



The future of work: How virus disrupted industry

Employment. From job and salary cuts to total collapse of entire sectors, Kenyan workers have little to celebrate and a lot to be afraid of this Labour Day. Coronavirus has jolted work cultures in ways not seen before. **Pages 2&3**



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National, P.6

Kibochi is Kenya's new top soldier



Change of command. General Robert Kibochi was yesterday named the Chief of Defence Forces, succeeding General Samson Mwathethe. Also promoted in the changes announced by President Uhuru were Lt Gen Levi Mghalu to deputise Kibochi, and Maj Gen Jimson Mutai to head the Kenya Navy.

Business, P.39

CBK boss dismisses loan apps as 'fleas'



Governor Patrick Njoroge has labelled mobile lenders parasites exploiting the public and dared them to quit Kenya.



Sonko takes on Uhuru

Too little too late? Two months after signing away vast powers to the national government, embattled Nairobi Governor Mike Sonko moves to court to quash the transfer of key functions. This effectively takes the war to the President who oversaw the agreement. **Page 4**

Labour Day. The changing face of Kenya's job market

Workplaces will never be the same after

Workers will have to change what they do and how they do it or perish.

By Moses Michira
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Kenyan workers head into Labour Day celebrations today uncertain of how long they will retain their jobs or when painful cuts on their salaries will end.

Thousands of workers have already lost their jobs in the wake of an economic shutdown triggered by the raging Covid-19 pandemic.

This year's Labour Day is being marked under starkly different circumstances from the past when the clamour for better pay and work safety were the centre of the celebrations.

With thousands working from home or sent on compulsory leave uncertain of their job security, better pay has taken a back seat in Kenya's labour market.

Many firms have been forced back to the drawing board to stay afloat and keep operations running.

For example, chances are high that calls to customer care desks of various firms today are being answered from customer care representatives' bedrooms in the new realities of working from home.

In yet another transformation, a number of firms have suddenly turned into new Covid-19 related fields such as making hand sanitizers and masks.

Experts warn that the current disruption caused by the pandemic might turn out to be a tip of the iceberg that heralds something bigger for Kenya's labour

market.

Kenyan workers, they say, will have to accept radical changes in what they do and how they do it.

"Some sectors will be hit more severely than others. Some jobs may be lost for good or for a long time," says Jacob Omollo, a senior economics lecturer at Kenyatta University.

But others are more optimistic. Bitange Ndemo, who teaches entrepreneurship at the University of Nairobi, describes the disruptions triggered by Covid-19 in the global economy as the birth pangs of the fourth industrial revolution.

Prof Ndemo predicts that the

aftermath of Covid-19 will see the creation of more jobs requiring a new, broader skill set.

"Rapid technological changes will continue to disrupt the jobs that we know and replacing them with new ones that we don't know to the extent that to be relevant in the future of work, one must adopt lifelong learning," says Ndemo.

Economists have shared their projections on the new normal at the workplace triggered by the pandemic.

Among the changes are unpaid or forced leave as employers seek to enforce social distancing in the workplace.



"It is likely that the workforce will be pooled and shared among various firms, which are already outsourcing non-essential services such as security, cleaning and office administration."

Ms Jacqueline Mugo, FKE



"Many future jobs may not be permanent and pensionable. Whether we like it or not, productivity will dictate the terms. Employers won't hire people in anticipation of work to be done."

Prof Bitange Ndemo, UoN



Chief among these changes is learning to work online and using the social media for more than just online banter.

Covid-19 has accelerated the uptake of technology at work while helping dissociate the workplace from the physical.

"This is likely to be 'the new normal' in the workplace. For example, I am supervising my postgraduate students online, making follow-ups on the phone

and sharing documents on WhatsApp and email," says Dr Omollo.

Still, unlike his kind of job that requires minimal physical interaction, thousands of other jobs such as babysitting, cooking or hairdressing cannot be done online.

With the imposed restrictions on movements and closure of many institutions, the future of such workers now

hangs in the balance.

"More people are working from home and are likely to decide to do some jobs themselves instead of hiring. Those are jobs lost right there," said the lecturer.

Julius Kipng'etich, Jubilee Holdings' regional executive, credits Covid-19 with fast-tracking the future of the workplace.

According to Dr Kipng'etich, the pandemic has accelerated

Measures

Coronavirus dashes workers' hopes for wage increment



Secured security personnel during Labour Day celebrations, on May 1, 2019, at Uhuru Park, Nairobi. [File, Standard]

Coronavirus pandemic has ruined Labour Day celebrations as hopes of pay rise are replaced with job losses and pay cuts.

Several workers globally are struggling after their livelihoods were destroyed by the impact of Covid-19 on the economy as a result of lockdown in various countries to control the spread of the disease. In the country, the annual celebrations have been used by workers to push for minimum wage increment.

Yesterday, workers' union officials reckoned that the economy was in bad shape owing to the disease that has effectively reduced working hours.

The workers' day comes as sev-

eral employees in the formal and informal sector have lost their jobs while thousands others have been asked to take pay cuts due to decline in revenues.

Cotu Secretary General Francis Atwoli described the day as extraordinary as there would be no talks about pay increment for workers. Atwoli, however, said the union had asked employers not to sack employees during the pandemic, and instead send them on leave during the period.

"No one should talk of pay cuts and job losses. We have agreed with government and employers that there should be no pay cuts and no employee should be sacked," he said.

He added: "To ensure no worker loses his or her job, we have asked employers to allow their workers to take leave. We expect things to normalise and employers should be willing to take back their employees so that in the Kenyan spirit of working hard, they work to recover what the companies lost." Atwoli said the union was expecting an annual wage increment of 22 per cent during today's celebrations.

"I have been in the labour movement for 53 years and there is no incidence where an international celebration like Labour Day has not been celebrated. Even during times of political misunderstanding," he added. Kenya

County Government Workers Union (KCGWU) General Secretary Roba Duba said workers had to understand the difficult circumstances occasioned by the disease.

Make sacrifices

Mr Duba said focus would now be on how to defeat the pandemic by supporting government initiatives on the same.

"We are at war with Covid-19. What we all need now is to defeat the disease that has threatened our lives before we can talk about other things," he said.

"But this does not mean that we have waived on our rights as workers. Our rights for better pay

remain; it is only that we cannot demand for the rights at this particular time. We want to ask our members to understand the context," he added.

Kupet Secretary-General Akelo Misori described this year's Labour Day as unique since workers will not mark it with celebrations.

Mr Misori said the pandemic had destabilised the economy and affected livelihood for millions of Kenyans. Education programmes have all but ground to a

pandemic

ing meeting over the internet and virtual learning," he says.

He, however, warns that sectors in the high-touch economy, including travel, hotels and manufacturing, will be the worst hit in the inevitable restructuring triggered by coronavirus pandemic.

More commercial banks, for example, are likely to shed jobs after the Covid-19 pandemic fuelled by the uptake of online and mobile banking.

Most loan applications and appraisals are currently being done online while the uptake of mobile banking has sounded the death knell for bank tellers and ATMs.

This week, the Standard Chartered Bank announced it will be closing eight branches in Nairobi alone, citing reduced number of customers visiting the outlets in the midst of the pandemic.

Jacqueline Mugo, the executive director of Kenya Federation of Employers, says Covid-19 has profoundly changed the future of the workplace.

Ms Mugo warns that more positions in the workplace will require multiple skills, and that this will mean doing away with some staff, especially those offering manual labour.

"I think there will be more pressure on the few who will retain their jobs after Covid-19 when technology will play a bigger role," she says.

While contending that some menial jobs could still be retained in Kenya's labour market, the employers federation official warns that workers will need additional skills to survive the aftermath of Covid-19 in the workplace.

"It is likely that the workforce will be pooled and shared among various firms, which are already outsourcing non-essential services such as security, cleaning and office administration," she says.

the evolution of the workplace into a low-touch environment with less physical human interaction.

"We were eventually evolving to a low-touch economy includ-

What has changed

- More use of holographics and 3D imaging
- Working over the internet or telephone
- Outsourcing where employees could be working for multiple employers
- Increased automation to replace human labour
- The rise of virtual offices to replace physical offices

Workers' welfare

Is Atwoli playing politics while workers' rights are abused during Covid-19 crisis?

Today the world marks Labour Day with no celebrations because of coronavirus. In an interview *The Standard's* Protus Onyango talks to Cotu Secretary General Francis Atwoli about measures to cushion workers during the pandemic.

1. This is an extraordinary Labour Day, there will be no celebrations, no talk of salary increment because workers are not only taking pay cuts but they are losing jobs.

No one should talk of pay cuts and job losses. We have agreed with government and employers that there should be no pay cuts and no employees should be sacked. Government has excluded taxation of workers earning up to Sh24,000. To ensure no worker loses his or her job, we have asked employers to allow employees to take leave and those who don't have leave allowed to proceed on unpaid leave. But we will mark this day in solidarity with employees, employers and government. This is a unique moment that requires us all to work in harmony.

2. In history of labour movement has the world witnessed anything like this?

Not during my lifetime. I have been in the labour movement for 53 years and there is no time where Labour Day has not been celebrated, even during times of political misunderstandings. We were expecting an annual wage increment of 22 per cent today. We are still, however, optimistic that we will hear something positive from government.

3. In the worst case scenario, what are projections about job losses in Kenya and which sectors will be hardest hit?

As I said earlier, we don't expect job losses. We expect things to normalise and employers should be willing to take back

their employees so that in the Kenyan spirit of working hard, they work to recover what the companies lost. We expect our workers from the floriculture, artisans, credit staff and the rest of 4 million members we represent to retain their jobs.

4. Given the massive job losses, how will Cotu and other trade unions survive with shrinking workers' contributions?

Cotu and its affiliates do not exist simply because of contributions from workers. As a labour movement, we will remain objective and continue representing the interests of workers. We are a pressure group, an alternative organisation to national government.

5. Does Cotu and other trade unions have rescue packages for members?

We do not have rescue packages for our members, but we have ensured that they don't suffer during this period. I am signing an agreement with the Labour Cabinet Secretary now, which provides that employers continue submitting statutory deductions for workers and don't sack anyone.

6. Do you think you have done enough to champion the welfare of workers in these hard times when they are at the mercy of employers?

Yes, I have championed good policies so that we have a good working environment, advocated for economic and social well-being of our members.

I am relentless on corruption. I am on record demanding for accountability of all the monies raised and received during this Covid-19 pandemic so that it does not end up in a few corrupt individuals' pockets.

7. What structures have you put in place to cushion employees from unilateral pay reductions and to ensure once normalcy returns they get back to their normal salaries?

Any employer effecting pay cut is committing an illegality. We expect this not to happen. In this case, therefore, all employees, unionisable and those not in unions, should continue getting their dues

as set out in their collective bargaining agreements. I cannot lead Africa, but fail to provide leadership in my country Kenya.

8. Do you have a team to assess the economic outlook so that workers are not on reduced pay indefinitely?

We have a team that is reviewing the current situation. After the lapse of 21 days, we will in the first week of June appeal to government to reopen more businesses so that the economy begins to pick up.

9. What is your reaction to claims that you have been quiet on workers' plight in the Covid-19 crisis, considering you were vocal on politics, Building Bridges Initiative (BBI) and Uhuru succession?

I have in the past and continue to advance the welfare of workers. Through my leadership, I have advised all affiliate unions to discuss with employers on packages beneficial to workers. It is only through tolerant politics that workers can work peacefully. BBI and

Uhuru succession are all hinged on good politics. In all the meetings I attend, I have never failed to advocate the welfare of workers.

10. Is there relief for workers sent on unpaid leave?

We have agreed with government and private sector that they continue remitting statutory deductions, including NHIF and NSSF. This will allow workers who are on leave to access medical care.

11. After Covid-19 what are your plans for BBI and push for unity government?

BBI is on course, we have a team of technocrats working on the way forward. Our only rescue as a country is through a government of national unity. We have the capacity to make sure that the right person assumes power after Uhuru's term.

12. Do you think the new alliances you are pursuing will not suffer the betrayal that has characterised similar political deals in the past?

I know there will be many alliances towards 2022. What I am involved in is not open to betrayal. We have looked at the past and understood what ails us as a country. We are in control of our destiny. We are old and wise and have the capability to leave a legacy to young Kenyans. We will deliver a unified Kenya in 2022. Something supported by majority of Kenyans cannot fail. Ask any Kenyan who does not want peace and an inclusive government, the answer will be "none". Anyone who is not supporting BBI and government of national unity will be swept aside and watch from the periphery when a government of national unity is formed in 2022.

"It is only through tolerant politics that workers can work peacefully. BBI and Uhuru succession are all hinged on good politics."

Francis Atwoli



halt," he said.

The union said it would remain in the forefront in supporting measures put in place by the government to contain the disease. "The union reaffirms the commitment of the teaching fraternity - including head-teachers and principals, the entire force and the unions - to help the government achieve its goal of minimising the damage of Covid-19 to national health, livelihoods and the country's economy," added Misor.

The Kuppet Secretary General urged the government to consider stimulus package for private schools to help them stay afloat during the pandemic.

National Assembly Labour and Social Welfare Committee chairman Ali Wario pleaded with employers not to be quick to send home employees.

Mr Wario said it was insensitive of employers to fire employees during this pandemic, saying it was time for companies to make sacrifices for their workers.

"Companies should not use this

pandemic to abuse rights of their workers. These are people who have worked for these companies and brought them huge profits," said the Bura MP.

"The employers need to appreciate the sacrifices these employees have made to ensure they make profit. It is time companies also sacrificed," he added.

Kenya Union of Journalists Secretary General Erick Oduor said they were working to ensure members enjoyed full benefits once companies begin to make profit after the pandemic.

"We are in an unprecedented situation. The pandemic has affected the economy globally and most employers are asking their employees to take pay cuts as a way of dealing with revenue shortfalls," said Mr Oduor.

"As workers, we want to believe and hope that once the pandemic is over and companies begin to make profit they will consider rewarding their employees," he added.

[Moses Nyamori]

Brookhouse

Court tells parents to only pay half of fee

Parents with children at Brookhouse International School will pay half of this term's fee until a case they filed before High Court is determined.

Justice Weldon Korir further ordered the school to let children in classes between Kindergarten and Grade Four proceed to holiday and not participate in the online classes.

"Pending *inter partes* hearing of the application, the petitioners are allowed to offset up to 50 per cent of school fees *pro forma* for term three of the year 2019-2020," ruled Justice Korir.

With the order parents will now pay at least Sh600,000 for senior classes while those with children in Year 6 will pay at least Sh460,000.

The court stopped children in eight classes from attending online lessons. Little Brookies are the youngest in the bracket and their parents ought to pay Sh150,000 this term. Parents whose children are in Year Four were to pay Sh930,000 for the online classes.

"An order be and is hereby issued staying the implementation of online classes for Kindergarten up to Year Four," ordered the judge.

In the case, filed by senior lawyer Ahmednassir Abdullahi, parents want court to order Brookhouse to lower its fees by 30 per cent. But the school insists on getting full fees for online classes, though they have not agreed that learning be done through that mode. [Kamau Muthoni]

Health

Sh1m for Kemri kits

Shelter Afrique Foundation has donated Sh1 million to the Kenya Medical Research Institute (Kemri) for the purchase of coronavirus testing kits.

"Testing is the first step in dealing with this pandemic, we hope our contribution will go a long way towards helping achieve test targets," the firm's CEO, Andrew Chimphondah, said, noting that the pandemic has taken a toll on humanity like no other crisis in recent history.

Kemri Director General Yeri Kombe said the kits would boost the institute's testing capacity, and help it effectively identify the infected population for isolation at the earliest opportunity.

The country is testing an average of 700 samples against a daily capacity of 30,000. [Standard Reporter]

Friend in deed. Activist Okiya Omtatah wants gazette notice legalising transfer quashed

Sonko takes war to Uhuru in pursuit of lost authority

Governor claims he was duped into signing away key devolved functions.

By Standard Team
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Nairobi Governor Mike Sonko has taken on President Uhuru Kenyatta through a case at the High Court that aims to reverse the takeover of the county by the national government.

By supporting a lawsuit filed by activist Okiya Omtatah seeking a declaration that the transfer of four key functions to the central government is illegal, Mr Sonko has effectively taken the war to the president, who oversaw the signing of the agreement.

The governor and Devolution Cabinet Secretary Eugene Wamalwa inked the deal at State House in a ceremony witnessed by President Kenyatta and Senate Speaker Ken Lusaka on February 25.

Uhuru said the takeover was necessary to improve service delivery in the capital city, which had been hampered by a power struggle at City Hall.

The president entrusted a team headed by Major General Mohamed Badi to run the city under the Nairobi Metropolitan Services (NMS).

Undermine devolution

The new team took over running of the Health, Transport, Public Works, and Planning and Development departments to the chagrin of Sonko, who refused to assent to a Bill allocating Sh15 billion for the transferred functions.

The disgruntled county boss went on the offensive, claiming that some of the president's men were taking advantage of the agreement to frustrate him.

On April 21, Sonko launched a public tirade castigating unnamed government officials after sanitisation booths he had installed in the city were vandalised.

It later emerged that he had met with Deputy President William Ruto to voice his frustrations.

"When we started this process, the president had good intentions, but some of his officers, especially the ones who hate me, have hijacked the process to embarrass and frustrate me with impunity. This is the time to terminate the transfer of functions deed," Sonko said.

The governor claimed he had been duped into signing



Nairobi Governor Mike Sonko



Nairobi County Speaker Beatrice Elachi



Major General Mohamed Badi

the deed of transfer of functions.

"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."

In his lawsuit, Sonko, through the County Public Service Board (CPSB), wants Uhuru's appointees kicked out and the deal declared unconstitutional.

Nairobi County Legal Officer Lydia Kwamboka said the transfer of functions was not intended to undermine the devolution process, which is what Sonko has accused Uhuru's men of doing.

Ms Kwamboka alleges that Uhuru's appointees to the NMS were handpicked, hence locking out other competent people from the jobs. Apart from Maj Gen Badi, the county is challenging the appointment of Fred Okunga, Peter Mwaniki,

"The transfer of functions was not intended to undermine the devolution process. We have therefore been advised by our advocates on record that on account of the unconstitutionality of the said appointment of the first 10 interested parties, the same should be revoked."

Mr Omtatah wants the gazette notice legalising the transfer quashed. He argues that the move is unconstitutional and goes against the intention of devolution. According to the activist, Nairobi residents were not consulted before Sonko appended his signature to the document.

Empty shell

"The removal of the key functions leaves Nairobi City County Government as an empty shell, and that is tantamount to dissolving the county government without reference/adherence to Article 192 of the Constitution."

Outside court, Sonko maintained his resolve to have the deal terminated.

The governor, through his spokesperson Ben Mulwa, accused the PSC and the Kenya Revenue Authority of "overstepping their mandate and committing illegalities contrary to the deed of transfer."

Mr Mulwa accused KRA of committing its first illegality when it published two bank accounts for purposes of revenue collection in disregard of the Public Finance Management Act and the County Government Act.

"The law is extremely clear that only the CEC of a county can provide direction in terms of opening or closing of county financial accounts," Mulwa

said during a press briefing at the governor's private office in Upper Hill, Nairobi.

"When the Auditor General ultimately flags the county government's accounts, the NMS or other State organs will not feature anywhere because the responsibility will be on the governor and the finance office."

Mulwa said KRA had published a notice indicating that the taxman would be processing the payroll of the Nairobi County Government "yet in the agreement the taxman is a revenue collection agent just like any other hired by the county government".

He also protested a letter by Head of Public Service Joseph Kinyua appointing chief officers for the county government, arguing that the law stipulates that the procedure for appointing chief officers is a preserve of the county government through the CPSB and the governor.

The spokesman further took issue with Speaker Beatrice Elachi for publishing the Nairobi County Supplementary Appropriations Bill, 2020, saying it was flawed.

Mulwa said Sonko had returned the initial Supplementary Bill passed on April 2 to the county assembly with a memorandum detailing his reservations.

"For the first time in the history of Commonwealth countries, we have a case where a speaker of an assembly has gone ahead to gazette a law. This is a matter already in court because we feel that it is important that the deed of transfer must be implemented procedurally and in accordance with the law," he said. [Kamau Muthoni, Anyango Otieno and Joseph Thiong'o]

"When we started this process, the resident had good intentions but some of his officers, especially the ones who hate me, have hijacked the process to embarrass and frustrate me with impunity. This is the time to terminate the transfer of functions deed."

Governor Mike Sonko

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In Brief

Kakamega. Boy hangs self over TV remote tiff

■ An 11-year-old boy has shocked villagers at Malinya in Ikolomani Sub-county after he committed suicide moments after picking a quarrel with his younger brother. The two had disagreed over the television's remote control. Carton Lituku, a pupil at Kakamega Hill School, hanged himself in his bedroom. He had been scrambling for the remote with his brother who insisted on watching his programme first. Roselyne Mabi, Lituku's mother, said the boy stormed out of the house when she told him to let the younger sibling watch what he wanted. He later returned and headed straight to his room. [John Shilita]

Busia. Mass tests for truck drivers at border

■ Drivers heading to Uganda through Busia and Malaba One Stop Border posts will now have to undergo mandatory Covid-19 tests before proceeding with their journey. Governor Sospeter Ojiambo, while launching mass testing of truck drivers yesterday, said the drivers should be tested at the point of source. Busia County Referral Hospital has the capacity to conduct 100 tests and give out results after six hours with another machine at the adjacent Kenya Medical Research Institute in Aklupe, which can do 10,000 tests per day. Dr David Mukabi will coordinate the mass testing. [Ignatius Odanga]

Eldoret. Former staff win case against varsity

■ The Supreme Court has allowed two former University of Eldoret senior staff to recover Sh38 million awarded to them for unfair dismissal. This follows a ruling by Supreme Court judges that brought the five-year-old case to an end. The university had moved to Supreme Court seeking to stop auctioneers from selling off 20 of its high-end vehicles. The vehicles were proclaimed by auctioneers in November after the university failed to pay the former staff Sh38 million awarded to them. Prof Ezekiel Kiprop and Hosea Sitieni were awarded the money by the Employment and Labour Relations Court in Nakuru on July 9, 2019. Kiprop and Sitieni had been suspended in July 2015 following student unrest at the university. [Julius Chepkwony]

Big office. Navy Commander Maj-Gen Levi Mghalu and Maj-Gen Jimson Mutai were promoted

Uhuru names Kibochi to take over from Mwachethe at KDF

Outgoing top military man reportedly declined one-year extension of his term.

By Cyrus Ombati
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President Uhuru Kenyatta has appointed Robert Kibochi the Chief of Kenya Defence Forces.

He takes over from Gen Samson Mwachethe, who retires after more than 42 years in the military.

Also promoted was Navy Commander Maj-Gen Levi Mghalu who was named Vice Chief of Defence Forces to take over from Gen Kibochi. Maj-Gen Jimson Mutai was named the new Kenya Navy commander.

President Kenyatta announced the appointments yesterday, saying the officers are expected to assume office under their new positions on May 11, 2020.

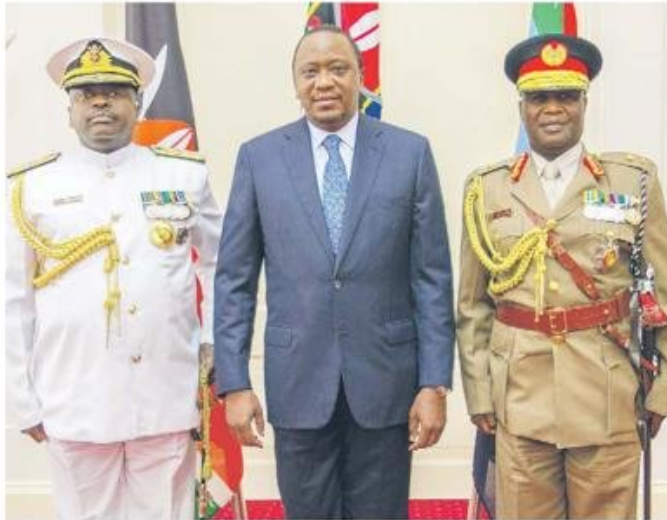
Mwachethe reportedly declined an offer of another extension of a year in office, saying it would send the wrong signal to rules in place that govern succession in the military.

There was speculation that President Kenyatta, the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, may extend Mwachethe's term by another year.

Mwachethe got an extension in May last year. His predecessor, Gen Julius Karangi, also got two extensions.

The Number One Board, the organ that decides changes in the appointment and promotion of senior military and possible retirement or extension of contracts of the Kenya Army, Kenya Navy and Kenya Air Force commanders, met yesterday and made the changes.

They briefed the president yesterday before he made the



President Uhuru Kenyatta with Chief of Kenya Defence Forces Gen Samson Mwachethe (left) and Kenya Army Commander Lt-Gen Robert Kibochi in 2016. [File]

Top general

■ There has been silent lobbying among those hoping to take over from Mwachethe

■ The new CDF will oversee the transition from the Kenyatta presidency in 2022. And according to the Somalia transition plan, KDF is supposed to withdraw its troops from the war-torn country by 2021, which the new military boss will also oversee

■ A General is supposed to retire at 62, a Lieutenant-General at 61, a Major-General at 59 and a Brigadier at 57 years

announcement.

He said the promotions were in line with the recom-

mendation of the Defence Council.

President Kenyatta praised Mwachethe for his leadership in the service, saying since his appointment, the military has seen significant expansion and enviable improvement in the defence capacity of the forces, giving Kenyans the confidence that their borders are protected from any external aggression.

"During your tenure we detected and expunged early enough a number of plans by those who do not mean well for our country. You proved that you are not just a military man, but a well-rounded person, with the capacity to provide quality leadership in other initiatives of national importance," he said.

The council also promoted Maj-Gen Albert Kendagor and appointed deputy commander Kenya Army, Brigadier John Omenda as Kenya Air Force

Deputy Commander, while Col Lawrence Gituma was promoted to Brigadier and appointed deputy commander Kenya Navy.

Brigadier William Shume was promoted to Maj-Gen and appointed general officer commanding security command while Brig Peter Njiru was promoted to Maj-Gen and appointed commander, Kenya Military Academy.

Brig Solomon Manambo was promoted to Maj-Gen and appointed Managing Director, Ordnance Factories Corporation while Brig Charles Kahari was promoted to Maj-Gen and appointed senior directing staff, Maritime National Defence College.

Brig Rashid Elmi was promoted to Maj-Gen and appointed senior directing staff, Air National Defence College while Col Maroa Gati was promoted to Brigadier and appointed Commandant,

Recruit Training School.

Col Dr Milton Obilo was promoted to Brigadier and appointed Chief of Medical Services, Defence headquarters.

Maj-Gen Thomas Chepkuto was sent to Super pool while on secondment to diplomatic service while Brig Joakim Mwamburi was posted to School of Infantry and appointed commandant.

The KDF Act says a CDF, his deputy and service commanders shall serve a single term of four years or retire upon attaining the mandatory retirement age.

But the Act also says the president may, on the recommendation of the National Defence Council, extend the CDF's term for a period not exceeding one year in times of war or emergencies like political uncertainty.

Mwachethe, a naval officer, was named the CDF on April 17, 2015, replacing Karangi from the Kenya Air Force. This gave the seat automatically to Kenya Army.

Also top on the list of those who wanted to succeed Mwachethe were Army Commander Lt-Gen Walter Raria, and Lt-Gen Leonard Ngondi, the force commander of the AU-UN Hybrid operation in Darfur, Sudan.

The other high-ranking officer who anticipated to be promoted to full General was National Defence College Commandant Lt-Gen Adan Mulata, who was disadvantaged as he is from the Kenya Air Force.

Under the Tonje rules, the position of the CDF is rotated among the three services - Kenya Army, Kenya Air Force and Kenya Navy. The rules, by retired Chief of General Staff Gen Daudi Tonje, have steered appointments in KDF.

There has been silent lobbying among those hoping to take over from Mwachethe.

Marsabit

Seven die of cholera related illness, 11 still hospitalised

Seven people have died of cholera in Illeret Ward in North Horr Sub-county in Marsabit in the last one week.

Authorities yesterday confirmed that two victims succumbed at one of the two health centres while five others died at home.

According to Marsabit Health Executive Jama Wolde, 134 patients have been treated and discharged.

Dr Wolde said 11 patients were still

admitted to different health facilities. Those who died yesterday were a man and a child aged five.

"Seven people have been confirmed dead in Illeret following what our rapid tests confirmed to be a cholera outbreak," he said.

Wolde however said they could not certify that the five who died at home succumbed to cholera since postmortem tests had not been done.

Nevertheless, they exhibited some of the cholera symptoms such as vomiting, watery diarrhea in large volumes and dehydration.

The medic said the disease could have been spread through residents' contact with Bubua area in Ethiopian, where there was an outbreak. The disease has also been blamed on the low standards of hygiene locally.

The situation, he said, had been con-

tained. Wolde clarified that two cholera treatment centres had been set up at Illeret and Teresagai health centres to help contain the situation.

He said a team of nurses and nutritionists had also been deployed.

In addition, development partners gave out vehicles and other medical supplies for use at the two health centres. [Velma Odwori]

Testing. Plans are underway to kickstart mass testing in Kawangware, among other selected clusters of population in the country

Corona cases hit 396 as ministry mum on Sh1.3b

There are claims that the funds meant to tackle the virus were misappropriated and used on non-essentials.

By Graham Kajiliwa
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The Ministry of Health avoided responding to controversy about Sh1.3 billion from the World Bank meant to tackle Covid-19. While giving the Ministry of Health update on coronavirus yesterday, Chief Administrative Secretary Rashid Aman steered clear of the allegations that the funds were misappropriated and used majorly on non-essentials.

Dr Aman said there is a dedicated team working on clarifying the matter that has since caused an uproar among Kenyans. "We are aware that there have been reports highlighted in various media on the planned Covid-19 expenditure. Our

Coronavirus in numbers (new cases in last 24 hours)

Country	Total cases	New cases	Deaths	New Deaths
USA	1,067,482	+3,288	61,849	+193
Spain	239,639	+2,740	24,543	+268
UK	165,221		26,097	
Belgium	48,519	+660	7,594	+93
Netherlands	39,316	+514	4,795	+84



accounting team together with our international partners will issue a detailed report soon," he

said. The breakdown of funds contained in a government document states that Sh4 million

was spent on tea and snacks and Sh2 million on airtime. "As we speak, the accounting

Disease Burden

Nairobi	245
Kakamega	1
Kisumu	6
Kajiado	3
Nyamira	1
Kisii	1
Vihiga	1
Kwale	1
Machakos	6
Kitui	3
Nyeri	1
Laikipia	2
Muranga	2
Nyandarua	2
Kilifi	9
Nakuru	5
Uasin Gishu	1
Mombasa	113
Mandera	8
Sisya	2
Wajir	1

■ Total Number of samples tested **20,268**
 ■ Sample tested in the last 24 hours **777**
 ■ Total number of confirmed cases **396**
 ■ Deaths **17**
 ■ Recoveries **144**

office is preparing a statement which will be issued as early as tomorrow (today)," he said.

This came on a day the government announced the largest number of Covid-19 recoveries.

Aman said 15 more patients have been discharged after testing negative for the disease.

This brings the total number of recoveries to 144.

"This is the largest number of discharges we have made in a single day," he said.

The number of deaths has, however, gone up to 17 after two more patients succumbed to the disease. The total number of cases now stand at 396 after 12 people tested positive.

"Seven of the cases were picked up by surveillance teams while five are from our quarantine centres," said Aman.

The government is expecting more recoveries as only two out of the 242 patients in isolation facilities across the country are in critical condition in ventilatory support.

Health Director General Patrick Amoth said the other patients have mild and moderate symptoms of the disease.

Plans are also under way to kickstart mass testing in Kawangware, Nairobi.

In the last few days, most cases have been concentrated in Nairobi and Mombasa counties. Of the 12 latest cases, seven are from Mombasa, three from Nairobi, and one each from Wajir and Kitui.

The cases in Mombasa are spread across Old Town, Bondeni, Bomani and Kidunguni while those in Nairobi were picked from Eastleigh, Fedha and Kileleshwa.



SONYSUGAR
Sugars That Sweeten

SOUTH NYANZA SUGAR COMPANY LIMITED

UNSERVICEABLE, OBSOLETE ROLLOVERS FOR SALE BY PUBLIC TENDER

South Nyanza Sugar Company Limited is in the process of disposing its rollover assets from previous disposals, considered obsolete, unserviceable and surplus as listed below. The company invites sealed tenders from all interested purchasers who meet the qualifications to tender set in the tender document. The tender document containing detailed information of the properties for sale can be obtained from the company offices in Awendo.

The tender documents containing detailed information on the tenders can freely be downloaded from the official company website (www.sony sugar.co.ke).

Duly filled and completed tender documents clearly marked "Tender reference no" and closing date" should be addressed to:

The Managing Director,
South Nyanza Sugar Company Limited
Off Kisii-Migori Road
P.O Box 107-40405
Sare-Awendo
Tel no. 020-8029204

and deposited in the tender box on or before 10.00 am of 15th May, 2020. Tenders will then be opened thereafter at the Company's Training Centre Hall in the presence of tenderers or their representatives who choose to attend (optional because of COVID-19).

