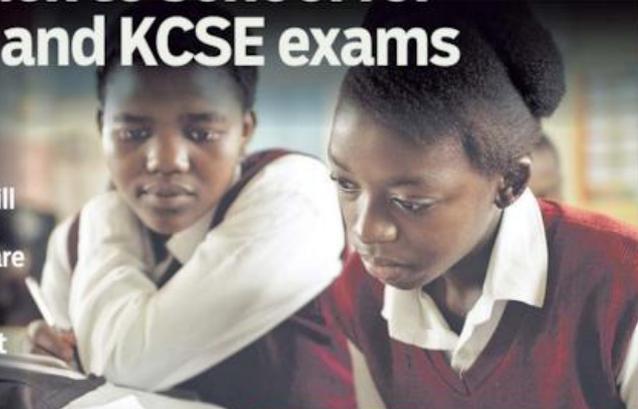


# It's back to school for KCPE and KCSE exams

**Education.** President announces candidates will be recalled to class to prepare for national tests, but teachers want directive extended to Form Three students and Standard Seven pupils. **Page 7**



National, P.2&3

# How police are killing Covid fight

**Public enemies.**

Cases of brutal crackdown on curfew violators and pocketing bribes to let busloads of people across county boundaries are among the crimes by law enforcers that are undermining efforts to curb the spread of deadly virus.



# The Standard

Kenya's Bold Newspaper

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National, P.9

# Ruth Matete quizzed again in death probe



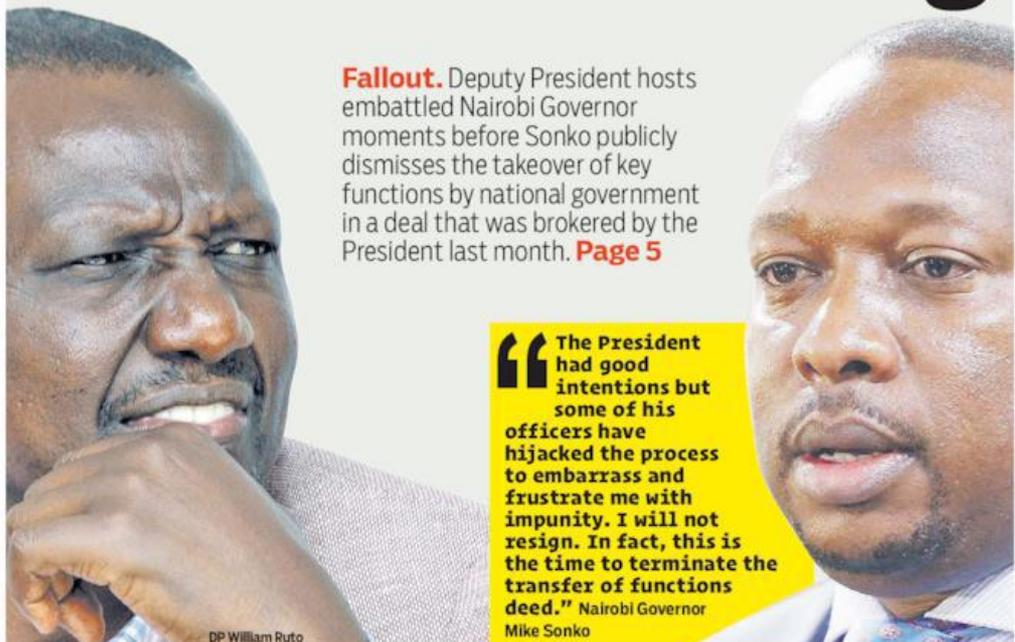
**Investigation.** Detectives from Nairobi take over probe into the death of John Apewajoye, the husband of the former Tusker Project Fame winner.

Business, P.34

# MPs clear Uhuru's Sh40b budget to fight pandemic

Most of the money will be used to mitigate against the impact of the coronavirus on the economy, and to cushion individuals and organisations from job losses, closures and bankruptcies due to lost revenues.

# Sonko on warpath after Ruto meeting



**Fallout.** Deputy President hosts embattled Nairobi Governor moments before Sonko publicly dismisses the takeover of key functions by national government in a deal that was brokered by the President last month. **Page 5**

**“The President had good intentions but some of his officers have hijacked the process to embarrass and frustrate me with impunity. I will not resign. In fact, this is the time to terminate the transfer of functions deed.”** Nairobi Governor Mike Sonko

🔥 #IKUWEIKUWE COPY

**Pandemic.** Government allocates more funds for crackdown



Some of the 21 youth arrested near Nakuru Golf Club on claims they did not adhere to public health guidelines on Covid-19. They were taken for a 14 day forced quarantine at Kenya Medical Training College in Nakuru. [Kipsang Joseph, Standard]

## NIS gets billions to spy on patients, medics warn virus war is militarised

**Clinical officers union cautions that criminalising coronavirus will spread fear and stigma and discourage voluntary counselling**

By Everlyne Kwamboka and Dominic Omond  
newsdesk@standardmedia.co.ke

The National Intelligence Service (NIS) has been allocated an extra Sh1.5 billion for anti-coronavirus operations.

This comes even as medics cautioned against militarising the fight against the virus.

In the mini-budget tabled in Parliament last week, the National Treasury allocated more cash to the NIS as part of what the ministry described as 'Covid-19 related expenditures.'

In notes to the National Assembly's Budget and Appropriation Committee, Treasury CS Ukur Yatani indicated that the money was part of Sh40.3 billion expenditure on Covid-19 and would be used by the spy agency for "enforcement."

Yatani could not be reached to elaborate on what 'enforcement' entailed.

As part of efforts to stop the disease, the government has been gathering intelligence to identify hotspots and help track down suspected cases.

The government is also monitoring movements of people who might have been in contact with those infected by the dis-

ease and those who might have slipped back to the country unnoticed. In one case, a woman who defied self-quarantine orders was tracked down by intelligence officers to a hotel in Nairobi and was picked up by the police.

But even as the police intensify the crackdown against Kenyans violating regulations to stem the spread of the disease, health workers have raised the alarm on the manner in which security agencies are handling patients and suspected cases.

The health workers have warned that mistreatment of patients and suspected cases might discourage many Kenyans from volunteering for tests and promote stigma.

Kenyans have been sharing stories of painful encounters with security personnel enforcing curfew and shutdown regulations in the fight against Covid-19.

In one such case, Muirel Gacheri had been cleared to travel from Kwale to Meru for a health workers job interview after successfully applying for the jobs recently advertised by county governments.

Ms Gacheri says she had all the documents required before setting off to be interviewed for a job listed as an essential service under the coronavirus guidelines.

She also ensured that her mother, driver and breastfeeding baby were cleared and found fit to accompany her to Meru.

Gacheri had travelled with

her mother to hold the baby as she went in for the interview.

The family and their driver were waved through numerous roadblocks in Mombasa and Taita Taveta counties after their documents were scrutinised by security officers.

However, on entering Kitui County, they were arrested by security officers, who said they were acting on instructions, and locked up in a quarantine centre.

The Kenya Clinical Officers Union (KCOU) has condemned the incident, and others across the country as an affront in the fight against coronavirus.

"We are causing a lot of stigma in the manner in which we are handling the Covid-19 pandemic in this country. Why subject a person who has agreed to serve the nation as a health service provider to such torture? It is wrong," said the KCOU Secretary General George Gibore.

According to Mr Gibore, increasing incidents of forcible quarantine in the country amounted to criminalising coro-

navirus and instilling fear.

"The thought of a police vehicle and an ambulance arriving outside the gate to pick family members or contacts when one tests positive has led to a lot of stigma. It rekindles memories of how those who tested HIV positive were treated between 1994 and 2005," he said.

"Why all the drama with sirens and several police officers who should be assigned other duties? The government should change how it is handling the pandemic to make society stop looking at Covid-19 as a death sentence," he added.

According to Gibore, a number of health workers have also suffered in the hands of over-zealous security agencies enforcing curfew and shutdown regulations.

He gave an example of a clinical officer arrested on a Saturday evening on his way home from work, driven to Kilimanjaro Police Station and later taken into forced quarantine.

Gibore claims during the arrest, the clinical officer was

bundled into a police truck full of suspects, some who did not wear masks.

The union has warned that many people might be infected with Covid-19 in the hands of the law enforcement officers and inside quarantine facilities.

"Rooms in quarantine centres such as the Kenya Medical Training Centre (KMTCC) have not been fumigated, even putting up several people inside an open dormitory is very risky and traumatising," said Gibore.

The union further warned that some actions by security personnel in the name of fighting Covid-19 will drive more people to hide the illness instead of seeking health care and cause mental anguish.

Psychologists have also waded into the debate, saying people who test positive for coronavirus and their contacts should be handled with dignity. They also stressed on the need for empathy and open communication to reduce fear and stigma.

"We have seen gaps, especially when it comes to handling those who test positive and their contacts. We have formed a psycho-social team to brief those affected about quarantine is all about, how long they are to stay in quarantine and even talk to their families," said Wangari Gikonyo, a Nairobi County psychologist.

The psychologists described the fear generated by Covid-19 as normal human reaction for people trying to understand the disease, and called for compas-

sionate treatment of patients and their contacts.

"People are all trying to understand the mystery around Covid-19, but when they get to understand the dynamics in dealing with it, such as washing hands and staying at home, the stigma will stop," said Nancy Wanjiru, a counselling psychologist.

In his daily briefings, Health CS Mutahi Kagwe said the government was aware of the effects the fight against Covid-19 had on Kenyans' mental health and set up a help line.

According to the CS, anyone in need of psychological help should call 1199. "We are particularly concerned about mental health. Towards this end, we have established a psychiatric and psychological care help framework over this period," he said.

But even as local health care providers look for ways of de-stigmatising Covid-19, other countries have embraced World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines on how to deal with those who test positive without discrimination.

The WHO recommends home-care for patients with mild Covid-19 symptoms. "If there are patients with only mild illness, providing care at home may be considered, as long as they can be followed up and cared for by family members. Home care may also be considered when inpatient care is unavailable or unsafe," states WHO guidelines.

### State spies enlisted in Covid-19 war

- Treasury allocates Sh1.5 billion to National Intelligence Service for 'enforcement'
- Intelligence service has been monitoring Covid-19 hot spots
- Potential cases that sneak into the country, those who escape quarantine facilities and contacts put on the spy agencies radar
- A woman who defied self-quarantine orders was tracked down by intelligence officers to a hotel in Nairobi and picked up by police

**Graft.** Passengers pay bribes to travel to the coast aboard trucks transporting food

# Police now biggest threat to public in fight against virus

From beating up old men and women to breaking into homes and soliciting bribes, the officers are making testing positive for virus a crime.

By Standard Team  
newsdesk@standardmedia.co.ke

Kenya's security agencies, set up to preserve and protect the lives of citizens, have come under heavy scrutiny since the announcement of the dusk-to-dawn curfew.

From brutal and sometimes fatal beatings, to shootings, harassment, bribery to let bus-loads of people across county boundaries, the police service is fast becoming the weakest link in the country's fight against the virus. This is in direct contradiction to a presidential directive that implored officers to handle those who are found to flout these regulations reasonably.

Now the police service is under the spotlight for these infringements, including not adhering to the very rules they are meant to enforce, like wearing of face masks.

These acts of brutality have in some instances resulted in the public acting out, targeting the very law enforcement officers meant to protect them. In Malindi, Base commander George Naibei was attacked by rogue boda boda riders on April 14 while enforcing anti-Covid-19 regulations. The act became a violent confrontation in which a police car was extensively damaged and a Kilifi county askari injured.

In a video that went viral, Naibei is seen fighting with a boda boda rider while several other riders are cheering their colleague on. Eventually, Naibei is overwhelmed and he escapes under a hail of stones.

### Demand bribe

The security officers were out to enforce regulations for riders to wear face masks and obey social distancing and traffic rules when the disobedient operators fought back, accusing them of harassing and demanding bribes.

Naibei was attacked by a man enraged by the seizure of his motorcycle as the situation became a free for all. Eight men were later arrested for the violence and dozens of motorcycles impounded.



Nathan Kibet (left) suffered a broken leg after being clobbered by police officers enforcing the curfew at Flax trading centre in Elgeyo Marakwet. [Fred Kloor, Standard]

The Kilifi incident attracted the attention of Governor Amason Kingi, who organised an impromptu stakeholders meeting with police, boda boda riders, health officers, businessmen and other stakeholders to address the issue.

While Naibei's action has been celebrated, other acts of omission by police have been blamed for fueling the spread of Covid-19. Despite the dozens of roadblocks on the Mombasa highway, police have been accused of allowing travellers aboard private trucks and even private cars and politicians' entourages to slip through for a fee. These moves defeat the curfew or other lock-down measures.

In the era of citizen journalism, videos and pictures have emerged of police arresting individuals for not wearing face masks yet the officers themselves wore none.

A spot check by *The Standard* at the Likoni Ferry crossing, for instance, showed many policemen don't wear masks or wear them improperly while in public. This is not the only rule they flout.

On April 14, two senior police officers were arrested in Kisumu while on a drinking spree past the curfew hours. The duo attached to Shimo La Tewa Prison were busted by Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) and prison officers when they raided a locked bar in Majaoni, Kisauni, in the night. They have neither been charged nor heard from since.

On Tuesday, Kisauni Sub county police commander Julius Kiragu claimed they have not been charged "because courts are not operating" and suggested they will be charged

when normal operations resume. However, other cases of ordinary wananchi has seen many, including Kilifi Deputy Governor Gideon Saburi charged in court the same week.

Morover, roadblocks have been turned into toll stations. Two weeks ago three buses with residents of Meru and Embu counties were stopped at Makindu after they had slipped through dozens of police roadblocks in defiance of the curfew.

Last week, several survivors of Covid-19, who came out of quarantine in Nairobi told *The Standard* in Mombasa they bribed police to be allowed to travel to the coast aboard trucks transporting food and other essential supplies.

"I paid Sh100 to an officer in Voi after they began to question me. I was surprised he took such a small bribe but it is apparent they are getting so much money in these quantities," boasted one of the violators. Former chairman of the Commission on Administrative Justice Otiende Omolilo, who is currently the Rarieda MP, has criticised the police highhandedness.

"As the president issues decrees, CSs pronounce edicts, governors declare orders and police proclaim threats, let us remember that the constitution and the law are not on suspension. With all necessary and reasonable measures, let us fight the virus, not the victims," he said yesterday.

Elsewhere, a police officer in Nyeri attached to a High Court judge is nursing a broken leg after he was attacked by his colleagues, who were enforcing the curfew. The officer's 10-year-old nephew also has a



A police officer confronts traders in Bamburi in Mombasa. [Omroni Onyango, Standard]

fractured arm following the ordeal in Tetu constituency.

He said he was attacked by fellow officers after his car broke down a few metres from his home in Muthinga village in Nyeri County. Even those offering essential services have not been spared.

Twelve medical officers at the Thika Level 5 Hospital were held for nearly two hours at a police roadblock as they were reporting for duty yesterday morning.

The medics, including clinical officers, nurses and support staff, were being transported in a bus belonging to Mount Kenya University from their places of residence in various parts of Murang'a.

However, on reaching the Blue Post roadblock, the bus was flagged down by GSU officers manning the facility and the occupants ordered out.

One of the medics, Catherine Wanjiru, said despite displaying their job cards pick them up, the GSU officers remained adamant.

## COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF NYERI



### DEPARTMENT OF LANDS, HOUSING, PHYSICAL PLANNING AND URBANIZATION NOTICE OF INTENTION TO PLAN

Notice is hereby given to all residents and stakeholders in the County of Nyeri that pursuant to the provisions of The Constitution of Kenya, 2010; Physical and Land Use Planning Act No.3 of 2019, National Land Commission Act, County Government Act and the Urban Areas and Cities Act, the County Government of Nyeri intends to prepare Local Physical and Land Use Development Plans for Marua, Ruthagati and Ihuruu settlements.

The exercise will involve community mobilization, establishment of the settlements' boundaries, identification and enumeration of residents and socio-economic surveys. This will form the basis for preparation of the Plans to guide the growth of these settlements in an integrated and coordinated manner so as to promote sustainable development as well as provide a basis for provision of infrastructure, housing and public facilities.

The process will be participatory and therefore all stakeholders are invited to participate. Any comments, enquiries or suggestions on the same may be done in writing to:

**The County Executive Committee Member  
Department of Lands, Housing & Physical Planning  
County Government of Nyeri**

P.O. Box 1112 - 10100  
NYERI.

Dated 30<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dr. KWAI WANJARIA  
County Executive Committee Member  
Lands, Housing & Physical Planning and Urbanization

**Costly affair.** Bills in our possession from two facilities show individuals being charged as much as Sh3,100 daily

# It will cost you an arm and a leg in forced quarantine

Discord has been simmering since it was first instituted with those being held complaining of high costs.

By Daniel Wesangula and Mercy Korir  
newsdesk@standardmedia.co.ke

A day after the brazen, yet callous escape by individuals under Covid-19 quarantine from a government facility, The Standard can now reveal that a four-week stint under State supervision will cost you between Sh54,000 and Sh83,000.

Those quarantined in schools, State-owned training facilities such as the Kenya School of Government or the Kenya Medical Training College, the scene of Tuesday's 'jailbreak' have had to part with a minimum Sh2,000 daily. Others such as those held in Kenyatta University Teaching and Referral Hospital are charged a standard fee of Sh3,135 every day.

Estimates collated from government daily briefings show that to date, more than 4,000 people have undergone mandatory quarantining countrywide, with a minimum of 2,000 of them being held at one point or another since the beginning of the pandemic in government facilities.

Assuming all paid the lowest fee of Sh2,000, this translates to some Sh1.2 billion over a 28-day quarantine period.

This amount could easily be more. Bills in our possession from two of these facilities show individuals being charged as much as Sh3,100 per day for the quarantine service. One such bill shows a potential Covid-19 patient held in quarantine at Kenyatta University charged Sh3,135 per day over a 13-day period. His total bill amounted to Sh40,755, which the patient had to settle before being discharged.

His final bill indicated no treatment regimen administered since he tested negative for the virus. This individual was also charged an additional Sh185 over two days for mouthwash, bringing his total bill to Sh41,125.

### Flat rate

At Kenya Medical Training College campus along Mbagathi Way, individuals were charged a flat rate of Sh2,000 per day. They were given a final bill on the 28th day, amounting to some Sh54,000. Patients are not charged for the final day of being discharged. The description of services rendered simply reads 'Quarantine Services.'

Considering that some of those in isolation are individuals picked from the streets for offenses that include breaking the ongoing curfew as well as being in public without face masks, the steep price could have been the reason for the daring, yet callous escape by those being held.

Discord among the quaran-

tinued has been simmering since it was first instituted, with those being held complaining of high costs and poor living conditions.

"The trouble is that people are looking at this like some sort of punishment," Government Spokesperson Cyrus Oguna said. "This is far from it. If someone breaks curfew rules and is in a bar somewhere, it is assumed they are exposed, and are quarantined at their own cost."

Mr Oguna says those taken into mandatory quarantine are held to protect them from other law abiding citizens.

"Otherwise they ought to have been in their own houses. The Sh2,000 is not punishment," he says.

These complaints come on the back of a Sh5.3 billion World Bank loan to the government that included funds set aside for quarantining and isolation purposes, as well as donations of almost Sh1 billion from Kenyans of goodwill towards a public Covid-19 fund.

An itemised list from the global lender shows that Kenya received the money under project ID P173820 on April 8. This money included some Sh1.587 billion for quarantine, isolation and treatment centres. Oguna said he

### Costs in Kshs

- Medical supplies and equipment **847,251,900**
- Response, capacity building and training **875,972,000**
- Quarantine, isolation and treatment centres **1,587,640,000**
- Medical waste disposal **338,760,000**
- Community discussion and information outreach **496,005,900**
- Ensuring availability of safe blood and blood products **1,000,000,000**
- Project implementation and monitoring **174,370,200**
- Totals **5,320,000,000**



Some Kenyans under quarantine at Kenyatta University Teaching and Referral Hospital. [Evis Oguna/Standard]

did not know whether the said money had been received by government. "I cannot speak to this. I have not been briefed on the matter," Oguna said.

By Tuesday evening, the Kenya Covid-19 Fund had received more than Sh917 million from donations by individuals and Kenyan companies.

"The board would like to express its deepest gratitude for the support and goodwill that the fund continues to receive from Kenyans from all walks of life. We would like to encourage more Kenyans to donate to the fund as we all work together to overcome this challenge," read a statement by chairperson Jane Karuku.

On April 17, individuals quarantined within Kenyatta University staged a protest, walking to the institution's main gate to complain over what they termed unfair conditions. This, however,

earned them an additional 14 days in quarantine, as the government insisted that they failed to maintain 'optimal social distancing.'

"After a thorough evaluation of circumstances, it was observed that those in the following quarantine facilities did not maintain optimal social distance and instead had close contact and interactions," Director General Public Health said in a memo to the quarantine centres that included Kenyatta University and KMTTC.

Civil society groups have asked government to clarify the ongoing quarantine programme.

To date, it is unclear how many people have been held in State institutions. As of March 27, government records showed that more than 2,000 people were undergoing mandatory quarantine for 14 days at several government designated facilities.

PRUDENTIAL Prudential Life Assurance Kenya Ltd			
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF PRUDENTIAL LIFE ASSURANCE KENYA LIMITED ANNOUNCES THE AUDITED RESULTS OF THE COMPANY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 <sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2019			
Statement of Financial Position	2019 Kshs '000	2018 Restated Kshs '000	2018 Kshs '000
<b>Assets</b>			
Property and equipment	61,964	59,209	59,209
Intangible Assets	49,256	52,761	52,761
Right of use - lease asset	89,633		
Policy loan receivables	24,363	18,979	18,979
Government securities at amortised cost	642,570	514,522	1,112,204
Government securities at fair value	734,802	640,633	
Insurance receivables	14,246	18,495	18,495
Other receivables	51,814	66,879	96,343
Tax receivable		753	753
Deposits with financial institutions	87,488	104,343	104,343
Cash and bank balances	40,837	26,403	26,403
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>1,792,444</b>	<b>1,482,797</b>	<b>1,469,490</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Insurance contract liabilities	673,458	578,333	576,333
Deposit administrator contracts	23,281		
Reinsurance payables	8,292	8,138	8,138
Lease liability	98,422		
Other payables	166,078	128,035	128,035
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>969,531</b>	<b>714,506</b>	<b>712,506</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>822,913</b>	<b>770,291</b>	<b>756,984</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
Share capital	412,180	406,180	406,180
Share premium	2,471,891	1,824,014	1,824,014
Share capital premium element		303,512	303,512
Retained earnings	(1,346,681)	(1,763,405)	(1,776,722)
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>822,913</b>	<b>770,291</b>	<b>756,984</b>
Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income	2019 Kshs '000	2018 Restated Kshs '000	2018 Kshs '000
<b>Income</b>			
Gross written premium	614,995	400,874	400,874
Less: ceded reinsurance	(156,095)	(26,733)	(26,733)
<b>Net written premium</b>	<b>458,900</b>	<b>374,141</b>	<b>374,141</b>
Investment income	180,121	156,139	142,852
Other income	28,678	27,507	27,507
<b>Investment and other income</b>	<b>208,799</b>	<b>183,756</b>	<b>170,448</b>
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>769,095</b>	<b>557,897</b>	<b>544,590</b>
Claims and policyholder benefits payable	(192,128)	(159,889)	(159,889)
Increase in policyholder's liability	(57,630)	(74,516)	(74,516)
<b>Net claims and benefits payable</b>	<b>(249,758)</b>	<b>(234,405)</b>	<b>(234,405)</b>
Commission expenses	(160,620)	(104,128)	(104,128)
Other selling expenses	(110,842)	(95,636)	(95,636)
Operating expenses	(388,095)	(328,111)	(328,111)
Loss on impairment of assets	(1,245)		
<b>Total commission and operating expenses</b>	<b>(660,602)</b>	<b>(527,875)</b>	<b>(527,875)</b>
<b>Less before tax</b>	<b>(141,263)</b>	<b>(204,383)</b>	<b>(212,690)</b>
Tax charge	(41,996)	(35,502)	(35,502)
<b>Less after tax</b>	<b>(183,259)</b>	<b>(239,885)</b>	<b>(255,192)</b>
<b>MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTORS</b>			
The Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income are extracts from the Financial Statements of Prudential Life Assurance Kenya Limited as at 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2019 which were audited by Mazars, Certified Public Accountants, and issued an unqualified opinion.			
The above financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 10 March 2020 and signed on its behalf by:			
C Okong'o Director	T Nalundi Chairman	R Soini Director	

### COMMENTARY

Prudential Life Assurance Kenya Limited has been operational in the Kenyan Insurance market for 3 years. During this period of time, the Company has achieved a business compounded annual growth rate of 40%. This has been made possible by offering innovative life insurance solutions to individuals, corporates and SMEs and distributed through the strong partnerships we have with our agency force and intermediaries to cover a diverse range of insurable risks.

The Company continues to invest in people, processes and technology in the pursuit of meeting our customers' financial needs. The outcomes of these initiatives are reflected through year-on-year improvements in expense ratio (62% vs 62%), claims ratio (14% vs 13%) and capital adequacy ratio (200% vs 169%) which are key measures of the performance and financial health of the business.

The prior year financial statements were restated for comparability with current year financial statements following a change in the accounting policy related to classification and measurement of financial instruments representing policyholder liabilities from measured cost to fair value basis. This change was necessary to reflect market consistent values for both policyholder assets and insurance contract liabilities.

The Company is committed to developing life insurance solutions which will enable its customers plan for the future with confidence.

Expense ratio - operating expenses/gross written premium  
Claims ratio - claims & benefits payable / net written premium  
Capital adequacy ratio - admissible net assets/statutory capital

We are **fighting** the **COVID-19** pandemic alongside **you**



**In Brief**

**Nakuru. MCA died of excessive bleeding**

■ Naivasha MCA Karanja Mburu, who was involved in a fatal road crash, died as a result of excessive bleeding. A post-mortem examination conducted on Tuesday indicated that the Lakeview MCA suffered internal bleeding following the Sunday morning accident along the Nairobi-Nakuru highway. According to Kabazi MCA Peter Mbae, Mburu also dislocated his right arm. **[Antony Gitonga]**

**Nyeri County. Gang leaves residents shaken**



■ Residents of Karima ward in Othaya Constituency are spending sleepless nights following several raids by gangsters targeting businesses in the area. Othaya Officer Commanding Police Division Solomon Odera said investigations were underway to ensure those involved are brought to book. "We are aware of the incidences and are doing everything we can to ensure the criminals are arrested," he said. The gang broke into different shops on Tuesday night. **[Frida Kingori]**

**Turkana. MCAs approve Sh0.6m Covid-19 budget**

■ The assembly has okayed a Sh667 million supplementary budget to boost emergency responses against the Covid-19 pandemic. Speaker Erastus Lokaale said yesterday the money would go to water, health and disaster management units. The disaster management unit will get Sh41 million, the bulk of the cash, to provide relief food to all vulnerable families during the period. **[Bakari Ang'ela]**

**Push and pull.** Embattled but bold county chief comes out fighting and blames his woes on Office of the President mandarins

# No turning back, Sonko says after Ruto meeting

**Karen talks come in the wake of Nairobi governor's decision to reclaim transferred county functions.**

By Cyrus Ombati  
newsdesk@standardmedia.co.ke

Nairobi Governor Mike Sonko met with Deputy President William Ruto, as he vowed to fight to reverse the transfer of county functions to the national government, citing frustrations from top officials.

The meeting at the DP's residence in Karen, Nairobi, went on almost until midnight on Tuesday, with Mr Sonko saying the two discussed county and national affairs.

Yesterday, the governor confirmed his meeting with Dr Ruto, even as he declared war on the deal he signed that allowed for the transfer of the key county functions of health, transport, public works, and planning and development to the national government.

"It is true the meeting happened and it was known to even the president. We discussed many issues affecting the county and the country at large," the governor told *The Standard*.

**Facing charges**

Sonko complained about being frustrated by some officials in the presidency, who he claimed were out to make him look bad. He cited the alleged destruction of sanitisation booths that his team had installed in the city.

Sources said the meeting with the DP came in the wake of accusations from Sonko that unnamed individuals in the Office of the President were exploiting the Deed of Transfer of key county functions to the national government.

The meeting is said to have concluded that "there will be



Governor Mike Sonko passes through a sanitising spray booth he launched at the Kencom bus stage in Nairobi on April 19. (David Naaga, Standard)

no turning back".

Sonko questioned why some people facing charges in court keep attending his official meetings with the Nairobi Metropolitan Service teams.

Kapsereit MP Oscar Sudi reportedly picked up Sonko from his Upper Hill residence and took him to Karen where the meeting ran up to about midnight.

Sonko said yesterday he would move to court to terminate the transfer of functions.

"Please forgive me, I will never repeat that mistake again. In fact, I am starting the process of terminating the Deed of Transfer just like any other ordinary contract. I will now personally go to court to have it terminated. Let them kill me or jail me if they want," Sonko said.

"... when we started this process, the president had good intentions, but some of his officers, especially the ones who hate me, have hijacked the

**The 'takeover'**

- On February 25, Mike Sonko ceded the functions of health, transport, public works, and planning and development to the national government
- President Kenyatta appointed Major General Mohamed Abdala Badi the director general of the Nairobi Metropolitan Service
- The agency operates on behalf of the government and is charged with the responsibility of reforming services in the capital city

process to embarrass and frustrate me with impunity."

He further claimed the transfer of functions was rushed and that he did not have time to go through the

documents.

"I will not sign (resign). In fact, this is the time to terminate the transfer of functions deed. To date, I have not been furnished with a copy of the deed. I was not given sufficient time to even read the draft. I was told it is a good thing on service delivery to the great people of Nairobi as I deal with my court cases.

"Since I love you, the people of Nairobi, and have your interests at heart, I had to accept without even going through the document properly. I didn't know it will turn against us," Sonko wrote on Facebook.

He was responding to one of his followers who had asked him to take responsibility for the mess in Nairobi rather than engage in blame games over vandalised sanitisation booths in Kibra, Kencom and Buruburu.

The governor had lashed out at a senior official at OP for

allegedly giving orders for the booths to be brought down. He also accused some officials of having declared his Sonko Rescue Team illegal in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The team was apparently banned from distributing relief food and fumigating streets and residential areas in Nairobi.

Sonko maintained that the Sonko Rescue Team remains a registered entity.

"May the Lord punish all the senior government officers who gave instructions to have the sanitisation booths erected by the Sonko Rescue Team removed," he said.

He added that his efforts in helping the central government fight the coronavirus pandemic were being scuttled due to "petty politics".

"I'm still the governor of Nairobi County who swore to defend and protect the great people of Nairobi and the Constitution," said Sonko

**Signing ceremony**

Sonko and Devolution Cabinet Secretary Eugene Wamalwa signed the Deed of Transfer of four key functions to the national government on February 25 at State House. President Uhuru Kenyatta and Senate Speaker Ken Lusaka witnessed the ceremony.

The move was meant to ensure the smooth running of services at a time when the governor was barred from accessing his office at City Hall over graft charges.

Sonko was also facing an impeachment motion from members of Nairobi County Assembly.

After the handover of functions, the president created the Nairobi Metropolitan Services (NMS) and appointed Maj Gen Abdalla Badi to head the authority, deputised by Enos Momanyi.

Sonko has had a frosty relationship with NMS, with tensions escalating in recent weeks over the redeployment of 6,000 City Hall workers to the newly created agency.

He also rejected the Nairobi County Supplementary Appropriation Bill that seeks to allocate more than Sh15 billion to NMS for the transferred functions, saying the proposed allocations were contrary to the Deed of Transfer.

**Tough rules**

## Curfew rules will apply during holy month of Ramadhan, says Uhuru

President Uhuru Kenyatta has declared that curfew rules will not be relaxed during the Holy month of Ramadhan.

This comes after Deputy President William Ruto met a delegation of Muslim leaders at his Karen residence in Nairobi.

"We told Christians during Easter that you cannot mark this holiday... We respect all religions but we have said that let us all celebrate and mark these reli-

gious days in our homes, on radio and on television," the president urged during an interview with a local radio station yesterday.

He added, "I ask our Muslim brothers and sisters to mark the holy month of Ramadhan like they have not done before because these are extraordinary times."

Uhuru also said the government was yet to make a decision on whether or not to extend the 30-day curfew.

"I cannot tell you now whether we will extend or lift the curfew guidelines. It will all depend on the disease. Our biggest task is to save lives," he explained his priority agenda. Dr Ruto met the delegation of Muslim leaders led by former Mombasa Senator Hassan Omar.

Ruto on Tuesday confirmed through his Tweeter handle meeting with Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims (Supkem) leadership led by Chairman

Hassan Naado, Secretary-General Mohamed Mahat, the Jamia Mosque leadership represented by Prof Abdulatif Essajee and Prof Fatma Ali, who represented Sisters with a Mission and other Muslim Women Networks at his Karen office.

"We acknowledge the role religious institutions play in complementing government efforts in the health sector; in particular, we salute the Supkem for its

dominant contribution in the fight against the Covid-19," the DP said.

He urged Muslims to adhere to government regulations to curb the spread of coronavirus.

Wajir West MP Ahmed Kolosh said they sought the DP's support to help vulnerable Muslims during Ramadhan. "We sought his assistance on how to support disadvantaged Muslims in Nairobi," he said. **[Roselyne Obala and Cyrus Ombati]**

**Pandemic.** Cases in Somalia have jumped from 26 to 237 in one week, Ethiopia has 116 cases, while Tanzania has recorded 254 cases up from 32

# Mandera on red alert as Somalia virus cases spike

**Covid-19 cases in Kenya surpass the 300 mark as State turns focus to neighbouring countries.**

By Graham Kajjwa and Roselyn Obala  
newsdesk@standardmedia.co.ke

The government is now paying close attention to neighbouring countries following a spike in Covid-19 cases.

Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe singled out Mandera as one of the counties with a high risk of imported cases, as the country recorded seven new coronavirus cases, raising the total to 303.

Mandera, which was yesterday placed under lockdown for 21 days, borders Somalia and Ethiopia.

In just a week, cases in Somalia have gone up from 26 to 237. Ethiopia has 116 cases, while Tanzania, also in just one week, has recorded 254 cases up from 32.

"These developments should concern us. They might translate into a frightening reality for the Horn of Africa," said Mr Kagwe.

As a result of the porous border between Mandera and Somalia, Kagwe said the county has now registered two more cases, raising the number to eight.

#### Hunted down

"As part of the containment measures, the government has today directed restriction of movement in and out of Mandera," he said.

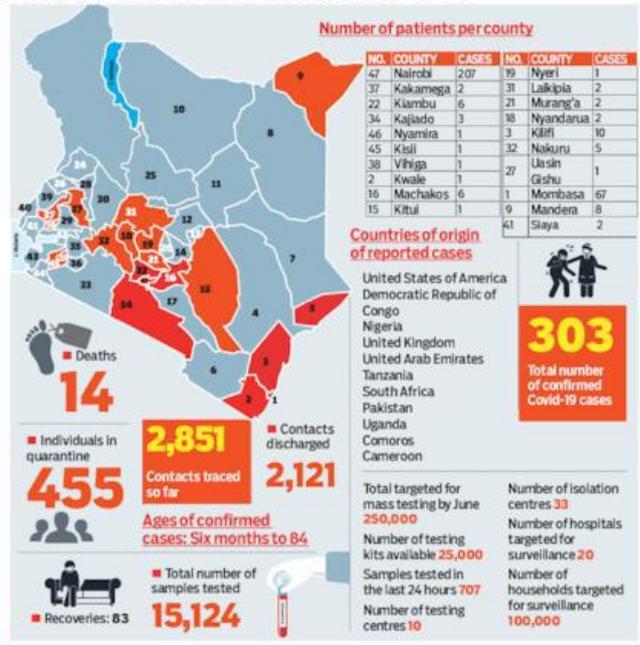
This now puts five counties

under lockdown after restrictions in Nairobi, as the regional hub for stopover transitions through Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, and Mombasa, Kilifi and Kwale, which have routes accessible to Tanzania.

"Given these realities, the general sentiment of comfort we are witnessing is misplaced," Kagwe said, adding that, "as a government, our planning and actions are informed by the global trends and analysis."

The CS noted that lapses, like the 'prison breaks' staged in quarantine centres, would end up costing the country.

"It is very difficult to fathom how an individual who knows very well they are not in prison, would escape, yet you are there so that we can protect those around you and yourself, too,"



said Kagwe.

The CS urged escapees from Mandera and Kenya Medical Training College (KMTTC) in Nairobi to surrender to the police or be hunted down.

"If you are staying with any individual whom you know very well jumped over the fence at KMTTC, then that decision may end up costing your life or that of your child," Kagwe warned.

Some of the escapees were aggrieved by the government's decision to extend the mandatory quarantine following their failure to observe social distance.

Individuals under quarantine have been prioritised for mass testing. Others are health workers, residents in informal settlements (Kibra and Kawangware), and Kenya Ports Authority staff in Mombasa.

So far 15,124 samples have been tested, with 707

between Tuesday and Wednesday when seven tested positive. All seven are Kenyans - six in Mombasa and one in Nairobi.

"Six are from targeted mass testing and one was picked by surveillance teams," said the CS. The individuals are aged between 21 and 61.

Additionally, nine patients have tested negative, raising the number of recoveries to 83.

The government targets testing 250,000 people by June. Some 25,000 kits have been deployed to kickstart mass testing.

Yesterday, Interior Cabinet

**"Given these realities, the general sentiment of comfort we are witnessing is misplaced."**

Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe

Secretary Fred Matiang'i chaired a special session of the National Security Advisory Committee that sanctioned the additional measure to contain the spread of coronavirus.

He said: "This follows the escalation of community-based infections in Mandera County and on account of the classification of the county as an infected area."

Mandera County has eight cases, Kilifi 10, Mombasa 67, and Nairobi 207. Kenya has so far recorded 14 deaths.

The president also directed the National Command Centre on Coronavirus to review the enforcement of public health measures rolled out to curb infections in Mombasa, Kwale and Kilifi counties.

This review is meant to introduce more stringent measures to enhance enforcement.

"The results of this review will be announced in the next 48 hours," the CS said.

**REPUBLIC OF KENYA  
NYANDARUA COUNTY ASSEMBLY  
OFFICE OF THE CLERK**

Office Tel: 0743-079333  
P.O. Box 720-20303- OL KALOU

Building: County Assembly Chambers, Of Kalou  
Email: clerk@assembly.nyandarua.go.ke  
Email: nyandaruaassembly@gmail.com

**NATIONAL TENDER, INVITATION NOTICE**

The Nyandarua County Assembly Service Board invites tenders from Contractors to carry out the following works-

Item	Tender NO	IFMIS Negotiation No.	Description	Category	Bid bond	Closing date	Target Group
1	NCA/1/09/2019-2020 (Re-advertisement)	7921185-2	PROPOSED BORE HOLE DRILLING, PUMP AND WATER TANKS AT SPEAKER'S OFFICIAL RESIDENCE	NCA 6 and Above	Kes 100,000.00	11/05/2020	Open
2	NCA/1/10/2019-2020 (Re-advertisement)	792169-2	PROPOSED FENCING AND PUMP HOUSE AT SPEAKER'S OFFICIAL RESIDENCE	NCA 6 and Above	-	11/05/2020	Special group (Youth, Women and PWD)
3	NCA/1/11/2019-2020 (Re-advertisement)	784745-3	PROPOSED SPEAKER'S OFFICIAL RESIDENCE	NCA 4 and Above	Kes 500,000.00	11/05/2020	Open

Interested bidders can download Tender documents at <http://assembly.nyandarua.go.ke> or at Public Procurement Information Portal <http://tenders.go.ke> free of charge.

Interested and eligible bidders **MUST** upload their bids documents through G.O.K IFMIS Suppliers Portal [www.supplier.treasury.go.ke](http://www.supplier.treasury.go.ke) and drop a hard copy tender document as specified below.

Interested bidders should note that only those meeting the criteria indicated in tender documents, supported by relevant documents at submission will be considered for further evaluation.

Further, Prospective bidders are advised to check the detailed specifications, requirements terms and conditions in the tender document

Completed Tender documents are to be enclosed in a plain sealed envelope marked with **Tender Name** and **Reference Number** and deposited in the Tender box situated at the reception of Nyandarua County Assembly located in former Ol Kalou Town Council opposite Ol Kalou Police Station or be addressed to: -

**The Clerk  
Nyandarua County Assembly  
P.O. Box 720-20303,  
OL KALOU.**

So as to be received on or before **Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2020 at 11.00 A.M. (Local Time)**.  
Tenders will be opened immediately thereafter in the Procurement Office located in the former Ol Kalou Town Council opposite Ol Kalou Police Station in the presence of tenderers' or their representatives who choose to attend the opening.

**NOTE:** Late Tenders shall not be accepted.

## Unemployment

# 61,000 apply for PSC jobs

More than 61,000 applications were sent to the Public Service Commission after the government announced plans to recruit 6,000 health workers in the wake of Covid-19 outbreak.

The number, 10 times higher than what the government is looking for, is a dear indication of the demand for jobs in the sector.

Ninety per cent of the 6,000 will be deployed to counties while the rest will be sent to national hospitals.

In a letter to the Ministry of Health, Public Service Commission Secretary Simon Rotich said the applications had been segregated per cadre and county preference.

"You are requested to forward the list of counties that require the commission's intervention in terms of shortlisting and recruitment," Rotich said in the letter.

The Ministry of Health had directed all counties to hire more health workers in preparation for

more coronavirus cases.

All level four, five and six hospitals had also been directed to hire additional health workers.

Last week, President Uhuru Kenyatta directed the Health and Public Service ministries to develop a welfare package to reward health workers in the front line as the country continues to register more cases. Uhuru said such an incentive would motivate the medics. **[Cyrus Ombati]**

Coronavirus

Coronavirus. It's not clear if partial opening of schools is an option

# Uhuru rules out suspension of national exams

CS Magoha is weighing various options for the education sector under prevailing crisis.

By Augustine Oduer and Roselyne Obala  
newsdesk@standardmedia.co.ke



**Crisis plans**

- It's not clear whether partial opening of schools for candidates is among the options the ministry is considering with second term opening date set for May
- Heads of schools want Form Three and Four students allowed back to school under restricted protocols. Same with Class Seven and Eight pupils
- Proposal has serious challenges that need proper planning between Ministry of Education and Teachers Service Commission

The government is making emergency preparations to have all candidates resume learning and to sit national examinations at the end of the year.

President Uhuru Kenyatta yesterday ruled out suspension of this year's Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) and Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) examinations amid the ravaging effects of the Covid-19 pandemic that has disrupted the school calendar.

President Kenyatta said his administration will issue specific guidelines on how the candidates will resume learning and lauded the ongoing online teachings through radio and television aired programmes.

"The Ministry of Education is preparing for post Covid-19. Major expectations from parents is how the candidates will sit their national examinations," Uhuru said yesterday during a morning interview broadcast by various Swahili local radio stations.

**Various options**

The assurance of learning and national examinations is in line with what Cabinet Secretary George Magoha (pictured) said last Sunday that his ministry is weighing various options for the education sector under the prevailing crisis.

It was, however, not clear whether partial opening of schools for candidates is among the options the ministry is considering as time ticks towards the official opening date for second term in May.

The president said the 1.2 million candidates registered for KCPE and KCSE exams should not worry as all measures were being put in place to ensure they sit their exams.

"Our position is that the candidates will sit their exams. We are just looking at the adjustments we need to make on when it will happen,

timetables because a class may only hold a maximum of 10 students to avoid crowding," said Indimili.

Knut Secretary General Wilson Sossion said with social distancing and other preventive measures of Covid-19, Standard Eight and Form Four students can go back to school.

"We can assure Kenyans that we can prepare children for examinations, which will be done in time and this resonates with the wishes of all children," said Sossion.

Kuppet Secretary General Akello Misori said they are not opposed to partial opening of schools as long as safety of children and teachers is guaranteed.

**Candidates safety**

"Everyone is anxious if safety concerns have been addressed to support partial learning," said Misori.

In his proposals, Indimili advised that before partial opening of schools happens, the Ministry of Health must fumigate all the schools facilities. He asked for immediate stop in usage of the institutions as isolation centres.

"They should also provide face masks and sanitisers in schools for candidates, teachers and the support staff on duty," said Indimili.

For boarding schools, he said total quarantine rules shall apply with teachers staying away from school compound being closely monitored. Day schools will require the government to ensure availability of running water and soap for hand washing and sanitisers.

"All schools must be given the temperature guns, which shall be used during every break to monitor students and details strictly recorded," said Indimili.

He said partial opening of schools must be implemented before end of June. If more time is lost it may be hard to recover. Students lost three weeks of first term when schools closed.

Prof Magoha yesterday declined to comment on the available options being considered, but said the country has not reached a level of cancelling the examinations.

"I am aware parents are very apprehensive. The government has not pronounced itself that the exam will be postponed," said Magoha.



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**AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

**STATEMENT OF PROFIT & LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME**

	2019 Shs	2018 Shs
<b>INCOME</b>		
Gross premiums written	1,203,619,652	1,174,177,333
Outward Reinsurance Premium	(363,454,923)	(356,866,203)
Net Written Premiums	840,164,729	817,311,120
Gross earned premiums	1,204,121,842	1,158,666,849
Net earned premiums	840,666,919	801,800,646
Investment and other income	217,985,699	191,579,342
Fair value adjustments	3,838,604	(24,239,441)
Commissions earned	119,045,163	120,259,997
<b>Total income</b>	<b>1,181,535,385</b>	<b>1,089,400,544</b>
<b>OUTGO</b>		
Claims payable	(556,956,743)	(528,361,738)
Less: amounts recoverable from reinsurers	56,852,921	109,236,550
Net claims payable	(500,103,822)	(419,125,188)
Operating and other expenses	(339,352,507)	(338,717,568)
Commissions payable	(209,873,005)	(200,976,624)
<b>Total Outgo</b>	<b>(849,329,334)</b>	<b>(756,819,340)</b>
<b>Profit before tax</b>	<b>332,206,051</b>	<b>338,581,164</b>
Income Tax Charge	(59,587,827)	(77,853,938)
<b>Profit for the year</b>	<b>272,618,224</b>	<b>260,727,226</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income:</b>		
Surplus on revaluation of property, plant and equipment and right of use asset	17,481,972	-
Fair Value gains on financial assets through other comprehensive income	21,588,162	(8,274,696)
<b>Total other comprehensive income</b>	<b>39,070,134</b>	<b>(8,274,696)</b>
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year attributable to shareholders of the company</b>	<b>311,688,358</b>	<b>244,452,530</b>
Dividend	78,000,000	72,000,000
Earnings per share	45.44	42.12

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER**

	2019 Shs	2018 Shs
<b>SHAREHOLDERS FUNDS</b>		
Share capital	600,000,000	600,000,000
Revaluation reserves	191,592,954	171,009,140
Fair Value Reserve	20,821,121	(76,041)
Retained earnings	910,125,779	718,609,397
Proposed dividend	30,000,000	-
<b>Shareholders' funds</b>	<b>1,752,539,854</b>	<b>1,488,851,496</b>
<b>REPRESENTED BY:</b>		
<b>Assets</b>		
Property, plant and equipment	251,361,277	321,440,575
Intangible assets	4,708,638	1,347,183
Right of use asset	92,500,000	-
Mortgage and other loans	81,297,827	133,700,668
Receivables arising out of reinsurance arrangements	11,580,008	5,296,534
Receivables arising out of direct insurance arrangements	65,927,350	77,431,194
Reinsurers' share of insurance contract liabilities	283,107,940	258,762,569
Other receivables	75,828,329	75,794,058
Government securities - 'Amortised cost'	863,235,037	856,820,427
Government securities - Fair value through other comprehensive income	581,587,568	299,777,079
Commercial paper	-	7,012,479
Quoted shares at fair value through profit & loss	106,614,959	116,862,605
Quoted shares - Fair value through other comprehensive income	116,679,240	83,804,928
Deposits with financial institutions	390,406,240	371,860,649
Cash and bank balances	37,567,114	41,804,656
Tax recoverable	28,098,309	-
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>2,992,699,636</b>	<b>2,651,735,604</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Insurance contract liabilities	719,122,347	625,442,732
Payables arising out of reinsurance arrangements	80,525,641	95,342,084
Unearned premium reserve	319,442,531	318,961,090
Deferred tax	68,229,886	62,545,389
Other payables	52,839,377	52,829,889
Tax payable	-	7,762,924
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>1,240,159,782</b>	<b>1,162,884,108</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>1,752,539,854</b>	<b>1,488,851,496</b>
Capital Adequacy Ratio	265%	231%
Claims Ratio	30%	28%
Expense Ratio	46%	46%

The above Statement of Profit & Loss and Other Comprehensive Income and Statement of Financial Position are extracts from the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31st December, 2019 which were audited by PFK Kenya and received an unqualified opinion. The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 and signed on its behalf by:

S.K. Shah Director S.O.J. Mainda Director Rita Thathi Managing Director/Principal Officer

**A (KR), Outlook Positive Accorded By GCR Ratings**

## Controversy

## CS accepts blame over Siaya burial

Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe has admitted that Siaya County Health officials erred in the indecent burial of former Kenya Ports Authority employee James Onyango.

In a response to queries by Senate Adhoc Committee on the handling of the body, Kagwe said the burial did not meet the World Health Organisation guidelines on Safe Management and Disposal of Human Remains in the context of Covid-19.

The question by Siaya Senator James Orengo following a public outcry had on April 15 sought answers from the Ministry of Health over the manner in which Onyango's body was handled.

### Offloading body

In a short video which went viral on social media, two people in protective gear could be seen offloading the body from the back of a pick-up after which they threw it into a grave.

The Senate Committee had sought to know the exact cause of Onyango's death.

In his response, Mutahi regretted the incident and also confirmed that Onyango died of the virus. He did not say whether those liable will be held accountable.

"We sincerely regret the incident regarding the burial of James Onyango. It is not the wish of the ministry to conduct the burial as it happened," he said.

Kagwe's apology comes barely a week after Onyango's family moved to court seeking to have the body exhumed to enable them conduct a decent burial for their loved one. [Kevin Omollo]

## Legislation

## Bill to boost war on virus

Public health officers in Nyeri could soon have powers to enter any home or vehicle if they suspect the Covid-19 response measures are being flouted, a new legislation tabled in the county assembly has prospered.

The Nyeri County Covid-19 and Highly Infectious Diseases Response Bill, 2020, was tabled in the county assembly on Tuesday and underwent its first reading.

Health Services committee chairperson Joseph Maina tabled the draft law, which proposes the formation of Infectious Diseases Coordination Committee to provide for recruitment and deployment of temporary extra resources.

Public health officers will, however, have to issue a reasonable notice to the owner of the house or vehicle. [Lydia Nyawira]

**Homeless.** Grabbing of the prime Ruai land had, for years, hampered efforts to expand sewerage treatment plant

# End of party for grabbers in dispute over prime city land

**Officers at Easton Park Police Post evicted from 3,000-acre land belonging to the Nairobi City County whose ownership was mired in endless controversy.**

By Moses Michira  
newsdesk@standardmedia.co.ke

Until yesterday, Easton Park that was associated with a powerful politician was as guarded as a military installation, complete with intelligence officials and a police post.

Photographing anywhere around the 3,000-acre area belonging to the Nairobi City County was strictly prohibited, while the hawk-eyed security officers would ordinarily harass passers-by.

Modest estimates place the value of the property at Sh25 billion, minus the developments therein, including the fence and foundations of what is thought to be warehouses.

But it was a totally different story yesterday, as the officers watched helplessly, loaded their belongings, including mattresses, onto police vehicles, and sought new accommodation. It was evident that there was no prior warning that the eviction was beckoning given the level of ambush for the officers residing in a dozen mahabi huts.

Government excavators roared to the property on the fringes of Ruai Sewerage Plant on Tuesday evening, backed up with hundreds of police officers drawn from various units - including the GSU.

### Fifty trucks

The officers were ferried in their numbers from most of the police stations around the city in no less than 50 trucks to fend off any possible hostility, even though there was none by end of day.

It provided locals with a rare peak into the property that had for long been an ordinary grazing ground before a fence



Caterpillars descend on the 3,000-acre parcel in Ruai that has been at the centre of a row between Nairobi City County and private developers. INSET: Easton Police Station that was also demolished. BELOW: Items being moved away. [David Njagga Standard]

was erected and heavy construction works started. Many locals were by Wednesday afternoon scavenging for steel left behind after the structures, including the gate painted in Administration Police colours, were flattened.

By yesterday evening, officers attached to Easton Park Police Post were helpless, as their colleagues helped have them kicked out just like any other tenants, who include a Chinese contractor. It would mark the end of a protracted battle between Nairobi County, which operates the sewerage treatment plant, and a litany of grabbers, including the senior politician, according to area MCA John Kamangu.

Mr Kamangu told *The Standard* the planned municipality belonged to the senior politician, echoing what neighbours and fellow MCAs have for long held.

"A huge property development, which we think is owned by the senior official, was com-

ing up there. I am aware it has been demolished," said the MCA. Senior government officials, including Water and Sanitation Principal Secretary Joseph Irungu, flagged off the demolition, citing the need to protect the facility for the expansion of the sewerage treatment plant.

"It is the only waste water treatment plant reserved for sewerage treatment for Nairobi City for now and generations to come," Mr Irungu said in a statement co-signed by his Lands counterpart Nicholas Munguri.

They indicated that the expansion of the sewerage treatment plant was on course and scheduled to start in July after the State procured a Sh20 billion loan for the project.

Only half of the city is served by a sewerage line while the rest have to make do with own disposal facilities including bio digesters, latrines and in slums, flying toilets.

Grabbing of the Ruai land has hampered previous efforts to expand the sewerage treatment plant whose initial capacity was intended to last the city until 1994.

For the nearly three decades, the population has more than quadrupled against accelerated migration to the city in search of employment opportunities.

As the seemingly idle and forgotten property stood by, thousands of squatters moved in and have since sold to several layers of unsuspecting



buyers. Criminal gangs have often been deployed by the different grabbers to push out rivals, leading to tens of deaths. *The Standard* has learnt.

Representatives of the grabbers have previously claimed to have been granted the land in the 1990s - a period when politicians dished out government property in exchange of popularity, but with little regard to the collective needs of the country.

### Backed by police

Each of the squatters estimated at 5,000 was allocated an eighth of an acre, which they intended to build homes on, but were violently uprooted from seven years ago. They would be forcefully evicted in December 2013 by a gang that was backed by police officers.

This has now gone full cycle, as the evicted squatters watched in joy as their tormentor was kicked out as well.

Government records relating to the land that was intended for the expansion of the sewerage treatment plant show it should have reverted to government after the irregular allocation.

GG Gachihi, the Registrar of Titles, had in 2010 canceled the allocation to the said private developers through a gazette notice, which would effectively have meant that even the squatters would not have a claim on the land.

"Whereas the parcels whose details are described under the Schedule herein below were allocated and titles issued to private developers, it has come to the notice of the government that the said parcels of land were reserved for public purposes under the relevant provisions of the Constitution of Kenya, the Government Lands Act (Cap 280) and the Trust Land Act (Cap 288)," he ruled.

Mr Gachihi specifically made reference to parcels Nairobi LR 209/1157, Nairobi LR 12979/3, Nairobi LR 12979/4, Nairobi LR 13444 and Nairobi LR 13446, which were illegally subdivided parcel 12979 - the area around the sewerage treatment plant.

"The allocations were, therefore, illegal and unconstitutional. Under the circumstances and in view of the public need and interest, the government revokes all the said

**Investigation.** Today's postmortem expected to provide way forward

# DCI grills gospel singer again over husband's death

Detectives went to Matete's home in Athi River to collect evidence to help establish events that preceded gas cylinder explosion.

By **Cyrus Ombati**  
newsdesk@standardmedia.co.ke

Gospel musician Ruth Matete was on Tuesday questioned for a second time by police officers investigating the death of her husband, John Apewajoye.

Ms Matete was summoned to the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) headquarters where she spent hours responding to questions.

The 2012 Tusker Project Fame star was in the company of her father Abel Amunga, lawyer Robert Odanga and a female friend.

Mr Odanga told journalists that his client was asked to narrate the events that led to the gas cylinder explosion accident, which had been reported as the cause of Apewajoye's death.

### Offer answers

His postmortem was moved to today, and will offer some answers as to the possible cause of death. Apewajoye, a Nigerian, died in hospital after sustaining burns from a gas cylinder explosion in the couple's house at Great Wall Gardens Estate in Athi River.

The incident, on March 30, was initially described as an accident by DCI detectives based at the Athi River Police Station. However, police say they want to ensure all doubts are cleared by handling it professionally.

The detectives handling the case said they hope the autopsy will indicate the next steps.

"The postmortem will, among other issues, say if he died as a result of the fire incident. We will then know how to move forward," said John Kariuki, head of investigations at the DCI.

Any other interested parties in the case have been asked to present their pathologist in the postmortem.

The detectives also went to Matete Athi River home to collect more evidence to help them establish the events



Ruth Matete and her husband John Apewajoye during their ordination as pastors at Christ Nation Church. [File: Standard]

that preceded Apewajoye's death.

Detectives from the homicide unit have taken over the probe into the April 11 incident from their colleagues from Athi River. The team reconstructed the scene of the incident as narrated by Matete.

Apewajoye's body is at the Kenyatta National Hospital mortuary. The Nigerian embassy in Nairobi has said it will not conduct a separate probe into the incident.

Matete said Apewajoye was initially taken to Shalom Hospital and later transferred to Bellevue Hospital where he admitted into the high dependency unit before being moved to the Kenyatta National Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

During her grilling by detectives on what led to her husband's death, Matete, who is two months pregnant, told police her husband died two weeks after he suffered burn wounds at their house.

Police and officials from the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA) visited the house where the incident happened after a gas cylinder exploded. The cylinder is among exhibits collected from the house for further analysis.

Experts from EPRA are helping the police to find out if the cylinder was faulty at

the time of the incident. They are also working with the company that supplied the cylinder to the couple as part of the probe.

Matete told the police her husband's upper body was burnt on March 30 at around 5pm after a failed attempt to light their six-kilogramme gas cylinder after a refill. She said the Nigerian was wearing only a pair of trousers when he took the cylinder from their kitchen to the balcony after he thought it was over-refilled and wanted to release some of the gas.

### Seeking help

She said immediately after he tried to light the cylinder, it exploded, engulfing him in flames. He rushed into the house for help.

Matete then ran to the bedroom to get a duvet to cover him and put out the flames while screaming for help, which attracted the attention of her neighbours. He was rushed to the nearby Shalom Hospital.

On April 5, Apewajoye was referred to the Kenyatta National Hospital. He died on April 11, having sustained 60 per cent burns.

Matete announced the death through social media.

Kenyatta National Hospital said it would provide all the information it has to the police.



**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK, FISHERIES AND COOPERATIVES**  
(STATE DEPARTMENT OF CROP DEVELOPMENT AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH)

**KENYA CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE PROJECT (KCSAP)**

**INVITATION TO BID**

Credit No.: P154784-KE

- The Government of Kenya has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the implementation of the Kenya Climate Smart Agricultural Project (KCSAP), and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the shown contracts.
- The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives, State Department of Crop Development and Agricultural Research now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for goods/works as shown below to be delivered at Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives, Kilimo House, Cathedral Rd. Nairobi.

No	Tender No	Item Description	Eligibility	Site Visit
1	MOALF&C/SDCD/KCSAP/NEDI/01/2019-2020	Supply and Delivery of Motor Vehicles	Open	
2	MOALF&C/SDCD&AR/KCSAP/WAJIR/WKS/002/2019-2020	Rehabilitation and Upgrading of Wajir Livestock Training Institute (Building Works)	Open	On Tue 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2020
3	MOALF&C/SDCD&AR/KCSAP/WAJIR/WKS/003/2019-2020	Rehabilitation and Upgrading of Wajir Livestock Training Institute (Electrical and Mechanical Works)	Open	On Tue 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2020

- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Procurement of Goods under IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers, dated January 2011 and revised in July 2014* ("Procurement Guidelines"), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines. In addition, please refer to paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents at the **Kenya Climate Smart Agricultural Project**, (KCSAP) Procurement Office situated at Capitol Hill Towers, Cathedral Road Nairobi E-mail: [infor@kcsap.go.ke](mailto:infor@kcsap.go.ke); Telephone: +254-020-2715466; [www.kilimo.go.ke](http://www.kilimo.go.ke) from Monday to Friday excluding weekends and public holidays during office hours East Africa Time from 0800hours – 1700hours
- A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of KES. 1000/=. The method of payment will be cash or Bankers Cheque in favour of the **Principal Secretary, State Department of Crop Development and Agricultural Research** at the cash office situated at **Kilimo House, Lower ground floor; Cathedral road, Nairobi**. The bidding document may be collected from the KCSAP Supply Chain Management office upon production of a purchase receipt. The bidding documents may be also downloaded free of charge from the Ministry's Website: [www.kilimo.go.ke](http://www.kilimo.go.ke). Bidders who download the bidding document are requested to inform the Procuring Entity and fully provide their contact details. This will be used in the event of a need to communicate to all the interested bidders.
- Bids must be delivered to the address below and submitted on or before **10.00 a.m. East Africa Time on 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2020**. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives and anyone who choose to attend.
- All bids must be accompanied by a "Bid Security" in the form of a Bank Guarantee as follows:

Item	Item Description	Amount (Kenya Shillings)
1	Supply and Delivery of Motor Vehicles	3,000,000.00
2	Rehabilitation and Upgrading of Wajir Livestock Training Institute (Building Works)	1,700,000.00
3	Rehabilitation and Upgrading of Wajir Livestock Training Institute (Electrical and Mechanical Works).	730,000.00

The bid security must be valid for 28 days beyond the validity date of the tender.

- Completed tender documents (Original and one copy) are to be enclosed in a plain, sealed envelope clearly marked with the tender reference number and be deposited in the tender box at Kilimo House and be addressed to:

**The Principal Secretary**  
State Department of Crop Development and Agricultural Research,  
Kilimo House  
Cathedral Road, P.O. Box 30028-00100  
Telephone: +254-02-2718870  
Fourth (4th) Floor Room No. 42B  
NAIROBI  
KENYA

**Busia.** Locals storm farm and help themselves to sweet harvest

## Couple gives families two acres of potatoes

**There is no market for produce as a result of movement restriction and closure of schools.**

By Ignatius Odanga  
iodanga@standardmedia.co.ke

Alfred Etyang and his wife Julian Anyango have been cultivating sweet potatoes for the last two decades, thanks to skills they acquired from Kenya Agriculture and Livestock Organisation (Kalro).

Their two acres of potato plantation located in Kwangomor, Teso South Constituency, was due for harvesting last month.

However, the Covid-19 pandemic spoiled the party for the couple as the government's directive restricting movement ensured they could not reach their customers.

Besides selling raw potatoes, Mr Etyang, a catechist at Khwirale Catholic Parish, and his wife, engage in value addition.

They make bhajia, cakes, crisps, chips, chapati and mandazi from potatoes and sell to local secondary schools.

However, the closure of schools, which are their main customers, and restrictions of movement to Nairobi because of coronavirus, complicated matters for them.

They had also found a new client in Nairobi and had mooted plans to use matatus to transport the potatoes to the capital city for their customer. But that was not to be.

Last week, the pair decided to let residents of Kwangomor harvest potatoes to enable them feed their families faced with hunger as the



Alfred Etyang at his farm in Kwangomor, Teso South, with some of the beneficiaries of his generosity. [Ignatius Odanga, Standard]

Covid-19 pandemic persists.

The locals hurriedly stormed the farm armed with hoes and helped themselves to the sweet harvest. "We have no market for our produce at the moment, that is why we decided to allow residents of Kwangomor to harvest the potatoes and feed their families during this difficult times," said Etyang.

He added: "Once locals have harvested their entire we shall embark on preparing the land to plant potatoes afresh and continue with our business."

Anyango said her family alone could not feed on two acres of the crop. "The knowledge we acquired

helped us to start value addition. We sell various products to schools and get money," said Anyango.

Etyang noted that this was the best time for people in need to be remembered by those with sufficient food.

The beneficiaries expressed gratitude to Etyang's family. Mildred Awino is one of the beneficiaries. She harvested a full sack.

"This is a good gesture and we are happy as it will cushion us for some days," said Awino.

Resila Etyang, another beneficiary, said: "I was not expecting that we would be allowed to harvest potatoes for free."

### Prepare land

She is ready to assist the Etyangs to prepare the land for planting of tubers to reciprocate the favour.

"I would have spent some money to buy the potatoes, but because I was given for free, I will help the catechist during preparation of the land," she said.

Although John Ekombe harvested the potatoes, he sympathised with Etyang for having no market to sell the farm produce.

"We do not take his generosity for granted because he used money to cultivate the potatoes, but he has decided to give us at no cost," he said.

### Golden heart

## Meet Makena, officer making free masks for Marakwet residents



Amid the gloom and uncertainty caused by coronavirus, Caroline Makena, a police constable based at Tot Police Station in Elgeyo Marakwet has chosen to be the reason residents look forward to brighter days ahead.

Makena, 29, juggles between her police duties and sewing masks, which she gives out to residents for free.

For the last two weeks, the officer who was posted to the station in 2016 has been sewing masks that are later distributed to Marakwet East residents.

Makena said she started making the masks after realising most of the residents were not putting them on because they were either too expensive to afford or were not available, especially in the villages far from town.

"This is my way of giving back to the society and I am glad it is helping. I acquired tailoring skills at the National Youth Service where I went through before joining the force, and since I had a sewing machine, I thought why not help people in such crucial times," she noted.

Her colleagues are also benefiting from her kind gesture.

Currently, she is producing 50 face masks daily as she is buying the materials out of her pocket.

Having combed the town in search of a mask for her own use as soon as the government announced

it was mandatory to wear one in public, she was forced to send for one in Eldoret, which is about 140 kilometres away. This also inspired her to start making the masks for the residents.

Hassan Kiptoo said the first time Makena went to distribute the masks, the residents thought she was out to arrest those not wearing them only to realise her mission was totally different.

"We thank Madam Makena for her kind gesture. We didn't know we could get such help, especially from a police officer," said Kiptoo.

Area Assistant County Commissioner Linus Kotut thanked Makena for going out of her way to help the residents.

"Access to face masks has been a big challenge. Priority has been given to health workers so seeing someone taking the initiative to help in such difficult times is a great gesture," area Public Health officer Jennifer Chelang said.

Ms Chelang's also urged other tailors across the region to embark on production of cheap cloth masks, which are also reusable.

This is not the first time Makena has gone out of her way to help the society. Until last month, together with her colleagues at the post, they have been going around schools in Kerio Valley, giving lessons on reproductive health, sexual offences and gender-based violence.

### Eldoret

## Rivatex to produce 50,000 face masks daily to beat market demand

Rivatex Company has procured more machines to boost production of face masks in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic.

The newly acquired gadgets will ensure the company makes 50,000 face masks up from the current 30,000 daily.

Rivatex Managing Director Thomas Kipkurgat said there had been a high demand for the masks following the government's directive that Kenyans wear them always.

"We have stepped up our production aimed at providing a

solution to the public, which is in dire need of PPEs (Personal Protective Equipment) during this pandemic," the MD said yesterday.

He said their employees have to work day and night to meet the high demand. "There is certainly a shortage of quality masks in the market. We have two approved varieties, woven and non-woven. They are of good quality that meets the government set standards," he said.

He added that they had distributed the masks to the company's

shops around the country.

Prof Kipkurgat said there was adequate raw materials at the facility before the first case of Covid-19 was announced.

