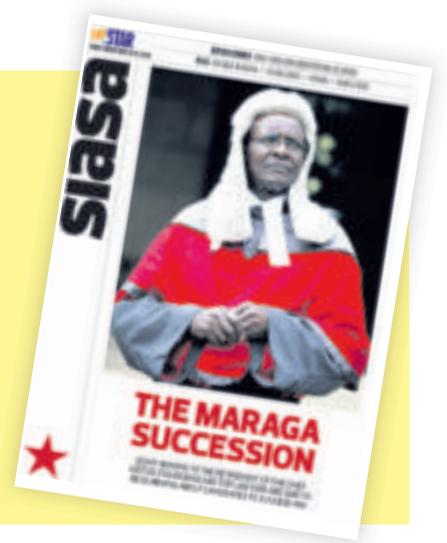


To win war on the coronavirus, Kenya needs effective response plan



NEW IMPETUS STATE HAS TAKEN BACK 3,954 ACRES IN NAIROBI, PLANS EVICTIONS WITHIN METROPOLIS

Kenyatta's massive blow to land grabbers

Head of state targets to reclaim over 6,672 acres of public land illegally allocated PG4-5

CORONAVIRUS

HELPING THE HOMELESS

Provide take-away food

Food donations should be shelf-stable

Set up donation drop-off points to encourage social distancing

Launder donated clothing, sheets, towels, or other fabrics on high heat settings

Disinfect nonporous items, such as those made of plastic

STAR · ILLUSTRATED SOURCE: CENTRE FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

SERIAL MURDER?

Burrowing killers butcher mum and her daughter in Nyandarua

It happened again. A killer or killers tunneled through a wall: A 30-year-old Nyandarua woman and her five-year-old daughter were murdered early Thursday morning in their Chekaleri village home, Ol Joro Orok.

PAGE 3

PROJECTS WILL STALL

MPs reject proposal to cut CDF by Sh10bn to fight coronavirus

MPs have rejected attempts by the National Treasury to deduct Sh10 billion from NG-CDF coffers to raise cash for the Covid-19 emergency response. The Budget and Appropriations team said substantial proportion had been committed.

PAGE 8

WORLD MALARIA DAY

Similar symptoms: Why Covid patients should test for malaria

Suspected or confirmed Covid-19 patients in malaria-endemic areas might be required to receive a malaria diagnostic test should WHO rules be adopted. Similarly, those confirmed to have malaria will have to undergo Covid-19 tests.

PAGE 10



Health CAS Mercy Mwangangi during a press conference on coronavirus at Afya House on Thursday
/MERCY MUMO

CONTAINMENT MEASURES

State to announce review of corona rules next week

CAS says team has been set up to assess impact of restrictions

STAR REPORTER
@TheStarKenya

The decision on whether to tighten or loosen the coronavirus measures will be communicated next week.

A team has been set up to assess and review the impact of the various measures, among them hand washing, social distancing, 60 per cent occupancy in PSVs and take-away services by hotels.

"We have come up with a matrix that will be evaluated this Sunday during the NERC meeting and, therefore, decisions will be made as to whether these containment measures need to be tightened or loosened," Health CAS Mercy Mwangangi said on Thursday.

In addition, the committee will evaluate the issue of cost and billing of Covid-19 patients in health facilities and give direction.

"We have a database currently looking at the different billing data both in public and private facilities and we are engaging dif-

ferent players to be able to define a mechanism that will be adequate in ensuring Kenyans who may not be able to meet these bills are taken care of," she said.

The number of positive cases as at Thursday was 320 after 17 additional cases were reported.

The 17 were picked from 668 samples that had been tested within 24 hours.

They included nine men and eight women aged between 22 and 60. Twelve were from Nairobi and five from Mombasa.

Fifteen were picked by the surveillance teams while two were from mandatory quarantine centres.

PATIENTS DISCHARGED

Six more patients were discharged from health facilities, bringing the total number of recoveries to 89.

"However, we are also noticing a trend where we are getting newer admissions every single day. I am happy to announce that other than two who are in ICU, the rest are mild cases and will hopefully be discharged in the proper order of time," Mwangangi said.

The ministry has emphasised the need for consistency in discipline among the youth, adding that world over, it has emerged that the majority of the asymptomatic positives are children and young adults.

Mwangangi said asymptomatic transmissions pose a challenge to the containment of Covid-19.

"It is, therefore, imperative that all our frontline people—truck drivers, matatu drivers, journalists, bankers, security and health personnel—wash their hands with running water and soap, and wear face masks at all times," she said.

The CAS advised Kenyans against over-reliance on sanitiser, adding that while it is effective, soap and running water are the best for fighting the virus.

Sanitiser should only be used in exceptional circumstances, she

said. Industries have also been urged to focus on producing quality sanitising products to avoid creating new problems while solving the Covid-19 problem.

"We have observed that some public service vehicles are defying social distancing regulations, and are increasingly sliding back to the old ways of conducting business," Mwangangi said.

"Action shall be taken against any matatu found carrying more than the recommended number of passengers."

The ministry said being quarantined is neither detention nor punishment, but rather a measure meant to serve the greater good.

Mwangangi urged Kenyans to stop stigmatising those sent to quarantine facilities and those who have recovered from the disease.

"The fact that we have many who have recovered is an indication that we are capable of effectively managing and defeating this disease," she said.

The government announced that individuals taken into quarantine facilities for breaching curfew directives will be tested for Covid-19 and released if they turn negative.

Acting director general of Health Patrick Amoth has said on Thursday those released will be advised to self-quarantine.

He said quarantine facilities have now fast tracked coronavirus testing to allow the release of those who test negative from the centres.

Mwangangi cautioned against the stigmatisation of those sent to the facilities.

"Being quarantined is neither detention, nor a punishment. Quarantine is meant to serve the greater public good, which is public health," she said.

On April 15, Health CS Mutahi Kagwe announced that total of 455 individuals have been put in mandatory 14-day quarantine.

for failing to adhere to curfew regulations.

TEMPORARY ORDERS

Church media free to air services live

ANNETTE WAMBULWA/Confronted by empty churches during the virus crisis, bishops, pastors and their media teams can now broadcast live services.

Justice James Makau issued temporary orders on Thursday allowing church broadcasting crews and church leaders to air their services.

However, they must abide by all the state regulations, such as social distancing, handwashing and sanitising. Gatherings, including church service, have been banned because the coronavirus is easily transmitted in crowds.

Two pastors had sued to suspend the directive banning church gatherings. Justice Makau barred the police from victimising or harassing the group of people in church for purposes of broadcasting.

"Pending the hearing and determination of this application, the courts be pleased to order alternative forms of worship such as broadcasting of church services, be allowed on specific days."

"[This is] to allow various churches to broadcast to their faithful congregants without victimisation and harassment of the broadcasting crew, church elders, leaders and congregants who will be part of the church service," the order reads.

ALLOWANCES DISPUTE

Health workers issue strike notice

MAGDALINE SAYA/Health care in the country might be disrupted in seven days after unions threatened to call their members on strike over disparities in risk allowance.

They want the allowances harmonised, saying some workers get Sh20,000 and others Sh3,000.

The unions are Kenya National Union of Nurses, Kenya Union of Clinical Officers, Kenya National Union of Medical Laboratory Officers, Kenya Health Professionals Society and the Kenya National Union of Pharmaceuticals Technologists.

"It is the feeling of the health workers that the awarding of this particular allowance did not consider the factors that inform who is at the highest risk in the line of health care provision," KUCO chairman Peterson Wachira said.

He said the determination of exposure to risk should take into consideration time, work environment and, most importantly, knowledge of the risk.

"The current pandemic puts every health worker at risk, with the greatest risk to frontline health workers who always get infected and have the highest number of infection among health professionals yet they are the least considered and lowly paid," Wachira said.

The unions want frontline workers to be paid Sh30,000, which is "commensurate with the risk".

They complained that most health workers were having challenges with transport, with cases reported of police harassment and arrests on their way home from duty.

They want the government to either provide commuter allowance or vehicles to take them home after work.

The government should provide accommodation for those working in high-risk facilities such as isolation and quarantine areas and high-risk counties, they say.

"It is unfortunate counties are employing clinical officers on casual contracts with a gross salary as low as Sh30,000, which is exploitative and demotivating to our members," Wachira said.

The workers want all short-term contracts remunerated as permanent and pensionable, and those on long-term contracts admitted to the permanent and pensionable category.

They want the employment of additional health workers fast-tracked to ease pressure on existing staff.

The unions said their leadership had been left out of planning for Covid-19 mitigation, making them unaware of plans by the government to protect and motivate their members.

They said it was unfair for them to be left out when their working conditions were being discussed.



STAR SURVEY

TODAY'S QUESTION

Have you suffered from malaria in the past year?

YESTERDAY'S QUESTION

Do you still trust Nairobi Governor Mike Sonko?

YES 21%



NO 79%



THE TUNNEL KILLINGS

Burrowing murderers butcher mum, daughter in Nyandarua

It was the second murder in a month and the third attack in three months

NDICHU WAINAINA
@TheStarKenya

It happened again. A killer or killers tunneled through a wall: A 30-year-old Nyandarua woman and her five-year-old daughter were murdered early Thursday morning in their Chekaleri village home, Ol Joro Orok.

Another daughter, aged 13, and a niece, 17, are fighting for their lives in a Nakuru hospital. The murdered child was in Grade 1 while her sister is in Standard 7.

The screaming went on for two hours but neighbours were afraid to help and violate the anti-virus curfew.

It was the second murder in a month and the third attack in three months.

The killers are yet to be identified, Nyandarua West subcounty police commander Isaac Ruto told the Star.

Ruto said a police officer on patrol at Ol Joro Orok Trading Centre heard screams at 3.40am from the village. He and colleagues rushed to the scene and found that Peter Kamau's home had been invaded.

A hole had been dug through the wall of the house where Eunice Muthoni, Linet Njeri, 5, and the other children were sleeping.

Muthoni and the child died of head injuries at Nyahururu County Referral Hospital. The other girls had head and mouth injuries.

Ruto said Muthoni was living in her parents' home after separating from her husband a month ago.

He said a blood-stained metal bar was found at the home, seven kilometres from Ol Joro Orok police station.



The hole dug by the killers at Gatumbiro, Ol Joro Orok, Nyandarua county /NDICHU WAINAINA

Area assistant chief Henry Muraige said the government will ensure that the culprits are brought to book.

Villager Ruth Njeri said screaming went on for more than two hours until the police siren was heard. She said it was difficult for the neighbours to respond due to the curfew.

"We don't know how long the police will take to arrest these criminals. Last year, more than 10 women and girls were killed and none of the killers has been arrested," she said.

Ruto said the victims were not raped or defiled and nothing was stolen from the house.

This is the second 'tunnelling' murder in Gatumbiro in less than a month. On March 25, Alice Wanjiru, 23, was killed after a criminal or criminals dug a hole at the base

of the house to enter her bedroom. She had one daughter.

Ruto said eight witnesses have recorded statements and the file will be forwarded to the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

In a similar 'burrowing' attack five months ago, a 57-year-old mother of 10 and her 15-year-old daughter escaped death after criminals dug a hole at the base of their house at Kwa Major Village in Weru, Ol Joro Orok, and entered the bedroom. They were hit with blunt objects and suffered knife injuries to the head.

The 'tunnel murders' have spread fear among residents who suspect a serial killer is targeting women. No arrests have been made.

Ruto dismissed the serial killer theory saying the crimes are isolated cases.

CORRIDORS OF POWER



POLITICAL GOSSIP

Who is doing what and where in the world of politics

★ **A LAW FIRM ASSOCIATED** with an advocate who portrays himself as a saint is under the scrutiny of the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission, headed by **Twalib Mbarak** (pictured). A source tells Corridors that the firm was contracted to provide legal services by a parastatal under the Ministry of Health. For nearly nine years now, however, the firm is yet to deliver on a key task assigned to it. But it has been billing the parastatal. The Auditor General has for some years now been calling for action to be taken against the law firm.

★ **DISCRIMINATION AGAINST LOCAL** doctors and nurses at a certain private hospital has gone to another level. A worker at the hospital, which has sizeable branches across the country, says management has told local health staff to take pay cuts in the wake of Covid-19. However, the salaries and allowances of foreign doctors and nurses in the same job group are untouched. Management even went ahead and told them they were lucky their salaries were reduced as the original plan was to send them home.

★ **A PARASTATAL CHIEF** is reportedly pleading with his side chick day and night to relocate to a less expensive estate in Nairobi. A mole in the parastatal told Corridors the man had rented the damsel a house in Kileleshwa but with the effects of Covid-19 hitting many hard, the man is pleading his case. To make matters worse, President **Uhuru Kenyatta** has asked top government officials to take a pay cut. The man is asking the woman to look for an affordable house in Eastlands or along Thika Road. The relocation will be temporary and she will be back in Kileleshwa when things go back to normal, he explains.

★ **SOME CHURCH LEADERS** are up in arms against an MP in the North Rift. Reason? They say the legislator has of late been issuing bouncing cheques to churches in his constituency. He recently issued a cheque for Sh300,000 that bounced when the leaders of the church went to bank it, embarrassing them. The legislator is also being accused of making false promises on the education of orphaned children. The peace-loving church leaders, however, say they won't go after him but will leave everything to God.

RESIDENTS FEAR A SERIAL KILLER IS TARGETING WOMEN. POLICE DISMISS THE THEORY SAYING THE CRIMES ARE ISOLATED CASES

CARTOON



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

NEW IMPETUS STATE HAS TAKEN BACK 3,954 ACRES IN NAIROBI, PLANS EVICTIONS WITHIN METROPOLITAN



Uhuru's massive blow to grabbers

JAMES MBAKA
@TheStarKenya



President Uhuru Kenyatta is reclaiming over 2,700 acres of public land illegally allocated to private developers within Nairobi.

On Wednesday Lands officials repossessed some 1,600 acres in Ruai associated with a senior government official.

As with Uhuru's anti-graft fight aimed at securing his legacy, tens of government officials and beneficiaries of the illegal allocations could be arrested and prosecuted.

Documents prepared by senior government officials and obtained by the Star detail how public land was hived off in Kariobangi, Karura, Karen, Kabete and Kahawa West.

The parcels were meant for sanitation facilities, sewerage treatment plants and water storage facilities but were grabbed by developers.

In some cases, grabbers use fake land registration documents to claim ownership, while in other scenarios genuine but fraudulently obtained documents have been cited.

On Wednesday, a joint statement by Water and Irrigation PS Joseph Irungu and his Lands counterpart Nicholas Muraguli said that the government will repossess all illegally allocated land.

"It is recommended that all land that was set aside for development and expansion of sewerage system in Nairobi county but has been illegally acquired by third parties be recovered," the two said.

The fraud has left little or no

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It is recommended that all land that was set aside for development and expansion of sewerage system in Nairobi county but has been illegally acquired by third parties be recovered

land for expansion of sanitation facilities in Nairobi despite its rising population.

Nairobi is Kenya's largest city with a population of 4,397,073, while the Nairobi metropolitan area is inhabited by 9,354,580 people.

However, documents show that while the government had set aside 4,449.2 acres of land for expansion of water and sewerage facilities, only 1,722.3 acres remain.

The rest of the land — about 2726.9 acres — has been grabbed by private developers across Nairobi city.

At the Karura reservoir off Kiambu Road, 4.3 acres of land have been hived off from the original six acres allocated for water storage for Karura North and Eastern part of Nairobi.



AN AREA



Construction of the dam started in March 2018 and will be completed in November 2020 to supply 150,000m³ per day of water, generate 20MW of power and irrigate 40,000 hectares of land

Another public parcel of land measuring 0.6 acres in Nairobi's Tena Estate has been illegally allocated for an open-air market.

Currently, a water tank and a borehole have been sunk and injected into the water supply system. The land is identified as Nairobi Block 82/1290.

At the Kahawa ponds, LR No. 71/7, some 9.8 acres of land meant for sewerage treatment to serve Kahawa West has been grabbed.

In Eastleigh, LR 209/7260, some 33.4 acres of land meant for a sewerage treatment plant and regional offices for staff have been hived off.

According to the documents,

in 1996, the land was subdivided into other subplots L.R Nos. 209/7260/1-137 and illegally allocated to private entities.

The government says that while some 11 acres of land listed as Nairobi Block 91/126 meant for the Gigiri reservoir station has not been grabbed, it is under threat from powerful forces.

It is the same case for L.R. 12092 Kikuyu, where some 30.9 acres of land is threatened.

The government says it has acquired a loan of Sh20 billion from ADB and AFD for implementation of sewerage projects within Nairobi City.

This is intended to connect more households into the sewerage system and to construct 80,000m³ per day of the sewerage treatment system in Ruai.

The implementation of the projects is expected to start in July 2020.

The government had also acquired a loan of Sh42 billion from ADB to undertake 80.3m high dam with a storage capacity of 688 million m³ in Thwake, 220 km from Nairobi.

The construction of the dam started in March 2018 and will be completed in November 2020 to supply 150,000m³ per day of water, generate 20MW of power and irrigate 40,000 hectares of land.

Experts have warned that the investment would be a waste if Athi River basin is not restored and sewage is treated to the required standards before it is discharged into the environment.



COMMENT
CHRIS OWALLA

Land used as incentive to reward loyalty

The challenge that has troubled Kenya's land sector stems from historical practices.

In the past, land was given out by the President, District Commissioners, Land Commissioner and clerks of local authorities. Clerks were working at the behest of county or municipal councillors.

Each time someone was elected into the defunct county councils, land would be used to buy their loyalty. When one was found to be in good books with the Kanu regime, they got land. When one wanted to preserve his kingdom after attaining leadership, they used land as a gift to earn followers. Land was a reward for loyalty and no procedure was followed.

It never occurred to the perpetrators that there would be a reform process that would take away the powers from individuals to one institution.

That explains why the land reforms question has faced a lot of challenges. If you get anyone who is very rich in Kenya, usually they own huge parcels of land. Even if you look at how the white settler farms were transferred, it was our own powerful people who took over the sprawling farms.

Land has been used to dispossess the poor and to reward the rich so they can continue ruling. That is why the issue of land cannot be solved easily. Looking at even the family set up, you find that those who have land continued to get more. This is what created vigilante groups - most of the youth were from families that had been dispossessed.

This is the same reason the government has a problem with implementing the Community Land Act. The government is not at ease with it. The Act requires that any communal land be handed back to the respective community.

Individuals who grabbed cannot allow communities to own the parcels. The coastal region or Maasai land is a case in point.

The National Land Commission cannot do much because the bosses are appointees of the State; they work at the behest of those in power, who are protecting their land. Name them, who is who in the Republic of Kenya, the land question is what troubles them.

There is no one - from among the who is who in power today - who doesn't have a land problem.

That is why it is not easy to land a senior position in the NLC.

The Executive Director of Community Initiative Action Group Kenya spoke with the Star

WATER / SEWERAGE FACILITY AT RISK OR ALLOCATED TO PRIVATE OWNERS		
	ORIGINAL	ENCROACHED
KARURA RESERVOIR	2.430	1.77
LORESHO RESERVOIR	1.254	0.30
KARIOBANGI SEWERAGE	30.23	13.64
DANDORA ESTATE SEWERAGE TWORKS	1,716.90	1,054.02
FARASI LANE PUMPING STATION	0.935	0.18
KAREN PONDS	2.072	2.07
KABETE TREATMENT WORKS & TANKS	23.147	13.78
KAREN BREAK PRESSURE TANK	0.279	0.28
KAHAWA WEST TREATMENT PONDS	4.00	4.00
REGIONAL OFFICES & DUTY STATION	15.5	13.53

Area in Ha.

Lands PS Nicholas Muraguri, Nairobi regional police boss Phillip Ndolo, Water PS Joseph Irungu and Nairobi regional commissioner Wilson Njenga on the Dandora Estate Water Sewerage Treatment Plant land in Ruai last Wednesday
/GEORGE OWITI

The Loresho reservoir has also lost 2.3 acres of its land grabbed by private individuals. The land was in 1996 subdivided into six parcels - Nairobi Block 90/591-596.

The reservoir is currently located on Block 90/596 with the rest under the hands of grabbers.

At the Kariobangi sewerage treatment plant, 32 acres of land have been grabbed while at Ruiru some 0.4 acres have been taken up by private developers.

The Ruiru land is meant for a pumping station for Ruiru-Kabete water supply.

At Karen ponds, off Lang'ata Road, 5.1 acres of land that was meant for the sewerage treatment works for Karen Shopping Centre has been illegally allocated to a private developer.

At Kabete, 34 acres of land meant for the development of sewerage treatment works has been allocated to private individuals. Two parcels fronting Waiyaki Way are in the hands of grabbers.

It is the same story of public land being allocated to private individuals in Karen PBT where 0.6 acres of land has been grabbed.

The land was acquired by the government during the implementation of the third Nairobi Water Supply but has been allocated to private entities.



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NEWS GENERAL

DISREGARDED LAW

Pay bills for Kenyans in quarantine, state told

ANNETTE WAMBULWA/ Human rights activist Okiya Omtatah wants the state to refund the money it collected from all Kenyans in mandatory quarantine over Covid-19.

In a petition filed at the Milimani law courts, he argues that the state has disregarded the Public Health Act and instead used unlawful ways to combat the virus. Omtatah says the decision made by the state that requires individuals to go into compulsory quarantine without a court order is illegal.

Omtatah wants the court to compel the state to refund in full, and with interest at the courts' rates, the money every person in quarantine was forced to pay for their upkeep. He is challenging the decision by the government forcing people ordered into compulsory quarantine in centres to meet the costs of their own confinement.



Activist
Okiya
Omtatah
/MERCY MUMO

INADEQUATE PPE

Kakamega doctors threaten strike over alleged intimidation

HILTON OTENYO/ Doctors at the Kakamega County Referral Hospital have accused top health officials of harassment, threats and inadequate personal protective equipment (PPEs).

The medics asked Governor Wycliffe Oparanya to intervene and protect them or else they will walk off in a week. Kenya Medical Practitioners Pharmacists and Dentists Union Western branch secretary Sande Charo accused Health executive Rachael Okumu and chief officer Beatrice Etemesi of harassment and intimidation.

In a memo to the governor, they said the referral and subcounty hospitals are ill-equipped to handle Covid-19 cases should they arise.

They said their efforts to raise the matter with the two health officials have been met with intimidation, demotions and transfers. The memo also details inadequacy of PPE.

"We beseech your office to intervene in this horrid environment, which is aimed at derailing the fight against Covid-19 and plunging the county and country into misery. If action is not taken, we'll have no option but to withdraw our labour until when these grievances are addressed without further notice," it reads.

Last week, Oparanya said Sh85 million would be spent on protective gear in the war on the virus. President Uhuru Kenyatta last week allowed governors to purchase the kits outside the Kenya Medical Supplies Agency.

The doctors also claimed the working environment for those handling Covid-19 matters is deplorable. "These officers are working 24 hours without the simplest thing like breakfast and lunch. They are not protected at all in addition to the long working hours," a union member said.

Dr Charo said the link between the health officials and medics in the fight against Covid-19 was weak and that healthcare workers are at the risk of contracting the virus if they handle active cases.

"It has come to our realisation that amidst the devotion and selflessness of our doctors in the fight against Covid-19, there lies an ugly hand of intimidation, threats and highhandedness by the two officials," the letter reads.

NO CONSULTATION

Maraga warns judges against sabotaging remote work

Judges given until May 30 to deliver all pending judgments and rulings

JILLO KADIDA
@TheStarKenya

Chief Justice Maraga sent a stern warning to judges who are sabotaging efforts to conduct court hearings remotely.

In a confidential letter addressed to all judges and seen by the Star, he said: "I will not allow any of us to cause problems for the entire institution. If you have any challenges with technology, please seek assistance from our ICT team."

The CJ hinted that some judges had decided to work only on Thursdays yet they are all on duty during the partial Covid-19 lockdown.

"It has come to my notice that a few of us are frustrating, nay sabotaging, our efforts to conduct proceedings remotely and as a result, we are being barraged with all manner of complaints and insults," said CJ Maraga in the letter dated April 23.

"Though we moved away from hearing matters once a week, I am shocked to learn that some of us are asserting that they are hearing matters only on Thursdays."

He asked judges to use this time to write all judgments that are pending by May 30. "In this partial lockdown, we have a lot of time to clear our pending judgments," he said.

He further directed the judges to file their monthly returns from April 30 via email directly to him until further notice.



CJ David Maraga
at a press
conference
on Wednesday
/MERCY MUMO

In a rejoinder to the CJ's letter, Kuto said the judges have been working as required. "Lordship the CJ is emphasising the directions that he has previously given. Hon judges, magistrates and kadhis are working. It is only that there are no open court sessions," he said.

"His Lordship has called upon members to fully utilise ICT in these circumstances. He said members have doubled their efforts to ensure that all judgments and rulings are delivered within the period indicated by the CJ."

Kuto further said that the judges and magistrates are willing and ready to comply with the directions of the CJ. "We will be accountable to

our employer and Wanjiku," he said.

Since the partial lockdown began, the judges have heard hundreds of cases and delivered judgments.

In the first 10 days alone, they handled 203 cases. In Malindi, magistrate Julie Aseko handled 157 cases in a day via video conferencing. In Mombasa, judge Eric Ogola of the High Court cleared 23 criminal cases. Court of Appeal judge Hannah Okwengu delivered 20 judgments and rulings on April 3.

The cases were heard in Nairobi, Kisumu, Mombasa and Eldoret. The judgments and rulings were delivered via video link while some sent on email. In the Family Division, judge Aggrey Muchelule delivered

28 judgments and rulings on April 8.

In Meru, Justice Francis Gikonyo delivered 17 judgments and rulings on April 21.

On Thursday, magistrate Maureen Kimani of Kitui Law Courts delivered judgments to remandees at Kitui G.K Prisons via video link; Kisii High Court judge Rose Ougo delivered judgements via Zoom; and magistrate V. Masivo of Nanyuki Law Courts delivered judgements and rulings via video conference to Nanyuki Prison among others.

The Chief Justice's letter comes after LSK president Nelson Havi dared judges unhappy with his support for upscaling of court sittings to frustrate his cases.



Amref Y-ACT director Evalin Karijo, Amref Group director of programmes Mette Kinoti, P&G country manager Simon Mwangi donate sanitary towels on Thursday
/MERCY MUMO

DONATION THROUGH AMREF

P&G donates sanitary towels to vulnerable women

MERCY MUMO/ Procter & Gamble on Thursday donated 16,000 sanitary towels to Amref Health Africa's Youth Programme at the Amref International University.

The sanitary towels are to be distributed through grassroots' youth-led organisations in Nairobi and Samburu counties. Sanitary towels remain a critical challenge for many girls in Kenya, a situation that has been aggravated by the coronavirus outbreak.

P&G's Kenya manager Simon Mwangi said, "Sanitary towels are not an option but a basic need. Most women have been affected by this pandemic, most of them have to choose between having a meal and buying a pack of sanitary towels."

Amref Health Africa group director of programmes Mette Kinoti said the response by the private sector to the needy comes in handy.

"Through support from the private sector, we're able to reach out to large numbers of women in the slums like Kibera and Mathare and other parts of the country like Samburu," Kinoti said.

She urged organisations and the government to also consider sanitary towels in their donations. Rights advocate Editar Ochieng said girls from slums accessed sanitary towels at school but since schools "have been closed due to the coronavirus outbreak, they cannot get them now".

NEWS GENERAL

POSITION

Kenyan teacher, wife and child forced into quarantine in China

Serem denies reports that Kenyans have been sleeping on the streets

GIDEON KETER
@TheStarKenya



The Kenyan embassy in China intervened recently to have a Kenyan teacher, his wife and their one-year-old child forced into quarantine.

Ambassador Sarah Serem said her office was forced to step in and have the family returned to complete quarantine. "Intervention led to all the three being quarantined in their apartment," Serem said in a media brief.

The embassy also intervened in another case in which two students were picked up and taken to quarantine while their two European housemates, one of them Serbian, were left.

She denied reports that Kenyans have been sleeping on the streets after they were thrown out of their homes.

"The embassy intervened in some cases where landlords had threatened Kenyans. These were all either retained in their houses or taken to designated hotels funded by local authorities," Serem said.

In the last few weeks, as the Chinese authorities implement measures to combat Covid-19, residents of African descent have complained of harassment and being kicked out of their houses on accusations they are spreading the virus.

Videos and photos of African immigrants sleeping on the streets while others are barred from entering shops have emerged on social

media platforms. Serem said since the beginning of this month, Chinese authorities in the southern city of Guangzhou have tightened control measures.

"On April 6, the Foreign Affairs Office of Guangzhou Municipal Government published on its WeChat account an open letter to foreign nationals living in Guangzhou issued by the Guangzhou Municipal Health Commission regarding health declaration. This specified quarantine procedures as well as intention to test everyone in Guangzhou city," she said.

The envoy said that where there have been clear cases of harassment of not only Kenyans but other Africans, African ambassadors in Beijing have taken action including writing protest letters to the China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. "The embassy wrote a protest note to Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Beijing and detailed specific cases of mishandling. Through intervention by the embassy, many unfairly targeted cases were reconsidered including release to self-quarantine as opposed to supervised one," she said.

"The embassy has promptly informed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Nairobi - of the challenges the Kenyans face in Guangzhou."

She also said that her office has engaged Kenyans and advised them to avail themselves for testing as this "will guarantee their health to ensure they are not subjected to quarantine outside their residences."

There are close to 7,000 Kenyans, mainly traders, in Guangzhou city.



Ambassador Sarah Serem /FILE

PAYMENTS

Treasury to release Sh23bn to suppliers and VAT refund

VICTOR AMADALA
@TheStarKenya



The government will on Friday start disbursing Sh13 billion owed in pending bills and a further Sh10 billion tax refunds as part of Covid-19 economic stimulus to increase liquidity in the market.

The move is likely to resuscitate cash-strapped government suppliers who have been waiting for the money for almost two years now.

Treasury CS Ukur Yatani tweeted, "For the avoidance of doubts in addition to ongoing social programmes. Other interventions are; increasing liquidity in the economy (payment of pending bills of Sh13 billion and VAT refunds of Sh10 billion and hire of health staff). These will be

rolled out from Friday." The CS said the National Treasury's response to Covid-19 pandemic cuts across all sectors. So far, Sh18 billion has been disbursed for various interventions with more resources to be released with the passage of the supplementary budget.

The Sh13 billion to suppliers is part of Sh49 billion to be released by the government by the end of this financial year pending verification.

"The Kenyan government plans to pay pending bills to suppliers and quickly process tax refunds for firms to support the economy in the face of the coronavirus crisis," Yatani told Reuters late last month.

According to the news cable, Yatani said Sh49 billion will be released to offset the unpaid bills, and a further Sh10 billion released to expedite the payment of value-added tax refunds to businesses in the next two-three months.

This is good news for thousands of suppliers across the country who have taken an operational hit from delayed payments, with some auctioned by creditors or closed shops.

This has had a spiral effect to the country's economic growth, with

Central Bank of Kenya indicating that pending bills slowed the 2019-20 growth by almost 100 basis points.

The high job losses witnessed in the past two quarters of the current financial year were partly attributed to a lack of liquidity in the economy due to high pending bills, among other factors.

The government has in recent months stepped up plans to clear pending bills estimated at Sh100 billion owed to suppliers by national governments, counties and the private sector.

In November last year, for instance, President Uhuru Kenyatta directed that all verified and genuine pending bills be paid immediately, a second directive after June 1, when he first called for clearance of pending bills by the national government and counties.

The President revisited the issue of the pending bills at State House, Mombasa, early in January when he said the government would float an infrastructure bond of Sh150 billion, with the funds raised going to the completion of ongoing road and infrastructure projects.

DEFENDS UHURU'S POSITION

Council dismisses Muslim leaders' call for curfew favour

BRIAN OTIENO / A section of Muslim leaders in Mombasa has differed with those calling for the rescheduling of the curfew during the holy month of Ramadhan.

The Holy month of Ramadhan starts on April 23 or 24, depending on the sighting of the moon. Political leaders and some clerics last Friday urged President Uhuru Kenyatta to readjust the start of the curfew from 7pm to 10pm. They included Mvita MP Abdulsamad Nassir and Senator Mohammed Faki and Muslim clerics from the Council of Imams and Preachers of Kenya.

However, the Kenya Muslim National Advisory Council on Thursday urged Muslims to abide by the current rules and regulations meant to contain Covid-19.

Led by Kemnag chairman Sheikh Juma Ngao, they said it is prudent to obey government's directive and not seek favours.

Addressing the press at a hotel in Mombasa on Thursday, Sheikh Ngao said even Islam recognises times of emergency and allows certain rules to be broken.

"Islam has provisions for emergencies. If one is dying of hunger and there is no way they can get to a place where there is proper food, Islam allows that person to eat even the food that is considered haram like pork," Sheikh Ngao said.

He was flanked by Salim Kassim, Munir Ali, Sheikh Abdulrazak Omar and Khitam About.

FLOODS IN KISUMU

32,000 evacuated to rescue camps, says Nyong'o

MAURICE ALAL / About 32,000 flood victims in Kisumu have been evacuated to rescue centres, Governor Anyang Nyong'o said Thursday.

The evacuation was done by the departments of special programmes, agriculture and water.

The situation in Kisumu is dire. The heavy rains have left a trail of death and destruction. "With the floods ravaging the Nyando basin, hundreds of families have been uprooted from their homes. We have had to evacuate some communities to higher grounds," he said.

Those affected needed food, sanitation and reusable face masks.

"We call upon well-wishers to support us. This will not only complement my government's efforts but will also be evidence that as people from all walks of life we can overcome any obstacle thrown to us," the governor said.

He said he would ensure that the flood-affected people are accorded dignified stay at the evacuation centres and protected against Covid-19.

He spoke during the flagging off of Rotary District 9212 Western Kenya hand wash stations and the launch of its Kisumu county project at the County Referral Hospital.



National Treasury CS Ukur Yatani
/VICTOR IMBOTO

NEWS GENERAL

'FUNDS ALREADY COMMITTED'

MPs reject proposal to cut CDF by Sh10bn

Say projects will stall, want state spending reduced by Sh51bn

MOSES ODHIAMBO/ MPs have rejected attempts by the National Treasury to deduct Sh10 billion from NG-CDF coffers to raise cash for the Covid-19 emergency response.

The National Assembly's Budget and Appropriations Committee said substantial proportion of the allocation had been committed.