Sony Sugar Company Limited reserves the right to accept or reject any application and is not bound to give any reasons thereof.

CONDITIONS OF SALE

- the property to be sold on "As-is, Where-is" basis and the sale is subject to reserve price
- all interested purchasers are required to view the properties at the place indicated in the tender document between ten am to three pm from 6th May, 2020 to 12th May 2020 and verify the details by themselves.
- All interested bidders will be required to first make a refundable deposit equivalent to 2% of the total reserve price for each category quoted by way of cash or bankers cheque and shall attach original copy of such receipt issued by Sony sugar to form part of the tender document.
- Successful tenderers MUST pay a deposit of 25% of the bid price, within 3 days and the balance to be paid within 14 days from the date of notification of bid acceptance.
- payment has to be in full and the Logbooks transferred before vehicles are collected.

Sony Sugar reserves the right to accept or reject any application and is not bound to give any reasons thereof especially to those who decide not to comply with the instructions.

ISO 9001:2015 QMS & ISO 14001:2004 EMS CERTIFIED COMPANY
CHANGE TOWARDS "A SWEETER, INTEGRATED AND RESPONSIVE SONY SUGAR"



Kenya Vision 2030

KENYA MEDICAL SUPPLIES AUTHORITY (KEMSA)

Tel No: 254 20 3922000, Fax No: 254 20 3922400

www.kemsa.co.ke Email: info@kemsa.co.ke

Commercial Street, Industrial Area, P.O. Box 47715-00100 GPO Nairobi, Kenya

TENDER EXTENSION NOTICE

Interested bidders are notified that the closing date for the tender below earlier advertised has been extended as indicated below:

Tender No.	Tender Description	Earlier Tender Closing date	New Tender Closing date
KEMSA/CONST/OIT4/2019-2020	Proposed supply, installation and commissioning of racking system and associated works at Embakasi	5 th May, 2020 at 10.00 am	12 th May, 2020 at 10.00am

- Bid Bond validity period will therefore start running from the new closing date.
- The closing time remains the same and the earlier terms and conditions apply.



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Nature. The flip-side of shutdown

The lonely mountain: It is beautiful but there's no one around to climb

Covid-19 has cast an invisible wall around Africa's second highest peak just when it had regained its lost splendour.

By Jacinta Mutura
jmutura@standardmedia.co.ke

It is 6.30am and motorists cruising along the Nairobi-Nyeri highway are captivated by a spellbinding beauty.

Even from a great distance, the gigantic Mt Kenya - Africa's second highest mountain - rises in its full majesty. The glint of the mountain's snow capped crests can be seen from miles away.

The return of the snow on the mountain is a sight for sore eyes. According to Simon Gitau, assistant director in charge of mountain conservation area in KWS, the snow has been disappearing steadily over the years thanks to climate change and global warming.

But although the great mountain that straddles five counties in Kenya is now clearer and more beautiful, there are no people to climb it.

The mountain's beauty returns when Covid-19 has locked up admirers world over.

Mountain climbing experts say the period between March and June are the best times of the year for mountain climbers, tourists and campers keen to

experience the full splendour of Mount Kenya. Although climbing happens all year round, larger numbers of tourists and mountain climbers prefer this season because it offers a snow-climbing experience.

It is going to June now, and all the paths to the mountain are eerily deserted and cold. Covid-19 has spoilt the party for Africa's second highest mountain.

Gigantic beauty

Even with the return of the snow, there is no one around to savour the mountain's gigantic beauty and test its tortuous paths to the apex. The stunning beauty of Kenya's highest mountain and the favourable climbing season might just pass unnoticed.

Groups and organisations in the business of mountain climbing were

"We have had so many climbers cancelling trips to the mountain since March. This is the period we do up to five trips in a week, but there is no one right now and those who had made bookings have postponed to later dates," says Charlotte Muthoni, administration and sales manager at African Ascents.

The firm is among many in the mountain climbing business that watch the mountain's beauty go to waste every day, as Covid-19 shutdown casts an invisible wall around it.

The cessation of movements and suspension of international flights due to the global pandemic has effectively locked out tourists and mountaineers from the mountain.

tain. Even if there would be some dare-devils left to climb the mountain, it would be impossible with the social distancing regulations imposed to combat the spread of the virus. Mountain climbing is, after all, a teamwork of closely knit groups.

A single expedition might have up to 70 climbing assistants - porters, guides, and cooks - helping hundreds of tourists navigate their way up the mountain.

The group must remain close to each other and work seamlessly for a successful climb. To ask them to maintain social distance would be akin to asking a team of astronauts heading to the moon to stay in different chambers.

"There are a lot of moving components in mountain climbing," says Muthoni.

The return of the mountain's splendour would have been a boon for local porters, guides and

cooks and their families had Covid-19 stayed away. But the dark shadow of Covid-19 has reached the foot of the mountain, cutting off the lifelines of hundreds of people who have depended on its peaks over the years.

According to Mukami, a porter can earn about Sh4,250 for a five-day trip to the mountain. With the Covid-19 travel ban, this income has gone.

Still, there are some who argue that Covid-19 has been a blessing in disguise for Mt Kenya; that the absence of visitors has given the mountain time to breathe and regain its glory.

"Littering on the mountain has gone down and the climbing routes are clearer and cleaner," says David Muigai, a technical guide at KWS.

The only ones left

Muigai and his team are the only ones left on the mountain, conducting security and safety checks in various camps on the climbing routes.

Like the lonely mountain, they too say they miss the visitors.

"It is boring to walk up the mountain with only two or three people. We are used to meeting many people doing expeditions, but things have changed," says Muigai.



One of the latest pictures of Mount Kenya. Inset: Charlotte Muthoni, African Ascents sales manager. (Courtesy)



IN THE HIGH COURT OF KENYA AT

MILIMANI LAW COURTS

COMMERCIAL AND TAX DIVISION

MISC. APPLICATION NO. E680 OF 2020

IN THE MATTER OF WPP SCANGROUP PLC

AND IN THE MATTER OF

AN APPLICATION FOR AN ORDER ALLOWING THE CONVENING OF AN EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING UNDER SECTION 280(3) OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2015

BETWEEN

BHARAT KUMAR THAKKAR

AND

CAPITAL MARKETS AUTHORITY

ORDER

The Originating Summons dated 20th April 2020 is now marked as settled in terms of the consent order dated 27th April 2020 signed by the Advocates of both parties and now endorsed by the court on the following terms:

- WPP Scangroup PLC be and is hereby granted leave by this court to convene and hold a general meeting in the manner set out in the Originating Summons subject to compliance with the provisions of the Capital Markets Act and Regulations made thereunder.
- In further exercise of its powers under section 280(3) of the Companies Act, 2014, this Court further orders and directs any company listed on the Nairobi Securities Exchange ("Public Company") which finds it

Page 1 of 3

impracticable to conduct its general meeting in the manner required by its Articles of Association on account of the ongoing novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic and related public health laws, regulations and directives currently in force and as may be passed by the Government of Kenya from time to time, including but not limited to the Public Health (Covid-19) Restriction of Movement of Persons and Related Measures Rules, 2020 precluding inter alia public gatherings or for any other reasons, be allowed subject to a No Objection from the Capital Markets Authority and further subject to the following terms;

- Any Public Company seeking to hold a general meeting outside the provisions of its Articles of Association on account of COVID-19 must, at least 14 days prior to issuing to its shareholders the statutory notice of the intended general meeting, first obtain a No Objection in writing, from the Capital Markets Authority.
- Such Public Company must, in its request to the Capital Markets Authority for a No Objection as aforesaid, set out in detail, the manner in which the Public Company intends to hold the general meeting, including the manner in which the virtual and/or electronic technology or any hybrid means of holding the meeting, will be applied.
- All notices, to the Capital Markets Authority provided under clause (a) above must confirm and demonstrate that Shareholders of the Public Company shall be provided with:
 - Notice of the general meeting as provided for under the Companies Act, 2015 and the applicable regulations;
 - Sufficient information to make informed decisions on any resolutions placed before the general meeting;
 - Sufficient opportunity to ask any questions and seek any clarifications that they require from the directors;

- An opportunity to vote and that the registration and voting procedure are made clear to them;
- Any other grounds as may be deemed appropriate in the circumstances.

- It is hereby ordered that any meeting convened, held and conducted in accordance with this order and under section 280 of the Companies Act, 2015 be and is hereby taken for all purposes to be a general meeting of the company properly convened held and conducted, subject to the foregoing conditions being met.
- Liberty is hereby given to either party or any party affected by this order to apply for any other or further order or directions.
- This order shall be published in at least one newspaper of national circulation.

DATED AND DELIVERED AT NAIROBI this 29th day of April 2020.

D. N. MURUGIA

JPSC

8026

Please note that due to the COVID-19 emergency, the courts have scaled down operations and encourage the parties to use online platforms. Parties may communicate to the High Court, Commercial and Tax Division through judicialcase@courts.go.ke copied to judicialcase@nbs.co.ke and telephone 0721988722. All communication regarding any matter in court must be copied to all parties to the suit.

Ownership. Tussle over property allocation

Help save my land, woman begs State

65-year-old says she was allocated 30 acres in 1993, but now middlemen are trying to forcefully evict her.

By Mercy Kahenda

mkahenda@standardmedia.co.ke

A 65-year-old woman in Ol Jorai, Gilgil Sub-county, has accused the Ministry of Lands of frustrating her efforts to repossess her own land.

Pauline Maiyo said despite numerous complaints to the ministry, some individuals are forcefully trying to evict her from the 30-acre property that she was allocated by the Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC).

According to documents seen by *The Standard*, Ms Maiyo was allocated the land in 1993, and it was recorded as plot number 155, 156 and 157.

"I am pleased to inform you that the government has allocated you for purchase 10 acres or thereabouts of land at ADC Ol Jorai," reads the allotment letter in part. "You will shortly be informed of the mode of payment. You can go ahead and take possession of the said parcel of land after it has been surveyed."

Living nightmare

The former employee of the defunct Kenya Posts and Telecommunications Corporation said while planning to develop the parcel, she realised it had been reallocated to a different person.

Criminals armed with crude weapons, she said, have been raiding the farm, threatening her and her shamba boy. Furthermore, she continued, the criminals erected a temporary structure on her land at 2am last Sunday.

"I am living in fear of being killed by fraudulent individuals who want to forcefully acquire my parcel of land. I am worried that the ministry has done nothing to settle the dispute," she told *The Standard* at the farm.

Maiyo said after being issued with the parcel, she planted trees, fenced it, erected a semi-permanent house and kept livestock. In 2010, she said ADC handed over the parcel to the settlement depart-



ment at the Ministry of Lands that was to issue allotment letters to assist the owners acquire title deeds.

However, Maiyo was shocked to discover that her parcel of land had been allocated to a different person.

"There was no clear structure of paying land rates and levies, but unfortunately, while in the process, I realised the same parcel had illegally been sold without my knowledge," she said. In 2011, she went to court and got an injunction on the parcel of land.

"Pending hearing and determination of this application inter-parties the court be and is hereby pleased to issue orders of temporary injunction restraining entry, advertising, transferring whatsoever with suit property," reads a section of the injunction issued at the Nakuru law courts on January 17 this year.

The case was to be heard in April 15, but was interrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Maiyo's son, Evans Tuitok, has asked the Lands ministry to help find a solution to the dispute.

"It is worrying that brokers have been reallocating parcels of lands that they sell to willing buyers. The ministry should help solve this to avoid more disputes," said Mr Tuitok.

Area Nyumba Kumi Initiative chairman Reuben Kiprotich said at least 100 families have land disputes in the area, and more than 500 are squatters. Hundreds of families have been evicted by brokers.

County National Lands Commissioner (NLC) Frank Kimbekekenya said after issuance of allotment letters by ADC, the allottees were required to pay lands levy and rates within 90 days as stipulated by law to the settlement department.

Donations

EACC to track payments from Covid-19 fund

The anti-graft agency has said it is monitoring how resources aimed at fighting the coronavirus disease are being spent.

Speaking during the presentation of a Sh1.2 million donation mobilised by Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) staff for the Kenya Covid-19 Fund, Chief Executive Twalib Mbarak added that the agency had stepped up surveillance in

Nairobi, Mombasa and Kwale counties to ensure adherence to the cessation of movement order.

Mr Mbarak said the commission would go after those perpetuating graft under the guise of fighting the pandemic, including by supplying sub-standard goods.

"This is a message to the governors and others involved that

we are monitoring them. They should not take advantage of procurement under the guise of this emergency to enrich themselves as opposed to the intended beneficiaries because we will get them easily," he said.

Speaking at the fund's offices at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre, Mbarak warned that despite the crisis posed by the pandemic, procure-

ment rules must be followed. "Shortcuts in procurement won't be tolerated at a time when the government has reorganised its budget. This virus brought the point home; corruption serves to erode national resources," he said, adding that graft over the years has denied the country the chance to build up its health infrastructure. [Roselyne Obala]

WPP SCANGROUP

WPP SCANGROUP PLC
Incorporated in Kenya on 26th January 1999 under the Companies Act (Cap 486)
(Registration Number C 11/2004)

NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE is hereby given to Shareholders that, in accordance with an Order issued by the High Court of Kenya in Miscellaneous Application No. E680 of 2020 on Wednesday 29th April 2020, an Extra-Ordinary General Meeting (EGM) of the Company will be held via electronic communication on Wednesday 27th May 2020 at 11:00 a.m. for the purpose of considering and, if thought fit, passing the Ordinary Resolution set out below. Due to ongoing Government restrictions on public gatherings Shareholders will not be able to attend the EGM in person but will be able to register for, access information pertaining to the proposed resolution, follow the meeting in the manner detailed below and to vote electronically or by proxy. Shareholders may ask questions in advance of the meeting, as detailed below.

Proposed Resolution:

1. That the sale by the Company of its Kantar business in Africa, which includes (i) an 80% shareholding in Research and Marketing Group Investment Limited (ii) a 100% shareholding in Millward Brown East Africa Limited and (iii) the entire shareholdings owned by the Company indirectly through its subsidiary Scangroup Mauritius Holdings Limited of each of Millward Brown Nigeria Limited and Millward Brown West Africa Limited to KANTAR SQUARE TWO B.V., registered in the Dutch Commercial Register under number 76179373 ("the Transaction"), be and is hereby approved.

A circular providing shareholders with detailed information of the proposed sale together with a report from an Independent Advisor on the proposed sale is available on the Company's website.

Appointment of Proxy:

A member entitled to attend and vote may appoint a proxy to participate and vote on his/her behalf in the manner prescribed in the proxy form. A proxy need not be a shareholder of the Company.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

Reuben Mwangi
Company Secretary

Date: 1st May, 2020

Notes:

1. In view of the ongoing Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic and the related public health regulations and directives passed by the Government of Kenya precluding inter alia public gatherings, it is impracticable, for WPP Scangroup PLC to hold a physical general meeting in the manner prescribed in its Articles of Association. Pursuant thereto, the Company, through its Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer made an application to the High Court of Kenya in Miscellaneous Application No. E680 of 2020, under the provisions of Section 280 of the Companies Act, 2015 (the Companies Act) for special dispensation to convene and conduct a general meeting using electronic means. The application joined the Capital Markets Authority as an interested party. On 29th April 2020, the High Court of Kenya made an order allowing the convening and conducting of a general meeting by the Company using electronic means.

2. Any shareholder wishing to participate in the meeting should register for the EGM by dialing *345*0208 on their Safaricom mobile telephone line or *483*0208 on their Airtel and Telkom mobile telephone line and following the various prompts regarding the registration process. In order to complete the registration process, Shareholders will need to have their ID/Passport Numbers which were used to purchase their shares and/or their CDSIC Account Number to hand. For assistance, Shareholders should dial the following helpline number: 0709 170 000 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on a working day.

3. Registration for the EGM opens on Friday 1st May 2020 at 9:00 a.m. and will close on Sunday 24th May 2020 at 11:00 a.m. Shareholders will not be able to register after Sunday 24th May at 11:00 a.m.

4. In accordance with Section 283 (2) (c) of the Companies Act, the following documents may be viewed on the Company's website <https://www.wpp-scangroup.com/>: (i) a copy of this Notice; (ii) the Company's audited financial statements for the years 2018, 2019 and 2020; (iii) the Shareholders' Circular relating to the Transaction; (iv) the Independent Advisor Report relating to the Transaction; and (v) a copy of the High Court Order in Miscellaneous Application No. E680 of 2020; (the Documents).

A copy of the Share Purchase Agreement relating to the Transaction (the SPA) may be inspected by Shareholders either:

a. to the extent possible, by appointment at the Company's offices or Image Registrars' offices at 5th Floor, Absa Towers (formerly Barclays Plaza), Lota Street from Monday 4th May 2020 to Tuesday 24th May 2020 between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. (excluding weekends/Sundays and public holidays). Due to the measures introduced through ministerial directives and the rules regarding social distancing, all appointments must be arranged with the Company Secretary at least 48 hours in advance. To arrange an inspection time, Shareholders should send an email to the following address: Documents.EGM@wpp-scangroup.com, providing their full details (full name, Kenyan national identity card/Passport Number/CDSIC Account Number) and outlining their request to physically inspect the Documents and the SPA; OR

b. by request to the Company Secretary by email to the following address: Documents.EGM@wpp-scangroup.com, providing their full details (full name, address, ID/Passport Number/CDSIC Account Number) outlining their request to view the SPA which request must be made on or before Tuesday 24th May 2020.

As the SPA remains a confidential document any Shareholder wishing to inspect the same will be required to confirm that they will maintain confidentiality by way of entry into of a non-disclosure agreement with the Company.

5. Shareholders wishing to raise any questions or clarifications regarding the Transaction may do so by:

a. sending their written questions by email to Questions.EGM@wpp-scangroup.com or
b. to the extent possible, physically delivering their written questions with a return physical address or email address to the registered office of the Company at The Chancery, 5th Floor, Valley Road or Image Registrars' offices at 5th Floor, Absa Towers (formerly Barclays Plaza), Lota Street; or
c. sending their written questions with a return physical address or email address by registered post to the Company's address at P.O. Box 34537, GPO 00100, Nairobi.

Shareholders must provide their full details (full name, Kenyan national identity card/Passport Number/CDSIC Account Number) when submitting their questions and clarifications.

All questions and clarifications must reach the Company on or before Sunday 24th May 2020 at 11:00 a.m.

Following receipt of the questions and clarifications, the directors of the Company shall provide written responses to the questions received to the return physical address or email address provided by the Shareholder no later than 12 hours before 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday 27th May 2020. A full list of all questions received and the answers thereto will be published on the Company's website not later than 12 hours before 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday 27th May 2020.

6. In accordance with Section 298(1) of the Companies Act, Shareholders entitled to attend and vote at the EGM are entitled to appoint a proxy to vote on their behalf. A proxy need not be a member of the Company, but if not the Chairman of the EGM, the appointed proxy will need access to a mobile telephone. A proxy form is attached to this Notice and is available on the Company's website via this link: <https://www.wpp-scangroup.com/>. Physical copies of the proxy form are also available at the virtual Extraordinary General Meeting of the Company, 5th Floor Absa Towers (formerly Barclays Plaza), Lota Street, P.O. Box 9287 - 00100 GPO, Nairobi, so as to be received not later than Monday 25th May 2020 at 11:00 a.m. Any person appointed as a proxy should submit his/her mobile telephone number to the Company no later than Monday 25th May at 11:00 a.m. Any proxy registration that is rejected will be communicated to the Shareholder concerned no later than Tuesday 26th May 2020 to allow time to address any issues.

7. The EGM will be streamed live via a link which will be provided to all Shareholders who will have registered to participate in the EGM. Only registered Shareholders and proxies will receive a short message service (SMS)/USSD prompt on their registered mobile numbers, 24 hours prior to the start of the EGM acting as a reminder of the EGM. A second SMS/USSD prompt shall be sent one hour ahead of the EGM, reminding duly registered Shareholders and proxies that the EGM will begin in an hour's time and providing a link to the livestream.

8. Duly registered Shareholders and proxies may follow the proceedings of the EGM using the livestream platform and may access the agenda. Duly registered Shareholders and proxies may vote (when prompted by the chairman) via the SMS/USSD prompts. Shareholders will not incur any costs for registering or voting at the meeting, which costs will be borne by the Company.

9. Results of the EGM together with a Certificate from the Company's auditors shall be published within 24 hours following conclusion of the EGM.

10. As the situation regarding COVID-19 is evolving and Government directives remain subject to change, the Company strongly encourages all Shareholders to monitor the Company's website <https://www.wpp-scangroup.com/> for further updates or changes in relation to the EGM. The Company appreciates the understanding of its Shareholders as it navigates the changing business conditions posed by COVID-19.

WPP SCANGROUP PLC (the "Company") CDSIC A/c No: Shareholder No: ID/Registration No:

FORM OF PROXY - 2020 EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING (EGM)

Please complete in BLOCK CAPITALS

I/WE, _____

of _____

Being a shareholder of the Company hereby appoint the Chairman of the Meeting or (see notes 1 and 3) _____ (Name of proxy) in respect of my/our _____ (Number of shares) as my/our proxy to attend, represent and vote for me/us on my/our behalf at the virtual Extraordinary General Meeting of the Company to be held electronically and chaired from the Company's registered office at, 5th Floor, Chancery Valley Road, Nairobi at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday 27th May 2020 and at any adjournment thereof.

I/WE direct my/our proxy to vote on the following resolutions as I/WE have indicated by marking the appropriate box with an "X". If no indication is given, my/our proxy will vote or withhold his or her vote as he or she thinks fit in relation to any other matter which is properly put before the Meeting.

Please clearly mark the box below to instruct your proxy how to vote

Resolution:

That the sale by the Company of its Kantar business in Africa, which includes (i) an 80% shareholding in Research and Marketing Group Investment Limited, (ii) a 100% shareholding in Millward Brown East Africa Limited and (iii) the entire shareholdings owned by the Company indirectly through its subsidiary Scangroup Mauritius Holdings Limited of each of Millward Brown Nigeria Limited and Millward Brown West Africa Limited to KANTAR SQUARE TWO B.V., registered in the Dutch Commercial Register under number 76179373 ("the Transaction"), be and is hereby approved.

For: _____

Against: _____

Withheld: _____

Signature: _____

WPP SCANGROUP PLC ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS PREFERENCE FORM

Please complete in BLOCK CAPITALS

Full name of member(s): _____

Address: _____

CDSIC No (if known): _____

(This can be found on your CDSIC Statement)

Mobile Number (of the proxy holder): _____

Date: _____

Please tick the boxes below and return to Image Registrars at P.O. Box 9287, GPO 00100, 5th Floor, Absa Towers (formerly Barclays Plaza), Lota Street:

Approval of Registration

I/WE approve to register to participate in the virtual EGM to be held on Wednesday 27th May 2020. ☐

Consent for use of the Mobile Number provided

I/WE would give my/our consent for the use of the mobile number provided for purposes of voting at the EGM. ☐

Research

New study links virus to stroke, failed heart

Researchers have warned that patients diagnosed with Covid-19 are at higher risk of developing stroke and heart attack.

A study published by Journal of American College of Cardiology found that individuals with previous heart conditions are more at risk of developing blood clots inside their blood vessels, which, in medical terms, is referred to as Thrombosis.

Deep vein thrombosis occurs when the blood clot forms in the veins, most of the time in the legs. When the clot breaks free from the veins and travels to the lungs in the course of blood circulation, it is referred to as pulmonary embolism.

Pulmonary embolism can lead to stroke or cardiac arrest.

The study titled *Covid-19 and Thrombotic or Thromboembolic Disease: Implications for Prevention, Antithrombotic Therapy, and Follow-up* claims states that Covid-19 has a number of important cardiovascular implications.

"Patients with prior cardiovascular disease are at higher risk for adverse events from Covid-19. Individuals without a history of cardiovascular disease are at risk for incident cardiovascular complication," states the study report.

Deprived of oxygen

The study found that severe deprivation of oxygen in the body may predispose Covid-19 patients to internal blood clots.

The study also noted that experimental drugs for treating Covid-19 may have adverse interactions with drugs used to prevent blood clots.

"Inflammatory response, increased age, and bed-ridden status - which are more frequently observed in severe Covid-19 - may contribute to thrombosis and adverse outcomes," reads the study.

A similar study published on April 28, 2020 on The New England Journal of Medicine has also raised similar concerns as it documented cases of five Covid-19 patients less than 50 years who developed stroke, related to blood clots.

One of the patients, a 33-year-old woman, had a headache and chills that lasted a week and developed to numbness and weakness in left arm and left leg for 28 hours.

The patient had delayed seeking emergency care due to fear of Covid-19.

"When she presented to the hospital, the score on the National Institutes of Health Stroke Scale (NIHSS) was 19 (scores range from 0 to 42, with higher numbers indicating greater stroke severity)," states the study.

CT scans of the patient's lungs found that she had Covid-19. [Graham Kajjiwa]

Health. Researchers scramble to find cure for pandemic

Hope as Ebola treatment drug shows signs of curing Covid-19

Clinical trial shows remdesivir accelerates recovery in advanced coronavirus patients.

By Xinhua
Washington

Researchers in the US now say that a drug originally developed to treat Ebola has shown positive signs in Covid-19 patients.

According to the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), patients hospitalised with advanced Covid-19 and lung involvement who received remdesivir recovered faster than similar patients who received a placebo.

The conclusion came out of preliminary data analysis from a randomised, controlled trial involving 1,063 patients, which began on Feb 21. Preliminary results indicated that patients who received remdesivir had a 31 per cent faster time to recovery than those who received placebo.

The median time to recovery was 11 days for patients treated with remdesivir compared with 15 days for those who received a placebo. The results also suggested a survival benefit, with a mortality rate of 8 per cent for the group receiving remdesivir versus 11.6 per cent for the placebo group.

An independent data and safety monitoring board overseeing the trial met on April 27 to review the data and shared their interim analysis with the study team. Based on their review of the data, the board members noted that remdesivir was better than placebo from the perspective of primary endpoint, or patients' time to recovery. It is a metric often used in influenza trials.

The first participant in the trial was an American who was repatriated after being quarantined on *The Diamond Princess*, a cruise ship that docked in Yokohama, Japan. The patient volunteered to participate in the study at the first study site, the University of Nebraska Medical Center, in February 2020, according to the NIAID.

A total of 68 sites ultimately joined the study, 47 in the United States and 21 in countries in Europe and Asia. The trial, sponsored by the NIAID, part of the National Institutes of Health, is the

Remdesivir breakthrough in the quest for COVID-19 drugs

Remdesivir: attacks virus replication



Antiviral: stops or slows the virus's ability to make copies of itself

Results of clinical trials published April 29 showed patients recovered 30% faster than those on a placebo

Other antivirals under investigation include:

Hydroxychloroquine, antimalarial and anti-autoimmune disease, also explored for potential antiviral effects

Other drug strategies under investigation

Boost the immune response



Identify **antibodies** that respond to SARS-CoV-2 and deploy them

Promising antibodies found in research by biotech companies such as **AbCellera** in Canada, **Regeneron**, US

Testing of blood **plasma** from recovered patients also ongoing

Tame the immune system



Work against the **cytokine storm** when the immune system goes into overdrive

Swiss company Roche investigating the use of a rheumatoid arthritis drug **tocilizumab**, which inactivates cytokine proteins that accelerate the immune response

Another arthritis drug, **sarilumab**, also being tested

Sources: newscientist.com/covid19treatmentguidelines.nih.gov/gilead.com © AFP

first clinical trial launched in the United States to evaluate an experimental treatment for Covid-19.

Remdesivir, developed by American biopharmaceutical company, Gilead Sciences, is an investigational broad-spectrum antiviral treatment administered via daily infusion for 10 days.

The drug is not yet licensed or approved anywhere globally. Multiple Phase 3 studies are ongoing to determine its safety and efficacy. Gilead also announced preliminary results of Phase 3 trial of remdesivir in patients with severe Covid-19, showing more than half of patients in both five-day and 10-day treatment groups were discharged from the hospital after two weeks.

The trial evaluated five-day and 10-day dosing durations of remdesivir in hospitalised patients with severe Covid-19. The study demonstrated that

patients receiving a 10-day treatment course of remdesivir achieved similar improvement in clinical status compared with those taking a five-day treatment course, according to Gilead Sciences. "At Day 14, 64.5 per cent of patients in the five-day treatment group and 53.8 per cent of patients in the 10-day treatment group achieved clinical recovery," the company said in a statement.

No new safety signals were identified with remdesivir across either treatment group. "Multiple concurrent studies are helping inform whether remdesivir is a safe and effective treatment for Covid-19 and how to best utilise the drug," said Merdad Parsey, chief medical officer of Gilead Sciences.

"While additional data are still needed, these results help to bring a clearer understanding of how treatment with remdesivir may be optimised, if proven

safe and effective," said Aruna Subramanian, clinical professor of medicine at Stanford University School of Medicine, and one of the lead investigators of the study.

Gilead has initiated two Phase 3 clinical studies to evaluate safety and efficacy of remdesivir in adults diagnosed with Covid-19. The studies began enrolling patients in March 2020 in countries with high prevalence of Covid-19.

Anthony Fauci, director of the NIAID, said data from the trial showed a "clear cut positive effect in diminishing time to recover."

Remdesivir has shown some promise in treating SARS and MERS, which are also caused by coronaviruses. As there is currently no cure for Covid-19, health authorities around the world have pinned hopes on drugs such as remdesivir to reduce the duration of Covid-19 in patients.

Education

Varsity recalls VC as Covid-19 affects appointment

Mount Kenya University has extended the contract of former vice chancellor Stanley Waudu (pictured) until further notice.

Communication from the university council chairman David Serem explained that the newly appointed VC was out of the country and was unable to travel back home due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Prof Serem also said that act-

ing VC Peter Wandari, who stays outside Nairobi metropolitan area and whose contract expired yesterday, was unable to access the premises.

Consequently, the university recalled the outgoing Prof Waudu to serve until further notice.

"In view of the above and in consultation with the board of directors, the university hereby extends your appointment as VC

with immediate effect until we announce the new vice chancellor and the situation enables you to hand over the office," said Serem in a letter to Waudu.

The university granted Waudu six months terminal leave on October 28, last year pending expiry of his contract.

The process of recruiting a new VC had started and Waudu was due to hand over to the new

person today.

Waudu makes a comeback after serving the university for 11 years.

In the period, he listed major growth in students' population, creation of campuses, infrastructural development and improved quality of education. [Augustine Oduor]





KENYA UNION OF POST-PRIMARY EDUCATION TEACHERS (KUPPET)



Labour Day Message, 1 May 2020

With resilience, Kenyan workers will triumph against Covid-19

For over 50 years, Kenyans have marked Labour Day with celebration and deliberations about the state of workers in our country. Labour Day, or the International Day of Workers, is the only day in the world dedicated to the struggles of the labour movement. It is a day when workers meet, protest and organise to bring their issues to the forefront for dialogues in society.

For the first time in Kenya's history, amid the ongoing coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, this important day will be observed without a national event. The pandemic has destabilized our nation, affecting workers in unprecedented ways. In addition to lives lost and threat to public health, COVID-19 has exerted unprecedented disruptions on the labour market, the main source of income and livelihoods for millions of Kenyans. Education programmes have all but ground to a halt.

Since the first case of COVID-19 was reported

in Kenya, KUPPET has been at the forefront of fighting the pandemic. We have mobilized our membership behind the scientifically-proven interventions to ensure the safety of individuals and families. These include measures like regular hand-washing and cleaning of infected surfaces, social distancing, and restriction of movements to reduce the potential spread of the infection in order to prevent healthcare systems from being overwhelmed by large numbers of patients seeking care at the same time.

The union reaffirms the commitment of the teaching fraternity - including head-teachers and principals, the entire force and the unions - to help the government achieve its goal of minimising the damage of COVID-19 to national health, livelihoods and the country's economy.

To beat this disease, we must 'flatten the curve', by substantially reducing the projection of confirmed cases - which unfortunately are growing markedly despite the limited testing being done in Kenya. So far, many questions on COVID-19 remain unanswered. What would the figures be if, for instance, Kenya was able to test 10,000 people daily, as opposed to the current 600? What do our currently low numbers suggest? If indeed most Kenyans affected by

COVID-19 are symptomatic carriers, what does that signal about the spread of the disease?

None of these questions is reassuring. Experiences from the United States and Britain have shown that this disease can incubate in a population for months before beginning to exert its toll. It is imperative that solutions against this disease be measured against empirical evidence of what works, rather than gut feelings.

KUPPET has also called upon the government to ensure the sustainability of jobs and businesses through a fair and robust enforcement of employment laws, and to cushion the poorest citizens against imminent hunger.

Likewise, the pandemic has exposed deep gaps in the delivery of e-learning. On the supply side, the programmes developed by the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) and learning institutions through television, radio and the Internet, have been grossly inadequate. The KICD lessons have been too short and too few, while universities have had trouble coordinating with students. These are due, in part, to the fact that online learning had not been embedded in the school system.

