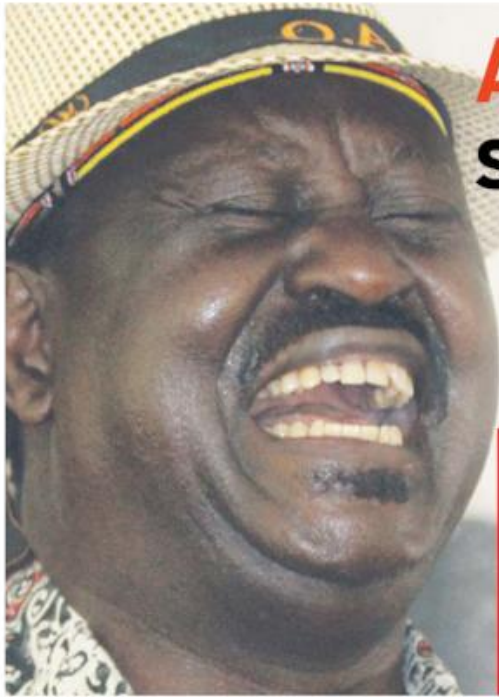




Advantage Raila: Why his star's shining bright again

Once written off as a spent force who had utilised his last bullet, ODM leader not only confounds supporters and naysayers with a steady resurgence that has hit its peak with the Jubilee civil war, making him a formidable player in 2022 political matrix, **Page 19**

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INSIDE TODAY



National, P.12



Inside DP's secret talks with Nandi elders

Leaders open up. Senior members of the Talai clan, who hosted DP Ruto for a cultural intercession on Friday, open up on their two-hour interaction with the country's Number Two.

Grim truth that shook President

Horns of a dilemma. Doomsday scenarios of deaths in the tens of thousands and unmanageable Covid-19 infections stopped a President intent on reopening economy. Instead, he eases curfew hours, lifts some restrictions. **Pages 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10 & 11**

45,000

Deaths: The number of people projected to die of coronavirus by October this year, if restrictions currently in place are relaxed by 60 per cent.

40,000

The number of deaths by November if restrictions are eased by 40 per cent

30,000

Number of deaths by December if the measures are relaxed by 20 per cent



DEFICIT Taxman expects to raise just Sh1.62 trillion from taxes as the economy continues to take a hit due to the impact of coronavirus on the economy

Tough days ahead as KRA to collect just enough for debts, salaries

Debt repayment has by far outstripped the amount that the government is spending on development projects

By Macharia Kamau and Wilfred Ayaga
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The money the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) will collect in the next 12 months will just be enough to repay loans falling due and salaries for civil servants.

This puts in jeopardy, not just President Uhuru Kenyatta's pet projects under the Big Four Agenda and other development undertakings, but also puts the National Treasury in a tight spot in mobilising resources to fight the coronavirus pandemic.

The country will spend Sh904.7 billion in debt repayments over the 2020/21 financial year, taking 55 per cent of the Sh1.62 trillion that KRA expects to collect from taxes, which will take a hit due to the impact of coronavirus on the economy.

Development projects

However, in many instances, the government rolls over its debt, giving it room to breathe during a financial year, although some of this involves taking more expensive debt to pay loans that are due.

Another Sh800 billion will go towards paying of government officials' salaries. Kenya's wage bill stood at Sh795 billion in the financial year to June 2019.

Debt repayment has by far outstripped the amount the government is spending on development projects, which is estimated at Sh583.9 billion the 2020/21 financial year.

This has alarmed Parliament, which now wants Treasury to abandon commercial loans and at the same time restructure loans the country is currently servicing.

In a report on Thursday, National Assembly's Budget and Appropriations Committee said Treasury needed to urgently review its debt sustainability strategies through measures such as "temporary abandon-

ment of contracting new expensive commercial loans as well as discussions for debt restructuring with Kenya's largest external creditors."

"The committee has established that the cost of debt financing actually consumes more financial resources than development expenditure, for which the debt is obtained," said the Kimani Ichungwa-chaired committee in a report on the budget for the 2020/21 financial year.

"Indeed, since 2016/17 financial year, public debt servicing has outstripped development expenditure in the 2020/21 financial year, it is estimated to be double the amount allocated towards capital expenditure and net lending."

These sentiments are shared by the Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO), which noted that the government should move fast to get holidays on loan repayments from Kenya lenders, at least until the economy starts to recover.

"A major decline in external receipts, remittances and exports will dangerously expose the country to external debt repayment challenges. To avoid such unprecedented occurrence, the government should expeditiously seek moratoriums on debt repayment for at least one year," said PBO in a report on the budget estimates.

The Budget and Appropriations Committee's report tabled in Parliament on Thursday also noted that Kenya's debt management strategy is falling apart in the face of Covid-19. Worse is that Treasury appears not to have factored the coronavirus pandemic while preparing

"Prior to the Covid-19 crisis, both debt service to revenue and debt service to exports ratios had exceeded the internationally accepted debt sustainability threshold."

- Budget and Appropriations Committee

the budget for the next financial year. It adds that the impact of the pandemic on the Kenyan economy might result in debt distress.

"Given the impact of Covid-19 pandemic on revenue mobilisation, exports, production and other contingent liabilities vis-à-vis expenditure demands, there is a high likelihood that fiscal consolidation measures will be hard to adhere to," said the Budget and Appropriations Committee.

"Prior to the Covid-19 crisis, both debt service to revenue and debt service to exports ratios had exceeded the internationally accepted debt sustainability thresholds. As the impact of the pandemic continues to unfold, forecasts indicate that these ratios will worsen while others will breach their thresholds."

In a recent assessment, the IMF raised Kenya's risk of debt distress from moderate to high due to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

At Sh904.7 billion, Kenya's public debt servicing expenses constitute the largest portion of the consolidated funds service (CFS) - expenses that have to be paid whatever the circumstances - expenses. Total CFS budget will be Sh1.03 trillion, with pensions and other expenses taking Sh123.4 billion.

Of the Sh904.7 billion that will go to servicing debt, 51 per cent (Sh463 billion) will go to paying interest rates on loans while the balance of Sh441.6 billion towards redemption payment.

Total expenditure by the Executive - which includes spending by ministries and independent commissions - is estimated at Sh1.827 trillion in the budget estimates presented by the Budget Committee to Parliament. This is slightly more than the Sh1.751 trillion that Treasury had proposed.

The recommendations by the Budget Committee also increased Parliament's allocation for the coming financial

Total expenditure
Sh2.733tr

Development expenditure
Sh584.9b

Recurrent expenditure
Sh1.81b

County governments
Sh369b

Equitable share Sh316.5b

Conditional transfers Sh53.4b

Tax revenues
Sh1.62tr

Consolidated Fund Services (CFS)

- **Sh904.7 billion** (interest rate and debt redemption)
- **Sh463 billion** interest rates
- **Sh441.6 billion** (redemption repayments)

Sh123.4 billion

Pensions and other expenses

Sh795 billion

Wage bill

year to Sh377 billion, up from Sh35 billion that Treasury had recommended.

While drafting the budget, Treasury had noted that so as to give the government some resources to fight Covid19, there had been an agreement that the expenditure for the different arms be reduced, with the executive's allocation being capped at Sh1.751 trillion while that of Parliament would come down to Sh35.2 billion and Sh18.05 billion for Judiciary. In the numbers the estimates that were tabled for the second reading on Thursday, it is

the allocation to Judiciary that have been retained at this recommendation.

The allocations also include Sh369 billion to the county governments, which comprise Sh316.5 billion (equitable share) and Sh53.4 billion (conditional transfers).

Suba South MP and Minority Leader in the National Assembly John Mbadia, who is also a member of the committee, noted that this year's budget has been tough as the government grapples with the impact of the pandemic, which will result in substantially low tax revenues while demanding more resources.

"The budget was very tight, so we could not make many changes to it. We however slashed Parliament budget by about 50 per cent especially on travel," he said.

While the committee proposed minor changes to Treasury's proposals, there are however a few casualties as well as beneficiaries in the committee's re-balancing act.

Among the ministries that will see their budgets slashed include Health, if the recommendations by the Budget and Appropriations Committee go through.

Most critical

The Ministry, perhaps the most critical in the fight against Covid-19 will be given Sh11 billion, which is slightly lower than the Sh14 billion that Treasury had proposed to allocate it. The health docket had received Sh2 billion in the current financial year. There are however other measures including additional funds that the government has pumped into the health care systems as well as other areas in the course of this year to help the country fight the coronavirus pandemic.

The National Treasury is among the major beneficiaries, with the Committee recommending an additional Sh20.8 billion as well as another Sh9 billion the State Department of Planning, which is also domiciled in Treasury.

The Office of the President has also seen its allocation substantially go up following the inclusion of the Nairobi Metropolitan Service within the office. NMS has been given Sh28 billion. It had not been allocated any funds when Treasury was drafting the budget for the 2020/21 financial, with expectations that it would share funds with the Nairobi County government. There has since been a tussle between the two entities.

Also a winner is the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife, which has been allocated an additional Sh5.88 billion (of which Sh3.88 billion will go to tourism and Sh2 billion to wildlife). The Ministry faces the tough job of getting Kenya back on the map as a tourist destination in the post Covid-19 era.



Treasury CS Ukur Yatani

BEHIND THE MASK Cosmetic products and make-up artists bear the heavy brunt

Ugly face of masks as beauty, dating suffer

Wearing of masks has blocked one essential aspect of human interaction, blurring the lines of expression and conduct.

By Stevens Muendo and Kirsten Kanja
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Locked down in Dubai where the Covid-19 pandemic travel advisory found her, commercial model, beautician and entrepreneur Huddah Monroe is a damsel in distress.

In such unprecedented times, just like many other enterprises, her cosmetic business has suffered huge losses and so has her brand whose major drive is through day-to-day Instagram posts.

The 'slay queen' would post photos of her globetrotting rendezvous, enjoying luxury holidays in the finest beaches and hotels across the world. She would be commanding online numbers with a new release of lipstick and wellness brands.

Besides, her sensational semi-nude posts, some promoting lingerie brands, would still be a social stir. For the last one month or so, Huddah's pages have been on a traffic down-low as her interactions ceased and her mouth masked.

And she is not alone. Life behind the mask and on quarantine has affected many celebrities and other prominent people's businesses and social lifestyles.

With image being everything for celebrities, the face mask has compromised artists' fashion and beauty looks, with make-up artists who attend to them rendered jobless.

No more lipstick

Not even the tens of stars keeping their fans engaged through online shows care to keep most of the beauty and fashion details they would if masks were not on.

"With the mask on, not many ladies care to put on lipstick and other make-up. Besides, the mask can really get uncomfortable. I still wear lipstick as much as it still gets wiped inside the mask because I am used to doing it and it is part of my beauty regime," says Vivian Wambui, aka Vivian Kenya, a musician.

"How your face looks is a major aspect in a celebrity's fashion image and I must admit the face mask has compromised our general physical



Secular music singer Victoria Kimani. Below: Pambazuka CEO and events organiser Leakey Odera. [Elvis Ogina/Standard]

presentation even as some try to incorporate designer masks as part of their fashion coordination."

Showbiz personality Shaffie Weru popularised the French Crop beard style in Kenya. The mask does not appear to appreciate this style as it covers an important part of his identity.

"Even with masks on, we have been trying to keep our trademark looks. I still groom, with my barber giving me home services, as I still have to look neat during my online live show," says Weru.

According to Pendo Karimi, a 27-year-old who runs a cosmetics stall on Moi Avenue, Nairobi, business has dwindled since the pandemic broke as "only a few people are using make-up".

She says besides the mask being the main reason why ladies are not embracing beauty products as much as they used to, lack of wedding ceremonies, birthday parties,

baby showers and other social gatherings where clients would seek her services has also led to reduced cosmetics sales.

"I have been a make-up artist for a number of celebrities for years and there has been no time my business has been affected like it has during this season. The 'face business' is not possible during this 'no contact' age and we can only hope that things get better for us to get back," says Sally Wambui, a make-up artist who serves a number of local musicians.

Susan Kaityany, the CEO of Posh Palace Hair Studio and Spa, is crying out too. She says the mask has turned the tables on the industry.

"There have been financial implications

too. We still have to keep staff paid and rent settled even with the business dragging. However, clients have started to come back and we are optimistic that things will get better," says Kaityany.

Eric Simiyu, popularly known as One Wash, grooms celebrities such as Bahati, Willy Paul, Alikiba and Antoneosoul, among others. He says things have never been the same since the control measures were announced.

Social behaviour

But away from hair and beauty, masks have also affected people's social behaviour.

"When we interact, we read emotions. Masks are limiting reception of the emotions and interrupting non-verbal cues essential for effective communication," says Dr Josephine Omondi, a psychologist.

This means the day-to-day interactions we have had our whole lives have changed drastically, and we are forced to focus on body language signs that are visible, such as recognising friends' walking styles and looking to the eyes for expressions.

Meeting new people has become increasingly risky, thus impacting dating and putting new relationships through a hurdle. Lockdown measures have also limited meet ups, therefore limiting new interactions.

"The virus has caused a new normal, forcing us to wear masks for our own protection and those around us. During early courtship, a person will approach you, potentially attracted by your face. However, now that full facial image is obstructed by masks, it is not easy to identify likely partners," says Dr Faith Nafila, a psychologist.



Comic relief

It all ends in tears after memes fail to sway president

By last weekend, the countdown had begun. People were waiting for the speech that would "declare their freedom". Online and off the Internet, talk was on the things that people wanted to do once the cessation of movement, put in place to contain spread of Covid-19, was lifted. It had been more than two months of restricted movement and curfew, and Kenyans were hoping for change as President Uhuru Kenyatta delivered his eagerly awaited speech from State House yesterday.

There were those who longed to walk into a bar in the darkness of night. There they would caress the frothy bottles of their favourite drinks and stagger out at the first strike of dawn like they used to before coronavirus struck. There were those who wanted to travel out of town to see their loved ones after the sudden separation that came a few days before Easter. Others craved for when they would not have to hurry home, their hearts beating with anxiety, hoping to beat the 6:50:59 stroke of the clock before falling into the hands of police for violating curfew.

The memes told it all. People were waiting with bated breathe. A revised version of the Sarafina "Freedom is coming" song was created to reinforce the anticipation that awaited the President's speech.

"Saturday the 6th feels like visiting day. You just don't know if your father will show up with food or just a newspaper," read one of the memes that went viral. In a hilarious attempt to sway the President's mind, letters were written on social media to beg the Head of State to ease the regulations.

"Best performing President, fashion killer, your eight year legacy unmatched, his Excellency, too young to retire, please do not disappoint us..." they teased on social media.

The President's speech was scheduled for slightly before midday, but Twitter lit up way before 5am.

"Wake up sir! Somebody should wake the President up and tell him we have already showered and waiting for him to release us," was one of the memes that was highly circulated; a cheeky reference to how students in boarding school would wait for the gates to open after a speech by the principal on closing day.

By midday, the anxiety could be felt through the screen. The speech had been moved to 2pm, sparking a wave of more memes. In between were serious posts and comments from people who were desperately waiting for the president to open up the country.

"I am a salonist who had gone to do makeup on a client in Mombasa before the cessation of movement was announced. Then things happened so fast and I am now stuck at my client's house for two months now. I have been watching television since 6am," said Linda Achieng' who was hoping to return to Nairobi.

And when the President stepped up to speak, a few minutes after 4pm, he had a different answer. The answer to those who wanted to hold a celebratory party about their "freedom" was 'No'. Kenyatta admitted that he had seen the hundreds of memes on social media, perhaps smiled a bit at some of them, like the one that warned men from sending fare to their girlfriends to travel to the city, but he was not ready to ease regulations yet.

"I saw the memes talking about freedom is coming. This is not about freedom or independence. It is better to be alive than have a few days of leisure and die," he said, deflating the hopes of those who had waited for something different.

"It has ended in tears! Those who had packed and were ready to travel should unpack. It is 30 more days," read a post on Facebook.

The only glimmer of hope were the additional hours that had been added, pushing the curfew to 9pm in the evening to 4am.

"All is not lost. We can still eat *mutura* which is definitely tastier when eaten in the dark. 9pm is better than 7pm," wrote George Wanjohi on Twitter.

[Mercy Adhiambo]

Kenyatta before and after President Uhuru Kenyatta's speech. Pict: @UhuruKenya



Uhuru Kenyatta. Curfew extended for another 20 days...the us said. I have ended in primary tears.



Curfew extended to 9:00pm. Me and my friends walking at 8:30pm tonight. @UhuruKenya



NOT YET TIME While lockdown on Eastleigh and Old Town Mombasa have been lifted, curfew and restriction of movement into and out of the city remain in place

Grim numbers that made Uhuru think twice on economy

The president said he was hellbent on reopening the economy until medical experts repulsed him with scenarios that spelt doom for the country.

By Graham Kajilwa
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A worst case scenario of 45,000 Kenyans dying of Covid-19 jolted President Uhuru Kenyatta to rescind his intended plan to reopen the economy.

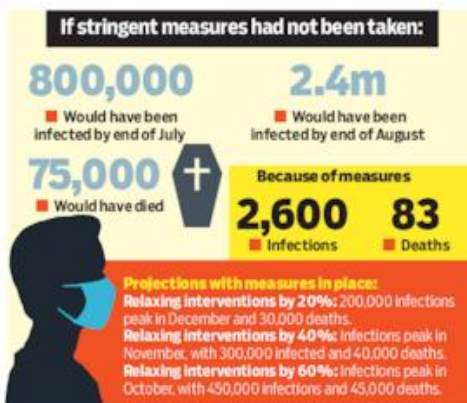
In a confession made at his highly anticipated national address yesterday, President Kenyatta said he was hellbent on reopening the economy until medical experts repulsed him with grim scenarios that spelt doom for the country.

His intentions, propelled by latest rankings of Kenya as the third largest economy in sub-Saharan Africa this week, stood no chance, with evidence tabled before him that countries that reopened at first wind of normalcy soon thereafter recoiled in mass death waves.

He noted the spikes of infections in South Korea, Pakistan and Malaysia after re-opening of religious gatherings just when the cases had seemingly reduced.

"With these two view points on the table, I was not dealing with a right and wrong; I was caught in between two rights. And this clash of two rights placed me on the horns of dilemma," said the President.

Marathon meetings held by national Covid-19 committees and with the President on Thurs-



day and Friday are said to have dragged on for hours, with medical experts vouching for status quo as government officials demanded greater justification for not reopening the economy.

And President Kenyatta appeared to allude to this stake out in his address to the nation. The experts were tasked to draw out concrete scenarios to back up their arguments, scenarios which ended up thawing the President's resolve to reopen.

Disappointed people

Yesterday, he pulled them along to the national address at State House to justify to Kenyans the basis for the decision which disappointed some people who had placed all hopes on reopening.

In one of the models he tabled, by October, Kenya would be getting into the peak of infections with 450,000 cases if the govern-

ment relaxed the ongoing measures of curfew, lockdown and ban of social gatherings by 60 per cent.

If these measures were relaxed by 40 per cent, the numbers would be 40,000 deaths from 300,000 infections by November. Relaxing the restrictions by 20 per cent was no better as there would be 200,000 infections with 30,000 deaths by December.

President Kenyatta felt the numbers could not be ignored or lives sacrificed at the altar of economic needs. He knew his announcement would end in tears for those who had counted on him to return to their normal.

With this, he slapped Kenyans with an extension of the curfew by 30 days. The curfew however will have variations; instead of 7pm to 5am, it will run from 9pm to 4am.

"This variation should enable



President Uhuru Kenyatta addresses the nation on the coronavirus pandemic from State House, Nairobi, yesterday. (PSCU)

Kenyans have a full work day schedule," he said.

The President also lifted the lockdown order on Eastleigh, Nairobi and Old Town Mombasa effective today, as well as in counties of Kilifi and Kwale.

Mombasa, Nairobi and Mandera counties will still be on lockdown for another 30 days due to the increased number of cases.

President Uhuru said if the restrictions put in place had not been taken, the case load in the country would be getting to 800,000 by next month.

Early interventions

With the epidemiological model that one person infects two more people, the number would have hit 2.4 million in 21 days.

"By end of August, 75,000 Kenyans would have died from the virus," he said.

But due to the early interventions put in place just two days after the first case was reported on March 13, the number of deaths now stand at 83 while the total positive cases is 2,600.

The President said it was necessary for the country to embrace the grim reality of its

New rules

State to release home-based care guidelines for coronavirus patients,

The government is tomorrow expected to release guidelines for home-based care for coronavirus patients.

The new plan is aimed at easing the burden on already overwhelmed public hospitals many of which are nearing their full capacities, President Uhuru Kenyatta said yesterday.

The president said home-based care would be necessary "because 80 per cent of Covid-19 patients in Kenya, like the rest of the world, are asymptomatic".

Kenyatta said public hospitals in Siaya and Busia counties, for instance, are already overwhelmed with the former

having only 10 isolation beds.

"If there is a surge in infections in these two counties, the health care system will be overwhelmed."

"The hard question to pose here, therefore, is whether Kenyans are prepared to nurse Covid-19 patients in their homes if our health care system cannot handle the numbers," Kenyatta said.

There are 130-odd Covid-19 patients currently under home-based care in Kenya.

The Ministry of Health will release the guidelines to counties for a home-based care roll-out. This will be based on guide-

lines recently released by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Acting Health Director General Patrick Amoth said they have already refined the guidelines that would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

"We have customised the guidelines for use locally and we shall disseminate them to the counties on Monday."

"This will be based on strict criteria anchored on assessment by healthcare workers to see whether that particular individual fits the bill for home-based care," Dr Amoth said yesterday during a coronavirus status update at State House

in Nairobi.

He said not every patient would qualify for home-based care. "Selection of patients will be based on the risk posed through individual assessment."

He added: "We will assess your home to know many rooms are there, how many people you live with and if you have anybody else in your house who is ill. We'll also need to know if you have very young children. Do you have a caregiver who can be trained to support you during the process? All those are captured in our guidelines."

The WHO had earlier provided an

interim guidance on home-based care for Covid-19 patients presenting mild symptoms. In its document, the world health agency stated that home-based care could be considered as long as the patient can be followed up and cared for by family members.

"Home-based care may also be considered when inpatient care is unavailable or unsafe, for example, if the capacity is limited and resources are unable to meet the demand for healthcare services."

In any of these situations, patients with mild symptoms and without underlying chronic conditions - such as lung or

Experts' views



Use of serum or blood from cured patients to treat newly diagnosed cases is not proven yet, but this means we locally must understand our history before we try it. It is an experiment we would not like to take. Ours is to understand our history and join others in coming up with the vaccine that can treat SARS-CoV-2.

- Prof Omu Anzala, virologist and immunologist



One of the reasons Italy got to where it was because a town that was the epicentre lifted its restrictions of movement, causing a serious spread, and because Nairobi is an epicentre, we risk taking the virus to places where the numbers are low or where it is nonexistent if we open.

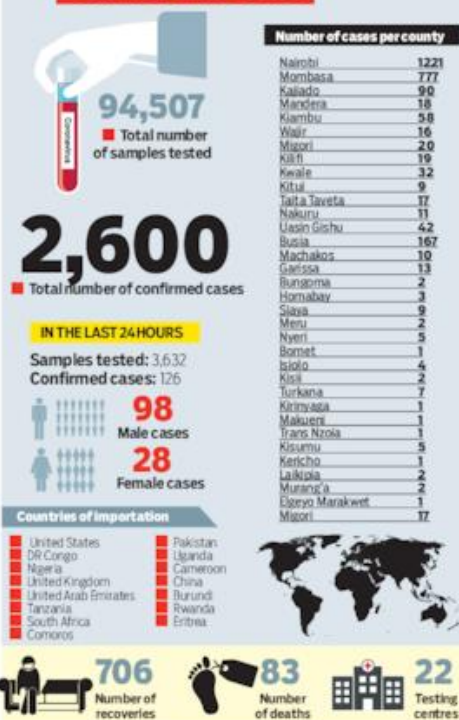
- Health Principal Secretary Susan Mwachache



We are looking at the possibility of extending the interventions, thereby reducing the rate of new cases ... Our fatality rate is five per cent so if our health systems are not overwhelmed, those who are in need of critical care can access services.

- Prof Simon Karanja, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology

Covid-19 Updates - June 6



preparedness if the disease was to hit exponentially.

On this, he said Kenya does not yet have the adequate testing and contact tracing mechanisms, and hospital capacity, which are the irreducible minimums health experts gave if any reopening is to be done.

"The question we must ponder is whether we have met this threshold to lift restrictions. And the answer is no. Nairobi and Mombasa are taking the lead in new infections," he said.

Isolation facilities

He said the country does not have the necessary number of isolation facilities, giving an example of Siaya County that has a 10-bed isolation ward, with already nine patients.

"Similarly, Busia County has 34-bed isolation facility and by two days ago, it was full," he said.

The President said he will consider possibility of de-escalating the containment measures if the health mandate is shared between counties and the national government. To this effect he announced an extraordinary session of the national and county government co-ordinating summit on Wednesday this week.

The summit will discuss how effective the containment meas-

ures have been, determine how each county can have at least 300 isolation bed capacity and come up with modalities on how the economy can be reopened progressively.

President Kenyatta, in anticipation of reopening, further directed that interfaith and religious organisations have a sit down with the Interior and Health ministries to work out modalities on protocols of re-opening places of worship.

However, in the meantime, the ban on all public gatherings, including political rallies, bars and social gatherings is extended for 30 days.

Similarly, the ban on international flights is also extended.

"In the meantime, the Ministry of Transport is directed within seven days from date thereof to engage all key stakeholders and develop protocols to guide resumption of local air travel," he said.

The president also ordered consultations in the education sector jointly with the Ministry of Health, which will see publication of guidelines on the gradual and progressive return of normalcy in the sector by the third term from September 1.

"Further, that the ministry announces the new school calendar by mid-August," he said.

Hard reality

45,000 people could die if rules relaxed, experts warn

More than 45,000 people could die by October if measures put in place to contain spread of coronavirus are relaxed even by 60 per cent.

This is according to a modeling tool used by experts from the Ministry of Health to project the spread of infection and possible fatalities countrywide.

President Uhuru Kenyatta, while delivering his address to the nation yesterday, painted grim scenarios that could be replayed in case the economy is reopened.

"Although these projections are generated by a model, there is hard evidence suggesting that countries which opened up without proper protocols also experienced serious waves of infections. Spikes of infections were for instance experienced after re-opening religious gatherings in South Korea, Pakistan and Malaysia," said the president.

The scientists used different models to build scenarios through monitoring trends of how the disease is spreading, and projecting how it will manifest under different conditions.

From the trends, said the president, if the rules the government established to control the disease are relaxed, the higher the chances of people getting infected, the higher the fatalities.

Uhuru said it is through the current measures put in place that the government has managed to contain the spread of the virus and kept the numbers low even as other countries in the developed world grapple with massive infections and deaths.

"If we had not taken stringent measures as we did in March 2020, the rate of infections would have peaked to 800,000 people by July 30. If one infected person has potential to infect two people, this number would have hit 2.4 million people in 21 days," said Kenyatta.

Most countries have been using scientific models to come up with interventions for controlling the disease. They are used to help policy makers understand the most likely outcomes as well as best and worst case scenarios.

In countries like USA, scientific models have even been used to monitor specific populations such as the low-income families and people of different races.

The models look into the different properties of the virus such as how infectious it is and how long it takes before someone dies from the virus.

They also monitor other factors like the amount of contact the people infected have with those who are free from the virus.

It is through scientific modeling that Wuhan, China's town where the first case was reported was able to come up with interventions like having a complete lockdown and building hospitals.

[Mercy Adhiambo]

ease burden on overwhelmed public hospitals

heart disease, renal failure, or immuno-compromising conditions that place the patient at increased risk of developing complications, will be taken care of at home," reads the WHO document.

The WHO further recommends that health workers must assess whether the patient and the family are capable of adhering to the precautions that will be recommended as part of home-care isolation. These include hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene, environmental hygiene and limitations on movement around or from the house.

They must also be able to address safety concerns such as accidental ingestion and fire haz-

ards associated with using alcohol-based hand rubs, the global agency said further.

"A communication link with healthcare provider or public health personnel, or both, should be established for the duration of the home care period - until the patient's symptoms have resolved," the WHO document said.

As for the management of contacts, the WHO guidelines say anyone who has been exposed to suspected Covid-19 case is considered a contact and should be advised to monitor their health for 14 days from the last day of possible contact.

The guidelines stipulate that home caregivers must maintain contact with a healthcare providers during the entire period.

"A way for caregivers to communicate with a healthcare provider should be established for the duration of the observation period. Also, health care personnel should review the health of contacts regularly by phone, but, ideally and if feasible, through daily in-person visits, so specific diagnostic tests can be performed as necessary. The healthcare provider should give instructions to contacts in advance about when and where to seek care if they become ill, the most appropriate mode of transportation to use, when and where to enter the designated health facility and which IPC precautions to follow," WHO says.

[Jacqueline Mahugu]



Health CS Mutahi Kagwe at Afya House, Nairobi. [Fie]

TERM DATES With schools set to re-open in September, candidates have less time to prepare

Time running out for this year's national exams

Head teachers say candidates need more time as teachers' unions welcome re-opening plans.

By Protus Onyango
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The likelihood of national examinations being written this year grew slimmer yesterday when President Uhuru Kenyatta gave an indication that gradual re-opening of schools might only be feasible in September.

According to Kenya National Examinations Council (KNEC), 1,938,667 candidates have registered to write the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) and Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE).

Both exams were to be done between October and December this year. But this seems unlikely as the coronavirus disease continues to ravage the world.

Dashed hopes

Schools were closed on March 16, and 15 million pre-school, primary, secondary, college and university learners have been home since then. The learners, particularly candidates, were hopeful that Kenyatta, during his address to the nation yesterday, might re-open schools. The government had earlier postponed re-opening for a month in May. But those hopes were dashed when the president directed the Ministry of Education to come up with guidelines on gradual re-opening of learning institutions from September.

"Following stakeholders' consultations in the education sector, both ministries of Edu-



A candidate prepares ahead of last year's KCPE. [File Standard]

cation and Health issue and publicise guidelines on a gradual and progressive return to normalcy in the education sector by the Third Term, from September 1, 2020. Further, that the ministry of Education announces the new school calendar by mid-August," Kenyatta said.

Now, there is a likelihood that the national examinations will be conducted next year after the government gives a revised new school calendar.

The Covid-19 National Education Response Committee had on Friday handed its final report to Education Cabinet Secretary George Magoha

who later handed it to the president.

Magoha had in May constituted the task force to advise on the measures to be taken to ensure a return to normalcy in the basic education sector during the coronavirus era. Education stakeholders were yesterday happy with the president, saying it is important for the country to deal with the disease first before schools re-open.

"We recommended that schools be re-opened gradually and only on advice of medicals. Only after the medical fraternity declares the country safe is when our children can go back to school," said

Constantine Wasonga, the Universities Academic Staff Union (UASU) secretary general. "Schools can wait. There will be no point in re-opening schools only to lose the learners."

Kenya National Union of Teachers (KNUT) Secretary General Wilson Sossion supported this view, saying the schools should not be re-opened now.

"The team of medical experts we commissioned to give advice on the disease have indicated that if schools re-open now, with the low coronavirus testing capacity against 15 million learners, there will be a surge in infections," Sossion said.

More time

He said the teachers' unions have established a panel of eminent doctors to develop a report on the re-opening of schools. "This can only happen once we have guidelines on how the learners, teachers and school communities will be sensitised on dealing with the virus," Sossion added.

He also called on the government to ensure that school infrastructure is expanded to comply with measures like washing of hands and social distancing among learners.

Head teachers have also called for the postponement of examinations, saying time lost need to be recovered before candidates take the exams.

KCPE and KCSE examination papers are printed in the United Kingdom. Due to Covid-19, a team of exam experts from the Ministry of Education did not travel to the UK in April to fast-track revision and printing of national examinations. [The Writer is 2019/20 Bertha Fellow]

Testimony

I thought 'normal cold' would clear, says ACK Provost from his ICU bed

On Tuesday last week, All Saints Cathedral Provost Sammy Wainaina developed what he thought was a normal cold.

The cold, however, persisted even after taking medicine he bought from a chemist on his way home.

"I walked into a chemist, got some antibiotics and painkillers then went home thinking it would just go away. I was wrong," the Very Rev Canon Wainaina told the *Sunday Standard* on the phone from the Intensive Care Unit at Aga Khan Hospital in Nairobi, where he is currently admitted for Covid-19.

Wainaina says soon he developed a nagging cough, was running a fever and started having headaches and chills. Little did he know that he was trying to treat the novel coronavirus.

Because physical church congregations have been stopped for over two months now, the cleric has been conducting online services and is unsure how he might have contracted the virus.

He says he has taken all measures and precautions as outlined by the Health Ministry. From Sunday services to being in the office, the provost says he has minimised contact.

On Wednesday last week, he still felt unwell but had one of the scheduled online church programmes to do.

"I went home and on Wednesday I did my weekly Provost's Desk Live at 9am though I felt a bit groggy and the cold did not go away," he says.

The following day, Wainaina went to Aga Khan Hospital's Mombasa Road branch after calling off all Thursday and Friday meetings.

"They did some test and put me on medication but referred me to the main hospital where I was found to have pneumonia. This prompted them to conduct a Covid-19 test," he narrates.

About five days later the hospital called and informed Wainaina that he had tested positive and needed to go for treatment. His condition later deteriorated and he had to be put in intensive care.

The provost says he is thankful to God that he is doing well and his family is fine.

On Friday evening, he sent out a message to his congregation at All Saints Cathedral about his condition.

Wainaina says people should not assume that they cannot catch the disease.

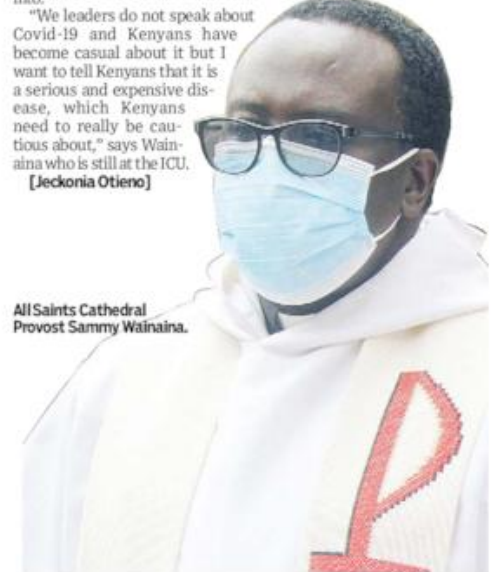
He says his assumption that what he had would just go away put his entire family - wife and three children - in harm's way.

"My advice is that once you develop a cold during this period, do not treat it merely as a cold because it could as well be coronavirus," he says, adding that looking back, he would have isolated himself from the moment he started feeling unwell.

Wainaina says the best thing for those who suspect they might be sick is to isolate so as not to risk the lives of others that might come into contact with them.

He urged Kenyans to take seriously the threat of Covid-19 and asked the government to be cautious about reopening the economy as it would be difficult to know what the country could be walking into.

"We leaders do not speak about Covid-19 and Kenyans have become casual about it but I want to tell Kenyans that it is a serious and expensive disease, which Kenyans need to really be cautious about," says Wainaina who is still at the ICU. [Jeckonia Otieno]



All Saints Cathedral Provost Sammy Wainaina.

Contain numbers

What it will take to ease tough restrictions

It will take more than just memes and social media messages to open up the country, President Uhuru Kenyatta warned yesterday.

With infections already hitting 2,724 by yesterday's figures, and indications that even the country's largest health facilities are struggling to cope, the president laid down the bare minimum to have the Covid-19 restrictions eased, resisting pressure from Kenyans tired of curfew and a 70-day lockdown. To open up, the country must

contain infections and the numbers must drop, said Kenyatta.

The country's healthcare systems must also be prepared to handle a surge in infections, which means avoiding a scenario where sick people will be wheeled into hospitals to find no beds and health workers too overwhelmed to attend to them.

Enough capacity

This also implied developing seamless home-based care systems that will take care of the sick to avoid stretching hospi-

tals already handling more critical cases.

In his address to the nation yesterday from State House, the president was categorical that the country must develop sufficient capacity to monitor and trace contacts, which means more health workers would be needed.

Kenyatta warned that in the absence of these three conditions, the country risks going the way of other countries such as South Korea, Pakistan and Malaysia that relaxed restric-

tions only to run into headwinds.

"If this is our new reality and we face the dilemma of easing restrictions or continuing with them, what must we do as a country? What is the irreducible minimum for opening the country? What is the threshold below which we cannot go," posed the president.

The new conditions spelled out by the president gave an indication of a country caught between a rock and hard place. [Wilfred Ayaga]



Transform Kenya Special Edition

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IMPACT. Urban poor, rural communities and highly traditional societies hardest hit by pandemic

Poverty, stigma and poor response hamper fight to tame deadly virus

Crisis has also poked holes in the efforts to roll out Universal Health Coverage by Ministry of Health

By Daniel Wesangula
d.wesangula@standardmedia.co.ke

A combination of stigma, lack of awareness, poverty and inadequate kitting of healthcare workers has worsened the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, a survey by a coalition of community-based organisations has found out.

As a result, the urban poor, rural communities and highly traditional societies have been hardest hit in the three-month period when the Ministry of Health has struggled to flatten the curve.

The coalition, People's Health Movement Kenya (PHM), says the survey, conducted in high risk counties since the disease was first reported on March 12, has also revealed existing historical gaps in the aged and seldom updated healthcare systems that continue to complicate the country's response.

Data from the Ministry of Health show that in Nairobi for instance, almost a third of the 1,213 reported numbers were recorded in the informal settlements of Kibera and Mathare.

Burdened healthcare

The severity of the disease among the country's poor has not been limited to burdening their health only.

"With 90 per cent of the residents in informal settlements absorbed in the informal sector without social security, work insurance or any form of insulation against economic shocks, implementation of interventions such as 'stay at home' are almost impossible to comply with," Dan Owalla, the coalition's programme coordinator says.

It also faults the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) programme for 'falling short' of the nation's expectations at a time when access to healthcare is crucial.

"Majority of Kenyans continue to have limited access to health services during Covid-19. With the crisis poking holes in the efforts to roll out UHC," Owalla says.

Away from the UHC and its role in containing the virus, a survey of counties outside of Nairobi show a varying degree of challenges. For instance, in Nyeri, health workers and health facilities are struggling with waste disposal.

The survey also shows that Nyeri too is struggling with inadequate Personal Protective Equipment for its key personnel, a lack of other essential drugs in public facilities since attention has been shifted to the Covid-19 response.

Of note also is that patients undergoing cancer treatment, dialysis and other forms of specialised care have had their services interrupted and in some instances suspended all together.

Last year, national data from MoH shows about 9,000 patients received dialysis while the cancer burden stood at around 47,000 new cases and 33,000 deaths.

In Homa Bay, the survey shows that although businesses and livelihoods have collapsed and households are unable to cater for everyday basics such as food and rent, the county has registered increased human rights violations with rape, defilement and other forms of gender based violence increasing.