In the meantime, the company has embarked on mopping all cotton from farmers country-wide.

He said recently approved BT cotton has helped the company make quality products.

The company also plans to work on producing other crucial items required in the fight against Covid-19, like bed sheets and lin-



Workers at Rivatex, Eldoret on a mass production of face masks. The employees work in shifts for 24 hours to achieve the mass production targets. [Kevin Tunoi, Standard]

en for hospitals.

Uasin Gishu Governor Jackson Mandago urged the Industrialisation ministry to allocate more resources to the company to ensure daily output of masks is over 100,000.

"In North Rift region alone we require over 15 million masks and at the moment counties such as Homa Bay are sourcing their masks from Rivatex. The government should focus more on innovation from locals to fight Covid-19," said Mr Mandago. [Fred Kibor]

**Tribute.** The professor was a giant in the literary scene

# Walibora had big plans for writers

**Author was unapologetic of his love of Kiswahili language and literature.**

By Kinyanjul Kombani  
newsdesk@standardmedia.co.ke

"This is the power of creative writing - that it gives you the power to imagine beyond the ordinary. You could be writing about Nairobi, but re-imagine it; it even could be a Nairobi that is hanging in the clouds!"

Ken Walibora was responding to a question on how much writers should stick to facts when creating works of fiction.

The year was 2014 and we were at Daystar University's Valley Road Campus for the opening ceremony of the Creatives Academy, a 13-week creative writing course that Wandia Njoya and I had conceptualised.

That was an eye-opening moment for me, and for many budding writers in the house. Prof Walibora is one of the giants on whose shoulders I have stood, and his words then, and many others that he would share with me over the next few years, would help to mould me into the writer and person that I have become.

I was first introduced to Walibora through his work, first as a writer, and then as a Kiswahili newscaster when he would pause between sentences, lending gravitas to his every pronouncement.

The first time that I met him 'live, live' was at the Acacia Publishers offices around 2003 where I was interning as an editorial assistant. I was poring through a manuscript and, suddenly, there he was, walking towards me in an immaculate shiny grey suit. He smiled and nodded but I was frozen in the moment, unable to acknowledge his greeting. Still, being in the presence of the man did

wonders for my morale, and my response to be a successful writer - if only that I could afford such a magnificent suit.

It took 10 years for us to meet again. In between, we exchanged emails - mostly from me 'shooting my shot' by pitching my novel *The Last Villains of Molo*. He was extremely measured in his comments. For instance, I once asked him, in response to his critique of KW Wamitila's book, whether African writing was apolitical and he responded:

"My conception of politics is very broad. In my view politics is ubiquitous and affects and afflicts everyone and everything. In that sense even romance is political. Think about Romeo and Juliet and how behind the tragic love affair there is a bitter family feud (read politics). So you cannot afford to be apolitical. It is impossible in my conception of politics in terms of power relations. Of course I stand to be corrected."

**Literary scene**

Our literary scene is divided into camps. On the one side, we have the old guard - those who feel that literature came and went with Ngugi and Achebe. On the other we have the Kwani? new age writing that came to change the status quo. And in between lie the rest of us - not too old to just write about colonisation and not cool enough to belong to the new age.

It is in trying to bring together all these groups that my path and Walibora's merged. We had a chance meeting and I outlined some of my plans. He helped me articulate and refine what I wanted to do. In 2013, 13 authors came together at the Junction Mall for the first meet-and-greet dubbed the 'Authors Buffet'. Participants included the



Mourners prepare to bury Ken Walibora at Huruma Bonde village in Cherangany, Trans Nzoia County, yesterday. [Osinde Obare Standard]

late Binyavanga Wainaina, John Sibi-Okumu, Stanley Gazemba and Muthoni Likimani.

Walibora kept me accountable, always asking, "What next? Getting authors together for a day is good, but is it good enough?" The prodding was in his characteristically soft but deliberate tone, telling me I had no option but to do better.

In 2014 we teamed up with Daystar University for the Creative Academy. The idea was to build a course designed for writers by writers. Walibora's topics at the class were always insightful and brilliant. He was unapologetic in his fight for the adoption of Kiswahili literature in classrooms and lecture halls.

He was passionate about looking out for other writers. Once, I told him about a TV appearance I had made and he asked me if I had referred

another writer to the producer. "You cannot appear on TV as a guest writer every day, but the TV station can host a writer every day."

He rarely missed a book launch or literary event, and whenever he was in attendance he was fully present, his finger on his chin. His challenge is the reason why I appear alongside authors who only write in Kiswahili at the annual *Tamasaha la Kiswahili*.

Our last meeting would have been at Riarua School's Book Week finale, at which we were to be co-chief guests. But I missed it by a whisker because I was flying out of the country the next day. I shall always regret that.

Now that he is gone, I am reflecting on how Walibora easily morphed from a childhood hero to an acquaintance to a friend - from prof to *kaka*. He never used our age gap to lord it over me, thus giving me an opportunity to reverse-mentor him. He was quick to act on advice and did not shy away from seeking help.

For example, when he complained that there wasn't a central source of information about him and I recommended that he should have a website, we had [kenwalibora.co.ke](http://kenwalibora.co.ke) up in a week.

The profile on the site describes him to a fault: "First

and foremost, I see myself as a creative writer, then a literary and cultural studies scholar and, lastly, as a Kiswahili media expert. Kiswahili is my language of choice in writing creative works, although some of my critical and academic engagements are necessarily in English. If I had all the time in the world, I would be writing and reading great books only, of which the Bible is foremost. I am an avid reader, keen observer and patient listener."

We had talked about translating each other's work. In the procrastinating spirit of *wacha tutaongoa*, this will now not come to pass.

Walibora leaves us with a collection of 40-plus books. One of his recent pieces is a play, *Mbaya Wetu*, a critical look at society and how we are keen to support people from our own community that we know are evil. As we go into the General Election, it would be a worthwhile read.

We should not let Walibora's memory fade away, and there is talk of establishing a literary award in his name. Rest easy, *kaka*. You came, you saw, you conquered.

**Final journey**

## Celebrated author laid to rest

Renowned linguist, author and journalist Ken Walibora was yesterday afternoon buried in Trans Nzoia County.

It took less than an hour for 15 close family members to send off a man eulogised as an accomplished thespian and academician.

The hearse bearing the body of Prof Walibora arrived at Huruma Bonde village in Suwewa, Cherangany, at around 12.30pm.

The family strictly adhered to the directive by local County Commissioner Sam Ojwang that the burial be attended by less than 15 people.

Police officers monitored the

service from a distance to ensure government regulations were followed.

Pastor Ken Ngusare of Jehovah Witness led the service that took less than 20 minutes before the coffin was lowered into the grave.

**No speeches**

There were no speeches from the family. Walibora's stepmother Danice Wafula later told the media she had lost an instrumental member of the family who supported his siblings, having assumed fatherly responsibilities following the death of his father in 2006.

"We are greatly saddened by his death since he was very help-

ful to us financially. This is a sad day since his demise has opened a window of pain, isolation and uncertainty," she said.

Teachers led by St Peter's Mumias High School Principal Cosmas Nabungolo described the author as an educationist and a sportsman who added value in education by promoting the growth of Kiswahili.

"Our young generation witnessed an upgrade in creative writing which inculcated pillars of uprightness and discipline while promoting *Fasih*. Walibora also cherished nurturing soccer talents," Mr Nabungolo said.

[Osinde Obare]

## SUNLIGHT SOLAR



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**Pandemic.** Measures include reduction of workers onsite to a level that can allow safe social distance



Construction workers in Parklands, Nairobi, with their face masks in place. They are among vulnerable groups. [Collins Kweyu, Standard]

# Tough safety rules out for construction firms

**National Construction Authority insists workers should be provided with facemasks and long-sleeved aprons.**

By Allan Mungai  
amg@standardmedia.co.ke

Contractors wishing to continue operating during the coronavirus outbreak will have to comply with new guidelines to prevent the spread at their sites.

National Construction Authority (NCA) issued the guidelines, which include caution on the sharing of tools and reducing the number of workers on site.

The agency says while parties to contracts are free to decide whether to close construction sites or continue, they have to adopt the guidelines to minimise risks.

"Construction workers are a vulnerable group since they are faced with the elevated risk of Covid-19 virus exposure in close-knit and unhygienic

## The new guidelines

- Agency wants contractors to employ administrative controls such as rotating shifts
- They want crew separated based on their work or for larger projects, creating separate entry and exit gates.
- The agency also wants contractors to forbid sharing of tools
- It wants chimes and equipment that are shared are sanitised with each work space having a hand sanitisation point within 30 metres of the work area.

worksite conditions. They also need to keep the construction jobs to support themselves and their families as they are mostly casual labourers and self-employed," NCA said in the guidelines released earlier in the month.

The authority said: "It is the responsibility of parties to the construction contract to determine whether to halt the construction works for a period of time or to continue. In the event that the parties agree to continue with the construction works, these guidelines must strictly be adhered to."

One of the measures is the

reduction of the number of workers onsite to a level that can allow workers keep at least a metre apart.

To achieve social distance, the agency wants contractors to employ administrative controls such as rotating shifts, separating the crews based on their work or for larger projects, creating separate entry and exit gates.

### Work area

The agency also wants contractors to forbid sharing of tools and ensure machines and equipment that are shared are sanitised with each work space having a hand

sanitisation point within 30 metres of the work area.

If workers must share tools, NCA says, the tools should be thoroughly disinfected with a Clorox-type wipe between users. "All equipment, plants and tools must be sanitised at the start of work twice daily, in the morning and at closure of site," it says.

Further, body temperatures of the construction workers and other personnel visiting the site should be taken on arrival and when they leave for home using a non-contact infrared thermometer.

"Any employee that presents a fever or flu-like symptoms, is vulnerable or is living with someone in self-isolation should not be allowed access to site," NCA says.

It wants workers who develop symptoms while at work advised to self-isolate at home and shouldn't return to work until their period of self-isolation has been completed and upon clearance by a medical doctor from a government hospital.

## Shutdown

# Imported vehicles pile up in Mombasa

More than 1,000 new vehicles are stuck in Mombasa after the National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA) suspended registration services due to Covid-19.

Dealers say most vehicles purchased three weeks ago have not been collected from show rooms in Mombasa after NTSA ceased its operations.

The NTSA suspended operations in Mombasa on April 8 after Covid-19 infections soared at the Kenya Ports Authority (KPA), Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) and Container Freight Station (CFS).

"A number of employees from the two state agencies have been put in quarantine as a result of having interacted with victims," said NTSA Director General George Njao explaining the suspension of operations.

Even before the letter, the NTSA had scaled down operations in Mombasa and was largely conducting its business through on-line.

Motor industry players in the region termed NTSA's decision as arbitrary and punitive saying it also affected commercial vehicles that play a key role in the transportation of essential goods and services.

Statistics from the Car Importers Association of Kenya (CIAK) show that more than 1000 vehicles, either imported or purchased from local showrooms, have been affected by NTSA's decision.

According to CIAK chairman, Peter Otieno, the NTSA should lift the suspension for at least two weeks to register new vehicles.

"Our members are stranded due to non-inspection of the already sold units. Vehicles which have been sold and advance tax and inspection bookings paid for should be registered," said Otieno.

He argued that while motor-vehicle traders acknowledge the threat of Covid-19, the agency should have come up with innovative ways to facilitate trade and consulted widely before deciding to suspend operations.

"We appreciate and understand NTSA fears, but we think it should have consulted us before coming up with an arbitrary decision of suspending inspections and registrations," said Otieno.

The importers have proposed to the agency that buyers leave their vehicles at the Miritini Inspection Centre for inspection, after which they will be called to collect them without coming into contact with the NTSA officials.

"Allow us to take the vehicles to inspection stations, leave them there for you to disinfect them in the absence of our drivers, who will leave the details in the vehicles for identification purposes during pick-up time," stated CIAK's letter to the transport agency. [Benard Sang'a]



## Flouting rules

# Police arrest 10 people at party for newborn

Celebrations to welcome a baby were yesterday cut short after police stormed in and arrested those in attendance at a house in Kabati market, Kandara Sub-county, Murang'a.

Ten people were put under 14-day mandatory quarantine. Police moved in after a tip-off from neighbours about the celebration. Kagundu-ini Assistant County Commissioner Joshua Okello led the operation to arrest those at the party after it was reported that they were not wearing masks or observing social distance.

"They will undergo mandatory quarantine at the Murang'a Teachers Training College for defying the regulations imposed by the Ministry of Health to stop the spread of Covid-19," said Mr Okello.

In Meru, 13 people were arrested for flouting the 7pm to 5am

curfew. County Police Commander Patrick Lumumba yesterday said the 13 were arrested as they made their way to Meru town from Igembe, and were quarantined at the Kenya Medical Training College (KMTTC).

"We have 13 in quarantine at KMTTC, and we will continue to arrest more if they do not obey the government," he said.

South Imenti OCPD William Maronga warned residents against flouting government directives, saying culprits would be placed in quarantine.

Mr Maronga said police and administrators had been sensitising residents on the dangers of Covid-19 and the guidelines put in place to curb its spread.

"We have been doing massive sensitisation on coronavirus in partnership with the relevant agencies," he said. [Phares Mutembei and Boniface Gikandi]

## Bomet

# Assembly approves Sh155m to fight Covid-19

The fight against Covid-19 received a boost after Members of the County Assembly approved Sh155 million to be used to fight the pandemic.

The money is part of the Sh7.387 billion supplementary budget for financial year 2019/2020, which was endorsed by MCAs after getting the nod from Governor Hillary Barchok.

Budget and appropriation committee chairman Haron Kirui said the budget was necessary in the wake of the virus that has

disrupted normal activities in the country. He said money will be used in coronavirus prevention and emergency response.

Mr Kirui said the approved funds include Sh8.2 million for recruitment of an additional 82 medical personnel. The Silibwet Township ward rep said the county also intends to use Sh5 million to pay Rivatex and local institutions to produce a million masks to be distributed for free to all residents.

Siwot Vocational Training Centre and Konoin Technical Training Institute will be

used in producing the masks. A further Sh16 million will be used to pay frontline medical personnel.

He said money has also been set aside in the allocation for equipping and operationalising isolation and treatment centres at Longisa and Koiwa health facilities.

Fifteen MCAs present during the special sitting unanimously endorsed the proposal.

Leader of Majority Josphat Kirui said the funds will help the county to prepare for the deadly virus. [Gilbert Kimutai]



### AVIS D'APPEL A MANIFESTATION D'INTERET (PRE-QUALIFICATION)

**TITRE DE L'APPEL D'OFFRES: TRAVAUX DE RENOVATION DES INFRASTRUCTURES DU PORT DE KALUNDU A UVIRA SUR LE LAC TANGANYIKA, PROVINCE DU SUD KIVU EN REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO**

**NUMERO D'APPEL D'OFFRES: PRQ20191104**

TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) est une organisation sans but lucratif, financée par un nombre d'agences de développement dans le but de promouvoir le commerce régional et l'intégration économique en Afrique de l'Est. TMEA a son siège à Nairobi avec des bureaux à Addis Ababa, Bujumbura, Kigali, Kampala, Dar es Salaam, Juba et au secrétariat de la Communauté de l'Afrique de l'Est (CAE) à Arusha. TMEA appuie plusieurs initiatives pour atteindre ses objectifs stratégiques d'accroître l'accès physique aux marchés; de renforcer l'environnement commercial et d'améliorer la compétitivité des entreprises. TMEA travaille en étroite collaboration avec les institutions gouvernementales, les organisations de la société civile, le secteur privé et le secrétariat de la Communauté de l'Afrique de l'Est (CAE).

Le gouvernement de la République démocratique du Congo (RDC) a reçu des fonds de subvention de TradeMark East Africa. TMEA, en étroite collaboration avec la Direction Générale des Migrations, la Direction Générale des Douanes et Accises et la province du Sud Kivu ont l'intention d'utiliser une partie des fonds aux paiements directs éligibles pour la modernisation des infrastructures du port de Kalundu.

Cet appel d'offre est lancé pour préqualifier les entreprises intéressées à soumissionner pour la réalisation des travaux de rénovation des infrastructures portuaire au port de Kalundu. Les documents de cet appel d'offres peuvent être obtenus à <http://www.trademarkea.com/get-involved/procurement/>. Toutes les demandes d'éclaircissements citant le titre et le numéro de l'appel d'offres dans le sujet doivent être envoyées par email à l'adresse courriel [procurement@trademarkea.com](mailto:procurement@trademarkea.com). *Soumissions peuvent être faits uniquement par voie électronique, due au COVID-19 des soumissions en dur ne peuvent être acceptées.*

La date de clôture des soumissions électroniques est le 22 mai 2020 à 10:00h (heure de Kinshasa) ou à 12h00h (heure de Nairobi).

TMEA ne peut répondre à aucune requête relative à cet appel d'offres 5 jours ou moins avant la date butoir de soumission.



## COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF TAITA TAVETA



### INVITATION TO SUBMIT WRITTEN PROPOSALS/VIEWS ON TAITA TAVETA COUNTY BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR FY 2020-2021

In accordance with the provisions of Constitution of Kenya which calls for openness, accountability and public participation in financial matters and, as per the provisions of Section 129 of the public Finance Management Act, 2012, the County Government of Taita Taveta invites members of the public, private sector organizations, interested parties and all stakeholders to submit their proposals for inclusion in the County Budget estimates for FY 2020-2021.

The draft Budget estimates for FY 2020-21 is available at the County website: [www.taitataveta.go.ke](http://www.taitataveta.go.ke).

The county budget making process for the financial year 2020/2021 began in July 2019 with the preparation of the County Annual Development Plan (CADP) through a Participatory Budgeting approach. The Citizens participated in its preparation through public meetings held in the Month of August 2019 throughout the County. The county government also conducted public participation fora during preparation of the County Fiscal Strategy Paper which outlined the county priorities, policies, projections of revenues and expenditure ceilings for departments. The citizens participated in the meetings held at the Ward Level in the Month of February, 2020.

To facilitate in timely consultations and adequate consideration, your proposals should be forwarded in writing to either the Ward administrators, Sub County administrators offices and Finance and Economic planning offices in all Sub Counties. The proposals can also be forwarded through email; [finance.taitataveta@gmail.com](mailto:finance.taitataveta@gmail.com), so as to be received not later than **29<sup>th</sup> April, 2020, 12 P.M.**

This has been necessitated by the emergence of COVID-19 that has posed challenges to conduct public meetings where citizens can gather to deliberate on the draft budget for FY 2020/2021. This is also in adherence to the directive from the Ministry of Health suspending all public gatherings and the preventive measures by the County Government of Taita Taveta to contain Corona Virus(COVID-19) pandemic.

**Andrew Kubo Mlawasi**  
CECM-Finance and Economic Planning

## COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF TAITA TAVETA



### SINGLE BUSINESS PERMIT RENEWAL FOR YEAR 2020

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

As you are aware the deadline for payment or renewal of Business Licenses was 31st March, 2020 and being cognizant of the local economic effect of the COVID-19 global pandemic, NOTICE is hereby given to all Business Owners trading within the county that extension for application for new or renewal of Single Business Permit has been extended up to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020.

Those who have not applied or renewed their licenses are encouraged to take advantage of the extension as late payments, after 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2020, will attract a penalty of 3% per month compounded from the due date.

#### Requirements for new or Renewal of SBP

- A copy of the original previous business permit for renewal
- A copy of ID or passport or
- A copy of certificate of registration of business or incorporation certificate for company and PIN Certificate.

All payments are made through:

1. DIRECT DEPOSIT TO ACC.NO.1140754017 - KCBWUNDANYI BRANCH
2. BANKERS CHEQUE ADDRESSED TO: TAITA TAVETA COUNTY GOVERNMENT
3. MPESA PAYBILL NO.899131; ACCOUNT- Your Identity Card No Or Stall No, Etc.

Present the Bank slip or Mpesa confirmation message to the cashier for issuance of a receipt. Please note that cash payments are not accepted.

**Andrew Kubo Mlawasi**  
CECM-Finance and Economic Planning  
County Government of Taita Taveta

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## Editorial

## Punish rogue police officers who are undermining war on Covid-19

However, as usual, the rotten apples in the police force have been doing their best to make it to stink like a skunk, and even put Kenyans' lives in danger

Since the first case of Covid-19 was confirmed in Kenya on March 12, life has not been the same again.

The government has gradually introduced measures that require Kenyans to do certain things or behave in certain ways in a bid to contain the spread of the disease.

Although coronavirus is still spreading, the measures ordered by the government, such as social distancing, frequent hand washing, night curfew and restricting movement to and from some counties, have helped a great deal.

In fact, as the Health CS keeps on emphasising, it is these measures that will help us wriggle out of the invisible enemy's stranglehold.

However, although most Kenyans have taken the measures seriously, a few are still playing with fire.

That's why the police have been charged with ensuring that some of these measures are observed by the public to the letter.

Without doubt, majority of the officers have been doing a good job, and when the time comes to reward the Covid-19 heroes and heroines, they will be among those who will be applauded or even garlanded.

However, as usual, the rotten apples in the police force have been doing their best to make it to stink like a skunk, and even put Kenyans' lives

in danger.

There have been reports of officers who have let motorists cross their barricades to enter or leave the counties where movement has been banned. They have turned roadblocks into cash cows, caring less what their greed would do to the war against Covid-19.

Second, there are officers who arrest people during curfew hours and let them go scot-free after they fork out bribes. For them, it's business as usual, even in the season of coronavirus.

Third, there are officers who arrest and pack people like sardines in their trucks, raising the risk of spreading the virus. The concept of social distancing, which they help to enforce in matatus, doesn't seem to apply to the police vehicles. No, it can't be business as usual during this dangerous time.

Finally, there are officers - and they are many - who clearly lack common sense. Those who clobber or arrest people without bothering to know why they are out at night. In Nairobi, a popular musician is reported to have been arrested after going out at night to buy medicine for his wife. At the Coast, a man was beaten by police to death while taking his expectant wife to hospital at night. Only unreasoning brutes can behave this way. Kenyans deserve and demand better treatment from police at this difficult time.

## Trump Surrenders another Leadership Role to China



## Reconsider proposal to up tax on power generators

Amid pleas for tax reductions to cushion Kenyans against the effects of Covid-19, a proposal to impose a 14 per cent value added tax on power generators is ill informed.

The Electricity Sector Alliance of Kenya has come out, and rightly so, to oppose the proposed amendments contained in the Tax (Amendment) Bill 2020 which, if approved, will result in the burden of higher costs of power being passed on to consumers.

Clearly, Kenyans cannot bear this additional cost. Of late, President Uhuru Kenyatta has repeatedly urged power providers not to disconnect Kenyans unable to pay their bills from electricity supply. A rise in power production costs will run counter to this call. Further, imposition of the tax will claw back gains made towards encouraging use of

clean energy that is desirable for its ability to reduce greenhouse emissions, a great contributor to global warming and the attendant erratic weather changes.

An upward adjustment in power costs will also fly in the face of the Big Four Agenda by negatively impacting manufacturing, which the government seeks to promote as a means through which it will create more employment opportunities.

When Uhuru set out to improve the ease of doing business, he was aware of the drag that costly and often erratic power supply has on manufacturing. Many companies have been forced to close shop in Kenya, while others have relocated to countries that have friendlier policies to the manufacturing sector. Making power costlier would aggravate matters.

**An upward adjustment of power cost will definitely fly in the face of the Big Four Agenda**

## Fake news hampering fight against coronavirus

Mohamed Guleid



The battle against coronavirus was escalated recently when Kenya recorded its first death. Although medicines tried to save his life, the 66-year-old man, suffering from a pre-existing condition, succumbed to the virus.

With the number of patients rising, it is important now than ever before, that we heed government measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19. A central part of this is making sure the information we receive is accurate and written by professionals.

Misleading information on how to prevent and even cure the virus surfaced recently on social media. These range from information that is inaccurate, such as overcoming the virus with the help of UV lamps, to downright dangerous ideas, such as drinking chlorine to kill germs.

We saw the tragedy in Iran, where over 200 people died from drinking poisonous alcohol, which online sources claimed could kill coronavirus. Fake news can, indeed, be deadly. Unfortunately, the partial lockdown and stay-at-home order have reduced access to mainstream media.

Because most people stay and work from home, access to credible sources of information from the most trusted hard copy newspapers such as *The Standard* has been reduced and more and more people search for news on the pandemic on the unregulated social media.

### Our livelihoods

We are lucky to have a government that has proven particularly efficient in meeting the challenge now facing Kenya and the world. Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe and the Ministry of Health have published extensive guidelines on how citizens can best protect themselves. It is these guidelines that we must adhere to and not information gleaned from questionable and disreputable sources.

Often, the simplest solutions are the most effective. In this case, staying at home is the best way that every one of us can contribute to the national effort to end this pandemic.

This was encouraged by President Uhuru Kenyatta through imposition of a curfew, and is exceptionally important. Staying

at home is not easy for anyone. It affects our lives and places great pressure on the poorest and most vulnerable Kenyans.

However, given that we cannot know who is a carrier of the virus, and in an attempt to protect the infirm, the elderly and our children, the curfew was imposed with our best interests at heart.

Kenyans are social people. That is why the government-imposed ban on social gatherings is so tough. However, to make sure that we can still stay connected with the people we care about, Uhuru, working with cellphone providers, has promised to help citizens across the nation access 4G internet.

### Austerity measures

The Ministry of Information, Communications, and Telecommunication is also partnering with Google Loon to deploy stratospheric balloons in more remote parts of Kenya. These steps are important not only for social reasons, but also to enable citizens to contact emergency services if need be.

The financial hit that our economy, as well as global financial systems will take will, undoubtedly, be tremendous. Many of us are already feeling the pinch in our pockets. That is why the government has also been imposing austerity measures. These will help ensure that our country can financially meet this challenge.

Leading by example, the presidency took 80 per cent pay cut as Uhuru encouraged government officials to also consider taking a cut. Cabinet Secretaries took 30 per cent pay cut.

Considering the financial implications on individuals and families, 100 per cent tax relief is being accorded to all Kenyans earning less than Sh24,000. Income tax will similarly be reduced by 5 per cent for the rest of us.

Kenya is a diverse nation. We all, however, must band together if we are to overcome tribulations in times of crisis. In the words of American Martin Luther King Jr, "We may have all come on different ships, but we're all in the same boat now". Let's support one another in this difficult time, and not use it to foster political, religious or cultural divisions.

Now is not the time to question, but to heed. We can rest assured that our leadership has our best interests at heart and is doing its utmost to minimise the fallout from this pandemic. It is not easy for anyone, but in the eternal words of Dr King, "Together, we shall overcome".

*Mr Guleid is the CEO, FCDC Secretariat and former Deputy Governor of Isiolo County*

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## Should State bear the cost of repatriating Kenyans from China?

Yes, the State must repatriate Kenyans at its own cost. The responsibility for the safety of citizens inside and outside Kenya lies with the government.

After all, most people go out there in the interest for our country; chasing jobs we should have provided in the first place, pursuing business that pays taxes and pursuing education that will help develop our country. Sometimes, it is to seek medical attention where we have failed as a country.

Caleb Burudi



YES

Global systems have been disrupted, plans have received serious beating beyond individuals' and organisations' control. We are all desperate and agonised. Being in such situations, government resources should be used to help its citizens in distress.

We must be alive to the reality that it will be very difficult for Kenyans abroad to start following up prior arrangements made with airlines for their return tickets. Lockdown in many countries has made it impossible. Our people are being mishandled in China and need immediate assistance to come back.

It is reasonable for the government to urgently mobilise and make sure Kenyans abroad return home as part of its responsibilities. After all, the money the government has belongs to the Kenyan people.

The wealth of any given nation is its people; their welfare must always come first. Let the welfare of our brothers and sisters abroad come first by paying for their repatriation.

Mr Burudi is a politician from Malava, Kakamega

Covid-19 presents a monumental challenge and any slight distraction on the part of the government will be disastrous. More attention should be geared towards protecting the greater Kenyan population.

No one travels out of the country without planning for their return. The cost of private travel is the sole responsibility of the individuals who undertake it. By the time one is travelling abroad there must be plans for a return flight. Am sure most Kenyans abroad have their return tickets in place. The problem here is the suspension of flights and closure of airports.

James Gikonyo



NO

What the government needs to do urgently is to engage particular airlines through which Kenyans booked their return tickets and make arrangements to allow Kenyans be flown back home.

In my opinion more funds should be channelled towards supporting vulnerable Kenyans who are not able to cater for their basic needs because their lives have been disrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Government should therefore not bear the cost of the repatriation, but should support and facilitate the protocol that would allow them to be flown back home at their own cost, presumably planned when they travelled outside Kenya.

James Gikonyo is an Accountant

Text/Photos: Jennipher Wachie

### PALAUER



What did police officers understand about the curfew? A lot of negative stories about the police continue to be reported, yet the top echelon is silent, perhaps too silent for comfort. Do police bosses sanction and support the harassment their officers subject innocent civilians to, even breaking into their premises before curfew as claimed by a Kilgoris trader and many others across the country? CS Fred Matiangi and IG of Police Hilary Mutumbali should come out of their comfort zones and tell us what is going on.

Regarding the reported thefts, one of which was at Mudete market in Vihiga County, it is either that criminals working in cahoots with rogue officers did it, or rogue police officers were responsible. It could also be true that shops are broken into by common thieves during curfew hours. What that means is that the buglers are smarter than police officers. They are telling all and sundry that the efficacy of curfews is overrated and police are not a deterrent.

What will happen if William Ruto becomes president in 2022? Well, if that comes to pass, says Githuku Mungai, "there are two men who will have to sit down and chart their way forward; Francis Atwoli and David Murathe. Will Atwoli gather Abaluhya elders to go ask Ruto to forgive him? Then, he will continue as CotU's secretary general. Atwoli should remain on the right side of Abaluhya elders. Murathe will likely retreat to private life and observe if anybody would be interested in what he does".

The default position for government whenever it nets contraband is to destroy it. Whether ivory, cars or other things, the merchandise gets torched by government officials. But now that Kenyans are faced with food shortages because of coronavirus restrictions, and Mombasa, Kwale and Kilifi are under restrictions, why didn't the government distribute to hungry citizens an illegal consignment of fish from Somalia that was impounded in Lamu? Citizens are crying out for food relief, and here is the government destroying food. What a twist!

Kenya National Union of Teachers Secretary General Wilson Sossion nowadays says it as it is. When he said using schools as isolation centres for Covid-19 was irresponsible, he had a point. Now that he says online learning for pupils in Kenya is wishful thinking, believe him. Many areas lack electricity, computers and laptops don't come easy, and even where network coverage is offered, connectivity is still very poor. Consider poverty levels and the costs involved in online learning and you see why Sossion is right. If in doubt, visit arid and semi-arid areas, or the Coast region.

Write to us: [oped@standardmedia.co.ke](mailto:oped@standardmedia.co.ke)

## Out of date cultures expose us to danger

Alexander Chagama



villagers to throw caution to the wind and act irresponsibly. In their mindlessness, the elders exposed themselves to coronavirus in their futile attempt to drive it away using antiquated methods. The local administration, whether it gave the elders *carte blanche* to proceed or not, stands indicted for gross dereliction of duty.

The curfew could have given new life to the practice of female genital mutilation (FGM) in Samburu. On paper, FGM is outlawed, but we have not seen the last of it just because national government says it must stop. Chiefs, their assistants and village elders overtly oppose the practice, yet covertly encourage it. It is the only reason this cultural practice goes on in many areas despite the ban.

We can attribute the Elgeyo Marakwet and Samburu cases to the protagonists' lack of a world view. They live in a time warp circa the 1960s and their worlds are confined to their villages' outlook, outside which nothing exists for them.

FGM is an age-old culture among certain Kenyan communities. It was, however, proscribed despite the recognition that the constitution gives our diverse cultures after its medical downsides became apparent. Similarly, the tomfoolery of councils of elders across the country should be put on a very short leash. Science and technological advances have exposed most elders as charlatans who purport to be divine authorities on things they do not understand.

### Emaciated cultures

Brute force employed to stem the tide of female circumcision has failed. We can only pit outdated cultural practices by fighting them against education, the greatest of equaliser of all time. Sadly though, the imbalance in the distribution of education across the country will continue to consign some regions to the darkness of emaciated cultures.

Religion has had its own role in propagating coronavirus. In Tanzania, a pastor bragged they were safe from coronavirus because President Pombe Magufuli had allowed churches to operate, unlike Kenya where there is a moratorium. But even here, some prosperity pastors tried to challenge the restriction on church services.

Kari Max opined that religion is the opium of the people. A look at the servile department of some Christians obviates any doubt they are high on something which, to be blunt, is 'bad influence from rogue latter day pastors'. Many of these pastors exhibit 'personality disorders indicated by patterns of manipulating, glibness, exploiting, cunning, arrogance and delusions of grandeur'.

Mr Chagama is a copy editor at The Standard. [achagama@standardmedia.co.ke](mailto:achagama@standardmedia.co.ke)

Isolated incidents in the past few days point to how cultural orientation and beliefs impede the fight against Covid-19.

First off was the saga of elders exorcising the demons of coronavirus through cultural rituals. Second, under the veil of the curfew, it is reported that the proscribed cultural rite of female circumcision is in full bloom in Samburu. This, despite the obvious dangers.

Third, there is nothing to mellow an individual more than a sombre, funeral procession. Even the most vile and belligerent police officers would not willingly stop a funeral procession because our traditions demand respect for the departed. Aware of that, a group of individuals organised a funeral that never was and drove past police roadblocks all the way from Nairobi to Homa Bay. At the end of it all, the driver of the van tested positive for coronavirus. The rest is history.

Fourth, the age-long, yet feeble argument that real men get to their houses long after dusk has led to open defiance of social distancing and stay-at-home exhortations. Men can be found congregating in market places without wearing face masks or being conscious of the need to keep social distance. Ditto women in residential areas who have now taken gossiping to new levels induced by foul-mouthed, nagging, idle husbands and boredom.