The demand side encompasses lack of awareness, poor attitudes to online learning and structural inequalities. Many poor families have been left out of the process given that they cannot afford computers and the Internet. While learning institutions should take equity into consideration

in implementing distance learning, the challenge will be best addressed at a structural level.

As at 29 April, more than 1,000 respondents had shared feedback with us on the online research tool we developed to establish the rate of syllabus coverage by the online system. The data will inform us accurately about the symmetry between the lesson planning, estimates of the number of students reached and the level of satisfaction by learners.

To better inform overall policy on this pandemic, the union last week launched a study to review the effectiveness of national interventions against COVID-19 and establish the preparedness at school level to contain the disease should infections happen there. We will have an expert review of the efficacy of national programmes to combat the pandemic, including the Ministry of Education's response framework.

That expert advice will enable us understand the process of epidemiological modelling and impact of policy responses in Kenya and selected African and western countries - which could signal to us the future trends of infections in Kenya.

As a union, we are confident that, amid the challenges posed by COVID-19, the space being opened for national reflection will help us marshal the kind of concerted, diligent action that will help us defeat this disease together and set Kenya on a new path of national development.

The union reaffirms the commitment of the teaching fraternity - including head-teachers and principals, the entire force and the unions - to help the government achieve its goal of minimising the damage of COVID-19 to national health, livelihoods and the country's economy.

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Education

Digital learning on course to take off, says agency boss

The government has defended the Digital Literacy Programme (DLP), saying it is ready to support schools as they implement online learning.

Information and Communication Technology Authority (ICTA) Chief Executive Katherine Getao said all the ingredients for the success of DLP are in place.

"The digital devices are already in the schools, the teachers have been trained on the use of ICT for teaching, and most schools are connected to power," said Dr Getao yesterday.

The CEO was responding to reports that the DLP may have missed a golden opportunity to support children's learning at home after millions of tablets were purchased and distributed in schools.

Queries had been raised on whether all the schools had been issued with the learner devices.

Also questioned was whether all teachers had been trained and oriented to assist children integrate ICT in learning.

Further, some stakeholders wondered if curriculum content had been loaded into the devices for learners' use.

Getao said so far 21,637 public primary schools have been supplied with tablets, representing 99.6 per cent of the institutions in the country.

She said the process of installing learning devices in 1,302 newly registered schools is ongoing, and that at least 331,000 teachers have been trained on ICT integration.

The CEO revealed that 218,253 teachers have been trained on the use of technology to implement the competency-based curriculum (CBC), and another 93,009 teachers trained on the use of ICT and device utilisation.

In addition, 22,927 schools have an electricity connection. Of these, 19,042 schools are on the national grid, while 3,239 are using solar power.

Getao said CBC-aligned content for Grade 1 and 2 has been

installed in the devices and they are currently working on content for Grade 3.

"It is clear from the data that since its implementation, the programme has registered positive outcomes," she said.

The chief executive challenged teachers and parents to "make use of the opportunities presented by technology and the facilities that are already in schools".

"With these already existing resources, we are building on a good foundation even as the government is doing everything possible to surmount the current challenges."

Appraisal tools

Getao said the devices have helped schools in managing administrative work, such as completing teacher appraisal tools, and registration of candidates.

"The projectors are helping teachers in delivering their own content for classes that do not currently have content in the devices, such as Grade 4 to Grade 8," she said.

Moving forward, she added, implementation of the second phase of the DLP would target Grade 4 to Grade 6.

Each school will be provided with advanced learners digital devices, three advanced teachers digital devices, five digital output devices and one wireless access point.

The second phase will also include implementation of internet connectivity to schools, dubbed Schoolnet, which will take various forms according to the unique characteristics of the country.

"This will utilise the existing National Optic Fibre spanning the entire country. There will also be the County Connectivity Project that will provide wireless last mile connectivity to government institutions and leased capacity from licensed telecom operators, including the recently launched Loon project," said Getao. [Augustine Oduor]

Technology. CA says it will roll out system that stops criminals from using illegal devices

Regulator lacks motive, tools to tap private calls

By Mercy Wanjau



Last week's *Standard on Sunday* article on the Court of Appeal decision overturning a High Court judgement that had stopped the implementation of a tool for curbing the use of counterfeit devices on mobile networks has sparked public debate and elicited a wide array of interpretations.

The article, under the banner "State gets greenlight to tap private phone calls", created the false impression that the court had given the Communications Authority of Kenya (CA) the go-ahead to implement a system that would snoop on private conversations of mobile phone subscribers. This is not the case.

Left unclarified, the noble objectives that the CA sought to achieve by implementing the Device Management System (DMS) could be lost on Kenyans.

What is the DMS and why is it being implemented?

The DMS is a system that is meant to manage entry of devices into the country and prevent illegal communication devices from accessing mobile telecommunications services. The illegal devices in question include SIM-boxes, counterfeit, sub-standard, non-type approved and stolen mobile handsets.

The DMS contains a database (a whitelist) of all type-approved devices that uniquely identifies each device. Once deployed, the DMS shall facilitate denial of service to all illegal and non type-approved communications devices.

The system has capability to isolate and deny services to the illegal devices as criminals may misuse them to perpetrate crime.

It is important to note that the ICT sector law only allows type-approved and genuine mobile telecommunications equipment to be used in the country.

To work seamlessly, all local mobile operators will be required to connect to the DMS and ensure that blacklisted devices do not access services. As the CA has pointed out time and again, the system does not access subscribers' personal information details, and therefore cannot access personal data as claimed by those opposed to its deployment.

To protect the consumer at the point of purchase, the system will be configured to allow mobile phone buyers to verify whether the ICT device they intend to purchase is genuine or not. This will be done through sending the preferred handset's unique identification number, otherwise known as the IMEI, to a specified short code.

The proliferation of non type-approved and counterfeit devices, often illegally imported, presents a serious challenge to mobile networks and subscribers. Besides degrading the overall quality of mobile services available to users, counterfeit handsets do not offer value for money as they are more often than not substandard and therefore have a shorter lifespan.

Risk of radiation

By virtue of failing to meet the basic prescribed technical specifications and standards, counterfeit mobile phones tend to emit unacceptably higher levels of radiation, posing health risks to users. Some counterfeiters also come with sub-standard batteries that are susceptible to overheating and may often explode on users.

What's more, counterfeit devices pose major security and safety risks, as they do not come with a unique IMEI or identification number. In some cases, they use non-standard IMEI formats or replicate the unique identification numbers of other handsets.

A number of users have been wrongly arrested for crimes committed by other persons using mobile handsets with a similar IMEI. Replication of IMEIs also presents unnecessary challenges to law enforcement agencies in tracking down individuals who misuse phones for criminal purposes.

It is important to note that attempts by East African countries to implement General Identification Registers to curb the resale of stolen handsets within

their national borders has been frustrated by dumping of reprogrammed devices from neighbouring countries. To address this challenge, countries in the region resolved to implement a system that would deny service to stolen handsets across the region.

The implementation of this system is also intended to meet the requirements of the East African region under the Northern Corridor Integration Project. Heads of State Summit, which directed each member State to deploy systems that curb the illegal by-passing and termination of telecommunications traffic within the context of the 'one network area'.

Once implemented, the system will deal a deathblow to the thriving local black market of stolen handsets, and control illegal termination of traffic, also known as SIM-boxing.

It is noteworthy that the CA is not an intelligence entity, and has no interest in or capacity to tap people's telephone conversations. The CA is a responsible corporate citizen that respects and upholds the constitutionally guaranteed right to privacy.

As directed by the courts, the CA will now move with speed to continue public consultation with the industry and other stakeholders on the best way to deploy the system in order to ensure Kenyans accrue the aforementioned benefits.

Other agencies that the authority has been engaging on this matter include the Anti-Counterfeit Agency, Kenya Revenue Authority, National Police Service and Kenya Bureau of Standards.

The authority remains committed to its mandate of protecting the interests of ICT consumers, and the deployment of this system is a clear testimony of this fact. Prior to deploying the system, the authority is planning to roll out consumer awareness focusing on its scope and impact.

I wish to assure the public that the authority remains committed to effective regulation of the sector and protection of their interests in order to maintain confidence in the use of ICT services in the country.

Mercy Wanjau is the acting Director General of the Communications Authority of Kenya

Justice

Court refuses to lift ban on acclaimed lesbian romance film

A court has refused to lift a ban on a locally-made acclaimed film portraying a lesbian romance, the film's producer said, adding that she will continue to fight for freedom of expression.

The film 'Rafiki' was banned by the Kenya Film Classification Board (KFCB)

in April 2018, on the grounds that it promotes homosexuality in a country where gay sex is a criminal offence.

Rafiki's producer Wanuri Kahiu appealed against the ban, arguing it was against freedom of expression, which is enshrined in the Constitution. But on Wednesday the Constitutional Court stayed the ban, saying there was no violation of freedom of expression.

"We are disappointed of course. But I strongly believe in the Constitution and we are not going to give

up," Ms Kahiu (pictured) told *Reuters*.

"I think it is very important for us to define what freedom of expression means in Kenya as per our Constitution. We are going to appeal. The ruling today is not a true reflection of what the Constitution says."

Kahiu said she planned to take her petition to the Court of Appeal and, if necessary, the Supreme Court.

KFCB's chief executive Ezekiel Mutua welcomed the ruling.

"We went against popular opinion and said no to homosexual content. We were labelled as homophobic and ostracised locally and internationally," he wrote on Twitter.

"But we stood for family values and what we believe to be in the best interest of Kenya. Family is the basic unit of society."

The film, a love story about two young women living in a Nairobi housing estate, won international acclaim - becoming the first Kenyan film to premiere at the Cannes film festival.

In September 2018, a court temporarily lifted the ban for seven days to allow the film to be screened in Kenya so it could qualify to compete at the Oscars under the Best Foreign Language Film category. The tickets sold out in Nairobi.

Gay sex is a criminal offence punishable by up to 14 years in jail. As a result, tens of thousands of gay, bisexual and transgender people face prejudice in getting jobs, renting housing, seeking medical care or accessing education, say LGBT+ rights campaigners. [Reuters]



In Brief

Meru. MCAs appointed in Covid-19 committee

■ Governor Kiraitu Murungi has appointed three Ward reps to sit in the emergency response committee on Covid-19. This comes after the MCAs repeatedly lamented they were in the dark on what the executive was doing to save the masses from contracting coronavirus. In a letter to the assembly, Kiraitu named Speaker Joseph Kaberia, Majority Leader Victor Karithi and Health committee chairman Martin Mworia to the committee. The main focus of the committee is to come up with preventive measures against the spread of the virus. [Phares Mutembeli]

Ruiru. Two nurse injuries as police gun down gang

■ Two family members are nursing bullet wounds after they were shot by stray bullets in Ruiru, Kiambu. Mercy Nyambura was shot and injured on her left thigh while her brother Patrick Ng'ang'a was hit on the neck during a fire exchange between police and suspected thugs. Two of the suspects were shot dead with the police recovering a pistol. Ruiru Level Four Hospital Medical Superintendent Keziah Nginya said the two were in stable condition. Kiambu County Police Commander Ali Nuno defended the officers saying they were responding to a distress call and they did not intend to cause any harm. [Fidelis Kabunyi]

Murang'a. Police make empty raid after protest

■ Police in Maragua finally raided the notorious Maisha Mathi village in search of illicit brews and narcotics, but made zero arrests. The raid was triggered by a protest letter to Interior CS Fred Matiang'i over rampant brewing and peddling in the village. The locals, through Ichagaki MCA Charles Mwangi, detailed how "untouchable" families dealt in the illicit trades for over 30 years with impunity. On Wednesday evening, law enforcers under Maragua assistant County Commissioner Alex Mukindia raided the village and intercepted 600 litres of assorted illicit brews but made no arrests. The MCA now wants the security system in the area to be overhauled to help bring the mess to an end. [Boniface Gikandi]

Survival. These times call for ideas and technology *savoir faire* to be king

Alfayo Onyango
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Pandemic or not, the competitive nature of being a creative is not a secret. One has to win the hearts of a consumer in co-existence with peers that offer more or less virtuoso-wise, are marginally different or similar to you, or just have nuances about them that make them slightly leveraged or disadvantaged.

Sometimes, you're not even in the same line of work as them and this frees up space for one to 'operate'. Either way, one's creativity, intellect and ability should be able to separate them from the pack.

With social distancing and quarantine now being the norm, content creators are scratching their heads for ideas that would eventually find way into our living rooms, and ultimately earn them dividend.

Many were not prepared for this but are nonetheless slowly adapting to the new culture, hopefully hoping to make themselves as reliant as they were before.

"My main income source was playing live gigs. Through that my team and I would earn from ticket sales, partnerships with the venue, beverage companies, even the people that bring the technicalities such as perishable washrooms," artist and folk fusion performer Ayrosh says. "It has wreaked havoc, because even industries such as licensing agents have to look for alternatives, not just us creatives."

The times are interesting, and the reactions from the responsible divide of artists even more compelling. From working remotely, and channeling that intuition, these times call for ideas and technology *savoir faire* to be king.

"It's an opportunity to be innovative. You can see lots of artistes working on live-stream shows; this has been great. Some of us can work remotely, but for many, it remains to be seen what can happen from there," musician, producer and sound engineer Jaaz Odongo shares.

Rapper-singer Nyashinski played his cards in announcing a much anticipated album early but this coincided with the coronavirus pandemic. However, he could not turn back and let a multitude of supporters down.

His robust reaction to manifesting a high calibre roll-out of his magnum opus *Lucky You* had to be so thorough and twice the effort he would employ in normal circumstances. And so it was, a livestream of a performance that was textbook, from visual and sonic quality, the bar was raised so high, even a 'normal' event would have to struggle to oust that dexterity and execution. To top it off, it wasn't just a typical virtual event; he had it so mapped out that viewers could support him with proceeds through a Safaricom partnership that

Creatives get smart as virus dims lights on shows

It's an opportunity for Kenyan entertainers to be innovative by leveraging on technology and ride the virus tide.

only cost Sh20, which ended up looking like the bargain of bargains.

Even DJs who are not such strangers to proxy experiences through their live sets uploaded on to digital avenues are embracing the shift temporarily.

"Honestly, I love playing live than uploading sets. Right now though, I have had to get resources up, from internet and equipment. I just need some passion and my stage to keep me going," says DJ IV, who coincidentally was the first Kenyan DJ to take to her Instagram and upload a live set during quarantine.

She claims all she needed to do was start to make this a regularity in her schedule.

Besides these pristine acts displaying a heart full of determination, more content creators in Podcasting - Chaxy and Ayrosh (Just Kidding Podcast); DJs - Blinky, Xclusive, Styles; comedians - Seth Gor, Raqi, Sammy Kioko, Eric Omondi; music producers - Provoke, Thomas Olango, Savara Mudigi and vloggers - Miss Mandi with her throwdowns among others, there is certainly no lack of entertainment, as normal programming on broadcast media and digital spaces keeps many occupied when necessary.

Even an apps bonanza such as Onlyfans, TikTok, Triller, House Party, and Zoom have imploded and brought lots of joy as people can curate while not being socially isolated from loved ones.

Business acumen

There are the passionate, and there are the Wolves of Nairobi entertainment streets - a crop of entertainers that know how to look for opportunity and make it count. They are still delivering top tier content while making bank rolls dance for them.

"There are still corporate organisations that are working. They are giving out good cash to relevant entertainers to brand their stuff," says DJ Xclusive in a candid Instagram Live session with musician Naibol.

DJ Money has scored exclusive deals with brew company Ballentines and e-commerce giants Jumia through Jumia Party. Hennessy is said to be looking for partners as well. While Seth Gor has been staying on top of his game with Dettol promoting sanitisers in his vines, while marketing William Lawsons through this stay-at-home period.

"Don't stop planning, be shrewd, and also realise the importance of passive income. Investment and savings are what are coming through for artists right now. Hopefully people also recognise the kind of leaders they have chosen. Western countries are bailing out their artistes, while we can see our situation," Jaaz Odongo shares.

Artists are still in shock after receiving peanuts from the year's first quarter payments of royalties from the government.



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Editorial

Time to reflect on the future of jobs and how to reboot the economy

How we behave now will determine how fast we get our economy back on track, and hence recover lost jobs or reimagine new ones

Kenya joins the rest of the world today to mark Labour Day. But as we observe this day set aside to mark the achievements of workers, there is little, both locally and internationally, to celebrate.

There will be no song and dance at Uhuru Park. There will be no elegant displays, and neither will Cotu Secretary General Francis Atwoli address thousands of workers countrywide as he does every year. And poignantly, there will be no pay increase for workers.

It will be a gloomy day for the workers in lockdown in various parts of the world; some are down with Covid-19 in hospital or at home, while others are in quarantine, waiting for their fates to be determined. Some, sadly, have lost their lives to this invisible enemy.

And that's not all. Some of the workers who have escaped these tribulations so far have been sacked or suspended. Millions of others who are lucky enough to still draw a salary have seen their wages slashed by huge margins as companies struggle to stay afloat.

The coronavirus disease has turned the global economy upside down, and the world of work has not been spared.

This week, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection revealed that 133,657 Kenyans in the formal sector had been rendered jobless as a result of Covid-19. There are tens of thousands of other Kenyans whose livelihoods have been dealt a massive blow.

In the US, more than 26 million people have filed for unemployment benefits in the last five weeks. Across the world, people are losing their jobs on a daily basis as the coronavirus outbreak digs in.

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) has warned that up to 1.6 billion people employed in the informal economy - nearly half the global workforce - are at risk of losing their jobs.

"For millions of workers, no income means no food, no security and no future", ILO Director General Guy Ryder noted aptly.

The world is navigating uncharted waters. But trouble for the Kenyan worker set in long before the hydra-headed monster docked on our shores. Months before the coronavirus struck, scores of companies had already sent home hundreds of workers due to dwindling economic fortunes.

In fact, this week, Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) released the *Economic Survey 2020* which showed that our economy grew by 5.4 per cent last year, a deceleration from 6.3 per cent in 2018. Matters will be more complicated this year with Covid-19 in the mix.

The destruction caused by the coronavirus on the economy could for the first time in decades result in negative growth for the economy, or recession, killing whatever hopes of a revival that the country's already fledgling economy harboured.

Already several companies in the hospitality and aviation sectors have let go of thousands of workers. Other companies have simply shut down. Thus, for the remaining months of the year, the cost of food, fuel, school fees and rent may prove too heavy of a burden to bear for many. To put this into context, prior to 2020, the country's worst year was 1992 when the economy contracted by 0.8 per cent.

The World Bank expects the economy to grow at a slower rate of 1.5 per cent, and in the worst-case scenario to plunge into a recession. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) projects an even slower growth of one per cent, while the National Treasury targets a more optimistic growth of 2.8 per cent.

But whatever the case, the focus should be on the post-Covid-19 period. The pandemic is redefining jobs and making it clear that the future of work has changed fundamentally. We must rise to the challenge through innovation and creativity. And despite painting a grim picture for 2020, most reputable institutions are upbeat about next year. Both the World Bank and IMF tip the economy to bounce back in 2021, largely due to favourable weather conditions and resurgent investor confidence.

But it will also depend on how the government peels back the stringent containment measures, including the countrywide dusk-to-dawn curfew and partial lockdowns, which have crippled a lot of economic activities. For that to happen, however, we must all join hands to banish the coronavirus nightmare. This means observing the rules laid down by the Health ministry. How we behave now will determine how fast we get our economy back on track, and hence recover lost jobs or reimagine new ones.

How tech has boosted battle against Covid-19

Demas Kiprono



Covid-19 has shaken up life as we know it. Every tool available globally is being deployed to manage it, including the use of sophisticated digital technologies that have proven very useful.

In many parts of the world, data and information technology have been deployed by authorities mainly for contact tracing, which has been vital in slowing down infection.

Geographic Information Systems and Global Positioning Services (have been used to map, identify, capture, store, manipulate, analyse, manage and present spatial or geographic data regarding infected persons, people they may have been in contact with, and areas with high prevalence through the real-time visual display of epidemic data.

Various countries like China, Poland and Norway have created applications that alert a person if they have been to a hotspot, or if they have been near an infected person.

In China, chipped bracelets that notify authorities when a subject leaves their house or designated area have been used to ensure quarantine and isolation are effective and cheap since the person stays in their own house. Furthermore, drones are being used for surveillance and for quick delivery of drugs, testing kits and even food.

In March, an Israeli company unveiled an application dubbed 'Homagen' that is supposed to tell whether one is likely infected based on his or her voice and breathing patterns and intensity.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) algorithms or machine learning are being deployed to determine whether one's behaviour suggests that they may be infected. For instance, a person's recent purchases, online searches or location visits can be used to deduce if that person could have the novel coronavirus.

For instance, if a person has recently purchased or ordered cough, flu and fever medicine, a team of medics may be sent to follow up.

Unbeknown to many, a Canadian AI algorithm named 'BlueDot' was able to warn its users about a potential pandemic in Wuhan in December 2019. It did

this by scouring all online foreign-language news reports, animal and plant disease networks, and official proclamations.

Integrated CCTV cameras and drones, installed with thermal cameras and facial recognition, are currently being used for scanning temperatures of people in the streets and balconies in a bid to detect, isolate and treat those who have a fever and are probably infected.

In countries with internet penetration, large datasets of people's information are routinely collected by the state and corporate entities by virtue of call and text messaging data, private and public CCTV footage, financial transaction records, social media activity which often contain personal pictures, internet history, internet search history, places visited, associations, online purchasing and GPS location data.

In times of crisis like the current pandemic, should the government be allowed to access and use this data? Where do we draw the line between individual freedoms and the need to fight a pandemic?

Under many legal regimes, certain rights and freedoms can be limited during emergencies if the limitation is lawful, reasonable and justifiable. The limitation must be clearly written in the law, necessary and proportionate, and pursue a legitimate aim such as national security and public health. If it fails in any of these limbs, it is unconstitutional.

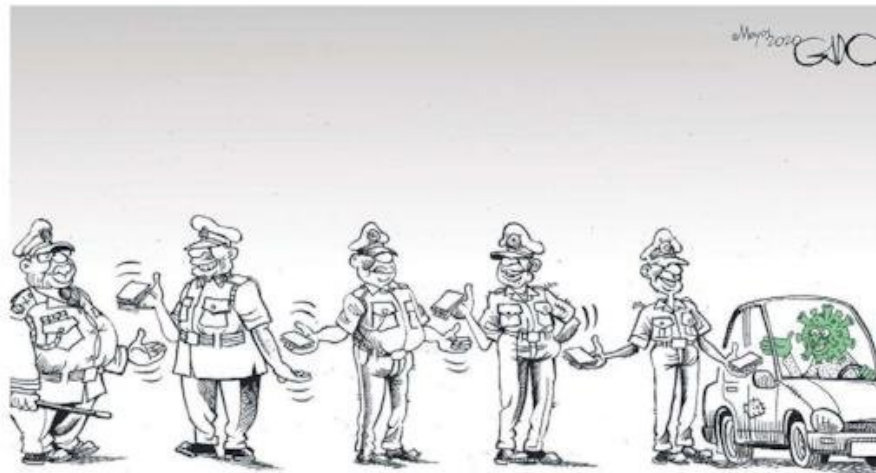
While we're on the subject, in 2012, Harvard School of Public Health collected and scrutinised data from 15 million mobile phones in Kenya for a year to map out how malaria spreads in the country. Unfortunately, none of the test subjects were aware of this, meaning their legitimate expectation of their right to privacy was being violated.

Many would argue that the state should be able to collect, analyse, process, transfer and store peoples' personal data in order to use the information gathered to fight Covid-19.

In fact, under the new Data Protection Law, data may be used by the State under specific circumstances, including if it is necessary for national security or the public interest, and for the performance of any task carried out by a public authority. Here, management of Covid-19 qualifies as meeting the public interest.

It will be interesting to see whether or not governments all over the world will stop doing this once Covid-19 is contained.

Mr Kiprono is a constitutional and human rights lawyer. demaskaw@gmail.com



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Is it right to quarantine everyone found outside during curfew hours?

Enforcing a curfew is not a punishment, but a measure to curb spread of Covid-19. Those flouting the curfew ought to be quarantined because they are exposing themselves and others to coronavirus.

Mwaki Salano



YES

The 14-day quarantine should be at their own cost. It is also irritating that within quarantine facilities, people try to escape while others mingle, yet they know very well that through such interactions, they risk contracting the disease.

In general, Kenyans are behaving badly. So perhaps quarantine is the language they understand. CS Mutahi Nguni keeps telling us to avoid behaving normally, but because of such behaviour, cases are gradually on the rise and we might end up with an upsurge that will strain hospitals.

We have reached a point where with this rising cases, the government needs to even rethink imposing a total lockdown, so that we restrict our operations and curb community transmission.

Mr Salano is an electrical engineer

In essence, what is a quarantine, and how is it interlinked with flouting of presidential curfew? It is not right to have anyone found on streets arrested and forced into a quarantine facility because this in itself is going against public health regulations.

Quindos Karanja



NO

Quarantine should be specifically an area for holding Covid-19 contact persons, those who have travelled to areas that have reported positive cases, and those who exhibit Covid-19-related symptoms.

Forcing people into a quarantine has affected people seeking health care among other services. For example, boda boda operators in remote villages fear transporting pregnant women to hospitals for fear of being quarantined. The current trend of arresting anyone from the streets may end up straining the facilities, where services expected shall not be provided. We might also have the disease spread more than anticipated within the facilities.

What the government should do is simply arrest those flouting curfew enforcement hours and charge them separately instead of having them taken to quarantine facilities. If the government must quarantine these individuals, it should as well cater for the fees charged. As a nation, we need to sober up and fight the war in a better manner. By making Covid-19 look so terrible, the government is encouraging stigma against victims.

Mr Karanja is retired high school teacher cum politician in Nakuru

Text and photos: Mercy Kahenda

PALAUER



We always see your billboards by the roadsides, says Justin Nkaranga. "Oh ye traditional doctors, this is the time to come out and display your skills; your ability to heal. The sorcerers, the wizards the traditional magicians and doctors should all get up, get into it and get involved in the fight against Covid-19. Let's not leave the struggle to westerners, scientists and medics. Since the coming of coronavirus, our traditional 'medics' have stopped their regular adverts on the TVs, radio and newspapers".

There are times you listen to some police officers explain what transpired during a shootout or crime and you get exasperated. You can't help but wonder how they got the jobs in the first place, but while still wondering, also realise why the service is incorrigible. Early this week, villagers killed a man accused of killing his two sons and burying them in his house. So, there is this police officer who stood before a TV camera and proudly proclaimed: "He was beaten beyond repair". Really?

Before coronavirus became a big issue in Kenya, says Githuku Mungai, "I saw about five police officers crowding at a clothes outfit that had displayed military look-alike clothes for sale, a stone's throw away from the Old Nation House matatu terminus. While in a vehicle, I could see some of the officers take photos using their smart phones. I thought the owner of the business was in hot soup, but the 'fatigues' are still on display to this day and so I guess no law had been broken. However, who is it who would like to walk around wearing those imitations of military uniforms?"

I deem myself important, Mr Mungai goes on to say. "When wronged, I get a bad feeling in my stomach. I guess everybody does. When a politician feels aggrieved, he or she feels uneasy and some resort to quoting from the Bible. For some reasons, I stopped CRE studies in Form Three. There are two things I cannot forget from reading the Bible. First, we should not go around saying that we have read the Bible. Second, we should be wary of involving ourselves in earthly indulgences".

When a governor declares he will build a hospital Intensive Care Unit within 21 days and delivers, don't get excited. Such achievement buttresses a view held by the public that counties can deliver. It is never the question of money, just that there is too much corruption and leaders, in some cases, don't know what they are supposed to do besides politic. When pushed into a corner, they deliver. Where did money for building a ward suddenly come from?

Write to us:
oped@standardmedia.co.ke

Our low-cadre workers deserve better than this

Lucy Mbuvi



The world over, employees are a critical factor of production and a key catalyst to the growth of national economies and private enterprise. The importance of addressing their concerns and needs cannot be overemphasised. To safeguard their welfare, it is critical to consider factors such as a safe working environment, good working conditions, healthcare, favourable wages and their general rights as stipulated in countries' labour laws and international conventions on workers' rights.

In Kenya, the government and workers' unions have attempted to address these concerns over the decades but a lot of work still needs to be done. Labour Day - International Workers' Day - is celebrated every year on May 1. Over the years, Central Organisation of Trade Unions (Cotu) and the Labour ministry have taken lead in marking this day with the purpose of ensuring workers' needs are met by government and Federation of Kenya Employers. During these celebrations, workers, especially those in the lower ranks, troop to the celebration venues or remain glued to their radios or televisions eagerly waiting for the official address stipulating an increment on the minimum wage and other favourable terms of employment.

The 2019 Labour Day celebrations was received with mixed reactions. The ministry underscored the importance of focusing on affordable housing for workers as proposed in the President's Big Four agenda. This would be implemented by enacting a housing levy of 1.5 per cent of workers' salaries. On the other hand, Cotu advocated for a 15 per cent wage increment. However, these propositions were opposed by FKE, who raised concerns regarding the sustainability of the high wage bill and rising cost of doing business.

A youth entry-level skills study carried out by the East Africa Institute of the Aga Khan University in 2019, shows that 74 per cent of entry level staff in the formal sector earn less than Sh50,000 a month, whereas 81 per cent of those in the informal sector earn under Sh25,000 a month. Surprisingly, more than half of the entry-level staff had post-secondary education and technical training.

Government regulations put

the minimal monthly wage at Sh13,572. With the rising inflation, this can hardly meet the high cost of living. This raises major concerns on the return on investment for Kenya's skilled workforce, considering the high cost of tertiary education. Most of these employees are unable to finance their basic needs from their meagre wages, resulting in low working morale, mental health issues and sometimes corruption and outright crime in an effort to cope in the prevailing financial conditions.

The government, trade unions and associations of employers have a big role to play in ensuring workers earn better wages and that their safety and general well-being is safeguarded. For this to happen, collaboration among the different actors is critical for effective dialogue on boosting productivity of the country's workforce and improving their working standards.

Employers need to re-skill and retool workers to ensure their organisations' needs are met as well as guide training institutions on skills demanded. In as much as this is critical, the entry-level skills survey points out that only two per cent and 10 per cent of informal and formal sector employers reported any involvement with TVET and other training institutions on training or curriculum development or internship placement. In addition, employers cited barriers to on-the-job training as prohibitive costs, fear of trained staff being poached by competitors and lack of internal capacity to train.

Trade unions need to encourage good relations between employees and employers. In line with this, they are responsible for setting up committees to provide training, education and other facilities for the advancement of workers. By doing so, the industry will benefit from better skilled employees, reducing skill gaps and mismatches, hence increasing employment rates. Lastly, trade unions need to facilitate in linking workforce to industry through partnerships and networks with government and private sector.

Importantly, the government has the duty of creating an enabling environment for investors and employers to ensure reasonable pay for all employees.

As we mark Labour Day, workers must be thankful to the government for the Covid-19-driven measures that have seen the reduction of VAT and PAYE. However, there is need for the government, unions and employers to ensure workers are rewarded appropriately. Workers do not have to wait for Labour Day to be granted meagre wage increments.

Ms Mbuvi is a Research Associate at Aga Khan University's East Africa Institute

Pandemic. Persons with disabilities are a special target for discrimination

We should not forget people with disabilities

A1
Kags



As Kenya continues to combat Covid-19, it is clear that little has been done to accord people with disabilities the guidance and support needed to protect them during the ongoing pandemic, even though many of them are part of the high-risk group.

I attended a meeting a week ago with leaders of organisations and groups of people with disability (PWD), organised to review how they were coping. As I listened to them, I realised that our responses to covid have completely left this important constituency of our brethren behind. As I listened, I learnt that people with disabilities are going through challenges that are invisible to our policymakers.

"People with disabilities feel they have been left behind," UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, Catalina Devandas said. "Containment measures, such as social distancing and self-isolation, may be impossible for those who rely on the support of others to eat, dress and bathe."

"This support is basic for their survival, and States must take additional social protection measures to guarantee the continuity of support in a safe manner throughout the crisis."

PWDs who rely on their personal assistants are struggling with day-to-day tasks without the needed help such as shopping for food and other essentials, doing household chores, running errands, getting daily exercise and accessing public transport.

On a normal day, persons with visual disabilities and wheelchair users rely

on a personal aide or the goodwill of touts to board matatus, yet one measure to avoid Covid-19 is to avoid contact, but for wheelchair users to get into a matatu, they require assistance because public transport is not accessible for all. Wheelchair users also run an increased risk of their wheelchairs being contaminated with the virus by somebody who could be assisting them.

Persons with disabilities are a special target for discrimination, not only because of their disabilities, but because of a recent myth that they are more likely to have the virus. There is a case in which people refused to board a matatu because an individual with albinism was in the same vehicle. This was done in the guise of social distancing.