Weeks into the curfew, the National Council on Administration of Justice (NCAJ) released a statement saying sexual offences had risen significantly over the two week-period that followed the enforcement of the nationwide curfew.

"There has been a significant spike in sexual offences in many parts of the country in the last two weeks. In some cases, the perpetrators are close relatives, guardians or persons living with the victims," said NCAJ Chair Chief Justice David Maraga.

According to NCAJ, the cases at the time constituted some

"There has been a significant spike in sexual offences in many parts of the country in the last two weeks..."

said NCAJ Chair Chief Justice David Maraga

35.8 per cent of the criminal cases reported within the duration.

"This is the biggest challenge facing women and children during this crisis because the victims live under the same roof as the perpetrators," Owalla says. "The curfew has also complicated things further since an abused woman or child in most cases has to stay indoors until morning when the curfew ends. Nine out of ten times, more abuse happens."

In his presentation to the Senate Health Committee, Mutahi Kagwe, Health Cabinet Secretary, told legislators that some Sh70 million had been set aside for effective public communication. Yet, the survey reveals, some counties lag behind others with regards to awareness of the novel coronavirus disease.

In Kakamega, threats by central government on forced quarantine of those in violation of containment regulations has led large swathes of the population to think the disease as a killer.

The weaponisation of the containment measures continues to scare communities from visiting hospitals for fear of being diagnosed with Covid-19.

On May 2, Health Chief Administrative Secretary Dr Mercy Mwangangi noted that there had been a decrease in the number of patients visiting hospitals for other illnesses.

While this would ordinarily be good news, the CAS said citizens should not be afraid to seek medical assistance when needed.

Almost 30 per cent of coronavirus-related deaths occur at home. Most of these have been reported in Mombasa.

Gender based violence

And there are fears that this aversion to hospitals as well as effects of the high time curfew have contributed to an increase in child mortality during birth as mothers who go into labour at night opt to deliver at home.

In some cases, though, it is the very measures put in place to protect lives that may be resulting in deaths. In Siaya, the survey found that among the reasons residents are not visiting healthcare facilities is because they lack of masks, which are mandatory in public spaces.



AT A GLANCE

- Poor hardest hit by the pandemic. Urban poor at particular risk.
- Virus has revealed shortfalls in the Universal Health Coverage plan by government.
- Stigma and ignorance responsible for poor public response to the virus in some counties.
- Other calamities such as floods that have claimed nearly approximately 300 lives have received limited response from government.

KEY NUMBERS



Medical practitioners during Covid-19 mass testing at Olympic Primary School in Kibera, Nairobi County. [Evis Ogna/Standard]

parts of the country, there have been reports of individuals injured by workers of both the national and county governments.

Ministry of Health data show that Mombasa comes second after Nairobi in terms of Covid-19 positive numbers. However, the county's response has encountered some headwinds, the biggest of them being stigma directed at those suspected to have tested positive.

As a result, deaths within the county of Covid-19 patients have occurred at home with family members apprehensive of taking their kin to hospital.

In spite of receiving much of the Covid-19 response, Nairobi has had its fair share of issues. Forced evictions that took place on the 4th, 5th and 6th of May in Kariobangi, Korogocho Market, Kisumu Ndogo and Nyayo Villages left over 7,000 families homeless and destitute, exposing them to Covid-19 and destabilising their livelihoods.

The financial impact of the pandemic has rendered the victims incapable of providing for their families or making alternative accommodation arrangements. Further, the families have been left with no access to safe drinking water and sanitation services.

But it is not all gloom and doom. The consortium says government can learn from the pandemic and improve the healthcare system.

"These lessons should inform a robust, inclusive and substantive human rights based approach to healthcare," Owalla says.

"If nothing else sticks, government should at least learn to invest more and invest better in healthcare."

floods in 36 counties, where over 800,000 people were affected. There were 237 fatalities and over 116,000 were displaced. The floods also led to loss of property and livestock, considerable damage to crops, and disruption of agricultural activities in high and medium maize production areas," FEWSNET says.

Worst-affected areas include Tana River, Mandera, Marsabit and Turkana. With Lake Victoria reaching its highest water level on the historical record and a high likelihood of above-normal rainfall this month, there is a threat of additional flooding from overflowing dams and due to river back flow.

From the start of the curfew, law enforcement officers countrywide have been accused of assaulting people while enforcing these regulations.

In Machakos, like many other

"They think that going to a hospital without a mask will result in an immediate confinement and mandatory testing for the virus," Owalla says.

In Kisumu County, a bulk of its public health attention has been diverted from other critical areas such as reproductive health, palliative care for cancer patients and implementing a proper public health response to the current floods in parts of the county.

According to satellite derived data from the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET), cumulative March to May rainfall broadly ranged between 120 and 200 per cent of average across the country. Localised areas of Turkana, Wajir, Isiolo, Laikipia, Kwale, Kitui, and Tana River received 200 to 400 percent of average rainfall.

"Recent heavy rains led to

REPUBLIC OF KENYA


**TWELFTH PARLIAMENT | FOURTH SESSION
THE SENATE**

In the Matter of the Approval by the Senate of the Nominee for Appointment to the Position of Member of the Parliamentary Service Commission under Article 127(2)(d) of the Constitution

INVITATION FOR SUBMISSION OF MEMORANDA

The Parliamentary Service Commission is established under Article 127 of the Constitution and is responsible for, among other functions, providing services and facilities to ensure the efficient and effective functioning of Parliament. Article 127(2) of the Constitution provides that the Commission shall consist of, among others, one man and one woman appointed by Parliament from among persons who are experienced in public affairs, but are not members of Parliament.

The Parliamentary Service Commission has nominated **Hon. Rachel Ameso Amolo** for appointment to the position of member of the Parliamentary Service Commission under Article 127(2)(d) of the Constitution.

Following receipt by the Senate of the nomination from the Parliamentary Service Commission, at the sitting of the Senate held on Tuesday, 2nd June, 2020, the Honourable Speaker of the Senate committed the matter to the Standing Committee on Justice, Legal Affairs and Human Rights to vet and consider the suitability of the nominee for appointment and to submit its report to the Senate.

Pursuant to section 6(9) of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, 2011, the Standing Committee on Justice, Legal Affairs and Human Rights now invites interested members of the public to submit representations on the suitability of **Hon. Rachel Ameso Amolo** for appointment to the position of member of the Parliamentary Service Commission under Article 127(2)(d) of the Constitution.

The representations may be made by submission of written statements on oath with supporting evidence and may be sent, by email, to the address: csenate@parliament.go.ke to be received on or before **Monday, 15th June, 2020 at 9.00 am.**

J. M. NYEGENYE, CBS,
CLERK OF THE SENATE

REPUBLIC OF KENYA


**TWELFTH PARLIAMENT | FOURTH SESSION
THE SENATE**

In the Matter of the Approval by the Senate of the Nominee for Appointment to the Position of Member of the Parliamentary Service Commission under Article 127(2)(d) of the Constitution

**NOTIFICATION OF VETTING OF NOMINEE FOR APPOINTMENT
TO THE POSITION OF MEMBER OF THE PARLIAMENTARY
SERVICE COMMISSION UNDER ARTICLE 127(2)(d) OF THE
CONSTITUTION – HON. RACHEL AMESO AMOLO**

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Pursuant to Article 118 of the Constitution, section 6(4) of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act (No. 33 of 2011), and standing order 71(2) of the Senate Standing Orders, the Senate hereby informs the public that the Standing Committee on Justice, Legal Affairs and Human Rights shall conduct the approval hearing in respect of **Hon. Rachel Ameso Amolo** on **Monday, 15th June, 2020 in the Mini Chamber, First Floor, County Hall, Parliament Buildings, at 10.00 a.m.**

J. M. NYEGENYE, CBS,
CLERK OF THE SENATE

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Hotspots. Busia, Uasin Gishu, Kajiado and Taita Taveta counties

Alarm as truck drivers turn into super spreaders

Officials say the long-distance road users have devised ways of dodging checkpoints undetected.

By Sunday Team
newsdesk@standardmedia.co.ke

The spread of Covid-19 among truck drivers is raising concern among health authorities, with almost 100 of them testing positive for the disease in less than a week.

Truck drivers who operate from Mombasa through the major towns on the highway and the border points with Uganda have been identified as super-spreaders of the virus.

Of all the border counties, Busia is the most affected, reporting 61 cases in three days. The county borders Uganda in Malaba.

By yesterday, Busia had reported 178 cases of Covid-19 positive truckers, according to the county's head of coronavirus response team, David Mukabi.

The other counties where truck drivers have been found positive are Uasin Gishu, Kajiado, and Taita Taveta.

On Friday, Taita Taveta reported four cases of coronavirus-positive truck drivers while Uasin Gishu reported one case in Turbo.

Uasin Gishu recorded 12 cases on June 3 while Kajiado County had three - all truck drivers.

These high numbers are despite tough measures issued by the Ministry of Health that

not only dictate when and how often the drivers should be tested, but also gives them designated stopovers on the Northern Corridor.

Spread of the disease among truck drivers seems to have taken the government back to the drawing board as Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe laid bare the tricks some of them use to evade being tested and detected.

"In the last few weeks, we have witnessed a large number of truck drivers testing positive. Let me make it clear that all truck drivers must take a Covid-19 test, at least 48 hours before embarking on their journey and acquire a Covid-19 free certificate," he warned.

Truckers have devised ways of circumventing checkpoints undetected.

One of the tricks is using a trucker who has been tested and issued with a certificate to collect the cargo from Mombasa

port for a colleague who has not been tested.

Mr Kagwe said others forge the certificate without realising there are only selected facilities that can test for Covid-19.

"A certificate can only be issued by a World Health Organisation accredited laboratory," he said.

Kenya has 22 of such laboratories. Two of these were donated by the German government as mobile laboratories specifically to assist in testing of truck drivers and are stationed in Busia and Maai Mahiu in Nakuru County.

The two are in addition to 13 others that were selected to fast-track the testing of drivers.

They are in Mombasa (Miritini), Nairobi (South B), Kisumu (Ahero sub-county hospital), Migori (Migori County Hospital), Eldoret, Nakuru (Nakuru Provincial Hospital and Naivasha), Kilifi (Kilifi Medical and Training College), Machakos, Marsabit and Kwale (Kwale sub-county hospital, Kinango and Msambweni).

The designated stops are in Busia, Gilgil, Taveta, Namanga, Mlolongo, Malaba and Webuye. The latter town has a stopover but no contracted hotel, which means no sleepovers at this point.

The stopovers have selected hotels that act as quarantine facilities where truckers can stay while waiting for their results, which takes up to 24 hours. It is also to avoid truck drivers interacting with local communities.



An aerial view of trucks at the Malaba border in Busia County. Officials say the spread of Covid-19 among truck drivers is worrying. (Mumo Muvuwa, Standard)

The country has also been grappling with truckers from other countries. In recent past, several truck drivers from other countries have been tested and those who turned positive returned at the borders.

A week after the mandatory testing protocol for truck drivers was introduced, about 100 truck drivers from Tanzania have tested positive.

The drivers sought to get into the country through Namanga, Lungu Lungu, and Isebania border points in Kajiado, Taita Taveta and Migori counties, respectively.

In Turkana County, up to seven cases of the disease have been confirmed. Six of those cases were truck drivers who were tested at Nadapal border point.

Health Chief Administrative

Secretary Rashid Aman said a huge portion of those who tested positive were truck drivers who had travelled within the East African economic bloc.

Busia and Malaba border posts serve as a gateway to other East African countries and have also recorded a number of cases.

Dr Mukabi, who is in-charge of the fight against coronavirus in Busia County, told *The Standard* most of the drivers arrive in Busia without Covid-19 certificates.

Mukabi echoed county commissioner Joseph Kanyiri's sentiments that they may have to force drivers who arrive in Busia and Malaba without certificates into quarantine.

Busia Governor Sosipeter Ojaamong has lamented that both county's human and finan-

cial resources have been stretched due to the large number of cases. Alupe isolation centre is hosting currently.

On the Nairobi-Mombasa highway, one can hardly miss hawkers hanging on vehicles, persuading truck drivers to buy their goods.

This business is common in towns on Makeni stretch such as Malili, Salama, Sultan Hamud, Emali, Simba, and Makindu, where many traders remain oblivious of containment measures like sanitising and social distancing.

"We sell to long-distant drivers. They can take your fruits, check and return to you when they feel it is not what they wanted," said Ruth Mbithe, a hawker. [Graham Kajiliwa, Lucas Ngasike, Ignatius Odanga and Stephen Nzioka]

Capacity

Soaring number of infections among drivers puts Busia in tight corner

Busia County has established more isolation centres for sick truck drivers as coronavirus cases rise.

So far, Governor Sosipeter Ojaamong's administration has identified Agricultural Training Centre (ATC) and St Monica Chakol as additional centres.

The facilities have bed capacities of 42 and 200, respectively. Another 50 beds have been added at Alupe that had a 71-bed capacity.

The county has been engaging the national government over possibility of converting the Kenya Medical Training Institute in Busia into another isolation facility to handle rising numbers.

But chief officer-in-charge of Health and Sanitation Isaac Omeri indicated that only asymptomatic patients would

be accommodated at the ATC. On top of the preventive measures put in place by the county government, five hotels have been identified in Busia town where truck drivers can put up and six others in Malaba border town.

Dr Omeri said the hotels were specifically for truck drivers to help minimise scenarios where they mingle freely with locals.

By yesterday, Busia had recorded 178 positive cases, all of them truck drivers.

"We expect the number to go up in coming days. That is why we have decided to get alternative places for patients to be held as they get medication," said Omeri.

The county has mounted disinfectant booths and spray tunnels in strategic

places, particularly at the Busia and Malaba border posts, for use by clearing agents and truck drivers.

It has also erected water tanks and provided soap for locals to wash hands regularly.

Food vendors

Following complaints from a section of locals that some food vendors were hawking food to truckers, the county has launched sensitisation programme aimed at educating the sellers not to have close contact with drivers.

"It is a matter of great concern because some drivers mingle with locals before even knowing their status. We are telling our people and specifically those selling food and fruits to avoid getting into close

contact with truckers to avoid contracting the virus," said Omeri.

The Ministry of Health in March identified truck drivers as a weak link in the fight against coronavirus.

For the last three weeks, Busia town and Malaba have been chaotic due to trailer snarl-up.

Uganda has so far returned at least 50 Kenyan truck drivers who tested positive. The county by Thursday had tested more than 7,000 truck drivers.

On Tuesday, Governor Ojaamong and County Commissioner Joseph Kanyiri announced that a driver without a certificate to show they are Covid-19 free would not enter the county.

They said drivers would bear the cost of fumigating their trucks. The response

team established that some drivers had no certificates.

Shortage of reagents, personal protective equipment, ventilators, face masks and fewer health care providers have remained the biggest challenges in the fight against coronavirus in the county, said Omeri.

Yesterday, he said the department was keen on paying the health care providers their subsistence allowances.

This is after some frontline workers lamented that their morale was low since the county was yet to pay them their allowances.

The affected cadres include doctors, nurses, public health officers and laboratory technologists.

[Ignatius Odanga]

PRECARIOUS POSITION: MP Shah, Aga Khan and Mater Hospitals have already effected pay cuts for staff

Private hospitals struggle as patients stay at home

As pandemic bites, number of patients seeking treatment has drastically dropped making hospitals struggle to pay salaries

By The Standard Team
newsdesk@standardmedia.co.ke

The private healthcare sector has found itself in a precarious position with workers in the sector teetering on the edge of unemployment due to the impact of Covid-19.

Top private hospitals including MP Shah, Aga Khan and Mater Hospitals have already effected pay cuts for their staff while some smaller facilities have laid off workers in a bid to stay afloat.

A memo from MP Shah Hospital board chairman Manoj Shah to staff said the pay cut would be effected from May 2020, and would be reviewed after three months.

Mater Hospital's CEO Dominic Mwenja also said staff would take a pay cut between June to September in a graduated scale according to pay. The memo also said some staff would be going on unpaid leave, but would be cushioned with 50 per cent of the newly graduated salary.

At St Mary's Mumias Mission Hospital in Kakamega county, 40 employees were a week ago sent on unpaid leave as effects of the pandemic bite.

The facility's administration said operations had been affected by the virus, making it unrealistic to keep the workers.

Father Columban Odhiambo, who is in charge of the hospital, said the number of patients seeking treatment at the facility had drastically dropped and management was struggling to pay salaries of its over 200 employees.

Painful choices

"We have been forced to send some clinical officers, nurses and workers in other cadres on unpaid leave until further notice," said Father Odhiambo.

The hospital, he said, was struggling to buy medical supplies and had been compelled to shut down one ward for lack of patients.

Despite retaining its 700 employees, Port Florence Hospital in Kisumu county has had to implement a 15 to 40 per cent salary deduction depending on the cadres of staff.

It has also recorded a 50 per cent reduction in the number of patients. According to Director Dr Joshua Oron, this has in turn affected their revenue stream.

"The struggle is real. As a hospital, our revenue is directly proportional to the number of patients we handle, and when the number goes down, we face a huge deficit hence cannot pay our bills," he said.

There has been speculation that



Empty seats at one of the private hospitals in Nairobi. Patients have been avoiding hospitals for fears of contracting Covid-19. (Kamau Macharia, Standard)

many people have kept off hospital over coronavirus fears.

Dr Amit Thakkar, Chairman of the Kenya Healthcare Federation (KHF) says patients have mostly been afraid of visiting hospitals due to the virus, only showing up when it is absolutely necessary or for emergencies.

Worryingly, reports show that there has been a rise in maternal deaths due to mothers delivering at home, while others are keeping off the facilities and missing out on crucial child immunization programmes.

"One of our big worries is that people are only going to hospital when their chronic condition has become an emergency. Many of the doctors in private hospitals are dealing with increased cases of hypertension and diabetes that are not being controlled well because of missed appointments," said Dr Amit.

Revenues have also been affected heavily.

"Because of the pandemic, we have seen a 40 per cent decline in the revenue across all hospitals. Some have been affected more severely than others. The ones that rely a lot on surgical patients were the first to get affected because all the elective surgeries (non-emergencies and conditions that can wait for a while like growths, small swellings, fibroids) were discontinued by the government in Mid-March," said Dr Amit.

The Government last week lifted the restriction on elective surgeries, which Dr Amit says might increase the flow of patients waiting to have their operations done in private hospitals.

Meanwhile, the medical staff continue to feel the heat of the pandemic.

A nurse at a private hospital in Nakuru talks of the pain of getting

Positive side of situation

■ "What can be expected and that we have observed already is that some diseases like diarrhoea may reduce. In Nairobi, we are seeing less cases of cholera than before Covid-19 came, probably because people are washing hands and eateries have been closed. The common cold may also have been reduced because people are wearing masks and, therefore, not transmitting it as much," Dr Loice Achieng' Ombajo, a physician and infectious disease doctor, told 'The Standard'. She however said there isn't enough conclusive evidence that this has had that much of an impact.

a termination letter on June 1.

Her contract was to expire in September, but lean times forced her employer to take drastic measures sooner.

"I do not know if the management will pay my dues. I was ordered to hand over my roles and hospital property this week. I am devastated," said the nurse.

At least 15 health workers among them nurses and clinical officers at Nakuru Nursing Home have also been sent on unpaid leave.

Miriam Wairimu, the facility matron told The Standard that low patient numbers has affected its revenue streams.

"We are left with half of the employees, with the rest given unpaid leave, until the situation improves," said Wairimu.

Currently, the facility serves about 10 patients a day, a number that has dropped from 100. Deliv-

eries at the facility, feted best in maternal service provision Nakuru by Population Services International (PSI), in 2018, has also reduced.

Normally, about 10 women deliver at the hospital. This number has reduced to one or two, raising concerns that women might be delivering in hands of unskilled personnel.

The pandemic has also come with other challenges.

Debt from the National Health Insurance Fund for other diseases has ballooned and hospitals in rural areas that rely on NHIF are in dire need.

Speaking at a webinar on job security in the private sector earlier in the week, Dr Brian Lishenga, Chairman of The Rural Private Hospitals Association of Kenya (RUPHA), said private hospitals in rural and urban underserved populations like Kangemi, Kayole and Kisauni were in dire need.

"The reason is that most of them are doing service provision with NHIF," said Dr Lishenga.

"This has also coincided with certain reforms happening at NHIF and with people working from home, processing of claims and approval of procedures has slowed down," he said.

During the webinar, Dr Lishenga said the current situation had exposed the underbelly of the private health sector calling for more public-private partnerships (PPPs).

"We need to move away from the private sector - public sector dichotomy and move to a single payer system. We can regulate prices and level the playing field. Let the public and private sector compete on efficiency only," he said.

[Jacqueline Mahugu, Mercy Kahenda, Mactilda Mbenye, John Shilitsa]

Virus fears

Concern as expectant mothers opt for home deliveries

Checking into a hospital was the last thing on Dorothy Akoth's mind when she suddenly went into labour. It was almost midnight and the 27-year-old resident of Obunga slums in Kisumu knew it wouldn't be long until her baby arrived.

But there was one problem. Akoth was afraid of going to hospital because she believed there was a greater risk of exposing herself and her newborn to Covid-19.

Although her fears were driven by unverified reports, Akoth asked her husband to call in a traditional midwife.

"It was at night and my husband was willing to take me to hospital but I would hear none of it since I was afraid of contracting the virus," Akoth said.

In Manyatta slums, Zaida Awino, 30, said she gave birth to her second born at 8pm in the house because she feared flouting the dawn-to-dusk curfew.

"With reports that hospitals are high risk I could not dare giving birth there. What if I had high temperatures and was forced into quarantine?" Awino posed.

In Nyalenda slums, Jane Auma who is two weeks away from her expected due date, shares her fears.

"There is no way I will risk going to the hospital because I do not want to expose my family to the virus," said Auma.

Just like Akoth, Awino sought the services of Agnes Muhonja, 68, a traditional birth attendant who says the pandemic has seen a rise in the number of clients.

"Last night, I helped three mothers give birth," she said while showing details of the babies recorded in a worn-out notebook.

When she runs short of razor blades, Muhonja uses sugarcane peelings to cut the umbilical cord. She charges Sh2,000 for her services.

She says since the enforcement of dawn-to-dusk curfew, in a day she attends to at least 15 women who are either seeking antenatal, postnatal care and those giving birth.

Reports at the Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Teaching and Referral Hospital show the facility has recorded a 60 per cent drop in births since the pandemic started.

In April last year, the facility had a total of 1,000 births compared to 400 recorded in April this year. Medics at the facility said the number of deliveries is an average of 18-25 per day, from a previous average of 35-40.

Reports from Kisumu County Hospital indicate that before the enforcement of the dawn-to-dusk curfew the facility recorded 11 deliveries per night which has reduced to four.

The hospital's nurse-in-charge Millicent Oloo said a number of mothers are opting to deliver at home for fear of being exposed to the coronavirus. The situation has been aggravated by the curfew that makes it difficult for expectant women to seek help in hospitals as they fear being arrested. [Mactilda Mbenye]



Cindy Aketch from Kisumu Medical and Education Trust (left) with Dorothy Akoth, a mother who opted to give birth at home in Obunga slum, Kisumu County. (Collins Odior, Standard)

BLESSINGS Deputy President handed special Nandi regalia also given to presidents Kenyatta and Moi

Inside DP Ruto's secret rituals with Talai elders

Deputy President said to have atoned for the clan's neglect as he humbly sat among elders.

By Sunday Standard Team
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Talai Clan elders who hosted Deputy President William Ruto for a cultural intercession on Friday morning have opened up on their two-hour interaction with the country's Number Two.

Speaking in strict confidentiality, the elders said apart from his ongoing political problems, they had their separate and long pending grievances with the DP which took the better part of their time with him.

The elders are the descendants of the Orkoiyot Koitalel Samoei, who led a 12-year rebellion against colonial invasion before he was duped into a peace truce and shot dead in 1905.

"We poured our hearts out, including on missing out in government posts since he took over leadership mantle in 2013 and generally neglecting the clan that blessed his ascendancy to the top," stated one of the elders.

Rare moment

They said given that it was a rare moment to have with the DP humbly seated among them, they censured him for neglecting their clan, whose political misfortunes of colonial era saw them banished to Gwasi, Homa Bay County.

"He acknowledged the challenges and asked for forgiveness, promising to complete the stalled upgrade of Chepteret-Kaiboi and Sironoi-Baraton roads the Government initiated in 2014," quoted the source.

The council of elders accepted his atonement and proceeded to crown him with the coveted animal skin known as *sambut* (leadership gown) and two batons.

"He was handed a *sharit* (leadership baton) and a *run-gut* (hunting baton) while seated on the special three-legged stool, surrounded by religious leaders and the council of elders," the source revealed.

The source further stated: "We didn't want to be hard on him since he has problems in government. We simply forgave him and wished him well in his endeavors," said the source.

Reverend Peter Chemaswet, a cultural historian, told

Sunday Standard that the occasion was significant given it entailed the blessings of elders.

"Nandi elders gave presidents Jomo Kenyatta and Daniel Moi leadership blessings and regalia. Kenyatta was given another *sambut* (a special leader's regalia) in Kapsoyony, Mount Elgon," Chemaswet claimed.

The blessings signify respect and authority to lead in various aspects of life, he said. Being a Sabaot, Chemaswet said he cannot speak much about Ruto's anointment since it was done by Nandi elders.

According to an elder of the Talai clan, the event was a private affair and there were strict instructions against revealing anything to those not invited.

One of the elders who administered the cultural ceremony said the clan had sought an appointment with Ruto six months before the Friday meeting. The dawn ceremony was closely guarded, only left for performing elders, the anointed leader and a few members of Ruto's age set.

Ruto was ushered into a special house that had been set apart for the anointment.

"It was a strong cultural tradition initiated by seven elders all aged above 60 and from all the five sub-clans of Koitalel arap Samoei's Talai clan. All the elders were seated in designated positions near a fireplace while Ruto had a special place reserved for him," he said.

Ruto made his political debut in 1997 by trouncing a member of Talai Clan, William Saina.

According to one of the elders, Ruto will now turn the tables on his enemies, and that those fighting him politically will now scatter. While the meeting stirred the debate of the blurred line between Christianity, which

Ruto professes, and culture, it also laid bare the rugged journey that characterises the search for presidency and the place of culture in it.

Kenya's four presidents, it emerged yesterday, have had an interaction with the Talai clan of the Nandi community. Kenyatta, Moi, Mwai Kibaki and Uhuru have all had personal interactions with the elders either before or during their presidency.

On December 12, 1963, Sirian Manyel, the son of Koitalel Arap Samoei, held Mzee Kenyatta during the hoisting of the Kenyan flag at Uhuru Gardens after the country attained independence. It's not clear whether there had been some interaction

before or after according to historian and author Godfrey K Sang.

Nightlong ritual

Sang said that on July 26, 1969 at Kamatargui village in Kapsabet, Nandi County, then Vice President Moi had a meeting with the Talai elders that went on all night. The organisers, he says, were senior Chief Joel Malel and the former chairman of the Nandi African District Council Isaac Kosgey and Paul Kiplimo Boit, chairman of the giant Sirikwa County council.

It was attended by the then DC Mr J Waiboci and MPs John Kipruto Cheruiyot, Tindoret MP Marie Seroney and Mosop's Gerald Kalya. The event at Kamatargui village involved the slaughter of a goat whose innards were used to predict Moi's fate.

"Very early in the morning just before dawn after the nightlong ritual, the elders announced that Moi's future was bright," Sang said.

Kipchoge Arap Chumu, a Nandi elder, said when Kibaki took power, he went into history books as the first president to officially recognise the Talai community.

"He officiated over the centennial commemoration of Koitalel when he ordered the putting up of a Mausoleum in Nandi Hills town, an institution of higher learning and a cultural centre/museum to honour the fallen hero," said Arap Chumu.

On October 19, 2017 after the Supreme Court nullified the presidential election, Uhuru met with Talai elders at Nandi Bears Club in a close door meeting. [Jacob Ng'etich, Titus Too and Edward Kosut]

Party coup.

Weta loses the roar as going gets messy and noisy

For keen followers of Kenyan politics, news of a coup was the dreamy culmination of a month laden with betrayals.

The news set the stage for what had been billed as an explosive week in politics. Ford-Kenya (Ford-K) would be curtain-raising the show promised in Parliament later in the week, or so people had hoped.

News of the ouster of Ford-K party leader Moses Wetang'ula had seeped through Sunday morning.

His evictors, led by the party's secretary general, the Tongaren Member of Parliament, Eseli Simiyu, had been modest enough to term it a dismissal. Grounds? Gross misconduct.

It was the least they could do considering the low blow they had just dealt Wetang'ula, still grieving the loss of a relative. It was a cowardly act, yet bold, in that they had struck first at the man of the *mundu khu mundu* (a war cry meaning man-to-man) fame.

The Bungoma senator would later call it "treachery", a word he repeated innumerable times at a press conference later when he staged a coup of his own.

Wetang'ula & Co had set the mood for their retaliation, brandishing photos of a National Executive Council meeting, similar to an earlier one that had sacked him, keen on flaunting their numbers.

Their march to the lawn of the party's headquarters was quite the candy for the cameras, ever seemingly obsessed with multitudes, and solitude in unique instances.

Their formation as they readied to deliver their remarks, spitting in the face of social-distancing guidelines by Health ministry, told of a lion ready to roar. "Blow it up Moses!" those who cared to watch must have cheered him on as they looked at their screens. But in the game of disappointing suspense, Weta, as they fondly call him, is master. He blew it.

All the anticipation at his presser crumbled with every word he spoke. He was assertive and made equally sound moves, but his speech was remarkably uninspiring. What was meant to be a vehement message against rebellion degenerated into sorry pleas, complete with memories of the trials and tribulations former friends had subjected him to.

"Coups are archaic. Coups are anachronistic to good order and coups are activities of cowards," Wetang'ula lamented.

No wonder, his famous "it will be noisy, messy and with casualties" speech formed good fodder for the evening news.

One by one, TV stations had deserted him earlier in the day, stopping the live coverage of his event mid-speech.

He had the opportunity to make headlines and he squandered it. All he had to do was play the populist card and the masses would have loved it.

Even worse was his "don't panic" appeal to

his loyalists within the party and his assurances that his faction had the numbers, assurances that were quashed when the registrar of political parties declared that his meeting failed to raise the requisite quorum on Thursday.

The former Minister for Foreign Affairs was increasingly looking like a foreigner in a house he had thought to be his.

Dethroned

Not even Kiminini MP Chris Wamalwa, who was serving *karama* to Simiyu, taking up his post as secretary general after Simiyu had in the previous week dethroned him as the minority side's deputy chief whip, could salvage the mess.

The Ford-K lion had lost its roar and was in dire need of backup to ward off the enemy within.

Amani National Congress leader Musalia Mudavadi, too, felt his comrade's party could do with some push and came out to champion their cause, enmeshing a mutual ally in the wrangles but hesitated to call them out.

He would join his National Super Alliance co-principal on Monday and they brought sufficient company, their mouths flowing with threats for the trouble-makers. "You have signed your own political death warrant... *Sisi tutakutwanga kiasi* (We shall whip you politically)," Kiminini's Wamalwa fired the warning shot, ably backed by a battery of legislators who cheered when he cheered and rebuked when he rebuked.

But even with their shouting and the declaration of Wetang'ula to be one of the two true leaders of Mulemba nation, he was unable to make headwinds. He just couldn't shake off the poor run of political form. [Brian Otieno]



Transition

Ex-Uhuru escort chief dies



The former security chief of President Uhuru Kenyatta and former President Mwai Kibaki governments who died on Friday night was decorated as a diligent man who gave his all to the service.

Wachiara Mathenge, who served as Deputy Presidential Escort Commander was pronounced dead at the Nyeri Outspan Hospital where he was taken to after he collapsed at his Chaka home in Nyeri County.

A postmortem examination is yet to be conducted to ascertain cause of death. Family members suspect his death could have been due to a heart attack. At the time of his death, Wachiara was head of logistics at the Eastern Region police headquarters in Embu.

Wachiara also served the police service in various positions after he left the Presidential Escort. He was at one time the Kilifi County police chief. Former DCI chief Ndegwa Muhoro, now an envoy in Malaysia said Wachiara was a jovial man. "He was my brother, a very jovial and dedicated man," Muhoro told the *Sunday Standard* in a text message.

Deputy President William Ruto also mourned the top cop. "Commissioner of Police Wachiara Mathenge was a dedicated and exceptional officer whose bravery in the line of duty was supreme," Ruto said on Twitter. [Kamare Maina]

AFFIDAVIT Tenant implicated in murder of Penina Wairimu in 2019

Rent row gives police leads on two murders

Suspect was kicked out by house owner in Umoja II estate after a disagreement over rent.

By Kamare Maina
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Rent dispute between a tenant and his landlady might help the Buru Buru police officers uncover those behind the killing of two women.

A 42-year-old wedding planner, who is now in police custody, was kicked out by the landlady in Umoja II estate after a disagreement over rent, according to the police.

This was at the end of May when the landlady, Nancy Wanja locked the house and ordered David Migwi out.

Foul smell

Even after he was kicked out, Migwi managed to access the house to remove some of his personal belongings. He however left behind a blue water tank and bales of wedding ceremony décor.

It is when the landlady contracted three men to clean the house that they realised that there was foul smell. They, however, did not bother to check the source of the smell and just removed garbage from the house.



But when some residents noted the stench and called the police, human body parts were found among the gar-

bage. They were informed that the stuff came from the house where the suspect lived.

Police have produced in court an affidavit implicating Migwi in the murder of 36-year-old Penina Wairimu in 2019. Wairimu was reported missing at the Buru Buru Police Station on April 29, last year.

Three days later, police discovered severed body parts that were strewn in different parts of the city including Ladhies Road, where limbs and torso packed in a sack were found.

Last moments

Other body parts were recovered at the Dandora dumpsite. Investigators have retraced Wairimu's last moments to a city club where she was seen leaving in the company of a man.

This was on the night of April 26, 2019, at around 9.45 pm.

On May 31, decomposing body parts were discovered at a school playing ground in Umoja estate.

Buru Buru DCI chief Aden Guyo said they are yet to establish the identity of the latest victim before they can establish how she met her death.

Last Sunday, Buru Buru police received information that a blood stained sack had been spotted at a primary school compound in Umoja two estate.

In Brief

Nairobi. Uhuru lauds Burundi poll winner

President Uhuru Kenyatta has sent a message of congratulations and best wishes to the President-Elect of the Republic of Burundi Major General (Rtd) Evariste Ndayishimiye. On June 4, Burundi's Constitutional Court upheld President-Elect Ndayishimiye's win of the elections held on May 20. In his message, President Kenyatta also congratulated the ruling CNDD-FDD Party for the emphatic win. "On behalf of the people of Kenya, I congratulate the People of Burundi and the CNDD-FDD Party under Your Excellency Major General (Rtd) Evariste Ndayishimiye leadership for winning the Presidential elections," President Kenyatta wrote. [PSCU]

Homa Bay. Covid-19 volunteers get bicycles



County Commissioner David Kipkemai, MP Millie Odhiambo and CEC Health Richard Muga distribute bicycles. [James Omoro]

The fight against Covid-19 has gotten a boost after community health volunteers received bicycles for sensitising residents against the disease. Suba North MP Millie Odhiambo, County Commissioner David Kipkemai and County Health CEC Richard Muga distributed 100 bicycles to the CHVs on Thursday. Speaking during distribution of the bikes at Ogongo health centre, Millie said Lake Victoria makes it easy for residents to interact with Ugandans and Tanzanians. "We expect the CHVs to use these bicycles in promoting health education to defeat the disease," Millie said. [James Omoro]

Nandi. Senator suffers minor injuries in crash

Area Senator Kiprotich Cherager escaped with minor injuries following a road accident along Eldoret-Kapsabet road on Friday night. The legislator is reported to have been driving from Nandi to his Eldoret home when the accident occurred near Kapsabet Trading Centre at 9pm. Langas OCPD Francis Warui said when the police arrived at the scene, Cherager had already been taken to hospital. However, the senator posted a short message on social media: "Safe and sound. God bless you all. Blessed Sabbath. Sanitize, stay home, stay safe." [Fred Kibor]

Party politics

ODM reaches out to Mudavadi, Wetang'ula

The political rivalry between ODM party leader Raila Odinga and his ANC counterpart Musalia Mudavadi played out yesterday at a burial in Kakamega County.

ODM leaders at the burial of Lugari MP Ayub Savula's father, Arthur Angatia, at Manyoni, Lugari Sub-county downplayed claims that Raila is using some Western leaders to undermine Mudavadi and Ford Kenya leader, Moses Wetang'ula.

The Orange party leaders welcomed Mudavadi and embattled Ford Kenya party leader Wetang'ula to the negotiation table. Siaya Senator James Oren-go was categorical that ODM was ready to work with the duo for the sake of national unity.

"We are one big family and we would like to work together with everyone; be it COTU Secretary General Francis Atwoli, Mudavadi and Wetang'ula," said Oren-



Lugari MP Ayub Savula (second left) with family members during burial of his father Arthur Angatia at Manyoni, Kakamega yesterday. [Mumo Munawe, Standard]

go. The senator disclosed that two Western Kenya meetings will be held at Atwoli's Kajiado home today with sources privy to the arrangements hinting that

Raila will be in attendance.

It was, however, not clear whether Wetang'ula and Mudavadi would be attending the same meeting particularly after

the two lashed out at the former prime minister for allegedly instigating the fallout in Ford Kenya.

According to Oren-go, both Raila and President Uhuru Kenyatta mean good for the country and their efforts ought to be supported by all.

Remain united

"The most important thing is for today's meeting, which is meant to discuss how leaders from Western could be co-opted into various departmental House committees."

The lawmaker disclosed that they will be pushing for the appointment of MPs Bernard

Shinali (Ikolomani), Busia Woman Representative Florence Mutua and Kanduyi MP Wafala Wamunyinyi into committee leadership positions.

"When Benjamin Washali (Mumias East) was removed as majority whip, we ensured his position was filled by Emmanuel Wangwe (Navakholo)," he said.

Both Oparanya and Wamalwa skipped the funeral, but sent their apologies. The duo have been meeting elders from Western seeking their blessings after they were picked to represent the region.

Kakamega Deputy Governor Philip Kutima urged leaders to work together.

"We have those who have been in positions, but did nothing to address challenges facing our people," he said. [John Shilita and Kevine Omollo]

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Editorials

With a huge budget, make Nairobi sparkling again

The government has pumped in Sh28 billion into the Nairobi Metropolitan Service (NMS) at a time when service delivery in the city is at its lowest. Already, there are some signs of change as far as physical infrastructure is concerned in the nation's capital.

Pavements within the CBD are being refurbished and roads which have remained dilapidated for decades are getting a retouch. While this is welcome, we remind the head of NMS, that Nairobi City is a different playground. This is the eye of Kenya and actions to improve it must be deliberate and targeted.

