wokila brothers tell how it feels like to face each other in Premier League



EVANS OUSURU
@Eousuru



When growing up, siblings are always involved in a rivalry of sorts; be it who is better in academics, who does domestic chores better, who is popular among their peers and who can do something extraordinary in school, sports or at home.

However, when the rivalry comes in the shape of competitive sports, the impetus seems to go a notch higher, sometimes straining matters and at times strengthening the bond between the siblings.

Serena and Venus Williams (tennis); Wladimir and Vitali Klitschko (boxing); Jerome and Kevin-Prince Boateng (football); Michael and Ralf Schumacher (motor racing); Anton and Rio Ferdinand (football), Kolo and Yaya Touré (football); Gary, Phil and Tracey Neville (football/netball); Fábio and Rafael Da Silva (football); Mako and Billy Vunipola (rugby); Filip and Jakob Ingebrigtsen (athletics); Olivia, Kevin, Jonathan and Dylan Borlee (athletics) are some of the most popular siblings in the world of sport.

Closer home, the Wokila trio of Sammy, Stephen and Chris are part of a long list of brothers and sisters who have erected to the pitch, representing the same team or against each other.

Sammy plays for Police, Stephen is attached to United States International University (USIU-A Mashujaa) while Chris plies his trade with Ben Owaga's Greensharks.

Sammy, the sixth born in a family of nine and the eldest of the trio recounts how he started playing hockey in Gobson, Bungoma County.

"We were all introduced to this sport by Rodgers Ayuya. We did not have a ball (cork) but Ayuya would burn some papers and roll them into a ball. We would then go to the nearby forest, cut some sticks and shape them like hockey sticks and start practising," says Sammy.

However, joining Friends School Kamusinga, a hockey powerhouse in the country and the region was catalytical to his growth in the sport. Sammy started as a defender but his principal,



Rivalry in hockey



Simon Nabukosi, spotted his attacking prowess and recommended the same to coach Albert 'Mchumba' Mutambo who deployed him as a centre forward.

The move paid dividends as Sammy helped FSK win the national and East Africa titles three times. He was a partner to iconic Butali Warriors' attacker Frank Wanangwe at Kamusinga.

Upon finishing his 'O' Levels, Sammy joined the Kenya Police team in 2016, where he is a National Police Constable.

He is a three-time Premier League title winner—twice with Strathmore 2009 and 2010 and once with the law enforcers 2017. Playing against either Greensharks or USIU is a special moment for the enigmatic striker, who has had a good stead against his brothers.

However, the tide changed last season when Greensharks rallied from 3-0 down to beat Police 4-3. Chris was the difference

as he scored a brace to carry the bragging rights. It was tough for Sammy to bear falling to his last born. "Matches against my brothers are like derbies to me. Being the leader of the crew, I always savour victory and I have proved that against them severally. Chris' passion and tough fighting spirit was the difference in that match. I don't eat when I lose a match to my brothers. The painful thing about that defeat is that his heroics came in the last quarter," Sammy narrates.

He could not face his brother afterwards. "We were staying together at that time. I just gave him the key to my house and went to spend the weekend with a friend before returning on Sunday evening," he reveals. "It is unbelievable to lose but it's shameful to be defeated by your youngest brother. He scored and I didn't."

Chris and Sammy were joint top scorers in the league in 2016 with 20 strikes—the most productive for Sammy. Their dream of playing together one day is valid.

"Nothing is impossible but I highly doubt if it will be in the Premier League. Time is like a thief, running very fast and the Masters League is the most probable. However, Chris, 25, and Stephen, 28, can play together. Keeping fit and enjoying most what they do is my advice to them."

As for Stephen, win or lose is treated in equal measure. He says: "Playing against each other is fun. We tout one another on who is better and try to prove it on the field. Losing makes me feel bad after bragging pri-

or to the match but since it's a sport, we live to fight another day. When I win, we celebrate, have a sitting and bond as brothers."

The eighth-born recalled on the brains behind their change of heart. The three were all very talented footballers but the father-figure in their eldest brother was crucial to them picking hockey. Significantly, their mother supported them wholeheartedly.

"Bernard Mbatia Wokila is nothing if not phenomenal. He only played during his time at Chavakali High School but his support was all that we needed. All of us used to play football but since there was a father figure in the family, he successfully mobilised all of us to love hockey," he said.

"Mum was a shining light to us. She was the one who motivated us and gave us fare to go for tournaments. Football was and is still part of us though we are not so much into it. Chris and Sammy can man the post very well. I was a central midfielder."

Stephen, is a teller at Diamond Trust Bank. The FSK alumnus was a nominee in the Safaricom Sports Personality of the Year Awards and finished third in the most promising player of the year in 2009, earning him a ticket to attend the Beijing Olympics.