Whether Kaya, Njuri Ncheke, Luhya or Kalenjin, there is no gain saying the power elders wield in their respective communities. Whenever things happen beyond the scope of the mundane, elders have often been called upon to intercede with the gods and give directions. In that vein, some Elgeyo Marakwet elders miffed by the despondency caused by coronavirus sought to appease the gods last week. Post the ceremony, they declared the pandemic was no more and confidently assured Kenyans corona had, at that very moment, vamoosed.

The very act of ritualisation symbolised open defiance to government directives on curbing coronavirus. The wise men not only failed to keep social distance, they drank from the same beer pot; did not wear face masks or sanitise their hands. By claiming, even in their blissful ignorance, that coronavirus had been defeated by virtue of their intonations, they propagated falsehoods that could cause

**Covid-19.** We should motivate health care workers to enable them to perform better

## Let's boost morale of our frontline soldiers

Ruth Maithya



When the World Health Organisation (WHO) designated as the international year of the nurse and the midwife, the ongoing pandemic was not present or anticipated. However, the Covid-19 challenge has brought into focus the important contribution of nurses and midwives to our health and wellbeing.

This year is the 200th birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern-day nursing. Nightingale was born to British parents in 1820 in the city of Florence, Italy. She lived in the Victorian era during the Crimean War that pitted the British empire against the Russians. Considering her track record as a nurse in London hospitals, Florence was asked to go to Crimea and provide nursing care to the wounded soldiers in a British base hospital.

Every evening she went round the infirmary, checking on the wounded soldiers while carrying a lamp, earning her the name 'The Lady with the Lamp'. Her diligent nursing of wounded soldiers led to the reduction of deaths by two-thirds. One of her crucial interventions was improvement of the unsanitary conditions in the hospital, which certainly improved outcomes.

Upon her return to London, she received a hero's welcome and an award from the queen. She is also credited with tackling smallpox and cholera outbreaks, establishing the first ever nurse training school, and for her professional authorship that revolutionised the nursing profession. Nightingale is recognised in history as an outstanding nurse.

Like our nurses and midwives in the Covid-19 era, Nightingale was a frontline health worker who risked her own life to save the lives of others. As soldiers in battle, during this pandemic, nurses are putting their lives at stake in contact tracing of individuals who have been exposed to the coronavirus, receiving patients in health facilities, triaging those who are sick, and providing care to the admitted patients.

In addition, specialist nurses in critical care provide round-the-clock nursing care in intensive care units (ICUs). Nurses work under such stressful environments for long working hours, at times with inadequate personal protective equipment (PPEs), and witness deaths despite giving their all.

It is easy to forget that despite this pandemic, nurses and midwives contin-

ue to provide other essential healthcare packages, including child immunisations, antenatal care services, maternity services, as well as the care of patients with other illnesses. No wonder some nurses suffer from fatigue, burnout and depression.

Unlike other professionals, nurses do not have the luxury of working remotely or working from home. This year's World Health Day marked on April 7 was an opportunity to recognise and appreciate the work of nurses and midwives. WHO Director General Tedros Ghebreyesus, delivering his address on that day, said: "Today is a day to celebrate nurses and midwives, to thank them for everything they do, and to commit ourselves to doing everything we can to support and protect them."

This is a call to action to governments, and indeed to all of us, to support nurses and midwives in their work. In other countries, we have seen ordinary citizens expressing their appreciation for frontline health workers. We have seen people clapping from balconies when they see healthcare workers pass by, delivering meals and even providing hotel rooms for them to rest before going back for another long shift. Such acts of gratitude go a long way towards increasing the morale of soldiers in war. We are at war and healthcare workers are our soldiers.

We can motivate health workers and enable them to perform even better. The most urgent intervention is ensuring that they have adequate and consistent supplies of PPEs. We cannot afford to have them fall ill. Secondly, frontline health workers must be trained on Covid-19 responses. Being a new disease, these workers require proper training on how to safely handle suspected cases, types of PPE to have, and the correct way of wearing (donning) and safely removing (doffing) them.

Of course, allowances for all frontline health workers would go a long way towards cushioning them against extra expenses they incur due to reduced transport and eatery services available. Ghana, for instance, has rolled out an insurance scheme and a 50 per cent increase in the wages of frontline health workers from March to June

2020. The same is happening in several other countries.

Personal protection, testing services for frontline health workers should be made available regularly. The physical safety and security needs of frontline health workers should also be ensured. It is unfortunate that during contact tracing, health workers have faced resistance and violence from communities. Their mental health is also paramount. There is evidence from several countries that Covid-19 is taking a toll on the mental wellness of health workers.

This is attributed to burnout due to long working hours, uncertainty about the future of this pandemic, distress in dealing with a large number of critically ill patients, lack of PPEs and fear of contracting the disease in the line of duty. Closely related is the need to address staff shortages that lead to burnout. Given the uniqueness of their work, a special support system for them will ensure that they are available to do what they vowed to do "be devoted towards the welfare of those committed to my care".

Importantly, all of us have to take personal and collective responsibility to prevent and stop the spread of the coronavirus. Adherence to public health guidelines remains the surest way to flatten the curve and control the spread of this disease. Self-isolation if one is unwell, social distancing, regularly washing hands and wearing of masks will not only protect and save our lives but also prevent overwhelming our frontline health workers.

The celebration of the International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife could not have come at a better time. The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has laid bare the critical role that nurses play in the battlefield, often risking their own lives to save ours. That is why we must salute nurses, midwives and other frontline health workers. You are the true heroes and heroines in the fight against Covid-19!

*Nyinyi ndiyo mashujaa wetu wa 2020. We appreciate and celebrate you this year and always.*

*Ms Maithya is a nurse and a lecturer at Amref International University*



Health workers wait for their turn during Kenyatta National Hospital's mass staff testing for Covid-19 on April 14. [Evis Ogina, Standard]

## What should be done to end police brutality

Justin Kimani



Police brutality in Kenya was inherited from the colonial administration. During the colonial time, the sound of a police Land Rover in the rural areas sent everyone scampering into bushes to escape the wrath of the savage white man.

After more than five decades of independence, the Kenyan police should by now have learnt that such brutality has no place in policing.

They should be seeing members of the public, who in fact they are supposed to protect, as friends rather than enemies.

The law enforcement agency must stop engaging in illegal practices and use of excessive force should be eliminated completely.

Unfortunately, brutality continues to be witnessed in virtually all spheres of police work. Police are seen clobbering people during strikes and demonstrations and are also accused of shooting crime suspects. This makes the public to distrust and detest them.

Among police killings that many Kenyans will never forget are those of baby Samantha Pendo and Yasin Moyo. Such brutality goes to prove that the officers have failed to change with the times, despite public outcry and government promises of reforms in the police service.

More ugly cases of police brutality have been witnessed recently during the enforcement of the curfew over the Covid-19 pandemic, a time when anxious Kenyans would want to see reason prevail, rather than such mindlessness.

But what should be done to cure the endless cycle of police brutality?

There should be an overhaul of the police force processes starting from recruitment, training, deployment, retention and discharge.

Recruitment should ensure that only candidates of impeccable integrity and appropriate level of education are picked.

Selection of potential police officers should be purely on merit. Those who pay their way into the force usually seek to

**Only radical reforms will change the public perception that those in police command defend their own when they are wrong**

recover their money by demanding bribes, which sometimes make them to beat up members of the public.

Police training should be reviewed to ensure that what they are taught meets the requirements of modern day policing. In addition, there must be follow-ups to make sure that the officers practice in the field what they are taught while in college.

After such training, officers, for instance, should be monitored to make sure that they do not allow traffic laws to be violated; that they do not allow matatus to park at blind corners, pick passengers at non-designated stops and vehicles overtake with impunity.

Even in ordinary circumstances police presence causes confusion even when traffic lights are working. Riders criss-cross the roads and roundabouts from all sides like locusts, injuring themselves and other road users in the full view of the police officers.

Kristian Williams in 'Our enemies in blue' said the State would let the police to use violence because their brutality does not just happen; it is condoned. It is tolerated by the police themselves, those on the streets and those in command.

Only radical reforms will change the public perception that those in police command defend their own when they are wrong.

There is no point disciplining the junior officers anyway because they were never taught to act differently. If they had, it would not recur every time the police come to the streets.

It is time for an overhaul to rid the force of the old guard.

It is also time to deploy idle police energy to occupations that bring them close to their local communities so that they can understand the need for mutual coexistence with the people they are privileged to serve.

They can be deployed to work alongside those who work in quarries, road construction and those who lay water pipes where they can spend their pent-up energy, which they are always dying to (mis)use in the rare chances when outside camps with guns and batons. Such interactions would also make the public to change its negative perception of the police and encourage coexistence.

The way out of the brutality is therefore not suspension or sacking of errant officers. It should be a drastic process that will get rid of the archaic model of officers infected with corruption and cruelty, and replacing them with ones sourced and trained in a new curriculum.

*Mr Kimani is a consultant in counselling psychology and conflict management and a governance auditor*

Views expressed on this page are not those of The Standard. The Editor reserves the right to edit letters. Correspondents should give their names and address as a sign of good faith, though not necessarily for publication.

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**FROM THE WEB**

**Earth Day 2020**

■ **Anthony Furey:** Covid-19 modelling has not been entirely accurate, and yet climate change modelling has even more inputs and a longer time horizon. So it should now be obvious that it is misguided and even harmful to make big policy choices based on climate projections.



■ **Shamaun Alant:** The world will not be destroyed by those who do evil, but by those who watch them without doing anything." - Albert Einstein

■ **Alex Adison:** It is hard to imagine our life without trees. They produce oxygen and keep the earth green, so let us all pledge to do tree plantation, nourish and grow them for ourselves and future.

■ **Alex Adison:** We need to plant the right trees in numbers, move to sustainable green technologies, cut down on chemicals and pollution, save water and manage human waste better.

**SMS**

■ **Juma G:** A time is coming when Kenyans are going to get tired of Health CS Mutahi Kagwe's singing together with his choir members. What is the strategy? Where are the masks that were donated to us?

■ **Kibet Benard:** CS Mutahi Kagwe and @MOH\_Kenya if indeed those who escape KMTTC quarantine are positive and may risk the lives of many Kenyans, you should publish their names and photos and Kenyans will help you find them. No one is ready to die. Kenyans will speak up.

■ **Free Agent:** President Uhuru Kenyatta and Health CS Mutahi



Kagwe should call out PS Kibicho for vandalising that sanitising booth installed by @MikeSonko and his SonkoRescue Team. It is not this one of the important assets we need right now?

**Economy**

**Protect capital markets from hostile tax Bill**

Capital markets are the greatest wealth creation machines in economic history because before capital is turned into profit, it first creates jobs and transforms the economy by funding production, supply chains, trade, infrastructure and real estate. You cannot restrict capital flows in an economy through disproportionate tax hikes without seriously undermining long-term economic prospects. You cannot slay the goose that lays the golden egg in pursuit of quick gold. While we acknowledge that someone has to pay the bill for shocks brought about by coronavirus, it is not prudent to solve one problem today by creating a bigger one tomorrow. The capital markets must be shielded from a hostile tax regime, lest we come to the painful discovery that Pulitzer Prize-winning author Thomas Friedman was right when he said: "Capital is a coward." The Tax Amendments Bill that is in Parliament could sound the death knell for Kenya's capital markets if allowed to pass in its current form. The Bill, which was introduced in



response to the presidential directive to cushion and stabilise the economy in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, could end up fueling greater economic turmoil if passed. The Bill has problematic sections and omissions that need to be amended. Without these critical amendments, the new tax regime could decimate trading activity on the bourse, undermine Nairobi's place as the regional financial hub, drive away foreign and local investors, lead to massive job losses in the financial industry and cost the country billions if

not trillions of shillings in future economic opportunities. Parliament should not let this happen. Besides harming the financial industry, the Bill also carries significant risks for the government of the day and future. The State, like the financial industry, stands to lose in a major way from a dysfunctional capital market, undermining the need to revise the contentious sections of the Bill. The Bill's proposal to repeal the tax-exempt status of green bonds and infrastructure bonds needs to be rejected. Munsiri Shale

**Letters.**

**Plan for post-coronavirus season during lock-down**

There is no doubt that coronavirus has affected the social lifestyles of Kenyans such that if you walk around the otherwise full towns and shopping centres, you will see just a handful of people. You may even think that we have ghost towns and cities. A good number of PSVs are also parked because the rate of travel has considerably reduced. It is in this situation that I feel we must rethink our social and infrastructure growth. This is the time for the national and county administrations to implement infrastructure development projects like recarpeting roads and renovating bus stages. Let the leaders also mark roads and order business owners with defaced buildings to repaint and those with defective shops to repair them. The matatu owners should take advantage of the lull in the industry and service their vehicles. By now, parents with children in primary and secondary schools have also learnt that e-learning could be the next frontier of our education. Let them (parents) invest in laptops and home computers for their children. I am also sure the parents by now know that our education system is so narrow and it is just fair they introduce their children to additional substance dispensed on the websites. And for parents who used to dodge their family responsibilities, the lock-down must have created a situation for them to bond and renew their calling. The coronavirus epidemic is nasty and has messed the world so bad but I think we should spend more energy planning for the post-corona period now than ever before. As they say, every dark cloud has a silver lining. Let's hope the virus is a passing cloud.  
**Julius Abungana, cleric**



**Compensate families displaced by rail plan**

The SGR, which runs parallel to the narrow gauge Ugandan railway, is a superb project. But as we speak, families that were evicted to pave the way for its construction are yet to be fully compensated. Some are now squatters. In response to the families' cries, the government promised compensation, which is not forthcoming. The compensation was to be done in phases. But the worst thing is that some families have been fully compensated, others only partially while the rest have not received a penny from the State. Most of these families live in abject poverty, hoping against hope that the government will compensate them. Unfortunately, that is turning out to be a nightmare. It is therefore prudent that the State acts quickly to compensate these people now that Covid-19 has added to the equation and is threatening the well-being of these landless groups. The government can also give land to these people, including offering them title deeds as compensation. **Patrick Nzaro, Maseno University**

**TALK OF THE DAY**



**Uhuru speaks on Covid-19 pandemic**

Uhuru withdrew Sh7 billion from Central Bank of Kenya, received Sh7 billion from the WHO, received Sh6 billion from World Bank then other donations like that from Denmark, Jack Ma, all totalling to Sh24 billion. I'm asking on behalf of Kenyans; where is the money? Amedeo Shair

Uhuru's government is treating us as if we are the ones hiding the corona virus antidote. Real Mash

The President has lost touch with Kenyans. It is evident whenever he speaks lately. Majority of Kenyans are no longer interested in what he says. Winning the trust of Kenyans back will be very hard for him. Jackson KE

Exactly what I have been saying. Daily announcements of infected people will not help us. We need a clear road-map on how to contain the pandemic. Health CS Mutahi Kagwe is overrated. Haron Masase

We cannot thank or pay our medics enough. Their services are beyond pay and beyond thanks. But still, no medic should go without pay. They should be paid on time and provided with all required tools to help fight Covid-19. Daniel Maithya

Dear President, please address the issue of Kenyans in China in relation to the current situation. No rent and no food for Kenyans in the midst of this pandemic. How will we battle this? Pauworld

President Uhuru has said KCPE and KCSE examinations will still be held this year. It seems Education CS George Magoha has been lying to the President that all students are learning from home and the Google Loon internet balloons are very helpful. KOT

Reserve is catching up with Africa as result of economic downturn. It will cost Africa due to a sharp decline in output growth as well as steep fall in commodity prices, led by oil. Rent rates will also drop amid Covid-19 pandemic. Carolyn Mbithe

## Court

## Miraa traders sue 10 counties

Miraa traders have taken to court 10 county governments that seized or blocked consignments headed to their areas at the start of the dusk-to-dawn curfew.

Suing through the Nyambene Miraa Trade Association (Nyamita), the traders are seeking High Court orders against Mandera, Kilifi, Isiolo, Lamu, Makueni, Wajir, Kitui, Tharaka-Nithi, Samburu and Tana River county governments, which they accuse of interfering in their business. They say miraa is recognised by the State as a cash crop, so its trade is legitimate.

"The respondents have issued directives of banning the trade, transportation and consumption of a fresh farm produce, commonly referred to as Miraa, illegally, irrationally and in excess of their powers," said the application filed under a certificate of urgency.

The traders claim they are being denied a right to earn a living and are incurring losses as a result of the impounding, destroying and burning of consignments of miraa worth millions of shillings.

"A county government has no powers to enforce any kind of by-law affecting the normal business or existence of a scheduled crop without consulting the national government and the stakeholders of the said crop," the traders claim in their suit papers.

"Mandera County Government further went ahead and obtained an ex-parte court order dated March 24, 2020 at Mandera Senior Principal Magistrates Court to the effect of banning the trade, transport and consumption of miraa within Mandera County," Nyamita claimed in the suit.

Through lawyer Kobia Michabu, they accused the counties of failing to provide proper directives and incentives in regards to harvesting and transportation of fresh farm products within their regions. They are seeking orders to prevent the impounding, detaining and destroying of any consignment of miraa in their counties. [Wainaina Ndung'u]

**Climate change.** Situation has sparked fresh human-wildlife conflict

# Trail of destruction as Lake Victoria waters flood homes

**Several beaches, fish-landing sites, sporting facilities and luxurious homes have been submerged as water levels continued to rise.**

By Harold Odhiambo  
hodhiambo@standardmedia.co.ke

Five years ago, scientists warned about the rising water levels of Lake Victoria, but many people did not take them seriously. Just a few anticipated to live to see this depth of devastation.

It has always been business as usual as investors, residents and other traders scrambled to set up businesses around the lucrative shores of Lake Victoria. Prices of parcels of land around the lake have soared with crops planted in large swathes of adjacent land as residents continued to make a living from the natural resource.

And with no warning, many of those human activities are now submerged in water. Thousands are staring at huge losses as swelling waters continue to displace homes and businesses. Crops, too, have been destroyed and all leisure activities along the shores brought to an abrupt end.

So dire is the situation that several towns and mushrooming trade centres along the lake, including parts of Kisumu City, are facing a threat of being destroyed. Experts and villagers claim their current situation was last witnessed 57 years ago when similar swelling in 1963 destroyed villages.

Raging floods, which have left trails of destruction and swept away villages, has only worsened and is slowly turning into a calamity. Several beaches, fish-landing sites, sporting facilities and luxurious homes have been submerged as water levels continue to rise.



Business premises at Dunga Beach in Kisumu are flooded after Lake Victoria water levels continued to rise and spilled past the shores. [Densh Ochieng, Standard]

The situation has also brought a fresh human-wildlife conflict as the swelling waters destroyed breeding and feeding zones of hippos, which are now forced out to feed in broad daylight just next to homes.

In the last two weeks, officials from Kenya Wildlife Service have killed three hippos in Kisumu after straying into residential areas and threatening the lives of several people.

### Loss of business

A spot check by *The Standard* across several beaches in the affected region found several of the beaches have been rendered inaccessible by the swelling waters.

Only Dunga beach is still standing strong despite the waters submerging several hotels and forcing traders to move up to higher grounds.

Hopes of turning the beach into a landmark fish-eating zone in Kisumu has now gone down the drain with the swol-

### Water Impact

- Swollen lake is barring tourists from accessing the beach hotels and trading points
- Officials from Kenya Wildlife Service have killed three hippos in Kisumu after they strayed out into residential areas
- A fish market, constructed by the county government of Kisumu to promote trade, is inaccessible after it was submerged

len lake barring tourists from accessing the hotels.

A fish market constructed by the county government of Kisumu to promote trade is inaccessible after it was water-logged. Yesterday, a group of fishmongers were wading through the waters after collecting fish from a boat.

Joan Achieng, a hotelier, claimed the waters has robbed her of her hotel and forced her to close it down and turn her attention to fish-hawking to eke a living.

"We are all living in fear because the water levels keep rising every day. It is worse in the afternoons when there are strong tides," said Achieng.

She is among the business people who moved to the beach a few months ago after their hotels at the Lwang'ni beach were brought down by county authorities.

A few metres from where Achieng's hotel stands, other hoteliers are counting losses after spending a fortune to set up new fish eating structures, which are now in water.

Several high-end hotels including golf clubs have also been affected by the rising water levels. At the Nyanza Golf Club, water flowing from the lake has submerged part of the course.

Although the club is cur-

rently closed as a result of Covid-19, golfers will have to shop elsewhere for tee, whenever the health situation improves, as the green is submerged.

Yesterday, Christopher Aum, a scientist with the Kenya Maritime Fisheries Institute told *The Standard* that climate change was the reason behind the swelling waters.

"The waters of Lake Victoria are swelling as a result of climate change. Several rivers are also having levels of water that is draining into the lake," said Aum.

The researcher said they are yet to conduct a study on the lake but compared the current rising water levels to another study conducted on Lake Naivasha, which experienced a similar problem.

### Crops destroyed

The swelling waters have affected almost the entire Nyanza region in areas adjacent to the lake with homes submerged and farm lands destroyed.

The worst affected, however, is Nyando region where several villages have been submerged. They include Nduru, Kadidi and Kamira villages while in Kisumu city, several families have been displaced in Dunga and Nyalenda areas.

Joseph Auko, an elder, who was displaced from his home for the first time since 1963, claimed the situation has destroyed his life.

"It is not clear whether the lake waters will subside so that we can go back to our homes, but we are optimistic nature will have mercy on us," said Auko.

Yesterday, he was among the families that were affected by floods that has now compounded problems for those displaced by the lake.

Scientists, however, paint a gloomy picture on the situation and expect it to worsen because of the pounding rains.

## Accident

## Driver accused of killing policeman is detained

A driver accused of hitting a traffic officer and killing him in Nairobi will be detained for 14 more days to allow investigators file a report on the accident.

Investigating officer Sarah Boella told the court that Justus Bosire was arrested as he tried to repaint his vehicle in order to

conceal the offence.

"Your honour, the deceased was on duty on the fateful day when he tried to stop the accused, who was driving a matatu past the curfew hours. He defied the orders hitting the officer, who died on the spot," said Ms Boella.

The accident happened on

April 6 at around 7:50pm along Kware Kenya Builders road in Nairobi. Bosire, who had gone into hiding, was arrested four days after the accident.

The officer sought more time to conclude investigations as a postmortem examination had not been done. The officer's family

cannot travel to Nairobi due to the restrictions put in place by the government in efforts to curb the spread of coronavirus.

Bosire's lawyer protested the move by the court, saying he should be granted bond to help him get medical help since he was ailing.

"This application is an ambush, is unjustifiable and unreasonable as most of the claims had not been indicated in the affidavit. The investigations ought to have been completed already," his lawyer protested.

The case will be mentioned on April 28. [Lilian Chepkoech]



Justus Bosire at the courts in Nairobi. [Lilian Chepkoech]



## Transform Kenya Virtual Forum - PART 2

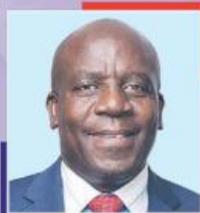
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*What is government and businesses doing to ride the pandemic tide?*

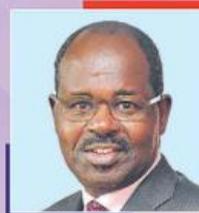
PANELISTS



**Hon. Ukur Yattani**  
Cabinet Secretary,  
The National Treasury



**Charles Mudiwa**  
Chief Executive,  
Stanbic Bank Kenya



**Habil Olaka**  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Kenya Bankers Association



**Henry Rithaa**  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Micro and Small Enterprise Authority (MSEA)



**Jacqueline Mugo**  
Executive Director,  
Federation of Kenya Employers



**Aby Agina**  
Senior Business Anchor, KTN News  
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**In Brief**

**Kisii. Catholic faithful get new vicar general**

■ Kisii Diocese Bishop Joseph Mairura has appointed Apollinaris Masese the new vicar general. He will replace Mons. Jeremiah Nyakundi who has served a five-year term. The new vicar general will now move to Our Lady of Victory Kisii town parish, while Fr Nyakundi moves to head St Andrew Kagwa Suneka, effective from May 1. "I want to express my gratitude to the outgoing vicar general for his dedication and good work in the diocese. We will accompany our new vicar general with prayers," said Bishop Mairura in a letter dated April 21. The vicar general is the highest ranking official in a diocese after the bishop. **[Erick Abuga]**

**Kisumu. Nyong'o risks jail term for contempt**



■ Governor Anyang' Nyong'o (pictured) could spend up to six months in jail for disrespecting court process. Former County Attorney William Omolo has listed the governor for contempt after he ignored a court order which instructed that he (Omolo) be reinstated to work and given full salary and benefits. The Employment court in Kisumu gave Prof Nyong'o 21 days to state why he should not be jailed for the period. Omolo, who served as the County Attorney during former governor Jack Runguma's reign, was sacked in early 2018 after Nyong'o took over the county leadership and created his team of top officials. **[Kevin Omollo]**

**Kisii. County cancels daily market charges**

■ Governor James Ongwae has announced that traders selling vegetables and other food items in open air markets will be exempted from remitting daily taxes to cushion them from hard times caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. Mr Ongwae also suspended Cess fees alongside monthly stickers payments made by Public Service Vehicles (PSV) and motorcycles for three months. In the arrangement, those who delay to pay single business permit will also not be penalised as is the norm. Majority of the traders in Kisii sell their wares on the side of the Kisii-Migori highway after the main market was closed down. They applauded the governor's move as "humane and timely". **[Eric Abuga]**

**Chocking. Parasitic weed takes over fences**



**Invasion.** Nduta Onyango pulls at bits of the golden dodder, a parasitic weed that has taken over the fence around her compound. It is spreading fast in Kasungu West, Homa Bay County, causing panic in a region already grappling with another parasitic weed - the water hyacinth. **[Peter Ochieng, Standard]**

**Nyeri**

**MP hires tailors to produce masks**

Mathira Constituency is hiring 200 tailors to make masks to combat coronavirus in the region. Area MP Rigathi Gachagua said the tailors will be based at Mathira Technical and Vocational College and will work in three shifts until every resident in the area gets a free mask. "We want to support the government's efforts to combat Covid-19 under the National Government Constituencies Development Fund using the emergency kitty. We are in the process of procuring industrial sewing machines and accessories for the task," said Gachagua. The tailors will be required work in eight-hour shifts every day.

The government has made wearing of masks mandatory with penalties of Sh20,000 or six months imprisonment to those who fail to comply. "Unfortunately many of my constituents are unable to acquire masks of the recommended standards because they are struggling to feed their families, which is why we are working to produce masks for each resident in the constituency," he said.

The project is also expected to be an economic stimulus programme by providing employment for hundreds of tailors. "Once the mass production of masks is completed, they shall be distributed door to door. We are asking all qualified tailors to apply to the principal of the college," said Gachagua.

**Economic stimulus**

According to the MP, the government should focus on feeding Kenyans who had complied with the stay-at-home directive because they had lost their source of income. "Kenyans need more than updates on the disease. The Ministry of Agriculture should be outlining a strategy for feeding the country during and after the pandemic," he said.

After the pandemic, the sewing machines will remain at the college's tailoring department for training and making uniforms for schools in the area. **[Lydia Nyawira]**

**Trade.** Farmers from Nzoia, Butali and West Kenya sugar growing zones have been affected

**Cane millers protest illegal sugar imports**

**Millers and farmers say unscrupulous traders are dumping sugar from Uganda in Western region.**

By Moses Nyamori  
mnyamori@standardmedia.co.ke

Sugarcane millers and farmers from the Western belt have protested illegal sugar imports. The stakeholders have claimed that the region has been turned into a dumping market for illegal imports from neighbouring countries, especially Uganda.

They want the Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Authority (AFFA) to come clean on reports about collusion between unscrupulous businessmen and some authorities in the illegal trade.

Nzoia Sugar Company

chairman Joash Wamang'oli said importation of sugar into the country started way before opening of the customs window. The government released custom import licenses last Friday.

It is unfortunate that those importing sugar want to kill the local industries. At this rate, we will not have money to pay our farmers," he said.

Mr Wamang'oli urged AFFA to protect local farmers and millers from the adverse effects of the unlicensed cheap imports.

The authority is mandated to ensure that the country imports sugar which is commensurate with the deficit.

Wamang'oli regretted that cartels have taken advantage of the porous border to flood the country with illegal sugar imports.

He added, "We are calling



**Nzoia Sugar Company Board Chairman Joash Wamang'oli.**  
[File Standard]

upon AFFA to urgently move in to protect our farmers."

He made the remarks as farmers from Nzoia, Butali and West Kenya sugar growing zones said they have incurred huge losses due to the illegal trade.

They said the illegal trade was akin to paying Ugandan farmers and further impoverishing local growers who are already facing numerous challenges afflicting the sugar industry.

The stakeholders noted that the sugar imports are in Bungoma, Mukeny, Masbrago, New Adatia, Kiminini, Kitale, Charangani and Jaralam.

Bungoma Governor Wycliffe Wangamati, who is a member of the Sugar taskforce, warned that opening the sugar importation window could cause prices of the commodity to fall to unprecedented levels. Mr Wangamati urged Agriculture Cabinet Secretary Peter Munya to intervene and cushion farmers from incurring losses.

At the same time, Kenya National Alliance of Sugarcane Farmers Chairman Saulo Busolo said the irregular imports were hurting the troubled sugar sector.

He urged President Uhuru Kenyatta to consider giving a stimulus package to the industry to boost production.

**New measures**

**Farm produce trucks to get clearance from food agency**

Transporters ferrying farm produce will require certification from the Agriculture Food Authority (AFA) to pass through police roadblocks.

In a circular to departments dealing with crops, AFA Interim Director General Anthony Muri-

lithi also ordered that photographs of trucks and their registration numbers be supplied to the authority.

"The stickers will facilitate transportation of agricultural produce destined for export and other markets across the coun-

try," read part of the circular.

Dealers transporting seedlings for planting across counties are also required to apply for the stickers.

The drivers and crew in the vehicles will also be required to submit their personal details to

the regulator for approval.

Mr Muriithi said the new measures will help expose those masquerading as transporters of farm produce to hoodwink police at roadblocks.

"It has been learnt that some rogue traders have been ferrying

passengers across the roadblocks mounted to stop the spread of Covid-19," said Muriithi.

Vehicles found without stickers, he said, would be impounded and the crew charged in court. **[Boniface Gikandi]**



Welcome Home

   @KTNHome

# Talaka

Wednesday - Saturday

7.30pm

Ndoa ni mkataba unaofungamana na mapenzi. Mila ya kutunza bikira kama tuzo ndio changamoto si haba. Kutana na BADOURA, SEMI na ABDI kwenye kipindi chetu mpya TALAKA. Familia zinasambaratika kama hadithi isiyo na mwisho

Watch us on BAMBA 1, Dstv 272, GoTV 92, Zuku 12, Alldan 01, Azam & Continental STD's and Signet

## Surveillance

## Truck drivers protest 'slow Covid-19 tests' at borders

David Maina needs less than 20 minutes to drive his trailer from Amagoro to Malaba Customs where he is cleared by Kenya and Uganda authorities to cross the border. That is on a normal day.

Things are different today, as Mr Maina, who left Nairobi for Malaba border on Monday at

2pm, can attest. He arrived at Kimaeti at around 7pm on Tuesday and spent the night in his truck by the roadside.

He does not know when he will get to the customs for clearance and cross over to Uganda. Maina's frustrations are shared by many truck drivers.

By yesterday, the snarl-up had stretched more than 30km from the Malaba border, as truck drivers waited for mandatory testing for coronavirus by Ugandan authorities.

"We have wasted a lot of time in the queue. Let the Kenyan government try and reason with

their Ugandan counterparts and find a solution to the problem. We are ready to be restricted from getting out of our vehicles when in Uganda," Maina said.

Joshua Ndoka arrived at the Malaba stretch on Monday, and by yesterday he had not moved. "We are covering two kilometres

in four hours. It is very difficult for us to sleep," said Mr Ndoka.

The situation is the same at the Busia border.

The traffic snarl-up in Malaba and Busia caught the attention of three Chief Administrative Secretaries who were in Busia on Tuesday to ascertain the state of pre-

paredness for coronavirus.

The CASs Hussein Dhado (Interior and Coordination), Rashid Aman (Health) and Chris Obure (Transport) regretted the long queues. "It is dangerous to have such a long queue of trailers parked on the road," said Mr Dhado. [Ignatius Odanga]

**Infrastructure.** Agony as a local lifeline is severed

# Villages cut off after colonial bridge built to fight the Mau Mau collapses

**Fares to markets triple; desperate locals risk life and limb to cross the swollen River Sagana.**

By Lydiah Nyawira  
nyawira@standardmedia.co.ke

The collapse of a bridge constructed in the colonial era has cut off scores of villagers from local markets and farms. The bridge, at the border between Nyeri Town and Mathira constituencies, collapsed as a heavy truck from a

Chinese construction firm was crossing it.

The bridge buckled under the weight of the truck, plunging the vehicle into the river. The truck driver was saved from drowning by a farmer working in a nearby farm.

The bridge was put up in the 1950s by the British at the height of the Mau Mau war for independence.

Long after independence, the metallic bridge has been a lifeline for villagers who often trade with each other and farm on both sides of the river.

It also served as a shortcut to trans-



A woman clings to the rails of the collapsed bridge to cross River Sagana. The bridge, which connects Nyeri Town and Mathira constituencies, collapsed two weeks ago. (Kibata Kihu, Standard)



## INVITATION TO TENDER

Madogo Water Resources Association (WRUA) has received funds from water Sector Trust Fund (WSTF) a state corporation under ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation to implement a civil/ water works project under the Water Resources And Climate Change Investment. The WRUA hereby invite eligible firms to undertake the following works;

No Tender No. and Type	Pre tender site visit
1 MADOGOWRUA/T/01/2019-2020 Construction of 30,000M3 Water pan, 2NO. standard animal trough and 10M dug well.	23/04/2020

The tendering process shall be conducted through National Open Tender as stipulated in the Public Procurement and assets Disposal act 2015.