One of the major reasons why Nairobi's growth has been inhibited through subsequent councils and county governments are bad politics and corruption. It would come as no surprise that cartels are already salivating for the funds pumped into NMS coffers; something Major-General Mohamed Badi, the NMS boss, must be ready to face. Apart from the roads and aesthetics being worked on in the CBD, there is a bigger rot in the estates.

Physical planning has gone haywire and the spread of informal settlements is unprecedented. This has come with poor service delivery like failure to provide sanitation services. Raw sewage is a problem residents have to contend with daily. And while

at it, it would help to remember these informal settlements and the politics around them have been the biggest impediment to cleaning of rivers that flow through the city.

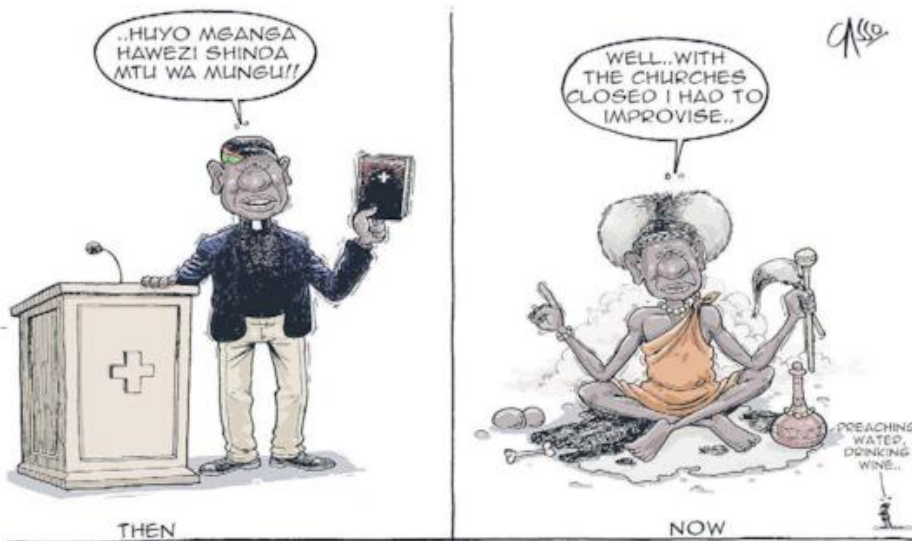
Solid waste is a common feature in several estates within the city and its environs. It is an area where cartels have maintained a choke-hold, leaving residents without the ability to breathe in fresh air.

It is a shame that city residents can go without water months on end. Badi must crack the whip on cartels that continue to hoard this crucial commodity only to sell it at a premium.

We also remind the head of NMS that healthcare is a critical service he must focus on, one that governors of the city have never really managed. He must desist from resorting to photo-ops and public relation stunts to be seen to be working; after all, is he not a military man and has been taught to carry out functions with precision in a timely manner?

Nairobi deserves to be counted among the best cities to live in in Africa. It can be done, and with the new team at the helm, city residents will demand more accountability and services. Finally, that NMS is directly under the Office of the President, means if it fails, the Presidency will have failed Kenyans in Nairobi.

That NMS is directly under the Office of the President, means if it fails, the Presidency will have failed Kenyans in Nairobi



Beating virus is a marathon, not magical sprint

President Uhuru Kenyatta went against popular sentiment by extending the dawn-to-dusk curfew by 30 days, a measure meant to curb the spread of coronavirus. The president was aware of Kenyans' agitation for easing of the containment measures, but chose to listen to experts and decided not to throw caution to the wind. Stung by rising infections and an ailing economy, he had to walk a tightrope to protect lives.

The changing of curfew hours from 9pm to 4am means businesses will get more time to operate in an attempt to recover lost revenues. The president assured Kenyans that the government is determined to protect them from the disease and its attendant economic effects. He reiterated the need to follow Ministry of Health regulations, guidelines and protocols to keep the disease at bay.

It is important to note that careless movements, especially from the hotspots to rural areas, could be suicidal. The containment measures will help stop taking the virus to the most vulnerable members of society, such as the elderly in the villages.

County governors have been complaining of a shortage of ICU beds, personal protective equipment and health personnel to handle the surge in Covid-19 cases. This is a situation we must avoid at all costs.

That said, the ministry should step up testing capacity. Containment measures cannot be in place for years. There must be a way out of the pandemic, which health experts and social scientists must be working hard to find. Still, this will be a marathon and not a magical sprint to the finish.

Careless movements, especially from the declared hotspots to the rural areas, could be suicidal.

In Covid-19, the fake lions in key positions have been outed

David Oginde



Greg Laurie in his book, *The Upside Down Church*, tells the story of a man who was desperate to make some money.

He went down to the city zoo, hoping to get a job feeding animals. The manager at the zoo had no openings, but seeing how big this guy was, he offered him another position. "Our gorilla died the other day, and that was one of our most popular exhibits! If we got you a special gorilla costume, would you put it on and imitate him for a few days? We'll pay you well for it."

The guy was so desperate that he agreed. He actually did quite well at it for the next few days, dressed up in his gorilla suit, beating his chest, shaking the bars of his cage. Huge crowds were soon gathering, and the money was good.

But one day, while he was swinging on his trapeze, he lost his grip and landed right in the middle of the lion's den! The huge beast gave a ferocious roar. The man in gorilla suit realised that he could not cry for help without revealing that he was fake. He slowly walked backwards away from the lion, hoping to climb back to his cage. The lion, however, with a very hungry look on his face, followed him. Finally, in desperation the gorilla cried out, "Help!" Immediately, the lion whispered loudly to the gorilla, "Shut up, stupid, or you'll get us both fired!"

Impressive stunts

If there is one thing the coronavirus pandemic has done to leaders globally, it is to reveal the stuff each one of us is made of. From heads of families to principals of schools; from SME bosses to CEOs of global conglomerates; and from village elders to presidents of superpowers; the story has been almost the same.

For a long time, many of us gorillas have mesmerized observers with impressive stunts we are able to pull in our homes, organisations or nations. We have been quite successful at entertaining admirers with great acts of genius. We have built reputation by beating the chest, swinging impressively in the air, and shaking the bars of the cage whenever faced with the demands of leadership. We have got away with so much for so long that people have come to believe that we can do almost anything.

Unfortunately, this pandemic loosened our grip and landed us right in

the middle of the lion's den. The consequence has been varying degrees of panic, confusion, and at times embarrassing screams of trepidation. At a time when leadership is needed most, we have seen many leaders react and act in total confusion. Whether in families, in organisations, or nations, our gorillas have been caught completely off guard.

Thus, we have heard of homes where previously impressive family heads have resorted to simple acts of panic or cowardice - drinking, spousal abuse, incest or becoming complete couch potatoes. Some organisational leaders have also reacted so unexpectedly as to throw their staff and customers into total confusion. Likewise, various heads of state have responded with nothing but panic and confusion, throwing their citizens into a quandary.

While we have been shocked at the screams of the gorillas, it is those we deemed to be ferocious lions that have amazed us. Totally intent on not being discovered, they have kept roaring menacingly as if fully in charge of their cages. Driven by the sheer desire to keep their jobs and perks, these lions will befriend anybody who can keep the secret. Unfortunately, their conduct betrays the reality that those claws and teeth are absolutely fake.

Truth be told, we see these fake lions all over the place. Men and women who we have previously

"Men and women who we have previously respected for their strong and charismatic leadership, have now resorted to mere whispers".

respected for their strong and charismatic leadership, have now resorted to mere whispers, totally at a loss how to navigate the challenges brought upon them by the global pandemic.

Of course, leading in crisis is not easy. A crisis situation is a stressful time when there is a breakdown or dysfunction in the usual or normal functioning of the organisation. It is like the gorilla that has fallen into the lion's cage. This requires special leadership skills. Must be calm, organised and decisive. More importantly, the leader must be supportive of all his or her team members.

This means that decisions must be made rationally, devoid of too much emotion. It is such skills that will help leaders make tough decisions like restructuring, salary cuts, layoffs, closure, lockdowns, and the like. Otherwise, what we are witnessing in the US, a global leader in every respect, leaves a lot to be desired. This great lion is turning out to be fake.

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Money or the lack of it must never impede justice

Isaac Kalua



Water is life. But in the case of Nairobi River, Athi River and other heavily polluted rivers in Kenya, water is death.

These rivers have become dumping sites for garbage, human waste, industrial chemicals, raw effluents and all manner of waste. Consequently, these rivers have been polluted by metals like lead, copper, chromium and zinc.

In addition, levels of *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) bacteria are quite high in some of these rivers. Apart from drastically undermining human health, all this pollution has severely undermined biodiversity, both within the rivers and in their riverbanks.

This is the very biodiversity the world recently spotlighted during the World Environment Day on June 5. This year, the theme was 'It's time for nature.'

As has been evidenced by pollution of rivers, destruction of nature always impacts human health and livelihoods negatively.

In this regard, justice must shield you from the greed of individuals or industries that destroy nature and in so doing compromise your health or livelihood.

The cry for justice has been reverberating around the world for the last two weeks due to the death of George Floyd. The 46-year-old died after a policeman pinned his knee on his neck for eight minutes.

His death sparked riots that continue to rock America and several other cities across the world.

As we mourn George Floyd's untimely and tragic death, we should take a long, hard look at the injustice in our own society.

Our national anthem is clear that justice should be our shield

and defender. Every Kenyan must be able to hold the shield of justice.

Unfortunately, for too many Kenyans, the shield of justice lies in tatters at their feet.

This is contrary to the Constitution which states in Article 48 that 'The State shall ensure access to justice for all persons and, if any fee is required, it shall be reasonable and shall not impede access to justice.'

Article 159 further makes it clear that justice shall not be delayed and that it shall be done to all, irrespective of status.

These clauses couldn't have been clearer that money must not impede access to justice. Yet this is exactly what happens every day across this country.

In 2017, the National Council on the Administration of Justice commissioned an audit of the criminal justice system in Kenya.

This audit revealed that the country's Criminal Justice System was predisposed against the weak and poor. Sadly, this is still the case three years later in 2020.

If you are not in the upper class economically, the shield of

justice may remain very slippery.

If you are looking for evidence for this inaccessibility of justice for most Kenyans, just read the daily newspaper or watch the prime-time news.

You will come across helpless Kenyans who didn't find justice after rogue drivers caused accidents that killed loved ones.

You will come across patients who find no justice after ill-equipped hospitals fail to treat them. Women who find no justice after sexual abuse.

Nineteen people who anguished and died in the hands of police as presented by Yvonne Okwara on News Gang last Thursday. Thousands who no longer have sufficient water because forests that act as water towers have been destroyed.

Most of these Kenyans rarely seek justice in courts because they are preoccupied with paying rent and putting food on their table, not pursuing justice.

It is therefore right that the Constitution requires the State, not the people, to ensure access to justice. The State has failed miserably in this. The 2017 audit

of the criminal justice system in Kenya was very clear on this.

This injustice must be corrected. The Executive, Legislature and Judiciary must begin to deliberate on what it will take to ensure access to justice for all Kenyans.

Those deliberations must then lead to action that will place the shield of justice in the hands of every Kenyan, irrespective of their economic status.

However, justice ultimately thrives because of our consciences and not just government action. As Mahatma Gandhi said, 'there is a higher court than courts of justice and that is the court of conscience. It supercedes all other courts.'

It is, therefore, up to every single Kenyan to strengthen the court of conscience by thinking and acting green.

This will lower our tolerance for injustice and infuse into us a tireless drive to pursue justice.

Think green, act green!

- The writer is founder and chairperson, Green Africa Foundation, www.isaackalua.co.ke

OVERHEARD

Critical report gathering dust



Why is a certain minister too afraid to make public the findings of a taskforce report received on December 16 last year? Since then the report is gathering dust despite millions of shillings spent to produce it. The contents of the hard-hitting report could have made the CS shy away from sharing it. The taskforce had to study and review existing policies and laws then advise on their appropriateness and consistency. It found out that information from the government is laden with gaps and inadequacies resulting in mistrust from the citizenry.

Own ouster is now public

An MP from Rift Valley is said to have engineered his own removal from a House committee. A little bird whispers to us that the legislator sought to have his name included among those earmarked for the ongoing purge to show he is a close ally of Deputy President William Ruto. The move was aimed at attracting sympathy from his electorate and hopefully dislodge his governor in the 2022 elections. And when the committees were reconstituted, he was among those kicked out. But will he succeed now that the cat is out of the bag?

Senator in panic over his future

A senator from Mt Kenya is finding it rough explaining himself to voters on his support for a certain cause and that come 2022, he will toe the line and follow the community. The senator, who at some point was in the political cold for long, has been telling people that his current political persuasion was not permanent. The man is literally in panic over his political survival even as the 2022 elections loom. Over a dozen politicians from his region are said to be eyeing his seat and any wrong move with the people will make him fodder for the 2022 contest. How the balancing turns out will be interesting to observe in coming days. Keep it here...

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BOOKS It is good to assume that our leaders read, and that their actions are informed by actual study

Political geniuses Uhuru, Ruto and Raila should be consulting

Daisy Maritim-Maina



At the curfew hour, President Kenyatta, Raila Odinga, William Ruto and all their political minions rush home to hunker over their political playbooks.

Because things are thick for some, and exciting for others, some books that had been gathering dust on shelves are now being consulted daily.

For the Deputy President and other leaders in the 'down-trodden' category, the Bible has been a popular text this season. The Holy Book presents ammunition when one is under siege or trying to besiege others. And going by Twitter, Bible verses can be used as insults disguised as prayers, rebuke veiled as meditation and political taunts camouflaged as deep religious reflection.

But I want to venture an educated guess that the scripts being underlined and annotated are the likes of the 33 *Strategies of War*. Everyone has gone back to seeking counsel from their favourite scheming instructor, the modern day self-declared Machiavel-

li, Robert Greene. We can even speculate which Chapter everyone is on. President Kenyatta is definitely on Chapter 1, keenly studying *The Polarity Strategy: 'Declare War on your Enemies'*. Lately the president has launched explosive missiles against his foes, and has clearly labeled them as 'those who are against my Agenda'.

In this chapter, Greene cautions Uhuru against people who are subtle and evasive, 'disguising their intentions and pretending to be on your side'.

Maybe Kenyatta has also been doing supplementary readings from the Gospel of Luke. As a physician, Luke was clinically stark in his declaration on Chapter 11 verse 23: 'He that is not with me is against me.' Kenyatta's readings are proving effective. Who knew that the sharp acid-tongued Aden Duale, who was once so devoted to the DP, would one day be as subdued as a church mouse? Who knew that he would totally comply, even to having a political nanny in the name of Amos Kimunya to chaperone him in Parliament? What is Kimunya's mysterious position as 'Secretary of the Jubilee Coalition Joint Parliamentary Group' if not a weapon of total war?

But when the president wants to take a break from enemy decimation, I recommend the book 'How the Monk Sold his Ferrari' by Robin Sharma as he mulls

over the constitutional moment he told us he has been reflecting upon, trading it in for a 'Probox presidency' in 2022. Because he seems to be inclined towards trading his for a Probox presidency.

Across town in Karen, Ruto is reading a different book by Robert Greene. He is hunched over Chapter 37 of the *48 Laws of Power* as he sips his midnight tea. Here Greene is telling Ruto to create compelling spectacles.

He is telling him to strike imagery and grand symbolic gestures. This is the chapter that informs decisions such as going for a traditional cleansing ceremony at the crack of dawn with mystical Kalenjin elders. Although the ceremony was private, a local daily has somehow managed to paint a clear picture of everything that happened there.

We are told that the Deputy President was 'doused with milk and honey from a special traditional gourd by elders dressed in wild animal skins' and that he was 'handed leadership instruments, including a baton said to have been used by legendary Nandi chief medicine man or Orkoiyot'.

The normally articulate Ruto has been driven into a political corner and can no longer effectively use words for political expression. Instead, he has expertly applied the 'arresting visuals and radiant symbols' recommended by Greene.

But there is another section of the book that we can suggest to the DP. That is Chapter 22, on transforming weakness into power. It says: 'When you are weaker, never fight for honour's sake; choose surrender instead. Surrender gives you time to recover, time to irritate and tor-

ment your conqueror and time to wait for his power to wane. Do not give him the satisfaction of fighting and defeating you. Surrender first.'

However, I suspect that the DP has read this chapter already. On Madanika Day, no one clapped louder for the president's speech, smiled harder at his remarks, or nodded more vigorously at his words than William Ruto.

So for the DP, instead of a book, I recommend something more relaxing to enjoy in these trying times: the 1969 song *Flattery will get you Everywhere* by Lynn Anderson.

As for Raila Odinga, I don't know what he is reading, or whether he is reading at all. But I am sure he reads. For him I recommend Musalia Mudavadi's book, *Soaring above the Clouds of Passion*. Although from the title it sounds like a book on aviation, or the name of a Latin American telenovela, it makes for an interesting political read.

Of course in the height of political drama, it is good to assume that our leaders read, and that their actions are informed by actual study. While Kenyatta, Odinga and Ruto look like they engage in some reading, many of their political minions sound like they only read SMSs and billboards. Any recommendations for them?

- The writer is a PhD candidate in political economy at SMC University, maritim.dc@gmail.com



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To open or not is a dilemma between two rights — Uhuru

On March 27, 2020 we announced a nationwide dusk-to-dawn curfew. Then on April 5, 2020 we augmented it by announcing cessation of movement into and out of a number of areas. Later on, more measures were announced to contain the havoc visited upon us by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Given this trajectory, and the fact that this crisis requires a long-term strategy, I took time to reflect on "...what must be done". If we lift cessation of movement ban, how will this help us fight the pandemic? And if we do not, how will the ban affect our economy, especially, the micro-business enterprises and those who derive their livelihoods from them?

To answer these questions, I turned to our Brain Trust, made up of the finest doctors, research scientists, and public practitioners for counsel. And I must admit that opinion was divided on how we are to advance against this virus.

Some, including myself, wanted to open up now. That was, and is still my desire. I want to open up at the earliest opportunity and get the economy going. More so, as Kenya was ranked the third largest economy in Sub-Saharan Africa this week.

Others held a contrary opinion. They borrowed from history, scientific models and current experiences the world-over to argue against opening up.

With these two viewpoints on the table, I was not dealing with a right and a wrong; I was caught in-between two rights. Those who want to open up are right, and those opposed to opening up are also right. And this clash of two rights placed me on the 'horns of a dilemma'.

Scientific consensus

In the absence of a scientific consensus among experts in the medical, research and public sectors, I asked for scenarios. I wanted to know the worst case scenario and the best options available for us to contain the spread of the disease without affecting the economy irreversibly. And I wanted these scenarios built around raw facts because we have decided to combat this pandemic in an open and transparent manner.

Truth be told, if we had not taken the stringent measures we did in March, the rate of infections would have peaked to 800,000 people by July 30, 2020. And if one infected person has potential to infect two people, this number would have hit 2.4 million people in 21 days. By the end of August, 75,000 Kenyans would have died from this virus. But because of the early interventions we took, we have recorded only 2,600 infections and 83 deaths.

If this is the worst case scenario, I wanted to know what the other scenarios looked like. If we put in place all the necessary interventions and relaxed them by only 20 per cent, what would this look like?

According to the experts standing behind me, relaxing the interventions by 20 per cent would lead to 200,000 infections and 30,000 deaths by December.

Further, if we relax the interventions by 40 per cent, the infections will peak in November 2020 with 300,000 infected and 40,000 deaths. And if we relax them by 60 per cent, the pandemic will peak in October with 450,000 infections and 45,000 deaths.

Although these projections are generated by a model, there is hard evidence suggesting that countries which opened up without proper protocols also experienced serious waves of infections. Spikes of infections were for instance experienced after re-opening religious gatherings in South Korea, Pakistan and Malaysia.

If this is our new reality, and we face the dilemma of easing restrictions or continuing with them, what must we do as a country? What is the irreducible minimum for re-opening the country? What is the threshold below which we cannot go?

According to the experts, the irreducible minimum for lifting the restrictions has three thresholds. One, to open up, the infections must have been contained and headed downwards.

Two, our health care system must be prepared sufficiently to take on a surge in infections. It must not be overwhelmed at any one point during the pandemic. Access to testing, isolation and quarantine must be a bare minimum. Three, capacity for surveillance and contact tracing must be in place.

The question we must ponder is whether we have met this threshold in order to lift the restrictions. Have the cases of infections taken a down turn, for instance? And the answer is no. Nairobi and Mombasa are taking the lead with new infections.

Have we met the second minimum of a prepared health system with isolation facilities? I will answer that question by giving you two examples. Siaya County has a 10-bed isolation facility and they have already admitted nine Covid-19 patients from only one incident.

Similarly, Busia County has a 34-bed isolation facility. And by two days ago, it was full. If there is a surge in infections in these two counties, the health care system will be overwhelmed. The hard question to pose here, therefore, is whether Kenyans are prepared to nurse Covid-19 patients in their homes if our health care system cannot handle the numbers.

Are they prepared to expose their children and the elderly to Covid-19 patients in the close proximity of home? And yes, we have disbursed Sh5 billion to the counties to increase their health care capacity in view of this pandemic. But to build the necessary health infrastructure for such undertakings requires time. We must get ahead of this pandemic by creating lead time.

Therefore, while I consider the possibility of de-escalating the containment measures in place and conscious that Health is a shared function - between the national and county governments - I have convened an extra-ordinary session of the National and County Government Co-ordinating Summit on Wednesday June 10, 2020, to consider the following salient matters:

(i) First, to review the effectiveness of the containment measures we have so far

rolled out to break the chain of transmission of the coronavirus disease;

(ii) Second, to secure the undertaking of every county government to deliver isolation facilities with at least 300 bed-capacity.

(iii) And thirdly, within 14 days, to develop time bound protocols for progressive re-opening of the economy. I have applied my mind to the different scenarios presented by our experts. And I have reconciled myself to the fact that to 'open' or not to 'open' up is not a dilemma between a right and a wrong. It is a dilemma between two rights.

Because of this, and fully cognisant of the irreducible minimum given by our experts, and in keeping with the advice of the National Security Council, I hereby direct and order as follows:

I. That the cessation of movement into and out of the Eastleigh Area of Nairobi and the specific limitations in force with respect to the Mombasa Old Town Area that is currently in force, shall lapse at 4am on June 7, 2020.

II. That in view of the successful containment of the disease in the counties of Kilifi and Kwale, the cessation of movement into and out of the two counties that is currently in force shall lapse at 4am on June 7, 2020.

III. That following stakeholder consultations in the education sector - the Ministry of Education jointly with the Ministry of Health issues and publicises guidelines on a gradual and progressive return to normalcy in the education sector by the Third Term, from 1st September, 2020. Further, that the ministry announces the new school calendar by mid-August.

IV. That following consultations with interfaith and religious organisations, the ministries of Interior and Health within seven days, constitutes an Inter-Faith Council to work out modalities and protocols of re-opening of the places of worship.

V. That in the meantime, the ban on all forms of gatherings, including but not limited to political gatherings, social gatherings, including bars and is hereby extended for a further 30 days.

VI. That due to the evolving nature of the disease globally, international travel restrictions are hereby extended. In the meantime, the Ministry of Transport is directed within seven days from the date hereof, to engage all key stakeholders and develop protocols to guide resumption of local air travel.

VII. That due to the increase in patterns of infections, the cessation of movement into and out of the Nairobi Metropolitan Area, Mombasa and Mandera be further extended by 30 days.

VIII. To accord all Kenyans the opportunity to enjoy a full-day's work, the nationwide dusk-to-dawn curfew currently in force until today the 6th June, 2020, be and is extended for a further 30 days. However, the commencement time for the same is varied from 7pm to 9pm; with the end time for the same being varied from 5am to 4am.

Therefore, effective June 7, 2020 the nationwide dusk-to-dawn curfew will run from 9pm to 4am.

Recognizing that the negative impact of Covid-19 is not limited to health care, my administration has made targeted interventions to protect our economy.

Tax refunds

At the outset of this pandemic, my administration injected Sh216 billion back into the economy through tax refunds, rebates and waivers. In the second phase we have further rolled-out Sh53.7 Billion under the eight-point stimulus package to reinvigorate our economy.

And on Madaraka Day, I announced that a total of Sh2 billion would be injected into the hotel industry to cushion them from the effects of this pandemic. Modalities of how these resources will be shared are to be released next week.

Finally, I wish to assure each and every Kenyan that I shall do all that is necessary to limit the negative effects of Covid-19 on our people, economy and way of life. I call on all Kenyans, particularly landlords and employers, to put people before profits during these testing times.

Permit me to close by saying that this disease is beatable if we work together; listen to and apply the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health.

Thank You and God Bless You; and God Bless Kenya.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

15 years in freezer for dead grandma

A Pennsylvania woman has been arrested for keeping her dead grandmother in a freezer for 15 years while the family continued collecting her Social Security cash. The grandmother, 97, died in March 2004, about 10 miles northwest of Philadelphia. Cynthia Black is charged with abuse of a corpse, theft by unlawful taking, and receiving stolen property. She allegedly told police she kept her grandma's corpse because the family needed the money from her Social Security checks. She also claimed she had moved the freezer more than 100 miles in 2007.

Now his political career is dead

The mayor of a town in Peru posed as a dead coronavirus victim by lying in a coffin while wearing a face mask, to avoid being arrested for violating lockdown rules. Jaime Rolando Urbina Torres was out drinking with friends on Monday night when he allegedly played dead to throw off cops who arrived to bust them for defying public health orders. The mayor, who has already faced criticism for being absent for much of the time during the outbreak, is shown in a photo released by local police lying in a coffin with his eyes closed. Torres was detained for violating curfew and social distancing laws.



Grandma goes all out for hugs

Handshakes with new acquaintances and hugs from loved ones feel like something of a relic amid the Covid-19 pandemic. But one grandmother found a fun, colorful way to greet her grandkids. Maureen Sweeney strapped on a colourful unicorn costume in an effort to greet her grandkids Rylan and Lincoln in New Jersey. Hugh Dillon, her son, captured footage of the May 24th reunion, with Sweeney trotting down the street before her kin run up with an enthusiastic hello. The grandma only lives a few blocks away, but it was the first time they had hugged since March 17, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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HOT ON TWITTER



@Mkogore: We are young unemployed broke Kenyans struggling hard to concentrate in virtual learning programmes. You lifting or not lifting the curfew won't change much #UhuruDontLiftLockdown

@alberto_Januzaj: Corona cases are rising I do not see the need to lift the lockdown, President Uhuru Kenyatta should just open some businesses. Kenyans are just thirsty for sex. #UhuruDontLiftLockdown

@Benardoko2: Those shouting Uhuru don't lift lockdown should know that the poor are the only ones suffering. #UhuruDontLiftLockdown

@Hannah_mwangi: Mr President Kenyans are tired. We are tired of being mismanaged by the police when we break curfew hours, Kenyans are sleeping hungry no work, no food please let it not be a disappointment today. #UhuruDontLiftLockdown

@MuriukiEugene: Uhuru Kenyatta has two options: 1. To save the economy 2. To save lives Tomorrow he has to make the toughest decision. We need money! #UhuruDontLiftLockdown

EVENTS IN HISTORY

June 7



2013: Russia President Vladimir Putin and his wife appear on live television to announce they have divorced after thirty years of marriage

2013: According to a new study, breast milk boosts brain development by 30% compared to babies who are fed formula

1990: Michael Jackson hospitalised for chest pains

1990: South Africa President FW de Klerk lifts 4 year of state of emergency

1982: US President Ronald Reagan meets Pope John Paul II and Queen Elizabeth

1972: German Chancellor Willy Brandt visits Israel

1929: Vatican City becomes a sovereign state

DISADVANTAGED Online learning does not favour poor learners

Glaring inequalities in our education system exposed

For an already fragile education system, Covid-19 pandemic posed unprecedented challenges to the government, students and parents. As a result, it exposed the numerous cracks in the system. As the nation begins to grapple with these challenges, a key question arises: Is the education system in Kenya designed to adapt rapidly to the changing world? Relying exclusively on online strategies means that learners from vulnerable households are losing the little chance they have to succeed in an education system that already does not favour them. It is nearly three months since the government announced closure of schools as a measure to contain the spread of Covid-19. As a result of the decision, a total of 91,591 learning institutions, public and private, were closed, disrupting the school calendar and affecting learners. Also affected are learners with special needs. Given the state of affairs today, our ability to ensure continuation of learning will depend on the ability to swiftly harness available technology, provide adequate infrastructure and mobilise stakeholders to prepare alternative learning programmes. The Ministry of Education estimates that there are 16,528,313 learners out of school, from early childhood development education to tertiary students. Less than 10 per cent of the learners have access to digital learning materials such as computers, tablets, and laptops. Only 18 per cent have access to learning through the internet. And only 26 per cent have access to electricity in rural areas, showing glaring disparities in home learning. The situation is worse in public schools. It is evident that rich families are better prepared to cope with the challenges posed by the crisis and sustain their children's learning at home. All this means that when schooling restarts, disadvantaged children will find themselves even further behind their peers. This raises a major challenge around educational inequality, given the technological landscape and income inequality. The question here is: how do we support the already marginalised learners technologically during these closures? If this is not looked into, the inequality gap in education will widen and quality compromised as Kenya has no digital curriculum, even for private school currently executing learning through the platform.

Besides missed learning opportunities, students from poor backgrounds are also not getting meals provided by World Food Programme and the government, through the School Feeding Programme initiated in 2009. In Kenya, school choice is correlated to income level, and public schools differ from private schools in many aspects including population. This therefore means that public schools are disadvantaged compared to their counterparts and in instances where remote learning opportunities are available, uptake will be low from students in public schools as a result of poor infrastructure. Opportunities to learn at home are limited due to lack of conducive learning environment as most



of these households live in single rooms, literacy levels of the parents low and an inability to hire private tutors. With exception of access to radio whose access is 58.5 per cent in rural areas versus 54.4 per cent in urban areas, access to computers, televisions, and internet is considerably lower in rural areas than urban areas. Access to these tools is just but one of the challenges that is being experienced by learners, teachers, parents and the government. The consequential socio-economic burden will be borne disproportionately by students in public schools, while maintaining that national examination still stands leading to the scramble of digital learning albeit without proper transition for students and parents whether in public or private schools. To manage re-opening, schools will need to be logistically prepared, the teaching workforce ready, and financing available. And they will need to have plans specifically for supporting learning recovery of the most disadvantaged students. Oscar Ochieng and Winnie Ogejo, Nairobi

Institutionalised religion tested

I may sound radical but I am not waiting with bated breath for churches to reopen. I have found God in the most meaningful way while praying at home, and do not miss church politics.

I must, however, commend online churches, they have made a difference to millions of spiritually hungry Kenyans. Let the church rethink how it will reopen and how it will ensure its pews are occupied once the State lifts the ban. Anna Mwende, Nairobi

Letters.

A strong, vibrant economy awaits Kenyans after Covid-19 crisis

The coronavirus pandemic has tested the country's economic muscle, and a number of businesses have experienced gloom and doom, with many firms posting losses. Only a handful can confidently say they have made profits. In the midst of the turbulence occasioned by coronavirus, the resilience of our people has emerged. With the economy set for reopening, many hope the turnaround will be quick, and that increased economic activities will bring more money into circulation. Consequently, business analysts project that the stock exchange index will start an upward surge. The economic rebound will be felt sooner than later since the fundamentals of the economy are strong. The

hospitality and tourism industry, which has been hit hard will make a swift comeback due to increased interest in the local market by top global brands.

Most international brands have strong systems capable of withstanding external shocks. Their financial muscles are also an added advantage. Our country will continue experiencing more investment in the lucrative industry, given the government's focus on construction sector through its Big Four agenda that prioritised housing. We should build on lessons learned from this crisis to strengthen our internal systems. Meanwhile, let the government leverage on local innovation to develop the economy. Benard Amaya Nairobi

Reopen places of worship to scale up Covid-19 awareness among wananchi



To contain spread of Covid-19 and confine its reach to limited numbers, President Uhuru Kenyatta recently proposed a raft of measures including cessation of prayer sessions bringing together large crowds in religious structures countrywide. The move saw an outcry of a section of the clergy particularly when restaurants and eateries were allowed to operate under more flexible conditionalities. In fact, the move to close prayer rooms was necessary then, given the little we knew about the virus. While Covid-19 remains a threat to public health among the masses, we now know pretty much about the novel virus, at least among the elite members of the population. Yet mass awareness is the greatest missing link as its management among the masses becomes the new normal.

The means of transmission of the virus, its origins, facts and myths around its spread, the need to wash hands for no less than 20 seconds with soap, the importance of keeping social distance in crowded places, the need to stay at home unless it is absolutely necessary to move around, the need for immunity boosting diet, the importance of physical fitness and the need to wear masks while in public

spaces are important information that are yet to be disseminated to the very end of villages across the county despite the continued efforts by the mainstream media. Particularly, we now know the transmission is ongoing at community level and moving to rural areas already. Enter the church. Historically, churches have served as key cogs of information sharing and dissemination among the poor of the poor. Importantly, open air churches and mosques as alternatives for worship should be encouraged. Schools and such open fields could be explored by churches as new worship grounds given that they are not used over the weekend. These, together with constant fumigation of such public spaces will serve to mitigate the virus rather than spread it. Fears around cash offering payment being potential exposure areas to the virus could be resolved through introduction of "Covid-19 Protocols for Religious Groupings" complete with a raft of recommendations which could include each church operating an Mpesa payment platform as a requirement for operation. Auscar Wambiya, MILE-STONES Consulting

In Brief

Meru. New plan to attract local tourists

■ The county government plans to turn the Leopard Rock Lodge located in the Meru National Park into cottages. County Investment and Development Corporation CEO Kenneth Ruteere said the decision to build cottages at the once popular international tourist hotel is geared towards attracting domestic tourists. The hotel was previously run by the defunct Meru County Council but lost its allure. "As it is, most tourist class hotels inside the Meru park are beyond the reach of potential domestic tourists. Our idea in this project is to popularise domestic tourism even more. We want to build nice cottages which will be pocket-friendly to the local population," Mr Ruteere said. [Phares Mutembei]

Kisii. Family of raped girl demands justice

The 14-year-old girl at Gucha Level Four Hospital on Friday. [Edwin Nyarangi, Standard]

■ The family of a 14-year-old girl gang raped by four men is demanding justice. The girl is said to have been defiled five days ago, but no suspect has been arrested. Her parents who spoke to journalists at Ogemo Level Four Hospital where she is admitted said the four men, all aged over 30, are well known to the family. The girl's father said one of the suspects is a son of someone who had bought a portion of their family land, while the other three are their neighbours at their home in Bomachoge Chache Constituency, Gucha Sub-county Deputy Police Commander Moses Kosgei said they are investigating the matter. [Edwin Nyarangi]

Vihiga. County to conduct staff audit

■ The county government has begun a staff audit to ascertain the number of workers employed, their qualifications and work stations. Public Service and Administration Executive Pamela Kimwele said many county staff are not effective in their stations. On Thursday, while swearing in the new County Secretary Ezekiel Ayieko in Mbale, Governor Wilber Otlichilo admitted that his administration did not know the number of workers in the county, which has posed a challenge in addressing the huge wage bill. [Eric Lungai]

PERFECT SANCTUARY KWS scientists approved Sera Wildlife Conservancy as a suitable "home" for the jumbos

New home for hand-reared orphaned elephant calves

Loisaba, Baawa, Lchurai and Nadasoit were rescued at young ages, weaned successfully and are now ready to live on their own in the wild.

By Jayne Rose Gacheri
jgacheri@standardmedia.co.ke

Four rescued orphaned elephant calves have been re-introduced to their natural environment after a successful weaning process by the Reteti Community Sanctuary.

The calves were released into their new home at Sera Wildlife Conservancy in Laikipia County.

The four - Loisaba, Baawa, Lchurai and Nadasoit - were moved to Sera after the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) scientists approved the sanctuary as a suitable "home" for the hand-reared calves.

This is due to Sera's proximity to Reteti. Considered to be its perfect security as the sanctuary has a perimeter fence that keeps at bay large predators such as lions.

Other preferences that made Sera Rhino Sanctuary an ideal home for the young elephants were that it has an enhanced security team comprising KWS rangers and community scouts, in addition to minimal human activity. The elephant population in the sanctuary is also not a large one.

Reteti manager Moses Lenaipa said the translocation process was agreed on after KWS scientists completed an ecological assessment of the area and determined that the conditions were optimal for the reintroduction.

Perfect sanctuary

Lenaipa said the recent rains have provided a variety of forage as well as surface water and full waterholes for the four elephants. The calves were released in perfect health.

"This brings to 10 the number of calves that have been successfully released from Reteti, and we are proud and thrilled to share this widely, being the only community-owned and managed elephant sanctuary in Kenya," he said.

The manager said this is the third release of hand-reared elephants into the Sera Sanctuary since Reteti was established in 2016. Sera is also a community-run sanctuary. The two are part of the larger Namunyak Wildlife Conservancy.

"Barely three and a half years since launching Reteti,



Four orphaned elephant calves are re-introduced to the wild of Sera Community Sanctuary in Laikipia from Reteti Community Sanctuary in Samburu County. [Jayne Rose Gacheri, Standard]



we feel proud of what the sanctuary has achieved in the rescue and release of orphaned elephant calves," said Lenaipa, adding that the establishment would continue to build partnerships with stakeholders in

conservation.

Loisaba, Baawa, Lchurai and Nadasoit were selected for this latest release because of their age. They are aged between three and four years and have been weaned off their special

milk formula.

"They have also gained valuable experience in the bush guided by their handlers, and were in great physical condition at the time of release," said Lenaipa.

He said in the build-up to the release, the calves were familiarised with their travel crate and fitted with GPS tracking collars. This process, he said, was carried out in partnership with KWS personnel who developed the post-release monitoring strategy.

"This will enable the monitoring and documentation of the elephants' health, safety and integration," said Lenaipa.

"KWS is proud of its veterinary team that has worked in partnership with Reteti to ensure the calves were rescued most humanely and professionally, given the required medical care and nurtured with the highest animal welfare standard," said Simon Gitau, Assistant Director of Mountain Conservation Area.

According to Antony Wandera, Senior Research and Monitoring officer, Northern Rangelands Trust, the four elephants will be monitored closely for learning purposes.

"The close follow-up will help us to continuously improve the welfare of the elephants and the rewilding

process," said the officer.

Bawa, now three and a half years old, was rescued from Nga'bolo after he was found abandoned and stuck in the mud at four months old. "It took a long time for handlers and KWS vet team to wean him back to health," said Lenaipa.

Loisaba, three years and four months old now, was found wandering by Loisaba Conservancy rangers at eight months. He was orphaned by the tough drought at the time, but endured to regain strength and be finally released to the wild.

Lchurai, another victim of the drought, was rescued at the Lchurai (after which he is named) area of Laikipia, stressed and traumatised at nine months old. However, the professional handling at the sanctuary made him fit for the wild release, aged three years and seven months old.

Close monitoring

Lastly, Nadasoit was the youngest to arrive at the sanctuary at only three weeks old. He was found in a community well at Naunyak Community Conservancy.

"She had taken a lot of water and was sick with pneumonia, but she proved to be a tough girl and found her way to good health by the time of release at three years and two months old," said Lenaipa.