What's worse is that PWDs have to work harder to get the information that is shared on Covid-19. Take the daily press briefings by Cabinet Secretary for Health, Mutahi Kagwe. When the camera zooms in on the speaker, the sign language interpreter disappears and the deaf are instantly left out. There are many well designed colourful posters and memes that exclude people with visual disabilities - not just the ones that are completely blind, but also those who are affected by such conditions as dyslexia.

Braille readers

The sudden disruption from a normal school routine has affected the progress of children with disabilities, most notably those with developmental disabilities. The government has done a commendable job in creating avenues for learning at home during this time that schools have to be closed.

Children with disabilities are in danger of being left woefully behind as they may not have assistive devices that enable them to read and continue learning. Thousands of children with visual disabilities, for example, now have no access to assistive devices like Braille paper and Braille readers at home.

Deaf children cannot keep up with online classes without their sign language interpreters, as not all teachers

know how to sign. Working without the support of their professional special-needs teachers is proving detrimental to children with intellectual or autoimmune disabilities. Parents who are not trained in special-needs care are struggling to keep up with the school syllabus and at the same time look for money for food and bills, as they are forced to give their children with disabilities round-the-clock care.

The government is yet to roll out mechanisms to get free personal protective equipment to PWDs. People with visual disability need PPE even more. Average Kenyans, for example, require hand sanitiser and latex gloves as they rely heavily on their hands for tactile feedback.

At the same time, unfortunately, using gloves distorts the detail of feeling different surfaces for the blind and visually impaired. The masks being sold and distributed do not take into consideration the deaf community who use lip-reading as a means of communication.

There is widespread concern over personal safety and security for PWDs who live alone for fear of being taken advantage of. There is an increase in reports of domestic physical abuse on women and girls with disabilities. PWDs are worried about how health-care workers and health facilities will be able to handle them if they contract the virus.

This litany of challenges demands that the government steps up more to reassure persons with disabilities that their survival is a priority to establish clear protocols for public health emergencies to ensure that, even when medical resources are scarce, access to healthcare, including life-saving measures, does not discriminate against people with disabilities.

The National Council for Persons with Disabilities as well as other organisations that champion the rights of PWDs must become a lot more aggressive and visible in their representation of people with disabilities in Kenya.

Mr Kags is a serial social entrepreneur. alkags@alkags.me

It's time to do away with troubled airlines

Joe
Nyagah



A long time ago, I was the CEO of Kenya Airways. I was the first African to become President of the world-wide airlines association Geneva-based IATA. I also served as President of the African Airlines Association and at one point acted as its secretary general.

Before African states became independent, most of our airspace was dominated by airlines from Europe and the US. North African countries, unlike the sub-Saharan ones, have operated airlines for many years. Among the first sub-Saharan African airlines that are still in existence are South African Airways and Ethiopian Airways. The British colonial government later set up three regional airlines: East African Airways, Central African Airways and West African Airways.

The 11 Francophone countries jointly set up their own Air Afrique after their independence in 1961. The main reason for setting up regional airlines had to do with economies of scale. Individual countries were simply too small to afford such investments on their own. An airline is a very expensive investment in terms of fleet acquisition, maintenance and crew training.

The first country to pull out of regional airlines was Ghana, which set up a joint airline with British BOAC and later bought all her partner's shares. This was soon after Ghana's independence in 1957. This set the stage for the other states to do the same. The newly independent countries wanted to stamp their presence on the world stage with a flag carrier to prove that we had finally arrived.

It was our national pride and we could from now on not be looked down upon. That is how EAA, CAA and WAA met their deaths while Air Afrique survived up to early 2000s. At one point, the continent had about 70 airlines. Most national airlines have since collapsed.

Lessons from my airline days were, first, there were too many financially struggling airlines in Africa. Two, our government budgets are simply too small to sustain an airline expenses in the long term. This is a heavy capital outlay industry, requiring deep financial pockets which most of our countries do not have, and those who do misuse the money.

Third, the prices that African airlines pay for aircraft is much

higher than those paid by their competitors from the more developed countries. This makes them to come up with uncompetitive ticket prices. Corruption is a big problem. One of the reasons that led to my losing the job at KQ was for buying and leasing planes at low prices! Fourth, many of our competitors are owned by very wealthy countries that can, for their strategic reasons, keep on supporting them. In the case of some of the Middle East operators, governments buy the planes and hand them to the airlines to operate.

The other issues have to do with too much government control. This leads to mismanagement. We have a bloated workforce, an old fleet with high operating and maintenance costs and our cost of borrowing is higher than our competitors because we are African airlines and, therefore, rated as risky by foreign lenders. Then there are issues of safety associated with the quality of our air control infrastructure and airports. Finally, the high cost of training our staff, and especially the crew, is a major problem.

And now our planes are parked at the airports doing nothing because of coronavirus. The cost of getting them off the ground into an almost non-existent market means governments will have to give them huge funding. This will be at a time the same governments will hardly have any spare cash for anything other than meeting the very basic requirements of their citizens. Who will finance their take-off in Africa? It is a problem that those in authority must start thinking about right now even as they are fighting coronavirus.

May I propose a few possible lines of action? One, kill the airlines as most countries have done over the years. There will be no vacuum as the more financially strong ones will still come to our capitals for both passenger and cargo operations. Two, as some have done, enter into joint ventures with appropriate partners who have the funds and are not serious competitors. Three, remain as small-to-medium size outfits operating domestically and regionally. Four, go back to the old EAA, CAA, WAA days and create strong regional airlines. This will require strong political will and commitment on the part of heads of states.

We should not be ashamed if our KQ, SAA, Ethiopian, Uganda, Rwanda, and other airlines change form. After all, TWA, PANAM, Sabena, Olympic, Nigeria, Ghana, and many others have all disappeared. As long as we can travel and get our exports out to the markets, does it really matter who carries it? Let us be flexible and do a serious analysis as a continent on the way forward.

Mr Nyagah is a former Cabinet minister for Co-operatives



A disabled mother crawls while begging in the streets of Kisumu with her child strapped on her belly and a bottle of sanitiser tied on her headscarf last month.

[Sammy Ominga, Standard]

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FROM THE WEB

FROM WEB

Trump to abolish the Green Card programme

Allan Bilic Clinton Ochieng Abong: We will still survive; whatever the choice, we will adopt to our circumstances. I am only afraid of the judgement day.

Joseph Wachira: Why can't we make Kenya like the US? We



have everything we need. Let us elect leaders with vision; leaders who will not loot but use the public coffers under their trust faithfully. That way, with or without green cards we can never be worried.

Pauline Morgan: I plan to move back to Kenya. USA is a mess, it's too much struggle for no reason.

George Njuguna: Is US heaven or what? Does it mean going to US is the major achievement one can make in life? I wonder who is even willing to go there with the coronavirus. People are crying for the government to bring them back home from there.

SMS

Kazi mtaani

Thomas@MiregwaThomas: The hygiene programme works diligently to supplement country services and continually improve the appearance of our historic streets.

Gideon Moi@GideonMoi: Let me take this opportunity to thank the national government for



coming up with this programme to ensure Kenyans get something to do.

Marigiri@Dmarigiri: The environment is for humans as well as plants and animals. Keeping it clean and neat is our responsibility.

Global Voice@Harrykipz: Good hygienic conditions abolish pathogens and other disease causing mechanisms.

Pandemic

We must unite to fight stigma linked to Covid-19

It is sad that as a nation we are still fighting stigmas of all kind.

The latest is the stigma facing Covid-19 patients and suspected cases. Our community is making their lives hard by stigmatising them in various ways. How do we expect a Covid-19 patient to survive both the fight for their lives and the negative thoughts and the stigma they face from family, friends and foes? Stigma makes both the affected and infected family member find it hard to live in the society even after the recovery or after testing negative after quarantine period. It is generating more fear than the pandemic itself. Stigmatising Covid-19 patients and suspects is the last thing the society should do at this moment when the disease has no cure. For patients to survive the pandemic, they need great care; they need hope and love from each and everyone of us. Running away from them or neglecting their family will not help matters and we do not need to come into contact with them to offer a word of encouragement, not in this era of mobile phones and social media.

Stigmatisation has never been a good method of dealing with any crisis. On the contrary, it



only causes more harm to the person affected, especially to their mental health. We all learnt this from society's first reactions to HIV and Aids when those infected and affected faced enormous stigma. This, in some cases, killed the patients faster than HIV itself. When the stigma ended, all went well and we now

live side by side with HIV survivors, we work with them and socialise with them without fear. In return, they are receiving better care and a new lease of life. This is a goal that took time for our country to achieve, but I believe these same methods can be used to strike out stigma against Covid-19 patients. One of the ways that this will be achieved is countering false information about Covid-19. Education about this disease should be given through different channels to everyone and awareness created to people using facts. This will help in eliminating negative perceptions about the disease born out of ignorance. Creation of quarantine and more health centres without counselling will not help much. More guidance and counselling centres should be put up to offer counselling services to both the infected and affected. This will enlighten everyone that Covid-19 can be defeated. On the other hand, it will make it easy for people to volunteer for testing when they encounter any symptoms and save the government the costs of contact tracing. It will also end the growing trend of people running away from quarantine centres. Stigmatisation will end with the acceptance that no one is safe and that the disease is already here with us; and that it's our responsibility to fight it together.

Wiviny Solomon, Mombasa

Letters.

Use county vehicles to take Covid-19 fight to villages

Not every Kenyan gets the necessary and required information on Covid-19. In the most interior parts of the country, many residents do not have access to television, phones or the radio, making it difficult for them to acquire information. They are therefore left behind in this fight. Language barrier is also another challenge that continues to hinder the country from moving forward. In one instance, residents of West Pokot County raised concern about lack of sensitisation of how to use and wear face masks. Most of the residents do not even understand why they need to wear masks. With most of the county government operations now handicapped due to the work-from-home directive, county vehicles could be put into good use. These vehicles, equipped with public address systems, can quickly spread Covid-19 information in the grassroots and rally residents in the remotest parts of the country to fight the disease. Accompanied by local area chiefs, teams of public health officers must start moving from village to village sensitising and educating the locals on a number of things about Covid-19. They should use this opportunity to demonstrate to the public on how to wear face masks and the importance of wearing one. Ward representatives who are conversant with the local terrain and cultures should facilitate this. The teams must reach out to locals in their mother tongues to ensure no one is left behind as the country moves forward. This will eliminate the language barrier problem.



Question and answer booklets on all aspects of coronavirus can also be published in local languages and distributed for free in far-flung villages using the county government vehicles. Public gatherings are banned but these vehicles can move from ward to ward, ferrying officials who will then carry out door to door campaigns. In this fight against this deadly virus all our efforts are needed and all resources should be put into good use. Together we shall defeat this pandemic. Patrick Nzaro, Maseno University.

TALK OF THE DAY



Healthcare services in Covid-19 battle

The double digit rise in confirmed cases has put the country into a frenzy. All of a sudden we need to hire more medical personnel. But why now when all this could have been done long before the emergence of this pandemic? The promulgation of the 2010 Constitution saw the health sector become devolved. This was to allow more focus and funds into this sector. This did not happen and now we are in a limbo. It has been almost 10 years now since the health sector was devolved yet some county hospitals do not have ICU facilities. It is shocking that in some hospitals, one doctor attends to more than 150 patients in a day. Let us remember that these medics are also human. No doctor should be overworked while there are other doctors out there who are not employed. Questions have also been raised about health workers' safety. The government must put its act together. Chiriba Patrick, Mombasa.

It is important that the health and safety of the health workers is considered. This is one of the most overwhelming and risky moments in their profession. Their safety and health should be prioritised to protect them from contracting the virus while on duty and cushion them from long working hours, psychological distress, fatigue, occupational burn-out and stigma. There have been reports that the government has not provided enough protective gear to health workers and training on how to handle suspected or confirmed Covid-19 patients. Cases of harassment and intimidation have also been reported by the health workers. The government must assume the overall responsibility over these claims. Dorothy Pamela, Kisumu

If you drive past many Kenyan research institutes at night, even around 9pm - something I have done when coming late from work - the lights are always off, the parking lots empty. At this rate you should not expect any vaccine from Kenya. I would like someone to prove me wrong and I shall be happy to take a Kenyan vaccine. Nyagundi Musandu

Initiative. The board has received Sh505,836,250 in the form of food and non-food items

Kalonzo, Airtel, KenGen donate to virus war fund



Airtel Corporate Communications Director Michael Okwiri (left) presents a Sh12 million dummy cheque to Jane Karuku and Kennedy Kihara of the Covid-19 Emergency Response Fund Board at KICC, Nairobi, yesterday. [Edward Kiplimo, Standard]

Covid-19 emergency kitty has so far received Sh2.6 billion from well-wishers.

By Grace Nganga, Brian George and James Wanzala
newsdesk@standardmedia.co.ke

Wiper leader Kalonzo Musyoka, and employees of Airtel and KenGen are among the latest individuals to contribute to the coronavirus fund initiative. Airtel employees donated Sh12.7 million, while the Kalonzo Musyoka Foundation gave Sh3 million to the Covid-19 Emergency Response Fund.

Mr Musyoka asked the response team to think of post-Covid-19 recovery strategies, as well as better solutions to such calamities in the future.

"I believe this pandemic has taught us a lot. It's time to think of the future so that we do not have to rely on countries like China for items like masks. We need to prepare ourselves adequately so that we can handle ourselves better in case something like this ever strikes us again," he said during a handover ceremony for the donation at the fund's offices at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC).

Airtel Director of Corporate Communication Michael Okwiri said the telco's donation comprised voluntary employee contributions in support of the government's initiative.

"Most of these funds come from the salaries of our employees who voluntarily decided to come together in support of the country during these tough times. Our employees decided to go on with this initiative for the next three months. This was the first contribution and we are grateful to our team," said Mr Okwiri.

He further said the company has partnered with other institutions to make life easier for people working from home, and for children engaged in online learning.

Among the measures the telco has instituted are free access to educational sites and removing transaction fees for mobile money transfers.

Kenya Electricity Generating Company (KenGen) on Wednesday handed over its donation to the fund.

Speaking at the event, Managing Director Rebecca Miano, said KenGen had joined hands with the government and other stakeholders to offer economic and social support to vulnerable communities across the country who have been impacted by Covid-19.

"As KenGen, we take this opportunity to thank the government for establishing the Covid-19 Emergency Response Fund, which has been instrumental in mobilising resources towards containing the spread, effect and impact of the coronavirus disease," she said.

Hygiene efforts

The company, she added, had set aside an additional Sh10 million towards supporting the World Health Organisation's (WHO) recommended hygiene efforts among communities living near its installations across the country.

The additional cash will go towards purchasing hand sanitisers, liquid soap and water tanks.

While receiving the donations, fund chairperson Jane Karuku said so far the fund has received a total of Sh2.6 billion from well-wishers, and encouraged other corporates to donate to the fight against the deadly virus.



Kalonzo Musyoka Foundation Board Chairman Raphael Nzomo (left) and Wiper leader Kalonzo Musyoka present a Sh3 million dummy cheque to Ms Karuku. [Edward Kiplimo, Standard]



Busia Governor Sospeter Ojaamong receives handwashing tanks from Kenya Secondary Schools Heads Association's Boyu Nickson yesterday. [Mumo Munene, Standard]



Vihiga Governor Wilber Ottichilo (left) inspects masks at Ebusiralo Vocational Training Centre. [Benjamin Sakwa, Standard]



Musa Ngumbao (left) receives relief food from Hope Foundation Patron Allan Owano at Mama Good News Academy Orphanage in Majaoni village, Kisauni. [Gideon Maundu, Standard]



Bomet Governor Hillary Barchok (right), Health Executive Joseph Sitonk and Public Health Chief Officer Zeddy Chumo inspect personal protective equipment (PPE) to be used by health workers in the fight against coronavirus. [Gilbert Kimutai, Standard]

"We are grateful for the people chipping in to contribute towards this good cause. We encourage people to continue supporting us in whichever way they can. Nothing is too little - we have received a minimum of Sh10 and we are grateful for the gesture," said Ms Karuku.

She added that some of the money collected with start to be used in the coming week.

"We will start spending these funds from next week. We will use Sh600 million on buying personal protective equipment (PPE) for all the 47 counties, and also donate some to

health institutions, such as Kenyatta University and Kenyatta National hospitals, as well as the Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital in Eldoret."

Karuku noted that the support and goodwill towards the Covid-19 initiative continues to be encouraging, with corporates, foundations, religious institutions and individuals donating.

So far, the fund has raised Sh2,149,218,950 in cash and Sh505,836,250 in food and non-food items. The fund has also coordinated in-kind food donations worth Sh272,024,734.

Lunga Lungu

Woman tests positive for virus at border

A businesswoman from Eldoret who crossed to the country through Lungu in her car on April 23 seeking clearance to get back home.

The 42-year-old woman is said to have driven to Lungu in her car on April 23 seeking clearance to get back home.

She is now recuperating at Msambweni County Hospital where officials said she is responding well to treatment.

Kwale, under which Lungu falls, has now recorded two coronavirus cases. The other one was an elderly man from France who has since been evacuated to his country.

Kwale County Chief of Public Health Juma Mbete said the woman was immediately put in isolation when she said she had travelled from Tanzania.

"She is fairing on well and health workers are doing their best to ensure she is okay and so far so good," said Mbete.

He further said Tanzania authorities have been notified to trace all her contacts in the country.

Cases of the virus have been on the rise in Tanzania with 480 confirmed by yesterday evening while 16 others have succumbed.

Last week, four people were placed under mandatory quarantine at Lungu Lungu Boys Secondary School after crossing into the country from Tanzania. Kwale County Commissioner Karuko Ngumo said the four would remain in quarantine until their results confirm otherwise.

Kwale Governor Salim Mvurya has expressed concern of people crossing over from Tanzania, warning that the border was becoming a transmission route.

Mr Mvurya urged security agents to ensure screening was done for everyone coming through the border point.

"We shall only win this war if we follow government directives," he said. [Weldon Kipkemoi]

Management. Out of the 10 applicants, only one is not working at KPA

Current, former port managers only candidates for KPA hot seat

The secrecy that shrouded past recruitment was exploited by people with vested interests to control the crucial institution.

By Patrick Beja and Bernard Sanga
Newdesk@standardmedia.co.ke

Only 10 candidates have expressed interest to succeed former Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) managing director Daniel Manduku.

A KPA official said after closure of submission of applications last Friday, the number of applicants was the lowest compared to previous years when the post fell vacant. Out of those who have applied for the post, only one is not a senior manager at KPA. "Most senior managers have shown interest to take over the MD's position," said the source.

However, a Mombasa-based civil society group wants the names of the applicants and those shortlisted published and the recruitment exercise subjected to public participation.

Commission for Human Rights and Justice (CHRJ) said in the past the exercise was shrouded in secrecy, sparking questions of fairness and transparency in the process.

"The process must encompass transparency, fairness, and public participation," said CHRJ Executive Director Julius Ogoch, in a petition to KPA Board Chairman General (Rtd) Joseph Kibwana.

He said the interviews for the MD post should be done in public and members of the public allowed to submit their views or petitions about the candidates. "The port plays a key role in the life of Kenyans and other countries in East Africa. It is important that they are given a chance to participate in the recruitment of the MD," he said.

According to Mr Ogoch, the secrecy that has in the past shrouded the recruitment of past managing directors was exploited by people with vested interests to control the crucial institution.

Old hands

Yesterday, our sources at the port said KPA acting managing

director and general manager engineering services Rashid Salim, KPA general manager in charge of Lamu port Abdullahi Samatar and KPA general manager in charge of Kisumu port Sudi Mwasinago have applied for the post.

Mr Salim and retired former boss Eng Joseph Atonga will be making a third attempt to clinch the lucrative post after failing twice while Mr Mwasinago will be making his second attempt.

KPA Head of strategy at the Kisumu Inland Container Depot Yobesh Oyaro, who had served as procurement manager and in audit department, is also in the race.

Only two general managers from the authority have not joined the race to succeed Dr Manduku, who resigned last month following piling pressure from the Director of Criminal Investigations George Kinoti.

Those out of the contest are General Manager Corporate Services Edward Kanau and his Operation and Harbour Master counterpart William Ruto.

Since the government began advertising for vacant positions at the KPA, this is said to be the first time the number of applicants is highest among current employees.

KPA board of directors under chairman Kibwana will be at the centre of the process to guide on how it will conduct the interviews to choose a new chief executive.

The issue of work experience and knowledge of port operations will determine the best suited candidate to take over from Manduku.



Engineer Rashid Salim.



Patrick Nyoike.



Sudi Mwasinago (Blue shirt).



Yobesh Oyaro.

KPA General Manager Finance Patrick Nyoike, whose docket has a pending issue before the Parliamentary Public Investment Committee under the chairmanship of Abdulsamad Nassir, has also applied for the top job.

Mr Nyoike has been under siege to account for over Sh3 billion, which went down the drain following the collapse of Chase Bank, when he served as manager financial accounting.

Last year, he was summoned by the parliamentary committee to shed light on why the opening of the account at the collapsed bank was not in the minutes of the meetings of KPA board.

The account was allegedly opened three days before the bank sank with KPA's Sh3 billion.

The committee wants former KPA Managing Director Gichiri Nduu and the then board of directors chairman Danson Mungata to be summoned over the matter.

Long experience

Nyoike is a financial management expert with over 18 years experience in both public and private sectors, managing diverse and significant resources and is a formidable contender in the race.



Engineer Abdullahi Samatar.

Former KPA general manager for corporate services Justus Nyarandi is also in the race. He was unceremoniously axed from KPA alongside Mr Nduu and other senior managers about four years ago.

Mr Nyarandi currently works as an executive secretary at the Northern Corridor Transit and Transport Coordination Authority based in Mombasa.

KPA General Manager in charge of Infrastructure Development Vincent Sidal, employed on a three-year contract, is among new senior managers eyeing the top seat.

Others are KPA General Manager Human Resources and Administration Daniel Ogutu and KPA General Manager, Board and Legal Services, Adraya Dena.

Arbitrary changes

Salat moves to resolve leadership wrangles in West Pokot assembly

Kanu Secretary General Nick Salat has moved to stem leadership wrangles in West Pokot County Assembly.

This follows the bid by a section of MCAs to oust Leader of Majority Thomas Ngalesia and Chief Whip Maddy Polokou.

The MCAs wanted to replace Mr Ngalesia and Mr Polokou, a move that Salat termed illegal

since there was no consultation with the party leadership.

"Our attention has been drawn to a scheme by certain top party officials in West Pokot County to engineer a coup in some positions of leadership in the assembly held by our party members without any reference or communication to the party," he said in a letter to the MCAs.

Mr Salat explained that although the party does not micromanage affairs of MCAs, change of leadership at the assembly must be done in consultation and in line with the party constitution.

Salat warned elected and nominated Kanu ward reps against participating in Motions of impeachment or arbitrary leadership change in the assembly.

"The party constitution is very clear on dispute resolution in article 21 and disciplinary procedure where there is breach to the constitution in article 28. These articles together with the code of conduct and the loyalty pledge that each elected and nominated leader signed during the nomination must be adhered to at all

times," he stated.

On Tuesday morning, the MCAs organised an informal session to rubber-stamp the changes, but the meeting was hurriedly moved to Tuesday afternoon.

Evanston Lomaduny (Endugh MCA) had been nominated to replace Polokou while his Weiswei counterpart was supposed to replace Ngalesia.

The majority leader told the Press the leadership coup at the assembly failed after a letter from the headquarters reprimanded the ward reps.

But Lomaduny said the changes followed a supremacy battle in the assembly pitting Kanu MCAs that led to rejection of county public service board secretary nominee. [Irisheel Shanzu]

GIVE BACK HOPE

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with
KENYA**

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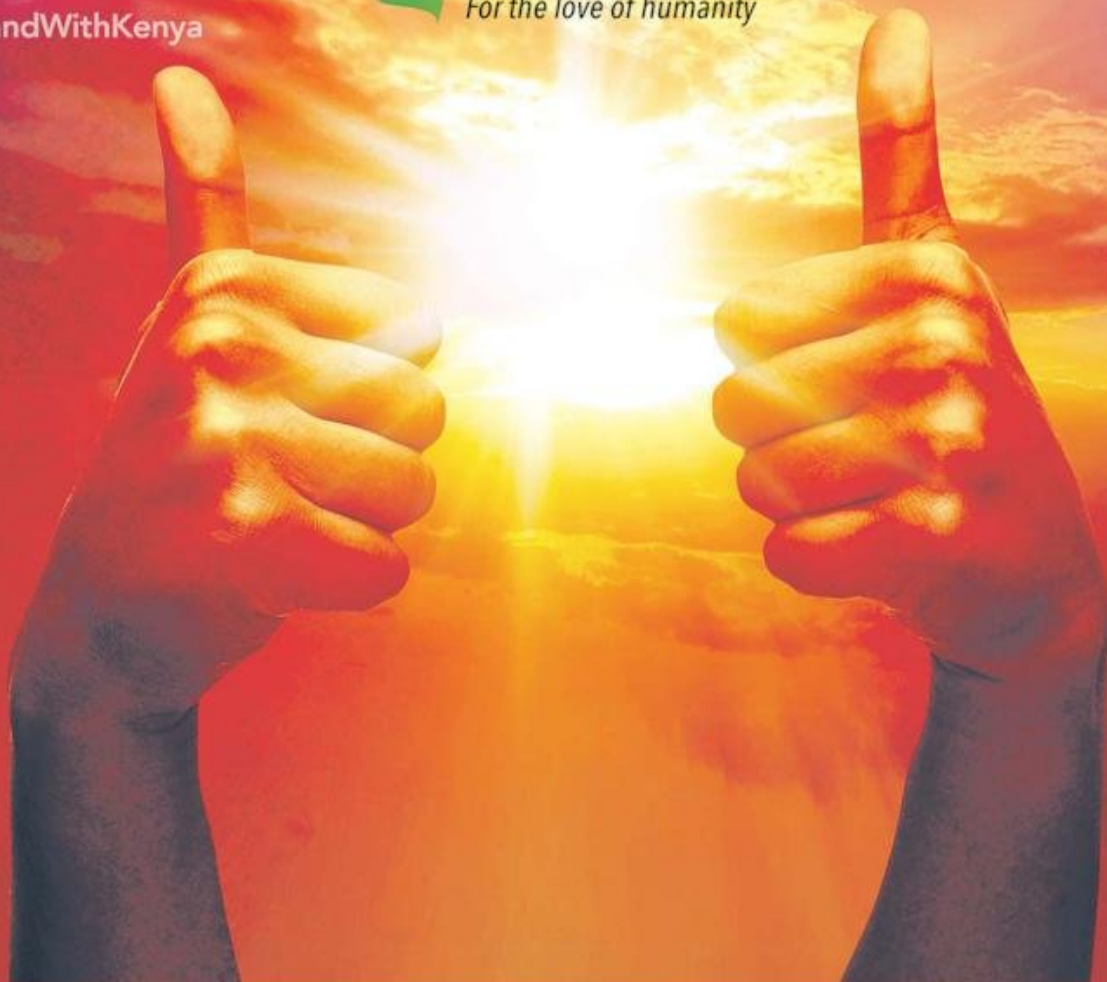
100
YEARS OF MEDIA
EXCELLENCE

Let's give the little we can, to those less fortunate than we are, to help them go through the Corona Virus Crisis.

We are reaching out to communities facing challenges of sanitation, health and nutrition and calling on caring organizations and individuals to donate masks and other protective gear, soap, sanitizers, water tanks, dry food and various critical supplies.

For more information on how you can be a part of this initiative, contact us on

SMS 40616 or send an email to **standwithkenya@standardmedia.co.ke**



Pandemic

Virus has killed 18 Kenyans in foreign countries

At least 18 Kenyans have succumbed to Covid-19 in foreign countries.

Foreign Affairs Principal Secretary Macharia Kamau said families willing to bring home the bodies of their relatives will have to bear the cost.

Speaking on a local radio station, Mr Kamau said 500 Kenyans stranded in China and India will be evacuated back home from next week, also at their own cost.

One of the 18 with underlying medical conditions died in Saudi Arabia while the rest died in the United Kingdom and United States, which have been hard hit by the pandemic.

There are about 300 Kenyans in India while 200 more willing to come back home are in China. Those in India will be brought on May 4 while those in China will be coming back on May 8.

Most of those in India, Kamau said, had travelled for medical treatment.

He further added that about 18 more Kenyans are stranded in Australia while around 200 students are stuck in Iran.

Those planning to travel back home can do so on May 4 as there is a flight scheduled to leave the country that day.

On arrival, all passengers will be subjected to the 14-28 days mandatory quarantine period imposed by the government to curb the virus from spreading.

A communication to those wishing to travel indicated a certificate showing a passenger is Covid-19 free was also mandatory before being allowed to board.

It added that passengers may undertake Covid-19 tests from any accredited laboratory but certification should be at least seven days before travel.

Embassies in Kenya have also been working with the Kenya Civil Aviation Authority and other government agencies to facilitate travel of their citizens back home. [Cyus Ombati]

Mombasa. Equipment installed at Coast Provincial Hospital capable of delivering 384 tests in intervals of eight hours

Mass testing in Coast finds eight health workers positive

Previous tests were done at Kenya Medical Research Institute lab in Kilifi while others were being taken to National Influenza Laboratory in Nairobi.

By Philip Mwakio
newsdesk@standardmedia.co.ke

Eight health workers have tested positive for Covid-19 in Mombasa as the county begins mass testing in the region.

The eight were part of the first group of 250 that were tested. Coast Provincial General Hospital in Mombasa County will now conduct 1,536 Covid-19 tests and issue prompt results daily.

The hospital installed equipment capable of delivering 384 tests in intervals of eight hours, with results being released within 24 hours.

It now joins the league of Kenyatta National Hospital, Kenya Medical Research Institute (Kemri), the National Influenza Institute, Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital, Wajir County Hospital and some private entities with capacity for diagnostic testing.

Testing began yesterday with a special focus on medical workers in a county that has so far recorded 106 positive coronavirus cases. Some 214 medical workers have been tested.

Key collaborations

Until the launch of services, Mombasa has been depending on the Kemri facility in Kilifi and the National Influenza Institute for tests.

The county is collaborating with Washington State University in the US to boost the service.

On top of the installation of the Roche Cobas 6,800



Doctors and Mombasa County Health executive Hazel Koitaba inspect the new Roche Cobas 6800 machine at Coast General Provincial Hospital on Tuesday. The machine will be used to test for coronavirus. [Kelvin Karani, Standard]

Coronavirus numbers

- As of Monday April 28, 2020, there were 97 positive cases in Mombasa County
- There have been 18 recoveries in the coastal county
- County Health executive Hazel Koitaba says the county currently has 58 patients in hospital
- Coast Provincial General Hospital has a 500-bed isolation capacity

machine at Sh90 million, the hospital also a 500-bed isolation capacity, including 22 in the Intensive Care Unit, provided with the support from the national government and private sector.

Health executive Hazel Koitaba said the county government would also cater for the medication and feeding of the poor and vulnerable patients admitted to these facilities.

Briefing *The Standard*, Ms Koitaba said the equipment, which can also be used to test for HIV and other viruses, has been provided by the United States Aid Development Agency (USAID), and the national and county governments.

"All previous Covid-19 tests were being done at the Kemri laboratory in Kilifi and other samples taken to the National Influenza Laboratory in Nairobi. With this equipment installed at our referral hospital,

we shall upscale tests," she said.

Accompanied by hospital administrator Iqbal Khandwalah, Koitaba said the equip-

ment will serve neighbouring counties of Taita Taveta and Kwale.

She said the county government was keen to ensure it curbs the spread of the virus at the community level.

Koitaba said as of Monday April 28, 2020, there were 97 positive cases with 18 recoveries in Mombasa. She added that the county currently has 58 patients in hospital.

Working in shifts

Irene Muramba, a pathologist and head of the laboratory department at the facility, said six staff had been trained to use the facility and will be deployed to work in shifts.

"We have done all the ground work and are raring to go. Effective today (Wednesday), we shall start testing for coronavirus right here," Dr Muramba said.

Chairman of the Interna-

tional Centre for Reproductive Health Kishor Mandaliya said they had supported the Coast General Hospital in the provision of equipment and capacity building for medical staff.

"We felt it prudent to show solidarity at a time when this global pandemic is wreaking havoc," Prof Mandaliya, who was also accompanied by the centre's board members Jennifer Othigo and Esther Getambo, said.

Mandaliya said with the equipment in use, there will be timely tests and results that will prove helpful in the management of the virus.

According to medics, testing is crucial to stem the spread of coronavirus because it allows health care workers to identify the infected and quarantine them, even if they are not experiencing symptoms. This can potentially reduce the number of infections.

Pending bills

State to spend Sh49b to pay NYS and Prisons suppliers

Suppliers owed money by the Prisons department and the National Youth Service (NYS) will be paid, following Cabinet approval of Sh49 billion, Treasury Cabinet Secretary Uthmaniyah said.

However, county governments that are yet to comply with guidelines issued by the ministry to clear pending bills will not receive their disbursement.