Beating his elder brother has been fruitless but he still hopes to break the duck before hanging his boots. His dynamism enables him to play across the defence and in central midfield.

"I have never won against Police but Greensharks, yes. I guess it is true you can't fight with your elder brother and win no matter how small he looks. In a way you'll just find yourself losing. I hope to break this duck before his retirement," says Stephen.

He revealed how he missed the opportunity to play for national junior team.

"I was selected to play for the Kenya Under-18 team that participated in Egypt back in my high school days. However, my principal insisted that I must concentrate on my academics and thus failed to travel with the team."

Stephen, who has a soft for bongo and Ugandan music, says he would one day venture into coaching.

Chris, the top scorer in the league last season with 13 goals, credits his meteoric rise to Sammy and Stephen.

"The greatest advantage of being the last born is having people that you look up to and will always be there to direct you. Both have changed the course of my life by playing big roles in different ways. We also share our love as brothers," he observes.

Chris is an IT expert at Leopards Communication as a web and mobile app developer.

On beating his brother last season, he said: "He didn't want to talk to me. We were both competing to score and help our teams get maximum points and I was glad luck was on my side."

For Chris, it will be a dream come true if he can one day play alongside either of his brothers. Interestingly, he played hockey at Kakamega High School, where the sport remains secondary to rugby and football.

"When I went to Kakamega High School, I wanted to play football but then I found five solid teams. A friend of mine told me the institution only scouts for top talent and I found myself an outsider in this category. That's how I quit," he says. "I then went to the hockey pitch, took a stick and started dribbling. The coach saw me and told me to come in full kit the next day. That weekend, there was a tournament and I was included in the list. That's how I got into hockey."

Chris is concerned with the standards of hockey in Kenya both at national and club level. He observes that if sponsors could come on board, then the game would be at a different level. However, he reckoned that progress is being made, though slowly, if last season's activities are anything to go by.

"We really did well last season in trying to increase the visibility of the sport. We got to air the first Premier League match live on Facebook and you could easily see the impact it made to hockey lovers," he says.

"It started feeling like the tide would change this season but then COVID-19 happened. We are still holding our breath, hoping that the uncertainty will end soon and allow us resume to action."

Aside from his brothers, Sikh Union's striker Davis Wanangwe is his inspiration. "Davis was the best lethal forward of his generation. I am yet to see a forward who had his eye for goal. That's what I always wanted to be as a player... strong, powerful fearful and predatory."

Chris is ready to return to the national team after being overlooked during the Olympic qualifiers last year in South Africa. Previously, he represented the country in the World Hockey League in Ghana.

'SAMMY PLAYS FOR POLICE, STEPHEN IS ATTACHED TO USIU-A MASHUJAA WHILE CHRIS PLIES HIS TRADE WITH BEN OWAGA'S GREENSHARKS.'

1. Samuel Wokila (R) of Police contests for the ball with Kenneth Nyongesa of Kisumu Simba **/ERICK BARASA**

2. Greensharks' Chris Wokila in action against Calvins Kanu of Police **/ERICK BARASA**

3. Samuel Oungo of Kenya Police (L) shields the ball from Chris Wokila of Greensharks during a KHU Premier League match at City Park **/ERICK BARASA**

4. Samuel Wokila of Police drives the ball from Dan Simiyu of Jaguars during their KHU league match at City park stadium **/ERICK BARASA**

SPORTS LOCAL

FOOTBALL

Former Cecafta secretary general, Nicholas Musonye during a press conference
/FILE



'Go for top seat'

Former Cecafta secretary Musonye asked to vie for FKF's presidency

BY CALISTUS LUCHETU/ Soccer stakeholders across the country now want former Cecafta secretary general, Nicholas Musonye to vie for the Football Kenya Federation top seat in the forthcoming election.

Former Kakamega Homeboyz and Chemelil FC coach Alfred Imonje said Musonye was not only ripe but was the right candidate for the seat considering his performance at the regional level.

"He is the right person to streamline football in the country and bring back sanity in the wake of the current controversy that has rocked the sport," he said.

He said: "The current management of soccer in this country is worrying and therefore as the stakeholders in the football industry, we want to urge Musonye to consider vying for the top seat."

He said Musonye's achievements

'HE IS THE RIGHT PERSON TO STREAMLINE FOOTBALL IN THE COUNTRY AND BRING BACK SANITY'

at Cecafta was there for all to see and was very adorable. "Musonye has really done great work by building a good network that has even seen Cecafta events become some of the most recognised tournaments by Fifa.

"Through his leadership skills, we have seen the wide gap that used to exist between East Africa and West African teams narrowing. Unlike in the past, we are seeing many teams in the region competing in Caf organised tournaments," Imonje reiterated.