The two earlier releases saw Wages, Lingwezi and Sosian reintroduced to the wild in May 2019 while Shaba, Pokot and Mpala were released in November 2019.

"Their release was quite successful as they are currently spending time with wild herds in the area and living without any human contact at all," said Naomi Leshonguro, one of the longest-serving handlers at Reteti Elephant Sanctuary and the first woman elephant handler in Kenya.

David Daballen, head of field operations at the Save the Elephants organization, says data on elephants in the wild released in 2019 shows orphaned jumbos are increasingly integrating with wild ones.

"The data shows their range overlaps with wild elephants with whom they share water points and are often in close contact," says Daballen, adding that the organisation is pleased with the progress of the orphans.

"We look forward to watching them grow to mature males and females and eventually feed on the fenced environment of Sera Rhino Sanctuary to be truly wild."



Purge. The ongoing clean up in Jubilee Party was necessary to allow President Uhuru Kenyatta deliver on his promises and secure his legacy during his last term, former Dagoretti South MP Dennis Waweru has said. He said the Senate and National Assembly are key pillars on legislative matters, and for the president to deliver, he need leaders who are passionate about his dream of a united Kenya, fight against corruption and the Big Four agenda. "In the last few years, it was increasingly difficult for the president to carry out his political agenda with majority leaders in Parliament who were speaking contrary to his views and engaging in early 2022 campaigns. I support the purge and urge Kenyans to rally behind the president in the face of economic challenges facing us," said Mr Waweru. The KenInvest authority board chairman also said the economy will recover effects of the coronavirus pandemic if everyone played their part. "We can recover the lost time and even jobs after this pandemic if we work together," he said yesterday after donating food to Dagoretti residents. [Wilberforce Okwiri]

Week in Review

Politics, Opinion, Analyses & Special Reports

REALIGNMENTS Opposition leader now the most influential leader outside the official government

Raila, the powerful man with no title can't be ignored in 2022 poll contest

ODM leader and Uhuru have secured a vantage position from where they will run succession politics.

By Rawlings Otieno and Jacob Ng'etich
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Once written off as a spent force and who had utilised his last bullet, Orange Democratic Movement leader Raila Odinga has not only confounded his supporters and naysayers, but is now a formidable element in the 2022 political matrix.

While the other political parties are in a shambles and more still disintegrating, his ODM is pulling together. Events of the last few weeks in Jubilee and Ford Kenya parties have left him stronger.

His advantage

From the "perpetual election loser" tag of yesteryear, the Raila of today, just like Deng Xiaoping of the Chinese Communist party who did not have any government position, is now the most powerful man outside the official government.

Cabinet Secretaries who had zero ties to him are now toppling over themselves trying to secure appointments with him at his Capitol Hill office.

The merger of his opposition power and government power has sent chills among his former allies, with Ford Kenya leader Moses Wetangula and his Amani National Congress (ANC) counterpart Musalia Mudavadi the latest to feel the heat.

"He is now the Deng Xiaoping

in Kenya. He (Deng) didn't have any major formal position, but he made major decisions. His (Raila) decision to support Uhuru is a masterstroke. Uhuru is now able to implement his agenda peacefully and coherently," Muranga Senator and President Kenyatta's blue-eyed boy in Senate, Irungu Kangata says.

According to Kangata, the alliance between the two and their communities have traditionally provided the 'grand norm' constitutional moment that redefined Kenya. In the end, he says, it is the people of Kenya who benefit whenever the two sides come together.

"The association of the two ushered independence, multi-party democracy in 1991 and a new Constitution in 2010. If the two leaders cement their relationship, the country will develop further. That is how I would like to look at it," he adds.

In the last one week, three unrelated events aptly demonstrate the power Raila is currently wielding.

"Raila easily exploits the inherent limitations of other politicians as he displays his mysterious traits that incessantly keep him surviving Kenya's political jungle."

Political analyst Javasi Bigambo.

The first is an incident when a Cabinet Secretary checked into his office, ostensibly to bargain for government appointments from his home area.

The second is a video that went viral four days ago that showed him riding in the same car with President Kenyatta inspecting renovations of Nairobi's city's main street at night. This happened while Deputy President William Ruto had been boxed politically the whole week.

The third is the political walling in Ford Kenya, ANC and generally the tower of babel that became of Western region in the last few days. All fingers pointed at Raila.

Mysterious traits

"Raila easily exploits the inherent limitations of other politicians as he displays his mysterious traits that incessantly keep him surviving Kenya's political jungle. Him working with Uhuru Kenyatta has elevated him beyond his NASA compatriots," says political analyst Javasi Bigambo.

He says this is almost natural given that he is the oldest and senior-most active politician and would therefore hold a cynical view of his competitors. With the benefit of the squabbles flowing his side, Bigambo says Raila will comfortably manage the outcome of the 2022 General Election.

Raila and Uhuru have secured a vantage position from where they will run the succession politics.

"The two can sustain the heat as long as they engage in it with



President Uhuru Kenyatta with ODM leader Raila Odinga. [File, Standard]

tactics and calculated caution. They must keep their challengers guessing and be ahead of them by sabotaging chances of unity," said Bigambo.

ODM chairman John Mbadi (Suba South) charged that Raila has always been the man to beat from the 2007 elections.

"So long as he chooses to run, he will always remain the man to beat. I don't believe any other presidential candidate today can wish and write him off. You can only ignore him at your own peril," said Mbadi.

The MP, who is also the National Assembly minority leader, said the political stature of Raila has never diminished since 1996 and that the new-found love between him (Raila) and President Kenyatta has emboldened the ties.

ODM's Secretary General Edwin Sifuna said Raila's track

record of fighting for the good of the country has not only propelled him to national limelight, but internationally.

"Raila was elevated to the level of international statesman long ago by his track record of fighting for the good of the country. He will remain so, notwithstanding any changes in the political landscape," said Mr Sifuna.

BBI project

University of Eldoret (UoE) Don Philip Chebunet, a political analyst, however contends that Raila is hell-bent on installing his 'Kieleweke' lieutenants in key positions so as to bring the Building Bridges Initiative (BBI) project to fruition.

"Those removed were not aligned to Raila politically so the hidden hand behind the purge is Raila. Raila is using his

surrogates to interfere with Parliament, Jubilee and other parties to give him a through pass. Ultimately, Raila will be on the ballot," said Chebunet.

Chebunet argues that President Kenyatta, who is leaving office in 2022, may not be keen to fight for Raila to succeed him and at the same time fight to have a legacy.

Nominated MP Godfrey Osofsi said that Raila's reduced political activity is strategic and not cowardice.

"Both Uhuru and Raila agreed to unite the country via the 'Handshake' and BBI and to temporarily put on hold the premature 2022 political talk. But selfish individuals in the other camp want us to stop everything and allow them to campaign for 2022. Raila reduced political activity is strategic," said Mr Osofsi.



Awkward shows in House as MPs axed for being on wrong side

Loneliness is a terrible feeling. It's even worse when you're taunted by those determined to keep you in solitude.

The fast-talking Member of Parliament from Ugenya David Ochieng' may just have been the perfect witness to this fact.

His return to the august House last year, having trounced former MP Christopher Karani in a by-election, may have been the most gratifying moment but last Tuesday's sitting is one he will be losing sleep over for the next few days.

The minority coalition, National Super Alliance, had reportedly been conducting some "contact tracing" as claimed by its leader, Suba South MP John Mbadil.

Ochieng', who had successfully camouflaged within the coalition, was among the many isolated as 'potentially infectious substances'.

So successfully he blended that no one had noticed he held a position as a member within Health Committee and that he occupied a slot reserved for the minority side.

But they eventually found him out and members from both sides of the aisle ganged up to kick him out of the said committee.

His predicament was best captured by the phrase 'mnyonge hana haki' as he would find out that his Movement for Democracy and Growth party was a boat lost at sea.

Democracy, despite being engraved in the party's name, appeared to be speaking the language of his oppressors. The minority had their say and they didn't want him on their side.

"If we do contact tracing and we find you in a political corner that we are not comfortable with... we must isolate you and we must quarantine you," began Mbadil.

And when they were done with him, the majority came in to have their way.

"The weatherman - what he is predicting, politically, doesn't look favourable," Leader of Majority Aden Duale weighed in on the matter.

Blame himself

For his woes, he had no one else to blame but himself, as he had raised the matter on the floor when everyone was all about their business.

Perhaps, he may have thought that talking as fast as he does, no one would have heard a word of what he said. He was wrong.

If you felt sorry for Ochieng', you must have shed a tear for his Kimini colleague Chris Wamalwa who found himself in a similar spot on Thursday. Well, it may have been after a bout of uncontrollable laughter but all the same, tears must have been shed.

It had everything to do with Suna East MP Junet Mohamed who made Wamalwa his pet subject for the day, taunting him almost to tears.

"The ousted Deputy Minority Leader (Whip)... should not continue masquerading as the Deputy Minority Leader (Whip)," Junet began, adding, "and he should start collecting his items from the office as soon as possible..." bursting into laughter as he sat down.

Unable to bear the humiliation, the Kimini MP struck back with an emotional sermon.

"Leadership comes from God... one door closes, another one opens," he responded as he spoke of his 2022 gubernatorial ambitions.

"I was more worried of Duale," he said of a man who had recently survived the axe before lashing out at Junet for being a "comedian" with little respect to others. [Brian Otieno]

Higher lawmaking. An "inclusive" system will band aspirants together, present them to voters as a package

Hidden allure of one-party state in Uhuru's BBI agenda

Jill Cottrell
Ghai



So far, as we know, inclusion has meant more jobs for political leaders - not inclusion for wananchi.

There were some worrying aspects of President Uhuru Kenyatta's Madaraka Day speech.

One of them was the reference to the repeal of section 2A of the old Constitution - the section that had made Kenya formally a one party state. He said, "this section had outlived its historical purposes and it was morphing into a political cancer." What were the historic purposes of the one party state - except the entrenchment of power by a certain section of the community, and the quelling of dissent and democracy?

Then there was this: "I am already discerning a constitutional moment... one that will bring an end to the senseless cycles of violence we have experienced in every election since 1992."

Has the President been reading the constitutional theory? Or has somebody been feeding him convenient slogans?

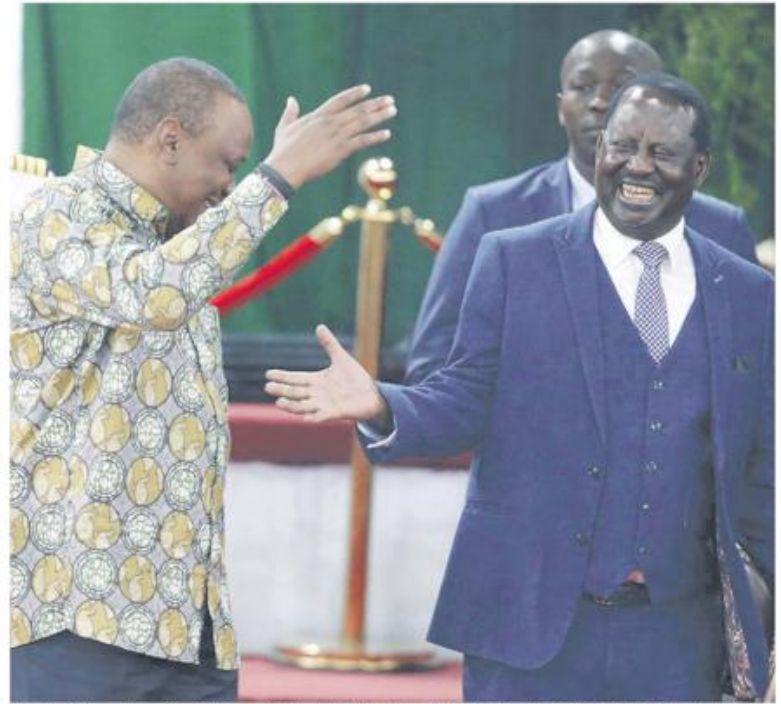
Legal procedures

A prominent American constitutional scholar, Bruce Ackerman, has a theory of "constitutional moments" to explain certain developments in US constitutional history when important constitutional change has taken place without the correct legal processes being followed - yet the change is accepted even by the courts.

The first of Ackerman's moments was the very making of the American Constitution itself - which was not the outcome of the appropriate legal procedures.

Ackerman teases out a whole process followed in such cases. It has involved getting an issue onto the public agenda, the development of concrete proposals, manoeuvring between different elements of the government until the opposing governmental elements give in, elections in which the voters ratify the solution illegally arrived at, and endorsement by the Supreme Court.

He describes this as a process of "higher lawmaking" - despite being technically not lawful, this process of acceptance makes it not



President Uhuru Kenyatta with Opposition leader Raila Odinga during the launch of the Building Bridges Initiative (BBI) report at the Bomas of Kenya in Nairobi last November. [File Standard]

lawless. He suggests there was always consciousness of the unlawfulness - it was not by oversight that technically correct legal processes were not observed.

Somehow, I doubt whether that is what Kenyatta had in mind. If it was, it is very worrying - that the President should set out to change the Constitution by appealing to a higher lawmaking process outside the Constitution that he swore to uphold.

More loosely the phrase "constitutional moment" is used when a certain impetus, especially at the level of the people, makes the chances of getting a constitutional change much greater.

Both notions of constitutional moment have the endorsement of the people as key aspects in their analysis.

We have to assume that the President was referring to the "Building Bridges Initiative" - he goes on to speak of inclusion and the end to electoral violence.

He did not, unlike his handshake mate, Raila Odinga, refer to a referendum, but he surely has in mind the same process.

At this point we do not know what revised proposal the BBI team will come up with after their further public consultations. So far, as we know, inclusion has meant more jobs for political lead-

ers - not inclusion for wananchi.

After the peak of post-election violence in 2007/08 our troubles were analysed, particularly by two high powered commissions. One focussed on elections, and the other on the violence.

The two most prominent messages were: the inability to conduct elections that were credible to the people, and the impunity for violence. Little has changed.

Another factor was widely thought to be important at the time: changing our political system so that no longer was the presidency the only prize worth having.

"The BBI seems to plan to add yet another role of sidekick to the president, in the form of the prime minister".

The drafts for a new constitution that already existed, and those developed after the 2007/08 crisis, were jettisoned by politicians in 2010, and a powerful president - if one in theory more constrained than in the past - retained. And the BBI would do little if anything to change that.

People have been commenting

about the problem of the deputy president's role - how unclear it is and how much the holder of the position is at the mercy of the president. The BBI would retain that role, and add another. That of prime minister.

Though that person would have to have the support of the majority in the National Assembly, we have seen recently how little the National Assembly values its role as a separate branch of government.

Five positions

The BBI seems to plan to add yet another role of sidekick to the president, in the form of the prime minister. Indeed three sidekicks if there are two deputy prime ministers, too. But the formal powers of the president would remain unchanged.

Finally, the logic of this "inclusive" system would be that aspirants for these now five high positions (or one really high position and four subordinate) would band together and present themselves to the voters as a package.

This would come perilously close to a one party state. If it did not, it would not be really inclusive! Section 2A Mark II?

- The writer is director of Katiba Institute.

Development

KPCU mills in three counties set for upgrade, says Munya

Kenya Planters Cooperative Union (KPCU) mills in Kirinyaga, Nairobi and Meru counties are set for refurbishment. Agriculture Cabinet Secretary Peter Munya said the facilities will be available for use by coffee societies and estate owners at a fee.

"In our budget we have factored an allocation for refurbishing the mills, warehouses and laboratories. The laboratory will ensure testing for coffee is done properly. We want to repair these warehouses even for other uses. Already the railway (Nairobi-Sagana-Nanyuki) is being rehabilitated," Munya said.

Munya said those using the facilities will only be charged a reasonable fee, an amount that caters for the basic minimum required to run the mill. Speaking during a meeting with representatives of 15 Coffee Cooperative Societies from Kirinyaga on Friday at New KPCU

mills in Sagana, Munya said a firm that had already leased the KPCU facilities for milling their parchment will be allowed to continue operating, alongside others interested in using the mills.

On the Coffee Revitalisation Programme, Munya said eight

counties in the Mt Kenya region that account for 70 per cent of the national coffee production will benefit from a Sh1.5b fund. The eight include Machakos, Murang'a, Meru, Nyeri, Kirinyaga, Embu, Kiambu and Tharaka Nithi counties.

[Joseph Muchiri]



KPCU mills in Sagana, Kirinyaga County. [Joseph Muchiri, Standard]

NEW ROLE The position places the Kipipiri MP at the upper echelons of Jubilee Party

Uhuru's gift thrusts Kimunya to limelight, but what's inside?

The job description of the new position remains hazy and it seems to duplicate duties handled by the majority leader and majority whip.

By Moses Njaghi
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Kipipiri MP Amos Kimunya's new position of Secretary of Jubilee Coalition's Parliamentary Group has reinvigorated the former powerful Cabinet minister, whose political career had once appeared to dwindle.

And in the wake of Kimunya's fortunes, National Assembly Majority Leader Aden Duale's misfortunes have begun with Jubilee Party Vice Chairman David Murathe, saying Kimunya is now above the Garissa

Township MP. Though the job description of the position handed to Kimunya on Tuesday remains hazy, it seems to duplicate duties that would be clearly handled by both Duale and Emmanuel Wangwe, the new Majority Whip.

However, it places him at the upper echelons of Jubilee Party, where he can play in the highest league of national politics.

"This is the position that Tuju (Jubilee secretary general Raphael) should have held, he should have been nominated to Parliament to be the link between the House, the party and the Executive. Now Kimunya will be the boss of the Parliamentary Group, placing him on the level of a Cabinet Secretary and above the position of the majority

leader," says Murathe.

The position thrusts

the Kipipiri MP back to the political limelight that he was used to when he served in President Mwai Kibaki's Narc and PNU government, rising to the position of Finance minister before he was disgraced through a vote of no confidence in 2008.

He also served as Minister in the Lands and Settlement docket, Trade and Industry, and Transport.

The motion of no confidence, articulately and dramatically moved by then Iko-lomani MP Boni Khalwale, accused Kimunya of being complicit in the controversial sale of the Grand Regency, now Laico Regency, Hotel.

He was also accused of impropriety in his handling of the Safaricom IPO and the De La Rue tender.

The vote overwhelmingly supported by MPs, including a majority from his own PNU party, came barely days after he had, almost arrogantly, declared that he would rather die than resign. He resigned, paving way for an inquiry against him.

Bruised and wounded

Though Kimunya was cleared of any wrongdoing in the sale of Grand Regency Hotel, the enhanced politics against him left the man, who had also served as deputy leader of government business in Parliament, bruised and wounded.

He appeared to have been sunk politically and thrown to obscurity, with little hopes that he would play in the national politics again when after the electorate of Kipipiri voted him out in the 2013 elections, he wrote them a letter, castigating them for being unappreciative of his good work over the 10 years he was MP.

Even after he was elected back to Parliament in 2017, Kimunya has remained a

Political career

- 58-year-old Kimunya plunged into politics in 2002, securing the Kipipiri parliamentary seat on a Narc ticket
- He was re-elected in 2007, where he emerged as a key defender of President Mwai Kibaki's PNU side of the coalition government
- The avid golfer's political career was badly punctured on July 2, 2008 when a motion of no confidence against him was passed in Parliament, leading to his resignation as Finance minister
- He was cleared of any wrong doing after investigations and re-appointed to the Cabinet as Minister of Trade in January 2009.
- He also served as the deputy leader of government business between 2008 and 2013
- He lost the Kipipiri seat in 2013 despite controversially landing the then coveted TNA ticket, before recapturing the seat in the 2017 elections
- He has kept a low profile in the 12th Parliament

pale shadow of the front-bench politician that he once was, one whose presence in the House would never be ignored.

Now the only responsibility the witty MP, who last year graduated with a PhD, in the House is the lowly position of a vice chairman of the Education Committee.

This was certainly not the place for Kimunya who once took to the floor of the House to "lecture" ODM leader Raila Odinga on the operations of the Nairobi Stock Exchange, now renamed Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE), casually telling the opposition chief that "NSE is not a fish market".

Rightful place

But now even as the debate rages as to what the exact role of the position granted to him entails, it is certain that Kimunya has been thrust to his rightful place in the country's political set-up.

Murathe says it will be the secretary of the Parliamentary Group, which now includes members of Kanu who are now in the Jubilee coalition, who will be calling for PG meetings, a task that was reserved for the party leader.

"Those who have been

accusing the president of failing to summon a PG meeting will now be channeling these concerns to the secretary. That is how powerful that position is," Murathe says.

Kimunya says the position is not new as it is stipulated in the Jubilee constitution, only that it never had a substantive holder. He admits that his duties could see him assuming some functions now played by other leaders.

"I don't think there is a conflict, every of those positions has specific duties. But since there has never been a substantive holder of the position since 2013, the duties were being played by either the whip or the majority leader.

However, the position is a vital component of the governance structure of the party," he says.

Kimunya adds that his responsibilities would include coordinating the two Houses of Parliament, sorting out logistics of a PG, reporting deliberations of the PG, chairing meetings of legislators if that is designated to him by the party leader and inviting the party leader to address a meeting where he is in attendance.

Dispute

MP in row over 'debt' owed to county

Meru County revenue collectors and askaris stormed a television station over a debt owed by the station to the county.

A confrontation ensued between Meru County Revenue Board CEO John Ntoiti and Woman rep Kawira Mwangaza's station on Friday over the Sh509,000 debt.

Ntoiti went to the building where Baite Television Station is to urge the management to pay up its debt, or face recovery action. The TV station, owned and managed by Mwangaza and her husband Baicu Murega, is next to the Woman rep's residence.

Brandishing the notice and the list of payments, Ntoiti said the couple owed the county the money from as far back as 2016 and wanted the duo to produce a license allowing them to operate.

But, Mwangaza and Murega said they did not owe the county government any money. The woman rep demanded the revenue boss produce a court order allowing his team to enter her compound.

"I am the owner of this premises, so I wanted to know what has brought you here. If you have the court order show us and then you can proceed," she said.

Outstanding payments

Ntoiti insisted they wanted the company to pay Sh200,000 for a mast tower while Mwangaza said the mast belonged to a mobile telephony company, and not the county.

Ntoiti's visit came at the expiry of a notice to Murega to pay Sh509,000 in land rates, license and other fees owed by the station which is located at Makutano area. It was at that juncture that the exchange degenerated into a shouting match, with the duo telling Ntoiti to go to court to recover any money.

The outstanding payments listed by the revenue board are for refuse collection dating back to 2016, installation of communication mast, change of user for a plot, land rates and vehicle branding. [Phares Mutembei]



Amos Kimunya

STATISTICS

According to KNBS there are more than 3,000 Kenyans with severe dwarfism, with more than 1.2 million children having stunted growth

Yes, hear it from me, living with dwarfism is such a tall order

People with short stature suffer ridicule and many cannot access hormonal therapy which is key in aiding their development

By Mercy Adhiambo
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Hussein Kenga remembers the days he spent locked in his room, trying to deepen his voice. He was 16-years-old, desperately praying for his boyhood shrill voice to get the crack that his agetates had gotten.

His classmates were going through puberty; the growth spurts, wisps of hair on the chin, and the many hushed talks about the changes that were happening in their private parts indicated approach of manhood. He had none of it.

"I was still a boy, even though my age was advancing. I hit 20 years old and nothing about my body had changed to show that I was growing. I knew that I was not okay. I was different," he says.

The years after were tumultuous. His friends were starting families, yet he could barely get the desire for women. The pressure inside him was mounting. By the time he was approaching 30 years, his self-esteem had taken a dip.

Derogatory names

"I was tired of people calling me derogatory names. Having short stature means even children will see you and mock you. It is a very bad feeling," he says.

It is after he turned 32 that they discovered what ailed him. He had pituitary dwarfism caused by a deficiency of growth hormone. It cast some hope in

the gloomy situation.

"I went through hormonal therapy. I still do not have children, but I started developing into a man," says the 48 year old.

He embodies the struggles of other Kenyans of short stature that is caused by different medical conditions. Data from the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics indicate that there are more than 3,000 Kenyans with severe dwarfism, with more than 1.2 million children having stunted growth that medics say could lead to dwarfism in adulthood.

Dr CF Otieno, lecturer at the Department of Clinical Medicine and Therapeutics at the University of Nairobi, says there are many cases of dwarfism that could be managed through medical interventions, but most people do not seek help until it is late.

"Parents should be on the keen on their children's development and report when they notice a delayed growth in growth or disproportionate body parts," he says.

Kenga recalls the treatment process he went through during the hormonal therapy and says

"I was still a boy, even though my age was advancing. I hit 20 years old and nothing about my body had changed to show that I was growing. I knew that I was not okay. I was different,"

Hussein Kenga

it was expensive, and only a few doctors could handle his case. He says he knows many other people with dwarfism, especially women who have not had secondary growth, but cannot afford to go for the therapy.

"Most of the treatment requires that you travel to Nairobi. If you are in far-flung counties, this is rarely an option for you," he says.

Dr Angela Migowa, assistant professor and paediatric rheumatologist at Aga Khan University says there are cases of short stature that can be treated if the nurses at public hospitals can be well trained to accurately capture data during early stages of life.

Alter the genes

"Using a graph to plot height at different ages can instantly tell you the child is not developing well. In some cases, early intervention can be used to change the situation," she says.

She also says in cases where dwarfism is caused by a genetic disorder, there are some countries that allow for manoeuvring of the genetics to alter the genes, but there are ethical issues around it.

"Most hospitals do not screen for things like thyroid complications, yet the treatment can be so cheap," she says.

She also thinks public awareness can bring a lot of changes and make people start pushing

FACTS ABOUT PEOPLE WITH SHORT STATURE

Causes:

- Endocrine diseases (Related to hormones)
- Genetic conditions
- Bone and skeletal diseases
- Intrauterine growth retardation
- Malnutrition for kids under 2 years causing stunted growth
- Childhood traumas

Conditions:

200
different types of dwarfism

651,700
People severely affected

Diagnosis:

Physical exam:

- Measuring weight and height

Bone age test:

- X-ray of hand and wrist to see how bones have developed

Blood test:

- Check for genetic disorders.

Stunted growth in Kenya:

- 13% of kids underweight
- 32.4% of stunted growth in rural, 24.5% in urban

1.82m
Children (29%) under 5 years have chronic malnutrition stunting or low height-for-age

24-35
Children aged 24-35 months more prone to stunting

- Boys are more likely to be stunted

Hussein Kenga Mweri during the interview in Rabai Sub County, Kilifi County. (Kelvin Karani, Standard)

Treatment

Medical interventions to manage dwarfism, boost

A global trial is currently ongoing to develop a drug that will regulate the development of bones for children with dwarfism.

The clinical trial is coming up with a drug composition that will boost the growth rates of children with achondroplasia, the most common form of dwarfism.

The project is being conducted by the Melbourne's Murdoch Children's

Research Institute and is in the final stages of testing the drug. The results of the previous phase trials that was done in children aged 5-14 and published in the New England Journal of Medicine showed positive results. The study was done on 35 children from different parts of the world.

Lead author and MCRI clinical geneticist Professor Ravi Savarirayan, said achondroplasia is caused by over

activity of a signal that stops growth, and could be likened to overwatering a plant.

"This drug basically kinks the hose so that the plant gets the right amount of water and can resume regular growth," Prof. Savarirayan said.

Achondroplasia is a genetic bone disorder that affects one in 25,000 infants. It is caused by a genetic mutation that impairs the growth of bones

in the limbs, the spine, and base of the skull. The most common health complications experienced by children with achondroplasia are spinal cord compression, spinal curvature and bowed legs.

There have also been other treatments that are used to manage dwarfism, including growth hormones therapy for people with hormonal malfunctions. Limb-lengthening surgery is also



Managing dwarfism:

- Hormonal therapy
- Surgery
- Physical/psychological therapy

■ Stunting does not have strong relations with poverty.

Counties with high levels of stunting

- Narok
- Laikipia
- Mandera
- Machakos

■ 22 counties have severe level of stunting above the national average (11.4%)

for better health care that will make people with short stature feel more accepted in society.

Irene Muoki who suffers from Diastrophic Dysplasia, a condition caused by a bone disorder says she had to drop out of school when the taunting became too much and bullying she got from her peers was causing her anxiety.

"I remember one day during assembly, the teacher lifted me like a child. I was in Class Seven. The whole school laughed. I was sweating and panicking from the embarrassment. I knew I will never go back to school," she says, explaining how people with dwarfism suffer in an education system that does not support them.

She says even in adulthood, her biggest struggle is getting people to treat her as a grown up. She mentions a recent case where a popular Kenyan comedian went on social media to ridicule a woman of short stature who had gotten pregnant.

"He put up a photo of the pregnant woman laughing and saying that the man who had gotten her pregnant has no shame.

It goes to show you that if you have dwarfism, people think you have no emotions. You are nothing to them. It is a

shame," she says.

She adds that her worst humiliation came when she met a man who fell in love with her, and when he went to introduce her to his parents, his mother outrightly rejected her.

"She told me on my face that I must have bewitched her son. I knew it was not going to work. He left me soon after. And many more men have left me since then. We are outcasts," she says.

Joakim Mwangi, founder of Short Stature Society of Kenya, a non-governmental organisation that champions for the rights of people with different health conditions that cause short stature says there are many myths surrounding their existence.

Greatest desire

"We champion for education and empowerment because people with short stature go through a lot of social and psychological challenges. We want to have a strong voice," he says.

Kenga says the greatest desire for people living with dwarfism is for people to start paying attention to their needs.

"We are people. We do not appreciate when we are treated with children - as a reason for people to laugh and tease. Not all people with short stature want to do comedy. We are individuals with different personalities," he says.

victims development

gaining popularity among developed countries.

Gene editing to control genetic conditions, including dwarfism, has also been explored by scientist as a way to contain the condition in utero, but it has faced resistance from moralists who feel it can be abused.

In Kenya, there have been many interventions to help in controlling

dwarfism caused by malnutrition. The government and other agencies like UNICEF have been running campaigns on the importance of exclusive breastfeeding for children under six months, and the post-natal clinics have been focusing on improvement of the chart monitoring to keep track of the growth of children below five years old. [Mercy Adhiambo]

Determination

I don't focus on my disability or use it to secure favours

"I have short stature, no hands and one of my legs has problems. You can imagine how many times people laughed when I walked by as a child. It was tough. I cried. Then I developed a coping mechanism, which is to ignore all things whispered behind my back. From a young age, I got tired of the bad feeling when I heard people saying mean things over this condition that I had no control over. I was born this way. I cannot change it, so I had to endure it. I am lucky that I have a loving family. When I was out there, and I was feeling like the world around me is crumbling because of how people were making me feel, I remembered the love of my family. Living with short stature is tough. Simple things like climbing stairs, sitting on a chair or even picking up things become a challenge. Then the belittling, of people thinking that just because you are small, they can treat you like a child. I look back and think of how resilient I am. To go through all that, and put your mind to studying and getting a masters like I did is big. I am proud of the woman I am becoming. Even without hands, I write. People marvel at how I can put the pen in my arms and write in handwriting that is better than most. I remind myself that I matter. I choose my battles. When I am among strangers and someone says something mean about me, I choose to ignore it. When I hear it from someone I know, I stand up for myself and tell them to stop. Life is about learning when to be quiet. In my position as Principal Secretary, I do not focus on my disability or use it to get favours. I focus on my abilities - on what I can do. Everyone who has a disability should remember that they have a strength inside them, and focus on building their strengths. [Mercy Adhiambo]



Heritage Principal Secretary Josephita Mukobe at Bukungu stadium, Kakamega during Mashujaa Day. [File Standard]

Stigma

Rejection, discrimination starts at home

"I grew up in Magodo Children's Home. My parents, probably not knowing what to do with me, sent me to live with my grandmother, and then I was later put into a home. I started school very late, at nine years old. I was small and people probably thought I would grow taller. I never did. I have Achondroplasia, genetic disorder that results in dwarfism. Life as a dwarf in Kenya is tough. The education system does not support you. You get used to the giggles behind you when you walk. You are a toy. People want to carry you and play with you. It is humiliating. I refused to let myself to be defined by my condition. I studied hard. I knew it is the only thing I had. I am now a medical officer. I still laugh about how I



Hosea Stephen (Clinical Officer)

had to climb on stools to reach patients. What is not funny though, is the look of horror

they would get when my tiny hands would reach out to treat them. People are not ready for

people like us getting into fields like medicine. Most people think I should become a comedian. I have been declined jobs. I qualify for because of my size. I am asked questions like how I will reach the door handle to close the office if I am put in charge. Dating for us can be tough. We get used to rejection. I, however, met someone who loved me for who I am. She is a chef. I threw my sweet words and she fell for me. We are planning for our wedding. When living with dwarfism, rejection often starts from home. You become an outcast.

I never allow that to get to me. I will be a great person someday. I now run my chemist and I am hoping I can find someone to partner with me. [Mercy Adhiambo]

In Brief

Nairobi. City residents participate in cleanup

■ Dagoretti North Sub-County administration in partnership with the Upper Hill Residents Association, led 12 companies and institutions in a major clean up exercise where more than 300 residents participated last Friday. While launching the exercise, Director for Environment and While launching the exercise, Director for Environment and Sanitation Mr Mario Kainga urged the participants to take a leading role in safeguarding the environment. Acting administrator Janet Kimeu said the county will continue to partner with communities and stakeholders in environmental management. [AP]

Siaya. County to spend Sh7.1b on key projects



■ Governor Cornel Rasanga's administration is planning to spend Sh7.1 billion to implement priority projects in the proposed 2020/2021 budget. According to the budget, the county anticipates to collect Sh351 million as local revenue. Health services will spend Sh2.4 billion, which is 33 per cent of the county's total budget. This is an additional Sh91 million from the 2019/20 budget. Roads, public works, energy and transport allocation has been slashed by Sh46 million from the previous Sh720 million. The budgetary allocation for tourism, sports and arts has been reduced to Sh250 million from Sh346 million. [Isaiah Gwengi]

Health

County assembly moves to avert planned medics' strike

Alarmed by a looming crisis facing Kisumu's health sector after doctors threatened to go on strike, the County Assembly has now intervened to resolve the stalemate.

Doctors and nurses this week issued yet another strike notice, complaining about Governor Anyang' Nyong'o's administra-

tion unwillingness to improve their terms.

With the county also struggling to contain the spread of Covid-19, several residents and leaders feared that a strike by the medics would be disastrous.

On Friday, Speaker Elisha Oraro convened a meeting with two key House committees as well as a representative from

the health workers and one from the executive as well as Kisumu County Public Service Board.

In a strike notice addressed to the County Secretary, KMPDU had accused the county government of failing to effect promotions and pay arrears since July last year.

Chief Officer for Health and sanitation Dr. Joseph Okwesio confirmed receiving the strike notice and said the department is addressing the matter to avert the planned strike.

"Some of the allegations are not true but we are scrutinising the claims," he said. [Harold Odhiambo]

ROW. More discrepancies noted in birth notification and burial permit

Woman claims baby swapped with a dead one in hospital

But medical superintendent says child was born pre-term and promises to conduct DNA to establish the truth.

By Kennedy Gachuhi
kgachuhi@standardmedia.co.ke

A woman has accused Nakuru Level Five Hospital of swapping her newborn with a dead one.

Alice Adhiambo, 31, said she checked into the facility on May 21 and was admitted after medics reported that she had high blood pressure, thereby placing her and her unborn baby in danger.

"I remained at the hospital until May 29 when I delivered at around 4pm through caesarean section. My baby boy weighed 2.6 kilograms at birth and was feeding normally. I spent the day with him on Saturday and Sunday," said Adhiambo.

Details on the Newborn Unit Exit Form indicated that "the child was born pre-term at 31 weeks and 5 days as compared to 40 weeks for a normal delivery."

Adhiambo explained that on

Sunday evening, she went to breastfeed her child at 6pm and left the nursery at around 7:30pm hoping to check on the baby again by 9pm.

"At 9pm, I left my bed heading to the nursery. There I met two nurses who asked me where the name tag on my child had gone yet I had left it intact. My baby too was not in his bed," she said.

The distressed mother said the nurses then broke the news to her that her child had died after which she demanded to see the body.

Unique hair

"My child had unique hair close to the forehead. I was shown an already wrapped baby whose body colour had turned almost green. The dead child had a birth mark on the face while mine had none. The body was too cold to have died minutes earlier," said Adhiambo.

Her attempts to get an explanation on the circumstances under which her baby died were futile as none of the nurses had answers to her queries.

But the hospital's medical superintendent Dr. Joseph Mburu has denied Adhiambo's



Alice Adhiambo speaks during an interview at her home in Section 58, Nakuru. [Kennedy Gachuhi, Standard]

claims.

"There was nothing like a baby swap. The document in our possession clearly show that the child was born pre-term," Dr. Mburu said.

The situation became more complicated the following day

as Adhiambo was paying her bill when it emerged that she had been given a different file as a record for her child.

On the Discharge Summary Form given to Adhiambo, her patient number was recorded as 792173 but at the hospital

billing records the number had been assigned to a different patient.

"At the accountant's desk, the patient number on the form gave the record of a patient named John Ng'anga. That was neither me nor my son," she said.

Dr. Mburu admitted that there were some errors on the records but the inpatient number belonged to Adhiambo.

"If the child was not hers, we shall have a DNA conducted to establish the truth of the matter," said Dr. Mburu. More discrepancies emerged between the birth notification and a burial permit issued to allow the hospital to dispose of the body.

In the two documents seen by *The Standard*, the Birth Notification issued on June 1 indicates that the child was born dead on May 29 while the burial permit indicated the child died aged one day.

Adhiambo who works as a security guard in Nakuru town said the torment has been hard for her to bear adding that her husband is still held up in Mombasa due to cessation of movement because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Wrangles

Party officials in war of words with Bondo MP over disloyalty claims

All is not well in ODM, Bondo branch, after some party officials questioned area MP Gideon Ochanda's conduct.

The officials on Tuesday issued a statement accusing Ochanda of being disloyal to the party. The MP had just survived removal from a parliamentary committee.

The officials, George Mawere (Organising Secretary), Julius Okello (Women Leader) and Rose Angule (former nominated MCA) called on the MP to clear his name

over claims that he had links with Deputy President William Ruto.

"As the party's secretary in the constituency we no longer have confidence in him," said Mawere.

Ochanda on the other hand accused his political opponents of tainting his name.

East African Legislative Assembly member Oburu Oginga defended the officials, but added that they were speaking in their own capacity and not the party's. [Isaiah Gwengi]



Bondo MP Gideon Ochanda and Eala MP Oburu Oginga.

Relief aid

MCAs lash out at governor over 'paltry' 200kg rice donation

A section of Kiambu County ward reps have faulted the distribution of relief food as a mitigation to combat the spread of coronavirus.

The MCAs are now demanding that the food distribution be halted until a better formula is found and the food tested before being dished out.

They accused Kiambu Governor James Nyoro of insincerity by issuing a lesser amount of food even after a supplementa-

ry budget of Sh130 million had been passed by the assembly coupled with other donations of over Sh150 million.