Mr Yalani said 21 out of the 47 counties have paid all their pending bills in compliance with President Uhuru Kenyatta's directive.

Yesterday, the CS said more than Sh13 billion in pending bills in the national government had been settled, with Sh140 million now outstanding.

He said Prisons and the NYS, which had the biggest issues in verification because of historical challenges, will now be fast tracked.

"The Cabinet resolved to clear these debts owed to ordinary Kenyans who supplied meat, vegetables, flour, among other things. Some are owed as much as Sh3 million, while others are as low as

Sh20,000. You hear cries of those who supplied a bull for slaughter but have not been paid three years later," he said.

"This should be the last exercise that puts to rest all matters of historical pending bills at Kenya Prisons Service and the NYS," the CS told the Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Covid-19 chaired by Nairobi Senator Johnson Sakaja.

The CS was responding to questions from the lawmakers on the government's intervention to cushion Kenyans and the economy against the effects of the pan-

demic.

Yalani said the payments follow completed verification of pending bills by a multi-agency task force comprising the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission, Directorate of Criminal Investigations, National Treasury, Director of Public Prosecutions, Attorney General, Auditor General and other key ministries.

"The CS also put his foot down to ensure all bills at the national level are cleared," said Bernard Ngun'u, the director general of accountant services,

in response to concerns raised by the senators that only counties were being asked to clear the arrears.

Yalani said the exercise of clearing pending bills involved presentation of evidence that goods were ordered and received, and that should any evidence of forgery or any malpractice be found, prosecution should follow.

As at June 2018, out of a total of Sh88.98 billion in pending bills, Sh51.2 billion was marked as payable. [Roselyne Obala]

ktn NEWS

Get The Whole Story

KTN News Virtual Forum**Labour Day Special****The future of jobs amidst the economic meltdown.****PANELISTS**

Francis Atwoli
Secretary General,
Central Organisation of Trade Unions
COTU (K)



Richard Ngatia
President,
Kenya National Chamber
of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI)



Jacqueline Mugo
Executive Director,
Federation of Kenya Employers



Mike Macharia
Chief Executive Officer,
Kenya Association of Hotel Keepers

The topics of discussion:

- Employee Safety & Covid-19
- Tax incentives for Workers
- Labour Unions & Litigation
- Impact of Technology & WFH culture
- Unemployment dilemma & what way forward



Aby Agina
Senior Business Anchor, KTN News
(Moderator)

To participate and engage our panellists
join via **slido.com**
Event code: #LabourDaySpecial

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**Watch the Forum****LIVE on KTN News****7:30 - 9:00 pm****Friday, 1st May 2020**Live Streaming of KTN NEWS VIRTUAL FORUM
on KTN News social media platforms

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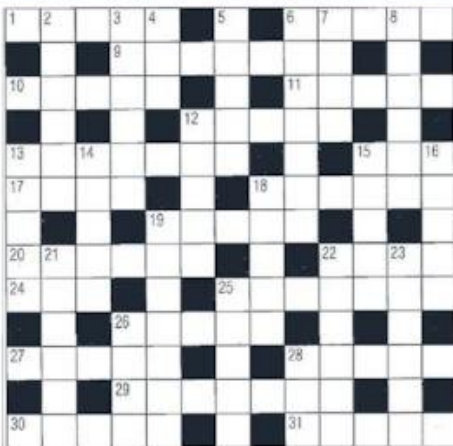
EASY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. Fight with swords (5)
6. Gemstone (5)
9. Herb (7)
10. Slight error (5)
11. Stupid people (5)
12. Facial hair (5)
13. Dear (7)
17. Weep (3)
17. Unfortunately (4)
18. Handgun (6)
19. Reddish fluid (5)
20. Knitted garment (6)
22. Rich soil (4)
24. Peculiar (3)
25. Determination (7)
26. Anteroom (5)
27. Beer mug (5)
28. American state (5)
29. Small stream (7)
30. Play (5)
31. Horizontal (5)

DOWN

2. Tooth covering (6)
3. World or universe (6)
4. Before (3)
5. Eyed up (5)
6. Robot type (7)
7. Not bad (4)
8. Skin decoration (6)
12. Abdomen (5)
13. Musical instrument (5)
14. Scottish landowner (5)
15. Backless seat (5)
16. Culpability (5)
18. Electricity supply (5)
19. Plant (7)
21. Newspaper boss (6)
22. Find (6)
23. Broad street (6)
25. Picture puzzle (5)
26. Rigid (4)
28. Man's name (3)



Thursday's solution

ACROSS: 4, Fedora 7, External 8, Erupts 10, Irish 13, Deer 14, Menu 15, Bets 16, Net 17, Stir 19, Iron 21, Harbinger 23, Tone 24, Dune 26, Top 27, Meet 29, Knit 32, Tows 33, Aside 34, Nature 35, Reporter 36, Mopeds.

DOWN: 1, Denim 2, Stain 3, Arch 4, Fleet 5, Dour 6, Rotten 9, Resign 11, Red 12, Susan 13, Derides 15, Bib 16, Nor 18, Tremor 20, Reeks 21, Hop 22, Nut 23, Tomato 25, Bid 28, Ewers 30, Nifty 31, Tears 32, Tune 33, Ahoy.

CRYPTIC PUZZLE

ACROSS

1. A girl to make hay with? (5)
6. Join to get a bit of basic education during May (5)
9. Person never really at home (7)
10. Their tread is endless (5)
11. It's dark, almost, at the end of August (5)
12. Archer, very erotic (5)
13. The French, one observes, are the occupiers (7)
15. A trendy card from the palace (3)
17. That awful nice footballer (4)
18. Though upset about some lies, a poet is not rude (6)
19. Make a rule against new bread (5)
20. Joined the club (6)
22. Storage place for oils, possibly? (4)
24. Go in hope, presumably (3)
25. A youthful figure (7)
26. Possibly first signs of disunity (5)
27. Did the master his partner? (5)
28. A bit of trouble with the foxy part (5)
29. One who betrays an interest in buying? (7)
30. He should have a smart master (5)
31. Making only one knot, perhaps (5)

DOWN

2. It's in the air (6)
3. Apt to object to some poetry (6)
4. The sophisticated fellow's property (3)
5. Saint of the dance (5)
6. Piece of computer equipment for a schoolchild (7)
7. Less than a dear idea of what the desert's like? (4)
8. Once again, warm the ear somehow (6)
12. Allowed to imitate the top tournament players? (5)
13. Looking bright, thanks to the alcohol (3,2)
14. Share certificates of some description (5)
15. I've never seen one wearing a hood (5)
16. Is yellow, also bitter (5)
18. Did Helen of Troy find him capital? (5)
19. The sheer joy of being Turkish? (7)
21. Guinevere's heartiness gets Ada in a state? (6)
22. At night, bright enough to keep out of central Harrow (6)
23. Something you can learn from your troubles, sonny (6)
25. The readable thirty-nine? (5)
26. Girl got up as a flower (4)
28. In jibbetting, it involves hazard (3)



Chess Technologies 0707617530

24 Coffee Break

FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2020 The Standard

HOROSCOPE

Virgo – Aug 23 – Sep 22
If your professional life has been uncertain, that could soon change as a job opportunity may become available today; be ready to apply for it. It's possible this position will not only give you the sense of security you've been craving, but you'll also have the opportunity to acquire valuable skills. After a full day beware of burning the candle at both ends tonight.

Libra – Sep 23 – Oct 22
Brainstorming with intelligent people could stimulate your own creativity today. Or, it could be as simple as feeling a burst of inspiration from something someone says in a group text. Take whatever ideas you cook up and run with them. In fact, someone with experience in this field will be happy to give you feedback.

Scorpio – Oct 23 – Nov 21
You could command respect at a virtual meeting or interview today. Make sure you look the part of a sophisticated professional, as it may help you attract the lucrative assignment you've been after. Actually, you might find this to be a nice change of pace from lounging around at home in your pajamas and an old t-shirt.

Sagittarius Nov 22 – Dec 21
The chance to learn from a talented teacher could fall into your lap today. Sign up for a spot in an online class they're hosting – you won't want to miss this fabulous opportunity for growth. This instructor's warm enthusiasm will help you reach heights of excellence you never thought were possible. This evening, you may encounter difficulties wrench in your plans.

Capricorn – Dec 22 – Jan 19
A passionate conversation could put a sparkle in your eyes and a spring in your step today. It's possible you encounter someone online after joining a forum or community that's dedicated to your favorite subject. The more you talk, the more they may make you laugh with their irreverent observations. It will be nice to find somebody who is as ardent as you are.

Aquarius – Jan 20 – Feb 18
Your creative juices are flowing like a mighty river, and someone who admires your talent might ask to form a partnership. What exactly it is you work on together is unimportant. The key is to join forces with someone who can bring your work to the next level. Seek an alliance with someone who is warm, outgoing, and funny.

Pisces – Feb 19 – Mar 20
Concentrating on a labor of love will make time fly today. It'll be fun to put the finishing touches on a creative project that's close to your heart. Much of your inspiration comes from childhood memories. A relative, television show, or piece of music will prompt you to make something that is both beautiful and playful.

Aries – Mar 21 – Apr 19
A positive outlook is possible today, as long as you focus on the activities that bring you joy. Yes, you can control your feelings, and it's as simple as choosing the best feeling emotion possible. It helps to listen to online talks from a prominent person you've always admired. Learning how they cope with stress can be helpful when dealing with feelings of loneliness or isolation.

Taurus – Apr 20 – May 20
The sentimental Moon makes a supportive angle to Venus, your ruling planet, today. Taking a walk down memory lane could be a pleasurable experience for you now. It's a great time to sort through photos, read old letters, and listen to music from your childhood. Don't be surprised if you're inspired to start a creative project after indulging in a little nostalgia.

Gemini – May 21 – Jun 21
Your star power is obvious, making this an ideal day to mingle with many people as possible. If you have a video chat or conference call scheduled, you're sure to make a great impression. People appreciate your intelligent contributions, as well as your delicious sense of humor. Later this evening, you may encounter a cultural clash of some kind.

Cancer – Jun 22 – Jul 22
Developing a profitable project might beat the top of your list today. You could be betraying with the idea of selling your handwork via an online boutique. People are yearning for goods that aren't mass produced in an effort to support local artists. Being able to personalize these products will make them even more desirable.

Leo – Jul 23 – Aug 22
You could be radiating confidence today, helping you attract support from every corner. Contributing to a group project will be especially gratifying now, as everyone will seek to impress you. Unfortunately, the day could take a turn when a pushy person in your life begins to wear on your nerves. It's time to set some boundaries, even at the risk of ruffling a few feathers.

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WHAT'S ON KTN

ktn NEWS

6:00 Am Morning Express
9:00 Am News Centre
11:00 Am Lee Mashimani
1:00 Pm News Desk
2:00 Pm Bottom Line
3:00 Pm Business Today
3:30 Pm The Trading Bell
4:00 Pm Mbu Ya KTN
5:00 Pm Zilizala Vyanjani
6:00 Pm Dira La Wiki
7:00 Pm KTN Wakeni
8:00 Pm Youth Café
8:30 Pm BBC Kenya Connect Live
9:00 Pm Friday Briefing
10:30 Pm Bottom Line Rpt
11:00 Pm BBC Focus on Africa
11:30 Pm Zilizala Vyanjani Rpt
12:30 Am Youth Café Rpt
1:30 Am Friday Briefing Rpt
3:00 Am Al Jazeera



Radio Maisha

Take mbele pamaji!

04:00 Safari na Anthony Ndiema
06:00 Maisha Asubuhi with Billy na Tricky
10:00 Starabika na Ann Njogu Babu and Gathoni
12:00 Kionek na Mwende and Cleo

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

bTV

5:00 Am Tendereza Music Mix
6:00 Am BBC Dira Ya Dunia
6:30 Am Wild Planet
7:00 Am Jinkia
8:00 Am Makeni Bora
9:00 Am Maki Mash-up
12:00 Pm Wasanii
12:30 Pm Hustle Yangu
1:00 Pm Bina
1:05 Pm Zinga La Spoti
2:00 Pm Bongo Flava
3:00 Pm Talanta Mtaani

4:00 Pm Wild Planet
4:30 Pm Red Carpet
5:00 Pm Hip Hop
6:30 Pm Baba Yao
7:00 Pm KTN Leo Live
7:30 Pm Movie
10:00 Pm K-Rave Live
12:00 Am Zinga La Spoti
1:00 Am Bongo Flava
3:00 Am Tendereza - Regional
Worship

NTV

5:00am CNN
5:30am Password Plus
6:30am Your World
9:00am Generation 3
10:00am Ubongo Kids
10:30am Akili And Me
11:00am InterSwitch SARA
11:30am Music Mix
12:00pm NTV Sasa
1:00pm NTV at 1
1:30pm Pieces of Us - rpt

2:00pm Memories Of Love
3:00pm Generation 3
4:00pm NTV Alasini
4:30pm Generation 3 Jams
5:00pm The Heat
6:00pm The Blood Sisters
7:00pm NTV Jioni
7:30pm Wicked Edition
8:00pm #theTrend
9:00pm NTV Weekend Edition
10:00pm #theTrend

vybez

Hotline 104.5 Hotbox 98.7
Hype 98.8 Hots 107.7
Eldoret 107.5

05:00 AM – 10:00 AM Morning Vybez
10:00 AM – 03:00 PM Redtim Culture
03:00 PM – 07:00 PM Adrenaline
07:00 PM – 10:00 PM Cease N Sekkie
10:00 PM – 5:00 AM Night Patrol
05:00 AM – 06:00 AM Itz

Spice

Hotline 94.4 Hotbox 87.9
Hots 97.7 Hots 90.9
Hots 96.0 Eldoret 102.3

06:00 AM – 10:00 AM The Adults in the Room
10:00 AM – 03:00 PM The Situation Room
03:00 PM – 07:00 PM Melow Spice
07:00 PM – 10:00 PM The Situation Room
10:00 PM – MIDNIGHT Melow Spice
MIDNIGHT – 04:00 AM Soul Night
04:00 AM – 06:00 AM Spice Worship

ktn FARMERS tv

6:00 Am Age-News
6:30 Am AgriExpo
7:30 Am Corn Warriors
8:00 Am Successful Farming
8:30 Am A Farmer's Life for Me
9:30 Am Mega Farm
10:30 Am Horticulture
11:00 Am Access Agriculture
11:30 Am Get It Right
12:00 Pm Agri-News
12:30 Pm Sheep and Goat Farming
1:00 Pm Beef Farming
1:30 Pm Smart Pigs
2:00 Pm Agripulse
2:30 Pm Animore
3:00 Pm Inside the Factory
4:00 Pm Horticulture
4:30 Pm Wild Planet
5:00 Pm A Farmer's Life for Me
6:00 Pm Foods of Kenya

7:00 Pm Corn Warriors
7:30 Pm Agri-News
8:00 Pm Successful Farming
8:30 Pm This Week in Agriculture
9:30 Pm Kilimo Boss
10:00 Pm Get It Right
10:30 Pm Agri-News Rpt
11:00 Pm Danirika
11:30 Pm Music Interlude
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 Jusi Kidz
17:00pm Beatbox
18:00pm Hollywood Movie
19:00pm K24 Saa Moya
19:30pm Jane And Abel
20:00pm A Carnival Affair
21:00pm K24 Evening Edition

Ebru

5:00 Vuka Pwani
6:30 Fitness Time
7:00 New Day
9:00 Hits
10:00 My Doctor
11:00 Njale Cinema
13:00 Up To Date (Rt)
13:00 Business Insight
14:00 Hits
15:30 Cartoons
16:30 Fitness Time
17:00 The Edge
18:00 Let's Talk
19:00 Mwangi wa Ebru
19:30 Descendants of the Sun
20:00 Only Love
20:30 Street Quiz
21:00 Prime Time News
22:00 Let's Talk

BONGOMAN PLAYS BIG LEAGUE by Kham



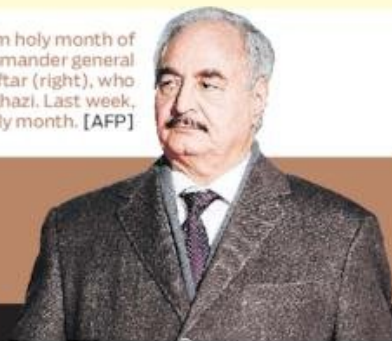
QUOTE OF THE DAY

I declare after all there is no enjoyment like reading! How much sooner one tires of any thing than of a book! -- When I have a house of my own, I shall be miserable if I have not an excellent library. Jane Austen

Libya. Strongman Khalifa Haftar's forces will cease hostilities for the Muslim holy month of Ramadan following international calls for a truce in the war-torn country. "The commander general announced the halting of military operations from his side," a spokesman for Haftar (right), who controls swathes of eastern and southern Libya, said from the eastern city of Benghazi. Last week, the UN and EU called for both sides to lay down their arms during the holy month. [AFP]

World

SPORTS: CHERONO THINKS OF WHICH CROWN TO WEAR. P.45



On Twitter:
@NewDay

Sweden has not imposed strict limits. People continue to work and socialize. The country says its approach has worked — but there are 18,926 coronavirus cases and 2,274 deaths among its population of 10.3 million people.



Birthday

Flypast as Britain's hero of the hour 'Captain Tom' turns 100

Britain organised a flypast and 140,000 people sent cards to mark the 100th birthday yesterday of a World War II veteran whose staggering fundraising efforts have inspired a country in the depths of a coronavirus outbreak.

Having served Britain in the last century, "Captain Tom" Moore has thrust himself into the thick of its latest battle by

doing laps of his garden to raise money for health service charities.

At the latest tally, he had raised more than £30 million (\$44 billion) to help support staff and volunteers working on the coronavirus effort in the state-run National Health Service (NHS).

Captain Moore's efforts and humility have propelled him to

iconic status, with a high-speed train named after him and all letters sent in the British postal service this week carrying a birthday message.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson, Prince Charles and England football captain Harry Kane were among those who offered their congratulations for his 100th birthday.

Cards from around the world

filled the vast hall of his grandson Benjie's school, and thousands of children have sent him their drawings.

"Your heroic efforts have lifted the spirits of the entire nation," said Mr Johnson, who recently recovered from coronavirus, in a video message.

"You've created a channel to enable millions to say a heartfelt thank you to the remarkable

men and women in our NHS who are doing a most astounding job."

Yesterday morning, Royal Air Force pilots flew a Spitfire and a Hurricane, usually deployed for World War II commemorative events, over Moore's home in Bedfordshire, north of London.

Separately, the army announced it was making Moore an honorary colonel. [AFP]

In Brief

Uganda. Court orders MPs to repay cash

The High Court in Uganda has ordered MPs to hand back a sum of \$5,000 (\$536,342) given to each of them to fight coronavirus in their constituencies. The politicians had backed the scheme, which included handouts, adding up to a total of around \$2.6 million (\$278.8 million). The case was brought by independent MP Gerald Kanungu. He, along with a small number of other MPs, had rejected the cash. [BBC]

SA. Locals in miles-long queue for food aid



Aerial footage showed thousands of people queuing for miles down a dirt road in South Africa for charity food aid meant to relieve hunger caused by the coronavirus lockdown. The images from the neighbouring slums of Mookilap and Spruit, on the outskirts of the capital Pretoria, show the extent of need that South Africa's economic lockdown has generated among many who even before the pandemic were living a hand-to-mouth existence. [Reuters]

Senegal. Organisations distribute aid to poor

Humanitarian agencies in Senegal have begun distributing aid as part of an early response to food shortage, which has been caused by the late onset of rainfall last year. According to African Risk Capacity and Start Network Joint Press Release, at least 200,000 people will benefit from cash interventions and agricultural projects. The projects, totalling \$10.6 million, are being funded through a policy issued by African Risk Capacity Insurance Limited. [Reuters]

Pandemic. Country has highest number of infections in continent

Expert: S Africa lockdown has paid off but cases could surge

Chief Covid-19 adviser says if spike in infections occurs too quickly, the health system won't cope.

By AFP
Johannesburg

As South Africa prepares to lift a tight lockdown, the expert leading the fight against coronavirus said the restrictions have paid off but warned of a possible surge of cases in July and overwhelmed hospitals.

Chief Covid-19 adviser Salim Karim said South Africa had performed better than developed countries in slowing transmission although the number of cases has continued to rise.

With 5,350 infections and 103 deaths, the country has the highest numbers of cases on the continent.

South Africa announced its first coronavirus case on March 5 and went into lockdown on March 27, when infections spiked to 1,170.

Today it will begin to ease the shutdown. Prof Karim answered three key questions for AFP.

Was the lockdown effective?

The lockdown has had quite an effect. If we look at a simple comparison, comparing South Africa to the United Kingdom for the first two weeks of the epidemic, our numbers were virtually the same.

About two weeks into the epidemic our curve turned and went in a completely different direction. So I think we have got quite clear evidence that we have flattened the curve and that the number of cases we are seeing - and the number of infections probably occurring - has declined quite substantially.

Why lift the lockdown now?

The issue of the lockdown is not only an epidemiological one. There are many factors that go into (consideration) including the economic and social situation, and so on.

From an epidemiological point of view we are at a level of low community transmission, so I think it has had its effect because that's what its primary goal was.

On the actual timing of the lifting of the lockdown, whenever there is low community transmission it will be okay to do so.

We can expect to see the bulk of the bulge occurring somewhere around July.



A woman carries a bag of maize meal during the distribution of food parcels to vulnerable residents by the local government during a 21-day lockdown due to spread of Covid-19 in Johannesburg's township of Soweto, South Africa. [Reuters]

5,350

People who have tested positive for Covid-19 in South Africa.

The problem is we don't know how many people have this virus asymptotically. So our next step is going to be to try and get some idea about that, using some new tests that look at antibodies.

Is the health system prepared?

We needed a bit of time to get better prepared. The key is going to be the extent to which we can protect hospitals.

Viral transmission will pick up again once the lockdown ends.

If it turns out that this rise in infections occurs (too) quickly... our health system just won't cope. It's not just about beds and ventilators. You need the skilled expertise to manage all that.

You can buy beds and machines, but the challenge is people. Doctors who can look after ICU (intensive care unit) patients are not walking around and looking for jobs, they are in high demand.

I have no doubt this is going to test us. But... we have done as good a job as possible.

Pandemic

Demand for ease of lockdowns goes up

The world's economic pain was on full display yesterday as Europe and the United States were releasing more figures showing the devastating impact on jobs and companies of lockdown measures designed to battle the coronavirus pandemic.

In Europe, where more than 132,000 people with the virus have died, the fear of renewed infection spikes that could again overwhelm hospital emergency wards was tempering hopes that economies on life-support will regain their vigour as workers return to factories, shops and offices.

Figures released yesterday showed that France's economy shrank by an eye-popping 5.8 per cent in the first quarter, the biggest quarterly drop since 1949 and mainly due to its strict stay-home measures in place since March 17.

Spain says its economy shrank 5.2 per cent in the first quarter of this year as the coronavirus pandemic hit.

Italy's government debt rating was cut to just above junk bond status, with the Fitch ratings agency expecting the Italian economy to shrink eight per cent this year. Germany is projecting a 6.3 per cent drop in GDP this year. And a new report from the Paris-based International Energy Agency projected an unprecedented plunge this year in the global demand for energy that will be equivalent to losing the entire energy demand of India, the world's third largest energy consumer.

Pushing to reopen the country, US President Donald Trump was allowing federal social distancing guidelines to expire yesterday and even saying he plans to travel to Arizona next week.

Many economists are skeptical that the US economy will bounce back quickly later in the year, noting that the virus could flare up again or consumers and employees might be too worried to return to business as usual. [AP]

Pandemic. Consumption in importing countries rising amid lockdowns

Coronavirus brews trouble for tea as demand spikes

China, India, Kenya, Sri Lanka and Vietnam account for 82 per cent of global tea exports.

By Reuters
Mumbai

The coronavirus outbreak is causing a rare stir in the usually staid global tea market, with labour lockdowns stifling supplies just as millions in lockdown drive up demand for the beverage known for its immunity-boosting properties.

Five countries - China, India, Kenya, Sri Lanka and Vietnam - account for 82 per cent of global tea exports, but strict restrictions on movement to contain the coronavirus pandemic have already disrupted the key leaf-picking season, delayed some shipments by about a month and triggered a spike in prices.

Fewer pickers combined with colder-than-normal temperatures last month are expected to trim output in top producer China this year, while production in No 2 grower India and Sri Lanka have also been impacted by labour and weather issues.

India's output is likely to drop by 120 million kilos or nine per cent in 2020 as the lockdown initially forced plantations to suspend plucking during the opening harvest - the prized first flush - and then operate with about half the workforce, said Prabhat Bezbaruah, chairman of India's Tea Board.

The International Tea Committee (ITC) estimates India's 2020 exports will fall seven per cent.

In March, exports from India slumped 34 per cent and nearly halved from Sri Lanka, India's Commerce Ministry

Covid-19 lockdowns begin to relax





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Chinese doctor recalls first encounter with mysterious virus

The devil is in the details. In the case of Zhang Jixian, hailed as the first doctor to alert the medical system of the novel coronavirus, the devil that later snowballed into a raging epidemic was found in a CT scan.

Zhang, a veteran respiratory doctor in a Wuhan hospital, recalled how the novel coronavirus, an alien pathogen facing mankind, emerged from a seemingly ordinary case of an elderly couple in late December.

On Dec. 26, an elderly couple from a nearby community visited the Hubei Provincial Hospital of Integrated Chinese and Western Medicine. Their symptoms included fever, coughing and tiredness, which "looked like flu or common pneumonia," recalled Zhang, director of the hospital's respiratory and critical care medicine department.

But when their CT scan images reached Zhang the next day, the 54-year-old doctor noticed features that are different from flu or common pneumonia.



Zhang Jixian, director of the respiratory and critical care medicine department of Hubei Provincial Hospital of Integrated Chinese and Western Medicine, receives an interview at the hospital in Wuhan, central China's Hubei Province, March 2, 2020. (Xinhua/Shen Bohan)

SPECIAL PATIENTS

Zhang's experience during the 2003 SARS outbreak, when she worked as a medical expert investigating suspected patients in Wuhan, made her sensitive to signs of an epidemic. After reading the CT images of the elderly couple, she summoned their son, demanding a CT scan of him too.

"At first their son refused to be examined. He showed no symptoms or discomfort, and believed we were trying to cheat money out of him," said Zhang.

It was Zhang's insistence that brought her the second piece of evidence: the son's lungs showed the same abnormalities as those of his parents.

"It is unlikely that all three members of a family caught the same disease at the same time unless it is an infectious disease," Zhang told Xinhua.

Also on Dec. 27, the hospital

received another patient who also developed symptoms of coughing and fever and showed the same lung images in the CT scan.

The blood tests of the four indicated viral infections. Zhang also prescribed them a series of influenza-related tests. All turned out negative.

That day, she filed a report to the hospital, which soon submitted it to the district-level center for disease control and prevention. "The report is about we discovered a viral disease, probably infectious," she said.

Back then, Zhang could not know it was among the first medical reports of an epidemic that has "spread the fastest, caused the most extensive infections and been the hardest to contain since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949."

Data from the World Health Organization show more than 123,000 people had died of COVID-19 globally as of April 15, more than 130

times the death toll of the SARS virus that belongs to the same coronavirus family.

RAISING ALARMS

Back then, knowledge of the virus was scarce. After filing the report, Zhang cordoned off an area in the department's ward to hospitalize the four patients. She then demanded medics in the ward to beef up self-protection.

The arrivals of another three patients with similar lung images in the next two days further alarmed the hospital, which on Dec. 29 convened a panel of 10 experts to discuss the seven cases. Their conclusion that the situation was extraordinary, plus information of two similar cases in other hospitals, prompted the hospital to report directly to the municipal and provincial health authorities.

Upon receiving the report, the authorities on the same day ordered an epidemiological investigation.

That evening, experts from Wuhan Jinyintan Hospital, a hospital designated to treat contagious diseases, visited Zhang's hospital and fetched six of the seven patients.

That day, Zhang ordered all respiratory doctors and nurses to wear masks, a precaution believed to help achieve zero infection of the medics in the department between late December and Jan. 30.

According to an official timeline released on April 6 on China's response to COVID-19, the Wuhan Municipal Health Commission on Dec. 30 sent out an urgent notification to medical institutions under its jurisdiction about an outbreak of pneumonia of unknown cause in the city.

The National Health Commission (NHC) dispatched a working group and an expert team in the wee hours of Dec. 31 to Wuhan to guide epidemic response and conduct on-site investigations.

Also on the same day, the Wuhan Municipal Health Commission released its first briefing about the outbreak of pneumonia of unknown cause on its website, in which it confirmed 27 cases and told the public not to go to enclosed public places or gather. The public was also

advised to wear face masks when going out.

In February, the Hubei provincial human resources and social security department and the provincial health commission awarded Zhang for her exemplary service, hailing her as "the first to report the epidemic in the province" and recognizing her leadership and arduous work in the hospital's fight against COVID-19.

The doctor, however, tried to play down the honor.

"I was just doing what a doctor was supposed to do, driven by professionalism," she said.

The devil is in the details. In the case of Zhang Jixian, hailed as the first doctor to alert the medical system of the novel coronavirus, the devil that later snowballed into a raging epidemic was found in a CT scan.



Zhang Jixian, director of the respiratory and critical care medicine department of Hubei Provincial Hospital of Integrated Chinese and Western Medicine, puts on the protective suit before entering the ward at the hospital in Wuhan, central China's Hubei Province, March 11, 2020. (Photo by Ke Hao/Xinhua)



Zhang Jixian, director of the respiratory and critical care medicine department of Hubei Provincial Hospital of Integrated Chinese and Western Medicine, communicates with a patient at the ward of the hospital in Wuhan, central China's Hubei Province, March 11, 2020. (Photo by Ke Hao/Xinhua)



Zhang Jixian (R), director of the respiratory and critical care medicine department of Hubei Provincial Hospital of Integrated Chinese and Western Medicine, communicates with a patient at the ward of the hospital in Wuhan, central China's Hubei Province, March 11, 2020. (Photo by Ke Hao/Xinhua)



Zhang Jixian (2nd R), director of the respiratory and critical care medicine department of Hubei Provincial Hospital of Integrated Chinese and Western Medicine, communicates with her colleagues at the hospital in Wuhan, central China's Hubei Province, March 11, 2020. (Photo by Ke Hao/Xinhua)



Stay in The Know

On this Labour Day, we celebrate all the workers around the country who have in the face of a global pandemic risen to the occasion and kept the wheels of our economy turning. We salute you.



#StayInTheKnow with KTN News comprehensive coverage of the evolving COVID-19 situation.

Watch us on GOTV Ch. 94, Startimes Ch.522, Bamba Ch.2, DSTV Ch 274, Signet Ch.26

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Ramadhan

SPECIAL

A FAST OF MANY • PRAYERS (SALAT)

Friday, May 1, 2020 | The Standard

RAMADHAN

An opportunity to repent



Fasting in quarantine

Experiencing a lockdown
Ramadhan in Saudi Arabia

Social and health benefits
of fasting



Fasting in quarantine

By Ishaq Jumbe

Even as Muslims are doing their best to compensate for a Ramadhan under COVID-19 restrictions, some brothers and sisters are observing the holy month from the recesses of a hostile quarantine center, as paying guests of the state.

Others are in isolation centers contemplating their fate as they continue to fast with the rest of the world.

A quarantine center charges a flat rate of 2,000 Ksh per day with an isolation center charging nearly double for those patients who have tested positive for the virus.

Speaking from an Isolation Center in Nairobi, Abdullahi (not his real name) informed the Standard that he was handed an invoice of 72,000 Ksh having been a patient in the center for more than a month.

But despite all the problems, Ramadhan continues with fasting being observed in earnest.

"We each have a private cubicle where we conduct prayers and take our meals. We have time for Quran recitation and have WIFI for accessing the net for Islamic materials.

According to Abdullahi, the service would have been excellent if the setting wasn't a hospital and the bill was not so high.

"In fact, I have finished all my tests and have been confirmed healed and I'm due for discharge but they will not let me out until I have cleared the bill," he complained.

So how does that make him feel?

"Like I am observing Ramadhan behind the bars of a prison," he complained wondering where those leaders always bailing out hapless Kenyans are.

The situation is much worse in quarantine centers where COVID-19 suspects are more numerous and centers aren't as grand.

"According to a patient who found herself in one such center after the death of a member of their family, having nearly half the clan at the center at least softened the blow for them

and they could draw strength from one another at a time when they were supposed to be mourning their kin.

"But we are finding it difficult to adjust to this unique Ramadhan under an unfavorable environment," complained Ummul Warda who is in one quarantine facility at the Coast.

The problem is that the mood has failed establish no matter how hard they try.

"But we are finding it difficult to adjust to this unique Ramadhan under an unfavorable environment,"

"We have been provided with clean beddings which are isolated, but that is where all the segregation ends," she complained.

She complained that they have to queue for meals, and the menu is nothing to write home about.

All this making breaking the fast and the suhoor a big challenge for Muslims observing the holy month from quarantine centers.