The committee chaired by Kikuyu MP Kimani Ichung'wa said the cuts would pose challenges in the implementation of constituency projects.

"Additionally, the NG-CDF Act provides that the fund is a national government fund consisting of monies of an amount less than 2.5 per cent of the share of revenue as divided by the annual Division of Revenue Act," its report says.

The NG-CDF was allocated Sh41 billion, of which Treasury CS Ukur Yatani sought to deduct Sh10 billion. Deductions affecting Sh5.8 billion Equalisation Fund stand.

The MPs also amended the second Supplementary Estimates so the government expenditure is reduced by Sh51 billion. The Treasury had wanted a Sh53 billion reduction.

The Treasury had proposed a net reduction of Sh74 billion in the current budget, being a reduction of development funding by Sh98

billion and increased recurrent expenditure by Sh24 billion.

In the report approved by the National Assembly during a late night sitting on Wednesday, MPs increased recurrent spending to Sh31 billion, development reduced by Sh83 billion. The process of approving the estimates will be concluded by consideration of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2020.

The National Assembly made further reallocations and reduced its budget by Sh3 billion to ring-fence resources for the fight against Covid-19. "These resources were reduced from the National Assembly vote of Sh2.2 billion, Sh750 million from the Parliamentary Joint Services vote, and Sh274 million from the Senate vote," a statement by National Assembly Clerk Michael Sialai said.

The money will be used for purchases of personal protective equipment for frontline health workers at Kenyatta National Hospital, Mbagathi as well as Moi Teaching and Referral hospitals.

Kenyatta University Hospital, Coast General Hospital as well as Level 4 and 5 hospitals in Kisumu, Kitui, and Mandera counties have been earmarked for funding as well.

PHOTO STORY



Embu Governor Martin Wambora distributes face masks to boda boda riders in Embu town on Thursday. The county chief distributed 20,000 masks to needy groups. **MARTIN FUNDI**



**COMMUNICATIONS
AUTHORITY OF KENYA**

PUBLIC NOTICE

SCAM ON SIM CARD REGISTRATION AND OWNERSHIP

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF NAIROBI



THE NAIROBI CITY COUNTY ASSEMBLY

NOTICE

IT IS NOTIFIED for the general information of the public that the Nairobi City County Assembly Service Board has adopted new letterheads for:

1. The Nairobi City County Assembly Service Board
2. The Office of the Speaker
3. The Office of the Clerk

This is in accordance with the Nairobi City County Flag and Other Symbols Act, 2013 which provides for the County flag and other symbols and prevent the improper use of the County flag and of certain symbols, names, words and likenesses for professional or commercial purposes and for matters incidental thereto.

This is therefore to **NOTIFY** the public and **ALL** institutions of the changes and advise that the old letter heads have since been discontinued and **ANY** person using them is a charlatan and the Assembly will not be held liable for any business transacted by their use.

CHAIRPERSON, THE NAIROBI CITY COUNTY ASSEMBLY SERVICE BOARD

NEWS GENERAL



Choppies Supermarket along Tom Mboya Street in Nairobi /DOUGLAS OKIDDY

COLLAPSE OF BUSINESS

Choppies accounts to stay frozen in Sh173m tax case

Justice Majanja says he finds sufficient evidence troubled retail chain is disposing of its business; allows firm and taxman 14 days to negotiate

STAR REPORTER/Choppies Enterprises Ltd on Thursday suffered a blow after the High Court dismissed an application to unfreeze its accounts over a Sh173 million tax dispute with KRA.

The Kenya Revenue Authority has issued two notices dated February 28, to StanChart for Sh173,388,416 and to Quick Mart Ltd for Sh125,255,568, on account of tax liability.

But the supermarket through managing director Parin Patel said it had held talks with KRA but the authority demanded a bank guarantee for Sh173 million, yet it was willing to give a security of Sh15 million.

KRA claimed there are reasonable grounds to believe the retail chain will not pay taxes due or it might never recover the dues in the future as the owners were winding up business in Kenya.

Justice David Majanja said the law allows the taxman to issue a notice

where a taxpayer may become liable to pay tax and the commissioner has reasonable grounds to believe that the taxpayer will not pay tax by the due date.

"I find that there is sufficient evidence that Choppies is disposing of its business. The agency notices will remain in force for 14 days to allow the parties explore other means of solving the dispute," Majanja said.

Records show Patel had pleaded with the court to unfreeze the supermarket's accounts "to enable it to meet its financial obligations including paying Sh60 million to employees who were declared redundant".

The supermarket had also sold five of its branches to Quickmart Supermarkets Ltd and had received an advance payment of Sh25 million.

But Majanja said the retail chain should have made full disclosure

of all circumstances including its financial obligations for the court to make an appropriate decision.

"The plaintiff has not disclosed how much it expects to receive from the sale of assets and stock and how much it was holding in its accounts," the judge said.

The company in May last year announced the suspension of its CEO, Ramachandran Ottapathu, after an external audit report established a number of irregularities in inventory records and bulk sales.

Choppies, based in the Southern African nation of Botswana, managed to enter the Kenyan market through the acquisition of Ukwala Supermarkets in 2016.

Its woes go back to 2018 when it was suspended from trading in the Botswana and Johannesburg stock exchanges due to delay in the release of its financial results.

RETAILER OWES SH60 MILLION TO EMPLOYEES DECLARED REDUNDANT

ONE FOETUS

Landslide death toll rises to 15 after two more bodies found

MARYANN CHAI / Two more bodies including a foetus were recovered from the scene of the Chesogon trading centre mudslide, bringing the total deaths to 15.

Rift Valley regional commissioner George Ntembeya said at least 22 people, including learners, were still missing following the Saturday night tragedy that left more than 4,000 families homeless after their houses were swept away by floods.

Speaking to the press at the scene of the incident, Ntembeya said the recovery teams on the ground had intensified efforts to find the missing bodies.

ATTACKED BY THUGS

Cops recover phone of varsity student killed in Umoja, Nairobi

ANDREW KASUKU / Police in Umoja, Nairobi, have recovered the mobile phone of a university student who was killed at a hospital while buying medicine for his sick mother on Wednesday.

Rodgers Opiyo was buying medicine at the chemist in Phadam Hospital in Umoja 2 when a gang of two came in disguised as customers. "They started pretending they were also buying medicine. In the process, the man identified one of them and called out his name. He removed a pistol and shot him dead," Buruburu police commander Adamson Bungei said.



Sex workers during a protest /FILE

VULNERABLE GROUP

Sex workers ask for coronavirus support

NJERI MBUGUA / Sex workers have appealed for funds to buy food items, pay legal fees for those arrested and for healthcare during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Kenya Sex Workers Alliance, an organisation that facilitates the improvement of human rights for all sex workers, has started emergency fundraising for 100 days. They had collected about Sh8,000 from five supporters by Thursday.

"Sex workers community faces challenges such as violation of health and human rights, lack of access to health services and violence meted out on them by their clients, the public and law enforcement officers," Keswa said.

Additionally, the government's restrictive measures to fight the spread of coronavirus had economically affected sex workers as the majority rely on daily wages for upkeep, the group said.

A report by the UN and Social Justice Centre Working Group reported that sex workers are victims of violence and harassment by police during the curfew. "With the curfew hours of 7pm to 5am imposed, most clients are shy to walk into brothels and hotspots for fear of being seen during the day, a statement by the alliance said.

Sex workers are among key populations at risk during pandemics such as Covid-19. They depend heavily on the informal economy and have inadequate access to social services or political influence.

Others are those who have limited capacities and opportunities to cope and little or no access to technology.

VIOLATED CURFEW

Over 20 charged for flouting Covid-19 safety measures

CLAUSE MASIKA / More than 20 suspects were on Thursday charged in a Kibera court with violating Covid-19 movement restrictions.

The suspects were charged before Kibera senior principal magistrate Boaz Ombewa.

Majority of them were accused of committing the offence on April 22 in Kawangware, Kibera and Kan-gemi.

They were charged with disobeying curfew rules, failing to observe social distancing among other rules given by the Health ministry to curb the spread of coronavirus.



Some of the suspects at a Kibera open court on Thursday /CLAUSE MASIKA

NEWS GENERAL

GIVEN TWO DAYS

Surrender all illegal arms, warring Maasai clans told

KIPLANGAT KIRUI/ Maasai clans fighting over a boundary in Transmara West have two days to surrender illegal firearms if the 4pm curfew is to be lifted.

Narok county commissioner Samuel Kimiti said that the 4pm-7am curfew will remain until residents return guns used in recent skirmishes. "It is possible to lift the curfew but you must return guns

to the state. That will be a sign that you have agreed to maintain peace," Kimiti said.

He spoke after meeting elders from Siria and Uasingishu clans in Kilgoris town in Transmara West subcounty on Wednesday.

Narok Governor Samuel Tunai convened the meeting also attended by MP Gideon Konchellah, deputy county commissioner Mohammed

Noor and 10 elders from each clan. The state extended the nationwide dusk-to-dawn curfew by four hours in the area to contain escalating inter-clan conflict at the Nkarako-Enoretet border. A curfew to limit the spread of Covid-19 begins at 7pm and ends at 5am. "The government is processing the land title deeds for the area as part of measures to end the violence," Kimiti said.

Governor Tunai said that lasting solutions must be found because properties and lives have been lost.

"This action is unacceptable and people should consider peace as the only solution to their problems, not fighting," Tunai said, adding they will use the elders to preach peace.



Narok Governor Samuel Tunai and county commissioner Samuel Kimiti after meeting elders in Kilgoris town on Wednesday /KIPLANG'AT KIRUI

WORLD MALARIA DAY

Why Covid-19 patients should test for malaria

The disease remains a major public health problem in Kenya and shares some symptoms with the coronavirus

MAGDALINE SAYA

@TheStarKenya



Suspected or confirmed Covid-19 patients in malaria-endemic areas might be required to receive a malaria diagnostic test should the government adopt WHO requirements.

Similarly, those confirmed to be having malaria infection will have to undergo Covid-19 tests. As the world marks World Malaria Day on Saturday, the World Health Organization, in the new regulations, says malaria can coexist with many other infections, hence confirmation of malaria infection does not rule out the possibility that a patient might also be suffering from Covid-19.

This is because malaria and Covid-19 share some symptoms such as fever, headache, body aches and weakness. This comes even as a malaria drug, widely touted as a potential cure for Covid-19, has shown no benefit against the disease over standard care, and is in fact associated with more deaths.

In a study conducted by the US government on how American military veterans fared on hydroxychloroquine, researchers looked at the medical records of 368 hospitalised veterans who either died or were discharged by April 11 across the country.

The death rate for patients on the drug was 28 per cent compared to 22 per cent when it was taken in



A health worker displays a Covid-19 testing kit at a screening and isolation field hospital in Machakos town on Wednesday /REUTERS

combination with azithromycin, an antibiotic by French scientist Didier Raoult. On the other hand, the death rate among those who were receiving standard care only stood at 11 per cent. The combination of the two among patients with severe illness was found to have no impact, as mortality persisted even after doctors adjusted the dosage to higher rates.

Previous research had shown that the drug was risky for patients with certain heart rhythm problems and can cause blackouts, seizures or at times cardiac arrest. Hydroxychloroquine and related compound chloroquine have been used for decades to treat malaria.

On Wednesday, Health CS Mutahi

Kagwe said the country's Covid-19 response is premised on a five-year public health security framework. He urged the counties to keep an eye on other healthcare services.

"I, therefore, want to call on all counties to ensure the continuity of health services, without losing sight of the coronavirus. We should, therefore, be prepared in the coming days to share our county health service delivery scorecards," he said.

Malaria eradication is among the services that are likely to be hurt by disruptions in the healthcare systems as a result of the virus. Malaria remains a major public health problem in Kenya and accounts for about 16 per cent of outpatient consultations.

About 70 per cent of the population is at risk of contracting malaria, with 14 million in endemic areas and another 17 million in areas of the epidemic and seasonal malaria.

According to the Kenyan National Bureau of Statistics, malaria is still the second major cause of death after respiratory infections, with nearly 70 per cent of the country's people at risk. The WHO now says that should exceptional situations arise in the context of Covid-19, it may be necessary to assume that fever cases are associated with malaria, and all febrile individuals should receive antimalarial treatment.

"Given that Covid-19 also leads to fever, these individuals should also be assessed for possible Covid-19

illness," the UN agency says.

Malaria is widespread, endemic and causes illness in about 230 million people and kills about 430,000 people globally each year. Given the grim picture of its prevalence, the ministry has also been tasked with encouraging early care-seeking for fever and suspected malaria by the general population to prevent a spike in severe malaria cases and deaths.

"Exceptional measures to control malaria, including mass drug administration or presumptive treatment, may be required to minimise increased disease and death arising from the Covid-19 pandemic," the WHO states.

In addition, it is required that an official from the National Malaria Control Programme be part of Covid-19 response team to ensure malaria policies and practices are coordinated along with the larger health system changes going into effect due to Covid-19.

The global health agency says that even though the entire population is at risk of infection and illness, with an elevated risk of severe disease among the elderly and those with underlying health conditions, it is possible but currently unknown whether malaria and its consequences, especially severe anaemia, may increase severe Covid-19 risk. Research on the same is ongoing.

In settings where malaria is not endemic, potential Covid-19 patients are advised not to go to health facilities for fear of infecting health staff.

COUNTY BLAMED

Gilgil market flooded, traders want mess fixed

GEORGE MURAGE/ Two radi flooding has disrupted commerce at the Gilgil open-air market.

The situation has raised fears of disease outbreak. The market, which was located in a stadium two weeks ago as part of measures to fight the spread of Covid-19, has more than 300 traders. They blame the Nakuru county government for their predicament and have vowed not to pay the daily levies until the mess is fixed.

Peter Njoroge said accessing the market was a major challenge for both traders and customers. He said they have incurred huge losses after efforts to get assistance

from the county failed. "We were transferred to this stadium in a bid to stop the spread of the coronavirus but we fear we might now get cholera," the trader said.

Colleague John Kuria said the stadium had been turned into a lake and their goods are rotting. He questioned the rationale for relocating them from the town centre since their customers are now avoiding the stadium. "This place is already flooded. Access roads to are in poor condition and the toilets do not have water," Kuria lamented.

Meanwhile, in Naivasha, the ongoing rehabilitation of roads in informal settlements has been thrown into disarray by heavy rains. Some roads and drainage systems were washed away and some wrecked by floods.

Viwandani MCA Eric Gichuki said the most affected estates were County Council, Site and Kabati where the World Bank project was ongoing. He blamed poor workmanship by the contractor for the destruction.



Gilgil open-air market /GEORGE MURAGE

NEWS GENERAL

DOWNPOUR BLESSING

Plant trees during heavy rains – KFS

Forest cover will help prevent floods and mudslide



A motorcyclist ferrying bread rides on a flooded section of Utawala-Katani road in Mavoko constituency on Wednesday /FREDRICK OMONDI

LACK OF FUNDS CITED

Water harvesting ability put to test

Rivers, dams, lakes likely to burst their banks identified

GILBERT KOECH
@TheStarKenya



Determined to raise forest cover to 10 per cent in two years, the Kenya Forest Service has encouraged Kenyans to plant trees on their farms and gardens. The country's vegetation cover is 7.2 per cent.

KFS Chief Conservator of Forests Julius Kamau made the appeal on Wednesday during observations to mark Earth Day.

"It is crucial for Kenyans to rally together to heal Planet Earth by planting trees so it can heal us in return," Kamau said.

The CCF planted a mugithia seedling; the tree is known for its medicinal value.

"By planting this medicinal tree, nature will heal, and in the same breath, it's my prayer that the same healing spirit will heal Kenya and indeed the entire world from the coronavirus pandemic," Kamau said.

Green Belt Movement chair Marion Kamau also urged Kenyans to plant trees on their property

The Constitution envisages 10 per cent forest cover in two years; to achieve that Sh48 billion is required.

The country needs to plant and protect 1.8 billion seedlings between now and 2022.

Earth Day is an annual global event to demonstrate support for environmental protection.

Experts warn the outbreak of pandemics such as coronavirus could be associated with the damage to the environment.

They say halting biodiversity loss and tackling climate change will pave the way for a new normal in the age of the coronavirus.

The United Nations Environment Programme said the pandemic is a stark reminder of the vulnerability of humans and the planet in the face of global-scale threats.

UNEP said the unchecked dam-

age to the environment must be addressed. CCF Kamau and Wangari Maathai founded the Green Belt Movement in Kenya. Earth Day was marked at the Wangari Maathai Corner in Karura Forest.

Fifty indigenous tree seedlings were planted to mark the 50th Earth Day. Participants wore masks and observed social distancing, as well as handwashing. Fifteen people at a time planted seedlings.

Tree planting will help mitigate the adverse effects of climate change, such as floods and mudslides taking place in deforested areas in Kenya and worldwide.

The Kenya Meteorological Department said the ongoing rains are the perfect opportunity to plant trees.

The Met said the rains will intensify on Thursday and decline on Saturday in Western and Central Kenya.

A boda boda operator drives on a flooded section of Kasarani-Mwiki road on April 20 /VICTOR IMBOTO

A freshly planted tree seedling /FILE



GILBERT KOECH
@TheStarKenya

Rain water is yet again going to waste as authorities across the country do not have the capacity to harvest it.

Lack of funds is cited as the main problem hampering water harvesting and storage.

The ongoing rains have wreaked havoc across the country, leading to loss of life and property. Over 20 lives have been lost, thousands displaced and properties worth millions destroyed.

The Meteorological Department had early in the week warned that the rains would intensify from Thursday and reduce on Saturday in Western and Central Kenya.

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

SLEEPLESS NIGHTS

The Water Resources Authority has identified more than 20 rivers, dams and lakes that are likely to burst their banks.

Authority CEO Mohammed Shurie said the more than 20 rivers and dams are giving him sleepless nights.

"Due to the magnitude of the ongoing floods, most water resources including rivers are at critical stages in terms of threatening to burst their banks or break their embankments," he said.

The water bodies include Suam, Perkerra, Molo, Lake Naivasha, Awach Kibuon, Malaba, Lake Victoria, Nzoia Webuye, Ragati, Nzoia, Yalla, Sio, Tana, Nyando, Gucha Migori, Awach Tende, Nyamasaria, Sondu, Mara and Seven Forks.

Water levels at Masinga, Kamburu, Gitaru, Thika, Sasumwa and Ruiru dams have also risen.

"The public is therefore notified to move to higher grounds and adhere to relevant flood alerts given through various media channels and com-

munity forums to avoid further destruction of lives, properties, spread of waterborne diseases and loss of biodiversity," Shurie said.

He urged entrepreneurs to ensure their developments factor in at least 3,000-litre storage tanks for every household. "Storing water will ensure that reserve flows are maintained in water resources, thus saving our resources from depletion during reduced flows," Shurie said.

WATER SCARCITY

Kenya is a water-scarce country, with a per capita water availability of less than 600 cubic metres, which is below the global per capita threshold of 1,000 cubic metres.

The 2019 Population and Housing Census shows that only 10 per cent of Kenya's households have access to piped water in their houses.

Further, about 14 per cent have access to water from a nearby stand-pipe.

According to the Kenya Demographic and Household Survey 2014, about 40 per cent of rural households spend more than 30 minutes looking for water.

The National Water Harvesting and Storage Authority has said lack of funds limits water harvesting and storage in the country.

Authority acting CEO Geoffrey Sang said 27 small dams and water pans have been completed in various parts of the country.

Sang said the dams and water pans, which cost between Sh5 million and Sh10 million, will harvest between 10,000 cubic metres and 25,000 cubic metres.

They are in Nakuru, Embu, Makueni, Kajiado, Garissa, Mandera, Turkana, Baringo, Nyeri, Kiambu, Wajir, Elgeyo Marakwet, Bungoma, Bomet, Narok and Lamu.

Sang said the main challenge facing the authority in rolling out its work was a lack of funds.

NEWS BUSINESS



Industrialisation Cabinet Secretary Betty Maina with a pair of a locally produced face mask during a press conference on March 9, 2020
/EZEKIEL AMING'A

THE DATA

107.1412

The indicative value of the shilling to the dollar

The Kenyan shilling was stable against the dollar on Thursday as market activity remained low due to the COVID-19 pandemic, traders said.

FINANCIAL MARKET

FOREX EXCHANGE RATES

Currency	Buy	Sell	Mean
US DOLLAR	107.0412	107.2412	107.1412
STG POUND	132.2829	132.5618	132.4224
SA RAND	5.6931	5.7063	5.6997
KES / USHS	35.2477	35.4069	35.3273
KES / TSHS	21.5309	21.6646	21.5977
JPY (100)	99.4344	99.6295	99.5320
IND RUPEE	1.3996	1.4023	1.4009
EURO	116.2682	116.5206	116.3944
CHINESE YUAN	15.1126	15.1432	15.1279
AE DIRHAM	29.1387	29.1988	29.1687

NSE BIGGEST WINNERS

	Price	Change (%)
LONGHORN	4.90	8.17
FLAME TREE	0.97	7.78
EVEREADY	0.86	7.50
UCHUMI	0.30	7.14
TRANS-CENTURY	1.70	5.59

NSE BIGGEST LOSERS

	Price	Change (%)
WPP SCAN GROUP	16.00	5.88
ISM HOLDINGS	50.00	5.21
SAMEER AFRICA	2.11	4.09
BRITAM HOLDINGS	6.62	4.06
CIC	2.17	3.56

OPPORTUNITY

Local manufacturers urged to capture Kenyan market

This is in the wake of shifting global trade patterns caused by coronavirus

MARTIN MWITA
@MwitaMartin



Kenyan manufacturers should identify current market needs and strive to meet the demand, Industrialization, Trade, and Enterprise Development Betty Maina has said.

This comes in the wake of shifting trade patterns between Kenya and international markets.

Imports from China, Kenya's biggest trading partner plunged by at least Sh58.64 billion in the first two months of the year as the coronavirus outbreak disrupted the supply chain.

About 57 per cent of manufactur-

ers have been forced to outsource inputs from other countries to bridge the disruption of the supply chain from China.

Kenyan imports from China are valued at approximately Sh371 billion while exports to China stand at Sh11 billion (Economic Survey, 2019).

A survey by the Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM) shows about 82 per cent source their inputs or export to China, hence faced a direct risk of supply chain disruption.

China alone accounts for about 21 per cent of Kenya's imports, meaning more than Sh200 billion worth of products may need to be sourced elsewhere or substituted by local production.

"People should be able to identify new business opportunities. There is no reason why we should not take

advantage of that," CS Maina told the Star in a telephone interview yesterday.

The country has already ventured into the manufacture of masks and ventilators and the processing of sanitiser in the wake of the virus.

"There are other sectors to look at including online meetings apps which are currently highly used. We can also grow our e-commerce, in short there is a lot of opportunities now and post Covid-19," Maina said.

Apart from China, Kenya also heavily depends on imports from India, UAE, Saudi Arabia and South Africa. Other markets are Japan, UK, US, Germany, Netherlands, and France, which are major import sources for Kenya. Top imports from China, include electrical machinery and equipment, mechanical appliances,

nuclear reactors, railway or tramway locomotives, iron and steel, furniture, and textile.

With disruption on the Kenya supply line, local businesses have been seeking alternative markets among them Turkey and India, CS Maina said.

Her call comes at a time when the Kenya Private Sector Alliance is also pushing for growth of local industries and intra-africa trade.

"This may be an opportunity for Kenya to harness and grow local industries, supporting existing ones to expand their capacity or incentivizing the creation of new industries for import substitution as well as leverage on the regional market such as EAC and AfCFTA," Kepsa notes.

The private sector have been pushing for the uptake of local content.

GENEROSITY

Fund businesses through philanthropy, lenders urged

Investments have been hurt by coronavirus

SUSANNYAWIRA / Various leaders in the financial sector are calling upon financial institutions to support Kenya through commercial lending during the coronavirus pandemic.

In a webinar hosted by the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce, the leaders urged banks and other financiers to adopt philanthropy

through commercial lending.

"Banks need to come through for the people during this period and I would like to laud some adjustments by various banks such as extending repayment times for credit," said Elizabeth Wasuna, Director Business Banking, Absa Bank. Wasunna said that the banks

should also ensure that staff are safe through moving more to cashless environment in their transactions.

"One of our products dubbed Stawi which we launched last year has really been useful to small businesses who want to access credit during this hard economic time," said Habil Olaka, CEO Kenya Bankers Association.

The current disruptions in businesses due to the virus will impact heavily on businesses hence the need for the financial institutions to assist them. Globally, some firms such as Vista Jet have started giving back to the society during this pandemic. The air charter company is offering free flights for essential

workers to help ensure that those with critical travel requirements are able to keep moving.

"Coronavirus is wreaking havoc in our lives, our economies and societies therefore we need to mobilize our resources to defeat this disease," said David McNair, Executive Director for global policy, the One campaign.

According to McNair the G20 should deliver an emergency economic stimulus of \$100 billion (Sh10 trillion), as requested by African governments, to fund the immediate health response in Africa, social safety nets for the most vulnerable, feeding and protecting out of school children, and to protect jobs.



TIP OF THE DAY

ADOPT A COLLABORATIVE MINDSET IN A CRISIS

In typical negotiations, a best practice is for both sides to focus on how to maximize potential gains. But in times of crisis, the goal is often to minimize potential losses. The standard tactics aren't as helpful under these circumstances, and the stress of a crisis can lead us to adopt a more skeptical, adversarial mindset toward the people we're negotiating with. To negotiate well under pressure, you should move toward a more collaborative mindset — and help others do the same. This means being transparent and open with everyone involved and emphasizing that you share a common purpose. Collaborative negotiation can be useful under normal circumstances, but it's critical to adopt it now. Both you and your negotiation partners will be better off for it.

NEWS BUSINESS

OFFLOAD

Tullow shifts focus to Kenya after Sh61billion Uganda deal

The oil explorer is expecting to receive bids from potential buyers in the coming weeks

MARTIN MWITA

@MwitaMartin



Tullow Oil has sold its stake in Uganda and shifted focus to Kenya, it announced yesterday.

It said in a statement it had successfully offloaded its Ugandan stake, in its plan to raise in excess of \$1 billion (Sh107.2billion) to strengthen its balance sheet.

The British oil explorer has agreed to the sale of its entire stake in the Lake Albert Development Project in Uganda to Total for \$575 million (Sh61.6 billion).

Tullow and Total E&P Uganda B.V. (Total Uganda) have signed a Sale and Purchase Agreement (SPA), with an effective date of January 1, 2020.

Tullow has agreed to transfer its entire interests in Blocks 1, 1A, 2, and 3A in Uganda and the proposed East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) System.

It is currently the operator of Block 2. Total Uganda is currently the operator of Block 1 and Block 1A and China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) is the operator of Block 3A.

The cash consideration consists of \$500 million (Sh53.6 billion) payable at completion and \$75 million (Sh8 billion) payable following the Final Investment Decision of the Lake Albert Development Project.

"Additional cash consideration may



Weatherford engineers at the Tullow oil Ngamia 1 ring in Turkana/FILE

be received by Tullow in the form of contingent payments which will be payable on upstream revenues from the Lake Albert Development Project, depending on the average annual Brent price once production commences," it said.

Sealing of the Uganda deal now gives the UK firm ample time to focus on its investments in Kenya, where it intends to sell a stake of its oil interests in Turkana. Its assets in the country's oil project are esti-

mated at about \$667 million (Sh71.5 billion).

Tullow, the lead explore in Turkana, in February announced that it was willing to sell part of its stake in the Lokichar oil blocks, where it holds a 50 per cent stake in three blocks. Together with Total, its partner in the project, have contracted French bank Natixis to run the joint sale process for Blocks 10 BA, 10 BB and 13T in the South Lokichar Basin.

Tullow plans to offload a 25 per

cent stake while Total plans to sale 12.5 per cent of its 25 per cent share in the investment. The firm yesterday said the Uganda transaction has no direct effect on Tullow's view of its Kenya farm-down, which remains ongoing. It, however, confirmed it is expecting to receive bids from potential buyers in the coming weeks

"We will update you on deal progress in Kenya as soon as we are able to," Dorothy Thompson, the executive chair said.



ENTREPRENEURS' TOOLBOX

BY SAMUEL MPAMUGO

How to Evaluate Your Business Performance

It is vital for entrepreneurs to acquire the skills to objectively evaluate their business. This starts with a change in perspective. To properly evaluate your business performance, you must develop a growth mindset. This mindset sees every aspect of business as an opportunity to grow. So, whatever is revealed in the business evaluation process isn't considered a personal attack – the evaluation process is seen as good for the business. Hence, done properly. With this mindset in place, here are four questions to help you evaluate your business performance.

What Was Our Goal? When you made your business plans for the year, what was your goal? Are you clear about what you set out to achieve? Did your goal change along the way due to unforeseen circumstances? If yes, did you adjust or abort your plans? Here, clarity is vital. You start to evaluate your business performance by what you set out to do.

Did We Hit Our Goal? Now that you're clear on your goal, did you achieve it? Are you clear on the performance indicators that show you've achieved your goals? What does success look like? And here, near hit does not count. Often, entrepreneurs have a challenge calling an outcome what it really is in the bid to be 'positive.' You either achieved your goal or not. Tell yourself the truth.

Why Did We Hit or Miss Our Goal?

If you missed your goal, why? What went wrong? What went right late? What are the weak links in your business operations? Are your business systems in order? In this process, keep questioning your answers until you get to the root cause of the problem. Find out why things didn't work.

If you hit your goal, why? What did you do right? What changes worked? What mind shift occurred for you to see and appreciate your new approach? It's important to evaluate why you're getting results so that you're able to make it part of your success system.

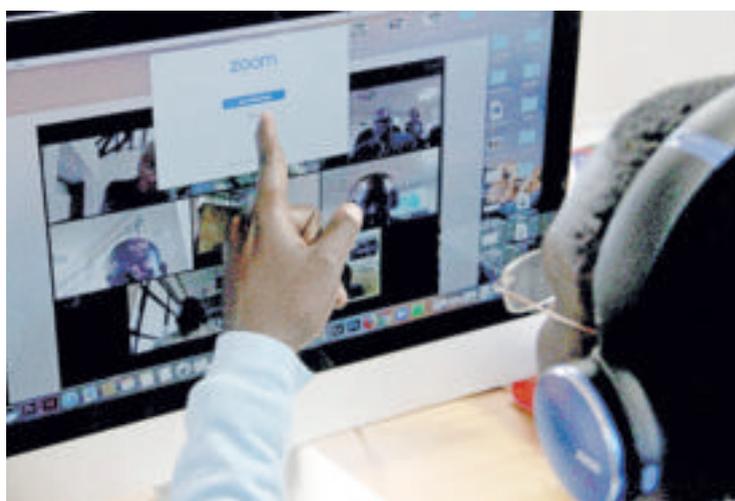
What Should We Start, Stop, or Continue Doing? At this point, you've gathered valuable information so that it's easy to properly see through the intricacies of your business. Based on your analysis so far, what should you start doing that would be beneficial to your business? What business practices should stop for your business to grow? And what have you been doing right that must continue? The result of this analysis is what you need to take your business performance to the next level.

Email: smpamugo@gmail.com

MODERNIZE

Zoom says it will customize app in effort to lock out gatecrashers

Data security and privacy measures have come under scrutiny



An employee using Zoom in an online office meeting/EZEKIEL AMING'A

BBC/ Zoom has said it will release an improved version of its hugely popular video conferencing app this week.

It comes after issues with the company's data security and privacy measures have come under intense scrutiny.

The firm said Zoom 5.0 will include upgraded encryption features to help protect data and fend off the so-called "Zoombombing".

The platform is now being used by hundreds of millions of people for work and leisure, as lockdowns are imposed around the world.

"We will earn our customers' trust and deliver them happiness with our unwavering focus on providing the most secure platform," Zoom's chief executive Eric Yuan said in a

statement.

Zoom has been criticised for a range of privacy issues, including sending user data to Facebook, wrongly claiming the app had end-to-end encryption and allowing meeting hosts to track attendees.

One of the app's most high-profile issues has been "Zoombombing" incidents, where uninvited guests crash meetings. This has led to several companies, schools and governments stopping the use of the platform.

In the UK there has been debate about whether the government should be using Zoom for cabinet meetings after Prime Minister Boris Johnson tweeted a picture that included the ID number of the latest meeting.

It has also been reported that Elon Musk has banned the use of Zoom for SpaceX meetings over security concerns. Nasa, which is one of Space X's biggest customers, also prevents employees from using it.

Meanwhile, Singapore suspended the use of video-conferencing tool Zoom by its teachers, after a "very serious incident" during a home-based lesson.

NEWS WORLD

STRANGE WAY OF LIFE

Children's drawings from lockdown show what they miss most

REUTERS/ Children confined to their homes under lockdown are drawing what they miss most—friends at school, grandparents, football and green open spaces.

Regardless of where they are, the themes are often the same.

From Tokyo to Buenos Aires, and New York to Kathmandu, youngsters have taken to their balconies or front lawns to display and explain the drawings they have made to Reuters photographers.

Eight-year-old Reku Matsui in Tokyo has drawn himself between his grandparents, all three of them smiling together. "I miss being with my grandmother and my grandfather. Also, I want to go to my grandmother's house," he said.

His older sister Yaya, 12, has drawn a picture of herself and a friend. "What I want to do the most right now is hang out with my friends."

In the German town of Bad Honnef, near Bonn, 6-year-old Tom explains: "I have painted a picture of the house of grandma and grandpa, because I miss them so much."

Besides longed-for grandparents, children are also depicting the sports they miss. Ivan Posta, 8, and brother Vince, 11, who live in the Hungarian capital Budapest, have drawn huge soccer balls.

Thousands of miles away in the Nigerian city of Lagos, 11-year-old Olatunji Adebayo has also drawn a huge soccer ball.

CHINA OBJECTS

All WHO members should back virus inquiry – Australia

REUTERS/ All member nations of the World Health Organization should support a proposed independent review into the coronavirus pandemic, Australia's Prime Minister Scott Morrison said on Thursday, further threatening strained ties with China.

Australia has become one of most forceful critics of Beijing for its handling of the spread of the coronavirus, with Morrison urging several world leaders to support an international inquiry into its origins and spread, as well as the WHO's response.

The Covid-19 outbreak originated in China and has since spread to infect some 2.3 million people globally and killed nearly 160,000, according to Reuters calculations. Beijing has fiercely rejected calls for an inquiry, describing the efforts as US-led propaganda against China.