Kijabe MCA Stephen Nyutu faulted the governor over the distribution of 200kgs of rice in every ward for distribution to vulnerable families, which he says is too little for the population.

Kamenu Ward MCA Raphael Chege questioned the rationale of giving 200kg of rice to a ward

of over 30,000 people.

"What can 200kgs rice do for my people, the governor is causing animosity between the MCAs and locals," he explained.

Karuri Ward Rep Peter Wainaina said the rice was only enough to feed 200 people.

However, speaking in Ruiru where he made the donations, Nyoro told off his critics urging the reps to stop politicising the food distribution exercise. [Fidelis Kabuny]

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Things to know when buying a rental property

Can you imagine your name on a lease or title, a big deal huh! but it has responsibilities as well. When searching for a rental property, it's important to determine whether the property you buy will generate a decent income. One of the primary aims of buying it is to draw income from it after all.

You will need to be smart and well-informed to make the profits.

1. Find the Right Location

The last thing you want is to be stuck with a rental property in an area that is declining rather than stable or picking up steam. A locale where the population is growing and a revitalization plan is underway potentially represent the best investment opportunity.

In addition, a neighborhood with low crime rates and a growing job market may mean a larger pool of potential renters.

2. Know that you will deal with people

Understand the role of a landlord, it requires a particular set of skills in the range of social intelligence. Dealing with people can be tiring, but it can put money in your pocket.

Communication is going to be the key. You will need to talk with your tenants regularly and listen to their feedback. This will help you establish a trustworthy relationship based on honesty. Furthermore, prevention is always a better solution than dealing with a problem. Plan to provide multiple options for your tenant to reach you and be reasonable with their requests! Think of tenants as business partners.

3. An agreement is your upper hand

Release yourself from potential disaster. Talk to people who are landlords and learn what challenges they are dealing with and such instances should be covered in your agreement. This will ensure you stay on top of things at all times. Your agreement should also state:

- The exact procedure in cases such as damage to the property
- The policy towards pets
- Certain items regarding maintenance and early termination of the lease and
- A clause dedicated to illegal activities in the premises.

4. Beware of applicable fees and taxes

It's important to understand, for example, your tax obligations as you buy the property, from the applicable taxes during the purchase to the rent tax upon occupancy. Learn also about security deposits, tenancy agreements, eviction rules and more in order to avoid legal hassles.

4. Buy a Low-Cost Property

The more expensive the property, the higher your ongoing expenses will be. Some experts recommend starting with small units in an up-and-coming neighborhood.

5. Have an understanding of your rewards and risks

Rewards:

- Your income is passive. You earn money while putting most of your time and energy into your other obligations.
- Your income grows. You don't just earn rental income; when real estate value increases, your investment rises in value.
- Short of another crisis, real estate values are more stable than the stock market.
- Real estate is a physical asset.

Risks:

- Although rental income is passive, tenants can be a pain to deal with unless you use a property management company.
- Unlike stocks, you can't instantly sell real estate if the markets go sour or you need quick cash.
- Entry and exit costs can be high.
- If you don't have a tenant, you have to cater for all the expenses.

The Bottom Line

Keep your expectations realistic and remember that picking the wrong property could be a catastrophic mistake. Consider working with experienced partners if it's your first property.

Likewise, keep in mind that hiring a property manager from a qualified property management company can help reduce risks, as they have the experience necessary.

Also, talk to a certified public accountant who has experience working with clients owning a rental property. He/she be able to provide an objective point of view on the pros and cons of buying a rental property and how to maximize the income potential of yours.

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Demand firms as OPEC+ meeting looms. Angolan crude continued to sell well and traders said interest in Nigerian crude was set to rise as the country faces pressure from fellow producers to rein in output. Angola has cut the number of oil cargoes that it will ship to Chinese state firms to pay down debt to Beijing as it seeks to renegotiate repayment terms. China's Unipac had no cargoes assigned to it in July, down from the usual two or three. [Reuters]

Business

SPORTS. LACK OF TALENT WORRIES YEGO AS HE AIMS FOR OLYMPICS CROWN. Pg 36



On Twitter:

@FinancialTimes

US economy shows unexpected 2.5m gain in jobs in May



In Brief

Environment. Agencies to manage waste

Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM) has partnered with Bakers Association of Kenya to manage plastic bread bags waste littered by consumers. The two associations will work together with players across the waste management value chain to ensure the bags are well disposed. Speaking during the signing of the agreement, KAM Vice Chairperson Mucal Kuniya, noted that plastics have significant benefits and should be integrated into the circular economy to maximize their benefits. "The role of the manufacturing sector in the circular economy rests in sustainable waste management. A huge opportunity remains in the waste management and recycling industry in Kenya," said Mr Kuniya. "Investing in a circular economy is a sure way for sustainable economic growth since it helps reduce pressure on the environment, improves security of the supply of raw materials and stimulates social innovation," he added.

[Peter Theuri]

Tech. App to ease urban connections, linkages

An Artificial Intelligence (AI) based platform that enables apartment complexes and gated communities to connect with the society has been launched in Kenya. TownConnect, the integrated home and commercial services digital platform will guarantee the reliability, convenience, and accessibility by leveraging technology. The TownConnect App will assist users to access professional home service providers such as plumbers, electricians, cable TV installers and masons to access shops and restaurants. It will also enable them to manage their residential and commercial properties with the click of a button. The App is found on Google Play and App Store. With the uncertainties brought about by the Covid-19, TownConnect will help vendors to reach their target market and enable citizens to safely enjoy reliable goods and services via a digital platform from the comfort of their homes or workplaces.

IMPACT OF COVID-19 The value of mobile money transactions dropped by 15 per cent from Sh364 billion in March to Sh308 billion in April.

How coronavirus slashed trips to ATMs to an all-time low in April

In April, the value of money transacted through cards and point-of-sale machines declined by a third to Sh35.2 billion from Sh52.1 billion in March.

By Dominic Omondi
dakun@standardmedia.co.ke

Often times, the speed of money is just like that of sound, loud under the cover of darkness but barely audible during the day.

Money can be nocturnal. It gets busy at night, seamlessly changing hands in pubs, nightclubs, brothels and keshas.

In Nairobi, money tends to pronounce its importance on Fridays after a hard week's work when the sun begins its routine weary descent down the distant mountain peaks.

At this moment, those who find their way to estates enjoy a delicacy of peppered mutura before washing it down with a bottle of beer.

Those that opt to stay behind in downtown relish a bite of mishikaki or roasted goat meat as expensive whiskey bottles litter their tables.

Trips to the nearest automated teller machines (ATMs) can be as numerous as those to the bathrooms. And for those who love convenience, mobile money ensures the transactions continue unabated to the wee hours of the morning without a single trip to the ATM.

But it is not just across time that money moves, it also moves across space. Money is moved by weekend partygoers from Nairobi to Naivasha; by commuters on the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) from the country's capital city to the public beaches in Mombasa County.

Some money is dropped by countryside-bound motorists along the highways to hawkers of mahindi choma like bread crumbs from the high tables of the wealthy. Motels, petrol stations, garages and car wash boys also



a bite of this kitty on transit.

The money finally pours into the rural Kenya economy like a river ending along journey into the expanse of the ocean through numerous get-together meetings, weddings, funerals or just handouts.

But the dusk-to-dawn curfew and the partial lockdown of four counties (Nairobi, Mombasa, Kwale and Kilifi) has curtailed the free flow of money in the past three months.

Yesterday, President Uhuru Kenyatta extended the nationwide curfew for 30 days and said the cessation of movement into and out of the Eastleigh Area of Nairobi and the Mombasa Old Town Area will lapse at 4am Sunday. He also eased movement restrictions in Kilifi

Mobile payments

Year	Agents	Accounts (millions)	Transactions (millions)	Value (KSh billions)	Mobile pay month
2020	242275	59.4282	124.994	307.991	April
2020	240261	58.7131	150.687	364.511	March
2020	235543	58.6665	148.53	350.481	February

Value of transactions of ATMs (millions)

Year	Month	ATM Cards	Prepaid Cards	Charge Cards	Credit Cards	Debit Cards	POS Machines	Total
2020	April	0	102	0.2	447	34.692	8750	35,241
2020	March	0	194.25	0.24	611	51309	15052	52,114
2020	February	0	209	0.2	626	52220	14980	53,055

and Kwale counties.

However, the ban on all gatherings has been extended for another 30 days, same with movement in and out of Nairobi, Mombasa and Mandera counties.

However, latest data from the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) shows that trips to ATMs, which tend to increase in frequency as the day wears down, reduced to a record low in April. April was the first month that Kenyans lived under the stringent containment measures aimed at curbing the spread of Covid-19.

During this period, mobile money transactions also declined significantly as Kenyans stayed at home following the government directive.

The value of money transacted through debit cards, credit cards, point-of-sale (POS) machines like those used in supermarkets to read your debit or credit card, pre-paid cards declined by a third to Sh35.2 billion in April from Sh52.1 billion in March, according to CBK data. Year-on-year, this was a drop of 44.6 per cent compared to Sh63.6 billion that were trans-

acted in April 2019.

There were 4.13 million transactions on these channels, a record low since CBK started putting together this data in July 2009.

The value of mobile money transactions dropped by 15 per cent from Sh364 billion in March to Sh308 billion in April.

There were 125 million transactions, the lowest since August 2017 when there were 120 million mobile money transactions. However, in August 2017 there were only 35.3 million mobile money subscribers compared to 59.4 million in April 2020.

Also, transactions using a credit card, a sort of debt offered by a bank, were the record lowest at 41,278 in April.

Since coronavirus arrived here in March, over a million people have been rendered jobless. The sectors hit hard by the containment measures include hotels, airlines, travel agencies, pubs, nightclubs and other entertainment joints and transport sectors.

The education sector, especially private schools, has also been profusely following the close of all schools to prevent the spread of the disease in schools.

Churches have also been out of bounds to congregation, with President Kenyatta calling for a study on how they can be reopened and operate within the social distance rules.

It is not that there was no money. If anything, banks are drowning in cash. Currency outside of banks and money in demand deposits accounts which can easily be withdrawn, technically known as M1, increased to Sh1.59 trillion in April 2020 compared to Sh1.5 trillion in April last year.

Total supply of money in the economy, M3, which includes all the money in banks, deposits by national and county governments, foreign deposits, long-term deposits, increased to Sh3.7 trillion in the period under review compared to Sh3.4 trillion in April last year.

That banks are swimming in cash can also be seen in the decline in interbank rate, the rate at which banks lend to each other. As a result of government's payments and support from CBK, the interbank rate fell to 2.98 per cent on Friday, the lowest since November 15 last year when it was at 2.87 per cent.

In April this year, interbank rate was at an average 5.3 per

Finance

Sacco relaxes loan terms for members as virus looms

A Kirinyaga based savings and cooperative society is extending flexible loan terms to its members who have been hit hard by Covid-19.

Bingwa Sacco, through its 19 branches countywide, has also announced that it will donate food stuffs to poor Kenyans as part of efforts to shield the country against the impact of the pandemic.

"As Bingwa, we are supporting the Government directives of observing social distancing and staying at home, but at the same time, ensuring that we support our members. Most of them are farmers and small scale traders. We want them to access loans at reasonable terms," said Bingwa CEO Jane Mugo (pictured).

She advised sacco amembers to keep saving despite suppressed earnings as the virus rages on. "We have developed products and financial solutions to enable all groups of people, regardless of their economic status, to be able to save a percentage their earnings to enable them invest especially after the current crisis is over," said Ms Mugo.

"If you have savings with Bingwa, you qualify for loans to start or boost your business." She also noted that more funds will be required for reconstruction after the pandemic and other calamities that have hit the nation such as massive flooding and the locust invasion, and lenders have a role to play in that.

[Correspondent]



cent, a slight increase from 3.4 per cent in April 2019.

Banks with insufficient cash reserves to, for example, to pay depositors their money, can now borrow cheaply overnight from those with surplus funds.

Unfortunately, this money is stuck in these bank accounts making the velocity of money, or the rate at which money is exchanged in an economy, to slow down. But that is because people were also not moving.

And as Gerrishon Ikiaria, an economics lecturer at the University of Nairobi, puts it, "economic activities are caused by people moving" from place to place.

The hospitality industry has been the hardest hit by containment measures after the country reported its first case on March 13.

By then, airlines and hotels were already feeling the weight of the pandemic that had already hammered economies in China and Europe.

Official travel figures reveal a grim picture that began to show in March with the number of visitors to Kenya through Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) declining by 47 per cent.

April and May's numbers have not yet been released but they were certainly worse after Kenya restricted all international flights into and out of the country. This

led to massive unemployment in the travel and hospitality industries as airlines and hotels shut down their businesses.

International travellers jetting into the country through JKIA reduced by 47 per cent to 128,313 in March this year compared to 241,359 in the same month in 2019.

Fewer passengers came into the country from the major airports such as Amsterdam, Dubai, Addis Ababa and Entebbe, affecting the hospitality industry and denying the country critical foreign exchange reserves.

Passengers from Europe, Kenya's main source of tourists, dropped from 46,067 to 24,549.

Passengers from Dubai

reduced to 11,820 in the period under review compared to 25,473.

Towards the end of March, Kenya restricted all international passenger flights into and out of the country to curb spread of the respiratory disease.

Loss-making national carrier Kenya Airways was forced to cancel most of its trips even as its workers took a pay cut.

But movement of passengers on SGR was also negatively impacted. Standard Gauge Railways (SGR) passenger revenues in March tanked by 47 per cent after the government began to implement stringent measures aimed at curbing the spread of Covid-19.

Latest data from the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics shows that income from passengers that travelled on the new railway in March dipped by to Sh92.1 million as movement of people around the country was restricted.

In March last year, Kenya Railways Corporation earned Sh175.7 million from passengers that used the SGR between Nairobi and Mombasa, as well as from Nairobi to Suswa.

Passenger numbers also dropped during this period with 89,109 people using the service in March compared to 121,237 in the same month last year.

Digital lending is a friend of our economy, let's clasp it

Robert Masinde



It is said the wearer of the shoe knows where it pinches most. The saying cannot be proven any truer as Kenyans and the Government battle the Covid-19 pandemic.

And as Kenyans adjust to the measures instituted to combat the virus, and the negative economic impact, they have also sought social and economic support in the face of the harsh economic times brought about by limited working hours and travel, at best, and furloughs, wage cuts and redundancies, at worst. While the Government has proactively instituted a broad range of measures, it is important to highlight a few recent developments.

One is the decision to revoke the right of digital lenders to report to the Credit Reference Bureaus (CRBs), and the subsequent offering of what may become a constructive path forward in collaboration with the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK), to ensure all Kenyans have access to fair and needed digital lending services.

Indeed, Kenya is home to millions of under-banked individuals who face credit deserts and are poorly served by traditional financial institutions.

Building on mobile, machine learning and automated technologies, a number of digital lenders have stepped in to solve this critical public policy, social, and economic challenge by helping those who lack traditional credentials to access capital.

According to the FSDK 2018 report, digital credit serves over 35 per cent of adults who own a mobile phone which translates to over 10 million people, while the MicroSave consulting 2019 report indicates that 16 million digital loans have been issued between 2016 and 2018. Without access, these Kenyans will miss out on opportunities to start or grow a small business, manage their family finances with confidence, or cover emergency expenses with peace of mind.

While there are valid concerns with aspects of the digital lending industry and some of its actors, the answer should not be to cut off access to credit when people need it most.

Rather, as recently suggested by CBK Governor Patrick Njoroge, we must constructively pursue forward-leaning regulatory frameworks that mitigate the harms and maximise benefits of digital lending.

This is what Kenyans want, the members of the Digital Lenders Association of Kenya (DLAK) are keen to pursue, and the economy requires.

In December 2019, DLAK, through the independent firm, GeoPoll, conducted a survey of

1,000 Kenyans who had taken a digital loan in the past six months for either personal or business use.

Nearly all respondents viewed having more credit options as a good thing, and the majority reported satisfaction with their digital lending experience.

Other responses stand out in highlighting the importance of digital lending in promoting financial inclusion and economic growth.

Nearly half of sampled respondents mentioned that they would not have other credit options if not for the mobile loan; 84 per cent of small business borrowers stated that the loan enabled at least some growth in their business and 88 per cent would consider taking another loan from a digital lender.

While access to responsible credit is critical for the Kenyan economy, we recognise the importance of sound regulation.

For example, we commend the CBK for many of the actions it took after the collapse of several high-profile financial institutions three years ago when it became clear that reform of the formal banking sector was necessary.

This did not mean shutting down the banking sector, but rather working thoughtfully to pursue needed reforms.

The same approach is needed now for the digital lending industry. Regulatory measures that restrict financial access and impede innovation will only harm Kenyans and the broader Kenyan economy.

DLAK is ready to work collaboratively with policymakers to promote a regulatory framework that ensures transparency, fairness in collections and operational practices, and proper oversight.

In fact, we are rolling up our sleeves and working on concrete regulatory proposals that can help the industry advance its mission of serving Kenyans.

The decision to revoke the right of digital lenders to report to CRBs is an example of why collaboration is urgently needed.

Absent a clear path forward, revoking the right to report defaulters to the CRB may drive unintended consequences, and further alienate and economically disenfranchise the very cohort of people it was intended to assist.

For starters, many Kenyans are not yet listed with the CRBs, which means that for the millions of Kenyans who dutifully borrow and pay back their loans as agreed with various financial institutions there is no opportunity to create and build positive credit profiles. These are the silent majority.

What is more, reporting to the credit bureaus discourages over indebtedness. Without such reporting, policymakers may inadvertently facilitate loan stacking and decrease credit market transparency.

A constructive regulatory path forward would be to encourage, and if possible, require, both negative and positive listings on CRB.

In this way, not only will customers be working towards avoiding over-indebtedness and a negative listing, but also feel encouraged to improve their credit-worthiness through positive listings.

-Robert Masinde is the CEO DLAK

1m

■ The number of jobs lost since the coronavirus outbreak.

125m

■ The number of mobile money transactions, which was the lowest since August 2017.

sh308b

■ The value of mobile money transactions in April, which was a drop from Sh364 billion in March.

Economy

Boost for businesses across sectors as curfew hours eased



Kenya National Chamber of Commerce President Richard Ngatia. [Wilberforce Okwiri/Standard]

Businesses that had been hard hit by a nationwide curfew meant to curb the spread of the Covid-19 can now operate longer after President Uhuru Kenyatta eased curfew hours yesterday.

The head of State while briefing Kenyans at State House said businesses will now operate from 4am to 9pm for the next 30 days compared to the previous ten hours - from 5am to 7pm.

"To accord all Kenyans the opportunity to enjoy a full day's work, the nationwide dusk-to-dawn curfew currently in force is extended for a further 30 days," said the Head of State.

"However, the commencement time for the same is varied from 7pm to 9pm with the end time for the same being varied from 5am to 4am. Therefore, effective June 7, 2020, the nation wide dusk-to-dawn curfew will run from 9pm to 4am."

Kenya National Chamber of Commerce President Richard Ngatia welcomed the decision, saying it breathed life into small businesses that were on the verge of folding.

"The directive will see Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises the majority of which had closed down resume operations. This means the economy will be resuscitated and our people earn a livelihood," he said.

Matatu industry

The additional hours will see small traders including mama mbogas and shopkeepers sell longer. The directive will also give the matatu industry a breather, as the operators too will be able to have two more hours to work.

Matatu Owners Association Chairman Simon Kimutai while welcoming the

opening up of Eastleigh, noted that it would only bring about a marginal change. He said the President could have done more. "There will only be a small increase in our revenues. Opening Nairobi would have been more significant to our industry," said Kimutai.

However, the tourism industry expressed disappointment, noting that despite the relaxed measures, the sector is still staring at zero bookings.

"We had expected him to say let us get ready for reopening by this date. Instead, he said we wait another 30 days to see whether there will be improvements but over that period, the numbers will be going up in 30 days," said Kenya Association of Hotelkeepers and Caterers Chief Executive Mike Macharia.

"Whatever he has said does not work for the tourism industry. We are not asking

for a reopening; we are asking for a more predictable schedule."

He said many hoteliers are running out of options to keep employees. "He has told everyone else to go back to work except for tourism. We cannot go back to work without clients who are locked in Nairobi and Mombasa as well as the region and overseas," said Macharia.

However, bar operators are set to continue suffering after the president extended their closure for a further 30 days. "The ban on all forms of gatherings, including but not limited to political gatherings, social gatherings, including bars and is hereby extended for a further 30 days," said President Kenyatta.

Companies that had set working hours from 8am to 3pm will also benefit from the eased curfew hours. [Wainaina Wambu and Macharia Kamau]

BUDGET. Treasury has projected an economic growth of 2.5pc

MPs now poke holes in Sh2.7tr budget

With the economy already experiencing sluggishness due to Covid-19, Parliament argues that Treasury's allocations are imprudent

By Frankline Sunday
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MPs have attacked Treasury Cabinet Secretary Ukur Yatani for preparing a budget without taking into account the economic realities of the day.

According to Parliament's Budget and Appropriations Committee (BAC), Treasury has ignored the economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic while allocating scarce financial resources across the public sector.

Parliament wants Yatani to review the growth figures presented to reflect the impact that the pandemic has visited upon the economy.

It wants Treasury to seek new agreements with domestic and external lenders on how to go about settling Kenya's Sh6 trillion public debt.

In a report released last week, the budget committee questioned Yatani's decision to allocate billions of shillings to the projects under the Big Four Agenda, even as the country's economy is reeling from the effects of the virus.

"There is limited information to support how the total investment nationally will rise from 15.7 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the revised estimate for 2019-20 to 21.6 per cent of GDP in 2020-21," reads

the BAC report.

"That is when both revenue and expenditure for the same period are estimated to decline from 27.1 per cent to 24.2 per cent and 18.6 per cent and 16.6 per cent, respectively."

With the depressed economic activity in the private sector expected to persist, MPs say Yatani's 2.5 per cent growth projection for 2020 and 5.8 per cent for 2021 is very optimistic.

"The committee is further concerned that this growth premise has not adequately incorporated the impact of the health pandemic and is relying on past investment decisions particularly the Big Four Agenda investments to pull the country through the ongoing crisis," the

lion for housing.

"Investments under the Big Four Agenda projects are not substantive enough to offset the expected rapid fall in private sector investment and may therefore not be a strong driver of economic recovery in the coming financial year," explained the Budget Accounts Committee in its report.

Over the past two months, virtually all sectors of Kenya's economy have suffered as stay at home orders, curfews and physical distancing measures were enforced to help fight the spread of Covid-19.

Data from the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, KNBS indicate traders lost more than Sh40 billion in cancelled import and export orders.

Players in the tourism sector reported more than 90 per cent drop in revenues and hundreds of impending layoffs.

Analysts have further warned that with delays in producing a vaccine, the restriction measures being mooted will exacerbate the current global recession.

"Based on review of international experiences with the ongoing Covid-19 and past economic recessions, a strong, well-funded and multi-sectoral economic programme greatly helps support economic recovery by stimulating consumer demand, sustaining business activity and aiding the retention of jobs," the BAC report asserts.

At the same time, MPs have asked Treasury to seek renegotiation of Kenya's external debt obligations in light of the economic stagnation brought by the Covid-19 pandemic.



Treasury Cabinet Secretary Ukur Yatani. MPs have challenged allocations contained in his budget. [Edward Kiplimo/Standard]

Kenya's public debt has risen exponentially in the past decade and currently stands at Sh6 trillion, representing more than 60

Sh124b

■ Money allocated for development expenditure in the 2020-21 financial year.

Sh40b

■ Money traders have lost due to virus restrictions.

Sh15b

■ Money the government has set aside for housing in the 2020-21 financial year.

per cent of GDP.

In the 2019-20 financial year, Kenyan taxpayers footed Sh301 billion and Sh131 billion in interest bills on external and domestic debt, respectively.

"Amid the ongoing pandemic, the committees urge Treasury to start the process of renegotiat-

ing the terms and conditions of existing loans, with a view of striking a deal for a moratorium, including having a grace period of interest and principle payments," the report noted.

According to budget documents for the 2020-21 Financial Year, Treasury has set aside Sh900 billion to the repayment of debt obligations. This accounts for more than 90 per cent of the Consolidated Fund Services, which Parliament says costs taxpayers more.

"The Committee has established that the cost of debt-financing actually consumes more financial resources than development expenditure for which the debt is obtained," stated the BAC in part of its report.

Parliament's questions on Yatani's budget for the 2020-21 Financial Year come despite Treasury's calls for austerity across government spending that came months before the break of Covid-19.

"The government will initiate expenditure control and policy

measures including budget rationalisation on non-core expenditures which include foreign and domestic travel, hospitality, training, communication supplies, printing and advertising, purchase of furniture and use of government vehicles," said Yatani in September 2019 while kick-starting public participation hearings for the 2020-21 budget.

At the same time, Treasury effected budget cuts to Parliament and the Judiciary and blocked attempts by MPs to put a cap in statutory deductions.

"The National Treasury appreciates the said policy resolution in future budgets," said Yatani in the 2020/2021 Budget document.

"However, given that the country is facing the challenge of the coronavirus which is being experienced across the globe, there is a slowdown in economic growth leading to under performance of revenue. Further, there is need to provide resources to counter the effects of the Covid-19."

Transport

SGR steps up freight services amid Covid-19

Africa Star Railway Operation Company (Afristar), the operator of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) has upped the ante in the transportation of cargo and maintenance of the rail. This is even as Covid-19 continues to hit key sectors in the economy hard, with transport sector being one of the worst-hit.

The virus also saw the Kenya Railways Corporation (KRC) and Afristar suspend passenger services in compliance with government directives.

Afristar has, however, made workplace adjustments to provide seamless railway services to meet the demand for cargo transport in the country and the region.

Even with the high risk of

exposure of staff to Covid-19 transmission due to the nature of their work, the firm has prioritised employees' health. It has sent some staff on paid leave and retained those in core railway positions. This has increased workload for staff.

Social distancing

As a measure to protect staff, the company has provided accommodation at work premises as well as quality meals. The accommodation, in addition to ensuring zero infections, has resulted in uninterrupted 24-hour freight service despite the national curfew.

Rolling stock maintenance workshop Deputy Superintendent Lawrence Murithi said

Afristar has continued to cooperate with KRC to strengthen transportation of goods and allocate cargo to railway vehicles for transportation.

The firm has also been working with KRC and Kenya Ports Authority to improve transportation efficiency.

Employees who work in key departments such as rolling stock maintenance workshop had to work as other staff went on leave, partly to ease social distancing. He said the workload for the key staff has not reduced, considering the daily operations of freight trains.

"The rolling stock maintenance workshop aims at ensuring the safety and reliability of passenger coaches and freight wag-

ons. The passenger coaches and freight wagons are inspected, repaired and maintained on a regular basis. We also carry out corrective maintenance of faulty parts," said Murithi.

"We have played our role in ensuring safety through regular maintenance and inspection on freight wagons. The scheduled yearly maintenance of passenger trains is also ongoing."

Murithi noted that while Covid-19 pandemic has negatively impacted on railway operations, it has also provided an opportunity to enhance skills transfer.

As part of scheduled maintenance after 300,000 km, the team is working on single-vehicle brake system checks that entail cleaning, performing tests, repair



and replacements for the freight wagons. Murithi said maintaining SGR's rolling stock comes with its challenges - including increased workload for employees on duty. The work schedule can also be unpredictable, especially where there are changes in the train schedule.

He said Afristar has provided

technical skills transfer opportunities through daily training, practical operation and flexible online training and examination.

"In the daily maintenance process, we are gaining professional knowledge and skills from our Chinese teachers who performed the same jobs in China," said Murithi. [Standard Reporter]

Tech

Pesapal revamps platform

Pesapal, a provider of hospitality payment solutions, has upgraded its digital payment platform.

The firm yesterday announced that Reserveport, its Central Reservations System for all types of hospitality, is from now on integrated with Oracle's Hospitality Solutions.

Oracle Corporation is an American multinational computer technology corporation that sells database software technology, cloud engineered systems and enterprise software products.

Speaking on Friday in Nairobi, Pesapal CEO Mark Mwongela said the integration has long been overdue. Mwongela noted that integration means hotels and restaurants will be able to automatically update their availability, pricing, and orders in real time, and across multiple channels.

He said it is the first crucial step into ushering the world into the new 'normal', given that digital transactions seem to be the only way to rescue the hospitality industry.

"This validated integration is in line with our commitment to use Reserveport to help our hospitality customers to do more," Mr Mwongela said. Our team has delivered an Oracle validated and reliable interface for hotels and restaurants across Africa which means they can use Oracle Hospitality OPERA 5.5 to automate their pricing and inventory distribution," Mwongela said.

"Rate changes and available room inventory is updated seamlessly. Reservations are delivered to the Property Management System (PMS) in real time, which gives our customers immediate pickup." [Peter Theuri]

FILTHY RICH Amazon boss Jeff Bezos alone is worth Sh3.84 trillion more than he was on March 18

US billionaires gained Sh60tr in wealth during corona crisis

Total wealth for billionaires now stands at \$3.5 trillion (Sh371 trillion), up 19 per cent from the low point near the beginning of the pandemic.

By CNN Business
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The past three months have been financially painful for many Americans - but not for billionaires.

US billionaires have become \$565 billion (Sh59.96 trillion) richer since March 18, according to a report published Thursday by the Institute for Policy Studies, a progressive think tank.

Total wealth for billionaires now stands at \$3.5 trillion (Sh371 trillion), up 19 per cent from the low point near the beginning of the pandemic, the report said. Amazon boss Jeff Bezos alone is worth \$36.2 billion (Sh3.84 trillion) more than he was on March 18.

Since that day, nearly 43 million Americans have filed for initial unemployment benefits. Lower-income workers, especially in travel and service-sector jobs, have been hit particularly hard by the health crisis.

The numbers put an exclamation point on the deep divide between haves and have-nots that is helping to fuel unrest across the United States. Wealth inequality is likely to get even worse because of this crisis, experts say.

The acceleration of wealth



Google founder Sergey Brin



Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer



Tesla boss Elon Musk



Amazon founder, Jeff Bezos.

for the richest Americans is being driven by the remarkable recovery of the stock market, which has skyrocketed in large part because of unprecedented action from the Federal Reserve.

"The stock market taking off - and decoupling from the real economy - is exacerbating inequality," said Kristina Hooper, chief global market strategist at Invesco.

Big Tech is thriving

Despite the turmoil on the streets of US cities and a record 43 million Americans filing for unemployment benefits, the Nasdaq is on the cusp of hitting record highs - an astonishing feat that underscores how quickly Wall Street has rebounded.

The Fed's emergency response, including slashing interest rates to zero and promising to buy unlimited amounts of bonds, was designed to make risky assets like stocks look more attractive. Investors have

essentially been forced to gamble on equities - and Big Tech in particular is benefiting from that.

Large tech companies aren't just surviving during the pandemic - many of them are thriving. The crisis has made Amazon, for instance, even more essential than it already was. Amazon shares have spiked 47 per cent from their mid-March lows.

Facebook also swiftly recovered to record highs. The net worth of Mark Zuckerberg, the company's co-founder and CEO, has climbed \$30.1 billion since March 18, the IPS report found.

The report calculated billionaire wealth using data provided by the Forbes Global Billionaires List, a real-time assessment of net worth. March 18 is used as the starting date because that is the date tied to the 2020 Forbes Global Billionaire survey. It also roughly matches up with when US states and the federal government began imposing health

restrictions.

Other tech power players have also amassed more wealth over the past three months. The net worth of Tesla boss Elon Musk, Google founders Sergey Brin and Larry Page and former Microsoft (MSFT) CEO Steve Ballmer have all climbed by \$13 billion or more apiece since March 18, the report found.

Meanwhile, the United States has been gripped by mass unemployment caused by social distancing requirements imposed to fight the pandemic.

Owned stocks

Economists expect the jobs report to show the United States lost another 8 million jobs in May, lifting the pandemic tally to 28.5 million - three times the number of jobs lost during the Great Recession. The unemployment rate is expected to climb to nearly 20 per cent, higher than it's been since the Great Depression.

"Surging billionaire wealth juxtaposed with the suffering

and plight of millions undermines the social solidarity required for us to recover together in the years ahead," Chuck Collins, co-author of the IPS report, said in a statement.

Of course, millions of average Americans are also benefiting from the V-shaped recovery in the stock market.

The rebound has lifted the value of investment portfolios, pension funds and retirement accounts. Even just betting on a vanilla fund that tracks the S&P 500 would have given investors a tidy return of nearly 40 per cent since the March 23 lows.

About 52 per cent of families owned stocks directly or indirectly through retirement plans like 401(k)s, according to 2016 stats from the Federal Reserve.

Yet a surging stock market helps the rich more than the rest of the country. That's because the top 10 per cent of households owned 84 per cent of all stocks in 2016, according to NYU professor Edward Wolff.

ACTION We would still have been skeptical if the announcement came from the government.

What if Kenyans knew Covid-19 was coming?

XN Iraki



What could we have done if we knew coronavirus or a similar pandemic was coming? One possible answer is nothing. We would have argued, let it come first.

A long debate on whether it's a hoax would follow. Skepticism is one of our currencies. We would still have been skeptical if the announcement came from the government.

It is the big difference between the developed and developing countries, the trust in government and our institutions. We spend more hours electing the government, and talking politics than in developed countries, yet distrust the same leaders we elect.

It's probably about the way they have behaved over time. This distrust is manifested by our reluctance to follow government directives, even when they are for our good.

One hopes that the Building Bridges Initiative (BBI) has focused on this distrust of the governments which more than lack of resources or money, stalls our social-economic progress.

It also breeds corruption. You are unlikely to steal from an employer or institution you trust.

Will shift to blockchains because of Covid-19 finally enforce this trust?

Enough digression. What if we believed Covid-19 was inevitable.

What could we have done?

The fact that we rarely get natural disasters such as earthquakes, hurricanes or cold and dark winters leaves us too relaxed and slow to respond to

disasters like pandemics. Some could argue our deep faith in higher powers makes us relax. Add our traditions that emphasize today more than tomorrow.

They even say tomorrow will take care of itself in some parts of this country. Needless to say, we have learnt to be helpless.

If we got convinced Covid-19 was coming, we could have done a few things, which we can still do.

One, we could have planned our buildings better, with more space among them, and with open grounds.

We would have ensured every estate has a park where residents can take walks or just sit and relax. Who said Uhuru Park can't be replicated elsewhere. Who said we can't have another Karura Forest elsewhere?

Think of men, women and children in crowded estates amid Covid-19? It's one of the beauties of developed countries where they ensure basics are available for even the most disadvantaged members of society.

There are parks neighbouring American ghettos.

Jogging trails

In Kenya, even the most advantaged have no simple facilities like parks or jogging trails. Any park in the new Runda? Loresho or Muthaiga?

If we knew coronavirus was coming, we could have designed our schools better. They are now as crowded as our estates. We seem to hate open spaces everywhere.

Our ultimate nightmare now is overcrowded schools through the 100 per cent transition to high school against coronavirus which calls for social distancing. We could have capped the size of schools to make them more manageable. Do we have land banks for new schools?

With census every ten years, it's easy to predict the number of schools, hospitals and other facilities needed.

We also need inbuilt redundancy in

case of a disaster like a pandemic. The space industry is famous for such inbuilt redundancy - you can't go repairing a Spacecraft in the orbit of another planet. Even our leisure would have been more planned.

We love watching the English premier league and betting over it. We love watching golf too.

Suppose we have developed our sports with more stadiums, golf courses and movie theatres? We would have taken our hobbies more seriously if we knew Covid-19 was coming.

The belief that watching TV and live streaming are entertainment should be expunged from our minds.

There is something human about yelling inside a stadium or a movie theatre. There is something human about playing football, golf or any other game physically not sitting on a couch. Covid-19 seems to be reinforcing a false belief that we can do anything online. Zoom or WebEx meeting will never be like live meetings.

A face to face class will never be like an online class. Your laughter on the screen will never be like real one.

Think loudly, we can order our shopping including ready food online and stay home. But shopping is not just about buying, you get out of the house, meet new people and relax.

With no parks or open spaces, shopping has become a form of entertainment in Kenya. We do not go to hotels because we can't eat at home. Really? You can eat your food in a restaurant in five minutes but you often sit there for an hour, time to meet with others and relax, which is factored in the price of tea or your drink.

"We can't reverse time, but Covid-19 has taught us a simple lesson, we must plan for the unexpected, we must have inbuilt flexibility..."



Chief Administrative Secretary in the Ministry of Health Dr Mercy Mwangangi (left) uses StepOsha handwashing unit made Kenya Trade and Investment Job Centres at Afya House, Nairobi. (Jonah Onyango, Standard)

With Covid-19 in mind, we could have changed our farming, to ensure we are self-sufficient in food. Most countries do that by subsidising farmers - paying them to ensure they can cover their costs. We could have ensured the food we grow can boost our immunity.

Suppose we put as much effort in growing food crops as we put in growing flowers or tea? We could have changed our system of interconnectedness, the hub and spoke, all roads leading to Nairobi. We could have built regional centres, more like the former provincial headquarters.

Noted how the towns are the epicentres of Covid-19? We should have dispersed them earlier. Can we put limits on the size of cities?

Beyond the borders, we could have thought about trade, exchange of goods and services, and put some focus on possible exchange of pathogens. Did the design of ships, planes and airports ever plan for a Covid-19 scenario?

If we knew Covid-19 was coming, we could have become more serious in our homes, offices, our careers, our leadership, and other tasks.

Covid-19 will devastate societies that have no working systems made of unscrupulous people, who prefer to pass the buck and take no responsibility.

Did we take globalisation too far at the extent of rokolisation (localisa-

tion)? With trade imbalances and outsourcing, we seem to have split the world into local and global citizens.

Could we have carried everyone along? With Covid-19 in mind, we could have been tenderer with our planet. We could have polluted it less, kept the rivers flowing and accepted that animals and plants have the same rights to this planet as men.

Noted how they are unscathed by the pandemic?

Let us be extravagant with ideas. If we knew coronavirus was coming, we could have accelerated the search for extra-terrestrial intelligence. Who knows they could be there with a cure or vaccine for Covid-19. Maybe they seeded the earth with the virus!

We can't reverse time, but Covid-19 has taught us a simple lesson, we must plan for the unexpected, we must have inbuilt flexibility. We may not be prophets but with our data, creativity and wisdom, we can plan for worst-case scenarios.

Covid-19 will force us to question our assumptions, our plans more deeply. Despite its devastation, it's a wakeup call to humanity, even questioning our centrality in Earth's ecosystem. What lesson have you learnt from Covid-19? Share with us, please.

-The writer is an associate professor at the University of Nairobi

Global crisis

Why partnerships in technology are key in fighting pandemic

Amroto Abdella



The current global coronavirus crisis has highlighted the need for efficiency in information management.

It has brought to the fore the need for accuracy in data gathering for faster medical response.

While looking at the role of technology during this period, partnerships have stood out in driving meaningful change.

Microsoft has for example, through its 4Afrika Initiative formed partnerships with healthcare facilities - providing them with technical support and business consultancy to help them achieve their goals.