"The facility hardly adheres to Islamic hygienic standards with the shared bathrooms and no proper segregation of the sexes.

Many activists have come forth to protest the poor conditions in quarantine centers with a doctor claiming that quarantine centers holding COVID-19 suspects are a farce which can only contribute to the hardship of fasting the month of Ramadhan.

"Imagine all the people they arrest who failed to comply with curfew directives, including walevi thrown in together with law-abiding Muslim ladies who are observing Ramadhan. They will be stigmatized and will therefore not be able to fast effectively. What we need is community centers run by community leadership," said the doctor who requested anonymity.

Sheikh Muhdhar Khitami, SUPKEM



Coast. Chairman complains that quarantine centers have been converted into punishment centers for those breaking curfew regulations.

"Unless we look for a plan B, this model will soon be unsustainable," he said adding that many are undergoing mental anguish, a situation that makes fasting from quarantine centers a challenging ordeal," noted the Sheikh.

"Despite all the problems, Ramadhan continues with fasting being observed in earnest."

An outfit calling themselves 'Mombasa County COVID-19 Response Committee' has been set up to address the issue.

According to the Chairman, Sheikh Rishad Rajab, one of their aims is to ensure that Muslims observing their fast from quarantine centers access conducive facilities.

"They deserve a clean place where they can observe their prayers and ensure that there is required privacy in cases where women are involved," he said.

The MCCRC say that they are looking for a hotel where they can place Muslims especially during this month of Ramadhan.

Together with partners like the United Front and Ansar Sisters, they have already embarked on a programme to improve iftar in Quarantine centers.

"Sheikh Rishad says that they plan to get a hotel where they can host Muslims COVID-19 suspects this Ramadhan so that they can observe the holy Month effectively.

The group participated in the training of COVID-19 body handlers in association with County Public Health department and MEWA hospital.

"We want to ensure that our brothers get fair treatment in times of fasting and in the unfortunate case that they pass away.

Bodies of victims still require the remaining rites of having the janaza prayer said over them, ensuring that they are buried facing the direction of the Kaaba and that they are handled by Muslims," he said.

Let us use this time to perfect our Quran recitation, learn a Hadith, teach our children

It's a social free Ramadhan that has come with a lot of blessings. Allah has planned everything and we give thanks because Allah never errs in His plans.

As Muslims we see ourselves as a community and our typical communal gatherings are no more thanks to the Corona virus pandemic, but as we struggle to deal with closed mosques, banned congregation prayers and iftar gatherings let us focus on how unique this Ramadhan is, a true blessing in disguise.

We have to trust in Allah's plans for us, while this pandemic has disrupted our lives in every aspect Allah says in the Holy Quran 2:216

"Perhaps you hate a thing and it good for you and perhaps you love a thing and it is bad for you, and Allah knows while you know not."

Perhaps Allah intended good for us in the middle of this uncertainty. Our time and energy this Ramadhan will be towards pleasing Allah and becoming closer to him, we can increase our Iman by focusing on our weak patterns. The seclusion we wait for

at night to be closer to Allah and away from people and gathering has been extended throughout the day we now have time to sit in prayer longer and connect with Allah uninterrupted.

While we are in seclusion it is also important not to be caught up in boredom. Let's not waste time by engaging in habits that will diminish the blessings of this month, let's try and avoid sitting in front of our television screens or browsing on our phones endlessly, let us be aware, be mindful and deliberately stop ourselves from any distractive pattern.

Let us use this time to perfect our Quran recitation, learn a Hadith, teach our children a chapter or two of the Quran or listen to religious lectures.

And as we work on self-improvement during this social free unique Ramadhan let us pray to Allah to forgive our sins, have mercy on us and end this pandemic Ameen.

NAJMA ISMAIL

External Affairs Editor/Usan Manager





Menstruation, post-partum bleeding, and Ramadhan

BY SALMA HAMZA

Ramadhan is a time we all prepare for, looking forward to gaining all the extra rewards and becoming closer to Allah (SWT). It is a time Muslims grow spiritually, personally, and socially. However, the sisters face a challenge due to menstruation and post-natal bleeding. These are times where they cannot observe prayers, fast, or handle the Quran.

Imagine having started Ramadhan diligently, with good habits and the highest level of spirituality. Suddenly, you can't fast or pray for a week or so. Most women have their levels of spiritual engagement drop, leading to frustrations, which shouldn't be the case.

To take full advantage of the month of Ramadhan, menstruating women and those undergoing post-natal bleeding can do plenty other than refraining from prayer and fast. Refraining from prayer and fast during this time is taken into account as an act of worship, and earns one good deed if done to please Allah.

Nonetheless, here are some acts of worship that non-fasting ladies can still do.

- **Listen to the Quran.**

Women in their periods can still benefit from listening to its verses. Listen to the Quran as much as possible while pondering over its deep meanings, and reading its translations.

Most ladies experience painful cramps during their menses and listening to these beautiful verses calms the tension in their pelvis, relieving them.

- **Increase the remembrance of Allah (Dhikr).**

You can't pray? No big deal. It is recommended to make ablution, don your prayer attire, and make dhikr during prayer time.

Your connection with your Lord should not suffer a blow but rather be strengthened during this time. Doing dhikr also gives a sense of ease and calmness and it can be done while doing your daily chores too, not just during prayer time.

- **Increase Invocation (Du'a) and repentance.**

Allah is The All-Hearing and always

wants to hear from his servants. There is no reason for you to halt making Du'a.

Ramadhan is the perfect time to increase making Du'a and repentance to God. Use this period to learn His names and use them in invoking Him.

- **Gain Islamic knowledge.**

Do you want to polish your worship, increase faith, and beautify character?

Seek knowledge. With today's advancement in technology, this has been made so easy. Stay productive by exploiting the technological marvel that is virtual libraries and archives.

- **Charity and righteous deeds.**

Remember that even a smile is a charity, so smile more. Charity does not necessitate giving from your pocket. However, if you can, then do so.

Feed the birds outside, help around



the house, say kind words, remove harmful objects from people's way. There's a lot of blessings in doing that.

- **Earn the reward of fasting.**

How, you ask? By feeding the ones fasting. Ladies, you have extra time in your hands during this time. Make the most of it by cooking iftar for your family. Remember, The Prophet (Peace be Upon Him) said: "Whoever feeds a fasting person will have a reward like that of his reward (the fasting person)", (Ahmad and Al-Nasai).

Social and health benefits of fasting

By Hassan Ole Naado,

National Chairman, SUPKEM

At the onset of every Ramadhan, Muslims all over the world start fasting from dawn to dusk daily for 29 or 30 days as ordained in the Holy Quran, to achieve 'Taqua.' The Arabic word "Taqua" is translated in many ways including God consciousness, God fearin, piety, and self-restraint.

Thus Muslims of good health are commanded to fast daily for one month from dawn to dusk and avoid food, water, sex and vulgar talk during that period.

Scientific research indicates that the Islamic fasting has become a new vogue in medicine to help people maintain good health and longevity.

According to findings published in the peer-reviewed Journal of Research in Medical Sciences, the Islamic fasting has a unique way of accruing health benefits.

In this regard, the following are some of the health benefits of Ramadhan fasting as compiled by Dr Shahid Athar of Indiana University School of Medicine;

Appetite Suppressant

During the Holy month of Ramadhan, many fasting Muslims experience many cravings during the day, only to find that they are not able to consume much upon opening their fast. This is due to the fact that the less you put into your

stomach over a length of time, the more the stomach shrinks leading you to feel full after just a small amount of food.

Metabolism

One of the more obvious results of fasting is alleviating obesity; fasting prompts the liver's enzymes to break down cholesterol and fats to convert them into bile acid which, in turn, converts to heat—ultimately stimulating faster metabolism.

Immune System

Partaking in fasting promotes healing in the human body as it applies core focus to its immune system and metabolism as opposed to focusing on digestion, further enhancing muscle growth in the process.

The immune system is largely comprised of white blood cells and fasting encourages your body to recycle any old white blood cells which results in a healthier, more robust immune system.

Blood Pressure

A decrease in the body's salt intake and loss of salt through urine lowers the body's blood pressure.

Training

HGH, also known as Human Growth Hormone, is organically produced by the human body and is known to build muscle mass which effectively burns fat. Although it remains active in your

bloodstream for merely a few minutes, it can go a long way towards increasing lean muscle strength which could be incredibly beneficial for training.

Mental Health

Fasting also goes a significantly long way towards balancing the mind and reducing mental stress. Fasting is also known to strengthen the mind, sharpen focus and provide mental clarity—this is primarily due to a reduction in calorie, sugar and salt intake.

Blood Sugar

During the fasting process, glucose levels are stabilized which can lead to the prevention of type 2 diabetes as a result.

Radiant Complexion /Anti-ageing

It is said that fasting could potentially slow down the aging process, keeping you younger and fitter for longer and it could also potentially increase lifespan. Fasting leads to the production of restored tissues and cells within the human body, degrading unnecessary cells in the process—thus enabling you to produce collagen and leading to healthier and more radiant skin.

Healthier Brain and Cognitive Function

During the fasting process, blood in the human body is filled with more endorphins, which in turn gives you a feeling of well-being and great mental health.





Ramadhan - An Opportunity to repent

BY MASIKA SWALEH

It was narrated by Abu Hurayrah that the Prophet (Sallallahu alayhi wa salam) said,

"When the month of Ramadhan starts, the gates of heaven are opened and the gates of hell are closed and the devil is chained." Bukhari No.1899.

Looking at the hadith, it's a proof that this is a noble and great opportunity for a person to utilize in repentance. People should do a lot of Istighfar - asking for Allah's forgiveness for the sins they committed intentionally or unintentionally.

Yes, as human beings, we are bound to always make mistakes, but we should turn back to Allah and seek His forgiveness.

Ramadhan comes with all its blessings and virtues and avails an opportunity to seek forgiveness. Allah is Al-Ghaffur, The Most Forgiving.

Asking Allah for forgiveness or repenting entails one regretting what he had previously done. Truly and sincerely regretting for what they did. A sin committed by an individual can be of two types.

The first type is the sin that only involves Allah, for example, when a person does not offer the prayers at their required time or when a person decides not to pray at all. The second type is a sin that involves both Allah and another human being, for example, when an individual steals or robs someone.

"Ramadhan comes with all its blessings and virtues and avails an opportunity to seek forgiveness."

It is easy for an individual to repent from the first type than it is for the second although all sins are forgiven by Allah if a person sincerely repents.

Allah says in the Holy Qur'an: *"Say O My Slaves who have transgressed against themselves (by committing evil deeds and sins)! Despair not of the Mercy of Allah: Verily, Allah forgives all sins. Truly He is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful."* - Az Zumar, 53

Seeking forgiveness comes along with immense benefits to an individual. By constantly asking Allah's forgiveness, Allah makes your life here on earth easy even when faced with hardships and calamities.

Seeking forgiveness also increases provision, increases children and causes rain to fall.

The Almighty says through His Prophet Nuh (alayhi salam): *"I said (to them): 'Ask Forgiveness from your Lord, Verily, He is Oft-Forgiving: He will send rain to you in abundance, And give you increase in wealth and children, and bestow on you gardens and bestow on you rivers."*

Ramadhan is the perfect time to ask for blessings.

Technology & faith: Virtual Ramadhan to beat covid-19 restrictions

BY MOHAMED SEIF

With digital technology taking over every sphere of life, Ramadhan has not been left behind.

UK's Ramadhan Tent Project which hosts Iftar dinners under open iftars since its inception in 2013, had to come up with unique ideas to maintain its tradition during this pandemic era.

"We have turned to innovative means this Ramadan to ensure that the Ramadan spirit is kept alive, during an unprecedented time of physical distancing," reads a statement on its website.

"Each person who signs up for a #MyOpenIftar pack will receive all the tools needed to host an Iftar experience at home, whilst being a part of the world's largest virtual Iftar, every day of Ramadan!"

The Open Iftar events are primarily designed to bring communities together to break the fast, share food and engage in inspiring conversations. And so is the virtual Iftar, only this time doing it from a distance.

#MyOpenIftar virtual participants

receive packs containing recipes, Ramadhan and Islam factsheets, fundraising guidelines, spiritual, physical and mental health tips in the context of Covid-19, home decors, Ramadhan Kareem postcards, trivia games and more.

They are encouraged to share videos or pictures of their iftar dinners, cookings or home Adhaans (call for prayer) on social media.

The online fundraising gathers resources to deliver meal packages especially to health workers on the frontline of the fight against coronavirus.

In Canada, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at community is running a national online Ramadan campaign to allow remote participation.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Toronto Mayor John Tory joined the launch virtual gathering on April 25, alongside a host of other leaders.

"You know last year I (attended) an iftar and I really wish I could join you for another one this year. Unfortunately we have to stay apart right now. But I am really happy to join you virtually to mark the first day of Ramadan," said the

Prime Minister in his video conference speech.

While speaking on the subject, Imam Farhan Iqbal of the Baitun Naseer mosque told CTV News, "across Canada Imams like myself are doing this virtual Ramadan programs where we are inviting all Canadians to join

"The online fundraising gathers resources to deliver meal packages especially to health workers on the frontline of the fight against coronavirus."

us for virtual iftar dinners or Ramadan challenge where we invite them to fast with us."

In the US, the Islamic Centre at New York University hosts a dedicated virtual Ramadan portal complete with a detailed program of planned online activities covering the entire month.

The events calendar lists information about particular events ranging from iftars, Quran recitation and reflection sessions, community fundraisers, lectures among others with links or IDs to sites, resources or registration windows.

"To help us all better connect with the Qur'an this Ramadan, we will be hosting three live sessions every day with Hafiz Ismail Sayeed, Hafiz Ebadur Rahman and Hafiz Afraz Khan inshallah in which a juzu will be read," announced a post on its Facebook page accompanying the day's morning livestream Quran recitation.

In Kenya while such more elaborate digital based initiatives may be lacking, the concept of e-Khutbahs for instance is however well established.

Facebook livestreams, YouTube and WhatsApp make up the main platforms for local preachers who want to get across to their audiences.

Furthermore, mosques are also linking up with FM stations and TVs for either live transmissions or recorded broadcasts, some of which are often rerouted via social media platforms.



Participants of a Ramadhan virtual gathering organised by Canada's Ahmadiyya Jama'at Muslims video conferencing via Zoom. [PHOTO CREDIT/ COURTESY]



A previous photo of UK's Open Iftar event hosted by the Ramadan Tent Project. [PHOTO CREDIT/ COURTESY]



As part of the virtual Ramadhan, Muslims are sharing their experiences on social media. [PHOTO CREDIT/ COURTESY]



Advice for food vendors and dealers in clothes this Ramadhan

OPINION- Suleiman Shahbal

I am proud of the many young people who get into business in Ramadhan. Take pride that you are following in the footsteps of the Prophet (PBUH) who was also a businessman.

I admire the Hustlers who travel to Dubai, Tanzania and Kampala looking for products.

I too am a businessman. I have failed more often than I have succeeded so I know a thing or two about business. Many people try doing business for different reasons; some go for money, some for passion, and for many others to simply earn a livelihood.

And for some this business is a dream and a hope for their future. Whatever your reasons, you are doing the right thing.

There are two major businesses that most people focus on during Ramadhan; selling clothes for Eid and food. Both have their challenges and they are not insurmountable.

In Ramadhan more people do shopping at night than during the day.

This year we have the challenge of the curfew. It is difficult to shop while you



Hon. Suleiman Shahbal

have Sawm. Food is the only thing that you have to buy during the day. The premise of where you will market your goods becomes a challenge.

When it comes to dealing with food you have to find a place where people shop and a hygienic place, you have to reach out to the clients rather than waiting for them to come to you during these restricted period.

When it comes to selling clothes renting a place is expensive and often

not easily available, particularly if you are trying to start a business during Ramadhan and you are not sure it will sustain beyond Ramadhan.

The best thing to do is to find an existing shop and ask to rent some space to market your goods. Look for complementing business not competitors. Don't expect a shop selling children's clothes to allow you to sell your children clothes, but a shop selling Women's clothes will not see you as a competitor but one that could complement their shop.

Starting a business is easy, growing it is the tough part. Successful business requires that you find the right products which people need and can afford. Your prices have to be right. You need to promote your business and not only reach out to clients but to build a lasting relationship with existing clients.

This is achieved by good service and a smile, reaching out to the client and letting him know that you have new products and selling the correct merchandise to your client. The challenge is not just to make a sale but to leave a happy client who will come back.

Don't convince a client to buy something that they will regret - or they cannot afford. You win a sale but lose a client. Keep a list and telephone numbers so you can contact them with new products.

Corona has also brought new challenges. Fewer people will want to buy food. It is still our tradition to buy something cooked outside. The demand is still there but you have to supply to them rather than waiting for them. It's time to for your find a reliable boda boda quickly. Don't lose focus on how sales are made: quality, price and good packaging. Always maintain recommended social distancing.

Most important today, learn to use social media quickly. Use Instagram, Facebook, ask friends to promote your page. Ask your clients to promote you by word of mouth and to forward your pages. Nothing is more effective than this.

Hang in there. If you can survive these difficult times then you will prosper in better times. Good luck. I am truly proud of these hustlers out there. I've been there too.

Islamic Time Management Tips

BY BATULI SULEIMAN

Islam emphasizes the importance of time management. Muadh ibn Jabal, a companion of the Prophet, quotes the Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) as saying:

"A servant of God will remain standing on the Day of Resurrection until he is asked about four things: his life and how he spent it, his youth and how he used it up, his property and how he acquired and managed it and his knowledge and how he utilized it."

This hadith emphasizes the importance of effectively managing time, especially the years of youth as they are the most productive.

1. Start The Day With a Purpose

Start your day with a purpose in mind. Our intention in all we do, say, etc. should be for God.

"INDEED, MY PRAYER, MY RITES OF SACRIFICE, MY LIVING AND MY DYING ARE FOR GOD, LORD OF THE WORLDS." [NOBLE QURAN 6:162]

The reason to manage time is to balance spiritual and physical activities during the busy days. For example, your intention to work,

is to please your Lord by being productive.

2. The Early Bird Catches The Worm

Wake up early and your hours will be blessed. Prophet Muhammad said:

"GOD MADE THE EARLY HOURS BLESSED FOR MY NATION."

That makes the early-to-bed-and-early-to-rise mantra in line with Islamic teachings.

Makes a person healthy wealthy and wise.

3. First Things First

The art of doing twice as much in half the time!

Make a to do list for the week, beginning with the most important tasks.

4. Say No to Multi-tasking

Beware of multi-tasking. Contrary to popular belief, multi-tasking doesn't make your work flow faster. It slows down your pace and gives poor quality work as well as elevating stress levels; it's detrimental. What you need to do instead of working harder is working smarter.

Prophet Muhammad said:

"ALLAH LOVES WHENEVER ANY OF YOU DOES SOMETHING, THAT HE SHOULD PERFECT IT."

"This hadith emphasizes the importance of effectively managing time, especially the years of youth as they are the most productive."

5. Go For a Healthy You

Go for healthy eating and drinking habits. God Almighty warns us in the Quran to stay away from gluttony:

"...AND EAT AND DRINK BUT WASTE NOT BY EXTRAVAGANCE, CERTAINLY HE (GOD) LIKES NOT THOSE WHO WASTE BY EXTRAVAGANCE." [NOBLE QURAN 7:31]

Gluttony in food and drink not only harms the body physically but also mentally and spiritually. It blocks the mind and makes one lazy from work and worship. Eat less and prioritize eating home-cooked meals.

Vishete Recipe



Vishete is a sweet crunchy dough coated in sugar, a delicacy mostly found at the coast, famous for the afternoon snack.

INGREDIENTS:

For the dough,
3 cups flour,
1 1/4 cups heavy coconut milk,
1 tsp. butter,
1 tsp. Instant yeast.

METHOD:

Put all the ingredients in a bowl, knead till you get a soft dough. Cover the dough and let it rise until doubled in size then roll the dough and cut into diamond shapes. Deep fry them until they slightly turn colour, keep them aside to cool down.

THE SUGAR SYRUP:

2 cups sugar
1 cup water.

METHOD:

Put both sugar and water in a sufuria, boil till it becomes sticky, put all the vishete in the sufuria with the sugar syrup toss till the sugar dries and hardens. Serve with tea and enjoy!



Experiencing a lockdown Ramadhan in Saudi Arabia

By Umm Batul

When Amr Malakiyy (Royal Decree) announced the sighting of the crescent hence beginning of the month of Ramadhan most of us were in a state of confusion.

The usual jubilant mood and celebrations that accompany the onset of Ramadhan simply wasn't there. Given that the grand mufti had already announced that this Ramadhan the masajid would remain closed due to the pandemic.

However, we thanked Allah for the sacred month, participated in Taraweh from home which was especially hard for women in the Kingdom who only get a chance to attend mosque during Ramadhan.

That is for Taraaweh and Qiyaam during the last ten days of Ramadhan. This however is the exception of the Haramain (Makkah and Madinah mosques) where women attend all congregational daily prayers.

Back in our homes the atmosphere initially looked uncertain as we are used to a community Ramadhan and no bears any clue as to how this year's fasting is going to be conducted.

Anyone who has experienced a Saudi Ramadhan will remember iftaar soups and mounds of sweets and pastries for

breaking the fast that were always laid out on tables around mosques in the kingdom.

And with nearly all families at least presenting a meal at the communal table to participate in the sadaqat of feeding a fasting believer, this year's restrictions mean that we have to cut down on food preparation.

We only have the immediate family to cater for.

Luckily curfew was extended during this holy month from 3pm to 5pm. Families thankfully have been granted time to shop in supermarkets around the estates. One or two members of the family are allowed to shop though most essential commodities are missing from shelves with prices for some commodities hiking.

Streets in the kingdom have gone quiet and serene, which never used to be the case during times of Iftaar.

One wonders what became the fate of many people who used to take their iftaar at the masajid. Most of them being workers of foreign origin.

We thank Allah for his mercy which allows us to observe the fundamentals of the holy month. A lot of emphasis is laid upon the recitation of Quran and the lockdown offers the perfect opportunity to pursue this noble devotion.



Saudi Arabia: A picture taken on April 24, 2020, shows Saudi policemen standing guard next to the Kaaba in Mecca's Grand Mosque. [STR/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES]

"Streets in the kingdom have gone quiet and serene, which never used to be the case during times of Iftaar."

Therefore our prayer is that despite all, we make this the best of Ramadhan and aspire to earn the reward of worshipping under hardship conditions.

In the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, we are observing a different Ramadhan which has opened us to blessings we never knew existed.

Quarantine centres not ideal for fasting Muslim faithful

The National Muslim Covid-19 Response Committee was formed with the objective of complementing the efforts of the Government and the Ministry of Health in addressing the challenges of Covid-19 pandemic in the country using Islamic infrastructure and scriptures.

Islamic teachings include guidance of the Prophet Muhammad when he introduced quarantine 1400 years ago to prevent a plague outbreak at that time. In that same period he advised people to stay at home and have patience and expect the protection of Allah.

This has made the current guidelines by the Ministry of Health more acceptable to Muslims especially the five daily prayers to be done at home. Covid 19 has had adverse effect on the social fabric of the community and has also effected both the social and economic welfare of all people of the world, Kenya included.

It has come to our concern the management of the quarantine centers and the long periods of holding due to poor handling of the results of those tested. Also the appalling state, crowding and poor sanitation of these centers has come to our notice.

These quarantine centers are not ideal for Muslims, especially in the month of Ramadhan. Muslim hotel owners are willing to consider some of

their facilities as quarantine centers for Muslims in this holy month. We hereby request the government to consider this request.

The quarantine system adopted by the Ministry of Health has contributed to the development of stigma for persons who have undergone the process and after they have been released. This has contributed to the loss of goodwill by the people and therefore are not willing to voluntarily participate when they suspect they have been exposed or they have compromised their safety in relation to the disease transmission. We have tried to use Islamic teachings to overcome this situation.

Other guidelines that would have been a challenge to implement is the handling of the dead. Islam has very specific religious jurisprudence guide on the matter. It is a very sensitive matter to request people to forego these rituals when dealing with their dead. In consultation with Muslim scholars the committee agreed on basic minimum handling of Covid 19 deaths without compromising the dignity of the deceased.

Currently all muslim Covid 19 are reported to the Ministry of Health who inform us and we send our trained volunteers to support the family in the funeral process. We have trained such volunteers in over ten counties so far.

It is evident that the situation is escalating as the mass testing is being conducted by the Ministry of Health. The number of positive cases is increasing. Many of the cases are either mild or asymptomatic. This means that health facilities will not be able to cope with the number of cases and hospitalization may not be very necessary for such cases. We are therefore consulting with the MOH to develop and sensitize the community for home based care.

"Muslim hotel owners are willing to consider some of their facilities as quarantine centers for Muslims in this holy month."

There are reports of trauma when relatives are informed of positive results during contact tracing and when suspects are tested. One of our committee is a team of psychologists and psychiatrists who do counseling for the infected and affected.

The Committee comprises of Islamic scholars / Sheikhs, Imams, as well as representatives from different mosques, Muslim organizations, the

Kenya Association of Muslim Medical Professionals (KAMMP) and people of goodwill.

We have in place various teams to facilitate preparedness and management of the effects of the pandemic. These committees include:

- a) Prevention & Management
- b) Home based care
- c) Burial Committee - which will deal with safe handling of the deceased
- d) Communication & sensitization - including mass awareness through various modalities.
- e) Resource mobilization - including planned food drives
- f) Mental Health - to cushion the psychosocial effects of the pandemic.

We are also involved in resource mobilization for this activity through stakeholders and well-wishers.

We would like to request the GOK to support the efforts of this committee in terms of supply of masks, PPE, sanitizers from the allocations set aside to fight this pandemic.

Prof. Mohamed Karama, PhD, Chairman National Muslim Covid 19 Response Committee.



Gems From the story of Maryam (Mary) Aleyha Ssalam

By: Lubnah Abdulhalim

#The Dua (supplication)

The inspirational story of Maryam begins with a sincere dua (supplication), by Hannah, the wife of Imran consecrating the child in her womb to the service of the Lord.

The supplication was accepted and Maryam was born, becoming the greatest woman whose chastity, nobility and purity were attested in the Quran.

She became attached to the service of the sacred house. Allah says in the Quran, *'when my servant asks about me', he does not say, 'when the believer, the super pious, the prophet' he says 'I respond.*

#Allah's Rizq (sustenance)

Maryam was placed in the care of Zakariyya, who always found her with food, with the Quran noting that every time Zakariyya entered upon her in the prayer chamber, he found her with food. He would enquire from her, "O Maryam, from where is this coming to you?" "She said, "It is coming from Allah. He provides for whom he will without account."

#Power of Allah

She then bore the miracle of Allah by conceiving divinely. She was unmarried, well renowned for her chastity and she greatly was alarmed by the turn of events.

Allah was putting her through a test for she was to bear a prophet who

would speak at birth, do unconceivable miracles and call people to the religion of Allah.

#Sorrow

So here was Maryam aleyha ssalam, pregnant yet unmarried. What does she do? She goes away to a remote place. Maryam aleyha ssalam was in so much pain and anguish, she wished for death.

#Tawakkul (reliance on God)

Despite being in great pain, angel Jibril asks Maryam to shake the palm tree so she can get the ripe

Remember at this point Maryam is in labour, how will she do that? Where will she get the strength from? But Allah still gave her ease in it.

#Parting shot

The story of Maryam and the lessons from within are many.

We may not exhaust all the details covered in Suratul Maryam (Quran chapter 19) and part of SURAT Imran (Quran Chapter 3).

What we need to keep in mind is that even the best among us were tested and that despite the hardship, their Iman grew as they never lost faith in the Rahma (mercy) of Allah.

May Allah protect us during these trying times, may He grant us peace and tranquility, may He bless us, may He accept us repentance and our good deeds. Ameen. Stay safe wherever you are and Ramadhan Mubarak!

Lessons on leadership from the character of Abubakar As'Sidique

BY HUSSEIN YUSUF

Whenever the name of Abu-Bakr R.A is mentioned, every conscious mind pictures that slim Arab, soft of heart and generous. The first man to accept Islam and the first Caliph after the prophet (peace be upon him).

Abu-Bakr was so full of love of the prophet (peace be upon him) that he would be concerned even when the prophet (peace be upon him) felt uncomfortable.

After the death of the prophet (peace be upon him) leadership of the Islamic Umma fell upon Abu-Bakr.

While he may have experienced difficult tests in the past, he was faced with the difficult duty of keeping the Muslim faithful united and motivated even as they were dealing with the loss of their prophet.

Let's look at what made him successful.

A leader is supposed to be concerned about the wellbeing of his people.

Unlike many leaders today, Abu-Bakr was soft of heart and tender towards not only the Muslims but everyone. A small issue would concern him so much as to make him shed tears. He was so caring that whenever he passed through the streets of Makkah and saw the slaves being persecuted he offered to free them.

"After the death of the prophet (peace be upon him) leadership of the Islamic Umma fell upon Abu-Bakr."

One of those freed by Abu-Bakr for the sake of Allah was Bilal al Habashi; who went on to become the muadhin (one who summons the Muslims to prayer from a minaret five times a day) of the prophet

One of the companions of Prophet Muhammad Umar recounts that Abu-Bakr used to pray Fajr and then

disappear in the opposite direction, not returning home till later in the morning.

Curious to know why, Umar followed him.

Abu-Bakr used to go to into the desert and disappear into a small hut. He stayed there for a long time after which he came out. Umar later entered the hut to find out what was inside and was humbled to find an old blind lady and some orphaned children, Umar inquired if they knew who came every morning to their hut which they replied in the negative.

Umar asked what he does to which the lady said, "May Allah bless him he who cleans the house, washes the clothes and bakes the bread and we pay him nothing." On hearing that Umar gasped with tears in his eyes,

A leader is supposed to be steadfast, dutiful and willing to sacrifice for his people

While many argue that being soft and caring prevents one from being strict and steadfast, the person of Abu-

Bakr has shown that this magnanimous pillar in history transcended trivial faults to exhibit both in equal measure.

During the wars of apostasy when some false prophets led a revolt against the Rashidun caliphate, Abu-Bakr strongly resisted their advances and crushed the uprisings making sure to totally defeat the impostors.

Abu-Bakr was a trader and he would utilize his wealth in the service of Islam. On one occasion in preparation for war, Umar brought half of his wealth and Abu-Bakr brought all of his wealth. When the prophet (peace be upon him) asked him of what he had left for his family, Abu Bakr replied Allah and the prophet suffice them.

It is a pity today that we lead our homes, our schools our organizations with the zeal to be seen as effective and the desire to earn more, forgetting that life is all about caring and showing compassion, governing and not bossing, and giving for the sake of Allah.

A SEASON OF GRATITUDE. ALHAMDULILLAH!

BY HASSAN KASSIM

Abu Yahya Suhaib bin Sinan reported that the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said: "How wonderful is the case for the believer, there is good for him in everything.

If prosperity attends him, he expresses gratitude to Allah and that is good for him, and if adversity befalls him, he endures it patiently and that is better for him." (Muslim)

Having a positive outlook on things is one of the characteristics of a Muslim. For he knows that all his matters are in the hands of his Lord, who the prophet says: "...is more merciful towards him than a mother is to her child."

God didn't promise us an easy life. In the holy Qur'an, He says: "And We will surely test you with something of fear

and hunger and loss of wealth and lives and fruits, but give good tidings to the patient." (Q2:155).

This world is a prison for the believer; trials are certain. The test for Gold has always involved a great deal of heat in a crucible and likewise is our affair in this world.

Then how does one keep his sanity when chaos is promised to him over and over again. It ultimately falls on attitude and your thought of Him. The law of attraction is a big part of Islam. Allah poses the question in the Qur'an: "Then what is your thought about the Lord of the worlds?" (Q37:87) and proceeds to say in a hadith Qudsy: ((I am as my slave expects me to be...)).

The sahaba Ibn Mas'ud says on that ayah: "I swear by Allah, no one has ever

thought a thought about Allah except He gave him by that thought. And that is because all favour is in the hands of Allah."

Having good thoughts on your Lord will have you see the silver linings in the darkest and the most seemingly hopeless of situations. It's upon the Muslim to always carry two things; which are the root to all good. That is gratitude and patience.

Allah says in the Holy Qur'an, "...If you are grateful, I will increase you in favour..." (Q14:7)

Allah does not burden a soul beyond what it can bear. How just is your Lord when he only tests you on what he already told you can handle. Hardship shouldn't be a reason to despair from the mercy of your Lord.

The scholar Ibn Qayyim says, "The whole world from its beginning to its end is not worth an hour of sadness, so what about the sadness of a whole life." A Muslim is not saddened by temporary occurrences. The Qur'an does not speak of sadness unless when negating it.

For most Muslims around the world, this is a sad Ramadhan in that we don't get to experience it like the Ramadhans before.

And it almost seems like this Ramadhan is one where we take the losses but I urge you to remember the words of your Lord, to see this situation as a test; and a blessing.