Interested and eligible bidders can inspect and obtain further information on the Tender document at the address given below, on official working days and hours (Monday to Friday from 0800hrs to 1700hrs) except on public holidays.

The tender document with detailed specifications can be obtained upon payment of non-refundable fee of kshs 1000 for each document payable to Madogo Water Resources Users Association Kenya commercial, Garissa branch A/C No.1234915731 during working hours.

Complete tender document in a plain seal envelope completely marked with **tender name and reference number** should be deposited in the tender box place at Madogo Water Resources Users Association office behind Marm's Guest house in Madogo town along Garissa- Nairobi highway On or before **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2020 at 1000hrs** and be addressed to;

**The Chairperson,  
Madogo Water Resources Users Association,  
P.O Box 823-70100,  
Garissa.**

Tenders shall be opened thereafter immediately at the Madogo WRUA office in the presence of bidders or their representatives who choose to attend.

port building materials from the quarries at Mikundi in Mathira and Kirichu village in Nyeri town. The quarries have now been cut off.

Villagers are risking their lives daily trying to cross the river. Some are still using the collapsed bridge, which hangs precariously halfway submerged in the river while others attempt to wade across.

The economies of entire villages has been hurt by the collapse of the bridge.

Gichohi Macharia, a resident of Mikundi village, said fares to and from Kirichu market have tripled, locking out many villagers from markets.

"We have relatives and businesses on either side of the river; most of us now have to travel to Kirichu market through Chaka or Marua towns, which is almost an hour away," said Macharia.

Boda boda riders are now charging as high as Sh300 for a trip to the market instead of Sh50.

Villagers say the collapse of the bridge has made life unbearable.

"We rely on each other as neighbours; they need firewood and food in Mikundi village while the villagers in Kirichu need produce for their market," he explained. Others who cannot afford to use a longer route to the market risk life and limb to balance their way across the collapsed bridge.

Rahab Wanjiru has been making the

trip across the bridge every day in search of vegetables to sell at her stall.

She still uses the collapsed bridge, carefully holding on to the rails with the sack of spinach on her back, knowing that a wrong step would send her plunging into the cold waters of the Sagana River.

"I do not have a choice. I have to cross to get stock for my stall or my family will go hungry. We hope they will put up a foot bridge because many elderly women cannot make it across," she said.

County executive for infrastructure Muthui Kariuki said the county was tendering for the reconstruction of the bridge but had reached out to a contractor to set up an emergency foot bridge.

"Constructing a bridge is not a

**"We have relatives and businesses on either side of the river, most of us now have to travel to Kirichu market through Chaka or Marua towns, which is almost an hour away."**

Gichohi Macharia, resident

straightforward process, but we shall have the contractor on site this week; as soon as the tendering process is complete we will begin reconstruction," Kariuki said.

The bridge has a rich history. It was constructed by the British to help soldiers cross to Kirichu village from their camp in Gatanyaga village in Mathira Constituency at the height of the Mau Mau war in the 1950s.

Villagers called it *Iriuko ria johnnie* (A crossing point for white soldiers), but long before it was constructed the place where it stood was a watering and bathing point for locals.

"This is the safest place to cross; it is the point where rivers Sagana, Thegu and Nairobi converge and was a public watering spot where women would fetch water and wash their clothes while boys swam and bathed," said Matherge wa Iregi, a village elder.

However, during the war for independence, the British soldiers are reported to have suffered heavy losses at the hands of the Mau Mau at the spot, as the freedom fighters would lay ambush and disappear into the forest.

It was then that the bridge was put up. "It provided the British soldiers a shortcut between the village and the forest. It took them to Mau Mau hide-outs in the forest," said Wa Iregi.



**Movie streaming heats up.** Netflix has seen subscriber numbers surge this year, as lockdowns around the world keep people at home where they want to be entertained. Almost 16 million people created accounts in the first three months of the year, the firm said. That is almost double the new sign-ups it saw in the final months of 2019. However, the streaming service, which is behind some multi-million dollar productions, said shutdowns have halted "almost all" filming around the world. And sharp declines in the value of many currencies has meant new subscribers outside of the US, where Netflix is based, are not worth as much to the company as they would have been before the crisis. And that has hurt its international revenue growth. Nevertheless, the home-entertainment giant's share price has climbed more than 30 per cent this year as investors bet on its ability to benefit from people spending more time indoors. [BBC]

# Home & Away

**The Real Deal in Real Estate**



## Tenants against the wall as Covid-19 bites

**With no law that would compel landlords to suspend rent, there is little space to turn for workers who are now jobless and without income.**

By Mwangi Mulruri  
homeandaway@standardmedia.co.ke

As the coronavirus pandemic continues to ravage the nation with devastating economic results, low and middle-income tenants have found themselves at the landlord's gallotline.

They are now at the mercy of property owners and even various tenant lobbies do not appear enthusiastic to

defend them.

Investment company Cytorm has since warned that rental yields will suffer for the period that Covid-19 persists and stakeholders were better off evaluating the damage to be incurred and start laying a recovery strategy.

"Many tenants will not meet their rental obligation for the period the scourge persists. New developments will stall and the future of real estate will be challenged," said the firm's Wahu Waceke during an interview with a local TV station.

"This is the time to inculcate goodwill among stakeholders, understanding and compassion. Broadly, we are in this as a nation, not as individuals."

She, however, said the decision to waive rent or allow arrears to accumulate for the period of the crisis "is not a legal provision but personal discretion of the landlord".

Urban Tenants Association of Kenya (Utaki) Secretary General Ephraim Muri-go says there is no other honest advice to give to the tenants other than to "kindly pay your rental bills".

He told *Home & Away* that there is no way one can "compel a tenant not to pay rent as per the existing contractual agreements between them and their landlords".

"Unless in your rental agreements there is a clause that states expressly that in times of national tragedies your rental obligation shall remain suspended, the painful reality is that in the absence of such clause, the tenant will be at the mercy of the landlords," he said.

"There are considerate landlords who have taken it upon themselves to exercise acts of mercy to their tenants in the face of this pandemic by way of reducing or suspending rents."

Mr Muri-go said it is upon individual tenants to audit themselves financially and adjust as per the available resources.

"If you were, for example, paying a monthly rent of Sh5,000 and the coronavirus scourge has reduced that figure, it were better that you relocated to rental zones commensurate with what you can afford to pay," he said.

"If you defy the reality, then you will only have yourself to blame in the event that you find your children kicked out of your rental space."

**Continues on Page 24**

## Ease burden

## Institute wants KRA to waive rental tax



The government should remove the 10 per cent rental income tax due on residential buildings to ease the burden on landlords, Institution of Surveyors of Kenya (ISK) has said.

The institute says that would prompt landlords to pass on the benefits to tenants, most of whom are facing a torrid time due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The government should also reduce value-added tax (VAT) on commercial buildings.

There has been an outcry from the public over payment of rent as the economic slowdown renders a lot of them unable to honour payments.

Some landlords have come out to waive rents, with others negotiating terms to reduce the amounts due from tenants.

But most are quiet, prompting some calls for tenants to boycott payment, something the ISK advises against.

"We have learnt through the Press that some groups are advising tenants against paying their rents until further notice. We caution that such remarks are uncalled for and are likely to precipitate chaos with dire consequences to the real estate sector," said ISK in a statement to newsmen yesterday.

"We therefore ask members of public to ignore such remarks and the government to rein in on such elements to protect security rights as enshrined in the Constitution and law."

The battle between landlords and the Kenya Revenue Authority over payment of rental income tax has been raging, with the tax collector hot on the heels of dodgy defaulters.

The institute, whose membership includes registered real estate agents and property managers, further said it supported dialogue between property owners and renters where waivers of rents, or renegotiation of terms, would be discussed.

"It is worth noting that landlords, just like tenants, have been affected by the ongoing crisis. Property investment is a business like any other, with many owners relying on rents to meet their personal obligations," said the ISK statement.

"The investors include retirees, the elderly and pensioners."

In addition, it said, the property owners are expected to service their loans and mortgages among other obligations. [Peter Theuri]

**Intervention.** Government says it cannot dictate pricing in the private sector

## Tenants boxed in by job losses, rent dues



Residents of a high-rise block watch events unfold after an accident in Nairobi's Huruma. [Right] A notice sent to tenants reminding them of their obligations to the landlord. [Colins Kweyu and File]

Continued from Page 23

This advice has not been taken lightly by some tenants with Mercy Mwendu from Mukuru kwa Reuben slums in Nairobi dismissing it as "stinky."

She says she was selling fruits at Park Road in Nairobi but she has now been rendered jobless after the government ordered her to suspend business.

"This suspension of business is for the period that this coronavirus will be around our social and economic lives, we do not know up to when, I pay a monthly rent of Sh800 and other household budget. I have to raise Sh5,000 per month to survive," she told Home & Away.

"I cannot raise Sh800 for my rent. Murigo is advising me to relocate to what free abode commensurate with my current financial status?"

Agnes Nyambura, a mother of two and a barmaid in Murang'a town whose services have been rendered suspended by the pandemic, is in her second month without a job.

"I don't even know when we will resume our jobs. We are not asking for free accommodation...all we are

asking for are lenient terms of paying our landlords," she says.

Ms Nyambura says she only wants her landlord to understand that it is hectic enough putting a meal on the table.

"In that reality, I just want my landlord to know that I know I'm indebted to pay rent. But it is my obligation to pay. But I should be given time to manoeuvre through the issue," she says.

"When the viral disease will be defeated, the landlord will know. When I resume my job, the landlord will know and just like the way I was dutiful all along in paying rent, I will resume paying."

Interior Principal Secretary Karanja Kibicho says while it is at the landlords' discretion to decide terms of engagement with their tenants, what will not be tolerated will be disregard for the rule of law.

"We have the laws guiding such engagements...We have the set procedure for pressing for rental yields. We also have the procedures that guide evictions for non-payments," he said.

"No landlord will be allowed to act outside the law in this crisis, the same way no tenant who will be allowed to

act outside the law."

The PS said the government will only act as a fair arbitrator in all disputes that will ensue, adding that "fair play is a key component in arbitrations where all circumstances will be laid bare."

Council of Governors (CoG) Deputy Chairman Mwangi wa Iria says the plight of tenants has been categorised by the counties as a common issue of concern.

"We cannot push landlords to forfeit their incomes through giving out free accommodation but we can reason with them to understand that currently these are not ordinary times. We are going through a crisis as a nation and tenants should not bear the brunt of it," he told Home & Away.

He said tenancy in urban centres is well defined and more interest should be concentrated on low income earners in informal settlements.

"These tenants are not only cash-strapped but are also hungry and scared of this Covid-19 threat. While we will ensure that they get food rations and protect them to the best of our abilities against the scourge, the landlord should play the humane face and relax on rental demand," said Mr Wa Iria.

"We as CoG have resolved to work with low-income residential landlords to see what we can waive for them so that they too can feel encouraged to go easy on rental demands," he said.

According to National Treasury Cabinet Secretary Ukur Yatani, the government has no intention to dictate pricing in the private sector, and its duty will be limited to facilitating availability of more disposable incomes to cushion consumers against inflation.

He said slashing of value-added tax from 16 to 14 per cent as well as removal of income tax for those earning Sh24,000 and reductions for other income groups are measures intended to increase purchasing power of the beneficiaries.

"The best we can do is to make a passionate appeal to our landlords to exercise empathy with Kenyans at the lower cadre who have found the Covid-19 pandemic suspending their incomes," the CS said.

He ruled out a direct call or even pushing for legislation for landlords to reduce or suspend rent, arguing that it would be a direct affront to the sector that is currently grappling with a myriad of challenges.

Gerald Odihambo of Bunge la Mwananchi termed the government's approach to the plight of tenants "timid and noncommittal."

He cited the case of New York and California states in America that have temporarily banned eviction of tenants, with landlords being encouraged to revise payments plans.

He told Home & Away that what the government should have done was push for a reduction of rent through direct interventions "like waiving landlords' power and water bills as well as suspension of land rates."

Odihambo says the government has abandoned the vulnerable tenant to joblessness, hunger and lack of shelter.

"This is wrong. It is complicity to dehumanise the vulnerable tenants and the government as the duty bearer has to be held directly responsible for all cases of landlords' thuggery against tenants especially now that some of them are removing roofing, windows and doors from the houses of defaulting tenants," he said.

He said some landlords have taken undue advantage of the pandemic to kick out tenants out of their houses "so that they can proceed to introduce higher rental rates to new tenants once the scourge is defeated."

**Planning.** Residents lack basic amenities such as sewerage infrastructure

# Why Murang'a hub is losing investors

**A once high-ranking municipality, Maragua has become the gangster capital and town is now unattractive to new businesses.**

By Mwangi Mulriri  
 homeandaway@standardmedia.co.ke

Maragua, a town that once held so much promise, is in decline.

Only 75km north of Nairobi, the municipality was ranked only second to Murang'a town in importance to the county's administrative planning. It has now been edged out by new kids on the block such as Kiria-ini, Kangema and Kangari.

The town's wayward ways seem to have finally choked the life out of it, with new investors now shying away.

Rampant crime - from petty burglaries to violent robbery and kidnapping - widespread substance abuse and lack of key

amenities have all played a part in degrading Maragua, despite a huge cashflow from businesses.

The area's chamber of commerce estimates that between Sh20 million and Sh65 million changes hands daily, but crime has denied the residents the services of the mainstream banks and they mostly rely on

**"We have more than 20 bhang sellers whose base is downtown, and chang'aa traders who have strategic dens in Mathare, Rurii and Boarder estates, with their managers occupying Soweto estate."**

Joseph Lwanga

local savings and credit societies.

Former Maragua MP Elias Mbau admits that the area is notorious for crime, with even police officers involved.

"In my tenure, some officers attached to Maragua and Gakio-go police stations were implicated in criminal activities and when I pushed for them to be kicked out of the area, the town would get a temporary reprieve until the network regrouped again," he told *Home & Away*.

The town's Central Business District is dominated by bars, lodgings and illicit sex and drug dens are the most profitable activities.

"We have more than 20 bhang sellers whose base is downtown, and chang'aa traders who have strategic dens in Mathare, Rurii and Boarder estates with their managers occupying Soweto estate," says Joseph Lwanga, chairman of Small and Medium Enterprises Welfare Union in the town.



A building that once housed Barclays Bank in Maragua Town lies abandoned 20 years later. (Mwangi Muriri, Standard)

Current area MP Mary Waitim (Wa Mau) says in addition to getting rid of crime, the town needs proper planning and sewerage infrastructure so as to rediscover investment appeal.

## Sh20m

**Minimum amount that circulates around Maragua town daily, according to chamber of commerce.**

"This town gets flooded when it rains. Landlords do not have any sewerage disposal infrastructure and there is no reliable clean water supply. It is a town where tenants are seen fetching water from all manner of risky water sources in the bush," she says, challenging the county government to address the issue.

Mr Mbau says the town's landlords also need to embrace modern buildings so as to give the town flexible investments.

"Most of the buildings are old fashioned and were designed either to be let to shopkeepers or residential tenants. Investors who wish to engage in other businesses have to redesign the buildings at their own cost, hence turning them off," he says.

When coronavirus trade restrictions were introduced and entertainment joints closed, area Deputy County Commissioner Mawira Mawinga - a teetotaler - disguised himself as a customer and ordered a beer so as to effect an arrest after he received complaints that a certain bar was open to

revellers.

"Even after I kept on asking from my ground officers about public complaints that the bar was operating, I was being fed lies. I had to show up in the town so as to ascertain who was telling the truth and unfortunately, my officers were lying to me," he said at Maragua police station.

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### Is it still safe to invest in Real Estate?

*"Real estate cannot be lost or stolen, nor can it be carried away. Purchased with common sense, paid for in full, and managed with reasonable care, it is about the safest investment in the world." - Franklin D. Roosevelt.*

The novel corona virus is a global pandemic that has taken the world by storm. Lots of people are in turmoil over it as borders have been closed, economies shut down and industries are putting themselves on pause and all manner of small businesses are taking hits. The real estate industry has also felt the heatwave of the virus as many buyers are being cautious during this volatile period.

So, your down payment was safely in cash, you'd planned, perhaps for years, for the 2020 home-buying or real estate investing season. Then, just as you identified your perfect house or apartment in the market, the coronavirus turned the world on its head.

**Should you go through with the purchase?**

Assuming you have the money, can afford a mortgage and the other costs involved and your job or business is not in danger, then yes.

There is so much we don't know about what the next few months will bring, including whether it will even be over in the next few months. But one thing is certain, the virus will clear and the markets will recover and get back to the usual way. So, the question is, what do I need to be doing during this time as a real estate investor? If data from the past is anything to go by then these are integral tips that will help you make the right move during this pandemic and when the dust settles, you will be standing tall.

**Panic sales**

A pandemic that lasts for a long period normally causes panic sales. People liquidate their assets to ensure cash flow to take them through the pandemic. Developers will be putting their properties on offers, so as an investor you should be on the lookout for properties that are put on sale during this period.

It's not as if anybody selling is suddenly going to step up and say, 'oh sure, I could have sold this property for 10 million but because of what is happening and I am afraid, you can buy it for 5 million, but It's definitely a good time to shop around, get and a good rate."

**Market Strength**

The real estate industry has developed a lot of autonomy over the years. A crisis like this has caused major businesses within the service sector to suspend activities. The real estate market, however, has slowed down but not at the rate other industries have been forced to do.

**Information is Key**

Knowledge, during this time, is power. Having the latest information on available properties will be highly sought-after knowledge. Now's the time to innovate and hunt because there will be opportunities.

**Conclusion**

A pandemic causes a lot of changes in every industry. As much as some negative change occurs, there are always new opportunities created at the same time. Real estate is still a safe means of investment. As the famous saying goes, "Tough times don't last, tough people do."

So, if want to invest in real estate, don't quit, keep making those calls, compare properties while staying safe. Be alert so you can ride through this wave successfully. Whether all is well or not, the bottom-line is, investing in real estate is smart because property is tangible. People always have, and always will, need shelter. This means it is very unlikely that the need for shelter will ever go away."

And if all of this talk of risk-taking gives you more anxiety than you'd like to admit, fear not, time is on your side. You can reach out to us on [sema@kwea.ke](mailto:sema@kwea.ke) for more information or reach out to your real estate consultant for advice.

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**Informal economies.** The nature of jobs across continent means that working from home is not an option

# Shaping Africa's cities to combat future pandemics

The high population of people in urban areas is giving authorities a hard time in controlling the spread of Covid-19.

By Astrid Haas  
The Conversation

The power of cities comes from the number of interactions they enable, between people, firms and markets - they are centres of social interaction.

For all their virtues, however, cities have a major downside. They are a fertile ground for contagion, such as the rapid spread of Covid-19. This is because cities are by definition places of density, with large numbers of people living and interacting in close proximity.

Furthermore, many cities are deeply embedded in national, regional and global networks. This is embodied by infrastructural features such as airports, ports and other transport terminals ferrying goods and people at a high frequency.

As such, the potential for transmission rates of Covid-19 within them may be far higher relative to national averages.

This is aptly illustrated by New York City, which already accounts for approximately half of all known cases in the US. Perhaps even more shocking, it accounted for five per cent of all confirmed cases in the world - and it is just one city of about 8.6 million people.

## Few amenities

Given the characteristics of many African cities, the situation, without appropriate mitigation measures, could be far worse. For example, density levels in certain parts of African cities, most notably in slums and other informal settlements, may be even higher than New York's.

It is estimated that about two-thirds of Nairobi's population lives on just six per cent of its land. In Kampala, 71 per cent of households sleep in a single room.

These congested settlements have few amenities. Only an estimated 56 per cent of the urban population in sub-Saharan Africa have access to piped water. And even those with access, they can spend 30 minutes or



A man pulls a handcart loaded with metal bars in Nairobi's Mukuru wa Reuben slum. Informal settlements are particularly vulnerable to the spread of pandemics. (Stafford Onyego, Standard)

longer sourcing it.

This begs the question whether frequent hand-washing - one of two of the main measures to prevent transmission - is even feasible. The same goes for social distancing, the second recommended preventative measure, both given density and also because it runs contrary to many African societal norms, which are inherently deeply communal.

At the same time, one of the drivers of rural-urban migration in Africa is the relatively better access to services in the city. This includes health services.

Data from the countries with already well-developed and funded health systems show that they are experiencing immense strain with Covid-19 patients.

In the US, it is predicted that at least 200,000 intensive care unit (ICU) beds will be needed in the case of a moderate outbreak. The whole of Uganda on the other hand has 55 ICU beds in 12 operational units.

It is clear that with similar infection rates African health systems would collapse. Yet people are still more likely to be treated in urban areas. In Uganda's case, 80 per cent of these ICU beds are located in Kampala.

To reinforce social-distancing, many governments in Europe and US are enforcing strict temporary lockdown measures. African governments, which still lag behind in terms of the known

## Reinvention

- Cities across the globe and throughout history have adapted and reinvented themselves in the face of crisis and disaster
- Some analysts are predicting that cities in the US will emerge and be reshaped by this crisis; for example, as a result of people working from home
- This means the need for centrally located offices will diminish
- In Africa, it may be that, in the aftermath of the crisis, rural-urban migration actually increases as people flock to cities in search of more economic opportunities

infection rate, are quickly following suit - some with even harsher measures.

Given that urban centres are major economic nodes they will naturally bear a disproportionate economic burden of any lockdowns. This effect will rapidly percolate through the whole economy.

Urban dwellers working in the informal sector will be the first and potentially some of the hardest hit. About 85 per cent of workers do not receive a reported wage. Rather in many African cities, the majority earn their daily keep from the

informal service sector, particularly selling or providing manual labour.

Here there is no option to work from home: both because of the lack of necessary infrastructure such as power and more importantly because their jobs are predicated on face-to-face interactions.

Even though they are working, their daily earnings are small. In Kampala, for example, a survey of informal sector firms showed that 93 per cent of them are already operating below the poverty line. Therefore lockdowns, for these populations, will mean not earning a wage and affect their survival.

This is exacerbated as urban populations are largely beholden to food prices, given in general they are not able to grow their own food. Early indications already show that some countries like Ghana have seen a rise in food prices by nearly 30 per cent already due to panic buying and disruptions in food supply chains.

This is particularly worrisome for some countries already concerned about a food crisis this year, due to the plague of locusts affecting supplies. With the timelines of the overall Covid-19 crisis remaining unclear, feeding one's family, particularly in urban areas, with no income and rising prices is already becoming an increasing struggle.

Lockdowns may support

curbing transmissions, but by potentially pushing millions more people across the continent below the poverty line, it could have other detrimental, and potentially worse, longer-lasting effects beyond the health impact.

Therefore, reshaping African cities in the pandemic's aftermath to ensure they can be engines of economic growth in the future, will be key.

## Rural-urban migration

Some analysts are predicting that cities in the US will emerge and be reshaped by this crisis; for example, as a result of people working from home. This means the need for centrally located offices will diminish.

The nature of jobs is different in African cities. Working from home is not likely to be an option. Rather, it may even be that, in the aftermath of the crisis, rural-urban migration actually increases as people flock to cities in search of more economic opportunities.

Preparing for this by ensuring urbanisation is well managed will be critical to providing the engine to ramping up national economic growth.

A critical element of this is the need for cities to invest in productive infrastructure, focused on improving health outcomes. This includes water and sewage infrastructure as well as increasing the number of health facilities.

## History

# The medieval city designed on quarantine

Since ancient times, societies have attempted to separate people with disease from those who remained unaffected, with references to self-isolation dating back to the Old Testament.

As Covid-19 sweeps across the globe, we are advised to "self-quarantine" if we have recently returned from a part of the world where the virus is rapidly spreading, or if we have knowingly come into contact with an infected person.

To understand the importance of self-quarantining during this modern-day pandemic, it is helpful to look back to the history of the word "quarantine" itself, which traces its origins to medieval Europe.

The word "quarantine" has Italian roots. In an effort to protect coastal cities from the Black Death ravaging 14th-Century Europe, ships arriving in Venice from infected ports were required to sit at anchor for 40 days (quarant'a giorni) before landing, a practice that eventually became known as quarantine.

In 1374, a proclamation was issued in Venice that stated all ships and passengers had to be stationed on the nearby island of San Lazzaro until the special health council gave them permission to enter the city.

"This led to the discrimination of ships and travellers from certain countries as well as other wrongdoing that was occurring in Venice regularly," writes co-author Ante Milošević in Lazareto in Dubrovnik: The Beginning of the Quarantine Regulation in Europe.

Across the Adriatic Sea in Ragusa (present-day Dubrovnik, Croatia), however, the city's Great Council passed a ground-breaking law in 1377 to prevent the spread of the pandemic, requiring all incoming ships and trade caravans arriving from infected areas to submit to 30 days of isolation.

The legislation stipulated that anyone coming from pernicious places had to spend a month in the nearby town of Cavtat or the island of Mrkan for the purpose of disinfection before entering the medieval walled city.

"Hence, Dubrovnik implemented a method that was not only just and fair, but also very wise and successful, and it prevailed around the world," Milošević writes.

Co-author Ana Bakija-Konsuo added that Dubrovnik was the first Mediterranean port to sequester people, animals and merchandise coming from infected areas by sea or land, keeping them separate from the healthy population, while Venice stopped all ships and trade, halting life in the city.

The Ragusan Republic imposed very strict punishments and fines for offenders who did not follow the 30-day quarantine law. In the beginning, quarantine was 30 days, but it was eventually prolonged to 40 days as in Venice. [BBC]

Aerial view of Dubrovnik, Croatia. [Courtesy]



# Higher Education

## CORPORATE SCENE

### It is non-stop studies at St. Paul's University as e-learning takes effect

By Gerard Mutunga  
Gnyele@standardmedia.co.ke

**S**t Paul's University has announced new measures to mitigate prolonged closure of the facility due to government directive to close all training institutions in the country in the wake of the Covid-19.

In an interview with the institution's Vice Chancellor Professor Joseph Galgalo confirmed that a communication had been sent to the students and other stakeholders confirming that all the academic programmes were now online or virtual.

A memo signed and sent to students and staff by the Deputy Vice Chancellor - Academic Affairs Prof. Peter Ngiro, the University announced a complete switch to distance and E-learning as the new mode of study in May-August Semester and going forward until the Covid-19 issue is resolved.

"The University has considered and planned meticulously ways in which it will prepare students and staff to adopt the E-learning mode of study. Students have been urged to take note of that. The university has been teaching over 500 students on Distance and E-learning mode of study since the directorate of Open and Distance learning was launched in 2012. Due to Covid-19, the over 6,000 students now will be expected to enroll on the same mode of study for the May-August Semester.

"Our ICT department is currently registering all active students on the portal. Once this is done, we will invite all students to log in and be oriented on how to use the platform. The platform is configured in a way that is learner friendly and very easy to navigate," explained Ngiro.

"To prepare students for e-learning, the Directorate of Open and Distance Learning have been offering training for Bachelor of Education, Modular Postgraduate, and the Bachelor of Divinity modular students from 14th April 2020. The training will be deployed online through a PowerPoint presentation with snapshot of what to expect, and an audio tutorial," he added.

The interactive training programme, "SPU E-learning Portal" (St Paul's University E-learning portal), will enable students access and download course outlines, lecture notes, videos among other content. They also will be able to chat with peers and the lecturers, submit assignments and term paper among others.

In addition, "helpline to support for users will be available on a 24hour basis."

The institution has attributed its move to the unpredictability of how long the current closure may take.

Several measures have been employed to ensure completion of previous semester that took a break before it could be concluded.

Prof. Galgalo said plans are underway on how examinations will be conducted online at the beginning of the month of May 2020. We advise that students to continue preparing for the exams since learning for January - April semester concluded successfully and examinations is ready to be administered.

He explained that "for the online modes, we intend to use our Moodle platform, which has worked effectively for the delivery of our ODEL and has sufficient capacity for as many of our regular students as needed to switch to it. Our library remote access platform is available to all our registered students and can be accessed remotely from anywhere if you have internet connection."

The university joins a list of other learning institutions who have turned to online training to avoid major disruptions in their 2020 education calendar.



Prof. Joseph Galgalo, Vice Chancellor St. Paul's University



Guaranty Trust Bank (Kenya) Ltd donated classroom and dining room furniture to Rescue Dada Centre, forming part of the Bank's 2020 CSR initiatives. The official donation ceremony took place recently at the Centre located off Park Road, Ngara, Nairobi.



Medical students from Kenyatta University review a ventilator machine at the Chandaria Innovation and Incubation center. The institution's medical students have developed a ventilator prototype which could be a game changer in the deadly war against Covid-19 in the country especially this time that ventilators are scarce globally due to the surging number of infections. The university's director of Phototherapeutics Research Centre Prof. Nicholas Gikonyo said the invention was in response to the government's plea for local institutions to come with homegrown solutions to the crisis and other emerging health challenges.



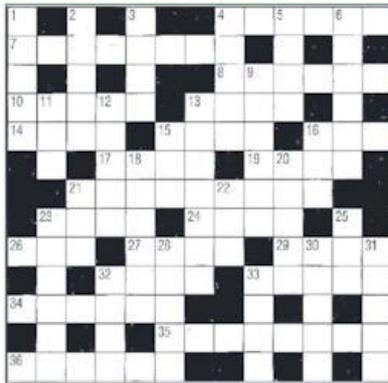
Nyeri National Polytechnic's students being instructed on how to operate an engine lifting machine. A number of youth have opted for TVET programmes in various national and technical training institutions as their first option in pursuit of higher education. [Photo: Kibata Kilu/Standard]



National Industrial Training Authority (NITA) staff at the NITA Textile Training Institute laying and cutting masks for stitching into facemasks as the Authority's Corporate Social Responsibility in the fight against the COVID-19 Pandemic. The staff are pictured with the Authority's Ag. Director General Mr. Stephen Ogenga (center) and the Centre Manager Mr. Festus Musyoki.

EASY CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**  
 4. Nullify (6)  
 7. Food of the gods (8)  
 8. Married Spanish woman (6)  
 10. Noblemen (5)  
 13. Suspend (4)  
 14. Satisfy (4)  
 15. Flash of lightning (4)  
 16. Jewel (3)  
 17. Group of three (4)  
 19. Cupid (4)  
 21. Flowed windingly (9)  
 23. Indian dress (4)  
 24. Girl (4)  
 26. Faucet (3)  
 27. Pronounce indistinctly (4)  
 29. Eye part (4)  
 32. Thailand, formerly (4)  
 33. Trap (5)  
 34. Study of plants (6)  
 35. Alienate (8)  
 36. Public speaker (6)
- DOWN**  
 1. Opposite of heads (5)  
 2. Terminate prematurely (5)  
 3. Decomposes (4)  
 4. Of the nose (5)  
 5. Medal, slang (4)  
 6. Conservatives (6)  
 9. Goes in (6)  
 11. Rowing blade (4)  
 12. Discourage (5)  
 15. Put rubbish in this (3)  
 16. Delity (3)  
 18. Dried grape (6)  
 20. Tree sap (5)  
 21. Orienteering item (3)  
 22. Wheat spike, formerly (4)  
 23. Relish (6)  
 25. Tree type (3)  
 28. Stratrum (5)  
 30. Wet or showery (5)  
 31. Main drain (5)  
 32. Condiment (4)  
 33. Ride on waves (4)



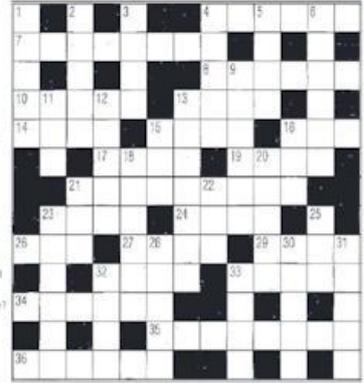
Wednesday's solution

**ACROSS:** 1. Scampi 7. Corridor 8. Silo 10. Leaden 11. Ankara 14. Get 16. Oiled 17. Soon 19. Debut 21. Bacon 22. Elbow 23. Rasp 26. Adore 28. Tub 29. Solemn 30. Select 31. Heel 32. Envisage 33. Duster

**DOWN:** 1. Skits 2. Maiden 3. Icon 4. Pronoun 5. Ideal 6. Bread 8. Sago 9. Let 12. Kit 13. Raaps 15. Decoy 18. Outdo 19. Dab 20. Bow 21. Blemish 22. Ere 23. Rulers 24. Abel 25. Putter 26. Ashes 27. Olive 28. Tee 30. Shed.

CRYPTIC PUZZLE

- ACROSS**  
 4. Strong? Very much so! (6)  
 7. Canada's main boat-building province? (6)  
 8. What gold needs to be (6)  
 10. Like the water to jump across? (5)  
 13. Click with James (4)  
 14. Its possible link is with heat treatment (4)  
 15. Views for suckers? (4)  
 16. Young Hawkins is in the gen, we're told (3)  
 17. Piece of gearing in an Austria (4)  
 18. Computer picture of Silicon Valley (4)  
 23. Make the coffee spill instantly! (6-5)  
 23. Hospital for cats? (4)  
 24. Two-dimensional cube? (4)  
 26. Normal knowledge (3)  
 27. Bacon: way of what has some sort of meat (4)  
 28. Catch only in part? (4)  
 32. No inclined to look after things (4)  
 33. I've been meandering around in (4)  
 34. Choose to figure in a dog's deed (6)  
 35. Bachelors who can give you tips about an actress (8)  
 36. Be very sorry, but it's weak there! (6)
- DOWN**  
 1. (Take many as being in the bag) (5)  
 2. A hacker with spirit? (5)  
 3. Jug of pondage? (4)  
 4. His partner is less madly (5)  
 5. A lucky strike at archery? (4)  
 6. Its function is to fix a match? (6)  
 9. At heart, Eric's upset (6)  
 11. A sliding cover? (3)  
 12. Like rebellious young men of yester year? (5)  
 13. But whose note is only partly heard? (5)  
 15. Mysterious? (3)  
 16. She's a delight (3)  
 18. I'll be a saint and the world does (6)  
 20. Color for managing a large box (5)  
 21. A strong French one can be delightful (3)  
 22. Sooner than show a little reverence? (3)  
 33. Where Gene and Virginia get together (6)  
 25. Is she a grandmother? (3)  
 28. About due to finish, to spill a part, it comes (5)  
 30. Let's update while it's hot (5)  
 31. Can be water cooler at leisure (5)  
 32. A fatherly occasion? (4)  
 33. Could it hurt your foot? (4)



Wednesday's solution

**ACROSS:** 1. One-off 7. I'm proper 8. Lest 10. A-Z-ores 11. Dilute 14. Love 9. SEW 12. L-AD 13. Tense 15. R-Ada-R 18. Villa 19. Sit 20. Ten(able) 21. Witless 22. Tor 23. Solent 24. H-old 25. Dot-age 26. After 27. LI-MPs 28. Wag 30. Bags.