Each of these facilities has had a sphere of influence, with firms using their existing platforms and programmes to pivot and adapt existing technologies to address the pandemic.

Artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning in healthcare

have also helped boost response times and preparedness. Using big data analytics to deliver real-time insights into healthcare means improved performance and better decision-making. This means using AI to save lives.

For example, Microsoft 4Afrika partnership with BroadReach, a healthcare software vendor has enhanced data-driven solutions to manage and deliver health programmes in underserved regions.

Quick responses

Together, they created Vantage, a cloud platform - delivering analytics that help development, health and human services

organisations identify risks and opportunities. During Covid-19 crisis, BroadReach has been using its cloud services to gather data from health workers in the field and instantly upload it into Vantage - guiding leaders to manage the impact of the pandemic.

In healthcare, quick responses save lives. BroadReach has produced a facility readiness survey that allows the State to redirect resources to prioritised hospitals and facilities. Predictive analysis can be used to help forecast and track outbreak hotspots.

This demonstrates how partnerships in technology can deliver in situations that require high

volumes of data for use in prediction and preventative measures.

A pact with Raphta, a pioneer in Edge AI and computer vision in Africa, has produced software and hardware solutions that allow contactless biometrics for use to access control to facilities among others.

Raphta is now offering its Shuri Face Contactless Biometrics solution to hospitals, clinics and buildings for thermal screening and containment, limiting contact and virus spread.

Using their AI facial recognition software and hardware technology, they have added thermal imaging technology.

The firm is now running pilot projects at Netcare Gardens Hospital in South Africa and Kenyatta National Hospital, Nairobi.

Telemedicine is also enabling safer diagnosis, limiting unnecessary contact between patients and healthcare providers.

In Pakistan, Sehat Kahani, an e-health start-up supported by 4Afrika provides patients with access to qualified doctors and records. The challenge in Africa is working with partners to bridge the gap in healthcare.

-The writer is the regional Director of Microsoft's 4Afrika Initiative

Monrovia. Liberia has made good progress in containing the spread of coronavirus and will open its international airport and hotels on June 21. A state of emergency that was declared in April and due to expire on June 9 would not be renewed, President George Weah (right) said. Restrictions such as a night curfew would remain in place, though it would start later, a statement released on Friday said. Liberia has recorded 334 virus cases and 30 deaths. [AFP]

World

ATHLETICS: MEET CHEBET, KENYA'S PERENNIAL 800M SILVER MEDAL GIRL, SPORT, P. 37



On Twitter:
@realDonaldTrump

Riot gear or military control is not necessary because ANTIFA & other Wacko groups of Anarchists aren't present to cause trouble.



Terrorism

Al-Qaeda chief shot dead, says France



France says it has killed the leader of al-Qaeda in north Africa, Abdelmalek Droukdel (above), in an operation in Mali.

Defence Minister Florence Parly said Droukdel along with members of his inner circle were killed in the north of the country.

French forces had also captured a senior Islamic State group commander in Mali in an operation in May, she said.

The "daring operations" had dealt "severe blows to the terrorist groups", she said.

"Our forces, in co-operation with their partners in the Sahel, will continue to hunt them relentlessly," she said.

As head of al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), Droukdel was in charge of all affiliates in north Africa and also commanded al-Qaeda's Sahel affiliate, Jamaat Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin (JNIM).

The captured Islamic State group commander, Mohamed Mrabat, was a veteran jihadist and had a senior role in the Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (ISGS) group, Ms Parly said. He was caught on May 19, she said.

On May 7, IS revealed its militants had been engaged in fierce clashes with al-Qaeda in Mali and Burkina Faso. It accused JNIM of attacking its positions, blocking fuel supplies and detaining IS supporters.

ISGS has quickly established a foothold in the Sahel countries after announcing a presence in March last year.

Aged in his late 40s, Droukdel fought against Soviet troops in Afghanistan, and was thought to regard the former leader of al-Qaeda in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, as his inspiration. [BBC]

Pandemic. Trump says US economy is recovering from crises

Brazil threatens to quit WHO in dispute over Covid-19 drug

President Bolsonaro is unhappy after UN agency suspended clinical trials of the drug over its safety and effectiveness.

By AFP
Rio de Janeiro

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro (below) has threatened to pull out of the WHO over "ideological bias," as his counterpart Donald Trump said the US economy was recovering from the coronavirus as Europe slowly reopens its borders.

From Africa to Europe to Asia, governments are focused on reviving economies ravaged by weeks of restrictions to contain the virus that has killed almost 400,000 people worldwide since it emerged in China late last year.

European countries that are among the hardest hit are steadily reopening with the infection rates slowing even as Latin America is battered by the virus, especially Brazil which now has the world's third-highest number of virus deaths.

Fueling the debate raging around the pandemic, its origins and the best way to

respond, Bolsonaro criticised the WHO for suspending clinical trials of the drug hydroxychloroquine for Covid-19 - a decision it reversed this week - and threatened to follow in Trump's footsteps by quitting.

"I'm telling you right now, the United States left the WHO, and we're studying that, in the future. Either the WHO works without ideological bias, or we leave, too," the far-right leader told journalists.

Dubbed the "Tropical Trump," Bolsonaro has followed the US president in his handling of the pandemic, downplaying its severity, attacking stay-at-home measures and touting the purported effects of hydroxychloroquine against Covid-19.

The WHO had suspended trials of hydroxychloroquine after major studies raised concerns about its safety and effectiveness - irking Trump, who even took the drug himself as a preventive measure.

Most authors of studies that appeared in The Lancet and New England Journal of Medicine retracted their work, saying they could no longer vouch for their data because the firm that supplied it refused to be

audited. A new study from Oxford University said hydroxychloroquine showed "no beneficial effect" in treating Covid-19.

WHO also changed its advice on face masks, saying that "in light of evolving evidence" they should be worn in places where the virus is widespread and physical distancing is difficult.

It has killed almost 396,000 people and infected 6.7 million globally, the world's worst

health crisis in over a century.

The pandemic forced half of humanity into some form of lockdown and risked tipping economies into the deepest recession since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

OPEC and its allies were expected to meet via video conference later yesterday to assess their deal to slash production as oil prices tentatively recover on easing lockdowns around the world.

In the US - the hardest-hit country, with 109,000 dead and nearly 1.9 million infections - Trump also said the economy was bouncing back.

"We had the greatest economy in the history of the world. And that strength let us get through this horrible pandemic, largely through, I think we're doing really well," he told reporters.

Trump, who is facing re-election in November, reiterated his calls

to further ease stay-at-home measures, after surprisingly upbeat employment numbers showed the country gained 2.5 million jobs in May.

In a sign of the slow return to normal in US, Universal Orlando became the first of the giant theme parks in sunny Florida to reopen - albeit with temperature controls at the entrance and mandatory face masks.

The South Pacific island of French Polynesia also said it will reopen to international travel next month to try to salvage its vital tourism industry.

"We are no longer in a health emergency, but we are facing an economic and social emergency," said Tourism Minister Nicole Bouteau.

In Europe, badly-hit countries slowly continued on a path toward a post-pandemic normal, also seeking to revive key tourist sectors in time for the summer season.

The EU said it could reopen borders to travelers from outside the region in early July, after some countries reopened to European visitors. A major Spanish tourism draw, Madrid's Prado museum, reopened to a handful of visitors yesterday, putting together over 200 masterpieces in a new exhibition.



In Brief

Tripoli. Libya strongman Haftar backs ceasefire

Forces loyal to Libya's UN-recognised government said they launched an offensive yesterday for slain dictator Moamer Kadafi's hometown Sirte, as rival strongman Khalifa Haftar (right) backed a ceasefire. Government of National Accord forces have repulsed a

14-month offensive against Tripoli by eastern-based Haftar and are poised to drive on eastwards taking advantage of increased military support from Turkey. The air force has carried out five strikes in the outskirts of Sirte - the last major town before the traditional boundary between Libya's western Tripolitania and eastern Cyrenaica regions - GNA spokesman Mohamed Gounoun said. "Orders have been given to our forces to begin their advance and to systematically attack all rebel positions," he said. Haftar's forces have put a brave face on their precipitate fallback saying it was a response to international pressure for a lasting ceasefire. [AFP]



Johannesburg. Police brutality condemned

South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa has said he "deeply regretted" the unjustified use of force by security forces enforcing lockdown rules during anti-racism rallies, drawing parallels to the killing of George Floyd in the US last week. Dozens of people showed up at a small handful of anti-racism protests called across South Africa in solidarity with Floyd, whose death has sparked widespread protests. "Racism is a dehumanisation of others," Ramaphosa said. "It is true of the experience of black and indigenous communities of

many countries across the world where racial profiling by law enforcement authorities... is common," he said. "But I would argue a similar process of dehumanisation is at work where those in positions of power violate the rights of vulnerable people." Ramaphosa referred to the death of Johannesburg resident Collins Khosa and ten others "reportedly at the hands of our security forces" as an example of "unjustified" violence. Khosa was allegedly beaten to death by security forces in April after they reportedly caught him drinking alcohol - the sale of which was banned over lockdown. [AFP]

Racism

Sharpton: Black rights firebrand still fighting for justice, equality

Reverend Al Sharpton (below), who made an impassioned plea for justice at a memorial service for George Floyd on Thursday, is a flamboyant but polarizing long-time black civil rights activist who once dreamed of occupying the White House.

Admirers laud the sharply dressed, 65-year-old Baptist minister and talk show host for the half-century he has spent campaigning to right wrongs against the US' African-American community.

But critics have accused Sharpton, who placed himself at the center of some of the most racially explosive issues of the 1980s in his native New York, of being a divisive racial provocateur.

Never shy of the spotlight, he has mellowed over the years and adopted a more considered persona, swapping the trademark tracksuit of his early activist days with pin-striped suits.

The big hair has also gone, and Sharpton doesn't quite cut the same imposing figure physically as he used to, but his fire still burns brightly.

"America, this is the time for dealing with accountability in the criminal justice system," he told the memorial for Floyd, who died after a white police officer knelt on his neck for nine minutes.

"We won't stop," said Sharpton, referring to the protests convulsing the US. "We're going to keep going until we change the whole system of justice."

Born in Brooklyn, in October 1954, Sharpton gave notice of his oratorical skills by preaching in a church service when he was just four years old.

Pentecostal minister

Aged nine, he was ordained a Pentecostal minister. Martin Luther King was assassinated when he was 13 years old. Sharpton, while still in his teens, was chosen by the Reverend Jesse Jackson as the New York youth director of a national initiative aimed at tackling poverty in black neighborhoods.

His life underwent a radical shift in 1973 when he met the soul singer James Brown backstage at a concert, and he ended up spending the next several years on the road as part of Brown's entourage.

There, he met his future wife, Kathy Jordan, who was one of Brown's backup singers.

Sharpton's political activism came to the fore in the early 1980s, when racial tensions climbed sharply in New York City.

In 1985, he made the national news leading protests against Bernard Goetz, a white man who shot four black teenagers trying to mug him on a subway and was acquitted for acting in self-defense.

The success of the demonstrations set a pattern, as Sharpton went on to rally supporters over similar incidents, including protests over the accidental running down of a young black boy by a Hasidic rabbi's motorcade - an event that triggered violent clashes between black and Jewish communities.

Critics saw his tactics as divisive, opportunistic and inflammatory, pointing especially to the 1987 case of 15-year-old Tawana Brawley, a black girl who claimed to have been raped by six white men, some of whom were police officers.

Sharpton became Brawley's most vocal supporter and famously accused an assistant district attorney of involvement in the rape. A grand jury later determined Brawley made up the incident, and Sharpton was compelled to pay the attorney \$65,000 for defamation.

But to the fury of his detractors, he is not known to have apologized. "For some, that case defines my career and is the sole reason I should not be supported by anyone in the country," he wrote in his 2002 book, "Al on America." [AFP]



Unrest. Aussies are using the moment to express anger over deaths of indigenous people in custody

Black Lives Matter rallies in Australia, Asia and Europe

Thousands across the globe defy warnings on Covid-19 to join anti-racial discrimination protests.

By AP
Berlin

Thousands of people rallied across Australia to honour George Floyd and voice their support for the Black Lives Matter movement yesterday, part of a worldwide wave of solidarity that has also sought to highlight racial discrimination outside the US.

Further protests were planned over the weekend in European cities, some defying restrictions imposed by authorities because of the coronavirus pandemic.

In Sydney, protesters won a last-minute appeal against a Friday ruling declaring their rally unauthorized. The New South Wales Court of Appeal gave the green light just 12 minutes before the rally was scheduled to start, meaning those taking part could not be arrested.

Up to 1,000 protesters had already gathered in the Town Hall area of downtown Sydney ahead of the decision.

Floyd, a black man, died in handcuffs on May 25 while a Minneapolis police officer pressed a knee on his neck even after he pleaded for air and stopped moving. His death has struck a chord with minorities protesting discrimination elsewhere, including deaths of indigenous Australians in custody.

In Sydney, there was one early scuffle when the police removed a man who appeared to be a counter protester carrying a sign reading, "White Lives, Black Lives, All Lives Matter." The rally appeared orderly as the police handed out masks to protesters and other officials provided hand sanitizers.

"If we don't die from the (coronavirus) pandemic, then we will die from police brutality," Sadique, who has a West African background and said he goes by only one name, said in Sydney.



A rally organizer leads a march from King George Square to South Brisbane at a Black Lives Matter protest in Australia yesterday. [AP]

Bob Jones, 75, said it was worth the risk to rally for change despite the state's chief health officer saying the event could help spread the coronavirus. "If a society is not worth preserving, then what are you doing? You're perpetuating a nonsense," Jones said.

In Brisbane, the Queensland state capital, organisers said about 30,000 people gathered, forcing the police to shut down major streets. The protesters demanded to have Australia's Indigenous flag raised at the police station.

State environment minister Leanne Enoch encouraged Queenslanders to speak out.

"Whether you're talking about the US or right here in Australia, black lives matter," she said. "Black

Why Australians joined protests

Australians are not just expressing solidarity. Many are using the moment to vent fury about indigenous deaths in custody.

■ Almost three decades on from a major inquiry into this issue, there is no easily accessible record on how many indigenous Australians have died in custody.

■ But in 1987, the Committee to Defend Black Rights found that one indigenous person was dying in custody every 11 days. It spurred a royal commission, completed in 1991, which investigated the incarceration of Aboriginal people and the circumstances of 99 deaths.

■ The inquiry made over 300 recommendations, but most were not implemented.

■ Analysis by The Guardian found at least 432 indigenous Australians have died in custody since the inquiry.

lives matter today. Black lives matter every day."

Indigenous Australians make two per cent of the country's adult

population, but 27 per cent of the prison population. They are also the most disadvantaged ethnic minority in Australia and have higher-than-average rates of infant mortality, poor health, and shorter life expectancies and lower levels of education and employment than other Australians.

In South Korea's capital, Seoul, protesters gathered for a second straight day to denounce Floyd's death. Wearing masks and black shirts, dozens of demonstrators marched through a commercial district amid a police escort, carrying signs such as "George Floyd Rest in Peace" and "Koreans for Black Lives Matter."

"I urge the US to stop violent suppression of protesters and listen to their voices," said Jihoon Shim, one of the rally's organisers. "I also urge the South Korean government to show its support for the fight against racism."

In Tokyo, dozens of people gathered in a peaceful protest.

"Even if we are far apart, we learn of everything instantly on social media," Taichi Hirano, one of the organisers, told the crowd gathered outside Tokyo's Shibuya train station. He stressed that Japanese are joining others raising their voices against what he called "systematic discrimination."

In Paris, the police banned a protest planned for yesterday, citing the risk of spreading Covid-19 and fears of public unrest. The police decree noted that social distancing regulations ban gatherings of more than 10 people.

Preparing for the eventuality that protesters would ignore the ban, French police sealed off roads around the US Embassy.

The UK government urged people not to gather in large numbers and the police have warned that mass demonstrations could be unlawful. In Berlin, where a Black Lives Matter rally was scheduled for yesterday afternoon, the police said several store windows were smashed overnight and walls were painted with slogans referring to Floyd's death.

US unrest

Biden berates Trump over Floyd remark

President Donald Trump has been condemned by his Democratic challenger Joe Biden for invoking George Floyd's name as he touted US jobs figures. Trump said Floyd, an unarmed black man who died in police custody in Minneapolis, is "looking down" and "saying this is a great day."

Biden, who has now formally clinched the Democratic presidential nomination, said the remark was "despicable".

Trump spoke while celebrating a surprise US jobs rebound. In his speech, the president called for "equal justice under the law".

Trump, who spoke at White House yesterday, said: "Equal justice under the law must mean that every American receives equal treatment in every encounter with law enforcement regardless of race, colour, gender or creed."

"They have to receive fair treatment from law enforcement. We all saw what happened last week. We can't let that happen."

"Hopefully George is looking down and saying this is a great thing that's happening for US. A great day for him. It's a great day for everybody."

The Republican added: "This is a great, great

day in terms of equality." Critics said he was crassly suggesting Floyd would be posthumously celebrating positive jobs figures.

Trump's defenders said the context of his comments make clear he was referring to his call for equal treatment of all Americans by police.

Biden hit back during a campaign in Dover, Delaware, saying: "George Floyd's last words, 'I can't breathe, I can't breathe' echoed all across this nation and quite frankly around the world."

"For him to put any other words in the mouth of George I frankly think is despicable." [BBC]



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DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT



LATE VINCENT MULI MATIVO (MARTIN)
SUNRISE: 1979 SUNSET: 2/6/2020

It is with sadness we announce the sudden death of Vincent Mativo Muli (Martin) of ACT KENYA which occurred on the 2nd June 2020 at Nairobi. He was the last born son of the late Chief Benjamin Mativo and Rose Mativo of Kandolo village, Kasikuu Division. Husband to Irene Ndonga Father to Jeremy, Jaemine and Jayden.

He was a brother to Stanford Muli (Polimans) Felista Mutie TR kwakaleto primary), Geoffrey Muli (Ministry of Defence) and Zipporah Mwende (Makueni county). He was a brother-in-law to Daniel Mutie (H/ TR Tangu Primary), Josephine Kondo Muli (NRB) and Prisca Ngau (KNH).

He was son-in-law to Mr and Mrs Ndonga mwayanga of Kitui County. Uncle to Dr Allan Mativo, Timothy Muli, Maurice, Franklin, Rogers, Benjamin, Bryson Mula and Bryson Mutie. Cousin to Dr Wambua (DON), Michael, Joseph, Dennis, Elijah, Catherine, Ex chief Dominic, Paul, George, Dr Eng Mativo (KENTRACO), Pastor Godfrey kimondiu among others.

Nephew to Nelson Mativo, James Mativo, Edward Frank Kimondiu among others.

Burial will be on 10th June 2020 at Kiongwanii village, kasikuu ward near Sultan Hamud.

MAY THE LORD REST HIS SOUL IN ETHERNAL PEACE.

CELEBRATION OF A LIFE WELL LIVED



DORCAS JANE WANGUI

It is with humble acceptance of God's will that we announce the passing on of Dorcas Jane Wangui formerly of Kenya Prisons, Kapenguria. Dorcas was the first child of the late Jotham Gakuo Ngingo and Hannah Wangare Gakuo. She was beloved sister to Josephat Walthaka Gakuo, Rachael Nyambura Kanyi, Ruth Wangui Karuki, Martha Nduta. Late Mary Wangui Wangui, Solomon Walthaka Gakuo, David Nyungu Gakuo, John Maina Gakuo, Leah Nduta Rami, Naomi Mukami Mwai, Josiah Wachira, Norman Macharia Gakuo, Hezekiah Walthaka and Francis Macharia Gakuo. Adorable mother to the late Martin M. Gakuo, late Rose Wangare, Elizabeth Wangui (Poly) of Githurai, Jackie Nyambura of Eldoret, late Jeff Walthaka and David Jotham Gakuo of Queensland, Australia. She was Mother in law to Jackson Kuko, Julius Wesonga and Susan Nkatha. She was Grandmother to Sammy Maina Gakuo of National Police Service, Ivy Wangui of Brisbane Australia, Liz Humbura, Dorcas Cherbet, Naomi Chemutai, Eric Kibwet, Billy Kiptoo, Wayne Kiprop, Alvin Masika, Shariwen Kapusha, Jan Maina Gakuo, Nicole Wangui Gakuo and Neelan Moen Mambili. She was great grandmother to Craig Davids Gakuo and Caxton John Maina. She was cousin, Aunt and friend of many.

Family and friends are meeting daily at the family rural home in Oikakou Nyandarua County from 2.00 p.m.

The cottage will leave Umash Funeral Home on Wednesday 10th June, 2020 at 6.00 a.m. for a funeral service at Salima village and burial at the family home in Salima, Oikakou-Nyamururu Road, Nyandarua County.

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith

- 2 Timothy 4:7

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NBA. Australia star Steve Smith admitted Monday he has barely picked up a bat since cricket shut down, but said he was in his best physical shape in years. The 30-year-old, the world's number one Test batsman, has been out of action since March, when Australia's one-day series against New Zealand was abandoned due to the coronavirus pandemic. He returned to training with his New South Wales teammates Monday as they await the green light for competitive cricket to start again, targeting a home one-day series against Zimbabwe in August. [AFP]

Sports

OLYMPICS: IT'S 2021 OR NEVER FOR TOKYO, CONFIRMS SENIOR OLYMPIC OFFICIAL P. 40

NBA

Jordan donates \$10b

Michael Jordan said on Friday he is making a record \$100 million donation to groups fighting for racial equality and social justice amid a wave of protests across the United States.

The NBA legend said in a statement his Jordan Brand would distribute the money over 10 years to different organisations in a bid to stamp out "ingrained racism."

The pledge is believed to be the largest financial contribution to non-profit groups ever made by a figure from the sports world.

"It's 2020 and our family now includes anyone who aspires to our way of life," a joint statement from Jordan and his Jordan Brand said.

"Yet as much as things have changed the worst remains the same."

"Black lives matter. This isn't a controversial statement. Until the ingrained racism that allows our country's institutions to fail is completely eradicated, we will remain committed to protecting and improving the lives of Black people," the statement added.

"Today we are announcing that Michael Jordan and Jordan Brand will be donating \$100 million over the next 10 years to organisations dedicated to ensuring racial equality, social justice and greater access to education."

Jordan's donation comes after a week of unprecedented nationwide protests across the United States following the death of an unarmed black man during an arrest in Minneapolis. [AFP]

ATHLETICS He laments on Governments support on the discipline

Lack of talent worries Yego as he aims for Olympics crown

Olympic silver medalist decries short of budding talents as he gears up for Tokyo Olympic Games.

By Xinhua
sports@standardmedia.co.ke

Kenya's Olympic javelin silver medalist Julius Yego is concerned by the dearth in talent in his discipline even as he prepares to compete at next year's Tokyo Games.

Yego said the biggest challenge field event athletes face in Africa is a lack of government support.

However, he believes that with a string of promising results at continental level, younger competitors should be comfortable taking up the javelin and focus on qualifying for the Olympics or World Championships.

Yego, who has recovered from persistent groin and ankle injuries over the last four years, says he will do everything possible to win gold at the Tokyo Games, which he says will be his final Olympics.

"In my own capacity, training at home under limited resources, I still want to live the dream. I will do everything I can to become an Olympic champion. Becoming an Olympic champion is my biggest



Julius Yego in action. [AFP]

Becoming an Olympic champion is my biggest dream, something that always inspires me. However, deep down my mind, I pray that I will be able to get somebody to come along who will follow in my footsteps."

Julius Yego, Olympic silver medalist

dream, something that always inspires me. However, deep down my mind, I pray that I will be able to get somebody to come along who will follow in my footsteps," said Yego.

The 31-year-old has already

won three Africa titles. He had focused on winning his first Olympic title in Tokyo this year, before the Games were pushed back to 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Now as he immerses himself

in training in his backyard, Yego hopes to emerge stronger and is relishing the challenge against German opponents and believes the long recess will help him overcome any injury doubts that may have hampered his rise to the top.

"To me, I take the Tokyo Olympics in 2021 very seriously. This will be the last Games in which I will be able to compete at the highest level. Age is a major factor in this sport and I will be 36 by the time the next Olympics come

around," Yego said.

With the string of injuries that followed him since the 2016 Rio Games, Yego will have to start from scratch and seek qualification when the window opens in December.

World Athletics has suspended the qualification period for all events from April 6 to November 30 this year. The new qualification period is from December 1 to May 31 next year.

"I know that I must first seek to qualify. But last year I threw 87 meters and I can easily do that now. My best performance is 92.72 meters, which is also an African record," said the former world champion.

"The sweet thing about javelin throws is as long as the shoulder makes a move it's just a throw, this limited space allows me to make still throws and being innovative and creative to enjoy my throws at home," he said.

Yego also called on the Government to allow sports to return to stadiums. "COVID-19 has confined me to my backyard, doing easy throws. But all shall be well and I want the Government to open the stadium," he added.

"For me, it's always been one good competition followed by another that wasn't so good. I was aiming to change this," he added.

Upgrade

State: Stadia upgrade will be completed before year end

Athletes will soon enjoy training in Kenya's major stadiums after the government announced the start of construction works which stalled three years ago.

Jubilee government in its 2013 pledges had announced an ambitious plan to build world-class stadiums including Kipchoge Keino in Uasin Gishu and Kamariy in Elgeyo Marakwet but stalled midway, forcing hundreds of budding sportsmen and women to look for other training grounds.

Yesterday, Sports Chief Administrative Secretary Hassan Noor Hassan who

toured the two facilities, said they will be ready before the end of the year.

"We were experiencing a cash crunch that forced the building works to stall but now that has been sorted out as the funds will next week be given to the contractors who are ready to start the construction."

He said the government has just released billions of shillings purposely for finishing the projects whose construction that had stalled.

"The contractor has assured us that Kipchoge Keino stadium will be complete within the next seven months. We

have already signed an MoU and we expect the construction to be started as soon as the funds are made accessible to the contractor," he stated.

Hone their skills

Kipchoge Keino Stadium, for instance, was expected to host the national trials for Tokyo Olympics which were scheduled for June, but by January, it was clear that the stadium would not be ready to host the event.

Closure of the stadiums for upgrading disrupted athletics training in the North Region - the home of a majority of Ken-

ya's runners and athletes turned to walkways and costly private stadiums to hone their skills.

A spot check at Kipchoge Keino Stadium indicated a laying of a tartan track and terraces on one side had been completed before the site was abandoned nearly three years ago with grass and shrubs covering a big part of the field.

Work on the VIP pavilion situated opposite the complete terraces was abandoned at the foundation stage.

At Kamariy Stadium near Iten, there is no tartan even after the track was excavated. [Fred Kibor]



CAS Hassan Noor (in cap) at Kipchoge Stadium. [Peter Ochieng, Standard]



Twitter:

@BBCsports

Jadon Sancho has been fined by the German football league.



ATHLETICS She longs for Diamond League title this season

Meet Kenya's perennial 800 metres silver girl

Chebet keen on changing the pecking order in senior ranks after the Covid-19 pandemic.

By Dennis Okeyo
dokeyo@standardmedia.co.ke

Winny Chebet, the reigning Africa 1,500m champion, has no doubt ruled the roost in 800 metres in global competitions.

And she basks in five silvers - won in World Youth and World Juniors and other championships - that earned her the 'silver girl' tag in athletic circles.

The Thika barracks based soldier longs to break away from the tradition and bag more gold medals.

Chebet was dropped from the London Olympic Games team and replaced with 2010 World Junior silver medalist Cherono Koech, who both happens to come from Kericho, the area known for producing the best junior athletes in the country.

She attended Kiptere Secondary School in Kericho. But she has battled her way for long. In 2009, when former Olympic champion and 2008 Golden League winner Pamela Jelimo was struggling to return to form, Chebet was a school girl waiting in the wings.

The 29-year-old athlete, who comes from Roret in Kericho, did better than her silver tag as she won the Africa Senior Athletics Championships in Nigeria in 2018.

She trained under junior coach Japhet Kemei while a student at Kiptere Secondary School in Kericho. She now trains under coach Bernard Ouma at Rongai Athletics Club in Nairobi, where she lives with her elder brother.

"My brother introduced to me to coach Ouma and I started training under him. Later, the coach and his family hosted me for three years at their home. I am so grateful of their help," she said.

Chebet, a corporal at Kenya Defence Forces, said hard work and self-discipline catapulted her to global fame.

At the camp, Chebet remained as the only female athlete. She trains with top athletes among them world 1,500m champion Timothy Cheruiyot, 2017 world 1,500m champion Elijah Manangoi and younger brother George the 2017 world under 18 1,500m champion.

Others are Africa champion Vincent Keter and Millicent Nduro, the national 200m champion.

Chebet, a mother of five-year-old Brena Cherono, said she and her coach made the best decision to transit from 800m to 1,500m.

"Stepping up to 1,500m was the best decision we made. After 2016 Olympic Games, we decided to improve on endurance for 1,500m and I made my debut at the 2017 London World Championships where I made it to semi finals. I think the best is yet to come out."

ance for 1,500m and I made my debut at the 2017 London World Championships where I made it to semi finals. I think the best is yet to come out."

"Stepping up to 1500m was the best decision we made. After 2016 Olympic Games, we decided to improve on endurance for 1500m and I made my debut in 2017."

Winny Chebet, Africa 1500m champion

"Training with best 1,500m runners has helped me. They encourage me to work hard. They want the best out of me," she said.

She is currently training with Team Cheruiyot ahead of their clash with Norwegian brothers on Thursday in a virtual race dubbed 'Impossible Games' which is organised by the Oslo Bislett Games. Kenyan stars in Cheruiyot, Manangoi, Edwin Melli and Timothy Sein will compete against Norwegian brothers in Henrik, Filip and Jakob Ingebrigtsen in a 2000m race to be air live in a split screen.

"The 'Impossible Games' is good innovation. Covid-19 rendered sportsmen and women idle after all the sporting events were cancelled due to the virus outspread.

"I saw this as an opportunity for me to keep in form by training with the team. It's helping me get the mileage and endurance ahead of the possible rescheduled Diamond League calendar now that Olympics Games been pushed to next year," she said.

Chebet targets at a second stab at the Olympic Games having debuted in 2016 in Rio De Janeiro where she bowed out in semi finals in 800m. At the 2019 Doha World Championships she finished seventh in 1,500m finals.



Winny Chebet in a past training. [Jonah Onyango, Standard]

Chebet's achievements

- 2005 world youth, Marrakech silver, 800m
- 2006 world junior, Beijing silver, 800m
- 2008, world junior, Bydgoszcz, 800m 5th place
- 2009 Africa Junior champions, Bambous, 800m Gold
- 2015 African Games, Brazzaville, 800m bronze
- 2016 Olympics, Rio, 800 semis
- 2017 World Championships, London 1500m semis
- 2018 Africa Championships, Asaba, 1500m, gold
- 2018 Intercontinental Cup, Ostrava, 1500m gold
- 2019 world championships, Doha, 1500m 7th

Footballers need to be encouraged to keep off Kenyan Poverty League

Clay Muganda



OUTSIDE EDGE

The other day, I came across this sad story that the management of the Kenyan 'Poverty' League (KPL) was planning to restart on-the-pitch footballing activities. It was sad because, just like many of you, I was hoping that the poverty-worshipping footballing body had died.

Just a few days before that, there was another story that your favourite biggest club in terms of fan base, was turning to fans to raise funds for paying the players who have been subjected to suffering and can hardly provide shelter for their families or even feed and clothe them.

And on Friday, there was this mini-event where a certain politician was donating money to your second biggest club, in terms of fan base of course.

The politician also promised to support the club, and the players, financially, going forward. He sounded optimistic and said the club should be supported in all ways because it means a lot to Kenyans.

In Kenya, football clubs mean a lot. They give fans a sense of belonging, and officials a chance to fatten their wallets. For footballers, the main players in all aspects, clubs are just shrines where they are taught how to worship poverty - and encouraged to pay obeisance to poverty and praise poverty.

Football clubs in Kenya are places where footballers see their dreams turn into nightmares on the cold, hard floors of airport lounges or on muddy, water-logged football pitches.

These are places where footballing talent is killed and footballers are taught how to become good beggars who can cry, pour their hearts out and articulate their miseries on national and international TV as they plead for financial assistance.

On the plan to restart on-the-pitch footballing activities, there is a certain small club - some would call them strugglers, but the term should apply to all Kenyan football clubs - which is not willing to play ball, literally.

They say that they had a budgetary allocation for the season, and since the nonsensical folks at the federation had declared the season over, they cannot commit their players to more games of the Kenyan Poverty League.

That they do not have funds is not news. All clubs in Kenya are virtually broke, and even players of a club associated with one of the biggest brands in the region, if not the continent, stagger to make ends meet or to score, more so in their home ground where the pitch resembles an abandoned barley farm.

That a club that got promoted to Kenya's so-called top-tier league just the other day is not willing to play ball should worry the officials of Kenyan Poverty League or the federation whose boss always sounds annoyed when talking about football.

For those who reason that enslaving young footballers is criminal, it is good news because that shows the club's administration has realised that there is nothing to gain from the Kenyan Poverty League.

As a matter of fact, they should be encouraged not to participate in any of the Poverty Olympics organised by even the national federation because officials of both bodies do not inspire growth and just want to fatten their wallets.

Of course they are football stakeholders, some of whom are my professional colleagues, who will say that staying away from Kenya's poverty fest is retrogressive, and will kill football in Kenya, but honestly, can something die twice and if anything, what's there in it for footballers if not penury?

There is always an argument that club football should continue in Kenya because that is how players can be selected to the national team and scouted then they can swim out of Kenya's pitches of pauperism to Europe and the Americas where they will swim in money.

But with hungry and angry sharks running Kenya's footballing matters, this is a big lie used to enslave young people when they can improve their skill set and earn an honest living in other areas.

Honestly, this is common sense, and one does not have to understand cricket in order to see that these young footballers are being enslaved and must be encouraged not to participate in the poverty festivals organised by either the Kenyan Poverty League or the faked up federation until they have long-term contacts backed by sound legal advice.

Clay Muganda is an Editor at The Standard

Serie A

Balotelli set to be released by Brescia

Mario Balotelli's ill-fated stint at hometown club Brescia appears to be coming to an end, with local media reporting yesterday his contract will be terminated after repeated absences from training.

A letter notifying Balotelli of his release was sent to the Italy international by the club's lawyers on Friday, according to Sky Sport, Gazzetta dello Sport and the AGI news agency.

Balotelli has reportedly missed a number of sessions since Serie A teams returned to training at the start of May. Players initially worked out individually before clearance was given for them to resume team training.

The 29-year-old said this week he had been sick and would send the club medical certificates as proof.

Brescia coach Diego Lopez said he was "disappointed" with the forward's attitude.

"Mario is training separately because his team-mates have done work that he hasn't," Lopez told Corriere della Sera. [AFP]



Brescia's Mario Balotelli. [Reuters]

NBA

Nets Durant ruled out for rest of season

NBA superstar Kevin Durant, who has not played since he tore his Achilles tendon a year ago, said he would not make his debut with the Brooklyn Nets when the season resumes late July in Orlando.

"My season is over. I don't plan on playing at all," in the 2019-2020 season, Durant said in an interview Friday with The Unde

"We decided last summer when it first happened that I was just going to wait until the following season. I had no plans of playing at all this season."

The NBA suspended its season on March 11 as the Covid-19 pandemic erupted, leaving professional sport in North America at a standstill.

The league's board of governors on Thursday gave the green light to a plan to restart the season at Disney World in Orlando, Florida on July 31, without spectators.

The news was followed by speculation over whether Durant would appear.

Durant, who was the NBA Finals Most Valuable Player for the Golden State Warriors in the 2017 and 2018 championship runs, ruptured his right Achilles tendon in last June. He then left California to join Brooklyn. [AFP]

Racism

NFL chief admits they were wrong over player protests

NFL commissioner Roger Goodell admitted on Friday the league had been wrong to silence player protests as it responded to calls from a group of players to issue an explicit condemnation of racism.

In a video message posted on social media, Goodell said the league would now support peaceful protests from players in future.

Goodell's message came as a wave of protests against police brutality and racism continued across the United States following the death of unarmed black man George Floyd in Minneapolis on May 25.

"It has been a difficult time for our country," Goodell said. "In particular, black people in our country."

"We, the National Football League, condemn racism and the systematic oppression of black people."

"We, the National Football League, admit we were wrong for not listening to NFL players earlier and encourage all to speak out and peacefully protest. 'We, the NFL, believe Black Lives Matter.'"

The NFL had been criticized for a statement released last Saturday which failed to directly reference racism or police brutality.

On Thursday, a group of several prominent NFL players including Super Bowl-winning quarterback Patrick Mahomes and Odell Beckham Jr released a video demanding that the NFL condemn racism and support protest.

"How many times do we need to ask you to listen to your players?" Kansas City chiefs ace Tyrann Mathieu asked in the video.

"What will it take?" Arizona's DeAndre Hopkins added.

"For one of us to be murdered by police brutality?" Cleveland's Jarvis Landry asked. [AFP]



San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick (right) and New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees. [AP, Fie]

SPORTS BUSINESS Sportsmen and women urged to embrace personal branding away from action

How Kenyan athletes can turn into 'stars'

Though Kenyans have ruled the world for decades, they are yet to realise their full potential on the business aspect of sports.

By Elizabeth Mburugu
emburugu@standardmedia.co.ke

Forbes recently released the list of the world's highest paid athletes with tennis star Roger Federer and Naomi Osaka leading in the men and women categories.

The total earnings were a combination of money the players made on the field of play and endorsement deals.

Looking at the list that also has tennis idol Serena Williams, footballers Cristiano Ronaldo, Lionel Messi and Neymar as well as basketball stars LeBron James, Stephen Curry, Kevin Durant and golfer Tiger Woods it is easy to assume that the feat is too high for Kenyan athletes to achieve.

However, according to marketing guru Peter Gacheru Kenyans only undoing is failing to realise their full potential because it's not enough just to win medals and break records for one to qualify as a star.

"Sportsmen and women must go beyond the field if they are to attain the star status. Kenyans have ruled the world over the years, especially in athletics and boxing and brought glory to Kenya but how many can be said to be stars?" he asked.

Speaking during the latest of the NOK-K webinar, "From Champions to Stars" Gacheru asked athletes to go beyond their call on the field, if they are to attract the corporate industry. "Sports is more than just performance. It's now a business."

The other panelists in the NOK-K Webinar held on Thursday evening and moderated by Mike Okinyi, included Collins Injera, who was one time highest try scorer in the World Rugby series, currently ranked second and 2014 Commonwealth Games 5000m champion, Mercy Cherono.



Kenyans Grace Momanyi (left) and Mercy Cherono in a past cross country race. [Jonah Onyango, Standard]

Gacheru explained that in sports, one can make money from two fronts thus; performance on the field and secondly from sponsorships and endorsement. He explained that a champion is the person who crosses the finish line first while a star goes beyond the field.

"Simply put, a star has better connection with his or her fans and has top of mind recognition in the sport," he said.

He added that failure to connect

with the fans means one is forgotten the moment they leave the podium and so for athletes to remain relevant after retirement, it's important for them to master the art of personal branding.