Morrison said all members of the WHO should be obliged to participate in a review, adding that Australia would push for the inquiry during the WHO Assembly on May 17.

"We'd like the world to be safer when it comes to viruses... I would hope that any other nation, be it China or anyone else, would share that objective," Morrison told reporters in Canberra.

PRIVILEGED CITIZENS CAN GET THE BEST HEALTHCARE, RELY ON THEIR SAVINGS, AND WORK AT HOME (OR ESCAPE TO A HOLIDAY HOME), BUT FOR MOST OF HUMANITY, SUCH RELATIVE SAFETY IS WELL OUT OF REACH

COMMENT

CHEMA VERA

Interim Executive Director of OXFAM International



Tensions flare as homeless people attempt to speak to journalists at a camp set up by disaster management authorities during the 21-day nationwide lockdown aimed at limiting the spread of Covid-19 in Cape Town, South Africa, on April 9 /REUTERS

COVID-19 THRIVES ON INEQUALITY

“The virus will starve us before it makes us sick.” That text message, which a colleague of mine in Nairobi received from Micah, a taxi-driver friend, encapsulates the existential threat that the Covid-19 pandemic poses to millions of people. Micah hasn't had fare in weeks and is now borrowing money to buy food for his children. His business, like many others, has collapsed because of Kenya's 7pm-5am curfew, the disappearance of tourism, and the closure of airports, bars, restaurants, and shops.

The International Monetary Fund has already said that the pandemic's economic impact is “way worse” than that of the 2008-09 global financial crisis. In fact, new research by Oxfam, King's College London, and the Australian National University shows that the current crisis could push as many as a half-billion people into poverty. And researchers at Imperial College London previously warned that Covid-19 could kill 40 million people unless governments took urgent action.

This virus affects us all, including princes and film stars. But never has a crisis so profoundly exposed the extreme inequalities that divide our world.

In Exodus-like scenes, millions of workers have been sent home without pay. Consider the female garment workers in Bangladesh who make many of the clothes that we wear. Ninety-eight percent of buyers, often rich multinational companies, refuse to contribute to the cost of paying their lost wages. What will these women do now?

Meanwhile, workers in essential roles – such as carers, nurses, and supermarket cashiers – can't isolate themselves from the deadly virus and have some of the lowest-paid and most insecure jobs. Most of them are women, too.

Privileged citizens can get the best healthcare, rely on their savings, and work at home (or escape to a holiday home) during the pandemic. But for most of humanity, such relative safety is well out of reach.

As with inequality within countries, inequality between rich and poor countries will radically shape people's experiences of this pandemic. While rich-country governments unveil huge financial packages to save their economies, developing countries are drowning in debt, which has reached an all-time high of 191 per cent of their combined GDP. Such inequality helps to explain why Tanzania has one doctor for every 71,000 inhabitants, and Mali has three ventilators per million. In refugee camps where Oxfam works, hundreds of people share a single water tap.

We need global action now. Only a mighty response by rich, powerful countries will stop the pandemic and prevent a global economic collapse. The G20 must live up to its mandate to lead the world through crises.

To that end, Oxfam's Economic Rescue Plan For All urges the world's richest economies to increase massively their support for

developing countries, echoing the United Nations call for the creation of a \$2.5 trillion global emergency-assistance package. In short, rich-country governments must take urgent steps to internationalise the measures that many of them are pursuing at home. This is not only the right thing to do, but is also in their self-interest. As long as the virus is anywhere, it is a threat everywhere.

The first priority is to unlock the trillions of dollars that poorer countries need. Here, the G20 must agree to cancel permanently all developing-country external debt due in 2020. It makes no sense for rich countries to be collecting money now from poor countries that need every shilling, peso, and rupee to fight the pandemic.

In addition, the G20 must pursue an emergency economic stimulus of at least \$1 trillion in Special Drawing Rights, the IMF's global reserve currency. This will boost the reserves of the world's poorest countries while not costing rich countries anything – in fact, they, too, will benefit. The G20 must also champion increases in aid and emergency taxes, for example on

IT MAKES NO SENSE FOR RICH COUNTRIES TO BE COLLECTING MONEY NOW FROM POOR COUNTRIES

extraordinary profits and speculative financial products. If now is not the time for such measures, when is?

The next priority is to direct the necessary resources toward saving lives and rescuing people from poverty. Increased funding will not help vulnerable populations if it is spent on the wrong things or is captured by unaccountable corporate elites. That

is the core lesson of the 2008-09 financial crisis.

Oxfam has proposed a Global Public Health Plan and Emergency Response package that calls for an immediate doubling of public-health spending in 85 poor countries in order to save lives. In addition, governments need financial assistance to increase social protection, which four billion people worldwide currently lack, and to provide people like Micah with cash grants.

Economies everywhere need small businesses such as Micah's to survive and help drive the eventual recovery. Bailouts for the richest companies, on the other hand, should be conditional on these firms paying their fair share of taxes, paying workers a living wage, and cutting their greenhouse-gas emissions.

Finally, as we begin to lay the foundations of the new in the ashes of the old, we should ask how we got to this point. Was it ever a good idea for governments to make health care a privilege of affluence rather than a fundamental right, or to ignore the necessity of a living wage or social protection for all? And was it ever smart to let 2,000 billionaires own more wealth than 4.6 billion people combined?



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COUNTIES NAIROBI

CHANGE OF GUARD

Jubilee leadership changes split MCAs in city assembly

Party made changes on Thursday last week in an attempt to finally end the internal tussles that have rocked the assembly since the return of speaker Elachi last October

MAUREEN KINYANJUI
@MissKinyanjuiMo



A fresh round of Jubilee infighting is simmering in the Nairobi county assembly over the appointment of new house leadership.

Jubilee made changes on Thursday last week in an attempt to finally end the internal tussles that have rocked the assembly since the return of speaker Beatrice Elachi last October.

However, Elachi says she is yet to receive communication from party secretary general Raphael Tuju on the changes. Matopeni MCA Abdi Hassan Guyo was reinstated as the majority leader deputised by Dandora II MCA Peter Wanyoike. Guyo replaced Dandora III MCA Charles Thuo.

June Ndegwa (nominated) was removed as the majority whip and replaced by Paul Kados (Mihang'o) who will be deputised by South B's Waithera Chege.

In a letter to Kados dated April 16, Tuju said the party consulted on the matter before arriving at the decision to effect the changes.

"On November 12, 2019, we wrote to the speaker of the county assembly setting up an interim house leadership that has served in the assembly from the date of the said letter to date," Tuju wrote.

He said the change of leadership was in accordance with the Political Parties Act 2012 that vests the powers of designation of leadership in the county assembly to the majority or minority party.

This is also in compliance with Article 20 of the Nairobi County Assembly Standing Orders. The letter said the decision to change the leadership was arrived at after a meeting of Jubilee secretary general, vice-chairman David Murathe and State House deputy chief of staff Njee Muturi.

The decision was sealed after receiving the final word from President Uhuru Kenyatta.

Tuju directed the new leadership to notify the speaker in the usual format of communication to the assembly as per the Standing Orders.

The letter was copied to Governor Mike Sonko and Elachi.

The changes are said to have been delivered physically to Elachi's office and also through her email and Whatsapp addresses.

However, upon receipt of the changes this week, Elachi said Jubilee should send a letter to the office of the speaker for tabling.

"My leader, I have not refuted anything. Letters addressed to me have to be tabled on the floor of the house. Remember when Ngara MCA was the acting speaker he set a precedent on Elias Otieno. The first leadership only

had verbal communication," she said. "Jubilee set another precedent by sending official letters to table on the floor of the house addressed to the speaker. Jubilee knows how to send letters to the speaker for tabling. When that is done we shall do the right thing when we get back," Elachi added.

However, the new leadership says there is no provision in the Standing Orders for the speaker to communicate to the house and accuses her of trying to buy time.

They say the majority whip's communication is supposed to be final just like what the Senate and National Assembly do.

In 2018, the minority side had internal wrangles when ODM chairman John Mbadi wrote to acting speaker Chege Mwaura to effect changes in the leadership.

Mbadi wrote two letters insisting on the changes but ODM secretary general Edwin Sifuna wrote the final letter to the speaker.

No changes were to be effected until such time as he communicated, Sifuna wrote, noting that he was the authorised officer to issue correspondence on behalf of the party and all its organs.

In his ruling, Chege made reference to the National Assembly and the Senate on who was the lawful authority to make and communicate the decision of the minority appointing its leadership.

"Speaker Muturi made a determination on the prescribed procedure outlined in the National Assembly Standing Order 20(4), which requires such communication to be made by the whip and the minutes of the meeting in which the decision was made attached," he said.

In the Senate, with regards to the removal of Moses Wetang'ula as the leader of minority and his replacement by James Orengo, minority whip Mutula Kilonzo Jnr on March 15, 2018, wrote to Speaker Kenneth Lusaka on the changes, and attached ODM's letter with minutes of the resolution.

“

BEATRICE ELACHI

My leader, I have not refuted anything. Letters addressed to me have to be tabled on the floor of the house



Majority leader Abdi Guyo on November 14, 2019 / EZEKIEL AMING'A



Dandora III MCA Charles Thuo / EZEKIEL AMING'A

ELACHI
INSISTS
TUJU SHOULD
FORMALLY
WRITE TO HER
ABOUT THE
CHANGES



COUNTIES CENTRAL

NO LONGER SAFE

Traders threaten to defy curfew order over insecurity

ELIUD WAITHAKA/ Traders at Ichuga trading centre on the Nyeri-Laikipia border have threatened to defy the dusk-to-dawn curfew over rising cases of insecurity.

They say criminals are now breaking into shops and other business premises with impunity.

Businessman Anthony Gichuki told the Star on Thursday that some criminals had tried to break into his shop three times, but he was alerted early enough by the neighbours.

"Since I don't reside in the same premises where my business is, a neighbour called and informed me that there

were unusual activities at my shop. Upon arrival, I spotted two men who disappeared immediately but luckily they had not gained entry," Gichuki said.

The father of one said several other business establishments have been broken into since the national government imposed the curfew. "I would rather die of a gunshot from a police officer while protecting my property than die of hunger with my family," Gichuki said.

On Monday, two men were intercepted trying to load a stolen cow into a vehicle at Muthaiga Estate on the outskirts of Nanyuki town.

Trader Alice Nduta said the cow is suspected to have been stolen from Ichuga village.

"Police officers on patrol spotted two men trying to load the animal into a Toyota Probox and became suspicious. The suspects panicked and fled, leaving the cow behind," she said.



DUMPSITE OR PERSONAL VENDETTA?

Mathira, county leaders feud over Karindundu dumpsite

MCA is seen ordering county government officials out of the dumping ground

EUTYCAS MUCHIRI
@TheStarKenya

A row is brewing between Mathira leaders and the county government over the dumping of garbage from Nyeri town in the constituency.

The row resulted in the arrest and release without charge of Konyu MCA Eric Wamumbi on Wednesday.

Mathira MP Rigathi Gachagua said the MCA was arrested after he and members of the public stopped county government workers from dumping garbage at Karindundu in the ward. The county government said the ward rep was arrested for threatening a CEC.

The MCA is seen on social media video ordering county government officials, including Environment executive Beth Karimi, out of the Karindundu dumpsite. "I want you out of this place now with your people. And this is the last time you should come here. This is my ward and there is nothing I am benefiting from, with the dumping of garbage here. You can dump it in Nyeri town," Wamumbi is heard saying.

He complained that the CEC and the county government had refused to listen to him. This was disputed by the CEC and Governor Mutahi Kahiga.

On Wednesday, an altercation between a man and the MCA almost degenerated into a fistfight before the county team left.

"We will not allow you to dump diapers and sanitary pads from Nyeri here. Who do you think you guys are?" Wamumbi asked.

Gachagua condemned the arrest of the MCA. He said the decision to stop the dumping was made by Mathira MCAs and himself.

"I would like to inform the governor that the decision to stop the dumping was made by all Mathira MCAs, except one, under my chairmanship. They should therefore come for me and not harass an MCA," Gachagua weighed in.

The MP said garbage will not be dumped in Mathira. Karindundu, he said, is a residential area and garbage was therefore a health hazard.

The MP said residents have been complaining of respiratory complications caused by toxic fumes and dirt from the dumpsite. "I have, for the last three years, gone out of my way to support the governor and his government and I feel betrayed he has instigated the arrest of my MCA."

The dumpsite is illegal as it has not been approved by the National Environment Management Authority (Nema), said Gachagua.

Governor Kahiga said the row had nothing to do with garbage but personal differences between Karimi and the MCA.

"The Konyu MCA has recorded himself belittling the CEC, calling her a junior officer. In the second video he is shouting himself hoarse telling the same CEC she has blocked him on her phone, and so he is offended," the county chief said.

Kahiga said he has nothing to do with the MCA's arrest, adding that the CEC reported to the police after feeling threatened by Wamumbi.

"When CEC Beth feels threatened while doing her job and makes a report to the police, where do I come in? I get very perplexed at people who seem to be picking unnecessary quarrels and insinuating things that don't exist."

According to the governor, Karimi and the MCA can solve their differences without the interference of either the MP or himself.

The CEC denied she had refused to lend the MCA an ear, saying she opted to remain mum as the MCA was angry and abusive.

Karimi said she was on routine check-up of the dumpsite as the government planned to rehabilitate the site when the MCA arrived and ordered her and her team to leave.



Bars and eateries workers outside the Murang'a government offices on Wednesday / **ALICE WAITHERA**

CUSHION THEM

Murang'a bars and eateries workers want weekly stipends

ALICE WAITHERA/ Workers of bars and eateries in Murang'a want the county government to give them weekly stipends following the closure of their workplaces.

They also want food to cushion them during this Covid-19 period.

The workers, most of whom are women, said their families have been going without food because even casual work is hard to find.

The county administration closed all bars when the coronavirus pandemic hit the country to prevent revelers from contracting and spreading the virus.

Eateries, on the other hand, were allowed to sell only take-away food and many waiters were sent home.

"It is very painful watching our children go to bed hungry and knowing there is nothing much you can do to help them," Bernice Ngima said.

The workers who had congregated outside the county government's offices in Murang'a town on Wednesday said they are suffering and require the urgent attention of the Governor Mwangi wa Iria-led administration.

Mary Wambui said they have been reduced to begging to feed their families.

She said they go for days without finding any casual labour as more and more people chose to stay at home.

Wambui said workers should be included in the weekly stipends issued by the government to the vulnerable.

On April 16, President Uhuru Kenyatta announced that disadvantaged households would receive weekly stipends to cushion them from the effects of the pandemic.

The President said the programme was piloted in Nairobi, where households were identified and provided with stipends, and that an additional Sh5 billion was sent to county governments to help them undertake similar initiatives.

"The government took away our only source of income and left us helpless. We are asking to be included in the relief programme," Wambui said.

Last week, a group of beauty and barbershop operators held protests in Murang'a town, asking the county government to revoke an order issued to close down their premises.

The workers said they had exhausted their savings after staying home with their families for two weeks and that they would require relief food if their shops were not reopened.

They said they were ready to follow all guidelines issued by the government to protect themselves and their customers from the virus.

“

BERNICE NGIMA

It is very painful watching our children go to bed hungry and knowing there is nothing much you can do to help them

GACHAGUA SAYS DUMPSITE IS ILLEGAL AND NO GARBAGE WILL BE DUMPED IN MATHIRA

COUNTIES COAST

PREVIOUS BOARD BLAMED

Kwale loses Sh3m monthly to illegal water connections

SHABAN OMAR/The Kwale county government is losing Sh3 million through illegal water connections every month, executive Martin Kuya has said.

Kuya said illegal connections had led to the loss of revenue that could have been used to offer services for residents.

"If we are using more on maintenance and electricity bills than what we collect, then it means we are losing. Actually it is the main headache for revenue collections," Kuya said on Wednesday.

The latest report from the Water Services Regulatory Board says Kwale losses around Sh38 million on non-revenue water annually. Kuya said illegal connection tops the causes followed by leakages and malfunctioning water meters. The official said many clients still own broken meters.

BUSY WORKSHOPS

Lamu tailors make a killing as demand for face masks rises

CHETI PRAXIDES/Tailors in Lamu are doing brisk business arising from a spike in demand for face masks in the county.

Residents afraid of a Monday directive by county commissioner Irungu Macharia that those without masks will be quarantined are buying in numbers.

Chemists and other outlets sell face masks for between Sh150 and Sh200 a piece but the tailors' products go for Sh50. The residents are opting for locally made cloth masks from the tailors to protect themselves.

Following the announcement, many tailors have seen long queues of customers seeking to acquire the masks in bulk for their families.

Police are under strict orders to enforce the directive and arrest those found without masks in public places.



Tailor Ahmed Mwalimu makes masks in Lamu town / **CHETI PRAXIDES**



One of the boreholes being cleaned for revival in Lamu town / **CHETI PRAXIDES**

WAR ON CORONAVIRUS

Ancient boreholes restored in Lamu to boost water supply

They are centuries old and have not been used for a long time

CHETI PRAXIDES
@ppcheti



Ancient boreholes in Lamu are being rehabilitated to improve water supply and boost hand-washing and hygiene in the war on coronavirus.

All the boreholes and shallow wells being restored are centuries old and have been in disuse for a long time.

At least 50 boreholes and shallow wells in Langoni, Jua Kali, Kibaki Grounds, Kanu, Kinooni, Manda-Okoe, Shella and Kashmir are targets of rehabilitation.

Trade and Tourism executive Atwa Salim said work is ongoing on the first phase targeting 15 boreholes.

Salim, who spoke in Lamu town on Wednesday, said there was a need to boost water supply because the

demand is high in heightened war against the spread of Covid-19.

The water will greatly benefit more than 200 traders recently relocated from the Municipal Centre to the Kibaki Grounds where there is adequate space for social distancing.

The Kibaki Grounds isn't supplied

“

ATWA SALIM

The objective is to boost water supply to all people at this time when it is in high demand

with water and traders have to pay for supplies for use even in common utilities like toilets.

"The objective is to boost water supply to all people at this time when it is in such high demand. Most of the boreholes are still in good condition and all we are doing is removing the accumulated dirt to allow for clean water to collect," Salim said.

He appealed for information on the location of some of the boreholes.

Lamu Water and Sewerage Company managing director Paul Wainaina said the company will treat the water and take necessary measures to ensure its safety.

"This is a time to join hands in the war against this killer virus. We shall ensure the boreholes and the water therein is safe for human consumption," Wainaina said.

IMPROVED SUPPLIES WILL PROMOTE HAND WASHING IN THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19

FRUSTRATION

Tenants read malice in flats demolitions

BRIAN OTIENO/Some 36 families at the Changanwe New Flats Estate in Mombasa are living in limbo after they were threatened with evictions.

On Tuesday, police oversaw the partial demolition of some three blocks that they were supposed to move into.

Laptrust, through property managers Laser Property Services, deemed the blocks dilapidated and uninhabitable. The families, whose original houses are marked for demolition for construction of a Sh22 billion road from Digo Road to Mariakani, say they will not move out before compensation.

They had earlier agreed to move to the units which have been vacant for about five years.

Airport Police Unit officers, who were being housed at blocks A13, A14 and A15, moved out in 2015.

Vincent Otieno, a member of the Directly Affected Persons committee, said the demolition of the houses is sinister and meant to prevent tenants from moving in.

"We had agreed to even repair any damages on our own. How come they do not want us to move into those blocks? Someone is eying those houses," Otieno said.

However, Laptrust, which took over the houses from the defunct Municipal Council of Mombasa said they intend to build new structures very soon.

In a letter dated April 3 and addressed to Mombasa police commandant, Laser Property said blocks A13, A14 and A15 are dilapidated and uninhabitable.

NEW VIRUS EPICENTRE

Mass testing at KPA nets Covid-19 cases

MAUREEN MUDI/More Kenya Ports Authority workers have been confirmed to have coronavirus after mass testing at the facility.

Out of the seven new coronavirus cases in Mombasa reported by the Health Ministry on Tuesday, five came from KPA.

On Wednesday, out of the six cases, KPA had five, putting Mombasa county's infection rate higher than the national average with 67 out of the country's 303 confirmed cases as of Wednesday.

More people are feared to come out positive as samples are tested.

The total number of confirmed infections at KPA has now risen to 23, putting the authority at the epicentre of the virus in Mombasa.

Mombasa county has recorded more than 20 positives cases in less than a week.

The National Emergency Response Committee has been asked to review cases in the region, with a likelihood that the government may impose stiffer measures to curb the virus spread.

KPA principal public relations officer Hajji Masemo confirmed the figures and said the authority had received 1,000 testing kits.

COUNTIES RIFT VALLEY



Residents remove a cow stuck in the mud near Chesogon market on the Elgeyo Marakwet border / **MATHEWS NDANYI**

RAINS CONTINUE

28 died in mudslides, the situation critical – Tolgos

MATHEWS NDANYI/ Twenty-eight people died in mudslides and floods in Elgeyo Marakwet county, Governor Alex Tolgos said on Thursday.

Neighbouring West Pokot and other counties were also severely affected and the toll of the dead and injured is yet to be established.

Tolgos said in Eldoret the death toll in his county and West Pokot was quite high and only four bodies had been recovered in five days.

He spoke after a meeting of North Rift Economic Bloc (Noreb) governors to discuss the flooding problem in the region.

“We have also been recovering many body parts from the affected areas and the figure 28 is just for my county.

If we tally with the exact figures yet to be established in West Pokot, then it's evident we have lost so many lives in that tragedy,” Tolgos said.

The mudslides on Tuesday swept through several villages along the border between the two counties and flattened the entire Chesogon market centre, where many people were killed, including two police officers.

Tolgos said the situation in the region was still critical and many families were camping at Sambalat and Wewa primary schools. The national government, neighbouring counties and well-wishers made donations to the affected communities.

“We still urgently require assistance for families in the area where our measures to fight Covid-19 have been affected,” Tolgos said. He said Kitui county had pledged to send face masks to displaced families.

The governor said the long-term solution to the problem was to resettle families and others living on risky escarpments, so they will be safe from the recurrent landslides in the region.

ANOTHER PLAGUE

First locusts, now toxic flies infest Baringo

They don't bite but coming into contact with them causes blisters. The insects are six to eight millimetres long

JOSEPH KANGOGO
@TheStarKenya



First came the locusts and they're multiplying.

Now the toxic 'narrow bee flies' or 'Nairobi flies' have infested Kabarnet town in Baringo county.

And there's the coronavirus to worry about.

The swarm of red and black insects landed around Kabartonjo bus stage on Wednesday, causing immediate closure of at least 10 shops.

They don't bite but coming into contact with them causes blisters. The insects, actually a species of the beetle, are six to eight millimetres long.

“Last week it was locusts, then followed by Covid-19 and now this Nairobi fly intrusion. People really need to pray for God's help to get rid of these disasters,” Baringo Assembly Speaker David Kiplagat said.

Dr Winnie Bore said on Thursday the intrusion could be due to the change of weather and heavy rains forcing them out of their underground habits. She is the county Public Health chief officer.

DRAWN TO LIGHT

She said they are attracted to light, especially at night, and could have been drawn to the bright lights at the bus park.

“I thought this could either be a God's miracle or witchcraft. I wonder because since I was born I have never seen the insects in such large numbers,” Kabarnet town trader Vincent Chepkwony said.

He said even with the onset of rains, he had only spotted a few of them flying in town and around his house, “but I cannot tell what caused the multitude to converge here,” he said.

The invasion forced him to close shop. “The insects contain highly inflammatory chemicals so I fear for



Millions of narrow bee flies at the Kabartonjo bus stage in Kabarnet town, Baringo county, on Wednesday / **JOSEPH KANGOGO**

my health” Chepkwony said.

Dr Bore said the insects are not very dangerous because they neither bite nor sting but they only cause mild irritation if they come into contact with skin. This causes swelling and blistering.

Their fluid contains pederin, a potent toxin that causes blistering.

“The skin irritation only occurs when one crushes the fly against the skin. Mostly people do it accidentally if the insects get under their clothes or on their face or neck. The blisters usually disappear gradually.

Trader Eunice Kandie said she is scared because she cannot enter her dairy shop and fruits grocery near the infested ground.

“They are too many and rigid I thought they would have cleared by yesterday evening but they can't move even an inch. They just remain heaped and spread on the ground,” she said.

Public health officers are fumigating the area with pyrethrum insecticide “but it isn't effective” Bore said, adding they are contacting agricultural experts to help kill them.

Kabarnet town residents are fearful the colony of insects, if not destroyed promptly, will multiply and spread across the whole area and even get into their houses.

Resident Ben Chepkwony showed a scar on his neck he said was caused by being “licked” by a fly last month. Wounds can take a long time to heal and sometimes leave scars.

Kiplagat and residents urged health officials and authorities to move faster and find effective chemicals to kill the insects before they spread.

MYTH

Virus can't survive heat, we're safe, say Turkana residents

The county, a semi-desert region, gets temperatures averaging from lows of 28 degrees Celsius to highs of 38 degrees

HESBORN ETYANG/ It's 6pm, an hour to curfew, and residents of Lodwar town are running up and down to shop and others rushing home to avoid the curfew police.

They gather closely in small groups outside the shops and on verandas discussing the coronavirus global pandemic the world is struggling with. Many residents still think they are immune, that the virus cannot survive in hot temperatures.

They're wrong but they cling to the myth.

In a heated conversation about the virus, they argue over whether the

virus can survive hot temperatures.

Turkana county is hot. It's a semi-desert region with high temperatures averaging lows of 28 degrees Celsius to highs of 38 degrees.

“We are lucky because coronavirus cannot survive in our semi-arid region because of high temperatures,” Peter Ekuwom tells a group of young men.

“For many years we have been haunted by plagues of hunger, drought, floods and insecurity. There is no way God can allow the coronavirus to attack the vulnerable people of Turkana.” Bravin Egelan responds

that countries with similar temperature like Turkana such South Sudan have also reported cases of coronavirus and the virus can survive in warm to hot temperatures.

The conversation doesn't last long as a police siren disperses them before the 7pm to 5am curfew aimed at preventing the spread of the virus.

Turkana is vast and health workers have not covered remote areas with messages about the virus and the importance of frequent hand washing, using sanitiser, keeping social distance, avoiding crowds and staying home as much as possible.

COUNTIES WESTERN-NYANZA



PHOTO STORY

Some of the items delivered to Lurambi residents by MP Titus Khamala on Tuesday
/HILTON OTENYO

BUSIA SURVEILLANCE

Nyumba Kumi to watch movement across border

EMOJONG OSERE/ Security agencies will work with Nyumba Kumi leaders to monitor activity along the Kenya-Uganda border during the Covid-19 outbreak.

The collaboration is meant to stop illegal cross-border movement between the two countries until the border is reopened. Interior CAS Hussein Dadho said some people were illegally crossing the borders but security agencies will ensure tighter enforcement. "This puts Kenyans at risk of being infected with the coronavirus," Dadho said.

The CAS spoke after touring the Malaba One-Stop Border Post accompanied by CASs Chris Obure (Transport and Infrastructure) and Rashid Aman (Health).

Governor Sospeter Ojaamong on Monday raised the alarm over the influx of Ugandans into Busia. He urged security agencies to probe how Ugandans freely cross into Kenya despite the border being shut. He was addressing a meeting at the Busia Agricultural Training Centre.

"Security apparatus should ensure that is stopped with immediate effect. Uganda has barred Kenyans from crossing. We are very lenient with Ugandans who are allowed to stream into the country."

CONTRIBUTION IN MARRIAGE

Kakamega man to give 30% of property to former wife

Judge rules that providing companionship and child care are sufficient contribution

FAITH NYASUGUTA
@TheStarKenya



A Kakamega woman has been awarded 30 per cent of her ex-husband's land parcel for her companionship and child-care during their 11-year marriage.

The man told the High Court in Kakamega that the property was not matrimonial because he bought it in 2009 when his ex-wife was a jobless homemaker.

The couple lived together from 1997 and was married in the church in 2004. They lived in Kakamega town until their separation in 2015.

Their marriage was dissolved by the court a year later. The woman said the property was bought jointly in 2009 and registered in the man's name in trust for both of them.

"They proceeded to establish a matrimonial home on the property. Later on, they developed irreconcilable differences and she filed for divorce," court papers read.

They separated in 2015 and the marriage was dissolved by the court on November 1, 2016. The woman admitted that she neither made a direct contribution to the acquisition of the property nor its development.

"She based her claim on contribution in the form of companionship that she offered to the respondent

during the subsistence of their marriage and taking care of their daughter," court documents read.

The woman claimed that she was entitled to a share of the property and urged the court to grant her half share of the plot. The man testified that between 2009 and 2011, he enrolled his ex-wife into a secretarial course in Kakamega town and sponsored her computer studies.

"He started building a house on the suit property in the year 2014 without the support of the applicant and he completed it in October 2015," court documents read.

He moved into the house in the absence of the woman as she had left him in September 2015.

Before building the house, they stayed in rental houses. The man produced a receipt for rent for September 2015 to prove that the woman failed to contribute.

The court concluded that the woman had provided companionship to the man for several years before the property was bought. She was also at the time taking care of their daughter, now in university.

"The two roles of providing companionship and child care were sufficient contribution on the part of the applicant. I, therefore, hold that the suit land was matrimonial property and that the respondent held the land in trust for the applicant," Justice Jesse Njagi ruled.

COVID-19 STRIKES HARD

Sacco donates food to Macalder gold miners



Gold miners from Macalder queue to receive donations from Copper Hill Sacco chairman Felix Okwanyo on Wednesday /MANUEL ODENY

MANUEL ODENY
@TheStarKenya



More than 900 gold miners at Macalder, Migori, have received donations to cushion them from the slump in prices caused by the Covid-19 crisis.

Copper Hill Sacco, which manages the old mines, pooled resources from stakeholders, business partners and officials to help distribute food to the miners and their families for four days ending Thursday.

More than 100 bags of maize, 100 bags of rice, soap, salt, sugar, and face masks were distributed.

Sacco chairman Felix Okwanyo on Wednesday said prices of gold per gramme have dipped by more than half, from Sh4,000 to Sh2,000 since the start of coronavirus pandemic. He spoke during the distribution.

Businesses that rely on gold mining such as those selling machines and mercury for extraction and commercial property have also been hurt. "We've seen buyers shying away from mines because transportation and economy in the gold

market in Dubai and Europe has dipped completely," Okwanyo said.

Mining has been worsened by the measures put in place by the government to contain the virus, he said. Such measures include social distancing and the curfew that is effective from 7pm to 5am. "We have several families that depend wholesome on the gold business. What we've distributed will help cushion them at this time," he said.

Sacco vice chairman Sylvester Ageng'a said they had ensured government directives are adhered to at the gold mines and hoped the economy will bounce back soon.

Margret Adhiambo, a beneficiary, appealed to the government to consider artisanal miners through an economic stimulus plan and help revamp the sector.

Meanwhile, the Migori government launched a county resource mobilisation committee headed by businessman Walter Ogwada to help collect and distribute donations across the county. Governor Okoth Obado unveiled the team on Tuesday. It has already received food, masks, handwashing points and sanitiser worth Sh9 million.

STIMULUS PACKAGE

Support SMEs to avert widespread hunger, state told

HILTON OTENYO/ The government should work out an economic stimulus package that will cushion the SMEs to deal with the effects of the Covid-19 crisis, Lurambi MP Titus Khamala has urged.

He said on Wednesday the informal sector has been hit hard by the measures taken by the government to check the spread of the virus and would require about three years to recover, hence the need to support them to aid their faster recovery.

"By the time the government announces that the situation has normalised, Kenyans will have nothing to begin on. The end of the pandemic will mark the beginning of the hard times ahead, which we must prepare for as a country," Khamala said.

He distributed food, face masks, sanitiser, water tanks and handwashing soap to his constituents. Khamala said most Kenyans have lost their livelihoods and hunger will set in as the government struggles to steady the economy.

The MP urged President Uhuru Kenyatta to ask China to restructure or write off its loans to Kenya.

"Kenyans need tax relief and the government can't raise money to service the debts by China. The President should take a bold step and tell China that now that the virus came from them and it has destroyed our economy, we have no money to pay them," he said.

COUNTIES NYANZA

DOWNPOURS CAUSE HAVOC

Over 6,500 families displaced in Kisumu

Governor calls for provision of relief food, mattresses, blankets and mosquito nets

FAITH MATETE
@faymatete



More than 6,500 families in Kisumu county have been displaced by floods.

Rising water levels on Lake Victoria and burst river banks have left homes submerged after heavy rains hit the county.

Governor Anyang Nyong'o said parts of Nyando subcounty, Muhoroni, lower Nyakach, Kisumu East and Central and Seme have been affected. "The raging floods have caused massive disruption to the lives of our people causing extensive damage to property and infrastructure," Nyong'o said.

The governor said the floods had increased the county's vulnerability as it is already dealing with the prevention of the Covid-19 spread. He said approximately 80 acres of maize, beans and other crops have been destroyed in Muhoroni alone.

Nyong'o called for an immediate provision of relief food, mattresses and blankets, mosquito nets, clean drinking water, purification chemicals, masks, sanitiser and medical supplies to the victims.

"I call upon all stakeholders, the national government and all people of goodwill to join us in addressing this humanitarian crisis," he said.

Fear is rife that more people would be affected by the floods. The meteorological department announced that more rains will



Ahero residents move to safe ground on Wednesday /DANIEL OGENDO



A man finds his way to the main road near Ahero junction in Nyando, Kisumu county, on Wednesday /DANIEL OGENDO

be experienced across the country. On Tuesday morning, River Nyando broke its banks, leaving several people stranded and sweeping away household items.

At Kombura location at least 500 people were moved to a camp at Lela Secondary due to the floods.

Kombura chief Nick Opundo said efforts to establish the exact number of affected families is underway.

Dorcas Juma said she did not salvage anything from her home owing to the danger posed by the raging waters. "We are in a desperate situation here after the floods destroyed our houses. We ask the government to save us from this devastating situation," Juma said.

John Okello said they were shocked by the floods. He urged the government to provide a lasting solution to the perennial crisis.

In Muhoroni, families affected were residents of Ombeyi, Obum-

ba, Obiayo and Kibigori areas where houses have been submerged.

The displaced families were evacuated to the neighbouring primary schools. Evacuation centres such as Achuotho have been surrounded by floodwaters.

Roads were also rendered impassable, making it difficult to access the evacuation points. Muhoroni deputy county commissioner Erick Wanyonyi said that at least 10 acres under maize crops and sections of rice farms were destroyed.