He added that the state of football in the country at the moment was at the lowest ebb and if this trend continues, it will affect the local football badly and this could demoralise the players who are key in the industry.

He also observed that the rate at which sponsors are walking away from football due to lack of trans-

parency was so worrying and it was only Musonye who could salvage the situation.

"He has done it with Cecafta and there is no reason why he can't do it locally. He has the capability of bringing sponsors on board and restoring faith in the investors."

"We believe Musonye is the only person who can change and improve Kenyan Soccer and we hope and believe he will consider our challenge," said Imonje.

His sentiments were supported by Fred Lugalia who said it was high time for Musonye to transfer his good leadership skills to his native country as he seeks to extend his legacy in football.

After the COVID-19 pandemic more candidates are expected to come out and seek votes from the delegates as the race begins to shape up in the near future.

FOOTBALL

Invest in personal health covers, KPL players told

MESHACK KISENGE/ For the umpteenth time, Kakamega Homeboyz chairman Cleophas Shimanyula has challenged Kenyan Premier League players to seek personal health covers to supplement their employers' efforts to cushion them when disaster strikes.

The business was speaking when he went to check on ailing Nzoia Sugar attacking midfielder Jeremiah Wanjala, who is admitted at the Nala Hospital in Kakamega.

On Friday, photos of a debilitated Wanjala, who joined the sugar millers from Posta Rangers in January, emerged online with reports suggesting that he was battling reoccurring stomach problems.

Shimanyula said after receiving the photos from a friend, he swung into action and necessitated the player's search for medical attention at Kakamega Hospital where he tested positive for typhoid and malaria.

Despite pledging to support the September 2017 player until he is back on his feet, Shimanyula insists players must invest in health covers.

"Players should understand that their health matters a lot and it's time they invested in it. Their clubs could be offering some assistance but will not extend the same to their families. After receiving Wanjala's case I had to facilitate his admission and treatment at Kakamega Hospital and later we were referred to Nala," said Shimanyula. "Had the player been armed with a personal cover, he would have sought treatment earlier. He was once my player and we will continue to support him until he fully recovers," he said.

Posta Rangers Jeremiah Wanjala (L) contests for the ball with AFC Leopards' defender Salim Abdalla
/FILE



ATHLETICS

Saruni decries lack of proper training

BY EMMANUEL SABUNI/ Former World Indoor 600m record holder Michael Saruni has expressed the struggles he is enduring in the United States of America after the country was placed on lockdown due to coronavirus pandemic.

The third-year Political Science student at the University of Texas–El Paso (UTEP) wishes he was back home in Kenya, where anti-COVID-19 measures are not as tough as in America.

"There is nothing I can do here. The rules and laws are so hard to evade unlike back in Kenya. I wish I was at home," he lamented.

"I pay for everything; school fees, rent, food and training programme but due to the virus, I don't train or compete anymore. There is nothing I can do to sustain myself," said Saruni.

"If found outside without good reason, the fine

is 1,000 dollars or 14-days in self-quarantine. To be on the safe side, better stay indoors. Running is my only source of livelihood but it's now impossible."

The former Kabimoi High School student in Baringo County said his scholarship has expired and thus left to fend for himself in a foreign land.

"Before the pandemic, I was on fire, at the top of my fitness but that remains past tense. Each time an athlete feels he or she is good, competing is the only option but now I don't know what the future holds for me," he said.

He said the Kenyan government is yet to offer them any help.

"At the personal level, I have not received anything from the Kenyan government, just like the rest of other Kenyan students here. I am praying that this pandemic comes to an end soon," he hoped.



Michael Saruni during a past Collegiate championship
/FILE

SPORTS INTERNATIONAL

LA LIGA

La Liga clubs pledge 200m euros to other sports, lower leagues

MADRID/ Clubs in Spain's top two divisions have agreed to give an additional 200 million euros over the next four years to boost Spanish sports and lower leagues, the league's organising body La Liga said in a statement on Tuesday.

Since signing a collective broadcasting rights deal in 2015, La Liga has donated 1% of its revenue to Spain's sports ministry. It has increased this to 2.5 per cent as part of a new agreement, while it has doubled its contribution to the national soccer federation (RFEF) from 1 per cent to 2 per cent.

The agreement comes after an eight-hour meeting between La Liga's president Javier Tebas and RFEF chief Luis Rubiales, who have had a long-running dispute over how Spanish soccer should be run, and the sports minister Irene Lozano.

"This agreement looks to help sport not just in these moments of the crisis provoked by COVID-19 but forever," said the statement.

"This is a structural measure with no time limit which will

strengthen the commitment of the professional clubs and La Liga with Spanish sport."