"Kenyan athletes are known to be humble people, focused and very disciplined but their story ends there and so for them to make the best out of their talents this must change."

He said star status helps one to make revenue beyond active years

and that the Covid-19 pandemic has been a wake-up call for athletes as they have lost a lot of opportunities to make income. Cherono revealed that she lost her Nike sponsorship when she went on maternity leave.

"This proves that Nike was only endorsing Mercy due to her performance on the field whereas there are players globally who are no longer active and they are still being endorsed," explained Gacheru.

He encouraged athletes to capitalise on the power of technology and create a vibrant social media presence.

"Clients want to sell their products and, therefore, they will pay you if you are providing value to them. Athletes need to be known first, we need you on media interviews, press conferences and fans also need to know what is happening in your life away from action."

"We need media training so we can handle the interviews properly because sometimes communication is a major challenge especially when one can't express him or herself well."

Mercy Cherono, 2014 Commonwealth 5,000m champion

"You can engage with them perfectly without revealing so much about your personal life. Ladies can leverage on things like maternity leave to inspire others, such can create interest especially if one decided to return to the sport after child birth hence attracting firms that deal in mother and baby products," Gacheru said.

Rugby star Injera said how he has been able to make money off the pitch. "I have done a couple of social media promotions and a couple of activations that have earned me money," he revealed.

"I joined Tiktok to beat the boredom during the Covid-19 pandemic. I enjoy cooking and so I posted myself cooking on social media and eventually I started making a little money from it."

EPL Man United set to face Tottenham on June 19 as three full round of fixtures are confirmed

Solskjaer gives his players thumbs up



United boss is confident his side will hit the ground running when action resumes.

By AFP
sports@standardmedia.co.ke

Manchester United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer is confident his side will hit the ground running when the Premier League resumes later this month.

The English top-flight will be back in action in two weeks after several months of coronavirus-enforced inactivity.

United are set to resume the season away to Tottenham Hotspur on June 19 - their first match since beating LASK 5-0 in the Europa League on March 12. That victory in Austria extended United's unbeaten

run to 11 matches and Solskjaer is in no doubt as to what his side must do to be ready as they continue their quest for a place in next season's Champions League.

"The first game is two weeks from today so we need to step up the training and get an edge to our game again," Solskjaer told United's website on Friday. "Everyone knows that we will have to be at our best, have to be focused (against Tottenham)."

"We know it's a big game for everyone. We had Chelsea when we started the league this season so I'm confident that our players can go into the Tottenham game with that mentality of going there to play a very good game of football."

Following the Spurs match, United face fellow European hopefuls Sheffield United at Old Trafford on June 24 before travelling to Brighton on June 30 - after an FA Cup quarter-final at Norwich on June 27.

Former United striker Solskjaer said, however, his squad had been preparing for a congested fixture schedule.

"Training has been about recapping what we did well, tweaking maybe one or two things and looking at some new ideas, but hopefully we can see a lot of what we saw towards the end before the lockdown."

"We've got games coming weekend, midweek, weekend for a spell so you have to focus on ourselves and not just on that one, first game," added the

Norwegian, with United three points adrift of the top four when Covid-19 saw the season suspended.

"Gradually now, as we've got into contact training, you can see a little bit more of the edge but also the camaraderie and team bonding."

"That's vital for me in a team. That's one of the main things, that we are a team and the team goes before anything else."

Meanwhile, ticket holders at English second-tier clubs will be able to watch their team's remaining matches this season without having to pay for television subscriptions.

The English Football League (EFL) have agreed a deal with Sky that will see the satellite broadcaster screen 30 of the remaining 108 matches in the 2019/20 Championship season, set to resume on June 20 after being suspended since March due to the coronavirus.

All the matches will be played behind closed doors on health grounds, meaning fans won't be able to attend.

But season-ticket holders will be able to watch any of those 30 fixtures involving their club, irrespective of whether they already have a Sky subscription.

The other 78 matches will also be available to supporters via the iFollow platform if they have a season ticket.

As a consequence of the new broadcast arrangements, clubs could save much-needed resources.

Rescheduled EPL fixtures

Wednesday June 17

Aston Villa v Sheffield United 8pm

Man City v Arsenal 10:15pm

Friday June 19

Norwich City v Southampton 8pm

Tottenham v Man United 10:15pm

Saturday June 20

Watford v Leicester City 2:30pm

Brighton v Arsenal 5pm

West Ham v Wolves 7:30pm

Bournemouth v Palace 9:45pm

Sunday June 21

Newcastle v Sheffield United 4pm

Aston Villa v Chelsea 6:15pm

Everton v Liverpool 9pm

Monday June 22

Man City v Burnley 10pm

EPL



Tottenham Hotspur's Harry Kane (right) in action against Arsenal's Sokratis in a past English Premier League tie at the Emirates Stadium. [Reuters]

Kane hopes Spurs can be single-minded in Euro chase

Harry Kane hopes Tottenham can benefit from focusing solely on the Premier League when the battle for a place in next season's Champions League resumes.

The English top-flight is set to restart on June 17, with Jose Mourinho's Spurs hosting his former club Manchester United two days later.

Tottenham have nine games to try and force their way into the Champions League places.

Mourinho's men are seven points off the top four, but fifth could be enough if Manchester City's appeal against a two-season European ban is rejected.

Win their first game back and Spurs would be just a point behind fifth-placed United.

All of Tottenham's rivals also have other things to play for with Manchester United in the FA Cup and Europa League, Chelsea in the FA Cup and Champions League, Wolves in the Europa League and Sheffield United in the FA Cup.

"From our point of view we are not in any of the other competitions so we have got nine games to concentrate on picking up as many points and try and get into the Champions League spots," Kane told Sky Sports News.

"So at least all our focus is going to be on one competition."

Kane will be fit to resume following nearly six months off with a serious hamstring injury.

He added: "It feels like a pre-season, it has been good so far. I was doing individual training for a while and almost got to a stage where I was back with the team and then we had to stay at home."

"It's been a chance for me to get fit. It has been six months since I have played a game so I haven't done that since I was about five years old."

Spurs stepped up preparations for the restart by staging an 11 v 11 training match at the Tottenham Hotspur stadium on Friday.

Earlier this week, the North London club confirmed that one individual had tested positive for coronavirus, but did not say if it was a player or member of staff. [AFP]

Bundesliga

Sancho says haircut picture fine is 'absolute joke'

Borussia Dortmund's Jadon Sancho says it is an "absolute joke" he has been fined by the German football league after being pictured having a home haircut without wearing a mask.

England forward Sancho's team-mate Manuel Akanji has also been fined after they were deemed to have broken rules.

The league said the players had "obviously violated general hygiene and infection protection standards".

Sancho, 20, criticised the decision in a Twitter post which he later deleted.

Dortmund had defended the players, saying they had not

breached the Bundesliga's health and safety rules.

Hair salons reopened in Germany in May but there are strict rules in place, including the wearing of masks by both customers and hairdressers.

German newspaper Bild posted the news on its Twitter account on Friday with the offending picture.

On Thursday, Dortmund sports director Michael Zorc said the group of six players had assured the club that they had followed safety guidelines and the masks were only taken off for the photograph.

But the league (DFL) decided to take action against San-



Dortmund's Jadon Sancho celebrates after scoring against Paderborn last Sunday. [AP]

cho and Akanji after they were pictured without personal protective equipment.

"There is no question that

professional footballers also have to have their hair cut," added the DFL.

"However, this currently has to be done in accordance with the medical-organisational concept."

Meanwhile, Borussia Mönchengladbach's push for a Champions League place was stalled by Freiburg who clinched a 1-0 win in the Bundesliga on Friday.

Gladbach, enjoying their best season since 1984, remain in fourth place - the final Champions League qualifying spot - on 56 points.

With just four games left, Freiburg boosted their Europa

League hopes with victory secured by Nils Petersen's goal in the 58th minute.

Petersen had only been on the pitch for a minute after replacing Roland Sallai when he powerfully headed home from a free-kick.

To make matters worse for Gladbach, their French striker Alassane Plea was red-carded in the second half.

French striker Marcus Thuram was unable to break through despite his side having the best of the first hour.

When Plea was sent-off, Gladbach's sporting director Max Eberl protested too vigorously. [AFP]

Sports

FOOTBALL. MAN UNITED BOSS ENCOURAGED BY HIS PLAYERS' CUTTING EDGE ON RETURN, P.39



Sunday
Standard

Sunday, June 7, 2020

The Standard on Sunday



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FOCUS Kenyan stars hopeful games will go on as planned despite limited training due to virus disruption

It's 2021 or never for Tokyo Olympics show

IOC high ranking official
Beckers says games will not
be delayed again.

By Jonathan Komen and Agencies
sports@standardmedia.co.ke

Kenya's world beating athletes have welcomed a call by an International Olympic Committee (IOC) official to ensure Tokyo 2021 Olympics is held.

Olympic javelin silver medalist Julius Yego is hopeful that all will be well despite disruptions of Covid-19 pandemic which also saw President Uhuru Kenyatta putting in place cessation of movement to and from Nairobi, Mombasa and Mandera counties.

The ban on gatherings also means most athletes will not train together and this comes on the same day that an IOC official said if Olympics are not held in 2021 then they could be cancelled.

"I am optimistic that the situation will be okay before next year. Look at 2016 Rio Olympic Games, there was Zika virus and it subsided. So, even coronavirus will end.

"President Kenyatta's decision to open the economy partially is an indi-

cation that things are getting better. The effects of the virus in Asia are not so severe like the initial situation. We will go for Olympic Games next year," said Yego.

But Hellen Obiri, the world 5,000m champion, said although she welcomes the Olympics taking place next year, she expressed some fears.

"We can't tell now. It is only God who will guide the world. We all envy to compete at the Olympic Games but the coronavirus is beyond our control," she said.

Yesterday, a high-ranking Olympic official Pierre-Olivier Beckers made plain that the delayed Tokyo Olympics "will be held in 2021 or not at all".

The Belgian was reiterating the stance put forward by Japan and International Olympic Committee chief Thomas Bach that next year was the last chance to hold the Games

"It's unthinkable to keep such a project on the go for any longer considering the enormous costs and all the thousands of people involved."

Pierre-Olivier Beckers, IOC official

postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"Today everyone is sure that they will start on July 23, 2021," he told Belgian newspaper L'Avenir.

"We are convinced that the Games will take place in 2021 or they won't take place.

Beckers suggested it was "essential" that the traditional sporting calendar emerges from its Covid-19 lockdown before allowing major sporting events like the Olympics to be staged.

"All the sporting federations have to adapt to the Games' postponement.

"We can't envisage a similar upheaval a second time," stressed the president of Belgium's Olympic Committee.

According to Beckers, a final decision on Tokyo "will be taken in the spring if questions (over the global health crisis) persist."

He said he was optimistic over the staging of the Games, rejecting any notion that it would be held behind closed doors.

In March, Tokyo 2020 was postponed one year over the coronavirus, which has killed hundreds of thousands around the world and halted international sport and travel.

Beckers heads the IOC's coordinating commission for the 2024 Games and he said he wanted Paris "to be different" to past editions.

"We want to stage Games that are economically responsible, inclusive, sustainable and useful for society.

"The IOC's desire is that the Games adapt to the needs of cities, countries, and vice versa. Paris will be the first edition that will fully fit into this vision."

"We must fight against gigantism," he continued.

"In Paris, we will return to a budget lower than that of previous editions: 3.8 billion euros for operations and around three billion for all infrastructure."

Bundesliga

Bayern need two wins to clinch 2020 league title



Duesseldorf's Alfredo Morales (left) and Bayern's Joshua Kimmich. [AP]

Bayern Munich need two wins from their last four games to win an eighth straight Bundesliga title after hitting back to beat Bayer Leverkusen 4-2.

Hansi Flick's side have lost just once in their past 21 games in all competitions but did it the hard way after trailing at Leverkusen.

Kingsley Coman, Leon Goretzka and Serge Gnabry all netted in the first half following Lucas Alario's opener.

Robert Lewandowski headed in his 30th league goal of the season.

Bayern have lost just two games in 26 since Flick replaced the sacked Niko Kovac in November and come up against Eintracht Frankfurt in the German Cup semi-final on Wednesday.

It did not start well against Leverkusen, who had been in fine form with just one defeat in their previous 14 games but were without injured star man Kai Havertz, as Argentine striker Alario beat the offside trap and kept his cool to finish from Julian Baumgartlinger's through ball.

The setback sparked Bayern into life, France international Coman slotting home the equaliser and Goretzka turned from provider to scorer by drilling in from the edge of the box.

Ex-Arsenal and West Brom man Gnabry converted his 19th goal of the season by latching onto a long ball over the top to lob a smart finish over the advancing goalkeeper Lukas Hradecky.

Teenager Florian Wirtz, 17, came off the bench to score a lovely consolation goal late on, cutting onto his left foot inside the area and curling a strike past the reach of Manuel Neuer.

Bayern striker Lewandowski picked up a yellow card, meaning he will be suspended for their league game against Borussia Monchengladbach next Saturday.

The Poland international has 44 goals overall this campaign, but will now only have three games to chase down Gerd Muller's record of 40 in a single Bundesliga season. [BBC Online]



5,000m gold medalist Vivian Cheruiyot and silver medalist Hellen Obiri pose with their medals at Rio Olympics. [Reuters]

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With tough economic times brought about by the coronavirus pandemic, many people are looking for ways of supplementing their income, how do you go about it? **P8-9**



CORONAVIRUS: SHOULD YOU WEAR A MASK AT HOME?

Wearing face masks at home might help stop Covid-19 from infecting your family who live in the same household, says a new study.

This approach has been seen to be 79 per cent effective at curbing transmission but the masks need to be used before symptoms develop in anyone in the household who is infected.

The findings, which appear in *BMJ Global Health*, are based on answers from 124 families in Beijing, China, who had at least one confirmed case of Covid-19 infection, about their household hygiene and behaviour during the pandemic.

Disinfection was found to be 77 per cent effective at stopping the virus from being passed on.

There were a total of 460 people in the families who were part of the study and their confirmed case of Covid-19 happened between late February and late March 2020. The family members had lived with the infected person for four days before and more than 24 hours after that person's symptoms first appeared.

Research in China has suggested that most of the person-to-person transmission in the outbreaks of SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus responsible for Covid-19 infection, has occurred in families.

The new study sought to see if wearing a face mask,

along with measures such as social distancing and disinfection, might help tackle household transmission rates. The families, which were usually made up of three generations ranged in size from two to nine people but had an average of four members.

The researchers looked at the risks of catching the virus within the incubation period, which is 14 days from the

start of the infected person's symptoms. During this time the spread from the first infected person to other family members happened in 41 out of the 124 families, the researchers said.

A total of 77 adults and children were infected in this way, giving an 'attack rate' of 23 per cent or around 1 in 4, the study found. There were 13 out of 36 children involved in the study who caught the virus compared with 64 out of 92 adults. There were 12 children who had mild symptoms and one child had none. Mild symptoms were recorded in 83 per cent of the adults, while around 1 in 10 had severe symptoms and one person became critically ill.

Even in more crowded households, the daily use of disinfectants, window opening, and keeping at least a metre apart were linked with a lower risk of passing on the virus, the researchers found.

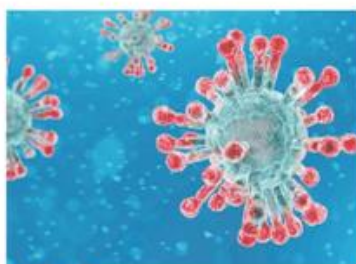
They added that daily contact and the number of family members wearing a face mask after any symptoms first started to appear in the household seem to pose a heightened risk. If the first person who became ill suffered with diarrhoea this could quadruple the risk of passing on the virus. Close daily contact, such as eating meals round a table or watching TV together, was linked to an 18-fold increased risk. The study, which was funded by the Beijing Science and Technology Planning Project, could be states that "household transmission is a major driver of epidemic growth."

It suggests the findings may be relevant for families living with someone in quarantine or in enforced social isolation, and for the families of health workers who may face an ongoing risk of infection. **[Mirror]**

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Life assumptions we come to regret

We work so that we can bring meaning to the life. However, some decisions hinder us from enjoying the full benefits of what our work life has to offer. Here are some of the misconceptions that eventually cost us.

The motherhood penalty

It is assumed that once a woman has a baby, she will automatically prefer to work part time with less possibility of travelling for work assignments.

Even after getting back in the game after maternity leave and some readjustment period, coworkers and managers would still overlook working mothers when it comes to extra responsibilities.

Sociology professor Shelley J Correll did a study in 2005 that compared earnings of women with children to earnings of those without.

The study was motivated by the notion that women with children earned lower than women without children despite them being functionally equivalent.

In her report, *Getting a Job: Is There a Motherhood Penalty?* Correll wrote that cultural ideas of motherhood are seen as pretty "incompatible with the cultural ideas of the workplace."

An interesting finding from this study is that fathers are not disadvantaged in any way. In fact, they are more likely to be at an advantage as they are seen to exhibit more commitment to their jobs than non-fathers.

This notion is costly on women.

Many get left out of progressive advancements in their careers. Even if women scale back their work responsibilities for a while after motherhood, they do not do so forever.

It is a matter of individual preferences. Some may welcome extra responsibilities that will surely expand their earnings and boundaries.

Managers should not assume that mothers cannot go the extra mile. Mothers themselves should not be blinded by cultural norms to assume that they cannot handle additional tasks.

Notably, companies have in the recent years developed work-family policies that help retain good employees; both men and women.

Authority is about ability to make others follow orders

If you are in management, you definitely want to lead a team that knows how to interpret instructions. However, it can be frustrating when things do not run your way.

It is unfortunate that most management newbies see their new job titles

THINGS TO NOTE

- 1. Those who stay longer in the office are not necessarily the high achievers**
- 2. First impressions matter; however, articulate why you could have misgivings on somebody you just met.**
- 3. Introverts can make blue-chip leaders since they tend to listen keenly and think more critically before they make decisions. Do not assume that only extroverts make excellent managers.**

as avenues to stamp authority and control their subordinates. That drive to prove that they are not a "promotion mistake" makes majority of new managers focus mainly on compliance; everything must run smoothly. That the manager should just create ideas and subordinates are to follow instructions.

The damage that this leadership style brings along is that you will miss an opportunity to showcase your character, competence and influence.

When you trust your team to come up with ideas, you get to show who the boss is by exhibiting superior skills they needed to put in their ideas.

You will be able to influence your team more if you are dependable to your team. You will also learn from your subordinates input and become the initiator of change rather than being a "normal" leader.

Starting a successful business means foregoing having a life

Many men and women are afraid to start up a business venture because they think they are not there yet.

Starting a business requires strategy, however, do not assume that you will need to exclude everything else to be good at it.

A perfect balance between a career and social life does not exist. There are plenty of people who are enjoying quality time with family, having fun and running successful businesses simultaneously.

They are doing it and they are doing it well. Take the leap of faith and start that business venture.

Calculate the risks and maintain flexibility. You do not want to get to your 70s and regret why you did not give it a try.

Senior colleagues should always solve the problem

Problematic situations always bring anxiety at the workplace. Most of these are normally forwarded to the next person in command. One, mainly because people are afraid of being implicated when a mistake happens or they think the responsibility is above their pay grade.

It is not always the case that the highest ranking individual is equipped with all specialised skills needed to solve a particular problem. They may not have all the answers to your questions.

You don't have to slide every single thing to the CEO to handle. If you are confident that you can handle it, ask for their permission and go ahead. Such demonstration of initiative can elevate you for the next promotion.

THE WAY IT IS with Mercy Juma

'I buried my cousin on Facebook Live'

The chairs were placed at least metre (three feet) apart - family sat on one side, church officials on the other. Everyone wore a mask.

Everyone knew of the strict instructions that the government has laid down for funerals during the coronavirus pandemic.

Only 15 people could gather for the burial of my cousin, Chris, and everything had to be done by 9am.

By 7am the rest of us had gathered, in front of our phones and computers, watching the burial unfold as a friend live-streamed it on Facebook.

There were hundreds of us to pay our last respects to Chris. He was a people's person - the life and soul of family parties.

His deep laugh reached you even before he set foot in the house - in fact, you could hear it 200m away at the gate.

And Chris used to show up for people, be it at funerals or weddings. He was a great mobiliser, rallying people for all occasions.

So, on this day, we showed up for him too. But not being there meant it was not the same.

'We couldn't play his favourite songs'

Chris was my immediate cousin, but we were raised in the same house and he was more than a brother to me. He died in Kisumu on Easter Sunday, after being unwell for a few weeks with liver cirrhosis.

The government gave us the guidelines for his burial. He had to be buried within three days. But with many of his family and friends under lockdown in the capital, Nairobi, not everyone could attend the burial.

The sermon was short. The speeches were restricted. And there was very little singing.

Chris loved music - he played the drum kit in the Salvation Army church band. So it was painful that nobody could be there to play his favourite songs.

I watched as live comments from his friends and colleagues rolled in on Facebook. In digital solace, people left messages of condolence and talked of how great a man Chris was.

And I thought, maybe I should take screenshots and print this out because this was essentially our condolences book.

Everything felt so different. We could not hug, touch or see each other's tears. We could not throw fistfuls of dirt on the coffin as it was lowered into the grave.

When a loved one dies we seek to grieve, we look for comfort and closure. But how do you do that when you are confined?

I was upset. I never imagined I would have to bury a loved one through social

media. I never thought I would crave human contact that much. It was like a movie, except that I was part of the cast.

Facebook Live failed

And sadly, the Facebook Live failed, due to a poor network connection. So I could not even watch Chris' final journey to the very end. I did not see his coffin being covered.

In many African societies death and life are intricately tied. Many traditions see death as a rite of passage - a transition to another form. Hence the importance of ancestors - they are the people who have died but continue to "live" in the community.

This, in turn, means that when people die they must receive a perfect burial - complete with rituals that have been observed for generations.

For the communities in western Kenya where I come from, like the Luo and Luhya, a person's death and their burial are incredibly important events. A dead person is treated with utmost respect and there are death and burial rites to be followed, to ensure a faultless send-off.

First of all burials are not hurried, especially for the elderly. A person's death is a call for celebration, even amidst the mourning and grieving. It takes at least a week for an adult to be buried. There is loud mourning and weeping, for days on end. People huddle together and help the bereaved to mourn.

Bonfires are lit in the homestead and people gather around them, embracing, crying, reliving the life of the departed. There is the ritualistic slaughter of animals, and the preparation and serving of food and drinks to console mourners. It is a show of unity among neighbours and family.

The dead are brought home a day or two before the burial. They lie in the compound, to show that they are accepted and loved, even in death.

The Luo have among the most elaborate burial customs in Kenya. There are at least 10 rites involved from the announcement of death, to the removal of the shadow or spirit of the dead from the homestead, to the shaving of family members' hair, and finally the remembrance ceremonies for the dead.

All these occasions require people to

congregate and interact in huge numbers.

But during this pandemic, most of these rituals are simply off-limits, whether a person died of Covid-19 or not.

'I have only partially grieved'

During the two days between Chris' death and his burial, people at home were forbidden from singing loudly at night, lest they attract the neighbours who may want to come and grieve with the family.

There were no bonfires to sit around. And during the burial, even at the grave site, there was no hugging, or touching, no handshakes or kisses.

Government representatives were there to ensure all rules of social distancing were followed.

Forty days after one is buried, a memorial service is supposed to be held - the final celebration of their life. We, again, will not be able to do this for Chris.

I have this feeling that I have only partially grieved for Chris. This is not how he deserves to be mourned.

Maybe when all this is over - when we can hug again, and cry in each other's arms - we will mourn him like we should. [BBC]



My wife's love for horoscopes driving me nuts

Hi Chris,
My wife is a huge fan of horoscopes. Every day she reads them in magazines and newspapers, and even looks for them online. She talks about them with her friends all the time, and it's beginning to drive me nuts! Am I missing something here? Is there any value in horoscopes? It seems impossible, after all, millions of people are born under the same sign, so how can a horoscope be saying something special about just one individual?

Star Skeptic

Hi Star Skeptic,
Psychologists call our tendency to read something personal into things like horoscopes 'the Barnum effect.' For example, people who were told they were being given descriptions of their personality and asked to rate their accuracy all agreed they were true. But actually the reports were all the same. Sound familiar?

It's that effect that horoscope writers rely on. Horoscopes say the same things year after year, but we rarely notice. We're forever being told that our finances will improve, or it's a good time to start something new. These predictions can't all be true, but they're irresistible.

Partly it's the way they're written: '...things have been tough, but they're improving...' which reflects our hopes for better times. And we can't resist the idea that our star sign somehow defines us. Like saying that a Taurus is trustworthy. We

also don't want to hear bad news, and so around 70 per cent of horoscopes are optimistic.

Horoscopes are also self-fulfilling prophecies, because believers start ignoring aspects of their personalities that don't fit with their sign. So people who have no faith in star signs lead very varied lives, while the behaviour of people who trust them is usually close to their sign definition. It's also hard to resist the feeling that if we believe something strongly enough, then it will come true.

All this happens because our brains are designed to work out what causes things to happen in our lives. Like figuring out that a certain food upsets your stomach, so you can avoid it in future. So your horoscope only needs to work once or twice for your subconscious to log it as an accurate prediction. Though in fact it was just a coincidence.

But horoscopes can still be helpful, by relieving anxiety. So athletes and people in risky jobs tend to be more superstitious than everyone else, because their superstitions make them feel more in control.

So the next time your wife's reading her horoscope, you might be tempted to smile a little. As you remember why our brains believe they work. But don't stop her! Because they're still a good idea if they help her to feel better.

All the best,
Chris



College relationships are best treated as an opportunity to learn the skills of dating



Hi Chris,
I'm hoping to go to college before long, and I know I will miss my boyfriend from school enormously because he's planning to go to another college. But we're determined to stay close, and so we often talk about our plans for being together after we graduate and start work. The problem is my mum! Every time I mention my boyfriend, she goes on about how we will quickly break up once we get to college. What do I need to tell her to convince her to take us seriously?

Young Lover's Mum

Hi Young Lover's Mum,
Lots of students try to stay close to their form four sweethearts, and that's totally understandable. But college life brings new priorities, and as students grow and mature their old relationships rarely survive the transition.

So your mum's right. You and your boyfriend will probably break up. Which is

actually a good thing in the long run, although painful as it happens! Because sticking with an old flame means that you'll be missing out on important experiences. Like the opportunity to try out relationships with a wider range of people.

Going to the same college doesn't usually work out for school sweethearts either. Neither likes each other's new friends, and both worry that they're either spending too much or too little time together. So things generally limp along for a while, before they also break up.

The same thing will happen again as you leave college, a few years later! Few student relationships survive the transition into the world of work.

Worse still, male and female graduates are on different timescales for getting married these days. Men generally still marry within a few years of starting work, but educated women are tending to delay until well into their 30s. All of which means it's very unlikely that college

sweethearts will marry each other either!

By all means keep in touch with your current boyfriend, but just as friends. Because you'll soon find another at college! Just don't pretend that you're heading for the altar with that one either.

College relationships are best treated as a glorious opportunity to learn the skills of dating. How to tell whether someone's serious or just taking you for a ride. How the flirting game works. The importance of the first kiss. How to have a good time together. How to find out whether someone really shares your interests and values. How to be affectionate and emotionally close to someone. And how to tell when you're both willing to be faithful to one another.

So enjoy your time at college. Work hard at your studies. And at the same time start learning a whole new set of relationship skills.

All the best,
Chris

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Pain of exam uncertainty for parents and candidates

Before schools were indefinitely closed, my daughter was burning the midnight oil to pass her national exams and, hopefully, gain admission to a national school. She is a candidate in this year's Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) exams.

Many nights, I'd see the light in her bedroom on way past midnight. When I peeped into her bedroom, I'd find her seated on the bed with books on her lap and others on the bed all around her. Other nights, when I woke up at 3am to pray, she would wake up to study. There were times I would tell her to sleep, because I thought she was driving herself too hard.

But her efforts were paying off. In a continuous assessment test her school offered for KCPE candidates, she topped her class. This was her first time to achieve this. She was looking forward to using this feat as precursor to getting good grades in successive pre-KCPE exams so that when the "big one" came, she would be mentally and academically prepared.

Then Covid-19 happened, and threw a never-before-seen spanner in the works. It does not help matters, for both parents and exam candidates, that we have been conditioned that national exams happen at a certain time of the year.

We have been conditioned that school terms - and school calendar years - start and end at certain specific times. Now, as time drags on and our children are at

home, we are worried about what will become of them.

I've always encouraged my daughter to study; not merely to pass her exams, but to, ultimately, better her life. I am still encouraging her. However, at times, it's hard to encourage her because, as far as doing her national exams is concerned, the future looks a little vague. If and when there's a set date for the national exams, the excitement and anticipation is palpable to parents, teachers and students.

Late last year, when I went to Pudd'ng's school to help her pick the high schools she would love to join in 2021, she and her classmates had already started the countdown to the national exams. They knew the exact number of days that remaining, down to even the hour, for them to sit for KCPE.



PARENTS ARE GRAPPLING WITH HOW TO ENCOURAGE OUR CANDIDATE CHILDREN, AND MAKE THEM TRUST THAT ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL



As time ticked, and they saw it on the chalkboard, they - so to speak - pulled up their socks. The imminent eventuality was, of itself, one of the best encouragement plays.

The candidates in my daughter's school had even started that ritual we did way back when in school; writing the number of remaining days on the chalkboard and then, as each day passed, they would do the count-down manually, via chalk and duster. Like for us before them, this play would keep their eyes on the big task ahead, besides keeping them motivated.

But now, with no definite exam date, the time factor that was encouraging our daughter has been removed.

Speaking of motivation; parents and teachers had met and come up with strategies to motivate students and teachers. We even had an average, which they had started getting closer to when they did the first exam after schools opened for term one. Each student had also been given a target, and there were modalities to encourage them and help them hit their targets.

When my daughter is doing her exams, and even when she tells me how she has performed, I tell her that she should aim for self-improvement. I tell her that she should first compete with herself.

But I'll be lying to say that this is the only thing that motivates Pudd'ng. I know she's motivated when, like during that first exam of first time, she beat a classmate who always tops the class for the first time. I know that made her feel like she can beat any other kid in this nation. That alone was enough encouragement for her. I know this because, after she got the results, she studied harder and longer than I've ever seen her study before.

Also, being in a traditional classroom set-up encourages our children to strive to excel. Now, we have to find ways to encourage Pudd'ng and let her know that all the sleep she lost, and all the hours she put in, and all the sacrifices she made will, eventually, pay off.

As the government grapples with the issue of school reopening, parents are grappling with how to encourage our candidate children, and make them trust that all's well that ends well. It's not far-fetched to think that some will require professional guidance and counselling to help them deal with this issue that affects their future.

TECHLIFE

DOES GOOGLE TRACK YOUR ACTIVITY EVEN IN 'PRIVATE' MODE?



Google has been sued in the US over claims it illegally invades the privacy of users by tracking people even when they are browsing in "private mode".

The class action wants at least \$5 billion (\$h530 billion) from Google and owner Alphabet.

Many internet users assume their search history isn't being tracked when they view in private mode, but Google says this isn't the case.

The search engine denies this is illegal and says it is upfront about the data it collects in this mode.

The proposed class action likely includes "millions" of Google users who since June 2016 browsed the internet in private mode according to law firm Boies Schiller Flexner who filed the claim on Tuesday in federal court

in San Jose, California.

Inognito mode within Google's Chrome browser gives users the choice to search the internet without their activity being saved to the browser or device. But the websites visited can use tools such as Google Analytics to track usage.

The complaint says that Google "cannot continue to engage in the covert and unauthorized data collection from virtually every American with a computer or phone".

Vigorously denying the claims, Google spokesman Jose Castaneda said: "As we clearly state each time you open a new incognito tab, websites might be able to collect information about your browsing activity".

The search engine says the collection of search history, even

in private viewing mode, helps site owners "better evaluate the performance of their content, products, marketing and more."

While private browsing has been available from Google for some time, Boies Schiller Flexner said it recently decided to represent three plaintiffs based in the US.

"People everywhere are becoming more aware (and concerned) that their personal communications are being intercepted, collected, recorded, or exploited for gain by technology companies they have come to depend on," it said in the filing.

One option is for visitors to install Google Analytics browser opt-out extension to disable measurement by Google Analytics, it says. **[BBC]**

Standing out as tough times push more to side hustles

With the economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, a lot of people are looking for ways of supplementing their income. PAULINE MUINDI looks at what you need to consider as you make the jump

Side hustles, also known as gig work, have become increasingly popular in recent years. Statistics show that one in four millennials works a side hustle. This means that in addition to their primary source of income, they have an extra job to boost their earnings.

This appears to contradict the popular opinion that millennials are lazier than older generations. For most millennials, these side gigs are small businesses, although most of them lack proper business structures.

According to US statistics, women are more likely than men to have a side hustle. Thirty-five percent of women have a side hustle compared to 28 percent of men. One of the reasons for this disparity might be due to pay differences between men and women.

With the economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, even more people are looking to turn to side hustles to earn extra cash. If you're one of these people, you might be wondering where to start. The following tips will help you get started:

Know your why

Working on a side hustle isn't as easy as it sounds. If you work on your regular 8-5 job, some of the free time you've been used to will have to go towards your side hustle. You will have to give up some nights and weekends work as you pursue the side gig.

To be able to stick it out, it is important to define the goals you want to achieve with the side gig. Why do you want a side gig? Do you want the extra cash to put aside for a specific goal? Is it something you want to do short term or long term?

A good side gig should be something which can get you paid quickly. But a great side gig also has the potential to scale up even if it doesn't generate immediate income. If you need a side gig to meet a short-term financial goal, such as paying off debt or buying an appliance, go for a gig which pays immediately. But if your goal is more long-term, such as retirement, go for something which has the potential to scale up.

Good examples of short-term gigs include being an Uber driver or running errands for pay. Long-term side hustles include blogging, being a YouTuber, or running a small business.

Stay in your lane

To survive in the gig economy, it feels like you have to wear different hats. Avoid the trap of being a jack of all trades. You run the risk of being merely "good" at the kind of work you produce. In today's cut-throat marketplace, you're unlikely to be successful by just being "good" enough. You have to be "great" to succeed.

You are more likely to succeed by mastering the core skills required in your side gig. Instead of learning new skills from scratch, look at what you already have.

One of the biggest mistakes you can make when choosing a side hustle is to go for something which doesn't fit your current skill set. List all of your skills and find a side hustle which

aligns with your strengths.

It is a great idea to opt for a side gig that complements your main job. This will offer you the opportunity to fine-tune your skills in a specific area and advance your career in that direction. For example, if you're an accountant, you can have a side gig where you help small businesses and individuals to do their taxes. Eventually, you can quit your main job and make the side gig your main source of income.

Have a niche

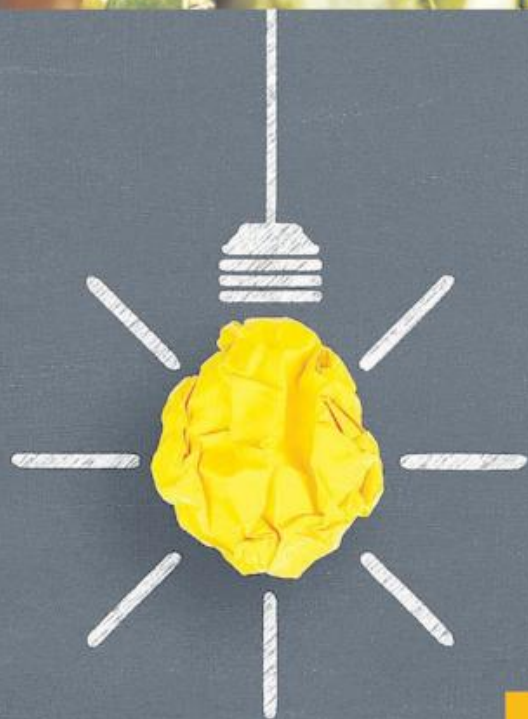
Don't pick a side hustle just because it's what everybody seems to be doing or it makes good money. Remember that people buy value, and the money you earn is just a byproduct of offering a good product or service. Think in terms of how you can provide value in the marketplace.

Once you've identified a category which fits your skill set, go a step further and look for a niche. As Pat Flynn says: "The riches are in the niches." Having a niche is your side hustle differentiates you from other people in the industry.



THERE ARE SOME SIDE HUSTLES WHICH CAN EARN YOU QUICK MONEY. BUT GENERALLY, SUCH SIDE HUSTLES TEND TO BE SHORT TERM IN NATURE. HOWEVER, MORE SUBSTANTIAL SIDE HUSTLES, SUCH AS BUILDING A BUSINESS, TAKES TIME AND PLENTY OF EFFORT.





It makes it easier for your potential clients or customers to understand what problem you can solve for them. If they can easily associate you with a certain niche, they're likely to choose you over a competitor who doesn't appear to specialize in the niche.

Understand the time investment

How much time do you have to spare for a

side gig? Many people underestimate the kind of time they will have to put into working on their side hustle. You can easily find yourself worn out and depressed from overworking. Even worse, the side hustle might not even be compensating you enough for the time you're putting in.

To avoid this mistake, determine how much time you have to put towards a side hustle. For example, you might find that you only have eight hours a week to dedicate to the side hustle. Therefore, choose a side hustle which doesn't demand more than eight hours. Make



sure that your side hustle still leaves you enough time to hang out with friends and family, enjoy your hobbies and relax.

Bear in mind that you will still be competing with people who have dedicated their entire lives into that pursuit. Therefore, the side hustle shouldn't be too time-demanding. Before you even start ask yourself: Can this side hustle succeed with part-time involvement?

Be patient

There are some side hustles which can earn you quick money. But generally, such side hustles tend to be short term in nature. However, more substantial side hustles, such as building a business, takes time and plenty of effort.

To be successful in your side hustle, you should have the patience to build and strategically grow it into a viable income-earning opportunity. Having the right mindset is important in achieving success in any side hustle.

Coronavirus: What's it like to be part of a vaccine trial?

The world eagerly awaits a coronavirus vaccine, and labs are racing to develop one. Some have now reached the stage of human trials and are looking for volunteers. So what's it like to be part of a vaccine trial?

I remember very clearly my first medical trial. It was in Oxford where I was going to receive an experimental vaccine against bird flu. This was in 2006 and at the time H5N1 avian flu was a big deal. It was a deadly virus, killing half of those it infected. That would make it perhaps 50 times more lethal than Covid-19.

So there was a need for a vaccine, and the Oxford Vaccine Group was to conduct a trial of healthy volunteers. I didn't hesitate about sticking my hand up, or rather, rolling up my sleeve.

After all, I rely on patients to agree to me filming them in order to illustrate some aspect of healthcare, so it was a good thing for me to experience what that's like. Very often they are taking part in a medical trial, be it for cancer, diabetes or any number of other conditions.

Naturally I was filmed while receiving the vaccine. I can remember being determined not to grimace because I didn't want to set a bad example. The immunisation takes just a few seconds, and I also had to give some blood samples the same day.