The affected families have been advised to go to safer grounds as the government looks for mitigation measures which include the provision of relief food, nets and medicines," Wanyonyi said.

The administrator said that the flood victims are in dire need of food and non-food items. He appealed to non-governmental organisations to support.



Kamidumbi villagers wade through a flooded road on Wednesday /DANIEL OGENDO

Chuowe beach residents use floodwaters to clean household items after downpours caused floods in Karachuonyo constituency on Wednesday. They now rely on canoes to access their houses /ROBERT OMOLLO



Men try to salvage some of their belongings after floodwaters ravaged their homes at Ahero in Nyando on Wednesday /DANIEL OGENDO

COUNTIES EASTERN

RISK OF VIRUS SPREAD

Tigania residents told to stop sharing masks

GERALD MUTETHIA/ Tigania residents have been warned against sharing face masks.

Tigania West MP John Mutunga said some villagers were sharing face masks and warned it could hurt the war against coronavirus spread.

The MP said those going to the market were borrowing face masks from those at home so they are not arrested by police.

He said it was the culture of Meru people to share but warned that things like face masks are not for sharing.

The lawmaker spoke on Tuesday at the NGCDF offices when he launched the distribution of 25,000

free face masks to residents. The masks were bought by the MP's funds and not cash from the local development kitty.

Mutunga said the Ameru culture of generosity might hamper the war on coronavirus and put many lives at risk.

"I have heard some people are borrowing face masks from their neighbours when going to the market or to town. This is not encouraged, stop. Practice good hygiene. Live abnormally so that you help fight and not jeopardise. I am optimistic the disease will vanish," Mutunga said.

He said Meru people are fond of sharing anything within their reach



Tigania West MP John Mutunga distributes face masks to his constituents on April 21
/GERALD MUTETHIA

including miraa, cigarettes, salt and farm produce, not because those being given do not have but because it is a cultural behaviour and belief.

The lawmaker said people needed to sacrifice to aid the fight against Covid-19 pandemic.

Mutunga said many governments were strained and the economy of the country will be deeply affected by the pandemic. He urged wealthy

nations and people to help third world countries.

"We don't want a situation where our health care facilities are overwhelmed and health workers are left confused. Let's be disciplined, obedient and obey all the government directives. If you have more, complement leaders and the government in distributing face masks, sanitiser, soaps and water tanks," he said.

BREAKING REGULATIONS

Miraa truck driver among 70 in forced quarantine in Meru

GERALD MUTETHIA / A miraa pick-up truck driver is among 70 people forced into quarantine in Meru after he was found sneaking two people from Nairobi into the county.

Meru county commissioner Allan Machari said 57 of those being held were arrested on Wednesday. They are being quarantined at the Kenya Medical Training College in Meru town.

He said people like the driver will not be tolerated, adding that they may be forced to ban the use of vehicles being used to traffic people from coronavirus hotspot counties.

Meru medical services director Koome Muthuri told journalists at KMTC that the 57 were arrested after breaking the dusk-to-dawn curfew and for not wearing face masks, being in bars and not keeping social distance.

Muthuri said they will intensify the enforcement of health directives to ensure residents help prevent the spread of coronavirus. He said they had strict instructions from Governor Kiraitu Murungi to aid the fight against the pandemic.

COUNTY DEFENDS MOVE

Kenyatta Stadium not ideal isolation centre, says Wavinya Ndeti

Transport CAS says facility is too cold and unfriendly to patients



Medics in a tent set up to serve as a screening and isolation field hospital in a stadium in Machakos town on April 22 /REUTERS

masks for residents to curb the spread of coronavirus.

Machakos Deputy Governor Francis Maliti, however, defended the decision to turn the stadium into an isolation facility saying the Cabinet and County Coronavirus Emergency Committee had consulted widely.

Maliti said the stadium was seen as an ideal place because it is located just 200 metres from the Machakos Level 5 Referral Hospital.

He said the converted stadium has wards for Covid-19 patients with mild symptoms and that critical cases will be isolated in wards at the referral hospital.

"We have had the claims that converting the stadium into an isolation centre was a bad idea but let me clear this up; the facility will only be used to admit Covid-19 patients with mild symptoms during the transition period where if need be they will be moved to the ICU into the isolation ward inside the referral hospital," Maliti said.

He said two more isolation wards were being set up Mwala and Kinanie level 4 hospitals.

He said converting boarding schools and other institutions into isolation centres might psychologically affect students once the schools reopen.

MASS SCREENING

On Monday, Governor Mutua launched mass screening of residents at the Kenyatta Stadium where an isolation centre with a 400-bed capacity has been set up. The facility already has 60 beds ready for use.

Wavinya urged Kenyans to adhere to health regulations issued by the government to combat Covid-19. She said some people were taking the guidelines for granted.

"I have been observing Kenyans and when you go to markets, you will find they only put on masks when they see a police officer. But masks are meant for your own good and not for the police," Wavinya said.

She said it was important that people realised they were the first line of defence in the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic and took personal responsibility.

were many boarding schools that the county ought to have used as isolation centres for coronavirus suspects.

She said maintaining the stadium will be expensive and urged Governor Alfred Mutua to rethink the decision and "invest the funds in a more useful project".

"The idea to convert the stadium into a health facility was not a good one because the surrounding environment is very cold and friendly.

It will also need a lot of funds to maintain the facility, funds that could have been used to do something else," Wavinya said.

"We have so many buildings which were ideal for the isolation center, like the youth polytechnics, the Machakos University which are not occupied since the students are at home. Let's conserve the funds for an emergency."

She said the funds could have been used to buy sanitiser and face

THE DATA

200

Distance in metres between stadium and Machakos hospital

Deputy Governor Maliti said the stadium was seen as an ideal place because it is located just 200 metres from the Machakos Level 5 Referral Hospital.

NOT LICENSED

Forty 'matatus' impounded over social distancing

PHILOMENA KILONZO / More than 40 matatus and Toyota Probox vehicles were on Wednesday impounded in Machakos for failing to observe social distancing rules.

Transport executive Morris Aluanga said the operators were found disregarding the health directives during an operation to enforce social distancing.

"Over time, we have noticed our people are taking things lightly assuming coronavirus is a disease only for Nairobi but I would like to tell them that Machakos is the dormitory of Nairobi. So we have decided to take action before our people perish," Aluanga said.

The operators were also found at fault with National Transport and Safety Authority regulations. The CEC said some had put tinted windows so police could not see how many passengers they were carrying at a given time.

PHILOMENA KILONZO
@TheStarKenya



The conversion of Kenyatta Stadium into an isolation centre was ill-informed because the facility is cold and unfriendly for patients, Transport Chief Administrative Secretary Wavinya Ndeti has said.

In a press statement on Thursday, the former Kathiani MP said there

COUNTIES NORTHEASTERN

BORDERS CLOSED

Garissa placed on lockdown to prevent corona

Tuk-tuks, boda bodas and matatus barred



Garissa Governor Ali Korane speaks to reporters outside his office on Thursday /STEPHEN ASTARIKO



STEPHEN ASTARIKO @TheStarKenya

Garissa Governor Ali Korane on Thursday ordered the county borders closed in the war against coronavirus.

The order, which was to be effected right away, is likely to be resisted since the majority of Garissa town workers and business people reside in Madogo, Tana River county, from where they commute daily.

Korane told journalists outside his office that the partial lockdown of Nairobi had exacerbated human trafficking by cartels who smuggle

people to Garissa, Wajir and Isiolo in small cars.

He restricted the movement on the Garissa-Tana bridge. No Tuk Tuk, boda bodas or matatus will be allowed in Garissa.

“We have resolved to temporarily stop any vehicular movement into Garissa county to curb the spread of the novel coronavirus from other counties. Trucks ferrying supplies will be allowed into the county.

“This is to limit movement of passengers from Tana River, Wajir, Isiolo and Lamu counties. We will only allow people to cross on foot,” he said, adding that trucks ferrying supplies will be allowed into the devolved unit.

Korane said the national and county governments would go to any lengths to protect lives.

He urged security personnel to beef up surveillance along the Kenya-Somalia border to restrict the movement of people following increased cases of coronavirus at Kobiyo in the neighbouring country.

Korane said the county had procured 10 thermal guns and intended to purchase 40 more to enhance the screening of residents at strategic places including those crossing on

foot through Tana bridge and crucial public places.

He announced that his government would support 6,000 vulnerable families during the month of Ramadhan.

“We are determined to cushion our people from the economic hardships associated with the pandemic, particularly during the holy month of Ramadhan,” he said.

“It’s in this regard that we will give food vouchers to 6,000 needy households. Chiefs and their assistants will

help in identifying the most needy.”

The vulnerable families will also benefit from partner organisations like Unicef, Kenya Red Cross, National Drought Management Authority, UNHCR, Womenkind, Safaricom and Care Kenya.

The governor promised to give 100,000 free masks to the public. More equipment will be procured for health personnel.

Korane implored the public to pray at home during Ramadhan and to comply with the curfew.



NEW DIRECTIVE

Mandera residents welcome partial shutdown, say it’ll stop virus spread

STEPHEN ASTARIKO/A section of Mandera residents on Thursday welcomed movement restriction orders issued by the national government to contain the spread of coronavirus.

Mandera becomes the fifth county to be placed under partial lockdown after Nairobi, Mombasa, Kilifi and Kwale to curb the spread of Covid-19.

The order by the government comes after the region recorded eight positive cases of the virus.

Adan Ali speaking to the press in Mandera town said the new order was long overdue. He said the rate at which the disease was spreading in the county was alarming.

“I welcome the government’s decision to completely lock down our county. We are more than willing to cooperate if that is what will help stop the spread of the virus,” he said.

Abdi Hassan, a businessman who also welcomed the new orders, how-

ever, urged the security apparatus not to harass motorists carrying goods.

“We have in the recent past witnessed cases of some of our drivers carrying goods say that they were given a rough time by police officers on the roads. This is despite having the necessary documentation which lists them among the essential service providers,” Hassan said.

Governor Ali Roba who two weeks ago put the county on partial lockdown welcomed the government’s move and urged residents to comply with the directive.

On Tuesday, Roba said his county had continued upscaling interventions against the virus including active surveillance, contact tracing, case management, and community interventions across all subcounties in line with rising cases of the pandemic.

A health official screens a truck driver in Mandera town on Wednesday /STEPHEN ASTARIKO

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SASA

COVER

How pregnant women are facing virus threat

Fear infection if they go to hospital and neglect by medics as they prioritise their own safety

BY NJERI MBUGUA

/ @NjeriEMbugua



At four months pregnant, Ruth Njogu did not anticipate she would have to protect herself and her unborn child from a global pandemic.

Njogu, who is from Embu, has to visit the doctor once a month for her antenatal care visits, but her greatest fear has now become visiting hospitals.

“My main fear is going to the hospital because of the risk of infection there. For a pregnant woman, my immunity is not at its best,” she said.

Njogu, who is due in October and delivered her last child at Aga Khan Hospital, also has a lot of anxiety over when the pandemic will end.

“I keep wondering whether this will be the situation when I am due, and then that raises the question of how I will go about it; do I do home delivery or go to hospital?” she said.

“You cannot really plan for anything during this time.”

Njogu adds life has completely changed, leaving her confused on what to do.

“I live in Embu but commute to Kirinyaga using a matatu for work. If I was still required to go to the office, I would be afraid because of the risk of infection for me and the baby,” she said.

During her last antenatal check-up, Njogu visited a gynaecologist.

“However, I cannot afford to pay a

gynaecologist for antenatal clinics, so I still have to go to hospital,” she said.

“I was also talking to a friend who advised me that home delivery, which I was considering, is not the best option in Kenya. A hospital delivery will be safer.”

LIVING IN FEAR

Another fear she has is the possible neglect she might face at the hospital because of the Covid-19 situation.

“Some facilities are neglecting other patients and putting more focus on the coronavirus patients, which could be dangerous if the other patients require urgent medical attention,” she said.

She had gone to get some groceries she needed during her last month of pregnancy when she was harassed for being outside.

“People were telling me I was not doing the right thing and that as a pregnant woman, I should not be outside. However, sometimes you are the only one who knows what you need and where to get it,” she said.

Elsewhere, Maria, who lives in Nakuru, delivered her child last month, missed out on a celebration and completing shopping for her child.

“My friends had planned a baby shower for me that had to be cancelled because some of them were coming from Nairobi and didn’t want to risk contracting the virus and

Pregnant woman
/ JOHN CHESOLI

spreading it to me,” she said.

“I felt bad because I would have loved a baby shower.”

When it comes to shopping for her new baby, she had to resort to the more expensive option because flea markets such as Gikomba were closed down.

“There is no place now to purchase second-hand clothes and one is forced to buy them at the shop, where they are expensive, or call someone who sells them to bring them to you, which is also expensive because they may increase their prices,” she said.

When she was due for delivery, she had to undergo a Caesarean section and was required to wear a mask.

“I had difficulty breathing because of the mask and when I was in labour, the heat was unbearable,” she said.

After delivery, she could not move much because of her fresh wound. Her husband was only able to visit her once. “The nurses were also not keen like there was one nurse who came to clean my area and change my beddings,” she said.

“I remember she took my baby and gave it to the patient next to me, which I found irresponsible because we did not know her status and I felt my child was placed at risk.”

Another incident was when a security guard, on the pretext of coming to monitor the room, took her charger.

“I didn’t know where he had come



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Women Mortal Threat

Sanitise Covid-19 patients

from, whether he was a potential carrier of the virus and I had seen him sanitise, so I was angry when he just came and took my charger. I told him if he needed to use it, he had to sanitise and gave him my hand sanitiser," she said.

CONSTANT STRESS

Since she could not receive any visitors, she had difficulty performing tasks when the nurses were busy.

"I was very frustrated and even cried because I was alone and if something was a few metres away from me, I could not access it. I begged them to allow just the child's father to come to help me but they couldn't," she said.

However, even after going home, Maria is constantly stressed out, thinking about the virus.

Her baby's father, who works in sales, cannot work from home and leaves for the office daily.

"I get worried because I don't know who he has interacted with while at work, if they are safe and if he is safe when he comes home to us," she said.

"I know the mask can get uncomfortable and sometimes people remove them to breathe better, and things like those make me even more worried."

The new mother has thought about going to live with her mother until things cool down, but she also does not want to leave her husband alone.

"I am just living in fear. When he comes home he has to remove his clothes and place them in a washing bucket, then take a shower before he can see or hold the baby," she said.

Maria is coping with her fears by talking to him about them and making sure they are on the same page.

"I'd like to advise pregnant women or those with children and with working spouses or partners to talk

about their fears so they can find solutions," she said.

"Like for me, if I don't talk about the stress, it may affect my milk production, which will affect my baby."

TAKE PRECAUTIONS

Research is underway to understand the impacts of Covid-19 infection on pregnant women. Data is limited but at present, there is no evidence that they are at higher risk of severe illness than the general population.

According to the World Health Organisation, because of the changes in their bodies and immune systems, we know that pregnant women can be badly affected by some respiratory infections.

"It is, therefore, important that they take precautions to protect themselves against Covid-19 and report possible symptoms (including fever, cough or difficulty breathing) to their health-care provider," WHO said.

The organisation adds there is no conclusive data or evidence to show pregnant women can pass the infection to their foetus or baby during pregnancy or delivery.

"To date, the virus has not been found in samples of amniotic fluid or breastmilk," wrote the health organisation.

According to WHO guidelines, a safe and positive childbirth experience includes being treated with respect and dignity, having a companion of choice present during delivery and clear communication by maternity staff.

Others include appropriate pain relief strategies, mobility in labour where possible and birth position of choice.

All pregnant women, including those with confirmed or suspected Covid-19 infections, have the right to high-quality care before, during and after childbirth. This includes antenatal, newborn, postnatal, intrapartum and mental health care.

In case the mother is infected with Covid-19, WHO advises she can still breastfeed if she wishes to do so.

"They should practice respiratory hygiene during feeding, wear a mask where available, wash hands before and after touching the baby and routinely clean and disinfect surfaces they have touched," WHO says.

However, if the mother feels too unwell to breastfeed or other complications, she should be supported to safely provide her baby with breastmilk in a way possible, available and acceptable to them.

Mothers are advised to express milk, practise relaxation or use donor human milk.



A woman breastfeeds at KNH during World Breastfeeding Week in 2016
/FILE

MORTAL THREAT

BY ALLAN TULI

@TheStarKenya

Corona re-emphasises the need to write a will



In chapter 3 of his 1833 book, *The Wondrous Tale of Alroy*, British novelist, essayist and twice Prime Minister of the UK, Benjamin Disraeli, writes, "I am prepared for the worst but hope for the best."

No phrase best sums up the times we are going through right now as a nation, and as a planet. While governments and healthcare workers are trying every day to flatten the curve and reduce the terrible grip Covid-19 has on humanity, we can only hope we prevail in the end.

Not to be an alarmist or anything, but for anyone with dependants, now is the right time to get your affairs in order. To be specific, write a will. As Africans, our culture dictates that we shun any talk concerning preparation of death as it amounts to courting death. However, considering the current pandemic, wisdom dictates that we plan ahead to avoid causing you or your loved ones any future anxiety.

WRITING A WILL

A will is a legal declaration by a person (legally referred to as a testator) of their wishes regarding the disposition of their property (and sometimes the disposing of their body) after their demise.

A will provides certainty to the deceased's surviving dependants by distributing their property according to the deceased's wishes. It prevents and minimises disputes likely to arise during the division of the property among the deceased's dependants and family.

This not only minimises disruption in the way of life for the surviving dependants but also any quarrels and bad blood among surviving family members, which many of us have witnessed either personally or read about in the tabloids.

A will can be used to distribute real property, including land, as well as movable property, such as money, shares in a company and personal effects. Additionally, one can legally bequeath their digital assets, including their control, to a third party.

A will can either be oral or written. An oral will shall be valid only if made before two witnesses and if made three months prior to the testator's death. However, any reasonable person will tell you a written will is much more preferred than an oral will, for obvious reasons.

Any individual with a sound mind and having attained the age of 18 can write a will. A will written under coercion or a threat of violence is void since a person writing a will ought to exercise free will.

Another requirement for a will to be valid

is that it must be signed by the testator or by some other person in the presence and by the direction of the testator. Further, the will must be signed by two or more competent witnesses.

Both witnesses must observe the testator, or the person assigned by the testator sign, or an acknowledgement by the testator that the signature or mark by another person was made at his direction. Each of the witnesses must equally sign the will in the presence of the testator.

Although not mandatory by law, the testator may choose to name an executor in the will. An executor is the person named by the will, who will take charge of the distribution of the assets of the deceased.

Where an executor is not named, any persons wishing to administer the estate of the deceased must apply to the court to be named as administrators. This could end up becoming a lengthy process, especially if numerous individuals come forward, seeking to become an executor. It is thus advisable that a testator provide for an executor in their will.

It is important to note that a will can be changed, altered or discarded as many times as the testator wants while they are still alive.

PLAN AHEAD

Another way one can plan for the unexpected is by purchasing life insurance, which several insurance companies offer nowadays. Insurance exists to cover the unexpected. Buying life insurance, a hospital-care plan or long-term care will serve as a financial safety net for unanticipated crises.

What happens during the next few days/weeks/months/years is unpredictable; don't take any chances with your loved ones or dependants. While no one wants to think this terrible virus will knock on their door, everyone should consider planning ahead should the worst scenario befall us.

Planning for an unexpected medical event is like wearing your seatbelt. On any given day, we expect to drive safely to our destination, but we wear seatbelts every time we get in our car as a precaution. Planning ahead during these troubled times is similar; proper planning can mitigate the burdens and obligations of loved ones that we leave behind. So, while we hope for the best, may we also prepare for the worst.

Advocate of the High Court of Kenya based in Boston, Massachusetts

Publishers adapt to disruption by virus

BY JKS MAKOKHA | /@TheStarKenya



Teachers buy books during 13th annual kepsa conference on December 4, 2017 /JOHN CHESOLI

Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything — George Bernard Shaw

The great Irish theatre critic and social commentator could as well have been describing the current times. Since the beginning of the year and after Covid-19 went viral, literally and literature-wise, no sector of the economy of nations across the world remains unscathed.

Unprecedented changes are afoot. In the book world, the pandemic has led to massive disruption of activities, some of which had taken months of planning and have now to be cancelled.

In places such as New York, New Delhi, Cape Town or London, where total lockdowns are enforced, bookstores and other players in the supply chains have had to come up with drastic coping strategies, including temporary closure. Online sales, however, appear to be picking up as the stay-at-home policies and curfews aggravate online shopping for books, among other goods.

Here in Nairobi, one player in the book industry presents an interesting case study on how the industry is coping with the new calamitous times. Christian Literature Communications is a growing publishing outfit with branches across the country courtesy of its Kenyan chapter.

Mercy Omukhango is their business development manager and head of publishing. She talked to the Star recently and decried the disruptions being occasioned by the coronavirus pandemic, but also shared practical golden opportunities that have arisen out of it.

Her outfit has come up with a number of strategies to fit itself into the new times relevantly. She says many plays in the industry stand to benefit if they convert the current challenges they face into opportunities for change and

progress. CLC-Kenya has shifted its operations to online platforms for continuity with some of their brand activities. They held their first Authors' Breakfast at the beginning of this week yesterday. This event would have occurred as face to face, ideally, but it was convened virtually.

This is an example of the new creed of continuation of work-from-home as the new location of duties and responsibilities among the working class. Many companies and institutions, including universities, have advised their employees to carry on with their essential services online from the safety of their homes.

Omukhango's organisation has strengthened their online presence with strategic renovations on their website, <https://kenyaclc.org/>. This enables their clients and other interested parties to interact remotely with the outfit. It heralds the new practice that certainly cuts across the corporate world at the moment. Online presence and virtual visibility is a key coping mechanism and it starts with enhanced websites and webpages. Companies now find these as vital necessities rather than just bare essentials in line with ISO certification requirement, in some cases.

WHATSAPP COLLABO

Secondly, CLC-Kenya has moved her authors' collaboration group on WhatsApp and it is working very well. There are several interaction exercises that occur on a daily basis. These include: Spiritual Inspiration for Authors (Mondays), Featured Authors Series (Tuesdays), Topical Trainings (Wednesday), Future of Book Trainings (Thursdays) and Book Market Day (Fridays to Sundays).

Thirdly, they have shifted their Book Programme Courses online, and one can interact using the following link: <https://kenyaclc.org/courses-2/>

Finally, CLC-K has initiated five different book programmes. There is an inspirational one for the guidance and counselling sector and another for company and business owners, who want to create an ownership culture among their employees.

This is crucial as different employers explore avenues of boosting the morale of their workers. Some of the workers across the country have been given temporary layoffs and others sent on compulsory leave as the fear of massive job losses looms large daily across the country.

Due to the pandemic, the CLC-K 2020 teen writers' class that was to start this Saturday will not start (offline). It has since been moved online as well. See <https://kenyaclc.org/course/igen-teen-authors-artists/>

In a nutshell, the current season of precarity portends a very uncertain future for the book industry. Whereas this seems to be the case at surface value, the pandemic has offered a golden opportunity for players in the industry to explore new horizons of expectations and operations.

There is no doubt that interfacing offline and online approaches is one of the new pathways into the future. Indeed, even universities, as apex players in the book industry, have already come to terms with this reality. Saint Paul's University, Mount Kenya University and Kenyatta University have continued with their normal operations by shifting their learning activities online for many courses normally offered offline.

The pandemic calls for Kenyans to seize the moment and ponder on the progressive changes we can all initiate for the betterment of the present and progress into the post-corona future.

Dr Makokha teaches Literature and Theatre at Kenyatta University

'LIFE CANNOT BE POSTPONED'

No cake and no kissing, but their union is sealed

BY GERALD MUTETHIA | /@TheStarKenya

A wedding expected to accommodate a huge crowd as naturally happens in African setting ended up with only 10 people, no cake and no touching or kissing the bride.

Godfrey Mutwiri, 29, and his fiancée Grace Nkatha, 25, had their festival plans disrupted by the coronavirus pandemic, but the lovebirds did not despair. They made lemonade from the situation to exchange vows.

The wedding was officiated by Pastor Isaac Kimathi of Christ Co-workers (Chrisco) Church in Makutano, Meru, without any extravagance.

"From here you go home, no food. We used to lift couple's hands, not anymore. I have preached in masks because Romans says obey those in authority," Kimathi said.

The two uttered their words during the exchange of covenant marriage rings onto their third fingers.

The two, who had dated for five years, wore face masks and kept a distance for most of the occasion in adherence to the Ministry of Health guidelines.

There was no cutting of cake, but Mutwiri and his wife shared an egg. There was no food served as reserved attendees only feasted on cupcake, boiled eggs, a banana and soda.

They had a budget of Sh240,000 but only spent Sh40,000.

Those who attended were Mutwiri and Nkatha's parents,

Pastor Kimathi and his wife and two bridesmaids from the couple's sides. They covered their faces with face masks for the whole ceremony.

The couple had settled on April 18 to tie the knot, with Murithi and Zipporah as their best man and woman, but late confirmation to conduct such a wedding from the authority hampered the plans and they approached Eric Munene, who stepped in with his wife.

"We were troubled. We were under pressure but I remembered my father told me life cannot be postponed," Mutwiri said.

"I called Eric Munene, a good friend and my spiritual mentor for the last 10 years, and told him the wedding was allowed but with restrictions for adherence to Covid-19 guidelines. Munene and his wife Mercy Nzuki agreed to step in and they will henceforth be."

Nkatha said she was happy with the success of the ceremony as what matters is the union and not the ceremony.

"We miss friends and relatives who wished to gather here and witness," Nkatha said.

Mutwiri said for their honeymoon, they were to celebrate in Mombasa, with expenses catered for by his sister, but instead, they will be at home, quarantined.

HONEYMOON WAS TO BE IN MOMBASA BUT NOW THEY'LL STAY AT HOME, QUARANTINED



Above, the couple and their guests
Left, Godfrey Mutwiri puts a covenant ring on Grace Nkatha's finger

/GERALD MUTETHIA



A chance for leaders to press the reset button



Management of the crisis provides chance to redeem legacies

I know it goes without saying, but I'll say it anyway. For political leaders the world over, the Covid-19 pandemic, and how they are seen to handle it, will be the defining moment of their careers.

The pandemic has ensured

that most if not all their legacies get a reset. The only leaders who will have anything to celebrate are those seen by most of their population as having handled the various lockdowns and curfews properly and set the course for recovery.

The rest might as well start packing now.

For instance, here in South Africa, when President Cyril Ramaphosa took over from the ruinous Jacob Zuma in 2018, there was a wave of euphoria across the country that became known

as Ramaphoria. People were so relieved to be rid of Zuma, they were willing to ignore the fact that Ramaphosa had been the Deputy President for four of the preceding nine years.

However, just like one who has been on a high either through drugs, alcohol or even just sugar, the after-effects or hangover brought them down to earth with a crash.

The Ramaphoria had not waved a magic wand and gotten rid of all the issues with the economy that had been present and building even as power changed hands. Soon, there were even some who had earlier been full of praise for Ramaphosa being doubtful and negative about his much-touted abilities.

Since the pandemic began, however, the pendulum of fortune seems to be swinging the President's way. His masterful, presidential manner while dealing with the coronavirus has got people cheering him on again, and even his detractors have paused.

As one political scientist I spoke to put it, "If the lockdown is a success and Ramaphosa delivers on the Covid-19 pandemic front, he will have more to gain than to

lose. The pandemic has given him a platform to showcase what he is made of."

Of course, if things go badly wrong with the lockdown, then all the goodwill could disappear in a flash and no leader can hope to come back from that. For instance, if the curve is not flattened on time and the death toll keeps shooting upwards for weeks, or there is mass unrest as people get desperate for food and the unrest is crushed by armed forces.

So if your President or Prime Minister had thought their legacy had been all sorted out one way or the other before the pandemic, they have a chance now to change things, but it is only a small window of opportunity and they had better act both fast and intelligently.

If you have had the pleasure of watching Ru Paul's 'Drag Race', you will doubtless be familiar with his catchphrase, that I am not sure I can use in this column.

Perhaps this quote from the novel *A Woman of Substance* by Barbra Taylor Bradford will suffice instead: "We are each the authors of our own lives. We live in what we have created. There is no way to shift the blame and no one else to accept the accolades."

BETTER POWER SOURCES

BY GILBERT KOECH

@TheStarKenya

Kenya keen to prioritise use of clean, renewable energy

Bioenergy, solar, geothermal, wind power options being explored

The global trend towards a focus on renewable energy was highlighted this week in media headlines from the US and Germany.

Wall Street Journal reported the uncertain long-term future of fossil fuels, while Bloomberg pointed to the increasing advantages of using solar panels for generating power.

While the race to rely solely on renewable energy is heating up around the world, Kenya is hoping it can lead the charge towards renewables on the continent.

This will be no easy task, and achieving it would be a milestone in Kenyan history. The focus in Kenya thus far has been on hydroelectric power stations, wind power and geothermal power stations.

Wind power stations include the Lake Turkana Wind Power Project, the largest such wind farm in Africa. Geothermal, on the other

hand, include the long-established Olkaria geothermal power station, now in its fifth phase.

The country currently has a total installed large hydropower capacity of 743 megawatts (MW), and indeed, hydroelectric power is what Kenya started to exploit right from independence. But there are other sources.

BIOENERGY

Bioenergy is the energy derived from various sources of solids, liquids and gaseous biomass, including fuelwood, charcoal, ethanol, biodiesel and biogas.

In terms of population and geography, this is the energy source most widely used in Kenya.

Biomass contribution to Kenya's final energy demand is 70 per cent and provides for more than 90 per cent of rural household energy needs. The main sources of biomass

for Kenya include charcoal, wood-fuel and agricultural waste.

The government has identified the existence of a substantial potential for power generation using forestry and agro-industry residues, including bagasse. The total potential for cogeneration using sugarcane bagasse is 193MW.

Mumias Sugar Company generates 35MW, of which 26MW is dispatched to the national grid.

However, opportunities within other sugar factories, estimated to be up to 300MW, have not been exploited.

Currently, biomass energy development is the focus of attention due to dwindling global resources of fossil fuels as well as environmental considerations.

However, a trend towards the excessive cutting down of trees for biofuel makes this option a major environmental threat in Kenya as

elsewhere in Africa.

SOLAR

On solar, Kenya receives daily insolation of 4-6kWh/m². This is usually utilised for photovoltaic (PV) systems, drying and water heating.

The solar PV systems are used mainly for telecommunication, cathodic protection of pipelines, lighting and water pumping.

Some of the barriers affecting the exploitation of solar energy resource include high initial capital costs, low awareness of the potential opportunities and economic benefits offered by solar technologies, and a lack of adherence to system standards by suppliers. To wade through some of these challenges, the government has zero-rated the import duty and removed Value Added Tax on renewable energy equipment and accessories.

WIND POWER

Quite aside from the famous Lake Turkana Wind Power project, we also have the Ngong wind power site, for instance, operated by KenGen.

High capital cost and lack of sufficient wind regime data are some of the barriers affecting the exploitation of wind energy resources.

Moreover, potential areas for wind energy generation are far away from the grid and load-

centres, requiring high capital investment for the transmission lines. This is more so even as the country moves towards renewable energy in its bid to limit its carbon footprint and to fight climate change.

GEOTHERMAL

The Kenya Electricity Generating Company, KenGen, has for the past few years focused on expanding Kenya's geothermal energy production. The company is upbeat that it can produce enough power to eventually offload excess geothermal power generated at the Olkaria area to the neighbouring countries.

Much of this has been done with the support of the Japanese government through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) in a longstanding partnership.

Geothermal resources in Kenya are located mostly within the Rift Valley, with an estimated potential of between 7,000 MW and 10,000 MW spread over 14 prospective sites.

Geothermal has numerous advantages over other sources of power: it is not affected by drought and climatic variability; has the highest availability (capacity factor) at over 95 per cent; is green energy with no adverse effects on the environment; and is indigenous and readily available in Kenya.

★ SASA LIFE LESSONS

Financial shocks come and go, here are 7 tips to survive them

The world has experienced many economic downturns and there will be more crises in future

GODFREY KIMEGA

@TheStarKenya



To translate a famous Swahili saying, life is a journey that crosses mountains and valleys. The analogy describes the path of our finances because each of us will experience both financial successes and failures.

It, therefore, makes sense to make the most of the good times that come our way so we are better prepared for the inevitable financial crises. One such crisis is the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. Many people are suffering financially as workers are sent home, markets are closed and governments impose restrictions on normal business activity.

The loss of earnings calls for changes in household spending because none of us knows when normal business will resume. The world has experienced many economic downturns in history and it is a sure bet there will be unforeseen crises in future that will require people to adapt. The ongoing economic crisis caused by Covid-19 is already forcing people to take up new roles to feed their families.

"I am hawking school books," says Isaac Mwalili* (real name disguised on request), a teacher at a private school at the Coast. Isaac says his employer has not paid teachers' salaries since the government closed all schools in March. "I get the books from a wholesaler then I sell them for a profit in the estate," he says.

As a teacher, Isaac knows many



Hawkers in the Nairobi CBD on April 10

/ MERCY MUMO

parents, and his contacts are proving useful in his new trade. He has created a WhatsApp group, through which he advertises whenever he gets new books. His customers are parents eager to keep their children busy learning at home.

"I also do holiday tuition classes for parents willing to pay," Isaac says. Though the Ministry of Education frowns on tuition outside of official school hours, Isaac feels he has no choice. "I need the cash and, besides,

parents don't want the children to be idle, and that is why they call me for private lessons," he says.

The income from tuition and selling books is helping Isaac feed his wife and children, but the income is not yet enough for house rent. He remains optimistic that he will soon get his salary, despite the delay from the employer.

Isaac took a very important step in dealing with a personal financial crisis: he came to terms with his situation and found an alternative source of income.

Not everyone is lucky enough to find a side hustle that matches their profession. Elizabeth*, also a private school teacher, is hawking bananas for a living since schools were closed.

"I started selling bananas because I don't know when I will be paid," she said.

Luckily, Elizabeth lives in a family home and does not pay rent, but she needs the money to take care of household expenses and for the

teacher training course that's also been postponed.

When business is quiet, Elizabeth can be seen seated in the shade, revising for her course. She says she is preparing for exams that might be called as soon as the education system reopens.

COPING MECHANISMS

The current crisis will not last forever. Eventually, it will be nothing more than a bad memory. However, there are tactics people can adopt to get through this challenging time.