So have faith that this too shall pass. But more than anything, be grateful. Gratitude is the fuel for blessings.



A Ramadhan like no other: Jamia Mosque shuts its doors amidst COVID-19 threat

BY ABU AYMAN

This year's Ramadhan is being observed amidst the global coronavirus pandemic which has hit virtually all parts of the world. The unprecedented closure of mosques to contain the spread of the deadly disease was the first indication that this year, it will be business unusual and faith matters will be affected by the pandemic.

The country's largest mosque, Jamia Mosque Nairobi—a meeting point of thousands of people who converge on a daily basis for the prayers was the first to shut its doors and its action was closely followed by several other mosques in the country.

Apart from the Friday prayers which have to be performed in the mosques, the daily

The adhan—the rallying call for Muslims to turn up for prayers continues to be transmitted five times a day in many

mosques around the country, urging worshippers to conduct their prayers from home.

This was the practice at the time of Prophet Muhammad during times of storms, floods and other calamities.

Usually at this time of the year, memorizers and reciters of the Quran are on high demand, leading faithful through the special Ramadhan exclusive taraweeh prayer in mosques throughout the country where the entire Quran is recited.

The month of Ramadhan fosters a sense of brotherhood and community togetherness among Muslims and other members of the society. This is evident at the time of iftar—the fast breaking meal where at home, extended family members, neighbours and friends who include non-Muslims are not left out in the invitation.

In Muslim neighborhoods, the less privileged are not forgotten and as the time

of the adhan approaches, plates with sumptuous dishes are seen shuttling between homes in the neighborhoods.

Outside, mosques are transformed into feeding centers with rows of food neatly arranged for hundreds of worshippers.

In most of the cases, the meals which are available throughout are provided by those who wish to share in the many rewards of feeding those who are fasting.

On this matter Prophet Muhammad said "Whoever feeds a fasting person will have his sins forgiven, will be saved from hell fire, and will have the same reward as the fasting person without diminishing the reward of the fasting person in the slightest."



Empty Jamia Mosque amidst COVID-19.

But with the wreaking havoc around the world, various traditions which have been a common feature during the month of Ramadhan will have to be replaced as part of the precautionary measures which emphasize on social distancing, staying at home and avoiding crowds.

No doubt, this year's Ramadhan will not be like no other.

Local organization distributes Ramadhan rations

Mercy Kahenda

Muslims in Nakuru have embarked on supporting the needy to enable them successfully observe the Holy month of Ramadhan.

Among support issues to less fortunate include food, clothing and sanitation items to help fight coronavirus.

Ansar Sisters, Nakuru Chapter an Islamic association were behind the distribution of foodstuff to the needy.

So far, they have distributed food to about 217 needy families in Nakuru town, Salgaia, Subukia, Elementaita, including Nakuru GK Prisons—both male and female sections.

The chapter chairperson Nazmeen Hussein, said that food distributed include rice, spaghetti, wheat flour and dates.

"Due to Coronavirus, most families are not able to raise a meal because of lack of jobs, and to enable them observe the holy month in harmony, we have identified needy families to whom we are supplying with food," she said.

Imam at Jamia Mosque in Nakuru Ahmed Muiruri Rashid said in the past, tons of foodstuff, especially dates are imported to the country from the Middle East for distribution among the needy.

The dates are distributed through various mosques.

With the country reeling under COVID-19 related challenges, the dates never came and it is up to local organizations to take care of the poor.

"So far, they have distributed food to about 217 needy families in Nakuru town, Salgaia, Subukia, Elementaita, including Nakuru GK Prisons—both male and female sections."

In Nakuru town, dates are currently retailing at Sh2,000 Ksh for a 4 kg bag.

His message to Muslims during the holy month is to humble themselves, have cohesion and embrace love among Muslims and non Muslims.



RIGHT: Ansar Sisters lead by chairperson Nazmeen Hussein distributes food to the needy in Subukia, Nakuru county. The association is reaching out to the needy who are not able to afford a meal during the Holy month of Ramadhan on April 28, 2020. PHOTO BY MERCY KAHENDA

ABOVE: An assortment of the foodstuffs donated. PHOTO BY MERCY KAHENDA



Ansar Sisters distributes food stuff to Nakuru GK Prisons during kick of Holy month of Ramadhan on April 28, 2020. PHOTO BY MERCY KAHENDA.

Can you find the following words?

Quran
Dua
Tasbeeh
Fast

Qadr
Subh
Maghrib
Iftar

Food
Blessing
Mercy
Forgive

Kind
Help
Mosque

P	F	O	S	Q	E	E	K	I	N	D	T
S	F	P	M	A	G	H	R	I	B	E	A
U	O	M	O	S	Q	U	E	P	T	E	S
B	R	B	L	E	S	S	I	N	G	S	B
O	G	M	O	N	P	S	H	E	L	T	I
R	I	E	M	Q	U	R	A	N	L	H	H
O	V	R	O	B	E	I	L	F	A	S	T
O	E	C	H	T	R	Q	S	O	H	E	L
D	N	Y	B	T	E	A	D	O	I	S	P
I	M	L	A	A	U	D	D	D	U	Q	S
E	H	E	L	P	V	R	I	F	T	A	R
L	Q	U	T	I	F	R	B	E	O	L	P

STANDARD GROUP
FarmKenya Initiative:

Securing our Growth



Donkey's vital role in sustainable agricultural development

The animal forms an integral part of the agricultural value chain in the transportation of farm produce from the farms to the markets and other processing facilities.

By Dr Samatha Opere

The donkey, scientifically referred to as *Equus asinus*, is the invisible worker among livestock in Kenya. Its contribution to livelihoods and the agricultural value chain often goes unnoticed.

Traditionally, donkeys are used to transport goods which range from water, agricultural produce to hardware and furniture. They offer transport solutions in areas with poor terrain and where other modes of transport are too expensive for low income earners. Their contribution to livelihoods often goes unnoticed primarily because they do not produce food of animal origin and therefore are not perceived as a critical element of people's livelihoods. But did you know that working donkey contribute to eleven of the seventeen sustainable development goals?

To the donkey owning community, a donkey is much more than an animal especially to the women who use them. In semi-arid areas like Narok, the donkey is referred to as a co-wife; a helper, while in urban areas like Mwea and Nairobi, the donkey is referred to as a second husband; a provider.

Arid and semi-arid lands are synonymous with water scarcity. Images on media often show women and children carrying jerricans of water over long distances. Most women can only carry one 20 litre jerrican on their backs per trip. On average, a trip to the nearest

water point can be 5 or more kilometres depending on the season. In order to fetch enough water for daily household use a woman must make at least four trips. In contrast, an adult donkey can carry four 20 litre jerricans per trip equivalent to 80 litres.

Benadeta Kilatya, a donkey owner from Machakos County observed, "my donkey helps me fetch water from the river, carry firewood and foodstuffs to and from the market. Without it, I'd be forced to pay for transport services yet I don't have a steady income." Benadeta further says that donkeys are easy to train and easily follow instructions for example her donkey knows the daily routine of fetching water and all she needs to do is place the jerricans on its back and her donkey will go to the river accompanied by her children. This gives her time to engage in other chores.

The beast of burden not only helps women save time but also earn income. A report published by KALRO in 2019 on The Status of Donkey Slaughter in Kenya and its Implications on Community Livelihoods found that on average donkey owners earn Ksh 11,390 per month from providing transport services. Working donkeys therefore play a key role in their owners' lives in terms of provision of basic needs and financial growth.

Ruth Wanja offers donkey transport services in Ruai area, Nairobi County. She mainly transports building materials such as sand, cement and iron sheets to various construction sites in the area. "I can't compare other casual jobs to working with a donkey. On good days, I take home Ksh 1,500 or more. I've been working here for about 8 years and from the income earned I've managed to pay my children's fees up to tertiary level without much of a struggle," she shares.

In Mwea, donkeys form an integral part of the agricultural value chain. Donkeys are used to transport rice from the fields to the mills. Without the donkeys the cost of the final product

would be much higher. Mary Wambui, a resident of Mwea, describes her donkey as her second husband. She shares that from the income earned from her donkeys, she managed to upgrade from a mud house to a stone house. "On my wall I drew a donkey as a sign of gratitude. Donkeys are part and parcel of my life. Whenever we are short of money, all I need to do is get my donkeys and their cart and my needs for that day are sorted."

However, it has not been a rosy journey for this invisible worker and its dependents over the past four years. An increasing demand for Ejiao, a Chinese traditional medicine made from donkey skins, put donkeys at risk of near extinction. Kenya began to licence donkey export slaughter houses in 2016. This legal slaughter fuelled cases of donkey theft, bush slaughter and cross border smuggling of donkeys. Up to 1,300 donkeys were slaughtered per day according to KARLO 2019 report.

Women and persons with disabilities were noted to be the worst hit by the donkey hide trade. Nancy Nyambura was a water vendor in Lucigetti, Kiambu County, earning an average of Ksh 1,200 per day. In August 2019, life changed drastically when her donkey and its foal were stolen. "I woke up one morning to an empty shed. The thieves had made a hole in the fence and forced the donkeys through it. For about a month I had nightmares of my donkeys braying and scratching at the gate asking to be let in. But whenever I woke up I'd see the empty shed, a painful reminder that my helper was gone."

She narrates how without her daily source of income, her financial situation deteriorated quickly. Her children dropped out of school because she couldn't raise their school fees and she was forced to make drastic changes to their diet. She further lamented that casual labour was not consistent and only paid her a mere Ksh 300 per day. That was nowhere near enough to meet her daily family needs. Once her savings



Women using donkeys to fetch water at Nguswini water point in Machakos County

from the business ran out, Nancy had no choice but to become the donkey herself.

To ensure that her household had a supply of water, Nancy began pulling her donkey's cart to fetch water. The water point is just under one kilometre from her home, but it would take her an hour to and fro. At the entrance to her home is a small hill; and any time she arrived with the heavy cart she'd require assistance to pull it in. "I developed back problems because of pulling the cart, but what choice did I have? Sometimes people are available to help, other times they aren't willing to assist me to pull my cart. I fetch water three times a week. The water is meant for household use and to water my goats. I make sure we use it sparingly." Nancy Nyambura shared.

As the trade in donkey skins hit its peak, donkey owners across Kenya united to petition the Government to save their source of livelihood. After months of peaceful demonstrations at County

and National levels, a ban on export of donkey products was declared by Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives, Hon. Peter Munya.

Donkey owner groups are now in the process of replacing the stolen donkeys. Group initiatives aimed at encouraging natural breeding of donkeys are in the pilot stages. Animal Welfare Organizations and people of goodwill are supporting the victims of donkey theft with replacement donkeys so that they can get their lives back on track. In Africa, there are very few studies on donkey breeding. It is therefore prudent for governments to undertake these studies to better inform future policies related to donkeys.

Dr. Samantha Opere
Veterinary Officer/Head of Region
Heshimu Punda Programme
Kenya Network for Dissemination of Agricultural Technologies (KENDAT)

Ksh10m reward for creative young African agricultural entrepreneurs launched

By Julius Mokaya

A Pan African initiative seeking to encourage more youth to participate in the continent's agricultural value chain has launched Ksh 10 million reward to support the best agrifood business model by young Africans during the Covid-19 crisis.

This is Generation Africa's second annual US\$100,000 (about Ksh10m) GoGettag Agrifood Prize aimed at finding, inspiring and supporting the best agrifood business models from young African entrepreneurs during the COVID-19 crisis.

The competition was launched last week amidst the coronavirus pandemic to give hope and support young African agrifoodpreneurs. Bringing on board influential co-founders, members and ambassadors, the 2020 competition aims to grow the pan-African GoGettag entrepreneurial community and pave the way for new businesses embracing technology and innovation in the agrifood and agritech sectors.

"The \$100,000 GoGettag

Agripreneur Prize Competition

2020 is back for its second year. The competition aims to inspire young people throughout the continent to launch and grow innovative or technology-driven businesses in the agrifood sector, from "seed to fork" and beyond," the organisers explained in a statement.

The competition will acknowledge two innovative ventures, one led by a man and one led by a woman who founded or co-founded businesses in the agrifood sector in Africa. The winners will each be awarded a grand prize of \$50,000 along with an industry-leading support network to take their businesses to the next level.

The competition was launched at a time the coronavirus pandemic is having a severely negative impact on health, well-being, and livelihoods of millions of people throughout Africa and the world. While the ultimate costs of this crisis are unknown, tremendous effort and innovation is needed to keep agribusiness going and ensure the health crisis does

not translate into also a severe food crisis. Leadership and coordinated action are required at global, national, and local levels to find solutions for agrifood systems that are responsive to, and supportive of, health measures. Africa's youth agrifoodpreneurs have a huge role to play.

"We have decided to go ahead with the 2020 GoGettag Agrifood Prize Competition. Not despite the coronavirus, but because of it," says Svein Tore Holsether, President and CEO of Yara International. "Now, more than ever, we need to support African agrifood entrepreneurs and the small and medium agribusinesses on the continent. They are the people who produce food and get it to the people who need it. They will be the people who help to rebuild our economies after the pandemic is over."

In 2019 pan-African telecommunication, technology and renewable energy group Econet together with global crop nutrition leader Yara, co-catalysed Generation Africa and the inaugural US\$100,000

GoGettag Agrifood Prize which was awarded in September at the annual Africa Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) Summit in Accra, Ghana.

The success of the 2019 campaign attracted industry leaders in the global and African agriculture sectors. In 2020 the Generation Africa initiative adds four inspirational co-founders to their ranks. The Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) strives to grow agriculture on the continent to feed Africa and the world. Corteva Agriscience harnesses cutting edge science to build flourishing farms. The Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU) represents the common interest of regional farmers. The Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture links small-holder farmers to agri-services, insurance and quality seeds.

"Agrifood is more than an essential business in this global pandemic, it is urgent for survival," said Strive Masiyiwa, founder and executive Chairman of Econet. "Our African

agribusinesses must stay strong and innovate to meet growing food needs locally, across the whole value chain. With forex income impacted by COVID-19, our nations can no longer rely on imports to feed our people. Now is the time for Africa's entrepreneurs to see and seize new opportunities."

Generation Africa aims to inspire and nurture young entrepreneurs in Africa's agrifood sector, from sapling businesses to companies that have already taken root firmly. On top of this, it will provide the framework to build a support ecosystem that connects these agribusinesses with the tools, knowledge, mentors and investors they need to grow from ideas or start-ups to full-scale businesses. This network will allow them to spot fertile new opportunities or be forewarned about continental developments that could necessitate business pivots.

The competition is open to young, agrifood entrepreneurs, aged 18 - 35 from across Africa.



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Welcome Home

Shell cuts dividend. Royal Dutch Shell has cut its dividend for the first time since World War II following the collapse in global oil demand due to the coronavirus pandemic. The energy giant also suspended the next tranche of its share buyback programme. The move came as it announced a 46 per cent fall in first-quarter net income to \$2.9 billion (Sh307 billion). Chief executive Ben van Beurden warned of "continued deterioration in the macroeconomic outlook". [BBC]

Business

SPORTS: CHERONO THINKS OF WHICH CROWN TO WEAR. P. 45



On Twitter:
@chegem_abu

Received heavy down-pour of rainfall in Turkana. It's time for water harvesting to enhance irrigation. Water pan can hold water for one year.



Unregulated. The governor has had protracted run-ins with firms for exploiting borrowers

CBK boss labels loan apps 'flea in economy'

In the latest attack, Njoroge dismisses their role in the credit market as inconsequential, telling them to shape up or ship out.

By Dominic Omondi
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Central Bank Governor Patrick Njoroge has intensified attacks against digital lenders, dismissing their role in the credit market, which he mockingly likened to a "flea in the economy."

Speaking at the post-Monetary Policy Committee press briefing in his office yesterday, Dr Njoroge said the digital lenders' decision to stop lending after the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic was inconsequential, with the volume of their loans estimated at one per cent of the economy. In a no-holds-barred attack, the governor told the firms to either submit to regulation or to ship out to the "Wild West" where he said they belong.

Those that believe they can't survive in a sector under supervision, that is fine they can go," said Njoroge.

"I think the expectation that just because somebody is lending using a mobile phone they can do whatever they like... maybe they can go to the Wild West, that is where they belong not in a proper economy." While unregulated digital and credit-only lenders have opened lending to a segment of the population that banks have avoided thus helping deepen financial inclusion, they have also been accused of charging high interest rates and using crude methods to recover their loans.

They have also been accused of predat-



Central Bank of Kenya Governor Patrick Njoroge during the post-Monetary Policy Committee press briefing in his office yesterday.

tory lending, providing loans to borrowers without the capacity to pay back.

Unfortunately, there is no State regulation for these lenders, with the National Treasury and Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) shifting the onus of crafting the rules on the other.

Some critics have argued that Njoroge's hard-stance against the digital credit providers is anti-innovation, claiming that innovation always comes before regulation. However, Njoroge has been adamant that the continued existence of digital lenders poses a major risk to the country's financial system.

"You cannot open a kiosk anywhere without a licence," said Njoroge, noting all over the world, finance and health are the highly regulated sectors.

This comes barely a week after CBK withdrew approvals granted to the lend-

ers to credit reference bureaus (CRBs) as third-party credit information providers, in effect leaving them as digital shylocks with little means of determining the credit-worthiness of borrowers.

"The withdrawal is in response to numerous public complaints over misuse of the CIS (Credit Information Sharing) by the unregulated digital and credit-only lenders, and particularly their poor responsiveness to customer complaints," said CBK, noting that they will no longer submit credit information on their borrowers to CRBs. The MPC, CBK's highest decision-making organ, on Wednesday slashed its benchmark lending rate to seven per cent from 7.45 per cent that it had set on March 23. The firms, under the aegis of the Digital Lenders Kenya Association have in the past expressed their willingness to be regulated.

Restructuring

Borrowers seek relief on loans worth Sh10b

Personal loans valued at Sh9.9 billion have already been restructured as Kenyans distressed by the coronavirus pandemic seek some relief.

Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) Governor Patrick Njoroge yesterday said this was part of total loans valued at Sh81.7 billion that had been restructured, with industries such as tourism, travel, real estate and agriculture that have been hit the hardest by the pandemic benefiting.

This follows a deal that was brokered between the financial regulator and banks, giving borrowers distressed by the Covid-19 a one-year extension on repayment of their loans.

Briefing the Press in his office, Njoroge said recent interventions by the regulator to inject liquidity into the economy had started to pay off. Of the Sh35.2 billion that the apex bank had freed up after the Cash Reserve Ratio - a fraction of the total deposits of customers which commercial banks have to hold as reserves either in

cash or as deposits with the central bank - was slashed by a percentage point to 4.25 per cent. About Sh15.3 billion had already been lent out to distressed sectors. Half of this cash has gone to tourism, 14 per cent to real estate. "The money is going where it should have been sent," said Njoroge.

The governor, however, ruled out any blanket loan restructuring, noting that it would be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

"You will have to walk to your bank, explain how you have been affected by the pandemic and then the rest you can work until the bank and yourself are satisfied," said Njoroge.

Of the Sh81.7 billion worth of loans restructured so far, the hospitality industry accounted for 31 per cent followed by real estate at 17.2 per cent, and building and construction (17 per cent).

Njoroge rooted for the need to have a credit guarantee scheme in place to ensure that banks lend to risky borrowers, including Small and Medium Enterprises without fearing default.

However, the governor was quick to clarify that the scheme should have less moral hazards where borrowers default knowing that they are guaranteed, a situation that would hit the government's coffers.

"This will ensure that SMEs borrow at rates that are affordable," said Njoroge.

Monetary Policy Committee, the highest decision-making organ at CBK, also cut the benchmark lending rate to seven per cent from 7.25 per cent that was set in March. [Dominic Omondi]

Sh81.7b

■ Total loans restructured in the wake of Covid-19

31%

■ Percentage of loans structured by the hospitality industry

Sh35.2b

■ Money freed by slashing CBK's cash reserve ratio for onward lending

Inflation

Tough measures to curb Covid-19 drive up cost of living

Draconian measures employed by the government to curb the spread of the coronavirus pandemic pushed up the cost of living in April.

According to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) figures released yesterday, prices of major consumer products in the economy increased by 5.62 per cent last

month compared to a revision of 5.51 per cent in March.

This is after stringent social distancing measures, a dusk-to-dawn curfew and travel restrictions depressed supply of certain goods. What would otherwise have been an inflationary spike was saved by low prices of fuel and heavy rains across the country, which helped push

down the prices.

Kenyans paid more for food during this period compared to March as supply of critical foodstuffs was hampered by the partial lockdown as well as travel restrictions that have stopped the movement of these items within and into the country.

"Food and non-alcoholic drinks" index increased by 1.77

per cent between March 2020 and April 2020, while the year on year food inflation in April, 2020 stood at 11.58 per cent," said KNBS.

Some of the products that registered an increase in price per unit include maize-grain, sukuma wiki (kales), onions, Irish potatoes and carrots.

Year-on-year, a kilo of onions,

most of which is imported from Tanzania, increased by 24.18 per cent to retail at Sh18.2 from Sh95.18 in the same month last in 2019.

Matatu fares within Nairobi increased by 66.67 per cent, year-on-year, with commuters paying Sh50 compared to Sh30 in April last year.

[Dominic Omondi]



Telecoms

Safaricom, Google in phones pact

Kenya's biggest telecoms operator Safaricom is partnering with Google to offer a million affordable smartphones, its chief executive said on Wednesday.

The telco, which is partly owned by South Africa's Vodacom and Britain's Vodafone, is ramping up its data business to offset a decline in mobile calls, where it has seen a small revenue fall due to saturation.

"Data penetration is still not at the right level. Many people don't have smartphones," Chief Executive Peter Ndegwa told Reuters after an online investor briefing. Data is one of Safaricom's fastest-growing revenue

lines and it hopes that increased smartphone usage will boost it further.

Customers will pay as little as

Sh20

What customers will pay daily for nine months for the phones

Sh20 a day for nine months, Ndegwa said, as Safaricom seeks to eventually convert about 4 million 2G and 3G-enabled phones to 4G.

"If you have an app, you can't use it on a 2G phone," he said, adding that Safaricom was also planning to fully cover the country with its 4G network by the end of this year, to further boost the data business.

Rapid growth in the data business during the second half lifted Safaricom's annual earnings before interest and tax 13.3 per cent to Sh101.5 billion (\$950 million). Revenue from mobile data, where Safaricom has been aggressively fighting for market share by offering internet bundles without expiry, rose 12.1 per cent to Sh40.7 billion. [Reuters]

Handicapped. Inability to hold meetings has delayed dividend payments

Listed firms get nod to hold virtual AGMs

High Court ruling meant to aid companies to fulfil their statutory obligations in the Covid-19 era.

By Peter Theuri
ptheuri@standardmedia.co.ke

A landmark ruling by the High Court now allows listed companies to hold virtual Annual General Meetings (AGMs).

In the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, Nairobi Securities Exchange-listed companies, as well as Saccos, have not been able to hold such meetings after the government banned large gatherings in a bid to contain the spread of deadly disease.

This has, in turn, occasioned delays in the payment of dividends to shareholders, among other key functions.

According to the ruling by the High Court in Nairobi, listed firms will now be allowed to hold AGMs virtually after issuing the statutory 14-day notice to shareholders on the intended meetings. They will also have to obtain a no-objection certificate from the Capital Markets Authority (CMA).

The firms will at the same time be required to set out in detail, in their request to CMA, how the meeting will be held - whether virtually and/or electronically, technologically or hybrid.

Such companies will also have to confirm and demonstrate that shareholders shall be furnished with a notice of the general meeting as provided for under the Companies Act 2015, have sufficient information to make informed decisions on any resolutions placed



Virtual meetings such as via video conferencing are becoming popular in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

"It is hereby ordered that any meeting convened held and conducted in accordance with this order and under section 280 of the Companies Act be and is hereby taken for all purposes..."

Court order

before the meeting and be accorded an opportunity to ask questions and seek clarifications from directors.

There must be proof shown, as well, that the shareholders will be given the opportunity to vote, with clear registration and voting procedures.

Provisions of the articles of association for some companies such as WPP Scangroup and Kenya Airways bar them from holding virtual general meetings, and this has ham-

pered sales of assets and payment of dividends.

In such cases, the companies will be required to notify CMA of the restriction and their intention to seek court orders to allow them to hold virtual AGMs. To avoid falling behind in its operations, WPP Scangroup has already applied to the High Court under Section 280 of the Companies Act, 2015 for appropriate orders and direction.

CMA has applied for the widening of the scope of the anticipated court order to benefit all listed companies.

"It is hereby ordered that any meeting convened held and conducted in accordance with this order and under section 280 of the Companies Act be and is hereby taken for all purposes to be a general meeting of the company properly convened, held and conducted, subject to the foregoing conditions being met," reads the court order in part.

NAIROBI STOCKS

Main Investment Market		30/04/2020		
HIGH	LOW	VNAP	PREVIOUS	VOLUME
AGRICULTURAL				
17.60	9.90	Eastgate Ltd Ord 1.25 AIMS	10.00	-
460.00	290.00	Kakuzi Pk Ord 5.00	341.00	-
100.00	57.00	Kapchorua Tea Kenya Pk Ord 5.00 AIMS	66.50	-
605.00	405.00	Thelemu Tea Co. Pk Ord 20.00 AIMS	427.50	475.00 200
22.70	14.00	Sasini Pk Ord 1.00	16.10	15.50 16,100
178.00	92.00	Williamson Tea Kenya Pk Ord 5.00 AIMS	115.00	115.00 2,400
AUTOMOBILES & ACCESSORIES				
27.00	20.00	Car & General (K) Ltd Ord 5.00	23.50	-
BANKING				
13.85	9.30	ABSA Bank Kenya Ltd Ord 0.50	10.55	10.60 947,300
38.00	22.00	BNK Group Pk Ord 0.80	22.00	-
166.00	76.50	Diamond Trust Bank Kenya Ltd Ord 4.00	83.00	85.00 31,700
55.50	32.15	Equity Group Holdings Pk Ord 0.50	37.65	36.80 107,800
790	3.38	HF Group Pk Ord 5.00	3.89	4.02 5,600
126.00	42.50	IGM Holdings Pk Ord 1.00	51.25	51.00 700
55.50	33.75	KCB Group Pk Ord 1.00	37.00	36.30 1,464,300
6.50	3.22	National Bank of Kenya Ltd Ord 0.50	4.12	-
41.00	24.90	NBCA Group Pk Ord 5.00	28.50	28.00 93,500
15.00	83.00	Stanbic Holdings Pk Ord 5.00	92.50	-
225.00	168.00	Standard Chartered Bank Kenya Ltd Ord 5	187.50	189.50 1,400
16.60	10.05	The Co-operative Bank of Kenya Ltd Ord 1.00	12.60	12.45 145,200
COMMERCIAL SERVICES				
5.10	0.45	Deacons (East Africa) Pk Ord 2.50 AIMS	0.45	-
1.30	0.77	Eveready East Africa Ltd Ord 1.00	0.80	0.84 5,800
8.50	4.95	Express Kenya Ltd Ord 5.00 AIMS	6.00	5.80 200
9.50	0.80	Kenya Airways Ltd Ord 1.00	0.89	0.91 2,329,700
8.80	4.26	Longhorn Publishers Pk Ord 0.01 AIMS	5.02	4.94 17,000
1.20	0.54	Nairobi Business Ventures Ltd Ord 1.00 GEMS	0.60	0.60 200
71.00	20.95	Nation Media Group Pk Ord 2.50	21.35	21.40 7,500
4.70	1.72	Samuel Africa Pk Ord 5.00	2.37	2.33 7,400
33.00	19.50	Standard Group Pk Ord 5.00	20.00	-
25.15	11.50	TPS Eastern Africa Ltd Ord 1.00	14.50	15.00 1,300
0.95	0.23	Uchumi Supermarket Pk Ord 5.00	0.27	0.27 56,700
22.00	9.90	WPP Scangroup Pk Ord 1.00	16.00	16.95 3,300
CONSTRUCTION & ALLIED				
8.35	2.40	ARM Cement Pk Ord 1.0	5.55	-
145.75	45.00	Bamburi Cement Ltd Ord 5.00	45.10	46.80 14,300
92.00	53.00	Crown Paints Kenya Pk Ord 5.00	53.00	53.00 300
3.98	1.44	E.A. Cables Ltd Ord 0.50	1.85	1.74 5,400
20.50	12.95	E.A. Portland Cement Co. Ltd Ord 5.00	14.25	-
ENERGY & PETROLEUM				
7.40	4.00	KenGen Co. Pk Ord 2.506.06	4.55	4.86 1,462,800
5.50	1.63	Kenya Power & Lighting Co. Ltd Ord 2.50	2.01	2.13 1,424,500
5.50	5.00	Kenya Power & Lighting Ltd 44% Pref 20.00	5.00	-
6.00	6.00	Kenya Power & Lighting Ltd 7% Pref 20.00	6.00	-
33.00	22.00	Total Kenya Ltd Ord 5.00	24.10	23.70 36,300
6.70	5.00	Unimel Ltd Ord 0.50	6.00	6.90 2,900
INSURANCE				
10.50	5.70	Britam Holdings Pk Ord 0.30	6.84	6.60 33,900
4.85	2.00	CIC Insurance Group Ltd Ord 1.00	2.26	2.27 58,300
462.00	250.00	Jubilee Holdings Pk Ord 5.00	263.00	271.00 8,000
16.30	2.10	Kenya Re Insurance Corporation Ltd Ord 2.50	2.52	2.50 117,000
13.00	6.80	Liberty Kenya Holdings Ltd Ord 1.00	8.34	8.40 1,200
26.00	13.80	Sanlam Kenya Pk Ord 5.00	15.00	15.00 300
INVESTMENT				
37.40	19.60	Centum Investment Co Pk Ord 0.50	25.15	23.90 23,000
0.77	0.30	Home Africa Ltd Ord 1.00 GEMS	0.38	0.40 13,100
1,500.00	1,500.00	Kumulu Ventures Ltd Ord 100.00 GEMS	1,500.00	-
3.39	2.00	Olympic Capital Holdings Ltd Ord 5.00	2.32	2.29 10,000
4.50	1.60	Trans-Century Pk Ord 0.50 AIMS	1.70	1.70 10,100
INVESTMENT SERVICES				
16.00	8.24	Nairobi Securities Exchange Pk Ord 4.00	9.26	9.34 27,600
MANUFACTURING & ALLIED				
87.00	52.25	B.O.C Kenya Pk Ord 5.00	71.00	-
70.00	325.00	British American Tobacco Kenya Pk Ord 10.00 120.00	329.50	2,500
10.80	7.00	Carbide Investments Pk Ord 1.00	9.26	9.04 3,300
230.00	135.00	East African Breweries Ltd Ord 2.00	172.75	161.25 91,100
3.15	0.85	Flame Tree Group Holdings Ltd Ord 0.825 GEMS	0.91	0.95 360,900
14.00	12.25	Kenya Orchards Ltd Ord 5.00 AIMS	12.25	-
0.70	0.25	Mumias Sugar Co. Ltd Ord 2.00	0.27	-
42.00	26.10	Unga Group Ltd Ord 5.00	29.20	28.00 700
TELECOMMUNICATION				
33.50	20.10	Safaricom Pk Ord 0.05	28.50	29.00 9,702,700
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST				
11.00	6.88	STANLIB FAHARIU RETT. Ord 20.00	8.76	8.00 500
EXCHANGE TRADED FUNDS				
1650.00	1,235.00	Barclays New Gold ETF	1775	1,775.00 -

NSE All Share Index Down 0.52 points to close at 139.69; NSE 20-Share Index Down 9.12 points to close at 1958.07 NSE 25-Share Index Up 29.65 points to close at 3292.64

Financials

Flame Tree grows profit to Sh45m

Listed manufacturing group Flame Tree has announced a net profit of Sh44.9 million in the year ended December 2019.