As the needle for the blood draw was about to go in, a kindly doctor said "sharp scratch" which was my cue to look into the lens and deliver a faultless "piece to camera" - the bit in most TV reports when correspondents pontificate. But with a needle in your arm you have to get it right the first time.

As my blood entered the test tube I spoke about antibodies and immunity.

I think it went fine, but I remember a recent occasion that was a nightmare. Again, I started speaking as the needle went in, and my words, thankfully, flowed out on cue. The trouble was, the red stuff did not. It was like getting blood from a

stone. It took four needles, and by the end of the filming the colour had drained from my face and I was in a cold sweat.

As the BBC's medical correspondent, since 2004 I have reported on global disease threats such as bird flu, swine flu, Sars and Mers - both coronaviruses - and Ebola. You could say I've been waiting much of my career for a global pandemic. And yet when Covid-19 came along, the world was not as ready as it could have been. Now it's here I wish, like everyone else, it would go away. Sadly, we may have to live with coronavirus indefinitely. In this column I will be reflecting on that new reality.

The bird flu vaccine trial went well. The following year it was approved for use, but bird flu never made the full jump from animals to humans, so it's not been needed.

Lives depend on it

Not so with coronavirus. To say the results of vaccine studies are eagerly awaited would be the understatement of the year. There are lives, livelihoods and whole economies depending on a successful vaccine against Sars-CoV-2, to give the virus its proper name.

More than 100 vaccines are in development around the world. Many of these may never get to human trials, but several have already reached that stage, in record time. Normally it would take years, decades even.

The Chinese government shared the genetic sequence of coronavirus on 11 January, and within weeks a team at the University of Oxford had developed an experimental vaccine. Their human trial, the first in Europe, began last month.

More than 1,000 volunteers are now part of the Oxford vaccine study. Half will get ChAdOx1 nCoV-19, as the vaccine is called, and the rest a control vaccine which protects against meningitis. The trial is "blinded" so that the researchers and the volunteers won't know which jab



they are getting.

The use of a real vaccine as a control, which may result in the odd sore arm, means volunteers really won't know whether they have got the real thing.

That's important, as all of them will need to keep a daily health diary for up to four weeks, and come back for several blood tests.

I wanted to volunteer for the first phase of the vaccine trial, but was ineligible. It's the first time I've been too old for a clinical study - the cut-off was 55

years and I'll be 59 in September. Though the trial has now been extended to include older adults and children aged five to 12, I may still be ruled out. Anyone who already has antibodies to coronavirus is excluded, and as I explained last week, I'm pretty sure I have these. I have signed up online just in case they will have me.

In order to check whether the vaccine works, it is vital that those given the jab come across the virus in their daily lives. So the team would like volunteers who have public-facing roles, especially health workers, who are more likely to be exposed to coronavirus. You don't need all of your volunteers to get up close and personal with the virus, but it's important that some do, and in the absence of a guaranteed treatment it would be unethical to deliberately infect them.

The volunteers are all told to maintain the same social distancing as the rest of us. And remember they don't know which vaccine they have received.

Big problem

There's one big problem surrounding all of this, which is that you need a lot of virus to be circulating to know whether the vaccine protects the people who've been immunised, and at present cases are decreasing. It's reckoned about one in 1,000 people in England are currently infected, not counting cases in hospitals or care homes.

A further 10,000 volunteers are being recruited at sites across England, Wales and Scotland. At present there are more cases in parts of the north of England and Scotland than in Oxford.

Volunteers are absolutely crucial to medical advances; we'd never get anywhere without them. The same goes for blood donors.

With all the volunteers I've spoken to over the years there's a really strong element of giving something back. People say, "Well, it may not help me, but it'll help those coming after me."

Some years ago, I covered a typhoid study in Oxford, in which they were immunising people with a new vaccine, and then infecting them deliberately with the disease - they could do this because it can be treated with antibiotics. The volunteers had to swallow a drink that had typhoid bacteria in it, and I remember one of them saying, "Down the hatch!" before they drank it.

That vaccine is now being used in Pakistan and Zimbabwe, and has reduced cases of the disease by 80 per cent. When I let those volunteers know recently, they were delighted. That trial was of absolutely no benefit to their daily lives, they did it purely because they felt it was the right thing to do. But with the coronavirus trial there may be some benefits for volunteers.

There has been much speculation about when we will get results from the Oxford vaccine trial. I've heard September, even June. The hard truth is, it's not certain when we will know. It depends on whether we get a second wave of infections.

If, and it's still a big if, the vaccine does work, hundreds of millions of doses could be made within months because of a manufacturing deal struck with the pharma giant, AstraZeneca. It says it could produce a billion doses by the end of 2021.

And the Oxford vaccine is not the only show in town. Imperial College London is developing a coronavirus vaccine which will begin human trials next month. All the researchers I've spoken to have said this is not a race to be first, but a race against the virus. It's a race we all hope they will win. [BBC]

“

WITH ALL THE VOLUNTEERS I'VE SPOKEN TO OVER THE YEARS THERE'S A REALLY STRONG ELEMENT OF GIVING SOMETHING BACK. PEOPLE SAY, 'WELL, IT MAY NOT HELP ME, BUT IT'LL HELP THOSE COMING AFTER ME.'



COVID-19 Disruption: The rent crisis

Host
Akisa Wandera | **#FrontRow**

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CEO at 36: Discipline and love for children's rights got me here

Growing up in a family of 20 seems to have prepared Dr Judith Okoo to scale a world where excellence counts in order to stand out.

At 36, Judith has headed the department of private law at the Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA), heads the public law department at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) and is also the CEO of East Africa Centre for Human Rights (EACHRights).

She says she is a simple girl from Ouygis, Homa Bay County, who believes in making a difference through social justice.

"I believe I was born to upset oppressive social norms and not just pass through the face of this earth without making a difference and my weapon to achieve this is law," says Judith.

Growing up, she thought of being a doctor but then again the sight of blood discouraged her, so she went for a career that would draw different kind of blood - along the corridors of justice.

Growing up in a polygamous family, Judith says she started getting thrust into responsibility at the tender age of nine. Her father was a secondary school teacher, an entrepreneur and later a politician, while her mother was a court clerk who worked her way up to a magistrate. She says: "My mother worked in the judicial system, she encouraged me to study hard, to come back and join her in the Judiciary."

Starting off from Oyugis Primary School, Judith went on to join Asumbi Girls High School.

She has fond memories of the school which instilled in her discipline and integrity that have remained her key life pillars to date.

Despite passing well to secure a slot at the university, Judith's dad thought it wise to send her out of the country to go and study, along with three of her siblings.

She recalls: "From early life, my father entrusted me with a lot of family responsibilities including being sent to pay fees for my younger siblings and generally look out for them."

Judith went to the University of Mysore to study Bachelor of Academic Law, which she completed in 2005; then did Bachelor of Laws, which she completed in 2007 and immediately started



A LOT OF VIOLENCE IS HAPPENING IN THE SOCIETY BECAUSE OF GENDER INEQUALITY AND THOSE SEEN NOT TO BE SUBMISSIVE ARE MET WITH VIOLENCE

her Master of Laws, graduating in 2009.

In India; from the shock of language barrier, spicy food, arranged marriage, women paying dowry for their husbands to the practice of vegetarianism, Judith went through her studies learning to embrace divergent cultures.

Coming back home, she joined the Kenya School of Law leading to her admission to the bar in 2012 after which

she landed her first job at CUEA, starting off as an assistant lecturer in 2011, later as a lecturer before being promoted to head the private law department, a position she held for two years before moving to JKUAT in 2015. While still at JKUAT, Judith started her doctorate studies at St Augustine University of Tanzania successfully graduating in December 2017.

Her areas of academic interest include

jurisprudence, humanitarian law and human rights law. Her legal background got her interested in the practice of human rights at EACHRights, a regional NGO that undertakes programmes to promote, protect and enhance economic, social and cultural rights for vulnerable and marginalized groups of people.

She aspires to make EACHRights the largest child rights organisation in Eastern Africa, with the requisite technical capacity to handle all that pertains to rights of children. Her work at the child rights NGO complements and enriches her teaching work at the university.

"I have published several academic papers on human rights and social justice including my thesis on rights of marginalised and vulnerable groups," she says.

She says that her father, who passed on just two months before her PhD graduation, instilled in her virtues, top of which is self-discipline and concern for others, that guide her through life.

Her father owned a secondary school where he would educate children from poor backgrounds free of charge; he was also a women rights' defender, a trait she says she picked up. She believes all children must be given equal opportunity in life.

Life lesson

One thing she learnt about life is that the higher one goes, the less crowded it gets and exertion can get you to that space.

Looking at her life, it comes as no surprise that she was part of the legal research team in the 2017 presidential election petitions leading to a re-run.

Being a law lecturer and a social justice advocate does not present much of a challenge, she says, as the two complement each other.

Judith points out that a lot has changed in the world of child rights much of which earlier, was held in the hands of parents and guardians. She explains that children are now empowered to know what their rights are.

She says: "At EACHRights, we have carried out a campaign that sensitise children on what their school is supposed to look like, the kind of teachers, classes and infrastructure they should have. We also advocate against FGM and child marriage through policy influencing, research and knowledge management, and public interest litigation."

She warns that there is a need for sensitisation of communities to know that children are not passive players when violence happens at home especially at this time of Covid-19 which has seen increased violence cases.

"A lot of violence is happening in the society because of gender inequality and those seen not to be submissive are met with violence," she says.

Regarding the re-opening of schools, Judith insists that the best interest of the child must be the key consideration, adding that while children remain at home, parents and teachers work together to ensure this period is not wasted.

To improve enrollment rates, she says, the government should increase the budgetary allocation to the education sector so as to ensure better transition and completion rates. She adds that this was one of the wins of the school feeding programme, which saw more children get enrolled in school.

During her free time, Judith loves travelling, spending time with family, taking photos, watching educative documentaries, and cooking. She is married.

Her favorite quote is Oprah Winfrey's "Passion is energy. Feel the power that comes from focusing on what excites you."

Lessons from China: Is Covid-19 changing our relationships?

The Covid-19 pandemic has reshaped our personal relationships in unprecedented ways, forcing us to live closer together with some people and further apart from others. Life in lockdown has necessitated close, constant contact with our families and partners, but social distancing measures have isolated us from our friends and wider communities.

The pandemic has also left some cracks in family relationships. Most notably the high-pressure environment of confinement, combined with the financial stress brought about by a Covid-19 burdened economy, has led to a rise in marital conflict, according to Susanne Choi, a sociologist at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

This is most evident in a spike in divorce rates. In the city of Xi'an in northwest China's Shaanxi province, marriage registration offices saw an unprecedented number of divorce requests when they re-opened in March. Online, the hashtag "Xi'an divorce appointment explosion" has gained 32 million reads on the social media platform Weibo.

"I'm doubling as both the man and woman in this family," wrote a woman named Xuebi, on another Chinese social media site Zhihu, in a thread titled "After the epidemic, the first thing I want is a divorce".

While she was working as a nurse in Wuhan's over-stretched hospitals during the outbreak, her husband was at home with their five-year-old son having lost his job. But he was refusing to do jobs around the house, leaving it to her when she got home from her shifts, she complained. She would get a divorce as soon as office hours returned to normal, she wrote.

And it would seem that in more extreme cases, these conflicts arising during lockdown have led to a surge in increase of cases of domestic violence.

In Hubei province, the heart of the initial outbreak, reported cases of domestic violence increased three-fold since the pandemic started. A similar increase has also been reported in many other countries across Europe where lockdowns have been implemented.

A new world

In less extreme cases of conflict, many families and couples have found themselves navigating new problems, which perhaps aggravate existing tensions. A common point of contention, for example, is how to implement social distancing measures, says Sharmeen Shroff, a clinical psychologist based in Hong Kong.

"Now, mundane discussions between couples like 'should we send our child to this play date', have become matters of life and death," says Shroff. "Which will inevitably put families under strain and relationships to the test."

Another challenge that families are



nities for help. But given social distancing measures, most people have also been isolated from their usual support systems and cut off from our regular coping mechanisms.

"Old activities like socialising, going to the gym, eating out, are no longer available options to us," says Shroff. "So, we've had to turn even more to other means to connect with people, like [video conferencing] calls, text mes-

saging and social media." But there exists also a digital divide, between people who have access to these technologies, and people who do not, says Fanny Cheung, a psychologist at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. The elderly population for example, are less familiar with online communication technologies and less connected to their families because of quarantine measures, she explains.

Digital network

When navigating conflict and strains on family relationships, people often turn to their friends and wider commu-

At the other end of the scale, the younger generation is relying even more on online technologies to connect with others. And while these virtual friendships might seem like a good thing, research shows that an increased use of social media is actually leaving young people feeling more lonely and isolated.

Despite these challenges, the pandemic also presents people with the opportunity to critically re-evaluate their relationships. "I've seen people begin to re-establish lost connections, not only with other people, but also with themselves," says Shroff.

"The pandemic has allowed my husband, daughter and I to spend much more time together," adds Gao. "As a couple, we've been able to communicate frequently and as parents, we've been able to play with our daughter a lot more. So, I think we've emerged out of this crisis as a closer and more tight-knit family."

In fact, while some people were rushing to end their marriages, in Wuhan - where the coronavirus is thought to have originated - sent others flocking online to submit marriage applications - via a system set up on the mobile payment platform Alipay - once the 76-day lockdown was lifted.

The app reported a 300 per cent increase in applications through the platform between January and April, with the system even crashing briefly due to demand.

Psychological aftermath

Further down the line, the effect of the pandemic and the associated concerns on our mental health must also be considered. Some mental health professionals believe it could be storing up another health crisis behind the pandemic itself. "If we do not act quickly, hospitals will soon be overloaded for requests for mental health services," says Shroff.

A study of people in Hong Kong in the wake of the 2002-03 Sars epidemic found that "one year after the outbreak, Sars survivors still had elevated stress levels and worrying levels of psychological distress," including depression and anxiety.

But it's not all bad news - another study found that positive outcomes also emerged, such as strengthened relationships with family and friends, with more than 60 per cent of respondents stating "they cared more about their family members' feelings" after the health crisis, and that they felt an increased drive to focus on mental health.

Megan Lam, chief executive of Neurum, a Hong Kong-based digital health company, has turned to technological solutions to address issues of mental health, pairing users on the platform with personalised care.

In the workplace, "companies that introduce mental health initiatives, more equitable policies and more flexible working hours allow their workforces to thrive even in the most uncertain environments," she says. [BBC]

How to look presentable in virtual meetings



Since the outbreak of Covid-19, people have been asked to maintain social distance to help curb the spread of the virus. Many are now working remotely and video calls have become a popular way of communicating with colleagues, clients, family and friends.

As people embrace video technology as part of communication, there are etiquettes that need to be observed. Image is everything and virtual meetings should be taken seriously.

Derek Bbanga, a personal branding and communication consultant, says it is important to look presentable during virtual meetings – especially if you are working from home. “It’s important to always look your best, it doesn’t matter what your best version is. Looking presentable is about looking your best, this is regardless of having a video call with your colleagues or not, pajamas and bath robes do not help with your productivity,” he says.

When you are having a zoom meeting with your colleagues, it doesn’t necessarily mean you put on a suit and tie or have on your sheath dress. It simply requires you to look presentable. People normally make their judgments based on how you look.

Here are tips to help you look presentable during virtual meetings:

Get your lighting right

Whether you decide to have the meeting in your dining area or on the couch, ensure that the lighting is right. Good lighting brightens your face and enhances your features making you presentable before your colleagues. You don’t want your colleagues or clients seeing shadows of you or false images. Set up your virtual office in a place with a

natural source of light, like a window. This will ensure the light is directly hitting your face with no resultant silhouetting images.

For Bbanga, this is the first thing to consider before setting up a video call: “Lighting is very important, natural front facing light is key, set up in place with enough natural light. Do not hoard yourself in a couch where your face won’t be clear to your colleagues.”

While setting up the light, always remember to put your computer at eye level. This is photography rulebook 101. When the computer or phone is placed at a low angle, the images will come out dark as lighting is compromised.

Choose the right background

Backgrounds play a big role in emphasising how you present yourself during a video call. You can create professional backgrounds using some of the video calling applications.

However if you cannot access these features, you can ensure your background is plain to avoid distracting your colleagues.

“You can have a nice picture in the background, or a flower to make it look presentable. Also avoid people interfering during the video call,” Bbanga advises.

Additionally, Bbanga says it is important to put boundaries when it comes to your work. It doesn’t look professional when you distract your colleagues or clients during a meeting. “You need to stipulate how long your meeting will last and request to have your space while you work,” he says.

In a situation where you don’t have to directly participate in a meeting, you can switch off your

video but have a profile picture for people to be able to identify you. However, in the case that you are coordinating a meeting, your video needs to be on because a lot of people base their judgments on nonverbal communication.

“We see you smiling, frowning, we can read your gestures, it is important that we see you. Unless you are part of a wedding, you don’t have to have your image on. Have an image for the brand you are representing. It is good for people to know you,” says Bbanga.

Another important thing to note while making video calls is to learn how the applications work.

Learn how to mute audio or switch off the videos when you are distracted. People will still be able to see you make faces and hear the things you say if you do not know how the video tool you are using works.

Dress appropriately

During video calls, whether with family members or colleagues, you need to put on clothes that are camera friendly.

Avoid flowered and printed shirts and blouses. These could easily distract the people you are video-calling. Wearing a bright white or black shirt may cause your camera to auto-adjust the brightness and make it hard to see your face, go for solid bold colours.

For ladies, it would be best to tone down on the jewellery. Avoid putting on chunky necklaces and dangling earrings that will make noise when you are moving around explaining something. Also, chunky jewelry can easily distract people from what you are saying.

Also avoid hairstyles that cover your face as this

can be distracting, ensure you tie your hair up. Always check your appearance prior to the video call.

Get comfortable

Ensure your sitting position is comfortable before making a video call.

Avoid changing seats from room to room during a video call as this shows lack of preparedness on your part. Choose a single spot and avoid fidgeting during the call, this will be distracting to those trying to listen to you during the call.

Also, avoid slouching too close to the camera, your audio might come out too loud to the rest of the callers. During video calls avoid using the computer microphone since the computer will be picking noise from your environment and this can cause a lot of distraction to listeners.

It would be best to use earphones (not headphones) since they are not too bulky on the face.

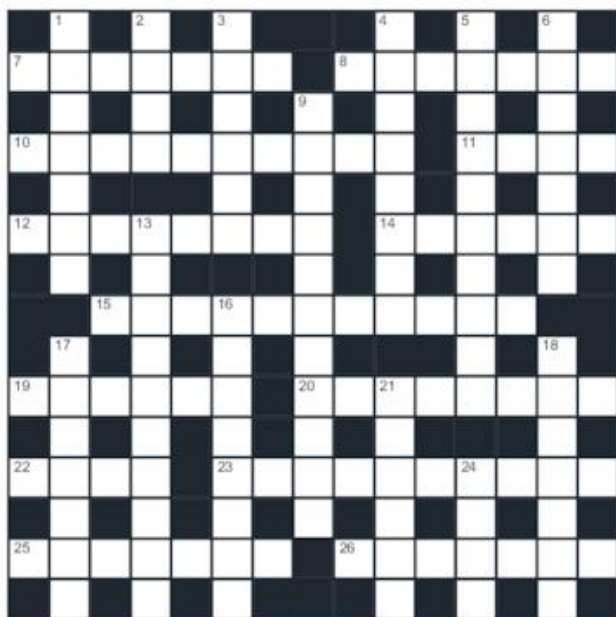
Prepare a set of things you want to say to avoid stuttering during the call. Similarly, be clear; do not shout; and always have a notebook to jot down points you might forget. In other words, preparation is key.

Tip: Be intentional with everything you do, staying in the house may not be every easy and sometimes you may wake up feeling like a mess, but do something to lighten your day.

Make some coffee or go for a jog before setting up for your video call. Be intentional with the image you want to present to your colleagues, clients and the world. The internet never forgets.

-This article was first published on Eve Digital (evewoman.co.ke)

CROSSWORD



Across

- 7 One of the 4/6 Down (7)
 8 Ailment, illness (7)
 10 What raw vegetables and salad ingredients are disparagingly called (6,4)
 11 In Greek mythology, the hero who killed himself when Achilles's armour was given to Odysseus (4)
 12 Practice, rehearsal, trial (5,3)
 14 In conflict (with) (2,4)
 15 Castles had them for protection (11)
 19 Calls, excursions (6)
 20 One of the 4/6 Down (8)
 22 Master of yoga - or just a bear? (4)
 23 Sufficiently, tolerably (10)
 25 Obtain, get (7)
 26 Held in high regard (7)

Down

- 1 Split (5,2)
 2 Person who looks down on others (4)
 3 Newspaper boss (6)
 4 (& 6 Down) Caribbean island group that includes St Lucia and St Vincent (8,7)
 5 Come on, hurry up! (3,1,4,2)
 6 See 4 Down.
 9 Afflicted, oppressed, underfoot (11)
 13 One of the 4/6 Down (10)
 16 Wires ace to find a know-it-all? (8)
 17 End of a marriage (7)
 18 Surgical knife (7)
 21 Putrid, rotten, decayed (6)
 24 Brother or sister born on the very same day (4)



Last week's solution

Across: 8 Teamwork, 9 Unpack, 10 Cowardliness, 11 Mighty, 12 Gaudiest, 14 Oaks, 15 Scoop, 17 From, 19 Verdicts, 23 Little, 24 Gesticulated, 25 Angola, 26 Cleverly.

Down: 1 Semolina, 2 Empathised, 3 Goodbyes, 4 Skiing, 5 Bureau, 6 Opus, 7 Acorns, 13 Inebriated, 16 Polluted, 18 Oil wells, 20 Edmund, 21 Casual, 22 Snitch, 24 Grow.

HOROSCOPE

GEMINI
 22 May-21 June Someone you live or work with will point out your failings this week but don't take their criticisms to heart. You have so much going for you just now but your ego is a bit fragile, so ignore what your detractors say and concentrate on your many strong points.

CANCER
 22 June-23 July You may be tempted to bend the facts to suit your cause. You may be tempted to lie. But be warned: your fibs will fool no one and if you go too far you could set yourself up for an embarrassing fall.

LEO
 24 July-23 Aug It is essential that you focus on something positive this week because with the Sun at odds with Neptune, planet of illusion, negative thoughts could easily get the better of you. Get in touch with your friends - they'll cheer you up in no time.

VIRGO
 24 Aug-23 Sept The critical thing now is that you forget your short-term losses and focus on what you stand to gain in the months and years ahead. It's not what occurred yesterday that counts, it is what will occur tomorrow - and that depends so much on what you do today.

LIBRA
 24 Sept-23 Oct Be tolerant of those you work with this week. Not everyone has your eye for detail or your creative talents so make allowances and do not make out it's the end of the world if their efforts fall short of the required standard. There's always tomorrow.

SCORPIO
 24 Oct-22 Nov Try to please everyone and you can end up pleasing no one and that could be the case this week unless you make it clear you won't be pushed around. The planets suggest you have been neglecting one very special person. Who is that? Look in the mirror.

SAGITTARIUS
 23 Nov-21 Dec If you avoid a tricky task any longer there's a strong chance it will be dealt with by someone else and although that might be just what you want you will in time regret you didn't deal with it yourself. Come on, Sag, prove you're a toughie at heart!

CAPRICORN
 22 Dec-20 Jan It doesn't matter how persuasive you happen to be, if others don't want to do your bidding this week they won't. If there's something vital that needs doing you'll probably have to do it yourself. Look on the bright side: at least it will get done properly.

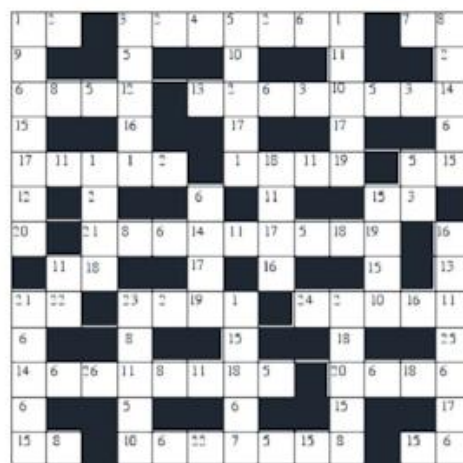
AQUARIUS
 21 Jan-19 Feb Not liking someone does not mean you cannot work with them. Partnerships often work better when there's a little bit of personal animosity and that will certainly seem to be the case this week. You may never be friends but you can make a good team.

PISCES
 20 Feb-20 March Be careful in all your dealings this week as Neptune, your ruler, in your sign confuses your ability to differentiate between fantasy and fact. Be especially wary of anyone who promises things you can't get yourself - they'll be playing games with you.

ARIES
 21 March-20 April Others' opinion may be persuasive but only because you're unsure of your own beliefs just now. The danger is that you'll concur simply because someone seems to know what they're talking about. More likely they just know how to talk. Be careful.

TAURUS
 21 April-21 May You may think you've got problems but look around you and see what others have to deal with. The fact is that compared to many you are exceptionally well off, so stop moaning and get moving. You've got so many advantages - make good use of them.

CODEWORD



Using all the letters in the alphabet, fill in the grid. To help you, there are three crossword-style clues:

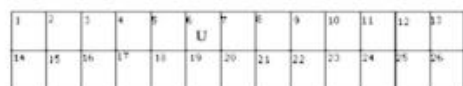
Top line: No fashionable ox is found to be harmful. (7)

Middle line: Try Gaul if looking for thrift. (9)

Bottom line: I make the off-loader fatter! (7)

By Rosy Russell

To start you off, here is one of the letters.



sallybrompton.com

Last week's answers



FOR THE YOUNG AND GROWING
Gen
Sunday, June 7, 2020 Pullc

**Two are
better
than one**

STYLE LAB P.5

twinkl

BACK COVER: MAKE A PUZZLE AND ROKI & PALS

Editorial

What's Up?

Maria and the mirror



Maria stood in front of her new mirror. Her face on the reflection looked sad. She tried smiling and making funny faces, but her reflection continued with its sad expression. Surprised, she went off to buy sweets. She came home happy. When she looked in the mirror, her image was still sad-looking. She played with her favourite toys; same sad look in the mirror.

"I think the mirror is broken," she told her mum, then went out to play.

On her way to the playground, she met a boy who was crying. When she asked him what had happened, the little one told him that he had lost his parents. Together they set off in search of them. After much walking, they found his worried parents who were out looking for him.

By now, it was getting late, so Maria decided to head back home. She went to her room, and passed in front of the mirror. This time, her reflection was happy and radiant.

She understood that the mystery of that mirror is that it reflects the true joy of its owner.

Rose Kwamboka

Let's Explore Space

When you look up at the sky at night, you see stars and sometimes the moon and the brighter planets. That is space.

Just last week, on May 30, two astronauts were sent to the International Space Station in space successfully.

Neil Armstrong was the first man to ever touch the Moon's surface and walk on it in 1969.

Space is completely silent. There is no atmosphere in space, which means that sound has no medium or way to travel to be heard.

One million Earths could fit inside the sun and the sun is considered an average-size star.

If two pieces of the same type of metal touch in space they will permanently bond. This incredible fact is known as cold welding and it happens because the atoms of two pieces of metal have no way of knowing they are separate. This doesn't happen on Earth because of

the air and water found between the pieces.

There is floating water in space.

There may be life on Mars. Of all the planets in our solar system (apart from Earth), Mars is the one most likely to be hospitable to life.

There are more stars in the universe than grains of sand on all the beaches on Earth. Billions and billions of stars.

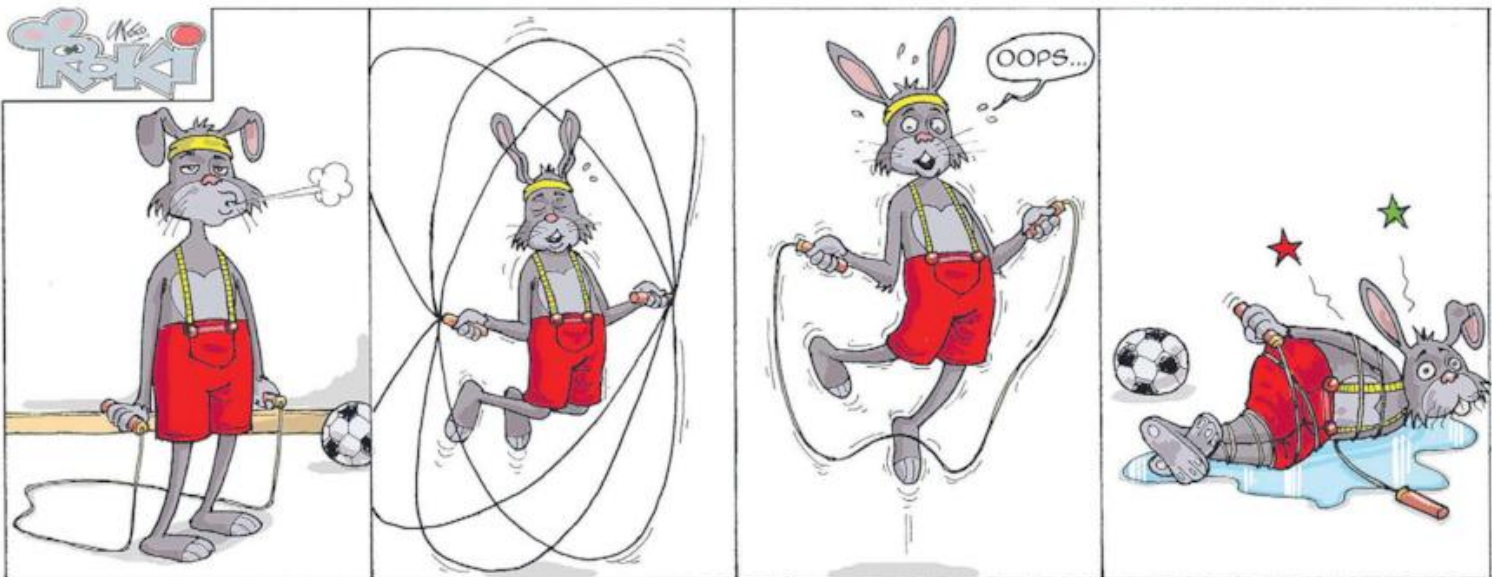
We know more about Mars and our Moon than we do about our oceans.

We always see the same side of the Moon, no matter where we stand on Earth. Whether we are in Kenya or America, we see the same thing.



RAH NYANGWESO

Quiz Time!



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Adventure Time

Snapshot Story

Family Fun Time



BY VANSHI PATEL

Age: 12
School: DHT-Kisumu Senior Academy
Year: Seven
Hobbies: Art
Ambition: Graphic designer

It was an auspicious day when we set out for a wonderful trip to my village.

This had come in the backdrop of the President's address to the nation about the immediate closure of schools. My heart melted with joy like butter exposed to heat on realising that I had a holiday in the offing. We enjoyed the eye-catching scenery on our way; besides, it had been long since we had had such trips. My brother, Ronik, was in cloud nine, his joy knowing no bounds.

No sooner had we reached the village than all my family members alighted in ecstasy. My grandparents looked on in utter disbelief, their mouths forming a neat 'O'. However, to me this moment was the best thing since sliced bread. Despite all the above, my grandparents welcomed us all with open arms. They boldly showed us the way to the house and we followed them, marching majestically. I was very optimistic for spending a great time with them, and so was my brother.

During our great period of chitty chatter, my nose was treated to the sizzling aroma that was diffusing from the

kitchen. Time passed very quickly and my aunt signaled us to the dining table. Lo and behold! She presented us with the sumptuous relish delicacies she had prepared for lunch – it was mouth-watering indeed. This came as a blessing because I had started feeling the pangs of hunger. We munched the delicious food, joy written all over our faces.

A moment that I cherish most was finally at bay. My grandfather summoned us to a shade under the tree. With my sibling nodding in approval, I took to my

heels as fast as my feeble legs could carry me so as to get the best viewing point. It was pellucid that we were going to have a great time. Grandpa treated us to a lot of tantalising stories that proved he his memory was not only great, it was brilliant.

Like the adage that states that, all work without play makes Jack a dull boy, we didn't have to wait for too long for him to let us do an activity. Can you imagine my grand m u m calling us to play dodge ball with her?

What a playful time we had together! This prompted me to tell her that when I grow up, I would like to be just like her. Time passed very fast. Before I realised it, the western horizon was painted orange with a tint of purple colour: the sun was retiring to its abode. What a long day

this was; we freshened up and took dinner before retiring to slumber land. My grandparents promised us a better tomorrow. I couldn't wait for daybreak. These great encounters will never evade my memory.

If you are 13 years and below, write a creative story of about 500 words based on the photo below. Submit it to mynapshotstory@gmail.com for a chance to get published. Include your name, age, photo, school, class, ambition and hobbies. Add a phone number.



Compiled by Eric Wainaina



Oh, My Word!



Come up with a funny or creative caption for the photo on the side for a chance to get published. Submit it to ohmywordsunday@gmail.com. Include your name and age.

"Hii ni shamba la mawe"!
Julius Kimani, 12

"Quick! The floods are coming!"
Claire Omondi, 11



BOOK REVIEW

Naomi in her New School

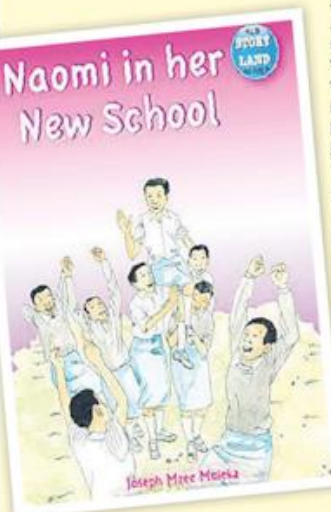
BOOK: Naomi in her New School
AUTHOR: Joseph Mzee Muleka

A good number of pupils would be noticeably excited at the news of moving to a new school. If the new school happens to be prestigious, then there is the likelihood of some pupils feeling important and telling all and sundry about it. Naomi, a Standard Six girl learns at a rural public school. Her school does well in national exams. When her close friend, Nilla transfers to a new school that is better equipped with more learning facilities and performs far much better than her school, Naomi too longs to be moved to the same school. Initially, Naomi's parents are reluctant to grant her wish. But later when they get convinced that a boarding school will afford their daughter more study time, they agree to transfer her.

This makes Naomi happy. When she finally moves to Bora Academy, she is immersed into a new culture and meets pupils from different walks of life.

What new experiences will she get from this top school?

-GEORGE OLWALO





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Welcome Home

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J E S U S

The story of the son of God,
sent into the world to bring life.

Monday - Wednesday 8.00pm

Watch us on BAMBA1, Dstv 272, GoTV 92, Zuku 12, Alldean 01, Azam & Continental STB's and Signet



Ureport

BUD GET

Smart living
On a budget!!

How would you advice fellow Kenyans on wise spending during this period?

Send us your **Story** and **social media** handles on **ureport.co.ke** and we will post your article tagging you on

f t @ureportke i @Ureportkenya

style lab

Everything feels and looks better when you are with your bestie. How about we dig into our closets for those coordinating pieces.

BRENDA ONONO shares some chic inspiration for you because two is better than one!

Models: Kimberly and Ayana

Hair accessories: DressingUpSunshine

Outfits: Timeless Kidswear

Photography: Colors n Moments

Two are better than one



Let's Talk

With many places of worship closed, how do you use your church going hours?

GEOFFREY ODHAMBO



TIANNA ORIMBO, 5

I just play with my friends and when not playing games on my mum's phone I draw things.

SHANNAYA JANE, 6

Our teacher told us how to pray and she said praying makes us be friends with God. I say a prayer everyday.



ASHLEY FAVOUR, 13

Since our church has an online service, we follow the church service with my family members every Sunday.

HELLEN KEMUNTO, 9

I always pray before sleeping and before eating. Sometimes I watch movies about God and Jesus with my brothers.



DAVILLA TREVOR

I read my Bible and watch people pray in television every Sunday.



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LIVE STREAM

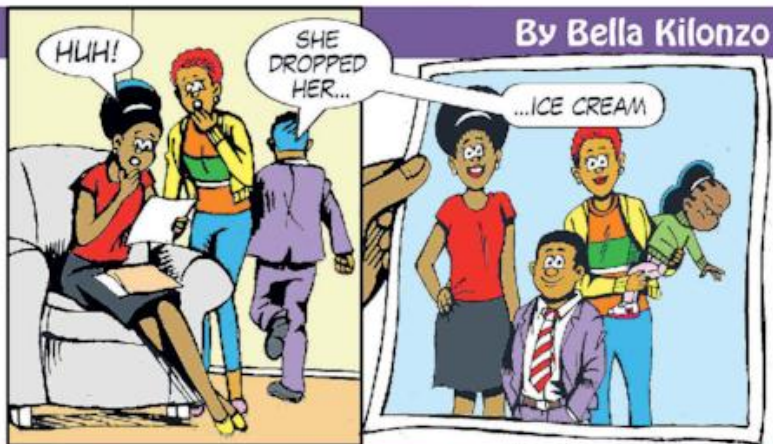
btv **ktn**
Welcome Home

Hide and seek



Find 9 hidden sporting equipment in the picture

BELZO

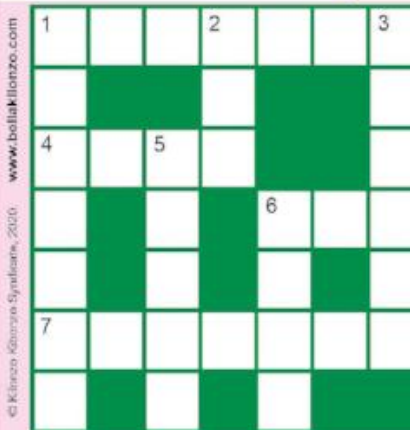


Spot **SEVEN** differences between



**A
&
B**

Answers:



Solution:

ACROSS: 1. Cricket 4. Aunt 6. Melt 7. Lesotho DOWN: 1. Chakula 2. Cat 3. Tattoo 5. Nurse 6. Myth

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 An insect related to the grasshoppers
- 4 "Shangazi" in English
- 6 Past tense of "meet"
- 7 A kingdom encircled by South Africa

DOWN

- 1 "Food" in Kiswahili
- 2 An animal that meows
- 3 A design that is drawn on someone's skin
- 5 A person who cares for the sick
- 6 A fairy story

twinkle

Art Attack with Agnes Mwandawiro

Materials Needed

Paper (Brown & Yellow)
Crayons
Scissors
Glue
Marker pen/pencil



Make an Eagle



1. Draw and cut out the shape of the bird's body, as shown.



2. Draw and cut out the shape of your palm for the wings. Make two of these.



3. Draw in the various parts of the bird; a yellow beak, a set of claws and the head.



4. Have the body at hand when drawing the head of the bird. Cut out the different parts.



5. Colour the bird's head grey and draw the eye. Stick the beak in place to finish off.

6. Stick the wings on the sides of the body.



7. Stick the two yellow claws right below the wings, right above the feathers that are sticking out at the bottom.



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