**DOWN:** 1. Octave 2. OBE-Ron 3. Fits 4. Trailer 5. Spray 6. Trier 8. Love 9. SEW 12. L-AD 13. Tense 15. R-Ada-R 18. Villa 19. Sit 20. Ten(able) 21. Witless 22. Tor 23. Solent 24. H-old 25. Dot-age 26. After 27. LI-MPs 28. Wag 30. Bags.

CHESS PUZZLE

Easy Puzzle

White mates in 2 moves.



Intermediate Puzzle

Black mates in 3 moves.



Wednesday's solution

- Easy**  
 1. Kf3 Kh2  
 2. Qh8# or Qh7#
- Intermediate**  
 1. Qxg5+ Kf7  
 2. Qh5+ Kg8  
 3. Qg6#

CODEWORD

Each letter in this puzzle is represented by a number 1-26. Crack the code and solve the crossword. Every letter of the alphabet is used at least once. Three letters are already in place to get you started.



Wednesday's Solution

1 T 2 B 3 G 4 O 5 J 6 M 7 L 8 S 9 A 10 E 11 R 12 D 13 C 14 O 15 K 16 Z 17 I 18 P 19 W 20 U 21 X 22 V 23 H 24 N 25 Y

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

SOLVIT

D	H	C	E	26
B	G	A	J	16
C	J	B	H	20
F	D	E	G	24
16	26	16	28	

Difficulty

The letters have a distinct value between 1 to 9. The totals vertically and horizontally have been given. Solve all the values.

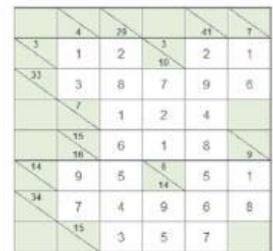
Wednesday's Solution

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	J
9	5	1	8	6	3	7	4	2

KAKURO



Wednesday's Solution



SUDOKU



Wednesday's Solution



**HOROSCOPE**

**Virgo - Aug 23 - Sep 22**  
 Acquiring specialized knowledge will give you a professional advantage. When you're one of the only people who knows how to operate, construct, or orchestrate important work, your income should soar. It may take years to acquire an advanced degree or certificate, but that's not a problem. The important thing is to dive into a subject that captivates your imagination.

**Libra - Sep 23 - Oct 22**  
 Getting adjusted to this new way of life may be more enjoyable than you expected. Until this moment, you may not have realized how deeply you resented a certain system or routine. Now that the regime is undergoing a change, you may have a chance to make a lot more money and express your creativity.

**Scorpio - Oct 23 - Nov 21**  
 An unconventional living arrangement suits you very well. If you want to save some money, think about getting a roommate. Co-habiting with someone whose schedule is different from yours could be the next best thing to living alone. If you already share a home with your family or romantic partner, create a private space for your exclusive use.

**Sagittarius Nov. 22 - Dec. 21**  
 Kicking off a new health regimen today could yield impressive results. After hearing about a friend's success with a certain program or plan, you may be eager to try it yourself. Before you know it, you'll be feeling the benefit of a boost in energy and a stronger body—it will be exciting to have your natural vivacity come flooding back.

**Capricorn - Dec 22 - Jan 19**  
 You may find pleasure in something truly unexpected today. Even if you tend to be more conventional, a unique activity or experience could bring you a lot of enjoyment. Try something out that you normally wouldn't and see where it takes you—there's magic that exists outside your comfort zone.

**Aquarius - Jan 20 - Feb 18**  
 Adding some unusual details to your home will make it more enjoyable and accessible to everyone who lives here. Whether this means updating your entryway, building another bedroom, or installing a new smart-home feature, you will all benefit from this change. If you're currently looking for a new place to live, be open to exploring properties.

**Pisces - Feb 19 - Mar 20**  
 You form your opinions based on experience, rather than theory. You're reluctant to pass judgment on a situation until you've had firsthand knowledge of it. Because you like being informed, you seize every opportunity to master specialized skills, explore unfamiliar territory, and talk with unusual people.

**Aries - Mar 21 - Apr 19**  
 This looks like crunch time: most likely in a hobby or relationship. With the former, deciding you've come as far as you can—or that you could go a long way further with more focus is possible. In a love affair, moving your relationship forward by agreeing to work together for a purchase is likely. The encouragement and perspective of friends could be invaluable.

**Taurus - Apr 20 - May 20**  
 You're intent on doing things your way, even if it means opposing someone you'd ordinarily obey. Rebelling against authority is healthy today, especially when it involves listening to your conscience. An outsider might object that you aren't being respectful, but you shouldn't pay too much attention to his criticism.

**Gemini - May 21 - Jun 21**  
 Your subconscious could send you some powerful messages today, so pay special attention to your dreams. It's possible you'll wake up with a powerful urge for a luxury or big-ticket item. If you are financially able, don't be shy about indulging in this creature comfort. It's sometimes difficult for you to come to terms with your material desires because you pride yourself on being too smart to fall victim to temptation.

**Cancer - Jun 22 - Jul 22**  
 Finding ways to make the world a better place can be a stimulating challenge. If you notice a problem while you're shopping for groceries or doing essential work today, think about ways you can fix the situation. Even small things like carrying heavy packages for elderly shoppers or dropping off bagged lunches for the hungry can make a big difference.

**Leo - Jul 23 - Aug 22**  
 If you're going to attain the fame and acclaim you desire, you must distinguish yourself from the crowd. While today's astrology activities your City House of Profession, you may consider offering unique products or services or developing a different way to do commerce. Either way, it's key that you be an innovator now.

Twitter.com

**WHAT'S ON KTN**



- 6:00 Am Morning Express
- 9:00 Am News Center
- 11:00 Pm Leo Mashimani
- 1:00 Pm News Desk
- 2:00 Pm Bottomline
- 3:00 Pm Business Today
- 4:00 Pm Mbu Ya KTN
- 5:00 Pm Zizaka Vwanzari
- 6:00 Pm Jukwaa La KTN
- 7:00 Pm KTN Leo
- 8:00 Pm The Untold Story
- 8:30 Pm The Chawwada Report
- 9:00 Pm KTN Prime News
- 10:30 Pm Bottomline Rot
- 11:00 Pm BBC Focus On Africa
- 11:30 Pm Zizaka Vwanzari Rot
- 12:30 Am The Untold Story Rot
- 1:00 Am The Chawwada Report Rot
- 1:30 Am KTN Prime News Rot
- 3:00 Am Business Today Rot
- 4:00 Am Al Jazeera



- 04:00 Safari na Anthony Ndilema
- 06:00 Masha Asubuhi with Billy na Thicky
- 10:00 Staarabika na Am Njogu Babu and Gathoni
- 12:00 Knect na Mwendu and Cremo

- 03:00 Maisha Jioni na Emmanuel Mwashumbe and Shuga Boy
- 07:00 Papa Nick na Nick Odhiambo
- 10:00 Maji Makuu na Babu Wakasaka and Mbaruk
- 12:00 Maisha Xtra na Hassan Umar



- 5:00 Am Tendelea
- 6:00 Am BBC Dawa Duka
- 6:30 Am Wild Planet
- 7:00 Am Ladies Night
- 9:00 Am Ngoma Noma
- 10:00 Am Reggae Frequency
- 12:00 Pm Mbari Sika
- 12:30 Pm Huzi/Kingo
- 1:00 Pm Bina
- 1:05 Pm Zingia Sipi
- 2:00 Pm Bongo Tava
- 3:00 Pm Taka Mbari
- 4:00 Pm Wild Planet
- 4:30 Pm Duty

- 5:00 Pm HP Hip
- 6:30 Pm Baba Yan
- 7:00 Pm KTN Live
- 7:30 Pm Juka
- 8:00 Pm Bina
- 8:15 Pm Taka
- 10:00 Pm Mbari Mbari
- 11:00 Pm Opileats
- 11:30 Pm BBC Dawa Duka
- 12:00 Am Zingia Sipi
- 1:00 Am Juka
- 3:00 Am Reggae Frequency
- 4:00 Am Huzi/Kingo

**NTV**

- 5:00am CNN
- 5:30am Password Plus
- 6:30am Your World
- 9:00am Generation 3
- 10:00am Ubungu Kids
- 10:30am Alik and Me
- 11:00am Music Mix
- 12:00pm NTV Sasa
- 1:00pm NTVal 1
- 1:30pm The Real Housewives Of Kawangware

- 2:00pm Memories Of Love
- 3:00pm The Three Sides Of Ana
- 4:00pm NTV Aladin
- 4:30pm Teen Republik
- 5:00pm The Heat
- 6:00pm The Blood Sisters
- 7:00pm NTV Jazi
- 8:00pm The Three Sides Of Ana
- 9:00pm NTV Tonight
- 10:30pm Makers Of A Nation
- 11:00pm BBC Fact Finder



- 06:00 AM - 10:00 AM Morning Vybez
- 10:00 AM - 03:00 PM Reddm Culture
- 03:00 PM - 07:00 PM Adrenaline
- 07:00 PM - 10:00 PM
- 10:00 PM - 5:00 AM Cease N Sekkie Night Patrol
- 05:00 AM - 06:00 AM Ibit



- 06:00 AM - 10:00 AM The Situation Room
- 10:00 AM - 03:00 PM Spice Soul
- 03:00 PM - 07:00 PM Spice Drive with Monique
- 07:00 PM - 10:00 PM
- 10:00 PM - MIDNIGHT Mellow Spice
- MIDNIGHT - 04:00 AM Soul Night
- 04:00 AM - 06:00 AM Spice Worship



- 6:00 Am Agri-News
- 6:30 Am Sheep And Goat Farming
- 7:00 Am Beef Farming
- 7:30 Am Smart Pig
- 8:00 Am Successful Farming
- 8:30 Am A Farmer's Life For Me
- 9:30 Am Mega Farms
- 10:30 Am Horticulture (Rpt)
- 11:00 Am Access Documentary (Rpt)
- 11:30 Am Get It Right
- 12:00 Pm Agri-News @ Noon
- 12:30 Pm Eye On County
- 1:30 Pm Dairy Farms
- 2:00 Pm Agribushe
- 2:30 Pm Animate
- 3:00 Pm AgriTalk/Shambala Wanyama
- 4:00 Pm Fresh And Fruity (Rpt)
- 4:30 Pm Wild Planet
- 5:00 Pm A Farmer's Life For Me
- 6:00 Pm Agri Expo
- 7:00 Pm Com Wars

- 7:30 Pm Agri-News
- 8:00 Pm Animate
- 8:30 Pm Inside The Factory
- 9:30 Pm Horticulture (Rpt)
- 10:00 Pm Get It Right
- 10:30 Pm Agri-News Rpt
- 11:00 Pm Dunkani Leo
- 11:30 Pm Music Interlude (Country)
- 12:00 Am Al Jazeera

**K24**

- 5:00am Inuka
- 6:00am K24 This Morning
- 9:00am Daily Brief
- 12:30pm Inside Business
- 13:00pm News Cut
- 13:30pm Sports Hub
- 14:00pm Bongo Movie
- 15:00pm Sweetest Love
- 16:00pm K24 Mashimani
- 16:30pm An Katz
- 17:00pm Beatbox
- 18:00pm Hollywood Movie
- 19:00pm K24 Saa Moja
- 19:30pm Jane And Abel
- 20:00pm A Carnival Affair
- 21:00pm K24 Evening Edition
- 22:00pm Riddim Vybez (Rebroadcast)
- 00:00am Da Feed

**Ebru**

- 5:00am Waka Poza
- 6:30am Fitness Time
- 7:00am New Day
- 9:00am Hits
- 10:00am My Doctor
- 11:00am Njira Cinema
- 13:00pm Up To Date @E
- 13:00pm Business Insight
- 14:00pm Hits
- 15:30pm Cartoons
- 16:30pm Fitness Time
- 17:00pm The Edge
- 18:00pm Let's Talk
- 19:00pm Mwangi wa Ebru
- 19:30pm Descendants of the Sun
- 20:00pm Only Love
- 20:30pm Street Quiz
- 21:00pm Prime Time News
- 22:00pm Let's Talk

**BONGOMAN PLAYS BIG LEAGUE by Kham**



**QUOTE OF THE DAY**

**I am enough of an artist to draw freely upon my imagination. Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited. Imagination encircles the world.**  
 Albert Einstein

**STANDARD GROUP**  
FarmKenya Initiative:

## Securing our Growth



### Propelling Kenya's food production during and post Covid-19

**By Patrick Obath**  
COVID-19 pandemic has brought unprecedented challenges across the globe, spurring dramatic changes across all economic systems.

With over 2.4 million infections worldwide and over to 165,000 deaths as of April 20, 2020, businesses and industries across the world are constantly re-inventing themselves to cope with the challenges of this disease.

While the pandemic is still evolving, making it difficult to ascertain the level of expected impact, the effect to food systems and related incomes for populations that work in the agricultural sector is predicted to be huge.

According to the World Bank's 19<sup>th</sup> Kenya Economic Update, agriculture is still a major driver of growth for the Kenyan economy and is the dominant source of employment for most citizens.

Further, the Agricultural Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy identifies agriculture as a key sector in achieving the envisaged annual economic growth rate of 10 per cent. This shall be done through the transformation of smallholder agriculture from subsistence to an innovative, commercially-orientated and

**With the emergence of COVID-19, we shall be left with no choice but to rally our food production systems towards mass adoption of technology in delivering extension support.**

modern agricultural sector.

However, the impacts of coronavirus and the resulting movement restrictions imposed by the government are bound to cause disruptions in food production by these smallholder farmers and supply chains.

Over 80 per cent of food consumed in Kenya is produced by rural populations who often participate as farm owners (producers) or farm employees. Disruptions in their livelihoods would adversely affect the poor and other marginalised groups with less purchasing power and resources to adapt to this unpredictable global crisis.

While the government continues to adjust its imposed measures in response to emerging health challenges, the supply and access to important farm inputs and extension services to smallholder farmers, and assurance of markets for their produce is key.

To enhance productivity at the farm level during this period, access to extension services remains critical and this has largely remained elusive even in normal times.

In the historical absence of physical extension services, agripreneurs and agri-innovators have sought to fill this gap by developing various technologies and artificial intelligence. These seek to enhance farmers' access to extension services and other agricultural information.

Arifu, Wefarm, Twiga Foods and Digifarm platforms are good examples of technological models in Kenya

that could be expanded to reach multiple numbers of smallholders with appropriate farming information.

Apart from extension services, technology can also be further embraced in the agricultural sector to link farmers to markets, and buyers to suppliers. Urban areas such as Nairobi and Mombasa are leading in the uptake of delivery services for farm produce to their doorsteps. Expected growth in the number and quantity of business for such services is evident.

Consequently, the expanded use of mobile payment technologies for transactions is set to increase in the agricultural sector, as witnessed in other areas of the economy with the government's encouragement on the use of mobile payment for goods and services.

According to a recent Brookings Institution report, artificial intelligence is projected to add USD 15.7 trillion to the global economy by 2030. It is reported there are nearly 400 digital agricultural technologies being used in Africa, with almost a quarter of these based in Kenya.

Digital tools are helping many businesses to make better decisions, and farmers are no exception.

Technology and new digital tools can help farmers use precise amounts of inputs, identify distress in plants, as well as keep better control of their farm operations.

With the emergence of COVID-19, we shall be left with no choice but to rally our food



Fruit vendors waiting for customers at Mtwapa along the Mtwapa-Kilifi Highway. There is an urgent need for farmers to be supported so that their produce can reach consumers as the country battles with the fear of the deadly Covid-19 pandemic. (PHOTO BY GIDEON MAUNDU/STANDARD)

production systems towards mass adoption of technology in delivering extension support.

The situation created by coronavirus creates an opportunity for the private sector, governments and development partners to accelerate the growth and adoption of technology in improving food security.

I urge all stakeholders involved in policy formulation, innovation and farmer engagement to consider broadening

financial and technical support to agri-innovators to develop appropriate tech for smallholder farmers, increasing farmers' awareness of and use of agri-tech for agricultural production, while increasing investment and research in agriculture and agri-tech.

Kenya Markets Trust in its efforts to stimulate and sustain agricultural growth and productivity is engaging a range of stakeholders to explore virtual extension delivery strategies.

As we cope with one of our greatest generational unprecedented crisis, we have an opportunity to redefine how agriculture is supposed to be delivered in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Adoption of agri-tech has the potential to revolutionise Kenya's food production systems for posterity.

**Obath is the Board Chair of Kenya Markets Trust**  
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### Association dispels fears over shortage of agrochemicals in Kenya

**By Gerard Mutunga**  
[Gnyele@standardmedia.co.ke](mailto:Gnyele@standardmedia.co.ke)

Amid fears of a second wave of locusts' invasion in east African region and especially Kenya, the Agrochemicals Association of Kenya (AAK) has assured farmers that there is enough stock of chemicals to tackle the menace.

AAK CEO Eric Kimunguyi has further dispelled claims out that the country might experience a shortage of agrochemicals as world suppliers diminish as

**"With these recommended products announced, the industry now has in place 200 tonnes of these pesticides suitable for locust use. Thus, it is now a case of selection and moving to spraying," said Eric.**

manufacturing and shipments slowdown in the wake of Covid-19; noting that there is enough in warehouses, and Kenya is still receiving cargo in its ports.

"As one of Africa's largest agricultural exporters, we have cargo-only flights, most of which are still flying. These have traditionally arrived in Kenya nearly empty and left full. Thus, even with our total air cargo down to a tenth of its normal capacity, it is offering more than 400 tonnes a week of incoming cargo

capacity, which has allowed our industry to bring in far more than the 100 tonnes needed for the next rounds of swarm spraying," said Eric Kimunguyi.

In its latest locust updates on east Africa, the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) has raised an alarm on giant swarms of new locusts' invasions; terming it's as a "threat to food security" in the region.

"The current situation in East Africa remains extremely alarming as more swarms form and mature in northern and central Kenya, southern Ethiopia and probably in Somalia. This represents an unprecedented threat to food security and livelihoods because it coincides with the beginning of the long rains and the planting season,"

notes FAO.

FAO attributed the worsening situation as a trigger by the onset of long rains, a factor that may disrupt the ongoing efforts to tame the locusts and also enhance hatching of new swarms.

"Although ground and aerial control operations are in progress, widespread rains that fell in late March will allow the new swarms to mostly stay in place, mature and lay eggs while a few swarms could move from Kenya to Uganda, South Sudan and Ethiopia. During May, the eggs will hatch into hopper bands that will form new swarms in late June and July, which coincides with the start of the harvest season," FAO cautioned.

According to AAK, Kenya has already concluded the process of identifying suitable pesticides, a teething problem that has been a challenge for the scientific community globally-as the opportunity to test insecticides on swarming locusts is rare and irregular; sometimes occurring only once in 20 or even 50 years.

"Eradicating locust swarms and eggs is not an everyday challenge that the world's agricultural organizations can test at will," noted Kimunguyi.

However, AAK says this challenge is in their past since it has already identified 64 categories of chemicals for locusts' control.

"With these recommended products announced, the industry now has in place 200 tonnes of these pesticides suitable for locust use. Thus,

it is now a case of selection and moving to spraying," said Eric.

Nevertheless, the Pests Control Products Board (PCPB) has emphasized the need to use varied insecticides to prevent any build up in resistance by locusts to any one product.

"We believe the initial selections are imminent. But the important thing to note is that as soon as the Ministry of Agriculture is ready to deploy its recommended locust insecticides, we have them here ready in Kenya. We may just need to see some bold decisions about choosing the right products from the list, and about now starting the spraying of beds and hoppers, if we are to preempt new swarms," observed Kimunguyi.

However, AAK says this challenge is in their past since it has already identified 64 categories of chemicals for locusts' control.

**Promo.** Airtel Kenya customers will now get five per cent cashback as airtime whenever they buy airtime for themselves or others. Managing Director Prasanta Das Sarma said the extra airtime can also be sold to others through the telco's airtime-sharing service, Me2U, allowing customers to earn more money. "With the prevailing circumstances, we are happy to offer more to our customers by giving them extra airtime," he said. [James Wanzala]



**On Twitter:**  
@Bloombergbusiness  
Can the global Brent marker follow U.S. crude futures into negative territory? The answer is yes.



# Business

**WORLD: US DEPORTS IMMIGRANTS TO POOR STATES AMID OUTBREAK. P.39**

## In Brief

### Covid-19. NCBA pulls final dividend for 2019

■ Kenya's third-largest bank by assets, NCBA, has pulled its final dividend for last year of Sh1.50 per share due to the coronavirus crisis, becoming the first lender in the country to do so. NCBA, created through a merger between NIC Bank and the CBA Group last year, will offer investors a bonus share issue of one for every 10 held instead, it said in a statement on Tuesday. The lender was set to pay the dividend to shareholders on the books on April 23. The board attributed the decision to the Covid-19 pandemic's "devastating effects on the world and the Kenyan economy". [Reuters]

### Pandemic. Developer lends a helping hand



■ Real estate firm Myspace Properties has extended a helping hand to vulnerable groups and communities to ease the hardships caused by the coronavirus pandemic. Chief Executive Mwendu Thurania (pictured) said the company, together with its partners, has so far visited five children's homes and rehabilitation centres in Kibera, Bunururu, Waitaha and Westlands and donated food and other essential items. [Standard Reporter]

**Breakdown.** Sh33.4b is under recurrent expenditure, while Sh6.9b is under development

# Treasury releases Sh40.3b war chest to fight pandemic

**Vulnerable groups and maize farmers are among the biggest gainers of the supplementary budget tabled in parliament.**

By Dominic Omondi  
dakure@standardmedia.co.ke

The government will use Sh40.3 billion on Covid-19-related expenditure.

This is after the National Treasury Cabinet Secretary Ukur Yatani yesterday tabled a supplementary budget for the current financial year ending June 30.

Most of the money will be used to deal with the coronavirus pandemic and to cushion the vulnerable population against the adverse effects of the virus, including massive job losses.

In a meeting with the National Assembly's Budget and Appropriations Committee, Yatani noted that the government had made significant efforts to contain the spread of the virus as recommended by the World Health Organisation.

These include advising those not offering essential services to stay at home, main-

taining social distance, imposing a dawn-to-dusk curfew and the lockdown of four counties.

"We have in this regard provided a total of Sh40.3 billion to mitigate against the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, which comprise Sh33.4 billion under recurrent and Sh6.9 billion under development," said the CS.

Maize farmers are set to benefit from Sh10 billion that the State has allocated towards the Strategic Grain Reserve (SGR) to be used for replenishing national silos in preparation for tough times ahead.

Other allocations  
The Agriculture Ministry, said Yatani, is already in touch with some select county governors, inquiring on the availability of food within their regions.

An additional Sh10 billion has been set aside as cash transfers to the elderly as well as people with disability.

The government will also disburse cash to people in the slums, with reports indicating that low-income households will receive a monthly stipend of Sh2,000.

Yatani told The Standard in an earlier interview that modalities are being worked out on how the government



The National Police Service has been allocated Sh200 million to help them in enforcing measures introduced to curb spread of the virus. [David Njaga, Standard]

can buy food for the urban poor.

While most economists and policymakers endorse cash transfers, there are fears that without the right logistics those in need will not benefit.

Also contained in the Sec-

ond Supplementary Estimates is a Sh400 million allocation to provide food relief and non-food commodities to communities in arid and semi-arid areas.

Treasury has at the same time allocated an additional

## Other interventions

- The Central Bank of Kenya freed up Sh35 billion by reducing the Cash Reserve Ratio and slashed its benchmark lending rate by a percentage point
- The government has waived Pay As You Earn for those earning a gross salary of Sh24,000 and below
- Those earning more than Sh24,000 will get a five percentage point reprieve, paying 25 per cent for PAYE

Sh200 million to the police for security enforcement.

Prisons, a viable breeding ground for the virus due to their congestion, have also been boosted with Sh200 million to help curtail the spread of the deadly disease.

The government will also heighten surveillance of citizens as part of its efforts to mitigate the spread of Covid-19 after the National Intelligence Agency (NIS) was allocated an additional Sh1.5 billion.

## Legal battle

# Court tosses out Okoa Jahazi copyright case against Safaricom

Mobile services provider Safaricom has won a protracted legal battle on the ownership of a mobile telephone programme that enables subscribers to obtain airtime on credit.

Commercial Court Judge Mary Kasango dismissed a copyright suit filed by two businessmen - Christopher Omare and Michael Otachi - in 2009 against the telco as they did not produce evidence that their concept was similar to

Safaricom's Okoa Jahazi.

According to the judge, the idea claimed by the two was not original as it had been rolled out by telecommunication firms in other countries, such as Lesotho, Egypt and Spain, before Safaricom took it up.

"The plaintiff's claim is, therefore, to be rejected for lack of originality. The plaintiff's claim would also fail because the plaintiff failed to plead the infringe-

ment they alleged against the defendant (Safaricom)," ruled the judge.

"Other than pleading that the defendant's concept is based on their idea, the plaintiff did not specify what the infringement was. As I have found, the plaintiff's proposal was very general."

In the case, the complainants claimed they forwarded to Safaricom the idea, which they dubbed Emergency Credit Ser-

vice, on November 23, 2006.

The judge heard that the idea was to provide emergency airtime on credit to subscribers who might have been travelling or were in an area where they could not obtain airtime.

They argued that Safaricom's Okoa Jahazi was based on their idea, which they had handed over to its employees.

"The defendant (Safaricom) failed to respond to that proposal

and in March 2009 it launched into the market a product called 'Okoa Jahazi', which allowed its subscribers to access emergency airtime. The product of the defendant was based on the ideas of the plaintiff contained in the plaintiff's proposal," claimed Mr Omare and Mr Otachi.

Safaricom denied the allegations, saying prior to receiving the concept from the two, it had already learned about the same

from Vodafone operators such as Vodafone Spain.

To prove its case, the mobile services company produced emails and exchanges that showed it was already considering the concept before obtaining the proposal from the duo.

The court also heard that there were distinct differences between the idea from the businessmen and Okoa Jahazi. [Kamau Muthoni]

Manufacturing

# Locally made ventilators unveiled

Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM) has unveiled the first batch of locally made ventilators.

The ventilators, named Pumaishi 2.0, were developed by KAM's Automotive Centre. They have been approved by Kenya Bureau of Standards (Kebs) and will be used in hospitals in the battle against the coronavirus pandemic.

"KAM's automotive sector is tapping into homegrown talent and expertise to develop ventilators that can be produced immediately for use in hospitals. We can see the innovation that is possible in our country,"

said Industrialisation, Trade and Enterprise Development Cabinet Secretary Betty Maina during the unveiling on Tuesday.

Kenya's manufacturers have been tasked with using domestically available materials and skills to create innovations that will help combat the spread of the novel coronavirus.

KAM Chief Executive Phyllis Wakiaga said the innovation is a demonstration of the local manufacturing sector's capacity to fill supply gaps.

"This ventilator named Pumaishi 2.0 shall be patented and supplied locally but will

also be produced for the export markets. Kebs has made standards for critical medical items free on its website and expediting approval of products," said Ms Wakiaga.

"As a nation, we have to realise the importance of local content and industry. Homegrown solutions are key to sustaining the fight against coronavirus whilst cushioning the economy from shocks arising out of the virus. In the event of a power blackout, this ventilator is equipped with a four-hour battery, enabling it to continue service to patients."

[Peter Theun]

Pushback. Opec+ is weighing further steps to support battered market

# Oil bounces back from century's low

Brent rallies back from prices last seen in 1999 to trade at nearly \$20 a barrel.

By Reuters  
London



Experts say oil supply is likely to outstrip demand for months to come as countries struggle to contain Covid-19. [File]

Oil took markets on another rollercoaster ride yesterday as Brent somehow managed to reverse an early 12 per cent crash to 1999 lows and give battered petrol currencies and stock markets something buoyant to climb on.

The wildest trading in oil market history continued with benchmark Brent initially swallow-diving below \$16 (Sh1,696) a barrel, after US crude prices had gone deeply negative earlier in the week, only to then rally to nearly \$20 (Sh2,120).

With coronavirus lockdowns slashing demand for everything from petrol to jet fuel, and markets still bloated by a turf war being fought by Saudi Arabia and Russia, places to store the excess supply are running out.

Christopher Peel, CIO of Tavistock Wealth, said eight oil supertankers were now moored on the river outside his window in the Portuguese capital Lisbon.

"There is nowhere to put the oil so it shouldn't come as any surprise to anyone that the front months (oil price contracts) are getting decimated," Peel said, though he predicted it should be a relatively temporary situation.

As well as the fightback from oil, there was encouragement that Europe's main stock markets were moving higher after a poor close overnight in New York and a mixed day for Asia. Focus was on whether European Union leaders, who

meet on Thursday, will be able to agree more aid to help the region cope with the coronavirus outbreak. Recent days have seen a blizzard of fresh stimulus announced in other economies.

The pan-European STOXX 600 index and Wall Street futures were up around one per cent after both went tumbling more than three per cent Tuesday following the collapse in oil prices.

Italian shares gained 1.2 per cent and the government's bond yield steadied after Prime Minister Giuseppe Con-

te said Italy, one of the countries hit hardest by the pandemic, could start pulling out of strict stay-at-home orders from May 4.

Traders were also buoyed after Italy breezed through a major debt sale on Tuesday and speculation continued that the European Central Bank would provide more support measures.

"It's no surprise that we see (bond yields slipping) today," said DZ Bank strategist Sebastian Fellechner, citing the conclusion of Italy's jumbo bond sale.

"Brent is stable this morning ... This is also reflected then in the government bond market, in that we see spreads are stabilising and (core) yields are slightly higher this morning."

Germany's 10-year yield was up two basis points to -0.46 per cent. The five-year U.S. Treasury yield also rose to 0.35 per cent after hitting a record low of 0.3010 per cent on Tuesday. The 10-year notes yield stood at 0.58 per cent.