Many La Liga clubs have been damaged financially by the pause in football due to the COVID-19 pandemic and have enacted wage cuts, although other sports and non-professional clubs have also been hit during the national state of emergency. The virus has so far infected more than 200,000 people in Spain, claiming 21,282 lives.

La Liga's statement added that it would be contributing a total of 51 million euros per year to the sports ministry as a result of the new agreement, which would go towards "creating a fund to help boost organised sport, Olympic and Paralympic sports and internationalisation of sport".

The 1 per cent increase to the RFEF would mean an increase of 17 million euros, taking its total contribution to the federation to 58.7 million euros, which would go towards "improving infrastructure and improving the competitiveness of non-professional leagues.



Real Sociedad's Martin Odegaard in action with Atletico Madrid's Marcos Llorente / REUTERS



SERIE A

Consensus at last

Italian Serie 'A' clubs unanimously agree to end the season

ROME/ Italy's 20 Serie A teams have buried their differences and unanimously agreed that they should try and complete the 2019-20 season which is currently at a standstill because of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Previously, several clubs, including Sampdoria and Torino, had opposed carrying on while Brescia went further, saying they would prefer to forfeit matches rather than take to the field.

However, Serie A said in a statement that everyone now agreed they should try and finish the season, which has been suspended since March 9.

"The Serie A general assembly met this morning and confirmed, with a unanimous vote of all 20 clubs connected by video conference, the intention to complete

Udinese's Wallace in action with Inter Milan's Romelu Lukaku / REUTERS

the 2019-2020 football season, if the government allows it to take place," said the statement.

It added that the resumption of play would take place "in compliance with medical protocols for the protection of players and all professionals."

The Italian Football Federation (FIGC) has said that it wants the season to finish, even if it takes until the autumn. It hopes that teams can start training in May although there is still no indication of when, or if, the government will allow matches to be played again.

Officials from the FIGC and Serie A were due to meet government representatives yesterday.

The FIGC has said that, if the season was simply called off, there could be an "avalanche of litigation" from clubs who felt they had

lost out. There are still 12 of the 38 rounds of matches to play, while several teams also have outstanding matches from earlier rounds.

Juventus lead with 63 points from 26 games, one ahead of Lazio while Lecce, SPAL and Brescia occupy the three relegation spots.

Elsewhere, the Dutch football season was effectively ended on Tuesday after the government extended a ban on major public events by three months, the Dutch football association (KNVB) said in a statement.

The KNVB said it would not continue efforts to try to complete the 2019-20 campaign, but would first consult with European football's governing body, Uefa, which has been pushing member countries to try to finish their seasons.

FOOTBALL

Swiss league submits detailed proposition for possible return to action

BERN/ The Swiss football league (SFL) says it has submitted a detailed plan to the government, drawn up in co-operation with health experts, for the possible resumption of training and matches in the aftermath of the coronavirus shutdown.

The Swiss government last week announced a gradual end to restrictions aimed at curbing the spread of the novel coronavirus, starting with beauty salons and hairdressers on April 27.

This raised hopes the football season, which was suspended on March 2, could get underway again in the near future.

Football in Europe is currently at a standstill although teams in neighbouring Germany and Austria have restarted training under strict social distancing restrictions in preparation for a resumption of their seasons.

The SFL said in a statement that restarting the championship, even with matches played behind closed doors, could be a positive sign for the country in general but was also necessary to prevent the financial ruin of Swiss football.

"With the resumption of play with 'ghost games' (matches without spectators), under scientific supervision and combined with a risk management concept, top football wants to send a signal that it is possible to return to something closer to normality as soon as possible," it said.

"This seems to be the only viable way to save Swiss professional football in its current form while at the same time complying with the important requirements for the protection of players and the population."

The SFL, which teamed up with the Institute of Infectious Diseases (IfIK) at Bern University, said the plan contained "possible scenarios for the resumption of training operations and the organisation of ghost games and is intended to serve as a basis for a decision by the authorities on professional football."

It said the documents were also intended as a general guide "to show how training, competitions and also leisure sports activities can take place again within the framework of the protective measures that are still in force".

THE FIGC HAS SAID THAT, IF THE SEASON WAS SIMPLY CALLED OFF, THERE COULD BE AN "AVALANCHE OF LITIGATION"

SPORTS INTERNATIONAL



PREMIER LEAGUE

Tour shelved

Citizens Uefa ban appeal up in air as CAS grapples with virus

LONDON/ West Ham United and Crystal Palace have indefinitely postponed their July tour to Queensland, Australia because of the novel coronavirus outbreak, both Premier League clubs announced on Wednesday.

West Ham United and Palace were scheduled to meet A-League side Brisbane Roar, coached by former England striker Robbie Fowler in the inaugural Queensland Champions Cup.