1. Talk about the situation: Marriage counsellors warn that financial challenges are the biggest threat to marriages, but this can be avoided by openly discussing the state of finances. Isaac the teacher had a frank discussion with his wife regarding delayed salaries, and they jointly worked out a realistic budget based on the reduced cash flow.

2. Cut down unnecessary expenses: Nobody knows when economic conditions will improve. Your savings should last as long as possible. Spend only on basic needs such as food, rent, water, electricity bills and medical treatment. If you can work from home, minimise your movements to cut spending on bus fare or fuel for the car. If you have two cars, consider selling one. It might be necessary to move to a cheaper house to cut spending on rent.

3. Negotiate: If you know you will have difficulties paying rent, it's best to contact your landlord before you miss a payment so they are aware of the situation. If you have loans, talk to your creditors before you miss a

payment so they know you are keeping track and working on the situation.

4. Plan ahead: Prepare a budget that will take you through the hard times. The budget will be determined by how much savings you have and how much you should be spending on basic needs for your family. Noting down in a diary your daily spending helps in keeping track of expenses.

5. Find income-earning opportunities: Now that you already cut down your spending, think about how best to increase your income. Getting a higher-paying job is the ideal way of getting a steady income, but it could be months before a job offer comes along. Like the two teachers we read about at the beginning of this article, consider starting a business that does not require a huge investment. Go to the Internet and look for online jobs you can do from home.

6. Take care of yourself: Our personal identities are tied to finances. We are happy when we can take care of basic needs and much happier when we afford luxury items. Lack of money is emotionally distressing, resulting in depression, headaches, anxiety and general physical discomfort. Maintain body fitness through nutritious eating (remember junk food is an unnecessary expense) and physical exercises.

7. Open up: Rather than isolating oneself with problems, it is advisable to reach out to other people willing to share experiences. A problem shared is a problem half solved.



Fredrick Ochieng, a fashion designer with Ziqo Designs along River Road in Nairobi, makes masks which he sells for Sh150 /FREDRICK OMONDI



Our personal identities are tied to finances. We are happy when we can take care of basic needs and much happier when we afford luxury items

★ WORD IS...

WORDIS@THE-STAR.CO.KE



SOCIALBYTE

WITH ELIZABETH NGIGI
@nyambs_liz

Comedian Teacher Wanjiku celebrated her firstborn daughter by opening her an Instagram account.

Her daughter Nicole, turned 17 years old and finally got the chance to experience the social media platform, which was one of the promises made for her birthday by her mum.

The comedian also shared images of Nicole, reminiscing the past and expressing how proud she was of how far her little girl has come.

She then advised her to create her path, be good to people and be responsible while at it.

"Today, I am a very happy mother, my baby who is not a baby anymore just turned 17 years today. What a young pretty lady you have turned out to be. We love and appreciate you, as you officially join Instagram today," she wrote. "I must admit I have done well. You look so pretty."

Day Njugush was trolled over a joke



ELIZABETH NGIGI / Comedian Njugush says there was a time he could not sleep after he did a video with his wife but some fans misinterpreted it.

He was forced to make a public apology after posting a clip that many believed promoted rape.

The clip, which he shot with his wife, has the comedian jokingly complaining to his wife that they need to go home together after he spent so much money on her after an outing.

Speaking on his YouTube channel, Njugush said he could not concentrate.

"I was trying to explain to my fans the meaning of the clip, but none seemed to understand," he said.

"The following day, I was trending." He says he went to church but got nothing from the service. "I kept on logging in to check what they were saying. I mean, cyberbullying is bad," he said.

Teacher Wanjiku /COURTESY

KAGENI REGRETS HURTING HIS MOTHER 25 YEARS AGO



ELIZABETH NGIGI@nyambs_liz / Classic 105 breakfast show presenter Maina Kageni says he regrets hurting his mother by not going to university.

Maina left the country to enrol at a college in the UK, but as it turned out, he never set his foot in a lecture hall.

Instead, he switched his focus and began working as a truck driver and fish distributor for some Chinese firm.

His mother was not aware of the development and carried on with Kageni's graduation celebration plans when the time was due.

Maina Kageni /COURTESY

"For the 25 years, my mum only forgave me last year," he said in a Q&A with fans on YouTube.

Maina said his mother had so much faith in him and, unlike his brother and sister, he was given his school fees in cash.

"I ate all my school fees by living large in the UK. My mum found out and she was not happy with me until last year, when she called me home and after dinner, she told me she forgiven me for not going to university," he said.

Maina says he didn't believe his mother had kept that grudge for all those years.

"My mum told me, Maina, if there is something I had promised your dad is that all his children would go to university," he said. Maina's dream was to become a lawyer.

Maina is known as one of the senior bachelors in Kenya. During his show, he has always stated that from the many times men complains about their wives, he is not getting married any soon.

During the YouTube Q&A, Maina said marriage is not for everyone. "Yes, I believe in the marriage institution, but marriage is not for everyone," he said.

Maina is ranked among the highest-paid radio presenters in the country, although he never wished to be on radio.

"The day I will wake up and feel that I am going to work, I will call it a wrap because for me I'm always excited with what I'm doing," he said.

"Sometimes I even wake up before my alarm. I mean, radio has nourished me for so long."

Musembi in trouble for infringing on 'Todii' song



Pastor Anthony Musembi / COURTESY

ELIZABETH NGIGI @nyambs_liz / Gospel singer Pastor Anthony Musembi has been sued by Zimbabwean music icon Oliver Mtukudzi's management over copyright infringement of his hit song 'Todii'.

Musembi ignited a storm on social media over the weekend following the release of his corona awareness song, which borrows most of its elements from Mtukudzi's song.

Tuku Music manager Walter Wanyanya said they have engaged Musembi over the development and are pursuing the matter through legal channels.

'Todii', which was originally themed around HIV-Aids, now carries a corona message.

In a statement, Wanyanya said they were notified about the cover version of the song 'Todii' on April 19, and after watching it, they reached out to Musembi on Facebook.

Wanyanya said although Musembi did not seek rights and permission to use the song, "he has shown willingness to rectify the mistake" and they would work together to ensure that was done.

"We believe his version of the song will complement efforts to flatten the curve in the fight against corona in Kenya and Africa," he said.

Wanyanya said Tuku played a pivotal role in raising awareness about various health issues and would have done the same in light of corona.

He said the cover would help raise awareness in Kenya and other parts of Africa and artistes needed to play their role in helping to flatten the corona curve and save lives.

According to copyright law, all airplay royalties will go directly to Tuku music.

Tuku died last year after a long battle with diabetes.



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Email:girmat_2004@yahoo.com

PUBLIC AUCTION

Duly instructed by our Principals, agents for the Landlord, we shall sell the following goods by public Auction.

ON SATURDAY 2ND MAY 2020, STARTING 11.00 Am AT GREYPOST LIMITED.

LANDLORD VS SAMMY KUNGU.
1.Motor vehicle KBJ 504X Nissan Sunny.
2.4 pcs 8 seater sofa set, color LCD Tv, Coffee table with stools, floor Carpet, Fridge, Cooker with Cylinder,TV Cabinet, Meko, Microwave, Wooden high table, Printer, 1 pcs 3 seater Sofa set.

TERMS:
1.CASH AT FALL OF HAMMER
2.NO RESERVE PRICES

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P.O.Box 51840-00200 Nairobi
Email: harikiauctioneers@yahoo.com Tom Mboya St.
TEL 0720-373842/020 2540708.

PUBLIC AUCTION

Under instructions received from the Financiers, we shall sell the under listed items and motor vehicle by Public Auction:
ON SATURDAY 2ND MAY 2020 AT HARIKI HOLDINGS YARD, LUNGA LUNGA ROAD FROM 11.00 AM.

**IN THE MATTER OF REPOSSESSION
FINANCIER -VS- 1. GEOFFREY WAITHAKA MBAU. 2. WINNIE NJERI MAINA. 3. WANYORO REGINA WAMBUI**

M/V REG NO.	MAKE/MODEL	COLOUR	Y.O. M.
KBJ 556Y	TOYOTA S/WAGON	SILVER	2002

TFT, CPU, CD Writer.

CONDITIONS OF SALE
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KASINGA SECONDARY SCHOOL

P.O BOX 455-90100, MACHAKOS
kasinga2015@gmail.com Contact No. 0722-232393
MOTTO: "WE LEARN TO SERVE"

INVITATION TO TENDER - PURCHASE OF SCHOOL BUS

TENDER NO: KSS/SB/TD 01/2020

The Board of Management / The Project Management Committee of Kasinga Secondary School invites tenders for the purchase of a school Bus.

Complete tender documents to be obtained from the school's account office during the office hours from 8.00a.m. to 4.00p.m. (Monday to Friday) upon payment of non-refundable fee of Kshs 1000/=.

The complete bids in plain sealed envelope clearly marked with Tender number and description shall be addressed to:
**THE SECRETARY,
BOARD OF MANAGEMENT/ THE PROJECT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
KASINGA SECONDARY SCHOOL
P.O BOX 455-90100
MACHAKOS.**

Or deliver to the Secretary's Office at the Reception Office on or before Monday 4th May, 2020 at 12.00 noon.

Tenders will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of the bidders representatives who chose to attend.

NOTE: The school reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders and is not bound to assign reasons thereof.

KIKUMBO SECONDARY SCHOOL

P.O BOX 2221-90100, MACHAKOS
kikumbosec@yahoo.com Contact No. 0714-693798
MOTTO: "DISPLINE AND DUTY FOR SUCCESS"

INVITATION TO TENDER - PURCHASE OF SCHOOL BUS

TENDER NO: KSS/SB/TD 01/2020

The Board of Management / The Project Management Committee of Kikumbo Secondary School invites tenders for the purchase of a school Bus.

Complete tender documents to be obtained from the school's account office during the office hours from 8.00a.m. to 4.00p.m. (Monday to Friday) upon payment of non-refundable fee of Kshs 1000/=.

The complete bids in plain sealed envelope clearly marked with Tender number and description shall be addressed to:
**THE SECRETARY,
BOARD OF MANAGEMENT/ THE PROJECT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
KIKUMBO SECONDARY SCHOOL
P.O BOX 2221-90100
MACHAKOS.**

Or deliver to the Secretary's Office at the Reception Office on or before Monday 4th May, 2020 at 12.00 noon.

Tenders will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of the bidders representatives who chose to attend.

NOTE: The school reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders and is not bound to assign reasons thereof.

DIRECT "O" AUCTIONEERS

Auctioneers, Repossessors, Investigators & Debt Collectors

Webcom House
Ground Floor, Room G21
P.O Box 13041 - 20100
NAKURU VAT 0144563P
PIN NO: 1001123275G
Cell: 0720 680495
0714 824661
Email: directoauctioneers@gmail.com

PUBLIC AUCTION

Duly instructed by the under mentioned court, we shall sell the under mentioned Motor Vehicle **on Saturday 2nd May 2020. Near National Bank Building at 11.30 am.**
1.H.C. Petition No. 1 of 2016 - Philp Kipkemboi Langat Vs. Pyrethrum Board of Kenya. Motor Vehicle Reg. No. KCD 311 G JCM.

CONDITIONS OF SALE
1.All interested parties are required to view the property and verify details as auctioneers do not warrant this.
2.That sale will be subjected to reserve price.

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT NO 13 OF 2019 CHANGE OF USER

The owners of plots **KABETE/KANYARIRI 619** is proposing to change the user of this property from **Agricultural to Light Industry (Gas refilling plant,LPG)** subject to approval by Kiambu County government. Individuals, institutions, and organisations with objection (s) or comments are requested to forward them in writing within 14 days from the date of this notice to:-

**The Director Physical Planning
County Government of Kiambu, box 2344-00100, KIAMBU**

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PUBLIC NOTICE

THE PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT NO 13 OF 2019 CHANGE OF USE

THE REGISTERED OWNER OF THIS PROPERTY **L.R NO. NAIVASHA/MARAIGUSHA BLOCK/33/111** PROPOSES TO CHANGE USE FROM **AGRICULTURAL TO MULTI DWELLING FLATS** SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY NAKURU COUNTY GOVERNMENT. INDIVIDUALS, INSTITUTIONS, ETC. WITH OBJECTION(S) TO THE PROPOSAL ARE REQUESTED TO FORWARD,STATING GROUNDS, THE SAME IN WRITING WITHIN FOURTEEN (14) DAYS OF THIS NOTICE TO:-

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER,
MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT,
COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF NAKURU
P.O. BOX 2870 - 20100
NAKURU.**

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.**

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT NO 13 OF 2019 CHANGE OF USER

The owners of this property **plot 643** of kihoto farmers company limited, located in kabazi town of subukia sub county, Nakuru county propose to regularize change of user from **agricultural to light industry(timber treatment plant)** subject to approval by county government of Nakuru. Individuals, institutions or organizations with objections or comments to the proposal are required to forward the same in writing within 14 days of publication of this notice to:

The county executive committee member, land housing and physical planning, Nakuru county, P.O. Box 2870-20100, Nakuru

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Indian massage by jital indian therapist 0722115384

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We install cctv to houses to monitor house girls/boys.we have also surveillance gadgets to instal in cars, phones. cal 0732555194

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DR. MAMBA kutoka (TZ) Anatibu magonjwa na shida zote. Malipo ni baada ya kufaulu Piga simu **0722 881 878.**

RELATIONSHIPS

This Rich Lady Wants A Good Man To Romance Her Life. 0723232330

Indian girl need life partner sms 0722115384

Indian m/f looking life partner Sms 0722115384

Wazungu, Big Booty Chics, Sponsors, Marriage Partners, Classic Sugar Ladies And Sugar Daddies. 0723232330

OMAR 39 years looking for a muslim girl 18-30 tall, brown, slim, devout n kind-hearted even with a girl ready to b second office call 0732939565

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Free Hook Up For Ladies. Text Your Name, Age, Tribe And Town And Get Connected Immediately. 0723232330

@550/= get White,Asian or Kenyan top & bottom gays,Sugar Mummies/Daddies,Lesbians & partners SMS/Whatsapp Harmony Services-0715584490 or www.eharmony.com

IM KENYAN MAN, very understanding ,smart,a christian n im looking 4 a serious lady4 marriage below 30yrs n without kids n serious,cal or send ur profile 0724249628

Ray from Kitale needs mom aged 45-50. Sms 0707415978.

Sponsors, Ladies Trapped In Unhappy, Loveless Marriage, Classic Sugar Ladies And Sugar Daddies. 0723232330

JAMES, a teacher would like to meet a God-fearing lady for marriage. Sms 0708 496 915

This Rich Lady Wants A Good Man To Romance Her Life. 0723232330

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WE CAN BRING BACK ua husband/wife or fiance who left u ki madharau in 24 hrs,lost libido,enlargement,kushika mimba etc.cal 0732555194

Rich Sugarladies Want Discreet Relationship With Young Strong Men 0723232330

LADIES Trapped In Unhappy Loveless, Romanceless And Boring Marriage, Who Need Discreet Affair To Cheer Them Up, 0723232330

Wealthy Sugar Moms And Sugar Dads, Ladies Trapped In Loveless Marriage, Big Booty Chics Etc 0723232330

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Are you single and looking for a serious and mature life partner?Sms your name,gender,age,-tribe,HIV status,academic level,-career,county etc to Rohosmart Connections-0722219480 for genuine hookup.

Married but unhappy Ladies Want Someone To Romance

Their Lives. 0723232330

ALICE, 21yrs, virgin grl, cute, luvly, biutiful n romantc. want a luvly stable man. sms0711689517

ABDUL FROM SOUTH C is looking for lady friend from nairobi. 0717054246

RAJESH, Single, smart, handsome, f stable, want a gud, faithful n romantk lady. sms 0712852468

SINGLE? lonely? divorced, widow, lonely rich hs/wfe, casual date, leisure luv, escort lovers, intrstd?sms0711689517

JOY, SINGLE, 31yrs, 3kids, need christian man, Godfearing.35-40 yrs,SMS0711689517

Are you single and looking for a serious and mature life partner?Sms your profile to Rohosmart Connections-0722219480 for genuine hookup.

Am kevin age 33 in nairobi. am looking 4a rich fncly-stbl sugar-mummy hiv-, who is tal, goodlooking, plus size, with nice curves. from 70kg and abv, age 35 to 65, marryd or singl, any race. 4 fun love and romans, cal/ text 0773653604 no jokers

ALEX C. from Nairobi AYANI is looking for friends both \$My number is 0735112936 (30-40yrs)

Businessman aged 43yrs widowed and a father of 12yr old daughter. Am looking for a mature God fearing lady for lasting relationship leading to a happy marriage. SMS or call 0797918874

Am a 25yr old guy looking for a beautiful lady over 30yrs for fun filled and adventurous moments. Call or text 0722390702

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Am a 26 yrs old young man living in mombasa looking for a mature lady for discreet romance affair 0772544229.

WE sell spy gadgets and do surveillance to catch mpango wa kando,we also provide photos \$ video showing them doing it live. call spymasters on 0788404275

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THE STAR

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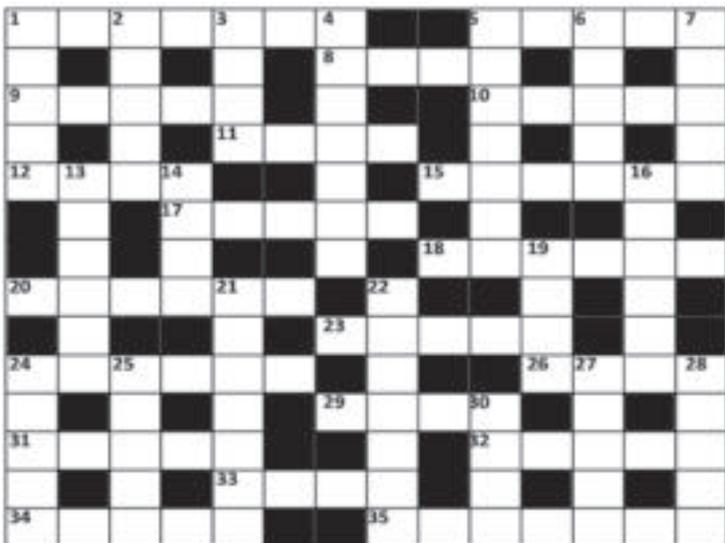
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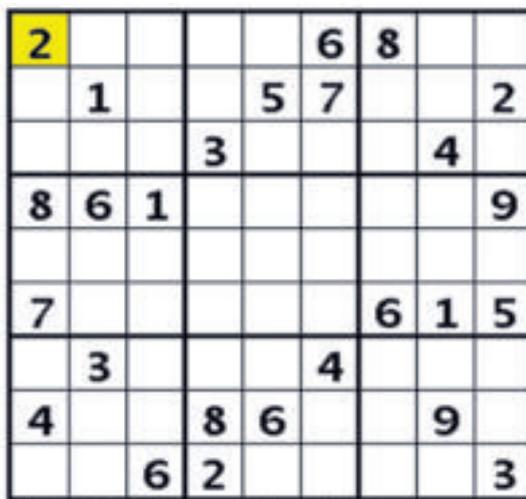
COFFEE BREAK

CROSSWORD



- DOWN**
- Which variety of radiation consists of helium nuclei (5)
 - Constituency in Migori County (5)
 - A very troublesome child (4)
 - A camper equipped with living quarters (7)
 - It Speeds up breakdown of maltose to glucose (7)
 - City in Egypt (5)
 - A measuring instrument for weighing (5)
 - City in Kiribati (6)
 - Diagrammatic representations of the earth's surface (4)
 - The distance between point of suspension and point of oscillation of a pendulum (6)
 - One of the characteristics which are inherited (4)
 - These are saturated hydrocarbons having only single bonds (7)
 - Constituency in Mandera County (7)
 - A cleaning implement for sweeping (5)
 - Constituency in Mombasa County (5)
 - Defeat someone through trickery or deceit (5)
 - Eye's nerve fiber for transmission of impulses to the brain for interpretation (5)
 - City in Azerbaijan (4)
- ACROSS**
- Respiration in the presence of oxygen (7)
 - ... is secreted by goblet cells in the epithelial membrane of the alimentary canal (5)
 - Among other things (4)
 - A giant black and white bear-like animal (5)
 - Constituency in Turkana County (5)
 - A device in which something (usually an animal) can be caught and penned (4)
 - Smallest particle of an element that is capable of taking part in a chemical reaction (4)
 - Constituency in Tana River County (6)
 - Arrangement of aerial photographs forming a composite picture (5)
 - Compound that are translocated in phloem (6)
 - City in Bahamas (6)
 - City in Liechtenstein (4)
 - City in Mali (6)
 - Reflected sound (4)
 - Supports the body tube and stage on the light microscope (4)
 - Bulbous plant having hollow leaves (5)
 - Prevent the occurrence of; prevent from happening (5)
 - Look at (4)
 - The food served and eaten at one time (5)
 - It refers to the organisms living in water (7)

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

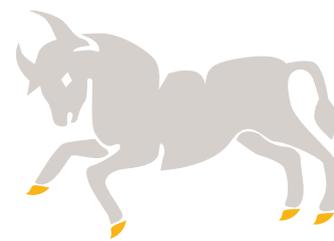


WORD SEARCH



Find and mark all the words hidden inside the box. The words may be placed horizontally, vertically, or diagonally.

ALL IN THE STARS



TAURUS

April 21 - May 21

Stabilize your own position by locking up your savings. You will communicate with ease today. Don't overdo it.

GEMINI

May 22 - June 21

The only thing you'll accomplish is a bad reputation. You can expect the fur to fly on the home front.

CANCER

June 22 - July 22

Visit someone who hasn't been feeling well lately. Be sure to take advantage of the opportunities that exist.

LEO

July 23 - August 22

Make plans to mix business with pleasure. Dinner with clients or business associates should be successful.

VIRGO

August 23 - September 23

Don't be too quick to judge those you live with. Get some sound advice and help setting up a workable budget.

LIBRA

September 24 - October 23

You can accomplish a lot if you put some effort into household duties or redecorating plans.

SCORPIO

October 24 - November 22

Things are looking up. Don't let jealous friends put you down, making you insecure about your capabilities.

SAGITTARIUS

November 23 - December 21

Don't forget that your budget is limited right now. Residential moves will be hectic and may be unsatisfactory.

CAPRICORN

December 22 - January 20

Get together with those you find mentally stimulating. Your ability to put a deal together will surprise others.

AQUARIUS

January 21 - February 19

Your partner may be erratic today if you haven't paid enough attention to him or her. Don't make excuses.

PISCES

February 20 - March 20

Problems with financial investments could make you nervous. Social activities or travel should be in your plans.

ARIES

March 21 - April 20

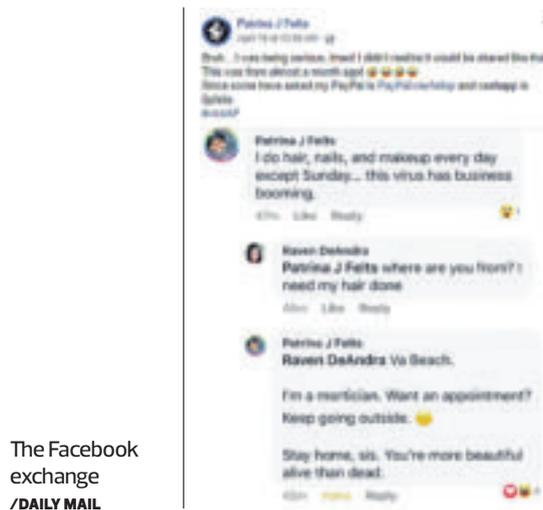
Don't expect anything for nothing and you won't be disappointed. Do not invest in ventures that only appear to be lucrative.



You're more beautiful alive than dead, mortician tells woman pining for haircut

DAILY MAIL/ A Virginia mortician had the perfect response for a stranger on Facebook who wanted to go out and get her hair done during the pandemic. Patrina J Felts lives in Virginia Beach, Virginia, and recently remarked on Facebook that business has been 'booming' lately, with her doing hair, nails, and makeup nearly every day. Patrina was commenting on another Facebook post in March when she shared her not-so-serious 'brag' about increased business.

'I do hair, nails, and makeup every day except Sunday,' she wrote. 'This virus has business booming.' Another commenter has clearly been struggling to find someone to do her hair during lockdown, and responded asking about her services. 'Where are you from? I need my hair done,' Raven DeAndrea wrote. 'VA Beach,' Patrina answered. 'I'm a mortician. Want an appointment? Keep going outside. 'Stay home sis,' she went on. 'You're more beautiful alive than dead.'



The Facebook exchange /DAILY MAIL

SPORTS LOCAL

FOOTBALL

We can play in KPL in two years, says Kibera's Magara

BY WILLIAM NJUGUNA/Kibera Black Stars have set their sights on promotion to the Kenya Premier League in the next two seasons.

The self-supporting outfit currently lie 16th in the National Super League with 21 points but club secretary Daniel Magara believes the club has the potential to play in the top-flight football in a season or two.

"Our position in the current table does not tell the full story but with the determination and hunger that the boys have we can play in the KPL in two years," Magara said, adding that the club will have to move up the table when the seasons and hopefully finish in the top six next season.

"We have a target of finishing in the top half of the table next year and then push for promoted the season after," noted Magara.

Magara said the club has had a turbulent season financially and a good number of his players like Nicholas Omondi and Julius Masaba had to seek greener pastures, joining Gor Mahia and Kariobangi Sharks respectively during

the mid-season transfer window. Two other players joined Posta Rangers and Coast Stima.

"These players were dependable and their departure left a void we could not fill," added Magara.

The club's best position in the NSL was a fifth-place finish three seasons ago. Magara said they hope to strengthen the side when the season, currently suspended due to coronavirus pandemic, resumes.

"Our recruitment policy has been to sign players from the areas that surround us including Kibera, Dagoretti, Kawangware and Satellite, especially those who have just cleared their secondary school education. Our scouting has been very good," added Magara

Some of the club's dependable players include Eric Odhiambo, Peter Onduso, Daniel Omwanda and Hillary Omondi and Magara said they want to build around these players in the next coming years. Former Premier League outfit Nairobi City Stars top the standings with 64 points followed by Bidco (54) and Vihiga United (52).



Kibera Black Stars Rashid Mayaka charges past Isibania's Ambiro Geoffrey / FILE

FOOTBALL

'Not interested'

Ambani, Gor Mahia's Rachier not keen on in FKF top seat

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BY FRANCIS WADEGU / Despite numerous calls to toss his hat in the ring for the forthcoming Football Kenya Federation (FKF) polls, former Kenyan international Boniface Ambani says he is not interested.

Ambani is among the former players, who are under pressure from football stakeholders to give the presidential seat a stab.

However, the former Tusker man argues that the playing ground is not level thus he will not vie.

The former AFC Leopards Youth coach said the delegates to participate in the elections remain a secret, leaving room for the possible rigging.

"I am not interested. To vie means I will be fighting a battle I am sure I'll lose. I have received numerous requests from various stakeholders but the playing ground is not level," said Ambani.

"We do not know the delegates who will vote in the polls and this leaves room for manipulation should any of the candidates have these identities."

However, the former Yanga striker, said he might consider contesting in future elections, adding that he doesn't have a preferred choice from the hosts of candidates who have declared their interests in taking over the reign at Kandanda House.

"I will vie in the future polls for I believe I have the leadership qualities needed at FKF. I have seen a number of candidates who want to lead football but I am not supporting any. The number of candidates keeps growing every day but I will only support the individual who is scandal-free," he added.

Similarly, Gor Mahia chairman Ambrose Rachier says he is yet to single out his preferred candidate



Former Harambee striker Boniface Ambani / FILE

from the many who are muscling for the top seat. He also insisted that he had no intention of running again, having lost to Nick Mwendwa in 2016.

"We do not know when the polls

will be held and neither do I have a candidate in mind who I will throw my weight behind. I am not interested in FKF politics but I urge the delegates to vote wisely when the time comes," said Rachier.

BASKETBALL

KUSA have no problem aligning to Fiba calendar

BY DANN OWERRE/ Kenya University Sports Association (KUSA) will have no problem changing their basketball calendar to conform with the international one.

Tony Ochieng, who is in charge of Kusa basketball programmes, said they will adapt to the international calendar should Kenya Basketball Federation (KBF) make the change.

"The idea is good. We have no problems if it is effected. What we will do is to adapt and realign ourselves to the international calendar," he said.

The Strathmore University coach appealed to the federation not rush the decision as there are some major things to take into considerations. Ochieng said it will be difficult to implement the change this year since it had not been planned. "Next year would be most ideal," he added.

"There are challenges that need to be looked into before finally being decided because teams have already done budget for the year," he observed.

He said the changes were effected in both football and rugby and things were running smoothly. The Kusa programme, he said, starts in September and runs up to December taking a break before resuming again in January to end in March.

Strathmore University, United States International University and Kenyatta University are among their teams that also feature in the national league.

Others are Egerton University, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Zetech University, KCA University, Mount Kenya University and Riara University.

BOXING

Former Commonwealth champion Maina is dead

BY SAMSON ATEKA / Former Kenya boxing international Douglas Maina is dead. Maina was a product of the late coach Eddie Papa Musi at Kariobangi, famously known as Bangladesh Boxing Club.

According to the national coordinator of former sports heroes and heroines, Rose Tata-Muya, Maina died in his house at Donholm estate in Nairobi last night after a long illness.

Maina, known for his snapping deadly right punch, won bronze medals in bantamweight at the 1978 African Games in Algiers and Edmonton Games.

Meanwhile, the boxing fraternity has sent messages of condolences to the family of the deceased.

Former boxer Hussein Khalili said: "It's really sad news He was a good boxer and May his soul rest in eternal peace."

Former international Kennedy "Valdez" Ochieng said: "My heartfelt condolences to our champion. We used to call him Daggy Maina."

Others who condoled with the deceased family are former international boxers Nick Abaka and Duncan Kuria aka "Sugar Ray".



SPORTS PROFILE

Waguthii seeks to unear

Former world champ trains 25 girls aged between eight and 17 in Kibra slums

SAMSON ATEKA
@samson ateka



With active sports being a short career, it reaches a point when athletes decide enough is enough and hung their gears and equipment.

Upon retirement, they take various paths, be it academic careers they had studied in their formative years, business or ambassadorial roles, media duties just to name a few.

However, some do not have a clear path during their sporting days and are forced to retire early, upon which they take up informal careers/responsibilities in their communities that they feel need some action.

This is the road that former World Boxing Council (WBC) super lightweight champion Judy Waguthii has found herself on. Despite her dedication in entertaining her fans in the ring, Waguthii found fighting opportunities hard to come by and decided to hang her gloves at 35.

Her path in retirement was not as straightforward either as she noted gaps in the society that needed to be filled up. Having grown up in the Dandora slums, Waguthii witnessed numerous injustices among her community and especially sexual violence against vulnerable girls.

She therefore established 'Raw Sugar Warriors' at the Global Vision Hall, across the capital, in Kibra, where she trains 25 girls aged between eight and 17.

Waguthii feels that, in addition to providing security, self-defence and deviation from social vices while at the academy, the girls have the potential to take the mantle from the likes of Conjestina Achieng and Fatuma Zarika, who experienced and savoured the game at the top level.

"It's a Community-Based Organisation for Empowering Underprivileged Girls," she says.

"After I was stripped of the WBC Silver belt in September last year, the insatiable appetite to fight and win was all gone. It was left to me and my manager (Greg Schira), who is also my husband, to put up the title defence but sadly, we were unable to secure sponsorship, so we couldn't beat the stipulated mandatory defence deadline which is usually three months."

Waguthii vehemently denies that age was a contributing factor for her increasingly diminishing fervour to box at that time. "As much as age wasn't on my side, I always felt somehow strong and competitive," she quips, adding: "My retirement had nothing to do with age. Being a WBC Silver champion and the next day a challenger at the highest level, I could not be wished away just like that, I was just stripped of the belt as the desire to fight had died out when sponsorships became few and far between."

Kibra, where she frequents on a daily basis, isn't for the faint-hearted. Given the disturbing nature of slum life and the fact that the girl child is constantly subjected to wanton harassment, Waguthii strives to teach her members a lot more than just the facets of self-defence and the art of boxing.

"Apart from boxing and the self-defence classes, we teach them about values. For example, we teach them not to let poverty define them and therefore we constantly work towards their goals and talents. On a wider aspect, it's about mentorship. I am a big sister to them and I have created a safe space for them to be free, open up and ask questions concerning their teenage life. Sport is one of the tools we use to bolster their fortunes. In my team, I have a Christian Apollo, who is a teacher by profession and assistant, Diana Moraa. On the sporting side, there is my assistant Veronica Mbithe and I," she reveals.

"Veronica is a boxer with the Armed Forces Team (Defaba), an amateur national repute. My hubby Greg, who managed me as a boxer, has always been behind

'IT'S NOT AN ACADEMY, BUT MORE OF A COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANISATION FOR EMPOWERING UNDERPRIVILEGED SLUM GIRLS' - WAGUTHII



Birth next champion



my initiatives 100 per cent. Team Defaba and Paul Mung'ori have also supported me in kind while Boxing Association of Kenya (BAK) President Anthony Ombok embraced the concept and continues to support the girls."

"We don't have much to showcase as boxers but passion is literally what will get the next girls' champion realise her potential. We used to train on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. But due to the big chunk of Class Eight candidates, we decided to switch our training to Saturday afternoons; that is before COVID-19 pandemic changed our way of life. On Sundays, we used to train for three hours and then have tuition for the candidates executed by a qualified teacher.

"As much as we do sports, academics is key for the girls," adds Waguthii.

To meet her financial obligations, Waguthii says: "I have hacked it with my personal funds. Buying boxing equipment and paying rent for the training hall. For the launch day of our Community-Based Organisation (CBO) which coincided with the Women's Day on March 8, 2020, we got Sh126,000 donation from the French Embassy, courtesy of French Ambassador to Kenya, H.E Aline Kustermenager."

However, due to the coronavirus pandemic, everything is currently on hold.

Waguthii, who won the Startimes/SJAK Sports Personality-of-the-Month in May 2018, was hoping to become Kenya's second WBC World Champion after clinching the silver belt but her dream came a cropper due to lack of requisite resources.

The WBC Silver category is a replacement of the internationals, where winners get to join a pool of pugilists as challengers for the WBC world titles. The only Kenyan to chalk up the WBC world title (the most prestigious in boxing) is Fatima Zarika, who later lost the Super Bantamweight belt in a rematch with Mexican Yamileth 'Yeimi' Macardo after holding it for four years.