**"There is nowhere to put the oil so it shouldn't come as any surprise to anyone that the front months (oil price contracts) are getting decimated."**

Christopher Peel, Tavistock Wealth

## NAIROBI STOCKS

Main Investment Market 23/04/2020

HIGH	LOW		VPW	PREVIOUS	VOLUME
<b>AGRICULTURAL</b>					
17.60	9.90	Eaagaji Ltd Ord 25.00		10.00	-
4.60	2.90	Kakau Pk Ord 5.00	310.00	301.00	100
100.00	57.00	Kapchorua Tea Kenya Pk Ord 5.00GAMS	71.00	71.00	100
605.00	405.00	The Limuru Tea Co. Pk Ord 20.00GAMS		475.00	-
22.70	14.00	Sagari Pk Ord 1.00		16.50	-
178.00	92.00	Williamson Tea Kenya Pk Ord 5.00GAMS	115.00	115.00	800
<b>AUTOMOBILES &amp; ACCESSORIES</b>					
27.00	20.00	Car & General (K) Ltd Ord 5.00	23.50	23.50	200
<b>BANKING</b>					
13.85	9.30	ABSA Bank Kenya Ltd Ord 0.50	10.35	10.25	84,300
31.00	22.40	BK Group Pk Ord 0.80		22.40	-
166.00	76.50	Diamond Trust Bank Kenya Ltd Ord 4.00	87.25	86.00	1,600
55.50	32.15	Equity Group Holdings Pk Ord 0.50	35.75	34.85	3,040,200
7.90	3.38	HF Group Pk Ord 5.00		4.02	4,000
126.00	42.50	WAM Holdings Pk Ord 1.00	52.75	52.00	100
55.50	33.75	KCB Group Pk Ord 1.00	36.75	37.00	907,400
6.50	3.22	National Bank of Kenya Ltd Ord 5.00		4.12	-
41.00	24.90	NCBA Group Pk Ord 5.00	28.75	29.05	437,200
115.00	83.00	Standard Chartered Bank Kenya Ord 5.00	90.50	90.00	3,600
225.00	168.00	Standard Chartered Bank Kenya Ord 5.00	196.00	195.00	2,700
16.60	10.05	The Co-operative Bank of Kenya Ltd Ord 1.00	12.25	12.25	660,000
<b>COMMERCIAL AND SERVICES</b>					
5.10	0.45	Deacons (East Africa) Pk Ord 2.50GAMS		0.45	-
1.30	0.77	Eversady (East Africa) Ltd Ord 1.00	0.80	0.80	59,800
8.50	4.95	Express Kenya Ltd Ord 5.00GAMS	5.80	5.48	200
9.50	0.04	Kenya Airways Ltd Ord 1.00	0.98	1.04	629,900
8.80	4.26	Longhorn Publishers Pk Ord 1.00GAMS	4.53	4.88	7,500
1.20	0.54	Nairobi Business Ventures Ltd Ord 1.00GEMS	0.60	0.60	100
71.00	22.00	Nation Media Group Pk Ord 2.50	23.40	23.60	14,800
4.70	1.72	Samuel Africa Pk Ord 5.00		2.20	-
33.00	19.50	Standard Group Pk Ord 5.00		19.60	-
25.15	11.50	TPS Eastern Africa Ltd Ord 1.00	15.40	15.00	200
0.95	0.23	Ukhamu Supermarket Pk Ord 5.00	0.28	0.30	25,700
22.00	9.90	WPP Scangroup Pk Ord 1.00	17.00	16.05	300
<b>CONSTRUCTION &amp; ALLIED</b>					
8.35	2.40	AFIM Cement Pk Ord 1.00		5.55	-
145.75	45.00	Bamburi Cement Ltd Ord 5.00	48.50	48.00	400
92.00	51.00	Crown Paints Kenya Pk Ord 5.00		53.00	-
3.68	1.44	E.A.C. Cement Ltd Ord 0.50	1.80	1.81	300
20.50	12.95	E.A. Portland Cement Co Ltd Ord 5.00		14.25	-
<b>ENERGY &amp; PETROLEUM</b>					
7.40	4.00	KenGen Co. Pk Ord 2.506.06	4.90	4.90	147,800
5.50	1.63	Kenya Power & Lighting Co Ltd Ord 2.50	2.17	2.19	164,700
5.50	5.00	Kenya Power & Lighting Ltd 4% Pref 2.00		5.00	-
6.00	6.00	Kenya Power & Lighting Ltd 7% Pref 2.00		6.00	-
33.00	22.00	Total Kenya Ltd Ord 5.00	23.75	23.65	500
8.70	5.00	Umeme Ltd Ord 0.50	6.88	6.90	8,300
<b>INSURANCE</b>					
10.50	5.70	Britam Holdings Pk Ord 0.30	6.90	6.64	36,400
4.85	2.00	CK Insurance Group Ltd Ord 1.00	2.25	2.30	41,400
4.62	2.50	Jubilee Holdings Ltd Ord 5.00	2.80	2.80	2,300
16.30	2.10	Kenya Life Insurance Corporation Ltd Ord 2.50	2.52	2.70	105,500
13.00	6.80	Liberty Kenya Holdings Ltd Ord 1.00		8.50	-
26.00	13.80	Sanlam Kenya Pk Ord 5.00		15.00	-
<b>INVESTMENT</b>					
37.40	19.60	Cerium Investment Co Pk Ord 0.50	20.15	23.40	7,600
0.77	0.30	Home Africa Ltd Ord 1.00GEMS	0.41	0.41	23,100
1,500.00	1,500.00	Kurulu Ventures Ltd Ord 100.00GEMS		1,500.00	-
3.39	2.00	Olympia Capital Holdings Ltd Ord 5.00	2.30	2.30	300
4.50	1.60	Trans-Century Pk Ord 5.00GAMS	1.61	1.61	22,400
16.00	8.24	Nairobi Securities Exchange Pk Ord 4.00	9.00	9.30	4,900
<b>MANUFACTURING &amp; ALLIED</b>					
87.00	52.25	B.O. Kenya Pk Ord 5.00	65.25	70.25	2,000
700.00	350.00	British American Tobacco Kenya Pk Ord 10.00 351.25	360.00	10,400	
10.80	7.10	Carbacid Investments Pk Ord 1.00	9.00	9.00	100
230.00	135.00	East African Breweries Ltd Ord 2.00	148.00	148.75	680,600
315	187	Flame Tree Group Holdings Ltd Ord 0.825GEMS	0.90	0.96	86,800
14.00	12.25	Kenya Orchards Ltd Ord 5.00GAMS		12.25	-
0.70	0.25	Mamas Sugar Co Ltd Ord 2.00		0.27	-
42.00	26.10	Unga Group Ltd Ord 5.00	29.00	29.00	1,800
<b>TELECOMMUNICATION</b>					
33.50	20.10	Safaricom Pk Ord 0.05	27.95	28.40	10,969,800
<b>REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST</b>					
11.00	6.88	STANBIFAHARI-REIT Ord 20.00	8.84	8.90	200
<b>EXCHANGE TRADED FUNDS</b>					
1,650.00	1,235.00	Barclays New Gold ETF	1,740.00	1,815.00	15,300

NSE All Share Index Up 118 points to close at 13707; NSE 20-Share Index Down 910 points to close at 1985.76; NSE 25-Share Index Down 1418 points to close at 394.41

## Rating

# Firm cuts Kenya growth to 3.5pc

A credit rating firm has forecast Kenya's Growth Domestic Product (GDP) to decelerate to 3.5 per cent this year.

Agusto & Company Ltd said pressure on agricultural export, tourism activities, locust inva-

sion and Covid-19 pandemic will impact earlier projected growth forecast.

The firm has given Kenya a "B+" sovereign credit rating. Country Manager Ikechukwu Iheagwam said the key factors for

the rating included persistent fiscal slippages by the government, leading to expanded external borrowing, rising budget deficit to GDP ratio and high-risk debt distress owing to effects of Covid-19. [Standard Reporter]

## UNIT TRUSTS

MONEY FUNDS	Daily YTM	E.A. Rate
Co-op Money Market Fund	8.64%	8.77%
CC Money Market Fund	8.30%	8.64%
Mutual Money Market Fund	8.30%	8.63%
Zimela Money Market Fund	8.50%	8.87%
Old Mutual Money Market Fund	8.70%	8.85%
Stratam Money Market Fund	8.40%	8.57%
ICSA Money Market Fund	7.75%	8.25%
African Alliance Kenya Money Market Fund	6.80%	7.00%
Nabo Africa (USD) Money Market Fund	1.54%	3.60%
Nabo KES Money Market Fund	8.70%	8.87%
GenCap Money Market Fund	8.70%	8.85%
ICSA Money Market Fund	8.70%	8.57%
<b>OTHER FUNDS</b>		
CC Fixed Income Fund	8.72	8.85
Mutual Balanced Fund	43.84	43.84
Zimela Balanced Fund	8.04	7.81
Old Mutual Balanced Fund	16.10	16.10
Stratam Equity Fund	18.81	18.48
ICSA Equity Fund	106.25	89.25
African Alliance Kenya Equity Fund	14.07	13.92
Nabo Africa Equity Fund	77.74	71.10
NCBA Equity Fund	142.34	142.34
STANBIF Equity Fund	114.8	114.8

## EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	AFRICAN
US DOLLAR	109.9088
STERLING	135.5444
EURO	115.3624
SARAND	8.8737
KES / USHS	35.7384
KES / TSHS	21.8396
KES / BWP	8.9920
KES / BIF	17.8903
AE DIRHAM	28.8332
CAN \$	76.3417
SFRANC	109.7502
JPY (100)	98.3232
SW KRONER	2.81872
NOR KRONER	10.37760
DAN KRONER	15.5298
IND RUPEE	1.3877
HONGKONG DOLLAR	13.6620
SINGAPORE DOLLAR	74.8367
SAUDI RIYAL	2.81872
CHINESE YUAN	15.0392
AUSTRALIAN \$	68.0358

## BANK RATES

	BUY	SELL	BUY	SELL	BUY	SELL
ABC	10.65	10.05	0.15	15.30	15.90	0.20
EQUITY	10.60	10.00	0.10	15.80	16.00	0.20
IBM	10.50	10.00	0.10	15.30	15.90	0.20
DOMESTIC	10.65	10.05	0.15	15.80	16.00	0.20
FOREIGN	10.65	10.05	0.15	15.30	15.90	0.20
NBS	10.65	10.05	0.15	15.30	15.90	0.20
PSME	10.65	10.05	0.15	15.70	15.90	0.20
FAMILY BANK	10.65	10.05	0.15	15.30	15.90	0.20
CC BANK	10.60	10.00	0.10	15.30	15.90	0.20
CC BANK	10.60	10.00	0.10	15.80	16.00	0.20
NCBA	10.65	10.05	0.15	15.30	15.90	0.20
NH	10.60	10.00	0.10	15.80	16.00	0.20
STANBIF	10.60	10.00	0.10	15.80	16.00	0.20
GEN	10.65	10.05	0.15	15.30	15.90	0.20
WBA	10.60	10.00	0.10	15.70	16.00	0.20
CO-OP	10.60	10.00	0.10	15.80	16.00	0.20
AFSA	10.60	10.00	0.10	15.30	15.90	0.20

Source: Central Bank

## DAY'S GAINERS

Stock	Price	% daily change	Volume
SCAN	17.00	+5.92	300
XPRS	5.80	+5.84	200
BRIT	6.90	+3.92	36,400
KUKZ	310.00	+2.99	100
TPSE	15.40	+2.67	200

## DAY'S LOSERS

Stock	Price	% daily change	Volume
LKI	4.53	-7.17	7,500
BOK	65.25	-7.12	2,000
CFE	90.50	-7.20	3,600
KNRE	2.52	-6.67	105,500
UCHM	0.28	-6.67	25,700

# SHIPPING, MARITIME & TRADE



## Shippers go online to beat Covid-19 infections

**State agencies and other stakeholders seek to limit physical contacts as the pandemic hits the logistics subsector with deadly consequences**

**By Benard Sanga**  
In a bid to slow the spread of COVID-19, state agencies are leveraging on on-line systems to facilitate trade and reduce human contact.

Kenya Ports Authority (KPA), Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) and Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA) are shifting to online operations so as to beat the virus ravaging the logistics sector.

Other agencies like the National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA) have ceased their operations at the Container Freight Station (CFS) which have also been hit hard by the virus.

Meanwhile, most CFSs in Mombasa have also reduced their workforce following state agencies' move to go online. They have urged customers to pay and clear their cargo online.

Last week, KPA enhanced the Kilindi Waterfront System (Kwatos) at the Nairobi Inland Container Depot (N-ICD) to facilitate the auto-generation and interface of storage services for imports.

"The aim is to reduce emails and/or human traffic at the One Stop Center requesting for extra storage SSRs (Special Service Rendered)," said KPA in a notice to shippers and customs agents.

The authority said the system now automatically checks and auto-generates SSR for storage and auto-interface it for billing on respective agents' account every day at midnight.

Shippers whose containers have not been picked because the trucks have also not entered the depot are now also using the system to seek for the storage SSR.

This provision will however not apply to the

shippers whose containers have over stayed at the yard and accrued storage fee before April 6, 2020 when the system went live.

"For such cases, a manual SSR will be created upon customer request," directed KPA but said that other SSR services like change of vessels, amendments, survey and second verification will continue to be available at the One-stop-center.

The energy regulator, EPRA, has also unveiled online issuance of all the licenses to help curb the spread of Covid-19. EPRA regulates petroleum and energy products imports.

"The online licenses issuance is geared at improving service delivery and as a measure to contain the spread of the coronavirus by minimizing social interactions with customers," said Ms. Gladys Njoroge EPRA Corporate Communications Officer.

KRA has also cut down on its staff with non-crucial staff asked to work from home or remotely. Customers have also been urged to use the taxman's robust online system to transact business.

Meanwhile, other state agencies, like NTSA have suspended all their services to protect its employees from contracting the virus.

NTSA Director General George Njao said they have ceased the issuance of the motor vehicle number plates at the CFSs because of "inherent health risks."

"A number of employees from the two corporations have been put under quarantine as a result of having interacted with victims of Covid-19," said Mr. Njao in a letter dated April 8 to Interior Principal Secretary Karanja Kibicho.

The Chairman of the Car Importers Association of Kenya (CIAK) said on average NTSA issues number plates for over 10,000 motor vehicles at the CFS in a month.

**"The aim is to reduce emails and/or human traffic at the One Stop Center requesting for extra storage SSRs (Special Service Rendered)."**



**All cargo clearance at the port of mombasa is now paperless as operations have gone online to eliminate possible Covid-19 infections.**

According to figures released by the national government, the import and export trade are among sectors hit hard by the spread of the virus.

On Friday last week, the state began the mandatory mass testing of all the over 7,000 Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) employees after two of them succumbed to the disease.

KPA Acting Managing Director Mr. Salim Rashid confirmed that several other employees had come into contact with Ms. Ursula Buluma, 58, who succumbed to the virus on April 2.

A second KPA employee Mr. James Onyango also died days after he arrived in Siaya County. The government said Onyango had tested positive of the Covid-19.

On March 7, Mark Mbuu Operations Manager at Mitchell Cotts (CFS) also succumbed to the coronavirus. Several other employees at the facility have been put under quarantine.

There was anxiety over the spread of the virus along the entire logistic chain worsened last week after two Kenyan truck drivers tested positive of Covid-19 in Uganda.

Several people who came into contact with the two drivers along the Mombasa-Nairobi Highway were isolated at Makindu Sub-County Hospital and later transferred to Makeni Referral hospital.

These incidents have aggravated fears that the virus was 'testing into' the once vibrant logistics sector that has in the recent years witnessed huge investments from both state and non-state actors.

A new report by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) has asked the African ports to continue to facilitate trade, especially the flowing of essential goods and services.

## Second hand garment dealers seek clarity over import ban

**By Patrick Beja**

The recent ban on importation of second hand clothes and footwear by Government following the outbreak of coronavirus has elicited mixed reactions from different stakeholders.

The once vibrant business has shrunk with the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) advising Kenyans to switch to selling new clothes and shoes.

"The ban on imports of mitumba has obviously come with huge losses. But the big picture is that Kenyans will have access to new clothes," said KNCCI Mombasa branch chairman Mustafa Ramadhan.

He said there was need for Kenyan textile traders to access commodities from the Export Processing Zones (EPZs) firms in the country and sell them locally hence promote employment creation.

Ramadhan urged government to facilitate traders make a smooth shift to new textile products following the changes.

Chief executive officer of the Shippers Council of East Africa Gilbert Lang'at said the short deadline for the ban came as a shocker to the mitumba market noting that some dealers have been seeking a clarification on the government position.

He says the move might also affect the US backed African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) textile market.

"I do not think we are ready for the ban on mitumba. We should get fashion houses to set shop here," he noted.

Lang'at said there is need for review of policies to allow clothes meant for export sold locally.

The ban was announced by Industrialization Cabinet secretary Ms Betty Maina and Kenya Bureau of Standard (Kebs) to contain Covid-19. Ms

Maina also said the move will also promote growth of the local textile sector.

Kebs imposed an indefinite ban on all importation of second-hand clothes and shoes, popularly known as mitumba, citing a standard that prohibits imports from a country experiencing an epidemic.

"As a precautionary measure, Kebs wishes to notify the general public and all importers of used garments and used shoes that the importation of used garments and footwear is hereby prohibited with immediate effect until further notice," said Managing Director Lt Col (Rtd) Bernard Njiraini.

But the mitumba dealers maintained that the consignments mainly from Europe, America and China are fumigated before being exported to Kenya.

"Mitumba clothing, as has been the custom over the years, undergo rigorous sorting, packing, and fumigation before being shipped into the country, hence their distinct scent," said the traders in a statement under the aegis of the Mitumba Association of Kenya.

"It's a fact that the clothes are inspected, cleared and issued with a certificate of public health from countries of origin, fumigation certificate as well as clearance by our government's quality agencies to strictly ensure their safety for public use."

According to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), Kenya imported 177,160 tonnes of mitumba in 2018 valued at about \$17 billion. This compares to 133,868 tonnes in 2017 and 106,974 tonnes in 2014.

In the first six months of last year, Kenyans spent \$1.96 billion in importing second-hand clothes and footwear, according to the KNBS.

Imports have, however, dropped as global supply chains remain affected, amid a trade downtime in the wake of the Covid-19 crisis.

## Covid-19 disrupts seafarers' employment on luxury ships

**By Patrick Beja**

Covid-19 has rudely stopped the recruitment of Kenyan seafarers for the lucrative jobs on board cruise and cargo ships.

Most of the seafarers, who were hired by Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC) on its cruise vessel around the world have returned home until the pandemic is over.

Last week, a batch of 53 youth from cruise ships in America and Dubai completed their mandatory 14-day quarantine in Nairobi after they flew home following the break until corona disease is over.

Mombasa port inspector for the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) Ms Betty Makena last week confirmed receiving 25 seafarers destined to Mombasa and Malindi after their recent return to the country.

"The seafarers destined to Mombasa and Malindi are among 53 who arrived in the country before the international flights were suspended but were put in quarantine centres in Nairobi. Others went to Nakuru and other parts of the country," she explained.

Sources indicated only 35 Kenyan seafarers working on cruise ships were still out of the country.

Transport ministry officials say the

**"The seafarers destined to Mombasa and Malindi are among 53 who arrived in the country before the international flights were suspended but were put in quarantine centres in Nairobi."**

recruitment plan had given hope to jobless youth last year when more than 450 seafarers were recruited.

But government officials are confident that the recruitment programme would resume immediately Covid-19 is over.

Maritime and Shipping Principal Secretary Mrs Nancy Karigithu explained that because ports were not allowing cruise ships due to the Covid-19 threats, they had to suspend operations until the pandemic was over.

She, however, noted that some of the seafarers recruited to work on cargo ships were still working.

"This is only a suspension because of the coronavirus pandemic. The programme will resume immediately the pandemic is over," she said.

Sources at the port of Mombasa said ship crew members are not allowed to disembark because of the Covid-19 threats which has made cruise liners suspend visits.

President Uhuru Kenyatta has been pushing for the recruitment of the seafarers particularly on the cruise ships where they are paid between \$85,000 and \$120,000 per month.

Last year, the president commissioned Bandari Maritime Academy and made it independent from Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) so as to train seafarers and other workers in the blue economy sector. However activities at the academy that was formerly known as Bandari College have also been suspended following the corona pandemic.





**Pandemic.** China yesterday slammed a lawsuit brought against it by the US state of Missouri over the coronavirus pandemic as "very absurd". Foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said the legal action has "no factual and legal basis at all" and repeated China's defence of its response to the outbreak, which has largely subsided in the country where it was first detected. Missouri's top state prosecutor announced the lawsuit on Tuesday. [AP]

**On Twitter:**  
@cnni

A proposed bill banning abortion in Poland presented a fresh challenge for women's rights activists there: how to protest in the time of coronavirus



# World

**SPORTS: BEIN CALLS ON EPL TO PROBE SAUDI TAKEOVER OF NEWCASTLE. P. 48**



## In Brief

### India. Troops kill four rebels in disputed area

Indian government forces killed four rebels in a gunbattle in disputed Kashmir during a stringent lockdown to combat the coronavirus, the Indian army said yesterday. The fighting broke out in a village in southern Shopian district as counterinsurgency police and soldiers raided a house on a tip that militants were hiding there on Tuesday night, said army spokesman Colonel Rajesh Kalia. Troops blew up the house with explosives. [AP]

### Lebanon. Gunman kills his wife, eight others



Lebanese security forces are searching for a man who allegedly killed his wife and eight other people in the country's worst mass shooting in years. The man is thought to be hiding in a forest near Baakline, a town in the Chouf mountains where the killings took place on Tuesday, state media said. The victims reportedly include at least five Syrians, two of them children. The motive remains unclear, but a local MP said it was a "crime of honour" by a man with "psychological disorders". [BBC]

### Uganda. Police arrest senior journalist

The Uganda police have arrested a senior journalist over allegations that he is involved in subversive activities. Police spokesperson Fred Enanga said Samson Kasumba, a news anchor, was arrested on Monday night. "He is a subject of investigation and it is not in any way connected to his journalistic work... he is being investigated together with others," he said. [Xinhua]

**Pandemic.** US Immigration and Customs Enforcement deported 2,985 people in the first 11 days of April

## US deports migrants to poor states amid outbreak

The worrisome trend comes as the Trump administration said it would halt the immigration of green card recipients for 60 days.

By Xinhua  
Washington

The United States is continuing the deportation of thousands of migrants, some already sick with the novel coronavirus, to the most vulnerable countries in the Western Hemisphere despite widespread complaints and criticism, national media has reported.

The worrisome trend comes as US President Donald Trump said the White House would halt the immigration of green card recipients for 60 days.

Since the coronavirus hit the United States, immigration authorities have deported dozens of infected migrants, leaving governments across Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean struggling to respond, according to *The Washington Post*.

In an email to the media outlet, US Immigration and Customs Enforcement said it had deported 2,985 people in the



Mexican immigrants wait outside of a National Institute of Migration (INM) building after being deported from the United States and crossing the Paso del Norte border bridge amid the spread of the coronavirus disease in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico on Tuesday. [Reuters]

first 11 days of April, without answering questions about continuing deportations during the pandemic.

Mexico and Haiti have reported Covid-19 infections among migrants deported recently from the United States, officials said on Tuesday, in addition to the dozens of Guatemalans flown home by US customs since late March who tested positive for the coronavirus after returning.

In Mexico's Tamaulipas State, across the Rio Grande

from the southern tip of Texas, officials say that the state is receiving roughly 100 deportees every day, some of whom are already sick when they arrive, *The Washington Post* reported.

On Monday, Tamaulipas State authorities said at least 15 migrants from a number of countries tested positive for the coronavirus at a shelter in northern Mexico, adding they have been placed in isolation, according to a report from teleSUR, a Latin American mul-

timedia platform. Earlier on Sunday, Guatemala President Alejandro Giammattei said a total of 50 migrants deported by the US to the Central American country had tested positive for Covid-19, teleSUR reported. The stepped-up border restrictions by the US have also left many children arriving at the border without adult guardians, causing widespread criticism from human rights advocates.

## Revival

### EU mulls huge virus recovery roadmap

European Union leaders are preparing for a new virtual summit to take stock of the damage the Covid-19 pandemic has inflicted on the lives and livelihoods of the bloc's citizens and to thrash out a more robust plan to revive their ravaged economies.

As some Europeans take their first tentative steps out of confinement to return to work or school, and as businesses on the continent cautiously open their doors, the leaders will endorse urgent spending measures and debate a massive recovery plan they hope to introduce in coming weeks.

Around one million people in Europe and Britain have now tested positive for the novel coronavirus and more than 100,000 of them have died — over half of the world's death toll — according to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control.

Experts believe those official figures understated the true toll of the pandemic, due in part to limited testing and difficulties in counting the dead during a crisis.

Today's EU summit, the fourth video conference between the 27 EU leaders since the outbreak struck Italy two months ago, comes at an extremely delicate time. Trust between them has eroded, with hard-hit Italy and Spain lacking confidence that wealthier partners will take swift, sweeping measures backed by real economic firepower. [AP]

## Earth Day

### Calls grow to treat pandemic shock with 'green recovery'

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

Although many countries remain on a pandemic emergency footing, some investors, politi-

cians and companies see the longer-term economic response as a chance to address the more profound risks posed by climate change.

"There's a lot of pressure for those fiscal stimulus packages, when they come, to be low-carbon, climate-smart," Peter Betts, a former lead climate negotiator

for Britain and the European Union, told Reuters Television.

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

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

"With something like climate change we know that it is coming

and know that there are ways we can prepare for it that would be relatively low cost," he said.

"And what we're seeing with this pandemic is that if you wait until the crisis hits, the costs are much greater."

So far, rich countries have focused on staunching the damage to industry. [Reuters]

## In Brief

**DR Congo. 48 die as heavy rains wreak havoc**

At least 48 people died as a result of the torrential rain that hit the city of Uvira last Friday and its surrounding areas in the South Kivu province in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Some 48 bodies were found by rescue workers, according to a provisional assessment provided by the provincial authorities on Tuesday. The heavy rains also damaged nearly 5,000 sites and destroyed the water collection centre of the country's public sector company Regideso. According to official information provided by South Kivu's government, several humanitarian actions are underway in Uvira to help the victims. President Felix Tshisekedi has sent a strong government team to support the provincial team. [Xinhua]

**Uganda. Long-distance drivers up Covid-19 cases**

Uganda has revised upwards the number of its confirmed coronavirus cases from 56 to 61, to include four Kenyan and one Tanzanian lorry drivers who were tested at its borders. The country started testing all long-distance drivers two weeks ago. They are then allowed to continue their journeys, and are tracked down if found to be positive for Covid-19. Initially, Uganda had not included these confirmed cases in its official data, as it intended to deport the drivers. World Health Organisation regulations require that every case is counted and treated in the country where the patient has been tested. Between 700 and 1,000 cross-border cargo drivers are tested every day, according to the ministry. [BBC]

**Rwanda. Commonwealth summit postponed**

This year's Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (Chogm) that was scheduled to be held in Rwanda has been postponed because of the coronavirus pandemic. More than 10,000 delegates, including heads of state and the Prince of Wales, were expected to attend the 26th summit in the capital, Kigali, in about two months. A new date has not been announced. This was going to be the first time for the summit to be held in a country that has no colonial links with the UK. Rwanda, which was formerly a Belgian colony, joined the Commonwealth in 2009. [BBC]

**Pandemic.** One-tenth of the new special budget will go towards the most vulnerable people

## South Africa budgets Sh2.7tr to fight virus

**Ramaphosa says the top priorities are combating the virus and relieving "hunger and social distress" as millions of South Africans struggle to survive.**

By AP  
Johannesburg

South Africa's president has announced an "extraordinary budget" of \$26 billion (Sh2.7 trillion) to address the huge socioeconomic effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

President Cyril Ramaphosa, in a national address said the "historic" amount is roughly 10 per cent of the GDP of sub-Saharan Africa's most developed country.

The top priorities are combating the virus and relieving "hunger and social distress" as millions of South Africans struggle to survive under lockdown, he said, adding that "our country and the world we live in will never be

the same again".

One-tenth of the new special budget will go towards the country's most vulnerable people over the next six months in one of the world's most unequal nations. The pandemic has exacerbated inequalities, Mr Ramaphosa said.

"We are resolved not merely to return our economy to where it was before the coronavirus, but to forge a new economy in a new global reality," he said, adding that "our new economy must be founded on fairness, empowerment, justice and equality".

Poverty and food insecurity have deepened dramatically since the lockdown began on March 27, Ramaphosa said, and he acknowledged that government food distribution has been unable to meet the "huge need".

Some 250,000 food parcels will be distributed over the next two weeks, said the president, who strongly condemned reports of officials diverting aid.

Local media reports have described in stark detail how families are trying to practice social distancing in crowded shacks in informal settlements. Some communities have been in the dark for weeks or months, unable to meet electricity payments, clean water often comes from shared community taps, if at all.

Ramaphosa said other pri-

informal sector. Ramaphosa announced special increases to the monthly social grants upon which about 16 million of South Africa's 57 million people rely for survival.

The virus and measures to contain it will continue to take a severe toll "in the weeks and months to come," with many people losing their jobs, the president said.

Unemployment already had been 29 per cent. The central bank now projects that GDP will fall by up to 6.1 per cent this year.

South Africa's lockdown is set to continue until May 1. While painful, it has been "absolutely necessary" to save tens of thousands of lives, Ramaphosa said. South Africa has the most confirmed virus cases in Africa with 3,465.

"If we end the lockdown too soon or too abruptly, we risk a massive and uncontrollable resurgence of the disease," the president said.

He will address the nation today with details on lifting of restrictions.

### 250,000

Food parcels that will be distributed over the next two weeks.

priorities for the new budget include the protection of companies and workers in a country where the economy had been struggling even before the pandemic.

The lockdown has halted most economic activity, with only essential service workers in sectors like food and healthcare allowed to operate.

A large part of the workforce is in the low-income

## Mozambique

## Militants kill 52 in Delgado

The Defence and Security Forces of Mozambique (FDS) confirmed that 52 young people were killed by insurgents in the country's northernmost province Cabo Delgado, according to local media.

The massacre occurred in the first week of April in the village of Xitaxi, Muidumbe district, where the victims refused to be enrolled by the insurgents, who later launched attacks on them. FDS spokesman for the Joint Command Orlando Mudumane said,

"Recently, the evildoers tried to recruit young people to join their ranks, but there was resistance from the side of the youth. This provoked the wrath of the malefactors who indiscriminately killed, cruelly and diabolically, 52 young people in the village of Xitaxi, district of Muidumbe," local newspaper *Jornal Noticias* quoted Mr Mudumane as saying.

Several districts in Cabo Delgado have been going through such turmoil as a group of armed insurgents carried out attacks against civilians and military targets in the region from time to time since October 2017.

The FDS has called on young people to resist the attempts to make them join the group. Mudumane said the FDS urged all stakeholders to cooperate in the fight against the insurgents sowing terror. [Xinhua]

## Coronavirus

## UN: World at risk of 'biblical' famines

The world is at risk of widespread famines "of biblical proportions" caused by the coronavirus pandemic, the UN has warned.

David Beasley, head of the World Food Programme (WFP), said urgent action was needed to avoid a catastrophe.

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

Those most at risk are in 10 countries affected by conflict, economic crisis and climate change, the WFP said.

The fourth annual Global Report on Food Crises highlighted Yemen, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Afghanistan, Venezuela, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Nigeria and Haiti.

In South Sudan, 61 per cent of the population was affected by food crisis last year, the report said. [BBC]

### Ramadan. Saudi to ease curfew hours during holy fasting month



**Religion.** Workers clean and sterilise the Kaaba, following the outbreak of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19), ahead of the holy fasting month of Ramadan, in the Grand mosque in the holy city of Mecca. Saudi Arabia plans to ease curfew hours it imposed on several cities during the month of Ramadan to allow people more time to shop for essential needs within the boundaries of their neighbourhoods, state news agency (SPA) reported. Currently, people living in areas under 24-hour curfews can go out for healthcare and to supermarkets from 6am to 3pm. In Ramadan these hours will start from 9am until 5pm, SPA said. [Reuters]



# Talanta Mtaani Season 4

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**PERSONAL NOTICES**

**A9/LOST**

**LOSS** of Title Deed LR No 20172/252, IR No 94432 registered as King-Size Co-operative Society, for land in Mavoko, Athiriver Area.

**LOST** Title deed loc 3/Mukuria/514

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT (No 13 of 2019) CHANGE OF USER**

The registered owners of plot no LR No 10901/30 Plot no 1548 (share certificate no 201348) located in Malindi, propose to **Change the User from Agricultural to Residential (Multi-Dwelling Units)** User subject to approval by County Government of Kilifi. Plans and attendant details are deposited at county's planning office for inspection. Individuals, institutions, etc., with comments or objections are requested to submit them on writing within 14 days of this notice to:  
The CC/M, Land, Housing & Physical Planning  
County Government of Kilifi  
P.O. Box 2144-80900  
Kilifi

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT (2019) CHANGE OF USER**

The registered owner of parcel **Rukio East Block 1 (Githungu)** 1/342 located within Gatongwa Ward, Bura Sub-County proposes to change its user from **Agricultural to a Petrol Station** subject to approval by the County Government of Kilifi. Individuals, institutions, members of the public etc., with any comments and or objections to the proposal should forward them within 14 days of this notice to:  
The Director of Urban Development and Management  
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P.O. Box 2144, Kilifi.

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**KASARANI** Maternity 6 storey building with 42units of beditters each @6500 plus 2units of 1 br each @10000 total inc 293000kpm price 30M 0746806982  
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**PUBLIC AUCTION - CORRECTION**

Sale of LR No. 209/852/88 (R No. 28097/1) Huruma Estate Nairobi County Lno. Kennedy Kasuru Wanyaga  
In our advertisement in the Standard Newspaper dated 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020 on Page 33 we erroneously indicated that the registered owner of the above-named property is **Mr. Kennedy Kasuru Wanyaga**. The correct position is that the name of the registered owner is **Ms. Kennedy Kasuru Wanyaga**.  
The other terms and conditions of Sale remains unchanged.  
By Management

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**PUBLIC AUCTION**

ON THURSDAY 26<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2020 AT OUR AUCTION MART NEW KINETA BUILDING, KINNYAGA ROAD AT 11:00 AM.

LOT No.	SEC. No.	TYPE / MODEL	LOCATION
1.	KEM 0034	TRUCK	LUWYI'S STORAGE LIMITED-AOIMBAGA ROAD
2.	ACK 9169	MANUA DEMBO	CEEP/POST LIMITED

**TERMS:**  
1. Cash at the fall of the hammer  
ON THURSDAY 27<sup>th</sup> MAY 2020 AT OUR AUCTION MART NEW KINETA BUILDING, KINNYAGA ROAD AT 11:00 AM  
**PRIME RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY LOCATED WITHIN NJORO AREA, BUKA KIMBU COUNTY**  
1. All that parcel of land known as L.R. NO. KIAMBAA/THIMBUGA/2365 NJORO AREA, BUKA, KIAMBU COUNTY measuring 0.3 Acre and registered in the name of **FREDRICK MBIGUA MBUNYU** or P/O BOX 6553-NJORO NAROBU C/T **ARTHUR MBUNYU MBIGUA P.O. BOX 6553-NJORO NAROBU**. The property is situated within Njoro Area of Bukaa, Kimbu County. It is situated along Njoro Njoro Road, about 2.8 Kilometers off Banasa -Bura Road, about 1 Kilometre (Linear Distance to the North Western direction of Bukaa Town, about 780 metres to the Western direction of Tusa View Academy and about 330 metres (linear distance) to the Eastern elevation of ACK 9169A, church Njoro. The property is developed a semi-permanent bungalow constructed of timber and steel and 02 sheets roof.  
**Qualities of Sale**  
1. All intending purchaser(s) are requested to view and verify the details themselves as these are not warranted by the Auctioneer or our clients.  
2. A refundable deposit of **Kshs 1,000,000/-** must be paid to obtain a bidding number. Please note that NO bidding whatsoever without a bidding number.  
3. A deposit of 25% must be paid in cash, Bankers cheque or RTGS at the fall of the hammer and the balance within 30 days from the date of the auction to the charge advocate.  
4. Sale is subject to a reserve price.