The exhibition event was set to take place in three cities—Townsville, Gold Coast and Brisbane—along the Queensland coast from July 11 to 18 with each team playing two matches.

"It is bitterly disappointing not to be able to make the club's landmark trip to Queensland this July," Palace chairman Steve Parish said in a statement.

"We'll do everything we possibly can to try to rearrange the tour for 2021, once things become clear with the Premier League schedule for the remainder of this season, and next

year's provisional timings, too."

Soccer in England was suspended indefinitely last month due to the flu-like virus, which has infected 2.5 million people globally causing over 172,900 deaths. West Ham manager David Moyes said the clubs had made the right decision to postpone the tour.

"This is a situation that has affected the entire world, though, and the only thing that matters at this time is that people stay safe and well," Moyes said in a statement.

Elsewhere, Sheffield United's players have agreed to defer part of their salaries and bonuses until the end of the year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Premier League club said in a statement. The players join manager Chris Wilder, his senior coaching staff and CEO Stephen Bettis, who agreed on Monday to defer part of their pay and bonuses for six months due to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus.

"The entire professional playing staff... (have accepted)... a partial pay deferral, plus bonus payments,

until the end of 2020," the Blades said in a statement.

United are the latest top-flight club in England to announce wage deferrals for players, following similar moves by Southampton and West Ham United. Arsenal said on Monday that their players and coaching staff agreed to accept a 12.5% pay cut.

"I am pleased that we have reached an agreement with our first-team players, manager and backroom staff to help support the club," United CEO Bettis said.

"It is a difficult period for everyone, but our football club also needs to be taken care of and I'm delighted that the players want to mirror the gesture of Chris and the staff by contributing, it confirms they care about Sheffield United."

The Blades won promotion from the Championship (second-tier) last season and were seventh in the Premier League table when soccer in England was suspended indefinitely last month due to the coronavirus outbreak.



Spurs' Serge Aurier challenges Liverpool's Sadio Mane in past action /REUTERS

PREMIER LEAGUE

Spurs' Aurier, Sissoko sorry for social distancing breach

LONDON/Tottenham Hotspur defender Serge Aurier and midfielder Moussa Sissoko have apologised for breaching government guidelines on social distancing during the novel coronavirus outbreak after posting a video of themselves training together.

Ivorian Aurier shared a series of videos on social media of himself and Frenchman Sissoko doing shuttle runs together but later deleted them.

"We wish to apologise for not setting the right example here," the pair said in a joint statement

West Ham's Grady Diangana in action with Manchester United's Marcus Rashford /REUTERS

FOOTBALL

Virus-fighting mascot pulled out after leaving Singapore fans angry

BENGALURU/ Singapore's government has axed an entire team of coronavirus-fighting mascots after one Liverpool-hating member of the five-strong band of fictional superheroes ended up enraging a section of the city's passionate soccer supporters.

The mascot, named MAWA (Must Always Walk Alone) Man, a play on Liverpool's anthem 'You'll Never Walk Alone', was described on the government's website on a since-deleted page as "a Manchester United fan from the 80s".

MAWA Man enforced social distancing using telekinetic powers gained from his hatred of United's bitter rivals Liverpool and he formed part of the Virus Vanguard.

The English Premier League has a vast fan following in Asia and current leaders Liverpool are one of the most popular clubs, so it wasn't long before irate fans launched an online petition calling for MAWA Man's removal.

"You'll Never Walk Alone' is a song that was collectively used by most European radio stations as a show of solidarity amidst the COVID-19 lockdowns," said the change.org petition, which gained more than 850 signatures.

"This campaign appears to be an attempt to make a mockery of the song. This is distasteful and extremely disrespectful."

The outcry prompted the Singapore government to quickly roll back the campaign. "The Virus Vanguard is undergoing a review. We have received quite a lot of feedback on the characters and we will be reviewing them. We are sorry if we offended anyone," the government said in a statement on its Facebook page.

"As this is the first time we are exploring this content format, we appreciate your patience."

MAWA Man's creator also apologised in a comment below the government's Facebook post.

"I apologise that the characters came across insensitive," artist Mas Shafreen said. "I am a Man Utd fan and I will be the first to admit that Liverpool is doing well, unlike Man U."

Liverpool fans inside the Anfield Stadium during a recent match /REUTERS



released to the British media.

"We recognise that as professional footballers we have a responsibility to be role models, particularly during this uncertain period that everyone around the world is facing.

"We must all respect the government advice to minimise the number of lives lost during this pandemic. We cannot thank NHS staff enough for their tireless work... and we shall both be making a financial donation to show our support."

The Premier League was suspended last month because of

the COVID-19 pandemic and the government has asked the public to stay at home to help slow the spread of the virus.