"I would have loved to achieve much more but lack of sponsorship, frustrations and lack of appreciation from the government was heartbreaking. But I believe I did my best under the circumstances and it was time to move to the next step. Sometimes you just need to think big and make major decisions in your career when things are not working your way. That's when the idea of giving back to the society came to mind. I'm naturally a go-getter and when I moved from one media house to the other appealing for help, I felt bad that no one came to my rescue. So I decided that I was better off starting something for young girls, to help them realise their potential by converting challenges to opportunities," says Waguthii.

Waguthii, who was brought up in Dandora slums, says her organisation, situated near her residence, is all about social work and transforming lives.

"I hope I'll live to see a crop of strong young ladies who would be able to defend themselves against sexual aggression in slums as well as bring out their raw boxing talent. Kibra has produced several boxers of national repute including Olympian Omar Kasongo and Joshua 'Poison' Onyango.

Waguthii, who started boxing in 2007, adds: "I never boxed in amateur ranks. I just switched

directly from kick-boxing to professional boxing and left the scene with 17 wins from 30 fights."

Among the highlights in her final days in the ring was a 2017 International Boxing Organisation (IBO) Super Lightweight World Title defeat to Russian Svetlana Kalajova.

In May 2018, aged 33, Waguthii beat Prisca Vicot from France on a unanimous points decision to clinch the World Boxing Council (WBC) Silver Super Lightweight title, stretching her pro fight record to 16 wins, seven losses and four draws.

After her fairy tale WBC achievement, Waguthii was then placed as a top contender for the WBC World Female Super Lightweight title that was then held by Erica Anabella Farias from Argentina.

In December 2018, Waguthii landed a shot at a world title, this time a WBC world title, but lost to Belgian Deifine Persoon. Her last fight was a non-title bout at Charter Hall, where she stopped Asha Ngedere of Tanzania in style.

(+) WAGUTHII'S LOWDOWN

WORLD RATING: 16 / 90

SEX: Female

PRO BOUTS: 30

ROUNDS: 176

KO PERCENTAGE: 16.67%

PRO STATUS: Inactive

CAREER: 2007-2019

BORN: 1/8/1985 / age 35

NATIONALITY: Kenyan

DEBUT: 28/3/2005

WEIGHT DIVISION: Super-light weight

STANCE: Orthodox

HOBBIES: Swimming, reading

HEIGHT: 162cm

RESIDENCE: Nairobi, Kenya

MANAGER/AGENT: Greg Schira

1. Judy Waguthii during a training session at Charter Hall /ERICK BARASA

2. Judy Waguthii with some of the girls from her Global Vision Hall training centre /ERICK BARASA

3. Judy Waguthii takes a youngster through a training session at Global Vision Hall, Kibra /SAMSON ATEKA



Judy waguthi with the SJAK sports personality award /ERICK BARASA

SPORTS INTERNATIONAL

FOOTBALL GOSSIP

BY DAVID BILLINGTON ✉ david@billingtondesign.com



Will the proposed Saudi investors pass the fitness test to run Newcastle United?

THE TOON ARMY IS ON THE RISE AGAIN



This is a tricky subject and mixes sport and politics which always stir debate and argument. Fans of Newcastle are delighted that the end of owner Mike Ashley and his company Sports Direct is on the horizon with the club very close to being sold. The problem is with the new owners.

Saudi fund boss Yasir Al-Rumayyan is one of the most powerful men in his oil-rich country. He heads mega-rich Saudi Aramco Oil which is the biggest natural resource company in the world. He is also boss of the Public Investment Fund (PIF) with assets of £250 billion.

I have discovered the contents of a 350-page document which outlines the Saudi plans for Newcastle and it will make music for the club supporters "Toon Army". The document outlines plans to invest hundreds of millions into the football club, negotiate new sponsorship deals and re-organise the management structure.

They intend to use part of this money to upgrade St James Park, invest in top player talent and build a new academy for younger players coming through. Current owner Ashley is delighted that the deal will be financed with cash and not shares and promissory notes. For this reason, he dropped the price from £340 million to £300 million.

Now for the big problem which stands in the way of a deal... Whenever a league club is purchased, the new owners have to pass a detailed check called "fitness to run a club" and this is where the Saudi consortium could come unstuck.

Yes, they will have the smartest and most expensive lawyers arguing their case but human rights issues in Saudi Arabia are going to be difficult to defend. Amnesty International has become involved and pointed to the ruling regime's abuse of citizens during their current rule.

Saudi beheaded 37 people in a single day last year and there have been a reputed 800 executions since the ruling family came to power. It is also alleged that there is a link between the Premier League pirate broadcasts of a company called beoutQ and the Saudi government.

However, there is little doubt that money usually wins the day and no one in the world has more hard

Newcastle United's Allan Saint-Maximin in action with West Ham United's Sebastien Haller / REUTERS

cash. There is no doubt that with the world's richest people behind them, Newcastle could become the new Manchester City who have risen to the top tier of football also using Middle Eastern oil money and the Toon Army are waiting for their chance to relive their glorious past.

THREE NAMES IN THE FRAME FOR NEWCASTLE JOB

If the Newcastle takeover goes ahead, there are plans to eventually replace Steve Bruce with a more high-profile manager. Two names have been given to me—The ex-Spurs boss Mauricio Pochettino and firm fans favourite Rafa Benitez—who left 10 months ago to manage in China.

Pochettino has made no secret of his desire to manage once more in the Premier League or Spain's La Liga because he considers them to be the best two leagues in the world. Benitez only left Newcastle because he could not agree on the investment strategies with current owner Mike Ashley.

Ex-Juventus coach Max Allegri is, I understand, also in the frame but is definitely No.3 choice. Steve Bruce is aware that his job is possibly coming to an end. However, he is likely to remain in position until this season is finally wrapped up.



REAL BACKING AWAY FROM KANE TRANSFER

Harry Kane's departure from Spurs is still very speculative but the rumours keep circulating. The latest twist is that Real Madrid are cooling their interest which leaves Manchester United clear favourites should Harry decide to move on.

However, in a further twist to the story, I have also been told that United's approach to transfers this summer is being revised and as I write this column, big signings might be impossible because of the current loss of revenue due to the coronavirus lockdown.

The problem for Spurs is that this would reduce Harry's eventual transfer fee because it would no longer be an auction fight between two of the world's richest clubs. Spurs need as much money as possible to make interest payments on loans taken out to fund their state-of-the-art new stadium. In recent years, Real have bought two of the best players ever to come from Spurs in Gareth Bale and Luka Modric.

Although Real Madrid players have agreed a 10 per cent pay cut because

of the coronavirus, the lockdown period and the associated financial consequences have forced the Spanish giants to admit that there is little chance of them making any big signings at the end of the season.



A CONVERSATION WITH UNITED'S WAN-BISSAKA

Manchester United's Aaron Wan-Bissaka believes that his extra training sessions have propelled him to become one of the best defenders in the Premier League.

There are some ready to argue that he is already the best one-on-one defender in the world. Aaron's impressive form has brought him to the attention of England manager Gareth Southgate. In a conversation with the 22-year-old last week, Aaron said the United coaches have spent a lot of time showing him the way forward.

He said, "I stay out after training to do extra sessions so that I keep improving all the time and I have been consistently able to play at my maximum every week. Sometimes we play five at the back and sometimes four but I don't have a preference. The five at the back allows me to get forward more times during a game. I came to this club to win trophies and I truly believe we can achieve that."

LATEST FROM ARSENAL AND CHELSEA

I have picked up two hot tips this week regarding possible upcoming transfers. Arsenal have made contact with Valencia about their striker Rodrigo Moreno. The Gunners two frontmen—Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and Alex Lacazette—are uncertain about their futures with the former out of contract in 14 months and talking about leaving before that. Lacazette has received interest from Atletico Madrid.

Moreno has a £110 million buyout clause in his contract but with the current coronavirus affecting player values, this figure could be halved. Meanwhile, Chelsea are looking at 16-year-old centre-back Zeno Debast who plays for Belgium team Anderlecht. The youngster is valued at £2.5 million and he is currently training under former Manchester City captain Vincent Kompany.

BORUSSIA'S PLAN TO KEEP SANCHO

Borussia Dortmund have put a very large obstacle in the way of

Manchester United signing the Bundesliga club's Jadon Sancho. They are offering him a huge pay rise to stay in Germany and his salary could go up from 6 million euros to 10 million euros a year.

Borussia are confident that Sancho will stay with them and the increase repeats the tactic which worked when they persuaded both Robert Lewandowski and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang to remain for a further 12 months when they were due to leave.

EVERTON CHASING NAPOLI MIDFIELDER

Word from inside Everton centres around the Napoli midfielder Allan. He originally established himself as one of the best European midfielders with 124 tackles won in the 2014/15 season, which was 43 more than any other player. He was guided in his career by first ex-Chelsea boss Maurizio Sarri and then Everton's Carlo Ancelotti.

However, last November, Allan was involved in a heated dressing room row with club vice-president Edo De Laurentiis which resulted in a £171k fine and since then, he has fallen out with current manager Gennaro Gattuso. This is why Napoli are prepared to sell him for around £50m this summer and Everton are first in the queue for the 29-year-old.



VILLA COULD LOSE TOP THREE PLAYERS

Centre back Tyrone Mings played for my team Ipswich (no jokes please) a few seasons ago. He was frankly a step above the rest of the team and was destined for regular Premier League football.

Aston Villa were the eventual lucky recipients of the England international defender and he has become a rock in their defence. However, he could move to another club this summer if manager Dean Smith's team falls back into the Championship League. Mings has benefitted enormously from having ex-Chelsea captain John Terry on the training staff and readily admits that he has improved beyond all expectations.

If he does leave, Villa will be looking to double their money and ask £40 million for the 27-year-old who they bought from Bournemouth after he left Ipswich. He is also becoming the main player for England manager Gareth Southgate.

BIG SIGNINGS MIGHT BE IMPOSSIBLE BECAUSE OF THE CURRENT LOSS OF REVENUE DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS LOCKDOWN.

SPORTS INTERNATIONAL



GENERAL

Blow for SA sports

Easing of South Africa's strict lockdown will not apply to sports

LONDON/ The expected lifting of lockdown restrictions in South Africa at the end of the month is unlikely to result in a resumption of sport and will add to frustrations in a country beset with both football and rugby.

Sport in South Africa and across the world has been shut down since March by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The country itself has been subject to a stricter quarantine that will have lasted five weeks by the time it is scheduled to be lifted on April 30.

South Africans have been ordered to stay at home, save for essential workers and short trips for grocery shopping.

Matters have been made more difficult by a blanket ban on the sale of both alcohol and tobacco and a prohibition on all sports ac-

South Africa's Siya Kolisi celebrates with the Webb Ellis trophy after winning the Rugby Union World Cup final in Yokohama, Japan last year
/ REUTERS

tivities, including a simple walk or bicycle ride. A draft government presentation, seen by Reuters on Wednesday, is considering some flexibility but suggests any gathering of more than 10 people will be prohibited for an indeterminate period in an effort to keep the infection rate down.

This will come as a blow to football and rugby, who were both hoping to get their seasons back underway.

South Africa's Premier Soccer League was on the cusp of a potentially exciting title run-in with the country's best-supported club, Kaizer Chiefs edging closer to ending a five-year trophy drought.

Soccer clubs drawn the majority of their revenue from a lucrative television rights deal and been largely untouched by the coronavirus lockdown but keen to re-

sume, even if behind closed doors.

But if the game remains in lockdown, South African Football Players Union president Thulaganyo Gaoshubelwe told Reuters he expected to be negotiating with clubs about possible wage cuts sooner rather than later.

"We have flagged it but we are not yet at that point," he said.

Rugby has a greater reliance on gate takings and already announced it will seek to cut spending by 1 billion rands over the next eight months, having reached an agreement in principle with various stakeholders for pay cuts, including the players' union and employees.

It also announced plans for a one-off six-team domestic competition between June and August, but this is now likely to have to be shifted back.

LA LIGA

Bale and wife donate 500,000 pounds to Welsh health charity

CARDIFF/ Wales captain Gareth Bale and his wife have donated 500,000 pounds (\$615,900) to a Welsh health charity to help in the fight against coronavirus, he said on Wednesday.

The Cardiff-born Bale, who plays for Real Madrid, and his wife Emma have donated the money to the charitable arm of the Cardiff and Vale University Health Board. Bale was born in the hospital the donation will go to.

"Gareth and Emma have donated a whopping £500,000 to the Health Charity—a charity which focuses on providing those extras for staff and patients that normal NHS funding doesn't provide," the board said in a statement.

"It was Gareth and Emma's wishes that the Health Charity spend the money towards the response to COVID. They wanted to give something back to their local NHS as Gareth himself was born in the UHW (University Hospital of Wales) Maternity Unit, and they say UHW have provided many services to themselves and their family and friends."

More than 180,000 people in Britain have been infected by the virus and more than 18,000, including dozens of health workers, have died.

"The University Hospital of Wales holds a special place in my heart. It is where I was born," Bale said in a video message. "Me and my family would like to show our support. Keep up the good work. You are doing an amazing job."

Wales captain Gareth Bale / FILE



Inter Milan's Sebastiano Esposito in action with Borussia Dortmund's Mats Hummels and Julian Weigl / REUTERS

SERIE A

Italy not ready to set date for 'Serie A' training

ROME/ The Italian government is still not ready to set a date for Serie A teams to start training again ahead of a possible resumption of the league, sports minister Vincenzo Spadafora said.

Spadafora, speaking after a meeting with the Italian football federation (FIGC), the Serie A league and players and referees' associations, said a decision would be made in the next few days.

"I have listened with great attention to the different positions that have emerged and, in the coming days, after a discussion with the Ministry of Health, we will issue updated provisions regarding the possibility and methods for a re-start of training," he told reporters.

He said it was necessary to "have a deeper look at the aspects related to the possible resumption of training in maximum safety for the athletes and coaching staff of sports clubs."

Italy has been one of the countries worst affected by COVID-19 and professional football has been suspended since March 9. The FIGC and Serie A have both said they want to complete the season if possible.

The FIGC has already drawn up detailed guidelines for the resumption of practice, which would see the players isolated in training camps for the first few days.

Earlier, Spadafora told the Senate that "we are aware that we have to re-start because sport is important as an economic and social value, but we will do so with absolute respect for everyone's health."

He also criticised the media for focusing on whether Serie A would be finished. "We know very well that football is valued as an economic asset but we know just as well that sport is not only football and that football is not only Serie A," he said.

SPORTS INTERNATIONAL

PREMIER LEAGUE

Premiership matches could be on free-to-air TV

LONDON/ England's Premier League could make games available on free-to-air broadcasting once the season resumes following the suspension due to the coronavirus, Britain's culture secretary said in quotes reported by the BBC on Wednesday.

Oliver Dowden said he has had "productive talks" with British sports bodies on the resumption of competitions following the coronavirus shutdown.

He told the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport committee that when the Premier

League resumed with matches most likely behind closed doors to contain the spread of the virus, it was important for people to watch them somehow.

The Premier League was suspended last month because of the pandemic and the government has asked the public to stay at home to help slow the spread of the virus. Any league restart would see matches played in front of empty stands.

"I have said to the Premier League it wouldn't send the best signal if they were one of the first major

sports to resume behind closed doors and the public at large couldn't have access to it," Dowden said.

He said sports were "reliant on the revenue they derive" from broadcasting deals, adding sport could have "elements of protecting revenue from broadcasting but also looking at ways of increasing access".

Dowden said the Premier League was considering it. Broadcasters Sky, BT and Amazon hold the rights for showing Premier League games live with only highlights available on the free-to-air BBC.



Britain's Culture Secretary Oliver Dowden /REUTERS



Liverpool manager Juergen Klopp gestures during a recent match /REUTERS

LA LIGA

'I feared sack'

Klopp narrates his experience during his early days at Liverpool

LONDON/Liverpool manager Juergen Klopp feared getting sacked by the Premier League club early in his tenure if he was not afforded the time to reshape the squad, he said on Wednesday.

The early years were spent building the team into title contenders and Klopp said he knew he had to convince Liverpool's owners— Fenway Sports Group—that he needed time to change their playing style.

"It was clear we cannot fix it overnight. Everyone wanted that but we couldn't so I had to ask for time, I knew," Klopp said on Sky Sports' Football Show.

"Before that, in my career, I never got the sack so I had no experi-

ence with that, but I knew then it was a different level, and if I can't deliver here quick enough, then I will get the sack.

"We got that time and the nice thing is that after six, seven, eight games, they were really positive about the situation, they realised we were on the right path. From that moment they didn't question it one second."

Klopp, who took over from Brendan Rodgers in 2015, led the club to three finals in three years— Europa League and League Cup in 2016 and Champions League in 2018— but ended up on the losing side each time.

The owners retained their faith in the German, however, and

Liverpool won their sixth European crown in 2019. "They were full of faith and trust, and they said the path we will stay on, and everything will be fine. That's what we did then," Klopp added.

"When we lost finals against Sevilla or (Manchester) City or Real Madrid, I think pundits say 'if he doesn't win the next one then they might change'. But internally it was never somebody thinking like this."

After finishing as league runners-up last season by a single point, Liverpool needed six more points to win their first league title in the Premier League era when this season was suspended due to the coronavirus pandemic.

FOOTBALL

West Ham's Moyes says the game must 'reset' after virus crisis

LONDON/West Ham United manager David Moyes has said the financial difficulties facing clubs amid the COVID-19 pandemic could prompt a rethink of the way they operate.

Soccer in England was suspended indefinitely last month due to the new coronavirus and West Ham are among several Premier League teams to announce player wage deferrals to help their clubs cope with the financial impact.

Southampton, Watford and Sheffield United have also deferred player wages while Arsenal have said their players and coaching staff had agreed to accept a 12.5 per cent pay cut.

"I hope we will all look back and think: 'Maybe we were indulging too much,'" Moyes told reporters in a video conference.

"The people who run football clubs have got to look and say: 'If anything like this happened again in the future, would we be able to survive and get through it?'"

"I'm hoping it might help football reset itself when we start up again. We have to make sure that all football clubs are saved. There is no way any club can go under."

Moyes, 56, who has been volunteering by delivering fruit and vegetables during the lockdown, said clubs in the upper tiers of the game had a duty to "do the right things".

"We have lots of money coming in from different providers. And from that point of view, we have to make sure we do the right things," Moyes added.

"We have to make sure the players are protected as well."

West Ham United manager David Moyes /REUTERS



SPORTS INTERNATIONAL

OPINION

BY CONSTANTIN ECKNER AND BBC

The Germany magic awaited

How the Bundesliga plans to resume to action next month

Football has been halted across the globe by the coronavirus pandemic with all major leagues and competitions suspended. The Bundesliga is now eager to return to action with plans to play spectator-free games in May.

Germany has led the way in its approach to combating the coronavirus pandemic. The country's intense programme of consistent testing from early on has resulted in far fewer deaths than the worst affected countries. The German Football League (DFL), responsible for operating the Bundesliga and the second division, is determined to finish the current season. Their 36 professional clubs were to meet yesterday to discuss a restart of the season next month.

But Germany's football authorities still face some huge questions before they get the green light to resume football in the country behind closed doors. What challenges do they face and how are they planning to combat them?

What will Germany's government say?

German politics has recently decided that large events with crowds will be banned at least until the end of August. That rules out the Bundesliga being played in front of spectators until the scheduled start of next season. The only way to work around regulations is to stage spectator-free games, with only players, coaching staff, medics, referees, ball boys and ball girls, ground staff, technicians, safety officers, and production staff for television and VAR being present inside the stadiums. League officials estimate that up to 300 people are



Bayern Munich's Serge Gnabry in action with Hannover's Miiko Albornoz during a Bundesliga match /REUTERS

needed per match. In Germany, the 16 federal states determine the maximum number of people allowed for public gatherings and a decision about that number will be made by the end of April.

The governments could put a stop to any plans from the DFL, but they are aware of the economic struggles of professional football and are expected to grant the wish of the clubs.

"A weekend with football is much more bearable than a weekend without football. That's why I could picture to have matches behind closed doors," Markus Soder, state premier of Bavaria, said at a recent online talk show hosted by German newspaper Bild.

He and Armin Laschet, state premier of North Rhine-Westphalia, have said they think it's conceivable the Bundesliga would restart as soon as May 9. Soder and Laschet rushed ahead with their statements, knowing the federal government and the

16 state governments meet on April 30, with the likely outcome that football matches are allowed to be staged in the following months.

20,000 tests required

The DFL, however, does not think that it will be ready by May 9, feeling that it needs more time for preparation. They believe May 16 or 23 are more likely dates for the restart. Staging professional football games even with only a few hundred people present becomes a logistical challenge. A few weeks ago, the DFL set up a task force to define the necessary medical and hygiene protocols which would be required.

According to plans of the task force, the stadiums will be divided into three zones. Only a maximum of 100 people can be in each of these sections. The inner section belongs to the 22 players, 18 bench players, five referees and around 53 others. The stands are considered the second sec-

tion, and the area directly surrounding the stadium is the third one.

The plans also include regular testing of players and coaches between training sessions and before every match. Alexander Kekule, a biochemist from Martin Luther University in Halle, estimates that the DFL would need up to 20,000 detection tests and exceptional organisational measures.

He said: "Players have to be shielded under specific safety rules to prevent infections, because they are not able to avoid contact on the pitch."

Regular testing could create a headache from a practical standpoint, because it is impossible to know whether a player is already infected when he takes to the pitch. "It takes a couple of days before someone, who has contracted the virus, tests positive," Martin Eichner, an epidemiologist from University of Tübingen, explains. He dismisses the option of faster detection tests that

have been in development, as they are not fully reliable yet.

Others have expressed concerns about the moral implications. "Tens of thousands of tests would be needed that are missing in nursing facilities," Karl Lauterbach, health expert for the Social Democratic Party (SPD), recently tweeted.

The DFL disputes these concerns. "Any assumption that possible continuous testing will cause a shortage of supplies for the general public ignores the facts. Testing capacity has been increased massively in recent weeks," the DFL executive committee stated in a press release on Tuesday.

There are currently 640,000 tests available per week in Germany. The Bundesliga and second division would require about 0.5 percent of these tests.

Clubs face insolvency

While political backlash and criticism from influential fan groups is inevitable, various club officials have indicated they want to go ahead with their current plans. They argue that a continuation of the season, even without spectators in the stands, is the only way to guarantee the immediate survival of Germany's professional football industry.

According to an internal DFL report from late March, at least 13 of the 36 Bundesliga and second-division sides face insolvency by May or June, if the season does not restart soon. Twelve of these 13 clubs have already guaranteed the fourth and last instalment of this season's television rights money to creditors.

However, the main television rights holders, Sky, DAZN and the public broadcasters ARD and ZDF, have not paid that instalment of a total of €304m. The remaining nine match-days equal exactly a quarter of the season worth that fourth instalment.



Juventus' Douglas Costa in action with Ajax's Hakim Ziyech in past Champions League duel /REUTERS

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Champions, Europa League finals likely to be played in August if domestic competitions conclude by July

BBC SPORT / The Champions League and Europa League look increasingly likely to be played exclusively in August after more talks about the remainder of the 2019-20 season on Wednesday.

Uefa told the 55 associations on Tuesday there was still the possibility of the competitions being played throughout June, July and August.

Reports indicate that the latest discussions revolved almost exclusively around a plan to complete the domestic leagues by 31 July, with European competition following after that.

Nothing definitive has been agreed but Uefa is keen to leave all options on the table for as long as possible given the general uncertainty across Europe and in the knowledge, there is no guarantee the season will be finished.

However, there is a view that travel restrictions are more likely to have eased in August, which would be necessary for a cross-border competition.

The scenario envisaged would be for the quarter-finals and semi-finals of the respective European competitions to be played as two-legged ties between 11 and 22 August, although these could yet become one-off games.

In the plans now being discussed, there would be some flexibility for domestic fixtures to be played in August, should a July conclusion prove impossible.

The Premier League has nine rounds of fixtures remaining but in Spain and Italy, two countries that have been badly affected, there are still 11 and 12 rounds left respectively - although both have fewer cup games to fit into their schedules.

Uefa hopes the situation will become clearer in the next fortnight but completing the season in this way would cause the least disruption to its qualification competition for the 2020-21 season, which was supposed to start at the end of June but has been delayed indefinitely.



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BOXING

WAGUTHII SEEKS TO UNEARTH THE NEXT WORLD CHAMPION

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SPORTS

GOLF 'THE SENIOR EVENT WOULD HAVE BEEN A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR ME'



Indiza plots big

Mumias-based pro rues missing US Senior Open, eyes more tours

SAMSON ATEKA
@samson ateka



Dismas Indiza in past action / COURTESY

East Africa's most popular professional golfer Dismas Indiza now hopes to feature more on international tour circuit despite missing out on two key events due to issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Mumias-based pro, who is famous for his long-hitting antics, was hoping to grace the Magical Kenya Open as a precursor to his invite to the US Senior Open after winning the Safari Tour locally.

But the pro, better known as 'Baba Yao' in golfing circles, is disappointed that the mission to grace US event came a cropper owing to COVID19 issues.

"Plans were at an advanced stage and the participation fee of US\$3000 was also ready. Sadly, the Kenya Open didn't happen as scheduled and the U.S. Senior Open will not happen this year," said Indiza.

The event was meant to be In-

diza's maiden tour of the United States, where he was scheduled to play in pre-qualifier in pursuit of coveted main event's slots.

In addition to the postponement of the U.S. Open earlier in the month, the United States Golf Association also made the decision to cancel the U.S. Senior Open and Senior Women's Open Championships for 2020.

The 41st U.S. Senior Open had been scheduled for June 25-28 at Newport Country Club in Newport but will now be played at Omaha (Neb.) Country Club from July 8-11, next year.

"Considering the ongoing health issues related to COVID-19, it was inevitable for organisers of the event not to run it."

"I have been to Manchester, where I attended the Tour School some years back. But playing in the Senior event would have been a great opportunity given the big names that have participated in the event," Indiza said.

With his invite failing to come

to fruition, Indiza has continued to shape up at the depleted Mumias course and he is hoping to play more in the Sunshine Tour events if possible.

"Although the course in Mumias is a pale shadow of its former self, one can still train there. This is to ensure that I am not very rusty by the time life returns to normal. I have been hitting the ball well and trying to keep the swing intact," he said.

The U.S. Senior Open is one of the five major championships in senior golf, introduced 40 years ago. It is administered by the USGA and is recognised as a major championship by both the PGA Tour Champions and the European Senior Tour.

The lower age limit was 55 in 1980 but it was lowered to 50 for the second edition in 1981, which is the standard limit for men's senior professional golf tournaments.

The world's greatest golfer of all time Jack Nicklaus has won the US Open four times thus 1962, 1967, 1972 and 1980 and won the Senior Open twice in 1991 and 1993.

HANDBALL

Kenya confirm participation in Africa events

BY EMMANUEL SABUNI/ Kenya will participate in the Africa women's senior championships in Yaounde, Cameroon.

At the same time, Charles Omondi, the Kenya Handball Federation technical director, said they plan to send three clubs to the Africa Club Championships.

The clubs include Ulinzi, National Cereals and Produce Board and Nairobi Water women's side.

"We have four programmes in the revised continental calendar and we are working hard to have representatives in the tournaments," he said.

He pointed out that with coronavirus pandemic causing havoc in sports, they expect to start early training as soon as it is safe to resume activities. Confederation of African Handball (CAHB) have in a circular announced the venues of the events but will fix the dates later.

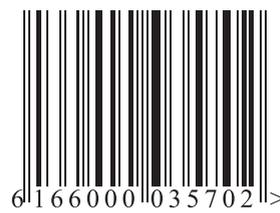
"We are sure our women's side can clinch a place in the World Championships," noted Omondi but warned that this will only be possible if preparations start early.

CAHB said the club championships for both men and women will be in Cairo, Egypt while women's senior show will be in Yaounde.

"The dates of these sports events depending on the progress in as far as the fight against COVID-19 is concerned," CAHB statement read. Omondi revealed that the men's Junior and the U-17 Youth events have been programmed for Casablanca, Morocco.



Irene Aloo of Kenyatta University challenges NCPB's Rehema Asiko during a past KHF league match /FILE



Edition 3742

ASIA



THE MARAGA SUCCESSION

EIGHT MONTHS TO THE RETIREMENT OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE, POLITICIANS AND TOP LAWYERS ARE SAID TO BE SCHEMING ABOUT CANDIDATES TO SUCCEED HIM



COVER STORY 2022 IN SIGHT

Maraga succession intrigues si

Given the CJ is set to retire on January 12 next year, politicians and top lawyers are said to be scheming about candidates to succeed him. CJ plays a key role in determining presidential petitions



JAMES MBAKA

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Senior political
reporter

The retirement of Chief Justice David Maraga in eight months is already triggering high-stakes succession intrigues.

Questions about as to whether Kenya needs an insider and conservative CJ like Maraga, who shocked the world by nullifying the 2017 presidential election, or a liberal judiciary head.

CJs and other judges, though described as conservative or liberal, often surprise with their rulings once they sit on the bench.

Maraga's predecessor, CJ Willy Mutunga, widely considered a revolutionary, opened a new chapter when he failed to nullify the disputed 2013 presidential election.

The 2022 General Election is expected to be a fierce battle and an election petition challenging the results is likely. The Chief Justice will play a key role in determining the outcome.

Mutunga's appointment as CJ in 2011 had been heralded as a new dawn for the country's justice system given his strong legal philosophy and implacable integrity. He and fellow jangler President Uhuru Kenyatta when the election was annulled.

Though a one-sided rerun upheld Uhuru's victory, the nullification was remembered.

"I think we will most likely get a more conservative chief justice who would be responsive to the dominant political class," city lawyer Steve Ogolla told the Star.

Ogolla said the recruitment of the next CJ would borrow heavily from the Mutunga and Maraga experiences and involve a balance of law and politics.

"A chief justice's ideology can preserve or disrupt a political agenda. That is why politicians would be very keen on who succeeds Maraga," Ogolla said.

Maraga's recruitment in 2016 was preceded by intense political manoeuvres.

The Jubilee Party sought to amend the Judicial Service Act to have the president given three names of the top CJ candidates from which to pick one, That was to be the case for the DCJ as well.

The move was informed by the fact that the President had no



room to manoeuvre once the JSC submitted a single name to him for appointment.

With the amendment having been felled by the courts, the focus shifted to control the recruitment at the point of interviews.

If Maraga decides to retire earlier

“

LAWYER STEVE OGOLLA

I think we will most likely get a more conservative chief justice who would be responsive to the dominant political class

like Mutunga, the decision could not only spark vicious succession politics but also jolt the Supreme Court after Justice Jackton Ojwang' retired on February 5.

Maraga, a deeply religious man, was born on January 12, 1951, and will have attained the mandatory retirement age for judges of 70 years in January 2021.

However, Maraga's retirement is keenly watched amid claims that senior lawyers, judges and influential politicians have started scheming about who will succeed him.

Powerful individuals are said to be holding secret meetings to strategise on Maraga's succession, the clock fast ticking down to his retirement.

The CJ holds a powerful position not just as the chairperson of the influential Judicial Service Commission, which employs and pays judges, but also as the President of the Supreme Court.

The seven-judge Supreme Court decides on presidential election disputes, making it an influential organ of the judiciary that attracts a lot of political interest in both its composition and its decisions

The succession is a high-stakes

President Uhuru Kenyatta during the swearing-in of Chief Justice David Maraga at State House on October 19, 2016 / PSCU

race since DCJ Philomena Mwilu is facing legal challenges over a petition filed at the JSC. She would have scored high as a logical successor.

The petition seeking Mwilu's removal was filed by the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Director of Criminal Investigations.

If Maraga were to leave early, Mwilu would act as CJ for a maximum of six months to allow the next chief justice to be recruited by the JSC.

In the 2017 Maraga-led Supreme Court, judges Mwilu, Smokin Wanjala and Isaac Lenaola supported the historic invalidation of the presidential election results, throwing the CJ into the spotlight.

This was the first presidential election to be annulled by the Supreme Court not just in Kenya but in Africa as well. It was the sixth presidential result invalidation after Austria, Haiti, Ukraine, Serbia and the Maldives.

Mutunga's bench in 2013 validated Uhuru's election as Kenya's fourth president despite protests from the opposition coalition Cord and a section of civil society.

The invalidation of President Kenyatta's election in 2017 lifted the lid on the immense power wielded by

Hampering 8 months to his exit



CJ David Maraga addresses the press on coronavirus pandemic update at the Supreme Court on April 22 / MERCY MUMO

the apex court and raised the country's political temperature.

It is against this backdrop that the recruitment of the next CJ, and filling justice Ojwang's slot, would not just be a judicial process but also a political affair with eyes on the 2022 presidential duel and possible subsequent petition.

One of the intrigues likely to play out in the search for Maraga's successor would be age, as the CJ appointed next year would serve for a maximum term of 10 years unless he or she retires at age 70 or exits early.

Politicians would not want a CJ who is too young to continue being a Supreme Court judge, even after completing his 10-year tenure. His impact would be long felt and they would likely want to influence the choice of his successor.

That would create two centres of power, with a CJ emeritus on the bench as well as the CJ in office.

When he was appointed CJ, Maraga was age 66, making him legible to only preside over one presidential dispute at the Supreme Court before hitting 70.

Mutunga was appointed in 2011 when he was aged 64. He was born

on June 22, 1947. Maybe he wanted to avoid that 2017 petition, some say.

Mutunga and Maraga's ages on appointment to office expose the deep-seated intrigues involving age.

The appointment of a younger judge as CJ would trigger succession acrimony at the apex court as the holder of such an office would serve a full term of 10 years, 'holding others back'.

The Constitution states if the CJ's term of office expires before retirement, the Chief Justice may continue in office as a judge of the Supreme Court.

"If, on the expiry of the term of office of a Chief Justice, the Chief Justice opts to remain on the Supreme Court under Clause (3), the next person appointed as Chief Justice may be selected in accordance with Article 166 (1), even though that appointment may result in there being more than the maximum permitted number of Supreme Court judges holding office," reads Article 167 (4).

In February, the JSC indicated in its Medium-Term Framework Report that it would prioritise the recruitment of the Chief Justice in the 2020-21 financial year.