**KIAMBU** Kirigiti 5 storey building with 20units of 3br each @26500kpm price 55M 0746806982

**KIAMBU** RD Mushroom estate 5br maisonette on 0.5acre @70M 0746806982

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**ZIMMERMAN** 5storey hse with 62units of 1br @12000k per unit total income 744000kpm price 83M 0746806982

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**BIRIKA** 6.5 ac Tony 0725772819

**BIRIKA** 2a, 1.5a, 1.4a 0725772819

**DAGORETTI** 0.160ac 0722519049

**DAWAMU** 50/100 1.2m 0725749900

**EMBU** Kiamuringa 10 acres 1km off Siakago road. 0787230086

**ISINYA** 5 acres fronting tarmac & 24 acres town centre. 0725210219 owner

**ISINYA** Nikito Town 50x100 plot ready title 7kms tarmac 0725210219

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**JUJA** prime pits at Juja Town 1/8ac@3.3m 0728150836/ 0724238459

**KITENGELA** quick sale, prime 1/4acre plot @ 2.7M Call: 0727889160

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**KONZA** Mallii 200Acres 0722753615

**KONZA** 300mts @475k 0799455444

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**MAANZONI** 2acs 45m. 073352375

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**MARAGWA** Bobo 1.2Ac 0703585111

**MARAGWA** Kharati 4ac 0723488507

**MATHIRA** 8.5Acres 0718583849

**MAURIU** bypass 1/2ac 0722462730

**MEMBLY** prime 1/8ac, 1/4ac 0722467230

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**NANYUKI** 2km @370k 0799455444

**NAZRA** Estate prime Title 0722815340

**NDEIYA** 2ac tarmac 0789471888

**NDEIYA** 1/4ac 1.2m 0789471888

**NDEIYA** 4ac tarmac 0789471888

**NGARA**, Pangani, Sec 3, 50x100 comm. title. Price - 38-68M neg 0721513344

**NGONG** road nakumat junction. 1acres with petro station. 600m neg.0722520514

**NGONG** Ololua Karen West 50x100 Sacre plots. 0722682286 owner

**NGONG** /kimuka 1/8 ksh 1.1 m 6 months instalment 0723218023

**NYAMAKIMA** Duruma RD 50'x100 ft plot with old building price @150M 0746806982

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**A CELEBRATION OF A LIFE WELL LIVED**



**Bessie Kadide Mwangulu**

We regret to announce the death of Bessie Kadide Mwangulu which occurred on 21 April 2020.

She was the wife of the late James Gachuki Munene; mother to Wendy, Jerry and Nelima and Jayson. Grandmother to Makayia Tuma.

Daughter of the late Edwin and late Ruth Mwangulu. Sister to the late Irene Mudachi, John Leja, Lydia Ndupatani, Priscilla Kori, Isaac Dunda, Florence Temu, Sammy Chilumo, the late Pamela Mwangulu and Emmanuel Nyawa.

The funeral service and burial will be held at Lang'ata Cemetery on Friday 24th April 2020 from 10:00a.m.

Due to the government's directive on public gatherings only a limited number of family members will attend.

We are thankful for the support of many during this difficult time. Contributions may be sent via Mpesa to Wendy Munene - 0719534731.

Phillipians 4:4  
**Rejoice in the Lord always & again I say rejoice.**

**PROMOTION TO GLORY**



**Mrs. Anne Wairimu NGUGI**

With humility and acceptance of God's will, the Ngugi family wishes to announce the promotion to glory of our very dear and loving Mum - Anne Wairimu Ngugi. She passed on while undergoing treatment in Nairobi on the 17th April 2020. She was a firm believer in Christ.

She was the daughter to Ruth Njeri and the late Samuel Ng'ong'i.

Anne was the loving and caring Wife to Mwalimu Ngugi Kimani, Nakuru. Loving Mum to Kim, Sam, Nduta, Njeri and Joy. She was a dear Sister to Malina, Njoroge, Kagia, Wambui and Nyanjiru. Grandmother to five grand-children Anne Wairimu, Anne Wairimu, Nathan Musau, Max Mutongoria and Elana Kimani.

The cortege leaves M.P. Shah Hospital on Friday, 24th April 2020 for a funeral service and burial in Kimandi (Sub-location); Gatanga (Division); Muranga County.

*Mum - those special memories of you will always bring a smile onto our faces. The fact that you are no longer with us will always cause us pain, but you are forever in our Hearts.*

*Till we meet again.*

*Celebrating Life*

**What God arranges for us to experience at each moment is the best and holiest thing that could happen to us.**

Jean-Pierre de Caussade



**PROMOTION TO GLORY**



**Gerald Benjamin Gitonga**

It is with great sadness that we announce the promotion to glory of Elder Gerald Benjamin Gitonga on Saturday the 18th, April, 2020 after a short illness bravely borne. Until his death, he was serving as an elder of PCEA Macedonia Church, Saraka Parish, Kajado Presbytery.

Loving husband to Naomi Wangari Gitonga. Amazing dad to Carol and Patrick Kariuki, Florence and Joe Ngugi. Late Emmah Wamuyu and Pauline and Mike Herrmann. Son to the Late Benjamin Njeru and Late Jael Nyambura. Son in law to the late David Wambugi and Late Shiffrah Wambui.

Brother of Elisha Wamuyu, Joshua Muchiri, Late Eva Nguthari, Late James Munga, Meshack Maingi, Phylis Wanjiru, Deborah Wandia, Rose Klarie and Charity Njari.

Brother-in-law of Late Muchungi, Alice, Monica, Nguthari, Damaris, Late Klarie, Njari, Isabella, Esther and the Late Ngara, Late Muriithi and Mercy, Samuel and Priscilla.

Doting Grandfather to Chris, Ciku, Julie, Makena, Jaba, Michael, Mitchell, Jata and Kuli.

He will be laid to rest at his Ongata Rongai Farm, Melonyie Road on Friday, April 24th, 2020.

**Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God! (Mathew 5:8)**



*You may encounter many defeats, but you must not be defeated. In fact, it may be necessary to encounter the defeats, so you can know who you are, what you can rise from, and how you can still come out of it.*

Maya Angelou

**Chess.** Legends including Russia's Garry Kasparov and Vladimir Kramnik will next month take part in a new online world team tournament as the game makes moves to carry on despite the global coronavirus shutdown. Six teams will compete in the Online Nations Cup from May 5-10 with former world champion Viswanathan Anand featuring for India. "This epoch-making battle draws some similarities with the 1970 'USSR vs Rest of the World' chess match-up that made headlines in Bobby Fischer's heyday," the game's world governing body FIDE said. **[AFP]**

**Twitter**  
@BBC SPORT  
National League clubs have voted to end the 2019-20 season at its current point.




# Sports

**FOOTBALL: WHY HARAMBEE STARS' PARTICIPATION IN 2022 WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS HANG IN THE BALANCE. P. 48**

**Golf**



Rory McIlroy in the Arnold Palmer Invitational golf tournament. **[AFP]**

## McIlroy against Ryder Cup with no cheering fans

World number one Rory McIlroy has added his voice to the chorus of players opposed to the idea of playing this year's Ryder Cup without spectators.

With the global golf season in chaos due to the coronavirus pandemic, the game's administrators are running through a range of possible scenarios as they attempt to plot a path back to competition.

For organisers of the Ryder Cup, which is due to take place at Whistling Straits, Wisconsin from September 25-27, that has included studying whether the tournament could be played without fans.

PGA chief executive Seth Waugh revealed earlier this week that officials had looked at the possibility of creating a "virtual fan experience" for the fiercely competitive team clash between Europe and the United States.

Waugh, however, acknowledged that a Ryder Cup without spectators was "hard to imagine," noting they were an integral part of the raucous and often febrile golfing spectacle.

McIlroy, speaking during an Instagram live event for sponsors TaylorMade, said he would rather see this year's event delayed for a year than played before empty galleries.

"I have a pretty strong view on this. I get the financial implications for everyone involved - there's a lot that goes into putting on the Ryder Cup that people don't probably know or appreciate - but having a Ryder Cup without fans is not a Ryder Cup," McIlroy said.

"For me I would much rather they delay it until 2021 than play it at Whistling Straits without fans. And that's from a European going to America, knowing that I'm going to get abuse"

**[AFP]**

**Hockey.** Butali Sugar captain trains daily to keep fit

# Wakhura strikes a balance between work and hockey

The 27-year-old is a Systems Engineer at Down to Earth Technologies Limited.

By Washington Onyango  
onyangowashington801@gmail.com

Constant Wakhura, the Butali Warriors Hockey Club captain, is not your usual team leader.

He strives to get the best out of himself in and outside the pitch.

He was confident of leading Kenya Hockey Union (KHU) Premier League defending champions Butali Warriors to their third consecutive title this year, but the coronavirus pandemic has other ideas.

He was appointed team captain earlier this year, trusted to fill the shoes of Kenneth Nyongesa, who stepped down after leading the club for six years.

With no time frame as to when sporting activities in Kenya and around the world will resume, Wakhura has decided to turn to his other focus in life;

The 27-year-old is a systems engineer, a certified Cisco Network Associate in routing and switching and also a certified Siemon installer.

"We offer IT Solutions specialising in enterprise level Server and Network systems integration. We work with our clients to integrate their business processes with technologies that keep them ahead of the competitive curve," said Wakhura.

"In Cisco networking, we deal with routers, switches and access points, while in Siemon installation, it's all about structuring and cabling," he added.

According to the Butali man, it has been somewhat difficult to keep doing what he loves most given the restrictions on movement, but he is committed to helping clients remotely.

"We work from home because it is all about systems and software but we try to help clients remotely within the capital city," he said.

Despite that, Wakhura says he juggles between training sessions and work.

"I wake up at 6am for my morning runs (10km) for an hour.

being the engineer he is.

"I have a Bachelor's Degree in Business Information Technology, with a major in Networking. Because there is no hockey due to the coronavirus pandemic, my world now is all about systems engineering," said the former Strathmore University defender.

Thereafter, I get back to work."

"In the afternoon, I workout from home, doing sit-ups, press-ups and push-ups. All these help me maintain my fitness level," said the national team player.

With his major concern being job security and playing time, Wakhura urges all Kenyans to adhere to the Ministry of Health's directives, which will help in dealing with the coronavirus pandemic.

"We hope the situation will be put under control very soon so that we can resume our daily routine," he said.

Wakhura, who also plays for the national team, signed for champions Butali Warriors in 2016.



Engineer Constant Wakhuru of Butali Warriors practices at home. Top: Mr Wakhuru at work. **[Stafford Ondego, Standard]**

**Constant Wakhura's profile**

- Age-27 years
- Position-Defender
- Club-Butali Warriors (captain)
- Former Club-Strathmore University
- Occupation-Systems Engineer
- Achievements- KHU Premier League champion 2018 and 2019

**Coronavirus.** Sport, Arts and Social Development Fund COVID-19 kitty set to roll out tomorrow

# Uhuru offers hope to athletes over funding

**Head of State re-assures government has not forgotten sportsmen and women.**

By Rodgers Eshitemi  
rokurmu@standardmedia.co.ke

President Uhuru Kenyatta has promised to use the Sport, Arts and Social Development Fund to cushion all the athletes from the ravages of the coronavirus pandemic. From the Kenyan Premier League, to volleyball, rugby, basketball, hockey, handball and athletics, the athletes are struggling to deal with the partial lockdown that has turned their daily lives upside down.

In yesterday's public address to the nation, Kenyatta said the government through the Ministry of Sports, Culture and Heritage is working out on modalities to help sportsmen and women during this difficult time.

This comes barely two weeks after the president directed the Ministry through the Sports, Arts, and Social Development Fund to set aside Sh100 million to cushion local athletes from the effects of the pandemic.

"Most of the sporting activities in the world have been suspended due to the coronavirus pandemic. Just like those who have lost jobs in other sectors, the sporting industry in the country has also been affected," said Uhuru.

"We have not forgotten our sportsmen and women. We are looking at the best possible ways of assisting them. We are going to assist each and every vulnerable Kenyan until the pandemic is contained. We are going to see how best we can use the Sports Fund and other avenues to cushion them during this difficult period."

On April 11, football stakeholders led by former FKF president Sam Nyamweya appealed to President Uhuru to consider measures to alleviate Kenya's top tier league in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

**We are going to see how best we can use the Sports Fund and other avenues to cushion them during this difficult period."**

Uhuru Kenya, President of the Republic of Kenya



Mathare United Lennox Ogutu (left) and Promise Chinonso during KPL match at Machakos stadium on February 2. [Fie]

President Uhuru and former PM Odinga during a KPL match between AFC and Gor at Kasarani on March 8. [Fie]

Wachuka, the kitty which is targeting to raise between Sh150 million and Sh200 million is likely to roll out tomorrow with priority given to the most vulnerable cases.

"We have had very positive feedback from the private sector and we are targeting to raise between Sh150 m and Sh200m. If we raise three-quarters of that amount, then we are good to go.

"We are still working on some modalities before rolling the programme out. We've a follow-up meeting with our partners today (Thursday), so we will be rolling out the programme by Friday.

She added: "We are working with the federations and we trust they will give us the names of the athletes who are in dire need. It is not an entitlement because this COVID-19 just hit all of us at the same time, but we are doing our level best to cushion our sportsmen and women."

According to the Ministry's Chief of Staff Rose

past six months has seen our players go through extremely difficult times, being unable to pay for their house rent and eventually kicked out, unable to feed their families, pay school fees for their children, medical bills for their families and dependents."

And in light of the president's directive, the Ministry of Sports has already engaged the private sector to set up a kitty to cushion the athletes.

**COVID-19. K'Ogalo diehard fan makes own masks**



**Innovation.** Gor Mahlia fan Jaro Soja with his family wearing masks and a sanitizer at their home in Nairobi yesterday in one of the measures to contain the spread of coronavirus. He sells some of the masks in bid to bid the COVID-19. [Stafford Ondego, Standard]

**In Brief**

**Eredivisie. Dutch league season cancelled**

Professional soccer in the Netherlands is effectively over for the rest of the season but clubs must wait until Friday to find out if champions are to be declared and what will happen about promotion and relegation. The government's decision to extend a ban on public events until September 1 in an effort to prevent a new wave of

COVID-19 cases brought a premature close to the league campaign, which was suspended last month due to the pandemic. Dutch clubs had been divided over whether to try and get the season back underway, as encouraged by UEFA, but that debate was ended when Prime minister Mark Rutte extended restrictions by three more months. The Dutch Football Association (KNVB) was quick to follow Rutte's address with a statement effectively calling off the rest of the 2019-20 campaign, although they said they would be consulting with UEFA before final confirmation.

[Reuters]

**Serie A. Clubs agree to complete season**

Italy's 20 Serie A teams have buried their differences and unanimously agreed that they should try and complete the 2019-20 season which is currently at a standstill because of the COVID-19 outbreak. Previously, several clubs, including Sampdoria and Torino, had opposed carrying on while Brescia went further, saying they would prefer to forfeit matches rather than take to the field. However, Serie A said in a statement on Tuesday that everyone now agreed they should try and finish the season, which has been suspended since March 9. "The Serie A general assembly met this morning and confirmed, with a unanimous vote of all 20 clubs



Logo of Italy's Lega Serie A

connected by video conference, the intention to complete the 2019-2020 football season, if the government allows it to take place," said the statement. [Reuters]

**COVID-19. Football return not viable says Colombia president**

Colombian President Ivan Duque has dismissed the idea of restarting the country's soccer league behind closed doors, saying to do so would endanger the health of players and staff. "Explain to me how one can guarantee a competition with more than 20 teams and not one player has the coronavirus?" Duque said in a radio interview with the La FM station. "Explain to me how one guarantees

that in addition to the players and the coaching team, that in addition to them the whole support staff, the physiotherapists, the kit men, the transportation staff, that none of them has the coronavirus. It's very difficult." The South American nation declared a public health emergency on March 12 and suspended all public events, including the main soccer leagues for both men and women. Since then, Colombia has recorded almost 4000 cases of COVID-19 and 189 fatalities.

[Reuters]

**Athletics.** Kipchoge can be joined by 50 or more other athletes on weekly long runs

# The humble home life behind Kipchoge's remarkable success

Running trainers lie next to brooms and mops outside the front door to the main building.

By BBC  
sports@standardmedia.co.ke

In the lush green gardens of Eliud Kipchoge's training retreat in the Kenyan highlands, the greatest distance runner of all time is describing the dusty beginnings to his sparkling career.

Growing up, running for Kipchoge was functional. Schoolchildren in Kenya often run long distances without thinking anything about it, and he would run to school and back every day, also repeating the journey at lunch.

"You don't know you are running because it is a must," says Kipchoge.

But in 2002 at the age of 18, his life was changed forever when his now-coach Patrick Sang offered him a training plan to channel his obvious talent. The only problem? He didn't have a pen.

"I just got a stick and wrote the plan for 10 days down on my arm," Kipchoge says. "Then I just crammed it in my head, rushed home and got a pen and paper to write down what he had told me while it was fresh in my mind."

Eighteen years later, Kipchoge - now 35 and a multi-millionaire thanks to his incredible athletic success, the first person to run the marathon distance in under two hours - has unsurprisingly long since replaced the stick and arm method with a training journal.

But many things have remained the same. The life Kipchoge lives is a simple one, as free from distractions as possible. The setting is the remote Kenyan village of Kaptagat.

The first thing that strikes you is the quiet.

It's taken a 24-hour journey from the UK, with three plane rides and multiple taxis, to reach Kipchoge's camp. We're a long way from the hustle and bustle of city life.

The bright orange dust roads that surround the camp are bumpy and rutted. But inside the gates, the grass is lush, green and smooth. A host of people mill around - at any given time up to 30 athletes live and train here - but the atmosphere is slow and tranquil.

If it weren't for the rows and rows of £200 Nike Vaporfly shoes on racks outside the two dormitories (one for men, one for women) you could be forgiven for thinking you were in a Buddhist retreat.

Kipchoge's weekly routine is certainly monastic. From Monday to Saturday every week, running is a religion. Despite his wife and three children being only a short drive away in the family home, Kipchoge chooses to spend the week in a basic room in the dormitories here. There



Eliud Kipchoge celebrates after crossing the finish line at the end of his attempt to bust the mythical two-hour barrier for the marathon on October 12, 2019, in Vienna. [File]

is one nod to his celebrity status - he has his own room while everyone else shares. But other than that life is spartan.

"Our life here is simple, very simple," he says. "Get up in the morning, go for a run, come back. If it is a day for cleaning, we do the cleaning, or we just relax. Thengo for lunch, massage, the 4 o'clock run, evening tea, relax, go to sleep. As simple as that."

Kaptagat has performance benefits in terms of its altitude. It is 8,000 feet above sea level. But the back-to-basics attitude is its real secret weapon.

**"It is not about becoming famous but diffusing that inspiration to every human being. My happiness is meeting people and they say to me: 'No human is limited.'"**

World record holder Eliud Kipchoge

When Sang set it up in 2002, it was expected to serve as a base for juniors and up-and-coming athletes - not become the permanent home for the greatest marathon runner of all time.

"It was in our mind that when somebody was established they would live outside, but then athletes said no, we want to stay," Valentijn Trouw - Kipchoge's long-time manager and confidant - has said.

A week's stay at camp Kipchoge is formulaic. The training diary is set in stone - two sessions a day, the most of important of which come on Tuesdays (track), Thursdays (long run)

and Saturdays (interval training). The second session of the day is the afternoon 10km run. It is known as a recovery run. It certainly didn't feel that way to me when I was invited along one afternoon.

A camp cook prepares the daily meals, which have a similarly rigid structure. Dinner, for example, is always at 7:30pm. And it always features ugali, the ubiquitous Kenyan maize flour porridge dish.

The kitchen is tiny and basic, one stove with two hobs. There is meat slow-cooking in a battered pot when I put my head around the door. Adjacent is an equally basic dining room which has a bedraggled poster on the walls with the quote: "The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step."

It feels like a low-budget hostel. But as Geoffrey Kamworor, the half-marathon world record-holder who lives and trains alongside Kipchoge, explains, its minimalism is its allure.

"I think being in the camp is something good for us," he says. "We are away from our families so that brings one focus. It is only running."

"We value running as like our office. It's something we have to take care of, work for, have passion for and respect for."

That respect extends to the camp at large. They have a president, voted for by the 30 residents, and elect sub-committees to make key community decisions. "I don't think he has actually," is coach Sang's jovial response when asked whether Kipchoge has ever served as president.

Regardless, for everybody here, Kipchoge is the undisputed "boss man", even if he winces when asked about the nickname.

"They call me it but I always discourage them," he says. "When you

**2:01:39**

■ Eliud Kipchoge's world marathon record

**Sh26,478**

■ Cost of Eliud Kipchoge's Nike Vaporfly shoes

become a boss, you don't think straight. It's better to be a leader than a boss. That is why I do my share of the cleaning. That is how to show the way to young people. I am trusting that I am leading them in a good way."

Kipchoge's ability to lead by example in competition is obvious.

The official marathon world record-holder, and since then the first man ever to run the distance under two hours, has a CV that includes a complete set of Olympic medals: from Athens 2004 (5,000m bronze), Beijing 2008 (5,000m silver) and Rio 2016 (marathon gold). He has won 11 of his 12 marathons since he switched to the road in 2013.

But spending time in Kaptagat - and in a rare interview with his wife Grace - you get a greater sense of who

Marathoner Eliud Kipchoge in a past training session in Moiben, Uasin Gishu. [Dennis Oweyo, Standard]

Kipchoge is away from racing.

He and Grace met through her brother Amos - one of Kipchoge's best friends. It was his "silent and humble" qualities that attracted her.

His wife also revealed that the family spend Sundays watching Formula 1 together.

"The children know that. And I also know that. I always keep time. It is very important, especially on Sundays around going to church. It starts at nine. But by 8:30am, we leave the house. It is a lot of time because it is only a five-minute drive."

Kenyan athletics has seen a number of stories of highly successful athletes celebrating perhaps a little too much, or getting carried away by fame. Kipchoge is adamant he will never have his head turned.

"I don't have extra money to actually make my mind go haywire," says Kipchoge. "I am a human being and I stay as a human being. Money stays away. I'm not working with money; money is in the bank. I

want to live a simple life."

Kipchoge's idea of a weekend blow-out is to go to his small farm where he keeps cows, sheep and chicken. On a visit to Eldoret town, about 25km away, pet shop owner Mike Kiplagat describes his monthly visits to buy animal feed.

"He arrives on the back of a motor-bike taxi, comes in, makes his purchase and then leaves. He is a legend but is so humble."

Kipchoge says: "Animals are good for being around, especially after training - you go to animals and you feel relaxed. You can refresh your mind."

His incredible cardiovascular fitness actually has its origins in farming. As well as running to and from school, the teenage Kipchoge used to earn money by transporting milk on a bike. He would ride a 40km round trip from his family home to a nearby town - collecting and then selling milk from farmers.

These character-building cycling trips immediately come to mind when watching Thursday's long run - and not just because the distance covered is the same.

It is 5:30am and still nearly pitch black. Kipchoge and the rest of the training group make their way to the camp gates to assemble for the most testing run of the week. Very few words are spoken, but as we approach the gates there is a real buzz in the air.

Despite the fact that the sun is yet to rise, a crowd of at least 50 (and rising) is

**"At home he is fun and runs around the house playing with the children but he is always strict on time."**

Eliud Kipchoge's wife Grace

already waiting by the road. They are not autograph-hunters but budding local athletes, eager to catch the eye by proving they can keep pace with the greatest marathon runner of all time.

Late in 2019, I had breakfast with Kipchoge on the morning of the BBC Sports Personality of the Year Awards. He assembled an incredible plate of food - fried bread, black pudding, eggs, beans, sausage... and croissants for dipping.

"British breakfasts are the best in the world," he said between mouthfuls.

This morning he is about to take on his longest run of the week having eaten nothing. Watching the session from a minivan trailing behind, coach Sang provides insight from the front seat.

"We have had athletes come to the long runs like this who have then been invited to the camp," he says.

At our first stop to watch the athletes fly by, one runner, in his eagerness to impress, is miles ahead of the main pack. "Look at this madman," Sang laughs.

Kipchoge's face is stern, a picture of concentration, when he passes a minute later, as it is throughout the two-hour run.

"He has never missed a session. Not one," says Sang. It's an incredible statement given the two have worked together for nearly 20 years.

That consistency is arguably Kipchoge's most remarkable quality. Marathon running is a notoriously tough sport. Injuries are commonplace as the workload is often over 100 miles a week.

But it was actually a hamstring problem as a track athlete in 2012 that prompted Kipchoge to switch to marathon running after he failed to qualify for the London Olympics - and he has not had a major injury since. How is that possible?

"Staying fit is really hard," says physio Peter Nduhii. "But Eliud makes it easy for me to work on him. If he feels an issue, he will come to me straight away after a run before even going back to his room and we can nip it in the bud. This body that we have, if you treat it well it

will treat you well. If you mishandle it, then it will misbehave."

By the time the athletes return to the camp, the group of around 100 that started the run has been whittled down to five.

Kipchoge, predictably, leads the handful - and the handshakes afterwards. As we walk back to the camp, our conversation again turns to bikes.

After becoming the first man in history to run under two hours in Vienna last October, Kipchoge was given a road bike by Ineos, financial backers behind the sub-two-hour marathon event. Since then, he has been riding it around the

**"For as long as he remains healthy and as strong-minded as he is, he will take on anything. Anything. It wouldn't be out of this world for him to run 1:59 on a normal course. He has everything it takes to deliver it."**

Eliud Kipchoge's physio Peter Nduhii

countryside surrounding Eldoret at the weekends.

Typically for Kipchoge, he's taking it quite seriously. He tells me he has a 300km ride lined up for later in the year. "Under three hours I thought, that will be OK, right?" he says.

Even for Kipchoge, and his catchphrase 'No human is limited', I suggest 100km/h on the dirt roads of Eldoret might be a stretch. "Maybe four then," he concedes.

Kipchoge's "moon-landing" moment in becoming the first person to run a marathon distance in under two hours is not a world record because, among other things, he used pacemakers who

swapped in and out during the event.

On the treatment table the day after running 1:59 in Vienna, Kipchoge said to Nduhii: "Now, the next thing. Make it official."

Nduhii has a take on Kipchoge's ability to set, and achieve, goals. "I think he has left his world limitless so he can set his mind on anything and go for it," he says.

Kipchoge has not gone public with his desire to produce a sub-two hour marathon in regular race conditions, but there were rumours he was planning to attempt it at the London Marathon, scheduled to have taken place this coming Sunday but postponed amid the coronavirus outbreak.

Coronavirus has also put paid, for now, to the Olympic Games in Tokyo where Kipchoge was due to defend his title.

Wife Grace hinted during our conversation that 2020 might have been Kipchoge's swansong. However he has said in the wake of the Olympics' postponement that he will defend his title in Japan in 2021 instead. He will be 36.

A second Olympic gold would send the already world-famous Kipchoge on to another level. But it's unlikely to change him - or his pursuit of a low-key life at his high-altitude training base.

"Vienna felt like a career climax for me - it was a feeling like no other," Nduhii says. "If it was any other guy to break the two-hour record, there would have been a carnival. But what did Eliud do? He came back to camp, had a cup of tea with the team and just started again."

"People were mad - they asked how can he do that? Who does that? But Eliud is quiet - that is it. You will not disrupt his schedule."

The 18-year-old who wrote that first training schedule down with a stick has become one of the most famous athletes on the planet. But the goals remain simple - and humble.

"The most important thing," Kipchoge says.



Eliud Kipchoge (left) with his wife Grace after busting the mythical two-hour barrier for the marathon on October 12, 2019, in Vienna. [File]



Eliud Kipchoge is hugged by his wife Grace Sugutt at the Eldoret International Airport after winning a past London Marathon. [Peter Ochieng, Standard]



Eliud Kipchoge washing his legs while in camp in Kaptagat. [NN Running team]



The Standard Monday - Friday



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ATHLETICS. MARATHON KING KIPCHOGE DOESN'T LIKE NICKNAME BOSS AS HE REVEALS MORE SECRETS BEHIND HIS SUCCESS, PG 46-47

English Premier League



St James' Park, Newcastle. [File]

# BeIN calls on EPL to probe Saudi Arabia takeover of Newcastle

A key Premier League broadcast partner has called on club bosses to probe a Saudi Arabian bid to buy Newcastle United over piracy allegations, it said yesterday.

The Magpies are on the verge of being sold to a Saudi-backed consortium that involves Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman for around Sh40billion.

It was reported on Tuesday that a non-refundable deposit of Sh2.2 billion has already been paid to current owner Mike Ashley as part of the deal.

The Premier League must decide if the new owners meet the criteria in its owners and directors test.

Qatar-based BeIN accuses Saudi of masquerading the pirate broadcast of BeIN output, which included EPL games, as part of a spat between Doha and Riyadh. Saudi denies the claims.

In a letter to top-flight English clubs, BeIN urges them to put pressure on league officials to investigate whether Saudi "directors, officers and other representatives" would be fit and proper to own Newcastle.

"My request is purely based on the Saudi Arabia government's role in the past and continuing theft of the commercial interests of your club, the Premier League, all its broadcast partners and football in general — which, I think you would agree, simply cannot go ignored," wrote BeIN Media chief executive Yousef al-Obaidly.

"It is no exaggeration to say that the future economic model of football is at stake."

BeIN alleges that following a breakdown in relations between Qatar and Saudi Arabia and its allies in 2017, Riyadh established a bootleg sport TV operation that stole BeIN's feeds.

The streams were then rebroadcast on satellites controlled from Riyadh, BeIN says.

Though the satellite broadcasts have ceased, BeIN maintains that the set-top boxes distributed by the "beoutQ" piracy operation still enable access to illegal sports broadcasts using internet technology. [AFP]

Football. Why Harambee Stars' participation in 2022 World Cup qualifiers hang in the balance

# FKF set to default on Sh109m Adel debt



**If we are banned, we will accept it and move on."**

Nick Mwendwa, former FKF president

Mwendwa tells Kenyans to prepare for a possible expulsion from 2022 World Cup qualifiers.

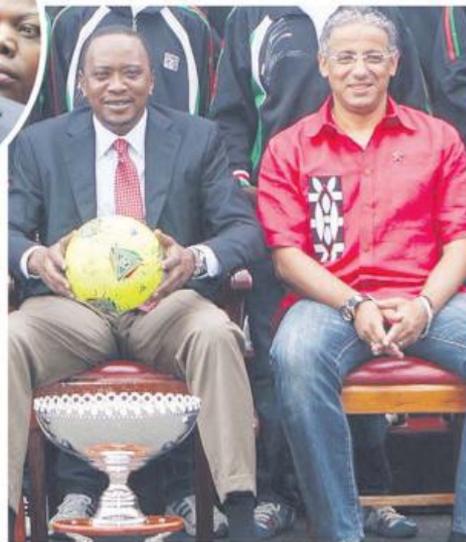
By Rodgers Eshitemi  
rokumu@standardmedia.co.ke

Harambee Stars' chances of participating in the 2022 Fifa World Cup qualifiers could be over with just hours remaining before today's midnight deadline for Football Kenya Federation (FKF) to pay former coach Adel Amrouche Sh109 million. Kenya's fate now lies in the hands of Amrouche and the Fifa's Disciplinary Committee as the nation waits with bated breath for a final decision from the Switzerland-based body.

FKF was given until April 23 (today) after a 30-day extension to pay the Belgian in full or face sanctions was granted on March 23.

In a terse warning after granting the Federation the extension, the Fifa Disciplinary Committee said: "If the payment is not made to the creditor (Amrouche) and proof of such payment is not provided to the secretariat to the Fifa Disciplinary Committee by the deadline, the present matter will, upon request of the Creditor, be re-submitted to the Disciplinary Committee to impose harsher sanctions on the Football Kenya Federation. The sanctions may lead, amongst others, to expulsion from Fifa competitions."

The Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS) on September 19 last



Ex-Harambee Stars coach Adel Amrouche with President Uhuru Kenyatta at State House on December 14, 2013. [Robin Toskin, Standard]

### Possible outcome from FKF v Adel Amrouche case

- Kenya risks being ejected from 2022 World Cup Qualifiers
- Fifa could use its development fund meant for Kenya to settle Amrouche's dues.
- Fifa could institute other unspecified disciplinary actions on FKF.
- Group E, 2022 World Cup Qualifiers: Kenya, Mali, Uganda and Rwanda.

year directed FKF to pay Amrouche the amount as compensation for wrongful dismissal. FKF fired the Belgian in 2014, but was reinstated at the tail-end of Sam Nyamweya's term in 2016 after the Confederation of African Football (Caf) cleared him of any wrongdoing.

Nick Mwendwa's regime, however, declined to deal with him leading

to the present situation. Amrouche first won his case for wrongful dismissal before Fifa Players Status Committee and later at Court of Arbitration for Sport where he was awarded Sh109million.

And with FKF having failed to settle Amrouche's dues within the set deadline, the Fifa Disciplinary Committee is expected to give its verdict should Amrouche, who is at liberty to do so, refer the case back to the chamber.

And as Zimbabwe suffered a similar fate for the 2018 World Cup qualifiers, Harambee Stars now stand a real risk of being ejected from the road to Qatar 2022.

Harambee Stars are in Group E of the Qatar qualifiers alongside Mali, Uganda and Rwanda.

Appearing on KTN's Zilizala Show on Monday, Nick Mwendwa, who the Sports Disputes Tribunal has ruled is no longer legally FKF president

said he is ready for Fifa's verdict after the government declined to commit itself.

"We have written to Fifa again requesting them to extend the payment deadline because the government has not communicated to us on how we will settle the debt, Mwendwa said.

"But I doubt if they will heed to our call because they have given us enough time since October 2019. So, there is a likelihood we will not be able to pay the money on time. This means that Kenya will not participate in the 2022 World Cup qualifiers.

**"This has nothing to do with government. Why is FKF not negotiating with Fifa or the coach (Adel Amrouche) on a payment plan?"**

Amina Mohamed, Cabinet Secretary for Sport

"We will just be barred from the World Cup qualifiers, but we will continue participating in the youth and women competitions as well as the Afcon and Chan tournaments. If we are banned, we will accept it and move on."

Sports Cabinet Secretary Amina Mohamed is on record saying the government could not pay for the federation's mistakes.

"This has nothing to do with government. Why is FKF not negotiating with Fifa or the coach (Adel Amrouche) on a payment plan? Amina said on March 11.

She added at the time: "No government in its right senses would fork out Sh109 million to pay an individual for the mistakes of an irresponsible federation. I don't understand it."

The CS took issue with the casual manner FKF had managed the coach's case.

"Why, for instance, did they let go of the coach without consulting the government. And if after losing the case, why did they appeal knowing the consequences of such action given the gravity of the case? she said.

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