Reported cases of the virus have crossed 2.5 million globally and more than 172,900 people have died. Spurs boss Jose Mourinho was photographed at an outdoor training session at Hadley Common with midfielder Tanguy Ndombele earlier this month.

Defenders Davinson Sanchez and Ryan Sessegnon were also filmed by passers-by running together through the park.

SPORTS INTERNATIONAL

PREMIER LEAGUE

Questions raised over Newcastle takeover

BeIN Sports & Amnesty tell EPL to 'fully interrogate' Magpies' £300m sale

BY DAN ROAN / The Premier League has been urged by one of its largest overseas broadcast partners to "fully interrogate" Newcastle United's proposed £300m takeover.

The chief executive of the Qatar-based TV giant beIN Sport, Yousef al-Obaidly, has written to the chairs of top-flight clubs about the deal, which could see the Magpies bought by a Saudi-backed consortium. Al-Obaidly accuses the Saudi Arabian government of the "facilitation of the near three-year theft of the Premier League's commercial rights – and in turn your club's commercial revenues – through its backing of the huge-scale beoutQ pirate service".

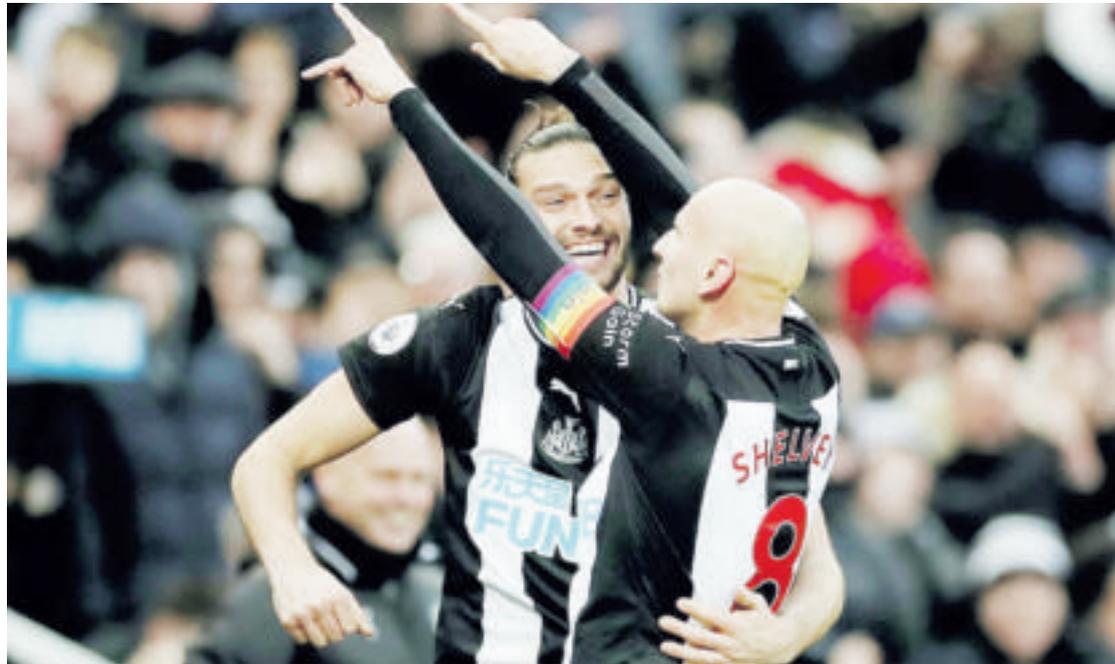
"It is no exaggeration to say that the future economic model of football is at stake," added Al-Obaidly, who has also written to Premier League chief executive Richard Masters.

Newcastle United takeover

Broadcaster beoutQ has been illegally showing matches – mainly in Saudi Arabia – despite the rights to show games in the region belonging to beIN Sports, who are currently in the middle of a three-year deal with the Premier League worth £400m. Last year football authorities attempted to shut the beoutQ service down without success.

Saudi broadcaster Arabsat has always denied that beoutQ uses its frequencies to broadcast illegally and has accused beIN of being behind "defamation attempts and misleading campaigns". Describing the issue as "a matter of urgency", Al-Obaidly continues: "Given the crippling economic effect that coronavirus is having on the sports industry, this is all happening at a time when football clubs need to protect their broadcast revenue the most." Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund the PIF (Public Investment Fund) is understood to be set to acquire an 80% stake in the club as part of a consortium including financier Amanda Staveley and billionaires the Reuben brothers. Mike Ashley has owned Newcastle since 2007 and put them up for sale in 2017. In his letter to Masters, al-Obaidly says: "To the extent the reports about the acquisition of NUFC are correct, we consider it essential for the Premier League to fully investigate the potential acquirer of the club, including all directors, officers and other representatives from the KSA PIF or other Saudi Arabian entities involved in, or otherwise providing any financing for the acquisition.