The document published by Judiciary Registrar Ann Amadi was the clearest indication that the JSC was readying itself to hire Maraga's successor as a matter of priority in the fiscal year beginning July 1.

"To enhance service delivery in the Judiciary, the Commission intends to recruit the next Chief Justice and one Supreme Court judge, 30 superior court judges (High Court, Environment and Land Court, and Employment and Labour Relations Court), 100 magistrates and 300 judicial officers and staff to address case backlog in the judiciary," Amadi stated in the MTEF report.

There have been claims that Magara could opt for early retirement to allow the JSC to begin the recruitment process well in time for the 2022 General Election.

The CJ's recruitment is expected to take not less than three months, a lengthy period that analysts say may inform Maraga's possible early exit, tentatively by October.

Maraga's predecessor Mutunga left office in June 2016 - a year earlier - kicking off a succession battle that culminated in Maraga's appointment by President Kenyatta on October 19 that year.

The law requires that the recruitment of a CJ can only begin once the officeholder formally vacates, either at retirement age or in an early exit.

It cannot start even when he is on terminal leave.

This provision that the CJ must formally vacate before recruitment can start has been criticised for

hampering certain key offices whose holders wield powers that no other person can have unless they are substantive officeholders.

Former Auditor General Edward Ouko had called on MPs to amend the laws to allow recruitment key State officers to start months before the incumbent's term expires so there will be no void in the office.

The JSC that will recruit the next CJ is comprised of Law Society of Kenya representative Mercy Deche who deputises Maraga at the commission.

Other commissioners are DCJ Mwilu, Emily Ominde (chief magistrate), Justice Mohamed Warsame (Court of Appeal) and Justice David Majanja (High Court).

Attorney General Kihara Kariuki is also a commissioner, together with lawyer Macharia Njeru (representing LSK), Patrick Gichohi (representing the Public Service Commission), Felix Koskei (the public representative) and Prof Olive Mugenda (the public representative).

There have been attempts to control the composition of the 11-member JSC to influence the recruitment of the next CJ.

Despite Justice Warsame having been re-elected to the JSC by his Court of Appeal colleagues, external political players tried to influence the process.

Warsame was finally sworn in as a member of JSC on January 23 following a protracted battle between the three arms of government that lasted close to a year.



COLUMN CORONAVIRUS

Pandemic to determine 2022 polls



DAUDI MWENDA

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Communications
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Around 2020, a severe pneumonia like illness will spread throughout the globe, attacking the lungs and the bronchial tubes and resisting all known treatments.”

This was predicted by Silvia Browne in his movie thriller *Contagion* with alarming accuracy.

The world had been warned of a virus infection similar to Covid 19, even in a scholarly article “Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus as an Agent of Emerging and Re-Emerging Infection” published in the *Clinical Microbiology Review*.

Vincent C Cheng and others argued, “The presence of a large reservoir of SARS-CoV like viruses in horse-shoe bats, together with the culture of eating exotic animals in Southern China, is a time bomb. The possibility of SARS and other novel viruses from animals or laboratories and therefore, the need for preparedness should not be ignored.”

The red-flag warnings were ignored as coincidences or rants of crazy scientists. One of the few world leaders who took the reports and warnings seriously was former US President Barack Obama. He had the presence of mind to prepare a “disaster preparedness Cabinet Paper in event of a highly infectious virus attack”, which he handed over to his successor, Donald Trump, who allegedly trashed it!

As a result of our power hungry leaders being impervious to reason and or lacking plain common sense, planet Earth is now in a severe crisis, the severest since World War 2.

Indeed, the earth has been brought to a standstill and is in lockdown or semi-lockdown mode. There is death and fear all around,



with education institutions, stadia, airports, movie theaters, restaurants and hotels now empty.

People are living in a world they never envisaged in their lifetimes. Walking around wearing face masks and suspicious of one another. Most people are locked up within the confines of their homes. The true meaning of the term freedom hitherto considered an abstract legal term coming to the fore. These, for sure, these are testing times.

On the local scene President Uhuru Kenyatta, to his credit, stepped up to his plate and took immediate control of the situation by implementing emergency measures to control the spread of

the virus.

A nationwide curfew, partial lockdowns, social distancing, mass testing and quarantine and isolation treatment centres in hospitals and other institutions have saved legions of Kenyans from an abrupt, painful and premature demise.

If the stunts Kenyans are carrying out to circumvent emergency measures (including fake funerals and pursuit of illegal panya routes) are true, then it goes without saying that we are a reckless, irresponsible, thoughtless, immoral stiff-necked people. A handful of Cabinet secretaries, senators and governors have stood out for special mention amongst them Mombasa county

Social distancing in the Senate during a special sitting on March 31

/EZEKIEL AMINGA

boss Hassan Joho, Charity Ngilu (Kitui) and Nairobi Senator Johnson Sakaja. Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe is a beacon, a no-nonsense, hands on crisis manager and a man equal to the task.

The same cannot be said of the Tangatanga and Kieleweke brigades, who all suddenly went AWOL in the face of a severe national and international crisis, and when they came back, it was about Jubilee politics. Their collective behaviour is nothing short of disgraceful.

Had they employed the time and resources they have spent in a political internecine war in the last year in combating the Covid-19 pandemic, hundreds of lives would not be at risk as is the case now. Instead they put their tails between their legs and skunked.

They have absconded their responsibility and should rest assured that constituents have noted their absence. What they may not be aware of is that this pandemic will determine the next election nationally and internationally.

President Trump has already run into severe political headwinds out of his incompetent, careless, reckless, unsympathetic and almost juvenile handling of the crisis.

Political heads will roll locally in the 2022 presidential and parliamentary elections and the time to stand up and be counted is now.

Our local shepherds have abandoned their flock in the face of real and existing danger. It is now known to all and sundry that the interest of the bulk of our MPs and MCAs is in acquiring and retaining power.

The welfare /interests of the electorate is secondary.

MNCs missing in Covid action



OPIYO WANDAYI

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UGUNJA MP

Whereas elected leaders, the religious community, the media and other institutions continue to offer support in the war on Covid-19, corporates, save for few, have not been as active.

A large percentage of our national wealth is domesticated within the multinational corporations.

In Kenya, MNCs are established in almost all the 47 counties and are engaged in large scale enterprises ranging from agriculture, commerce, banking, finance, insurance, mining, tourism to hotel industry, among others.

The main goal of MNCs is to capture the local markets and establish a monopoly for the purposes of profiteering and extraction of profits. These enterprises are driven by a number of factors in as far as mobility of capital is concerned.

The labour factor ranks high, especially in developing countries

where labour is relatively cheap. Secondly, MNCs seek to create a monopoly in the means of production – a true manifestation of capitalism.

Thirdly, they seek to establish a mutual collaboration with the political elite to pave way for favourable policies for their enterprises to thrive. They are engaged in value addition in enhancing their products and services because the higher the value of products, the better the returns on investment. Finally, MNCs enjoy access to cheap raw materials which increases their profits.

However, with all these benefits, there is always the moral question, should MNCs engage in corporate social responsibility, especially during crises such as the one we face?

I am here not talking about mere tokenism or publicity stunts of the kind that we are witnessing. CSR is premised on the logic that corporates have a social responsibility to support communities where

they accrue their massive benefits. On the contrary, what we see in Kenya is an entrenchment of paternalism, with the major players continuing to hoodwink Kenyans that this responsibility is a favour.

Globally, MNCs and business moguls are actively involved in mobilisation of resources towards combating Covid-19.

According to the Wall Street journal, small businesses' confidence has plummeted as a result of Covid-19. Large corporations are stepping in to support SMEs during this difficult time.

Some of the biggest US technology firms have also stepped up. Amazon, for instance, pledged to donate \$5 million to local businesses based near its Seattle headquarters that will likely lose out on sales now that its staff are working from home.

Google, on the other hand, is pledging \$1 million to organisations in Mountain View, California, impacted heavily by the pandemic.

Facebook pledged to donate \$20 million to support coronavirus relief efforts, while Apple is committing \$15 million.

Billionaire Mark Cuban has been reimbursing employees who purchase lunch and coffee from local restaurants. Additionally, Jack Ma, the billionaire founder of Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba, through his foundation, donated 1.1 million testing kits, six million masks and 60,000 protective suits and face shields to Africa.

In Nigeria, Aliko Dangote, one of Africa's wealthiest men, has donated the equivalent of more than Sh50 million through the Aliko Dangote Foundation. South African Johan Rupert and Nicky Oppenheimer donated Sh11.4 billion to the solidarity fund to assist small scale business and their employees during this Covid-19 pandemic.

Here in Kenya, Narendra Raval Guru was the first Kenyan entrepreneur to support the emergency fund by donating Sh100 million worth of oxygen. Few others have followed suit.

The question, then, is, why are multinational corporations operating in Kenya slow in taking up their CSR in contributing to the fight against Covid-19?

COLUMN WAR ON COVID-19



Some of the Africans stranded in China following discrimination claims
/COURTESY

Leave no one behind, bring back Kenyans stuck in China



SUSAN MUGWE
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Mugwe is a political economist and writes here on her own behalf.

Nemo resideo. This is the Latin phrase that means 'leave no man behind'.

A scene from the movie *Black Hawk Down* depicts this nemo resideo principle with such passion in the Battle of Mogadishu. A group of a hundred elite US Delta Forces were dropped by helicopters in the heart of Mogadishu. They only had one job. That of abducting two top lieutenants of Mohamed Farrah Aidid, one of Somali's warlords, and return to base.

However, the operation did not go as planned. The ground convoy was attacked by the Somali militia, two US Black Hawk helicopters were destroyed by rocket-propelled grenades, and 18 American soldiers and hundreds of Somalis died in the intense exchange of gunfire during the rescue mission by additional Delta Forces. Once back at base, Captain Mike Steele told his men that they were going back to Mogadishu to bring back the fallen soldiers. One of his soldiers protested at this crazy idea. In response, Captain Mike told him, "it doesn't matter, no one gets left behind, you know that."

And this is what responsible soldiers do. They leave no man behind.

Make no mistake, Kenya is at war and the enemy is the coronavirus. We have all been conscripted as soldiers into this war, and are expected to use the weapons at our disposal to defeat the enemy. And the weapons are sanitisers, soap and water, social distancing, masks, obeying the curfew, and quarantine requirements.

Unfortunately, as conscripted soldiers, we are in a war without any military orientation. We have brought our laissez-faire civilian culture into a tightly controlled command structure. Resultantly, there has been a constant clash of culture labelled as indiscipline.

In this war, we have had casualties that need to be brought back to base. These are our fellow Kenyans living in China. We have all witnessed on social media the horrors they have suffered. And just like Captain Mike, we have reminded our leadership, nemo resideo - that no matter what, no man should be left behind.

In response, they have told us that this is a near-impossible Ask. In a recent press briefing, Foreign Affairs PS Macharia Kamau ruled out any evacuation from China because, in his wisdom, you cannot evacuate from one country and not from the other. This is an extremely lazy argument.

Ambassador Kamau needs to orient himself with the concept of triage and apply it to prioritise the Kenyans in China. Triage is the assignment of degrees of urgency to decide the ranking order of treatment or interventions to a large number of patients or casualties.

Elsewhere, Kenya Ambassador to Beijing Sarah Serem said the Kenyans in China could be evacuated, but at their own cost. The irony is that this week, Treasury CS Ukur Yatani, informed us that Kenya has allocated Sh40 billion in Covid-19 response.

Kamau estimated that there are

3,000 Kenyans in China. Now, estimating that a ticket from China to Kenya would cost Sh100,000, nobody thought that they could allocate Sh300 million, which is equal to a paltry 0.75 per cent of this amount?

If Yatani's pot of gold is sacred and cannot be used for nemo resideo purposes, I submit that there are several other sources available. The Kenyans in China all hail from a county and constituency in Kenya. This means they all have representatives in the forms of MPs and governors. Isn't it possible to reallocate evacuation monies from their CDF and county budgets, respectively?

A study led by Dr Leonard Wong, a Professor of Military Strategy in the US Army War College sought to find out what made America unmatched in raw combat power, what motivated American soldiers to continue in battle, and risk their lives in the face of extreme danger; and what inspired tired, cold and muddy soldiers to keep advancing forward, with the bitter dryness of fear in their mouths, towards a determined enemy.

As a counterfactual, the study interviewed Iraqi prisoners of war. Their main findings were that the Iraqi soldiers were motivated by coercion from the ruling Baath Political Party. They were driven by fear of retribution and punishment, if they avoided combat. They related stories of being jailed or beaten by the party representatives if they were suspected of deserting their units. They also described their leaders

as distant and detached, arising from their Sandhurst model military training, where there was a chasm between the ranks of officers and soldiers. In this model, the officers were politically appointed, and not regarded as tactically competent by their men. This resulted in little mutual respect. Subsequently, the soldiers felt little to no concern in letting their comrades down since they had no allegiance to them or their leaders. Does all this sound familiar?

Ideology, patriotism and fighting for the cause were not listed as major motivators by the American soldiers. The primary factor was knowing that they could trust their leaders to look out for them. Their loyalty to each other was unquestionable. They were driven by the notion that you couldn't give up because to do so would be to let the other men down.

What kept them going was the near presence of a comrade. Their bravery was sustained by fellow soldiers primarily, and their weapons second. In combat, the primary thing they worried about was achieving group success and protecting the unit from harm. This desire for success emanated from the assurance that everyone had each other's backs. This was not simply about trusting in each other's competence, training or skill. It was knowing that their personal safety was ensured by others, which freed them to focus on the war without worrying.

Each time Health CS Mutahi Kagwe and President Uhuru Kenyatta address the nation, they do so with the expectation that we will embrace the coronavirus dogma, and fight patriotically in this war together. But like the Iraqi soldiers, many Kenyans have been coerced into this war by fire by force. Others have been beaten by the enforcers, some to the point of death. Similarly, our ranking soldiers are politically appointed and seem quite detached from present realities. It is no wonder that they ask the Kenyans in China to pay their cost for evacuation.

Yet they are baffled when soldiers desert the cause and break out of quarantine facilities, fraternise without masks or social distancing, and even misuse essential vehicles such as ambulances to transport drunk youths home after curfew.

Begs the question, why would they expect soldiers to be motivated in fighting this war, when they have clearly demonstrated that they do not have our backs? When they will not do whatever it takes, to ensure that no Kenyan is left behind in China?

Finally, my unsolicited advice is to President Kenyatta, as the Commander-in-Chief. In war, you do not ask is it fair, you ask is it possible. Likewise, your generals should not pontificate to you on the fairness or not, of evacuating the Kenyans in China, and not those in all the other countries. Their role is to advise you on the best winning evacuation strategy. Because that's what responsible soldiers do. Bring back the Kenyans in China, whatever it takes - nemo resideo.

We sleep safely at night because rough men stand ready to visit violence on those who would harm us - Winston Churchill

KATIBA CORNER

China-Hong Kong Constitutional Relations: Sleeping next to a tiger

In the third quarter of last year, some democratic members of Hong Kong society participated in protests. In one of the most outrageous actions, 15 of those people have now been arrested

**YASH PAL GHAI**

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Prof Ghai is grateful to Jill Cottrell Ghai for her assistance in preparing this article

I have in the past written about the relationship between Hong Kong and China, believing that people in Kenya would find it interesting as they try to understand the nature of the new super-power that has become so prominent in African affairs.

And I have written about China in Africa for a collection of writings on China and Hong Kong in the hope this would be interesting for Hong-kongers trying to make sense of their own relationship with the Leviathan of which they are now a part.

Although most people in Kenya have been sensible enough not to blame individual Chinese (and still less anyone who just looks Chinese) for the terrible pandemic that originated in a Chinese market, there have been fresh reasons for us to be concerned about China.

For some time, African states believed that China was driven by a concern for the development and benefit of our countries. As we know, our President was enchanted by what he thought was the generosity of the Chinese President in relation to the SGR project, only for us to find that we had been severely cheated.

As far as we can tell, only China has benefited from that enterprise (and perhaps some property owners in Naivasha). States and citizens of Africa more generally have of late expressed considerable suspicion of the bona fides of China in their relations with them.

And now we find that the Chinese are apparently less tolerant towards Kenyans than they are towards them. In fact, prejudice against Black people in China has a very long history.

Before I explain why China's relationship with Hong Kong has again attracted my attention and concern at this time, may I remind you of the salient features of the constitutional relationship between them?

HONG KONG AND CHINA

Hong Kong was taken away from China by the imperialistic Britain in 1842, by force. It remained under complete British control until the early 1980s, when an agreement was made that HK would be returned to China – when a 99-year lease of part of the territory expired. The Sino-British agreement provided for some role for Britain for another 50 years, even after China ceased to own Hong Kong, principally to ensure that China honoured its undertakings on Hong Kong's autonomy.

In the meantime, HK people would acquire increasing degree of autonomy from the British government so that on the reversion to China, HK would enjoy a high degree of autonomy, at least until



another 50 years. The Constitution of Hong Kong (called the Basic Law – the Chinese did not want it called a “constitution) guarantees them “a high degree of autonomy”.

It is about not only HK's constitution but also the relationship with China (largely to restrict its role in HK). Its executive and legislature (still called the Legislative Council as in the colonial days) must be composed of permanent residents of Hong Kong (but not necessarily citizens of China). At least 80 per cent of them must be ethnically Chinese. The Hong Kong government must safeguard the rights and freedoms of its residents. The essential elements of the legal system (based on English law) continue. English remains the official language.

The legislature is elected. However, half of them are not elected by one person one vote, but from special constituencies mostly related to economic activity. So some voters have two votes: One for geographical constituency members and one for a “functional constituency” members. The more commercially oriented of these tend to be identified as “pro-China”. Funny how the desire for stability leads the commercial sector to be pro the (nominally communist) Beijing government.

The head of the Hong Kong government, the Chief Executive (sounding rather like a corporate head), enjoys considerable powers. But he or she is not freely elected by the Hong Kong people, but by a special electoral committee, and must have the endorsement of the mainland government.

The judiciary is independent. Its top court, the Court of Final Appeal, even has foreign judges (or one foreign judge at a time). And their appointment is by an independent process. Foreign lawyers may practice law in Hong Kong. There are independent institutions like the commission against corruption

and on audit.

Hong Kong's foreign affairs powers are limited—but it can make agreements in various areas: including trade and other economic matters, culture and sport. HK can be an independent participant in various international organisations—provided they are not political. Oddly, Hong Kong is supposed to remain a capitalist system.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED RECENTLY?

Under previous presidents, there was considerable respect for the autonomy of HK under which it prospered and moved towards democracy, with a strong judiciary. However, soon after HK returned to China the Court of Final Appeal was arm-twisted to dis-own a bold and independent decision as to who was entitled to come to HK.

Little-known or remarked is that the current Chinese president declared himself life president on assuming office. His interventions in what are domestic affairs of Hong Kong, which constitutionally enjoy considerable autonomy, are other examples of his disregard of the law.

Last year, you may have read about the protests in Hong Kong—prompted by a proposal to pass a law to permit sending HK people to China for trial. There is a clear link to earlier demonstrations in favour of HK people having a real choice in their leaders: Originally the “Occupy Central Movement”, which became known as the “Umbrella Revolution”.

In recent years, the Chinese government has made many moves to deprive HK of its autonomy. The other slogan about “Hong Kong people ruling Hong Kong” seems to have become an empty promise. Hong Kong people maybe, on the surface, but not ruling HK.

One of the striking things has been how engaged young people have become. No longer simply concerned about only order and

Riot police officers hold pepper spray as they try to disperse anti-government protesters after a vigil to mourn student's death, in Hong Kong, China on March 8 /REUTERS

prosperity, although the territory is more divided than perhaps it has been for decades.

That HK people are not merely anti-government can be seen by the coronavirus response. People wear masks very widely – realising that this protects wearer and others. Mostly, they have gone along with government measures. And protests have diminished – they are hardly examples of social distancing!

GOVERNMENT(S) HITS BACK

Some of the tactics of the protestors do not appeal to older democrats. But their objectives do. So some of the members of society most committed to democracy have participated in the demonstrations.

Now that the coronavirus issue seems, if not controlled, at least less of an immediate threat, and now that people – including the BBC in a recent programme – anticipate that protest will resume over the next few months, the government strikes back. Not the Beijing government, but the HK government, but few believe that government acts autonomously

In the third quarter of last year, some prominent, vocal and democratic members of Hong Kong society participated in protests. No one saw fit to arrest them. But now, in one of the most outrageous actions of the Hong Kong (it is tempting to call them puppet) government, has arrested 15 people who were involved in those protests last year.

I must declare an interest. Three of them are people I have worked with – or would even (and proudly) call friends, the wazee of the HK democratic scene.

One is Jimmy Lai, age 71, founder of the Chinese language Apple Daily newspaper, for which I used to write (not in Chinese I have to admit). Another is a 72-year-old former legislator and barrister Margaret Ng. And finally my age-mate Martin Lee, founder of the Democratic Party, and a lawyer—and my mentor. All of them have the most distinguished records for democracy and fairness – and courage.

These arrests are clear violations of the whole principle of the Basic Law of Hong Kong. Where is freedom of speech? Where is Hong Kong's autonomy? Where are Hong Kong people ruling Hong Kong?

The strategy is clearly intimidation. Not an unfamiliar strategy for Kenyans.

They say “know your enemy”. You also need to know your friends. As Emily Lau, another veteran and several times arrested HK politician, said on the BBC, HK's situation is like “sleeping next to a tiger”.



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the week

SHOT OF THE WEEK



Residents wade through a flooded section in Ahero /OGENDO DANIEL

SNAPSHOTS / FROM AROUND THE WORLD



Iran says it has launched first military satellite into orbit

DUBAI/WASHINGTON (Reuters) – Iran said on Wednesday it successfully launched the country's first military satellite into orbit, triggering protests from the United States and stoking already high tensions over Tehran's nuclear and missile programmes. Iran's Revolutionary Guards Corps said the satellite "Noor", or "Light", was orbiting 425 km (264 miles) above the earth's surface. The Pentagon declined to confirm whether Noor was in orbit and operational, saying it would take time to make such an assessment. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo condemned the launch, however.



Covid-19: Buhari asks chief judge to free prisoners

ABUJA (Reuters) – Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari has asked the chief judge to free prison inmates who have been awaiting trial for six years or more to ease overcrowding as the novel coronavirus spreads, a spokesman said on Tuesday. A statement quoted Buhari as saying 42 per cent of Nigeria's 74,000 or so prisoners were awaiting trial. He urged Chief Judge Ibrahim Tanko Muhammad to reduce that number "since physical distancing and self-isolation in such conditions are practically impossible".



Speculation: North Korea silent on Kim's whereabouts

SEOUL (Reuters) – North Korean state media on Wednesday made no mention of leader Kim Jong Un's health or whereabouts, a day after intense international speculation over his health 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 cast doubt on South Korean and U.S. media reports that he was seriously sick, while the White House said it was closely monitoring the matter.



FROM THE COURTS



Milimani law courts/FILE

★ **A** man charged with defiling a minor yesterday was offended by the prosecution words that he was not sure of what he was pleading guilty. A Nairobi magistrate could not believe it when a defilement suspect casually admitted he slept with an eight-year-old girl. "My boss [the magistrate], I don't want to hear from this boss [the prosecutor] that I slept with the minor, even after she told me that she was fine with me," the suspect said. The magistrate was so shocked that he asked him once again whether he was pleading guilty. He said yes. The magistrate ordered that he be remanded.

★ **A** man caused an ease when he coughed in a Nairobi court, as if to scare the court staff when he was charged with breaking the curfew. But he said he was just clearing his throat. "Just allow me pay Sh500 fine I don't have money," he asked the magistrate. He was ordered to pay a fine of Sh1,000.

★ **A** man who was arrested and charged for not wearing a mask asked the court to give him one. He told a Nairobi court that he was too broke to buy one because he even didn't cash to buy food. In another face mask case, a magistrate asked a suspect for how long he had his mask on. "I have used it for some days now.... But at least I have it," he replied. The magistrate later ordered him pay Sh1,000 fine for breaching social distance rule.

FROM CORRIDORS OF POWER

★ **AN** MP from a Coastal county with his eyes set on a governor seat has reportedly gone back to the drawing board. Corridors understands that the legislator, who was banking on the current governor and his party leader's endorsement, has gone back to his political advisers for a new plan. This after he discovered that the governor and the party leader are courting a tycoon politician in the county to run for the seat in 2022. Those in the know say he now wants to be his own man and fight for the seat, even without any endorsement

★ **AS** the wrangles in the ruling Jubilee Party persist, it seems one of the officials in a top party organ is undecided on which side he belongs. The infighting in the party has resulted in two camps, one operating around President Uhuru Kenyatta, while the oscillating around Deputy President William Ruto. The official, who held an influential position in one of the parties that folded to form Jubilee, has of late surprised his colleagues with his indecision, especially on matters touching on the management of the party. A mole intimated to Corridors that the official nowadays takes a backseat on controversial matters being prosecuted by the crucial party organ in what his colleagues say is playing safe not to offend any of the two camps.

★ **A** senior official in one of the key government agencies is a frustrated man over what he claims to be open bias in promotion in the institution. The official complains of being overlooked in promotions as a number of his juniors with connections to who-is-who in the State department scale the ladder, leaving him at the same spot. The official is said to be so frustrated and is openly contemplating early retirement.

THE EXPLAINER

REUTERS

What the US funds freeze could mean for WHO

US President Donald Trump has told his administration to temporarily halt funding to the World Health Organization in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic caused by the new coronavirus. The WHO's 2020-2021 budget, approved by health ministers last May, amounts to nearly \$4.85 billion in total and represents a 9 per cent rise from the previous two-year period.

* The US is the biggest overall donor to the WHO and had contributed more than \$800 million by the end of 2019 for the 2018-2019 biennial funding period. The Gates Foundation is the second largest donor, followed by Britain.

* It is not clear whether its has already made all or part of its payments towards the 2020-2021 budget, but its assessed contributions are normally made late in the year.

* Almost \$1 billion of the 2020-2021 budget is earmarked for WHO operations across Africa, the world's poorest continent with the highest rates of under-five mortality from vaccine-preventable diseases.

* Polio eradication remains a major WHO programme and the United States is a key contributor to this effort.

* The WHO's emergency programme is also seeking to stamp out other deadly infectious disease outbreaks including Ebola in the Democratic Republic of Congo. * Trump has taken an increasingly critical stance towards the WHO, accusing it of promoting China's "disinformation" about the virus and saying that likely led to a wider outbreak than otherwise would have occurred.

* China has said it has been transparent and shared information with the WHO and other countries, including the United States. The WHO says China shared information quickly and is cooperating in research and other areas. "Focus on the epic struggle right now and leave the recriminations until later," WHO Covid-19 special envoy David Nabarro told an online conference on Wednesday, without naming the United States or Trump.

* The agency has faced controversy before. It was accused of overreacting to the 2009-10 H1N1 flu pandemic, and then faced withering criticism for not reacting fast enough to the vast Ebola outbreak in West Africa in 2014 that killed more than 11,000 people.

THE WEEK/ IN PICTURES



TOP 4 STORIES

MONDAY, APRIL 20

Seven feared dead from mudslides, floods in W. Pokot

Seven people were missing and feared dead while another 25 were injured after floods and mudslides hit Chesogon along the West Pokot and Elgeyo Marakwet border on Saturday night. Robert Katina from the Red Cross said more people might have died because many were still missing in affected villages. Chesogon police post was among installations swept away by the floods. The officer-in-charge Halkano Godana said the station had 18 officers but nine of them were on duty at the time of the incident

TUESDAY, APRIL 21

Why Kenya may escape Covid-19 disaster - studies

Scientists project that Africa will escape the kind of devastation caused by Covid-19 in Europe and America. The projection is based on evolving research which suggests the virus does not spread as fast in a warm climate. Two studies by scientists in Spain and in the United States agree that Covid-19 thrives in the wintry dry weather and is hampered by warm and humid weather above 18 degrees Celsius. World Food Programme says countries like Kenya are likelier to suffer a pandemic-driven food crisis, than a health one.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

Seven Kenyans join race to find Covid-19 vaccine

Kenya has joined the race to find a vaccine for Covid-19, with a prototype expected within six months. Seven scientists at the Kenya Medical Research Institute on Tuesday said they were developing several vaccine candidates but will narrow down to the most promising. Globally, 115 projects are currently in the race for a vaccine against the Covid-19 disease. Five of them have now entered the clinical phase, according to WHO. But how long before the first vaccine becomes available to the public remains unclear.

THURSDAY, APRIL 23

Sonko: I don't know what I signed with President Kenyatta

Nairobi Governor Mike Sonko has threatened to halt the transfer of the county's key functions to the national government. In a bitter falling-out with top state officials in President Uhuru Kenyatta's circle, Sonko claims he was hoodwinked into signing this agreement, saying he did not know its content when he signed. He pledged not to allow "cartels" to take charge of the city. Sonko, on his Facebook Page, claimed he never saw the draft transfer of functions deed before signing it.

1. VOI: Voi OCS James Mwanzia sets ablaze miraa worth more than Sh400,000 outside Voi police station on Thursday /**SOLOMON MUINGI**

2. MOMBASA: Casual labourers offload food to be distributed to over 227,000 Mombasa residents on Tuesday /**JOHN CHESOLI**

3. WEST POKOT: Police officers and residents rescue an injured person during flooding in West Pokot on Tuesday /**MARRYANNE CHAI**

4. MACHAKOS: A cyclist wades through a section of Utawala Katani Road in Mavoko constituency that has flooded due to Wednesday night heavy downpour /**FREDRICK OMONDI**

HEALTH SWEDEN'S APPROACH

Covid-19: Lockdowns will most probably result in more deaths

ANDERS OSTMAN

@ostman_anders

Östman is a retired Swedish diplomat living in Nairobi

The other day, a presenter on BBC World Service gave us a story saying there is no social distancing in Sweden, showing people outdoors enjoying the spring weather in Stockholm.

The underlying assumption of this highly contested statement seems to be that if a country is not on an enforced lockdown, it is bound for failure, mass deaths and the people in charge will have blood on their hands. The lowest number of deaths becomes the only measure of success.

This is simplistic, untrue and misleading.

The effort around the world to prove Sweden's more 'lenient approach' is not abating and I, as a Swede, became intrigued as to why this is the case. Are there deliberate attempts to make Sweden look bad to justify draconian measures elsewhere?

The Swedish approach is less lax than it appears and not so different than other countries, if one looks at the effects.

The coronavirus pandemic is not going to be over in weeks. It is a new virus with no immediate answers. It is, therefore, important to have acceptance among people of measures taken over the long haul.

Voluntariness and an educated public have always served Sweden well. People are sensible, considerate and have the ability to make informed decisions about communicable diseases, says Sweden's head of the Public Health Agency, Johan Carlson.

It is not the number of deaths that answers whether these measures are sufficient or whether we made the right assessments. Carlson concludes that we could have an answer, perhaps, in four or five years about the trade-offs Sweden made and other secondary effects on the general health situation and crowding-out effects at health services caused by the virus.

Hence, Sweden does not enforce restrictions but recommends (not 'suggest' as critics are saying). This means that most Swedes follow the recommendations without policing.

Isolate risk groups (elderly and people with certain diseases such as lung disease and a low immune system)

Stay at home if you have symptoms and stay at home at least two days after symptoms are gone

Work from home

People over 70 are told to meet as few people as possible

Wash hands often

Practice social distancing, avoid large gatherings and refrain from unnecessary travel.

But in general, the recommendations given by the Public Health Agency let people live a somewhat normal life. However, business is not normal in Sweden, like everywhere else. So far, Sweden does not



have political leaders who are into political grandstanding. There is a common approval of the approach by Sweden's political leaders.

The other approach, the 'European model', of closing down society, lockdowns, curfews, closure of non-essential shops, schools and borders is expected to lead to a somewhat slower spread of the virus. In the short run, this will reduce the pressure on the health services and the need for intensive care facilities.

Depending on how risk groups are isolated, the number of deaths from the virus might be lower in the beginning. However the result of this policy seems limited, if you look at the number of deaths per million inhabitants in countries which got the epidemic at the same time as Swe-

den. The number of new admissions to Swedish hospitals by seriously ill people is not overwhelming health services.

There is a common notion outside Sweden that it has a policy of 'herd immunity' which is false. Rather there is an understanding that herd immunity is a consequence. If there is no spread of the virus, there is no immunity. But the virus has spread around the world and the only way to stop it is a vaccine, which does not exist yet or that a sufficient part of the population gets immune.

If the virus spreads slowly as in the European model, it takes longer to acquire herd immunity. There is then an obvious risk for new waves of the epidemic. If this occurs after the restrictions have been lifted, the risk is high for new severe outbreaks, with a recurrence of increased need for intensive care and more deaths.

Closing down society for an extended period will lead to a serious economic downturn, mass unemployment and anxiety. This will impact on people's health for many years and cause increased illness and deaths from mental, cardio-vascular diseases and cancer. During the financial crisis 2008-09 it is reckoned that around a quarter of a million people died of cancer alone.

The Swedish model is expected to lead to a quicker spread of the virus

Commuters ran for dear lives after they were confronted by police at the Likoni Crossing Channel in Mombasa
/ JOHN CHESOLI

in society. The demand for health care and intensive care is at the same time increasing initially but flattens out later and decreases gradually.

It is difficult to see into the future so we will only know later what works and does not work. However, calculations on lockdowns indicate that closing down societies as done around Europe will most probably result in more deaths in the coming years and an increase in the number of lost years of life in comparison to the Swedish model. The Swedish model has challenged and even threatened many around the world, including scientists with a different outlook and politicians who are justifying measures that no-one knows will work.

The reasons behind the quick rush to introduce lockdowns has partly to do with the Chinese example, long before the virus became a threat elsewhere. A government with a leader afraid of being seen weak and of taking risks with peoples' lives found themselves in a corner and lost the bigger picture. Enforcing draconian measures seemed right because it was about saving lives, without trying to strike a balance between protecting people against the virus and not destroying too much of the country in the process.

That's what it seems Sweden is trying to do.



THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC IS NOT GOING TO BE OVER IN WEEKS. IT IS A NEW VIRUS WITH NO IMMEDIATE ANSWERS. IT IS, THEREFORE, IMPORTANT TO HAVE ACCEPTANCE AMONG PEOPLE OF MEASURES TAKEN OVER THE LONG HAUL

COLUMN PARTY POLITICS

Jubilee party wrangles are as a result of political dishonesty and immaturity



ISAAC MWAUREA
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Senator for persons with disabilities and chairman of the Albinism Society of Kenya

In the midst of coronavirus pandemic, what has been selling newspapers as well and maybe most effectively are the Jubilee wrangles.