This is Sh1.1 million more from 2018. This is despite a marginal decrease in sales by 2.6

per cent, which was attributed to the rigours of moving to its new self-owned factory site in Ethiopia. Chief Executive Heril Bangera said the company's net assets, however, rose by 30 per cent, boosted by higher asset value

and positive results. Working capital also grew in line with an increase in finance costs. Besides Kenya and Ethiopia, the firm has operations in Mauritius, Rwanda, Dubai and Mozambique. [Peter Theuri]

UNIT TRUSTS

MONEYFUNDS	Daily Yield	E.A. Rate
CIC Money Market Fund	5.34%	5.69%
Muticon Money Market Fund	5.33%	5.70%
African Alliance Kenya Shilling Fund	6.77%	6.94%
STANLIB Money Market Fund	5.78%	5.98%
OverCap Holdings Fund	6.92%	6.37%
Alphabeta Kenya Money Market	6.91%	6.88%
Nubia Africa US Dollar Money Market Fund	3.54%	3.60%
Nubia Africa Money Market Fund	5.28%	5.66%
Sanlam Money Market Fund	5.26%	5.70%
Co-op Money Market Fund	5.44%	5.80%
Zimela Money Market Fund	5.54%	5.92%
OTHER FUNDS		
CIC Fixed Income Fund	6.67	6.60
Muticon Balanced Fund	43.51	43.51
Muticon Equity Fund	35.93	35.93
African Alliance Kenya Equity Fund	86.63	86.64
Zimela Balanced Fund	8.03	7.98
STANLIB Equity Fund	133.42	133.42
STANLIB Balanced Fund	95.48	95.48
Nubia Africa Balanced Fund	96.03	94.34
Nubia Africa Equity Fund	72.34	73.02
Sanlam Equity Fund	6.57	6.58
Sanlam Climate Fund	34.51	34.94

EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	MEAN
US DOLLAR	107.2915
STG POUND	133.0885
EURO	116.4762
SA RAND	9.9089
KES / US\$	35.4642
KES / T\$	21.5675
KES / RWF	6.8801
KES / BIF	17.6131
AEORHAM	29.3793
CAN\$	77.3913
S FRANC	110.0821
JPY (DO\$)	100.0710
SWKRONER	10.8967
NOR KRONER	10.4270
DAN KRONER	15.6168
IND RUPEE	1.4304
HONGKONG DOLLAR	13.8430
SINGAPORE DOLLAR	76.0852
SAUDI RIYAL	28.5448
CHINESE YUAN	15.2083
AUSTRALIANS	70.4315

BANK RATES

	BUY	SELL	MARG	BUY	SELL	MARG
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BOUY	102.0	102.0	0.26	16.37	16.37	0.25
IBM	102.0	102.0	0.26	16.37	16.40	0.25
STANDARD	102.0	102.0	0.26	16.37	16.40	0.24
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KCB	102.0	102.0	0.26	16.37	16.40	0.24
PRIME	102.0	102.0	0.26	16.34	16.37	0.25
FAHARIU	102.0	102.0	0.26	16.37	16.37	0.25
CTCBANK	102.0	102.0	0.26	16.37	16.40	0.24
CTCBANK	102.0	102.0	0.26	16.37	16.37	0.25
NUBIA	102.0	102.0	0.26	16.34	16.40	0.27
NIB	102.0	102.0	0.26	16.34	16.37	0.27
STANDARD	102.0	102.0	0.26	16.34	16.37	0.26
SAFARI	102.0	102.0	0.26	16.34	16.37	0.24
MOA	102.0	102.0	0.26	16.34	16.37	0.25
CO-OP	102.0	102.0	0.26	16.34	16.40	0.26
ABSA	102.0	102.0	0.26	16.37	16.37	0.26

Source: Central Bank

DAY'S GAINERS

Stock	Price	% daily change	Volume
EABL	172.75	+713	91,100
CABL	1.85	+632	5,400
CTUM	25.15	+523	23,000
UNGA	29.20	+429	700
SASN	16.10	+387	16,100

DAY'S LOSERS

Stock	Price	% daily change	Volume
LIMIT	427.50	-10.00	200
KEGN	4.55	-6.38	1,462,800
KPLC	2.01	-5.63	1,424,500
SCAN	16.00	-5.60	3,100
HAFR	0.38	-5.00	131,100



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 Ralph Bunche Road & Arapings Road
 Road within Upperhill area proposes to
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 Nairobi City County Government.
 Individuals, organizations, institutions
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Kakamega: Ambewere Plaza, 2nd Floor, Kenyatta Street **Kisii:** Galaxy – Opposite Nakumatt

Cricket. Playing cricket without crowds, should the need arise, would not be a totally new experience for any international player who has risen through the ranks, according to India test vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane. Playing behind closed doors has been suggested as one way to resume professional cricket, which has been suspended over the coronavirus pandemic and the restrictions it has forced around the world. Among the tournaments affected is this year's Indian Premier League (IPL). [Reuters]

Sports



FOOTBALL: MWENDWA TWEETS GOR TO KPL 'GLORY', OPENS NEW BATTLE. PG 48



Twitter
@BBC SPORT

UK Athletics has handed over the full 2015 report into the handling of the Alberto Salazar scandal to UK Anti-Doping (Ukad) after repeated requests.



Demise



FIBA Africa Zone 5 head of Marketing Bana Ali.
[Courtesy]

Corona claims Africa Zone 5 official Bana Ali

FIBA Africa Zone 5 head of Marketing Bana Ali died early this week of coronavirus related ailments in the United Kingdom.

Fiba Africa confirmed Ali's death in its website, describing him as a dedicated sports manager.

"It's with great sorrow that FIBA Africa confirms the passing on of Bana Ali, Head of International Relation for Somali Basketball Federation and FIBA Africa Zone 5 Head of Marketing," Fiba Africa said in a statement.

Ali was in Nairobi, Kenya in February during the FIBA AfroBasket 2021 Pre-qualifiers.

He managed to source sponsorship from money transfer company Taaj and Somali-based telecommunications company Hormuud, for the Somali national team during the tournament.

An engineer by profession, Bana previously served as Somali Basketball Federation Secretary General and was the man who, in 2009, ensured Somalia's return into international basketball first in the Pan Arab Basketball Federation and later in the FIBA Africa Zone 5 after decades of missing in action.

By the time of his death, he was determined to ensure youth teams from Somalia play in the forthcoming FIBA Under 18 qualifiers.

FIBA Africa President Anibal Manave said: "Bana Ali has truly played a key role in the history of Somali and African basketball. He participated a lot in the growth of the game in Somalia and Zone Five. On behalf of FIBA Africa and the African Basketball Family, I extend my sincere condolences to his family in Somalia and United Kingdom."

Ali served as a FIBA Africa Zone Five board member from 2010-2014 covering up to 10 countries in Eastern Africa including Burundi, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

FIBA Africa Zone Five President El Hesham Hariri said: "This is a great loss for Somalia basketball and the Zone Five region. He was very serious and pushed Somalia basketball to return to the African basketball family."

The head of the national committee of Uganda, Mohamed Santur, said Somalia basketball had lost a true leader who sacrificed his time and money to take country's game to the next level.

"Even when things looked dim, he never gave up. He was an engineer in the UK and used his own money to see to it that Somalia's basketball returned to the top. He was someone who really loved basketball." [Odiendo Ayieko]

Swimming. India's athletes finding novel ways to stay fit



India's top swimmer Kenisha Gupta.
[Reuters]

Postponed Olympics by a year have given swimmers extra time to sharpen skills.

By AFP
sports@standardmedia.co.ke

From swimming in a makeshift farm pool with turtles and fish to fencing with a dummy on a terrace, India's locked down athletes are finding novel ways to stay fit.

The postponement of the 2020 Olympics by a year has given SP Likith, India's top breaststroke swimmer, extra time to make the 59.93sec qualifying time for the 100 metres.

He has been stuck at his coach's farm in Karnataka state since February and now swims in a tank already inhabited by wildlife that normally supplies the water for crops and vegetables.

The 21-year-old from Bangalore, who still has to shave two seconds off his personal best to qualify, said he

was "lucky" to have the 20-metre long tank where coach Partha Varanashi drills 15 swimmers in all.

"The only difference (from a pool) is...the water is not clear at all, there are fish and turtles and we don't have lanes," Likith said with a laugh.

"It is not boring, it is fun. Right now our main goal is to keep our immunity high, so it's just five or six swimming sessions a week and the rest is yoga and other stuff."

Fencer Bhavani Devi has been in quarantine and training alone at home in the southern city of Chennai since returning from Italy on March 15.

The 26-year-old sabre fencer trains with a dummy on the terrace of her house.

"This is not a

new idea for me, when I started fencing we used to play with sticks and do target training by placing a mask or target pad on the wall," said Devi, who in 2017 became the first Indian to win a fencing World Cup event.

Devi, who is more used to the plush facilities of leading Italian coach Nicola Zanotti in Livorno, said it was imperative to keep a positive mind through the crisis.

"This period is for me to prepare myself the best with the sources available and be ready when things resume," she said.

"At the same time being at home for this long time is more special for me after many years. That gives more energy too."

India's top 400m sprinter Muhammed Anas, aiming for a second straight Olympics, admitted that the lockdown has taken a mental toll on his preparations.

Anas, part of the

mixed 4x400m relay team, moved to the National Institute of Sports in Patiala in February and stayed there as the number of coronavirus cases surged in India.

"For an athlete like me, who spends most time training outdoors, the lockdown does sometimes mentally drain me," said the 25-year-old, who won a silver medal at 2018 Asian Games.

"I am more of a glass half-full person so, I am looking at the brighter side at the moment as I am getting more time to train."

India's top 400m sprinter Muhammed Anas

But indoor training, some "light entertainment" and staying in contact with his family and friends has helped overcome "the mental tension". The uncertainty over whether the Olympics will ever go ahead weighs on all the athletes.



Golfing in the era of Covid-19 is like a nest on lofty solitude

Vincent Wang'ombe



My first refereeing experience in the game of golf was in 2014 when I was invited to assist at the All Africa Challenge Trophy that was played at Muthaiga Golf Club.

I soon discovered that golf referees spend so much time in solitude and every so often, there are panic-stricken moments when golfers ask for interpretation of the Rules of Golf at a time when the mind

has gone to sleep.

Despite not having the video assistant referee (VAR) like in football, golf referees have the phone-a-friend lifeline which they can use as many times as necessary.

As I have spent long quiet moments out on the golf course, I started enjoying my surroundings. That is how I picked bird-watching as hobby and even though I am not an expert in birds, I no longer refer to the ubiquitous black kites as hawks as most Kenyans do.

So, it was with a lot of interest that I studied a picture that was sent on a golfing WhatsApp group where a golf ball had come to rest in a bird's nest. The question that was asked was how the player should proceed in that situation.

After I gave up trying to figure out which bird may have

made the nest, I turned to the debate that was going on about how to proceed in that situation.

There were many who thought that the player should get free relief as some referred to the nest as a movable obstruction.

In the Rules of Golf, an obstruction is a defined as an artificial object. In older versions of the Rules of Golf, an obstruction was defined as "man-made". The nest in the picture was made by a bird and therefore did not qualify to be classified as an obstruction.

Then someone in the group vowed that he had read somewhere in the Rules of Golf that there is free relief for bird's nests. He just couldn't remember which Rule it was.

When I was asked for my opinion, I found it quite obvious



Yealimi Noh during the third round of the LPGA Cambia Portland Classic in Oregon. [AFP]

to me that the ball should have been played as it lay.

If the golfer did not want to obliterate the bird's nest, then he would have had to declare the ball unplayable and take a penalty stroke. The bird's nest

in this case is a loose impediment and there is no free relief for the same.

I received the same picture from a number of other golfers asking the same question.

However, there were a few doubts from some of the people who forwarded the same picture. The doubt was brought about by the free relief given for bird's nests.

In the Definitions section of the Rules of Golf, Ground Under Repair includes "any animal habitat (such as a bird's nest) that is so near a player's ball..."

According to this definition, then a golfer would get free relief for a bird's nest. I would, however, not consider a nest that is no longer in its original place, to be fit for habitation.

There are many birds that make their nests on the ground but this particular nest was def-

initely not one of those. It must have fallen off the tree before completion or was probably blown off by the wind or removed by other forces.

In any case, the nest was not going to be used for habitation by the bird that built it.

As a result of many dissenting views, I decided to use the 'Phone a friend' lifeline and sent the image to a seasoned referee. He agreed with my judgement.

Since the picture was taken in this COVID-19 era where there are no golf competitions going on and the few who are still playing find themselves like eagles nests in lofty solitude, I do hope that the golfer chose to remove the ball from the nest and that he enjoyed the next shot.

Wang'ombe is the General Manager of Kenya Open Golf Limited

Athletics. Injury-free athlete yet to make decision to run in London or New York

Cherono lost on which crown to wear this year

...as Kirui has high hope to win in rescheduled Boston Marathon.

By Xinhua
sports@standardmedia.co.ke

Former Berlin Marathon champion Gladys Cherono has recovered from a muscle injury that saw her fail to defend her title in the German capital last year.

But, when her eyes were starting to train on running in Boston or London, the events were postponed owing to the coronavirus.

She then switched her focus to the Berlin Marathon, but last week, the German government cancelled all sports events until October.

However, Cherono is optimistic that she will weather the pandemic and be standing at the starting line in a rescheduled London Marathon on October 4 or New York Marathon on November 1.

"The virus has affected our training, but I have not stopped working to improve my fitness," Cherono said from Eldoret.

Cherono, who set her best time in Berlin of 2 hours, 18 minutes and 11 seconds in 2018, believes it will be tougher to win whenever competition resumes as most athletes

will be fresh and committed.

"There are no competitions so there is no possibility of a burnout. That explains what is happening around the globe, everyone is at home resting as governments battle the spread of Covid-19," Cherono said.

"For now, I want to focus on training and let management do the planning on where to run because with the current health situation, it is hard to remain focused while at the same time, worry about your health," she added.

Meanwhile, world marathon champion Geoffrey Kirui says he briefly lost interest in training after organisers of the Boston marathon pushed the event back to September.

However, he has learned to live with the situation and has slowly resumed training hoping to be fit and return to competition in September.

Kirui, who won gold in men's marathon at the 2017 World Championships in Athletics in London, has experienced torrid performances since then.

He failed in his bid to win in Boston last year settling for fifth place in 2:08:55 and finished 14th at the World Championships in Doha, Qatar.

"The fear of contracting the virus made it hard to train in the first place. People were scared and remained indoors. But I have found a way to train in Nakuru and I have been enjoying my runs with the hope of competing in Boston," Kirui said.

But with news coming in that the Berlin Marathon has been cancelled, Kirui is still fearful his hard work in training might go down the drain should



"My focus is to run one marathon before the year ends and I have no clue if it will be in London or New York. That task is being handled by my manager."

Former Berlin Marathon champion Gladys Cherono

organisers in Boston opt not to stage the event altogether until 2021.

"September is not far away. Already there will be no marathon in Berlin, but we hope America will open up and allow us to compete. People need to return back to life and see what sports can offer. I can only pray to God for things to change," he added.

Kirui's best performance since his win in London was a second-place finish at the 2018 Boston Marathon.

He was also sixth in Chicago in the same year. But he is optimistic of performing better later this season.

"There will always be some race that will boost your career and I believe after a

2:18:11

■ Best time for former Berlin Marathon champion Gladys Cherono

turbulent time in the last two years, I can win again and stabilise my form. There is a lot of competition from the younger athletes, but that is what is helping me remain focused. A small slip will be hard to recover from," added Kirui.

Of importance to Kirui is to return to competition and gauge how his solo training has fared.

"When the world is back to normal, we will be glad and happy. For now, our health and safety is the priority. But while we maintain a safe distance, we need to focus and strategise on how to compete again," he said.

Aid

Ruiru rolls out caddies kitty as game slows

Over 100 caddies and casual workers at Ruiru Sports Club were beneficiaries of food donations made by members from the facility to cushion them from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The caddies were rendered jobless after the government ordered closure of golf clubs, which rendered all caddies jobless.

With no golf action going on at the moment, caddies have been faced with difficult times as they struggle to make ends meet.

The restrictions have also left most of the casual workers with no source of income after the club shut down its services.

"The pandemic has practically grounded the ecosystem around the club, prompting the need for members to chip in and support those affected. It's a dire case as these people no longer have any known source of earnings," said the club's outgoing captain Peter Mwaura.

Permanent staff at the club have, however, been sent on paid leave. Only skeleton staff, who are working in shifts, have been left to maintain the premises and the golf course.

To support the caddies and casuals, members have been contributing directly to a kitty run by a select committee made up of Ciira Kiliyuka, Nyambura Karja and David Kibui.

The team also constitutes of the incoming golf captain Thomas Mwaura, vice captain elect Jessy Ndegwa and incoming Lady captain Edith Ngugi.

Some other members led by James Njagu and Dixon Warungi contributed foodstuff worth over Sh50,000. [Standard Sports]

In Brief

Germany. Bundesliga to wait until May 6

Germany's Bundesliga will need to wait another week to find out about a possible restart after the government on Thursday delayed any decision over a league resumption amid the coronavirus pandemic. The cash-strapped clubs and league had been hoping for the government to give the green light and end a two-month suspension but Chancellor Angela Merkel told a news conference any decision on if and when sports activities could resume would be taken on May 6. "It is absolutely necessary that we remain disciplined and stick to health guidelines," Merkel said, adding that sporting issues would be dealt with at a government meeting next week. [Reuters]

Spain. LaLiga to test players for virus

La Liga is planning to start testing players for the coronavirus next week as president Javier Tebas bids to restart the season, a league source told AFP yesterday. "These tests must begin next week," the source told AFP, as the Spanish league's protocol governing return to competition includes COVID-19 screening for players and coaching staff. Daily sports newspaper AS and Marca report La Liga is planning to carry out the tests between Tuesday and Thursday next week, after which they would then be able to resume individual training programmes within 48 hours. [AFP]

EPL. Finishing season good for football — Jose

Tottenham Hotspur manager Jose Mourinho believes resuming the Premier League season, halted due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and playing it to completion will be good for the sport. Premier League clubs are set to meet today to discuss ways to finish the season. Spurs' first-team squad returned to the club's facilities for individual training sessions this week as they prepare for a possible resumption. "If we play the remaining nine matches this season it will be good for every one of us. It will be good for football, for the Premier League." [Reuters]

Coronavirus. Betika donates Sh20 million to sporting fraternity to help athletes during pandemic

Betika boosts virus-hit sports fraternity with Sh20million

Muguna and Kimani receive Sh5million on behalf of KPL and NSL players.

By Rodgers Eshitemi
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Leading online gaming firm Betika yesterday donated Sh20 million to the sporting fraternity to help cushion athletes from the ravages of coronavirus pandemic.

The Ministry of Sports, Culture and Heritage is expected to receive Sh15 million to beef up its kitty to support sportsmen and women during this difficult times with the remaining Sh5 million going directly to Kenyan Premier League (KPL) and National Super League (NSL) players.

Betika, who are the official sponsors of NSL, in partnership with FKF yesterday unveiled a Sh5.3 million package to assist over 1030 players across the country.

The partnership which has provided some relief to the 17 KPL and 19 NSL clubs, will see each of the 30 players from the clubs receive Sh5,000 directly in their mobile wallets.

Both leagues were suspended in March with ten round of matches remaining, leaving most of the players and their families in desperate situation.

Receiving the cheque on behalf of the 36 clubs, Gor Mahia captain Kenneth Muguna and his Nairobi City Stars counterpart Anthony Kimani thanked Betika for their noble gesture.

"Thank you Betika and FKF for this kind gesture towards us," said Muguna. "We feel appreciated. Never before has football been suspended to this extent and this token, though not enough, will go a long way in cushioning us against the economic effects of the global pandemic," added Kimani.

Speaking during the cheque hand over ceremony at Goal Project Offices,



John Mbatia (left) Betika's Business Head and Nick Mwendwa. [Standard Sports]

Betika's Business Head John Mbatia reassured his company's commitment to supporting Kenyan sports.

"We are dealing with an extraordinary crisis that requires all of us as Kenyans to take precautionary measures as guided by the Ministry of Health and also provide support to the men and women of this great country to be able to manage better the tough times they are going through," said Mbatia.

"We share in CS Amina's call to help the sports men and women during these tough times which is at the very

Betika's Sh20million donation breakdown

- Ministry of Sports: Sh15 million
- KPL/NSL players: Sh5 million
- Each player: Sh5,000

core of everything we are about. We are deeply rooted in the local communities and by giving our support to the Kenyan Government relief fund, Ministry of

Sports and other Sports organizations, we have the potential to build a stronger response capacity so that our communities are better equipped to face the outbreak.

Nick Mwendwa said: I want to thank Betika for this kind gesture towards KPL and NSL clubs.

"As a Federation, we remain committed to exploring measures that cushion our players, right from the grassroots to the top tier leagues, during this time when football has been largely affected."

Coronavirus

PSG crowned Ligue 1 champions as season ended amid coronavirus crisis

Paris St Germain have been awarded their seventh Ligue 1 title in eight years after the season was ended amid the COVID-19 crisis, the French League (LFP) said yesterday.

PSG had a comfortable 12-point lead over second-placed Olympique de Marseille when the season was suspended with 10 games left as part of French government's measures to contain the spread of the novel coronavirus last month.

With some clubs having played 27 games and others 28, the LFP drew the standings

according to a performance index - the number of points per game weighed by head-to-head record.

PSG therefore ended the season on 2.52 points with OM on 2 and third-placed Stade Rennais on 1.79.

According to the standings, Marseille qualify for the Champions League group stage with Rennes going through a qualification playoff.

The LFP also crowned Lorient as Ligue 2 champions in a conference call after the standings were frozen after all teams had

played 28 matches.

"We have decided there would be two promotions and two relegations", Didier Quillot, the chief executive of the French League, told a news conference. It means Amiens and Toulouse will be relegated and Lorient and Lens will be promoted.

Lorient had 54 points after losing four of their last five games with Lens on 53, leaving third-placed AC Ajaccio (52) and fourth-placed Troyes (51) in Ligue 2.

"There might be appeals but our decisions are solid," Quillot

added. "We understand, respect and support the decisions taken by the French government to stop the league. Health, as the government has always said, must be a priority for all of us." PSG president Nasser al Khelaifi, who dedicated the title to the caregivers involved in fighting COVID-19, said in a statement.

"I would like to thank the players, the coach, the sporting and medical staff as well as all the employees of the club for their great work. This trophy rewards their daily commitment," he added. [Reuters]



Paris Saint-Germain's Brazilian forward Neymar Jr (R) and Paris Saint-Germain's Brazilian defender Thiago Silva. [Fle]

FKF crisis. Audited FKF's financial accounts to be given to caretaker committee

Allow Amina to form FKF committee, clubs ask Tribunal

Mwendwa faces contempt suit as protagonists move Sports Disputes Tribunal to order Sports Cabinet Secretary to constitute a Normalisation Committee and protect federation assets.

By Everlyne Kwamboka
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The Sports Disputes Tribunal (SDT) has been asked to direct Sports Cabinet Secretary Amina Mohamed to constitute a Normalisation Committee to run the affairs of troubled Football Kenya Federation (FKF) pursuant to Article 54 of the Sports Act 2013.

The SDT has also been moved to issue orders to preserve the assets of FKF and call for the audited accounts of the financial year 2019 as part of a report to be handed over to a caretaker committee.

The prayers are contained in documents filed at the tribunal by lawyers CBG Ouma, Nelson Odongo and journalist Milton Nyakundi who have applied for orders to protect the federation's assets from vandalism and access by unauthorized persons.

This follows the Tribunal's ruling on March 17 that the term of office of Nick Mwendwa and his National Executive was at an end - having been elected on a four-year term on February 10, 2016.

More than 50 football clubs, who are parties in the suit filed before the tribunal said through their lawyer Charles BG Ouma that the orders sought are to protect the federation's assets from being wasted, alienated and abused by Nick Mwendwa and his team.

In the documents filed at the tribunal, Ouma pointed out that there are dangers of the assets being wasted given the fact that the term of office for Mwendwa and other officials ended in February and FIFA declined the tribunal's request to appoint a normalisation committee.

"The former officials of the FKF have continued to illegally run the affairs of the FKF and there is a danger that the assets of the FKF are in danger of being wasted, alienated and abused by the former officials of the FKF," reads part of the documents filed at the tribunal's registry. If the orders sought are granted, the federation's bank accounts are to be also frozen until such a time the committee shall have been constituted to manage the finances of the federation or other orders to be issued by the tribunal chaired John Ohaga.

This the clubs claim is because "the former NEC officials are signatories to the bank accounts and if allowed to transact business, the federation risks financial loss."

The clubs also want the tribunal to direct the National Transport



Nick Mwendwa (centre), Dorris Petra (right) and FKF CEO Barry Otieno on October 29 last year. [File]

"Nothing presently stops the NEC members from illegally selling, transferring, and or offering as security for any form of facility to the disadvantage of the members of the Federation."

CBG Ouma, lawyer for the interested parties

"The effect of the letter from Barry was a response from Veron Moessengo-Omba dated 25th March 2020 challenging the judicial authority of this Tribunal with regards to Football matters in Kenya. This letter by Barry Otieno on behalf of FKF was an unwarranted attempt to use third parties to run away from the outcome of this case."

Nelson Odongo, lawyer represented a section of interested parties.

Authority (NTSA) to allow caveats to be placed on all vehicles belonging to the national football body as a way of preserving them pending a solution



Lawyer CBG Ouma. [File]



Lawyer Nelson Odongo. [File]

Key timelines

- February 10, 2020: Nick Mwendwa's 4-year term ends
- March 17, 2020: Tribunal requested FIFA to form a Normalization Committee but this was rejected
- March 18, 2020: Barry Otieno wrote a letter to FIFA official Veron Moessengo-Omba

on the leadership stalemate.

Lawyer Odongo has asked the Tribunal to determine whether former officials of FKF are in contempt of the various court orders.

"There have been other numerous occasions whereby Nick Mwendwa has passed off as FKF President despite being fully aware of this Honorable Tribunal's ruling."

Odongo also claims in the application at the Tribunal that, "Barry

Otieno (FKF CEO), in contempt and blatant disobedience of this Honorable Tribunal and its orders wrote a letter to Veron Moessengo-Omba of FIFA without the prior consent and approval of the Tribunal seeking to be "protected" from the decision of this tribunal, this led to the undermining of the sovereignty of the laws of the Republic of Kenya and the authority of this Honorable Tribunal."

The applications are a follow up to the ruling by the Tribunal on March 17 where the SDT cancelled FKF's elections it had intended for March 27 for inserting unlawful eligibility criteria not supported by their Constitution. It also affirmed the FKF NEC's term of office had ended.

The former officials have five days to file their replies. Meanwhile, the Tribunal will convene via video conference on May 5 to deliberate on the way forward after FIFA declined to form a Normalisation Committee.

Gaming

Kisumu County's Ogotu bags Sh818, 496 on Odibets virtual bet

A mechanic from Kisumu County has won Sh818, 496 on Odibets after placing a bet with Sh3.

The winner, identified only as Ogotu predicted four corners in four different matches on the Odibets' e-sports platform which comprises of FIFA simulated games.

Ogotu said he got to know about Odibets after his team received playing kits from Odibets courtesy of the Odimaani initiative that saw the betting firm kit over 3,000 teams participating in county leagues countrywide.

"My team, Gor Artisans was one of the beneficiaries of the Odimaani initiative early this year. This prompted me to start betting on Odibets not knowing one day a big day like this will come," the team manager said when journalists visited him at his workplace.

"I want to invest the money in my garage business as well as the team I'm managing," the jovial mechanic told journalists.

Odibets has virtual games on their website for punters especially after European leagues were halted due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Virtual betting is a kind of betting availed by some bookies, in Kenya and the world, where customers can place bets on computer-generated games that function just like real matches with real teams and players.

The football matches are 'real' but much shorter, so you don't have to wait for a whole 90 minutes for the match to end. The virtual matches usually take about two minutes each, but the winning value remains the same as those of actual matches and their odds.

A review on Odi League, for example, one can place their virtual bets on various markets just like they would on real sports bets.

Punters also have the opportunity to experience incredible deals with boosted odds. For instance, new clients get to receive a Sh20 bonus on their first bet on Odi League.

Are you the next lucky winner? Join the virtual betting bandwagon to stand a chance to win like Ogotu who's now smiling all the way to the bank. [Standard Sports]





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FKF crisis



KPL decries FKF's verdict to end season

The Kenyan Premier League (KPL) have denounced Football Kenya Federation's (FKF) decision to cancel the 2019/20 season and declare Gor Mahia champions.

FKF president Nick Mwendwa yesterday took to his twitter account to crown K'Ogala champions as well as announce Nairobi City Stars' promotion back to KPL based on both league's current standings.

The football season's conclusion has been thrown into doubt owing to the coronavirus pandemic ravaging the world.

The league, which was supposed to end on May 23 was suspended in March with Gor Mahia sitting at the top with less than ten round of matches to go.

But KPL, whose mandate to run the league expires on September 24 2020, have said the decision on matters of the league can only be made by either the KPL Governing Council or the FKF-KPL Joint Executive Committee.

In a letter dated April 30 signed by KPL CEO Jack Oguda and addressed to FKF CEO Barry Otieno, Oguda stated that league managers will not be party to decisions that contravene the Sports Disputes Tribunal (SDT) ruling on FKF-KPL Agreement on January 10, 2017.

"Reference is made to social media reports appearing with regards to a determination that FKF has eventually declared the KPL 2019/20 season cancelled and declared Gor Mahia FC champions that is in disregard to the contents of the letter dated 30th April, 2020 sent and delivered via email at 11:47am," said Oguda.

"KPL, who have the legal mandate to run the league would wish to be furnished with the minutes of the meeting which deliberated upon the matter in question with the subsequent resolution already conveyed to the public by FKF.

He added: "For avoidance of doubt this is to bring to your attention that KPL will not be party to such decisions that is contentious with the SDT ruling delivered on the 17th March, 2020 and sustained by the SDT further directions issued on 24th April, 2020."

Bidco United who have been 'promoted' to KPL by virtue of being second on the NSL log, said they would only comment after receiving official communication.

[Rodgers Eshitemi]

Football. Showdown looms as KPL rejects FKF's proposals to use current standings to determine league winners

Mwendwa tweets Gor to KPL 'glory', triggers new chaos

The former FKF boss on the rampage, declares K'Ogala 'champions' citing COVID-19 and a Caf letter Kenyan Premier League says was completely misunderstood.

By Rodgers Eshitemi
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A showdown is looming between Kenyan Premier League (KPL) and Football Kenya Federation (FKF) after the FA cancelled the league and declared Gor Mahia the 'champions' without the former's consent.

KPL, FKF Betway Cup and National Super League's conclusion has all been thrown into doubt due to the coronavirus pandemic that is ravaging the world.

While FKF president Nick Mwendwa yesterday declared Gor Mahia the 'champions' and announced Nairobi City Stars 'promotion back' to top-flight football basing on the league standings as per FKF's rule book, the league organisers (KPL) have stressed that they will not rush a decision over how this season will finish.

KPL, which was supposed to end on May 23 was suspended in March with less than ten rounds of matches to go as a precautionary measure against the spread of the deadly virus. NSL also still ten matches.

Mwendwa's announcement came barely a few days after the federation received a letter from Confederation of African Football (Caf) asking the federation to inform them on the fate of the league and the Cup by May 5.

But it is not clear whether K'Ogala will be handed a trophy and the prize money because by the time of its suspension, the league which has been grappling with a financial crisis had

not yet procured this season's trophy as well as paid Gor their Sh4 million title-winning prize money for last season.

"Ooh and Congratulations Gor Mahia! You are champions once again and you will represent Kenya on the champions league next season," read a post on Mwendwa's twitter account.

"Nairobi City Stars !! Welcome to the Premier league."

Caf's letter dated April 26 to its member federations signed by acting General Secretary Abdelmounaim stated: "We would like to enquire about the current situation of your national league/National Cup (ranking, number of pending matches, etc.) as well as the strategies you intend to apply to finalise those competitions be it through completion or annulment."

But FKF's decision has been met with a lot of resistance from other clubs led by AFC Leopards, Kakamega Homeboyz and Tusker.

Disappointed by FKF's move, KPL CEO Jack Oguda has told off the federation insisting that they cannot impose a decision regarding the league on them. KPL's term to run the league ends on September 24 2020.

Oguda said it will

be absurd for FKF to cancel the league yet Caf itself has not yet completed its own continental competitions (Champions League and Confederation Cup).

"Unless FKF doesn't want to consult us, our report on the situation of the league still remains the same. KPL is the one running the league and not FKF. Remember, KPL and the clubs are all members of FKF, but we were given the mandate to run the league. By the way, we've not received any communication from FKF regarding this issue," Oguda told Standard Sports.

"But what Caf wants is a report on the league. Our report is very clear and we think we can conclude the league depending on the government's directive. Even Caf themselves have not cancelled their competitions."

And with the Sports Disputes Tribunal (SDT) having ruled last month that the term of the FKF's National Executive Committee (NEC) had ended, Oguda says it is only the Governing Council that can decide on the fate of the league.

"As for now, FKF cannot declare Gor Mahia the champions or decide teams to be relegated. That decision can only be done by the Governing Council itself because we still have a mandate to run the league. The Council will then inform the FKF Secretariat of its decision. FKF cannot impose a decision on us because we've a decision making process in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between KPL and FKF," said Oguda.

"When you look at that MOU, there is Joint Executive Committee (JEC) comprising of FKF president, two NEC members, KPL chairman and two KPL members supposed to address issues like this," Oguda said.



A Gor Mahia fan with a replica trophy. [Bonface Ojendo]

FKF-KPL Joint Executive Committee members

- FKF President
- KPL Chairman
- Two FKF NEC members
- Two KPL EC members
- FKF CEO and KPL CEO (Ex-official members)
- FKF's Decision means
- Gor Mahia-KPL champions
- Sony Sugar and Chemell Sugar-Both relegated from KPL
- Nairobi City Stars and Bidco United-Both promoted to KPL



Computer sales, maintainance,
repair(Software/Hardware)
upgrade, accessories, Data
recovery