"There appear to be several reasons why such an investigation is being called for by other parties; our request is purely based on Saudi Arabia's past and present theft of your and your member clubs' intellectual property rights." The Premier League must decide whether the group of investors



Newcastle United's Jonjo Shelvey celebrates with teammate Andy Carroll after scoring
/REUTERS

backed by Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund meets its owners' and directors' test and is understood to currently be in the process of working through paperwork connected to the deal, which could take two to three weeks.

BeIN have asked the Premier League in its owners' and directors' test to consider "the direct role of Saudi Arabia" in the beoutQ service, the challenge the Premier League faces in "taking any action to protect its own intellectual property rights in the country" and its ability to "enforce" its rules against "Saudi Arabian based persons or entities".

This comes during a time when both Saudi Arabia and Qatar are involved in a wider diplomatic row in the Middle East. BeIN is not thought to be considering its partnership with the Premier League, though last year the group did threaten to pull its deal with Serie A over the decision to stage the Italian Super Cup in Saudi Arabia.

Amnesty criticise takeover

Human rights campaigners Amnesty International have also criticised the potential deal. Amnesty UK director Kate Allen said in a separate letter to Masters: "So long as these questions (about Saudi Arabia's human rights record) remain unaddressed, the Premier League is putting itself at risk of becoming a patsy of those who want to use the glamour and prestige of Premier League football to cover up actions that are deeply immoral, in breach of international law and at odds with the values of the Premier League and the global footballing community."

BBC Sport has contacted the Saudi wealth fund and representatives of the consortium asking for a response to Amnesty's letter. The Premier League declined to comment on the

Amnesty letter and Newcastle have also been approached by BBC Sport.

Amnesty – a non-governmental organisation which focuses on human rights – has long criticised Saudi Arabia's human rights record, pointing to long-standing issues including women's rights, the treatment of the LGBT community and the restriction of free speech.

Western intelligence agencies also believe the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul in October 2018 was ordered by the Crown Prince – something he denies. Saudi authorities blamed a "rogue operation" for Khashoggi's death.

The country has also been accused of 'sportswashing', a term used to describe countries that try to improve their international reputation by investing in major teams or hosting big sporting events.

"The Crown Prince has been using sporting events and personalities as a means of improving the Kingdom's reputation following the grisly murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi – widely believed to have taken place with his approval," said AI.

"Such positive associations with sporting events also distract attention from Saudi's appalling human rights record, including the imprisonment and torture of women human rights defenders."

Accusations of sportswashing have previously been rebuffed by the man heading Saudi Arabia's investment in sports, HRH Prince Abdulaziz bin Turki Al Faisal. "We want to get people more engaged in sport," he said. "In 2015 just 13 per cent of Saudis took part in sports for half an hour or more each week; we want that to be 40 percent by 2030. This is all part of a programme designed to get people more active."

LA LIGA

42 captains up against plans for closed training camps in Spain

BY SHEILA DANG AND TOM HALS

Players from Spain's leading clubs have expressed concern about returning to work while the coronavirus is still a threat and are against La Liga's plans to hold closed training camps, the association of Spanish footballers' (AFE) has said.

Captains from all 42 teams in La Liga and Spanish soccer's second division held a video meeting with the players' association (AFE) on Tuesday to discuss conditions for returning to work.

All soccer has been on hold since March 10 due to the spread of the virus in Spain, which has more than 200,000 confirmed infections, the most in Europe, with the second-highest death toll on the continent behind Italy, at over 21,000.

Although no date has been set for a return to training or matches, both La Liga and the Spanish soccer federation have pledged they will try to ensure the season is completed.

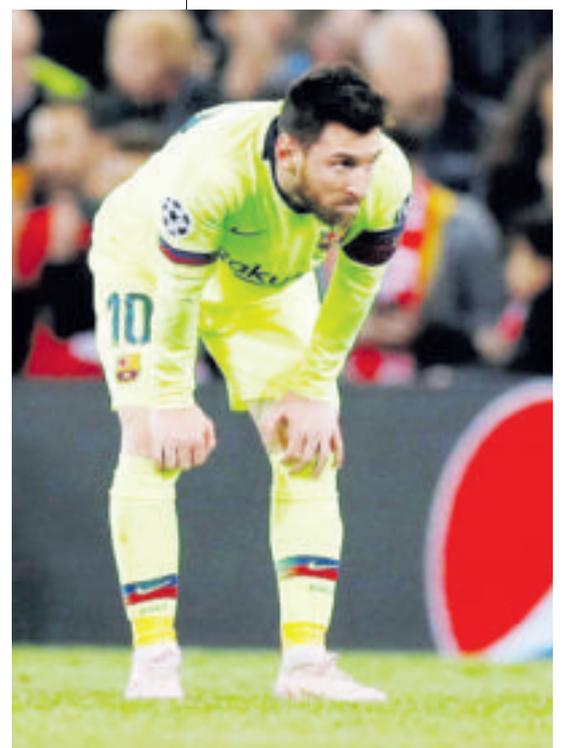
La Liga chief Javier Tebas has said Spanish clubs would lose around one billion euros if the campaign cannot be finished.