This is the juggernaut that pride itself of 171 MPs, 38 senators out of 67 and more than half the country's 47 governors.

However, apart from a Parliamentary Group meeting last held at State House to agree on the House leadership, there has never been any other major meeting.

If you asked any Jubilee supporter who is their national chairman is very few know. Nelson Dzuya appears to be just a figurehead, and this is demonstrated by the fact that his own party couldn't secure him a slot at the East African Legislative Assembly, yet it had six out of the nine slots for Kenya.

Further, the party is divided right down the middle with the two factions of Kileweke allied to party leader Uhuru Kenyatta, the President, and Tangatanga allied to deputy party leader William Ruto.

On one hand, there is David Murathe, the vocal vice chairman who never quite resigned, and secretary general Raphael Tuju.

On the other hand are Soy MP Caleb Kositany, the supposed deputy secretary general, and Gatundu South MP Moses Kuria, among other Ruto allies. Such is the state of this dysfunctional party that the only time it has come alive is when there is a by-election, and even then, there are problems. A case in point is Kibra where Nairobi Senator Johnson Sakaja promised that Jubilee wouldn't field a candidate,



only for McDonald Mariga to vie.

One would expect that during this Covid-19 crisis, the ruling party would be meeting to cobble up a position on how the state should respond to the pandemic. On the contrary, Kenyans were treated to Twitter and mainstream media wars between the leaders of the Majority in the Senate and the National Assembly. This was over the dismal role that Parliament has played in providing leadership during this crisis, yet they belong to the same party and faction.

It's thus important to understand how we ended up here. The party was launched on September 10, 2016 after winding up 14 other outfits, a masterstroke that was meant to consolidate the political space in the country, towards ideology based rather than tribal-based politics.

However, the first challenge the new party faced was during the primaries when membership recruitment failed, despite a huge

campaign for online registration via SMS and the Sh20 plastic membership card that was launched amidst lots of fanfare.

In addition, the primaries meant to happen simultaneously across the country on Friday, April 21, 2017 failed miserably, amidst accusations of bribery, ballot stuffing and favouritism.

The repeat ones that were done from April 25, 2017 failed terribly as well. This is because the party used non-serialised ballot photocopies, lacked a membership register, used delible ink, and lacked a clear way of identifying bona fide election officials.

Voters only needed their national identity cards to vote and there was no clear tallying mechanism. It was a big sham, to say the least. In fact, many people who went through such a system have since confessed how they were aided with extra ballot papers to stuff the boxes, over and above, transporting the same

Langata MP Nixon Korir, Nakuru Senator Susan Kihika, Gatundu South MP Moses Kuria and Soy MP Caleb Kositany at Lion Place, Westlands on April 17 after receiving a letter from parties Registrar /ANDREW KASUKU

voters from one polling station to another.

This is the essence of political corruption that explains the quality of leaders that can be produced out of such a shambolic process.

For a party that was cobbled up in September to conduct a nationwide internal plebiscite on the basis of universal suffrage is akin to expecting a seven-month baby to sire a child. Further, the subsequent presidential election was also nullified on the basis of irregularities and illegalities.

This was unprecedented and it led to protests, repeat elections and the consequent mock swearing-in by Raila Odinga and later the handshake that has further dealt a blow to the party and the opposition coalition NASA.

Kenya has had this vicious cycle of coming up with new parties each and every election, thus stunting political maturity and signifying the culture of impunity and lack of political accountability.

This is because such parties and coalitions are disbanded to escape the fulfillment of political pacts.

This reeks of dishonesty, fraud and political conmanship, and any leadership produced in such circumstances lacks legitimacy to exercise proper governance since the very foundation is hypocrisy and subterfuge.

It's for this reason that I have come up with a political parties primaries bill to help govern this rather too important political environment to institutionalise our parties, away from the founders' syndrome.

Ruto's political sins will cost his 2022 bid



SAM OMWENGA
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US-based legal analyst and political commentator

American essayist, poet and philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson famously said, "When you strike at the king, you must kill him."

Emerson was describing a metaphorical, not physical attack—but the implication renders the distinction one without a difference.

In other words, taking a physical swing at the king with the aim to injure him and missing is no different from engaging in any activity that's intended to cause harm to the king, be it physical or otherwise.

While Deputy President William Ruto has not taken a physical swing at President Uhuru Kenyatta, an examination of his conduct and that of his minions since 2013 clearly provides ample evidence to conclude he

has committed political sins against his boss. They are not different from engaging in an activity intended to cause political harm to the king, in this case, President Kenyatta.

While the list of political sins Ruto has committed is long, I can raise several here without any fear of contradiction. They make a compelling case of why the challenges Ruto faces as he seeks the presidency are insurmountable.

First, while the President was indisputably asleep on the wheel following the 2013 elections — or oblivious to Ruto's machinations — the DP immediately started to plan his succession gameplan.

Ruto, for example, maximised on the opportunity to rig in as many MPs as he could in 2017 to have

enough numbers in Parliament to do anything he wanted or thwart anything he didn't want.

Ruto also made sure he had his major political opponents either rigged out or rendered politically impotent. If in doubt, ask Martha Karua or Peter Kenneth. This was a brilliant strategy, except it has backfired once the sleeping lion woke and is now making his presence felt.

Second, as part of his strategy to stuff Parliament and key government offices with his loyalists, Ruto cleverly used and continues to use the same politicians and foot soldiers to badmouth Uhuru, especially in the Mt Kenya region.

The instigation of badmouthing of Uhuru or keeping quiet as his allies do the dirty work is the very definition of taking a swing at the king.

Third, Ruto's ramping up and now openly challenging or disagreeing with Uhuru on some of the issues the President is espousing such as the fight against corruption is nothing but insubordination. That can only compound his already impossible path to the presidency.

When Ruto challenged what is obviously Uhuru's sanctioned lead-

ership changes in the ruling Jubilee Party, he hammered down yet another nail on this quickly tightly shutting political coffin.

Fourth, the audacity with which he is publicly displaying insubordination is unmatched, and he is determined to beat the system that's so clearly dead-set against him succeeding Uhuru.

Fifth is Ruto's failure to recognise something Uhuru and many in the so-called system finally have come to admit: That is we cannot continue like a ticking time-bomb set to rip the country apart into pieces every five years because of election woes.

That it is time power is wielded or at least shared across the country, rather than having the presidency rotating between only two tribes.

Any of these examples is a fatal political sin Ruto has committed but taken together, one can clearly see he has taken many swings at the king. The outcome being that he has nailed shut his political coffin.

Editors note: There is no evidence Deputy President William Ruto rigged in or out candidates in the 2017 elections

GUEST COLUMN **CLEANING THE ENVIRONMENT**

Could Covid-19 kill graft? Don't bet on it



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Director Science and Technology Park, University of Nairobi

Covid-19 has spread to 210 countries and territories so far. There are not a lot of places left that it has not touched.

Corruption might have been king before but Covid-19 wins the global reach race easily. One assumption that corruption rankings make is that life is so much better in countries with low corruption.

Consistently in the top 10 rankings of countries where corruption is low, you will find, Denmark, New Zealand and Finland, in no particular order.

In 2019, Transparency International ranked Kenya 137 out of 180 countries, as we all believe and know that Kenya is quite a corrupt country. Ask the average Kenyan and they will tell you who are the corrupt ones, individually and institutionally.

The National Ethics and Corruption survey by the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission ranked the Police as among the most corrupt institutions in the country; public hospitals and police stations tied, for places where you have to bribe to get a service.

So now into our corrupt country, enters Covid-19. Should we be scared?

If we look at the Covid-19 statistics for Denmark, New Zealand and Finland – the countries with the least corruption, and for now ignoring the different strategies states are adopting to curb the spread of coronavirus – we find a mixed picture.

When we compare with Kenya, it may look like corruption wins. Of the four countries, Denmark has had 1,250 cases per million persons, while Kenya is at just five. The death toll from Covid-19 is low in Kenya. But we do know that testing is the



key to knowing how widespread the virus is. These countries are testing 50-100 times more than Kenya is doing. So that partly explains why they have more cases.

Table Comparing COVID-19 Cases Least Corrupt Countries vs. Kenya. Adapted from <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>

So what are the chances that the two primary institutions that we have entrusted with Covid-19 will do a decent job given the environment we know so well?

Some definitions are useful at this point. Corruption (Transparency International, World Bank) is “the abuse of entrusted power for private gain.”

UNDP defines it as misuse of public power or authority for private benefit through bribery, extortion, influence peddling, nepotism, fraud, speed money, or embezzlement.

There are then elements that makeup corruption such as collusion, the world where cartels live in; and conflicts of interest.

Take some examples. There is a dire global shortage of personal protective equipment. Every country wants to protect its health workers. Do we have sufficient trust that every PPE offered to our health worker will not pass through the hands of corruption? Who should be tested is a scientific and moral question.

At a time like this, you want the very best people available managing the crisis and thereafter. Do we have the best people in the right place? Or does the suspension of normal practices because of the emergency allow favouritism and nepotism?

This is the situation where an ambulance is used to take relatives home. You can be sure this was not

A nurse is in the screening and isolation field hospital set to fight against the spread of the coronavirus at Machakos stadium on April 22
/REUTERS

the first time. But where do you place the coffin carrying group? Perhaps that's not an event we should compare across countries, but then again Covid-19 is in 210 countries. Or maybe there is another explanation.

When people are corrupt, there is an element of pride hidden somewhere, that some cleverness is involved; just that the persons concerned choose to be morally bankrupt. But it might be, that we are just not very good.

That institutions are so run down, that they are at best mediocre, with just a few individuals acting as fig leaves, covering up, how poor things are. It is these few individuals we hope can rise up in a crisis, to take charge.

Why are we so hopeful?

One problem we all have is to think in black and white terms. That a mediocre person has it written on his face. We forget that incompetence is not all round.

A person can be thoroughly incompetent in the office but produce beautiful babies at home. They know just enough to claim credit and do a little bit more to block those who can get the job done. And another day passes. Except that, for now, we have coronavirus lurking about. So people will die as we watch.

The virus can be managed by cleaning the environment, hand washing and social distancing. The average cartel member thrives in making the environment as murky as possible and plotting in huddled spaces. So deaths have been hidden. The way to manage corruption is much the same, improve sanitation and transparency in our daily interactions with the public service.

Could Covid-19 kill corruption? Don't bet on it.

Information key in beating Covid-19

AREND VAN CAMPEN AND MICHAEL HOPKINS
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Campan is a systems Theorist while Hopkins teaches at Strathmore

Information is key to resolving the Covid-19 crisis. One of the key issues is to know who has been infected through testing.

Kits are available, sometimes in their tens of thousands in a particular country then testing itself can take up to a few days.

President Donald Trump could not, or refused to see how many test kits are needed in the US. In poor countries, test kits are very few. So how can countries control and end the spread of the virus when information is not available?

There is a relatively overlooked methodology in science called cybernetics. It insists to control a situation, all relevant information must be obtained and used. It is known as the law of requisite variety.

Cybernetics works by understanding the first rule: A situation can only be controlled if the variety of the controller matches the variety of the situation to be controlled. One variety is the unpredictability of the virus within a community.

The other variables can be understood as the capacity of a system (for instance the government, society and citizens) to respond to risk (the virus). This ‘controlling’ variety has to be assembled.

All societies generate tremendous variety such as human, environmental, social, regulatory variety. They change all the time and cannot be controlled, but they can be steered by real-time information so they can learn and adapt the same way. This confirms that only

by knowing what is happening (information by testing) the virus can be halted. Social distancing is an answer, but it is virtually impossible in the poorer sections of a country and its refugee camps to enforce it. Enforcing is not an answer either because it will cause resentment.

Making people understand that sneezing or coughing can transmit the virus is another variety needed. Educate the people to behave cautiously. And provide cheap and effective face masks, that must be washed in soap and water after use.

A governmental and medical taskforce can be formed to focus on acquiring sufficient requisite variety. No such control system has been created in China or the West, so illogical, draconian restrictions will inevitably cause more damage later. The few places it has been done was in South Korea and Taiwan, and in a small Italian town, Vo, where everyone was tested, eradicating the virus threat in no time.

But testing everyone is impossible. Even testing 1,000 people out of a million will deliver only a part of the needed information to reduce risks. However, it will be a good start. Se-

lecting 1 ppm of, for instance, the total Kenyan population of about 49 million means 49,000 tests. Even that is too high and expensive.

Our suggestion is twofold. First use stratified random sampling with a sample size of 10,000 to test a part of the population.

The test can be done in those areas, mainly urban, where people are more concentrated. One needs, normally, a sample frame or list of people to select randomly but normally does not exist – richer countries use census data. But one can still go into an area and test one person every tenth house in every district. Certainly the National Office of Statistics should work with the National Health Service to identify the sample and carry out the test.

Second, there is another huge issue is that most poor people living in urban informal settlements only source of income is through working. Cut off their mobility through curfews and they starve. The solution is not food distribution but the direct transfer of cash in the form of a basic income to all individuals living in a poor area – estimated at 10 million in Kenya for example.

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC HEALTH AND ECONOMY



The Aga Khan University Hospital, Nairobi isolation hall fitted with emergency beds for Covid-19 patients / WILFRED NYANGARESII

To win war on the virus, Kenya needs effective response plan

The deadly and devastating nature of the coronavirus and economic disruption demands a comprehensive strategy to include the people



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Executive director, International Center for Policy and Conflict

The global spread of the coronavirus has overwhelmed health systems in some parts of the world and caused widespread social and economic disruption.

This pandemic is much more than a health crisis. The deadly and devastating nature of Covid-19 and economic disruption demands a comprehensive strategy. A strategy that includes the entire government and the people in addressing short and long-term challenges.

The strategy will be a pivotal and foundational basis in developing efficient collaborative partnerships among government, private and social sectors and the international community.

A pandemic of this nature cannot be responded through measures that informed by the dictate of impulse, chance and luck. It is not just another humanitarian crisis. When the government has a publicly known clear strategy and the people understand it, it can start planning.

An effective Covid-19 response strategy requires war-like mobilisation of resources and efficient delivery in government.

Such a response needs to be coherent, sustainable and live to the health and economic challenges.

The magnitude of the health and economic effects is potentially cat-

astrophic. The response should, therefore, be targeted and transparent. Any emergency fiscal policy response should link directly to the pandemic to address the source of the economic shock.

GOVERNMENTS RESPONSE

The national and county governments should immediately prepare and present supplementary budgets that review the 2019-20 financial year allocation to increase spending on public health and provide relief to families and small businesses.

Further, the government should proceed and borrow as set out in the budget but use the funds to create a support base to prevent the economy from sinking completely. In addition, there is need to seek debt relief and rescheduling of loan repayments and utilize those resources to address health and economic needs.

Government should adopt fiscal measures that provide social protection to cushion against shocks, especially for the most economically vulnerable.

Expanded safety nets could provide temporary relief to families whose earnings have been adversely affected. Expansionary macroeconomic policy cannot do much to increase production and employment at a time when the country is near economic shutdown and people are

obliged to stay at home.

Jointly, the national government and the counties must enact policies and laws that offer targeted reliefs, including moratorium and life relief funds on rent, food, medical care, loan repayment postponement and small businesses to remain afloat and keep jobs.

While Kenyans have once again demonstrated their generosity and care to fellow citizens, this is unsustainable. The state cannot abdicate its obligations to citizens and or prescribe private solutions to public problems.

Parliament has to adjust fiscal and monetary policy to respond to the Covid-19 crisis and ease access to credit for households and small businesses to help them survive. Right now the tax cuts and reduced interest rates will not work in an economy on its knees.

Authorities should also ensure there are no supply chain disruptions for essentials such as food, medical supplies, and healthcare services.

It is now clear the faster cases are detected, tested and isolated, the harder we make it for this virus to spread. The sooner this is done, the more lives we will save.

This is a collective effort by all Kenyans but the government must lead from the front with evidence,

data and expert modeling to inform decision-making.

ENOUGH RESOURCES TO MEDICS

The Ministry of Health and the counties also need resources and capacity to undertake mass testing, contact tracing, clustering, quarantining, isolation and case management. This is the quickest, surest and guaranteed roadmap to flattening the curve. The resurgence of new cases in countries that had initially managed to stop the spread is a stark warning not to gamble.

It is important to have decentralised testing under the supervision of the National Public Health Laboratories, and to engage and partner with private laboratory services and research institutions.

The national government and the counties must do everything possible to ensure health workers in the frontline have the support they need.

They must be provided with the information, medical equipment, personal protective equipment and other resources they need. They must also be paid promptly, added allowances and be given relief in taxes and suspension of loan payments.

The response must also ensure there are plans to deal with their long-term physical and mental health implications. The frontline soldiers must not become patients.

The scale and severity of the pandemic clearly rises to the level of a public health threat that could justify restrictions on certain rights, such as freedom of movement.

At the same time, however, careful attention should be given to human rights principles, especially respect for human dignity. Openness and transparency underpin many fundamental rights and freedoms necessary to a more effective Covid-19 response.

KFS should identify local tree species for farmers

The Kenya Forest Service wants farmers to plant more trees. On Wednesday on World Earth Day, KFS Chief Conservator Julius Kamau said farmers need to help to raise forest cover from 7.2 per cent to 10 per cent (see P11).

Kenya's population is projected to grow from 48 million today to 85 million in 2050. There will be tremendous land pressure. It will not be possible to expand gazetted forests. So the only way to increase forest cover (defined as trees covering more than 10 percent of an area greater than one hectare) will be to grow more trees on farms and in urban areas.

Farmers in central and western Kenya have increased forest cover over the last 30 years by planting grevillea (for fodder and firewood) and eucalyptus (for poles). But these exotic species from Australia do not increase Kenya's biodiversity.

Biodiversity can make farmers better off. Local trees will hold water and increase nutrients in the soil. More pollinators will increase crop yields. Farmers will not lose land by planting trees, they will enrich the land and themselves.

Indigenous trees such as Cordia Africana or Meru Oak can be grown on farms to create that win-win of higher productivity (fodder, firewood and more nitrogen) and richer biodiversity. KFS should work with agroforestry organisations to identify the right indigenous tree species and incentive farmers to plant them.

QUOTE OF THE WEEKEND

"I don't want to live someone else's idea of how to live."

Denys Finch Hatton

The White Kenyan hunter was born on April 24, 1887

COMMENT GENDER VIOLENCE



Gender-based violence organisations in a procession against the abuse /FILE

Even as we fight coronavirus, women, girls must be protected



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A recent report by the National Council on Administration of Justice showed that gender-based violence cases have tripled in the country since the curfew started on March 27.

But even prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, GBV has been a worrying concern in the country. While efforts have been made towards recognising women and girls as key actors in the development of the nation, this recognition has mainly remained on paper. In practice, they have continued to be marginalised, sidelined and even violated at home and in public spaces.

The prevailing situation is as a result of gender rights being viewed merely as an abstract on economic and political processes without looking at the social contexts where they are based.

So while we can claim to have the one-third gender rule in the Constitution — and general acceptance that women must be given the same opportunities as men — in the real sense, they are neither included in decision making positions/institutions nor do they have equal opportunities. They continue to be considered as the weaker sex and denied to play their rightful role even in state-led formal institutions.

Kenya remains largely a patriarchal society that views women's engagement as a want and not a need. This status quo presents a complex scenario where women's issues are not genuinely addressed.

For example, when it comes to sexual and reproductive health, the response has been to focus on maternal and newborn health rather than a comprehensive and multi-disci-

plinary approach that addresses all aspects of sexual and reproductive health and rights. Women and girls' issues are always treated piecemeal and never comprehensively addressed from their root courses and underlying issues.

As a result of the piecemeal approach to addressing the issues, women and girls remain unempowered, which then renders them susceptible to sexual and gender-based violence.

In both public and private spaces, they continue to suffer physical and psychological violence mostly from persons known and familiar to them. This very fact proves that as society, Kenyans do not value wom-

vere the torment.

A video that went viral on social media this week showed a completely naked woman at a shopping centre, seemingly in search of a man who had wronged her. One can just imagine what she had gone through to pull such a daring stunt in public.

Undoubtedly, the situation needs to be reversed, and to do so will require well-thought-out multi-disciplinary approaches. Even as we fight the Covid-19 pandemic, we need to ensure respect for the role of women and girls in their communities.

We must also urgently address and decrease gender-based violence in our homes and communities. Specifically, we must prioritise issues that render them vulnerable to violence in their homes, including economic empowerment and independence.

We should enable and encourage women to speak out against psychological and physical violence.

Further, as a society, we must deal ruthlessly with those committing sexual and gender-based violence. Such individuals have no place amongst us and should face the full wrath of the law.

While the state must do more to protect women and girls during this pandemic, the people must also play their role by saying no to women's disenfranchisement.

We must remain vigilant and defend women and girls from violence whenever called upon to do so by circumstances.

If we effectively prevent and respond to gender-based violence, then we protect our own selves from deteriorating into a worthless society that dishonours its mothers, wives and daughters.

WIFE BATTERING IS ON THE RISE, RAPE IN MARRIAGES BECOMING A NORM, AND DEFILEMENT OF MINORS HAPPENING UNABATED

en around them let alone those away from them. In the Covid-19 pandemic situation, therefore, women are left at the mercy of those who could hurt them the most — their closest relatives and friends.

Presently, women and girls are bearing the brunt of the country being in a closed community. Wife battering is on the rise, rape in marriages becoming a norm, and defilement of minors happening unabated.

The curfew and cessation of movement further mean that it is difficult for women to run away from their situations and are forced to perse-



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RIGHT OF REPLY **SONKO MEMORANDUM**

Elachi did not err in law or procedure

PETER IMWATOK

@TheStarKenya
Minority Whip,
Nairobi assembly

My attention was drawn to a commentary by Ben Mulwa in the Star on Monday, April 20 titled 'Elachi wrong to reject Sonko Memo'.

In his arguments, Mulwa claims Nairobi speaker Beatrice Elachi did not follow the law and procedure when presiding over the memorandum from Governor Mike Sonko on his refusal to assent the Supplementary Appropriations Bill, 2020.

In a complete show of ignorance of the assembly's Standing Orders, practices and precedents, Mulwa avers that the memo was not subjected to the MCAs and the speaker abrogated the powers of the High Court judge while ruling on the

matter. Mulwa also alleges Elachi had initially directed the Finance committee to rewrite a supplementary budget that had been submitted by the county executive.

This is a narrative he has been propagating in his other media briefings. It is not clear whether he is acting on Sonko's or not since he was publicly dismissed as his personal assistant a while ago.

Nevertheless, these claims cannot be left unanswered because they question the role of the Speaker and portrays her as partisan and with vested interests.

First, the Office of County Speaker is privileged, in that members entrust the holder with the power to preside over the assembly with

the end objective being to ensure the transaction of business within the limits of the Standing Orders, Statutes, and precedents.

The speaker is, therefore, guided by the law and the rules of the assembly, and blind to external influence. Elachi has faithfully upheld this doctrine while discharging her duties, including in this case. It is laughable to allege she can direct a committee to rewrite a budget.

Secondly, Standing Order 43 (2) provides: "If a message is received from the Governor or the Senator of the County, at a time when the County Assembly is not in session, the Speaker shall forthwith cause the message to be transmitted to every Member and shall report the message to the County Assembly on the day the County Assembly next sits."

In fulfilling the requirements of this order, all members were circulated with the memo on April 16, having been received by the speaker on April 15 since it was received while the assembly was out of session due to coronavirus.

Thirdly, Elachi made her ruling based on the provisions of Standing Order 146(4) which provides that; "Where the Governor's Memorandum on any Bill raises a question of Constitutionality of the Bill or provisions of the Bill, the Speaker shall notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (2) (a) give a determination on the Constitutionality of such a question".

The Speaker observed as follows: "Having reviewed the Memorandum by the Governor, I have determined that the said Memorandum entirely raises questions of Constitutional and Legal interpretations that require my determination".

As such, the speaker set-aside the entire memorandum and referred back the Bill to the governor for assent as it was passed on April 2. That is the procedure that Mulwa and other persons questioning the process need to understand.

Under the current dispensation, the speaker has the power to publish laws passed by the assembly as long as the prescribed period lapses.

PARTY POLITICS

Ruto has prepared to jump Jubilee ship



KIBISU KABATESI

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communication
consultant

There are times you want to sympathise with Deputy President William Ruto but you never get the invitation.

His often-outlandish display of arrogance and brazen playing the victim syndrome card under false sense of entitlement with whatever he wants is a put-off.

Take the case of proposed changes in the Jubilee Party. Only a person on a [political] suicide mission can dare take on his party leader publicly in the manner he has done and hope to survive.

That Ruto is responsible for bringing internal party wars to the front pages of the media is distasteful as it is uncouth at this time of the war on coronavirus. Decency requires the DP to attend to national priorities such as Covid-19.

Civility requires that Ruto should have found something else to bring him back in the limelight after a lengthy disappearing act from coronavirus war.

But not him. He chose his cavalier trademark approach of going public with the most frivolous, as long as it gets him political mileage. The timing was deprived because Ruto's selfish political survival appears much more urgent than rallying effort against Covid-19 pandemic. Where have his million donations gone to?

Ruto's mistake is not that he dared dispute. He could have gracefully raised it through the organs of the party — he is deputy leader — as now politely advised by the Registrar of Political Parties.

He has advantages an ordinary party member doesn't have. But his choice of social media, which lacks decorum, through which he dared his party boss to a fistfight irritates, irritating to the party secretary

general as well.

Raphael Tuju said he was shocked that high-ranking party officials had decided to use social media to prosecute differences in the party.

"The only matter of concern is that social media was supposedly chosen by some leaders to air their grievances while they do have at their disposal other internal channels of communication," Tuju is quoted as saying.

The result is Ruto has painted himself into the corner of insensitivity to the plight of Kenyans that detractors had reserved for him.

And it gets worse. By alleging that President Uhuru Kenyatta, the party leader, wasn't complicit in what Ruto denounces as a 'fraud' and 'coup' in Jubilee, the DP cynically called his boss out, inviting him to "if you aren't the fraudster, then denounce the coup". He referred to Uhuru proxies as "political rejects, gangsters, crooks, connen and fraudsters"

In actual sense, Ruto was rudely and publicly undressing his boss, but wearing the façade of innocence and feigning whistle-blower. He has been consistently on this page as an unapologetic oppositionist within government.

It's now an all-out war and one centre must give in. I predict it will be Ruto.

Unusually blunt, all the President's men have come out guns blazing that they are only messengers, doing Uhuru's bidding. That infuriates Ruto. It's as if a trap set up for him worked marvelously — he walked in and got fixed. He can only jettison Jubilee to nurse his wounds.

But hubris isn't a talent you can deny Ruto. It is apparent that his social media rant took tedious



Deputy President William Ruto at his Karen office during a media briefing on coronavirus /DPPS

planning on a scenario board. The avalanche of instantaneous mobilised rebellion through hundreds of letters, including 146 MPs, to the Registrar of Political Parties obviously took thorough execution.

Ruto may have finally decided to slow-puncture Jubilee while he nurses a fallback party.

That's why pundits may be way off the mark on Ruto's intention. It's

not that Ruto's basic instinct seeks to salvage the Jubilee Party as his 2022 political vehicle. His sojourn could be served, if he were to create as much hiatus and constipation in Jubilee and then abandon the shell.

He's a student of the "Tinga Effect" on Kanu in 2002. His could be a plan to torpedo Jubilee to smithereens so that its ruins cannot be rehabilitated by anyone else and used to challenge him in 2022.

Ruto's mien in confrontation with Uhuru reveals he has decided to throw away the baby with the bathwater. The defiance points to a man ready to jump ship and the time is this. He will not wait to be shuffled out.

Unleashing his allies to dare Uhuru directly shows the die is cast. Yet he won't resign and expose himself as an immobile target. He will stay put to sink Jubilee first.

I predict Ruto has a party to which his cohorts will retire to after demobilising Jubilee. Insolent Senate Majority leader Kipchumba Murkomen lectures the President in demeaning terms — "functional dictator" — though Uhuru is his boss in government and party.

Soi MP Caleb Kositany and Jubilee deputy secretary general nuances achieve the same effect, contempt for the President.

Right on cue, Ruto retainers from the Mt Kenya region have thrown caution to the wind and are unrestrained in barking at their party leader and electoral benefactor. All that goes to untie an orchestrated mass exodus from Jubilee by the Ruto wing.

Not that it matters. Little birds whisper Jubilee remnants are plotting an ODM-plus-others merger. It's a matter of who blinks first.

FARE THEE WELL



A woman waits to receive free protective masks that have been bought by evangelicals in China and are distributed by Members of the Evangelical Christian Church, as the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) continues in Rome / REUTERS

LETTERS OF THE WEEK

Write to us letters@the-star.co.ke

Kenya should keep an eye on Horn region

The Kenya on Wednesday is concerned by the spread of coronavirus in the region.

"This past week alone, we have seen significant changes of infections in our own neighbourhood," Health minister Mutahi Kagwe has said during a daily update press conference.

In particular, Kagwe said they are concerned by the rate at which cases have skyrocketed in Somalia and Tanzania.

"Covid-19 cases in Somalia have multiplied ninefold in a single week from 14 cases from April 13 to 237 by yesterday," the Health Minister said. There are now 286 cases and 16 deaths. Already, the Somalia government has imposed a dusk-to-dawn curfew in Mogadishu and banned public gatherings in mosques, beaches and restaurants in a bid to impose social distancing.

He also noted that cases in Tanzania have increased sevenfold from 32 to 254 in the same period.

On Wednesday, Tanzania announced 30 new coronavirus cases raising the total to 284 and 10 deaths.

This is at a time that President Pombe Magufuli has insisted on holding prayers against Covid-19, even as WHO advises against social distancing.

Although Kagwe did not mention it, there is a problem in Djibouti, which is part of the Horn of Africa

and an IGAD member.

As of April 22, there were 946 coronavirus cases, two deaths and 113 recoveries. On Friday, April 17 Djibouti's Ministry of Health announced 141 new confirmed cases, bringing the total number to 732.

Experts have pointed the huge numbers to be due to its location — connecting the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden — and the fact that it hosts a number of foreign military bases. They include China, France, the US, Italy and Japan. It declared its first case on March 18.

It is important to note that about 4.6 million refugees and 8.1 million IDPs and their host communities are at risk. Kenya has refugees camps on Kakuma and Daadab. Cases of local transmission have now been reported in all countries of the region. The need for preparedness is therefore urgent as if coronavirus gets into these camps, then hell will break loose.

Measures by governments in the region to contain the spread of Covid-19 are evolving rapidly, with frequent changes to border/entry restrictions or limitations on internal movement. However, there is need for particular focus on the region. Not to forget, we still have the locust invasion with us. The combined impacts of coronavirus and the desert locust invasion will worsen the already dire food security situation in the greater Horn of Africa.

As a result, it is critical that locust surveillance and control operations, as well as livelihood and food security responses continue, even with the movement restrictions in place to prevent the spread of the virus.

MICHAEL MUREITHI
Blogger

Covid-19 presents an opportunity for police to style up, serve Kenyans

There has been for a long time, even after efforts to reform the service, some condemnation of the Kenya police service. The "Utumishi Kwa Wote" mantra has worked to the contrary where presumed innocent wananchi have received full wrath, indignation and humiliation in the hands of the police. The enforcement of the Covid-19 measures, according to media reports seems, to have aggravated the matter with some police officers beating, harassing and exhorting indiscriminately. In some of the incidences reported, the enforcement officers are now on full swing with extremely skewed and subjective application of the law and protocols given to combat the situation. The directives that were issued to help in the war against the virus has turned into a cash cow. The coronavirus has affected all of us and it is time for the much-needed collaborative approach that should be adopted and steered by the police. The manner in which public preventive measures are being enforced by the force needs a complete shift from the usual "leta fujo uone" to a much more facilitative and participatory one. A start would be respective commanding officers taking every measure and avenue at their disposal to engage community on the measures including sensitising them. Structured efforts during such a difficult time would reposition National Police Service in all its formations and turn such Covid-19 times into golden opportunity to reclaim the loosening and lessening glow of the service.

MUTETHIA WA MBERIA
Nairobi

STAR POINTS



WHO funding

"Halting funding for the World Health Organization during a world health crisis is as dangerous as it sounds. Their work is slowing the spread of COVID-19 and if that work is stopped no other organization can replace them. The world needs @WHO."

Bill Gates

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation



Covid-19 management

"MOH_Kenya has received the 2nd batch of donation by Jack Ma Foundation including 18,900 swabs and viral transport medium, 18,912 extraction kits, 3,790 medical disposable protective clothing, ventilation machines, thermometer guns and medical gloves."

Ministry of Health
Twitter

COMMENT

HASSAN MOHAMED

@TheStarKenya

Leaders should help effect social discipline

The viral spread of the coronavirus in Kenya and the world at large has been mainly caused by social indiscipline to the established rules for its prevention.

Mobility with undue disregard for social distancing, time and locational restrictions; not wearing face masks and lack of proper hand washing/sanitisation continue to aid the spread of this infectious disease. Health and government officials have repeatedly told us this.

On March 24, Health CS Mutahi Kagwe said, "Kenyans are very indiscipline and it will cost us. We want responsibility among citizens, Keep

MOBILITY WITH UNDUE DISREGARD FOR SOCIAL DISTANCING, TIME AND LOCATIONAL RESTRICTIONS: NOT WEARING FACE MASKS AND LACK OF PROPER HAND WASHING/SANITISATION CONTINUE TO AID THE SPREAD OF THIS INFECTIOUS DISEASE

your kids home...you people of the media need to tell them".

Kagwe said Kenyans have been warned against contracting the disease but they feign ignorance.

At the time, there were reports of people defying various government directives including the requirement to self-quarantine for 14 days after returning from abroad. However, while it is easy to criminalise and even brutalise these misbehaviours, we need to look at the underlying causes with a view of nipping them in the bud. Behaviour change requires a deep understanding of problems and devising humane working methods and incentives for their correction.

Our leaders have unfortunately let us down on this issue. For example, they are not using the public kitties they manage to sponsor a large-scale purchase and distribution of face masks and hand sanitisers to the wananchi. Neither are they curbing public movements by rolling out a feeding programme throughout this difficult period.

Kenyans, and especially our leaders, should be at the forefront in facilitating the adoption of social discipline during this extraordinary health crisis.

Commentator based in Garissa