The league has been working on a protocol establishing conditions for a return to training, which recommends that teams hold closed training camps at facilities, a move which Barca's Sergio Busquets said he was against.

The captains underlined their opposition to closed training camps during Tuesday's meeting, an AFE spokesman said, adding that players would be informing the government's department for sport and the health ministry of their concerns about returning to action.

"The players have shown their utmost concern for the situation society is experiencing at the moment and in particular about the health conditions they will find themselves in when they return to normal activity," he added.

Barcelona captain Lionel Messi
/REUTERS





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FOOTBALL

WOKILA BROTHERS NARRATE SIBLING RIVALRY IN KHU

PAGES 34-35



SPORTS

FOOTBALL FKF SAYS DIRECTIVE DOESNT MEAN INSTANT CASH

A sigh of relief

Clubs welcome government's request for players' information



MESHACK KISENGE
@kisengemeshack1



Kenneth Muguna of Gor battles Leopards' Vincent Oburu in recent 'Mashemeji Derby' / FILE

Football clubs in the country have lauded the government for making the initial step in cushioning vulnerable players during the coronavirus pandemic.

The government had, through Football Kenya Federation, asked clubs in the top five leagues in the country to submit names of their contracted players and technical by yesterday.

The Ministry of Sports have requested for names of 25 players and five technical bench members from across the Kenyan Premier League, National Super League, Women's Premier League, men and women's Division One league.

The ministry had come under intense criticism from football and other sports stakeholders after channeling Sh100 million in support of local artists. The latest

move is yet an indication of light at the end of the tunnel.

Gor Mahia chief executive officer, Lordvick Aduda, termed the move as timely even as chairman Ambrose Rachier revealed that their players earned a paltry Sh3,000 last month.

"We welcome the government's request for information. This implies that financial support is in the pipeline. However, it is my plea that the government considers players who ply their trade in Division Two and County leagues," said Aduda.

His Muhoroni Youth and Chemelil Sugar counterpart Moses Adagala hailed the government for the intervention. Chemelil are among clubs struggling to make ends meet.

"It's a good initiative. It shows that the government is aware of the sorry state of our leagues and the struggle our players are going through each day," said the vocal chairman.

Tusker chairman Daniel Aduda

said the move will go a long way in assisting players who have been deprived of allowances from the time the league was suspended.

"At the moment, we are paying salaries only. The boys used to enjoy allowances when we were active. The money from the government will help us fill the allowances basket," said Aduda.

NSL side FC Talanta's team manager David Chweya revealed that any assistance from the government will help them pay their March salaries.

"Any financial help from the government will help us pay March salaries and boost the boys now that they are not getting allowances," he said.

Meanwhile, FKF President Nick Mwendwa sought to explain that the government's directive did not mean instant finances and called on the clubs to exercise patience.

He said he was keen to engage the Ministry and Fifa in a bid to cushion referees and other stakeholders too.

SWIMMING

KSF shelve events for next 5 months

BY WILLIAM NJUGUNA/ All local swimming championships slated for May and June have been postponed to September due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Kenya Swimming Federation (KSF) chairman Patrick Muyah said with a government ban on all sporting activities and restriction on movement, it is impossible to have some of the events next month.

"With what is going around us, we can't take chances. The safety and health of swimmers are paramount and we will have to wait until we are given the go-ahead by the government to resume operations," he added.

Some of the events included the national championship and Inter-school tournaments among others. Muyah said the postponement of the Olympic Games to next year gives the swimmers a chance to sharpen themselves and get the qualification times for the show.

"It's a window of opportunity for our swimmers with the next 12 months enough to get into good shape and attain the qualification mark for Tokyo," he added.

A provisional squad of four swimmers — Emily Muteti, Issa Abdulla, Danilo Rosafo and Maria Brunlehner — were named in January for Tokyo show. The KSF chairman expressed confidence that the quartet will still fly the flag high at the games despite the postponement.

"They are our best swimmers in the country and they are training under the best coaches abroad. I am sure come the games next year, they will do the country proud," he added. Elsewhere, Sports Dispute Tribunal chairman John Ohaga said progress is being made towards having the KSF elections.

Emily Muteti in past action /FILE

